

BIBLE STUDY PHASE-1

Good Shepherd Ministry International



BIBLE STUDY – 1

THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

A. GOD’S SPECIAL BOOK

THE BIBLE is the world’s best-seller! It has been translated into more languages than any other book.

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. The translation we have in our hands now is the work of a few dedicated people whose toil fetched us this Great Book through which we could get to know God’s words, thoughts and plans. It is one of the oldest books in the world- yet it still is the most modern book in the world today, because we find answers to the toughest questions in life like:

Where do I come from?

Why am I here?

Where will I go?

The central theme of the Bible is God’s loving plan to rescue mankind living and wrapped up in a world of his own, separated from God and all that is of Him.

To start with, let’s try to answer a few questions that give us a quick review of the Bible:

1. How many books are there in the Bible? _____
2. What are the two sections into which the Bible is divided?

3. How many books are there in
 - a. The **O. T.** _____
 - b). **N.T.** _____
4. Which is the longest chapter in the Bible? _____
5. Which is the shortest chapter in the Bible? _____
6. Which is the middle verse in the Bible? _____
7. Which is the shortest verse in the Bible? _____
8. Which verse gives us the central theme of the Bible? _____
9. Which books in the Bible have only one chapter a) **O.T.** _____
b) **N.T.** _____

10. Who is the author of the Bible? _____

The **O.T.** tells us about God's work with His people before the birth of Jesus Christ. The **N.T.** tells us about the life and ministry of Jesus, the continuation of the ministry through His disciples after His ascension, the teaching of the apostles as heard from Jesus and inspired by the Holy Spirit. These books were written within the first 50 years of Jesus' resurrection.

B. STUDY THE BIBLE

The most important relationship you have in this life is with God. Through reading the Bible, you can understand what God is like- His thoughts, His plans and His promises for you.

To get yourself familiarized with the Bible, you may go to the index in the front of your Bible which will help you to identify the book and the page number of the part you wish to study. To help you find the specific part of the Bible, the translators have organized the text into

- Books
- Chapters within the Books
- Verses within the chapters

For e.g. if you wish to find "Genesis 3:15", it would mean the "Book of Genesis, Chapter 3, verse 15." Let us discover the Bible as its truly rewarding to study it and understand what God speaks to us and then accordingly direct our lives based on the truth we discover from it.

C. HERE IS THE WORLD'S GREATEST PROMISE

The Bible contains the world's greatest promise: ***"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."*** (John 3:16).

You may be familiar with this verse but pause for a moment and just thank God for His great love in sending us His only Son to save us and gift us with eternal life!

It is life everlasting that is promised to one who believes and accepts Jesus Christ!

D. THE PURPOSE OF THE WORD OF GOD

List down the purpose of God’s Word as discovered from 1Timothy 3: 15, 16

1 able to make you wise for _____

2. useful for _____

It also says in 2 Peter 1:3-4 that God’s divine power has given us _____
_____ through our _____.

Through these He has given us His _____

that through them you may participate in _____ and escape the _____

E. THE WORD OF GOD PRODUCES LIFE

In John 6: 63 Jesus says, ... *The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life*”

1. It is creative

Look up Psalms 33: 6, 9 : “ By _____ were the heavens made,
their starry hosts by the breath of His mouth..... For _____
and it came to be; He commanded, and it _____.

Read Heb.11:3*the worlds were framed by _____.*

F. THE WORD OF GOD IS LIKE WATER

1. It cleanses

We start life in the Kingdom of God thoroughly cleansed-- “washed clean” by the Word of God. Look up John 15: 3 and Eph. 5: 25-27. Verse 26 of Eph.5 says that we are cleansed by _____.

2. It keeps us clean

The Word of God planted in our hearts helps us from getting “dirty” by sin- it keeps us free from sin.

Read Psalm 119:9,11. By Living according to His Word! That’s the key!

G. THE WORD OF GOD IS LIGHT FOR OUR LIVES

“And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.” (2Peter 1: 19)

1. It Gives Understanding In A Dark World

“The commands of the Lord are _____, giving _____ to the eyes (Psalms 19:8)

*“Your Word is a _____ and a _____
unto my path.... The entrance of Your Word gives _____, it gives
_____ to the simple (Psalms 119:105; 130)*

H. THE WORD OF GOD IS SPIRITUAL FOOD

“Jesus answered, It is written, ‘Man does not live on bread alone; but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”(Matt.4:4)

1. It causes Spiritual Growth

1Peter 2:2 says, *“Like new born babes, _____*
_____.

God’s aim for each of us is expressed in Ephesians 4:12-15

“..... that the body of Christ may be built up until we reach _____

I. THE WORD OF GOD IS SEED

In Luke 8:11-15, Jesus told His disciples about the parable of the sower. In verse 11, Jesus compares the seed to _____. God’s will for our lives is fruitfulness (Psalm 1:3). If the seed of God’s Word is planted in the “good soil” of our hearts, it will produce a good harvest!

Look up 2Cor.9:10.

