

Program Transcripts

July 2025



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY [®]

SEARCH PROGRAMS

July 2025

Topics subject to change without notice

JULY 6 – YOUR LIFE YOUR SOUL

If people were attending your funeral today, how would your friends describe you? Would they say wonderful things about your life and faith in the Lord Jesus? Funerals cannot determine your eternal destiny, your life does.

JULY 13 – I HAVE FAILED

A friend called, “Phil, I’ve just made the worst mistake of my life. What am I going to do? Do you think there’s any hope for me?” I told this person there is always hope and why he could put his trust in the Lord.

JULY 20 – JESUS BLESSES US

The Scriptures reveal several reasons why Jesus came into this world, and each reason describes a blessing for mankind. The Lord’s coming into the world touches our lives and opens the way for us to know God.

JULY 27 – SEVEN REASONS

There are many solid reasons to be a member of the Lord’s church you read about in the New Testament, the church Jesus built and purchased with His own blood. That church is available to you today.

Your Life, Your Soul

Many Christians are content to be Christians in name only. They want to wear the name, but they aren't willing to take their faith seriously. My friend Steve Higginbotham recently wrote about some misplaced desires of people today. He said: "We want a Savior, but we don't want a Lord. We want a crown, but we don't want a cross. We want a harvest, but we don't want to sow any seed. We want to go to Heaven, but we don't want to go to church. We want to grow spiritually, but we don't want to feed on his word. We want Hollywood to 'clean up its act,' but we don't want to stop watching. We want the right to pray, even in school, but we don't want to pray. We want the Ten Commandments posted, but we don't want to live by their moral principles. We want to love God, but we don't want to abhor sin. We want to die to the death of the righteous, but we don't want to abandon the lifestyle of the sinner." Steve is right. People want to go to heaven, but they don't live as Christians should. What about you?

Our scripture reading today, a psalm of David, Psalm 15. And David asks an important question and gives an answer.

O LORD, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart. He does not slander with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor takes up a reproach against his friend; In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who honors those who fear the LORD; He swears to his own hurt and does not change; He does not put out his money at interest, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken.

Oh, such good encouraging things for us to live up to. Let's pray together. Oh Father help us to be people who can dwell on Your holy hill. People who love others, who are a blessing to others. Help us Heavenly Father always to love You, to love those who around us and to do what is right. In Jesus name, Amen.

The Bible gives some interesting assessments of people's lives. For instance, Genesis 5:24 says that, "Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him." We learn from Hebrews 11:5, "By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God." Walking with God pleases Him. James 2:23 calls Abraham "the friend of God." Are you God's friend? God said in Acts 13 verse 22, "I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will." Are you doing all the will of God?

Then, there is the evil King Jehoram who killed all his brothers with the sword. When he died, 2 Chronicles 21:20 says of him that, "And he departed with no one's regret. They buried him in the city of David, but not in the tombs of the kings." In the New Testament, we find Judas Iscariot, who stole money from the moneybag and betrayed the Lord Jesus with a kiss. We also find Demas. Though Demas had once been faithful, 2 Timothy 4 and verse 10 says, "For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica." Were you once faithful, and have you fallen away from the Lord?

Scripture says we'll be judged according to our works, whether good or bad. Jesus promised in Matthew 16:27, "For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done." The Lord Jesus said in Revelation 2:23, "And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works." How we live matters. Our works tell what's in our hearts, and the Lord will judge us by whether we have served Him or not.

The first thing God looks for in people is whether they believe. Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and

that he rewards those who seek him.” Now a faithful Christian believes the gospel and knows the love of God. His faith is not merely a belief but is a way of life. He takes Whom he believes and what God says seriously.

There are different levels of faith. Some believe intellectually. They say God exists and His way is right, but their belief doesn't influence their behavior. They are believers in their minds but not in their lives. God wants our faith to be deeper than that. He wants us to get involved with our faith. Our faith should affect how we live and what we value. We should do more than merely believe Christ Jesus rose from the dead. We must obey Him, because we realize that He will raise us up one day. We must treat Jesus as Lord.

And unless our faith matters enough for us to practice it, it's worthless. We must act on what we believe. We must move from a dead faith to a living one. James 2 verses 14 to 16 says, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” We want a living, active faith that makes a difference in our lives and blesses the lives of others.

Someone asks well, “Phil, aren't we saved by faith alone?” Well while it's true we are saved by faith, to talk about salvation by “faith alone” is to talk about a dead faith. James 2:18 to 19 says, “But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!” Saying that you have faith but if you're unwilling to demonstrate that faith makes you no better than the demons who believe so strongly that they shudder at the thought of God. What are you doing with your faith?

James 2:20 to 24 says, “Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness’—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.”

