

1. The Bible

Claims Divine Inspiration

- II Timothy 3:16-17
 - “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

- II Peter 1:20-21
 - “knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

- Zechariah 7:12 (:8-12, God expects us to take His word seriously, or there are consequences).
 - “Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets.”

- Psalms 19:7-11 (great truth and beauty)
 - “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;
The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;
The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
Yea, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
Moreover by them Your servant is warned,
And in keeping them there is great reward.”

- Psalms 119 (all)

- Numerous “Thus says the Lord” throughout OT

These verses answer the question: Was the bible written or dictated? The answer is that the word of God was inspired of God, written by men as God worked through them.

We hold that the Bible is the ultimate source of truth (for topics it teaches on). Higher than tradition, human reason, or emotional experience. Sola scriptura.

Do we take the Bible literally? Or liberally?

Too literal - - - - - Seriously - - - - - Too liberal
(strict, wooden) (reading into)

Isogesis = “into” (bad), exogesis = “out of” (good)

We do not “prove” the Bible by archeology or history. But the Bible has proven itself to be reliable and accurate. See Notes.

This class only touches on the Bible, we will have another that will get into the history of the Bible, canon, how books were included/rejected, why there are so many translations, Gospel competitors (Gnostics), etc.

Jesus said “Your word is truth.” (John 17:17b). And that’s a perfect way to transition to a discussion of God, the truth-source.

2. God

Who is God? Good question. It’s been asked a lot since the beginning of time.

"Anthropological research has indicated that among the farthest and most remote primitive people today, there is a universal belief in God. And in the earliest histories and legends of people all around the world, the original concept was of one God, who was the Creator. An original high God seems once to have been in their consciousness even in those societies which are today polytheistic." (Paul E. Little, *Know Why You Believe*)

Some societies and cultures believe in a god (or gods) who are capricious, uncaring, or even worse – hostile – to humans. Is this the kind of God we discover in the Bible? One who is distant, remote, and unknowable? One who is angry and vengeful? Or one who is loving and just, and who has already taken the initiative to reveal Himself?

Page 67 of *What Christians Believe* by David Hocking has excellent summary of who God is, quoted here at length:

God is the Creator, Sustainer, and Designer of all things, bringing everything into existence by His power alone.

He is personal and knowable, and manifests Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, all of whom possess the attributes of being eternal, omniscient, and omnipresent.

God is incomprehensible and incomparable to anything or anyone else. His power is unlimited and unique for He can do anything and He can do what no one else can do. No problem is too great for Him to solve.

He is holy, separate from sin and from the creation, righteous, and able to declare us righteous because of the death of His Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross for our sins.

He is faithful – totally and trustworthy, keeping His promises, and never leaving us alone and forsaken.

God is merciful, graciously protecting us from the judgment we really deserve, patient in withholding His just anger toward our sins, and always living, willing to sacrifice for the object loved, and ever willing to forgive us.

His love is unconditional, not needing a response in order to function, and encouraging us – always building us up, giving us hope and courage to go on.

God is the most wonderful person who ever existed, and we were made in His image and after his likeness. We are not God, nor shall we ever be God, but we do become partakers of His divine nature through the work of His Spirit when we are born again.

Existence of God assumed in Bible.

- Gen 1:1

But people debate it endlessly and try to “prove” God exists.

- The Cosmological Argument: nature and the cosmos are proof God exists.
- The Teleological Argument: the order and design observed within the universe are proof God exists.
- The Anthropological Argument: we live because God lives. (TC)
- The Ontological Argument: our inborn desire to worship and know God argue that God exists.

One God

- Deuteronomy 6:4 (the greatest commandment)
 - “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!”
- Isaiah 43:10b-11(link “savior” to Jesus Christ)
 - “You are My witnesses,” says the Lord, “And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me. I, even I, am the Lord, And besides Me there is no savior.”
- Isaiah 44:6-8
 - “Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let

them show these to them. Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.’ ”

Triune in being

- Isaiah 44:6-8 (The Father is God – and He has a Redeemer!)
 - “Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.’ ”

- Gen 1:1, John 1:1-3, 14 (The Son is God, and He has the glory of the Father!)
 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3, 14)

- Acts 5:3-4 (The Holy Spirit is God)
 - But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

- Gen 1:26, 11:7 (“Us”)
 - Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” Genesis 1:26

 - “Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” Genesis 11:7

Two major heresies regarding the Trinity – Smushing and Splitting

1. Sabellian Heresy (Modalism) (Smushing): Systemized by Sabellius in the 3rd century. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three different manifestations of the same God, and therefore God is a single personality. There is no Godhead. Father=Son=Holy Spirit. Sort of like an actor with three masks. “If Jesus was God, then who ran the universe when he died?”

