

This study guide has been compiled to walk you through the message of the Bible. You will understand the Gospel. You will understand what The Law of God is, why it is used, and how it is used. You will know what it means to be saved and what a saved person has been saved from. You will have an understanding what it means to be a "believer", what the life of a believer looks like, the evidence and assurance of a true believer, and how to be victorious over temptation and sin.

This study is a combination of God's Word, commentary, analogies, and thought provoking questions. As with any study, man's opinion doesn't account for anything, what matters is the Truth of God's Word. God's Word should ALWAYS be the focus. If analogies and commentary help us understand Scripture better that is fantastic, but Scripture itself is our only source of absolute Truth.  
*(the answer key and related Scripture: page 26)*

## **I. The Law**

The Law of God is the standard to which God will Judge all people. If you have kept His Law perfectly you will be allowed to enter His Eternal Kingdom, known as Heaven.

**Hebrews 9:27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,**

According to Hebrews 9:27, what comes after we die?

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**Mark 10:17-22 And as He was setting out on His journey, a man ran up and knelt before Him and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" 20 And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." 21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." 22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.**

God's Word makes it clear that He put eternity on our heart\*, although some will say they do not believe there is life after death, the reality is, like the man in

Mark 10, all of us have a deep desire to know about life after death, to know what awaits us in eternity, and how we can inherit eternal life.

Jesus gave this man some very difficult Truth, according to Mark 10:21, why did Jesus do this?

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We never hear about this man again in Scripture, according to Mark 10:22, what is the last thing we hear about him?

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We also see in Scripture that Jesus raises the bar; for example, we are commanded not to murder, however, Jesus said that if you are angry with your brother you are liable to judgment; He also says that if you look at a woman (or man) with lustful (sexual) intent you have committed adultery with them in your heart (read Matthew 5 for an in-depth study of this\*). In looking at these two examples of how Jesus raises the bar, along with the commandments not to lie or steal (just to name a few), if you were to be judged according to this standard, would you be innocent or guilty on the Day of Judgment?

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The man in Mark 10 was under the illusion that he kept these commandments perfectly. Notice how Jesus didn't argue with him, He simply brought forth another commandment from The Law. Jesus commanded Him to sell everything, give it away, and come follow Him. Do we see any evidence that the man did this? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus used the Law to expose the man's violation of the first of the Ten Commandments, which is, "You shall have no other gods before Me."\* The man's possessions were not the issue, it was the condition of his heart that was the problem, he preferred wealth over obedience to God. Although the man knew there was Eternal Life, and he wanted Eternal Life, he was not willing to do as God commands to receive eternal life.

Wealth and processions were his "god", it was his idol, it was what he yielded to and bowed down to, figuratively speaking. He wanted wealth over anything else as demonstrated by his actions and reaction to Jesus' Words. To put anything before God is sin; whether it be a career, pursuit of financial success, sports, sex, gambling, alcohol, drugs, pornography, entertainment, fitness, and even family. In the worlds eyes, to be consumed by some of these things is considered noble,

for example, a man that works night and day for large financial gain is commended for his work ethic. But the reality is, he is addicted to this pursuit and his appetite for financial gain will never be satisfied as long as he continues down the same road. Other items on this list are not considered so noble by society. They will cause great loss and even land you in jail. The reality is, whether your addiction will land you in jail, financial independence, or somewhere in between, it is still addiction. You have surrendered your life to whatever "it" is, rather than surrendering your life to God and His will; therefore, we can rightly say that addiction is just a fancy word for sin.

**Romans 3:19-20 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.**

People tend to justify their actions and will even claim to be a good person, or basically good. The Law must be preached to silence those that think they are basically good. According to Romans 3:19, in the mirror of God's Law, how many mouths will be stopped? \_\_\_\_\_

According to Romans 3:19, who will be held accountable to God?  
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According to Romans 3:20, what comes through the Law?  
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**1Corinthians 6:9-10 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.**

According to the first part of 1Corinthians 6:9, who does it say will NOT inherit the Kingdom of God?  
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We don't have to read very much of God's Word to see we have a problem, we have a HUGE problem - all of us, because we have all sinned.

**Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**

**1John 1:8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**

The reality is, our problem is much bigger than most people have really considered. Let's consider the magnitude of our problem by asking this question. Most people have heard the term, "saved" in one context or another. For example, "Jesus saves" or "I have been saved". When this term is used, what do you think "saved" is referring to, saved from what? (This is the only "speculating" or "opinion" part of this study)

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## **II. Saved from what?**

**John 3:36b whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.**

According to John 3:36, who shall not see life?

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According to John 3:36, what remains on the one that does not obey the Son?

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**Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.**

According to Romans 1:18, what is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men?

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What are men suppressing when they continue in unrighteousness?

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**Ephesians 5:5-6 For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.**

According to Ephesians 5:6, what is coming upon the sons of disobedience?

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The reality of God's coming Wrath is very difficult to hear, after all, many of us have been told that we are all children of God. However, the Word of God says something completely different.

**Ephesians 2:1-3 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.**

Ephesians was written to believers, those that have been saved; according to Ephesians 2:3, like all mankind, these people were by nature children of what?

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Further evidence that we are not “by nature” children of God can be found in John 1:12:

**John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,**

Logically, we wouldn't be told that “he gave the right to become children of God” if we were *already* children of God.

**Romans 5:9b much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.**

After considering these few verses, let's revisit the same question as above; if a person is saved, what have they been saved from?

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So far we have established through God's Word that we have all sinned, and we are all unrighteous. We also know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God but instead will face God's Wrath on Judgment Day - unless they are saved.

God's Word makes it clear that at this point in our life He is blessing "the righteous and the unrighteous"\*. That makes sense as we consider that light, for example, is a blessing. Living in complete darkness would be torture if you had the ability to see but were held in a room completely void of light. Rest is a blessing. Imagine how brutal it would be to be completely exhausted but not being allowed to rest\*. Communication is a blessing. Having conversations with others is something we often take for granted, but imagine a life with absolutely no fellowship or friendship of any kind. This is a small, incomplete picture of eternity without God's blessings. The reality is, Jesus talked more about hell\* than He did Heaven and that is what hell is, a place where all of God's blessings are removed. A place where the unrighteous will spend eternity.

A logical response to this would be, "that doesn't seem fair, just because I told a lie I deserve hell?" The reality is, hell is what we have earned. If you worked a day labor job you would have every right to expect to be paid at the end of the day, after all, you have earned your wage. The same is true of sin:

### **Romans 6:23a For the wages of sin is death,**

When we think through this logically it starts to make more sense. If someone hurt one of our loved ones we would expect justice to be done. If we were sitting in the court room waiting for justice to be served upon the one that hurt our loved one and the judge said, "the defendant has said he is sorry, so please take the shackles off him, he is free to go."

You would be outraged, "that is not justice. He may be sorry, but he still needs to pay for his crime!"

The same is true in God's courtroom, He cannot let sin go unpunished. He would not be a Righteous Judge if He winked at sin. Justice has to be done, sin must be paid for, the Wrath of God must be appeased. God's Wrath can only be appeased and satisfied one way. Propitiation is defined as "appeasing wrath" - take a look at what Scripture says about propitiation:

**Romans 3:24b-25a redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood,**

Redemption is defined as "deliverance from bondage"; which we see in Romans 8:2, among other verses, that the bondage we are in, is sin and death.

**Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.**

So, paraphrasing these texts, we see that "being set free from the bondage of sin and death comes through Jesus Christ. The consequences of that sin, which is the Wrath of God being poured out on the sinner, can only be satisfied by the Blood of Jesus Christ."

**Romans 5:9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.**

To recap what we have read so far, "All have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God and will be found guilty on Judgment Day. The unrighteous will be facing eternal punishment for their sin unless, in some Way they can be declared both not guilty and righteous. That Way is through the Blood of Christ. In other words, the ONLY WAY to be saved is through the Blood of Christ."