J. THE WORD OF GOD IS LIKE A SWORD

“Take... the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God” (Eph.6:17). Heb. 4:12 says,

“For the word of God is _____ and _____, and sharper than any _____, piercing even to the division of _____ and is a discernor of the _____.”

Note how Jesus used the “sword’ against satan in His temptation in the wilderness.

(Luke 4:1-14).

K. THE WORD OF GOD HELPS US TO PRAY

John 15: 7 says, “If you remain in Me and _____ remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you” We need to put God’s Word in our hearts so that we will know how to ask according to His Will. “Ask whatever you wish” literally means to ask as one who has the right- with authority- since we are His children.

L. THE WORD OF GOD IS STRONG IN US

The Word of God build us up- gives us the right foundation to build our lives on. Read Matt.7:24-25.

Jesus compares the wise man who built his house upon a rock to those who _____.

The Word of God builds inner concrete within our lives so that no matter what may come against us, we will stand strong.

Assignments

1. Have you seriously thought of how the Word of God can influence and direct your life if you sincerely devote your time to learn, meditate and put it in your heart? Therefore form a plan, prayerfully how to organize your day to a committed study of the Word which will lead to practising it to build a good foundation in your life.
2. Keep a diary/ Note book to jot down the truths you learn and the thoughts God gives you in your Quiet Time.
3. Try to memorize the Word little by little so that you can live by it!



BIBLE STUDY -2 : GOD

GOD is far too great for us to understand with our limited human mind. There is no beginning or end in Him. He is eternal. There is no place where His presence is not felt.

Read Job 11:7 and write what it talks of God.

Also look up Isa.66:1 and Psalms 47:8 to see where God dwells and reigns.

We don't need to become exasperated if we don't fully understand who God is and why He does certain things. As the Bible says in 1Cor. 13:12, everything about God and His character will be made clear to us one day. Until then, we will get to know Him how much ever we can as it has been revealed to us in His Word.

Now we will look up at the special truths about God- they are facts about His unchanging character, how He is like and how He cares for us.

A. WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

1 God is the CREATOR of everything.

Read Neh.9:6. What does it say about God?

2. Take a minute and praise God after reading and understanding Ps.139: 13.

So we understand that God is the originator of all things- He created us and everything around us and even the worlds we cannot see with our physical eyes.

2. God is ALL-POWERFUL

a. In Rom.9:19-21, God is the _____ and we are the _____.

b. In 1Chron.29:11, it says God is exalted above all. It describes His greatness, _____,
_____ and His _____.

c. According to Eph.3:20, His _____ is at work in us.

Just try to imagine the greatness of our God!

3. God is ALL-KNOWING

Read Heb.4:13 and write down what it speaks of God.

1John 3:20 says God is greater than our hearts and knows everything!

4. God is HOLY

In 1Samuel 2:2 , we read that *“there is no one _____ like the Lord; there is no one beside You; there is no _____ like our God.”*

5. God is A SPIRIT

Quote John4:24:

6. God is a PERSON you can know

What does James 4:8 ?

“The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.” (Psa.145:18).

We can have a personal relationship withHim.

7. God is a LOVING FATHER

In 1John 3:1, it says how great is God’s love towards us His children! Write down the verse.

Read Psalm 103:13.

B. GOD IS TOO GREAT TO LIVE IN TEMPLES

We need to understand that God does not live in temples made by human hands. He cannot be limited by space. He is everywhere, at any time. Look up Acts 17: 24,25,28.

“For in Him we live and move and have our being.”

C. HOW WE ARE TO RESPOND TO GOD

We are:

1. Created by God. Read Psa.139: 14-16. How amazing to His creation of us is!
2. Owned by God . 1Cor.6:19,20. We do not own ourselves.
3. Called to worship God. Rev. 4:11. We can only offer our worship to this awesome God!

We have to make a decision :

As Jesus says in Matt.22:37,

“

”

The God of the Bible is the only ONE TRUE GOD, LIVING and worthy of our devotion.

Just as Joshua put this request before the nation of Israel, *“Choose this day whom you will serveAs for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!”* (Josh.24;15), you too are challenged to make a decision to either give your total commitment to Him or not.

If you have made a decision from your heart, pray this prayer sincerely:

“ Lord, this day I give my worship to the only true God of heaven and earth, and surrender my will, my life and possessions to You. From this day I determine never to worship any other gods. My worship is for You only, Lord. Let me tell others too of this truth about You.”

BIBLE STUDY -3: THE FALL OF MAN

Man's creation

We learnt that our God is the God of all creation. The crown of His creation was “man”. God had a very real reason for creating man (male and female). He had a wonderful purpose for them. Because God is love, He desired to have beings of like-mind and like-heart with whom He could share His life.... All that He is and all that He is involved withwho would rule the heavens and the earth with Him like sons. So He created man --- in His image.

Read the creation account of man in Gen.1:26,27.

“Then God said, “Let us make man in _____

_____.”

Satan

God created many wonderful things before He created the heavens and the earth. Among them were angels- spirit beings whose purpose is to fulfill God's will. Read and note briefly what angels do from Rev. 5:11-14.

