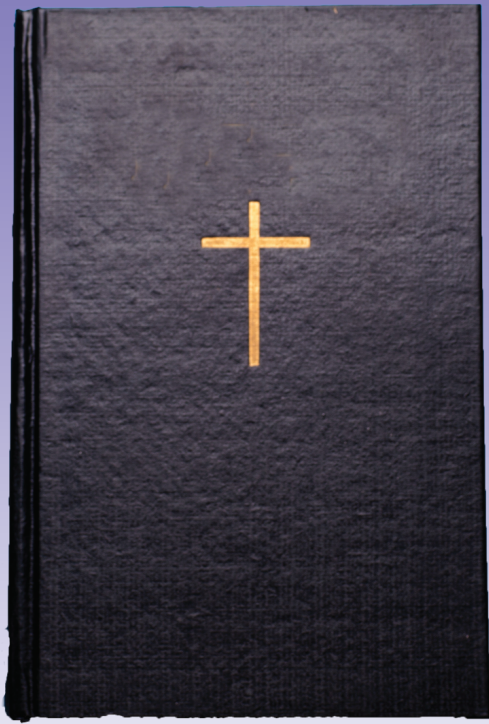


# Basic Facts of the Faith



- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

*Truth For The World* 

© 2022

**Truth For The World**

**This book may be reproduced and distributed,  
provided that no alterations whatsoever are made  
and no charge is required for the receipt of it.**

*Truth For The World* 

# **Table of Contents**

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Basic Scheme.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Chapter 1 - Why Do We Believe That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God? .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Chapter 2 - The Existence of God.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Chapter 3 - The Origin of the Bible .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Chapter 4 - Our Standard of Authority in Religion.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Chapter 5 - Old or New Testament? .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Chapter 6 – Why Did Jesus Come to the Earth?.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Chapter 7 - How to Find the Church That Jesus Built .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Chapter 8 - Living the Christian Life.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Chapter 9 - The Second Coming of Christ.....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Chapter 10 – Considering the Cost.....</b>	<b>38</b>

# **Basic Facts of the Faith**

## **Introduction**

In December 1982, two families left the United States to start a new work in Taiwan. Those two families were the families of Roger Campbell and of John Grubb. After completing language studies, Roger and I started a new job in Taichung City, Taiwan.

During the early years of this new work, we were teaching large numbers of people the gospel. In our constant conversations about the methods we used to preach the gospel, we discovered that the teaching method we were using to teach our prospects was almost identical.

At that time, we made a simple outline of that material. Later, I extended the schematic and had that schematic translated into Chinese. Brother Campbell also produced a reduced-size outline of this material that the brothers could use.

In this effort, it will be my purpose to put this material in a way that, word for word, the brethren can use it to teach their non-Christian friends.

I hope this material will also help encourage the brethren to grow “in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

The apostle Paul and the apostle Peter urged us to prepare ourselves to teach the truth. Paul wrote: “prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Peter added, “But sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord: being ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15).

These lessons will include things we need to understand to go to Heaven and to teach others so they can go to Heaven, too. It is my hope and prayer that this material will be of help to brothers around the world in reaching the lost for Christ.

# *Truth For The World*

## **Basic Scheme**

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:15.

### **INTRODUCTION.**

1. It will be our purpose in this lesson to present truths that we need to know, and that we need to teach others.
2. These teachings are essential to obtain eternal salvation.
3. This lesson will include things that we must understand to go to Heaven and things we also want to teach others so that they can also go to Heaven.

### **JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD.**

1. Whether or not Jesus is the Christ is essential to our faith.
  - A. If He is not the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God, then our faith is in vain.
  - B. If He is the Son of God, then we must obey Him to go to Heaven (Matthew 7:21-23).
2. Jesus is a historical figure.
  - A. It cannot be denied that he lived on this earth some two thousand years ago.
  - B. Almost everyone in the world believes that Jesus lived in Palestine.
  - C. Not everyone believes that He is the Son of God
    - i. Some say: "He was a good man, a moral man, a great teacher, but he was not the Son of God."
    - ii. This is an impossible statement. Either He is the Son of God, or He was the greatest liar, impostor, and con man the world has ever seen.
    - iii. He claimed to be the Son of God. If he wasn't, then he was either a liar or mad.
3. Why do we believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?
  - A. To believe something we must have reasons, evidence.
  - B. We must be able to prove why we believe that Jesus is the Christ (1 Peter 3:15).
4. People must believe that Jesus is the Christ to be saved (John 8:24, John 14:6).
5. If someone asked you why you believe in Christ, or why you should believe in Christ, what evidence would you offer?
  - A. Christ is Eternal.
    - i. John 1:1-3, 14.
    - ii. Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:22-23.
    - iii. John 5:18.

## Basic Facts of the Faith

- iv. John 8:58.
- v. Philippians 2:6-8.
- B. Born of a virgin.
  - i. Isaiah prophesied about a virgin giving birth to a son some 700 years before the event (Isaiah 7:14).
  - ii. Matthew 1:18-25.
  - iii. There are more than 300 prophecies concerning the Messiah that were fulfilled in Jesus.
    - a. Correct ancestors - Abraham, David (Matthew 1:1-17).
    - b. Correct place of birth - Bethlehem (Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:5-6).
    - c. He suffered and died on the cross (Isaiah 53).
    - d. He rose from the dead (Psalm 16:8-10, Luke 24:6, 31, 34).
- C. He lived without sin.
  - i. 1 Peter 2:21-23.
  - ii. Hebrews 4:14-15.
  - iii. Matthew 4:1-11.
- D. Miracles.
  - i. John 3:1-2; John 20:30-31.
  - ii. Purpose of Miracles – to confirm the new truth (revelation).
  - iii. Discuss some of the miracles of Christ.
    - a. Fed 5000.
    - b. Healed the sick.
    - c. Raised the dead.
- E. Others bear witness to Him.
  - i. Heavenly Father (Matthew 3:16-17, Matthew 17:5).
  - ii. Pilate and his wife (Matthew 27:19, 24).
  - iii. Centurion (Matthew 27:54).
  - iv. Apostles (2 Peter 1:16-18; 1 John 1:1-3).
  - v. John the Baptist (John 1:29-34).
- F. Death and Burial.
  - i. Mark 15:16-28, 42-47.
  - ii. Romans 5:6-11.

## *Truth For The World*

### G. Resurrection.

- i. “Empty tomb”. Attempted explanations:
  - a. The fainting theory.
  - b. Buried in the wrong grave.
  - c. His disciples stole the body.
  - d. His enemies stole the body.
  - e. The only reasonable answer: Jesus rose from the dead!
- ii. Romans 1:4.
- iii. 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-19.

### H. Ascension.

- i. Daniel 7:13.
- ii. Acts 1:9-11.

## **THE EXISTENCE OF GOD**

### 1. The way in which man sees the existence of God.

- A. Atheism - The Atheist says: “I know that God does not exist. I have evidence to prove it.”
  - i. The atheist would have to be everywhere at the same time in order to prove that God does not exist.
  - ii. But omnipresence is one of the characteristics of God.
  - iii. Therefore, a person would have to become a God to prove that God does not exist!
- B. Agnosticism - The Agnostic says: “There is not enough evidence to prove one way or another if God exists.”
  - i. There is abundant evidence to prove the existence of God.
  - ii. We will discuss that evidence a bit later in this lesson.
- C. Skepticism - The Skeptic says: “I will not accept the evidence, even if it is presented.”
  - i. He already has his mind made up. A prejudiced mind.
  - ii. Thomas Paine was a famous American skeptic.
- D. Deism - The Deist says: “A Supreme Being created the universe, gave laws, then turned his back on it. After that, He has no relationship with His creation.”
  - i. The Deist says that he does not care about his creation, and does not attend to its needs.
- E. Theism - The theist believes that God created the universe, but does not believe that,
  - i. He is the God of the Old and New Testaments, he does not believe in Christ, in the church, in the plan of salvation, etc.