2. Arian Heresy (Splitting): Originated this theory around 325 AD. Tried to “split” the Trinity by reducing Jesus and the Holy Spirit to less than full deity. Condemned at the Council of Nicea, finally and fully condemned at the Council of Constantinople. “Very God of Very God”. Jesus Christ is no less than God.

The Semantic Problem (30): the Trinity is a relationship that exists within the Godhead. The Son and the Spirit are not inferior to the Father, but they are subordinate. A matter of relationship, not of essence or being.

Attributes of God

- “Natural” and “Moral”
- Natural are revealed by self-disclosure in Scripture and tell us what God’s nature is.
- God’s Moral attributes describe His character. What’s He like?

Natural Attributes

- Infinite

Job 11:7	No limits.
Psalms 145:3	His greatness is unsearchable.
Isaiah 40:28	Everlasting God.
Romans 11:33-36	His ways past finding out.

- Eternal and Immortal

1 Timothy 1:17	Now unto the King immortal
Romans 1:23	The incorruptible God
1 Timothy 6:16	Who alone has immortality

- Immutable (Unchangeable)

Psalms 102:26, 27	Earth changes, God is the same
Malachi 3:6	I am the Lord, I change not
James 1:17	No variableness
Hebrews 6:17, 18	Immutability of His counsel
Exodus 3:14	Always in present tense

- Omniscience (God knows everything)

Job 37:16	Perfect in knowledge
Psalms 147:5	His understanding is infinite
Acts 15:18	All His works from beginning
1 John. 3:20	God knoweth all things
Hebrews 4:13	All things opened unto His eyes
Psalms 139:1-6, 23	Hast searched me and known me
Isaiah 40:13, 14, 28	Who hath taught Him?
Romans 11:33, 34	O the depths of the riches

- Omnipresent (God is present everywhere)

Psalm 139:7-12	Whither flee from thy presence
Jeremiah 23:23, 24	His presence fills heaven, earth
Acts 17:24-28	Not far from every one of us
Psalm 23:4	Thou art with me
1 Kings 8:27	Heaven cannot contain thee

- Omnipotent (God is all powerful)

Revelation 19:6	The Lord God omnipotent
Revelation 21:22	The Lord God Almighty
Job 42:2	Thou canst do everything
Genesis 18:14	Is anything too hard for the Lord
Luke 1:37	With God nothing impossible
Matthew 19:26	All things are possible
Genesis 17:1	I am the Almighty God

Moral Attributes

The book says that people don't ask "does God exist" as much as "is God good?" Put another way, "why does God let bad things happen?" is a major stumbling block for many people. (There are answers, of course, see the section on "Man, Sin, and Salvation".) Learning more about who God is will give us the ability to trust Him, and to put our faith in Him.

- Holiness – the sum perfection of God

Isaiah 6:3	Holy, holy, holy is the Lord
Revelation 4:8	Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
Psalm 99:9	Our God is holy
1 Peter 1:14-16	"I am holy."

- Sovereign – He is King

Psalm 97:1	The Lord reigns
Psalm 113:4	High above all nations
Psalm 115:3	In the heavens

- Love, Loving

1 John 4:8	God is love
1 John 4:16	God is love
Jeremiah 31:3	Loves us with everlasting love

- Truth – with a capital “T”

Deuteronomy 32:4	A God of truth.
Psalms 31:5	Lord God of truth.
Psalms 57:3	God sends His truth.
Isaiah 65:16	God of truth.
Romans 2:2	Judges according to truth.

- Merciful (Longsuffering)

Psalms 103:8	The Lord is merciful
Psalms 103:11	Great is His mercy
Psalms 103:17	From everlasting to everlasting
Ephesians 2:4	God is rich in mercy.

