



*OUR SALVATION  
IN CHRIST*

LEVEL I  
DISCIPLESHIP

***Level I***  
***A Solid Foundation***

*“Because no one can lay another foundation  
than that which has already been established:  
Which is Jesus Christ.”*

*1 Corinthians 3:11*

**Lesson #1 – Salvation**

*New Life in Christ*

**Lesson #2 – Intimacy with Christ – Part I**

*Prayer and Fasting*

**Lesson #3 – Intimacy with Christ – Part II**

*Nourishing ourselves with the Word*

**Lesson #4 – The Family of God**

*CLJ - 101*

**Lesson #5 - God - the One and Only!**

*His Attributes and Trinity*

**Lesson #6 – Jesus – our Divine Savior**

*His Life and Identity*

**Lesson #7 – The Holy Spirit**

*Anointing for the Christian Life*

**Lesson #8 – The Principal Events and Characters of the Bible**

*The Divine Drama*

**Lesson #9 - The Books of the Bible: An Overview**

*Mail from Heaven*

**Lesson #10 - Evangelism**

*How to Share the Gospel and your Testimony*

## ***Lesson I – Salvation***

### ***The Question!***

If you were to die today, and the Lord were to ask you,

*“Why should I let you into my heaven?”*



What would your answer be?

### ***Our Goal: Understand the concept of salvation.***

- That real Christianity is a *new life*
- That each person has a *problem* which separates us from God
- That *Jesus solved this problem* for us
- That our part is to “*receive Jesus*” by faith in our lives

### ***True Christianity – The “real thing” – A New Life!!***

*“I have come that you might have life, and have it abundantly.” Jesus, John 10:10*

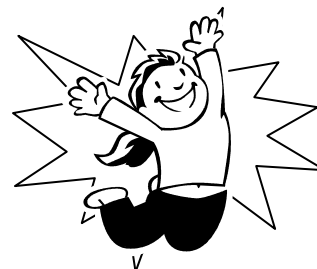
#### ***Before Christ enters our life, we come with..***

- Health problems
- Family problems
- Loneliness
- Emotional problems
- Spiritual problems (demonic oppression)
- Addiction
- Abuse and suffering
- Insecurity
- Financial need
- Inner emptiness



#### ***En Christ, we receive...***

- New hope in life
- A clean conscience
- Power to make radical changes
- Emotional healing
- Freedom from demonic oppression
- Inner security and self-confidence
- Power to move forward in life
- Purpose



*And most importantly.... Forgiveness of our sin!!*

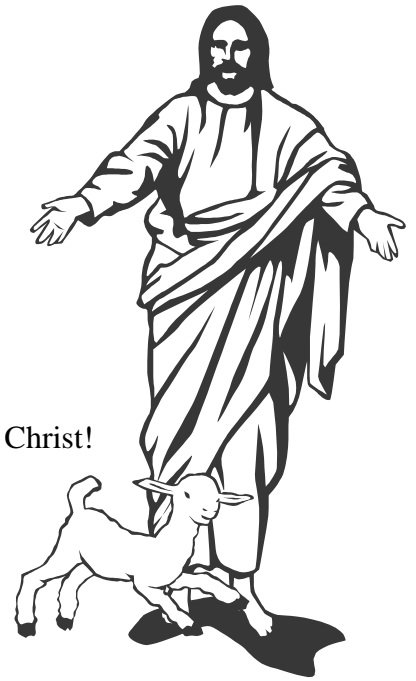
## ***True Christianity: A personal relationship with Jesus!***

**Not** – *merely attending church!*

- Praying at night
- Being a “good person”
- Being baptized as a child

Being a Christian means enjoying a personal relationship with Jesus Christ!

*Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”  
John 17:3*



## ***True Christianity: A New Birth***

***To have New Life – We must be “Born Again”!***

***Being religious is not enough!! No one is “born” a Christian!***

In John 3:1-6 we read a fascinating dialog between the Lord Jesus Christ and a religious leader named Nicodemus. He was a devoutly religious man who expressed sincere interest in Jesus. But Jesus made it very clear that being “good” or “religious” is not sufficient before God!



*Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.” In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born of again.” “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.” John 3:1-6*

**Discussion Question:** According to Jesus, What is necessary in order for a person to enter the Kingdom of God? In your opinion, Why is this necessary?

## **What does it mean to be “Born Again”?**

### ***1. Receive a New Heart!***



*“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 36:26*

## 2. Experience a spiritual awakening

*“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of a human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.” John 1:12-13*

## 3. Experience a total life-transformation!

*“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2 Corinthians 5:17*

### **True Christianity: A New King!!**

#### **Who is truly on the throne of your life?<sup>1</sup>**

When Jesus is at the core of our lives, all else falls into place. However, when we try to govern our own lives as we see fit, we end up making a mess of things!

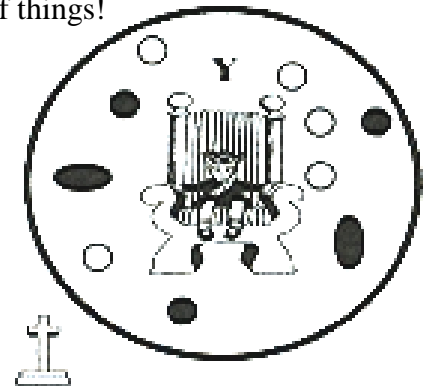
**These two circles represent two types of lives:**

#### Life controlled by “The Self”

S (Y) – The ego-centric “Self” on the throne

+ - Christ on the outside of the life

\*\* Interests controlled by the Self: Discord and Frustration



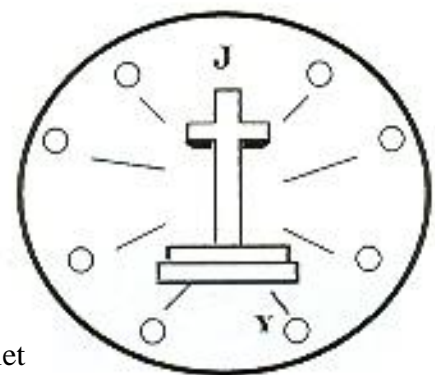
#### Life controlled by Christ

+ Christ on the throne

S (Y) – The Self is submitted – off the throne

\*\* Interests under the control of an infinite God:

Harmony and Peace



*Which circle best represents your life?*

*Which circle would you like to represent your life?*

**Discussion Question:** what does it mean, in your opinion, to let Jesus be on the throne of your life instead of yourself?

<sup>1</sup> Material drawn from “The Four Spiritual Laws.” Bill Bright; Campus Crusade for Christ.

# Salvation from Sin and Death

*We all share the same problem!!*

There is a basic problem which all humanity shares, which separates us from God and causes destruction and pain in the world. It is a moral problem. We have all failed before God's moral law which determines the essence of right and wrong in the universe. God is the origin of this moral law, and all people in all nations experience its consequences. Violating this moral law is called "sin."

## ***Man is Sinful***

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

Sin, at its heart, is selfishness – putting ourselves first – before God and others.

### ***But I'm such a "nice" person?!!***

What do we say to the one who says, "But I'm a good person. I haven't killed anyone or stolen. Why does the Bible say that I'm a "sinner?"



### ***Sin manifests itself in Attitudes, Words and Actions***

- Imagine if every word spoken in your life were caught on tape
- Imagine if every action were televised for all to see
- Imagine if every thought were visible on a screen, mounted on your forehead

Who would not be ashamed before others and a perfect God?

### ***Sin has consequences*** - *"We reap what we sow"*

How many of us know from personal experience that we suffer the consequences of our actions?