## Basic Facts of the Faith

- a. Jews.
    - b. Muslims.
  - F. Polytheism - The polytheist believes that there is more than one God.
    - i. Buddhists.
    - ii. Syntheism.
    - iii. Taoism.
  - G. Christian Theism - The Christian Theist believes in the one God of the universe, the one God who created the universe. This includes:
    - i. Belief in Christ as the Son of God.
    - ii. The Church.
    - iii. The plan of salvation.
2. The Origin of the Universe.
- A. Where did the universe come from?
    - i. It is a fact that the universe had a beginning. "Nothing comes from nothing".
    - ii. Two possible explanations - Creation or accident.
  - B. Did the universe happen by chance?
    - i. This is not reasonable.
    - ii. Illustration of the clock.
  - C. Passages that emphasize the existence of God and that He created the universe.
    - i. Romans 1:18-20.
    - ii. Psalm 19:1-3.
    - iii. Hebrews 3:4.
    - iv. Genesis 1 and 2.
  - D. Arguments for creation vs. accident.
    - i. Design / Designer.
    - ii. Cause / Effect.
    - iii. Moral Argument.
    - iv. The origin of man.
      - a. All complex systems in man (respiratory, nervous, etc.).
      - b. Genesis 1:26-27.
3. Attributes of God.



## ***Truth For The World***

- A. God does not just have one attribute. (Example: God of love only, God of vengeance, etc.)
  - i. One God (Isaiah 44:6, 1 Corinthians 8:6).
  - ii. Omnipotent (Genesis 17:1).
  - iii. Omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-11).
  - iv. Omniscient (Hebrews 4:13).
  - v. Righteous (Psalm 89:14).
  - vi. Self-existing (Psalm 90:1-2).
  - vii. Concerned about man (John 3:16).
  - viii. Communicates with man (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

### **THE ORIGIN OF THE BIBLE**

- 1. Where did the Bible come from?
  - A. Man could not write it.
  - B. The devil would not write it.
- 2. Bible attributes.
  - A. No contradictions. No other book can make this claim.
  - B. 40 writers in a period of 1600 years.
    - i. Different occupations.
    - ii. Different times and places.
    - iii. The writers did not know each other in all cases.
      - a. This can't be an accident.
- 3. Scientific data found in the Bible.
  - A. The earth is round (Isaiah 40:22, Proverbs 8:27).
  - B. Countless stars.
    - i. Science finally declared this in the year 1940 AD.
    - ii. Jeremiah 33:22.
    - iii. God can count and name them (Psalm 147:4).
- 4. Fulfilled prophecies – 1000 prophecies in the Bible.
  - A. We already mentioned the prophecies concerning Christ.
  - B. Other prophecies.
    - i. Cyrus (Isaiah 44:28, 45:1, Ezra 1).

## **Basic Facts of the Faith**

- ii. Destruction of Jerusalem (Matthew 24).
  - a. This prophecy was fulfilled in 70 AD.
  - b. The historian Flavius Josephus records this authentic historical event.
- 5. Archeology confirms the facts of the Bible.
  - A. Archeology has established the location of places in the Bible.
    - i. Queen of Sheba.
      - a. The Old Testament mentions this queen (1 Kings 10:1-13).
      - b. Jesus affirms the truth of this story (Matthew 12:42).
      - c. About 100 years ago, two Europeans traveled to South Arabia and found inscriptions on the city walls of Marib. This was the capital of ancient Sheba.
    - ii. Archaeology has also proven the location of Nineveh.
      - a. Archaeology has supported biblical doctrine.
      - b. Some said that there were not enough places of water to baptize 3,000 people according to Acts 2.
      - c. Archeology has found pond after pond in the city. A pond was as long as two football fields and wider than one football field.
- 6. If it weren't for the Bible, we wouldn't know anything about:
  - A. The origin of man.
  - B. The nature of God.
  - C. The origin of sin.
  - D. What happens to man after death.
- 7. Christ, God and the Bible all go together.
  - A. We cannot believe in one without believing in the others.
  - B. Some will say, "Oh, I believe in God, but I don't believe in Christ," or, "I believe in God, but I don't think he gave us the Bible."
  - C. Others will say, "I believe the Bible is from God, but I don't believe the first 11 chapters of Genesis are true facts."
    - i. Then you do not believe that the entire Bible is from God.
    - ii. Even Jesus often quoted from those first 11 chapters.

## **OUR STANDARD OF AUTHORITY IN RELIGION**

- 1. What it is not!
  - A. Our opinions (Proverbs 14:12).

## ***Truth For The World***

- B. The opinion of the majority (Matthew 7:13-14).
  - C. Tradition (Matthew 15:8-9).
  - D. Zeal or sincerity (Romans 10:1-3).
  - E. Our feelings (Acts 26:9).
  - F. Our conscience (Acts 23:1, 24:16).
  - G. The creeds of the denominations (Galatians 1:6-9).
2. What it is: The Word of God!
- A. John 17:17.
  - B. 1 Peter 1:22, 23, 25.
  - C. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
  - D. 2 Peter 1:3.
  - E. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14.
  - F. Romans 1:16.
  - G. Colossians 3:17.

### **OLD OR NEW TESTAMENT**

1. The law was given to the Jews, and only to them.
- A. Deuteronomy 5:1-5.
  - B. The Gentiles were never under obligation to the law of Moses.
2. The old law is no longer in effect.
- A. Ephesians 2:13-16.
  - B. Colossians 2:14.
  - C. Hebrews 8:6-13.
  - D. Romans 7:1-7.
3. We are now under the law of Christ.
- A. Matthew 28:18-20.
  - B. Matthew 17:5.
  - C. Matthew 7:21-23.
  - D. John 12:48.
4. The Old Testament is still useful to us (Romans 15:4, 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11).
5. We cannot add, take away, or change it in any way (Galatians 1:6-9, Revelation 22:18-19).

## **Basic Facts of the Faith**

### **WHY DID JESUS COME TO EARTH?**

1. One of the reasons was to give mankind the opportunity to have their sins washed away.
  - A. Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:6-10.
  - B. 1 John 3:4; Romans 6:23.
  - C. Isaiah 59:1-2.
  - D. Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-6.
  - E. Matthew 1:21; Luke 19:10.
  - F. Romans 5: 8; 1 Timothy 1:15
2. Another reason that is related to the first was to win His church.
  - A. Acts 20:28.
  - B. 1 Peter 1:18-19.
  - C. Ephesians 3:8-11.
  - D. Matthew 16:18-19.
  - E. 1 Corinthians 3:11.
  - F. John 17:20-22.
  - G. 1 Corinthians 1:10-13.
  - H. Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:3-6.

### **HOW TO FIND THE CHURCH THAT JESUS BUILT**

1. The situation today.
  - A. Many churches claim to be one of the “branches” of the church or claim to be the church that Jesus established.
  - B. 229 different religious organizations in Taiwan make this claim. Over 2,000 in the United States.
  - C. How can we find out which church Jesus established?
2. Characteristics.
  - A. A missing child – We use features to find him. Once found, we look no further. He must have all the features, not just a few.
  - B. Cars are not all the same.
    - i. Cadillac.
    - ii. Mercedes-Benz.
    - iii. Toyota.

## *Truth For The World*

3. The New Testament tells us what the characteristics of the church are. Once we know them, we can compare and find the correct one.
4. Characteristics of the church.
  - A. When was it established?
    - i. Matthew 16:18.
    - ii. Mark 9:1.
    - iii. Mark 15:43.
    - iv. Luke 24:46-49.
    - v. Acts 1:5-8.
    - vi. Acts 5:11.
    - vii. Colossians 1:13.
    - viii. Acts 2:1-4, 36-42, 47.
  - B. Where was it established?
    - i. Isaiah 2:2-3; Luke 24:47.
    - ii. Acts 2:5, 14.
  - C. Name?
    - i. Matthew 16:18.
    - ii. Acts 20:28.
    - iii. Romans 16:16.
    - iv. It may have the correct name, but without all the characteristics, it cannot be the Lord's church.
  - D. Foundation / Founder?
    - i. Matthew 16:18.
    - ii. 1 Corinthians 3:11.
    - iii. Psalm 127:1.
  - E. Organization?
    - i. Autonomous; Independent.
    - ii. Each congregation has:
      - a. Elders, pastors.
        01. Acts 14:23.
        02. Acts 20:17-18, 28.

