



**CHRISTIANITY
REVEALED**

Workbook

Name: _____

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All Scripture quotations are from the 1984 New International Version ^(NIV), with the exception of some drawn from the New Living Translation ^(NLT) in order to simplify the meaning of more complex passages. All underlining, italics, insertions, brackets, [], and other forms of emphasis, are ours.

Introduction to Christianity Revealed

As the title of this course suggests, its aim is to reveal the truth about Christianity. This course teaches the basic keys to Christianity and how to understand what the Bible actually teaches about Jesus. This course answers various questions about Jesus, his importance and the impact he should have on us.

Christianity Revealed contains four sessions and will cover the key elements of Christianity, which is really focused on answering four key questions about Jesus:

- Session 1 – Who is Jesus?
- Session 2 – What did Jesus come to do?
- Session 3 – Why is Jesus needed?
- Session 4 – What makes someone a Christian?

Throughout the course you will be encouraged to read some parts of the Bible at home. These readings will come from the books of 'Mark' and 'Ephesians'.

Also, you will be encouraged to read through some of the resources that are included at the end of this workbook.

If you have any further questions or would like to know more about Christianity, then please speak to those running your course. They would love to hear from you!

Session 1 – Who is Jesus?

What is the Bible?

The Bible contains 66 books and has two sections:

Why do Christians trust the Bible and learn from it?

1. The Bible tells us about historical events.
2. The Bible is a collection of the best-preserved manuscripts.
3. The Bible is written by eyewitnesses.
4. The Bible records events that the Jews or writers wouldn't have written if they were trying to make it up.
5. The Bible is a supernatural book.
6. The Bible is composed of many books that intertwine to tell one story.

1. Jesus is the Promised Saviour

Mark 1:1 says, *“The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”*

The need for a Promised Saviour

- In the Old Testament, passages show Jesus is the promised Saviour – Isaiah 53:3-6
- In the New Testament, people are aware that Jesus is the promised Saviour – Matthew 1:20-21 & Mark 8:27-30

APPLICATION: Who do you think Jesus is?

As we learn about Jesus, don't go away and think you can be neutral about these things. Don't think that you can play it safe and just sit on the fence of indecision. Sitting on the fence is actually a decision to reject Jesus as the promised Saviour.

2. Jesus is God's Son

In Mark 15:39, a soldier who is present at Jesus' death and sees everything that happens, says, *“Surely this man was the Son of God!”* (see also Mark 1:1)

What does it mean that Jesus is God's Son?

- **Jesus is eternal:** He has always existed. (John 1:1-2, John 1:14)
- **Jesus is Creator:** He created all things. (John 1:3)
- **Jesus shares in the nature of God the Father** (John 1:18)

Jesus is shown to be the Son of God because:

- Jesus has Authority over **Creation** – Mark 4:39-41
- Jesus has Authority over **Sickness and Death** – Mark 5:35-43
- Jesus has Authority over **Evil Spirits** – Mark 1:21-27
- Jesus has Authority to **Forgive Sin** – Mark 2:1-12
- Jesus possesses **God's full authority** – Mark 9:2-7 & Matthew 28:18

APPLICATION: Will we submit to Jesus' authority?

3. Jesus is fully man

- Jesus was **born of a woman** – Matthew 1:18
- Jesus **embraced** people – Mark 10:16 *“And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.”*
- Jesus **ate with** people – Mark 2:15 *“While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and “sinners” were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.”*
- Jesus **needed rest** – Mark 4:37-38 *“A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion.”*
- Jesus **experienced temptation** – Mark 1:12-13 *“At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert for forty days, being tempted by Satan...”*
- Jesus **experienced human emotion** – Mark 14:33-34
- Jesus **experienced pain and death** – Mark 15:37 *“With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.”*

APPLICATION: Why is it important that Jesus was a man?

Hebrews 2:14-17 says, *“Since the children have flesh and blood, he (Jesus) too shared in their humanity ... For this reason, he had to be made like his brothers in every way ... that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.”*

Summary - Who is Jesus?

1. Jesus is the **promised Saviour** who came to save people from sin.
2. Jesus is **God’s Son** who has the full authority of God.
3. Jesus became **fully man** to be able to die in our place, for our sin.

Homework

This week read Mark chapters 1-6.