- Broken relationships
- Pain and emotional bitterness
- Loneliness and anguish
- Shame



### ***Sin results in spiritual death***

In society, if a person breaks a law, there are legal consequences – judgment and punishment. The moral law is no different. When we break the law of God, we experience separation between God and ourselves. God is a completely holy and just being, and cannot, by nature, be in relationship with people who are contaminated by the stain of sin. As fire and hay cannot coexist, the holy nature of God cannot coexist with sinful humanity. The Bible calls this separation between God and humanity a spiritual "death."

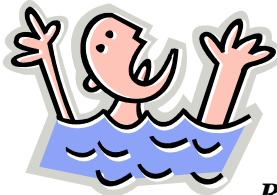
### ***We cannot reach God by our own efforts!***

- By being a “good person”
- By doing “nice things”
- By religious activities



### ***We cannot earn our salvation!!***

*Comparison: It is like trying to swim to Puerto Rico!*



Trying to “earn our own salvation” by being a good person or being religious is like trying to swim all the way from Florida to Puerto Rico. Some may swim farther than others, but all end up as “fish food”!

### ***Result: Fear of Death***

*“For the wages of sin is death...” Romans 6:23*

We all need a *Savior* to solve our sin-problem and make us acceptable before a Holy and Perfect God.

## ***God Solves our Problem!***

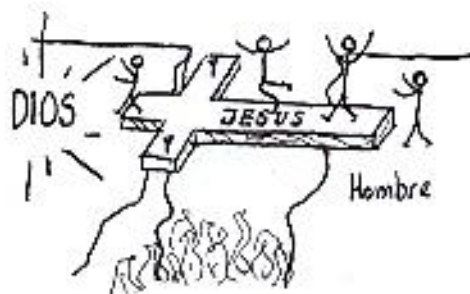
***Jesus died in our place!*** He paid the punishment for our Sin!



*“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners,  
Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8*

### ***Jesus is the only way to God***

Jesus said, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me.*” John 14:6



### ***Illustration of the Judge***



Imagine that a young man is condemned for committing a certain crime. The judge, being a fair and honest judge, could not overlook this infraction of the law. The punishment required by law is a serious fine - \$100,000. In spite of this young man's being totally repentant for what he had done, he had no money to pay the fine, and stood in danger of being jailed for his failure to pay. Then the judge did something completely unexpected. He removed his judicial robe, came down from his seat of judgment, and stood in the place of the young man, before the court. Taking his checkbook out of his vest pocket, he paid the full amount for the young man. The judge did this because the guilty boy was his own son, and he loved him. Yet it was necessary to condemn the young man and pay the fine in order to fulfill the requirements of the law. Who would not accept that another pay such a penalty in one's place?

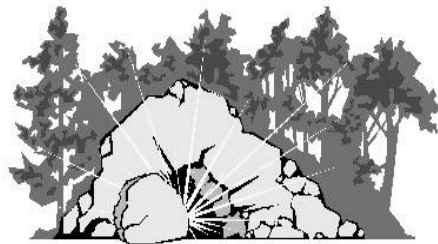
That is what our God has done. He is a just judge but at the same time a loving father. As a judge, he sees our sin and says, *"You are guilty. You have sinned against the moral law of the universe and deserve death. But I love you, and therefore, I will pay this punishment in your place."* As a father, he lowered himself, taking off his robe of divine majesty, and became human. He took our place of condemnation and paid for our sins, dying in our place on the cross.<sup>2</sup>

### ***Jesus conquered death and sin! He rose from the dead!***

Wow! Christians believe that...

*"Christ died for our sins... was buried, and... rose on the third day... appeared to Peter, and then to the twelve. Afterwards he appeared to more than five hundred..."* 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

Jesus is alive! And because of this, we can know him personally! Every other religious leader and philosopher died, but Jesus' tomb is empty! Therefore, he can transmit his life to us. The life of Jesus is contagious! Abundant life!



### ***Our part – Receive Jesus by faith***

The Bible promises...

*"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."* John 1:12

The Bible teaches...

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves - it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one may boast."*  
Ephesians 2:8-9



<sup>2</sup> Paraphrased and adapted from More than a Carpenter. Josh McDowell.