Let's take a look at how that happens.

### **III. How do I get saved?**

If a person becomes convicted, in other words, they become convinced of their sin and the reality that they have sinned against their Creator, a Holy God that demands Justice, and they agree that they are deserving of eternal punishment, then they are ready for the Good News. It is important to know that not everyone will have their eyes opened to this Truth because their eyes have been veiled from the Truth.

**2Corinthians 4:3-4 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**

We have been given 2 different titles for Satan so far in this study, "the prince of the power of the air" and "the god of this world". According to 2Corinthians 4:4, what has Satan done in the case of those that are not able to see the Truth of the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_

**1Peter 5:5b-9 "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.**

We can see that the devil has been given a certain amount of dominion over this world. He has been given the authority to blind the minds of unbelievers, and he is allowed to prowl around looking for those to devour. He is very deceptive and crafty.

**Genesis 3:1a Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.**

Most people don't realize that they have been deceived by Satan because Satan uses the same tactics that caused him to fall from grace, pride. Satan wanted to be "as God". Satan's playbook hasn't changed since the original sin:

**Genesis 3:1-7 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.**



(To read of Satan being the serpent referred to in these verses study Revelation 12\*) In Genesis 3, notice how in verse 1 Satan gets the woman to question God's Word\*. In verse 3 we see the first command with a consequence. In verse 5 we see the father of lies\* leading the woman to believe a lie, that she can be like God. In verse 7 we see the shame that immediately followed their disobedience.

In the same way, we want to be like God, or better put, we want to be our own god, too prideful to see our need for the True God, our Creator.

According to 1Peter5:5, what is God's response to the proud?

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Grace has been defined as "unmerited favor", who does God extend His Grace to? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus tells a parable in Luke 18 illustrating the humility God is looking for:

**Luke 18:9-14 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."**

According to Luke 18:9, who did the "religious man" trust in for his righteousness? \_\_\_\_\_

The tax collector that knew he was a sinner, and felt the shame of that sin to the point he couldn't even look up said a simple prayer, what was it?

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To be justified means to be pardoned from guilt, in this case, to be pardoned from the guilt and consequence of sin. Which one of these men was justified, the one who trusted in his own righteousness or the one that was pleading for God's mercy?

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Recognizing your own wickedness is the beginning of salvation. Knowing that God would be Just in punishing your sin eternally is to rightly understand the severity of your sin. Coming to the realization that there is nothing you can do to earn or deserve God's Mercy drives you to your knees. David wrote about this very thing in Psalm 51. As we can see in this Psalm, when a person is deeply affected with grief and sorrow over their sin, they are now in a position to receive God's Grace.

**Psalm 51:4 Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**

**Psalm 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Contrite: to break or bruise, deeply affected with grief and sorrow for having offended God; humble

Many times, people try to earn or work their way back to God through good works or religion as a form of sacrifice in hopes that they will be acceptable to God; however, according to Psalm 51:17 what is God looking for?

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When we realize the magnitude and consequences of our sin we can't help but be broken over our sin. That is when we can start to understand the depth of God's love for us as we considered what He did for us. Because God is Holy and Righteous He can't let sin go unpunished, but because God is love He provided a Way for us to be saved.

**1John 4:9-10 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

**John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

Who will have eternal life?

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**Romans 3:19-26** Now we know that whatever the Law says it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the Law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the Law comes knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the Law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it-- 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be Just and the Justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

God requires that we be righteous in order to inherit eternal life, however, we know we are not righteous. According to Romans 3:22, how can the unrighteous be made righteous?

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According to Romans 3:24 how are we justified?

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According to Romans 3:25 we see that the Blood of Jesus Christ appeases the Wrath of God, how do we receive this gift?

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According to Romans 3:26, because of Jesus Christ's finished work God can remain Just in declaring the believer both "not guilty" and "righteous"; who does this verse say He is the Justifier of?

