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Introduction

Over the past few years I have increasingly been burdened for those around me who make decisions based on their current emotional state or the circumstances that are currently going on around them. Many people make important decisions every day based on what they feel is right or what they are being pressured to do at that moment. Based on a biblical truth found in Isaiah 28:9-10, my goal in these few short lessons is to help all of us learn Biblical truths based on scripture, and then to make decisions based on those truths. When adversity, trials and storms come into our lives, we will then have already made decisions that we can go back to and make choices in our lives based on those decisions and not on the emotion or the circumstance of the time.

For example, many people make a decision about their eternal salvation based on their current situation and feelings; however, God desires us to know that we are saved so then when satan comes to tempt our minds away from truth, we can say with confidence "I am a child of God and possess eternal life!"

It is impossible for us to learn every biblical truth found in God's word in these lessons, but my goal is that we would learn some very important truths, some principles and a method of decision making that will affect every aspect of our lives and help us learn more Biblical truths on our own.

To get the most out of these lessons, look up the scripture references and fill in the actual word(s) from the Bible. There are also some questions that will ask you to give an opinion or thought about the lesson. All references in these lessons will use the King James Bible. Do not hesitate to use the index in the front of your Bible if you have difficulty finding the passages.

Each lesson will be made up of three major components:

1. A Biblical Truth - with a short study on that truth
2. A Verse to point us to that Truth - try to memorize this verse
3. A place for you to write down any decision or thought you may have

Before you start each lesson, pray for God to show you truth from His Word and for Him to help you learn to apply that truth to your life!

#1 The Old & The New

❖ The Biblical Truth:

Today we all live under God's New Covenant

❖ A verse to point us to that truth:

Hebrews 8:13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

➤ Our understanding of the Bible can lead us to read it with a grace perspective, a law perspective, or a combination of the two. That is why it is very important when we read our Bible to know that it is divided into a 'New Testament' and an 'Old Testament' and what section we are reading. If you want to truly understand the Bible, a good starting place is to know what this truth means.

➤ The division between the Old and New Testaments greatly affects how we understand the Bible. These two testaments (or covenants) show a major shift in how God relates to man. We do not live under the Old Testament (Covenant) - we live under the New Testament (Covenant).

➤ The Old Testament was a covenant that God made with the nation of Israel. It was His agreement with the Jewish nation about the relationship that they had together.

Leviticus 26:46 These are the statutes and judgments and laws, which the LORD made between him and the children of _____ in mount Sinai by the hand of Moses.

Psalms 147:19-20 He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto _____. He hath _____ dealt so with any nation: and as for his judgments, they have _____ known them. Praise ye the LORD.

➤ This means that the Gentiles - anyone who was not a Jew - were not part of the Old Covenant. We were never meant to live under the law. Keep this in mind as you read God's Word - the entire Bible was written for you, but not all of it was written to you!

Romans 2:14 For when the Gentiles, which have _____ the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having _____ the law, are a law unto themselves:

➤ To understand it correctly, the Old Testament (Covenant) did not actually have anything to do with the laws of Moses. God gave the laws of Moses to the Nation of Israel a little over 430 years after He made His Covenant with them through Abraham. God knew that they would not be able to live up to those Laws that He gave them. Although God knew they would not keep the law, the Nation of Israel thought they could! This was a show of their own self-righteousness.

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might _____ . But where sin abounded, _____ did much more abound:

➤ We need to make a distinction between these two Covenants - the Covenant of Abraham (Old) and the Covenant of Grace (New). We also need to understand that they cannot be mixed. When the time was right, God set the Old Testament aside and completely declared it 'faulty'.

Hebrews 8:7-8 For if that first covenant had been _____ , then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a _____ covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

➤ The New Testament (Covenant) is not like the old one. It is completely different. The Old Covenant is nothing like the New Covenant.

Hebrews 8:13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which _____ and waxeth old is ready to _____ away.

➤ If we fail to make the distinction between the Old and the New Covenants, we will become conflicted and confused when we read the Bible. It is critical, if we want to avoid confusion, to make the distinction between the New and Old Testaments.

➤ Many people would say that the New Testament begins with Matthew, because that is where the division is made in their Bible - the Old Testament ends with the book of Malachi and the New Testament begins with Matthew. However, this is not where God divided the Covenants.

Hebrews 9:16-17 For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the _____ of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator _____.

➤ Jesus made the New Covenant for us, but it was not valid, or put into effect, while He lived. It only became valid when He died. The New Covenant began at Christ's death.

Hebrews 10:9-10 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the _____, that he may establish the _____. By the which will we are _____ through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Romans 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made _____, so by the obedience of one shall many be made _____.

➤ God could not have left the Old Covenant in place because when it comes to knowing Him, experiencing Him, and pleasing Him, it has nothing to do with our efforts to behave. Instead, it has everything to do with His grace that allows us to have life - and life abundantly.

