


KNOW JESUS

As the Resurrected Lord

LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION

Can you think of any other religion in the world, that claims its god ...

- 
- ✓ became _____
 - ✓ _____ (as the substitute/ payment for all humans)
 - ✓ actually _____ back to life
 - ✓ and bodily _____ his tomb?

**It is the resurrection that makes us (Christians)
_____ from any / every other religion
in the world.**

“Anyone can be sentimental about the Nativity; any fool can [feel like a Christian](#) at Christmas. But Easter is the main event; if you don’t believe in the resurrection, you’re not a believer.” -- John Irving



Matthew 28:1-8 - After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” ⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

- **What does this angel of God want you and me to KNOW and BELIEVE?**



- ✓
- ✓
- ✓
- ✓
- ✓

A. The Bible cites Jesus' resurrection as the FOUNDATIONAL FACT of the Christian faith.

1 Corinthians 15:14 - And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

Complete the thought... *if Jesus Christ DID NOT die and then come back to life, the Christian faith is one big, useless, impractical, CRUEL _____.*

1. It served as the centerpiece of the early church's preaching.

Acts 4:2 and 33 - ² They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and **proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.** ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

2. It is the climax of all four gospels. ← *(The 4 NT books that show Jesus' life)*

See Matthew 28:1-8 above. For the other Gospel accounts of Jesus' resurrection, see Mark 16:1-8,
Luke 24:1-49,
John 20:1-21:14

3. It was the reason why the early church suddenly switched their worship from Saturday to _____.

Centuries of worshipping on Saturday changed!!!

There MUST have been an overriding reason why the New Testament believers would feel compelled to make this change.

4. For further study.

- a. Acts 2:22-36 is a portion of a sermon preached by Peter. It is a good example of the early church's emphasis on the resurrection.
- b. The entire 15th chapter of 1 Corinthians deals with the resurrection. It is often referred to as the great resurrection chapter of the Bible.

B. The Bible also states that Jesus' resurrection also serves as a great proof to all people about Jesus' validity.

Acts 17:31 - For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this **to all** by raising him from the dead.

1. The RESURRECTION is something Jesus also taught.

Matthew 12:38-40 - ³⁸ Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, “Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you.” ³⁹ He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

(See also John 2:18-22) ***Please Note ... the entire Bible points to***
_____!!!

2. Jesus’ resurrection is what separates Christianity from all other religions.

- a. The differences between religions are _____ and not superficial.
- b. Therefore they all can’t be true.
- c. Jesus’ resurrection is the fact God has given to help us cut through the confusion and see that Christianity is the one true religion. ***Christ is the only way!***

3. Therefore it is vitally important for us to see both the genuineness and truthfulness of Jesus’ resurrection.

? ***A VERY important question is:***
“How can Jesus’ resurrection serve as proof for **all mankind**, including those who do not regard the Bible as true?”

C. Facts that help demonstrate the truthfulness of Christ's resurrection to all mankind.

1. The rapid spread of the early church in a hostile environment.

a. The Jewish authorities were violently opposed to Christianity.

Acts 8:1-3 - On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. ² Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. ³ But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

b. The Roman government also opposed Christianity.



Cornelius Tacitus (110AD), a Roman bitterly opposed to Christianity, wrote concerning the great fire in Rome in 64 AD. (31 years ***after*** Jesus' crucifixion.)

"Therefore to scotch the rumor (that he had set fire to Rome), Nero substituted culprits and punished with the utmost refinements of cruelty, a class of men, loathed for their vices, whom the crowd styled Christians. Christ, the founder of the name, had undergone the death penalty in the reign of Tiberius, by sentence of the procurator Pontius Pilate, and the pernicious superstition was checked for a moment, only to break out once more, not merely in Judea, the home of the disease, but in the capital itself, where all things horrible or shameful collect and find a vogue.

First then, the confessed members were arrested; next, on their disclosures, vast numbers were convicted, not so much on the count of arson as for hatred of the human race" Annals, xv. 44. (my emphasis)

So, here's the question

Do you think people became Christians because it was the "in thing" to do?

c. In spite of that opposition, the church spread rapidly throughout the Roman empire as evidenced from the above quote.

d. As the Bible emphasizes, and as even a Jewish historian (Josephus) reports, the focal teaching of Christianity was Christ's resurrection.



"At this time there was a wise man called Jesus, and his conduct was good, and he was known to be virtuous. Many people among the Jews and other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. But those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that **he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive**. Accordingly, he was perhaps the Messiah,

concerning whom the prophets have reported wonders. And the tribe of Christians named after him, has not disappeared to this day." (*Jewish Antiquities* xviii,65)

So, here's the final question

e. Putting these facts together, what conclusion must we reach about **Jesus' tomb**?

f. No alternative explanation can adequately explain how the tomb became empty. **Let's spend a few minutes disproving the other claims:**

1. The THEFT Theory:

The disciples stole the body and made up the story. This was first used by the Jewish leaders (see Matthew 28:11-15). It is still popular today. But

What are the motivations for people to lie?

