

MNL1 Book 1
Lessons 1-2

MY
NEW LIFE
IN
CHRIST



Who is Jesus Christ?
HEAVEN: How to Get There

MY NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

BOOK

- 1** *Lesson 1 Who is Jesus Christ?*
Lesson 2 Heaven: How to Get There
- 2** *Lesson 3 What is God like? Part One*
Lesson 4 What is God like? Part Two
- 3** *Lesson 5 Creation or Chance*
Lesson 6 What Happened?
- 4** *Lesson 7 God's First Man*
Lesson 8 God's Second Man
- 5** *Lesson 9 Why Did Christ Die?*
Lesson 10 God's Mighty Victory
- 6** *Lesson 11 Christ is Glorified*
Lesson 12 My New Life in Christ
- 7** *Lesson 13 Christ is my Righteousness*
Lesson 14 Christ Lives in Me!
- 8** *Lesson 15 God's Great Plan*
Lesson 16 Christ's Great Treasure
- 9** *Lesson 17 Christ is My Victory*
Lesson 18 Abide in Christ
- 10** *Lesson 19 Don't Waste Your Life*
Lesson 20 You Can be a Soul-Winner

NOTE: The King James Version is used in all Mailbox Club courses. We reserve the right to translate from the original texts where necessary to make the meaning clear to the reader.

Copyright © 2007 The Mailbox Club International
All rights reserved.

Who is Jesus Christ?

He came from the throne of His Father to the womb of a woman. He became “the Son of Man” that we might become the sons of God.

He was born in a supernatural way, lived in poverty, and was reared in obscurity. He had neither wealth nor influence, yet the wisdom of men has never matched His wisdom. Never has a man spoken like this Man.

His family was poor and humble. At His birth, He alarmed King Herod. As a boy, He stunned theologians with His knowledge and wisdom, for He was taught of God. In manhood, He ruled the elements and quieted the raging sea.

He healed the multitudes without medicine. He fed thousands from a boy's lunch. He raised three people from the dead. Demons obeyed Him.

He never wrote a book, yet all the libraries in the world could not contain all the books that have been written about Him. He never wrote a song, yet He has been the theme of more songs



than all song writers combined. He never founded a college, yet all colleges together cannot boast of as many students as He has. He never marshalled an army, yet no leader ever had more volunteers.

Great men have come and gone, yet He lives on. Herod could not kill Him. Satan could not tempt Him to sin. Death could not destroy Him. The grave could not hold Him.

He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor. He slept in another's manger; He rode on another's donkey; He was buried in another's grave.

He conquered death and rose on the third day, as He said He would. He ascended into Heaven and is now at the right hand of the throne of God. One day He will return with power and great glory to judge the world.

In that day, every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. His friends shall do this gladly, but His enemies will seek a place to hide from His face.

He is the Perfect One, the only One who can satisfy the soul. He is altogether lovely. He gives everlasting life to those who love Him and believe in Him. God’s Word says, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved...” (Acts 16:31).

We are going to learn more about Jesus Christ, but first we want to consider these important questions: How do we know that God exists? How can we know God?

How do we know that God exists?

One very convincing proof that God exists is the universe. There are two opposing explanations for the universe: (1) It came into being by chance, or (2) God created it. The universe is the result of intelligent design, and the great Designer is God Himself.

What is the characteristic of something that comes into being by chance? Disorder. What is the characteristic of something that is the result of intelligent design? Order.

For example, suppose I wish to set up 500 chairs for a meeting in a large room. The chairs are stacked on one side of the room. I decide just to throw them across the floor and leave it to chance that they will be arranged properly. If I throw 500 chairs across the room, what do I get? I get a jumbled mass of chairs—total disorder.

If I come into the room and find 500 chairs perfectly lined up in rows, one row behind another in a precise pattern, I can be quite sure that this was not the result of chance. Someone with intelligence placed these chairs in a precise pattern according to a definite design.

If the heavens came into being by chance, what would we expect? We would expect disorder. But when we look out into the universe with powerful telescopes, what do we find? We find billions of stars and planets operating in precise patterns.


The universe, with its billions of moving parts, is so accurate that all time on earth is regulated by it. Surely, we cannot say that this all came about by chance.

In one majestic sentence, the Bible tells us how the universe came into existence: “In the

beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).


How can we know God?

There is only one way we can know God—He must reveal Himself to us. Has God revealed Himself to us? Yes, He has. God has revealed Himself to us in three ways: (1) God has revealed Himself in His creation; (2) God has revealed Himself in the Bible, and (3) God has revealed Himself to us in a Person. Let us consider each of these.

 **1 God has revealed Himself in His creation.** The Bible says, “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork” (Psalm 19:1).

When we consider the heavens, the skies, and the earth, we see God’s wisdom, His great power, and something of His glory.

But these things do not tell us what God is *like*. We do not know if He is a good God. We do not know how He feels toward us.

 **2 God has revealed Himself in the Bible.** God has chosen to reveal Himself to us in a way we can understand—in writings. This is one way we, as human beings, communicate with one another. Since God has chosen to reveal Himself through

writings, there must be one special book in the world which is inspired by God. Such a book must claim to be the word of God, and there must be proof that it was God’s Word.

