

Settled In Heaven's

The Precious Word

Answering Some Of Life's Difficult Questions From God's Word



Robert Barkman

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Lesson #1 - Introduction To Our Study

"The Precious Word Part #1"

"Introduction To Our Study"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

INTRODUCTION:

Do you know that the most printed book ever is the Bible? Over six billion copies of the Bible have been printed over the generations. The next most printed book is "Quotations From Chairman Mao" that has had 900 million copies printed (less than 1/6 of the number of copies printed of the Bible). Why is the Bible the most printed book ever?

We might begin to understand if we stop and think about it. It is this same Bible, or portions of it, that has been translated and reprinted from one generation to the other for over thirty-five hundred years. It is the contents of this book that are proclaimed on a weekly basis, to those who faithfully gather in churches throughout the world, and have done so, for almost 2000 years.

For those called of God to be pastors, evangelists and teachers of His Word, the burden, to declare His Word, is taken very seriously. They have been willing to leave their lucrative jobs, their homeland, their relatives and their friends to go to other cities, states, or even countries to proclaim His Word to them to which they are called.

For many, the ultimate sacrifice for the Word has been made. Christians, who have proclaimed His Word and lived their lives according to it, have been willing to suffer physical abuse, and even give their lives, all because they recognize the tremendous value of the Word.

But the ultimate proof of the Bible's value is shown by men who have entrusted their eternal destiny to the message found within its pages.

Again, we ask the questions "Why? What is so special about this book?"

In this series we will be attempting to answer these questions. For this lesson, let's study the Bible's value for each of us. We will be centering our study upon the Bible's testimony about itself, its author, its purpose, and, therefore, its value to all mankind.

SCRIPTURES:

2Ti 3:16-17

(KJV) 16) All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17) That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

(ESV) 16) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17) that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Pro 3:13-15

(KJV) 13) Happy *is* the man *that* findeth wisdom, and the man *that* getteth understanding. 14) For the merchandise of it *is* better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. 15) She *is* more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

(ESV) 13) Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, 14) for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. 15) She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

THE STUDY:

In our first scripture, 2 Tim 3:16-17, we find both the origin and the purpose of the Bible.

The Word's authorship is revealed to us in the phrase....

"All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God". The phrase "inspiration of God" carries with it the idea of being "breathed out by God". The Bible is the very words of God handed down to mankind. (2 Sam 23:2; 2 Peter 1:21). When we understand this basic truth we can come to an understanding of the reliability of Scripture:

1. Since, we know that God cannot lie (Titus 1:20); it only follows that the Bible can be trusted and counted as dependable.
2. Since we know that God is perfect and sinless (Lev 19:2, 1Pet 1:16); it only follows that His words are perfect and they will not fail, nor contradict themselves.

The remaining portion of 2 Tim 3:16-17 reveals to us the great purpose that God had in mind when He handed His words to mankind...

“and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

According to our verses, God’s word was given for man to profit in six ways:

1. Doctrine – learning; the gain of knowledge, facts, and information about spiritual things
2. Reproof – conviction; to show error, need of change
3. Correction – to straighten; to show how to correct error, to demonstrate how change should be made
4. Instruction in righteousness – to educate in Godly living; how to please God with our lives
5. May be perfect – to be spiritually mature, to be wise, experienced and knowledgeable.
6. May be thoroughly furnished unto all good works – all the tools we need to live lives on earth and prepare for life after our death.

The above listing makes it very easy to understand why the Bible is of such value to us. Please notice how it is phrased in Pro 3:13-15...

“Happy *is* the man *that* findeth wisdom, and the man *that* getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it *is* better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She *is* more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.”

How do we find true happiness in a world where we find the existence of injustice, selfishness, abuse and sin? It is only through the gathering of wisdom and understanding. “Wisdom” and “understanding” are simply another way of expressing the six ways we profit from God’s Word (see above listing). It is through the Word of God that we can find true wisdom and understanding (Pro 2:6).

Because the Bible is the complete revelation of spiritual wisdom and knowledge that is handed down from God to man, the writer of Proverbs assigns to it great value...

1. It is greater than the purchase of silver
2. It is greater gain than highly refined gold
3. It is more highly sought after than rubies
4. It is of more benefit to us than any other possession we can desire

THE APPLICATION:

Now that we have seen the tremendous benefits that can be attained through knowledge of God's Word, we can better understand its popularity and the importance that it has held throughout the centuries.

It is this value found in His Word, that's makes a lifetime of study and application of His Word of overwhelming benefit to us all.

Psa 119:111-112 "Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they *are* the rejoicing of my heart. I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes alway, *even unto* the end."

"The Precious Word Part#1

"Questions For Review"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

- 1. In 2 Tim 3:16 what is the meaning of "inspiration"?**
- 2. In 2 Tim 3:16 & 17 what are the 6 ways man can profit from God's Word?**
- 3. In 2 Tim 3:16 differentiate between "doctrine", "reproof", and "correction"**
- 4. In 2 Tim 3:17 does "perfect" mean to never commit sin?**
- 5. In Pro 2:6 what gives us happiness in the midst of a fallen, trouble-filled world?**
- 6. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?**
- 7. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?**

Lesson #2 – Does God Exist?

"The Precious Word Part #2"

"The Word Reveals The True God"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

INTRODUCTION:

Throughout history, men have desired to identify and serve the true God. However, the ability to identify the true God, apart from God's Word is an impossible task. This principle can easily be seen by examining the worship of the false gods that took place in the Gentile nations of the Old Testament.

Keep in mind, with only a few exceptions, the truths of God Word was kept within the confines of the nation of Israel. The gentile nations surrounding Israel were devoid of the truths of His Word, and because of this, their worship was limited to worship pointed toward false gods. Many of these names will be familiar to all of us. Baal, Ra, Nebo, Moloch, Ashtoreth, the list could go on and on. What do these names all have in common? They are the names of false gods worshipped by in gentile nations which surrounded Israel.

Even Israel, when they forsook the teachings of God's Word, allowed the worship of these idols to enter into their nation. It was when the Israelites sought the truths of God's Word, and willingly lived according to them, that we find the worship of the true God take place within their boundaries. Undoubtedly, the Bible is the only reliable source we possess that will reveal to us the true God of the Universe.

In this lesson, we will be coming to a better understanding of the preciousness of the Scriptures by seeing the true God revealed within its pages.

SCRIPTURES:

Psa 83:18

(KJV) That *men* may know that thou, whose name alone *is* JEHOVAH, *art* the most high over all the earth.

(ESV) that they may know that you alone, whose name is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth.

Isa 42:8-9

(KJV) I *am* the LORD: that *is* my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

(ESV) I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

Exo 3:13-15

(KJV) And Moses said unto God, Behold, *when* I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What *is* his name? what shall I say unto them? (14) And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. (15) And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this *is* my name for ever, and this *is* my memorial unto all generations.

(ESV) 13) Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” 14) God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” 15) God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

John 8:58-59

(KJV) Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. (59) Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

(ESV) Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." 59) So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

THE STUDY:

Who is the true God? Psalms 83:18 reveals His identity to us...

"That *men* may know that thou, whose name alone *is* JEHOVAH, *art* the most high over all the earth."

The true God over all the earth identifies Himself as Jehovah. The word Jehovah is a Hebrew word that means "the self-existent One" or "the One who was, is and will be". Why would God choose the name Jehovah to describe Himself? It is because this is one of the characteristics that sets Him apart from all the false Gods of this world.

God, alone, exists eternally. The other gods this world has chosen to worship are mere creations of the sinful human mind (1 Cor 8:4). In some cases, there were demonic forces that inspired the ideas leading to the creation of these false gods. Even in these cases, the demonic forces behind these gods do not exist eternally, but are simply angels, once created by God, who committed sin and were cast out of God's presence due to their sin (Rev 12:7-9).

In Isaiah 42:8-9 we find that since Jehovah is the true God, His worship is exclusive...

"I *am* the LORD: that *is* my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them."

Not only does the God of this universe reveal to us His name, but He also makes it clear that worship should be reserved entirely for Him. As the true God, He will not share the praise and honor that He deserves with false gods and the demonic forces behind them.

One of the proofs God gave to us that He is the true God are prophecies that have been fulfilled later in history. As we study all the many prophecies that were given to us in the Old Testament, combined with their fulfillment later in history, we have proof positive that He is the True, Sovereign, Eternal Lord of all. Many of these Old Testament prophecies involved the coming Messiah, which were later fulfilled in the life of Christ on earth. These same prophecies, and their fulfillment, also clearly indicate that the Scriptures are His revealed Word given to us.

In Exodus 3:13-15... We have a very important section of Scripture that, once again, reveals to us the identity of the God of this universe...

And Moses said unto God, Behold, *when* I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What *is* his name? what shall I say unto them? (14) And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. (15) And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this *is* my name for ever, and this *is* my memorial unto all generations.

Notice here, the name that God gives Himself is "I AM", as we recall this is the exact principle reflected in the definition of the name "Jehovah". To call Himself the "I AM" is to say that He has, is and will always exist. In other words, He is "the Existing One". There never was a time in the past when He has not existed, nor will there ever be a time in the future when He does not exist.

For Him to make the statement "I AM THAT I AM" speaks, not only of His eternal existence, but also of His immutability (He is not capable of change), His faithfulness to His promises, and His knowledge of all things throughout time.

Finally, in conjunction with the Exodus 3: passage, we would be remiss if we did not mention the Christ's statements found in John 8:58-59...

Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. (59) Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

Here, if we read these verses carefully, we find that Christ took upon Himself the title "I AM" as He spoke to unbelieving Jews who claimed that He was possessed by a demon. (John 8:48-52)

By giving Himself this title, Christ was revealing to all mankind that He was the true God and Lord over all (Phil 2:5-11, John 10:30, John 1:1-2). The unbelieving Jews recognized what He meant by taking upon Himself this title and attempted to stone Him. Stoning was the acceptable punishment for blasphemy in the Jewish nation. However, He as the True God, was able to pass from their presence without them hurting Him.

THE APPLICATION:

What a wonderful blessing it is to possess the Word of God. It is in God's Word that we have His identity clearly revealed. The God of this Universe is Jehovah. He is the One that always has, and always will, exist. He can be trusted as the faithful, all-knowing Sovereign God over

all that deserves our worship. It was this same God that came to the earth as man to bring salvation to His people... His name is Jesus...

Joh 10:25-30 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand. I and *my* Father are one.

“The Precious Word Part #2”

“Questions For Review”

1Sa 3:1 “ ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ...”

- 1. Based upon Psa 83:18 (and all the Scriptures) who is the True God?**
- 2. In Psa 83:18 what does the name “Jehovah” teach us about God?**
- 3. What is the basic principle about Jehovah that we learn in Isa 42:8-9?**
- 4. In Exo 3:13-15 what does the title “I AM” teach us about our God?**
- 5. What other title for God teaches us the same truth as the title “I AM”?**
- 6. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?**
- 7. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?**

Lesson #3 – “Are We Created Beings?”

"The Precious Word Part #3"

"The Word Reveals The Creator"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

INTRODUCTION:

Is our existence simply an accident with no real purpose, design or meaning behind it? Or are we created beings designed to fulfill a specific purpose? If we are created beings, then who created us? The answers we get will differ based upon who is asked these questions.

If we go to the world of science to try to find answers to these questions, we find much debate. The majority of scientists are slow to say that we have been created. Among those who say we are created beings, they differ as to the identity of our creator.

Sadly, if we go to the world of religion, we still find a great deal of debate about these things. Among many theologians we find unity of opinion that we are created beings. However, widely ranging opinions exist when they are asked to specifically identify the creator.

We may have a tendency to say, "The answers to these questions lie in the very distant past. The only real issue of importance for us is the fact that we exist. Why, or how, we have come into existence is really a very insignificant subject." The Bible not only identifies our Creator, but it also explains to us why, for all mankind, this is a very important subject that we all must have clarified in our minds. In this lesson, we will be focusing on the Word of God's teachings concerning our creation. We will be finding answers to the question "Who has created us?" and also "Why is this issue so important for us to understand?".