When God tested Abraham, Abraham demonstrated his faith by offering up his son Isaac upon the altar. Of course, God did not allow him to slay his son; God was testing him to see if he would obey Him. Many years earlier, God told Abraham to leave his home and family and go to a strange place. Hebrews 11 and verse 8 says, “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.” You see faith obeys! A dead faith talks a good game, but a living faith obeys the Lord.

John 3:36 says, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.” God never speaks approvingly of a faith that will not obey. The disobedient can expect one day to see the wrath of God. A believer who will not obey will not enjoy God's grace. 2 Thessalonians 1:7 to 9 speaks of “when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.” God loves everyone, but His grace and favor only goes to those who love and obey Him.

Because of this, we must move away from being spectators to being participants. Some say, “I love Jesus, but I don't want to be in the church.” Friends, the church is the family of Jesus, the body of Christ.

If you love and want to be like Jesus, then you must come to be part of His church. The church was and is His idea and His family. Faith in Christ and worshiping with the church is not like going to a basketball game where we can sit in the stands and watch others on the floor. No God expects each of us to sing, to pray, to listen to the Bible, to commune with Him in the Lord's Supper, and to support the work of the church. Living for God means I'm busy producing fruit every day, working for His cause, carrying my cross, sharing the gospel, and blessing the lives of other people. The Lord Jesus said in John 15 verse 8, "By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples." Don't just talk your faith, live it out every day.

Ralph Grant in his book, *Letters to the Seven Churches*, told the story of the Franks during the Dark Ages. When the gospel came to Northern Europe, large numbers of savage tribes of the Franks were being baptized. Now these people had been warriors for generations, so teaching them the ways of peace was difficult. They weren't sure they wanted to give up their savage fighting, so they went into the waters of baptism holding their battle-axes up out of the water. They would say, "This hand has never been baptized!" Well they were willing to make a commitment to Christ in some things, but they wouldn't give up their fighting.

Of course, one is either completely baptized, or he's not really baptized at all. There's no such thing as baptizing "everything but the hand." God only accepts us on His terms; and He will not accept anything less than a total commitment. God doesn't want some parts of you; He wants all of you. And this is one reason baptism into Christ is an immersion of the entire person in water; baptism is a total commitment to God. Romans 6 and verse 4 says, "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." The whole person is buried and raised with Christ, the whole person has all his sins forgiven, and the whole person rises from the water to walk in newness of life.

We sing the hymn, "All to Jesus I Surrender." Have you truly surrendered all to the Lord Jesus? Are you totally committed? Listening to the way some Christians talk, I wonder if their tongues were ever baptized? Some continually gossip, and others continually complain. Some tell dirty jokes, while others take the name of the Lord in vain. Some Christians tell half-truths, and others slander their friends behind their back. Taming the tongue is difficult, but becoming a Christian means keeping a close guard on our mouths. James sadly said in James 3 and verse 10, "from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way."

The selfish and evil thinking of some Christians, the way they think, you'd wonder if their minds were ever baptized? Some are full of greed, while others are full of pride and selfish ambition. They despise others and step on others to get an advantage. Becoming a Christian means putting Christ first, others second, and ourselves last. Philippians 2 verses 3 to 4 says, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Now considering what some people watch on television or at the movies, you'd wonder if their eyes and ears were baptized? Some Christians have grown callous to sinful words, to nudity, to violence, to anger, and to all kinds of immoral behavior. Years ago people expected the film and television industry to maintain moral standards. And if a movie contained ungodly language or ungodly behavior, people walked out and told the theater managers that they didn't care for such indecent movies. Today, one can hardly go to a movie or watch a television program that doesn't contain indecent language or behavior. What are you letting into your heart?

You see how some people treat others, makes you wonder if their hearts were baptized? Some have forgotten how to be kind. Others simply don't know how to be patient with others or to forgive. They

seem to have forgotten the words of our Lord in Matthew 7:12, "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." Many people live with anger, fear, or hatred in their hearts. Paul said in Ephesians 4:31 to 32, "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." How are you living? Do you follow God?

Let's pray. Heavenly Father help us to give ourselves more completely to You. To do Your will, to love You and to love others. And to live with kindness in our hearts. In Jesus name, Amen.

God sets the bar high for those who would follow Him. The Lord Jesus said in Luke 14:26 and 27 that, "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple." God expects us to love Him more than anything else, and to put Him first.

Someone asks well, "Phil, aren't we saved by grace?" Yes, we're saved by the grace of God; it's a precious gift that can't be earned. We can't obligate God to save us. But because the gift is precious, God examines our lives to see whether or not we have genuinely received the gift or took it for granted. The Lord Jesus out of love paid a very high price to save you from sin. And so it matters to Him how you receive that gift. If you care so little for Him that you ignore His teaching and live as you please, why should it surprise you if the gift that you neglected was lost? The Lord will judge you according to your response to His grace. Have you served the Lord?

