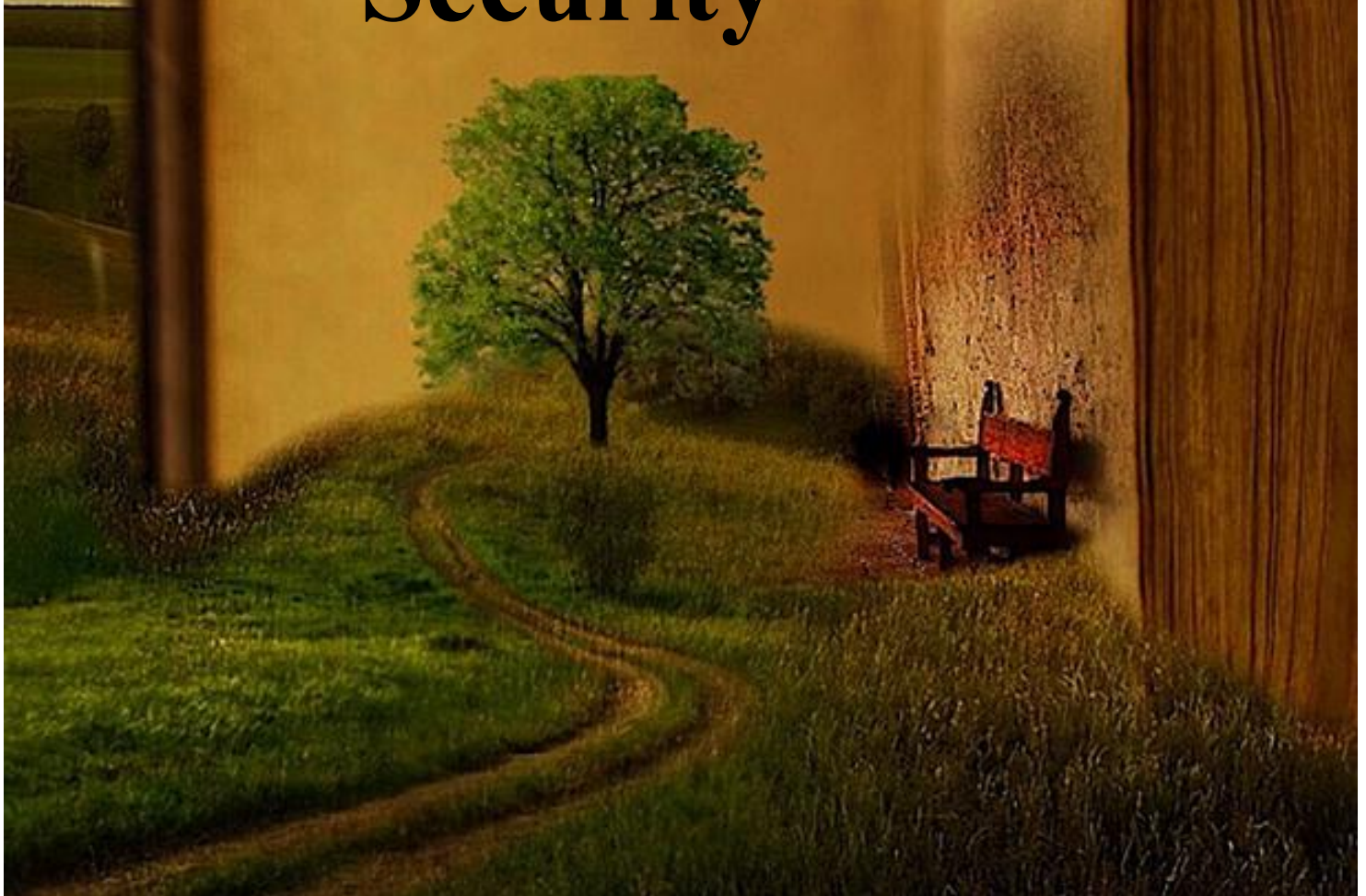


New Christian Growth Series

Topical Study:

Eternal Security





Instructions:

1. Please fill in the blanks in these lessons and the review booklet, using a King James Version of the Bible.
2. When you are finished, keep this lesson book and **return the completed review booklet** by U.S. mail or e-mail to:

Plowman's Academy

575 US Highway 250 OR plowman@mapministry.org

Greenwich, OH 44837

3. When we receive your review booklet, we will grade it, send it back to you, and send the next course in this volume.
4. When you have completed all 12 books in this course, we will send you a certificate.

Plowman's Academy was started to provide the opportunity for teens and adults to study God's Word more deeply, imitate Jesus more closely, and be more sensitive and obedient to God's Holy Spirit—all through the means of correspondence (communication by letters or mail) courses. Jesus taught us that when we set out to follow Him, we ought to do so with no regrets, no second thoughts, and no turning back. We welcome you to join us as we aim to turn from sin, surrender to God, seek Him until He rains righteousness upon us, and then follow Him faithfully and fully forever. Let us look always to Jesus and live always for eternity, for Jesus Christ is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

Thank you for joining us. An academy is a place of study or training in a specific subject or skill. At Plowman's Academy, the subject is Jesus. Put your hand to the plow and do not look back.



And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

~Luke 9:62

Giving Credit and Appreciation to Ray Witmer

Ray Witmer, author of this Bible study curriculum, has given us permission to use his studies taken from the Word of God.

We are very grateful and appreciate Brother Ray's heart for God and his willingness to let us use his resources to spread God's Word among this generation of people.

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

~Hosea 10:12

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INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR BIBLE LESSONS

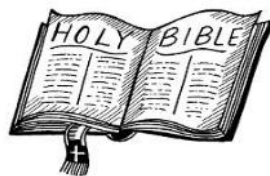
- A. The Bible verses used in this study are taken from the King James Version of the Bible, translated out of the original tongues with the former translation diligently compared and revised.
- B. Before doing each lesson, take time to ask God to open your understanding and show you the truth.
- C. For the best results, do only one lesson each day. Meditate on each day's lesson (there are four weeks of lessons per book).
- D. Keep in mind that these lessons are based on what the Bible says and not on man's opinion.
- E. These lessons are designed to help you to know the truth, to know the Lord in a personal way, and to trust what the Bible says and teaches you.
- F. Remember, it is not what you, I, or any preacher says, but what the Bible says.
- G. You must learn to stand on what the Bible says to "study to show yourself approved unto God, workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)
- H. Who wrote the Bible? (2 Peter 1:21).
- I. All Scripture is inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16).
- J. Regardless of what man says, the believer (Christian) has direct access to the throne of God and is responsible directly to God. This access is through Jesus Christ and Him only (1 Timothy 2:5).
- K. These studies are to help you have peace of mind (Isaiah 26:3-4).
- L. These studies will help you know if you are going to heaven or hell (Romans 10:13).
- M. These lessons will help you with assurance and security; these are not the same. The securing of the believer is God's work. It is a part of God's great work of salvation depending solely upon His infinite grace. Assurance is the believer's acceptance of the security provided for him in Christ. It is the result of the human soul resting in what God has promised in His Word to accomplish. This is why it is important to know what the Bible says (1 John 5:11-13).