SCRIPTURES:

Isa 45:18

(KJV) For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I *am* the LORD; and *there is* none else.

(ESV) For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): "I am the LORD, and there is no other.

Acts 17:27-29

(KJV) That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: (28) For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. (29) Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

(ESV) (27) that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, (28) for "'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, "'For we are indeed his offspring.'" (29) Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

1Co 8:5-6

(KJV) For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) (6) But to us *there is but* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom *are* all things, and we by him.

(ESV) (5) For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"—(6) yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

Isa 45:8-10

(KJV) ... I the LORD have created it. (9) Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! *Let* the potsherd *strive* with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands? (10) Woe unto him that saith unto *his* father, What begetteth thou? or to the woman, What hast thou brought forth?

(ESV) ...I the LORD have created it. (9) "Woe to him who strives with him who formed him, a pot among earthen pots! Does the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' or 'Your work has no handles'? (10) Woe to him who says to a father, 'What are you begetting?' or to a woman, 'With what are you in labor?'"

THE STUDY:

To begin our study let's turn to Isa 45:18....

"For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I *am* the LORD; and *there is none else.*"

In answer to our question, "Is our world, and everything in it, the result of a creative act?" the Bible proclaims a resounding "YES!" First, we are told that our world was

1. Created – to create, feed, develop
2. Formed – to mold, to fashion, to shape
3. Made – to make, to accomplish, to dress, to keep
4. Established – to fix, to secure, to support

Based upon the Word, we can clearly, undoubtedly see that we are living on a world that was created.

Also please note we are told the purpose of this world's creation. The globe was created for the purpose of being inhabited by mankind. He had us in His mind as He was bringing into existence, forming, shaping, and upholding this world. Our world was the result of a meaningful creation process with a specific purpose in mind... to be a habitation for mankind!

Finally, let's notice that our text clearly tells us the identity of our Creator. It was Jehovah, the "LORD". He alone, as the Creator, has made the world in which we live. This creative act of Jehovah, is one of the ways that He is set apart from all the other "gods" of this world (Acts 17:22-29).

Not only is Jehovah the Creator of the world in which we live, the Bible is equally as clear that He is our Creator as well. This is clearly seen in Acts 17:27-29....

"That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: (28) For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. (29) Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to

think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device."

Peter, in his message on Mars Hill, plainly declares that it is in our Creator, our God, our Lord, Jehovah, that we find our existence and our life.... "in him (God) we live, move and have our being" (vs 28). This great Creator is not far from man, but is accessible, through His grace and the work of His Son, that allows us to have access to Him (vs 27).

Once again, Peter then reminds us that His Creatorship is one way, of many, that He is set apart from all the gods of this world (vs 29). This principle is emphasized in 1 Cor 8:5-6...

For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) (6) But to us *there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.*

Here, we find Paul, writing to the church at Corinth (a center for idol worship in the NT era) reminding the church that the creatorship of God sets Him apart from all others. But interestingly, he does not stop there. Paul then proceeds to explain that Christ, as the second person of the Godhead, should also be attributed with the creation of this world (John 1:1-4, 14; Col 1:13-17). By implication He, too, should be set apart from all other false gods as our Creator and the Creator of the world in which we live. He is truly Jehovah God, come to the earth that He created, to save members of His creation from the ravages of sin (John 1:10-14).

Being our Creator, God possess authority over us. We see this principle in Isaiah 45:8-10...

...I the LORD have created it. (9) Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! *Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands? (10) Woe unto him that saith unto his father, What begettest thou? or to the woman, What hast thou brought forth?*

We are His creation, He has the authority to make us as He pleases and use us as He pleases. It also implies His authority to reveal His desires for our lives and our need to be in submission to those desires. There is no room for questioning His wisdom or His judgment or His desires for the lives of men (Rom 9:14-26).

THE APPLICATION:

Why is God's Word precious to us? It reveals clearly that we are a creation of our Almighty Lord. It explains to us that, as the creation of Jehovah, we have the privilege of serving the

one true God over all. As our Creator, He has a purpose for our lives, He has a plan that is to be fulfilled and has revealed His desires for us in His Word.

This is reason why knowledge of our creation is so important for our daily lives. We are not simply the result of chance or a random occurrence taking place as a natural act. We are the Creation of our Lord, brought into existence through a miraculous act of His Sovereign power. Our creation explains to us that we have a purpose behind our existence. It clearly shows to us that we have a responsibility to serve our Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ, for we are under His authority.

As we come to a greater understanding of His Creatorship, we also come an understanding of the need for submission to His desires for our lives...

Rev 4:10-11 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

“The Precious Word Part #3”

“Questions For Review”

1Sa 3:1 “ ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ...”

- 1. In Isa 45:18, the word LORD is translated from what Hebrew word?**
- 2. What four words describe Jehovah’s act of creation in Isa 45:18?**
- 3. In Acts 17:27-29, which aspect of God’s creation is being discussed?**
- 4. In 1 Cor 8:5-6, what two persons of the Godhead are attributed with the creation of the world?**
- 5. In Isa 45:8-10, Being our Creator what other relationship does He have with us?**
- 6. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?**
- 7. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?**

Lesson #4 – “Is There A Messiah?”

"The Precious Word Part #4"

"The Word Reveals The Messiah"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

INTRODUCTION:

Throughout the Old Testament scriptures we find the central theme of the coming Messiah and His work on behalf of mankind. The prophecies surrounding the Messiah are extensive, compelling and of the utmost importance for all of mankind. However, in spite of the prophecies importance, there is much debate and misunderstanding concerning the identity of this Messiah.

For some, the Messiah has already come and fulfilled many of the OT prophecies. For others, He is yet to come and bring a fulfillment to these prophecies, and yet, to others, these prophecies are only fulfilled in a spiritual fashion with no literal Messiah to ever come to the earth.

God displayed for us the importance of recognizing and submitting to the Messiah by His public rejection of the nation of Israel in the 1st century AD. The Jews rejected the Messiah which led God to turn His back on the nation of Israel thus making it both spiritually and physically desolate. This desolation was made complete with the destruction of the temple and the casting out of the Jewish people from the land of Israel during the invasion of the Romans under Titus in 70 AD.

Our precious Word, openly identifies the true Messiah, the One sent by God for the purpose of creating a kingdom over which He will rule for an eternity.

SCRIPTURES:

Act 10:37-43

(KJV) (37) That word, *I say*, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; (38) How God anointed

Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. (39) And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: (40) Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;... it is he which was ordained of God *to be* the Judge of quick and dead. (43) To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

(ESV) (37) you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: (38) how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. (39) And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, (40) but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear,... he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. (43) To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Joh 6:66-69

(KJV) From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. (67) Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? (68) Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. (69) And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

(ESV) (66) After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. (67) So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" (68) Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, (69) and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

Luk 24:44-49

(KJV) And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me. (45) Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, (46) And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: (47) And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (48) And ye are witnesses of these things. (49) And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

(ESV) (44) Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." (45) Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, (46) and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, (47) and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. (48) You are witnesses of these things. (49) And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

THE STUDY:

To begin our study let's try to find out what we mean by the term "Messiah":

1. The Old Testament word "**Messiah**" comes from a Hebrew word meaning "**Anointed One**".
2. The New Testament, the word "**Christ**" comes from the Greek word for "**Anointed One**".
3. Therefore, "Messiah" and "Christ" are words that mean the same thing, they are simply translated from two different languages (John 1:41) "**...We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.**" .

The core idea of both terms (Messiah, Christ) is the idea of being anointed. In the OT, when a person was anointed (normally with olive oil upon the head) it was a public declaration that this person had been chosen by God to fill a specific office. For the most part, men who were publically anointed with oil were men who were chosen to fulfill one of three offices: Prophet, Priest or King.

This brings us to our first text in Acts 10:37-43

(37) That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; (38) How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. (39) And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: (40) Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;... it is he which was ordained of God *to be* the Judge of quick and dead. (43) To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins."

Here, we find the principle of the "Messiah" clearly explained in verse 38:

1. Notice that a public anointing took place.
2. This public anointing was performed by God using the empowering Holy Spirit as the "anointing oil".
3. As a result of this empowering anointing, we find works of kindness, and works that healed those afflicted by Satan (physical sickness and/or demonic possession) being performed.

Not only do we have an anointing being described, but we also have the One that is anointed being identified... "Jesus of Nazareth" (vs 38). He was:

1. Anointed by God the Father at His baptism (Matt 3:16-17, John 1:32-34).
2. The One that was anointed by the Father to fulfill all three offices of:
 - a. **Prophet** speaking the very words of God (John 14:10);
 - b. **Priest** standing between Holy God and sinful man making reconciliation, working peace (Hebs 5:1-10);
 - c. **King** over all being exalted by God as a faithful Son, given authority to rule over all (Phils 2:5-11, Rev 19:10-16).
3. Unjustly crucified (vs 39)
4. Resurrected the third day (vs 40)
5. Witnessed publically by many following His resurrection (vs 40).
6. Given authority by God the Father to be Judge in the last day (Acts 17:31, Rom 14:9-10)

Jesus is the One that the Old Testament prophets had spoken and revealed to be the God-sent Savior of His people (Isaiah 53:1-12). It is this Jesus who is the "Messiah"; in other words, it is Jesus who is the "Christ". It is this death, burial, resurrection, and public display of the risen Messiah that makes up the "gospel" (good news) message (1 Cor 15:1-11).

Christ's work, as defined in the gospel message, is the same work that the Old Testament prophesies attributed to the Messiah. We can see this in Luke 24:44-49....

And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me. (45) Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, (46) And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: (47) And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (48) And ye are witnesses of these things. (49) And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Along with Jesus explaining to His assembled disciples the content of the Old Testament prophesies concerning Himself (vs 44-46), He also left them with a set of responsibilities. These responsibilities would all center on their need to spread the "good news" about Christ and His work to others:

1. To preach the need for repentance resulting in the remission of sins to all nations (vs 47)
2. To be witnesses of His fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies and His identification as the Messiah. (vs 48)
3. To proclaim the gospel using the empowering of the Holy Spirit to preach and, then, work results in the hearts of men. (vs 49)

Peter affirms Jesus identity as the Messiah in John 6:66-69...

From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. (67) Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? (68) Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. (69) And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

Peter's statement leaves us no doubt about the Messiah's true identity. Peter makes the statement "We believe AND ARE SURE that thou art the Christ...".

During His earthly ministry, His followers were able to see the OT prophecies being fulfilled right before their very eyes. In spite of this, many did not believe Jesus' testimony and willingly chose to ignore the many proofs of His Messiah-ship. It were these same individuals who chose to no longer follow Him.

In contrast to the many who chose to leave His side, there were those who, by faith, recognized His true identity and dedicated themselves to follow Him, the Messiah. Peter verbally declared what His true followers knew in their regenerated hearts and minds that Jesus had come and fulfilled the ministries given to Him by the Father. He was the fulfillment of the OT promises of their coming Messiah. He was "the Christ, the Son of the living God".

THE APPLICATION:

Why is God's Word precious to us? By His grace, through His Word, God has revealed to us the identity of the Messiah. It is His beloved Son, God Himself, the Lord Jesus. When we understand that Jesus is the One sent from God to be the Eternal Prophet, Priest and King, we can begin to understand why Christ and His work must be considered with an extreme seriousness. How we deal with Christ (His person, His message and His work) is what will dictate our standing before Almighty God and, as a consequence, our eternal destiny.

Will we like Peter come to an unquestioning acceptance of Jesus as the Messiah? If we do, it is entirely an act of God's grace at work in our hearts and minds.

Or, will we choose to not believe in the clear message of His Messiah-ship found in God's Word? If this is the case, we can only attribute this to our sinful condition which has blinded our eyes to the truths of His Word. We have chosen the sinful path upon which we are walking. We have no one to blame but ourselves.

“The Precious Word Part #4”

“Questions For Review”

1Sa 3:1 “ ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ...”

