

## **Lesson 2**

### **Understanding and following the Messiah**

#### **What is A Relationship with God like?**

If you are unsure of having a relationship with God or being “Born-again” or “Saved”, then this is for you. You may be new to this or never really thought about it before. I will do my best to describe what it means and it is a hard thing to understand. Saved means you are saved from Hell and being healed.

Let’s pretend that you are in a home and Jesus is outside and he is gently knocking on the door. He is there every day and because of work and noise, you learn to avoid him. You look out the peep hole and pretend he isn’t there. You really do not want to open the door because he might say something that may convict or judge you. But in essence, he is not like that. There is another person who knocks on your door. He has told you things like that about Jesus, but he has never really helped you. He loves to party and cause trouble, in essence, he comes to lie, steal and destroy.

Jesus knocks and knocks and you may have opened the door a little bit to see him and while you are nice, you don’t let him in. One reason is because you don’t want him to see your house especially certain areas. You’ve allowed the other guest in and he knows you pretty good. Jesus keeps knocking and you open the door again, this time he asks if he can come in and talk to you. In the past, you really didn’t have the time and the other person has told you what a kill-joy he is, so you listen half-hearted and run him out.

Again Jesus comes knocking and you finally let him in, but you don’t show him the whole house. You are ashamed he might find something the other person told you about. Jesus says he wants to love and help you but you don’t trust him.

Finally, you let Jesus in and surrender all to him. You realize the other person was the enemy and never did love you. You also realize that Jesus already knew everything and wants you to trust him. It is hard to trust in someone that the world hates. It is even harder to trust and love someone if you do not think you are good enough to be loved.

That is the beauty of Jesus, he comes to seek and save people like us. He prefers people like us. So what are you going to do when he knocks on your door? Are you going to let him in or run him off?

You do not need to be perfect or religious to be a follower of Jesus. You do not need to clean up or change. He will do the changing and he is very kind and gentle. In fact, it is impossible for you to change without him. He is very familiar with you and needs your permission to help.

He will never harm or condemn or hate you.

Jesus is not a figment of the imagination, he is real lives and he promises to love and restore you.



*Do you love our King? If so, go and serve Him.*

For some strange reason, our Lord prefers broken and damaged people like me to help build His kingdom.

The most successful Ambassadors in building the Kingdom were former murderers, thieves, drug dealers and worse.

One reason these people are successful, is because they are transformed and know the truth.

What about you?

Our goal is to teach you to have an intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus. We are not here to teach intellectualism or prosperity. He will not reject you, no matter the issue.

We want you to know Him but more importantly, we want Jesus to know you. You can be forgiven and utilized by the Lord in many ways. If you are in prison, you can be used, some of you will be missionaries in prison and that is a great calling. If you have been in the sex or drug trade that is okay, the Lord can heal you and you can still minister to others and tell of Jesus' love.

If you have been depressed, you can tell of Jesus's hope and restoration. If you have no one who loves you, you can tell the world that Jesus loves you and that is pretty awesome. If you are into addiction, no problem, you can tell the world how Jesus filled that void and how much he loves you.

This lesson has one primary focus that is to examine and explain the identity of Jesus of Nazareth. We at TLC believe that Lord Jesus is the only and true Messiah or Christ. But we will test you in your knowledge of Him. We will stretch you in several directions so that you can correctly divide the truth and give every man an answer about the Lord Jesus. So many Followers become "stuck" after being saved. I want you to find freedom; I want you to know that there is real freedom in Jesus. I want you to know for a fact that Jesus is a healer and He will restore you, if you allow Him to do so. You have to open your heart and allow Him to take your life and transform you from the inside out.

This assignment will be a self-study on your part. If you use any other resources or from a website, you will be required to list your references and authors. If you are in prison and/or do not have access to resources, do the best you can with what you have. If you have nothing, don't worry. Do the best you can with the resources you have available. Some of you will not have resources available and we understand. This is not rocket surgery, but a learning experience. Do not allow the enemy to beat you down because we will not.

### **Moody Gardens**

I have been in Texas a few times, it is a big state and I spent some time in Galveston. I visited the Moody Gardens which is a very nice place. A beautiful oasis and garden. if you don't know about it, it is a huge playground, zoo and amusement park that a super-rich man built solely for his crippled son. *A son who he loved dearly.* I wish I had a dad like this man. Moody Gardens has everything from trains, steam ship, monkeys, penguins, aquariums, movie theaters, all custom built for this beloved son. Before the son died from a premature and painful death, he asked his father to share this beautiful place with other children. I was told the man donated the property to the state to keep the dreams of his son alive. The father deeply loved the son and honored his dying wishes.

This is how it is with our Father in heaven; he loves his son so much and gave everything to him. But his son paid a ransom for our sins, so therefore we as followers have complete access to the Father.

As a follower of the Lord Jesus, I often tell unbelievers that it is not about religion but about a relationship with the Lord. Do you use that line? Do you believe that statement? I want to ask you, "How is that relationship?" Is it a real relationship?" Do you talk to the Lord more than the required nightly or morning short prayer? Do you share everything with Him? Do you really tell others about Jesus? Or do you prefer to have a private relationship?

Trust me; I have been convicted on this subject. So many of us have developed an intellectual faith. I want to explain in simple terms what is an intellectual faith or belief system. An intellectual faith is the historical or traditional belief in a person, such as Abraham Lincoln. All of us were taught that he was a great and honest man. A faithful and merciful man. We also know he was murdered.

Many of us think the same of the Lord Jesus, the difference is that many believe these things of Jesus but do not believe he is alive; he is risen and wants to be part of your daily life. He lives in us. We are part of the Kingdom, part of the Bride, part of his church, part of the called-out ones. That in essence is the difference between intellectual belief and saving faith. All of us have intellectual belief, even the demons know the facts of Jesus, it is only the saved that know Him as Lord and are born-again. Are you born-again or a traditional intellectual believer?

Many of us claim to know Jesus or God but in reality we only know about them.

This intellectual or head knowledge is similar to a person with no math skills using a calculator to perform math calculations. They have the basic knowledge of how to do calculations but do not possess the skills to do the calculations on paper or in their minds. Ever worse, many people have others do the math calculations for them.

So what is the difference? The difference is a personal relationship with an invisible God-person named Jesus.

I too struggle because I have been conditioned by religion and traditions, which can be no good and snares and flaming needles from the Enemy. I also fear God and do not want him in my life for I am a rebel and don't want someone telling what to do or think. As a human, we often feel inadequate but we need to recognize who we are and the access we have.

God, Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit (fellowship) needs to be a part of our everyday life. When we are able to allow God to know we want a relationship, He will make life worth living and bring hope and joy to our lives. I promise that He will heal your heart.

Today we will focus on the person of Jesus Christ, and I hope that you will learn something about the Master. We will also learn to heal our hearts and move above intellectual knowledge of him. Many Christians have huge stumbling blocks placed in our faith and faith systems to deny the truth.

All of these stumbling blocks come from the Enemy. From pride, porn, greed, hypocrisy, religion, drug abuse, tradition and even the occult will affect your relationship. I recently did a spiritual inventory and I could not find any occult practices in my life. I was happy to say that I was free of those snares and baited hooks. I took the same spiritual inventory and discovered I was introduced to an Ouija board, blood packs and palm reading as a small uninformed child.

We have made the occult mainstream and these things are doorways to the Enemy and he binds the Gospel message. Others have found doorways through meth, drugs, porn or abuse, I am telling you that Jesus can and is willing to transform you. He will free you. I promise that He lives and loves you and I want you to find liberty and love in knowing him.

My point is that I am was convinced that I am free from everything from the enemy, but with careful examination and bible mediation, you too can be free and the Holy Spirit will guide you to freedom and liberty. You know I am right but you are scared to be vulnerable, trust me, the world has no use for you.

Anytime I use the word "Religion" it generally is a negative term meaning man's efforts to be divine or know God, like a set of rules and regulations. I want you to find a relationship is that God focused which seeks you through a true relationship through our Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus is knocking on your heart, let him in and be free and healed. He loves broken and damaged people to help others.

### **Damaged Hearts**

I also want to focus on the relationship of followers who have damaged hearts. Followers who have areas or concerns in their lives that they have not been released to the Lord for restoration or healing. I want to talk about my relationship and areas that most of us do not talk about, the low areas and how to restore your relationship to a close and imitate relationship. Sadly, this issue has been missing from the pulpit for a lack of honest, merciful and faithful men.

Sometimes I don't blame church leaders from teaching the truth, for to teach the truth, you will have conflict, and many men lack backbone to represent Lord Jesus rather than their temporary lives. While other lack love and discipleship.

### **Ancient Secrets of the Bible**

One of my favorite television shows is called "Ancient Secrets of the Bible". This show examines various sections of the bible and tries to explain the stories from both a believer's and non-believer's position. The show has one fellow that always disputes the accuracy of the bible. No matter the story, he will dispute the story. His name is Chaplain Austin Miles.

A little background on Chaplain Miles, he was a minister of the Gospel for a short period and turned into an Atheist and did his best to destroy the Gospel and the church. He did a good job in misrepresenting the Gospel. He worked closely with Madeline Murray O'Hare and her efforts to remove school prayer and other disruptive Christian practices.

Chaplain Miles wrote a couple of books to help atheists destroy the works of the Lord. One of the more famous of his books was "*Don't Call me Brother*". I heard it was a best seller and Chaplain Miles made lots of money from this book.

Well, I was watching Ancient Secrets of the Bible and Chaplain Miles disputed every biblical and historical claim as he was good at doing. At the same time, I was thinking of killing myself.

Yes, I was a Believer (not really a follower) but the enemy had me thinking I was useless. I was in a dark valley for a couple of years and I was prepared to check out on my own terms. I accepted the lie that I was a failure, that I was nothing but a liar and thief. Lies that I supported. It is easy to say that God loves you, but it is difficult to say God loves me but even harder, to say that God accepts me for who I am. The same is true with people, we as believers are supposed to love others, but many of these I have trouble accepting.

But, before I killed myself, I figured I would write a letter to Chaplain Miles and tell him in the kindest words that I knew he was making this rhetoric up and that he was hurting and rejected and was fighting Jesus, just as I was. I knew his heart was damaged and there was only one solution- to repent and return to the Lord Jesus. Like the prodigal son. We as followers are given many chances and often the flesh rejects these opportunities to resolve the relationship. I didn't expect any response back from Chaplain Miles, but I did receive a message. Basically, Chaplain Miles said that he was in the ministry and didn't fit in, that some of the sheep hurt him and he decided to get back at them.

No one believed as he did, no one wanted his message, they preferred the traditional message. He did his best to destroy the gospel and anything connected to Jesus. He was going to prove Jesus was a sham.

Chaplin Miles repented and told me that he wanted to return to the ministry and that he was going to cancel his atheist efforts and return their money. I guess it was a large sum of money. At this time Chaplain Miles was fairly old. A couple months later, he told me that he had two strokes and was in two lawsuits. I figured his days were over, for he was elderly and probably crippled. I too was learning to heal my damaged heart and restore my relationship with King Jesus. It is strange that so many Christians struggle with huge heart issues and the enemy is able to steal our joy.

Even being in the Word daily will not overcome these problems, I know that is a strong statement, but you need confession and a faithful, merciful and honest brother to come along side to help you. All of Chaplin miles problems and my own personal problems are basic flesh and heart issues, these are not rocket surgery concerns.

I repented, and will struggle until I am taken to glory. I have a lot of damage from my youth and often backslid and forgetting who I am was in Christ Jesus.

How about you? Have you reached perfection?

Have you overcome the flesh?

Do you have a brother that you can be honest with?

### **Proverbs 28:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes *them* will find compassion.

<sup>14</sup> How blessed is the man who fears always, But he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

I concealed my transgressions and I hardened my heart, I was a calamity.

Christian followers with damaged hearts can and do struggle through life. I have struggled with having high expectations from others, believing that I do not measure up or am good enough, so basically I think of myself, my life as a failure. All this wrong information comes from my youth and the enemy uses it against me to affect my testimony. That is what the enemy wants to do, affect our testimony.

I am a success and I am successful, the primary reason is because I simply believe that King Jesus paid my price and therefore I am valuable for I am

redeemed by his holy blood. Are you valuable? Have you been redeemed? Or are you a simple intellectual believer? Only you know for sure.

It has been a few years since I heard from Chaplin Miles, I am sure he is dead and in glory. I doubt if he lost his salvation as many would claim. Many people claim that the Holy Spirit is stronger than man's will. That the Holy Spirit can overcome man's personality. I disagree, for I have quenched the Holy Spirit many times and He has forgiven me and I am moving on.

One day the Holy Spirit, the Comforter placed Chaplin Miles on my heart and I contacted him, I figured he was close to death. But, He is more alive than ever before, he has a full-time ministry and is healthy, sure he is close to 800 years old, but he is on fire and changing lives. He is proclaiming the Great News, that Jesus lives! The same can happen in you.

You may have a few setbacks, some struggles, some heartbreak but you can repent or return to the Lord and He can still use you to make a huge difference. You too can overcome these earthly troubles for the bible says we are more than conquerors. Do you believe that or are you an intellectual believer that believes that doesn't apply to me?

**Here are some song lyrics...**

*Your river runs with love for me, and I will open up my heart and let the healer set me free.*

*I'm happy to be in the truth and I will daily lift my hands for I will always sing of when Your love came down.*

Jesus lives and he loves you, he accepts you and knows every one of your concerns. He promised never to leave or forsake us even when we trash his name and his gospel, even when we want to kill ourselves because we feel we have it bad.

We have to trust Him and follow him. God is able and willing to turn the tables in your favor. Jesus said to his disciples, "Follow me".

Are you ready to follow him?

Are you able to give him all your burdens? For Jesus is a healer. He wants to heal your wounds. He has come to set us free of all things, that means heart damage and heart break.

**John Chapter 3:31**

<sup>35</sup> The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. <sup>36</sup> He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not <sup>11</sup>obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."



## **2 Corinthians 8:9**

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for you he became poor being rich, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”

## **Matthew 20:28**

That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for the many who are held hostage.”