➤ A challenge to you would be to read the New Testament with new eyes. Begin to read it through both a lens of Grace under the New Covenant and also with an understanding that everything that was said before Christ went to the cross and died for you was under the Old Covenant.

❖ **The Biblical Truth:**

Today we all live under God's New Covenant

❖ **A verse to point us to that truth:**

Hebrews 8:13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

❖ Time to make a decision about this truth.

Do you believe that you are living under the New Covenant today? _____

How does knowing you are living under the New Covenant effect the way you live on a daily basis? _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

#2 Jesus is God

❖ The Biblical Truth:

Jesus is God in the Flesh and came to fulfill God's Plan

❖ A verse to point us to that truth:

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

➤ In this lesson, the goal will be to see that Christ is God. Christ is the sum of all Christianity, and He is the center of all that is God. True biblical Christianity is not a religion, a system of beliefs, or a church. It is about a Person - Jesus Christ.

➤ Jesus was the perfect man. Jesus was hungry, tired, and experienced agony just like you and me.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in _____ points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

➤ Jesus was also the perfect God.

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word _____ . The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

➤ If we compare this verse with Genesis 1, we see that Christ, who is God, created all things. The Word, who is God, then became flesh in the form of a man named Jesus who was from Nazareth.

John 1:14 And the Word was made _____, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

➤ Jesus said He and God are one, and He is is the One who gives eternal life.

John 10:28-30 And _____ 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 _____.

➤ Because Jesus said He was God, the religious crowd who followed God took stones to kill Him because of these blasphemous statements.

John 10:31-33 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for _____; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself _____.

➤ Jesus was always a part of God's Eternal Redemptive Plan. He knew that mankind would choose death over life, choose darkness over light, and choose themselves over Him. He also knew that because of this choice mankind would not be able to be righteous enough to live with Him in Heaven without Him providing a failsafe plan. He would have to be that plan.

❖ **The Biblical Truth:**

Jesus is God in the Flesh and came to fulfill God's Plan

❖ **A verse to point us to that truth:**

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

❖ Time to make a decision about this truth.

Do you believe this truth in your life? _____

How does it affect your thoughts about your life and your thoughts about Jesus?

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

#3 God's Plan

❖ The Biblical Truth:

God's plan is to give us eternal life through Jesus Christ

❖ A verse to point us to that truth:

1 John 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

➤ God desires us to have faith in Him and trust His Eternal Redemptive Plan. That by no means obligates God to do what we want. We only tend to see things from our own perspective and with our limited knowledge, but He is eternal -- no beginning and no ending.

➤ He is the real Father time, the creator of time. God is Triune, and each 'person' of the Godhead is eternal. He is Omniscient and fully conscious of each element of time without lack of clarity. He is Omnipotent -- all powerful -- operating outside of time. And, in the clearest sense, He is Omnipresent - everywhere at the same time. He is fully interacting with all elements of time and space. He is 100% unique in every part of His being! He is holy! He never began to exist, He cannot stop existing, and He depends on nothing but Himself to exist. He does not change -- from eternity past to eternity future -- He is still the same!

Psalms 90:2 _____ the mountains were brought forth, or
_____ thou hadst formed the earth and the world,
even from _____ to _____, thou art God.

➤ If you understand and believe that God is an eternal, everlasting God. This would also be true about His mercy and His grace.

Psalms 100:5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is _____;
and his truth endureth to _____ generations.

➤ God is everlasting and has all power, and we will grow weary and we will faint as we try to attain everlasting life in our own strength and in our own efforts. It will never happen. But through Him, through His efforts and His power, we can obtain everlasting life!

➤ This thought is completely contrary to man's thoughts and ideas. Mankind wants to have some type of effort that they can accomplish to gain everlasting life so that they can say "Look at what I have done! I am good!" This is man's plan.

➤ But God has His own plan - His Eternal Redemptive Plan.

1 Peter 1:18-23 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were _____ redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the _____ of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained _____ the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. Seeing ye have purified

your souls in obeying the _____ through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and _____ for ever.

➤ God has a perfect Eternal Redemptive Plan and that is exactly what 1 Peter 1:18-23 is all about. We serve an omniscient God, who does not see eternity through a flawed perspective like ours, but who sees all of eternity as if it were all right now. All of this mess we are in has not surprised Him.

➤ He knew before time that man would sin and come short of His glory. He knew there would be a need for a plan even before the earth was formed. God foreknew that man would choose sin and that the wages (consequences) for that horrible choice would be death.

➤ You see, God's righteousness must be met somehow. If man died in his sin, it would be eternally too late. What would He do? But God had a plan for mankind to be redeemed and He would do it for you!

➤ Here is God's Eternal Redemptive Plan. He would save man through faith in the coming Messiah through the Sacrificial System in the Old Testament times.