- 1. What does the OT word “Messiah” mean?**
- 2. What word is used to describe “The Anointed One” in the NT?**
- 3. Based on Acts 10:37-43, when was Christ publicly anointed by God the Father?**
- 4. Being the “Anointed One”, what offices does Christ hold?**
- 5. Based upon Luke 24:44-49, what are the three parts of the gospel message?**
- 6. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?**
- 7. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?**

Lesson #5 – “Does Sin Exist?”

"The Precious Word Part #5"

"The Word Reveals The Savior"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

INTRODUCTION:

Another theme that runs throughout the Holy Scriptures is mankind's need of deliverance from sin. Every man was born in a fallen condition of separation from God. Their fallen condition brings about acts of disobedience towards Almighty God. It is these two products of sin (fallen nature and disobedient acts) that generates mankind's great need of salvation.

Yes all mankind, due to sin, is in desperate need of salvation. But the Word's teaching about mankind does not stop there. It further explains that man cannot merit, nor in any way attain, salvation of his own efforts. Hence, mankind's unyielding need for a Savior. Man needs someone who will stand in their place and perform the saving work that they so greatly need.

So, who is this One who can deliver all of us from our helpless, hopeless condition? Who can meet the demands of God and supply the redemption for the heinous sin that affects each of us? God's Word graciously reveals His identity to us. This is another of the reasons why the Scriptures are so very valuable for each one of us. You see, without the precious Word, we could never come to knowledge of the One that can save us from our sin.

SCRIPTURES:

Isa 12:1-3

(KJV) And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. (2) Behold, God *is* my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH *is* my strength and *my* song; he also is become my salvation. (3) Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

(ESV) 1) You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. 2) "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." 3) With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Isa 45:20-22

(KJV) Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye *that are* escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god *that* cannot save. (21) Tell ye, and bring *them* near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? *who* hath told it from that time? *have* not I the LORD? and *there is* no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; *there is* none beside me. (22) Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else.

(ESV) Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, you survivors of the nations! They have no knowledge who carry about their wooden idols, and keep on praying to a god that cannot save. (21) Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. (22) "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

1Ti 1:1

(KJV) Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, *which is* our hope;

(ESV) Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

Matt 1:21-23

(KJV) And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. (22) Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, (23) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

(ESV) (21) She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (22) All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23) "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Joh 1:29-34

(KJV) The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. (30) This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. (31) And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. (32) And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. (33) And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. (34) And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

(ESV) (29) The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (30) This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' (31) I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." (32) And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. (33) I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' (34) And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

THE STUDY:

As we search the Scriptures for the identity of the Savior of man, let's turn our attention to Isa 12:1-3...

And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.

Isaiah is acknowledging that he, personally, had been disobedient to the Lord and under the Lord's anger. However, he was now bringing praise and honor to the Lord because His anger had been lifted from Isaiah. To replace that anger, Isaiah was now receiving comfort (communion, peace, security) from His Lord.

Who had done such a wonderful work for Isaiah? Working comfort and grace to replace the anger and guilt that Isaiah had been experiencing? Isaiah continues by naming this great Saviour...

Behold, God *is* my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH *is* my strength and *my* song; he also *is* become my salvation.

His God was the One that had worked deliverance on Isaiah's behalf. But which God was it through whom Isaiah had received deliverance? Was it Baal? Or perhaps, was it Nebo? Absolutely not. Isaiah was not saved through the workings of the man-made Gods of the surrounding nations. He clearly names JEHOVAH as the Savior of mankind.

Not only does Isaiah give credit to Jehovah for deliverance from his sin, but he also gives Him credit for his new found spiritual vitality and joy. Both of these were the end result of the salvation that Isaiah had been given.

Now that Isaiah had experienced the wonderful salvation, and its effects, he invites all of mankind to partake of this same salvation that his Lord offers to man....

Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

According to the Lord's clear explanation to Isaiah, the saving work of Jehovah separates Himself from all the false, man-made Gods of this world (Isa 45:20-22)....

Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye *that are* escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god *that* cannot save. Tell ye, and bring *them* near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? *who* hath told it from that time? *have* not I the LORD? and *there is* no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; *there is* none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else.

When we come to an understanding that Jehovah is the only true Savior of all mankind it makes perfect sense since that Paul would write in 1 Tim 1:1...

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, *which is* our hope;

Notice here, that God is given the title "our Saviour", but the Lord Jesus Christ is given the title "our hope". How can this be? If we find salvation in Jehovah why would Christ be said to be the origin of the hope we have?

We have this principle explained in Matt 1:21-23....

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Matthew's account of the birth of Christ includes an account of how our Lord was given His name. He would be called "Jesus" because He would be the Savior of His people. The name Jesus means "Jehovah is salvation". This is the answer to our question.

How can God be said to be our Savior and, yet Christ be said to be the origin of our hope? It is because Jesus Christ is one with Jehovah God (John 10:30; 1 John 5:7)

Notice this principle is more clearly expressed in the following verses of this text...

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Jesus, truly is Jehovah God who came to the earth and met with mankind as a man. He is both God and Man who came to be the Savior of His people (1 John 5:20). He is "Emmanuel"; He is "Jesus". (Isa 7:14)

John the Baptist reaffirmed the identity of Christ in John 1:29-34...

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

The text continues by teaching us that, as both God and Savior, Christ far exceeded John the Baptist in person, work and authority. John the Baptist's ministry was to clearly show the true identity of Christ to the Jewish people...

This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

The text closes by explaining the events that took place at the baptism of Christ. It was these events that confirmed the true identity of Christ to those who were witnesses of His baptism..

And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. (33) And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. (34) And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

At Christ's baptism, we are told that:

1. The Spirit descended upon Christ.
2. The Spirit then landed (abode) upon Christ
3. The message from God validating the ministry of Christ

Based upon the above, John the Baptist became a witness for Christ by publically verifying His identity as Savior and Son of God.

THE APPLICATION:

Through His precious Word, with the knowledge of the true identity of our Savior, comes a blessed joy knowing that although we cannot save ourselves, by looking to Him in faith, we will be delivered by Him.

If the Lord has shown us His grace by delivering us from our sin, should we not be greatly motivated to serve Him and glorify Him with our lives? Once again, we are to look into His Word to find His guidance and instructions for living our lives separated to His service.

Tit 2:11-14 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

If you have any questions concerning the way of salvation please feel free to visit or call a Bible teaching church in your area. They will be happy to speak to you about the Lord Jesus and the salvation He graciously gives.

Or, if you would rather, feel welcome to email me at settledinheaven@gmail.com. I'll be more than happy to answer any question you may have.

Also, if you look at my blog page "[How To Have A Relationship With God](#)". On this page, you will find several blog entries explaining the way of salvation.

Please visit the "Settled In Heaven Ministries" homepage – <http://www.settledinheaven.org>

“The Precious Word Part #5”

“Questions For Review”

1Sa 3:1 “ ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ...”

- 1. In Isa 12:1-3, who has become our salvation?**
- 2. In 1 Tim 1:1, God is mentioned as our Savior who is mentioned as our “hope”?**
- 3. In Matthew 1:21-23, why was the Lord given the name “Jesus”?**
- 4. What does the name “Jesus” mean?**
- 5. In Matthew 1:21-23, the Lord is also given the title “Emmanuel”. What does this title teach us about the Jesus?**
- 6. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?**
- 7. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?**

Lesson #6 – “Who Can I Look To For Comfort In Midst of Suffering?”

"The Precious Word Part #6"

"The Word Reveals The Comforter"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

INTRODUCTION:

We all need comfort. In the world in which we live, we experience pain, sorrow, loss, difficulties, and discouragements as we continue on life's path. For many, these circumstances result in depression, mental breakdowns and even suicides. Whether we have experienced God's grace, or have never come to a saving knowledge of the Lord, we face distresses that plead for comfort and aid.

Where can we turn for that comfort? To whom can we flee for counsel, safety and peace in a world filled with violence and troubles? Our Lord, through His precious Word reveals the true Comforter to whom we can always rely upon.

SCRIPTURES:

Psa 86:17

(KJV) Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see *it*, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me.

(ESV) (17) Show me a sign of your favor, that those who hate me may see and be put to shame because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

Isa 49:13

(KJV) Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

(ESV) (13) Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.

Joh 14:16-18

(KJV) And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; (17) *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. (18) I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

(ESV) (16) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17) even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. 18) "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Act 9:31

(KJV) Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

(ESV) (31) So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

2Co 1:3-5

(KJV) Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; (4) Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. (5) For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

(ESV) (3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4) who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5) For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

THE STUDY:

The Biblical definition of a comforter is multi-faceted:

1. In the Old Testament the Hebrew word translated "comfort" carries with it several ideas.
 - a. breathing a sigh of relief;
 - b. to pity and then console;
 - c. and finally, to put at ease or to relieve.
2. In the New Testament the Greek word translated "comforter" also has several ideas behind it.
 - a. to be called near (a warrior being called to stand and fight alongside);
 - b. to be advocate or defense attorney;
 - c. to encourage or to urge forward.

We can see from these various definitions the idea of comforting in the Bible involves many different areas of helping others who are facing distresses.

Now that we have a basic understanding of the role of a comforter, let's see who the Bible says we should look to in times of distress and turmoil in our lives.

In our first text, Psa 86:17, we find the identity of the divine Comforter clearly identified....

"Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see *it*, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me."

Here we find, in the life of the Psalmist, that Jehovah God was the source of his comfort during times of opposition and mistreatment at the hands of his enemies. In the context, David was facing enemies who were seeking to kill him (vs 14). This Psalm was a tribute to the Lord, whom David was praising for His protection, love and comfort during these times.

In Isa 49:13 we read that the comfort that Jehovah gives is centered upon His mercy that is shown to His people....

Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

Those who look to the Lord by faith, acknowledging their sin and His role as Master of their life, are the ones who are the recipients of the Lord's comforting hand.

His mercy, alone, is an act that brings comfort to the sin-burdened soul. Just knowing that the Lord has forgiven us of our sins and has made us citizens of His eternal kingdom is a source of

the greatest possible comfort that we can possess. (Psa 85:10) Any trial we may face in this world becomes dim and insignificant if life lived with the Lord is our certain eternal destination.

The touch of the comforting hand of Jehovah is not limited to the Old Testament saints, but is also a part of the lives of New Testament believers as well. This is seen in 2 Cor 1:3-5...

Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; (4) Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. (5) For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

Please notice that, just as Old Testament saints, we who are New Testament believers are the recipients of the comforting hand of Jehovah God. In these verses, we are told one of the great purposes that our God gives us comfort is so that we might show comfort to others in times of distress and sorrow. Bringing comfort to those who are suffering is one of the best ways we can leave a lasting impression of God's grace in the lives of others.

But also it is interesting to note that the comfort that God the Father gives to us "aboundeth" by Christ. In other words, it is the work of Christ, and His intervention in our lives, through which the comforts of God flow. Not only is God our Comforter, but in a very real sense Christ, Jehovah God in the flesh, is the source of our comfort as well.

(Just as a side note, not only does comfort flow to us from the Father through the work of Christ, but all of God's graces are given to us through Christ. See Eph 2:7)

Not only is Christ and His work an essential aspect of our comforting, but we are told in Acts 9:31 that we are comforted by the Holy Spirit...

Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

How can it be that the Holy Ghost is said to be the Comforter for the church when we were told previously that the ministry of comforting is granted by Jehovah God through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ?

We have this explained for us in John 14:16-18...

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; (17) *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. (18) I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Christ is promising that, following His ascension, we would receive another Comforter that would be ever-present with God's people. Comforting is one of the great post-ascension ministries of the Holy Ghost. If we look closely, we see that when Christ promises us a continuation of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. He describes it as Christ Himself coming to be with us (vs 18). Keep in mind, Christ, as the second person of the Godhead is Jehovah God. The indwelling Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead, is Jehovah God as well. (John 4:24, Rom 8:9, 1 Cor 3:16).

The three persons of the Godhead are the very same God (1 John 5:7), therefore, it is without contradiction that all three persons can be identified as the Comforter.

THE APPLICATION:

In a sinful, fallen world that is filled with sorrow, loss and distress, what a privilege it is to have the ultimate source of comfort being identified within the pages of the Word. Not only is our Comforter's identity clearly shown, but also the path that leads to a personal relationship with Him.