Discussion Questions

1. Why should we trust the Bible and learn from it?
2. What was your understanding of who Jesus is prior to today?
3. Why is it important that Jesus is both fully God and fully man?
4. Why was a ‘promised Saviour’ necessary?
5. If Jesus is who He claims to be, what does that mean for my life?

Session 2 – What did Jesus come to do?

1. Jesus came to die

Read Mark 15:33-38.

SEVEN significant truths about Jesus' death:

1. Jesus died by crucifixion to fulfil Old Testament prophecy.

- Isaiah 52:14b says - *“His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man, and his form marred beyond human likeness.”*

2. Jesus' death was a payment

- Mark 10:45 says - *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

3. Jesus died to take our sin upon Himself

- 1 Peter 2:24 - *“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree (cross)...”*
- 1 Peter 3:18 says - *“For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.”*

4. Jesus died to satisfy God's holy anger against us

- Romans 5:9 - *“Since we have been justified (made right) by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him.”*

5. Jesus died to give us what we desperately needed

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 says - *“God made him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

6. Jesus died to restore us to God

- Ephesians 2:12 - *“Remember...you were separate from Christ...without hope and without God in the world.”*
- 1 Peter 3:18 - *“Christ...suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.”*

7. Jesus died to bring forgiveness and eternal life (‘salvation’)

- John 3:16 - *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*

Personal Application: Do you see yourself as a sinner in desperate need of rescue?

- Mark 2:17 - *“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*

2. Jesus came to live the life God required of us

Romans 8:3b-4a says – *“God did (what the law was powerless to do), by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so, he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us...”*

Jesus lived a sinless life

- 1 John 3:5 - *“But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.” (see also Hebrews 7:26)*

Jesus lived a righteous (pure and perfect) life

Matthew 5:17 - *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law and the prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.”*

We sin in 2 different ways:

1. We do what we shouldn't do
2. We don't do what we should do

3. Jesus came to rise again and secure our resurrection

Read Mark 16:1-8

How could people possibly believe in the resurrection?

1. Jesus appeared first to *women*
2. Jesus then appeared to *the disciples*
3. Jesus also appeared to *500 people* at one time
4. Jesus' body has never been found
5. Jesus' resurrection changed *people's lives*

The Significance of Jesus' Resurrection

1. Jesus rose again to conquer sin and death

- Read Mark 10:32-34
- Romans 6:9 - *"For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him."*

2. Jesus resurrection proves His sacrifice was accepted by God

- Romans 4:25 - *"He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification"*

3. Jesus rose again to return as judge

- Acts 17:30-31 - *"In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."*

4. Jesus' resurrection ensures the future resurrection of all people

- a) The resurrection of **believers** leading to everlasting life with God. 2 Corinthians 4:14 - *"Because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus..."*
- b) The resurrection of **all the rest of humanity, past and present** leading to everlasting punishment. John 5:28-29 - *"Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out - those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned."*

Homework

This week read Mark 7-11.

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you sum up the purpose of Jesus' first coming?
2. Why did Jesus have to 'die'?
3. Why is it so important that Jesus rose from the dead?
4. What does Jesus' resurrection guarantee for the future?
5. As you consider how greatly Jesus had to suffer, what does this tell you about our condition?

Session 3 – Why is Jesus needed?

Because of who God is...

1. God's standard is Perfection

Matthew 5:48 - *"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."*

2. God is Just and must punish sin

Exodus 34:6-7 - *"...The LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished..."*

Revelation 20:12 [a vision of judgement day] - *"And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books."*

3. God is Holy (pure) and so our sin angers Him

Psalm 7:11 - *"God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses his wrath every day."*

Romans 2:5 - *"But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed."*

Because of who we are...

1. We aren't perfect but have all sinned

Romans 3:10, 12 - *"There is no-one righteous, not even one...all have turned away; they have together become worthless, there is no-one who does good, not even one."*

James 2:10 - *"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it."*

Romans 3:23 - *"For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God..."*

2. We will ALL face death and judgement

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 - *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot..."*

Hebrews 9:27 says - *"Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgement..."*

Because Jesus is the only way to be right with God

The Wrong Way: (the way that doesn't work)

Galatians 2:16 - *"Know that a man is not justified by observing the law..."*

Isaiah 64:6 - *"All our righteous acts are like filthy rags..."*

The Right Way:

1. By God's Grace

Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-9 - *"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved... (Again) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no-one can boast."*

What is God's gift of 'grace'?