Now to enjoy the gift of salvation, we must lovingly respond to His grace by faith, by repenting of our sins, by confessing Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and by being baptized into Christ. When you love the Lord, you won't argue with the Lord about what to do to obey His gospel. Faith and obedience are two sides of the same coin. We obey because we believe, and our obedience reveals our faith. Acts 2:38 still says, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Won't you do that today?



Date: _____

What is the title and main subject of this lesson?

What scriptures are referenced within the lesson?

If this lesson includes any main Bible characters, who are they and what are some of their traits?

Why is this message important?

Are there specific things discussed in this lesson that you would like to work on in your personal life?

How would you share this message with others and with whom would you like to share it?

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I Have Failed

“What can I do about my failures?” We all fail, but it isn't the end of the world. Failure can produce serious consequences, yes, dark days, damaged relationships, sleepless nights; but there's hope. We all stumble, we say the wrong thing, we do the wrong thing, we miss an opportunity or an appointment, and we make a poor decision. We hurt our kids, or we anger our spouse, or maybe we disappoint our friends. We foolishly jeopardize our future, wreck the car, or lose our money over nonsense.

When we fail, we feel defeated, alone, and incompetent. We think nothing can change things, and we always feel like we're stuck in failure. Some who fail give up trying and also give up hope that they can be what God wants them to be. Please let Jesus help you rather than give up. The Lord will indeed help you. Overcoming failure means learning from your mistakes. The Lord Jesus has perfect patience with those who come to Him (1 Timothy 1 verses 12 to 16).

The apostle Peter is much like all of us. He frequently acted impulsively before he thought things through. He loved the Lord but sometimes failed miserably. Ah, Jesus was right when He told Peter, James, and John in Matthew 26 verse 41 that “the spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak.” We're going to look at some of Peter's life to see what we can do to overcome our failures.

Our reading today comes from Psalm 51 verses 10 to 13. And it is a psalm of David after Nathan the prophet came and confronted David about his sin with Bathsheba. David said:

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.

That's the hope we have but yes we can change and God will forgive. Let's pray. Father we're thankful that You give us hope each day. And that we can change our lives and become the people that please You. Father help us to repent of our sins. Help us to do Your will. Help us to love You always. In Jesus name, Amen.

Many of us try and fail. The New Testament tells of a man whose faith failed for a time. When the circumstances are unusual, the experience of trying and failing happens to all of us.

Matthew 14:22 to 32 says: Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.” Peter said to Him, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” And He said, “Come!” And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “You are certainly God's Son!”

Peter showed his faith here. He got out of the boat, he walked on the water and as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus he did well; but when Peter saw the wind and became frightened, he began to sink. People often take their eyes off of Jesus and put it on their circumstances. They forget what Jesus can do. When Peter sank, he cried out for Jesus to save him; and Jesus rescued him. We all need saving from sin and

help in times of crisis. Peter doubted in fear, but the Lord still graciously helped him. He'll also help you even in those times when your faith seems small. Call to Him. He'll reach out his hand and help you back to safety.

The Bible tells when Peter failed to see the truth. Matthew 16:21 to 23 says: From that time Jesus began to show 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 up on the third day. Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You." But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but (on) man's."

Peter had just confessed Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. And the Lord Jesus blessed Peter for saying so; but Peter later missed the word "must" in Jesus' prophecy about his upcoming suffering and crucifixion. Peter didn't rebuke Jesus out of spite. He loved the Lord and he didn't want to see anything cruel happen to him. But the suffering "must" take place to fulfill God's will. And so Jesus rebuked Peter not accepting the Father's will. Peter didn't understand God's plan for Jesus, that is was to suffer, die, and be resurrected. Peter would eventually witness all of it. But when Peter stood in Jesus' way, Jesus said, "Get behind me, Satan!" Peter had become a stumbling block to the will of God and was acting like Satan. People fail when they oppose the will of God. Thankfully, Jesus didn't completely forsake Peter.

Matthew 17:1 to 5 gives another occasion: Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, He led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

Now God chose this mountain to reveal the glory of Jesus, a greater glory than that of Moses the Lawgiver or Elijah the prophet. Jesus, however, is the Son of God. We are to listen to Jesus, to obey Him always. Many people fail by listening to the wrong sources. Moses and Elijah were God's servants; and each had a ministry to Israel. And God used them to do great things. And so Peter regarded Moses and Elijah as his great heroes. Well it's easy to see why he wanted to show them respect. But the Bible teaches that God now speaks to us through His Son Jesus (Hebrews 1:1 to 3). And Jesus isn't just another lawgiver, not just another prophet; He is not merely another holy man. Jesus is God's Son, and God wants all men to listen first and foremost to Him, not to any other.

Now if you put your preacher up on a pedestal, you've made the same mistake Peter made. If you put a human creed or ideology before Jesus, you've made a great mistake. Jesus is our authority—our only authority. Now God spoke out from the bright cloud a correction for Peter, expecting Peter to understand the place Christ must have in our lives. When we're mistaken, we too should get our thinking straight. Today, many people need get rid of their human books and start listening to Jesus. Even people with the best intentions can be wrong. We must listen to the Lord.