- Righteous

Psalms 146:17	Righteous in all His ways
1 John 2:29	He is righteous.
Acts 17:31	You are righteous, O Lord

- Faithful (God cannot deny Himself)

1 Corinthians 10:13	God is faithful.
Psalms 89:8	God’s faithfulness surrounds Him.
Deuteronomy 7:9	God is the faithful God.
2 Timothy 2:13	God is faithful (cannot deny Himself).

- Does not sin

Numbers 23:19	God does not need to repent.
James 1:17	No variation or shadow.
Hebrews 4:15	Jesus tempted, but without sin.

- Good

Psalms 100:5	The Lord is good, merciful, truthful.
Psalms 106:1	Give thanks, for He is good.
Jeremiah 33:11	The Lord of Hosts is good.
Matthew 19:17	None good but God.

God Created Everything Else

- This is one of the first things we teach our children. Genesis 1:1.
- This is where the monastic worldviews diverge (right at the beginning): Hinduism, Buddhism, Occultism, Gnosticism, Religious and Mind Sciences, New Age, etc. Dr. Gary North in *Unholy Spirits: Occultism and New Age Humanism* says

In direct contrast to the biblical view of man and God, the occult systems, from the magical sects of the East to the Gnostics of the early church period, and from there unto today's preachers of the cosmic evolution and irresistible karma, one theme stands out – **monism**. **There is no Creator-creature distinction**. We are all gods in the making. Out of One has proceeded the many, and back into One are the many traveling

...

It is such a convenient doctrine, for it denies any eternal separation of God and His creation and therefore it denies any eternal separation of saved and lost. It denies any ultimate distinction between good and evil, past and present, structure and change ... [It] leads to rampant immorality, and ... to a dismissal of earthly affairs and earthy responsibility. The result ... is moral nihilism. (Quoted in *The Coming Darkness* by Ankerberg/Weldon, pg 33-34.)

God of the OT is also the God of the NT.

- “For I am the Lord, I do not change.” Malachi 3:6
- “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Hebrews 13:8

3. Jesus Christ

“Christianity is Christ, from beginning to end”. Not true of Buddhism, or Islam.

The bible is the record of His creation, of His interventions, His leadership and love, His judgments. We learn of His life, and the good news of His gospel. We discover that He promised to return. It's all about Jesus!

Which Jesus do you have?

The “right Jesus”

- Acts 16:31 (the right Jesus brings salvation)
 - “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved”
- Luke 23:43 (what we believe and confess matters)
 - And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

- John 8:19 (to know Jesus is to know the Father)
 - Then they said to Him, “Where is Your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.”

The “wrong Jesus”

- 2 Corinthians 11:4
 - For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!
- Galatians 1:6-9
 - I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Is Jesus Really God? YES!

How do we know? The Bible presents an overwhelming case ...

Jesus is called God in the Bible by others.

- Angels – Luke 2:11
 - For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
- Demons – Mark 1:23-24
 - Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, saying, “Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”
- Isaiah – Isaiah 9:6
 - For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- The Jews Recognized His Claim
 - John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.
 - John 10:33 The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.”

- John – John 1:1-3, 14
 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- “Doubting” Thomas – John 20:28
 - And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

- Peter
 - Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” – Matthew 16:16
 - Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ – 2 Peter 1:1

- Martha – John 11:27
 - She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

- Paul
 - For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell – Colossians 1:19
 - For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily – Colossians 2:9
 - ... who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God. Philippians 2:6

- God
 - But to the Son He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;” – Hebrews 1:8

Jesus Claims Equality with God (claimed to be God).

- John 5 Gave four witnesses to his divine nature and equality with God.
 1. The witness of John the Baptist,
 2. the witness of the works that He did,
 3. the witness of the Father,
 4. and the witness of scripture.

- John 8:58 – Claimed immortality
 - Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

- John 10:30 – Claimed to be one with the Father
 - “I and My Father are one.”
- John 3:36 Claimed to be the object of obedience.
 - He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.
- John 14:1 Claimed to be the object of faith.
 - Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

Jesus says only God should be worshipped ...

- Luke 4:8
 - And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”

But Jesus allows people to worship Him!

- By the Magi – Matthew 2:11
 - And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- By a leper – Matthew 8:2
 - And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.”
- By a ruler – Matthew 9:18
 - While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live.”
- By the disciples – Matthew 14:33
 - Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”
- By a gentile woman – Matthew 15:25
 - Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, help me!”
- By Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joses – Matthew 28:9
 - And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.