However, Lucifer, one of the leading angels rebelled against God- he wanted to be above God's Throne. When Lucifer rebelled, God cast him out of heaven. One-third of the angels rebelled with him and were cast out with Lucifer (Rev.12:4).

The Bible makes mention of the rebellion of Lucifer and its outcome in Isa.14:12-14; Eze.28:11-17.

Lucifer was cast to the earth, where he is now known as 'Satan' or 'The Devil'. He and his angels lost their glory and became evil spirits, in God's newly created world. But satan's evil intention did not change and so he set about with another plan to try usurp (unlawfully take) God's Throne... he went after the man God had created.

The Temptation

God gave the first man and woman (Adam and Eve) authority over all the earth and told them to keep it under God’s dominion. They were put in the Garden of Eden to care for it and enjoy of it.

There were two trees God had planted in the middle of the Garden. Name them(Gen.2:9)

Read Gen.2:15-17.

God specifically told them **not** to eat of this tree _____

However, satan deceived Eve. He told her that the tree of knowledge of good and evil wasn’t really bad- rather it would make them like gods. Eve believed the lie and ate of its fruit.

Adam though he was aware of the lie, was led to eat of it too(1Tim.2:14)

Read Gen.3:6 and summarize the fall of Adam and Eve into sin.

The Result

Thought it may seem that the sin was only a simple act of eating of the forbidden fruit, its consequences were much more than simple. Through that one act of sin, man lost the glory and image of God and the dominion over Creation. Satan slowly inched his way to take control of the world and started to exercise his dominion over the earth and death filled the world. (See Heb.2: 14, 15)

Write the consequence of that one sin of Adam on all mankind. (Rom.5:12)

All the generations following Adam and Eve have inherited their fallen nature. All have come under the power and dominion of Satan. In The **Contemporary English Translation (CEV)** of the Bible, Eph.2:1-3 reads:

In the past, you were dead because you sinned and fought against God. You followed the ways of the world and obeyed the devil. He rules the world, and his spirit has power over everyone who doesn't obey God. Once we were also ruled by the selfish desires of our bodies and minds. We made God angry and we were going to be punished like everyone else. Compare this passage with the one in your Bible and answer the following.

- a. Death is talked of as a consequence of _____.
- b. When one lives in sin and the ways of the world, he is subject to _____
- c. The devil rules _____ and his spirit has power over everyone _____.
- d. "Objects of wrath"(NKJV) refers to _____

People's hearts, everywhere, are now filled with:

1. Idolatry: Read Rom. 1:21-23.

It is said man refused to acknowledge or glorify God or give thanks to Him. Therefore, their thinking

They exchanged the _____ for images made to look like _____

2. Immorality: Read Rom. 1:24-27

It is said God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to _____

_____.

Note how it is mentioned that they exchanged the truth of God for a lie and started worshipping and serving the _____ rather than the _____

You now realize how perversion of the natural came into our world.

3. All kinds of wickedness: Read Rom.1: 28-32

It is further said that they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God. Therefore, God gave them over to a _____

List some of the results of such a mind

_____, _____, _____, _____, _____

_____, _____, _____, _____, _____

Even though they know very well that those who continue to do such acts deserve death, they keep on at it and encourage others to do the same. Can you see identify such a situation in the world today?

God's great plan to restore

Well, what is God's response to such a sorry state of things? Has He given up on us because of our sin? NO! Instead He has put into action another great plan- the plan to save mankind from satan's power and restore him to His original plan of being His sons and sharing His throne. He began to prepare the world for the coming of the Saviour- JESUS.

Read God's plan of restoring man through Jesus Christ in 1Cor.15:22.

'For as in _____ all die, so in _____ all will be made alive.'

Well that is GOOD NEWS and that's what the New Testament records- the story of Christ, the One who would come to save us from our sins!

Assignments

1. Identify one sin associated with the Fall in the Garden of Eden and it's relevance for us today too. Write a note on it.
2. As you noted down the results of a depraved mind, take time to go through the list again and see if there is any thing that still affects your life. Identify, confess it to God ask for His forgiveness and cleansing as you rededicate your life for a right living in Christ.

BIBLE STUDY -4: JESUS CHRIST

A. JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

Two thousand years ago, a man appeared on the scene of history. He was born into the world and grew up into manhood just like every other person, but this man was different than anyone else before Him and after Him. He was no ordinary man.

How have you understood the person of Jesus Christ? Who is He to you?

Read Luke 1:26-35 on the account of the birth of Jesus

A virgin named _____ conceived by the _____ to bring Jesus to birth. He was God Himself coming to earth in human form. The angel of the Lord said that the holy one to be born will be called " _____ " (v.35)

After reading John 1:1, 14, fill in the following:

"In the beginning was _____ [Jesus], and _____ was with God, and _____ was God.

_____ became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only _____, who came from the Father, full of _____."

B. JESUS CAME TO THE WORLD FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE

1. To Rescue mankind from Satan's power

As we saw in the previous lesson after the fall in the Garden of Eden, the world became under the dominion of Satan. Jesus Christ came to rescue us from the devil's dominion.