Is there such a book? Yes! The Bible is the only book that is inspired by God. “Thus says the Lord” is mentioned at least 500 times in the first five books of the Bible. Other books in the Old Testament repeat this phrase about 700 times. In addition, there are hundreds of places in the New Testament where this phrase or its equivalent is used.

One proof that the Bible is God’s Word is fulfilled prophecy. Only God knows the future. God knows the future because He controls it. Over half of the Bible is prophecy. Hundreds of these prophecies have been fulfilled exactly as God said.

Who wrote the Bible? God Himself is the true Author of the Bible, but He used many men to write it. There are 66 books in the Bible, and God used 40 different men to write these books. They were written over a period of about 1600 years.

For the most part, these men did not know each other, and yet the 66 books do not contradict each other, but all fit together to

form this wonderful book—the Word of God. The Bible says, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...” (2 Timothy 3:16).

The Holy Bible, God’s written revelation to man, was completed with the last book in the Bible, the Book of Revelation. There are no writings since that time that are inspired by God. There is a solemn warning in the Bible against taking anything away from the Word of God or adding anything to it.

The Bible is the story of man’s complete ruin in sin and God’s perfect salvation in Jesus Christ. There are two main parts of the Bible—the Old Testament, which was written before Jesus came, and the New Testament, which was written after His death and resurrection.

The main theme of the Old Testament is the Savior promised by God. The Old Testament points over and over again to a coming Savior who would be anointed by God as the One who would accomplish His will. He is called “the Christ,” which means “the Anointed One.”

The New Testament tells us that the promised Savior has come. His name is Jesus Christ. At the beginning of His public ministry, Jesus said, “The Spirit

of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel...” (Luke 4:18).

3 God has revealed Himself in a Person. Suppose I wanted to communicate with a colony of ants and tell them about myself. How could I do it? There is only one way. I would have to become an ant myself so that I could communicate with them in their own language.

Likewise, for God to reveal Himself to us through words, and have fellowship with man, He had to become a man. Only then would He be able to tell us and show us what God is like.

If God did indeed become a Man in order to reveal Himself to us, then it means that in this world, among all the people who have ever lived, there is only one person who is not just a man, but He is God as well.

To identify this Person who is both God and man, there must be certain qualifications:

- *His coming into the world must be miraculous.*
- *He must be sinless.*
- *He must be the One anointed by God.*
- *He must claim to be God.*
- *He must be able to do things which only God can do.*

1

Jesus Christ's coming into the world was miraculous.

The birth of Jesus was foretold over 700 years before He was born. The Bible says, "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

The word "Immanuel" means "God with us." This child, promised by God, would be God coming to live with us.

God sent an angel to a young woman named Mary, who was a virgin, to tell her that she would be the mother of the promised Savior. The angel said, "...you shall conceive in your womb, and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS" (Luke 1:31). The name "Jesus" means "Savior."

Mary asked, "How can this be since I am a virgin?" The angel said, "The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you; therefore that Holy One who shall be born of you will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35). Without touching Mary in any physical way, God formed this miraculous baby in her womb.

The virgin birth of Jesus perfectly expresses how the Son of God came to earth as both God and man. He was "the Son of God" because God was His Father. He was "the Son of Man" because Mary was His mother.

God gave Mary a husband named Joseph to help her take care of Jesus. As a child, Jesus played with His friends and helped His human parents as did other children. But Jesus was different from us in that He did not have sin in His heart like we have. He always obeyed God.

2

Jesus Christ was sinless.

Why did Jesus come into the world? He came to tell us and to show us what God is like. He told us that God loves sinners. The Bible says, "God shows His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Jesus was the sinless Son of God. He did not have a sinful nature as we do. Satan used every power he had to tempt Jesus to sin, but he failed. No one, not even Jesus' bitterest enemies, could ever point to one sin in His life.

3 *Jesus Christ was anointed by God.*

There is such a person in the Bible called “God’s Anointed.” The thought of being God’s Anointed is that he is the man whom God distinguishes and exalts. Jesus Christ is that Person—“God’s Anointed One.”

Of all the people who have ever lived, only one Man was anointed by God as “the Christ”—the promised Savior. That Man is Jesus! The Bible says, “...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him” (Acts 10:38).

When did this anointing take place? It took place when Jesus was baptized.



An amazing thing happened when Jesus was baptized—all three Persons of the Godhead were manifested. When Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit of God in the form of a dove came down and lighted upon Him. A voice came from the Father in Heaven saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).

4 *Jesus Christ claimed to be God.*

He declared boldly that He was God. He said, “I and My Father are one” (John 10:30).

As we look back through history, we find that the major religions of the world were founded by men. Did any of these men claim to be God?

Hinduism is one of the oldest religions in the world and has many followers. In Hinduism there is no single idea of God. No one in this religion has ever claimed to be God.

Abraham is the father of Judaism. He was strong in his faith in God, but Abraham would never have dared to call himself God.

Confucius is the man who founded the religion that bears his name. He wrote several books but he never claimed to be God.

*"He who has seen Me
has seen the Father."*



Sakya Muni, the founder of Buddhism, did not believe in the existence of God. Since he did not believe in God, he never claimed to be God.

Mohammed founded a religion which has millions of followers worldwide. Mohammed believed in God, but he never claimed to be God. He called God "Allah." Mohammed said that he was "the prophet of Allah."

If you go through all of history, you will discover that only one person seriously claimed to be God. That person is Jesus Christ. What did Jesus say of Himself? Here are His very words:

"Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me..." (John 14:11).