What happened to the disciples for preaching a resurrection?

What happens when **a group** is trying to keep a secret and they start experiencing problems?

Where else do we ever see **a whole group** of people die for a lie that **they themselves perpetuated**?

NOT TO MENTION ...

2. The SWOON Theory

Christ didn't die but fell into a coma. The cool of the tomb revived him and he left the tomb. Hugh Schonfield, in his 1965 book, *The Passover Plot*, used a variation of this theory.

But . . .



3) SPIRITUAL resurrection theory:

Jesus' body remained in the grave. His spirit rose. This is taught in some historically Christian churches.

But



4) HALLUCINATION theory:

Jesus' followers had a hallucination that he rose.

But



5) Muslim explanation:

Jesus was never crucified. It was just somebody who looked like him. For example, see the book by Muslim author, Ahmed Deedat, entitled: *Crucifixion or Cruci-fiction*.

But . . .

1. _____
2. **The drastic change in the disciples.**
(For an example compare Matthew 26:69-75 with Acts 4:1-22)

3. The great number of eyewitnesses.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 - ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of **first importance**: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to **more than five hundred** of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

D. The Risen Lord knew that people still needed instruction. Significantly he pointed them to the Bible.

Luke 24:25-27 - ²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.



Luke 24:44 - He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.

Following Jesus' direction ... if you are a twenty first century human being scratching your head and wondering about the resurrection, and what it means for you, where should you go for your answers?

Just a few more RELEVANT features of the resurrection for YOU and me ... they are:

Romans 4:25

He was delivered over to death because of our sins and was raised to life because of our justification. [To be justified means: to be declared "not guilty" before God]

1 Corinthians 15:17

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

"IF" Jesus DID NOT truly rise from the grave then I will have to face my HOLY and PERFECT God standing in the cesspool of my _____.

John 11:25,26

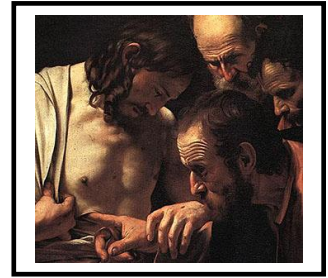
Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

"IF" Jesus DID truly rise from the grave then I have every reason to believe I will _____."

John 20:26-29

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "[My Lord and my God!](#)" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."



"IF" Jesus DID truly BODILY rise from the grave then Thomas' words (and Jesus' acceptance of them) assure me that Jesus Christ is my _____.

CONCLUSION

"A British journalist and lawyer named Frank Morison set out to write the authoritative book exposing the resurrection as a myth. However, after painstakingly studying the evidence, he became a Christian, saying there was no question that the resurrection has 'a deep and profoundly historical basis.'" (Lee Stobel)

A few years ago, a rather prominent Jewish scholar, Pinchas Lapide, scoffed at easy dismissals of an event of such worldwide significance. In his book, *The Resurrection of Jesus*, Lapide argued that one must concede the emptiness of Jesus' tomb and the subsequent radical transformation of his disciples.

In Jesus' resurrection, **God has given us a foundation on which to found our faith.** In addition, **our risen Lord did not keep us guessing where the truth is, but pointed us directly to the Bible.** That is why we study the Bible. By studying the Bible we are only following the directions of Jesus, the resurrected Lord!

DID YOU KNOW ???

It's a little known fact even among Christians that in the early history of the Christian Church, Easter was considered to be a much more important festival than Christmas. In fact, Christmas wasn't even celebrated as a holiday in the Christian Church until 376 A.D. For centuries, Easter was THE festival of the Christian Church.

Additional Study ...

WORKING WITH GOD'S WORD -- *Read Luke 24:1-12*

1. Why had these women waited until Sunday morning to work on Jesus' body? (*Read the previous two verses in Luke 23:55-56.*)

2. How does their going to the tomb to work on Jesus' body illustrate their great devotion for him?

❖ **How do you illustrate your “great devotion” for him?**

3. Who were the two men mentioned in verse 4?

3. Note that Jesus had prophesied that he would rise from the dead but neither these women nor the other disciples remembered this. How does this emphasize the point made at the end of lesson one?

KNOW JESUS

As Your Savior

LESSON 2

INTRODUCTION

Before we can talk about Jesus as our SAVIOR, we need to see our **NEED** for saving. We need to talk about sin. We especially need to answer the following three questions.

1. What is sin?
2. What are the consequences of sin?
3. Why is sin serious?

A. A Closer Look at Sin

1. The Bible uses various and MANY words to describe sin. Some are:

a. Transgression

Psalm 51:3 - For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

b. Lawlessness

1 John 3:4 - Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.

c. Wickedness and evil

Genesis 6:5 - The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

THE LIST IS NOTEWORTHY:

chata
awon
pasha
shagag
zadon
asham
rasha

parar
hamartia
hamartema
paraptoma
anomia
parakoe
parabasis

adikia
asebeia
apostasia
kakia
poneria
plene
et al

If each of these were a deadly parasite or virus ...
how ill would you be if you
had all of them in you?