Read Col.1:13 and understand the purpose for which Jesus Christ came to the world. Now read Luke19:10 and fill in. (God the Father in eternity found that the man whom He would create in His own image, would fall into sin and for the same He ordained His own Son to die on the cross as propitiation to the sins of whole mankind.)

"For the Son of Man came to **seek & save** what was lost".

2. To Give His life as a Ransom to Buy Us back

A ransom is a payment made to buy back something. Jesus gave His own life to buy us back from the kingdom of darkness. Refer Matt.20:28 and write down the verse below:

Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life--a ransom for many."

3. To Destroy the Works of Satan in our lives

Now read 1John3:8. Disobedience brought sin into the world and its consequences were many. Sin manifests in various forms in the works of the devil in people's lives. "*The one who commits sin is of the Devil, for the Devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purpose: to destroy the Devil's works.*"

4. To Give Us Eternal Life

Many of us are familiar with John3:16. If you can write it from memory, do so.

"For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

1Jo 5:11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

1Jo 5:12 The one who has the Son has life. The one who doesn't have the Son of God does not have life.

You can look up other references like John3:17, John10:10.

5. To Give Us New Birth into the Family of God

"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to _____ - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born _____."

See also 1John 3:1,2.

6. To Restore our Fellowship with God the Father

When we read the account of the creation, we see that Adam and Eve walked with God in the garden in the cool of the day (Gen.3:8)- they had fellowship with Him. When man fell out with God, he lost the fellowship with God.

1John1:3, says Jesus Christ came to restore us into the fellowship with God the Father.

C. JESUS CAME TO SHOW US WHAT GOD IS LIKE

No one has seen God. But we can understand Who He is and what He is like through Jesus, His Son. Jesus clearly spoke of this in John14:7-11. Jesus’ life and works was a visible manifestation of Who God is. He spoke on His Father’s behalf. In verse11, He said, “Believe me when I say I am in _____ and the Father is in _____....”

Jesus showed us what our Heavenly Father is like! See also John1:18.

1. He showed us God’s love

Read 1John4:9,10 and write down as how God expressed His love to us.

God demonstrated His own love for us in that while we were _____, Christ _____ . (Rom.5:8)

2. He showed us God’s power

Jesus Christ showed us God’s power in various ways as discussed below:

a. He healed the sick, the lame and the blind.

It is said the Jesus healed people with all manner of diseases. Read Matt.4:24. Note down the various diseases mentioned here:

_____, _____
_____, _____

In, John9: 1-7, Jesus healed a _____.

b. He cast out evil spirits

Read about Jesus' ministry of casting out demons in Mark1:34, Mark 5:1-17.

c. He performed miracles

List the miracles Jesus performed from the following passages:

1. John2:1-11: _____
2. Luke 5: 1-7 _____
3. John6:1-21: _____
4. Mark4:37-41: _____
5. Mark11: 12-14;20-21 _____

d. He raised the dead

Read the account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead in John11:17-44.

Here are some more examples of people Jesus raised from the dead:

1. Luke8: 40-42; 49-56 _____
2. Luke7: 11-17 _____

D. JESUS SHARED OUR SUFFERING IN HIS LIFE

During His life-time on earth, Jesus experienced all the troubles of life that we face, and so He understands how we feel. Look up Heb.4:15

Inspite of the temptations and trials He faced, Jesus was without _____.

In Matt.8:17, a quotation from Isaiah is given: _____

E. JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS FOR US

Wicked men took the Lord Jesus and executed Him by nailing Him to a wooden cross like a common criminal. He could have saved Himself, but He did not, for it was through His death on the cross that God was going to save the world. Jesus died for us! (Mark15:19-39)

Read Isa.53:5,6 and 1Peter2:24 and fill in the following

“He Himself bore _____ in His body on the tree, so that we might _____ and live for _____; by His wounds, _____.

F. JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD FOR US

After three days in the tomb, God raised His Son from the dead. Read Matt.28 for the account of Jesus’ Resurrection. This too was for us!

It says in Rom.8:4 that Jesus was raised from the dead that we too may_____.

In Eph.2:2-6, three benefits connected with the resurrection of Christ for a believer are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

G. JESUS OPENED THE DOOR OF HEAVEN FOR US

When His work on earth was completed, Jesus returned to Heaven to be with God His Father. But this, too, was for us.... for He opened the way into God’s presence for us, where we can live now and forever.

In John14;1-3, it says, Jesus has gone to _____

In eternity, Jesus wants us to be with Him forever!

After reading Heb.10:19-22, fill in the spaces

“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter _____

by the blood of Jesus, by a new and _____ opened for us through the curtain, that is _____...

“Let us _____ with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.....”