Hebrews 10:1 For the law having a _____ of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year _____ make the comers thereunto _____.

➤ God also knew there would be a personal cost of His Eternal Redemptive Plan

1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious _____ of Christ ...

➤ The cost for our redemption was not silver or gold but it was the blood of Jesus Christ, who is God manifested in the flesh, born of a woman, and without sin. In John 3:16, John tells us that God "so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth on him, should not perish, but have everlasting life." And that He "sent not his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved!"

➤ This is where God's everlasting mercy met with God's everlasting, immutable truth -- at the Cross of Calvary!

Psalms 85:10 _____ and _____ are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

➤ Because He loved us so much He decided to take our sin upon Himself and to bear the shame, the reproach, the wrath, and the justice on our behalf. God would redeem the world through Christ, and He planned this before you and I committed our first sin! The everlasting God has an everlasting plan for redemption for all of the world. It is a plan that you can believe in, it is a plan you can trust and it is a plan you can put your whole faith behind.

➤ This is the question that is before all of mankind and the same question that is put before you today: Do you want to follow God's Eternal Redemptive Plan to gain everlasting life with God in Heaven? Or do you want to follow your own flawed plan that leads to death, separated from God?

❖ The Biblical Truth:

God's plan is to give us eternal life through Jesus Christ

❖ A verse to point us to that truth:

1 John 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

❖ Time to make a decision about this truth.

Do you believe this truth in your life? _____

How does it affect your thoughts about your life and your thoughts about God's Plan? _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

#4 Salvation

❖ The Biblical Truth:

Salvation is given freely to those who believe in God and His Eternal Redemptive Plan

❖ A verse to point us to that truth:

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

➤ For thousands of years mankind has asked this important question: “If God is real and He requires me to be saved, ‘what must I do to be saved?’” (Acts 16:30) God wants us to be clear about this answer. He told us the answer in the very next verse.

Acts 16:31 And they said, _____ on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...

➤ Paul sums up God’s Eternal Redemptive Plan for mankind’s salvation when he says that it is by God’s grace. The word grace has various meanings, but as it relates to salvation it speaks of kindness bestowed on one who does not deserve it. In other words, grace pours favor on those who do not deserve favor. In God’s grace the question is not whether or not a person deserves favor or blessing, but only whether God desires to give it.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by _____ are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the _____ of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

➤ Although God's grace is freely given and seen, grace can only affect you personally when you exercise faith in Jesus Christ. This brings up a very practical question - "What is meant by faith?" Faith is a belief in something, and then trusting in that belief. According to James 2:19, "... the devils also believe, and tremble..." The devils believe in Christ but do not put their trust in His work on the cross for their own salvation.

➤ This is what is meant in Romans 10:9 when it says "... shalt believe in thine heart ..." This is trust and belief -- faith!

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt _____ in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou _____ be saved.

➤ Salvation is not in someone doing good things, belonging to a church, getting baptized, or having their sins forgiven. It is about life. Before we believe in God's Eternal Redemptive Plan, we are dead -- though Christ has redeemed the world, without faith (believe and trust) we cannot receive life!

➤ You have already looked at God’s Eternal Redemptive Plan in an earlier lesson. Remember, God does not force His plan on you. He allows each and every person to decide for themselves if they want to choose His plan or choose their own plan. The problem with our plan is that our plan will not take us to heaven, give us eternal life, or allow us to be with God for all of eternity. God will not force you to believe His plan, but since He created us all, He gets to decide what that plan is and what happens when you do not follow His plan.

John 3:15-18 That whosoever _____ in him should not perish, but _____ eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should _____ perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be _____. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth _____ is condemned _____, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son _____ everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

❖ **The Biblical Truth:**

Salvation is given freely to those who believe in God and His Eternal Redemptive Plan

❖ **A verse to point us to that truth:**

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

❖ **Time to make a decision about this truth.**

Do you believe and trust this truth in your life? _____

How does it affect your thoughts about your life and your thoughts about Jesus?

Have you received salvation? _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

#5 Assurance Of Salvation

❖ The Biblical Truth:

God seals me with His Spirit for all eternity

❖ A verse to point us to that truth:

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise

➤ Satan tries to get us to doubt our salvation. He tries to get us to question if we are even a Christian or not. When you slip up and sin, he will try to get you to forget who you are and what God has done inside of you!

2 Timothy 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I _____ whom I have believed, and am _____ that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

1 John 5:11-13 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that _____ on the name of the Son of God; that ye may _____ that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

➤ What you CAN know about your salvation:

Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou _____ saved, and thy house.

✓ Did you believe? _____

John 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall _____ perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

✓ If you have eternal life, can you perish? _____

John 10:29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and _____ is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

✓ Can you be plucked out of God's hand? _____

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye _____ sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

✓ Have you been sealed? _____

➤ God cannot lie (Titus 1:2), and when He makes a promise, He keeps it! He has promised that when you trust in Him alone for your salvation, He will give you eternal life and you will not come into condemnation! (John 5:24) God knew that mankind could not, and would not, keep His Covenant. He showed us this in the Old Testament. So He made a Covenant with Himself that could not be broken! This is His plan!