*“For the joy set before Him.”* He knew the cross would result in the glory of God, and that He would be at His father’s side for all eternity – that He would then present to Himself the church in all her glory as His perfect bride, to bring glory to God for all ages. So having those riches, because He was rich, He became poor in another sense – and brought us into those same riches.

## **The I AM statements of *Jesus***

Who do you say Jesus is? Jesus asked this same question to his disciples about what others thought of him and then asked what they thought of him.

Jn.5:37: "And the Father himself, who sent me, has borne witness of me. You have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. ‘Jesus gives the source of his commission, which is from the Father personally. It is the Father’s voice and form they have not seen, yet Christ has.

Christ who is called the exact image of the invisible Father is the voice that the people heard. He then says that they search the Scriptures, “in them you think you have eternal life but they testify of me.”(v.39) The Son is said to be the eternal life with the Father. Are we to believe the Scriptures testify of only a human being and not God himself? In the end of the discourse Jesus says in vs.46-47 "If you believed Moses you would believe Me; for he wrote about me. But if you don’t believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

When did Moses write of him? Deut.18:15-19: "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, "according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.' "And the LORD said to me: 'What they have spoken is good. 'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. 'And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him." Jesus claims to be the prophet Moses spoke of that they should listen to. Notice that it says they did not want to hear the voice of the Lord anymore or see his glory in Horeb.

Then God says he will put his words in a future prophets mouth if they do not listen to his words, God will require it of him." This very thing Jesus said of himself in Jn.8:24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that **I am** (He), you will die in your sins."

John 6:51:"**I am** the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever;"

John 8:23: And He said to them, "You are from beneath; **I AM from above**. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

John 8:12: Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "**I AM the light of the world**. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I AM**."

John 10:9: "**I AM the door**. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

John 10:11: "**I AM the good shepherd**. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

John 10:36: "do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, '**I am the Son of God**'?"

John 11:25: Jesus said to her, "**I AM the resurrection and the life**. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

John 14:6: Jesus said to him, "**I AM the way, the truth, and the life**. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 15:1: "**I AM the true vine**, and My Father is the vinedresser.

John 19:20: Therefore, the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, '**I am the King of the Jews**.'""

Acts 7:32: Stephen speaking of Moses' encounter at the burning bush "saying, '**I am the God of your fathers**-- the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses trembled and dared not look."

Acts 9:5: And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And the Lord said, "**I am Jesus**, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

The great I Am In the Old Testament was whatever man needed. He became, he was his all in all.

King Jesus uses all the examples to show who He is. He is everything to man and the only way to God.

The most important of all the statements is in John 8:24 after he tells them I am not of this world.

"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that **I am** [He], you will die in your sins." (He is not in the original, but is implied).

He is communicating to them that he is the same I AM that Moses met at the burning bush which commissioned him.

### **Jesus Christ's Deity**

Christ's Deity Was questioned many times in different ways, and many times it was Affirmed by both God and man.

The IF of Satan- IF Thou art the Son of God command that these stones be made bread" (Matt. 4- 3).

God's Testimony: -"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17 ) Affirmed by God the Father.

The IF Of 'the Jews- 'IF You are the Christ, tell us plainly" (John 10: 24).

Christ's Testimony v.25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me."v.36"I am the Son of God." Affirmed by Jesus.

The IF of the Chief Priests- "If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him." (Matt 27:42)

Nathanael's Testimony: -"Thou art the Son of God, Thou art the King of Israel" (John 1:49). Affirmed by a Jew with no guile. Luke 23:38 And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

The IF of the passersby-'IF Thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross" (Matt. 27:40).

The Centurion's Testimony- Truly this was the Son of God" (Matt. 27:54). Affirmed by a Roman witness.

The IF of the Rulers- "Let Him save Himself IF He be the Christ, the chosen of God" (Luke 23:35).

the Father "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. John 8:54

The IF of the Pharisee "This man, IF He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."

Jesus' testimony: But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men. John 2:24

Luke 19:10 "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." Affirmed by Jesus.

The IF of the high priest -"I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" (Matt 26:63)

Jesus' Testimony "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." Matt 26:64 affirmed by Jesus

The thief's testimony Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." (Luke 23:42) Affirmed by a criminal put to death.

Why would Satan challenge on his being the Son of God if son only meant his humanity or being a child of God in the general sense like anyone else. It was an assault on His true person who He was before he came to earth. For one to claim specifically to be God's Son was to claim a unique relationship that no one else has. In Jn.5:18, the Jews wanted to kill him because He said *God was his Father*, making himself *equal* with God (in nature.) This meant a special relationship that excludes anyone else is able to have. In Jn.10:30 Jesus claimed "I and my Father are one." In V.33 the Jews pick up stones because they understood this as blasphemy in v.36 Jesus interprets what He meant by saying, "because I said, I am **the Son of God.**"

#### **4 TITLES of Son are used in the New Testament:**

The Son of Adam- Means he is a man (Son of Man) within the lineage of humanity.

Son of David- Means Jesus is a King a descendent of David being an heir to his throne.

Son of Abraham- Means Jesus is of a Jewish descent.

Son of God –Means Jesus is God just as the Father is God. The phrase "Son of"- is used among the ancients to refer to one who has the same nature as...Son of God, means he has the same nature as God. He was called THE Son of God, being unique one of a kind.

## Jesus Christ Exhibits the Attributes of God

Attribute	God	Jesus Christ
Who is omnipotent (all powerful)?	<a href="#">1 Chronicles 29:11</a>	<a href="#">Philippians 3:20-21</a>
Who is omniscient (all knowing)?	<a href="#">1 John 3:20</a>	<a href="#">Colossians 2:2-3</a>
Who is omnipresent (present everywhere)?	<a href="#">Proverbs 15:3</a>	<a href="#">2 Corinthians 2:14</a>
Who is Lord of Sabbath?	<a href="#">Genesis 2:3</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 12:8</a>
Who is the great "I am"?	<a href="#">Exodus 3:14</a>	<a href="#">John 8:58</a>
Who is the only creator?	<a href="#">Isaiah 44:24</a>	<a href="#">John 1:3</a>
Who is the only savior?	<a href="#">Isaiah 43:11, 45:21</a>	<a href="#">Acts 4:12</a>
Who will judge mankind?	<a href="#">Isaiah 3:13, 14</a>	<a href="#">2 Corinthians 5:10</a>
Who will judge between the sheep and goats?	<a href="#">Ezekiel 34:17</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 25:31-33</a>
Who sent the prophets?	<a href="#">Jeremiah 7:25</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 23:34</a>
Who resurrected Jesus?	<a href="#">Acts 4:10</a>	<a href="#">John 10:17-18</a>
Who is "coming in glory"?	<a href="#">Isaiah 40:5</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 24:30</a>
Who is our Father?	<a href="#">Isaiah 63:16</a>	<a href="#">Isaiah 9:6</a>
Who is the "first and last"?	<a href="#">Isaiah 44:6</a>	<a href="#">Revelation 1:17</a>
Who is Rock of salvation?	<a href="#">2 Samuel 22:32</a>	<a href="#">1 Corinthians 10:4</a>
Who is Stone of stumbling?	<a href="#">Isaiah 8:13-15</a>	<a href="#">1 Peter 2:8</a>
"One crying in the wilderness" came to prepare a way for whom?	<a href="#">Isaiah 40:3</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 3:3</a>
Who is eternal?	<a href="#">Genesis 21:33</a>	<a href="#">Micah 5:2</a>
Who is the fountain of living waters?	<a href="#">Jeremiah 17:13</a>	<a href="#">John 4:10-14</a>
Who resurrects the dead?	<a href="#">Acts 26:8</a>	<a href="#">John 6:40</a>
Who gives rewards to man?	<a href="#">Isaiah 40:10</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 16:27</a>
Who has all authority and power?	<a href="#">1 Chronicles 29:11</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 28:18</a>
Who gives power and authority to man?	<a href="#">Psalm 68:35</a>	<a href="#">Luke 9:1</a>
Who forgives sin?	<a href="#">2 Chronicles 7:14</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 9:6</a>
Who sent the Holy Spirit?	<a href="#">John 14:16</a>	<a href="#">John 16:7</a>
Who has the greatest name?	<a href="#">Nehemiah 9:5</a>	<a href="#">Philippians 2:9</a>
Whom are we to worship?	<a href="#">Exodus 34:14</a>	<a href="#">Revelation 5:12-13</a>
Who is the good Shepherd?	<a href="#">Genesis 48:15</a>	<a href="#">John 10:14</a>
Who searches for the lost sheep of Israel?	<a href="#">Ezekiel 34:11</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 15:24</a>
Who is "Lord of Lords"?	<a href="#">Deuteronomy 10:17</a>	<a href="#">Revelation 17:14</a>
To whom shall every knee bow?	<a href="#">Isaiah 45:22-23</a>	<a href="#">Philippians 2:10</a>
Who is the righteous branch of David?	<a href="#">Jeremiah 23:5-6</a>	<a href="#">Jeremiah 33:15</a>
Who alone is Holy?	<a href="#">1 Samuel 2:2</a>	<a href="#">Acts 3:14</a>
Whose blood cleanses us?	<a href="#">Acts 20:28</a>	<a href="#">1 John 1:7</a>
The world was created for whom?	<a href="#">Proverbs 16:4</a>	<a href="#">Colossians 1:16</a>
Who is above all?	<a href="#">Nehemiah 9:6</a>	<a href="#">Romans 9:5</a>
Who is forever the same?	<a href="#">Psalms 102:24-27</a>	<a href="#">Hebrews 1:8-12</a>
Who is our light?	<a href="#">Psalm 27:1</a>	<a href="#">John 8:12</a>
Who is the way or path?	<a href="#">Psalms 16:11</a>	<a href="#">John 14:6</a>

## Jesus Christ Exhibits the Attributes of God

Attribute	God	Jesus Christ
Who is in charge of the angels?	<a href="#">Psalms 103:20</a>	<a href="#">2 Thessalonians 1:7</a>
Who gives us rest?	<a href="#">Exodus 33:14</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 11:28</a>
Who gives eternal life?	<a href="#">Proverbs 19:23</a>	<a href="#">John 3:36</a>
We are the bride of whom?	<a href="#">Isaiah 54:5</a>	<a href="#">2 Corinthians 11:2</a>
Who tests the heart and mind?	<a href="#">Jeremiah 17:10</a>	

### The Bible Says Jesus is God

Statement	Verse
Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which translated means, "God with us."	<a href="#">Matthew 1:23</a>
And fear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and, "God has visited His people!"	<a href="#">Luke 7:16</a>
In the beginning was the Word...and the Word was God.	<a href="#">John 1:1</a>
No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.	<a href="#">John 1:18</a>
He [Jesus]... was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.	<a href="#">John 5:18</a>
I and the Father are one.	<a href="#">John 10:30</a>
The Jews answered Him [Jesus], "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God."	<a href="#">John 10:33</a>
You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am.	<a href="#">John 13:13</a>
Jesus said to him, "...He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father?'"	<a href="#">John 14:9</a>
And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.	<a href="#">John 17:5</a>
Thomas answered and said to Him [Jesus], "My Lord and my God!"	<a href="#">John 20:28</a>
"The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)	<a href="#">Acts 10:36</a>
For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him	<a href="#">Romans 10:12</a>
the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory	<a href="#">1 Corinthians 2:8</a>
...the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.	<a href="#">2 Corinthians 4:4</a>
...Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,	<a href="#">Philippians 2:6</a>
...to Christ. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,	<a href="#">Colossians 2:9</a>
God was manifest in the flesh...	<a href="#">1 Timothy 3:16</a>
...our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the proper time-- He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords;	<a href="#">1 Timothy 6:15</a>
God...in these last days has spoken to us in His Son...And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature...	<a href="#">Hebrews 1:2-3</a>
But of the Son He says, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever..."	<a href="#">Hebrews 1:8</a>
...the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;	<a href="#">Titus 2:13</a>
Simon Peter ... by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:	<a href="#">2 Peter 1:1</a>

## The Bible Says Jesus is God

Statement	Verse
And on His robe and on His thigh He [Jesus] has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."	<a href="#">Revelation 19:16</a>



There is hope for the worse of us. Lord Jesus is the friend of sinners and He will help you overcome this world. He understands the pain and problems of this world.

**My question for you....**

What is your identity?

How much or how valuable are you?

How much does God the Father love you?

What you do or where you are does not matter, it is who you've placed your trust in.

You have been redeemed. Place all your problems in the Lord Jesus. He can deal with it much better than we can.



## Extra-biblical references to Jesus and Christianity

The following are early extra-biblical references to Jesus and/or Christians by non-Christian writers (in some cases, Christian writers are quoting non-Christian writers' references to Jesus). Quotes are copied from the accompanying links, unless otherwise noted. Within the text of the article, authors' names are links to encyclopedia articles about them.

### **Josephus** (A.D. 37 - c. A.D. 100)

Josephus' *Antiquities* (early 2nd century A.D.) refers to Jesus in two separate passages. The common translation of the first passage, Book 18, Ch. 3, part 3, is disputed and is most likely from an altered source. F. F. Bruce has provided a more likely translation:

Now there arose at this time a source of further trouble in one Jesus, a wise man who performed surprising works, a teacher of men who gladly welcomed strange things. He led away many Jews, and also many of the Gentiles. He was the so-called Christ.

When Pilate, acting on information supplied by the chief men around us, condemned him to the cross, those who had attached themselves to him at first did not cease to cause trouble, and the tribe of Christians, which has taken this name from him is not extinct even today.

The second passage is from Book 20, Ch. 9, part 1:

...so he assembled the Sanhedrim of judges, and brought before them the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James, and some others, [or, some of his companions]; and when he had formed an accusation against them as breakers of the law, he delivered them to be stoned...

(Note: The *Antiquities* can be found at several different sites, including the Christian Classics Ethereal Library, Perseus Digital Library and Crosswalk.com)

### **Tacitus** (c. A.D. 55 - c. A.D. 117)

*Annals*, book XV:

Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace.

Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their center and become popular.

**Suetonius** (c. A.D. 69 - c. A.D. 140)

Lives of the Caesars - Claudius, sec. 25:

He banished from Rome all the Jews, who were continually making disturbances at the instigation of one Chrestus.

