



# GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

• HENRY M. MORRIS •

# **GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE**

by

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## **God's Plan for Your Life**

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## FOREWORD

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**“Does God really have a purpose for each individual life?”**

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***YES, CERTAINLY!*** God is all wise and all powerful, and would not do anything without a high purpose. Since He made each of us, it follows that He must have had a purpose in doing so. The most important thing in life, therefore, is to discover and seek to follow God’s great plan for our lives. For those who **do** become conformed to His purpose in **this** life time, there is a wonderful and glorious destiny awaiting them in eternity, as well as a purposeful, victorious life right now!

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**“Is it possible to find God’s plan for my life?”**

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***SURELY IT IS!*** Since God is all-powerful, He is surely able to reveal His will to His own creatures. And since He is a God of love, He undoubtedly desires to do so. Therefore, it is reasonable that He **would** reveal Himself and His will. That He **has** done so, through the Bible and through His Son, Jesus Christ, is the firm conviction of millions of men and women of the past and present, who have found in Christ satisfaction and assurance for this life and the life to come.

This booklet has been prepared to help you discover the glorious plan that God has revealed through His Holy Word, the Bible, as it applies to your own life. A conversational style has been followed, each section introduced by an important question which you yourself might ask. To each question, a brief reply is given, simply and logically and scientifically, supported by one or more appropriate Bible verses. You will find that God, in His Word, has provided a reasonable Biblical answer to every question of real importance in your search for His will for your life.

It is always possible, of course, for any person to devise objections and further questions, no matter how strong and logical the evidence might be. God will not force anyone to believe and follow His will, so there will always be a way to escape it, if that is your desire.

Nevertheless, it is clearly in your own best interest to search for satisfying answers to these vital questions, and then to believe and act upon them when they are given. Millions of people from all nations and walks of life have already found full mental and spiritual satisfaction in Biblical Christianity, and you can too! Therefore, try to read this little book with an open heart and willing mind. May the Lord lead you thereby into the full knowledge of God and of His wonderful purpose for your life, now and forever!

## I. GOD'S PURPOSE IN CREATION

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“First, just what or who is God?”

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**GOD IS A REAL PERSON**, not just a synonym for Nature. This must be so since there are real persons in the world, with real characteristics of personality, such as emotion, intelligence and will. By the universal scientific principle of cause and effect, no effect can be greater than its cause. Therefore, the great Cause that has produced the effects of personality in the universe must also have personality.

“He that planted the ear, shall He not hear? He that formed the eye, shall He not see?—He that teacheth man knowledge, shall not He know?” (Psalm 94:9,10).

**GOD IS BOTH ETERNAL AND OMNIPOTENT**, existing before the ages began, able to bring into being both the tremendous astronomical universe and the marvelous subatomic realm, as well as creatures like us who are able in some small measure to comprehend the greatness of His creation.

“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of His understanding” (Isaiah 40:28).

**GOD IS PERFECTLY HOLY AND SINLESS**, despite the later entrance of sin into His creation. All people everywhere have a conscience. Even though they may have differing opinions about which particular acts are right and which are wrong, they all know that there is a difference between right and wrong, and that they ought to do what is right. This universal awareness can only be adequately explained by a great First Cause who is a moral Being, with perfect standards of holiness.

“God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all” (I John 1:5).

“The Lord is righteous in all His ways, and holy in all His works” (Psalm 145:17).

**STILL, HE IS ALSO A GOD OF LOVE AND MERCY** Who, in spite of our sinfulness, still desires to exercise His love and grace toward us, and to have fellowship with us.

“God . . . is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us” (Ephesians 2:4).

“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love” (I John 4:16).

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**“Why should God care about a mere animal that happened to evolve on a minor planet in an infinite universe?”**

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**EVERY PERSON HAS BEEN SPECIALLY CREATED IN GOD’S IMAGE**, and is *not* an evolved animal at all. Only men and women (not animals) are able to communicate in intelligible, abstract symbolic speech, and to transmit knowledge acquired in one generation to succeeding generations. Only men and women have the ability to discern right from wrong and, above all, to love and worship their Creator.

“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth” (Genesis 1:27,28).

“For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet” (Psalm 8:5,6).

**IMPORTANCE IS MEASURED BY COMPLEXITY, NOT SIZE**, and the human body and brain constitute the most complex aggregation of matter in the universe. Even the most gigantic stars are merely burning masses of simple elements, and there is still no real evidence of any planets other than those in our own solar system. The earth, with its beautiful atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere, is incomparably more highly organized than any other known stellar or planetary body in the universe, and is the only one known to be suitable for life. Thus, there is no reason to question the common belief that our terrestrial planet is uniquely designed, with its human

inhabitants, as the very center of God's creative purposes in the universe.