Hebrews 6:13-20 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by _____, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by _____ things, in which it was impossible for God to _____, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both _____ and _____, and which entereth into that within the veil; 20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

❖ **The Biblical Truth:**

God seals me with His Spirit for all eternity

❖ **A verse to point us to that truth:**

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise

❖ **Time to make a decision about this truth.**

Do you believe you are eternally secure in your salvation? _____

Is there anything that can remove you from God's hands? _____

If you answered 'Yes', can you write down what it would be and a Bible verse to explain your answer? _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

#6 Your Identity

❖ The Biblical Truth:

God has created a new creature in you

❖ A verse to point us to that truth:

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

➤ One of the most asked questions I have received is “Who am I? What is my identity in this world?” It seems like a basic question. Many may quickly answer with a list of titles to cover the truth that they may not really know who they are. They may answer something like this: Father, Mother, son, daughter, boss, employer, nurse, waiter, secretary, or Grandparent. But these are labels about what we do and our position in life. But does it really answer who we are?

➤ Sadly, many Christians have absolutely no confidence or even knowledge of who they are.

➤ The Holy -- completely unique -- God had a plan for mankind to be redeemed before He even created the world. Part of God’s Eternal Redemptive Plan is: at the moment we believe and trust in His Plan we receive Life (salvation) and He creates a new creature in us. He exchanges our old nature for a new nature and comes and lives in us!

➤ Who we are in Christ needs to be a part of our core value system! It ought to be a fundamental teaching in our Churches and in our homes. When a child who has been saved for a while is asked “Who are you?”, the first answer off of their head should be “A child of the King of kings!” The opposite is usually taught - who we are is based on what we do, and if we don’t do right then who we are is flawed!

➤ Who we are is not a mystery. God tells us and desires us to believe His Word about who we are!

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a _____ creature: old things are _____ away; behold, _____ things are become new.

➤ He literally made a new creation in us!

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with _____ blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

➤ This phrase “in Christ” is used to characterize our identity. “In Christ”, “in Him” or “in whom” can be found at least 27 times in Ephesians!

➤ As Paul said, "the old is gone".

Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is _____ with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should _____ serve sin.

➤ And "the new has come"

Romans 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in _____ by one, Jesus Christ.

➤ Peter says it this way:

2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be _____ of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

➤ Our salvation is more than just an improvement on what was already there, it is not a renovation project. We have been re-created new and different. Made holy (unique - different) in our spirit! We were born having a spirit, who has a soul, and lives in a body. Our identity is in our spirit! When we put our faith in Jesus Christ, we are "born again" and our spirit is "made alive with Christ".

Colossians 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he _____ together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

- What does the word 'quicken' mean? _____

- Understanding our identity is so absolutely essential to our success in living the Christian life because none of us can consistently behave in a way that is inconsistent with the way we perceive ourselves. Our behavior comes out of what we believe about ourselves. That is why it is so important to come to understand the truth about who you are in Christ.

- Those who are believers have something that the world doesn't have -- Christ in them! The nonbelievers do not have the One who is Life living in them to give them life!

- What does God call those who believe in his Eternal Redemptive Plan?

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the _____ which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

- "Saints" - meaning set apart ones, or separated, or holy ones!
- We are no longer labeled sinners, but saints. Our identity has been changed.

Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the _____ of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and _____ - _____ with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

- “Joint-heir” of Christ!

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be _____ by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

- “Justified” is derived from the Greek word ‘dikaioo’. Which means, "to render, that is to show or see as innocent -- righteous." You are more than just being innocent - you are made as if you never sinned!

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the _____ of God in him.

Ephesians 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true _____.

- We are declared righteous.
- Without blemish and completely made unique -- holy in Christ!

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are _____, but ye are _____, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

- We are washed, and made clean, and set apart, and declared innocent, and righteous!

➤ If you have believed and trusted God's Eternal Redemptive Plan, He calls you a saint, a child of His, a joint heir of Christ, justified, righteous, holy, washed, and sanctified!

❖ **The Biblical Truth:**

God has created a new creature in you

❖ **A verse to point us to that truth:**

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

❖ **Time to make a decision about this truth.**

Who or what are you identified with? _____

Do you believe that today? _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

#7 Christ's Church

❖ The Biblical Truth:

Christ loved the Church so much that He died for it

❖ A verse to point us to that truth:

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

➤ The concept of 'Church' has been a confusing one for many throughout time. Some have said it is a building -- but Christ would not have died for a building; some have said it was a system of beliefs (religion) -- but Christ would not have died for a system of beliefs; and some have said it is a denomination -- but Christ would not have died for a denomination formed by man.