**TAKE TIME TO READ BELOW
BEFORE DOING THIS LESSON**

Meditate on the Scriptures of This Lesson and
Ask Yourself These Questions:

1. What do these verses teach me about God and myself?
2. Is there an example here to follow or avoid?
3. Is there a command, a promise, or a warning that I need to apply?
4. What action do I need to take to align my life with this truth?



The Bible is the Word of God

LESSON 1

WHAT IS ETERNAL LIFE?

This week's Bible verse to memorize: 1 John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Eternal life must not be confused with natural life. Natural life is subject to death and is derived by human means. Spiritual life has a beginning but no end. One possessing mere natural life faces hell, whereas one possessing eternal life will be united and in fellowship with God for all eternity. Thus, separation from God is eternal death; union with God is eternal life. For Christians, there is no such thing as endless despair, because every believer has the promise of a future home above prepared by Jesus Himself. All trouble, heartache, and suffering will one day cease; they will be nonexistent in the Father's house of many mansions. Jesus said He was going to prepare a heavenly home for you. He has been preparing it now for over two thousand years, and I believe that wherever your personal place is located, it has a sign hanging in the front that says "reserved."

"Let not your heart be _____: ye believe in God, _____ also in Me [Jesus]. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to _____ a _____ for _____. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will _____, and _____ you unto Myself; that where I am, there _____ may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know" (John 14:1-4).

Simply arriving at the mansion will be marvelous, but most people want to know what they will be doing after they get there. The Bible has several things say about that.

"And there shall be no more _____: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him: And they shall see His _____; and His name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them _____: and they shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 22:3-5).

What this means is that when you get to heaven, you are going to work. Yes, there will be rest, too. You will rest from temptation, trials, and heartache, but that doesn't mean you are going to sit down and do nothing. You will serve the living God forever.

"Thomas saith unto Him, Lord, we know not whither Thou goest; and how can we _____ the _____? Jesus saith unto him, I am the _____, the _____, and the _____: no man cometh unto the Father, _____ by _____. If ye had known Me, ye should have _____ my Father also: and from henceforth ye know Him, and have _____ Him" (John 14:5-7).

The nature of your heavenly service for the Lord will be influenced by the faithfulness you demonstrate right now. The way you carry out your responsibilities as a spouse, parent, businessman, or whatever your position is here on earth, may affect the assignments you are given up there. Your tasks will be based on the wisdom and knowledge of God, as well as on your faithfulness here and now.

Today's Bible reading is John chapter 14.

LESSON 2

THE GOD WHO COMFORTS US

This week's Bible verse to memorize: 1 John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Everyone goes through difficulties and hardships in life; you may sometimes find yourself in despair, wondering if God understands or even notices you. He does understand, and He cares enough to rescue you from your sinful state. Not only that, but also He loves you and cares enough to comfort you when you hurt.

“Grace be unto you, and peace, from _____ our _____, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God always on your behalf, for the _____ of God which is given you by _____; That in _____ ye are enriched by Him, in all _____, and in all _____;” (1 Corinthians 1:3-5).

If you look up “comfort” in the dictionary, you will find one meaning of the word, but if you look for the word’s meaning in the 14th chapter of John, you will discover quite a different definition.

“And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another _____, that He may _____ with you for ever; Even the _____ of _____; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye _____ Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be _____ you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will _____ to _____” (John 14:16-18).

Jesus describes the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit by calling Him “the Comforter,” which means “the One who comes to stand by your side; the One who comes to your aid.”

“Even as the testimony of Christ was _____ in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also _____ unto the end, that ye may be _____ in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is _____, by whom ye were _____ unto the _____ of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:6-9).

Because believers have the Comforter residing in them, they do not have to search around in others or other things for comfort. You do not have to look to drinking, doing drugs, traveling, or participating in other distractions and pleasures in order to escape your heartaches and trials. You have the source of all comfort dwelling within you.

So when you feel you are almost dying on the inside and are crying out to God, saying, “I can’t handle any more!” you can expect to sense a little, inaudible whisper that encourages you: “You’re going to make it because I am here.”

List what things you will turn over to God and let Him handle:

Today's Bible reading is 1 Corinthians chapter 1.

LESSON 3

AFTER DEATH, WHAT THEN?

This week's Bible verse to memorize: 1 John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Scripture teaches that whoever has placed his faith in Christ will live forever with Him. What happens immediately after a believer's death? Does his soul enter heaven right away, go to sleep until the resurrection, or suffer for certain sins before coming into God's presence?

“For we know that if our earthly house [physical body] of this tabernacle were dissolved [destroyed], we have a _____ of _____, an house not made with hands, _____ in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from _____: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked” (2 Corinthians 5:1-3).

In the book of 1 Thessalonians, the Bible refers to the dead as being “asleep.” Some people think this means that the soul exists in a state of “suspended animation” until the resurrection. However, Jesus told the thief on the cross that they would be together in paradise that very day. “Paradise” refers to being in God's presence, not to being asleep.

“And he said unto Jesus, Lord, _____ when Thou comest into Thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, _____ shalt thou be with me in _____” (Luke 23:42-43).

On the other hand, some people believe in eternal life, but think that before you go to heaven, additional cleansing through punishment is required for some sins. Scripture is clear: Jesus paid the price for all sins. His work of atonement was finished on the cross. Those who receive Jesus as Savior move immediately from life on earth to life in heaven.

“For Christ also hath _____ suffered for _____, the just for the unjust, that He might _____ us to _____, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.” (1 Peter 3:18).

Scripture also shows that people who die without Jesus go into torment, where they will suffer until they stand before the Great White Throne of Judgment. Since belief in Christ is the only way to be listed in the Book of Life, the lake of fire will be a lost soul's final destination forever. Let us warn those around us!

“And death and hell were cast into the _____ of _____. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the _____ of _____ was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:14-15).

Eternal separation is a hard truth for many who deny that there is a hell, condemnation, or eternal judgment. Knowing your ultimate destiny will give you the confidence to face difficulties, and understanding the end of those who deny Jesus should motivate you to pray for and witness to them.

Today's Bible reading is Luke chapter 16.

LESSON 4

A GOD OF GRACE

This week's Bible verse to memorize: 1 John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

You need only to look at Jesus to know that God is a God of grace. Jesus' actions personify grace. You can see Him dealing with all kinds of people—not to condemn them, but to lift them up, encourage them, and turn them toward God. For example, He told the adulterous woman that He didn't condemn her; she was to go and sin no more.

“When Jesus had lifted up Himself, and saw none but the woman, He said unto her, Woman, where are those thine _____? hath no man _____ thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I _____ thee: go, and sin no more” (John 8:10-11).

Although Jesus knew what Zacchaeus, the hated tax collector, was doing, He was nevertheless willing to visit the man's house and have dinner with him.

Jesus demonstrated grace even to the hypocritical, legalistic Pharisees; He pointed out their sins, so they would repent.

“And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must _____ at thy _____. And he made haste, and came down, and _____ Him _____” (Luke 19:5-6).

Grace also means forgiveness for the times you sin. Does that mean you can live in any manner you choose and get away with it? No. While God forgives His children, He also disciplines them. Allowing you to get by with something He knows will ultimately destroy your life wouldn't be an act of grace; it would be an act of careless indifference, and that's simply not who God is. God is a God of grace.