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Faith, trust, and belief are all sides of the same coin. A believer has faith in God's promises, faith in Jesus' finished work on The Cross, faith that He has the ability to save. The believer trusts that Jesus will save them, the believer trusts in His Word and His promise to save all that call on Him from a pure heart.

**John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.**

#### **IV. What's next?**

When a person has been saved, life becomes more difficult. The sin you didn't give any thought to now becomes a weight of conviction. This is because you have been given a new heart with new desires. You have been given the Holy Spirit, the very Spirit of Christ dwells in you. The Spirit prompts you when your fleshly desires do not line up with God's will. For example, before you were saved you may have used profanity and didn't give any thought to it, now you feel the conviction of the Spirit when you use profanity. Does that mean you will never swear again? Probably not, but when you do you will want to confess it and turn from it.

That is what repentance is, you will have your mind changed in regard to sin, you will have a desire to turn from sin and turn to God. When Jesus began His earthly ministry that is what He commanded:

**Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."**

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

**Luke 13:2-5 And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."**

In these 3 verses two things are made clear. One, sin is sin and we should not get in to any finger pointing about what or who is worse, all sin will be condemned.

Jesus told them twice what they need to do otherwise they "all will likewise perish", what was it?

I heard an analogy that really helps to get our mind around repentance: Let's say you found out a rich uncle left you 5 million dollars, but in order to receive it you need to be in Florida in 48 hours. While a friend is driving you to the airport they say, "hey, we have 2 days to get you to Florida, how about if we drive instead of fly, it would be a fun road trip?" You reluctantly say, "OK". You don't give any thought to the direction but after several hours you have this feeling you are not going the right way. A few hours later your feeling is confirmed when you see a sign that says "Canadian Border 20 miles".

What do you want your friend to do?

- 1) You want them to acknowledge that they are going the wrong direction; because, if they don't agree with you (have a change of mind of their direction) they will continue
- 2) You want them to stop going in the wrong direction
- 3) You want them to apologize for going the wrong direction
- 4) You want them to turn around and start going the right direction
- 5) You don't want them to stop until they get there

That is repentance. Change of mind regarding sin, confessing (agreeing with God about) your sin, turning from that sin to God, and pursuing a deeper relationship with God until you are brought home to Glory.

**Luke 24:44-47(Jesus speaking to His Apostles) Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled. "Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.**

Whatever your sin is, God wants you to repent. In fact, in Luke 13 Jesus tells a parable illustrating His patience in giving us time to bear fruit in keeping with repentance, but the parable also illustrates the severity towards the one not willing to bear the fruit of repentance.

**Luke 13:6-9 And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig**

**tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' 8 And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. 9 Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"**

After Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried; He rose from the dead 3 days later defeating sin and death. Before His arrest all the apostles fled in fear, but after His Resurrection, when Jesus appeared to over 500 people for 40 days the apostles had a whole new level of commitment. They all went in to the world and preached the Gospel until they were killed for it. Here's one of the many accounts as recorded in Acts:

**Acts 2:37-40 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."**

Upon hearing the Gospel some were "cut to the heart", in other words they felt the weight of conviction over their sin; according to Acts 2:38, what did Peter tell them to do when they asked, "what shall we do?"

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Before Jesus ascended back to Heaven He promised the apostles that He would send the Holy Spirit to teach them all things, and bring to their remembrance all that He had said to them:

**John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.**

Therefore, when we read the New Testament we are not trusting in the words of men, we are trusting in the promise of Jesus Christ. The writers of the New Testament were writing what they were guided to write by the Holy Spirit, so when you read the New Testament you are reading the Word of God. The same God that created all things\*, the same God that set the stars in place and knows

them by name, the same God that told the seas to go this far and go no further, this is the same God that has protected His Word so that you may know the Way of Salvation. Through His Word, God has given us marching orders as soldiers for Christ:

**2Timothy 2:3-10** Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4** No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. **5** An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. **6** It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. **7** Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. **8** Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, **9** for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! **10** Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

According to 2Timothy 2:3-4 Paul speaks of a good soldier having the desire to please someone, who does a good soldier aim to please?