Lives of the Caesars - Nero, sec. 16

Punishment was inflicted on the Christians, a class of men given to a new and mischievous superstition.

**Julius Africanus** (c. 160 - c. 240)

Chronography, XVIII refers to writings by Thallus and Phlegon concerning the darkness during the Crucifixion:

On the whole world there pressed a most fearful darkness; and the rocks were rent by an earthquake, and many places in Judea and other districts were thrown down. This darkness Thallus, in the third book of his History, calls, as appears to me without reason, an eclipse of the sun...Phlegon records that, in the time of Tiberius Caesar, at full moon, there was a full eclipse of the sun from the sixth hour to the ninth - manifestly that one of which we speak.

**Origen** (c. 185 - c. 254)

In *Against Celsus*, Origen quotes Celsus, a second-century skeptic, on Jesus. Celsus' view of Christians and Christianity, an article from Bluffton College, contains relevant excerpts.

**Pliny the Younger** (c. 62 - c. 113)

Letters, 10.96-97 records Pliny's dealings with Christians

## Other Jesus's in the Bible

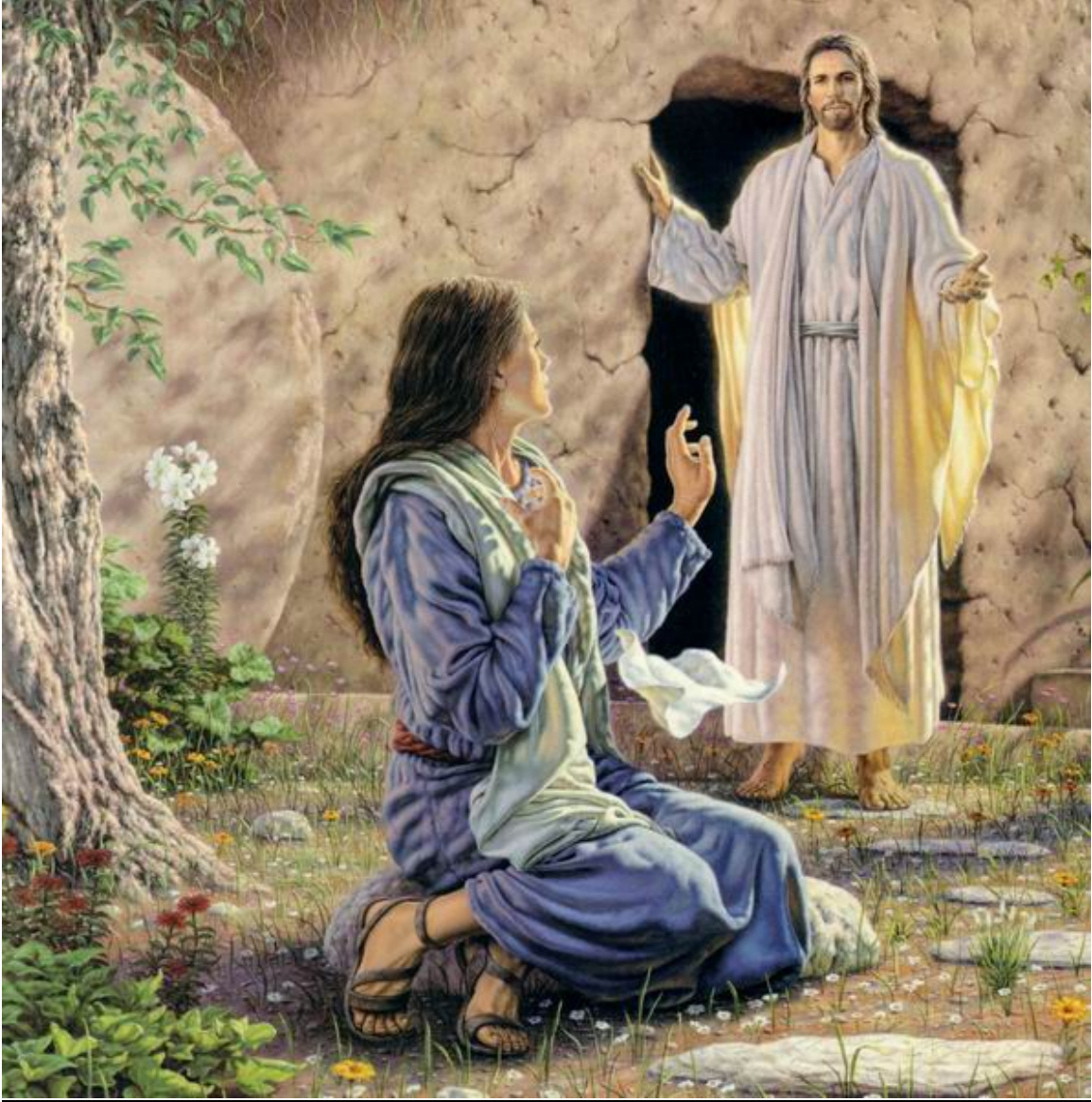
There is a sorcerer named "Bar-Jesus" mentioned in Acts 13:6.

There is also a Jesus mentioned in Colossians 4 *"Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends his greetings."*

Jeshua, Jehoshua and Joshua are also forms of Jesus, which was quite a common name in biblical times and still is in some parts of the world.



Early Jewish Christian symbol, commonly found on early Christian tombs



## Great Reference tools.

**I know some of my precious prisoners do not have access to resources and that is okay. If you do not have access, use what you have available.**

Blue letter bible website

Biblos.com

**Just a few name and titles of Lord Jesus.**

**Incomprehensible** pre-existent  
**Ingenious** Creator  
**Illuminating** Light in Dark  
**Incarnate** became Flesh  
**Inviting** come  
**Inclusive** as many  
**Invoking** gives power  
**Immutable** unchangeable  
**Immaculate** pure and Holy  
**Invigorating** life giving

### **WORD!**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of 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

**To Abraham He was the WORD of faith.**  
**To Isaac He was the WORD of Obedience.**  
**To Jacob He was the WORD of Inheritance.**  
**To Joseph He was the WORD of Provision.**  
**To Moses He was the WORD of Deliverance.**  
**To Joshua He was the WORD of Possession.**

**To Sampson He was the WORD of Strength.**  
**To Samuel He was the WORD of Anointing.**  
**To David He was the WORD of Royalty.**  
**To Jeremiah, Isaiah ... He was the WORD of Prophecy.**

He was and is and is to come the Incomprehensible Word of God. He was with God and He was God!

What incredible truth ... He is also the incredible Word. In the Old Testament you read "Thus saith the Lord" but when Jesus came you read "Verily, Verily, I say unto you." The Word had arrived, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. "Before Abraham was I am", said King Jesus.

He was in the beginning; He was the beginning. He was with God, He is God. He is the pre-existent Word. You see that is incomprehensible, before anything was He is! All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made. We are not able to comprehend His greatness; it is beyond our human capabilities. He is the foundation of everything that is. While Mary was holding Him, He was actually holding her. The water He walked on didn't hold Him up, He holds the water. He sustains His creation. He speaks and whatever He speaks to responds. The very rocks want to cry out in His Presence.

Think of the human brain, it is the most complex organ in the universe. It weighs less than 3 pounds, yet has an intricate connection of nerves with more than 30 billion special cells known as neurons, there are an additional 250 billion cells that facilitate communication between neurons. Each neuron is connected directly with more than 50,000 other neurons, allowing instantaneous transfer of information.

In less than a second your brain can calculate the trajectory of a football thrown at thirty miles an hour toward you without warning. In a moment your brain calculates your position, the ball's ultimate trajectory, and sends detailed electronic messages to the muscles in your arms and legs at more than 300 hundred miles a second to move you in position to catch the ball. There are no computer systems on the planet that can equal the computing in the brain necessary for a ten-year old boy to catch a football. He is the ingenious Word.

He spoke everything into existence; illuminating the darkness ... He is the illuminating Word. Do you know that when you speak His Word that you speak His very presence into your situation? Always agree with His Word!

There are 333 prophecies in God's Word concerning Jesus. If you take just 17 of the most obvious of these prophecies. The probability of these happening by chance are 1 in 480 billion times 1 billion times 1 trillion or 1 in 480 to the 31st power. Or take one grain of sand and paint it with bright gold paint. Now take the 480 billion times 1 billion times 1 trillion grains and cast them all into the vast

Milky Way galaxy with 200 million stars like our sun, plus millions of planets, moons and asteroids.

Your target in this galaxy is one grain of sand and you must go directly to it. Remember, if you travel at the speed of light it will take you a hundred thousand years to cross the galaxy. And to equal the same odds as these prophecies coming true by chance you must blindfold yourself!

I don't know who to thank for these calculations, but I thank God for the overwhelming evidence of truth. He is the incomprehensible Word! Another way to view the accuracy of God's Word through its prophecies is to view it as dialing a phone number.

When you dial the number 1 you eliminate everyone in your local zone. When you dial the AREA CODE you eliminate everyone not in that area. When you dial the PREFIX you eliminate everyone not in that exchange.

When you dial the first of the last four digits you eliminate everyone that does start with that #. When you dial the last number...JESUS picks up the phone!

Often I have wondered about the significance of Jesus healing a blind man by making spittle and anointing His blind eyes. In John 9:5-7 Jesus said, As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing." Remember He is the Light that shines in darkness.

I wonder if maybe the man had no physical eyes? Perhaps the spit from the mouth mixed with the dirt from which we were created ... I mean, maybe He made the man a brand new pair of eyes! He is the illuminating Word! In Him was life and the life was the light of men. He is the Incomprehensible, Ingenious, Illuminating Word.

The Incarnate Word that became flesh and lived among us. The embodiment of God Himself.

He is the Inviting Word Who invites men to receive Him for salvation.

He is the Inclusive Word with no limitations and will receive as many as come to Him.

He is the Invoking Word. He gives power and authority to become a child of God.

He invokes power.

He is the Immutable Word, never changes, never a need to change!

He is the Immaculate Word, Spotless, pure and Holy, without blemish!

He is the Invigorating Word. His Presence stirs life and hope into fallen humanity!

He was in the beginning with God and He was God. He is eternal God without beginning or end. He is the incomprehensible WORD!





## Definitions

### Messiah

Messiahs appear in many religions including Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. In the Hebrew Bible messiahs are priests and kings - who were traditionally anointed with holy anointing oil as described in Exodus 30:22-25. In later Jewish messianic tradition and eschatology, messiah refers to a leader anointed by God, and in some cases, a future King of Israel, physically descended from the Davidic line, who will rule the united tribes of Israel and herald the Messianic Age of global peace. In Judaism, the Messiah is not considered to be God or a Son of God.

The translation of the Hebrew word *Mašíaḥ* as *Χριστός* (*Khristós*) in the Greek Septuagint[4] became the accepted Christian designation and title of Jesus of Nazareth, indicative of the principal character and function of his ministry. Christians believe that prophecies in the Hebrew Bible (especially Isaiah) refer to a spiritual savior and believe Jesus to be that Messiah (Christ).

Islamic tradition holds the view that Jesus (Isa), son of Mary, was indeed the promised prophet and Messiah (Masih), sent to the Semitic Jewish tribes living in Israel. He will again return to Earth in the end times and descend from heaven to defeat the "great deceiver", the Dajjal (false messiah/antichrist).

The Christian concept of the Christ/Messiah as "the Word made Flesh" (see also Logos) is fundamentally different from the Jewish and Islamic. The majority of historical and mainline Christian theologies, as seen within the Nicene Creed, consider Jesus to be God or God the Son.

Christians believe that Daniel (Hebrew: דַּנְיֵאל, or Daniyyel) was a prophet and gave an indication of when the Messiah, the prince *mashiyach nagiyd*, would come in the Prophecy of Seventy Weeks.[Dan. 9:25-26] Daniel's prophecies refer to him as a descendant of King David, a Son of Man, who will rebuild the nation of Israel, destroy the wicked, and ultimately judge the whole world.

In Christian theology, the Christ/Messiah serves a number of roles. The Nicene Creed of 325 and 381 A.D. provides a convenient framework:

- He suffers and dies to make reconciliation with God.[19][20]
- He was raised from the dead on the third day after He was crucified to prove that He has defeated death and the power of Satan, thus enabling those that receive Him as their Savior to live under God's grace. [Galatians 2:16]
- He ascended to heaven [Acts 1:9-10] where He currently reigns over the world at God's right hand [Romans 8:34][Ephesians 1:20][Colossians 3:1] and from where he will return [Acts 1:10][1Thessalonians 4:16]
- He serves as the pioneer and embodiment of the culture and living presence of the kingdom of God

- When he returns he will judge the world [2Corinthians 5:10] and reign over a new creation [Revelation 21:1]. Christian believers are invited to spend eternity in this new world. [Revelation 21:22-27] (The exact order of these things differs according to the preferred theological framework of Millennialism used to interpret the passages.)
- He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and he came to earth as a human. John 1:1-2,14a: *In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. 14a And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.* John 8:58: *Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.*

In the New Testament, Jesus often referred to himself as 'Son of Man' [Mk. 14:61-62] [Lk. 22:66-70] which Christianity interprets as a reference to Daniel 7:13-14 (KJV):

"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." [Daniel 7:7,13]

Because Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah and that he claimed to be the Son of Man referred to by Daniel, Christianity interprets Daniel 7:13-14 as a statement of the Messiah's authority and that the Messiah will have an everlasting kingdom. Jesus' use of this title is seen as a direct claim to be the Messiah.