“I thank my God always on your behalf, for the _____ of _____ which is _____ you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by _____, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was _____ in you : So that ye come behind in no gift; _____ for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 1:4-7).

The theme of the Christian life is grace—God's abundant goodness, love, and mercy toward His children. The truth is, before you can ever finish enjoying the goodness and kindness that God has given you, He piles on more goodness and kindness, and then more again. John 1:16 calls it “grace upon grace.”

“Who shall also _____ you unto the end, that ye may be _____ in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is _____, by whom ye were _____ unto the _____ of His _____ Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:8-9).

Today's Bible reading is John chapter 1.

LESSON 5

REASONS FOR BELIEVING IN ETERNAL SECURITY

This week's Bible verse to memorize: 1 John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Grace (*charis* in the Greek) is an interesting word. According to R.C. Trench, *charis* implies “a favor freely done, without claim or expectation of return... finding its only motive in the bounty and free-heartedness of the giver.” You can learn about God’s grace in the Bible; it is through God’s power, motive, and gift that you are saved. It is by faith that you accept that He has completed the task of forgiving your sins.

“That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His _____ in His _____ toward us through Christ Jesus. For by _____ are ye saved through _____; and that not of yourselves: it is the _____ of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:7-9).

The great truth of your salvation is that it has very little to do with you. It is based entirely upon the love and provision of Christ. There is nothing you can do to earn it. In addition, there is no sin you could possibly commit to lose it.

“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made _____ by the _____ of Christ. For He is our _____, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition [division] between us; Having abolished in His flesh the _____, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in Himself of twain one _____ man, so making peace;” (Ephesians 2:13-15).

You are eternally secure. Even if your faith wavers, you have not lost your salvation; Christ has hidden you within Himself. When God looks at you, He sees His own grace, and He accepts you because He will not deny Himself.

“And that He might _____ both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached _____ to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through Him we both have _____ by one _____ unto the _____. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the _____ of _____” (Ephesians 2:16-19).

The gift you’ve accepted through your faith in Christ is yours forever. He provides and protects your salvation with His grace and will never let you down.

Do you know for sure that you have eternal life? (yes or no) _____

Would you like to know how you can be sure? (yes or no) _____

Today's Bible reading is Ephesians chapter 2.

LESSON 6

WHAT IF...

This week's Bible verse to memorize: 1 John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

It rises up through your chest like a shudder of electricity. You ponder the devastating “what ifs?” What if I am not pleasing to God? What if there is something still standing between Him and me? What if I am not really saved?

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the _____, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His _____, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds;” (Hebrews 1:1-2).

The Israelites surely felt shivers of uncertainty as their high priest went before God to make atonements for their sins. Small bells were hung on the hem of the priest's garment and indicated whether he had survived being in God's holy presence or not. When the bells stopped ringing, the people knew that the priest had failed to make sacrifices to God for them.

“Who being the brightness of His _____, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had _____ purged our _____, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Being made so much better than the _____, as He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they” (Hebrews 1:3-4).

For Christians, there is never uncertainty of being accepted, for we are served by a very different High Priest. Hebrews 1:3 assures us that Jesus “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.”

“For unto which of the angels said He at any time, Thou art my _____, this day have I begotten Thee? And again, I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to me Son? And again, when He bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, He saith, And let all the angels of God _____ Him” (Hebrews 1:5-6).

Have you ever felt the tremble of uncertainty in your heart? There are no more “what ifs” for the person who has believed in Jesus Christ, because He is the perfect priest. Jesus is able to completely save those who come to God through Him, because He lives to intercede for them.

“Wherefore He is able also to _____ them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make _____ for them. For such an High Priest became us, who is _____, _____, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;” (Hebrews 7:25-26).

Take heart; your salvation is utterly secure. When you feel the tremble, remind yourself that you can trust Him because He will never fail you.

Today's Bible reading is Hebrews chapter 1.

LESSON 7

WHAT DOES 'BORN AGAIN' MEAN?

This week's Bible verse to memorize: John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

In today's lesson, Jesus instructs Nicodemus that no one can enter into the kingdom of God unless he is first "born again." This concept may be familiar to you today, but some people might be confused by it. "How can a man be born when he is old?" they may ask. "He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

"There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto Him, Rabbi, we know that Thou art a teacher come from _____: for no man can do these miracles that Thou doest, except _____ be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be _____, he cannot see the _____ of God. Nicodemus saith unto Him, How can a man be _____ when he is _____? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" (John 3:1-4).

Nicodemus could not grasp the image that Jesus was describing when explaining the concept of being born again; but the real question is: Do you understand the concept any better today than Nicodemus did then?

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born of _____ and of the _____, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the _____ is flesh; and that which is born of the _____ is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be _____" (John 3:5-7).

"Born again" is not simply a common catch phrase. It is an apt description of what it means to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Your life is not just changed when you enter into a relationship with Christ; rather, your old life is effectively ended, and you are completely reborn in the Spirit.

"The wind bloweth where it listeth [wishes], and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell _____ it _____, and whither it _____: so is every one that is born of the _____. Nicodemus answered and said unto Him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master [teacher] of Israel, and _____ these things?" (John 3:8-10).

Therefore, it makes perfect sense to say that you are "born again." It means that you are no longer who you once were in sin, but rather, you are a new creation that exists to glorify God (2 Corinthians 5:17). Does your life in Christ reflect the glory of God, or are you still clinging to your old ways of living? It is important to understand that God does not want to change you; instead, He wants to remake you. There is a difference.

Can you explain whether you have been born again and how you know you have been?

Today's Bible reading is John chapter 3.

LESSON 8

THE FOUNDATION OF OUR SECURITY

This week's Bible verse to memorize: John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Can you fathom the depth of God's love for you? Many times, you may have a skewed view of who God is and how He treats His children, particularly when it comes to your salvation. Some people mistakenly believe that salvation is something that God "loans" and that it can be revoked at any time, but that's not what God's Word says. When the Lord saves you, it is forever; it is not just for a season or two.

"Blessed be the God and _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant _____ hath begotten us again unto a _____ by the _____ of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, _____ in heaven for _____," (1 Peter 1:3-4).

Consider Peter's words: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has caused us to be born again to living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable."

"Who are kept by the _____ of God through _____ unto _____ ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the _____ of your _____, being much more _____ than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" (1 Peter 1:5-7).

The inheritance set aside for you in heaven is not going anywhere. Once you accept Christ into your heart, the outcome of your life is no longer in doubt. The Bible goes on to say that you are "protected by the power of God." What can compare to that?

"Whom having not seen, ye _____; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet _____, ye rejoice with _____ unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the _____ of your _____" (1 Peter 1:8-9).

When you realize that your eternal destiny is secure, it should be much easier to enjoy life. Christ has paid the price of your sins. Your name is written in the Book of Life! As you understand this fact, no longer should you feel pressure to do what is right; rather, you should feel desire to do what is right and honor God because of the security that He has granted you.

Today's Bible reading is 1 Peter chapter 1.