On another occasion Peter stumbled badly. Matthew 26:31 to 35 says: Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." But Peter said to Him, "Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away." Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that this very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You." And all the disciples said the same thing.

But you remember what happened that night. Matthew 26:69 to 75 tells the story: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant-girl came to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before them all, saying well, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he had gone out to the gateway, another servant-girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." And again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." A little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; for even the way you talk gives you away." Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know the man!" And immediately a rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said, "Before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Even though Peter boasted of his commitment to Jesus, and even though Jesus forewarned him, Peter still denied the Lord three separate times. Peter allowed his fear to overcome his love. Remarkably, Jesus was not far from Peter when he denied him the third time; and Luke 22:61 reveals that Jesus turned and looked at Peter. And then Peter went out and wept bitterly.

Have you ever committed such a sin, that you wept bitterly for it. Sin brings such guilt and regret; it makes a man hate what he has done and hate himself. Sin is the greatest single destroyer of self-esteem. As for Peter, we need to know that the Lord has a way of seeing beyond the present. He also sees the future.

Luke reveals the heart of Jesus toward Peter, even though Jesus knew what Peter would do. Jesus said in Luke 22:31 to 34, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." Jesus knows when we stumble and fail. Have you considered Jesus might be praying for us? Jesus knew Peter would come back after his failure. "Once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." God knows better than anyone the weaknesses of humans beings. And yet he loves them and stays with them and gives them another chance.

What can we do about our failures? Well, we must learn from them. The Apostle Peter failed. He denied Christ three times before the cock crowed. His failure was recorded four different times, four different times, in the world's all-time, runaway, best-selling book, the Bible. Yes four times. Now two thousand years have passed, and we still know what Peter did. Maybe you feel like Peter on that fateful day. You've failed, and you worry if God will forgive you. My friend don't lose hope. As Peter discovered, failure does not have to be the end for the believer. Don't give up.

This is what you can do. First, take your failure seriously, but not hopelessly. God is ready to forgive the penitent and contrite person. Psalm 34 verse 18 says that, "The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." God loves people, even when they sin. My friend, God loves you.

Second, confess your failure. Don't blame others but accept your responsibility. 1 John 1:8 to 9 says that, "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful (you can trust Him) and righteous (He'll do the right thing) to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Oh the blood of Jesus can cleanse us from every sin. Talk to trusted, spiritual friends to gain their wisdom. James 5 and verse 16 says, "Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much." God can bring the healing in your life that you need in answer to confession and prayer. Ask God to help you use your failures as a training ground for your spiritual growth.

Third, repent of sin. Repentance is a change of heart and a reversal of course. You must stop the things that offend God and start living according to His will. You can't wish sin away. Nor can you merely reform your life. You must die to sin if you want to live for God.

Fourth, ask for help. Yes, ask for help. We all need the strength of God in our lives. Paul gave us a divine promise in 1 Corinthians 10 and verse 13: "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it." Ah, we need to believe that God will be with us, that He'll strengthen and He'll help us by making a way of escape. We mustn't forget, even if we have failed in the past, that God is still on our side and loves us.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful for Your love and patience. Even when we are at times so weak. Help us always to turn to You in repentance. To be willing to be honest with ourselves and confess our sins. And also to ask You to forgive. Father we're thankful that we can be Christians. Father we pray for those who are not yet Christians, to help them to learn to do what is right. In Jesus name, Amen.

The Lord is eager to forgive anyone who's truly sorry for his sins and willing to change. If Jesus could forgive Peter for denying Him three times, He can forgive you. David said in Psalm 51:17 that, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise." A contrite heart, filled with godly sorrow, will lead a person to repent. Repentance is not merely being sorry or even hating sin. Repentance means that we must also change our ways. Peter turned again, and so must we. Repentance leaves the old way of sin and turns to the way of the Lord to follow Him and His teaching.

When Peter preached the first gospel sermon on the day of Pentecost, his words pierced the hearts of those who were listening. They wanted to know what to do. And Peter said in Acts 2:38 and 9, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."

That's the same message that we bring to you, if you're not yet a Christian. It's the gospel message for all people in all places for all time. The gospel brings hope and deliverance, joy and salvation. And you can go to heaven and live forever with the Lord if you'll repent and obey Him. Now no matter what you've said or done in the past. No matter how much pain you've brought to yourself or to others, there's hope for you when you believe, repent, confess, and are baptized out of love. Your sins will then all be washed away, and you'll become a child of God and be added to the church. Won't you obey today?