➤ Christ died for the Church - and that Church is a living, breathing, moving, serving, praising, worshipping organism made up of believers who community together for His glory! If you are a believer in Christ, He desires for you to love the same thing He loves -- He desires for you to gather together with other believers for the purpose of worshiping, praising, learning, serving, teaching and reaching.

➤ The word Church (or Churches) is found 114 times in the New Testament. The word *Church* comes from the English word meaning the same as the Greek word *ekklesia* which is defined as 'an assembly' or 'called-out ones'.

➤ *Ekklesia* is the root word of the words 'ecclesiology' and 'ecclesiastical'.

Romans 16:5 Likewise greet the _____ that is in their _____ ...

- Paul refers to the church in their house -- not a building, but a body of believers meeting together.
- The church is the body of Christ, of which He is the head.

Ephesians 1:22-23 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the _____, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

- The body of Christ -- The Church -- is comprised of two aspects:
 - 1) The Institution of the Church. Some may call this the *universal church*. This would consist of all those who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This verse says that anyone who believes is part of the body of Christ. A way to understand this would be to think about Marriage and School -- the institution of marriage consists of all those who are married (though not everyone is married to everyone else who is married) and the institution of school consists of all of those who go to school (though not everyone who goes to school attends the same school as everyone else). If we understand the original word of *ekklesia* we would see the term 'assembly'. It would be impossible for all believers to assemble at one place at one time - now. One day we will be gathered together in one place -- before the throne of God!

2) The local Church -- An assembly of believers in a particular city that gather together for a purpose to glorify God, praise God, worship God, and serve God together.

Galatians 1:1-2 Paul, an apostle, ... And all the brethren which are with me, unto the _____ of Galatia:

➤ Here we see that in the province of Galatia there were many churches -- what we call local churches. A local body of believers. All of those who are believers in Christ and in God's Eternal Redemptive Plan should seek fellowship in a local church. The local church is where believers can fully apply the 'body' principles of 1 Corinthians chapter 12 -- encouraging, teaching, and building one another up in the knowledge and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

❖ **The Biblical Truth:**

Christ loved the Church so much that He died for it

❖ **A verse to point us to that truth:**

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

❖ Time to make a decision about this truth

Do you love Christ's Church? _____

Are you currently joined with other believers in a local Church? _____

If not, please take time to write down why. _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

#8 Baptism

❖ The Biblical Truth:

Water Baptism by immersion is the Biblical way for Baptism

❖ A verse to point us to that truth:

Acts 8:38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

➤ Many religions have different ideas about what baptism is and what baptism is not. Some believe baptism accomplishes the washing away of sin. Others consider baptism a form of exorcism from evil spirits. Still others teach that baptism is a step of obedience -- an acknowledgment of salvation. But are any of these right? One word that could be given for the meaning of baptism would be identification.

➤ Baptism speaks primarily of a personal, public identification with Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:3-4 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized _____ Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism _____ death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

➤ Notice the strength of the expressions – "baptized into Jesus Christ" and "baptized into his death" and "buried with him by baptism." Someone might say that the primary meaning here is talking about Spirit baptism and that would be true, but water baptism is clearly in the background of this passage when talking about identity.

➤ How important is baptism? It is our personal identification with the greatest act of human history -- the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Identification!

➤ Baptism does not save you.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through _____; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: _____ of works, lest any man should boast.

➤ Baptism is our personal testimony of our passage from the old life to the new life in Christ. Baptism means we are publicly identifying with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. When you are baptized, you are visually preaching the gospel -- a sermon without using any words. As you are lowered into the water, you symbolize Jesus being buried in the tomb, and as you are raised from the water, you symbolize Jesus rising from the dead. By your baptism you are saying, "When I believed in God's redemptive plan for my eternal life, I died with Jesus Christ, I was buried with him, and now I am raised with Christ."

➤ The process of baptism is simple. Another believer (one who has been recommended by your local church) lowers you under the water and then brings you back up out of the water. Literally you are ‘immersed’ in water. Some religions sprinkle water on people instead of immersing them, but is this okay? Nowhere in the Bible does anything but ‘immersion’ take place during a baptism. Baptism is always by immersion.

➤ This makes sense if you understand that *baptize* is a transliteration of the original Greek word *baptizw* (baptizo). *Baptizo* comes from the root word *baptw* (bapto), a term used for immersing a garment into dye -- changing the color of the cloth. When you process cloth to change its color, you are said to *baptize* it.

➤ When looking in the New Testament we see some interesting facts about baptism:

- Baptism needed water - Matthew 3:11
- Baptism needed plenty of water - John 3:30
- Baptism was going down into the water - Acts 8:30
- Baptism was also coming up out of the water - Matthew 3:16, Acts 8:39
- We also see the Apostle Paul call baptism a “burial” in Romans 6:4 and Colossians 2:12.