LESSON 9

A GOD YOU CAN COUNT ON

This week's Bible verse to memorize: John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

In our troubled world, injustice, crime, and dishonesty fill the news. The one constant seems to be change. By contrast, you have a God whose actions are perfect, whose character is flawless, and who keeps every promise He makes. He is the same “yesterday and today and forever.” You can have complete confidence in God because He is:

Omniscient. The Father knows what is happening for every person at every moment; His knowledge is complete. No circumstance is hidden from Him, and there is no motive or thought process that He does not discern.

“For He [God] looketh to the _____ of the _____, and seeth under the _____;” (Job 28:24).

Omnipotent. God has total power over all things; nothing is outside His control. He uses His might to bring about His perfect will, and no authority in heaven or on earth can thwart His purposes.

“But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is _____; but with God all things are _____” (Matthew 19:26).

“Because the foolishness of God is _____ than men; and the weakness of God is _____ than men” (1 Corinthians 1:25).

Omnipresent. There is no person or place in all creation that is outside of the Lord's presence. All space and time is within His sight; He never overlooks anything or anyone.

“Am I a God _____, saith the LORD, and not a God _____? Can any _____ himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I _____ heaven and earth? saith the LORD” (Jeremiah 23:23-24).

Truthful. God cannot lie. He always speaks the truth, and His words are flawless, so you can trust His responses to your prayers and the reliability of His Word. God's character is not affected by time, places, people, or circumstances. He makes no mistakes in what He says or does.

“God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and _____? or hath He spoken, and shall He not _____ it _____?” (Numbers 23:19).

“For I am the LORD, _____; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed” (Malachi 3:6).

Today's Bible reading is Psalm chapter 139.

LESSON 10

ETERNAL LIFE NOW

This week's Bible verse to memorize: John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Just think of it: eternal life means precious communion with God forever! Upon salvation, you receive the life of Jesus through His Spirit, and your “eternal life” begins. During your earthly days, you can have intimacy with God, which will continue forever in heaven. Being made in God’s image, you are an eternal being as He is; this is the good news.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the _____ of God unto salvation to _____ that _____; to Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by _____” (Romans 1:16-17).

Now, for the bad news: while you have an eternal nature, you are also a sinner from birth. At birth, you are physically alive, but spiritually dead. Not only are you born bent away from God, but you are also dead to the things of God. Everyone starts existence in a condition of sinfulness, which separates us from the Lord.

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all _____ and _____ of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is _____ in them; for God hath shewed it unto them” (Romans 1:18-19).

Your unrighteousness places you under God’s judgment and wrath for eternity. The enemy would deceive you into thinking that physical death is the end of life, but Scripture tells you the truth: eternity will be spent either with God in heaven or permanently separated from Him in hell.

“For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are _____, being understood by the things that are made, even His _____ and Godhead; so that they are _____: Because that, when they knew God, they _____ Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their _____ was darkened” (Romans 1:20-21).

What you do with the saving work of Jesus Christ is the deciding factor for your ultimate destination. If you reject His sacrifice, then there is no forgiveness of sins and no relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. The destiny you were born with—unending punishment apart from God—remains unchanged; but if, by faith, you accept Christ’s payment for your sins and receive Him as Lord, then you will receive an everlasting home with your heavenly Father. God waits for your decision to choose Him.

Do you know for sure you are saved? _____

Today's Bible reading is Romans chapter 1.

LESSON 11

THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE

This week's Bible verse to memorize: John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Eternal life is a gift from God. It is given to you without regard to the good works you have done or the sins you have committed. Scripture tells you that apart from the Lord Jesus Christ, you are helpless to save yourself. To receive this gift of life requires agreeing with the testimony of Scripture: God the Father sent His Son for the purpose of dying on the cross to pay for your sins. Jesus took upon Himself the debt you owed for your transgressions, and He paid it in full.

“But now being made _____ from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the _____ of God is _____ through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:22-23).

What are the characteristics of this salvation gift?

Freely given. The guilt of your sins has been removed with no cost to you, and you are accepted into God's family. There is no act too vile that it isn't covered by the cross of Christ; rejecting Jesus to the very end of life is the only exception.

“Who is he that _____ the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is He that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the _____ that beareth witness, because the Spirit is _____” (1 John 5:5-6).

Fully sufficient. The death of Christ paid for every sin—past, present, and future. Nothing is required of you except believing in Jesus. To think otherwise is to proclaim His work on the cross as insufficient.

“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are _____. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is _____.: for this is the witness of God which He hath _____ of His Son” (1 John 5:7-9).

Forever yours. After you receive salvation, you don't have to work to keep it. It is a gift, and it is yours forever. Through God's promises in Scripture and the witness of the Holy Spirit, you can know for sure that you have eternal life.

“He that _____ on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us _____, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the _____ hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may _____ that ye have eternal life, and that ye may _____ on the name of the Son of God” (1 John 5:10-13).

Your feelings do not determine whether you are saved or not; the only thing that matters is what God says (Acts 16:31).

Today's Bible reading is 1 John chapter 5.

LESSON 12

THE RIGHT TO ENTER PARADISE

This week's Bible verse to memorize: John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Death is inevitable. The thief on the cross knew when his death would occur after receiving his sentence, but generally, we cannot predict our own. Following his death, the crucified criminal went to live in Paradise with Jesus. Some of us will also live eternally in God's presence, but others will experience everlasting torment, forever separated from Him in everlasting fire.

"And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb _____ the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the _____ of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof" (Revelation 21:22-23).

If you trust in Jesus as your Savior, your penalty for sin is paid, you are adopted into God's family, and heaven is your eternal home. If you reject Jesus or trust in anything or anyone else for salvation (including yourself), you remain alienated from the Lord and under condemnation for your sin, destined to experience eternal judgment. God won't accept any of man's excuses, as there is no acceptable defense for unbelief.

"Neither is there salvation in any _____: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be _____" (Acts 4:12).

Become part of God's family this very day by acknowledging your sinfulness, repenting, and trusting in Jesus alone. Your attitude should be similar to this: "God, I have sinned against You. I've followed my own way and have refused to give You the right to rule in life. I recognize I am separated from You and cannot rescue myself. I do believe that Jesus Christ is Your Son. I accept the truth of the Scriptures that Jesus' death on the cross paid my sin-debt in full, and I ask You to forgive me of my sins. By faith, I receive You, Lord Jesus, as my personal Savior from this moment on. I turn from sin and repent and will serve You from now on."

"As it is written, There is none _____, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that _____ after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that _____, no, not one" (Romans 3:10-12).

"For _____ have _____, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by His _____ through the _____ that is in Christ Jesus:" (Romans 3:23-24).

"If we _____ our sins, He is faithful and just to _____ us our sins, and to _____ us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is _____ in us" (1 John 1:9-10).

Today's Bible reading is Romans chapter 3.

LESSON 13

CAN ETERNAL LIFE BE EARNED?

This week's Bible verse to memorize: John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Sometimes people decide on a course of action first and then ask for input later. At that point, if they receive a response containing information they don't want to hear, they often react negatively. Believers can act the same way toward God. For instance, one day, a wealthy man came to Jesus and asked, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

And when He [Jesus] was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and _____ to Him, and asked Him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou Me good? There is none good but One, that is, _____" (Mark 10:17-18).