"...he who has seen Me has seen the Father..." (John 14:9).

What was the response of the religious leaders to these statements? They took up stones to kill Him. Why did they do this? They said, "Because you, being a man, make yourself to be God." Why was Jesus crucified? For no other reason than that He claimed to be God.

Out of the billions of people in all of humanity, you can point to Jesus and say without a doubt, "This is He—the Christ, the One anointed by God. This is the promised Savior! This is the One who is both God and man."

5

Jesus Christ did things which only God could do.

On one occasion, Jesus was in a small ship with His disciples. Jesus lay down and fell asleep. While he was sleeping, a great storm arose, so that the ship was

covered with waves. The disciples were filled with fear. They woke Jesus saying, “Lord, save us!”

Jesus spoke to the wind and the sea saying, “Peace be still.” Immediately, the wind and the sea became calm. The disciples marvelled and said, “What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!” (Matthew 8:27).

Jesus had power over evil spirits. The evil spirits recognized that He was the Son of God, and when He commanded, they obeyed Him.

Jesus had power to heal all sicknesses and diseases. He caused the lame to walk again. He restored sight to the blind.

Jesus had power over death itself. Because He is God, He had the power to do what no man can do—He raised three people from the dead.

Jesus did not come into the world just to do mighty works; He came to be our Savior. He came to set us free from the power of sin and death. He said, “The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).

Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He rose from the grave on the third day. He is a

living Savior! The Bible says that He was “declared to be the Son of God with power... by the resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:4).

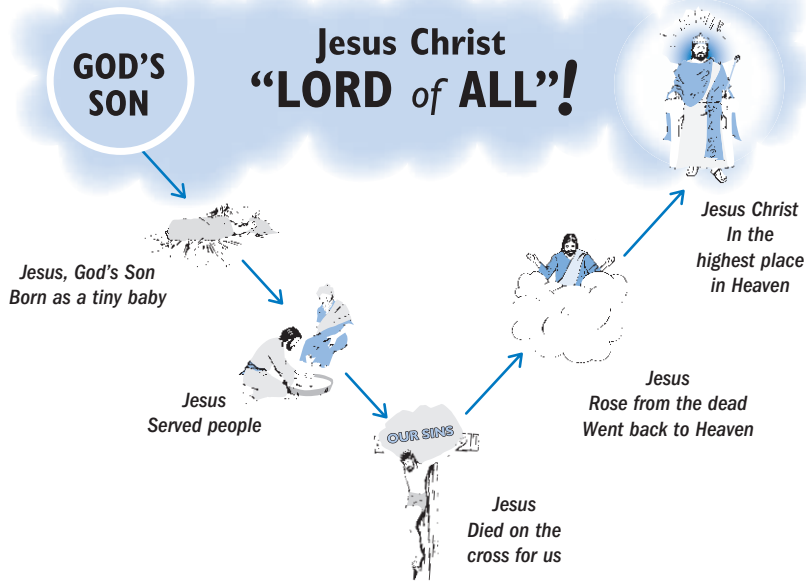
Jesus appeared on the earth for forty days after His resurrection. He was seen by over 500 people. Before He went back to Heaven, He said, “All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18).

Christ returned to Heaven in triumph.

When Christ went back to Heaven, He returned as the mighty victor over sin, death, Satan, and all the powers of darkness. He made a display of His defeated enemies in the spiritual realm.



Christ defeated sin, death, and Satan



Where is Jesus Christ today?

Everything depends on where Christ is today. Where is He? He is in Heaven, seated at the right hand of God the Father. All of God's delight and glory rests upon Him.

Dear friend, study this picture carefully. It tells the wonderful story of how God's Son left His home in Heaven and came down to this world to be born as a tiny baby.

When Jesus grew up, He humbled Himself to serve people. He said, "The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).

Jesus humbled Himself to do a slave's job—He washed the feet of His disciples. Finally, He "humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:8).

On the cross Jesus died for our sins. The Bible says, "In Him we have redemption [salvation] through His blood, the forgiveness of sins..." (Ephesians 1:7).

Jesus came down from Heaven—down, down, down to die on the cross for us. He was buried, but God raised Him up from the dead. Up, up, up Jesus went, back into Heaven itself. There God gave Him the place of highest honor in Heaven.

Jesus Christ is now “Lord of all.” He is over everything in God’s universe. The Bible says, “...He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

“Wherefore God also has highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name:

“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

“And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:8-11).

If we could be lifted out of this world and taken to Heaven, the thing that would impress us most is that Jesus Christ has the place of supreme honor and authority in Heaven. He has the highest place in God’s universe! He is “Lord of all”!

To you, who is Jesus Christ?

The most important question that Jesus ever asked His disciples was this: “Whom do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16).

Jesus said to Peter, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah: for

flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 16:17).

The Lord Jesus is asking each of us the same question. Right now, Jesus is asking you, “Who do *you* say that I am?” What is your answer?

Since Jesus Christ claimed to be God, there are only three possible answers to this question: 1) He is a liar, 2) He is a lunatic, or 3) He is who He said He was—the Son of God.

Is Jesus Christ a liar? Every word He spoke is true. He is God’s truth, He said, “I am...the truth” (John 14:6).

Some people say, “I believe that Jesus Christ was a good man, but not the Son of God.” But if Jesus is not who He says He is, He is a liar and not a good man.