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**1Peter 5:10** And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

**1Thessalonians 2:12** we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

**1Corinthians 1:9** God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Romans 9:11** though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad--in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of Him who calls--

**Acts 2:39** For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself."

After reading these 5 verses, who is it that calls you to God?

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God does it all! He created you, He provided a Way of salvation for you, He calls you, He redeems you, He gives eternal life to you. That's not all, He wants you to live your life a certain way and, when you are born again, He gives you a new heart. He changes your desires, and He prunes out the garbage that is getting in the way of you doing His will. He does it all!

**John 15:1-8 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.**

**3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.**

Chapter 15 Jesus is speaking, who does He say is the True Vine?

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Who does He say is the Vinedresser?

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According to John 15:5 who are the branches?

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According to John 15:2, what does the Vinedresser do with the branches that bear fruit? \_\_\_\_\_

According to John 15:4 a branch cannot bear fruit unless it is doing something, what is that "something"?

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According to John 15:5 what does the one that abides in Christ do?

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According to John 15:6 what happens to the one that does not abide in Christ?

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According to John 15:8, how is God The Father Glorified?

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When we bear much fruit what does it prove according to John 15:8?

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God calls us, He enlists us a good soldier for Christ, He has given us a desire to please Him. He wants us to bear fruit for Him and He tells us how to do it; and it is not by gritting our teeth and trying to do it without Him. He has to give us His Spirit, the desire, and ability to hate and quit sin. We have victory over sin and bear fruit for God by abiding in Him. The responsibility to prune out the garbage is on Him, not us; our responsibility is to abide; so how do we do that? The same way the new believers in Acts 2 did:

**Acts 2:41-47 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. 42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.**

According to Acts 2:41, what did those who received His Word do?

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Baptism doesn't save you, but it does a couple things. One-it allows you to make a public declaration that you belong to Christ? Two-it demonstrates your obedience to Christ; He said to get baptized so you get baptized. Nowhere in Scripture is there ever infant baptism, in every case, first they believed and then they were baptized.

According to Acts 2:42 the believers devoted themselves to 4 things, what were they?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_

We can also see as we read the rest of the verses in Acts 2 that there was much generosity and love for the brethren, which is another indicator of someone that is born again and abiding in Christ.

## V. How can I be sure I am saved?

**1John 5:1-4 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. 4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.**

According to 1John 5:1 everyone that is born again, born of God, loves the brethren (others that are born again) that is how we can know we love God, when we love His children.

According to 1John 5:3, what is another way we know that we love God?

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This is an interesting shift in thinking that happens. Before we are born again we look at God's commandments as a list of rules to follow that only want to infringe on our fun. We would look at **John 14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments"** and see it as "You love Me? Prove it! Obey Me!". But that is NOT the tone. The reality is, when you are born again you have such a love for the One that saved a wretch like you that you only want to bring Him glory by keeping His commands and glorifying Him. Bringing Him glory includes practicing righteousness, which is indicated in 1 John 3 as we are given some very sobering Words:

**1John 3:4-10 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that He appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7 Little**

children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. 10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

According to 1John 3:5 why did Jesus appear?

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According to 1John 3:6, the one who abides in Christ doesn't do something, what is that "something"?

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What does 1John 3:8 say about the one who makes a practice of sinning?

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1John 3:9 says that no one born of God makes a practice of sinning, why?

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Practicing righteousness and practicing lawlessness is evidence of something according to 1John 3:10, what is this evidence of?

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Although 1John can be a massive wake up call to a professing Christian that has been continuing in various sin, it does not leave us without hope. 1John indicates that sin for a believer is an exception, not the rule:

**1John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.**

In a movie theatre they always have the instructions before the movie starts, "In case of a fire, the emergency exits are in the front of the theatre to your right". The fire is not the norm, but in the unusual event that there is a fire, here's the

plan. That is the context of 1John 2:1, "sin is not the norm for a Christian, but if we do sin, we have One that will stand in on our behalf (an Advocate)."