The message of salvation is the key to a living relationship with the Lord Jesus and access to the many wonderful blessings that He has promised for His people. One of those blessings is the comforting hand of Jehovah God that rests upon those who have submitted themselves to Him.

“The Precious Word Part #6”

“Questions For Review”

1Sa 3:1 “ ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ...”

- 1. What are two ideas contained in the title of “Comforter” in the Old Testament?**
- 2. What are two ideas contained in the title of “Comforter” in the New Testament?**
- 3. Based upon Psa 86:17, who is described as our comforter?**
- 4. In 2 Cor 1:3-5, through whom does the comforts of the Father abound?**
- 5. In John 14:16-18, following His ascension Christ promises us He will come to us and comfort us. Through whom will this take place?**
- 6. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?**
- 7. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?**

Lesson #7 – “What Happens When We Die?”

"The Precious Word Part #7"

"The Word Reveals Our Afterlife"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

INTRODUCTION:

What takes place after we die? Does our spirit cease to exist while our body enters the grave, or does our spirit continue to exist in a conscious state? If so, where does our spirit reside? What about our bodies... will they ever leave the grave, or will they just gradually decay and cease to exist?

The answers to these questions, many think, cannot be known with certainty. This attitude is so sad because, if we stop to think about it, these issues are perhaps the most important issues that we face in this life.... If there is no afterlife, then there is no need to prepare for a future life. Our life's goal can simply be to "eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die". Without an afterlife, our only concern should be to enjoy this life to its fullest, because that is all there is. However, if there is an eternal afterlife, we will come to a realization that this life is not to be limited to living for temporal pleasure. The main goal of our physical life now becomes preparation for the eternal existence that awaits us.

Praise the Lord, thanks to His precious Word, we can come to definite, and sure, conclusions about both the existence, and nature, of the afterlife that awaits us. This is just another of the many reasons why we should value God's Word and seek to make it a living part of our day to day life on earth.

SCRIPTURES:

Luke 16:19-31

(KJV) 19) There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20) And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21) And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22) And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into

Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23) And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24) And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25) But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26) And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that [*would come*] from thence. 27) Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28) For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29) Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30) And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31) And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

(ESV) 19) "There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20) And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21) who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. 22) The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, 23) and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. 24) And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' 25) But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. 26) And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' 27) And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— 28) for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' 29) But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' 30) And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' 31) He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

Mal 3:18

(KJV) 18) Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

(ESV) 18) Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

Dan 12:1-2

1) And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation [*ever*] to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. 2) And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame [*and*] everlasting contempt.

(ESV) 1) "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. 2) And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

John 5:24-29

(KJV) 24) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. 25) Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. 26) For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; 27) And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. 28) Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29) And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

(ESV) 24) Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. 25) "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26) For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27) And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28) Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29) and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

THE STUDY:

When the Bible speaks of an afterlife, it distinguishes between two different phases of the afterlife:

1. The status of our spirits and bodies immediately following our *PHYSICAL DEATH*. We will be studying this phase of the afterlife by looking at Luke 16:19-31
2. The status of our spirits and bodies immediately following *THE LORD'S SECOND COMING*. We will be studying this phase of the afterlife by looking at John 5:24-30

In our first text, we find the existence of the afterlife that *IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS OUR PHYSICAL DEATH* being described in Luke 16:19-31. In these verses, we will see the afterlives of two men being described:

1. What we are told about Lazarus helps us to understand the existence and condition of the *BELIEVER* in the afterlife.
2. The other man being talked about is the rich man. He was a man who died without exercising faith in the Lord. His condition helps us to understand the condition of the *LOST PERSON* person in the afterlife.

19) There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20) And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21) And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

Here, we can see the complete opposite conditions these two men experienced during their life on earth. The rich man lived a lavish lifestyle, enjoying many of the pleasures this world has to offer. While Lazarus, a beggar, is shown suffering. He suffers physically with health problems, as well as suffering financially lacking many of the necessities of life that we would take for granted.

22) And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23) And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24) And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25) But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

Immediately following his death, we find that the rich man's spirit is found in a condition of misery and torment. He, himself, describes it as being in flames. After death, the spirit of unbelievers is consigned to a place of burning torment.

This same place is described in Mark 9:43-48 as "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." This is speaking of the torment and continual corruption that is experienced by the unbeliever. It is also spoken of in 1Pet 3:19 where it is given the title "prison". These and many other references in Scripture support the description we find here in Luke 16:.

Also please note that while in this torment, he is able to view Lazarus in the comforts of Abraham's bosom, only adding to his torment and suffering. He realizes what joy and comfort he could be experiencing if he had only trusted in the Lord.

Conversely, we see Lazarus escorted to comfort in "Abraham's bosom" by angels. What is meant by the phrase "Abraham's bosom"? It is a phrase that is referring to heaven, the abode of God. Following death, the believer's spirit is taken to heaven to enjoy a close relationship with believers unhindered by sin. This is the meaning of Abraham's bosom. Abraham is the father of all believers, while his "bosom" is speaking of a closeness and intimacy that is experienced between the now dead believer, His God and other believers. This communion is unfettered by sin and its effects (Matt 8:11, Luke 4:16, John 13:23)

26) And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that [would come] from thence. 27) Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28) For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29) Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30) And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31) And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

In this part of our text, we can see that the torment being experienced by the rich man causes him to be concerned about his loved ones who are still alive on the earth. This selfish man who only lived for his only earthly pleasures, is now concerned about the ones he loves on earth. In the midst of his concern for his family, Abraham reminds him that the time for witnessing to those he loved has passed. He had his chance when he was still alive on the earth. Abraham also reminded the rich man that God has given to this world His precious Word. It is through the testimony of that Word that will work salvation in the heart of the unbeliever.

We also can see that Lazarus and the rich man are separated by a great gulf (a chasm, a void, nothingness). It is because of this great divide that they are not able to travel from one place

to another. The suffering being experienced by the rich man cannot be escaped. Likewise the comfort being experienced by Lazarus cannot be lost.

(Just a quick note about Luke 16...

There are some who say that Luke 16 was a parable spoken by the Lord, and therefore cannot be taken literally. Please keep in mind, there is really no reason to believe this is a parable. I am confident this is an historical event recounted by our Lord.

But, for their sakes, let's assume it is a parable.... EVERY parable the Lord taught is always based upon common everyday events.... If this is the case, it is simply telling us there are saved and lost men who die every day and are consigned to their perspective condition.

Also, if this is a parable, it is being taught to us to reveal truth while hiding truth from unbelievers. (Mark 4:11-13). What would be some of the truths the Lord is revealing to us? There is an afterlife. There is a distinct difference between men's destiny, The lost will receive punishment, while the saved will receive comfort. We should witness of the truth while yet alive on earth. Whether parable or no, the substance of the teaching doesn't change.)

Just like our after-death condition after our physical death, our condition *IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIS SECOND COMING* will differ based upon our spiritual standing before God. Malachi 3:18...

Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Consignment to our eternal destiny will take place based upon the presence or absence of our name in the Book of Life (a record of those who, based upon God's sovereign counsels, have come to faith in Him – Phil 4:3, Rev 20:12-15)

We can see this in Daniel 12:1-2...

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation [*even*] to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. 2) And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame [*and*] everlasting contempt.

In our final passage, we will see the process that will take place during the second coming of Christ leading up to the final consignment of all men in John 5:24-29...

24) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

The Lord teaches us that it is the Word's development of faith in our heart, which secures everlasting life for His people. This everlasting life also involves escaping from divine judgment for our sins and being given spiritual life to those who were at one time spiritually dead.

25) Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

This is speaking of the final resurrection of dead bodies. This account includes both the resurrection of the bodies of the saved and lost dead of all time.

26) For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; 27) And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

Christ's ability to resurrect the dead is based upon the authority that the Father has granted to Him. The Father has given Christ the authority to give spiritual and physical life to all. (John 14:19, Col 3:3-4) Not only is Christ given the authority over spiritual and physical life, but He is also given the authority to judge all mankind, resulting in their eternal consignment.

28) Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29) And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

The Lord will be the power behind the resurrection of the bodies of both lost and saved of all time. This resurrection will result in standing before Him in judgment, and then His consigning of all mankind to their eternal destiny. For the saved, those who have served Him faithfully (a mark of genuine salvation) it will be an eternal communion with Him. For the lost, whose sin remains on their account, it will be an eternity facing divine judgment and separation for the many sins they have committed.

THE APPLICATION:

The precious Word shows us, with certainty the afterlife exists. For those who have trusted in Christ, the eternity holds eternal, sinless communion in the presence of God Himself. For those who never trusted in Him and eternity of judgment and separation from Him are awaiting them.

Based upon these truths about the afterlife, as members of mankind, our concern is two-fold. First, we are to live our life in preparation for the life to come. This is one by recognizing our need of salvation, turning from sin to Christ, and placing our faith in Him. Secondly, out of concern for others around us, we are to present to them a testimony of God's grace. This is done in the hopes that, through the grace of God, they may come to a saving knowledge of Him before it is eternally too late.

“The Precious Word Part #7”

“Questions For Review”

1Sa 3:1 “ ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ...”

- 1. What are the two Biblical phases of the Afterlife?**
- 2. In Luke 16:19-31, to what is the title “Abraham’s Bosom” referring?**
- 3. In Luke 16:19-31, describe the condition of the rich man following his death.**
- 4. In Daniel 12:1-2, to what is “the book” referring to?**
- 5. In John 5:24-29, following the resurrection what is the next great event that is described?**
- 6. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?**
- 7. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?**

Lesson #8 – “How Can We Prepare For Death?”

"The Precious Word Part #8"

"The Word Reveals Our Condition"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

INTRODUCTION:

Throughout the ages mankind has been plagued by death. Every man who ever lived, regardless of social status, wealth, education, gender, nationality, or religious affiliation has died. The only exceptions to this are the few members of mankind alive today. In their case, apart from the Lord's 2nd coming, they will certainly taste of death in the near future.

It is this universal death event for which men must be prepared. How can we prepare ourselves for the coming death if we do not understand our spiritual standing before God Almighty? It is only by honestly coming to a conclusion about our spiritual condition that will allow us to know what preparation is needed for the coming day of death.

The Bible is the only infallible source that will show us clearly, truthfully, and without compromise our condition before God. This is another reason why the Word is precious to us.

SCRIPTURES:

Rom 5:12-14

(KJV) (12) Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (13) (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. (14) Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

(ESV) (12) Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— (13) for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.

(14) Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

Rom 6:23

(KJV) (23) For the wages of sin [*is*] death; but the gift of God [*is*] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(ECV) (23) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Eph 2:4-5

(KJV) (4) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, (5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

(ESV) (4) But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

THE STUDY:

To begin our search to find our true spiritual condition before Almighty God, let's look at Rom 5:12-14 ...

(12) Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

To help us to understand our condition, the Lord points us back to the Garden of Eden. He relates to us the actions of the first man Adam. How do the actions of Adam affect our spiritual condition? Adam is not only our physical ancestor but also, in a sense, our spiritual ancestor. The results of his actions have been passed down to all of us as members of mankind. In this passage several results of Adam's sin are given to us:

1. Sin (a condition falling short of perfection) has now become a part of the world in which we live. We now live in a fallen world in which we see the results of sin on every hand: imperfection, injustice, suffering, sickness, sorrow and death.
2. Sinful mankind now possesses an imperfect nature that is predisposed to choose and commit acts of imperfection and disobedience. We now, as a part of our nature, will choose to rebel and sin against our Creator. Sin has now become a part of our very being.
3. Sinful mankind is now sentenced to death. When the Bible speaks of fallen mankind experiencing death, it is speaking of two different types of death:

- a. Physical death – Due to mankind’s sinful condition, our bodies now suffer from pain and sickness. They will gradually become weak, grow old, and eventually die. This type of death involves *the separation of the eternal spirit from physical the body.*
- b. Spiritual death –While alive on earth fallen men is separated from God; they experience no communion, or fellowship with Him. At physical death, fallen mankind experiences permanent separation from Almighty God in the Lake of Fire. This type of death involves *mankind’s spirit being separated from Almighty God.*

(13) For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Sin was in existence from the time of Adam throughout the history of mankind. The existence of sin before the 10 commandments proves that some type of “law” existed in Adam’s day. If no law existed during the times of Adam, then sin could not exist, because sin is “the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4). What was the law that Adam had broken? It was, at least, one of the commands that God initially gave to Adam (Gen 1:28-30).