## **Basic Facts of the Faith**

- 03. 1 Timothy 3:1-7.
- 04. Titus 1:5-9.
- iii. Deacons (1 Timothy 3:8-13, Philippians 1:1).
- iv. No man over one or more congregations, no Pope, etc. No central office.
- F. Worship?
  - i. Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:26-29, Hebrews 10:25, Acts 20:7, Genesis 6).
  - ii. Offering (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
  - iii. Prayer (Acts 2:42, Acts 12:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).
  - iv. Songs (Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16).
  - v. Preaching/Teaching (Acts 20:7, Acts 2:42).
    - a. plan of salvation?
      - 01. Hear (Romans 10:17).
      - 02. Believe (John 8:24, Hebrews 11:6, James 2:24, 26).
      - 03. Repent (Acts 17:30, 2 Peter 3:9).
      - 04. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32-33, John 12:42-43).
      - 05. Baptism.
        - 001. Mark 16:16. Acts 22:16.
        - 002. Acts 2:38. Revelation 1:5.
        - 003. 1 Peter 3:21. Acts 8:35-39.

## **LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

- 1. When we become Christians, we are new creatures (2 Corinthians 5:17).
  - A. We are in Christ and have access to all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3).
  - B. We have a change of mind and a change of life (Colossians 3:1-17).
- 2. What are some responsibilities of living the Christian life?
  - A. Study the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15, 1 Peter 2:2, Hebrews 5:12-14, Acts 17:11).
  - B. Pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17, Philippians 4:6-7, James 5:16-18).
  - C. Attend meetings of the church (Hebrews 10:25, Matthew 6:33, John 14:15).
  - D. Teach others (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-16, 2 Timothy 2:24-26, Acts 8:1, 4).
  - E. Live a godly life (Romans 12:1-2, Titus 2:11-12, Matthew 5:13-16, 1 Peter 4:3-4).
  - F. Persevere to the end (Galatians 6:9, 1 Corinthians 15:58, Revelation 2:10, 1 Peter 4:12-16).

**THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**

1. Is Christ coming again? (Acts 1:9-11, Hebrews 9:27-28, 2 Peter 3:1-9).
2. When? (Mark 13:32-37, 2 Peter 3:10).
  - A. No one knows when it will be.
  - B. No signal will be given.
3. What will He do?
  - A. He will raise the dead (John 5:28-29).
  - B. He will judge the world.
    - i. Acts 17:30-31.
    - ii. 2 Corinthians 5:10.
    - iii. Matthew 25:31-46.
    - iv. Revelation 20:12.
  - C. He will return the kingdom to the Father (1 Corinthians 15:23-24).
  - D. Eternity will begin.
4. There will be only one resurrection, not two (John 5:28-29, Acts 24:15).
5. The earth will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:7, 10-12).

**CONSIDER THE COST**

1. Before a person becomes a Christian, he has to consider very carefully whether he is willing to pay the price it takes to live the Christian life.
  - A. We have found this to be especially true in our work among the Chinese people.
  - B. While in the United States, and many other countries in the Americas, we may be able to teach a new Christian some things after being converted, however, the Chinese do not have the religious background that Westerners do and therefore they need to fully understand what they are doing.
  - C. Every person needs to know that becoming a Christian means entering the Lord's church, not a denomination; and that becoming a Christian carries with it responsibility.
2. We know that a person who becomes a Christian and then falls is in a worse condition than one who never knew the truth (2 Peter 2:20-22, Luke 12:47-48).
3. There are passages that emphasize "consider the cost."
  - A. Matthew 10:32-39.
  - B. Luke 14:25-33.
4. For a person who considers the cost, we need to encourage him to obey the gospel.

## **Basic Facts of the Faith**

A. 2 Corinthians 6:1-2.

B. James 4:13-17.

### **CONCLUSION**

1. This lesson has been designed to help those who have not yet obeyed the gospel to have a better understanding of what is involved in becoming a child of God and having the hope of Heaven (Matthew 7:21-23).
2. It was also presented to help remind those who have already obeyed the gospel of what we must always keep in mind (2 Peter 1:12).
3. Furthermore, it was introduced to help Christians teach others these basic truths (2 Timothy 2:2).
4. It is our hope and prayer that every person will be saved and go to Heaven.
  - A. 2 Peter 1:5-11.
  - B. 1 Timothy 2: 4.
  - C. 2 Peter 3:10.



## **Chapter 1 - Why Do We Believe That Jesus is the Christ,** **the Son of God?**

Many people do not believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. If He is not the Christ, our faith is worthless. If He is the Son of God, we must obey Him to go to Heaven (Matthew 7:21-23).

Jesus is a real person. He lived on this earth about 2000 years ago. Not everyone believes that He is the Son of God. Some say: *“He was a good man, and a great Master; but he was not the Son of God.”* This is impossible. Either He is the Son of God, or He was the biggest liar in the world. He said that He was the Son of God.

Why do we believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God? To believe something we must have good reasons. We must be able to prove why we believe that Jesus is the Christ (1 Peter 3:15).

People must believe that Jesus is the Christ to be saved (John 8:24, John 14:6). We can give reasons to believe in Jesus.

### **CHRIST IS ETERNAL.**

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. This was in the beginning with God. All things for him were made, and without him nothing was made that was made. ...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth”* (John 1 :1-3,14).

The “Word” in these verses refers to Jesus. Jesus said, *“Before Abraham was, I am”* (John 8:58). Jesus was on earth for about thirty-five years, but he said, *“Before Abraham was, I am.”* The only possible way is that He was alive before He came to Earth.

### **BORN OF A VIRGIN.**

The prophet Isaiah said that a child would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14). Matthew tells us that Jesus was born of a virgin (Matthew 1:18-25).

### **PROPHECY FULFILLED.**

Jesus fulfilled more than three hundred prophecies. He had the right ancestors - Abraham and David (Matthew 1:1-17). He was born in the correct city - Bethlehem (Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:5-6). He died on the cross (Isaiah 53). He rose from the dead (Psalm 16:8-10, Luke 24:6, 31, 34).

### **A LIFE WITHOUT SIN.**

The Bible teaches that all men have sinned (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:6-10). But, Jesus did not commit sin (1 Peter 2:21-23). Jesus was tempted like us, but he did not sin (Hebrews 4:14-15, Matthew 4:1-11).

### **HIS MIRACLES.**

## Basic Facts of the Faith

Nicodemus said, “*Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that thou doest, except God be with him*” (John 3:2). Then the apostle wrote, “*Many other signs therefore Jesus did in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in his name.*” (John 20:30-31).

Jesus performed miracles to prove that His words were true. The purpose of the miracles was to prove that the speaker’s words were from God. This has always been the purpose of miracles.

Jesus did not perform miracles just to help people’s physical needs. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, raised the dead, changed water into wine, and calmed the storm. He did not heal all the sick. He did not feed all the hungry people. He did not raise all the dead. Why? Because God never used miracles just to help physical needs. It was to prove that a speaker was sent from God. When God had something new to tell people, He used miracles to prove it.

Moses used miracles to prove that he was from God. His miracles helped Pharaoh and Israel know that God sent him. Elijah and Elisha also used miracles to show they were from God. So, when Jesus came to earth, He used miracles to prove that His words were true. It was a new message.

Some people say that they have the same power that Jesus and the apostles had. But they don’t do the same miracles that Jesus did. Jesus never took money for doing his miracles, but the people today who claim this power are always asking for money. We hear about these people who supposedly “*heal*” the sick, but nothing more. Jesus and his apostles did not just heal the sick. They also raised the dead and fed the hungry. We never hear of these so-called “*miracle workers*” feeding the hungry. People are starving every day. These so-called “*miracle workers*” should use their power to feed the hungry in Africa with “*five barley loaves and two small fish*” as Jesus did. But instead, they ask people to send money to feed the hungry. They do not have the power to perform miracles.

The power to perform miracles stopped in the first century after the New Testament was completed (1 Corinthians 13:8-10, Hebrews 2:1-4, Jude 3). In the first century, Christians could receive the power to perform miracles if it was given to them by the apostles (Acts 8:5-22). When the last apostle died, this was no longer possible. God does not use miracles today. There is no new revelation; The Bible is all we need. Jesus proved that He was the Christ by the miracles that He performed. His enemies knew that His miracles were real. After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, the Bible says, “*The chief priests therefore and the Pharisees gathered a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many signs*” (John 11:47).

### OTHERS GIVEN TESTIMONY.

In addition to our Lord Himself saying that He is the Christ, the Son of God, there are many others who testified to that fact. Our Heavenly Father (Matthew 3:16-17; 17:5); The Apostles (2 Peter 1:16-18; 1 John 1:1-3); John the Baptist (John 1:29-34).