- By some of the disciples – Matthew 28:17
 - When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.
- By a demon possessed man – Mark 5:6
 - When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him.
- By the apostles – Luke 24:52
 - And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,
- By a man born blind – John 9:38
 - Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.
- By Thomas – John 20:28
 - And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus does the works of God.

- Colossians 1:16-17 – Created all things
 - For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.
- Mark 2:5 – Forgave sins
 - When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.”
- John 6:47, 10:28 – Gives eternal life
 - Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

Jesus does miracles

- Evidence of His credentials as Messiah. Isaiah 35:5-6
- Claims of Jesus’ miracles
 - John 20:30-31, Many signs
 - John 21:25
 - Peter on Pentecost (Acts 2:22)
 - Mark 2:12 “We never saw anything like this!”
- Power over:
 - Power of material world (John 2:1-11, Jesus turns water into wine)

- Power over disease and demonic world (Matthew 4:23-24)
 - And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.
- Power over nature (Luke 8:25)
 - And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, “Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!”
- Power over birth defects (John 9, Jesus heals a man born blind).
- Power over food supplies
- Power over death Luke 8:49-56, Luke 7:11-15, John 11:1-46 (raised a widow’s son, and raised Lazarus.)
- Power over the resurrection. John 10:17-18
 - ... I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.

Jesus has the titles of God

- Almighty (Revelation 1:8)
- Alpha and Omega (Revelation 1:8; 22:13)
- Author of Life (Acts 3:15)
- Author and Perfecter of our Faith (Hebrews 12:2)
- Author of Salvation (Hebrews 2:10)
- Beginning and End (Revelation 22:13)
- Blessed and only Ruler (1 Timothy 6:15)
- Creator (John 1:3)
- Deliverer (Romans 11:26)
- Eternal Life (1 John 1:2; 5:20)
- Gate (John 10:9)
- Faithful and True (Revelation 19:11)
- Faithful Witness (Revelation 1:5)
- Faith and True Witness (Revelation 3:14)
- First and Last (Revelation 1:17; 2:8; 22:13)
- God (John 1:1; 20:28; Heb. 1:8; Rom. 9:5; 2 Pet. 1:1; 1 John 5:20; etc.)
- Holy One (Acts 3:14)
- I Am (John 8:58)
- Immanuel (Matthew 1:23)
- Judge of the living and the dead (Acts 10:42)
- King Eternal (1 Timothy 1:17)
- King of Israel (John 1:49)
- Truth (John 1:14; 14:6)
- Way (John 14:6)
- Wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24)
- Word (John 1:1)
- Word of God (Revelation. 19:13)
- King of the Jews (Matthew 27:11)
- King of kings (1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 19:16)
- King of the Ages (Rev. 15:3)
- Life (John 14:6; Colossians 3:4)
- Light of the World (John 8:12)
- Lord (2 Peter 2:20)
- Lord of All (Acts 10:36)
- Lord of Glory (1 Corinthians 2:8)
- Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16)
- Mighty God (Isaiah 9:6)
- Our Great God and Savior (Titus 2:13)
- Our Holiness (1 Corinthians 1:30)
- Our Redemption (1 Corinthians 1:30)
- Our Righteousness (1 Corinthians 1:30)
- Power of God (1 Corinthians 1:24)
- Resurrection and Life (John 11:25)
- Righteous One (Acts 7:52; 1 John 2:1)
- Rock (1 Corinthians 10:4)
- Root of David (Revelation 5:5; 22:16)
- Savior (Ephesians 5:23; Titus 1:4; 3:6; 2 Peter 2:20)
- Source of Eternal Salvation for all who obey him (Hebrews 5:9)
- True Light (John 1:9)

Just as important as the doctrine of the deity of Christ, is the doctrine of Christ's humanity:

Jesus was fully human:

- Became flesh:
 - John 1:14 – And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ...
 - Rom. 1:3; Gal. 4:4; Phil. 2:7; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 2:14; 1 John 1:1; 4:2; 2 John 7
- Was tempted:
 - Matthew 4:1 - Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
- Got hungry and thirsty
 - Matthew 4:2 – And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.
 - John 19:28 – “I thirst!”
- Got weary from traveling
 - John 4:6 – Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well.
- Needed sleep and refreshment
 - Matthew 8:24 – But He was asleep.
- Felt sorrow and compassion, and even wept
 - John 11:35 – Jesus wept.
- Was troubled within as he faced the cross
 - John 12:27 – Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say?