Some identified Jesus as the Messiah, [Mk. 8:29] his opponents accused him of such a claim, [Lk. 23:2] and he is recorded at least twice as asserting it himself directly. [Mk. 14:60-62] [Jn. 4:25-26]

Christianity interprets a wide range of biblical passages in the Old Testament (Hebrew scripture) as predicting the coming of the Messiah (see Christianity and Biblical prophecy for examples), and believes that they are fulfilled in Jesus' own explicit life and teaching:

- Will be born in Bethlehem [Micah 5:2-5]
- The root of Jesse ...to whom the Gentiles will seek. [Isaiah 11:10]
- He said to them..."Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." [Lk. 24:25-27]
- "Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and

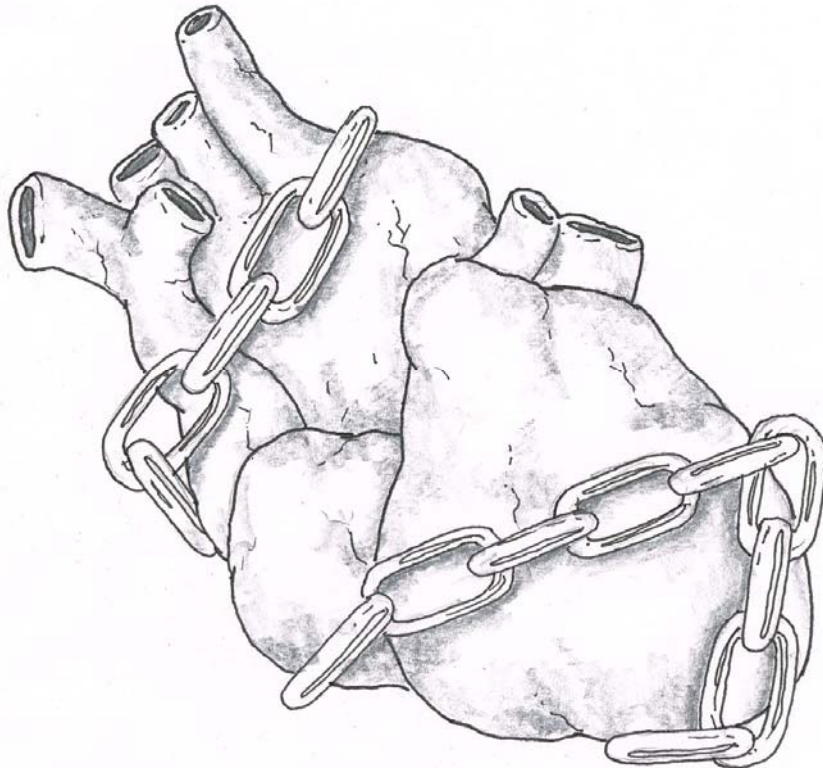
remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." [Lk. 24:45-47]

- The Gospel of Matthew repeatedly says, "This was to fulfill the prophecy...."
- Psalm 22 describes the actions of the crucifixion in John 19 [Ps. 22] [Jn. 19]

Christians believe the Messianic prophecies were fulfilled in the mission, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and seeks to spread throughout the world its interpretation that the Messiah (Jesus) is the only God, and that Jesus will return to fulfill the rest of the Messianic prophecy.

**Please remember that Lord Jesus is a gentle Healer and He is working on me and you right now. He loves and accepts you and me. Do not accept the Enemy's lies.**

**You are special and valuable; do not listen to the enemy for he is the father of lies.**



Above is Dr. Jeff's heart for it is being healed by the Lord for I was a damaged person who hurt many and I want to tell you there is real hope for you.



## Yeshua

### Meaning & History

Arabic form of *Yehoshu'a* (see JOSHUA). (Jehovah is Salvation)

### Note from Dr. Jeff...

*Yeshua* or *Yehoshu'a*

*This is a troubling question... The Jewish believers will say Yeshua and I believe that is the correct name, for I had Satan worshippers tremble at that name.*

*Many non-Jews call him Yehoshu'a and that makes more sense to me for it sounds like Joshua. The problem is many that use Yehoshu'a almost make it a cult practice.*

*A recent student had the precious name of Yeshua in his e-mail address and he told me that I was the first person to recognize the name for so many Christians do not know his Jewish name or that he was a Jew. He is the Lion of Judah and He is King of the Jews in my book.*

**OTHER LANGUAGES:** Yeshua (**Ancient Aramaic**), Josu (**Basque**), Jesus, Joshua (**Biblical**), Iesous (**Biblical Greek**), Yehoshua (**Biblical Hebrew**), Iesus, Iosue (**Biblical Latin**), Jozua (**Dutch**), Joshua (**English**), Josué (**French**), Xesús (**Galician**), Iokua (**Hawaiian**), Yehoshua (**Hebrew**), Józua (**Hungarian**), Giosuè (**Italian**), Josué (**Portuguese**), Jesús, Josué (**Spanish**), Jesus (**Theology**)

The English name *Jesus* derives from the Late Latin name *Iesus*, which transliterates the Koine Greek name Ἰησοῦς *Iēsoûs*.

In the Septuagint and other Greek-language Jewish texts, such as the writings of Josephus and Philo of Alexandria, Ἰησοῦς *Iēsoûs* is the standard Koine Greek form used to translate both of the Hebrew names: *Yehoshua* and *Yeshua*. Greek Ἰησοῦς or *Iēsoûs* is also used to represent the name of Joshua son of Nun in the New Testament Passages Acts 7:45 and Hebrews 4:8. (It was even used in the Septuagint to translate the name *Hoshea* in one of the three verses where this referred to Joshua the son of Nun—Deut. 32:44.)

During the second Temple period (beginning 538 BC – 70 AD), *Yeshua* first became a known form of the name *Yehoshua*. All occurrences of *Yeshua* in the Hebrew Bible are in I Chron. 24:11, II Chron. 31:15, Ezra, and Nehemiah where it

is transliterated into English as Jeshua. Two of these men (Joshua the son of Nun and Joshua the High Priest) are mentioned in other books of the Hebrew Bible where they are instead called *Yehoshua*] (transliterated into English as Joshua).

The earlier form *Yehoshua* did not disappear, however, and remained in use as well. In the post-exilic books, Joshua the son of Nun is called both *Yeshua bin-Nun* (Nehemiah 8:17) and *Yehoshua* (I Chronicles 7:27). The short form *Yeshua* was used for Jesus ben Sirach in Hebrew fragments of the Wisdom of Sirach. (Some concern remains over whether these fragments faithfully represent the original Hebrew text or are instead a later translation back into Hebrew.) The earlier form *Yehoshua* saw revived usage from the Hasmonean period onwards, although the name *Yeshua* is still found in letters from the time of the Bar Kokhba Revolt (132-135 AD).

Thus, both the full form *Yehoshua* and the abbreviated form *Yeshua*, were in use during the Gospel period - and in relation to the same person, as in the Hebrew Bible references to *Yehoshua/Yeshua* son of Nun, and *Yehoshua/Yeshua* the high priest in the days of Ezra.

Clement of Alexandria and St. Cyril of Jerusalem considered the Greek form *Iesous* to be the original, even going so far as to interpret it as a true Greek name and not simply a transliteration of Hebrew. (A similar situation is seen in the use of the true Greek name Simon as a translation of the Hebrew name Shim'on in texts such as Sirach.) Eusebius related it to the Greek root meaning "to heal" thus making it a variant of *Jason* meaning *healer*.

However, the New Testament describes Jesus as being a part of a Jewish milieu, reading the Hebrew Bible and debating with Pharisees over interpretations of the Jewish legal tradition. The Gospels record several Hebrew and Aramaic words or expressions spoken by him. Moreover, Eusebius reports that Jesus's student Matthew wrote a gospel "in the Hebrew language". (Note, scholars typically argue the word "Hebrew" in the New Testament refers to Aramaic.

An argument in favor of the Hebrew reduced form *יֵשׁוּעַ* *Yeshua*, as opposed to *Yehoshua*, is the Old Syriac Bible (c. 200 AD) and the Peshitta preserve this same spelling but using the equivalent Aramaic letters . *Yeshu* /jeʃuʕ/ (Syriac does not use a 'furtive' pathach so extra /a/ is not used) is still the pronunciation used in the West Syriac dialect, whereas East Syriac has rendered the pronunciation of these same letters as /šōʕ /iʃoʔ/.

These texts were translated from the Greek, but the name is not a simple transliteration of the Greek form because Greek did not have an "sh" [ʃ] sound, and substituted [s]; and likewise lacked and therefore omitted the final 'ayin sound [ʕ]. It can be argued that the Aramaic speakers who used this name had a continual connection to the Aramaic-speakers in communities founded by the

apostles and other students of Jesus, thus independently preserved his historical name. Alternatively, Talshir (1998) suggests that Aramaic references to the Hebrew Bible had long used *Yeshua* for Hebrew names such as Yehoshua Ben Nun. So the possibility of Jesus having been *Yehoshua* remains.

### **Garden Tomb**

The essential doctrine of being a follower of Lord Jesus is believing in your heart that he physically resurrected from the grave. I personally think the Garden Tomb is the actual location and I've done my research and have physically investigated it. There are many mysteries at this site and I would love to discuss these in detail. I have been called many names by fellow followers on this and on creation, so there must be some truth in it. By the way, I am a Young Earth Creationists, but I will not pick on you if you choose the other beliefs.

The **Garden Tomb** located in Jerusalem, outside the city walls and close to the Damascus Gate, is a rock-cut tomb considered by some to be the site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus, and to be adjacent to Golgotha, (also known as **Gordon's Calvary**), in contradistinction to the traditional site for these—the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. There is no mention of the Garden Tomb as the place of Jesus's burial before the nineteenth century.

### **Motivation and Discovery**

During the nineteenth century some doubts were raised concerning the authenticity of the traditional site, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre:

- Prior to Constantine's time, the site was a temple to Aphrodite, built by Hadrian.<sup>[3]</sup>
  - Archaeology suggests that the exact location claimed for the tomb would have been within Hadrian's Temple, or likely to have been destroyed under the temple's heavy retaining wall.
  - The temple's location complies with the typical layout of Roman cities (i.e. adjacent to the Forum, at the intersection of the main north-south road with the main east-west road), rather than necessarily being a deliberate act of contempt for Christianity.
- A spur would be required for the rockface to have included both the alleged site of the tomb and the tombs beyond the western end of the church. Spur means a mass of sharp rock on the side of a mountain.
- First century Jewish leaders condemn the idea of burial to the west of the city, a condemnation archaeologically corroborated by the locations of the known ancient Jewish graves.
- The site is currently within the Old City walls, and due to the heights of the terrain, it would be dangerous and unlikely, from a town-defense point of view, for the walls to have previously been east of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.
- The tombs west of the site are believed to date from the first century, indicating that the site was outside the city at that time, although they could date from centuries prior to that.

Due to these issues, several nineteenth century scholars had rejected the traditional site's validity. Other archaeologists have criticized Corbo's reconstructions. Dan Bahat, the former city archaeologist of Jerusalem, regards them as unsatisfactory, as there is no known Temple of Aphrodite matching Corbo's design, and no archaeological evidence for Corbo's suggestion that the Temple Building was on a platform raised high enough to avoid including anything sited where the Aedicule is now; indeed Bahat notes that many temples to Aphrodite have a rotunda-like design, and argues that there is no archaeological reason to assume that the present rotunda wasn't based on a rotunda in the temple previously on the site.

Additionally, many Protestants have often opposed the traditional location simply because it has previously received support from Roman Catholic Church, and is sited within an environment which is not low church. Many of these concerns were aired in the time of Major-General Charles George Gordon, CB, and it is surmised that he, a Protestant, was motivated by them to look elsewhere.

In 1883, near to the Damascus Gate, General Gordon found a rocky escarpment (now situated just behind a bus station), which from several angles resembling the face of a skull; since one of the possible etymologies for Golgotha is the Aramaic word for skull, and may refer to the shape of the place, Gordon concluded that the rocky escarpment was likely to have been *Golgotha*.

Prior to Gordon, this possibility had also been suggested by Colonel Conder in 1870 (an associate of Lord Kitchener), by Fisher Howe in 1871, and by the German scholar Otto Thenius in 1842.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre has its *tomb* just a few yards away from its *Golgotha*, corresponding with the account of John the Evangelist: "Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid." KJV (John 19:41).

In 1869 a number of tombs had also been found near Gordon's *Golgotha*, and Gordon concluded that one of them must have been the tomb of Jesus.

John also specifies that Jesus' tomb was located in a garden; consequently, an ancient wine press and cistern have been cited as evidence that the area had once been a garden, and the somewhat isolated tomb adjacent to the cistern has become identified as the *Garden Tomb* of Jesus.

This particular tomb also has a stone groove running along the ground outside it, which Gordon argued to be a slot that once housed a stone, corresponding to the biblical account of a stone being rolled over the tomb entrance to close it.





The Garden Tomb and below is the Skull





Example of the stone door, maybe 7-8 feet tall and weighing 10 tons



Inside the Tomb.

## Definitions

### Kingdom

1. A political or territorial unit ruled by a sovereign.
2.
  - a. The eternal spiritual sovereignty of God or Christ.
  - b. The realm of this sovereignty.
3. (Government, Politics & Diplomacy) a territory, state, people, or community ruled or reigned over by a king or queen
4. any of the three groups into which natural objects may be divided: the animal, plant, and mineral kingdoms
5. (Life Sciences & Allied Applications / Biology) *Biology* any of the major categories into which living organisms of the domain *Eukarya* are classified. Modern systems recognize four kingdoms: *Protoctista* (algae, protozoans, etc.), *Fungi*, *Plantae*, and *Animalia*.
6. (Christian Religious Writings / Theology) *Theol* the eternal sovereignty of God

**Note from Dr. Jeff...***I believe that once you have trusted Lord Jesus as Lord and Savior, you are no longer part of this world but part of the Kingdom of God. I also believe you cannot lose that citizenship in this Kingdom. Now many of you will disagree, but that is not a deal breaker.*

### Religion

**Religion** is a collection of cultural systems, belief systems, and worldviews that establishes symbols that relate humanity to spirituality and moral values. Many religions have narratives, symbols, traditions and sacred histories that are intended to give meaning to life or to explain the origin of life or the universe. They tend to derive morality, ethics, religious laws or a preferred lifestyle from their ideas about the cosmos and human nature.

The word *religion* is sometimes used interchangeably with *faith* or *belief system*, but religion differs from private belief in that it has a public aspect. Most religions have organized behaviors, including clerical hierarchies, a definition of what constitutes adherence or membership, congregations of laity, regular meetings or services for the purposes of veneration of a deity or for prayer, holy places (either natural or architectural), and/or scriptures.

The practice of a religion may also include sermons, commemoration of the activities of a god or gods, sacrifices, festivals, feasts, trance, initiations, funerary services, matrimonial services, meditation, music, art, dance, public service, or other aspects of human culture.