2. The Bible describes various ways we sin.

Matthew 19:18 – "Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, "Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony,

In other words ... "God says DON'T and I ____"

a. Sins of _____

James 4:17 - Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

In other words ... "God says DO and I _____"

b. Sins of _____

Mark 7:21-23 - ²¹For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'"

c. Sins of _____

Psalm 19:12-13a. - ¹²Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults. ¹³Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.

d. Sins of _____

Let's do the math ...

"1 per minute" ... equals ____ per hour ... equals _____ per day (x 24)
equals _____ per year (x 365) equals _____ per
life (average lifetime 80 years)

If we were talking manure, an inch of manure gained per sin we'd be talking how many miles deep per lifetime? _____ MILES DEEP!!!



3. The Bible describes sin's effect on us in various ways.

Genesis 8:21- The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his

heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done."

a. SIN _____ corrupts us.

Romans 3:10-12 - ¹⁰ As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹ there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. ¹² **All have** turned away, they have together **become worthless**; there is no one who does good, not even one."

b. SIN makes us _____.

John 8:34 - Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."

c. SIN _____ us.

Ephesians 2:1 - As for you, **you were dead** in your transgressions and sins.

d. SIN makes us spiritually _____.

Romans 8:7 - The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

e. SIN makes us _____ to God.



What a list !!! Sin makes us:

1. Totally corrupt
2. Worthless
3. Slaves to sin
4. Spiritually dead
5. Hostile to God

4. The Bible describes the seriousness of **each** and **every** sin.

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

In a sense one could say

"every sin is a _____"



5. Sin places people under God's awesome curse.

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

a. What God demands is _____.

Galatians 3:10 - All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."

b. God _____ all those who are not perfect.

Matthew 25: 41, 46 - ⁴¹“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.
⁴⁶“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

c. God's curse is the _____ punishment of hell.

(For a biblical description of hell, read Luke 16: 19-31)

Hell is ...

- NO _____
- NO _____
- NO _____
- NO _____
- NO _____
- NO _____
- NO _____
- NO _____
- NO _____
- NO _____

Quiz ...

- ✓ Who spoke more about hell than anyone else in the Bible?
- ✓ Why do you suppose that is?

B. Thankfully the Bible has two main messages: *law and gospel.*

1. The law.

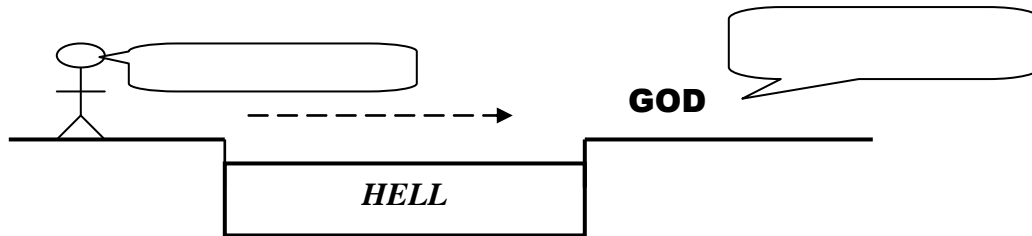
Romans 3:20 - Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

The law is . . . _____

**The purpose of
the LAW is →**



Romans 5:20a – The law was added so that the trespass might increase.



(The Ten Commandments (*record of God's moral law*) are recorded in two different places in the Bible: Exodus _____ and Deuteronomy ____)

2. The gospel.

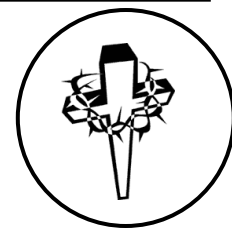
Romans 1:16 - I am not ashamed of **the gospel**, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

The word gospel means . . .

The gospel is . . .

C. The gospel is a truly UNIQUE message. Our salvation does not depend on what we do, but on what Christ did for us. Salvation is God's gift to us.

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



1. The PLAN of salvation.

a. God's wonderful **motivation**: “grace”.

Ephesians 2:4-5 - ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—**it is by grace you have been saved.**

Grace is. . . .

G _____
R _____
A _____
C _____
E _____

God saved us NOT because we are /
were _____ saving, but
because God _____ us. His love
for us doesn't _____ on what
we are or have done.



- b. God's wonderful **means**: He sent his Son to save us, not by being our example and showing us how to save ourselves, but by taking our place and becoming our SUBSTITUTE.

Galatians 3:13 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written; "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

Written
in 700
yrs.

Isaiah 53:4-6 - ⁴ Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

In a sense Jesus was the _____ sinner !