Prayer: “Lord Jesus, I acknowledge that You are the Son of God and You came to meet my greatest need of a Saviour. Help me to tell others too that You came into the world for them.” Amen

Assignments:

1. We are adopted into God’s family as His children through Christ. Meditate on it and commit your life anew to God our Father.
2. Jesus showed us God’s love. Think and list ways you can reciprocate it to Him and to others.
3. How did Jesus restore us into fellowship with God the Father through His death? (Support your answer with references). Do you enjoy His fellowship daily? If you still don’t have a regular Quiet Time of fellowship with your father, make a commitment and continue in it.

BIBLE STUDY -5: THE CROSS

A good understanding of the cross of Jesus Christ will benefit our Christian life. To many it's a symbol, to others an ornament, but what does the Cross of Christ have to speak to the believer? When Jesus Christ was put to death by being nailed to a wooden cross, wicked men thought they were just executing a man who was disturbing their way of life. They did not realize that the Cross was planned by God from the beginning of the world.

A. GOD DEALS WITH ALL SIN

Sin that entered the world through the disobedience of Adam and Eve had to be dealt with. God's solution to this problem was the Cross. Through His Son's death on the Cross, the great Creator God was dealing with every person's sin, suffering and sorrow. Jesus was dying in the place of every individual in the world. Receiving personally what He has done on the Cross brings the answer to all our needs.

1. God Reveals His Power through the Cross

"For the _____ of the Cross is _____ to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is _____"

(1Cor.1:18)

Write down Rom.1:16 below:

The Cross is the power of God for our salvation!

2. God Shows His Love On the Cross

The Cross is actually a demonstration of God's love for us. Its His love reaching out to take hold of us to be reconciled back to Him.

“But God demonstrated His own love for us in this: _____
_____” (Rom.5:8)

3. God Removed our Sorrows On the Cross

When Christ went to the Cross, he took our sickness and our sorrows:

“Surely, He took up our _____ and carried our _____
yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him and afflicted.”(Isa. 53:4)

4. Jesus Took the Punishment For Our Sins On the Cross

Look up Isaiah 53: 5,6.

a) Jesus was wounded for our _____

b) He was _____

c) The punishment for our _____ was upon Him

d) By His _____ we are _____

d) The Lord laid on Him _____

See also 1Peter2:24.

B. NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH THE CROSS

We’ve understood that God is holy and righteous and so sin separates us from Him. No one with sin in their hearts can stand in His presence. By dying on the Cross, not only did Jesus suffer for our sins, but He made it possible for us to know God personally and to experience the love, peace and joy which fellowship with Him brings.

1. We Become Acceptable To God Through the Cross

“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that _____
_____” (2Cor.5:21)

The Cross reconciles us back to God as His righteous ones.

2. We Receive Forgiveness Through the Cross

“For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have _____
_____” (Col.1:13-14)

Read 1John 2:1,2.

3. We Become Members of God’s Family Through the Cross

“Both the One who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of _____. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them _____.

He says “I will declare Your name to my _____; in the presence of the congregation, I will sing Your praise.” (Heb. 2:11, 12).

Read John 1:12 too. What a privilege to be part of God’s big family.

4. Racial Barriers Are Broken Through the Cross

Eph.2: 13-16 gives us the assurance that we are all one in Christ- there is no colour, caste, nationality barrier for those who are in Christ. List down from these verses what Christ accomplished through the Cross:

- a) We who were once _____ have been brought _____ through the blood of Christ.
- b) Jesus Himself is our _____
- c) He has made the _____ and has destroyed the _____ the dividing _____, by abolishing in His flesh the law with all its _____.
- d) His purpose was to _____ thus making peace, and in this one body to _____ to God through _____ by which He put to death _____.

C. FREEDOM THROUGH THE CROSS

Jesus' death on the Cross was a great victory for us. Because God dealt with our sin on the Cross, it means all the misery and suffering which is the result of sin is also dealt with. The Cross has won great freedom for us!

1. Freedom from Satan

"And having _____ the powers of darkness and authorities, He made _____, triumphing over them by the _____" (Col. 2:15)

See also Col. 1:13. Rescued from darkness!

2. Freedom from Past Sins

Refer John 8:36. If the Son sets you free, you are free indeed! Now look up Col. 2:13-14.

Having forgiven you in Christ, how has God dealt with your sin?

3. Freedom from Present Sins

"For sin shall not be your _____, because you are not under law, but under grace." (Rom. 6:14). The sting of sin in your life is broken. It can no longer rule over you.

4. Freedom from Sickness

"This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took _____ and carried our _____" (Matt.8:17)

5. Freedom from The Curse

If we read Deut. 28: 15-68, we see that curse was pronounced on the one who would not abide by the law. But we see in Gal. 3:13 that, "Christ redeemed us from _____

_____ by becoming a _____ for us, for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.'"

6. Freedom from the Judgment

We are no longer under the judgment of God since the judgment that was to come upon us came on Christ.

“ Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now He has appeared once for all at the end to do away with _____ by the _____ . Just as man is destined to die once and after that to face _____ ” (Heb. 9:26,27).

7. Freedom from Everlasting Death

John 3:16! Freed from eternal death to eternal life. Can you write the verse from memory?