"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well" (Psalm 139:14).

"Ye are blessed of the Lord which made heaven and earth. The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath He given to the children of men" (Psalm 115:15,16).

"Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: He calleth them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power; not one faileth. Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the Lord, and my judgment is passed over from my God?" (Isaiah 40:26,27).

***EVERY KIND OF CREATURE HAS ITS OWN STRUCTURE FOR ITS OWN CREATED PURPOSE.*** The popular idea that all animals are related by chance evolutionary descent from a common ancestor is not supported by any real facts of science.<sup>1</sup> There is an abundance of "horizontal" variation within each created "kind," but no evidence whatever—either in populations of the present or in the fossil records of the past—of any "vertical" transition from one type of animal to a new, more complex kind. Evolution is essentially a humanistic philosophy designed to provide an escape from belief in the true God, not a science based on factual evidence. All individual kinds of organisms—human beings most of all—are marvels of complex design. They could never, in endless spans of time, have arisen by chance through naturalistic processes. Each was specifically created by God.

"But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him, and to every seed his own body. All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds" (I Corinthians 15:38,39).

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations,

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<sup>1</sup> For a documented exposition of the many scientific fallacies of evolution, see *Scientific Creationism*, 2nd. Ed., edited by H.M. Morris (San Diego: Master Books, 1985), 277 pp.



and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things . . . even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge” (Romans 1:21-23;28).

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### “But why did God create me?”

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***GOD CREATED US FOR FELLOWSHIP WITH HIMSELF***, as creatures in His own spiritual image. He desired to show forth His love to those who would be able to receive and comprehend it, and who would freely love Him as well.

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created” (Revelation 4:11).

***GOD IS PREPARING A WONDERFUL ETERNAL HOME*** for all who truly love Him and desire to be there with Him. This will be a glorious place, where there is no sickness or pain or death and, of course, where there is no sin of any kind. Yet it is a real place; it will be just as real to those who are there as this present world is to us now.

“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” (Revelation 21:4).

“And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which Are written in the Lamb’s book of life” (Revelation 21:27).

***HIS COMPLETE PURPOSE HAS YET TO BE REVEALED*** in all its fullness, in that great day when all things shall be consummated. All mysteries will be cleared away, and His people will be perfectly united with Him forever.

“Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore” (Psalm 16:11).

“(God) hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6,7).

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him” (I Corinthians 2:9).

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**“What, then, does God expect of me in this present life?”**

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***THIS LIFE SHOULD BE SPENT IN PERFECT FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD***, in preparation and anticipation of being in His presence eternally. This life is a probationary period, in which we are given freedom to choose and to show whether or not we desire and would enjoy that fellowship with our Maker for which we were created.

“Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart” (Psalm 37:4).

***IT SHOULD BE CHARACTERIZED BY PERFECT HOLINESS AND LOVE***, since this is the nature of God, in whose image we were created. True love for God will, of course, be shown also by unselfish love for others. True holiness involves separation from all sin and disobedience, and complete dedication to God and His service.

“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. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself” (Matthew 22:37-39).

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men” (Romans 1:18).

***A LIFE OF FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD IS ONE OF PERFECT JOY AND PEACE***, seeking to glorify the Lord in every action, and enjoying perfect and unbroken communion with Him. God’s purpose for us, in this life, is therefore intended to provide our greatest potential happiness.

“If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in His love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full” (John 15:10,11).

“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost” (Romans 14:17).

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (I Corinthians 10:31).

## II. THE PROBLEM OF SIN

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**“But I don’t experience this life of spiritual joy and holiness. Why?”**

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***SIN HAS SEPARATED US FROM THE FELLOWSHIP OF GOD*** for which we were created. This was true of the first man created and, both by inheritance and experience, of every one of his descendants. People are all now self-centered instead of God centered, and so all these spiritual blessings, which are necessarily conditioned upon our being in harmony and fellowship with God, must be withheld.

“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear” (Isaiah 59:1, 2).

“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God” (Romans 8:7,8).

***EVERY UNSAVED PERSON IS NOW IN A STATE OF SPIRITUAL DEATH***, the only proper term for this condition of separation from the fellowship of God, the source of life. Thus, in our natural state, we do not desire, nor would we appreciate if we had them, the blessings of a spiritual life.