The development of religion has taken different forms in different cultures.

Some religions place an emphasis on belief, while others emphasize practice. Some religions focus on the subjective experience of the religious individual, while others consider the activities of the religious community to be most important. Some religions claim to be universal, believing their laws and cosmology to be binding for everyone, while others are intended to be practiced only by a closely defined or localized group. In many places religion has been associated with public institutions such as education, hospitals, the family, government, and political hierarchies.

The terms "atheist" (lack of belief in any gods) and "agnostic" (belief in the unknowability of the existence of gods), though specifically contrary to theistic (e.g. Christian, Jewish, and Muslim) religious teachings, do not by definition mean the opposite of "religious". There are religions (including Buddhism and Taoism), in fact, that classify some of their followers as agnostic, atheistic, or nontheistic. The true opposite of "religious" is the word "irreligious". Irreligion describes an absence of any religion; antireligion describes an active opposition or aversion toward religions in general.

Critics of religion consider it to be outdated, harmful to the individual (e.g. brainwashing of children, faith healing, circumcision), harmful to society (e.g. holy wars, terrorism, wasteful distribution of resources), to impede the progress of science, and to encourage immoral acts (e.g. blood sacrifice, discrimination against homosexuals and women). A major criticism of many religions is that they require beliefs that are irrational, unscientific, or unreasonable, because religious beliefs and traditions lack scientific or rational foundations.

As religion became a more personal matter in Western culture, discussions of society found a new focus on political and scientific meaning, and religious attitudes (dominantly Christian) were increasingly seen as irrelevant for the needs of the European world. On the political side, Ludwig Feuerbach recast Christian beliefs in light of humanism, paving the way for Karl Marx's famous characterization of religion as "the opium of the people". Meanwhile, in the scientific community, T.H. Huxley in 1869 coined the term "agnostic," a term—subsequently adopted by such figures as Robert Ingersoll—that, while directly conflicting with and novel to Christian tradition, is accepted and even embraced in some other religions.

Later, Bertrand Russell told the world *Why I Am Not a Christian*, which influenced several later authors to discuss their breakaway from their own religious upbringings from Islam to Hinduism.

### **Note from Dr. Jeff...**

*I know many of you will struggle with this but I think all religion even Christian religion is bad. I think we need a personal relationship with the Lord and not manmade rules. For most people including Christians, it is easier to live by rules, religion and tradition than to live by grace. It is also easier to make rules and enforce rules when people are unable to love.*

*I've run in to too many so called Christians that are practicing religion and even witchcraft and were never told the truth or were taught that Jesus is God. Even wolves who are ignorant that they are wolves.*

### **Repentance**

**Repentance** is a change of thought to correct a wrong and gain forgiveness from a person who is wronged. In religious contexts it usually refers to confession to God, ceasing sin against God, and resolving to live according to religious law. It typically includes an admission of guilt, a promise or resolve not to repeat the offense; an attempt to make restitution for the wrong, or in some way to reverse the harmful effects of the wrong where possible.

In Biblical Hebrew, the idea of repentance is represented by two verbs: שׁוּב *shuv* (to return) and נָחַם *nicham* (to feel sorrow). In the New Testament, the word translated as 'repentance' is the Greek word μετάνοια (*metanoia*), "after/behind one's mind", which is a compound word of the preposition 'meta' (after, with), and the verb 'noeo' (to perceive, to think, the result of perceiving or observing). In this compound word the preposition combines the two meanings of time and change, which may be denoted by 'after' and 'different'; so that the whole compound means: 'to think differently after'.

Metanoia is therefore primarily an after-thought, different from the former thought; a change of mind accompanied by regret and change of conduct, "change of mind and heart", or, "change of consciousness". A description of repentance in the *New Testament* can be found in the parable of the prodigal son found in the Gospel of Luke (15 beginning at verse 11).

### **Protestant conceptions**

The *Augsburg Confession* divides repentance into two parts: "One is contrition, that is, terrors smiting the conscience through the knowledge of sin; the other is faith, which is born of the Gospel, or of absolution, and believes that for Christ's sake, sins are forgiven, comforts the conscience, and delivers it from terrors."

There is a three-fold idea involved in true repentance in the Protestant conception. The Protestant reformer John Calvin said that repentance "may be justly defined to be "a true conversion of our life to God, proceeding from a

serious fear of God, and consisting in the mortification of the flesh and of the old man, and in the vivification of the Spirit." He further said that "it will be useful to amplify and explain the definition we have given; in which there are three points to be particularly considered." "In the first place, when we call repentance "a conversion of the life to God, we require a transformation, not only in the external actions, but in the soul itself; which, after having put off the old nature, should produce the fruits of actions corresponding to its renovation. . . .

In the second place, we represented repentance as proceeding from a serious fear of God. For before the mind of a sinner can be inclined to repentance, it must be excited by the knowledge of the Divine judgment.

"It remains for us, in the third place, to explain our position, that repentance consists of two parts—the mortification of the flesh and the vivification of the spirit. . . . Both these branches of repentance effects our participation of Christ. For if we truly partake of his death, our old man is crucified by its power, and the body of sin expires, so that the corruption of our former nature loses all its vigor. . . . If we are partakers of his resurrection, we are raised by it to a newness of life, which corresponds with the righteousness of God." [Quotes from *A Compend of the Institutes of the Christian Religion* by John Calvin edited by Hugh T. Kerr, The Westminster Press-Philadelphia 1939.]

Matthew 21:29: "*He answered and said: I will not; but afterward he repented, and went*". The word here used for "repent" means to change one's mind, thought, purpose, views regarding a matter; it is to have another mind about a thing. This change is well illustrated in the action of the Prodigal Son, and of the Publican in the well-known story of the Pharisee and the Publican (Luke 15 and 18). 2 Cor. 7:9--"*Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance; for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.*" See also Luke 10:13; cf. Gen. 6:6.

The Greek word for repentance in this connection means "to be a care to one afterwards," to cause one great concern. This meaning is exemplified by the repentant person who not only has profound regret for his past but also the fulfilled hope in the potential of God's grace to continually bear the fruit of healing and true reconciliation in himself, with others, and most especially with God. The Hebrew equivalent of repent is strong as well, and it means to pant, to sigh, or to moan. So the publican "beat upon his breast," indicating sorrow of heart. See also Psalms 38:18.

The issue of repentance is also discussed in connection with the will and disposition. One of the Hebrew words for repent means "to turn." The Prodigal Son said, "*I will arise... and he arose*" (Luke 15:18, 20). The part of the will and disposition in repentance is shown in the Confession of sin to God: Psa. 38:18 --

*"For I will declare mine iniquity: I will be sorry for my sin."* The publican beat upon his breast, and said, *"God be merciful to me a sinner"* (Luke 18:13). The prodigal said, *"I have sinned against heaven"* (Luke 15:21). There must be confession to man also in so far as man has been wronged in and by our sin (Matthew 5:23–24); James 5:16). Isa. 55:7 Prov. 28:13 ("He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."); Matthew 3:8–10 ("Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:... And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore, every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire."). It is not enough to turn away from sin; we must turn unto God. 1 Thessalonians 1:9; Acts 26:18.

According to Christians, acts of repentance do not earn God's forgiveness from one's sin; rather, forgiveness is given as a gift from God to those whom he saves. Acts 11:18--*"Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life."* 2 Tim. 2:25 -- *"If God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth."* Acts 5:30, 31. In this view, people are called upon to repent in order that we may feel our own inability to do so, and consequently be thrown upon God and petition Him to perform this work of grace in our hearts. Many church fathers have made reference to it as the "gift of repentance" or as the "gift of tears". God calls all to repent through the hearing of the Gospel. God grants total repentance as each individual responds to repentance through faith in the expiating sacrifice of Jesus for all sin. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17). Repentance is given before anything else by definition. One cannot show true change in his life before he himself has changed [repented] to bring about manifestations of that change/repentance.

Acts 2:37, 38, 41. The very Gospel which calls for repentance produces it. When the people of Nineveh (Jonah 3:5-10) heard the preaching of the word of God by Jonah they believed the message and turned unto God. Not any message, but the Gospel is the instrument that God uses to bring about this desired end. Furthermore, this message must be preached in the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Thess. 1:5-10). Rev. 3:19; Heb. 12:6, 10-11.

The chastisements of God are sometimes for the purpose of bringing His wandering children back to repentance. 2 Tim. 2:24-25. God often uses the loving, Christian reproof of a brother to be the means of bringing Christians back to God.

## **Political Correctness**

**Political correctness** (adjectivally, **politically correct**; both forms commonly abbreviated to **PC**) is a term which denotes language, ideas, policies, and behavior seen as seeking to minimize social and institutional offense in occupational, gender, racial, cultural, sexual orientation, certain other religions, beliefs or ideologies, disability, and age-related contexts, and, as purported by the term, doing so to an excessive extent. In current usage, the term is primarily

pejorative, while the term **politically incorrect** has been used as an implicitly positive self-description. Sadly, a common practice from liberal and communistic theories which makes words and terms into whatever the speaker wants to make it.

## **Postmodernism**

**Postmodernism** is a philosophical movement away from the viewpoint of modernism. More specifically it is a tendency in contemporary culture characterized by the problem of objective truth and inherent suspicion towards global cultural narrative or meta-narrative. It involves the belief that many, if not all, apparent realities are only social constructs, as they are subject to change inherent to time and place. It emphasizes the role of language, power relations, and motivations; in particular, it attacks the use of sharp classifications such as male versus female, straight versus gay, white versus black, and imperial versus colonial. Rather, it holds realities to be plural and relative, and dependent on who the interested parties are and what their interests consist of.

It attempts to problematize modernist overconfidence, by drawing into sharp contrast the difference between how confident speakers are of their positions versus how confident they need to be to serve their supposed purposes. Postmodernism has influenced many cultural fields, including religion, literary criticism, sociology, linguistics, architecture, anthropology, visual arts, and music.

Postmodernist thought is an intentional departure from modernist approaches that had previously been dominant. The term "postmodernism" comes from its critique of the "modernist" scientific mentality of objectivity and progress associated with the Enlightenment.

These movements, modernism and postmodernism, are understood as cultural projects or as a set of perspectives. "Postmodernism" is used in critical theory to refer to a point of departure for works of literature, drama, architecture, cinema, journalism, and design, as well as in marketing and business and in the interpretation of law, culture, and religion in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Indeed, postmodernism, particularly as an academic movement, can be understood as a *reaction* to modernism in the Humanities. Whereas modernism was primarily concerned with principles such as identity, unity, authority, and certainty, postmodernism is often associated with difference, plurality, textuality, and skepticism.

## **Postmodern Religion**

**Postmodern religion** can be defined as any type of religion that is influenced, interpreted or shaped by postmodernism and postmodern philosophies. Examples of religions that may be interpreted using postmodern philosophy include Postmodern Christianity, Postmodern Neopaganism, and Postmodern Buddhism.



Postmodern religion is not an attempt to banish religion from the public sphere; rather, it is a philosophical approach to religion that critically considers orthodox assumptions (that may reflect power differences in society rather than universal truths).

Postmodern religious systems of thought view realities as plural and subjective and dependent on the individual's worldview. Postmodern interpretations of religion acknowledge and value a multiplicity of diverse interpretations of truth, being and ways of seeing. There is a rejection of sharp distinctions and global or dominant metanarratives in postmodern religion and this reflects one of the core principles of postmodern philosophy.

A postmodern interpretation of religion emphasizes the key point that religious truth is highly individualistic, subjective and resides within the individual.

<b>Subjective</b>	<b>Pluralistic</b>	<b>Critical Interpretations</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>
Many versions of truth	Different Perspectives	Critical consideration/analysis	Non-dogmatic
Individual Interpretations	Different interpretations	Historical Bias, Bias	Syncretic and eclectic
Different ways of seeing or believing	Power relationships	Influence of social and cultural contexts	Represents diversity (class, gender, race)

### **Subjective**

- *philosophy* : relating to the way a person experiences things in his or her own mind
- : based on feelings or opinions rather than facts
- *grammar* : relating to nouns, noun phrases, or pronouns that are the subjects of verbs

### **Pluralistic**

- a situation in which people of different social classes, religions, races, etc., are together in a society but continue to have their different traditions and interests
- : the belief that people of different social classes, religions, races, etc., should live together in a society

## **The Importance and History of Jesus in U.S. Government**

Did you know that 52 of the 55 signers of “The Declaration of Independence” were orthodox, deeply committed, Christians? The other three all believed in the Bible as the divine truth, the God of scripture, and His personal intervention. It is the same Congress that formed the American Bible Society, immediately after creating the Declaration of Independence, the Continental Congress voted to purchase and import 20,000 copies of Scripture for the people of this nation.

Patrick Henry, who is called the firebrand of the American Revolution, is still remembered for his words, “Give me liberty or give me death”; but in current textbooks, the context of these words is omitted. Here is what he actually said: “An appeal to arms and the God of hosts is all that is left us. But we shall not fight our battle alone. There is a just God that presides over the destinies of nations. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone. Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it Almighty God. I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death.”

The following year, 1776, he wrote this: “It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great Nation was founded not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For that reason alone, people of other faiths have been afforded freedom of worship here.”

Consider these words that Thomas Jefferson wrote in the front of his well-worn Bible: “I am a real Christian, that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus. I have little doubt that our whole country will soon be rallied to the unity of our creator.” He was also the chairman of the American Bible Society, which he considered his highest and most important role.

Was George Washington a Christian? Consider these words from his personal prayer book: “Oh, eternal and everlasting God, direct my thoughts, words and work. Wash away my sins in the immaculate blood of the lamb and purge my heart by the Holy Spirit. Daily, frame me more and more in the likeness of thy son, Jesus Christ, that living in thy fear, and dying in thy favor, I may in thy appointed time obtain the resurrection of the justified unto eternal life. Bless, O Lord, the whole race of mankind and let the world be filled with the knowledge of thy son, Jesus Christ.”

## **Why do I believe in the Lord Jesus as my Lord and Savior...**

Sometimes in our busy or stressful lives, we need to find the center and re-adjust. Sometimes we need to return to the basics. Today, I am going to share with you the method to find your center, to find complete peace and purpose for your life.