D. LOVE AND JUSTICE MEET AT THE CROSS

The Cross is the place where the love of God and the righteous judgment of God meet. His righteous judgment demanded the death penalty for sin- the shedding of blood. His love met His own demands and Jesus, the Son of God, died in our place.

“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ _____ . Since we have now been _____ by His _____ , how much more shall we be saved from _____ through Him! For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were _____ to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be _____ .

“Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through _____ through whom we have now received _____ . (Rom.5:8-11)

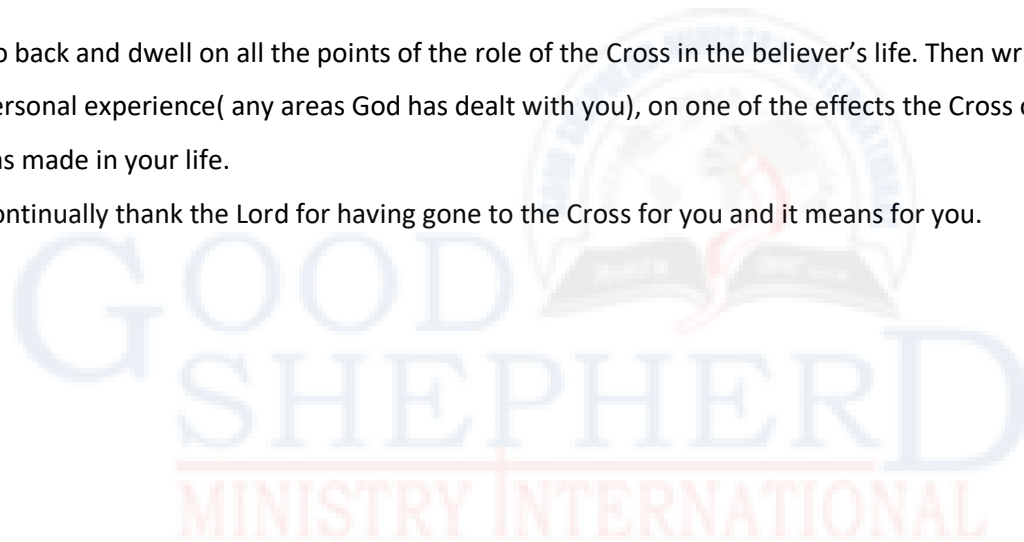
E. THE CROSS IS THE CENTRE OF HISTORY

The Cross of Jesus Christ is the centre point of mankind's existence on earth. From the moment the first man and woman sinned (Gen.3), it was pre-planned by God that Jesus would die on the Cross. From that time on, people looked forward in faith to what God promised He would do on the Cross to save them. Today we look back and by believing what Jesus has done for us on the Cross, we receive forgiveness and new life.

My Response: I choose to put my whole trust in what God was doing for me when Jesus died on the Cross. I believe He took my punishment for my sin, I receive the forgiveness He offers me. And I thank Him for the relationship this now gives me with Him.

Assignment

1. Go back and dwell on all the points of the role of the Cross in the believer's life. Then write out a personal experience(any areas God has dealt with you), on one of the effects the Cross of Christ has made in your life.
2. Continually thank the Lord for having gone to the Cross for you and it means for you.



BIBLE STUDY 6 : THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

The study of the Cross of Christ leads us to the blood of Christ that was shed upon the cross for you and me. The shedding of Jesus Christ's blood on the Cross was a factor in order for us to receive forgiveness for our sins and acceptance into the presence of God.

Hebrews 9:22 says, "... without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness"

A. LIFE IS IN THE BLOOD

Look up Leviticus 17:11. We understand from this verse that

- i) the life of a creature _____
- ii) the blood has been given to make _____
- iii) It is the blood that makes _____

When we sin, we earn death. Romans 6:23 says,

" _____ "

Jesus paid this penalty for us by shedding His blood (by dying for us—in our place).

ATONEMENT (at-one-ment) means to be made AT ONE with God. It is a reconciliation between God and man which was accomplished through the death of Christ. Jesus' blood paid the price for us to be no longer His enemy but His friend, His sons and daughters. By faith we accept what He did for us.

B. WHAT SIN DOES TO OUR LIFE

Let us now examine what sin does to us- that is when we continue living in sin:

1. Separates us from God

Isaiah 59:2 says, "But your iniquities have _____

_____ "

There is a wide gap that is developed between God and us when we sin. God is holy and He cannot tolerate sin—hence sin separates us from God.

2. Makes us feel guilty

Psalm 38:4 says, *“My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear.”* The weight of a guilty conscience is too hard to bear. A person who continues to live in sin and knowing that it is wrong bears the weight of guilt on himself.

3. Allows Satan to accuse us

“.... the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night...” (Rev.12:10). Satan constantly accuses us of sin.

4. Demands the Death Penalty

“... The soul who sins is the one who will die” (Eze.18:4). As we saw earlier, *“the wages of sin is death”*. Unless sin is atoned for, it brings death.