John 3:16 - *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

2. By God's mercy

Titus 3:5 - *"He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy...."*

Daniel 9:9 - *"The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him."*

Psalms 130:3 - *"If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?"*

3. By God's sacrifice, Jesus Christ

a. Jesus makes us PERFECT in God's sight

Philippians 3:8-9 - *"...I consider them rubbish (my righteous efforts and moral achievements), that I may gain Christ, and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from (keeping) the law, but that which is through faith in Christ - the righteousness that comes from God..."*

b. Jesus removes our sin and it's JUST punishment

1 Peter 2:24 - *"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree (cross)..."*

c. Jesus satisfies God's holy anger against us

John 3:36 - *"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."*

So how does Jesus satisfy God's anger toward us?

- 1 John 4:10 - *"This is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice (propitiation) for our sins."*
- Romans 5:9 - *"And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation."
(NLT)*

Jesus is the only way to be right with God!

John 14:6 - *"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no one comes to the Father except through me"*

1 Timothy 2:5 - *"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*

Acts 4:12 - *Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*

Homework

This week read Mark 12-16

Discussion Questions:

1. What desperate state is all of humanity in? Why is this such a dangerous position?
2. What are some wrong ways that people think we can be made right with God?
3. How can we be right with God and go to heaven?
4. If you were to die tonight and God asked you – “Why should I let you into heaven?”, what would you say?

Session 4 – What makes someone a Christian?

What is a Christian?

In Mark 1:15 Jesus says, *“The time has come...the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news.”*

What is so good about being a Christian? (What does a Christian receive?)

1. We are made right with God

Romans 5:1 - *“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (see also Romans 5:8-11, 8:1)

2. We receive the forgiveness of sin

Acts 2:38 - *‘Peter replied, “Repent and be baptised, 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.”* (see also Ephesians 1:7)

3. We are given the Holy Spirit

We saw this in the passage before in Acts 2:38. (see Mark 1:8 & Ephesians 1:13-14)

4. We become a new creation by God’s working

2 Corinthians 5:17 - *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”* (or see Ephesians 2:5, 2:10, 4:22-24 and Ezekiel 36:26-27)

5. We are made God’s children

Ephesians 1:5 - *“In love God predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ.”*

6. The promise to be made perfect and enjoy eternal life with God

(see 1 Corinthians 15:54 & John 3:16)

What makes someone a Christian?

1. We must repent

Mark 1:15 - [Jesus went proclaiming the good news] *"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"*

What 'Repentance' isn't?

What is 'Repentance'?

1. Repentance is the recognition you are going the wrong way.

2. Repentance is a change of mind:

3. Repentance is a change in our emotions.

In Psalm 51:17, David recognises this as he says – *"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."*

4. Repentance causes us to plead for God's forgiveness.

5. Repentance is willingness to part with sin

1 Thessalonians 1:9b - *"They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God".* These Christians **'turned from idols'** and **'turned to God'**.

6. Repentance is a gift from God

Acts 11:18 – *"...So then, God has granted even the Gentiles (non-Jewish people) repentance unto life."*

A Costly Decision

2. We must believe in Jesus. (Have Faith)

1. Faith is accepting what the Bible says about Jesus

John 8:24 – (Jesus speaking) *“That is why I said you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I Am who I claim to be, you will die in your sins.”*
(NLT)

2. Faith is to trust in and rely on Jesus

Jeremiah 17:7 – *“But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in Him.”*

3. Faith isn’t measured by its size

4. It’s about what your faith is in

Psalm 18:2 – *“The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield, the horn (power) of my salvation, my stronghold.”*

5. Faith rests upon God’s Word not our feelings

John 1:12 – *“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”*

6. Faith in Jesus alone will save, not works

Romans 10:9 - *“...If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

So, if faith is essential to being saved, then we need to know how a person gains it –

1. Faith comes by hearing the message:

Romans 10:17 – *“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”*

2. Faith is a gift from God:

Ephesians 2:8-9 - *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

So, if you want faith in Jesus than what should you do?

1. Don't waiting passively for God to change you

2. Be willing and Resolved to part with Treasure Sins

How will you respond?