Having spent his days keeping the commandments, he wanted to know what else needed to be done to secure his position in heaven. The man erroneously believed that eternal life could be earned.

"Thou knowest the _____, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto Him, Master, all these things I have observed from my _____" (Mark 10:19-20).

Satan, the great deceiver, promotes the false idea that man can make himself acceptable in God's eyes of his own power. You may have even fallen victim to Satan's lies and have approached God on the basis of your conduct or performance. Just like the rich man, you may have thought, "God will accept me because I am doing the right things." Or perhaps you have assumed, "The good deeds I do outweigh the wrong things in my life."

"Then Jesus beholding him _____ him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have _____ in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and _____. And he was _____ at that saying, and went away _____: for he had great possessions" (Mark 10:21-22).

In thinking this way, you have established your own standard of acceptability and ignored God's. He says you have a flesh nature bent away from Him, and nothing you do will pay for your sin-debt. Only faith in Jesus, who died in your place, makes you acceptable to God. Through Him, you are forgiven of your sins and receive life everlasting. Apart from Christ, you face eternal punishment.

The young man in the Bible chose to walk away from Jesus. How do you respond when the truth of Scripture conflicts with what you believe?

Today's Bible reading is Mark chapter 10.

LESSON 14

ETERNAL SECURITY MATTERS

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God,
He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Your assurance of salvation and eternal life springs from Christ's atonement on the cross. Many people who claim Jesus as their Savior know that they are saved but are uncertain about eternal security; the Lord guarantees that your deliverance from sins is permanent. Some believers worry that their salvation can be lost through wrong actions, but eternal is God's promise. He wants His children to be confident about spending their future in heaven with Him.

"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness _____: he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar; because he believeth not the _____ that God gave of His Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us _____, and this life is in _____" (1 John 5:10-11).

When a person places trust in the Savior, he receives not only forgiveness of sin, but also the life of Christ abiding within him: Jesus' eternal nature becomes his. If you base your security on anything other than Christ's finished work on the cross—such as good works—then you will be prone to doubts about eternity and the wrong assumption that God's favor must be earned. In truth, eternal security is an extension of the Lord's grace and cannot be earned.

"He that hath the Son hath _____; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may _____ that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:12-13).

When you were an unbeliever, the promise of heaven impacted your understanding of divine pardon. In repenting of your sins, you changed your thinking about wrong behavior and acknowledged helplessness, and your intimate relationship with Him began at that moment. For believers, repentance makes right fellowship with the Lord; forgiveness is already yours.

"And this is the _____ that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His _____, He _____ us: And if we know that He hear us, _____ we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him" (1 John 5:14-15).

After receiving Jesus Christ into your life, you may still have doubts or may even rebel and sin against Him; but your salvation is not lost. The Bible is clear on this point: "I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish."

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never _____, neither shall any _____ pluck them out of My hand" (John 10:28).

Today's Bible reading is John chapter 10.

LESSON 15

THE ASSURANCE OF OUR SALVATION

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God,
He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

As a slave to sin, you were in dire need of rescue. The Lord Jesus did for you what you could never do for yourself: He paid your ransom through His shed blood.

“Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered [served] unto, but to minister, and to _____ His _____ a _____ for many” (Matthew 20:28).

The moment that you accept salvation's liberation, God counts the finished work of Jesus the Messiah on your behalf and adopts you as His child. If you ever have doubts about whether you belong to the Father or not, you can apply these “tests” to remind yourself of the security you have as a member of God's family:

1. The Word Test. What does Scripture say? “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.” If you accept the Bible as truth, then you will confess Jesus as the only One who can save you; more than that, you will trust the fact that God has made you a permanent part of His family.

“...And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be _____? And they said, _____ on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:30-31).

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the _____ of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not” (1 John 3:1).

2. The Witness Test. The Holy Spirit's testimony affirms that you are God's child and no longer a slave to fear. A deep, abiding conviction in your spirit confirms the security of your position in Christ.

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of _____, whereby we cry, Abba, _____. The Spirit itself beareth _____ with our spirit, that we are the _____ of God.” (Romans 8:15-16).

3. The Walk Test. What does your inner and outer life reveal? When you belong to Christ, you will be increasingly dissatisfied with your old, sinful ways. First, you will experience an inward change, which results in a hunger to know God and please Him. Then, you will experience an outward transformation that is visible through your words and actions.

“For whatsoever is born of God _____ the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that _____ is the _____ of _____?” (1 John 5:4-5).

Today's Bible reading is 1 John chapter 5.

LESSON 16

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY BRINGS US ASSURANCE

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God,
He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Do you believe that the Lord has absolute control over all of the universe including all the people in it? The best way to know what is truth is to see what God has inspired men to say about Him in the Bible. God declares that He is sovereign over all nature and all nations.

“All _____ is given by _____ of _____, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the _____ of _____ may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all _____” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

God is in control of nature. The Bible says, “Whatever the Lord pleases, He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.” God causes the rain to fall, the grass to grow, and vegetation to bring forth food. There isn't a single aspect of nature over which the Lord lacks control.

“For I know that the LORD is _____, and that our Lord is _____ all gods. Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that He did in _____, and in _____, in the _____, and all _____” (Psalm 135:5-6).

God is in control of the nations. The Bible says, “He makes the nations great and then destroys them; He enlarges the nations and then leads them away.” God's rule is certain and sure. He keeps watch over the nations, knows what is happening at all times, and maintains His authority over both good and evil governments.

“He discovereth deep things out of _____, and bringeth out to _____ the shadow of death. He _____ the nations, and _____ them: He enlargeth the nations, and straiteneth them again” (Job 12:22-23).

“Let every soul be _____ unto the higher powers. For there is no _____ but of _____: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, _____ the ordinance of _____: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation” (Romans 13:1-2).

When you believe God is sovereign and you experience this truth in your life, you will be filled to the top and will be overflowing with peace and joy. You will rest secure in the knowledge that no matter what is happening in the world, God reigns. His will shall be accomplished.

Does your life show trust in God's sovereignty?

Today's Bible reading is Romans chapter 13.

LESSON 17

GOD IS IN CONTROL OF OUR SALVATION (PART ONE)

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God,
He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

God's sovereignty extends over all things. Because He is omnipotent (all-powerful), no plan of His can be stopped. He is also omniscient (all-knowing), so nothing is hidden from His sight. What's more, He is omnipresent, which means that all things exist in His presence. Everything in both the natural and spiritual realms—including your salvation—is under His complete control.

“For with God _____ shall be _____” (Luke 1:37).

“For we which have believed do enter into _____, as He said, As I have sworn in My wrath, if they shall enter into My rest: although the works were _____ from the foundation of the world” (Hebrews 4:3).

“The LORD _____ from heaven; He _____ all the sons of men. From the place of His habitation He looketh upon all the _____ of the earth. He fashioneth their _____ alike; He considereth all their works” (Psalm 33:13-15).

“For by Him were all things _____, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, _____ and _____, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created _____, and for Him: And He is before all things, and by Him _____ consist” (Colossians 1:16-17).