Truly Jesus is the infinite God/Man, the theanthropos! From Theos (=God) and anthropos (=man). God/man.

4. Jesus Christ's Death

Why Did Jesus Die?

- To do the will of God.
 - Hebrews 10:5-14 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:

*“Sacrifice and offering You did not desire,
But a body You have prepared for Me.
In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin
You had no pleasure.
Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—
In the volume of the book it is written of Me—
To do Your will, O God.’ ”*

Previously saying, “Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them” (which are offered according to the law), then He said, “Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.” He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (refers to Psalm 40:6-8)

- John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.
- To save lost sinners
 - Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
 - Luke 19:10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.
- To fulfill the Law and the Prophets
 - Matthews 5:17 “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”
 - Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
- To redeem those under the Law.
 - Galatians 3:13-14 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
 - 1 Peter 1:18-19 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.
- To demonstrate God’s righteousness
 - Romans 3:24-26 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
- To manifest God’s love to us
 - John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- 1 John 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.
- 1 John 4:9-10 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- To bring us to God.
 - John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
 - Hebrews 2:9-10 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
 - 1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit
- To destroy the Devil’s power.
 - Hebrews 2:14-15 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.
 - 1 John 3:8b For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
 - Colossians 2:13-15 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.
- To be a merciful and faithful High Priest.
 - Hebrews 2:17-18 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

- Hebrews 4:15-16 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- To give His life as a ransom for sins
 - Matthew 26:28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
 - 1 Corinthians 6:20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
 - Matthew 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
 - 1 Timothy 2:5-6 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time
- To reconcile us to God (atonement)
 - Romans 5:9-11 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.
 - Colossians 1:20-22 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight
- To bear our sins
 - Hebrews 9:28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

- 1 Peter 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness— by whose stripes you were healed.
- To take away our sins
 - John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
 - Hebrews 9:26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.
- To forgive our sins
 - Matthew 26:27-28 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
 - Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace
 - Colossians 1:14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.
 - Colossians 2:13-14 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.
 - 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- To give us eternal life
 - Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - John 10:10b I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.
 - John 10:27-29 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.

- 1 John 5:11-13 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

Did Jesus know He would be crucified? Yes.

- John 3:14-15 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
- Matthew 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
- Matthew 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.
- John 8:28 Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.
- John 10:18 “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

Did Jesus know He would be resurrected?

- Matthew 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.
- John 10:18 “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”
- John 2:19 Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” Then the Jews said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

Did Jesus really die?

- The Bible states that Jesus died
 - Matthew 27:50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.
 - Mark 15:37 And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last.

- Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, “Father, ‘into Your hands I commit My spirit.’” Having said this, He breathed His last.
- John 19:30b He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.
- 1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures
- Medical evidence concludes that Jesus died:
 - “Jesus of Nazareth underwent Jewish and Roman trials, was flogged, and was sentenced to death by crucifixion. The scourging produced deep stripelike lacerations and appreciable blood loss, and it probably set the stage for hypovolemic shock, as evidenced by the fact that Jesus was too weakened to carry the crossbar (patibulum) to Golgotha. At the site of crucifixion, his wrists were nailed to the patibulum and, after the patibulum was lifted onto the upright post (stipes), his feet were nailed to the stipes. The major pathophysiologic effect of crucifixion was an interference with normal respirations. Accordingly death resulted primarily from hypovolemic shock and exhaustion asphyxia. Jesus' death was ensured by the thrust of a soldier's spear into his side. Modern medical interpretation of the historical evidence indicate that Jesus was dead when taken down from the cross.”

“On the Physical Death of Jesus Christ”, William D. Edwards, MD; Wesley J. Gabel, MDiv; Floyd E Hosmer, MS, AMI

(JAMA 1986; 255:1455-1463)

Jesus Rose From the Dead!