I would like to start with two definitions.

Lord means a person who has authority, control, or power over others; a master, chief, or ruler.

Savior means refers to a person who helps people achieve Salvation, or saves them from something.

I am here to explain the reasons I believe Jesus is Lord and Savior and what he has done in my life. Yes, both Lord and Savior, many of you prefer one or the other term, Lord or Savoir some of you prefer neither terms. I know, I've been there. I have made Jesus my Savoir but rarely my Lord. I know many of you have done the same.

Some of you believe in Jesus in about the same way as you believe in Abraham Lincoln... Well, I am hoping that I can change your belief.

I would like to give you an example of one life experience or blessing that is very personal to me.

Every time I read or see the crucifixion portrayed, it brings sadness to my heart. I would like that the Holy Bible didn't cover this subject, for I have be fearful of violence and a victim of both violence and neglect as a child. I can tell you that you can completely ruin a person's life if you start young enough. If you do not love others.

Back to the crucifixion, while my wife and I were at a live re-creation showing of the trial and crucifixion of the Lord Jesus, my wife and I couldn't watch, it breaks our heart to watch the violence the Lord was dealt. His horrible scouring and beatings were a few of the reason he died so fast on the cross. He was worn out. Most crucifixion deaths take several days not 6 hours. So we know He suffered greatly.

I looked around at the crucifixion portrayal and most of the people didn't seem to care about the happenings. There was no emotion. I wondered about this thought to myself. I must be emotionally sick or something is wrong with me. But I prayed to God about this subject and somehow I found this scripture and it made perfect sense.

**Isaiah 61:1**

Because the LORD has anointed Me  
To preach good tidings to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives,  
And the opening of the prison to *those who are bound*;

This scripture is for us, beloved. You can find freedom in Jesus.

I would like to read a little something and would like you to think about this verse for I have a serious question that only your deepest soul can answer.

**Please turn to Matthew 16:13**

**13** When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"  
**14** They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."  
**15** "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

**This will be my theme.**

I would like to say, although I accepted Christ as a savior, I really didn't think or understand many scriptures and I surely do not understand God, although years ago, I might have said differently.

The following short story will explain how I came to understand a huge scripture and God's love in my life.

Approximately 14 years ago, when my son Christopher was 7 years old. I came home after work and I saw two teenage boys in my front yard. We lived on a private street and I didn't know these boys and they had no business being at my house. In fact, they looked like trouble and I didn't want them around, they were dirty and up to no good. I walked into my home and my wife was finishing up dinner.

My son Christopher was happy to see me; this was common when he was little. He said to me, "Dad, can I play with those boys outside?" I said "No" and was hoping that those two boys would leave the yard.

Then my son said to me, "Dad, can those boys join our family for dinner?" I said "no" and wanted Christopher to drop the subject.

Then Christopher said to me in his sweetest voice, "But Dad, those are my friends." At that moment in time, I realized what John 3:16 meant to me. I

realized that the Father in Heaven will honor whatever his Son asks for or anyone who asks the Father in his name.

God the Father will always honor his one and only son. The same as you would if you had a beautiful child and they died young and years later someone asked a favor from you in your child's name. It should touch your heart.

**Galatians 4:6**

**6** Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

Although, I was raised in a church, this was my great-grandmother's doing and not of my parents. Many people did not have a good relationship with our earthly father or mother. You can count me in this group. Most people who have nowhere else to turn are in this group. Many here today have gotten off track and have nowhere else to turn.

Many of us have suffered without a godly mother or father, so the words of John 3:16 do not mean much to people have been hurt or abused or people that have addictions, but 13 years ago, this verse made perfect sense to me. I am hopeful that you can appreciate this meaning as well.

Many of us have been neglected or abused by our loved ones and often cannot relate to healthy love. So many of the scriptures take time, tears and talking to understand. So do our troubles here on Earth. If you are unsure of the Bible or it seems very hard to read. Don't feel alone. Start with the Gospels and ask questions. Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. If you get off to a rough start, hang in there. I like to recommend the Book of John.

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, 'Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like.'

The Lord led the holy man to two doors.

He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table.

In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water.

The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly.

They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful.

But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths.

The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering.

The Lord said, 'You have seen Hell. They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one.

There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water.

The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking.

The holy man said, 'I don't understand.

'It is simple,' said the Lord. 'It requires but one skill.

You see, they have learned to feed each other.

The greedy think only of themselves.'

When Jesus died on the cross, he was thinking of you.

With this concept in place, I would like to ask everyone in here today to make a commitment. I want everyone to choose to either to commit their lives to the Lord Jesus and/or bring someone new to the Lord in the next 30 days.

I know many people are afraid to bring someone to the Lord, but beloved, time is short. Yes, I believe we are in the end times.

Are you worried about losing a friend or worrying about what they will think? I really have no friends; I have acquaintances and brothers and sisters in the Lord.

My so called friends have no beliefs or identity and love to party all day. I've been there too for my identity was lost. I bet your unsaved friends are the same, lacking identity and purpose. It's not much of a loss to lose these friends if they reject the Lord and they will respect you for your stance and your act of love. Peter speaks of this in his letter.

It is very simple to send a friend or loved one a Bible and I would like to suggest the Gospel of John DVD. Keep them in constant prayer. I realize many of you today do not know the Lord Jesus either.

I will give you several tools to accomplish this commitment. A recent study says that the unchurched people need an average of hearing the Gospel 8 times to finally accept the message.

Some of us plant the seed and other water the seed. I have also realized that the people that have given you the hardest time are the people that make the best converts to Christ. So, hold in there. I can tell you many of the unsaved people I have met were the worst of the worst and today are wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ. I want everyone to know or be able to tell others about the Uppertaker instead of knowing the Undertaker.

**Here is one of example of my weak experiences that I hope nobody will ever encounter.**

The Bible says that we need to be prepared in season and out of season, prepare to give every man an answer. Guess what, I was unprepared. I had to bury my younger brother and my oldest brother was helping me. I was out of sorts and really not ready to answer my big brother's questions about salvation or the Lord Jesus. I was in another world and not doing good.

It was a bad time, a time I should have done all I could for in a few more days after burying my beloved little brother, my big brother died of a heart attack at 47 years old. I was the last person he had spoken to and I never told him what I am asking you to be prepared for.

Please do not let this happen to you. Take the risk and tell someone you love the Good News.

**Here are the reasons I accept Jesus of Nazareth as Lord and Savior.**

First and most practical... These are all facts.

For those using notes. I will use the acronym HOPE as an acrostic.

**H. History**

**O. Other Religions**

**P. Prophecy**

**E. Evidence in the Heavens**

**History**

Historically - Jesus can be located in books that are outside the Holy Bible. Books from the time of Jesus. I have heard that there are about 20 or so of these books that tell us of Jesus.

I've personally know of two books, one of these was written from the Jewish historians Josephus, Piny and Phylo. Jesus of Nazareth did exist and can be found outside the Bible.

**Other religions.**

Many other religions list the Lord Jesus as someone important. Did you know the Muslims list Jesus as the primary prophet in the Koran and Jesus' home and his mother's homes are scared Muslim sites.

Jesus name is written all over the inside of the Dome of the Rock, but somehow these other religions have discounted his true place.

Indians from India, strange religions all over the world know of Him. I think this very significant. Very strange that everyone knows of Him but no one wants to admit it.

### **Prophecy and Predictions**

Charles Stanley has said that Jesus is predicted 300 times in the book of Isaiah alone. Isaiah lived 800 years before Jesus.

I think Charles Stanley is an incredible man of God and I don't think I can find 40 percent of what he can find in the Word, but I believe what he says. I think one reason for the many copies of the ancient scroll of Isaiah are due to God wanting us to know that Jesus has fulfilled these prophecies.

All of the Old Testament Prophets wrote many prophecies that were fulfilled by King Jesus. Do you remember when Jesus was run out of town after reading Isaiah 61?

**Let's turn to Isaiah 61.** Take your Bibles and cut the bible right down the middle. While you are finding Isaiah 61, I would like to say that I can prove the existence of the Father alone with the book of Isaiah. Find me if you would like to see this. Okay, here we go...

**1** "The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me,  
Because the LORD has anointed Me  
To preach good tidings to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives,  
And the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound;  
**2** To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,

I will come back to this scripture in few minutes for a different reason. To give you an idea on how important this prophecy stuff is, here is an example.

Let's say that Christopher Columbus who founded American in 1492, about 500 years ago was to write a book and list our new president by name, his birth city, his birth room, his parents, his religion and his life from birth to death with another 600 details. Would people take notice?

Now, multiply the Christopher Columbus book with 20 other authors who never met and lived at differ ages in time and this will equal the Old Testament.



Some of you are in to the odds of this information being fulfilled, and the conservative number is 1 trillion to the billionth power that one man could possibly fulfill just ten of the prophecies.

Many people today listen to several modern day prophets and none of these jokers are specific about anything specific and only say general information. These jokers on their best day could not give 1 accurate or specific prophecy about any one person.

### **Evidence in the Heavens**

Did you know that one of the most incredible astronomic happenings of all time was when Jesus was born and the second largest astronomic happen was when he was crucified? These things can be researched on the Internet. God controls the heavens and earth.

Okay, these 4 or 5 reasons to believe in Jesus are commonly known to all men. But we discount it or reject these as coincidence. So here are reasons that are more difficult to explain but are the proof that changed my life.

### **More facts that can be found in the Bible and in other outside resources.**

#### **We will use the acrostic AND**

- A. Alleviation of Suffering**
- N. Naysayers**
- D. Death**

#### **Alleviation of Suffering- Compassionate**

Did you know that if it wasn't for the Christian religion, we wouldn't have 99% of our charities or hospitals?

I acknowledge that most hospitals are now in the business of making money, but this a recent activity. Most hospitals were originally started by Christian organizations.

So were most of the schools, colleges, universities. No other religion ever cared to start hospitals until recently and most of those have moved into former Christian hospitals.

As far as charities, most social clubs and charities until very recently were Christian based. Why did Christianity start any charity or hospitals? I believe because the power and conviction of the Word. You cannot find this strong motivation in anything else.

Sure there are many new charities and new hospitals, but all this activity started in the last 25 years or so and will never match anything the Christian religion has done in the past.

### **Naysayers**

We do not even think about the criticism that we receive from outside influences. Allow me to give a couple of examples why I believe in Jesus on the evidence from Naysayers and doubters.

Do you know that the Jewish people that reject Jesus as the Savior or Messiah have a laundry list of reasons why Jesus is not the Messiah.

I looked into this subject years ago and don't remember much except the top few reasons and I want you to think about these. I am not making this up.

The Jews that reject Jesus as the Messiah are convinced that Jesus was seen after the resurrection, he wasn't a real person but a ghost. His ghost was seen in the locked upper room and for the next 40 days.

The naysayers even say that most people are familiar with ghosts, but the disciples were not and therefore, the disciples were not sure if Jesus was in the flesh or not. The disciples ate, drank, talked, had dinner cooked for them by a ghost.

Come on, do you realize that many highly educated people have accepted this as fact?

Another popular belief is that Jesus faked his death on the cross after being whipped to the bone with a horrible whip and then nailed to a cross.

This almost sounds plausible except a spear was run into his chest to ensure his death and that is hard to lay still and fake death for that.

He surely fooled his mother and those professional roman soldiers that did executions all day long. I have researched most of the so called facts of the life and death of the Lord Jesus and all of these are rubbish, at best, fantasies.

So by the mis-representation of the Lord Jesus and /or His Word by many different groups have proven to me that Jesus is real and the truth is truth.

These people that don't like or accept the Lord just make up stuff without examining what is out there and no one stands up to them to present a different side. This is commonly called, perception. And as you know, perception becomes reality for any one not in the Word.

## **Death**

Here is one fact that cannot be denied. Of the original 12 disciples, all but one died a horrible death because their belief in the Lord Jesus. The only one disciple that died a natural death was John, and it wasn't like the soldiers and Jews didn't try to kill him. I've heard of three accounts on John's life including boiling in oil so that he would reject the Lord Jesus.

I personally believe that John was unbeatable because John took care of Jesus' mother. Each disciple could have re-counted Jesus at anytime or denied Jesus and lived another day. How many people do you know that would die for a cause that was true and just? Not many people will die for a cause and most people will not die for a lie. Most people will generally not agree on these types of subjects.

Jesus had 770 -1000 other disciples that Paul or Saul had permission from the High Priest to kill and many of these disciples and early believers were stoned, hung and strangled without re-counting one word. We call this the voice of the martyrs and surely it is.

I would approximate that 1,000 men and their families, maybe 1,500 people or so. How many of these people do you think would stick to any one story until death? A brutal and horrific death and all you need to do is deny Christ in order to save your life. Where is conviction like this found outside of Christianity?

Or sticking to the same story as your loved ones are being tortured and murdered in front of you? I know a lot of you cannot relate to this or will not think about it, so here is a little oak tree to plant in your mind.

At this very minute, three Followers on this earth have been tortured and executed for their simple belief in the Lord Jesus. Places like Sudan, Saudi Arabia and China.

This type of violence and bloodshed will happen again to Followers and the number of the martyrs will be endless. The time is here, Followers are being persecuted and this only boosts my belief in King Jesus.

## **Spiritual Reasons why I believe in the Lord Jesus as Lord and Saviour**

Our second acrostic

- P. Peace**
- E. Excellence**
- A. Acceptance**
- C. Clemency**
- E. Entreaty**

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

All media, news, movies, television, magazines (this world's system) have done their best to discount the Lord Jesus. All their information is against the Lord Jesus in one way or another.

Either very subtle or in a very sarcastic tone. Let's call this system of rejecting Jesus as the World or World System, I will go a step farther and call it the Anti-Christ system. A lot of you know that the media is good at twisting the Word, so is the Internet, even Christians, including Christian Radio and Christian television.

The World has removed Jesus from our education system and from everything else. Most of us that work, almost feel guilty for being a Christian. Beloved, it is only going to get worse.

If you feel this, that is the World system. If you feel the need to be politically correct, you are feeling the world system. This political correctness wants one thing.