Jesus Christ is certainly not a lunatic. His words and His teachings are not the words of a madman. Even Christ’s enemies said, “Never a man spoke like this Man” (John 7:46).

This leaves only one answer: Jesus Christ is who He says He is. He is the Son of God. The Bible says, “Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh...” (1 Timothy 3:16).

Out of the billions of people in the human race, you can point to this Man and say, “This is He! This is the God-Man!”

The beloved apostle John tells us why he wrote the fourth gospel: “These are written, that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through His name” (John 20:31).

Jesus is the way to God—the only way. He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no one comes to the Father, except by Me” (John 14:6).

There is only one Savior, and His name is Jesus. The Bible says, “Neither is there salvation in any other [person]: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

What must I do to be saved?

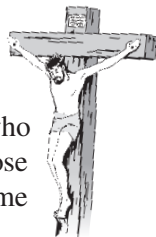
We are saved, not by doing good works, but by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved” (Acts 16:31).

What does it mean to “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ?” To answer this question, let us see the meaning of His name.



“LORD” This is His kingly name. God has made Him “Lord of all.” He is over all things in God’s universe.

“JESUS” This is His personal name. It means “Savior.” He is our Savior—the One who died for our sins and rose from the grave to become our living Savior.



“CHRIST” This is His official name. It means that He is “the Anointed One.” He is the One chosen and anointed by God as the promised Savior.

Do you believe that Jesus is the One anointed by God to be your Savior? Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins? If so, tell Him this. Here is a prayer to help you:

“Dear Lord Jesus, I know that You love me and You want to save me. I know that I am a sinner. I believe You are the Son of God and You died for my sins. Right now I am trusting You alone as my Savior and Lord.”

Is Jesus Christ really God?

What does the Bible say?

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God...” (Isaiah 9:6).

“In the beginning was the Word [the Lord Jesus], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...

“And the Word was made 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 1:1,14).

Angels worship only God. At Christ’s birth, all the angels were commanded to worship Him. The Bible says, “When He [God] brought the first begotten into the world, He said, Let all the angels of God worship Him...But unto the Son He said, Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever” (Hebrews 1:6, 8).

When Moses asked God His name, God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM...**thus shall you say to the children of Israel, **I AM** has sent me to you” (Exodus 3:14).

Christ took to Himself that unique, glorious name of God—**I AM**. Jesus said, “Before Abraham was, **I AM...**” (John 8:58).

Jesus said, “**I AM** the way, the truth, and the life: no one comes to the Father, but by Me” (John 14:6).

“**I AM** the resurrection, and the life: he that believes in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live” (John 11:25).

“**I AM** the bread of life: he that comes to Me shall never hunger...” (John 6:35).

“**I AM** the light of the world: he that follows Me shall not walk in darkness...”(John 8:12).

“I said therefore unto you, that you shall die in your sins: for if you believe not that **I AM** He [God], you shall die in your sins” (John 8:24).

Christians are not waiting for a mere man to come. We are “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).

QUESTION PAGES

MY NEW LIFE IN CHRIST I

BOOK 1— Lessons 1 & 2

1. **Answer** questions after you finish each lesson.
2. **Detach** from the center of the book after you have studied both lessons and have completed the Question Pages. *(Please do NOT tear pages apart.)*
3. **Fold** for mailing.
Postage—add a First Class stamp in the upper right hand corner.
Tape outside top edge in two places, one inch from either end of mail piece.
4. **Return address**—fill in your name and address before mailing!

Please send in your Question Pages only!

FOLD HERE

MNL1 BK1 L1-2 NA 200812

QUESTIONS LESSON 1

Mark the statements:

TRUE T or FALSE F.

1. The universe, with its billion of stars and planets operating in precise patterns, came into being by chance.

2. God has revealed Himself to us in three ways: 1) His creation, 2) the Bible, 3) a Person, Jesus Christ.

3. The Bible is the story of man's complete ruin in sin and God's perfect salvation in Jesus Christ.

4. The Savior promised by God would be called "Immanuel." The word "Immanuel" means "God with us."

5. Of all the people who have ever lived, one Man was anointed by God as "the Christ" —the promised Savior. That Man is Jesus Christ.

6. Of all the founders of the world's religions, only one claimed to be God—Jesus Christ.

7. Jesus Christ had power over the winds and sea, evil spirits, sicknesses and diseases, and death itself.

8. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, rose from the dead, appeared on the earth forty days, and went back to Heaven, where He is now seated at the right hand of God.

LIFT OUT GENTLY— DO NOT TEAR APART— KEEP QUESTION PAGES TOGETHER.

PLEASE BE SURE TO FILL IN YOUR NAME HERE.

Name _____ Age _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

DO NOT DETACH THESE PAGES UNTIL LESSONS ARE COMPLETED.

- 9.** Jesus Christ is one of the ways to God, but not the only way.

- 10.** We are saved, not by doing good works, but by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.

What is the most important thing you have learned in this lesson?

MY NEW LIFE IN CHRIST I

QUESTIONS LESSON 2

Answer these questions *after* you have studied Lesson 2.

- 1.** Man was created by God “in the image of God.”

- 2.** We are headed for eternity. You and I are going to live forever in one of two places—Heaven or hell.

- 3.** To get on the narrow road that leads to Heaven, we must be religious and do good works.