(14) Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

The first Adam is a “figure” of Christ who is the second Adam. (1 Cor 15:45-47) Just as through Adam death came upon all, through Christ we can find life everlasting.

This principle is emphasized in Romans 6:23...

(23) For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Here we find that, although we are born spiritually dead, there is One through which we can receive eternal life... our Lord Jesus Christ.

The idea of being spiritually dead should not be overlooked or skimmed over lightly. It holds a very grim significance for all of us. To be truly dead implies that we are unable to restore ourselves to life.

For example, suppose that someone suffocates and dies. Rescue workers are called to the scene. They bring the oxygen tank and mask to the victim. They set it next to the victim and then stand back and wait. Can the one who is dead reach up, turn on the oxygen, and place the mask on their face? Of course not. What the victim needs is for the rescue workers to perform CPR, and place the oxygen mask upon their face. They are totally reliant on the rescue workers, if they are to be restored to life.

So, too the condition of a lost man. There is absolutely nothing they can do, apart from God's gracious intervention, to restore themselves to spiritual life:

1. They cannot perform good works to merit salvation, because their works are simply filthy rags in God's sight (Isa 64:6)
2. They cannot trust Christ of their own ability, because faith is a gift from God (Eph 2:8-9)
3. They cannot turn from their sinful acts, because this can only be done by God's power (Acts 11:18)
4. They do not desire to come to the Lord, because there is none who naturally seek after God (Rom 3:9-12)

The list could go on and on...

This is the true condition of all mankind apart from the intervention of God.

THE APPLICATION:

To summarize a spiritually dead person's condition and salvation experience we need to look Eph 2:4-5...

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, (5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Notice that "even when we were dead in sins".... The Lord intervened. Out of His great love, He has given us spiritual life even when we were still dead in our sins. This is salvation through Christ, not ourselves. This is salvation by grace, not our own works. This is the condition of mankind and the genuine salvation that God so graciously gives to us.

With an understanding of our spiritually dead condition comes an understanding of OUR NEED OF SALVATION and also OUR NEED TO TRUST IN CHRIST ALONE for that salvation.

When burdened to come to Christ, we must come with an attitude of total reliance on Him.... If He does not save us, we will not be saved. When we approach Him it must be with the spirit that says, "Dear Lord, I know I can do nothing to please you. I realize I can do nothing that will bring salvation to myself. If you do not intervene in my life, and grant me spiritual life, forgiveness and righteousness through the work of Christ, I will not be saved."

“The Precious Word Part #8”

“Questions For Review”

1Sa 3:1 “ ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ...”

- 1. In Romans 5:12-13, name two results upon mankind due to Adam’s sin in the garden.**
- 2. In Romans 5:12-13, who does Adam’s sin affect?**
- 3. In Romans 6:23, what is the “wage” of sin?**
- 4. In Romans 6:23, what is the “gift” of God?**
- 5. In Romans 6:23, through whom does God’s gift come to us?**
- 6. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?**
- 7. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?**

Lesson #9 – “Where Can I Find Lasting Joy?”

"The Precious Word Part #9"

"The Word Reveals Our Source of Lasting Joy"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

INTRODUCTION:

Man's quest for permanent, total joy began immediately after the fall and continues on to this day. No matter how hard we try, it is impossible to find true happiness in the things this world has to offer. Men have experienced all the world's offerings, miserably failing to achieve their goal.

So what are we to do? Is there no one who can help us to understand true joy? Is there anyone on this earth that can point us to the path that leads to lasting contentment, peace and joy? Once again, this is where we begin to see the preciousness of the Word of God. Within its pages we find the secret of true joy and the way that leads to it.

SCRIPTURES:

Ps 35:9

(KJV) 9) And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation.

(ESV) 9) Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD, exulting in his salvation.

Neh 8:10

(KJV) 10) ... for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

(ESV) 10) for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Isa 61:10

(KJV) 10) I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of

righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh [*himself*] with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth [*herself*] with her jewels.

(ESV) 10) I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Rom 5:11

(KJV) 11) And not only [*so*], but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

(ESV) 11) More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

1Thess 2:19

(KJV) 19) For what [*is*] our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? [*Are*] not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

(ESV) 19) For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?

THE STUDY:

When the Bible speaks of "joy" what is it talking about? The word joy is translated from several different words. The many words translated "joy" have associated with them four basic ideas:

1. To be bright, cheerful, radiant (the outward display of joy)
2. Pleasure, satisfaction, fulfillment (inward contentment)
3. To jump or spin, (excitement)
4. To welcome, to bring to oneself (receipt of benefits)

In the above definitions, we can find a basic definition of "joy". When the Bible speaks of "joy" it is describing a blessed man's outward display of happiness coming from inward feelings of contentment and excitement.

As we begin our study in Psa 35:9, we immediately find the treasure for which we are searching, "joy"....

And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD:

In our text, we find the source of true, lasting joy is the Lord Jehovah. He alone is the One from whom all blessings flow. As our verse continues, it explains how we can experience the joy that is found in Jehovah alone...

it shall rejoice in his salvation.

Joy can be experienced only through the salvation that He so graciously offers to us. Without coming to faith in Christ, any man's pursuit of joy will be fruitless and void. As lost mankind we are born under the dominance of sin in our lives....

Joh 8:33-34 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? (34) Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

But through the faith in Christ and His work on the cross, we can be delivered from the bondage of that sin...

Joh 8:35-36 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever. (36) If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Until we are removed from the enslavement of sin, and liberated through the work of Christ on the cross, we cannot experience a life of joy, freedom and peace (Rom 6:16-20).

Not only is salvation from sin's bondage a basis of our joy, but two other aspects of salvation work on our behalf to cultivate joy in our hearts. We can see this in Isa 61:10...

10) I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh [*himself*] with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth [*herself*] with her jewels.

In these verses, the receipt of salvation is pictured as being clothed in robes of righteousness. This righteousness has two results in the lives of Christians:

1. An intimate relationship with Christ is begun. This is pictured by the bridegroom/bride picture. Just as the putting on of the wedding garments is the beginning phase of intimacy between a married couple. In this same way, having robes of righteousness being put upon the believer brings about an intimate relation with Christ and the Father. (1 John 1:1-4)
2. An heirship is formed. When we receive robes of righteousness and intimacy with Christ and the Father we are adopted into His family. Based upon this adoption we become heirs of God, guaranteeing us the receipt of many future blessings. (Roms 8:13-18)

Knowing that we have been made free from sin's bonds, experiencing a close walk with our Lord, and looking forward to the receipt of many blessings of heirship in the family of God are the three main pillars upon which joy is experienced in the believer's life.

The blessings related to joy are not limited to experiencing joy in our lives, but also includes the receiving of spiritual strength. This is shown to us in Nehemiah 8:10....

... for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

Here, we can see that a joy that is based upon the Lord is the source of our strength as we live our lives on a day to day basis. Why is a daily source of strength an absolute necessity for us to lead a joyous life on earth? The fallen world in which we live is filled with discouragements and troubles (Job 14:1-2). Without an ever present source of strength, life becomes a daily struggle to survive for any one of us.

The daily strengthening joy that we receive from the Lord is based upon a *BACKWARD* look at the cross of Christ and a *FORWARD* look at His second coming.

The *BACKWARD* look at the death of Christ is spoken of in Romans 5:11....

And not only [so], but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Our joy is renewed on a daily basis as we look at the work of our Savior on the cross. One of the greatest accomplishments of the cross is securing the atonement of God's people. The idea of atonement teaches us that it was through the work of Christ that we, who are sinful beings, are brought into fellowship with God. When Christ died on the cross for our sins, He took upon Himself the punishment that was meant for us. In doing so, He took away the enmity that stood between us and God. He brought us into peace with God (Rom 4:24-5:1).

The *FORWARD* look at His second coming is spoken of in 1 Thess 2:19...

19) For what [*is*] our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? [*Are*] not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

Keep in mind, our future "homecoming" with Christ is a source of great joy for the Christian. Just knowing that we will be delivered to a sinless life of peace and joy with Him brings us great joy. However, also this verse brings out the idea of a reunion with those we love and hold dear to us. If those who have passed on before us are saved, we can expectantly wait to rejoin them at the final resurrection. What a day that will be! What a source of joy those thoughts bring to us even now.

THE APPLICATION:

True joy can only be found in God the Father through the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is through His work on the cross that we can receive "joy unspeakable and full of glory". This joy enters our life as we walk with Him enjoying communion and spiritual strength. By acknowledging both His past, present, and future blessings, we can experience joy as a part of our daily walk with Him.

All of this, can only come to us through His precious Word that clearly reveals the way of salvation and the blessings that proceed from our gracious Lord.

“The Precious Word Part #9”

“Questions For Review”

1Sa 3:1 “ ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ...”

- 1. What are two of the ideas behind the Bible word for “Joy”?**
- 2. In Psa 35:9, in whom do we find lasting joy?**
- 3. In John 8:33-36, what must take place before true joy can be possessed?**
- 4. In Nehemiah 8:10, what is a result of genuine joy in our lives?**
- 5. Based upon Rom 5:11 & 1 Thess 2:19, what are the two greatest bases of our joy?**
- 6. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?**
- 7. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?**

Lesson #10 – “What Is The Meaning To Life?”

"The Precious Word Part #10"

"The Word Reveals The Meaning Of Life"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

INTRODUCTION:

Have you ever asked yourself, "What is the purpose of my life?" Or perhaps, "How can I best use the time I have been given to live life on earth?" For some, these questions are unanswerable... they struggle their entire lives trying to come to the true meaning and purpose for the life which we have been given.

Solomon was a great example of this type of person. King Solomon lived his life in pursuit of the answers to these questions. It was only in his old age, just prior to his death, that he came to an understanding of his purpose in life. You can read about his pursuit for these answers in the book of Ecclesiastes.

Do you desire to know the purpose of your life? Do you want to know the most fulfilling way to live your life on earth? Let's spend some time looking at the wisdom of Solomon as he instructs us on the true meaning to our life on earth. To do this, we must turn to the precious word of God... the book that answers for us some of the greatest of life's mysteries.

SCRIPTURES:

Ecd 12:12-14

(KJV) 12) And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books [*there is*] no end; and much study [*is*] a weariness of the flesh. 13) Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this [*is*] the whole [*duty*] of man. 14) For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether [*it be*] good, or whether [*it be*] evil.

(ESV) 12) My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh. 13) The end of the matter; all has been heard.

Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. 14) For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

THE STUDY:

In this lesson we are only looking at one text from God's Word. Although there are several texts that explain the true meaning to our life, these verses we find in Ecclesiastes gives us a clear and complete answer to our question.

Solomon, through experience, knew the importance and wide spread interest that life's purpose creates. The issue was so important for King Solomon that he spent his entire lifetime pursuing its solution.

The book of Ecclesiastes is a diary that Solomon kept as he pursued the evasive solution. In his search for self-satisfaction, contentment and purpose for his life; he tried everything from the carnal pleasures of this world to wealth, education, the arts, political power, and other selfish pursuits, all to no avail.

In Ecclesiastes 12:12-14 we read....

And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books [*there is*] no end; and much study [*is*] a weariness of the flesh.

Solomon acknowledges that many books could be written about the life's meaning, without completely explaining the subject. Likewise, in the search for life's purpose, an individual could exhaust themselves while never coming to a satisfactory explanation of the secret to life.

By God's grace alone, He allowed Solomon to attain what he had so diligently searched. Then, again in a display of His love and kindness to us, He allowed Solomon to accurately and concisely reveal the answer to the readers of His Word....