That is not the only verse that gives us tremendous hope in 1John:

**1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**Psalm 32:1-6 A Maskil of David. Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah. 5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah. 6 Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.**

We can see a direct link to having your transgressions forgiven and calling out to the Lord. We are warned in Psalm 32:3-4 not to keep silent – we must confess our sin to the Lord.

According to Psalm 32:4 what is heavy upon the believer that keeps silent?

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According to Psalm 32:4 what happens to the strength of the believer who keeps silent? \_\_\_\_\_

According to Psalm 32:5 what are we to do with sin?

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Psalm 32:6 indicates that there is a time when God may be found in prayer as we acknowledge and confess our sin; however, this verse also indicates that there is a time when a person remains silent and in the "rush of great waters" – which in this context seems to indicate "much unconfessed sin" – where God will not be found – this person will not be heard.

The context of the deceit David is referring to in verse 2 seems to indicate a person that professes faith in God, yet their actions and prayer life are contrary

to their profession. They do not acknowledge, confess, and forsake their sin – thus living a life deceiving themselves, a life of hypocrisy.

As you read 1John the nut shell version is this: "The Christian will not habitually sin, they will strive for righteousness, on occasion they may stumble, and when they do they will confess their sin to God, ask for forgiveness, and He will cleanse them of their unrighteousness based on the merit of Christ's finished work on the Cross, Jesus is both our Savior and our Advocate. On the other hand, if we have no problem continuing in sin, with no shame or remorse chances are we are not a child of God, but instead, are probably a child of the devil; either way, the one who practices sin cannot have any assurance of Salvation and will lack the peace and joy that only God can give."

## **VI. This is War!**

One thing a Christian must be aware of is the battle, it is a battle we cannot see, but it is a battle none the less:

**Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.**

According to Ephesians 6:12, what type of spiritual forces are we battling against? \_\_\_\_\_

**2Peter 1:2-8 May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Although our battle is against spiritual forces of evil, what has God granted believers according to 2Peter 1:3? \_\_\_\_\_

According to verse 5, what are we to supplement our faith with? \_\_\_\_\_  
[In place of supplement the King James version says "add to your faith"]

Virtue: Moral goodness; the practice of moral duties and the abstaining from vice. Excellence; or that which constitutes value and merit.

The above verses in 2Peter are an example of what we see in many places throughout Scripture; although God does the pruning, and our responsibility is to abide in Christ, God has given us everything we need to live Godly lives for His Glory. There is no evidence in Scripture that we can simply make a profession of faith and put our lives on "auto-pilot", in fact we see in verse 5 that we are to "make every effort..." We must fight!

As indicated above, knowledge is an important weapon in this fight. God's Word and God's Spirit must be where you receive this knowledge. In addition to knowledge, as you can see in the progression above, especially with words like self-control, and steadfastness (which means firm in purpose and faith, fixed in a direction), there is no "auto-pilot" in the Christian life – it is war, and war requires warriors. The complex balance between what God does in and through us, and our responsibility to "battle", "pursue", and "make every effort" can't be completely understood. However, we do know three things for sure: 1) Without the Holy Spirit we can do none of this. Without the Spirit of God, we will perpetually and continually be self-centered and self-seeking, instead of Christ-centered and Christ-seeking. 2) God does not make mistakes and He has said that He has "given us all things that pertain to life and godliness" and He wants us to glorify Him with our life. 3) Whatever the balance is, we know we are completely dependent on God for the desire to live Godly, the ability to do so, and the strength to continue on.

**2Timothy 2:19-25 But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity." 20 Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. 21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. 22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23 Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. 24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach,**

**patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.**

Iniquity is defined, in part, as a sin or crime; wickedness; any act of injustice. According to 2Timothy 2:19 what is everyone that names the Name of the Lord supposed to do in regard to iniquity?

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According to 2Timothy 2:21 how does a person become a vessel for honorable use, ready for every good work?