- 4.** God now commands all men to repent. To repent means to “turn around” from going our own way to going God’s way.

- 5.** The first step in becoming a child of God is to accept what God says about me—that I am a sinner.

- 6.** When God says that He so loved “the world,” He means every person in the world.

7. To become a child of God,
I must come as a sinner to
the Lord Jesus and receive
Him as my Savior.

9. One way I know that I have
everlasting life is because
God says so in His Word.

8. We are saved, not by what
we do for God, but by what
God has done for us in the
Person of His Son.

10. Jesus told us that the
Christian life would be
easy here on earth.

What is the most important thing you have learned in this lesson?

Have you received the Lord Jesus as your Savior? _____

When? _____

HEAVEN

How to Get There

Have you ever wondered what Heaven is like? The Bible teaches that Heaven is a real, literal place.

Jesus said, “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 unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:2,3).

Heaven is more beautiful than anything we could ever imagine. The city of God is made of pure gold and all kinds of precious stones. Twelve gates lead into the city, and the Bible says each gate is “of one pearl.”

In Heaven, there is no need of the sun or the moon, because the glory of God illuminates this land. A pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, flows out of the throne of God and the Lord Jesus.

In Heaven there will be no sickness, no pain, no sin, and no death. There will be no sorrow, for God Himself will wipe away all tears from our eyes. Our loved ones who are there will know us and we will know them. Best of all, we shall see our Savior, the Lord Jesus, who made it possible for us to be in Heaven.

In Heaven, everyone loves and worships the Lord Jesus. You can walk the streets of Heaven for a million years and you will never hear anything about Jesus but words of praise.

Where is Heaven?

Heaven is where Jesus is. Jesus called Heaven “My Father’s house.” Those who love the Lord Jesus and believe in Him will be with Him forever in this wonderful place called Heaven. For those who refuse Jesus and will have nothing to do with Him, there can be no home in Heaven.

Jesus Himself is the way to Heaven, the only way. When He talked to His disciples about Heaven, Thomas asked, “How can we know the way?” Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by Me” (John 14:6).



Now let us consider some very important questions:

- *Where did we come from?*
- *Why are we here?*
- *Where are we going?*

The Bible gives us the answers to these important questions.

Where did we come from?

We came from God. The universe is not an “accident,” and neither is man. God created the universe, and He created man. The Bible says, “The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul [a living person]” (Genesis 2:7).

Man is a created being. He did not come up from lower forms of life. Man is the highest of all God’s creatures because he was created in the image of God. The Bible says, “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them” (Genesis 1:27).

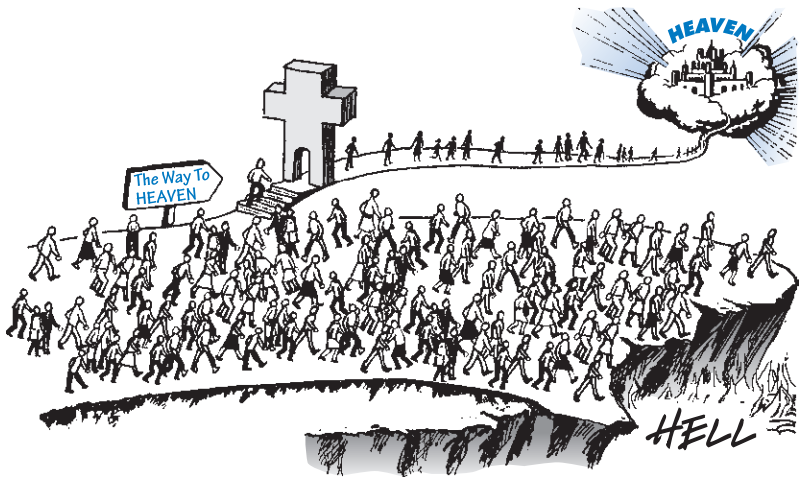
In the beginning everything was good and beautiful because God made it that way. The Bible says, “God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, it was very good” (Genesis 1:31).

Today everything is not good and beautiful. There is hatred, fighting, stealing, lying, murders, wars, sickness, sin, and death in the world.

What went wrong? Man rebelled against God! Man chose to go his own way instead of going God’s way.

Even though man has turned away from God, God still loves man and wants to bless him.





Why are we here?

God made us to have fellowship with Him so that He could enjoy us and we could enjoy Him. But sin has separated us from God. God has given us the Bible so we can know the way back to Him.

Where are we going?

We are headed for eternity. You and I are going to live forever in one of two places—Heaven or hell. Where we live in eternity depends on the choice we make in this life. God wants us to choose to return to Him. God wants us to choose Heaven!

The Two Roads

Jesus told us that there are two roads in life. One road is a broad road leading down. Many people are on this road. The other road

is a narrow road leading up. Few people are on this road.

Jesus told us where these two roads lead. The narrow road leads to Heaven. The broad road leads to separation from God, in hell, forever. How terrible!

To get on the narrow road to Heaven we must repent and take the Lord Jesus as our Savior. The Bible says, “God...now commands all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30).

What does it mean to repent? To repent means to “turn around.” The reason we need to “turn around” is that we have been going the wrong way. We have been going our own way instead of God’s way. The Bible says, “...we have turned every one to *his own way*” (Isaiah 53:6).