- Jesus predicted it:
 - Matt 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
 - John 2:18-22 So the Jews answered and said to Him, “What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?” Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” Then the Jews said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” But He was speaking of the temple of His body. Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.
 - Matthew 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

- The angel proclaimed it
 - Matthew 28:6-7 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.”
- Sanhedrin could not refute it
 - If they could have disproved the resurrection they would have!
- Eyewitnesses saw him
 - Matthew 28:16-17 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.
 - Mark 16:12 After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country.
 - Mark 16:14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.
 - Luke 24:36 Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.”
 - John 20:19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.”
 - John 20:26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!”
 - John 21:1 After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself:
 - John 21:14 This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.
 - Acts 1:3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:5-7 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

- The apostles were transformed
 - They forsook Jesus when He was on the cross: Matthew 26:56b Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.
 - They did not believe the women's report that Jesus' had risen from the dead: Luke 24:9-11 Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.
 - Yet, their lives were infused with power and passion when they saw and believed. A good example is Peter's mighty sermon on the day of Pentecost, Acts 2:14-39
- Necessary to believe that Jesus was resurrected
 - Romans 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:1-19 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures

Jesus ascended into heaven

- Acts 1:9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
- Acts 2:32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.
- Luke 24:51 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.
- Ephesians 4:10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.
- Romans 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.
- Ephesians 1:20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places

- Hebrews 1:3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high
- Hebrews 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- 1 Peter 3:22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.
- John 16:28 I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.
- To intercede for us
 - Romans 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.
 - Hebrews 4:14-16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
 - Hebrews 7:24-25 But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
- To be our advocate
 - 1 John 2:1-2 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.
- The head of the church:
 - Ephesians 1:20-21 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.
 - Colossians 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.
 - Colossians 2:9-10 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

5. The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force, as some would teach, but a full member of the Godhead. Because He is a real Person, we can have a relationship with Him.

Pneumatology = the study of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is “Person” (ie, He is not an impersonal force)

- Referred to as “He”, “Him”
 - John 14:16-17 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.
 - John 16:7-14 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.
- He has intelligence
 - 1 Corinthians 2:11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.
 - Romans 8:27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.
 - Isaiah 11:2 The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
- He has a will
 - 1 Corinthians 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.
 - 2 Peter 1:20-21 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

- Has emotions
 - Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
 - Romans 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
 - Hebrews 10:29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?
 - Acts 7:51 “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.
- Can be lied to
 - Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

The Holy Spirit is God

- 2 Corinthians 3:17a Now the Lord is the Spirit
- Does the work of God
 - Creation of the universe
 - Genesis 1:2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
 - Job 26:13a By His Spirit He adorned the heavens;
 - Creation of man
 - Genesis 2:7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath (Spirit) of life; and man became a living being.
 - Regeneration
 - John 3:5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
 - Titus 3:5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit

- Possesses attributes of God
 - Is eternal
 - Hebrews 9:14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
 - Is omnipresent
 - Psalm 139:7-10 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.
 - Raises the dead
 - Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.
- Equality with the Father and the Son
 - Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
 - 2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

6. Man, Sin, and Salvation

The need for salvation, and how it works, is absolutely central. Not surprisingly, there is much disagreement and division.

- Salvation is a personal matter (concerns everyone) Romans 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- We are saved by grace, not by good works: Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.
- Jesus Christ is the central object of belief: Acts 16:31 So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Predestination of Believers

- Romans 8:28-30 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He

also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

- Ephesians 1:4-6 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Yet, Salvation is Available to All

- Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.
- Mark 8:34 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.
- Luke 9:23 Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.
- John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
- John 7:37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
- Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.
- Revelation 21:6 And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.
- Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

The Problem of Sin

- Sin originated in the heart of Satan
 - John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. John 8:44 (NKJV)

- 1 John 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
- Also compare Ezekiel 28, and Isaiah 14
- Through deception and temptation sin entered the human race
 - 2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
- Now that sin nature is inherited by all
 - Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—
- Sin brought shame, and a separation from the fellowship of God
 - Genesis 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.
 - Genesis 3:8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.
- Consequences of sin
 - Eve increased sorrow in childbirth:
 - Genesis 3:16a To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children;
 - Relationship to her husband altered:
 - Genesis 3:16b Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.
 - Adam experienced hardship (cursed is the ground):
 - Genesis 3:17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: “Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.”
 - Physical death
 - Genesis 3:19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.”
 - Spiritual death inherited by all men
 - Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