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According to 2Timothy 2:22 there is something we are supposed to flee, what is it?

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According to 2Timothy 2:22 there are 4 things we are supposed to pursue, what are they?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_

According to 2Timothy 2:25, who grants repentance?

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According to 2Timothy 2:25 what leads to a knowledge of the Truth?

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**1Peter 1:14-16 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."**

According to 1Peter 1:14 what type of children are we to be?

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According to 1Peter 1:14 we are not to conform to something, what is that "something"?

---

How much of our conduct are we called to be holy in? \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 12:1-2** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

The bottom line is we do not know the power of sin and temptation until we have tried to stand up against it. There is no honor in yielding to the flesh, there is no difficulty in feeding the desires of the flesh. That is what a wolf does. A wolf follows his instinct without reason; if you don't believe it try and reason with a hungry pack of wolves while trying to protect a flock of sheep. As Christians we have a responsibility every day to take up our cross and deny self. We have a responsibility to flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness. We have a responsibility every day to determine whether we will be a WARRIOR FOR CHRIST or a WOLF following the desires of the flesh.

For the Christian, we know that sin is never satisfied. We know that sin requires more and more to reach temporary satisfaction. We know that when we desire to do good sin is crouching at the door seeking opportunity. We know sin can work you in to a frenzy until nothing else matters. We know that sin ends in shame.

Sin and the powers of darkness are our enemies; but we also know that victory is in Christ and we need to be devoted to prayer, God's Word, fellowship, and love.

We see throughout Scripture, especially in Acts 26 that when the Gospel is received eyes are opened that the Truth may be seen, repentance will happen (turning from darkness to light), we are given freedom from the power of Satan and the ability to turn to the power of God. We receive forgiveness of sin, and we are given an eternal place among others who are set apart by faith in Jesus.

**Luke 9:62** Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."



Put your hand on the plow, don't look back, pursue righteousness, be a WARRIOR FOR CHRIST. Trust in Jesus to save, redeem, and change you in to the person He created you to be.

## Answer Key and Additional Scripture

### **Page 1:**

According to Hebrews 9:27, what comes after we die? Judgment

**Ecclesiastes 3:11a He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart,**

### **Page 2:**

Jesus gave this man some very difficult Truth, according to Mark 10:21, why did Jesus do this? He loved him

We never hear about this man again in Scripture, according to Mark 10:22, what is the last thing we hear about him? We went away sorrowful

**Matthew 5:21-22 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.**

**Matthew 5:27-28 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**

...according to this standard, would you be innocent or guilty on the Day of Judgment? Guilty

Do we see any evidence that the man did this? No

**Exodus 20:1-3 And God spoke all these words, saying, 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 3 "You shall have no other gods before me.**

**Deuteronomy 5:6-7 "'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 7 "'You shall have no other gods before me.**

**Page 3:**

...how many mouths will be stopped? Every mouth

... who will be held accountable to God? The whole world

...what comes through the Law? Knowledge of sin

... who does it say will NOT inherit the Kingdom of God? The unrighteous

**Page 4:**

... who shall not see life? Whoever does not obey the Son

... what remains on the one that does not obey the Son? The Wrath of God

... what is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men? The Wrath of God

**Page 5:**

What are men suppressing when they continue in unrighteousness? The Truth

... what is coming upon the sons of disobedience? The Wrath of God

... like all mankind, these people were by nature children of what? Wrath

**Page 6:**

... what have they been saved from? The Wrath of God

**Matthew 5:44-45 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.**

**Revelation 14:11 And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."**

**Matthew 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.**

**Luke 12:4-5 "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do.5 But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!**

**Page 8:**

... what has Satan done in the case of those that are not able to see the Truth of the Gospel? Blinded the minds of the unbelievers

**Page 9:**

**Revelation 12:9-10 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.**

**Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**

**1Peter 1:23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;**

Attacking the Deity of Jesus Christ (Deity of Jesus Christ simply means Jesus is God), attacking that Truth is an obvious sign of a false religion; however, there are two other ways we can identify a false religion, and a false teacher. One way is to listen to their theology relating to the Word of God. You will always see false religions attack (sometimes very subtly) the Word of God. They will deny it, change it, add to it, and even give themselves authority over it. Some will say

they believe God's Word, however, when pressed further, they will give another "prophet" more authority or only believe what their "prophet" interpreted God's Word to mean.