2 Cor. 5:21a

2. The **PRICE** of salvation.

- a. Jesus' _____ **DEATH.**

Matthew 27:46 - About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" - which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

John 19:30 - When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "**It is finished.**" With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

1. Jesus suffered the full _____ for sin.

1 John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

1 John 2:2 - He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

WHY is this "tough to swallow" for human beings?

2. Jesus paid for _____ sin, for _____ people.



Jesus' suffering and death are recorded in:

Matthew 26:36- 27:56

Mark 14:32 - 15:41


Luke 22:39-23:49

John 18:1 - 19:37

b. Jesus' _____ **LIFE.**

Hebrews 4:15 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin.

1. JESUS lived a _____ life.

 **1 Corinthians 1:30** - It is because of him that you are **in** Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God - that is, our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.

Righteousness is. . . .

2. Jesus lived a PERFECT LIFE for _____.

3. The **PROOF** of salvation.

1 Corinthians 15:17 - And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

Romans 4:25 - He was delivered over to death because of our sins and was raised to life because of our justification.

Justification means

To DECLARE: “ _____ ”



D. Three important conclusions.

1. When it comes to salvation, there are no options, besides Jesus.

John 14:6 - Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me."

**2. Trusting in our own goodness, in addition to not trusting in Jesus,
_____ Jesus and ruins our salvation.**

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



Faith is . . .

3. Because Jesus has done everything we can be sure of our salvation.

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

**Over the years the Lutheran Christian church has summarized the truth of
these first two lessons by talking about the three "solas." (Sola is Latin for
"alone".)**



Sola Fide - by _____ alone

Sola Gratia - by _____ alone

Sola Scriptura - by _____ alone

Additional Study ...

Working with God's Word ... Read Mark Chapter 15

then answer the following questions

Verse 1: Jesus was arrested on Thursday evening, this then is Friday morning. Pilate was the Roman governor. Why did they take Jesus to him? See John 18:31-32.

Verse 5: For the reason why Jesus remained silent, read I Peter 2:23-25.

Verse 19: 700 years before Jesus was born, these things were prophesied very dramatically. The Old Testament prophet, Isaiah, writes as if Jesus himself is speaking. Look up Isaiah 50: 6-7.

Verse 24: Again this was prophesied in the Old Testament. Look up Psalm 22: 18. In fact, all of Psalm 22 refers to Jesus' crucifixion.

Verse 25: They started their days at our 6:00 A.M. Therefore the "third hour" would be equivalent to 9:00 A.M.

Verse 37: For other supernatural occurrences at Christ's death read Matthew 27:51-53.

KNOW JESUS

As Your God

LESSON 3

INTRODUCTION

“Who is Jesus?” was a controversial question in Jesus' day.

John 6:41-42 -- At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴² They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

John 8:58-59a -- "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" ⁵⁹ At this, they picked up stones to stone him,

Matthew 16:13-17 ¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.

So how 'bout it ... what were these folks suggesting about Jesus' identity?

•
•
•
•
•

Though people held Jesus to be something “out of the ordinary” their view of Him was _____ high enough!

This remains a controversial question in our day.

“Who is Jesus?”

“Most” humans and their religions in our world maintain a “high regard for or high view of” Jesus even today. But they do NOT see Him as the one true God.

Does that work?

A. The importance of seeing His divinity.

Psalm 49:7-8 ⁷ No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him— ⁸ the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough—

1. If Jesus was not divine he could not have paid for OUR sins. We would not be saved / _____.

John 5:22-23 ²² Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, ²³ that **all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father**. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

Check Out ... 1 John 5:20 Titus 2:13 Romans 9:5 Colossians 2:9

2. A person cannot worship the true God without _____
Jesus as fully divine.

B. Jesus is UNIQUE. “What if God were one of us?”

He was and remains true God and true man in one person.

Hebrews 2:14-17 ¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way. . .

1. Jesus was and is fully _____.

John 1:1 & 14 In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was with God, and **the Word was God**. . . . ¹⁴ **The Word** became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

2. Jesus always was fully _____.

Luke 1:34-35 ³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”
³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

3. This union took place at his _____.

1 Corinthians 2:8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have **crucified the Lord of glory**.

Acts 3:15 You **killed the author of life**, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.



4. This made his death _____.

“The fact remains that the UNION of the Godhead and the manhood in Christ is a profound mystery. To human reason it is a logically insoluble, mind-boggling enigma. Human reason rebels against the thought that the infinite God could take up his residence in a finite human body.”

And yet ... of Christ we can (& must) say, “God is man and man is God.”

When Jesus died, the centurion at the foot of the cross exclaimed, “**Surely he** [the man hanging on the cross] **was the Son of God.**” **Matthew 27:54.**

C. The proofs of his divinity.

1. His resurrection.

Romans 1:4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

- According to **Romans 1:14**, the resurrection has distinct emphasis about Jesus. What does the resurrection emphasize about Him?

John 10:17-18 ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. **I have authority** to lay it down and authority **to take it up again.**”

a. He rose by means of his own _____.