## What does it mean to have “faith”? (Illustration of the trapeze artist)

There are many who say, “*I believe in God.*” But their lives in no way reflect this belief. Consider the following parable to illustrate the nature of true, saving faith.



Once upon a time there was a trapeze artist who claimed that he could balance himself on a tight-rope stretched in the air above the roaring waters of Niagara Falls. A great throng of spectators gathered to witness the event.

He asked the multitude: “*How many of you believe that I can walk from one side to the other on this tight-rope?*”

“*We believe! We believe!*” shouted the expectant throng.

With fear and trembling, the man crossed from one side to the other, provoking an explosion of happy applause.

Then he asked again, “*How many of you believe that I am able to cross from one side to the other with a wheelbarrow before me?*” Shocked and amazed, the crowd affirmed their confidence once again in him, and the trapeze artist did not disappoint! He crossed on the tight-rope while pushing a wheelbarrow! Once again, the sound of exultant celebration could be heard.

But the man was not satisfied. He asked the multitude, “*How many of you believe that I can cross on this tight rope with a wheelbarrow full of bricks?!*”

Once again the crowd exclaimed, “*We believe! We believe!*” And once again, the trapeze artist fulfilled his promise, and once again, the crowd went wild with excitement and cheering.

Finally, the trapeze artist presented his most amazing feat. “*Now I will show you my most daring trick. How many of you believe that I can cross from one side to the other, with a person in the wheelbarrow?*”

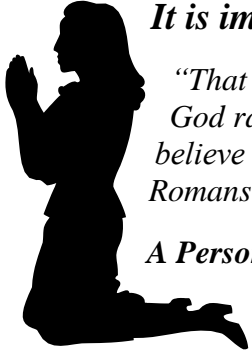
Once again, the crowd shouted, now with more fervor than ever, “*We believe! We believe!*”

**Then the trapeze artist paused for the key question: “Any volunteers?”**

***Silence.***

True faith puts one’s self in the wheelbarrow. It casts its entire trust and well-being upon the will of God, giving over the entire life, and trusting that the Lord is able to take us across the great divide of death and give us new life. That is true faith.

*And you? Will you get in the wheelbarrow and entrust your life completely to Jesus’ control?*



***It is important to Receive Christ Publicly*** (get in the wheelbarrow)

*“That if you confess with your mouth ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”*  
*Romans 10:9-10*

***A Personal Invitation***

If you want to accept Jesus as Lord, we invite you to repeat the following simple prayer. The exact words are not as important as the attitude of your heart, but we present this prayer as a model to be followed.

*“Dear God, thank you that you love me. I admit that I am a sinner and have failed in so many ways. I ask for your forgiveness today. I believe that Jesus died for me on the cross and rose again. I receive Christ as my Lord and Savior. I give you my life today. I want to be your son/daughter, and follow you the rest of my life. Thank you for forgiving my sin. Thank you for entering my life today. Amen.”*

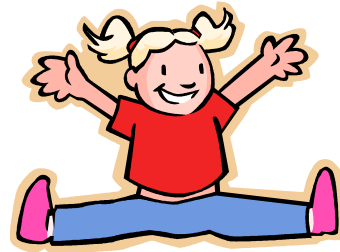
If you have repeated this prayer sincerely, then this verse applies to you, which says...

*“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Congratulations! You have begun a new life today!