John 3:36 says – *“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.”*

Homework

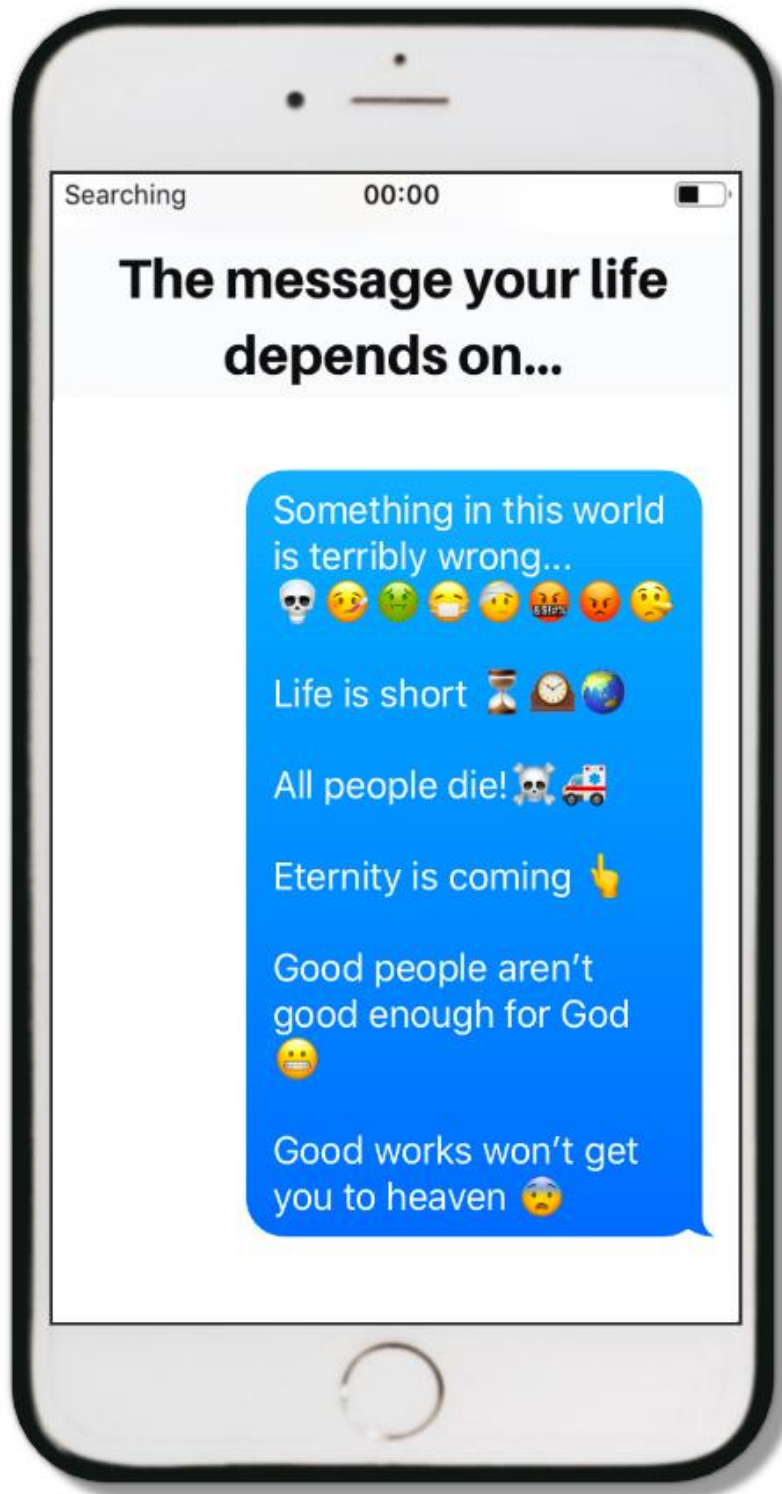
Read the book of Ephesians of Ephesians (6 chapters) and then continue reading through the Bible.

Discussion Questions:

1. Based on what you have learnt in this course, where would you go if you died today?
2. What does repentance involve?
3. What is faith and how does someone obtain it?
4. What is the cost to becoming a Christian? Why is becoming a Christian worth it?

Resources

Gospel article



If this text message is true, then there is an urgent message that your life depends on, because it is the remedy to the worst news ever!