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

b. He rose never to _____ again.

Philippians 3:21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like **his glorious body**,

c. He rose in a _____ state.

Mark 8:31 -- He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he **must** be killed and after three days **rise again**.

d. He _____ his resurrection.

2. His miracles.

- What is a miracle?
- Most often Christ's miracles were called "signs" ... why?

Do note ... *Jesus wasn't going to save the world by His miracles. He was going to save the world by His unique life and death!*

John 20: 30-31 ³⁰ Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- According to John, what was God's purpose in Jesus' miracles?



Name some of the
many miracles
Jesus performed?

-
-
-
-
-

D. The problems people have with his divinity.

1. Many people and religions don't think Jesus was fully divine because, at times, ***"he didn't talk and act like God."***
 - a. At times, Jesus speaks of Himself or acts more like a subordinate to the Father.

John 14:28 "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for **the Father is greater than I.**"

John 20:17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, **to my God** and your God.'"

- b. The reason he did this was that he _____ himself in order to accomplish his mission.

Philippians 2:6-8 ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

2. Many people and religions don't think Jesus was fully divine because they can't / won't accept the teaching of the Trinity.

- a. The Bible teaches that there is only **ONE** God.

Isaiah 45:5 I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me.

1 Corinthians 8:4 So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and there is no God but one.

- b. The "problem" we have is that the Bible further reveals that this one God consists of three distinct persons.

1. The _____ is referred to as God.

John 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know **you**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

Verse 1 shows the "you" is the "Father"

2. The _____ is referred to as God.

Colossians 2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,

3. The _____ is referred to as God.

2 Corinthians 3:17 ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

- c. The Bible further shows that they are _____ from each other.

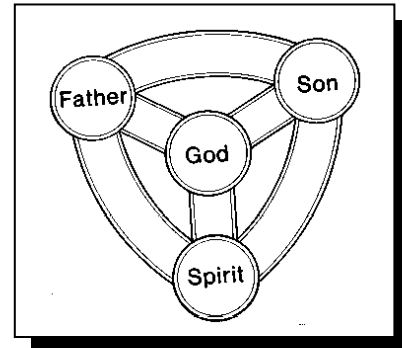
Matthew 3:16-17 ¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

- d. The word the church has coined to express this truth is the **Trinity** or the **Triune God**. Since this is an important concept let's make sure we define it carefully.

The word Triune means _____ in _____

“Reason doesn’t work” ... $1 + 1 + 1 =$ _____

There is no diagram that truly fits though we sometimes “diagram” this way ⇒



The Trinity is ... _____ “persons” but only _____ essence.

“We worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Substance.”
-- *Athanasian Creed*

- e. The doctrine of the Trinity can give us much comfort; it need not frustrate us.

Psalm 145:3 Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.

CONCLUSION

Although it is popular to call Jesus a good man, good teacher or even "a son of God", these are not legitimate options. A good man or a "son of God" doesn't lie about himself or his work. The only options available are that Jesus was a:



Legend

Liar

Lunatic

Lord

His resurrection, however, rules out the first three options. Jesus is the Lord, our Savior and our God.

John 20:26-28 ²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” ²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and **my God!**”

NOTEWORTHY ... In spite of what you see there in John 20, all other religions say Jesus is not the one true God.

The Bible ascribes many names and titles to Jesus. The following are a few of the more familiar ones:

Jesus	This is his personal name. Means "he _____".
Christ	Greek word for the "_____ one".
Messiah	Hebrew word for the "anointed one".
Immanuel	Means "_____ with us".
Son of Man	This was Jesus' favorite term for himself. (cf. Daniel 7:13-14)

FOR NEXT TIME – WORKING WITH GOD’S WORD

Read Psalm 145 and answer the following questions ...

Psalm 145 celebrates different aspects of God's greatness. A closer look at it can deepen our appreciation for our great God.

Verses 1-7: List the emotions and actions that God's greatness produces in people.

Verses 8 –13: What aspects of God's greatness are highlighted in these verses?

Keeping the context in mind, what might be the "mighty acts" referred to in verse 12?

Verses 14 - 16: What aspect of God's greatness is highlighted in these verses?

Verses 17-21: What important distinction is made in these verses?

Who are the wicked in verse 20? (Think back to the previous lesson.)

As you consider the whole psalm, what applications can you make for yourself?

KNOW JESUS

AS YOUR CREATOR

LESSON 4

INTRODUCTION

There is **much confusion** surrounding the origin of the universe. Many believe one of the numerous theories of evolution.

Others try to give God a part in these theories by teaching a theory called _____ evolution.

Still others believe that God created the world.

The Bible clearly states that God created the world. It says this, not just in the first two chapters of Genesis, but over ____ times throughout the Old and New Testaments.

Jesus, during his ministry, also put his stamp of approval on the biblical account of creation.