Scripture describes us as having hearts that are deceitful, minds that suppress truth, and wills that have turned away from the Lord. God, however, is continually seeking us. He has issued a universal call inviting all to freely come to Him.

“The heart is _____ above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD _____ the _____, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the _____ of his doings” (Jeremiah 17:9-10).

“For the _____ of God is revealed from heaven against all _____ and _____ of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath _____ it unto them” (Romans 1:18-19).

God has declared that it is not His will that anyone perish.

“For God so _____ the world, that He _____ His only begotten Son, that _____ in _____ should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Today's Bible reading is Colossians chapter 1.

LESSON 18

GOD IS IN CONTROL OF OUR SALVATION (PART TWO)

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God,
He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

God does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked. He desires that all come to a knowledge of the truth that there is only one God and one Way by which the lost might be saved; sin separates us from Him, and only faith in Jesus reconciles us back to Him.

“The Lord is not slack concerning His _____, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that _____ should perish, but that _____ should come to _____” (2 Peter 3:9).

“Say unto them, As I live, saith the LORD GOD, I have no _____ in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked _____ from his way and _____: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye _____, O house of Israel?” (Ezekiel 33:11)

“Who will have _____ men to be _____, and to come unto the _____ of the _____. For there is _____ God, and one _____ between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for _____, to be testified in due time” (1 Timothy 2:4-6).

The Bible teaches that you can take no credit for your salvation. The desire to know Him comes through the Spirit's work of convicting hearts of sinfulness and providing the faith to believe in Jesus as Savior. Salvation is all a gift of God; you must simply accept it and trust in Jesus alone.

“There is none that _____, there is none that _____ after God. They are _____ gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that _____, no, not one” (Romans 3:11-12).

“For by _____ are ye saved through _____; and that not of _____: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should _____” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

“But to him that worketh not, but _____ on Him that _____ the ungodly, his faith is counted for _____” (Romans 4:5).

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you grasp the immensity of the divine grace, love, and mercy of God.

Please explain the sovereignty of God in your own words:

Today's Bible reading is Ephesians chapter 1.

LESSON 19

CERTAINTY ABOUT YOUR SALVATION

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God,
He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Many Christians fail to serve the Lord joyfully because of uncertainty about where they stand with God. Many times, they simply do not understand the overarching nature of their relationship with God, and as a result, do not want to commit themselves fully to His service.

“For there are three that _____ in _____, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that _____ in _____, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is _____: for this is the witness of God which He hath testified of His Son” (1 John 5:7-9).

You probably see hesitancy played out in day-to-day life all the time. For instance, perhaps you are acquainted with a man and a woman who are known as the “on-again, off-again” couple—the pair who seem to dance around the idea of a relationship but somehow never quite seem able to fully commit. It’s difficult to make a life-changing commitment when you’re not sure how the other person feels about you, or how you feel about the other person, isn’t it?

“He that believeth on the _____ of _____ hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar; because he believeth not the record that _____ of His Son. And this is the record, that God hath _____ to us eternal life, and this life is _____ His Son. He that hath the Son hath _____; he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (1 John 5:10-12).

The same thing holds true in your life of faith as well. No one wants a spouse—or a Savior—who could leave at any time, for any reason. No, we want certainty. When that is missing, the whole context of the relationship is out of balance.

“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may _____ that ye have eternal life, and that ye may _____ on the name of the Son of God. And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing _____ His _____, He heareth us” (1 John 5:13-14).

The Bible was written to bring certainty to uncertain believers. God wants you to know that there is no “off-again” time for anyone who engages in a relationship with the Father. Because God is your constant companion, you can trust that He will be faithful for eternity.

Are you sure of your salvation? If not, list the reason that you are not:

Today's Bible reading is 1 John chapter 5.

LESSON 20

THREE CERTAINTIES THAT DESCRIBE GOD'S WILL FOR ALL PEOPLE

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God,
He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

In order to understand the concept of being “saved and sure,” you must discover three certainties that describe God's will for all people:

1. It is the Lord's will that all be saved. God calls all men and women to Himself, but there must be a response to His invitation. As you answer His call to salvation, the Father makes you part of His everlasting family. If you fail to respond, then you will eternally remain outside of His redemption plan for mankind.

“That if thou shalt _____ with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt _____ in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto _____. For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon _____. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord _____” (Romans 10:9-13).

2. It is God's will that all be saved by grace, through faith. The Bible declares that salvation is 100% the Lord's work; it is His plan, His work, and His gift. You have no responsibility whatsoever, other than simply receiving the free gift.

“For by grace are ye _____ through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of _____, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

3. It is God's will that all be saved by grace through faith, and that they be sure of their salvation. Lack of certainty can destroy faith. If you are not sure that you are saved, the devil will use that seed of doubt to plague your spirit every time you feel you've done something unforgivable. In the Lord's eyes, there is no such thing as “unforgivable,” unless you die without Jesus. He has already established the plan by which all can join His eternal family, and He wants you to be confident in your salvation.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever _____ in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world: but that the world through Him might be _____” (John 3:16-17).

“In whom ye also _____, after that ye heard the word of _____, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were _____ with that Holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our _____ until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory” (Ephesians 1:13-14).

“But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great _____ wherewith He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace are ye saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His _____ in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:4-7).

Today's Bible reading is Ephesians chapter 2.

LESSON 20

SINNING AFTER SALVATION

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Joshua 1:9

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed:
for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

How many times have you sinned since you trusted in Jesus as your Savior? This is impossible to answer. The harsh reality is that every single person sins for the entirety of their time spent on earth—including Christians.

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an _____ with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And He is the propitiation [sacrifice] for our _____: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the _____” (1 John 2:1-2).

All transgressions, before and after salvation, stem from your desire to have your needs met apart from God. Whenever you take matters into your own hands, outside of His will, you are headed down a sad, sinful road. Faith in Christ brings many things—a new relationship with God, a new spirit, and a new outlook on life; however, it does not eradicate all traces of your old life. You still have the same body and mind, which can lead you into some of the same difficulties.

“And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His _____. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a _____, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His Word, in him verily is the love of God _____: hereby know we that we are in Him” (1 John 2:3-5).

Why do you still sin after salvation? It is because the same old “programming” directs your thinking in certain patterns, which leads you into trouble. War has been declared in your life as your sin nature struggles against your new, holy life brought about by Christ. If you do not make a commitment to re-train your mind, you can expect a lifetime of trouble.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the _____ of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, _____, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not _____ to this world: but be ye _____ by the renewing of your _____, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:1-2).

The Bible offers the remedy for this ongoing conflict: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” You must intentionally fill your mind with the things of God, allowing Him to realign your thoughts.

Where are your thoughts taking you today?

Are you grounding your thinking in Scripture, and how are you doing that?

Today's Bible reading is Romans chapter 12.

LESSON 22

JESUS' SACRIFICE—PAYMENT IN FULL

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Joshua 1:9

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

A church deacon recently confessed a horrible sin in an online message community. After giving a description of what he had done, he commented, "I know there's a price to pay for this sin now, and that price is death."

"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy _____: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine _____, and cleanse me from my sin. For I _____ my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me" (Psalm 51:1-3).