Date: _____

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Jesus Blesses Us

From the beginning In Search of the Lord's Way has worked to bring interested people to the Lord Jesus and to His Word, the Bible. God's Word teaches us where we came from, why we're here, and where we're going after we die. The Bible is God's marvelous resource for us. It gives us all the information that we need to know for life and godliness. It brings us to Jesus and teaches us how to live so that we might please Him.

Now of all our blessings, nothing could be more important than having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Someday this earth and all it possesses will be destroyed. What will matter on that day is your spiritual relationship with God, who loves you and gave His Son Jesus to die for your sins. Jesus Christ is the perfect example of love, of righteousness, of service, and of obedience. Because of Jesus, we can know the truth, and the truth can set us free (John 8 verse 32). Because of Jesus, we have hope and peace and a future.

We need Jesus Christ in this generation as much as any generation could. And I cringe when I think of people mocking Jesus or ignoring Him. How foolish to turn down an opportunity to know and follow the Son of God! Jesus came into this world to bless us. And I don't want you to miss out on any good thing that the Lord offers. I want you to have every blessing in Christ

Our reading today comes from the gospel according to John chapter 1 verses 9 to 13. And they speak of Jesus coming into the world.

There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even 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.

That's a reading from God's holy word. Let's pray together. Father we're thankful that You sent Your son into this that we might be blessed. That we might see the light. That we might receive Him and believe in Him and obey Him. Help us to love You and to love one another. In Jesus name, Amen.

I'm deeply grateful that the Lord Jesus came into the world. Our lives would be immeasurably poorer if Jesus hadn't come. We can know so many more things now that the Lord Jesus has come. We can have a close, loving relationship with the Father because of Jesus. We have a living hope beyond the grave because of Jesus. We have a home in heaven forever and ever because of Jesus. And today we're exploring five reasons why Jesus Christ came into the world. These are not the only reasons but they are vitally important to our spiritual well-being.

First, Jesus came into the world so that we might know God. The Bible says in John 1:17 to 18, "For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him." Jesus said John 14:6 to 7, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him."

Second, Jesus came into the world so that we might know God's will for our lives. John chapter 3 verses 1 and 2 says: Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." Well, Jesus was first and foremost a teacher; He wanted people not only to know God but to know the will of God. Jesus held His

teaching to be essential to us. In John 6 and verse 63, it says, "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life."

We must know and obey the words of the Lord. John 3 verse 36 says that, "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." You know some want Jesus but they reject what He says. The Lord Jesus said in Luke 9:26, "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."

Now if you say no to the teaching of the Lord, you're saying no to the Lord Himself. His teaching matters because it will judge us on the Last Day. Now Jesus took special care to deliver the teaching accurately and faithfully. The Lord said in John 12:48 to 50 that, "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."

When the Bible teaches something, you can be sure it's what the Lord Jesus wants us to know. Don't trust your feelings, your assumptions, the teachings of men, or anything but what you can read in your New Testament. The only way that you can know the will of the Father for sure is by looking into the words of Jesus Christ.

Third, Jesus came into the world so that we might have a relationship with God. The Bible says in John 1:11 to 13 that, "He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, (that is welcomed Him) to them He gave the right to become children of God, even 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." God wants everyone to come to Him and to be His child, but not everyone wants to do His will.

God will forgive anyone's sin who will love and believe in the Lord Jesus, repent of sin, and be baptized. You see the gospel is for all, Jew and Gentile, male and female, slave or free. That anyone who loves the Lord and is willing to obey Him can be saved and become a child of God. The apostle Peter told Cornelius in Acts 10:34 to 35, "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him."

People who claim to be close to the Lord but are unwilling to do the will of God they fool themselves. You can't live in rebellion to the will of God and then expect to have a positive relationship with the Lord. The Lord wants to draw close to you; but if you reject His will, you're rejecting Him.

Fourth, Jesus came into the world so that we might be saved. In Matthew 1:21, an angel of the Lord told Joseph this about Mary: "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." In John 1:29, John the Baptist pointed to Jesus and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten (some say only Son) Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." Now this passage has so much to say about God's love for us. That the Father loved us enough to sacrifice His Son Jesus on the cross so that we might have forgiveness of sins and become children of God to me is amazing. God gave up His Son to a crucifixion, the worst and most shameful death a man could endure. He did it because He truly loved us and truly hated what sin has done and would do to us. He gave Jesus as the only way to atone for our sins.

The story of Jesus visiting the tax-collector is found in Luke chapter 19. When the people grumbled that Jesus had gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner, Jesus said in Luke 19 verses 9 to 10, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." The Lord Jesus has graced the lives of so many sinners, and people who thought they would forever be enslaved to a life for which they are ashamed. The Lord gives us hope that we can change and be freed from the guilt and the hold of sin over our lives.

On another occasion when Jesus was eating with tax-collectors and sinners, the Pharisees asked His disciples, "Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?" But when Jesus heard this, He said, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire compassion, and not sacrifice,' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Matthew 9 verses 11 to 13).