Matthew 19:4 ⁴“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that **at the beginning the Creator** made them male and female,”

Mark 13:18-19 ¹⁸Pray that this will not take place in winter, ¹⁹because those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, **when God created the world**, until now—and never to be equaled again.



Rejecting the biblical account of creation carries serious consequences *far beyond* the question of how the universe began. It destroys both the Bible’s as well as Jesus’ credibility.



The First Day of Creation - Read Genesis 1:1-5

1. God existed before creation. *i.e.* He is _____.

Psalm 90:2 ²Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.



Is there a Bible verse that says “before creation, from everlasting to everlasting” we creatures

2. Creation was the act of the Triune God. [Glance ahead to Genesis 1:26.]

a. On the Father's participation

1 Corinthians 8:6 ⁶yet for us there is but one God, **the Father**, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.



b. On the Son's participation

Colossians 1:16 ¹⁶For **by him** all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

See also John 1:3,10

c. On the Holy Spirit's participation

Psalms 104:30 ³⁰When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

See also Genesis 1:2

3. God created "the heavens and the earth" (i.e., the universe) out of nothing.

Hebrews 11:3 ³By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

- What "means" did God employ in creating the "heavens and earth"?
- This verse is often cited in contention that the universe was created "ex nihilo" ... what's ex nihilo mean?

4. Throughout Genesis chapter one we see God creating by simply speaking. This emphasizes God's _____ (almighty power).

Psalms 33:6 -- By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. *See also Psalm 33:9*

Jeremiah 32:17 ¹⁷"Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. **Nothing is too hard for you.**"

Day 1
God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

5. Throughout Genesis ch.1 we also see God's great wisdom in creation. “_____” comes into play here.

- ♦ How does his creation of light on the first day reveal that he is all-wise and or all knowing (omniscient)?

Psalm 104:24 ²⁴How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

6. Each day of creation is described in the same way.

"And there was evening, and there was morning - the first (... second, ... third etc.) day."

This is a description of a normal _____-hour day.



Exodus 20:11 ¹¹For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Why are we not allowed (*linguistically*) to take the words of Exodus 20 as employing “figurative language” i.e. the “days” were not really 24-hour days but

7. How long ago was "the beginning"?

Biblical Record:

Evolution's Guess:

The Second Day - Read Genesis 1:6-8

So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it.

Additional discussion: What is the water above the sky?

Additional Resource: Northwestern Publishing House, People's Bible, Genesis, p.15-16

The Third Day - Read Genesis 1:9-13

... with seed in it, according to their various kinds. And it was so.

Seven times in this chapter we meet some variation of the phrase "according to their kinds". The Hebrew word translated kind is roughly equivalent to our scientific classification of family (species, genus, family, order, class, sub-phylum, phylum). This phrase effectively rules out all attempts of saying God used evolution to create the world (_____ evolution).

2. Evolution is not a scientific fact - **it is a theory**. In addition, proponents of evolution can't agree on one theory. Rather there are many different theories of evolution.

- a. **All the theories of evolution contradict the Second Law of Thermodynamics. This scientific law deals with "entropy", the law of "decreasing complexity". In other words, if you don't do anything to your lawn, it won't improve, it will deteriorate.**

The Harvard scientist, John Ross, has said: "There are no known violations of the second law of thermodynamics."

- b. **Many scientists**, including numerous non-Christians, do not believe in evolution.

Just a few of many examples:

1. Sir Fred Hoyle, *one of Britain's foremost scientists, a non-Christian*, has declared that the probability of an evolutionary origin of life is equal to the probability that a tornado, sweeping through a junkyard, would assemble a Boeing 747. He said that the probability of life evolving on earth in five billion years is one chance out of 10 to the 40,000 power.

2. Dr. Colin Patterson, *senior paleontologist of the British Museum of Natural History*, said: "The explanatory value of the evolutionary hypothesis of common origin is nil! Evolution not only conveys no knowledge, it seems to convey anti-knowledge. How could I work on evolution for 10 years and learn nothing from it? Most of you in this room will have to admit that in the last ten years we have seen the basis of evolution go from fact to faith! It does seem that the level of knowledge about evolution is remarkably shallow. We know it ought not be taught in high schools, and that's all we know about it."

3. Timothy Goldsmith, *Yale University biology professor*, commented on the PBS series *Evolution*. "My one criticism of this coverage is that it may leave the impression that antievolutionists are all young-earth creationists. Such is not the case; antievolutionists occupy a broad theological spectrum and they are not all Christians."

- c. The so-called evidence for "prehistoric man" is less than convincing.



The Fourth Day - Read Genesis 1:14-19

Psalms 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

According to this verse, why is the universe so big and awesome?

Day
God made two
great lights. ... He
also made the stars.
4

Jeremiah 23:24 ²⁴"Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the Lord. "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" declares the Lord.

According to this verse, why is the universe so big and awesome?

The Fifth Day - Read Genesis 1:20-23

God created the great
creatures of the sea
... according to their
kinds, and every
winged bird
according to its kind.