Not only was the deacon's heart broken over what he had done, but he also knew what effect the wrongs would have on his friends and family. Yet, overshadowing his remorse was fear. He had become afraid of God, believing that the sovereign Lord of the universe was now "out to get him."

What would you say to this believer? Does his statement reflect an appropriate view of God's response to sin?

"But now being made _____ from sin, and become _____ to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end _____. For the wages of sin is death; but the _____ of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:22-23).

The Bible clearly states that "the wages of sin is death," but this sorrowful young man had overlooked the all-important second half of the verse—that the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. If our heavenly Father gives you a gift, you can trust that He will never take it away. Instead, it becomes yours to keep; that's what a gift is! You did nothing to deserve it, so you can do nothing to lose it, although a Christian should repent of his sin and not willingly sin.

"For such an High Priest _____, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this He did _____, when He offered up Himself" (Hebrews 7:26-27).

Moreover, a greater theological principle is at work here. If the believer's sin after salvation could require death or any form of punishment, then Jesus' sacrifice was insufficient. However, the Bible tells you that Jesus' death was wholly sufficient and a once-for-all payment of mankind's sin-debt.

"Hide Thy face from my _____, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a _____, O God; and _____ a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:9-10).

Either Jesus' blood covers all your sins, or it doesn't; there's no middle ground, and the Holy Spirit, Christ's words, and the Bible's testimony clearly assert that it does.

Today's Bible reading is Psalm chapter 51.

LESSON 23

THE NEED FOR SALVATION

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Joshua 1:9

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed:
for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Christ-followers know the importance of being saved, but many people in the world see no need for rescue. Let's think about some key truths regarding man's need for salvation. Those who don't have a personal relationship with God are:

1. Spiritually dead. Many people don't realize that there are three kinds of death: physical, eternal, and spiritual. Eternal death comes at the end of the age when all those who have refused Jesus are cast away from God permanently. Spiritual death occurred first in the garden of Eden. Disobedience severed Adam and Eve's intimate connection to God and caused them to be spiritually detached from Him. As a result, we are now all born as "dead" people in need of new life.

"Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, _____ from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the _____ and his angels" (Matthew 25:41).

"Wherefore, as by _____ sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon _____ men, for that _____ have sinned" (Romans 5:12).

2. Living a life of sin. Your nature is to rebel against God; this is called sin. Over and over we choose what pleases us, and not Him. Our efforts to free ourselves from the power of sin are in vain. Enslaved to sin, we need someone to rescue us.

"Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, whosoever committeth sin is the _____ of sin" (John 8:34).

3. Under divine wrath. Because of your disobedience, you are under God's judgment, awaiting punishment. All efforts to earn His approval and escape your sentence would be insufficient. Sinful man has nothing acceptable to offer a holy God. Your only hope of escape is for someone else to take your penalty.

"And you hath He quickened, who were _____ in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this _____, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of _____" (Ephesians 2:1-2).

God's good news is that the Lord has provided a way for all to pass from spiritual death to eternal life, from bondage of sin into freedom, and from condemnation to intimacy with Him.

"Jesus saith unto him, _____ am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by _____" (John 14:6).

Jesus Christ alone is the way, and He meets every need. Do you know for sure you have eternal life? Upon what do you base your assurance?

Today's Bible reading is Matthew chapter 25.

LESSON 24

WHERE WILL YOU SPEND ETERNITY?

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Joshua 1:9

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed:
for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Every one of us must face the question of where we are going to spend eternity. Although the greatest theologians cannot understand or fully explain it, we are all destined to live forever; it is a mind-boggling thought.

“When the Son of Man shall come in His _____, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: And before Him shall be gathered all _____: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And He shall set the _____ on His right hand, but the _____ on the left” (Matthew 25:31-33).

When desperate, some people will say, “I just wish I could die and end it all.” As baffling as it sounds, this is something you cannot do; it is simply beyond your power. You have no control over the fact that when you die, you will keep on living somewhere. You can't end your life, but you can know where you are going to spend it; you can make a “reservation” for one of two eternal locations: heaven or hell.

“And the building of the wall of it was jasper: and the city was pure _____, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was _____; the second, _____; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an _____;” (Revelation 21:18-19).

It is critical to understand what the Word of God has to say about these two places. Now, consider heaven. The Bible describes it as a place decorated with gold, silver, and precious stones. The Bible talks very clearly about another eternal abode called hell, as well; this is the location of those assigned to eternal separation from God in a lake of fire.

“He that overcometh shall _____ all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my _____. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the _____” (Revelation 21:7-8).

In the end, the real question is not what we shall see, but Who we shall see. Do you know what makes heaven the place that it is? It is the presence of the Lord God Almighty. If you are a child of God, you will live forever and ever in unbroken service, fellowship, and bliss with the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and with every single saint who will be in heaven.

Can you be sure where you will spend your life forever? _____

Where do you plan to spend eternity? _____

Today's Bible reading is Revelation chapter 21.

LESSON 25

WILL THERE BE ETERNAL PUNISHMENT?

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Joshua 1:9

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Many people are against the idea of eternal punishment for the ungodly. However, their objections have no biblical basis; their objections are based on emotions and personal feelings. Some argue this way: "Since God is omniscient, He certainly would have foreseen that human beings would make some wrong choices and that their sins would result in never-ending separation from Him, so to prevent everlasting punishment, God should not have created the world at all." But do any of you wish you had never been born?

"And I saw a great white _____, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before _____; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the _____ of _____: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their deeds" (Revelation 20:11-12).

Others protest, "God was right to create man, but not with the capacity to make decisions that could result in unending punishment. He should have made humankind without the ability to sin." Yet, who would prefer to be a robot?

"And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were _____ every man according to their _____. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was _____ into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:13-15).

How could God be more fair? What more could He do to save you than He has already done? He sent His only Son to die as a sacrifice for your sins. In addition, He has given you a Bible to read and people to tell you about God, along with Bible courses, tracts, and preachers. You've heard the Gospel again and again. My dear friend, listen carefully: if you stand in the Great White Throne room of judgment after telling God all your life to leave you alone, you will finally have your wish; His final words to you will be, "Depart from me."

"For I was an hungred, and ye _____ Me _____: I was thirsty, and ye _____ Me _____: I was a _____, and ye took Me not in: naked, and ye _____ Me not: sick, and in prison, and ye _____ Me not. Then shall they also answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not _____ unto _____? Then shall He answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of _____, ye did it not to Me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life _____" (Matthew 25:42-46).

Today's Bible reading is Revelation chapter 20.

LESSON 26

BELIEVE IN ETERNAL SECURITY

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Joshua 1:9

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

There are many warnings in the Bible against carelessly or indifferently letting your life drift away from God and His plan. However, the Bible never mentions losing your salvation. Once you belong to Christ, there are only admonitions about believers losing their reward. You are eternally secure in Christ for several reasons:

1. Divine election. The Lord views your whole lifespan in one glance. Because He can see both the beginning and the end, He knows that those who are His children will certainly be in heaven with Him.

“According as He hath _____ us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be _____ and without _____ before Him in love:” (Ephesians 1:4).

2. Christ's work of redemption. On the cross, Jesus declared that His work was finished. Then, in heaven, He sat down on the throne and began His work of intercession. Because His redemptive plan was complete, no other sacrifice was or ever will be needed.