Now Jesus went to those who needed Him most. He was not like the Pharisees who thought they were better than others; He wanted to heal the spiritual diseases of people. And He knew that everyone had a soul, and so He didn't choose which people that He liked and ignore the rest. He loved everyone and suffered on the cross for every person. Now many the Lord predestined or arbitrarily chose that's what some think. And they thought that they would be saved and wouldn't be lost. But we need to understand this is a false teaching. God didn't arbitrarily choose who would be saved and who would be lost. Some believe they can't ever be right with the Lord, no matter what they do. But nothing could be farther from the truth. Jesus loves everybody and died for the sins of every person.

Titus 2 and verse 11 says that, "the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men." Those who say Jesus shed His blood only for the elect or the saved contradict the Word of God. The inspired apostle John wrote to the elect in the church in 1 John 2 and verse 2 that Jesus "is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world." You see the Lord's heart is not small; He has a place in His heart for you.

The apostle Paul, who described himself as the chief of sinners, realized that God's grace was greater than his sins. He said in 1 Timothy 1:15 to 16 that, "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, (and then he said of) among whom I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

Yes Jesus came to this earth to die. He was born with a body, a body destined to be sacrifice for the sins of the world. Hebrews 10:4 to 7 says: For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

Jesus Christ gladly suffered and sacrificed His life so that we might live with Him for eternity. The Lord said in John 10:17 to 18, "For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father." Jesus Christ gave His body and His life as an act of great, personal love for you and me.

Fifth, Jesus came into the world to bless us. The Lord Jesus said in John 10:10 that, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." And this promise of God has proven true on so many levels. The Lord Jesus has given us an abundant life here and will provide for us a home in heaven. Ephesians 1 verse 3 reminds us that God "has blessed us with

every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” God hears our prayers; God grants forgiveness and peace; God gives us living hope through the resurrection of Jesus; and God gives us His Word. Yes His word that will instruct us, guide us, and encourage us each day.

Jesus blesses us richly, and I don't want one day apart from the Lord. Spiritual death takes place when a person sins against God. The word “death” describes a separation. Physical death according to James 2:26 is the separation of the physical body from the spirit. Spiritual death takes place when we sin against God and we separate ourselves from God. Now Jesus died to bring us back to God. The blood of Jesus atones for our sins but it also allows us to come back into the grace and favor of God our Father. His blood opens the door for us to live as children of God and to have hope in the hereafter. My friend, don't, don't let a single day pass without the blessing of Jesus Christ in your life. If you have Jesus you'll be so glad. If you don't have Him you'll wish that you did.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that Jesus came into this world to bless us so that we might have the hope of eternal life and might have the forgiveness of sins. Help us Heavenly Father to love You from a full heart and to do Your will. In Jesus name, Amen.

When I think about Jesus Christ coming into this world I recall the time my sweet wife Jackie and I visited Israel. We saw much of the nation and especially liked our trip to Banias, what the Bible calls Caesarea Philippi. Jesus asked a heart-searching question in Matthew 16:13 to 15, a question that we must also ask ourselves. The Bible says: Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said well, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Who is Jesus to you? How do you regard Him? That may be the most important question you ever answer. Some today say He was only a man; others say He was only a prophet; and still others say He was a great moral teacher. Peter answered Jesus by saying, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Can you say that too? Is He your Lord? Do you say that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God? If we obey the Lord and commit our lives to Him, we can enjoy His blessings. But if we turn Him down, we'll lose the blessing that He came to give.

You can commit your life to Him by loving Him with all your heart, placing your faith in Him as the Christ, turning away from all sin and committing yourself to live as He wills, and by being baptized into Christ. Now baptism is the immersion in water of a penitent believer. When you're baptized, God washes away your sins (Acts 22:16) He gives you newness of life (Romans 6 verse 4). And today is the best day for you to commit your life to God.



Date: _____

What is the title and main subject of this lesson?

What scriptures are referenced within the lesson?

If this lesson includes any main Bible characters, who are they and what are some of their traits?

Why is this message important?

Are there specific things discussed in this lesson that you would like to work on in your personal life?

How would you share this message with others and with whom would you like to share it?

Seven Reasons

When I speak of the church of Christ, I'm not speaking about some denomination; I'm speaking of the church that belongs to Jesus. I'm not speaking about a building but of the people who are members of the body of Christ, the church. Acts 8 and verse 3 says, "Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison." Well there were no buildings designed to house congregations of Christians until many years later.

The English word "church" comes from a Greek term "ecclesia," which literally refers to an assembly or a congregation. The word "church" is found 109 times in the New Testament. Sometimes the word church refers only to a local congregation such as "the church of the Thessalonians," mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 1 verse 1; and sometimes the word church speaks of the universal church of Christ, such as is mentioned in Ephesians 5:23 that says that Christ "is the head of the church." 1 Corinthians 11 and verse 17 speaks of people coming together "as a church"; this refers to the assembled congregation. When the plural "churches" is used, it refers to local congregations but it never suggest churches that follow different doctrines or false doctrines.