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:

Here, we find the conclusion of Solomon's life long search. As Solomon presents it to us, he invites us to "hear" it. There are three different ways we can "hear" something... with our ears, with our minds, and with our hearts:

1. Hearing with our ears – By this phrase, I am simply saying we can hear a truth without ever understanding it or applying it to our lives. The Bible refers to this type of hearing as "knowledge".
2. Hearing with our minds – By this I am referring to not only knowing something but coming to an recognition of its truthfulness, meaning and importance. The Bible describes this type of hearing as "understanding".

3. Hearing with our hearts – A simple way to express this is to sincerely attempt to apply this truth to our lives. In other words, it is to put in action the truth we have come to know and understand. The Bible describes this as “wisdom”.
4. In this case, Solomon is definitely explaining to us the need to hear these teachings with our heart. Once we understand life’s purpose, we are to live it out in our day to day walk with the Lord.

(Proverbs 2:6 - “For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding”)

As we continue on in our text we find the treasure for which we have been searching...

Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this [*is*] the whole [*duty*] of man.

Here we see Solomon gives us a two-fold explanation of the true reason for our creation and existence on earth:

1. Fear God – The word translated “fear” carries with it the ideas of reverence, submission and distress.
2. Keep His commandments – This phrase points to the need to come to an understanding of His desires for our life and then striving to fulfill those desires.

The above description of life’s meaning gives to us a wonderful cycle of godliness:

1. By coming to a greater knowledge and understanding of God’s greatness, we find ourselves recognizing the need for greater submission to Him. (Isa 6:1-8)
2. This greater submission then leads to increased obedience to His desires. (Psa 40:6-10)
3. One of His greatest desires is glorification of him in all things. (2 Cor 4:14-15)
4. Wanting to glorify Him leads us to a more complete knowledge and understanding of His greatness and the cycle automatically continues. (1 Cor 6:19-20)

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether [*it be*] good, or whether [*it be*] evil.

Solomon now attempts to encourage us to apply this truth to our lives. He does this by pointing us to the final judgment that will take place following the second coming of Christ.

Here, we are told that every work that performed by mankind will be placed before the Judge of all creation. Whether we are lost and saved, we all will be judged based on the same criteria:

Rev 20:11-12 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. (12) And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Please note the two basic criteria in the final judgment:

1. For both groups the first area of judgment will involve "the book of life".
If our names are found in "the book of life" (a book containing the names of those who are chosen to eternal life through faith in the Lamb – Rev 13:8) we will spend an eternity living with our Lord and enjoying the eternal life which we have been given. If our name is not found in this book we will be consigned to eternity in the Lake of Fire – Rev 20:15, Rev 13:8)
2. The next area of judgment will involve our works. By works, Solomon emphasizes this term involves our outward actions ("every work") and the inward motives for our actions ("every secret thing"). For this judgment, I believe the 66 books of the Bible will be used ("the books"). A comparison of our works, and the principles found in the Bible will be compared. For the saved, a determination of the receipt of rewards will be determined. For the lost, a determination of level of eternal judgment in the Lake of Fire will be determined. (see also 2 Cor 5:9-11, 1 Cor 3:11-15)

(Note: some Bible teachers believe that Rev 20:11-12 is only speaking of the judgment of lost mankind at the end of the age. Even if this is so, the basic principles that are being applied in this judgment will be the same principles applied to saved mankind as well.)

THE APPLICATION:

The Word of God is so precious to us. Within the confines of its pages is found the answer to one of life's most perplexing question, the true purpose behind mankind's existence on earth.

By coming to an understanding of our true purpose, comes an understanding of need to honor and glorify our God by making Him the center of our life. By seeking to always please Him in both our motives and actions it allows us to prepare ourselves for the judgment of the last days.

The Apostle Paul summarized our responsibility in Col 3:1-9...

1) If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2) Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3) For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4) When Christ, [*who is*] our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5) Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6) For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7) In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 8)

But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9) Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

"The Precious Word Part #10"

"Questions For Review"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

- 1. In Eccl 12:12-14, what is the difference between hearing with our ears, mind and heart?**
- 2. In Eccl 12:12-14, what are the two-fold purpose of our lives?**
- 3. In Eccl 12:12-14, what does God bring into judgment?**
- 4. In Eccl 12:12-14, what are the two basic criteria for God's judgment?**
- 5. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?**
- 6. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?**

Lesson #11– “Why Does Tragedy Exist?”

"The Precious Word Part #11"

"The Word Reveals Why Evil Exists"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

INTRODUCTION:

Why is there sorrow in the world? If there is a God, why do we see horrible displays of injustice, wickedness and calamities in the world in which we live? In many cases, these questions are asked by those who are searching for comfort during times of great catastrophe. There are others who, when they see the many damaging acts of our world, seek to "make sense" of these events, by questioning the purpose behind them.

Can we ever come to an understanding of why evil exists in the world around us? Of course, we cannot know the mind of God; therefore, we can never fully understand the particular reasons behind a specific event. But, by God's grace, we can come to an understanding of some common purpose behind the evil occurrences of this world.

In His Word, He helps us to come to a comprehension of why our world is filled with injustice, calamities and wickedness. Let's take time to examine the harmful events of this world in the light of God's precious Word.

SCRIPTURES:

Isa 45:5-8

(KJV) 5) I [*am*] the LORD, and [*there is*] none else, [*there is*] no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: 6) That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that [*there is*] none beside me. I [*am*] the LORD, and [*there is*] none else. 7) I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these [*things*]. 8) Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it.

(ESV) 5) I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, 6) that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. 7) I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the LORD, who does all these things. 8) "Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout; I the LORD have created it.

Gen 3:9-24

(KJV) 9) And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where [*art*] thou?... 16) Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire [*shall be*] to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. 17) And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed [*is*] the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat [*of*] it all the days of thy life; 18) Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19) In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou [*art*], and unto dust shalt thou return.... 22) And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: 23) Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24) So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

(ESV) 9) But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"... 16) To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." 17) And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18) thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 19) By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.".... 22) Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" 23) therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24) He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Ecd 7:13-14

(KJV) 13) Consider the work of God: for who can make [*that*] straight, which he hath made crooked? 14) In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.

(ESV) 13) Consider the work of God: who can make straight what he has made crooked? 14) In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

THE STUDY:

Let's take a look at our first text, as we search for the purpose behind the evil that is in the world today.

In Isa 45:5-10, we will see that evil exists to teach us about the True God...

5) I [*am*] the LORD, and [*there is*] none else, [*there is*] no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

6) That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that [*there is*] none beside me. I [*am*] the LORD, and [*there is*] none else.

Our Lord, as He speaks to the nation of Judah through the prophet Isaiah, begins to establish His uniqueness as the ONLY true God. His desire is for the entire world ("from the rising of the sun and from the west") to come to understand this truth about Him.

7) I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these [*things*].

8) Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it.

To clearly demonstrate His exclusivity among all the "gods" worshipped by man, He points to His creation of:

1. The light – illumination, both physical light and giving us understanding of His truth (spiritual ability to understand His Word)
2. The darkness – literal darkness or nighttime, also can speak of the “dark times” of our lives (sorrow and calamities)
3. Peace – the experience of safety, welfare and prosperity in both the physical and spiritual realms of our lives.
4. Evil – times of adversity, affliction, calamity, troubles in our lives experienced as a part of a fallen, sinful world.

The Lord tells us that He “creates” these things. In other words, He allows them to take place in this world, either by bringing them into existence, or by allowing them to come into existence. In either case, He is in control of these things and uses them to reveal Himself to fallen mankind. (John 9:1-7)

How do the dark, evil things in our lives reveal God to man?:

1. His grace - It shows us what life would be like without Him. (Eph 2:12)
2. His sovereignty - It shows us that we cannot control the events of our life (Acts 17:25-28)
3. His love and care – As we experience His presence and intervention in times of trial. (Psa 36:5-9)
4. His justice – As we see the direct results in the lives of the lost. (Prov 11:20-21)
5. His wisdom – When these dark times result in our good and His glory. (Deut 8:2-3)
6. The list goes on and on....

The evil things in life result to teach mankind about the True God.

In Genesis 3:9-24 we see that evil exists as the natural result of the existence of sin in a fallen world...

(KJV) 9) And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where [*art*] thou?... 16) Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire [*shall be*] to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. 17) And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed [*is*] the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat [*of*] it all the days of thy life; 18) Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19) In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou [*art*], and unto dust shalt thou return.... 22) And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: 23) Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of

Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24) So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

In the above text, we find a listing of the general types of hardships that mankind experiences as the result of disobedience to God in the garden. It was this act of disobedience that plunged the world into a sinful fallen state and brought with it sin and its results upon all creation

1. Trials directly resulting from our decisions and actions... this would include pain in childbearing, contraction of STD after intimate relations, punishments for breaking laws of land, broken marriage due to adultery, traffic accidents due to a careless decision, persecution due to choosing to take stand for Christ, the list is endless.
2. Trials directly resulting from fallen nature... the existence of weeds, thorns, tornados, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, wild animal attacks, poisonous bites and stings from animals and insects, once again the list seems endless.
3. Trials directly resulting from sins' effects on physical body.... death, sickness, pain, aging, birth defects, these and many others can fall into this category.

All of the above, as horrible as they are, cannot compare to the ultimate evil that has come upon mankind... spiritual death. But even in spiritual death we see how the Lord uses it for His glory by restoring to us the spiritual life that was lost at the fall of man. (Eph 2:1-9)

In Eccl 7:13-14, we find that the evils that come upon us are beneficial to us.

13) Consider the work of God: for who can make [that] straight, which he hath made crooked? 14) In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.

Here, the Lord explains to us one of the great reasons why difficult times enter into our lives. The Lord brings both days of prosperity and days of adversity into our lives.

Why? **"that man should find nothing after him"**. In other words, so that we will not be able to predict what our future holds. By doing this, the Lord constantly reminds us of our need of Him. We cannot know what the future holds and we cannot, with certainty, prepare for it. It causes us to be in a constant state of reliance upon Him and recognition of our susceptibility to the evils of this world.

The Apostle Paul teaches us this same principle in 2 Cor 12:6-10...

6) For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but [now] I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me [to be], or [that] he heareth of me. 7) And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was

given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8) For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9) And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10) Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Paul suffered from a physical infirmity that forced him to rely on the Lord. This produced a spiritual strength in Paul's life as he looked to the Lord for guidance and strength, instead of relying upon his human wisdom and ability.

Through the trials that we face in life, we benefit in several ways:

1. They teach us that we are not in control of our own future or destiny, therefore we must rely on the Lord daily. (James 4:14-17, Pro 3:1-6)
2. They teach us that we should thank the Lord for the good times and rely on the Lord during the evil times. (Psa 75:1 , Psa 31:9-16)
3. They are an opportunity to be strengthened and develop a closer walk with the Lord to prepare for the trials that may lie ahead. (Psa 119:71, James 1:1-4)
4. They are an opportunity to present a testimony of God's grace to others during the trial and, following the trial, it is an opportunity to help others in similar circumstances from the lessons we learned thru experience. (1 Pet 4:12-19, 2 Cor 1:4)

THE APPLICATION:

As we complete our study on the purpose behind the existence of evil, as followers of Christ, the preciousness of His Word is magnified. The Word reveals to us that our Lord is in control of all the heartbreaks of this world (Dan 4:34-35); He has reasons for each to take place. Knowing, this makes it much easier to cope with them when they occur.

Through His glorious Word, we also receive assurance that the evil of this world only results in God's glory and our good. And, sadly the Word also brings to light that the harmful events of this world can only be blamed on man's fall and our individual acts of sin. We are to blame for the catastrophes of this fallen, sinful world.

But finally, the pricelessness of the Word is emphasized when we read of God's eternal promises concerning the overwhelming experiences of this world. For we are clearly told that these events are only temporal in nature, and short lived, in comparison to the wonderful eternity awaiting the people of God.

Rom 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time [*are*] not worthy [*to be compared*] with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

2Cor 4:16-18 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward [*man*] is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding [*and*] eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen [*are*] temporal; but the things which are not seen [*are*] eternal.