The Sixth Day - Read Genesis

1. The human race is the crown of God's creation.

a. Adam and Eve were created differently from the rest of creation.

Genesis 2:7 ⁷the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a human being.

And God said ... let us
make man in our image
... and let them rule over
all the earth ...

Genesis 2:21 ²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

b. Adam and Eve were created in the "image of God".

This was not a _____ image because, as Jesus himself said, "God is spirit." (*John 4:24*)

The New Testament tells us what this image is:

Colossians 3:9-10 ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on *the new self*, which is being renewed **in knowledge in the image** of its Creator.

Ephesians 4:22-24 ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on *the new self*, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

See also Genesis 5:1-5

c. The human race was told to rule over the rest of creation.

2. What does the “very good” tell you about creation . . . and about the Creator?

The Creation:

The Creator:

טוב מאד

Brings to light another of many 180 degree differences ‘tween Creation and Evolution:

- **Biblical account says all began _____ and since the Fall into sin is getting “worse”**
- **Evolution contends all matter began _____ and is getting better.**

Even the secular press is beginning to question the idea of evolution.
Consider these excerpts from a *Newsweek* column by George F. Will. (Nov. 9, 1998)

"This, and the fact that the universe is bathed in radiation, suggested that matter and motion originated rather as Genesis suggests, ex nihilo, out of nothing, in a stupendous explosion of light and energy."

"The forces loosed were - are - remarkably (miraculously?) balanced. . . The ratio of matter and energy to the volume of space at the Big Bang must have been within about one quadrillionth of 1 percent of ideal."

As playwright Tom Stoppard puts it: "The idea of God is slightly more plausible than the alternative proposition that, given enough time, some green slime could write Shakespeare's sonnets."

Additional Study – PSALM 104

Read through Psalm 104 and DISCOVER the following ...

Verse 1 - introduction

The first half of verse two - day one

The second half of verse two through verse four - day two

Verses 5 - 18 - day three

Verses 19 - 23 - day four

Verses 24 - 30 - days five and six

Verses 31 - 36 - closing praise

KNOW JESUS

As Your King

LESSON
5

INTRODUCTION

Introduction:

Last time we studied how God, the one true God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), created everything that exists.

God the creator of all is also God the preserver of all.

Matthew 5:45 ...He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends his rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Psalm 145:15-17 The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made.

God supplies the general needs of all his creatures.

Now, consider what the next words of Psalm 145 indicate.

Psalm 145:18-20 The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

After his resurrection, Jesus continues to work for believers.

1. He ascended into heaven.

Luke 24:50-51 ⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. *(Also see Acts 1:1-11)*

Someone once said ... *"If Easter was the most exciting day of the disciples' lives, for Jesus it was probably the day of His Ascension."* **WHY might that be?**

2. He is seated at the right hand of God (his position of power and glory).

Ephesians 1:19b- 22 That power is like the working of his mighty strength,²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and **seated him at his right hand** in the heavenly realms,²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.²² And God **placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church**,

There are many benefits already in this life to acknowledging Jesus as our King.

Note how the Ephesians 1 passage talks about Jesus acting especially on behalf of believers. Although God loves the whole world, **there are many blessings only believers receive or receive fully.**

The following are just a sampling of such blessings.

John 5:24 " I tell you the truth, **whoever** hears my word and **believes** him who sent me **has eternal life** and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

[For evidence that God loves the whole world, see: 2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 2:3-4]

➤ **Only believers have _____ .**

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, **we have peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. [check Romans 8:1 also]

[For evidence that God wants all people to have this blessing, see: Matthew 23:37]



➤ **Only believers are at _____ with God.**

John 1:11-12 ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, **to those who believed** in his name, **he gave the right to become children of God**—

Galatians 3:26 [words addressed to believers] ²⁶ *You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus...*

[For evidence that God wants all people to be his children, see: Luke 15:18-24]

➤ **Only believers are fully, truly God's _____ .**

Proverbs 28:9 If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable.

Isaiah 1:15 & 59:1-2 When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood; ... Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.



John 14:14 You may ask for anything **in my name**, and I will do it.

- Only the prayers of believers _____ God.

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

- Only believers can be confident that _____ things will work out for their eternal GOOD.

Biblical example: Genesis 50:20



List some things that it's very very very good to **KNOW** will work out for our eternal good:

Romans 8:26 & 34 ²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but **the Spirit himself intercedes** for us with groans that words cannot express. ³⁴ Who is he that condemns? Christ **Jesus**, who died—more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

- Only believers are the recipients of Jesus' and the Holy Spirit's _____.

1 Corinthians 3:16 ¹⁶ Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that **God's Spirit lives in you**?

- Only believers have the powerful Holy Spirit _____ in them.



Are you a Spirit-filled Christian?

How does one know?

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God...

- Only believers have the power to offer God-pleasing thanks to him

One type of thanks to God is...