Our reading today comes from Paul's epistle to the Ephesians chapter 5 verses 25 to 27. And they speak about Christ and His relationship with the church.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

That's a reading from God's holy word. Let's pray together. Father we're thankful that we can be a part of Your body, the church. That we can be part of that bride that is washed holy and clean and can live with You forever and ever. Help us to love You with all our hearts and to live righteous live according to Your will. In Jesus name, Amen.

Many are weary of the kind of Christianity they see in modern religious groups. They see moral and spiritual compromise, human traditions far from Scripture, abusive leaders, and the willingness to tolerate what God calls sin. Did you know there's an alternative? One can return to the Scriptures to find the true and pure Christianity and do things biblically rather than rely on human creeds and conferences that overrule what God has said. One can worship as they did in the first century. One can find what the most ancient church truly is and be part of it today. Let's go back to the divine source, God's written word rather than rely on human creeds and traditions. Here are seven reasons why people should investigate the church Jesus built, the church of the New Testament.

First, the church is of divine origin. Now Paul wrote to the church at Corinth in the first century and revealed its divine origin. He wrote in 1 Corinthians 1 verse 2, "To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours." The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, "I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it." The crucifixion of Jesus didn't stop Jesus from building His church. The church is founded upon Jesus Himself, His death, burial, and resurrection. 1 Corinthians 3 and verse 11 says, "For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

Second, the church that belongs to Christ was purchased by the Lord Jesus. Paul said to the elders of the church in Ephesus in Acts 20 and verse 28, "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood." Ephesians 1 and verse 7 says, "In Him (that is in Jesus) we have redemption through

His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.” 1 Peter 1:18 to 19 tells the people of God, “knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.”

Third, the church that Jesus built began at the right time in the right place with the apostles. Acts 2 tells of the beginning of the church in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost after the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now no one can deny this is the true church. The one you read about in the scriptures. This was the time when the Spirit gave the apostles power to do miraculous things. This was when the first gospel sermon was preached, the sermon that offered forgiveness of sins. Now when people who heard this sermon repented and were baptized, three thousand souls were added (Acts 2 and verse 41). Later we learn that the Lord was adding the saved to their number, that is the church (Acts 2 and verse 47). Now baptism is the time that one receives forgiveness of sins, when one is saved, and when the Lord adds that person to the church. This is the pattern set by the Lord, and the Holy Spirit, and the apostles. It includes only those who are old enough to believe, repent, and be baptized. The scriptures never speak of an infant baptism.

Fourth, when Scripture speaks of the body of Christ, it doesn't always mean the physical body but is a reference to the church. Ephesians 1:21 to 22 says, “And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him (that is God gave Him) as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” Colossians 1:18 says that He (Jesus) is the “head of the body, the church.”

The New Testament emphasizes in the fact that there is one body. Yes. 1 Corinthians 10:17 written to the church says “we who are many are one body.” 1 Corinthians 12:13 says “we were all baptized into one body.” 1 Corinthians 12 and verse 20 says, “there are many members, yet one body.” Ephesians 2:16 says Jesus reconciled Jew and Gentile “in one body to God through the cross.” Ephesians 4 and verse 4 simply says, “There is one body.” Now if there is but one body of Christ, then it is clear that there is just one church of Christ. There cannot be thousands of different churches with different name, beliefs, and practices.

This means the concept of denominationalism which has many churches with many names, creeds, and practices that divide them couldn't be the church that Jesus purchased. Many human doctrines and practices have seriously changed modern religious groups that call themselves Christian. They follow cultural standards rather than biblical teaching. They've left the pure gospel of Christ for substitutes and human traditions. The Lord Jesus pointed believers back to His own words in John 8:31 to 32: So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him that, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” You see the true church is made up of true disciples who remain in the words of Jesus.

Fifth, the church Jesus built can be found today is the one that follows the teaching found in the New Testament. You see they realize that the Old Testament is inspired but because they live under the new covenant worship the way the New Testament teaches. Not the Old Testament. You see they sing praises to God from their hearts. Christians sang for centuries without any instruments of music, because the New Testament gives no command or example of any Christians worshiping with instruments. Churches that follow the New Testament rather than popular ideas simply sing from their hearts.

The church in the New Testament observed the Lord's Supper of unleavened bread and fruit of the vine on the first day of the week, that is, on the Lord's day. They didn't do that on the Sabbath but on the first day of the week. Acts 20 and verse 7 says, “On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread (that is to observe the Lord's Supper), Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.” Now this phrase “break bread” is a

reference to partaking of communion, the Lord's Supper. Paul waited seven days to be able to worship with the church that gathered on the first day of the week. Now the Lord's Day mentioned in Revelation 1:10 occurred on the first day of the week.