*Remove Jesus Christ and welcome everything else.*

### **John Chapter 15**

**18** "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. **19** If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

**Peace.**

If you didn't know this, my name *Jeffrey* means *Peace of God*. I think I have done everything possible to lose this name, but that is how it is with Jesus. He wants to help us and make the best of our lives. Even your life can be changed today and forever.

Once you've accepted Jesus as Lord, you will have a peace that defies understanding. One key to this peace is reading the Word. As long as you are in Jesus, you can never lose this peace. Just as with my name, *Jeff*, I cannot lose it, but sometimes people call me other names.

### **What is Peace?**

**Peace** is a term that most commonly refers to an absence of hostility.

Do you have peace in your life? Here is a great test, has your mind wondered in the past ten minutes about something other than the Lord? Do you suffer from any anxiety?

## Let's turn to the Gospel of John.

### John 14:27

27Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

I can tell you that most fear is not from the Lord Jesus. Many people have said that the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit is a gentleman. If you do not have peace in your heart, please accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour today.

Do not leave this place today, until you have made your situation right with the Lord.

### Remember this verse,

Matthew 11 28"Come to me; all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

### Legacy of Excellence

This is a tough subject and everyone needs to think about. What will be your legacy once you die?

I have buried many people in my life and I can tell you that only Christians leave any type of legacy to their friends and family.

The Bible says that during our life on earth we are at best, just a little puff of steam, a little vapor at best. And after a short period of emotional loss after one's death, we are forgotten here on earth.

### James 4:14 (New King James Version)

14 whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

### Acceptance by God

**Salvation**, is the idea of being saved. Individuals are thought of as being saved from eternal punishment through accepting Christ's death on the cross as payment for sins and believing that He rose from the grave in 3 days. Remember the Ten Commandments? Have you broken any of these commandments? Christ paid the ultimate price for you. If you can believe and accept this, you too will be saved. If you are saved, repent. Get back on track.

### John 3

3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

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

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

### **Clemency or Grace**

There have been hundreds of times that the Lord has blessed me and my family.

We hear the word grace in church and throughout the Bible. Grace means undeserved kindness. Yes, undeserved. *Allow me to give a famous example.*

Hypothetically, let's say there is an unmarked police car in town. Let's say it is white in color. Well we will say that I like to speed in my truck and this policeman catches me. The first time he writes me a ticket. The next day, he catches me speeding again. He writes another ticket. The next day, I get caught again, this time I go to jail for speeding.

The next day I get caught, he is a sneaky cop, he comes to me and says, "Jeff, what do you expect today?" And I reply, "can you give me some grace?" *Do you understand the concept?* God makes our salvation a very easy issue. We simply need to place our faith in His Son and that is it!

Nothing more, and God will fill our lives. He makes this so easy because so when we die, we will be without excuse for not accepting His Son as our Savior.

### **Ephesians 2:8 (New King James Version)**

**8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God.*

### **Entreaty with God, or Prayer.**

I cannot explain prayer other than a spiritual e-mail that goes to the Father and He either approves it, or decides to wait for a better time to answer it, or sometimes He denies and deletes it or evens e-mails you back a homemade remedy.

99% percent of these replies are scripture verses and the other 1% percent has been dreams, visions or experiences. God the Father has answered so many of my prayers and most of these I have not recorded. In fact, I rarely think about them after the fact or God has answered it.

*If you are poor or poor in spirit, come to Jesus today.* I can tell you I have been weak in spirit most of my life. "He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor."

If you are brokenhearted and need healing, come to Jesus now. I can tell you that I have lost many loved ones in my life and looked for love and comfort everywhere and the only true comfort is in the Lord.

If you are captive to sin, come to Jesus today. The Word lays out three sins that all of us are captive too. Lust or strong desire of the eyes, Lust of the Flesh and the pride of life. If there is something you are struggling with, come forward and the Pastors will pray for you. I know this it is difficult to come forward. Don't feel embarrassed.

If you are captive to unforgiveness, come to Jesus today. I have to confess that I have a hard time forgiving a few parents in my life. I am not completely healed in this area and ask that you remember me and my wife Melissa in this area.

If you need to dedicate your life, come to Jesus now. Some of you may have been raised in the church, some of you have been attending church, some of you act like Christians, but here is the question you need to answer before you go home.

### ***Who is King Jesus to you?***

#### **Matthew Chapter 16**

13When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

14They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

15"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

You've probably guessed this... I am the guy people worry about. The guy people talk about. I need to know a huge question from you. I need to know what will happen to you if you were to die today. Everyone will live eternally. Either in Heaven or somewhere else.

Are you certain that if you died right now that you would live in Heaven? I've seen a healthy young person that came to church one time, gave their life to the Lord and was killed as she left the church in a car wreck. Right in front of the church.

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

We all have sin in our hearts. We all were born with sin. We were born under the power of sin's control.- *Admit that you are a sinner.*

Romans 6:23a "...The wages of sin is death..."

Sin has an ending. It results in death. We all face physical death, which is a result of sin. But a worse death is spiritual death that alienates us from God, and will last for all eternity. The Bible teaches that there is a place called the Lake of

Fire where lost people will be in torment forever. It is the place where people who are spiritually dead will remain.

- *Understand that you deserve death for your sin.*

Romans 6:23b "...But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Salvation is a free gift from God to you! You can't earn this gift, but you must reach out and receive it.

- *Ask God to forgive you and save you.*

Romans 5:8, "God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us!"

When Jesus died on the cross He paid sin's penalty. He paid the price for all sin, and when He took all the sins of the world on Himself on the cross, He bought us out from slavery to sin and death! The only condition is that we believe in Him and what He has done for us, understanding that we are now joined with Him, and that He is our life. He did all this because He loved us and gave Himself for us!

- *Give your life to God... His love poured out in Jesus on the cross is your only hope to have forgiveness and change. His love bought you out of being a slave to sin. His love is what saves you -- not religion, or church membership. God loves you!*

Romans 10:13 "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved!"

- *Call out to God in the name of Jesus!*

Romans 10:9,10 "...If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

- *If you know that God is knocking on your heart's door, ask Him to come into your heart.*

Jesus said,

Revelation 3:20a "Behold I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him..."

- *Is Jesus knocking on your heart's door?*

### **Believe in Him.**

Ask Him to come in to your heart by faith, and ask Him to reveal Himself to you. Open the Bible to the Gospel of John and read what God says about Jesus, about you, and about being born again.

God will help you. He loves you.



## Christian Test, See if you are truly Saved.

All these questions will come from 1 John

### John writes in Chapter 5:13

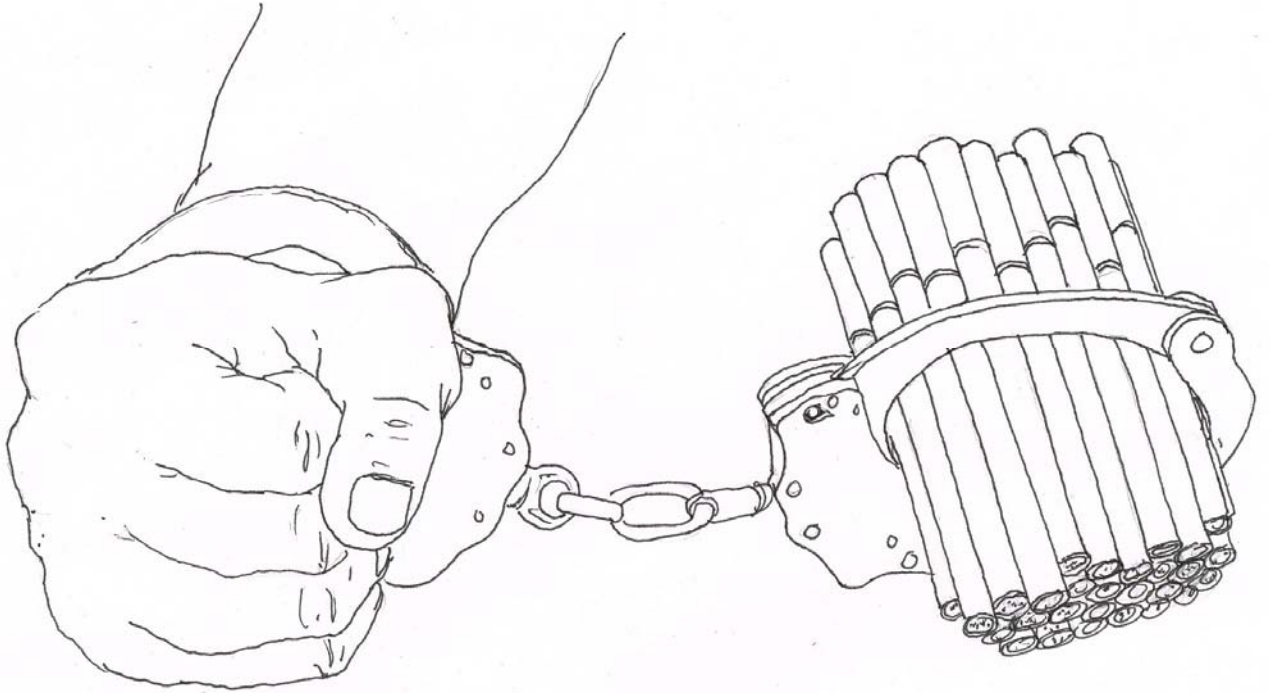
**I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.**

**Let's examine the things he has written and see if you are in the faith.**

1. ***We have fellowship with other believers.*** 1 John 7 But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.
2. ***If we are honest and confess sin and repent.*** 1 John 8 If we say, "We have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say, "We don't have any sin," we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.
3. This one is a difficult one for many have exchanged holiness for grace. ***We keep his commands.*** 1 John 2:3 This is how we are sure that we have come to know Him: by keeping His commands. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," yet doesn't keep His commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly in him the love of God is perfected. This is how we know we are in Him: 6 The one who says he remains in Him should walk just as He walked.
4. ***Stop loving this world and the things in this world.*** 1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things that belong to the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. 16 For everything that belongs to the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's lifestyle—is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does God's will remains forever.
5. ***Confesses the Son,*** 1 John 2:23 No one who denies the Son can have the Father; he who confesses the Son has the Father as well.
6. ***Do you love Jesus?*** it is easy to raise your hand and repeat the sinner's prayer, but do you love and trust Jesus? 1 John 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God—God remains

in him and he in God. And we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. Do you proclaim Jesus as Lord?

7. **Protect yourself from idols and idolatry.** It is so easy to be caught up in this world and make an idol more important than God. 1 John 21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols.



## How Muslims view Jesus (Isa)

### 1. Do Muslims believe he was a Messenger of One God? YES

Belief in all of the Prophets and Messengers of God is a fundamental article of faith in Islam. Thus, believing in Prophets Adam, Jesus, Moses, and Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon them) is a requirement for anyone who calls him or herself a Muslim. A person claiming to be a Muslim who, for instance, denies the Messengership of Jesus, is not considered a Muslim.

The Quran says in reference to the status of Jesus as a Messenger:

"The Messiah (Jesus), son of Mary, was no more than a Messenger before whom many Messengers have passed away; and his mother adhered wholly to truthfulness, and they both ate food (as other mortals do). See how We make Our signs clear to them; and see where they are turning away!" (Quran 5:75).

### 2. Do Muslims believe he was born of a Virgin Mother? YES

Like Christians, Muslims believe Mary, Maria in Spanish, or Maryam as she is called in Arabic, was a chaste, virgin woman, who miraculously gave birth to Jesus.

"Relate in the Book the story of Mary, when she withdrew from her family, to a place in the East. She screened herself from them; then We sent to her Our spirit (angel Gabriel) and he appeared before her as a man in all respects. She said: I seek refuge from you in God Most Gracious (come not near) if you do fear God. He said: Nay, I am only a Messenger from your Lord, to announce to you the gift of a pure son. She said: How shall I have a son, when no man has ever touched me, and I am not unchaste? He said: So it will be, your Lord says: 'That is easy for Me; and We wish to appoint him as a sign unto men and a Mercy from Us': It was a matter so decreed" (Quran 19:16-21).

### 3. Do Muslims believe Jesus had a miraculous birth? YES

The Quran says:

"She (Mary) said: 'O my Lord! How shall I have a son when no man has touched me.' He (God) said: 'So (it will be) for God creates what He wills. When He has decreed something, He says to it only: 'Be!'- and it is" (3:47).

It should also be noted about his birth that:

"Verily, the likeness of Jesus in God's Sight is the likeness of Adam. He (God) created him from dust, then (He) said to him: 'Be!'-and he was" (Quran 3:59).

### 4. Do Muslims believe Jesus spoke in the cradle? YES

"Then she (Mary) pointed to him. They said: 'How can we talk to one who is a child in the cradle?' He (Jesus) said: 'Verily! I am a slave of God, He has given me the Scripture and made me a Prophet; " (19:29-30).

### **5. Do Muslims believe he performed miracles? YES**

Muslims, like Christians believe Jesus performed miracles. But these were performed by the will and permission of God, Who has power and control over all things.

"Then will God say: 'O Jesus the son of Mary! recount My favor to you and to your mother. Behold! I strengthened you with the Holy Spirit (the angel Gabriel) so that you did speak to the people in childhood and in maturity. Behold! I taught you the Book and Wisdom, the Law and the Gospel. And behold: you make out of clay, as it were, the figure of a bird, by My leave, and you breathe into it, and it becomes a bird by My leave, and you heal those born blind, and the lepers by My leave. And behold! you bring forth the dead by My leave. And behold! I did restrain the children of Israel from (violence to you) when you did show them the Clear Signs, and the unbelievers among them said: 'This is nothing but evident magic' (5:110).

### **6. Do Muslims believe in the Trinity? NO**

Muslims believe in the Absolute Oneness of God, Who is a Supreme Being free of human limitations, needs and wants. He has no partners in His Divinity. He is the Creator of everything and is completely separate from His creation.

God says in the Quran regarding the Trinity:

"People of the Book (Jews and Christians)! Do not exceed the limits in your religion, and attribute to God nothing except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, was only a Messenger of God, and His command that He conveyed unto Mary, and a spirit from Him. So believe in God and in His Messengers, and do not say: 'God is a Trinity.' Give up this assertion; it would be better for you. God is indeed just One God. Far be it from His glory that He should have a son. To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and in the earth. God is sufficient for a guardian" (Quran 4:171).