➤ The early church always ‘immersed’ when baptizing.

➤ A new believer in Jesus Christ should desire to be baptized as soon as possible.

Acts 8:35-38 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. 36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain _____: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, If thou _____ with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I _____ that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went _____ both _____ the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

➤ Philip taught the good news about Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What is in my way of being baptized?”

➤ Phillip asked him if he believed all that he had taught him about Christ, and the eunuch said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” Right away, they stopped the chariot, and Philip baptized the man.

➤ We should not be ashamed -- or afraid -- to tell the world what Christ has done for us. One easy way is baptism.

Romans 10:9-11 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt _____ in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be _____.

➤ Baptism illustrates a believer's identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. And with that they also are identifying themselves with a fellowship of believers -- the Church -- that they were baptized by.

❖ **The Biblical Truth:**

Water Baptism by immersion is the Biblical way for Baptism

❖ **A verse to point us to that truth:**

Acts 8:38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

❖ Time to make a decision about this truth

Do you believe this truth from God's Word about Baptism? _____

Have you been Biblically Baptized? _____

If not, why? _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

#9 How Are We To Live?

❖ The Biblical Truth:

We are to live in Christ and live life abundantly!

❖ A verse to point us to that truth:

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

➤ How can we look like Christ, show Christ to others, do things that please Him and still keep messing up in our everyday life? And how do we do those things without feeling like we are back on the treadmill of work and guilt?

➤ We are taught from God's Word that there are things that can happen and things that cannot happen:

We cannot

- Be separated from God's love - Romans 8:35-39
- Be lost or perish - John 10:28 and John 3:16
- Be taken out of my Father's hand - John 10:29
- Be charged or accused - Romans 8:33
- Be condemned - 1 Corinthians 11:32

We can

- Do all things through Christ - Philippians 4:13
- Find mercy and grace to help - Hebrews 4:16
- Come boldly to the throne of grace - Hebrews 4:16
- Quench all the fiery darts - Ephesians 6:16
- Declare liberty to captives - Isaiah 61:1
- Pray always and everywhere - Luke 21:36
- Defeat and overcome the enemy - Revelation 12:11

➤ In spite of these things that can and cannot happen, every one of us still has obligations and responsibilities -- these are completely separate from having to follow 'laws' or 'rules'.

➤ Think of it this way: as an employer, an employee, a parent, or a student, there are things we must do even if we do not like it or do not want to do it. These are our obligations and responsibilities. Employers must pay their employees, pay taxes, and provide health insurance. Employees must work, show up on time, and follow the work's rules to keep the job. Parents must protect their children, provide for them, teach them what they need to know for life, and show them that they are loved. Students must do their homework, study, respect their teachers and leaders in the school, and respect the other students.

➤ No one has a problem with these and other obligations and responsibilities that are enacted on them, but as soon as a Church leader begins to lay out obligations or responsibilities for members of God's local Church, they are called out to be 'legalists'. This is not what legalism is. This is simply teaching how to walk in Christ and how that will show out to the world. Legalism is demanding you to do things for salvation or so you can receive blessings or favors from God or from the Pastor or the local Church.

➤ There are natural rewards and natural consequences to those who choose not to fulfill their responsibilities and to those who fulfill their responsibilities.

➤ The New Testament writings are designed to show us how to solve conflict with others, how to solve conflict with ourselves, and how to solve conflict with God. The solution to all of these is Christ! The New Testament also lays out for us what our life will look like when we allow Christ to live in and through us.

Philippians 1:20-21 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be _____ in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Romans 6:6-14 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be _____, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise _____ ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but _____ unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but _____ yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall _____ have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under _____.

➤ This is the portrait that God paints for us. Not a portrait of how to behave, but how our life will look when we allow Christ to reign and live in our lives. God never intended for us to live alone or to be perfect. At salvation, He put His Spirit within us and came and dwelled in us to give us Supernatural Life -- Himself!

➤ He desires for us to be victorious over the circumstances we face, but many times we make the mistake of asking God to help us through the circumstances rather than yielding to His Spirit that lives in us so that He can live in and through us in the middle of that circumstance. God tells us that we can and should expect to have Christ as our life and to also have His mind, His strength, His provisions, His peace and His joy.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the _____ of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

➤ When Christ came to live in you He created a new creature in you. A 'being' that has a new spirit and that is alive and in union with Him always!

Colossians 3:1-4 If ye then be risen with Christ, _____ those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. _____ your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our _____, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

➤ We are to do the opposite from doing works in our own strength. God says that good works will be a result of us walking (seeking and setting) in Christ because Christ will be living through us.

Romans 8:9-13 But ye are not in the flesh, but _____ the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body _____ dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that _____ in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are _____ workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained {or predestinated} that we should _____ in them.