### HIS DEATH, HIS BURIAL, AND HIS RESURRECTION.

The first four books of the New Testament speak of the Lord’s death, burial, and resurrection. Paul gives us the reason for his death in his letter to the Romans, 5:6-11. Peter says it was planned before the world began (1 Peter 1:18-21). John adds that the Lord’s death was for all (John 3:16; 1 John 2:2).

Everyone believes that Jesus was crucified on the cross and buried (Mark 15:16- 28, 42-47). But there are many who doubt the resurrection. Many do not want to believe that Jesus rose from the dead. They try to

## ***Truth For The World***

deny the resurrection of Jesus. However, there is no denying that the tomb where Jesus was buried was empty. Three days after Jesus died, there was an “*empty tomb*.” Those who do not believe that Jesus rose from the dead try to give other reasons for the “*empty tomb*.”

### **“THE THEORY OF FAINTING”.**

This theory says that Jesus didn’t really die, he just passed out. After a while Jesus woke up and left the tomb. However, the Bible tells us that Pilate made sure that Jesus was dead before letting Joseph of Arimathea bury Jesus (Mark 15:42-47). Jesus really died; He didn’t just pass out.

### **“BURIED IN THE WRONG TOMB”.**

Others try to say that Jesus was buried in the wrong tomb, so when the women arrived at the tomb on the first day of the week, they did not find Jesus’ body because it was in another tomb. The Bible clearly tells us that the women “*beheld where it was laid*” (Mark 15:47).

### **“HIS DISCIPLES STOLE THE BODY.”**

It is not possible that the disciples stole the body of Jesus. Soldiers guarded the tomb. The disciples would not be able to get past them to get to the body. Then the disciples boldly said that Jesus had risen from the dead. They were even willing to die for the cause of the risen Christ. Would they be willing to do so if they knew they had stolen the body of Christ? They were discouraged because they thought their hopes were over. They had forgotten the promise of the resurrection. They didn’t steal the body to make the tomb empty.

### **“HIS ENEMIES STOLE THE BODY.”**

Why would Jesus’ enemies steal His body? They had guards to prevent Jesus’ body from being stolen. Later, the guards were bribed to tell a story that the body was stolen (Matthew 28:11-15). If the guards had stolen the body, on the day of Pentecost, when Peter and the apostles preached that Jesus had risen from the dead, the enemies of Christ could have produced the body. However, they did not! They didn’t because Christ really had risen from the dead (Acts 2:22-36).

### **JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD!**

There is plenty of evidence to prove that Jesus really did rise from the dead. Jesus was “*declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead*” (Romans 1:4). Paul gives us proof of the fact that Jesus really did rise from the dead. He wrote:

*“Now I make known unto you brethren, the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye received, wherein also ye stand, by which also ye are saved, if ye hold fast the word which I preached unto you, except ye believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which also I received: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried; and that he hath been raised on the third day according to the scriptures; and that he appeared to Cephas; then to the twelve; then he appeared to above five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain until now, but some are fallen asleep; then he appeared to James; then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to the child untimely born, he appeared to me also.”* (1 Corinthians 15:1-8).

Christianity is based on the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. If he didn’t, “*we are most to be pitied of all*

## Basic Facts of the Faith

men” (1 Corinthians 15:19).

Peter adds his testimony to that of the apostle Paul. In his second epistle, Peter says:

*“For we did not follow cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honor and glory, when there was borne such a voice to him by the Majestic Glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased: and this voice we ourselves heard borne out of heaven, when we were with him in the holy mount.”* (2 Peter 1:16-18).

The apostle Peter is not only speaking of himself, but of all the apostles when he uses the plural pronoun “we”. Peter and the other apostles were eyewitnesses to the resurrection of Christ.

The apostle John also uses plural pronouns to prove that Jesus is the Christ. The apostles gave up everything because they knew that Jesus really did rise from the dead.

*“That which was from the beginning, that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our eyes, that which we beheld, and our hands handled, concerning the Word of life (and the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare unto you the life, the eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us); that which we have seen and heard declare we unto you also, that ye also may have fellowship with us: yea, and our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ”* (1 John 1:1-3)

Jesus rose from the dead, never to die again! This is unlike any other religious leader in history! There have been many religious leaders in the history of mankind. Every one of them died, and they’re still dead! Christianity is the largest religion in the world because it offers hope for eternal life in Heaven with the risen Savior. It is the greatest proof that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

## ASCENSION

The Bible tells us that Jesus went back to Heaven (Acts 1:9-11). The prophet Daniel said this would happen (Daniel 7:13). Jesus went back to Heaven to begin being King over His Kingdom that began on the first Pentecost after He rose from the dead (Acts 2).

## CONCLUSION

We have to believe in Christ to be saved. If we fail to believe and obey him, we have no hope for Heaven (John 8:24; Matthew 7:21-23). All of us, with Peter, say: *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God”* (Matthew 16:16). We have given many reasons why you should believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. We hope you will continue to study the Bible to learn how to be pleasing to God.

## **Chapter 2 - The Existence of God**

Man has different ideas about the existence of God. In this lesson we will look at some misconceptions about God, and then we will give the reasons why we believe in the one true God.

### **ATHEISM**

The atheist says: *“I know that God does not exist. I have proof.”* This is a statement that the atheist cannot prove. An atheist would have to be everywhere at the same time to prove that God does not exist. However, being everywhere at the same time is called omnipresence. Being everywhere at the same time is one of the characteristics of God.

A person must be able to be everywhere at the same time to prove that God does not exist. For example: If you were looking for your friend and learned that he is in the United States, you could come to the United States and visit some of the major cities looking for him. While you’re in New York, your friend could be in Chicago. If you go to Chicago next, your friend could have moved to Dallas. By the time you get to Dallas, your friend could have gone to Los Angeles. You can travel across the country and never find your friend. But you would not be able to make the statement, *“I know my friend is not in America.”* To make that statement, you would have to be everywhere at the same time. Thus, a person would have to become God to prove that God does not exist! But if a person were God, then God would exist! Atheists cannot confirm their claims!

### **AGNOSTICISM**

The Agnostic says: *“There is not enough evidence to prove whether or not there is a God.”* This is really what the atheist believes. There are many proofs to prove the existence of God. We will discuss these evidences later in this lesson.

### **DEISM**

The Deist says: *“A Supreme Being created the universe, gave laws, and after that had no relation to its creation.”* He will admit that the universe didn’t just happen. But, he claims that the God who created the universe does not care about his creation, and does not provide for the needs of man.

### **THEISM**

The theist believes that God created the universe, but does not believe that He is the God of the Old and New Testaments, does not believe in Christ, in the church or in the plan of salvation. This would include Jews and Muslims. It would also include the polytheist. The polytheist believes that there is more than one God. Buddhists, Hindus, and other Eastern religions fit into this category.

### **CHRISTIAN THEISM**

The Christian theist believes in the one God of the universe, the God of the Old and New Testaments who created the universe. This would include belief in Christ as the Son of God, the only church that was planned by God and established in the first century, as well as God’s plan to save man.

# Basic Facts of the Faith

## THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE

When we speak of the existence of God we must also speak of the origin of the universe. Where did the universe come from? It is a fact that the universe had a beginning.

There are two possible explanations for the origin of the universe. Either it was born by accident or it was created. Did the universe happen by chance? No, it did not. Things do not come into existence by accident. If I said that the watch I carry with me appeared by accident, you would laugh. You wouldn't believe it.

## WHO CREATED THE UNIVERSE?

Since the universe did not come about by accident, it was created. Who created the universe? Man certainly does not have the power or the ability to create the universe. How do we know this? The nearest star is 4.3 light-years away. Man does not have the ability to reach the nearest star in the universe. There are billions of stars in the universe. If man cannot reach the nearest star, how could he create the universe?

The Bible emphasizes that God exists and He created the universe. In addition to the first two chapters of Genesis, note the following passages:

*“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hinder the truth in unrighteousness; because that which is known of God is manifest in them; for God manifested it unto them. For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even his everlasting power and divinity; that they may be without excuse”* (Romans 1:18-20).

*“The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, And night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language; Their voice is not heard”* (Psalm 19:1-3).

*“For every house is builded by some one; but he that built all things is God”* (Hebrews 3:4).

## DESIGN / DESIGNER.

Because the universe has design, this means that there was a designer. Clothes have a design because they have a designer. If they happened accidentally, there would be no design. However, because there is design, there has to be a designer.