1Pet 1:6-7 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Rev 21:1-5 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [*is*] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [*and be*] their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Praise God for His Word and the many wonderful teachings that enable us to withstand the devastations of this world.

"The Precious Word Part #11"

"Questions For Review"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

- 1. In Isaiah 45:5-10, why did God create evil?**
- 2. In Isaiah 45:7, name four things the Lord creates.**
- 3. In Genesis 3:9-24, why does evil exist?**
- 4. In 2 Cor 12:6-10, name three ways we benefit from the trials we face in this world.**
- 5. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?**
- 6. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?**

Lesson #12 – “Is There A Universal Standard of Right and Wrong?”

"The Precious Word Part #12"

"The Word Reveals A Universal Standard Of Right and Wrong"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

INTRODUCTION:

Because of our fallen natures, and the guilt we feel due to the performance of sin, each and every one of us has a tendency towards justifying and, even, denying the sins that we have committed. In our minds, we think that if we excuse and ignore our acts of disobedience to God, they will simply go away, never to come back to harm us again.

As fallen man, left to their own thoughts, will pervert sin to the point of invalidating its very existence by changing its definition. That is why the prophet Isaiah described the people of his day in this way... "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto [*them that are*] wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!"

The only possible remedy for this situation is the presentation of a clear, concise definition of sin. This definition of sin, in conjunction with an explanation of its results would be given for the good of mankind. These would be given to fallen man from a heart of love as a warning to fallen mankind of its need to find forgiveness for sin or face the punishment of eternal suffering separated from the presence of Almighty God.

Where can we look to find such a well-defined standard by which we can compare our lives? Where can we search to find the loving teachings that are given to us to warn and prepare us for the eternity to come? Let's search the precious Word of God to see if our gracious Lord has given us a standard that will reveal our condition before Him.

SCRIPTURES:

Isa 6:1-4

(KJV) 1) In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. 2) Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. 3) And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, [*is*] the LORD of hosts: the whole earth [*is*] full of his glory. 4) And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

(ESV) 1) In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2) Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3) And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" 4) And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

Deut 9:10

(KJV)10) And the LORD delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God; and on them [*was written*] according to all the words, which the LORD spake with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.

(ESV) 10) And the LORD gave me the two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words that the LORD had spoken with you on the mountain out of the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly.

Rom 7:12

(KJV) 12) Wherefore the law [*is*] holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

(ESV) 12) So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

Gal 3:21-26

(KJV) 21) [*Is*] the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. 22) But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. 23) But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. 24) Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster [*to bring us*] unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25) But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. 26) For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

(ESV) 21) Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. 22) But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23) Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. 24) So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. 25) But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26) for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

Lev 20:7-8

(KJV) 7) Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I [*am*] the LORD your God. 8) And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I [*am*] the LORD which sanctify you.

(ESV) 7) Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. 8) Keep my statutes and do them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you.

Matt 22:34-40

(KJV) 34) But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. 35) Then one of them, [*which was*] a lawyer, asked [*him a question*], tempting him, and saying, 36) Master, which [*is*] the great commandment in the law? 37) Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38) This is the first and great commandment. 39) And the

second [*is*] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40) On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

(ESV) 34) But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35) And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37) And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38) This is the great and first commandment. 39) And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40) On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

THE STUDY:

Who must be the Author of a universal moral standard for mankind?

As we begin our search for a perfect moral standard let's look at Isa 6:1-4...

1) In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. 2) Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. 3) And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, [*is*] the LORD of hosts: the whole earth [*is*] full of his glory. 4) And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

To begin looking for any moral standard we must begin by finding:

1. a PERFECT author unable to mistakenly identify the standards by which we are to live.
2. The author of these standards must also HOLD AUTHORITY over mankind to hand down binding standards by which to live.

The only One who is perfect and unable to err, holding authority over all creation is our Lord Jehovah... here we are told... **"Holy, holy, holy, [*is*] the LORD of hosts: the whole earth [*is*] full of his glory"**. The LORD, in all three persons of the trinity is a God that does not commit sin (1 John 1:5); also as Creator and Authority holder over all creation is seen and glorified in it. (Isa 64:6-8)

What is the moral standard Jehovah has given to mankind?

In Deut 9:10 we find that the law was directly given from God to Moses...

10) And the LORD delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God; and on them [*was written*] according to all the words, which the LORD spake with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.

Undeniably, the law of God (tables of the 10 commandments) was given to Moses directly from the very hand of God. This helps us to understand that the commandments of God are without error and a binding authority of the actions of mankind.

In Romans 7:12 we find that, because the law comes from a sinless Lord, the commands themselves are perfect...

(KJV) 12) Wherefore the law [*is*] holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

Here, the law is described as:

1. Holy – Pure, separated for Godly uses
2. Just - Fair, separated from sin
3. Good - Beneficial, pleasing to God and man

Because it proceeds from God it is pure, fair and beneficial to all mankind. The law is a fair indicator of mankind's spiritual condition as well as a sinless standard by which mankind must be compared.

Since the law is beneficial to mankind, how are we to use the law and benefit from it?

1. By using it as a schoolmaster showing us our need of salvation:

In Galatians 3:19-26 we read...

(KJV) 21) [*Is*] the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. 22) But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that

believe. 23) But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. 24) Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster [*to bring us*] unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25) But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. 26) For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Here, we find that the law was never intended to be the gateway to salvation (through the good works of mankind) vs 21. It was given to show us our sinful condition before our Holy God. (vs 22). It was given to lead us to the perfect Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ (vs 22-24). Christ is the One who came to earth and perfectly kept the law. This allowed Him to be the perfect sacrifice that was able to bear the sins of all mankind (1 Ptr 2:21-24).

2. By using it to give a visual presentation of our Lord to our acquaintances.

Leviticus 20:7-8 tells us that by keeping God's laws, we can be a testimony to those around us.....

7) Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I [*am*] the LORD your God. 8) And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I [*am*] the LORD which sanctify you.

Our holy Lord gives us the responsibility to tell others about Him. One of the greatest ways we can show our Holy Lord to world is by living according to His law. He is a Holy God and we can proclaim His holiness by striving to keep His commands. (1 Pet 1:13-23)

(Please note: Although forgiven, because we still possess a fallen, sinful nature, we cannot keep the laws of God perfectly. Although we are to desire to fulfill His law to be a good testimony, at times, we will fail (Rom 7:12-25). In this case, we are to repent of the committed sin and continue on in service to Him (1 John 1:5-10).

3. By using it to improve life for all mankind on earth

In Matt 22:34-40, we find that by keeping the law, we will heighten the quality of life for all mankind...

34) But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. 35) Then one of them, [*which was*] a lawyer, asked [*him a question*], tempting him, and saying, 36) Master, which [*is*] the great commandment in the law? 37) Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt

love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38) This is the first and great commandment. 39) And the second [*is*] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40) On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Our Lord boils down the law into 2 basic commissions... He gives us the primary responsibility of loving our Lord, the second most important responsibility is to love our neighbors as ourselves. These summarize the entire table of God's laws, which are basically divided into two sections... (Exodus 20:1-17)

Man's Responsibilities To God

When we love the Lord as we should we will then, naturally do all we can to honor and glorify Him:

1. Have no other Gods before us.
2. Make no graven images
3. Do not take the name of the Lord in vain.
4. Give the Lord for worship and rest (Sunday – New Day – John 20:19, Col 2:16-17)

Man's Responsibilities To Man

When we love our neighbors as we should we will then, naturally, do all we can to do no harm to them but only help them:

1. Honour our father and our mother
2. Will not commit murder
3. Will not commit adultery
4. Will not steal
5. Will not bear false witness
6. Will not covet

By doing these, we not only show others the attributes of Christ but we also make this world a better place to live for everyone.

THE APPLICATION:

The natural result of turning away from the principles of God's Word is the replacement black and white standards of morality with those of varying shades of gray. This is the condition of our world today. As the generation after generation have passed away so, too, have the clear set of morals that the Bible gives to us.

Let us all be thankful, and value God's Word because found within its pages are the set of moral values necessary to bring us to Christ, reveal Christ to those around us, and make this world a far better place in which to live.

"The Precious Word Part #12"

"Questions For Review"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

- 1. In Isa 6:4, what are two attributes necessary for the author of a perfect moral standard? Who has those attributes?**
- 2. In Deut 9:10, what is the moral standard that Jehovah has given to man?**
- 3. In Romans 7:12, since the Lord is sinless what are the attributes of His law?**
- 4. Name three ways we can use the law of Jehovah and benefit from it.**
- 5. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?**
- 6. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?**

Lesson #13 – “Summary Of Our Study”

"The Precious Word Part #13"

"Summary Of Our Study"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

INTRODUCTION:

Over the past 12 lessons we have seen that the Word of God has supplied to us the answers to some of life's most difficult and important questions:

1. What is the Bible? Why does it stand out from all the writings of man?
2. Does God exist? If so, who is the true God?
3. Is our existence on earth simply an accident, or were we created by a higher power? If we are created beings who is our Creator?
4. Is There a Messiah? If so, what is His identity?
5. Does sin exist? If so, to whom do we turn to find forgiveness?
6. Where do we turn to find peace and comfort in the midst of a world that is filled with injustice, pain, suffering, and death?
7. What takes place at our death? Does our spirit go out of existence or does it continue to exist in a conscious state?
8. Is there a need to prepare spiritually for our coming death? If so, what can we do to prepare?
9. Does genuine lasting happiness and joy exist? If so where can we find them?
10. Is there a purpose for our life on earth? If so, how can we fulfill that purpose?
11. Why are there sorrowful, painful events in this world? If there is a God why does He allow evil in this world?
12. Is there a universal standard for right and wrong? If so, where can we find it?

And this list is just the beginning.... We are promised by God Himself, through the writings of the Apostle Paul that God's Word totally gives us what we need to know to live our lives on planet earth... "All scripture [*is*] given by inspiration of God, and [*is*] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

It is because of this that this precious book, God's Word handed down to man, should be the chief source of all our knowledge, understanding and wisdom as we live our lives for His honor and glory.

In Psalm 19:7-11, we find a summary of the Word of God and its significance for all mankind. In this study, we will be looking at this set of verses, as a fitting summary and concluding study for our series.

SCRIPTURES:

Ps 19:7-11

(KJV) 7) The law of the LORD [*is*] perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD [*is*] sure, making wise the simple. 8) The statutes of the LORD [*are*] right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD [*is*] pure, enlightening the eyes. 9) The fear of the LORD [*is*] clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD [*are*] true [*and*] righteous altogether. 10) More to be desired [*are they*] than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11) Moreover by them is thy servant warned: [*and*] in keeping of them [*there is*] great reward.

(ESV) 7) The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; 8) the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9) the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. 10) More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. 11) Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

THE STUDY:

In our text, Ps 19:7-11, we now turn our attention to the significance of God's Word for our lives...

The flawless Word and its benefits...

In this section of our text we find the Word of God given six different titles:

7) The law of the LORD [*is*] perfect, converting the soul:

The Hebrew word translated "law" means "to draw a line" or "to point in correct direction". This title teaches us that the Word contains limits that the Lord sets for us to follow. These limits are given to us to keep us from hurting ourselves.

The line that the Lord draws clearly shows us that we are not perfect and we are missing the target He has set for our lives. The knowledge of our failures before Him shows us our need of repentance which motivates us to turn to Christ as our Lord and Savior resulting in our receipt of spiritual life.

the testimony of the LORD [is] sure, making wise the simple.

The word for "testimony" means "a witness". The Word of God witnesses to us the truth of God. God, here is acting as a witness for Himself. He is the only One who has full knowledge of His own person, desires, work and commands.

Once we learn the about God from His Word it makes us wise as we apply these truths to our day to day walk with Him.

8) The statutes of the LORD [are] right, rejoicing the heart:

The word that is translated "statutes" refers to "a responsibility given to us by a superior". As our Creator and Savior the Lord has all authority over us. The Word is filled with the duties that He has given to us.

These responsibilities are just and, if we keep them, are beneficial to His cause and our well-being. When we keep His statues we can find much joy and happiness in life as we live a blessed life of the Lord.

the commandment of the LORD [is] pure, enlightening the eyes.