➤ Both us being in Christ and Him being in us, happened at the time of our salvation. It is an instantaneous process; however, we may not understand it and try to live Christ's life for Him. The reality is, Christ's life is to be expressed through us by Him.

➤ Have you ever said “I just can’t get victory over this problem!”, “Just keep praying and victory will come.”, “Victory comes only after much hard work.”, or “I lost the victory.”? These are very common -- but incorrect -- statements about victory.

➤ God’s Word has many true promises about victory, but victory is not achieving, winning, being on top of it, or something we have to do. Why are these not Victory? Because they direct us away from The One who is our Victory. We often work for victory instead of from Victory!

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath _____ us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

➤ Walking in defeat is not that we do not have victory -- we have been set free and Christ’s life is victorious in us -- but that we choose (consciously or subconsciously) not to claim our victory, and we continue to live as though we are still in bondage. This condition of our lives is called “walking after the flesh” instead of “walking in the Spirit”

Romans 6:11-14 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but _____ yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Galatians 5:16-17 This I say then, _____ in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are _____ the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

➤ Every day wake up and know you are alive in Christ, and allow your flesh -- the old habits -- to yield to Him as He leads. As you ask God to walk and live in you, He will show you how to live through His Word, through preaching and teaching, through feeling peace as you live when all these line up.

➤ I used to believe God said I was bad because I did bad things and I thought my behavior made me distant from Him. Then I studied the Bible and I learned God tells me I was dead and I needed His life. As long as I believed I was distant from God because I did bad things, I thought I could just change my behavior. But God solved my 'distance' problem by making me close to Himself by the death and resurrection of Christ.

➤ Remember, not everyone's life will look the same, not everyone will be working on the same things, and not everyone has issues with the same things. Each person will be living their life as Christ is leading them, and you will be living your life as Christ is leading you.

➤ When your life is not showing Christ -- allowing Christ to show out -- the answer is not 'do more - try harder - be better'. The answer is Christ - know Him more, trust him more, and immerse yourself in Him. The result will be: your life will show the character of Christ.

❖ **The Biblical Truth:**

We are to live in Christ and live life abundantly!

❖ **A verse to point us to that truth:**

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

❖ **Time to make a decision about this truth.**

Can you live a perfect life? _____

Do you think God expects you to live a perfect life? _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

#10 Heaven & Hell

❖ The Biblical Truth:

Heaven and Hell are real places.

❖ A verse to point us to that truth:

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

➤ Is heaven an actual place? Is there a literal location for hell? Can we know for certain where heaven and hell really are? These are some very important questions. Few things could be more important than what happens to us when this life ends.

➤ After this physical life is over, everyone will exist eternally either in heaven or hell.

Daniel 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to _____ life, and some to shame and _____ contempt.

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into _____ punishment: but the righteous into life _____.

➤ Everyone has only one lifetime in which to determine that location.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men _____ to die,
but _____ this the judgment:

➤ That location is determined by whether a person believes in God's Eternal Redemptive Plan or not. This is not designed to be a threat or scare anyone. This is truth from God's Word.

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever _____ in him should not perish, but have everlasting _____. For God sent _____ his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son _____ everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God _____ on him.

➤ Hell was designed originally for satan and his angels.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, _____ for the devil and his angels:

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the _____ and the false _____ are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

➤ But those who reject God's Plan and choose their own plan will join satan and his angels.

Matthew 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall _____ out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

Matthew 13:50 And shall cast them into the furnace of _____: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Revelation 20:11-15 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 _____ place for them. 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. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in

them: and they were _____ every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast _____ the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with _____ and brimstone: which is the second death.

➤ Hell is eternal and irreversible.

Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not _____ written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for _____ and _____: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

➤ Many have and will say, “a loving God would not send people to a horrible hell.” But those who would say that do not really understand God’s grace and love. God provided a way of salvation to all. It is not for a select few -- God’s desire is for all to receive eternal life. Therefore God does not send people to hell, they choose it themselves. You have a choice to believe in God’s Plan or to believe your own plan.

Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became _____ in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Romans 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a _____, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

➤ What is unfair -- and so amazing at the same time -- is that Christ died to redeem the world and freely offers salvation to all -- even to those whom He knows will reject Him!

➤ Those who receive or believe God’s Eternal Redemptive Plan will spend eternity with Him. Heaven cannot be explained completely, even by the Bible, because it is too wonderful for words and too indescribable to relate to by images.

- Many people think of us going to heaven and floating on a cloud and playing harps while chubby little cherub angels fly around us. This is nothing like the heaven that is described in the Bible.
- The Bible actually talks about three heavens. The first heaven is where the birds fly and the clouds reside. The second heaven is where the sun, the moon, and the stars abide. The third heaven is where the throne of God is and where Jesus presently sits at the right hand.
- Heaven is a real place and there are angels there who declare, “Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory” day in and day out!
- John describes what Heaven will eventually look like after God has finished judging those who did not believe His Plan.