Titus 2:11-12 ¹¹ For the **grace of God** that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹² It **teaches us to say “No”** to ungodliness and worldly passions, **and to live self-controlled**, upright and godly lives in this present age,

Only believers have power to _____ sin for the right reason

Another type of thanks to God is...

I John 4:7b Everyone who **loves** has been born of God and knows God.

Only believers can demonstrate un-_____ (αγαπη) love.

Hebrews 1:14 Are not all **angels** ministering spirits sent to **serve those who will inherit salvation**?

Psalms 91:9-11 If you make the Most High your dwelling – even the Lord, who is my refuge – then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his **angels** concerning you to **guard you** in all your ways;

Refer also to Psalm 91:15 and 91:16

➤ Only believers can rely on the ministrations of _____.

Looking to Jesus as our Savior and King makes all the difference in the next life.

1. Whether we go to heaven or hell rests entirely on our relationship with Jesus.

John 3:18 ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.



2. People enter eternity either when they _____ . . .

a. God has given us this lifetime to come to faith. Once we die, it will be too _____.

Hebrews 9:27 Just as man is destined *to die once*, and after that to face judgment,

Proverbs 11:7 *When a wicked man dies, his hope perishes;* all he expected from his power comes to nothing.

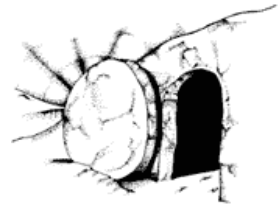
- b. At death, the soul separates from the body and immediately goes to its eternal destiny.**

Luke 23:43 Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

- c. Through his resurrection, Jesus has removed the sting of death for believers.**

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 ⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He **gives us the victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ.



1 Corinthians 15:42-43 ⁴² So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;

- 3. Or, people still alive at the time will enter eternity right when Christ returns on Judgment Day.**

BASIC FACTS ABOUT "HIS RETURN" ...

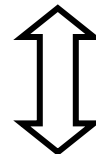
Mark 13:32 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

- a. No one knows _____ Christ will return.**

John 5:28-29a ²⁸ "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out—

- b. On Judgment Day the bodies of _____ people will be raised from the dead.**

Matthew 25:32b, 46 "... and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ... Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."



- c. On Judgment Day the final _____ of believers and unbelievers will occur.**

1. Unbelievers (body and soul) will go to hell.

Mark 9:47-48 ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ where "their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched."



**Who's
sneaking**

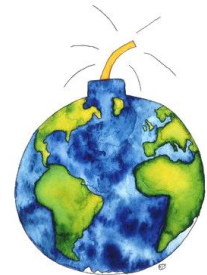
Why's that significant?

2. Believers (body and soul) will go to heaven.

Revelation 7:15-17 Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. ¹⁶ Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

**Some think there's a small difference 'tween heaven and hell.
What think ye ... based on Revelation 7 and other parts of Scripture?**

2 Peter 3:10-13 ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will **disappear** with a roar; the elements will be **destroyed by fire**, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. . . That day will bring about **the destruction** of the heavens **by fire**, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.



d. **On Judgment Day the universe as we know it will be _____.** God will provide a new perfect world for believers.

3. **There is much speculation and many non-biblical ideas about the last times. Many of these wrong ideas come from an incorrect reading of the book of Revelation. Among other things, the Bible does not teach the rapture (*the idea that believers will be taken to heaven before Judgment Day*). Neither does it teach that Christ will rule on earth for a thousand years (*the Millennium*).**

HAIL THE DAY THAT SEES HIM RISE

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Hail the day that sees Him rise;
To His throne above the skies!
Christ the Lamb for sinners giv'n,
Reascends His native heav'n. | 2. There the glorious triumph waits:
Lift your heads, eternal gates.
He has conquered death and sin;
Take the King of glory in! |
| 3. See, the heav'n its Lord receives;
Yet He loves the earth He leaves.
Though returning to His throne,
Still he calls mankind His own. | 4. See, He lifts His hands above;
See, He shows the prints of love.
Hark! His gracious lips bestow
Blessings on His Church below. |
| 5. Still for us He intercedes;
His prevailing death He pleads.
He, the first of all our race,
Near Himself prepares a place. | 6. There we shall with You remain
Partners in Your endless reign.
There Your face unclouded view,
Find our heav'n of heav'ns in you. |

Additional Study

Read Romans 8:28-39

The book of Romans is a letter Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome. In this section, he encourages them with some wonderful truths about the blessings believers enjoy in this life.

Verse 29: Do you remember what justified means? (We defined it in lesson two.)

Verse 32: What else, besides heaven, does Jesus' substitutionary death guarantee us?

Verses 33-34: This is another beautiful thought. Think of a courtroom. Who will condemn us? Not God - he is the judge who justifies (acquits) us. Not Jesus - he is our defense attorney pleading for us. See also 1 John 2:1.

Verses 35-38: Many Christians have committed these verses to memory because they have given them so much comfort. What comfort do you derive? (*be specific to the words*)