## CAUSE AND EFFECT.

If a ball rolls across the room, we wonder who threw the ball into the room. The ball entering the room is the effect. Whenever there is an effect, there must be a cause. The universe is the effect, so there must be a cause. The cause of the universe is Almighty God. Add to all this the example of the human body. It couldn't have happened accidentally. Man was God's creation (Genesis 1:26-27).

## MORAL ARGUMENT

What is the difference between humans and animals? Animals have no moral guidance in their lives. When was the last time you saw a dog arrested for stealing food from another dog? Was the dog apologizing? Some have suggested that animals have the same feelings and morals as humans. Some say that dolphins



## ***Truth For The World***

are smarter than humans, or cows show concern for a friendly cow that is stuck in a mud hole and can't get out. The animals do not operate according to any ethical or moral code. Only human beings recognize the existence of morality and ethics. You can see animals discussing these things in animated and computer-generated movies, but not in real life! We have a law to obey today. It is the perfect law, that of liberty (James 1:25). It is the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).

There are only two possible sources for the existence of morality and ethics. Either they evolved from man, or they came from a Supreme Being (God). Atheism says that there is no definitive standard of right and wrong. Instead, they defend situation ethics, relativism, etc. The only reasonable and logical explanation for morals and ethics in this world is the existence of an eternal God.

### **ATTRIBUTES OF GOD**

The God of the universe does not only have one attribute. Some seem to think that God only has one. There are people who say that God is only a God of love, or only a vengeful God, etc. The Bible teaches that there is only one God (Isaiah 44:6; 1 Corinthians 8:6). However, the Bible speaks of our one God having many attributes. He is almighty (Genesis 17:1); He is everywhere (Psalm 139:7-11); He is Omniscient (Hebrews 4:13); Just (Psalm 89:14); Eternal (Psalm 90:1-2); He cares for man (John 3:16); And He communicates with man (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21).

It is impossible to believe in Christ and not believe in God. Jesus tells us that God exists. He proved that His words were true. We must believe in God to go to Heaven (Hebrews 11:6).

# Basic Facts of the Faith

## Chapter 3 - The Origin of the Bible

Where did the Bible come from? It did not come from man. The devil wouldn't write it either. If man had written the Bible, many of the facts would have been left out. If man had given us the Bible, we would not read the weaknesses and sins of people. If the devil had written the Bible, he would not be described as "*evil*." The Bible came from God.

### THERE ARE NO CONTRADICTIONS

The Bible was written by about forty different writers over a period of about 1,600 years. The writers of the Bible were men living in different periods of time, having different occupations, living in different places. In many cases, the writers did not know each other. However, there are no contradictions in the Bible. No other book can make this claim. This could not have happened by accident.

### SCIENTIFIC FACTS

We can also consider the scientific facts found in the Bible. The Bible is not a science book, but it does have scientific facts in it. Columbus and Magellan proved that the earth is round. That was 500 years ago. The Bible told us that the earth was round thousands of years before anyone had even heard of Columbus or Magellan. "*He sitteth above the circle of the earth*" (Isaiah 40:22). "*When he established the heavens, I was there: When he set a circle upon the face of the deep*" (Proverbs 8:27).

The Bible also tells us that we are not able to number the stars. In 1940, astronomers finally came to the conclusion that they were unable to count all the stars in the universe. Nearly 2,500 years ago, Jeremiah recorded: "*As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured, so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me*" (Jeremiah 33:22). Almighty God can not only count the stars, He can call them by name (Psalm 147:4).

### FULFILLED PROPHECIES

There are over 1,000 prophecies in the Bible. The fact that every prophecy is fulfilled is one more proof that the Bible is from God. Besides the prophecies concerning Christ, we note a few others. The prophecy and its fulfillment concerning the city of Jericho (Joshua 6:26; 1 Kings 16:34). We can also mention the prophecy made by the prophet Isaiah about Cyrus, king of Persia (Isaiah 44:28, 45:1, Ezra 1). There were also many prophecies about the church that were fulfilled (Isaiah 2:1-4, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Daniel 2:31-46 and Acts 2:14-47).

### ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology confirms the facts of the Bible. Archaeology is a young science. It was not until around 1840 A.D. that archaeology began to be used to prove that the biblical record is true. Archaeology has established the location of places in the Bible, such as the location of Sheba. The Old Testament records the story of the Queen of Sheba traveling to visit King Solomon (1 Kings 10:1-3). Jesus tells us that this story is true (Matthew 12:42). About a hundred years ago, two Europeans traveled to South Arabia and found writings on walls in the city of Marib. That city was the capital of ancient Sheba. Archaeology also proved the location of Nineveh. Archaeology has supported biblical doctrine. Some claim that there were not enough pools of water in Jerusalem to baptize 3,000 people as recorded in Acts 2:41. However, archaeologists have found pond after pond in the ancient city. A pond was longer than two football fields and wider than a football field.



## CONCLUSION

If we didn't have the Bible, we wouldn't know anything about the origin of man, the nature of God, the origin of sin, what happens to man after death, etc.

Christ, God and the Bible all go together. We cannot believe in one without believing in the other. Some will say, "*Oh, I believe in God, but I don't believe in Christ,*" or "*I believe in God, but I don't believe He gave us the Bible.*" Others will say, "*The Bible is from God, but I don't think the first eleven chapters of Genesis are factual.*" If we do not believe that the first eleven chapters are from God, we question the words of Jesus. Jesus frequently referred to the first eleven chapters of Genesis (Matthew 19:4-6, Luke 17:26-27). The writer of the letter to the Hebrews and Jude also refer to the first eleven chapters of Genesis (Hebrews 11:4-7, Jude 14). We have a reliable guide for our religious lives. It is the inspired word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

## Basic Facts of the Faith

### Chapter 4 - Our Standard of Authority in Religion

In order to agree on religion, we must have the same rules to follow. If we follow different rules, we can never be united. We will first discuss what our standard of authority is not. They are not our opinions. *“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death”* (Proverbs 14:12). If our opinions were the standard of authority in religion, there would be more than five billion standards of authority in this world.

What most think is not our authority in religion (Matthew 7:13-14). Jesus tells us that there are only two roads we can travel. We will travel the broad road that leads to destruction, or the narrow road that leads to life. Not all roads lead to Heaven! There is a right path and a wrong path. As the writer Jeremiah said, *“O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps”* (Jeremiah 10:23). If we want to travel from New York to California, we don’t travel to the Northeast. We have to travel the right path to go to the right place. We have to follow the roadmap. We don’t say, *“Well, it feels good to me.”*

The traditions of our ancestors are not the authority in religion. Jesus said, *“Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? ... And ye have made void the word of God because of your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, This people honoreth me with their lips; But their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, Teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men.”* (Matthew 15:3, 6b-9). The apostle Peter added, *“knowing that ye were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers; but with precious blood, as of a lamb without spot, even the blood of Christ: who was foreknown indeed before the foundation of the world, but was manifested at the end of the times for your sake.”* (1 Peter 1:18-20). Once again, if traditions were our guide in religion, there would be thousands of rules of religion.

Zeal or sincerity is not our standard of authority. Paul wrote about the Jews, *“Brethren, my heart’s desire and my supplication to God is for them, that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.”* (Romans 10:1-3). The apostle Paul was one of the most zealous and sincere individuals who ever lived, but his zeal and sincerity were not enough to save him. He still had to obey God’s commandments.

The apostle Paul also helps us to know that our feelings and conscience are not our guide in religion (Acts 26:9; 23:1; 24:16). This is one of the main reasons why people are divided into many different religions. They follow their feelings and their conscience instead of the word of God. Our conscience is only a safe guide when it is guided by the word of God.

Denominational creeds are not the standard of authority in religion. In fact, denominational creeds cause much of the religious division in the world. If a book has more in it than the Bible, it is too much. If a book has less than the Bible, it is not enough. If it has exactly the same as the Bible, we don’t need it because we already have the Bible. The Bible tells us that we are not to add to, subtract from, or change the word of God (Deuteronomy 4:2, Revelation 22:18-19, Galatians 1:6-9).

#### **OUR STANDARD OF AUTHORITY: THE WORD OF GOD**

Jesus said, *“Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”* (John 8:32). Truth is our standard of authority in religion. Jesus added: *“Sanctify them in the truth; thy word is truth”* (John 17:17).