"Commandment" is a word that means "to arrange, appoint, or set in order". The Scriptures help us to set our life in order.

By following its dictates, our eyes are opened to how we can live an orderly, useful life that is fulfilling our purpose for living.

9) The fear of the LORD [is] clean, enduring for ever:

The word "fear" is translated from a Hebrew word that carries with it the idea of "reverence, respect, and awe". It is through the Scriptures that we can come to a partial understanding of the greatness of God and our need to reverence Him.

When we reverence God as we should, we will find ourselves submitting to His authority at our salvation; and it is this salvation that result in clean holy lives. This type of life results in eternal rewards for those who are faithful to Him.

the judgments of the LORD [are] true [and] righteous altogether.

The word translated "judgments" is defined as "verdicts, or the decrees of a judge". The Word of God relates to us what God has decided about the many varied issues we may face in life.

Do I want to know what God thinks of a certain action? What about a decision I am about to make? His Word will tell us. At that point, we will know the Lord's lawful and just assessment of any subject.

The priceless Word and its preeminence...

10) More to be desired [are they] than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

The value of God's Word to both saved and unsaved is described in two ways:

1. More valuable than a great quantity of fine gold – This describes the value of God's commands in terms of worldly wealth. The Word is more valuable for us than the most valuable riches this world has to offer.
2. Sweeter than fresh honey from the comb – This is comparing the benefits of the Scriptures to one of the most delicious and beneficial of foods of this world. The Word gives a better type of strength, nourishment and enjoyment than that of sweet honey.

The cautioning Word and its result...

11) Moreover by them is thy servant warned: [and] in keeping of them [there is] great reward.

The Word of God contains many warnings from the Lord that is given to mankind for their protection and gain.

By listening to the admonitions of the Lord, we will escape great sorrows in life. By heeding His counsel we will lead lives that are pleasing to God and secure eternal rewards as faithful servants.

THE APPLICATION:

In our text, and throughout our series, we have seen many different aspects of God's Word. One of the many things that all these features of His Word have in common is the fact that, in every case, they are beneficial to anyone who is willing to apply its truths to their lives.

The application of His Word will result in the reception of many various blessings. Some of these blessings we will be able to enjoy during our lifetime on earth, but in many cases, these blessings have eternal significance enjoined to them. One of the greatest eternal benefits we will receive are rewards for our service which we will be able to lay back at our Lord's feet as a way of giving Him all the praise for His Word and the enabling we needed to serve Him. (Rev 4:10-11)

Realizing the wonderful blessing of His Word that He has handed down to us, let us all join together with the Psalmist and share the great desire of his heart... to praise and honor our Lord for His Word and its many benefits to us...

Ps 138:2-3

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name. In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, [*and*] strengthenedst me [*with*] strength in my soul.

"The Precious Word Part #13"

"Questions For Review"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

- 1. In Psa 19:7-11, List the six names given for God's Word?**
- 2. In Psa 19:10, what is the very basic principle we are taught about the Word?**
- 3. In Psa 19:11, name one benefit we receive from the Word.**
- 4. Name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?**
- 5. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?**

Answer Key

(To be included in teacher's version of manual. Inclusion into the student version is optional)

"The Precious Word Part #1"

"Questions For Review "

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

1. In 2 Tim 3:16 what is the meaning of "inspiration"?

"God-breathed"; "To be breathed out by God"

2. In 2 Tim 3:16 & 17 what are the 6 ways man can profit from God's Word?

"doctrine"; "reproof"; "correction"; "instruction in righteousness";

"may be perfect"; "thoroughly furnished to every good work"

3. In 2 Tim 3:16 differentiate between "doctrine", "reproof", and "correction"

"doctrine" – learning, facts, information

"reproof" – conviction, to point out error, show need of change

"correction" – to straighten, to show how to correct errors

4. In 2 Tim 3:17 does "perfect" mean to never commit sin?

No, this word means to be spiritually mature, wise, experienced

5. In Pro 2:6 what gives us happiness in the midst of a fallen, trouble-filled world?

Through gaining understanding and wisdom

6. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?

Students discretion

7. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?

Students discretion

"The Precious Word Part #2"

"Questions For Review"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

1. Based upon Psa 83:18 (and all the Scriptures) who is the True God?

Jehovah

2. In Psa 83:18 what does the name "Jehovah" teach us about God?

Self-Existent; The One who "was", "is" and "will be"

3. What is the basic principle about Jehovah that we learn in Isa 42:8-9?

All worship should be reserved for Him, His worship is exclusive

4. In Exo 3:13-15 what does the title "I AM" teach us about our God?

The One who "was", "is" and "will be"

5. What other title for God teaches us the same truth as the title "I AM"?

Jehovah

6. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?

Student's discretion

7. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?

Student's discretion

"The Precious Word Part #3"

"Questions For Review"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

1. In Isa 45:18, the word LORD is translated from what Hebrew word?

Jehovah

2. What four words describe Jehovah's act of creation in Isa 45:18?

Created; formed; made; established

3. In Acts 17:27-29, which aspect of God's creation is being discussed?

Creation of mankind

4. In 1 Cor 8:5-6, what two persons of the Godhead are attributed with the creation of the world?

God the Father; God the Son (Lord Jesus Christ)

5. In Isa 45:8-10, Being our Creator what other relationship does He have with us?

Lord; Authority-Holder

6. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?

Student's discretion

7. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?

Student's discretion

"The Precious Word Part #4"

"Questions For Review"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

1. What does the OT word "Messiah" mean?

Anointed One

2. What word is used to describe "The Anointed One" in the NT?

Christ

3. Based on Acts 10:37-43, when was Christ publically anointed by God the Father?

At His baptism

4. Being the "Anointed One", what offices does Christ hold?

Prophet; Priest; King

5. Based upon Luke 24:44-49, what are the three responsibilities related to the gospel message?

Preach the need for repentance resulting in the remission of sins

To be witnesses of the fulfillment of OT prophecies and Him being the Messiah

To proclaim the gospel under the empowerment of the Holy Spirit

6. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?

Student's discretion

7. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind

Student's discretion

"The Precious Word Part #5"

"Questions For Review"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

1. In Isa 12:1-3, who has become our salvation?

God; or Lord Jehovah

2. In 1 Tim 1:1, God is mentioned as our Savior who is mentioned as our "hope"?

Lord Jesus Christ

3. In Matthew 1:21-23, why was the Lord given the name "Jesus"?

He would save His people from their sins

4. What does the name "Jesus" mean?

Jehovah is our salvation

5. In Matthew 1:21-23, the Lord is also given the title "Emmanuel". What does this title teach us about the Jesus?

He was God, Himself, come to the earth

6. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?

Student's choice

7. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?

Student's choice

"The Precious Word Part #6"

"Questions For Review"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

- 1. What are two ideas contained in the title of "Comforter" in the Old Testament?**

Breathing sigh of relief; to pity and console; or to put to ease, to relieve

- 2. What are two ideas contained in the title of "Comforter" in the New Testament?**

Called near; to be an advocate or defense attorney; to encourage, urge forward

- 3. Based upon Psa 86:17, who is described as our comforter?**

LORD; Jehovah

- 4. In 2 Cor 1:3-5, through whom does the comforts of the Father abound?**

Christ

- 5. In John 14:16-18, following His ascension Christ promises us He will come to us and comfort us. Through whom will this take place?**

He will come in the person of the indwelling Holy Spirit

- 6. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?**

Student's discretion

- 7. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?**

Student's discretion

"The Precious Word Part #7"

"Questions For Review"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

1. What are the two Biblical phases of the Afterlife?

Following physical death; following Lord's second coming

2. In Luke 16:19-31, to what is the title "Abraham's Bosom" referring?

Heaven; Paradise; or Abode of God

3. In Luke 16:19-31, describe the condition of the rich man following his death.

In torments, in flames, concerned for lost family members

4. In Daniel 12:1-2, to what is "the book" referring to?

Book of life, listing of all who will be saved

5. In John 5:24-29, following the resurrection what is the next great event that is described?

The judgment lost and saved (either 1 event or two separate events)

6. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?

Student's discretion

7. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?

Student's discretion

"The Precious Word Part #8"

"Questions For Review"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

- 1. In Romans 5:12-13, name two results upon mankind due to Adam's sin in the garden.**

Sin; death

- 2. In Romans 5:12-13, who does Adam's sin affect?**

All men; mankind

- 3. In Romans 6:23, what is the "wage" of sin?**

Death

- 4. In Romans 6:23, what is the "gift" of God?**

Eternal life

- 5. In Romans 6:23, through whom does God's gift come to us?**

Jesus Christ our Lord

- 6. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?**

Student's discretion

- 7. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?**

Student's discretion

"The Precious Word Part #9"

"Questions For Review"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

1. What are two of the ideas behind the Bible word for "Joy"?

Bright, cheerful, radiant; pleasure, satisfaction, fulfillment; jump or spin; welcome, bring to oneself

2. In Psa 35:9, in whom do we find lasting joy?

Jehovah; LORD

3. In John 8:33-36, what must take place before true joy can be possessed?

Freedom from sin must be attained

4. In Nehemiah 8:10, what is a result of genuine joy in our lives?

Spiritual strength

5. Based upon Rom 5:11 & 1 Thess 2:19, what are the two greatest bases of our joy?

The past work of Christ; our future eternity with Christ

6. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?

Student's discretion

7. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?

Student's discretion

"The Precious Word Part #10"

"Questions For Review"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

1. In Eccl 12:12-14, what is the difference between hearing with our ears, mind and heart?

Ears – simply hearing the truth, gaining KNOWLEDGE of a truth

Mind – simply coming to an UNDERSTANDING of the truth

Heart – applying the truths we have heard and understood to our lives WISDOM

2. In Eccl 12:12-14, what are the two-fold purpose of our lives?

Fear God & Keep his commandments

3. In Eccl 12:12-14, what does God bring into judgment?

Every work & Every Secret Thing

4. In Eccl 12:12-14, what are the two basic criteria for God's judgment?

The book of life & the books of the Bible

5. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?

Student's discretion

6. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?

Student's discretion

"The Precious Word Part #11"

"Questions For Review"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

1. In Isaiah 45:5-10, why did God create evil?

To teach us about Jehovah as the True God

2. In Isaiah 45:7, name four things the Lord creates.

Light, darkness, peace, evil

3. In Genesis 3:9-24, why does evil exist?

It is the natural result of sin in a fallen world

4. In 2 Cor 12:6-10, name three ways we benefit from the trials we face in this world.

Proves we are not in control of our own destiny

Proves we need to thank the Lord for the good times and rely on Him in the evil times

They are an opportunity to be strengthened and develop a closer walk with Him

5. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?

Student's discretion

6. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?

Student's discretion

"The Precious Word Part #12"

"Questions For Review"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

- 1. In Isa 6:4, what are two attributes necessary for the author of a perfect moral standard? Who has those attributes?**

Sinless (perfect) & possessing authority over mankind
Jehovah

- 2. In Deut 9:10, what is the moral standard that Jehovah has given to man?**

The Ten Commandments

- 3. In Romans 7:12, since the Lord is sinless what are the attributes of His law?**

Holy, Just, Good

- 4. Name three ways we can use the law of Jehovah and benefit from it.**

To see our need of salvation
To give a visible representation of the Lord to others
To improve life on earth for all mankind.

- 5. Can you name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?**

Student's discretion

- 6. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?**

Student's discretion

"The Precious Word Part #13"

"Questions For Review"

1Sa 3:1 " ... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; ..."

1. In Psa 19:7-11, List the six names given for God's Word?

Law of the Lord, Testimonies of the Lord, Statutes of the Lord,
Commandments of the Lord, Fear of the Lord, Judgments of the Lord

2. In Psa 19:10, what is the very basic principle we are taught about the Word?

It's great value

3. In Psa 19:11, name one benefit we receive from the Word.

Warnings or Rewards

4. Name one thing you have learned from our lesson today?

Student's discretion

5. Can you name one thing that you knew previously, but has been brought back to mind?

Student's discretion

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