

— OUTLINE —

- I. Salvation is God's gift to you through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - A. **"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"** (Rom. 6:23).
 - B. Salvation can't be earned by any amount of good works, because God doesn't give eternal life based on anything you do.
 - C. Jesus Christ did everything that needed to be done through His death, burial, and resurrection.
 - D. No one deserves to be saved because of their good works—**"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"** (Rom. 3:23).
 - E. Either you are completely righteous in His sight or you're not.
 - F. The Lord explicitly stated that He's not just *a* way to the Father but *the* way—**"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"** (John 14:6).
 - G. Either you come to God the Father through faith in His Son Jesus Christ, or you don't come at all!

- II. Jesus Christ was God in the flesh.
 - A. He wasn't just a good man who gave us a tremendous example of humility and love—He was literally God incarnate!

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

1 TIMOTHY 3:16
 - B. Either Jesus was a deceiver, or He is who He said He was.
 - C. Every cult and religion on earth acknowledges Jesus's existence, but they stop short of calling Him God.
 - D. They'll grant Him the status of a prophet or an inspired teacher sent from God but not Deity Himself.
 - E. Everything hinges on Jesus's divinity.
 - F. If Jesus wasn't God, then His life wasn't worth more than any other man's life, and He couldn't have atoned for the whole human race.

- G. However, since He was God in the flesh, His life was worth more than all mankind—making His sacrifice eternally sufficient for all!

III. Christianity is the only faith with a Savior.

- A. All other faiths depend on good works to achieve various degrees of “holiness.”
- B. In essence, you become your own savior because “salvation” is based on your own performance.
- C. God knew you couldn’t live a perfect life.
- D. Instead of demanding that you do everything right, He came and took your sin into His own body at the cross (1 Pet. 2:24).
- E. He suffered the punishment you deserved, to give you salvation as a gift.
- F. **“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him”** (2 Cor. 5:21).
- G. When this exchange takes place, your spirit is immediately recreated with the righteousness of Jesus Christ.
- H. You are then able to fellowship with God spirit to Spirit—**“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”** (John 4:24).
- I. Even when you sin, your born-again spirit cannot be contaminated, because of the impenetrable seal of Christ’s own Spirit:

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.

EPHESIANS 1:13

- J. Since the new nature of your spirit is always holy, you can approach God at any time and in any condition.

IV. The Christian life is both born in faith and sustained by faith.

- A. You’ll just end up condemning yourself if you try to live it by your own works.
- B. As long as you’re in your physical body, there’ll be times when you fall short.
- C. God’s love doesn’t change when you make mistakes.
- D. If He went to the cross for you as a sinner, how much more does He love you now that you’re a Christian!

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

ROMANS 5:8-10

- E. He loves you more now as a Christian—even when you sin—than He did when you were lost.
 - F. Don't ever let your failures separate you from God's unfailing love!
- V. God gave the Law to show man he couldn't save himself.
- A. Jesus used several of these commandments in an attempt to show the rich young ruler we read about in Mark 10 that he would never be holy enough for eternal life on his own.
 - B. This young man genuinely thought he could do something to earn eternal life.
 - C. Doing and receiving by faith are very different from each other indeed!
 - D. The Law is like a plate glass window—whether you break it with a BB or a boulder, it's broken!
 - E. **“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all”** (James 2:10).
 - F. Either you live holy and receive eternal life because you earned it (which is not possible), or you receive it by faith as a gift.
 - G. Who or what do you trust in as your “god”/God?
- VI. If you believe Jesus Christ was only a good person and that you can get to God through many different ways, you haven't truly made Him Lord of your life.
- A. Jesus is either Lord of all, or He isn't Lord at all!
 - B. Either Jesus Christ is your Savior *and* Lord, or He's not—it's that simple!

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Romans 6:23 says, **“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is through Jesus Christ our Lord.”**

2. Why can't salvation be earned by any amount of good works?

3. True or false: Jesus Christ did most of what needs to be done through His death, burial, and resurrection.

4. According to John 14:6, can you come to God through some way other than Jesus?

5. According to 1 Timothy 3:16, Jesus was literally...

- A. God incarnate
- B. A wise prophet
- C. A good man
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

6. How could Jesus atone for the whole human race?

7. Christianity is the only faith with a _____.

8. In all other faiths, why do you, in essence, become your own savior?

9. True or false: You can live a perfect life.

10. **“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the”** what, according to 2 Corinthians 5:21?

11. Which scripture tells you that **“ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise”**?

12. Since the new nature of your spirit is always holy, can you approach God at any time and in any condition?

13. Since the Christian life is both born in faith and sustained by faith, what will happen if you try to live it by your own works?

14. As long as you're in your physical body, there'll be times when you what?

- A. Do the hokey pokey
- B. Make mistakes
- C. Get everything perfectly and consistently right
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

15. God's _____ doesn't _____ when you make mistakes.

16. What does Romans 5:8-10 tell you happened while you were yet a sinner?

17. True or false: You should let your failures separate you from God's love.

18. Why did God give the Law?

19. Are doing and receiving by faith the same thing?

20. James 2:10 says, “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is _____ of all.”

21. If you believe that Jesus Christ was only a good person and that you can get to God through many different ways, what haven't you done?

— SCRIPTURES —

ROMANS 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ROMANS 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

JOHN 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

ACTS 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

MARK 10:17-22

And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? [18] And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. [19] Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. [20] And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. [21] Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. [22] And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

1 TIMOTHY 3:16

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

JOHN 5:23

That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

1 PETER 2:24

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

JOHN 4:24

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

EPHESIANS 1:13

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.

ROMANS 5:8-10

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. [9] Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. [10] For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

JAMES 2:10

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

EXODUS 20:3

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

LUKE 19:1-9

And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. [2] And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. [3] And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. [4] And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycomore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. [5] And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. [6] And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. [7] And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. [8] And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. [9] And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.