## ***Truth For The World***

Peter wrote:

*“Seeing ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned love of the brethren, love one another from the heart fervently: having been begotten again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of God, which liveth and abideth...But the word of the Lord abideth for ever. And this is the word of good tidings which was preached unto you.” (1 Peter 1:22-23, 25).*

Paul wrote:

*“Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16- 17).*

He added, *“whereunto he called you through our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thessalonians 2:14), and he also said, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16).*

It is the truth, the word of God, the gospel, the scriptures that are our standard of authority in religion. It is when we follow the scriptures, and the scriptures alone, that we please God and are able to receive His blessings.

# Basic Facts of the Faith

## Chapter 5 - Old or New Testament?

The law of Moses was given to Jews alone. Gentiles were never under the law of Moses. Moses wrote:

*“And Moses called unto all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the ordinances which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and observe to do them. Jehovah our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. Jehovah made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day. Jehovah spake with you face to face in the mount out of the midst of the fire.”* (Deuteronomy 5:1-4).

This law that was given to the Jews is no longer in force. The apostle Paul makes this very clear in several passages of Scripture (Ephesians 2:13-16, Colossians 2:14-16, Romans 7:1-7). The writer to the Hebrews devotes much of the book to showing that the law of Christ is better than the law of Moses (Hebrews 8:6-13).

The apostle Paul shows us that we are not under the law of Moses, but under the law of Christ (Galatians 4:21-31).

A Son - Ishmael	One Son - Isaac
Mother - Hagar	Mother - Sarah
Represents OT	Represents NT
Origin: Sinai	Origin: Jerusalem
Slavery	Liberty
no promise	with promise

### **WHAT SHOULD BE CAST OUT? (GALATIANS 4:30)**

The old law is cast out. We are now under the new law, the law of Christ. All of the above passages tell us that no one is under the law of Moses today. We are now under the law of Christ. Again, there are a number of passages that tell us that we are under the law of Christ, not the law of Moses (Matthew 7:21-23, 17:5, 28:18-20, John 12:48, Galatians 6:2).

Although people are no longer under Old Testament law, there is still much we can learn from its pages. Paul tells us:

*“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope.”* (Romans 15:4).

*“Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted... Now these things happened unto them by way of example; and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come.”* (1 Corinthians 10:6, 11)

Without the Old Testament we would not be able to understand many New Testament passages. When the New Testament mentions characters from the Old Testament, if we didn't have the Old Testament, we wouldn't be able to understand the point made in the New Testament. The Old Testament reveals where the universe, sin, nations, and languages came from. When Jesus said *“Remember Lot's wife”* (Luke 17:32), if we didn't have the Old Testament, we wouldn't know who Lot's wife was, nor why we should remember her.

The entire Bible came from God, but His law for us today is found in the New Testament.

## **Chapter 6 – Why Did Jesus Come to the Earth?**

There are two main reasons why Jesus left Heaven to come to Earth. It is important that we know these reasons.

### **TO SAVE SINFUL MAN**

One of the reasons was to give mankind the opportunity to have their sins forgiven. Why does humanity need a Savior? The reason man needs a Savior is because of sin. The Bible clearly says that *“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23). Every person who can tell right from wrong commits sin. The apostle John also tells us this reality (1 John 1:6-10). What is sin? Sin is missing the mark (Romans 3:23). It is lawlessness (1 John 3:4). John added, *“all unrighteousness is sin”* (1 John 5:17). Furthermore, the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Sin turns us away from God (Isaiah 59:1-2), and Christ came to earth to bring us back to God (2 Corinthians 5:20-21, Ephesians 2:16).

### **THE ORIGIN OF SIN**

We have shown that one of the reasons Jesus came to earth was because of sin. Where does sin come from? The answer is given to us in the first book of the Bible. After God created Adam and Eve, he placed them in the Garden of Eden, giving them everything they needed. He also gave them orders to follow.

*“And Jehovah God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”* (Genesis 2:15-17).

God clearly told them what to do. They were not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The third chapter of Genesis tells us what happened.

*“Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which Jehovah God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of any tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as God, knowing good and evil. And 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 the fruit thereof, and did eat; and she gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat.”* (Genesis 3:1-6).

Because of Adam and Eve's sin, sin entered the world (Romans 5:12). God already had a plan to send Christ to earth to save man from his sin.

*“And she shall bring forth a son; and thou shalt call his name JESUS; for it is he that shall save his people from their sins”* (Matthew 1:21).

*“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost”* (Luke 19:10).

*“For while we were yet weak, in due season Christ died for the ungodly...But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:6, 8).

## Basic Facts of the Faith

*“Faithful is the saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief” (1 Timothy 1:15).*

### TO PURCHASE HIS CHURCH

The other reason Jesus came to Earth was to purchase His church. The following passages show that the church was planned before God created the world.

*“Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit hath made you bishops, to feed the church of the Lord which he purchased with his own blood.” (Acts 20:28).*

*“Knowing that ye were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers; but with precious blood, as of a lamb without spot, even the blood of Christ” (1 Peter 1:18-19).*

*“To the intent that now unto the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places might be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Ephesians 3:10-11).*

*“And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:18-19).*

*“For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:11).*

It was never in God’s plan to have hundreds and thousands of denominations. The plan was always to have one church and for all believers to be a part of that church. The Bible teaches unity, not division (John 17:20-22, 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, Ephesians 4:3-6, 1:22-23). Christ is the only head of the only church that He promised to build. It is in His church that we can be saved from our sins (Ephesians 5:23).

## **Chapter 7 - How to Find the Church That Jesus Built**

In the United States of America there are more than 2,000 different churches. Most of these churches claim to be the church that Jesus established, or at least one of the “branches” of the church. We have already studied that Jesus came to earth to build His church. He only built a church. He did not build hundreds or thousands of churches. If Jesus only built one church, why are there so many different churches?

### **WHERE DID ALL THESE CHURCHES COME FROM?**

The New Testament tells us that people would leave the truth (Acts 20:28-31; 1 Timothy 4:1-4; 2 Timothy 4:1-4). Ever since the church began, people have slowly drifted away from the truth. This has resulted in the hundreds of denominations that exist today. Jesus does not approve of these churches. He didn’t build them.

Many people declare, “*Churches are all the same.*” Is this statement true? We agree that the churches appear to be almost the same, but they are not the same!

### **FEATURES**

How can we find out which church Jesus built? We find the church that Jesus built by looking for the characteristics that are recorded in the New Testament. We all use features in our lives. We identify people through the use of characteristics. People are identified by name, description, social security number, or identification number. People can be identified by fingerprints. There are no fingerprints that are the same.

If your child was lost, how would you find him? You would ask for the help of the police. When the police help you, they will ask what the child looks like and for a recent photo. For example: your child is a ten-year-old boy with blue eyes, blonde hair, weighing about 75 pounds. Would you be satisfied if the police brought you an eight-year-old girl with brown eyes and red hair? Why not? It’s a girl, right? Aren’t all children the same? You would not be satisfied until the child with all the characteristics of your child was found. Furthermore, once a child with all the characteristics of your son is found, you would stop looking for your son. You wouldn’t keep looking for your son. The found child would have to have all, not just some, of your child’s characteristics.

Just as children are not all the same, cars are not all the same either. We identify cars by characteristics. If you paid \$50,000 for a car, would you want that car to be a cheap little car? It had better be a Cadillac, Mercedes Benz or BMW. What is the difference between a Cadillac and a cheap small car? They both have motors, windows, doors, tires, etc. It’s almost the same, right? No. They are similar, but they are not the same. If we pay that much money, we won’t be happy with a cheap little car.

The same goes for the church. There is only one church that Jesus built. Although it appears to be like other churches, unless a church has all the characteristics of the church we read about in the New Testament, it cannot be the church that Jesus built. The New Testament tells us the characteristics of the church. Once we know these characteristics, we can compare the churches in the world and see which one has the same characteristics as the church that Jesus built. The angel Gabriel said, “*He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*” (Luke 1:32-33). The church that Jesus built still exists. By using the characteristics found in the Bible, we can identify that church and become a part of it.

Jesus only promised to build one church, therefore the rest of the churches here today were started by



# Basic Facts of the Faith

men, not God. The way we can be sure that the church we are in is the church Jesus built is to look at the characteristics.

## THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHURCH

### WHEN IT STARTED

When was the church of the Lord built? We can learn the answer to this question by studying the following scriptures: “*And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven*” (Matthew 16:18-19). Jesus tells us in this passage that, at this time, the church had not yet begun, because He said, “*I will build my church.*” When Jesus made this statement, the church had not yet started. Also, in this passage He tells us that the kingdom and the church are the same. “*And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There are some here of them that stand by, who shall in no wise taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God come with power*” (Mark 9:1). The kingdom had not yet come when Jesus made this statement. It was still in the future. It was also in the future when Jesus died on the cross because Joseph, who buried Christ, was still waiting for the kingdom (Mark 15:43). Jesus told his apostles to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the power to come (Luke 24:46-49, Acts 1:5-8). As the first chapter of the book of Acts closes, the church (kingdom) had not yet come.

In Acts 5:11, the Bible records: “*And great fear came upon the whole church, and upon all that heard these things.*” We see in this passage that the church had already begun. Later, Paul wrote: “*Who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love*” (Colossians 1:13). In this passage, Paul tells us that the kingdom is already here. Later, the apostle John wrote: “*I John, your brother and partaker with you in the tribulation and kingdom and patience which are in Jesus...*” (Revelation 1:9). The kingdom had not yet begun with the death of Christ, but according to Acts chapter five, the church (kingdom) was already here.

The church began sometime between the death of Christ and Acts chapter five. To find the time, we can turn to Acts chapter two. It was the first Pentecost after Jesus rose from the dead, around AD 30. Christ fulfilled his promise to build his church. If a church got its start at any other time, it cannot be the church that Jesus promised to build (Acts 2:1-4, 36-42, 47).

### WHERE DID IT START?

By learning when the church began, it becomes easier to see where it began. We just have to see where the apostles were when the church began, and we will have the answer. In Acts chapter two they were in the city of Jerusalem. This was according to prophecy (Isaiah 2:2-3 and Luke 24:47). The church that Jesus built began in Jerusalem. If a church started somewhere other than Jerusalem, it cannot be the church that Jesus promised to build (Acts 2:5, 14).

### THE NAME GIVEN TO THE CHURCH.

Jesus said, “*I will build my church*” (Matthew 16:18). He used His own blood to purchase the church (Acts 20:28). The apostle Paul called them “*the churches of Christ*” (Romans 16:16). It must have the correct name to be the church that Jesus built. Of course, it could have a name from the Bible and not have the other features. Remember, a church must have all the characteristics to be the church that Jesus built.



## ***Truth For The World***

Some say that the name is not important. We don't believe that in other areas of life. We don't give our children bad names. But if the names weren't meaningful, it wouldn't matter. We don't call our children Jezebel or Judas, because names are important!

### **FOUNDER / FOUNDATION.**

Jesus is the founder of His church and the only foundation (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:11). If a church has a founder other than Jesus, that church cannot be the church that Jesus built.

### **ORGANIZATION.**

Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22-23). His church has no earthly headquarters. Instead, the church of Jesus is organized into independent, self-governed congregations. Every congregation has a group of men to lead the congregation under Christ. The names or titles given to this group of men are: elders, pastors, and bishops (Acts 14:23; 20:17-18, 28; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). These congregations also have deacons to serve the congregation (1 Timothy 3:8-13, Philippians 1:1). The Bible says nothing about one man ruling over one or more congregations, nor does it mention a conference or a pope. If a church has a central office here on earth, conferences, and councils, or a pope, it cannot be the church that Jesus built.

### **WORSHIP.**

Remember, just because things are similar doesn't mean they are the same. All churches have some of the same objects of worship, but they are not exactly the same as the church that Jesus built.

Most churches pray and preach in their worship services. What they pray and preach can, on some occasions, be right. But it is not enough to be right in some areas only. We must do things the way the Bible teaches (John 4:24).

#### *Lord's Supper*

Jesus commanded to keep the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:26-29). When should we partake of the Lord's Supper? We are commanded to gather together (Hebrews 10:25). The church partook of the Lord's Supper when they came together (1 Corinthians 11:33). They ate the Lord's Supper when they met on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). Just as the Jews kept every Sabbath, Christians partake of the Lord's Supper every first day of the week. If a church does not partake of the Lord's Supper every first day of the week, it cannot be the church that Jesus built. We use unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine when we partake of the Lord's Supper. We do not have the authority to use anything else.

#### *Singing*

The Bible clearly teaches us that we should sing in worship (Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16). There is no authority in the New Testament to use instrumental music in worship. However, almost all religious groups use instrumental music in their worship. The church that Jesus built does not use musical instruments in worship. If a church adds instrumental music to the service, it cannot be the church that Jesus built.

#### *Contribution*

Paul taught us to contribute of our means "*on the first day of the week*" (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). These

## **Basic Facts of the Faith**

contributions were freewill offerings (2 Corinthians 9:5-7). This is how the church that Jesus built gets the money to do its work. If a church uses any other method, it cannot be the church that Jesus built.

### *God's plan to save man*

The Bible teaches us to hear, believe, repent, confess Christ, and be baptized (Romans 10:17, John 8:24, Acts 17:30, Matthew 10:32-33, and Acts 22:16). The Bible clearly shows us that baptism is essential for salvation (Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, 1 Peter 3:21, Romans 6:3-4). Biblical baptism is immersion (Acts 8:35-39, Romans 6:3-4, Colossians 2:12). The purpose of baptism is to wash away our sins (Acts 22:16), and to place us into Christ (Romans 6:3-4, Galatians 3:27), where all spiritual blessings are found (Ephesians 1:3). If a church does not teach in this way for man to be saved, it cannot be the church that Jesus built.

## **CONCLUSION**

Jesus built only one church. We must be members of that church to be saved. We can identify His church. If you are in a church that does not have these characteristics, you are not in the church that Jesus built. May God help us all to be members of His church and not some man-made church.

# *Truth For The World*

## **Chapter 8 - Living the Christian Life**

After we become Christians, we are a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17). We are in Christ and have access to all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3). We have a change of mind and a change of life (Colossians 3:1-17).

### **RESPONSIBILITIES IN LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.**

First, we must study the Bible, the word of God. This is how we will grow spiritually. This is the way God speaks to us.

*“Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15)*

*“As newborn babes, long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow thereby unto salvation” (1 Peter 2:2).*

*“Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).*

*“For when by reason of the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need again that some one teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of solid food. For every one that partaketh of milk is without experience of the word of righteousness; for he is a babe. But solid food is for fullgrown men, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil” (Hebrews 5:12-14).*

Second, we must pray. This is the way we talk to God. The following verses tell us why and how we should pray.

*“Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).*

*“In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).*

*“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth. Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:9-11).*

The only part in this model prayer that we can no longer use is the phrase *“Thy kingdom come.”* We cannot use it because the kingdom of the Lord has already come (Colossians 1:13; 1 Thessalonians 2:14; Revelation 1:9).

*“Confess therefore your sins one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working. Elijah was a man of like passions with us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain; and it rained not on the earth for three years and six months. And he prayed again; and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit” (James 5:16- 18).*

Third, we are to come together for worship.

*“not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another; and so*

## Basic Facts of the Faith

*much the more, as ye see the day drawing nigh” (Hebrews 10:25).*

*“But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33).*

*“If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments.” (John 14:15).*

As we pointed out in the lesson *“How to Find the Church Jesus Built”*, when we gather for worship, we sing, we pray, we teach, and on the Lord’s Day, we partake of the Lord’s Supper and contribute money to the support of the work of the Lord.

Fourth, we have a responsibility to teach the lost.

*“Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:19-20).*

*“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned” (Mark 16:15-16).*

*“And the Lord’s servant must not strive, but be gentle towards all, apt to teach, forbearing, in meekness correcting them that oppose themselves; if peradventure God may give them repentance unto the knowledge of the truth, and they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him unto his will” (2 Timothy 2:24-26).*

*“...And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church which was in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles...They therefore that were scattered abroad, went about preaching the word” (Acts 8:1, 4).*

Fifth, we must live a godly life.

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

*“For the grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us, to the intent that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world” (Titus 2:11-12).*

*“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a lamp, and put it under the bushel, but on the stand; and it shineth unto all that are in the house. Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:13-16).*

*“For the time past may suffice to have wrought the desire of the Gentiles, and to have walked in lasciviousness, lusts, winebibbings, revellings, carousings, and abominable idolatries: wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them into the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you” (1 Peter 4:3-4).*

## ***Truth For The World***

*“Yea, and all that would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12).*

Sixth, we must be faithful to Christ, enduring to the end.