### **7. Do Muslims believe that Jesus was the son of God? NO**

Say: "God is Unique! God, the Source [of everything]. He has not fathered anyone nor was He fathered, and there is nothing comparable to Him!" (Quran 112:1-4).

The Quran also states:

"Such was Jesus, the son of Mary; it is a statement of truth, about which they vainly dispute. It is not befitting to the majesty of God, that He should beget a son. Glory be to Him! When He determines a matter, He only says to it, 'Be' and it is" (Quran 19:34-35).

### **8. Do Muslims believe Jesus was killed on the cross then resurrected? NO**

"They did not kill him, nor did they crucify him, but they thought they did." (Quran 4:156) "God lifted him up to His presence. God is Almighty, All-Wise" (Quran 4:157) .

Arabic-speaking Muslims refer to Jesus as 'Īsā, while Arabic-speaking Christians refer to Jesus as Yasū (يسوع). Jesus is considered a prophet in Islam, and his name is used in these two forms in the Qur'an and in Arabic versions of the Bible, respectively.

If you do not have access to required resources, let us know and do the best you can on your assignment. It is okay if you have limited materials.

Please use an ink pen preferably black or blue ink, not pencil, if possible. Pencil is too light for faxes but can be mailed to us.

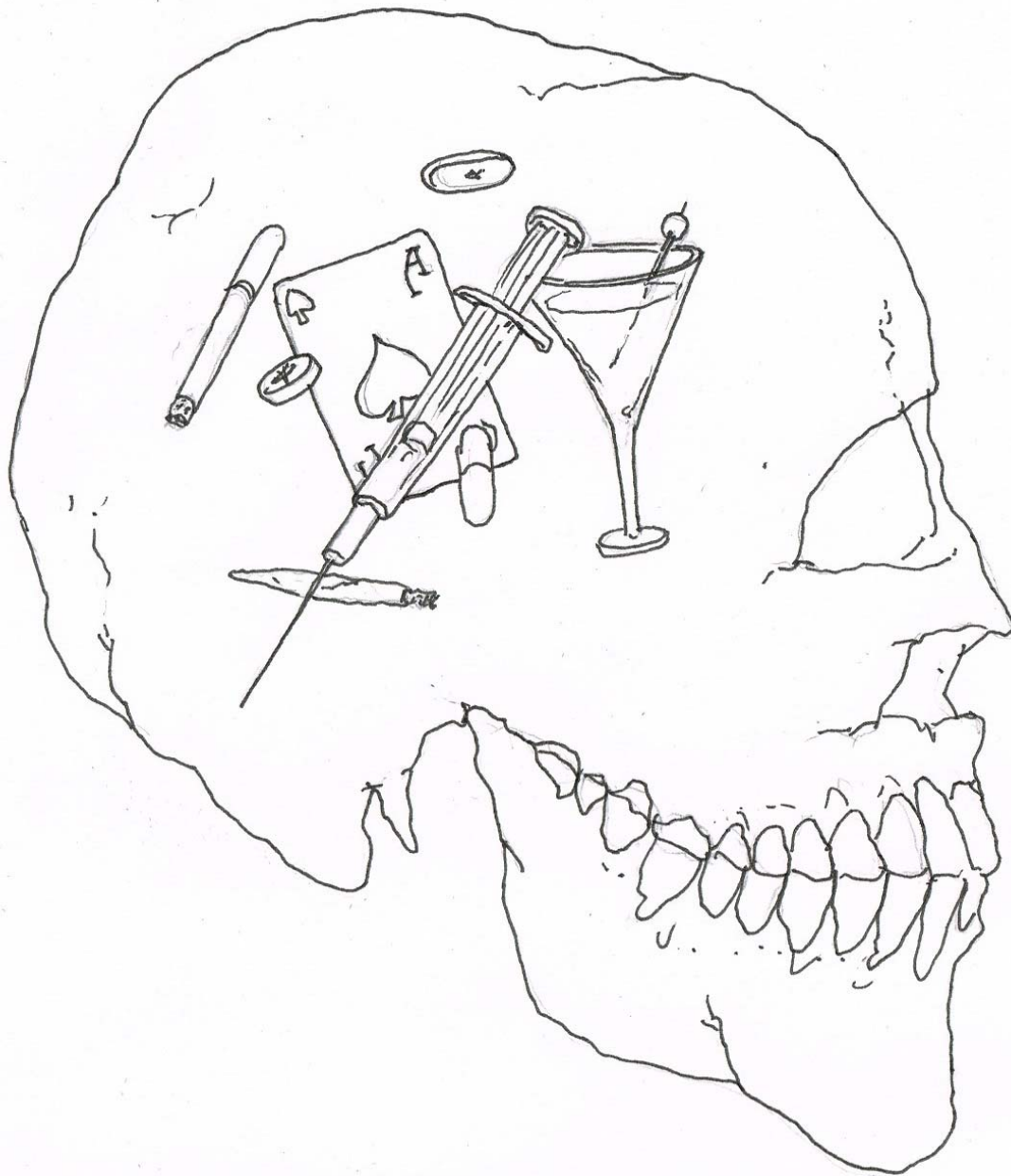
Some of you might come from a conservative, liberal, intellectual, Pentecostal, Catholic, Mormon or other background, that is okay, the basis of our program is to ensure you know that Jesus was real, is real and he lives and loves you, and that he is the only begotten son of God. All the other stuff is minor in comparison. We may not always agree, but we must agree that Jesus died and was raised to life.

Also, a lot of this information is new even to Believers, stuff like grace and freedom are new concepts. It will take a while to understand.

I have written a little prayer at the end if you need freedom from anything and if you need your heart healed. I've seen it happen right away or take a couple of months. You can also call me and I will pray for you. It is essential that you pray out loud so your heart hears what you are saying. I know that sounds crazy BUT it works.

Our goal is to teach you an intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus; we are not here to teach intellectualism or prosperity.

We want you to know Him but more importantly, we want Jesus to know you. You can be forgiven and utilized by the Lord. If you are in prison, you can be used, some of you will be missionaries in prison and that is a great calling.



Dr. Jeff loved stealing, lying, gambling, sex and drugs and preferably would be naked, drunk in the gutter. The primary reason is because no one loved me or disciplined me, I lacked proper identity.

For some crazy reason, our Lord Jesus loves sinners like me and He is in process of healing my mind and heart. I still have bad days and I am still hard on myself, but I am learning to trust Him.

***What about you?***

## **Freedom Prayer**

You may need to modify this prayer and it is best to say this out loud or with another believer if possible, if not, that is okay. It is best to confess with your mouth to be free. You can modify it for your method of praying or speaking as well. If you do not have the strength, that is okay too, ask God to help you with your fear. You are accepted and loved and you are free to pray to God. We understand if you are weak. You can always return to this later.

### **Dear Heavenly Father,**

I come to you to ask you to search me and find anything that comes between us and reveal it to me. I renounce Satan and

---

*Name the activity, like porn, greed, hate, pride, addiction or abuse or ?*

I ask you to forgive me and help me.

I want an intimate relationship with you and your precious Son Lord Jesus. Come in to my life and make me a new creation. I need to know that you love and accept me.

In his wonderful name, the name above all names, Jesus I pray.

Amen.

I call Jesus Lord.... I hope you too can call Him Lord. The Bible calls him Lord. I am essentially saying that Jesus is God as far as my human mind will understand.

The cults and religious people do not believe that Jesus is God, nor do they believe in the Triune God or Trinity Godhead.

It is super difficult to understand for we will never understand this system.

I compare it to time. With time, you have the past, present and future and all of these are called time.

The same is true of God, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The only biblical difference I can find, is that the Father is the only one that knows the return date of King Jesus.

I have one problem with some Believers in that many call Jesus the Christ and only refer to him as Christ. Yes, he is the Christ but I do not see power in that title. The only name under Heaven with power is "Jesus". There are many christs and anti-christs and there are many crosses, but these have no power. Jesus is the power.

If you have trouble with that, go out and find a Satan worshipper, they will wear crosses and say Christ but never Lord Jesus, the same is of the world. A cross is not that important as a symbol. I am not saying to take down crosses, all I am saying is "Lord Jesus" is a powerful word and the only word that can heal and save. Some say it depends on the heart, and they are right, but we all should get in a habit of calling him Lord.

**Christ is just a title and the problem is many people have this title, we know Jesus is the true and only Christ but the world doesn't.**



## Assignment#2 Understanding the Messiah

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address

---

### Matthew 18 Verse 1 to 4 Who Is the Greatest?

#### Fill-in-the-blank Try to use the best word or from your text.

1. Verse 1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is \_\_\_\_\_ in the kingdom of heaven?"
2. Verse 2 The little child came without \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord even with the ambitious disciples.
3. Verse 3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Another word for converted is \_\_\_\_\_
4. Verse 4 Therefore whoever \_\_\_\_\_ himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
5. Verse 5 Whoever \_\_\_\_\_ one little child like this in My name receives Me.
6. For this world likes to hide Jesus from the Lost, the enemy is great about \_\_\_\_\_ the truth as best as he can.
7. Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is \_\_\_\_\_, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

8. Jesus said, Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for \_\_\_\_\_!

9. \_\_\_\_\_ is the quality of being modest, reverential, even politely submissive, and never being arrogant, contemptuous, rude or even self-abasing.

10. Humility is a sign of Godly strength and purpose, not \_\_\_\_\_.

11. Jesus told Peter, “\_\_\_\_\_ My lambs.” Lambs are children.

For the following, provide scripture references and commentary.

12. Identify Jesus as a man, where did he live and how did he live?

13. Identify Jesus as the Son of God? References...John 1:34, John 1:49, John 3:16-17, John 9:35-39, Matthew 17:5b

14. Can you identify Jesus as God? Or find where he claims to be God? This is a difficult question and an area the atheists beat us down so know it.  
A few references... Is 9:6-7, John 10:30, 5:18b, 6:19-20

15. Identify the names or titles of Jesus. It has been said there are over three hundred names of Jesus.  
A few references... Is 9:6-7, John 6:35, 6:62, 19:19

16. What is Jesus' Hebrew name?

17. What does that Jewish name mean?

18. Is there any other Jesus' in the Bible and who are they?  
Deut 32:44

19. Where in the Bible is Jesus first mentioned? Easy question. Where in the OT is his name mentioned? Deut 32.44 Some say Gen 1:1

20. Do the Muslims believe in Jesus? If so, in what fashion? What do the Muslims call him? Is he the same Jesus as we believe in?

21. What was Jesus' religion? Did Jesus bring a new religion to earth?

22. Many cults claim three or four things that we as Believers do not accept. You need to describe the Trinity or Triune God Head. Find scripture to back it up. If you are not a Triune or Trinity believer, we may have problems down the road. Mark 1:10-11

23. We have taught and talked to several ministers of the Gospel and many sadly reject the divinity of Jesus. Many ministers rather talk about their accomplishments rather than God's. TLC wants our students to focus on glorifying the Lord Jesus because it is far more important and this will last much longer than self-glorification. With this concept in mind, tell us in your own words what type of relationship do you have with King Jesus?

24. If you thought the last question was tough, this will be incredibility tougher. Tell us in your own words, what Jesus has done for you other than dying for your sins. Dying for your sins is very important but we want to know if Jesus has or can do more for his followers. Keep all of this information for future ministry work. You will win many souls to Heaven by being honest, faithful, and merciful. If you have a problem in one of those three areas, that is okay, that means you have a broken, harden or hostile heart and we will tell you how to be restored. The primary way of restoration is talking to a like-minded Believer or being accountable to someone that loves the Lord Jesus.

25. Did Jesus bring a government to earth or a religion or both to earth? Explain from the bible and list references. This question is part of our primary purpose for teaching you about the ministry.

26. Is Christianity a religion? The first Christians in the bible were assigned the title "Christians" by pagans.



27. Define Repentance.

28. Tough questions....So many Believers claim they are sinless, and I will agree that in principle or in Heaven we are. But many Believers think they are sinless in practicality. What do you think and why, you will need to defend this issue many times in your life? Use the Bible to back up your choice. No right or wrong.

Are you positionally sinless as a follower of Jesus?

Positionally means relating to the position of someone or something.

Are you practically sinless as a follower of Jesus?

Practically means in a practical manner: *to think practically*.

2. from a practical point of view.

3. almost; nearly; virtually: *Their provisions were practically gone.*

29. Many followers of our Lord Jesus think that they do not need to confess their sins to God or to others. Other followers think they need to confess their sin to God. What do you think? I will not accept the answer that you are sinless and have no need to deal with sin.

30. Many of our students go on to be ministers or ambassadors for our Lord, while others wash out and return to the World system. What about you, what are your plans?

31. Sadly we live in a world which hates our Lord, the world loves to mock and kill his followers, are you ready to be associated with the Lord Jesus and lose everything including your life? Explain

32. How's your heart? Is it being renewed, healing, softened or hard?

33. Are you in any type of fellowship with like-minded people? Explain

34. Is anyone mentoring or discipling you? Explain

35. Are you in fellowship with the Lord? Explain

Please sign and acknowledge that you will not hold TLC Bible College liable for any damages, or claims. That you understand that all your answers must come from the Holy Bible (KJV, NIV, ASB or HCSB) or you will fail the assignment.

---

Signature

---

Date

Please sign and acknowledge that you understand TLC Bible College may utilize your completed assignments in future classes as a resource. Your name will not be used, only your materials if it is comprehensive.

---

Signature

---

Date

**TLC Bible College  
Dr. Jeff Durbin  
PO Box 3060  
Chino Valley, AZ 86323**

It is best to e-mail either one of the professors for information. You can choose one professor or the other. Or one will be assigned to you. We receive a lot of spam mail, please place "Assignment #2" on the subject line.

You can also fax the assignment to us (928) 272-0747

**If for some reason, you do not hear back from us, e-mail the other instructor. Sometimes these problems will occur. Do not take it personally. The age of electronics is troubling.**

**I prefer that you e-mail us. Sometimes it takes a week or so for me to return your grades to you.**

**You are finished with assignment #2, please go on to assignment # 3.**