“Who being the _____ of His _____, and the _____ of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His _____, when He had by Himself _____ our _____, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:” (Hebrews 1:3).

“Wherefore He is able also to _____ them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make _____ for them” (Hebrews 7:25).

“By the which will we are _____ through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ _____ for _____” (Hebrews 10:10).

3. Salvation by grace alone. Neither your conduct nor your character determines your eternal position; only your choice to accept God's grace through Christ Jesus does. Grace is the goodness and kindness of the Father without regard to your worth or value and in spite of what you deserve.

“For by _____ are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the _____ of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always _____, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own _____ with fear and trembling. For it is _____ which worketh in you both to _____ and to _____ of His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:12-13).

4. You do nothing to earn salvation. And likewise, you do nothing to keep it.

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His _____ He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which He shed on us _____ through Jesus Christ our Saviour;” (Titus 3:5-6).

The gift of eternal security is freely given to you forever—it is a done deal.

Today's Bible reading is Titus chapter 3.

LESSON 27

WHY ARE WE ETERNALLY SECURE?

This week's Bible verse to memorize: Joshua 1:9

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed:
for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

You have learned that your salvation is eternally secure because of **1. Divine election; 2. Christ's work of salvation is complete;** and **3. Salvation is accomplished not by your effort, but by grace.** The Bible gives several other reasons as well:

4. The nature of salvation. Redemption is a gift from God—He forgives, delivers, and brings you home to heaven.

“For God so loved the world, that He _____ His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have _____” (John 3:16).

“And the Lord shall _____ me from every evil work, and will _____ me unto His heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever” (2 Timothy 4:18).

5. The promises of God. The Father promises that the life He gives you is eternal, and that no one can take you from Him. He also vows that He has begun a good work in you, and He will complete it to the very end.

“And I _____ unto them _____ life; and they shall never _____ neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand” (John 10:28).

“Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a _____ in _____ will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:” (Philippians 1:6).

6. Union with Christ. When God adopts you as His child, you are born of Him and placed in union with Christ. Jesus Himself has declared that He will never leave you nor forsake you. He will even seat you in the heavens with Him.

“But as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to become the _____ of God, even to them that believe on His name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of flesh, nor of the will of man, but of _____” (John 1:12-13).

“Let your conversation [conduct] be without covetousness; and be _____ with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never _____ thee, nor _____ thee” (Hebrews 13:5).

“And hath raised us up _____, and made us sit together in _____ in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6).

7. The Holy Spirit's eternal work. The Spirit of God sealed you at salvation, and His work lasts forever. The Spirit's presence permanently marks each believer as one of God's children.

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye _____ the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were _____ with that Holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the _____ possession, unto the praise of His glory” (Ephesians 1:13-14).

If you have asked Jesus to save you, are you convinced yet of the permanency of your position? _____
Please explain your answer:

Today's Bible reading is Ephesians chapter 1.

LESSON 28

DO YOU WANT IT?

This week's Bible verse to memorize: John 10:27-28

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.

Life after death—most people love the life part, but the death part can be scary. We can't get past the idea of death (ours or anyone else's) or even think about life after it. But you are eternally made in God's image, and what happens to you after physical death is real and lasts forever. For some, that is good news, but for many, it won't be: "He that hath the Son, hath life; he that hath not the Son of God, hath not life."

"He that believeth on the Son hath _____: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).

The Bible makes it absolutely clear that eternal life is available to every person on earth.

"For whosoever shall _____ upon the name of the Lord shall be _____" (Romans 10:13).

Eternal life is a costly gift, yet it's free. It cost Jesus His life, so that He might give it to you at no expense. It is of immeasurable quantity, but it is invisible. The quantity is endless, but it is seen only through faith. Sickness, disease, and death are bound to the world; however, everyone in Christ has already overcome the worst this world has to offer—even death.

"For whosoever is born of _____ overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that _____ that Jesus is the Son of God?" (1 John 5:4-5)

Eternal life is found only in Christ. Without God, you are spiritually dead and face an eternity of separation from Him. Eternal life is experienced only through an intimate relationship with Christ; it begins at salvation and continues forever. Intellectual knowledge about Jesus Christ alone is not sufficient.

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to _____; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life _____" (1 Timothy 1:15-16).

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may _____ that ye have _____ life, and that ye may _____ on the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:13).

As a believer, you should be shouting the salvation message from the rooftops! People around you are yearning for a Word of Life, but too many Christians have remained silent. Why do you think this is true?

Who do you know that needs to hear about salvation today? Will you tell them?

Today's Bible reading is 1 John chapter 5.

LESSON 29

REVIEW (PART ONE)

This week's Bible verse to memorize: John 10:27-28

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.

Multiple Choice

Read each question carefully, then mark the correct answer. There is only one correct answer to each question. The questions are based on Scripture and the lessons in this book.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Jesus said:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) I am the Wayb) None can come to me unless he/she is goodc) Do not forget Me when I'm gone2. Jesus prayed to the Father, asking Him:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) To take Him to Heavenb) To give humans another Comforterc) To forgive Him3. Whoever has faith in Christ will:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Not have any troubles on earthb) Have lots of moneyc) Live forever with Him4. On the cross, Jesus:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Paid the price for all sinsb) Paid the price only for my sinsc) Paid the price for the sins of the saved5. Jesus told Zacchaeus to do what?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Give up his jobb) Allow Him to abide at his housec) Pay back those he had taken money from6. For by grace are ye:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Savedb) A good personc) Free from problems | <ol style="list-style-type: none">7. You are made nigh to God by what?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) The blood of Christb) The Biblec) Prayer8. Jesus said I will be to him:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) A Fatherb) A Lightc) A stepping stone9. Jesus told Nicodemus:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) To be a teacherb) To be born againc) To tell the world about Him10. We are kept by:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) The power of Godb) Reading the Biblec) Praying three times a day11. Jesus Christ is:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) The same today onlyb) The same only in Bible timesc) The same yesterday, today, and forever12. For I am not ashamed:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Of reading my Bibleb) Of attending my churchc) Of spreading the gospel of Christ |
|---|--|

Today's Bible reading is Romans chapter 1.

LESSON 30

REVIEW (PART TWO)

This week's Bible verse to memorize: John 10:27-28

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.

True or False

Read each statement below carefully, then enter "true" or "false" in the blank. The statements are based on Scripture and the lessons in this book.

1. The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ. _____
2. Everyone is the son/daughter of God. _____
3. There are three that bear record in heaven. _____
4. This is the record that God hath given to us eternal life. _____
5. As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not, one. _____
6. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. _____
7. He that hath the Son hath death. _____
8. If we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us. _____
9. Man can pluck you out of God's hand. _____
10. The Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. _____
11. We have received the spirit of bondage of fear. _____
12. Whosoever is born of God overcometh the world. _____
13. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. _____
14. The Lord is great and is above all gods. _____
15. With God, nothing is impossible. _____
16. The Lord is slack concerning His promises. _____
17. By works are ye saved. _____

Today's Bible reading is Ephesians chapter 2.



PLOWMAN'S ACADEMY

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