- Psalm 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.
- Ephesians 2:1-3 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.
- Psalm 14:3 They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one.
- Romans 3:10-12 As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”
- Isaiah 64:6 But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.
- Spiritual death and physical death linked
 - Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - Ezekiel 18:20a The soul who sins shall die.
- The Law convicts us of our sin
 - James 2:10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.
 - 1 John 3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.
 - Romans 3:19-20 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.
- The Law teaches us of our need for salvation, which is only available in Christ
 - Galatians 3:19 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

- Galatians 3:24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

The Plan of Redemption

- Four key words which describe our redemption from sin:
 - lutroo – “to loose”
 - Luke 24:21 But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.
 - Titus 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.
 - 1 Peter 1:18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers
 - apolutrosis – “to loosen from”
 - Luke 21:28 Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”
 - Romans 8:23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption
 - Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace
 - Ephesians 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.
 - Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
 - Colossians 1:14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.
 - Hebrews 9:15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

- agorazo – “to buy”
 - 1 Corinthians 6:20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.
 - 1 Corinthians 7:23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.
 - Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation
 - Revelation 14:3-4 They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.
- exagorazo – “to buy out”
 - Galatians 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”)
 - Galatians 4:5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.
 - Ephesians 5:16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
 - Colossians 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.

As David Hocking writes:

The imagery is that of the ancient slave market. Slaves were bought and sold, and changed owners frequently. The ancient marketplace itself is called the “agora” from which we get two of the words used in the New Testament for our redemption. We are “bought with a price”; namely, “the precious blood of Christ”, and we become “slaves of Jesus Christ”. His redemption is so complete that we are “loosed from” our sins, we are “set free” and “adopted” as His children, becoming “heirs” with Jesus Christ Himself!

- Ransom – God has paid a price to redeem us
 - Matt 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
 - 1 Tim 2:6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time
- Propitiation – God’s wrath against sin is satisfied
 - 1 John 2:2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.
- Atonement – God provides a covering for sin
 - John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
 - Isaiah 44:22 I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, And like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.”
 - Isaiah 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.
 - 1 Peter 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness— by whose stripes you were healed.
 - Isaiah 45:22 “Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.
- Reconciliation – God restores us back to a previous condition
 - Romans 5:9-11 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.
 - Ephesians 2:16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

- Colossians 1:20-21 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled
- John 3:16-18 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
- Justification – God declares us to be righteous (“just as if it never happened”)
 - Rom 3:24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
 - Titus 3:7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
 - Romans 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.
 - Romans 4:5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,
 - Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- Sanctification – God sets us apart
 - Heb 13:12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.
 - 1 Peter 1:2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

- Regeneration – God gives us a new birth (born again)
 - John 3:3-8 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”
 - Matt 19:28 So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
 - Titus 3:5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit
 - John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
 - John 3:7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’
 - John 1:12-13 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
 - 1 John 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.
 - 1 John 2:29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.
 - 1 John 3:9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.
 - 1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith.
 - 1 John 5:18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.
- Faith – We accept God’s provision in trust.
 - Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- Repentance – the first step towards redemption
 - Repentance is an important part of receiving the kingdom of God and the gospel
 - Matthew 3:2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”
 - Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
 - Luke 24:47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
 - Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 - Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,
 - True repentance brings a change of heart and attitude
 - 2 Corinthians 7:9-11 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.
 - When appearing together, repentance seems to precede faith
 - Matthew 21:32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him.
 - Mark 1:15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”
 - Hebrews 6:1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,
 - Repentance is a result of preaching the Word
 - Matthew 12:41 The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here. Matthew 12:41 (NKJV)

- Acts 2:36-38 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

6. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

- The angels also declared that Jesus would return – Acts 1:9-11
 - Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

- Prophecies concerning the return of Jesus:
 - Rev 1:7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

 - Rev 22:7 Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.

 - Rev 22:12 And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

 - Rev 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

- Paul believed Jesus was returning:
 - Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ

 - 1 Timothy 6:14 ... that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ’s appearing

 - 2 Tim 4:1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom

 - 2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

- 2 Thessalonians 1:7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels
- Peter believed Jesus was returning:
 - 2 Peter 3:3-4 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”
 - 1 Peter 1:7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ
 - 1 Peter 1:13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ
 - 1 Peter 4:13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.
- James believed Jesus was returning:
 - James 5:7-8 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Jesus promised that He would return after going away!

- Matthew 24:30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
- Mark 13:26 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.
- Luke 21:27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.
- And finally ...
 - John 14:2-3 In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also