When I can honestly say, “I see that I have been going the wrong way, but with God’s help, I am turning to God,” I have repented. This can take place in a moment’s time, and it brings joy to God’s heart.

Dear friend, if you are not saved, you are lost from God. But God loves you, and He does not want to lose you forever. You are very valuable to God. You can know how valuable you are to God by what He was willing to do to get you back. God showed His great love for you by giving His Son to die on the cross for you. But He will not make you come back to Him. You must choose to come.

Perhaps, right now, God is speaking to your heart. If you see that you have been on the wrong road, turn around! Say to Him, “Lord, I do not want to go the way of sin any longer. I want to go Your way, on the road to Heaven.”

The Five Steps to Heaven

There are five steps that lead to the narrow road to Heaven. There are words on each step. Let us see what they say.

Start at the bottom and read up. Pause a moment and read the words on the steps again. Say



them quietly to yourself. Now let us talk about them. We will have a Bible verse for each step.

STEP 1. I have sinned.

*“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”
Romans 3:23*

The first step in becoming a child of God is to learn what I am in God’s sight and to accept what He says about me.

God says that we are all sinners. We have all said wrong things and done wrong things.

Sin is a terrible thing. It hurts us and it hurts others. But the worst thing about sin is this—sin hurts God’s heart. Do you know why sin hurts His heart? Because God is holy; and because He loves us so much.

You cannot get rid of your sins by doing certain things, but the Lord Jesus can forgive sins. He loves you, and He wants to forgive you of all your sins.

Jesus is “the Friend of sinners.” He will never turn away anyone who comes to Him. He said, “...him that comes to Me, I will never cast out” (John 6:37).

STEP 2. | God loves me.

“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 3:16

Whom does God mean when He says “the world”? He means all the people in the world. That includes you and me!

Whom does God mean when He says “whoever”? He means anyone. You can put your name in this verse. Why not do it right now?

For God so loved _____, that He gave His only begotten Son, that _____ believing in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Now read it out loud with your name in the blank spaces. There, that is good news, isn't it?

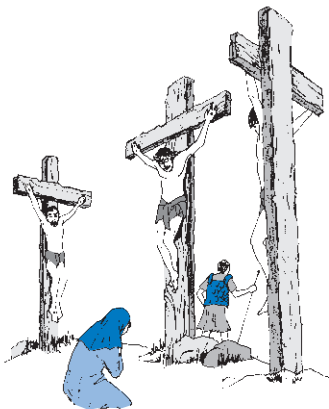
STEP 3. | Christ died for me.

“God shows His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8

This is good news: God loves sinners! God is saying to us, “I really love you! I have shown My love for you by giving My Son to die for you.”

God cannot overlook our sins or pretend that He does not know about them. What did God do about our sins? God gave His only Son to pay the penalty for our sins.



The Lord Jesus Christ died for sinners. He died for you and He died for me. You can say, “Christ died for me!” Say it right now—“Christ died for me!”

Not only did Christ die for our sins, but He also rose from the dead. He is a living Savior! He

has all power in Heaven and on earth. He can forgive your sins and make you a child of God.

STEP 4. | I receive Him.

Our next verse tells us how to become a child of God. The Bible says,

“As many as received Him [the Lord Jesus Christ], to them gave He power to become the sons of God....” John 1:12

To become a child of God, I must come as a sinner to the Lord Jesus and receive Him as my Savior.

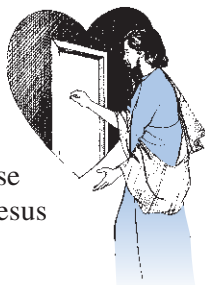
God has given Jesus to me to be my Savior, but I must *receive* Him; that is, I must take Him as my own Savior.

I must make it personal. It is not simply, “We are all sinners,” but “I am a sinner.” It is not just, “Jesus died for sinners,” but “Jesus died for *my* sins.” It is not simply, “Jesus is the Savior,” but “I take Jesus Christ as *my* Savior.”

When I take the Lord Jesus as my Savior, I become a child of God. The Bible says, “For you [believers] are all the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ” (Galatians 3:26).

“How do I take the Lord Jesus as my Savior?”

You take Him as your Savior by asking Him to come into your heart. Your heart is like a house with a door. Jesus said,



“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: If any-one hears My voice, and opens the door, I will come in.... ”

Revelation 3:20

STEP 5. | I have everlasting life.

“He that believes on the Son has everlasting life....” John 3:36

This verse tells us that if we believe on the Lord Jesus, we have everlasting life. Say the verse to yourself right now— “He that believes on the Son has everlasting life.”

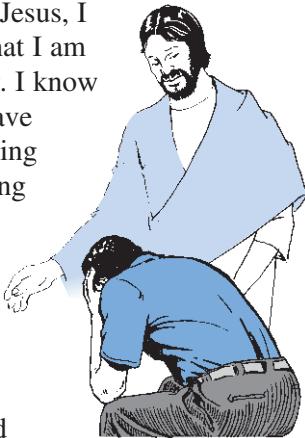
There, you understand that, don’t you? We have been talking for a long time. Are you ready to make your choice?

You can take Jesus as your Savior right now. You will always be glad that you did.

(Since this is just between you and the Lord, it will be best if you can find a quiet place where you can be alone for a few minutes. So, right now, before you read the next part, find a quiet place where you can be alone with the Lord Jesus.)