*“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial among you, which cometh upon you to prove you, as though a strange thing happened unto you: but insomuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings, rejoice; that at the revelation of his glory also ye may rejoice with exceeding joy. If ye are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are ye; because the Spirit of glory and the Spirit of God resteth upon you. For let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evil-doer, or as a meddler in other men’s matters: but if a man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this name.” (1 Peter 4:12-16).*

*“And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Galatians 6:9).*

*“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).*

*“...Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).*

## **CONCLUSION**

Being baptized into Christ is not the end of our obedience, but the very beginning. We are born into the family of God. We must then grow in Christ. We hope that this lesson will help us better understand God’s will.

# Basic Facts of the Faith

## Chapter 9 - The Second Coming of Christ

People are interested in the second coming of Christ. Every so often someone will come setting the date for the return of our Lord. In fact, one of the most popular religious themes in the last twenty-five years has been the teaching that Jesus is going to return to Earth, establish His kingdom, and rule the Earth for a thousand years. This doctrine is called premillennialism. People have made a lot of money by promoting this doctrine. Tribulation maps, posters, bumper stickers, books, and movies have been produced to promote this doctrine. A multitude of preachers in the religious world preach this doctrine. At least 90% of denominational preachers believe in this doctrine. There are even some in the church who believe and teach this doctrine. If we were to take a poll in almost any city and ask each person if they believe that Christ is going to establish an earthly kingdom, the majority would answer “yes!”

What about this teaching? Can it be proven in the Bible, or is it just a doctrine of men?

*“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).*

*“This people honoreth me with their lips; But their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, Teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men” (Matthew 15:8-9).*

*“If any man willeth to do his will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from myself” (John 7:17)*

What does this doctrine include? The first time Jesus came to earth, He came to establish His kingdom, but since the Jews rejected Him, He instead established a temporary institution, namely the church. The New Testament disproves this claim (Ephesians 3:10-11). This doctrine affirms that the kingdom and the church are not the same. Jesus promised to establish His church (kingdom) (Matthew 16:18-19), and He did so in the first century (Acts 2:47, Colossians 1:13, Revelation 19). Premillennialism teaches that the coming of Christ is imminent! It says that there are many signs before the coming of Christ. This implies that God failed in his first attempt to establish the kingdom spoken of in the Old Testament. It teaches that Christ will reign on a literal throne, in a literal temple, in literal Jerusalem.

This doctrine is false! It is not supported by the teachings found in the Bible. In this lesson we will examine the Scriptures to see what they teach regarding the second coming of Christ.

### IS CHRIST COMING AGAIN?

The answer to this question is, “Definitely!”

*“And when he had said these things, as they were looking, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they were looking stedfastly into heaven as he went, behold two men stood by them in white apparel; who also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye looking into heaven? this Jesus, who was received up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye beheld him going into heaven.” (Acts 1:9-11)*

*“And inasmuch as it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this cometh judgment; so Christ also, having been once offered to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time, apart from sin, to them that wait for him, unto salvation” (Hebrews 9:27-28).*

*“This is now, beloved, the second epistle that I write unto you; and in both of them I stir up your sincere*



## ***Truth For The World***

*mind by putting you in remembrance; that ye should remember the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and the commandment of the Lord and Saviour through your apostles: knowing this first, that in the last days mockers shall come with mockery, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for, from the day that the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they wilfully forget, that there were heavens from of old, and an earth compacted out of water and amidst water, by the word of God; by which means the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: but the heavens that now are, and the earth, by the same word have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But forget not this one thing, beloved, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:1-9).*

### **WHEN WILL CHRIST COME AGAIN?**

No person on this earth knows the answer to this question. No sign will be given for the second coming.

*“But of that day or that hour knoweth no one, not even the angels in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. It is as when a man, sojourning in another country, having left his house, and given authority to his servants, to each one his work, commanded also the porter to watch. Watch therefore: for ye know not when the lord of the house cometh, whether at even, or at midnight, or at cockcrowing, or in the morning; lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch” (Mark 13:32-37).*

*“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10).*

### **WHAT WILL HE DO WHEN HE RETURNS?**

First, he will raise the dead. *“Marvel not at this: for the hour cometh, in which all that are in the tombs shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment.” (John 5:28-29).*

Second, He will judge the world (Matthew 25:31-46).

*“The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent: inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:30-31).*

*“For we must all be made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10).*

*“And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne; and books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of the things which were written in the books, according to their works” (Revelation 20:12).*

Third, He will return the kingdom to the Father. *“But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; then they that are Christ’s, at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall deliver up the kingdom to God, even the*

## Basic Facts of the Faith

*Father; when he shall have abolished all rule and all authority and power” (1 Corinthians 15:23-24).*

Fourth, eternity begins. There will be only one resurrection not two.

*“Marvel not at this: for the hour cometh, in which all that are in the tombs shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment” (John 5:28-29). (Note: The word resurrection is singular, not plural.)*

*“having hope toward God, which these also themselves look for, that there shall be a resurrection both of the just and unjust” (Acts 24:15).*

Fifth, the earth will be destroyed.

*“But the heavens that now are, and the earth, by the same word have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the day of judgement and destruction of ungodly men... But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, by reason of which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?” (2 Peter 3:7, 10-12).*

## CONCLUSION

Christ came to earth almost 2,000 years ago. He will come again. Because He will come again, is the reason that we are preaching the gospel to a lost and dying world.

*“For we must all be made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest unto God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences” (2 Corinthians 5:10-11).*

May each one of us prepare to meet the Lord in judgment.



## **Chapter 10 – Considering the Cost**

Before a person becomes a Christian, he has to consider very carefully whether he is willing to pay the price that is required to live the Christian life. We have found this to be especially true in our work among the Chinese people. In the United States of America, and many other countries in the Americas, we might be able to teach a new Christian a few things after he is converted. The Chinese do not have the religious background that Westerners do, and therefore they need to fully understand what they are doing.

Every person needs to know that becoming a Christian means entering the Lord's church, not a denomination; and that becoming a Christian carries with it a lot of responsibility. We know that a person who becomes a Christian and then falls is worse than one who never knew the truth.

*“For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the last state is become worse with them than the first. For it were better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered unto them. It has happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog turning to his own vomit again, and the sow that had washed to wallowing in the mire” (2 Peter 2:20-22).*

*“And that servant, who knew his lord's will, and made not ready, nor did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes; but he that knew not, and did things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. And to whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required: and to whom they commit much, of him will they ask the more” (Luke 12:47-48).*

### **PASSAGES THAT HIGHLIGHT CONSIDERING THE COST**

It would be very helpful for anyone thinking of becoming a child of God to study passages that urge us to consider the cost before committing to God (Matthew 10:32-39 and Luke 14:26-33). For those who have already considered the cost, we must encourage them to obey the gospel.

*“And working together with him we entreat also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain (for he saith, At an acceptable time I hearkened unto thee, And in a day of salvation did I succor thee: behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation)” (2 Corinthians 6:1-2).*

*“Come now, ye that say, To-day or to-morrow we will go into this city, and spend a year there, and trade, and get gain: whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. What is your life? For ye are a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall both live, and do this or that. But now ye glory in your vauntings: all such glorying is evil. To him therefore that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:13-17).*

### **CONCLUSION**

This lesson has been designed to help those who have not yet obeyed the gospel to have a better understanding of what is involved in becoming a child of God and having the hope of Heaven (Matthew 7:21-23). It was also introduced to help remind those of us who have already obeyed the gospel of what we must always keep in mind.

*“Wherefore I shall be ready always to put you in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and are established in the truth which is with you” (2 Peter 1:12).*

## Basic Facts of the Faith

Furthermore, it was introduced to help Christians teach others these basic truths (2 Timothy 2:2).

It is our hope and prayer that each person will be saved and go to heaven.

*“Yea, and for this very cause adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supply virtue; and in your virtue knowledge; and in your knowledge self-control; and in your self-control patience; and in your patience godliness; and in your godliness brotherly kindness; and in your brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, they make you to be not idle nor unfruitful unto the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he that lacketh these things is blind, seeing only what is near, having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins. Wherefore, brethren, give the more diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never stumble: for thus shall be richly supplied unto you the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:5-11).*

*“Who would have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4).*

*“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10).*

May God help us to live a faithful Christian life so that we can go to Heaven (Revelation 2:10, Hebrews 3:14).