THE WORST NEWS EVER

God made everything, including you, for His glory (*Isaiah 43:7*) and everything was very good (*Genesis 1:31*). But when we look at this world and our lives, we see the exact opposite. This world is not good and we don't live for God's glory. This is terrible news!

Why is this the most terrible news ever? Because:

1. Everyone is a sinner. We rebel and do wrong against God. The Bible says that "*no one is righteous, no not one... no one does good, not even one*" (*Romans 3:10-12*) and that "*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (*Romans 3:23*). Who would want every thought, word and action of their life to be put on a screen for all to see? (No one!) Deep down we know the rotten lives we live. We dishonour God, hurt others and seek to satisfy ourselves.
2. We are guilty before God. We think we're good by comparing to the person beside us. But God is perfect and we are not. He requires 100% obedience and anything short of that deserves His anger and eternal punishment (*Matt 25:26, John 3:36, Rom 6:23*). Therefore, our sin deeply offends God and we can't be with Him in heaven which is perfect.
3. God is good, just and must punish evil (*Deut 32:4, 2 Chron 19:7*). Therefore, death and judgement are coming (*Hebrews 9:27*). All people will be raised and given bodies fit for eternal life or punishment (*John 5:29*). We all deserve eternal destruction in hell.

Yet, God offers a remedy to this dreadful news. But to see the cure for a disease as important, you must see that you have that disease. You must see your desperate need! You are diseased with sin, headed for destruction and must act on the message you are about to hear.

THE BEST MESSAGE WE COULD EVER HEAR

We have just seen our hopeless and frightening position because of our sin, but the Bible says we can be forgiven! How can we be forgiven and dwell with God in heaven which is perfect when we are sinful, God is just, and our sin deserves punishment?

How can we be forgiven and God still be just?

Well the Bible shows that Jesus, the Son of God, has paid the price that sin deserves and faced God's anger for those who have faith in Him (*Romans 3:24-25, 5:9*). This means that we can be forgiven of sin and free of all that it deserves, whilst God remains just, because the punishment for our crimes are fully paid by Jesus (*Romans 3:23-26*). But also, through Jesus (who lived a perfect life), we get the perfect life we need to dwell with God forever. The Bible says, "*God made him (Jesus) who knew no sin, to become sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God*" (*1 Corinthians 5:21*).

The terrible news about us and what our sin deserves falls on Jesus. Through His death on the cross He faced the anger of God and bore our sins in His body (*1 Peter 2:24*). Then, by rising to life again, He shows that He has satisfied the payment for sin, conquered death and will provide a new perfected creation for those who trust in Him. This is what Christians call the gospel which means good news, because no news is greater than this! Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we receive:

1. The removal of sin, guilt, punishment and God's anger.
2. The righteousness (perfection) we need to be with God.
3. God's Spirit so that we have a new heart with new desires.
4. Eternal life with God in the new perfected creation.

This is why the Bible says that *"whoever has the Son (Jesus) has life, whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life"* (1 John 5:11-12). To have Jesus is what we as enemies of God most need! *"God showed his love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us... we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son"* (Romans 5:8, 10).

WHAT NOW? How can this be true for you?

You can't earn forgiveness, instead you must turn from your sin and trust in Jesus. Trust that Jesus' death and resurrection is the only way you can be right with God and have your sin forgiven.

The Bible says that *by grace (the free undeserved gift of Jesus) "you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast"* (Ephesians 2:8-9). We have already seen the terrible state of our sin and what it deserves. There is no hope of sorting this out through good works because we fall dreadfully short of what God requires. No murderer can escape the penalty of their crime because of a few good deeds, and neither can we! God's law is not meant to show us how to be right with God, but it is to show us our sin and that we need salvation through Jesus (Romans 3:20).

So, don't cover the depths of your sin or lie claiming to be without it (1 John 1:8, 10) or think that you can work your way to God. Instead the Bible says that *"If we confess our sins, He (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John

1:9). And as we have seen, God forgives our sin and remains just through what Jesus has done!

Jesus is your only hope! Trust Him to be your Saviour and the Lord (ruler) of your life. And consider the cost of following Jesus. It will involve hating sin, following God above all and it will involve difficulty in this life (*Luke 14:25-33*). Yet, though following Christ will cost you this life, it is infinitely worth it! Nothing is better than eternal life with God! *“Whoever believes in the Son (Jesus) has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him”* (*John 3:36*). I urge you, today, to admit to God your sin and rely on the forgiveness found only in Jesus! Trust Jesus to face what your sin deserves, otherwise you will face it for eternity.