***In Christ you have...***

- New life
- Eternal life
- Forgiveness of Sin
- A Father-Child relationship with God
- A new heart
- A new name written in heaven
- New spiritual perception



**Conclusion: The most important answer in any life**

If you were to die today, and the Lord were to ask you,

*“Why should I let you into my heaven?”*

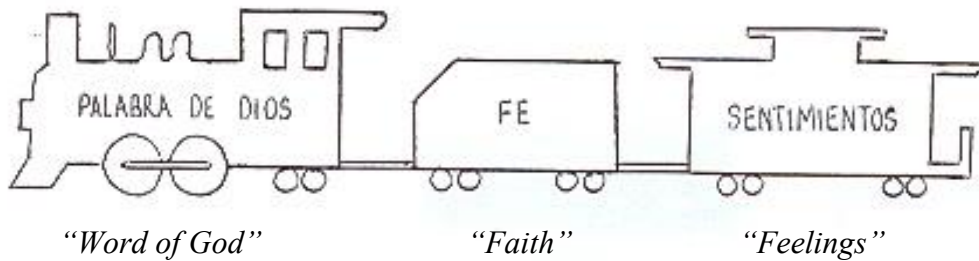
What would your answer be?

***Our Answer:*** *I have done absolutely nothing to deserve salvation. I know I am a sinner. But I have trusted in Jesus to save me. He died and paid the price for my sin. I have received him as my Lord and Savior, and I know I am forgiven because of what he did for me on the cross!*

## *Some Questions*

### *What happens if I don't feel so different after accepting Christ?*

Our faith is based on the promises of the Word of God and not our feelings! We live by faith (trust) in the faithfulness of God and his Word, regardless of how we “feel” on a given day!



The train can operate with or without the caboose. It would be useless to attempt to push a train with the caboose. In the same way, as Christians we do not depend on emotions or feelings, but rather we put our faith in the faithfulness of God and the promises of his word.

### *Now what? What do I do after accepting Christ?*



#### **1. Participate in Church!**

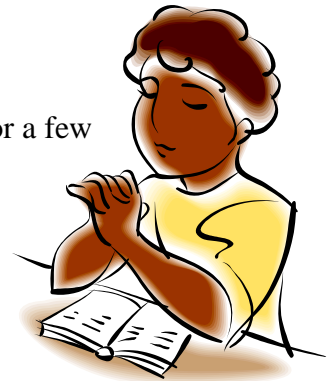
- Attend services (Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 12:00; Wednesday 7:30 p.m.)
- Attend special activities
- Attend a small group
- Take a Discipleship Class!!

#### **2. Pray and Read the Bible**

- Find a quiet place without interruptions to be alone for a few minutes every day
- Talk to God as you would to a friend
- Start reading a Psalm a day and a chapter of the Gospel of John

#### **3. Share what has happened to you!**

- You don't have to be an “expert” to share your experiences!
- Friends and family will be curious!



## ***Review Questions***

Jesus said, “*I have come that they might have \_\_\_\_\_, and have it \_\_\_\_\_*.” (p.3)

True Christianity is not being religious or merely a “nice person” but rather it is \_\_\_\_\_.” (p.4)

What does it mean to be “born again”? (pp.4-5)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What is the problem which we all share? \_\_\_\_\_.” (p.6).

How do we answer the person who says the following?

“*But I’m a nice person. I don’t kill anyone. I’m good to all. Why does the Bible say that I’m a “sinner?”*” (p.6)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

¿What is the primary result of human sin? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (p.6)

¿What are the mistaken ways that people use to earn their salvation? (p.7)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

¿How did God solve the human problem? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.” (p.7)

“*Jesus said, I am the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_;*  
*No one comes to the Father except through me.*” - Juan 14:6 (p.7)

“*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this, while we were still sinners...*  
*\_\_\_\_\_.*” Romanos 5:8 (p.8)

Summarize the story of the judge and his son \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (p.8)

¿What is *our part* in the salvation process? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. (p.8)

¿What does it mean to have faith? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (p.9)

Without copying word for word the prayer in the lesson, write your own prayer to accept Jesus and be saved. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (p.10)

*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a \_\_\_\_\_;  
the old has gone, the new has come! - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (p.10)*

If we compare the Christian life to a train, which car represents our “feelings”?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (p.11)

If you were to die today and God were to ask you, “*Why should I allow you to enter my heaven?*” What would you say? (p.10)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

After accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior, what do we do next in order to grow?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_