After examining all that sin does to us, we need to understand how the blood of Jesus meets all of our need:

C. THE BLOOD IS FOR GOD

The blood of Christ wholly satisfies the demands of God’s law—which requires a penalty for breaking the law. Look up 1John3:4 and write down how John defines “sin” here:

“ _____ ”

The blood protects us from the penalty of breaking the law(death).

If we turn to Exodus 12, we read the account the first Passover when God commanded the Israelites to put the blood of a lamb on their door-posts to protect them from the destroyer—who would kill the first born.

This lamb was a picture of the Lamb of God- Jesus—who would come later.

God said, *“...when I see the blood, I will pass over[protect] you...”*(Exo.12:13)

1. Fellowship Is Restored

“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: _____

_____”(Rom.5:8,9)

2. We are Redeemed(Purchased back from slavery)

“In Him, we have _____,

the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.” (Eph.1:7).

Jesus’ blood was paid as a ransom to redeem us from the slavery of sin. The ransom necessary to free sinners from the bondage of sin and the curse of the law, was Christ’s death

D. THE BLOOD IS FOR MAN

The blood satisfies God; now it is to satisfy us in the cleansing of our conscience from guilt.

1. The Blood Cleanses from Guilt

“How much more, _____ who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge[cleanse] _____

from _____ to serve a living God”

(Heb.9:14)

2. The Blood Sanctifies Us

And Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to _____

_____ (Heb.13:12).

3. The Blood Brings Us Close to God

“...and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through _____, shed on the cross. Once you were _____ and were _____

in your minds because of your evil behaviour.

“But now He has reconciled you” (Col. 1:20-22 NIV).

4. The Blood Gives Boldness to Enter God’s Presence

Read Hebrews 10: 19-22. Lets conclude the following from our reading:

1. We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by _____

2. Through “the curtain”, His body, a _____

was opened for us.

3. We can now draw near to God with _____

_____ having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us

from a _____ and having our bodies washed with pure water.

5. The Blood Perfects Us In The Sight of God

“...because by one sacrifice He has made perfect for ever those who are being made holy.”

(Heb.10:14). We don’t need to achieve any perfection by ourselves to please God- it is an impossibility.

Christ makes us perfect through His sacrifice.

D. THE BLOOD IS FOR THE DEVIL

Satan’s most strategic activity in this age is as the accuser of the brethren (Rev.12:10) and it is as this that the Lord confronts him in His special ministry as High Priest through His own blood (Heb.9:11-14)

1. The Blood Puts God on Man's side Against the devil

"...If God be for us, who can be against us?...Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?"

"...Shall God who justifies? Who is he that condemns? Will Christ Jesus who died- more than that, who was raised to life –and is at the right hand of God and is also interceding [praying] for us? (Rom.8:31, 33, 34)

The devil has no ground for accusation against those who have received the work of Christ's shed blood for them.

2. The Blood Dissolves All Satan's Legal rights of Ownership

"... in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (COL. 1:14)

Redemption means **"to buy back"** We are under new ownership, and the price that was paid for us was the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

"...the church of God, which He _____" (Acts22:28).

See 1Cor.6:19,20. *"...you are not your own, you were _____"*

1Tim.2:6 – He gave Himself as a _____ for all men!

"Redeemed how I love to proclaim it!

Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb!"

E. WHAT IS THE BLOOD OF CHRIST HAS BROUGHT US

1. Purity of Heart

The blood of Christ cleanses our heart of all sin when we by faith ask Him to.

"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have _____

_____ and _____

_____ (1John1:7)

Note the phrase "from all sin"- He is able to cleanse us from all sin!

2. Eternal Life

Look up John 6:53, 54.

"...whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day"

3. Approach to God

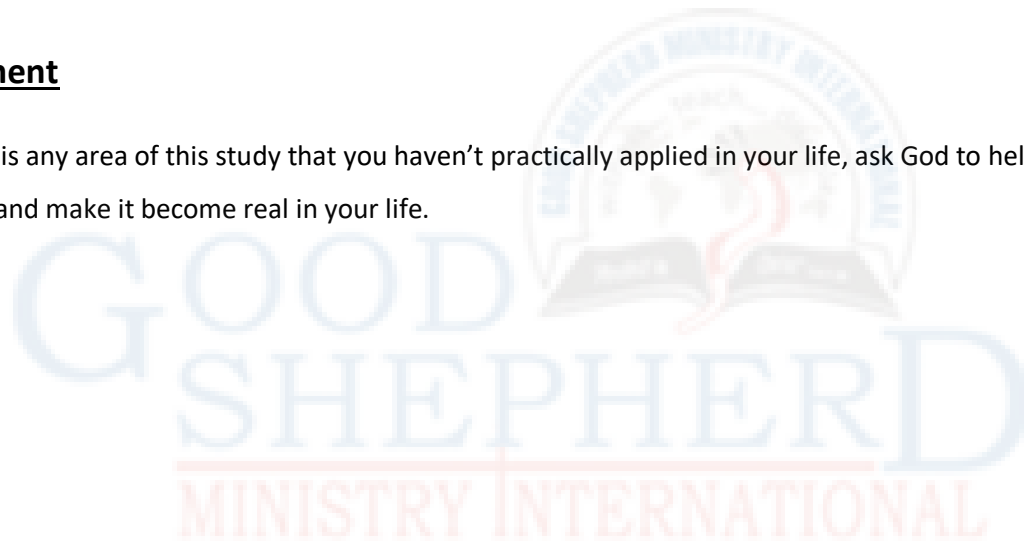
"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away _____

_____ (Eph.2:13).

Prayer: Thank You Lord for the precious blood you shed on Calvary for me- help me to remember often the covenant God has with me, to forgive my sin and cleanse me from sin and protect me from satan's harm.