Now the Sabbath was the seventh day of the week and was observed by the Israelites under the old covenant, but Christians who live under the new covenant gather for worship on the first day of the week, the day that Jesus arose from the dead. 1 Corinthians 16:1 to 2 says, "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come." Now Constantine did not turn Sunday into the Sabbath; the church began on the day of Pentecost, which was always on the first day of the week. They worshiped in communion on the first day of the week in Acts 20 in the first century.

The Sabbath was part of the old covenant made with Israel at Sinai, because the Lord God delivered them from slavery in Egypt (Deuteronomy 5:12 to 15). And according to Jeremiah 31:31 to 34, as quoted in Hebrews 8:8 to 12, we are under a new covenant in Christ not like the first one. Hebrews 8:13 says, "When He said, 'A new covenant,' He has made the first obsolete." Romans 7 and verse 4 says, "Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God." Now this new covenant comes through the blood of Christ, and we're no longer under the old covenant, which according to Exodus 34 and verse 28 includes the Ten Commandments. The church belongs to the Lord Jesus and follows the words of Jesus not Moses.

Sixth, they're organized the way the New Testament teaches. Acts 14:23 says Paul on his second missionary journey "appointed elders for them in every church." The church at Philippi had overseers and deacons (Philippians 1 verse 1). In the New Testament elders are also called overseers or bishops and function as shepherds or pastors. Many today call preachers "pastors"; but in the New Testament pastors were elders not preachers. Now the church found in the New Testament didn't have a headquarters as some groups do today. Each congregation was autonomous and had its own leadership. No congregation was set above other churches.

And the early church never had a pope, or archbishop, a cardinal, or special class of priests, no. 1 Peter 2 verse 9 speaks of all Christians being a royal priesthood. In the early church, Christians didn't have to confess to a priest to have absolution. James 5:16 says, "Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

Seventh, the church that Jesus built teaches the gospel that saves. Paul said in Galatians 1:6 to 9 that there's only one gospel and not another. Well, we need to know what that one gospel is! The first gospel sermon was preached by Peter on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. And when the guilty people came to believe that they were responsible for crucifying Jesus, they asked what to do to be forgiven. Peter responded in Acts 2:38 and 9, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for (that is in order to receive) the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." Now by the grace of God they were forgiven when they obeyed what the Holy Spirit said through the apostle Peter.

Someone says well, "A lot of time has passed by. How can we be sure that we're forgiven and part of the church Jesus purchased with His own blood?" Well, Peter answers how our souls are purified and how we are born again in 1 Peter 1:22 to 25. He says, Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been

born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. For, "All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. the grass withers, and the flower falls off, but the word of the LORD endures forever." And this is the word which was preached to you. We aren't saved by the systems of men like infant baptism, a mourner's bench, or a sinner's prayer. We're saved by obeying the truth.

If we plant and obey the same seed of truth in this 21st century that was planted and obeyed in the first century, then our souls will be purified and we too will be born again. You see the seed, that is the word of God, is imperishable. It's the seed of the kingdom. Peter said in Acts 2 verse 39, "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." We are called by the gospel to come to Christ. When we obey the teaching, not adding to it, not taking away from it, and not substituting for it, then we have the same promise they had in the first century. Now just as they were saved and added to the Lord's church, so we can be saved and added.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we are thankful that though Your gospel we have the hope of eternal life. Help us to love You and to be obedient to Your word. And to Your word only. And Father help us to love each other and to do Your will. In Jesus name, Amen.

Many people today are searching for true Christianity. They want to be part of the Lord's church, the one that belongs to Him, the church you can read about in the New Testament. You know it is still around today. Don't be part of a religion that compromises the truth or has turned worship into entertainment. True Christianity doesn't twist the Scriptures. Oh they're not out for money-making. And they're not out to make people rich. There are more than 300 denominational groups, but you can't read of denominationalism in Scripture. True Christianity is denying yourself, taking up your cross and following the Lord. You don't have to settle for religious myths or false hopes. You have the Scripture to guide you to the truth.

Some religious groups make laws God never made, and other churches ignore the instructions of Scripture. Some pick certain passages to build their doctrines while they ignore the other passages. Some twist the Scriptures to suit themselves. Jesus Christ is Lord and the only head of His church. And He rules, and nobody can change His teaching and still be saved. If the church belongs to Him, shouldn't we all want to be part of His church? If you can be added to the Lord's church, the church of Christ, why not become a member?

Forgiveness comes by the grace of God, but it's according to His terms. To be saved, believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, risen from the dead. And out of love for the Lord repent of your sins and turn to righteousness. Grace always works with repentance, and never without it. Confess your faith in Jesus and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins as Acts 2:38 teaches. Now repentance is something that we do, but baptism is God's work on us. It's how the grace of God works to forgive our sins and to add us to His church.



Date: _____

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