Now you are ready to talk to the Lord Jesus. Here is a prayer that will help you talk to Him:

“Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I know that I have been going the wrong way. I believe that You are the Son of God and that You died on the cross for my sins. Thank You for loving me so much. Please come into my heart and forgive me of all my sins. *Right now, I take You as my Savior.*”



I Can Know That I Am Saved

We are saved, not by what we do for God, but by what God has done for us in the Person of His Son. When I believe that Jesus died for my sins and I take Him as my

Savior, I am saved. God forgives me of all my sins and makes me His child. I have everlasting life.

How do I know that I have everlasting life? One way I know I have everlasting life is because God says so in His Word, and He cannot lie. The Bible says,

“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that you may KNOW that you have eternal life....”
1 John 5:13

Whose word is this? It is God’s Word, so we know that it is true.

God said it!

I believe it!

That settles it!



***Now I know I’m saved
because God says so!***

Being a child of God is the most wonderful thing in all the world, but let me tell you a secret: The Christian life will not be easy here on earth. But Christ lives in us and He has promised, “I will never leave you, nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).

The Ten Commandments

On Mount Sinai God gave Moses two tablets of stone on which He had written the Ten Commandments. He also gave Moses special laws and ordinances which were to govern the social and religious life of the people of Israel.

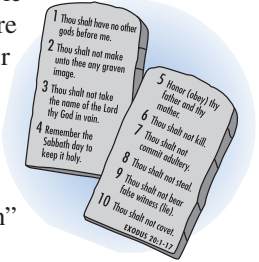
The special laws and ordinances were for Israel alone, but the Ten Commandments, often referred to in the Bible as “the law,” are God’s moral laws for all people. God’s law is the expression of His will. It shows us what is right and what is wrong in His sight.

Many people do not understand God’s purpose in giving the Ten Commandments. Some think that the way to be saved is by keeping the Ten Commandments, but no one has ever been saved by keeping the law. If people cannot be saved by keeping the law, then why did God give the law? There are several reasons why God gave the law:

- **The law shows us what God is like.** The law is the expression of God’s will. It shows us what is right and what is wrong in His sight. The law shows us that God is holy and righteous.

- **The law shows us what sin is.** Without God’s laws we would not know what sin is. The Bible says, “...for by the law is the knowledge of sin” (Romans 3:20).

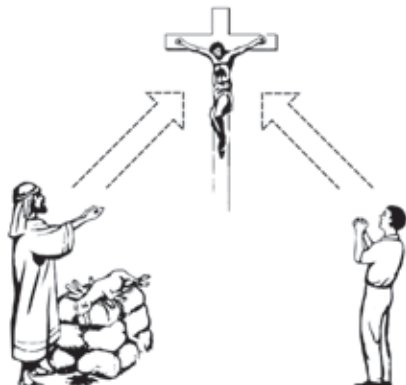
- **The law shows us that we are sinners** and that we need Christ as our Savior. The Bible says, “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith” (Galatians 3:24).



Believers are described in the Bible as “those who love God.” All who love God want to keep His commandments, but we are not saved by keeping God’s law.

There is but one way to be saved and that is by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. “For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8,9).

Old Testament believers were saved by looking forward by faith to the coming Savior. We are saved by looking back by faith to Christ’s death on the cross.



The First Commandment

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

“You shall have no other gods before Me.” Exodus 20:2,3

Before giving the Ten Commandments, God said, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.” The word “Lord” is the word “Jehovah” in the Hebrew language. It is the redemptive name of God. The greatest name of God in all the Hebrew language is the name “Jehovah.”

Jehovah God—the Savior-God, the Redeemer and Deliverer of His people, is speaking. He is speaking to His covenant people whom He redeemed and brought out of bondage. Only a redeemed people could give God the loving obedience which is due Him.

God’s first commandment is: “You shall have no other gods before Me.” There is only one true and living God—Jehovah God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He must have His rightful place in our heart.

When a sinner repents and turns to God, then God begins to get the place that is due Him in that person’s life. The Bible says that there is joy in Heaven every time a sinner repents.

It is in giving the Savior-God the place that is due Him that we come

into blessing. We must love God more than we love anyone else. We must love God more than we love money. We must love Him more than we love business, or pleasure, or anything else.

God will not take second place to anybody or anything. He is the great God who created all things. He is the great God who redeemed us with the precious blood of His Son, and He claims and deserves first place in our life.

Anything that absorbs our attention and our energies, so that God does not get His proper place in our life is another “god.”

Each of us should ask ourselves, “Does God have His rightful place in my life? Is there anyone or anything that I love more than I love God? Is there anyone or anything that has been absorbing my attention — anything that I have been putting before God?” God says, “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

God has revealed Himself in all His grace and love that He might get the place that is due Him in our heart. One might say that God has given His heart to us that He might get our heart for Himself. It becomes the joy of one who has trusted Christ as his Savior to give God the place that is due Him. The Bible says, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37).

The Second Commandment

“You shall not make unto you any graven image [idol], or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

“You shall not bow down yourself to them, nor serve them....”

Exodus 20:4,5

God tells us in the first commandment that we are to have no other gods before Him. The second commandment tells us that we are not to make any images or idols to represent God. We are not to bow down to them, nor serve them.