In addition to attacking God's Word, false religions will also add to the work of The Cross, they want to add to the Work of the Cross. Even though Jesus said, "it is finished", they will say it is not completely finished, you need to do "x".

**John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.**

...what is God's response to the proud? God opposes the proud

...who does God extend His Grace to? The humble

... who did the "religious man" trust in for his righteousness? Himself

#### **Page 10:**

... said a simple prayer, what was it? God, be merciful to me, a sinner!

... Which one of these men was justified, the one who trusted in his own righteousness or the one that was pleading for God's mercy? The one who pleaded for God's Mercy

... according to Psalm 51:17 what is God looking for? A broken and contrite heart

#### **Page 11:**

Who will have eternal life? Whoever believes in The Son

...how can the unrighteous be made righteous? Through faith in Jesus Christ

... how are we justified? By His Grace

... how do we receive this gift? By faith

**Page 12:**

... who does this verse say He is the Justifier of? The one who has faith in Jesus

**Page 13:**

..."all will likewise perish", what was it? Repent

**Page 14:**

...what did Peter tell them to do when they asked, "what shall we do?" Repent and be baptized

**Page 15:**

**Genesis 1:1** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

**John 1:1-3** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

**Isaiah 40:28** Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

**Proverbs 8:27-31** When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, 28 when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, 9 when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, 30 then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, 31 rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man.

**Psalms 8:3** When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

**Psalms 147:4** He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

**Matthew 24:35** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

**Acts 16:17** She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation."

... who does a good soldier aim to please? The one who enlisted him

... who is it that calls you to God? God

**Page 16:**

... who does He say is the True Vine? He (Jesus) is

Who does He say is the Vinedresser? The Father

... who are the branches? We are

... what does the Vinedresser do with the branches that bear fruit? Prunes them

... unless it is doing something, what is that "something"? abiding in the Vine

... what does the one that abides in Christ do? Bears much fruit

**Page 17:**

... what happens to the one that does not abide in Christ? Thrown away, thrown in to the fire

... how is God The Father Glorified? Bear much fruit

When we bear much fruit what does it prove according to John 15:8? That we are disciples of Jesus Christ

... what did those who received His Word do? Baptized

**Page 18:**

devoted themselves to 4 things, what were they? Apostles Teaching (which we have, the New Testament), Fellowship, Breaking of Bread, Prayer

... what is another way we know that we love God? Obey His commandments

**Page 19:**

According to 1John 3:5 why did Jesus appear? To take away sins

... one who abides in Christ doesn't do something, what is that "something"?  
Keep on sinning

... the one who makes a practice of sinning? They are of the devil

...no one born of God makes a practice of sinning, why? God's seed abides in them

... what is this evidence of? Who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil

**Page 20:**

...what is heavy upon the believer that keeps silent? God's Hand

...what happens to the strength of the believer who keeps silent? Dries up

... what are we to do with sin? Acknowledge our sin to God

**Page 21:**

...what type of spiritual forces are we battling against? Evil

... what has God granted believers according to 2Peter 1:3? all things that pertain to life and godliness

**Page 22:**

... what are we to supplement our faith with? Virtue

**Page 23:**

... names the Name of the Lord supposed to do in regard to iniquity? Depart

... become a vessel for honorable use, ready for every good work? cleanses himself from what is dishonorable



... supposed to flee, what is it? Youthful passions

... supposed to pursue, what are they? Righteousness, Faith, Love, Peace

... who grants repentance? God

... what leads to a knowledge of the Truth? Repentance

... what type of children are we to be? Obedient

... what is that "something"? passions of our former ignorance

**Page 24:**

... are we called to be holy in? all