Assignment

1. If there is any area of this study that you haven't practically applied in your life, ask God to help you receive it and make it become real in your life.



BIBLE STUDY-7 : RESSURECTION

Jesus Christ's resurrection is of great importance for the believer. After His death on the Cross, Jesus lay in the grave for three days (Matt.12:40). Then—God raised His Son from the dead! (Read Matt 28).

"... and who through the Spirit of Holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom.1:4)

A. GOD RAISED YOU UP TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

Jesus' death was for you and me. So was His resurrection! Read Eph.2:1-6 and fill up the following:

"As for you, you were _____

in which you used to live you used to live when you followed the _____

"But because of His great love for us, God, Who is rich in mercy, made us _____

*_____ even when we were dead in transgressions—
it is by grace you have been saved. And God _____*

in Christ Jesus."

Read Col.3:1-3 also. Raised with Christ into a new life.

1. To Give You New Life

"...God has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace.

"This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2Tim.1: 9,10).

We enjoy new life and eternal life in Christ because of His death and resurrection.

2. To Give You New Birth

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy, He has given us

_____ *into a living hope through the*

_____ *"(1Pet.1:3).*

His resurrection secures for the believer new life and hope that one day he will be resurrected like Christ.

3. To Give You A New Beginning

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a _____, the old has gone, the new has come." (2Cor. 5:17). Created anew in Him!

4. To Give You:

a. Victory Over Satan

"You dear children, are from God and have overcome the world, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world[satan]... for everyone born of God

_____. *This is the **victory** that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? _____*

_____ *." (1John 4:4; 5:4.5). See Col.2:13-15 also.*

b. Authority Over Satan

Read 1Peter3: 21,22 and Luke 10:17-19.

After His resurrection, Jesus Christ has gone to heaven and is at God’s right hand. Every power and authority is in submission to Him. And He has given us... “ the authority to

_____”

(Luke 10:19).

c. Power Over Satan

Read Eph.1:18-23. Mediate on it. Lets look through the main points:

1. God’s incomparably great power is available to

That power is the Resurrection power of Christ.

God placed all things under _____ and appointed Him to be _____ for the church which is _____, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way!

5. To Make You A Son And Heir In God’s Kingdom

Now look at Rom.8: 15-17. What have we received through Christ?

1. Received the _____
2. By Him we call God, _____
3. The Spirit testifies with our spirit that _____
4. If we are children of God, then we are _____

What a privilege!

B. THE RESURRECTION MEETS EVERY NEED OF LIFE

1. It Is Your Deliverance From the PAST

Your old sinful life was put to death on the Cross with Jesus and buried with Him in the grave. Then when Jesus was raised to life again, you were raised with Him as a new creation—leaving behind your old life in Jesus’ grave.

“We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, _____

_____the death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, _____

_____ (Rom.6:4-11)

Read Eph.2:1-7. God in His rich mercy has done away with **our past**, in Christ Jesus.

Now look up Col.2:12-15. “ *...having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.....*

God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, _____

_____ nailing it to the cross.”

2. It Is Your Power For the PRESENT

Because Jesus is ALIVE, we have now received the power of His Spirit to live a life of victory over sin and all Satan’s attacks against us.

Read through **Rom.8:31-39**. Lets write down some “victory points”:

1. If God is for us _____ ?
2. Who will bring any charge _____ ?
3. Who shall separate us from _____ ?
4. In all these things, we are _____
_____.

3. It Is Your Hope For the FUTURE

The resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us great hope for the future. Jesus Christ is called “the first-born from the dead”(Col.1:18).In His resurrection, He was opening the way for all those who would believe in Him to follow after Him—to also be raised from the dead!

One wonderful day in future, Jesus Christ will return to the earth again—not as a baby this time, but revealing to the whole world Who He really is—the glorious God and Ruler of all Creation. At that time, all those who have died, believing in Him, will be raised to life again!

“...if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

“But Christ, has indeed been raised from dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

*“For since death came through a man, the _____
_____ ,*

“For as in Adam all die, so in Christ, _____

But each in his own turn: Christ, the first-fruits ; then, _____

_____ (1Cor.15: 17-23).

Read through 1Cor.15:50-57 and 1Thes.4: 13-18.

Do you realize that the fullness of your new life in Christ and your liberation in Him comes from the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Let the truth of His Word lead you into a victorious Christian life!