The second commandment is connected with the fact that “God is a Spirit.” We cannot see Him or touch Him. When God spoke to the people of Israel, they saw “no image or form.” It is good that God’s people feel led to close their eyes when praying to God. They desire to shut out the visible world when addressing God. Jesus said, “God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).

All idols are hateful to God. They rob God of the worship that is due Him alone. We are not to make, bow down to, or worship any object that we can see, touch, or feel. The Bible says, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve” (Matthew 4:10).

We should, however, realize that there are other kinds of idols besides

those which are made by men’s hands. Whatever comes before God in your life is an idol.

Many people make an idol of money. They live and work for money. They devote their lives accumulating wealth. Others make an idol of pleasure.

Whatever shuts God out of your life, whatever comes between you and God, is an idol in your life. In the light of this, we can understand what the apostle John means when he says, “Little children, keep yourselves from idols” (1 John 5:21).

God will not accept a divided heart. Jesus said, “No man can serve two masters.” God refuses to be one of several gods or even the chief of many gods. He says, “I am the Lord: that is My name: and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images” (Isaiah 42:8).

How wonderful it is, that in connection with this commandment, God says, “For I the Lord your God am a jealous God.” That is the language of true love. God is saying, “I love you so much that I must have your love wholly for Myself.”

Does my love really mean that much to God? Yes, it does. It is most precious to Him. When Jesus was asked which commandment was the greatest, He replied, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment” (Matthew 22:37,38).

the Matchless Pearl

A heavy splash was followed by many ripples and then the water below the pier was still. An American businessman crouched on the low Indian pier. His eyes were riveted to the water, straining to see his Indian friend swimming in the deep.

In a moment a dark head appeared. Then the old Indian pearl diver clambered on to the dock, grinning as he shook off the water.

“This will be a good one,” said Rambhau, handing a large oyster to Morris.

Prying open the shell, Morris exclaimed, “Have you ever seen a better pearl! It’s perfect, isn’t it?”

“There are better pearls, much better. Why, I have one that...” Rambhau’s voice trailed off. “See this—the black speck here, and that tiny dent. It’s just as you say about your God. People look perfect to themselves, but God sees all the imperfections.”

“Do you see that man over there?” asked Rambhau. “He’s a pilgrim going perhaps to Bombay or Calcutta. He walks barefooted and picks the sharpest stones to walk on. Every few blocks he kneels down and kisses the road. That is good. The first day of the New Year I also will begin my pilgrimage to Delhi. I will suffer but it

will be sweet, for it will purchase Heaven for me.”

“Rambhau!” said Morris. **“You can’t purchase Heaven!** Jesus Christ died to provide Heaven for you!” But the conversations seemed useless. The old man could not understand.

One afternoon not long afterwards, Morris answered a knock on his door and found Rambhau standing there.

“Will you come to my house for a short time?” asked the diver. “I have something to show you.”

Morris followed him to his home. Once they were there, Rambhau brought out a small but heavy strongbox. “I have had this box for years,” he said. “I keep only one thing in it.”

The old man drew a carefully wrapped package out of the box. Gently he folded back layers of cloth. Uncovering a brilliant pearl, he placed it carefully in Morris’s hands.



The pearl glowed with a luster Morris had never seen. It would bring a fabulous sum in any market.

“Now I will tell you about it,” Rambhau said. “Once I had a son.”

“A son?” Morris interrupted. “You’ve never said a word about him!”

“No. I couldn’t. But now I must tell you. My son was the best pearl diver on the coasts of India. What joy he brought me! He always dreamed of finding a pearl more beautiful than any that had ever been found. One day he found it. But finding that pearl cost him his life.

“All these years I’ve kept this pearl,” Rambhau continued. “And now I want to give this pearl to you, because you are my best friend.”

Morris looked up excitedly. “Rambhau, you can’t give me the pearl. How can I accept this priceless gift? Let me buy it from you. I will give you all I can.”

“**What are you saying?**” The old diver was stunned. “You don’t understand, my friend. Don’t you see? My only son gave his life to get this pearl. I cannot sell it. But I want to give it to you because of my love for you.”

Morris could not speak. He gripped his old friend’s hand. “Rambhau, don’t you see? That is just what you have been saying to God all these years.”

Rambhau stared at Morris for a long time. But slowly he began to understand.

“You have tried to buy salvation from God. But God is offering salvation to you as a free gift,” Morris explained. “It is so great and priceless that no man on earth could buy it, and no man is good enough to deserve it. It cost God the lifeblood of His only Son, so that you could enter into Heaven. All you can do is accept God’s gift because of His great love for you.”

Tears were rolling down the old man’s cheeks. “Now I understand,” he said. “Some things are too priceless to be bought. I will accept God’s salvation.”

Rambhau bowed his head in prayer to receive Jesus Christ as his Savior. After he had prayed, Morris took a small Bible from his pocket and read aloud:

“By grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast”
(Ephesians 2:8-9).

“And this is the record, that God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; and he who does not have the Son of God does not have life”
(1 John 5:11,12).

The Ten Commandments

1

You shall have no other gods before Me.

2

You shall not make unto yourself
any graven image [idol].

3

You shall not take the name of
the Lord your God in vain.

4

Remember the Sabbath day,
to keep it holy.

5

Honor your father and your mother.

6

You shall not kill.

7

You shall not commit adultery.

8

You shall not steal.

9

You shall not lie.

10

You shall not covet.

MNL1 BK1 L1-2 NA 200812