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Article - How should a Christian live?

When we are saved and become part of God's kingdom, Jesus becomes the King (Lord) of our lives. We are called to be like Christ by walking in good works, which God has prepared, and to live in a manner worthy of our salvation (Ephesians 2:10, 4:1, Romans 8:29). These things *don't* make us a Christian, rather this is what a Christian grows into once God *has* saved them. The Holy Spirit is called 'The Helper' and is given to us so that we may be empowered to grow in our faith and relationship with God.

Below are some of the practical things we should do to live as a Christian:

1. Declare you are saved by your union with Jesus through Baptism

In Matt 28:18-19, Jesus says – *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy Spirit.”* (see also Acts 8:36-37)

When a person becomes a Christian, the Bible commands that they are to declare their new salvation through Baptism. Baptism *symbolises* a Christian's union with Jesus in his death, burial and resurrection. It is a declaration that they are saved by Jesus alone. Baptism does not save us but is a way of publicly declaring that we are now followers of Jesus.

2. Join a Biblical local church to grow and serve

Acts 2:41-42, 44 – *“Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about 3000 were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer....All the believers were together and had everything in common.”*

When God saves a person, He incorporates them into His family of Christians. This family of God has many different titles in the Bible; they are called: children of God, the Bride of Christ, a spiritual temple. The most common term used is 'the Church'. The word literally means 'the assembly' or 'the gathered ones'. Christians are commanded to meet together regularly to worship and serve. Sunday gatherings are essential for the lives of Christians. It is the place they hear God's Word and have fellowship with other believers.

Hebrews 10:25 says – *“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”* (see also 3:12-14)

The Christian is adopted into God's family. We are members of God's family the church and we need each other as we navigate the Christian life.

3. Read (Study, Memorise, Mediate, Apply and Obey) the **Bible**

Matthew 4:4 says *“Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”*

Why is the Bible essential for the Christian life? 2 Timothy 3:16 says, *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”* And Psalm 1 says *“Blessed is the man ... whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law, he meditates day and night.”*

Christians recognise that the Bible is God's Word. The Bible is God's revelation of Himself, His will and His instructions for living. Therefore, Christians need to fill their life with it and live under God's wisdom.

4. Be devoted to prayer

Christians are those who belong to God's kingdom and are in relationship with Him. Part of this relationship (as any relationship) involves listening to God which happens in the Bible. The other side of this relationship is speaking to Him, which happens through prayer. Colossians 4:2 says *"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."* (See also Luke 18:1).

What is involved in prayer? Well Matthew 6:9-13 shows us some key aspects of what the focus of our prayers should be, and is Jesus' model and template for us.

5. Grow in godly character

Titus 2:11-12 says – *"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age."* (See also 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 12:14)

It is the Christian's duty to live wholeheartedly devoted to God. This is not something a Christian ever ticks off as having completed. It is the Christian's life-long pursuit. The Christian grows through constant and careful reading of the Bible, dependence on God through prayer, regular fellowship with Christians, hearing God's Word preached faithfully, self-denial, discipline, and daily comprehensions of the saving work of Jesus on their behalf.

6. Serve God as we serve and love fellow Christians

In John 13:34-35 Jesus says *"A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this will all men know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

Christians are those who have recognised the indescribable love of God and have responded in faith and gratitude. Having been filled with the love of God, we will naturally want to love God's people. Loving and caring for others who have been saved should be as natural as breathing for Christians.

7. Spread the gospel and teach others to follow Christ

Mark 16:15 says – “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.” (see Matthew 28:18-20)

Jesus makes it clear that Christians are those who have been saved by His death and resurrection, and are now enlisted in His mission.

Christians become ‘messengers’ of the good news. People are saved by hearing the gospel. The only way they’ll hear it, is if Christians are spreading it. Christians bear the responsibility of spreading the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.

These are some of the ways God wants His people to live. If you are a Christian, speak to your course leader to find more ways you can grow as a Christian.

Other resources

- New International Version (NIV) Bible
- “What is the Gospel?” - By Greg Gilbert
- “Believe: What should I know?” - By Mike McKinley (or other books from the *First Steps Series* by 9Marks)
- “The Gospel of Jesus Christ” – By Paul Washer