Revelation 21:1-7 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed _____; 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 _____,

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. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh _____ inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Revelation 21:12-14 And had a wall great and high, and had _____ gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

➤ This New Jerusalem (Heaven) has walls, gates, and it is called a city. This is no cloud floating, harp playing place, but an actual, literal location with real, tangible things in it. And it is huge!

Revelation 21:16-17 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are _____ . And he measured the wall thereof, an _____ and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

➤ This is an immense city that some estimate to be about 1,300 square miles wide, 1,300 square miles long and 1,300 square miles high. The square footage is in the billions! This city has foundations, walls, gates, streets, and God as the temple.

Revelation 21:22 And I saw _____ temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb _____ the temple of it.

➤ Our curiosity about where those who have passed away are, may not be completely satisfied by Bible verses. What we do know is that either eternal torment in hell or eternal joy in heaven awaits all people after the physical death. This destination is in their hands and is based on whether they trust in God's Eternal Redemptive Plan or reject it.

❖ **The Biblical Truth:**

Heaven and Hell are real places.

❖ **A verse to point us to that truth:**

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

❖ **Time to make a decision about this truth.**

Do you believe there is a real Heaven and a real Hell? _____

If today was the last day of your life here on earth, where would you be tomorrow? _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

#11 Angels & Demons

❖ The Biblical Truth:

Angels and Demons are real

❖ A verse to point us to that truth:

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

- Angels are spiritual beings who have intelligence, emotions, and a will. Angels are spirit beings without a physical body of their own. The word *angel* actually comes from the Greek word *aggelos*, which means *messenger*. Because they are created beings, they do not know all things as God does. They do have a greater knowledge than humans because angels have direct access to God and have observed human activities for years.
- God sends His angels to help believers

Hebrews 1:14 Are they not all _____ spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

- We also see in the Bible where angels also:
 - Praise God - Psalm 148:1-2
 - Worship God - Revelation 5:8-13
 - Rejoice in what God does - Job 38:6-7
 - Appear before God - Job 1:6; 2:1

- Used by God as instruments of His judgments - Revelation 7:1; 8:2
- Bring answers to prayer - Acts 12:5-10
- Aid in winning people to Christ - Acts 8:26; 10:3
- Encourage in times of danger - Acts 27:23-24
- Care for the righteous at the time of death - Luke 16:22

➤ Angels are an entirely different order of being than humans. Human beings do not become angels after they die. Angels will never become, and never were, human beings. God created the angels, just as He created man; however, we do not see in God's Word that He created angels in the image and likeness of Himself, as humans are. Angels are spiritual beings that can, to a certain degree, take on physical form.

➤ Demons are fallen angels

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out _____ him.

➤ Satan's fall from heaven is described in:

Isaiah 14:12-15 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne _____ the stars of God: I will sit also upon the

mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be _____ the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

➤ When he fell, satan took some of the angels with him - one third of them

Revelation 12:4 And his tail drew the _____ part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

➤ Demons are fallen angels who, along with satan, chose to rebel against God. Some of the demons are already locked in darkness, bound with everlasting chains.

Jude 1:6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in _____ chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

➤ Others are free to roam

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the _____ of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

➤ The demons still follow satan as their leader and do battle with the holy angels in an attempt to prevent God's plan and hinder God's people.

Revelation 12:7-9 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon _____ and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and _____ angels were cast out with him.

➤ Demons, as spirit beings, have the ability to take possession of a physical body. Demonic possession occurs when a person's body is completely controlled by a demon. This cannot happen to a child of God, since the Holy Spirit resides in the heart of the believer in Christ.

1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is _____ you, than he that is _____ the world.

➤ Jesus, during His earthly ministry, encountered many demons. Of course, none of them were a match for the power of Christ. Jesus' authority over the demons was one of the proofs that He was indeed the Son of God. The demons who encountered Jesus knew who He was, and they feared Him.

➤ The demons know their end will be one of torment. Satan and his demons now look to destroy the work of God and deceive anyone they can.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, _____ whom he may devour:

➤ The demons are described as:

- Evil spirits - Matthew 10:1
- Unclean spirits - Mark 1:27
- Lying spirits - 1 Kings 22:23

➤ The demons/fallen angels are enemies of God, but they are defeated enemies. Christ has taken all power and authority away.

Colossians 2:15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a _____ of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

➤ As we submit to God and resist the devil we have nothing to fear. Demons have no power or authority over us -- unless we give it to them.

1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have _____ them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Revelation 12:11 And they _____ him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

❖ **The Biblical Truth:**

Angels and Demons are real

❖ **A verse to point us to that truth:**

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

❖ **Time to make a decision about this truth.**

Do you believe there are Angels and Demons? _____

Will you become an Angel or Demon when you die? _____

Do demons have an ability to control or attack a believer? _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

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