“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” (Romans 5:12).

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).

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**“What do you mean, essentially, by sin?”**

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***SIN IS MERELY FALLING SHORT OF GOD’S PERFECT STANDARD***, or “missing the mark.” Anything short of perfect holiness

in thought, word, and action, whether intentional or unintentional, must necessarily destroy our fellowship with an all righteous God, and therefore is sin.

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of Go.”  
(Romans 3:23).

“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all” (James 2:10).

***SIN IS BASICALLY SELF-CENTEREDNESS, RATHER THAN GOD-CENTEREDNESS.*** Self-centeredness manifests itself in two fundamental forms, pride (prime concern with one’s own position and desires rather than with the will and glory of God) and unbelief (questioning God’s priority and authority in all things). Pride and unbelief will be found at the root of all other sin.

“Whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (Romans 14:23).

“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind”  
(Romans 1:28).

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### **“Why does a holy and omnipotent God permit people to sin?”**

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***GOD CREATED ALL OF US WITH THE FREEDOM TO ACCEPT OR REJECT HIS FELLOWSHIP.*** Fellowship, of course, is a meaningless concept unless it is exercised voluntarily. Love is not an attribute of a machine. And a really free choice necessarily includes the possibility of a wrong choice.

“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”  
(Deuteronomy 30:19).

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you” (James 4:7, 8).

***GOD HAD ALREADY PREPARED A PERFECT WAY OF SALVATION FROM SIN*** and all its consequences. Foreknowing that all would sin, God had devised the means of full forgiveness and reconciliation. That means was to be through the free sacrifice of

Himself, in the person of His Son, to suffer the judgment and penalty for the sin of the world.

“... ye were ... redeemed ... with the precious blood of Christ, ... who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you” (I Peter 1:18-20).

***GOD CAN OVERRULE THE EFFECTS OF OUR SIN FOR OUR GREATER GOOD***, and for His greater glory, throughout eternity. Those who have been redeemed from sin, by means of God’s own great sacrifice of Himself, will love Him with a greater love than they could ever have experienced had they not once been lost under the condemnation of sin.

“Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ... to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen” (Revelation 1:5,6).

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (II Corinthians 4:17)

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).

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**“But what if I choose to remain in this condition of sinfulness?”**

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***A CONTINUING STATE OF SPIRITUAL DEATH LASTING FOR ETERNITY*** is the natural and just consummation of a life lived in rejection or neglect of the one source of spiritual life. The essence of such an unending existence in spiritual death is eternal separation from God, and all evidences of His love and providential care. It also implies everlasting continuance of our sinful character, with no longer any possibility of cleansing and restoration.

“... and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (James 1:15).

“... the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power” (II Thessalonians 1:79).

***ETERNAL PUNISHMENT*** is revealed over and over again in Scripture to be the future of those who die without being reconciled to God. The exact nature of existence in the lake of fire” has not been revealed, but the essence of its suffering must lie in the fact that there is no manifestation there of the presence and power and love of God—the natural and proper end of those who have rejected Him and His great love 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 (i.e., literally, ‘condemned’) out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. . . And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:12,15).

“Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. . . And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (Matthew 25:41,46).

“And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night” (Revelation 14:11).

### III. THE PRICE OF RECONCILIATION

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**“How, then, is it possible for me  
to be restored to God’s fellowship?”**

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***NONE OF US COULD EVER SAVE OURSELVES OR OTHERS*** by any amount of good works or religious effort. Spiritually, we are ‘dead in trespasses and sins’ and are therefore unable to help ourselves or please God in anyway. God is absolutely holy and cannot overlook any degree of sinfulness in His creatures.

“But we all are as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away” (Isaiah 64:6)

“How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?” (Job 25:4).

***THE PROBLEM OF SALVATION REQUIRES GOD HIMSELF, IN CHRIST, FOR SOLUTION*** Since no one could save himself, and since God could not fail in His purpose of creating men and women for fellowship with Himself, God has Himself provided the means of salvation, thus revealing Himself not only as Creator but also as Redeemer. In the person of His eternal Son, He has provided a perfect reconciliation and salvation for those who are lost.

“Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus” (Romans 3:24-26).

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:9,10).

***THE LORD JESUS CHRIST PAID THE FULL PRICE FOR OUR REDEMPTION,*** and that price was to suffer Himself what we deserve to suffer, taking our place as lost sinners before God, in order that we might receive forgiveness for our sins and be declared righteous before the great Judge. The Son of God had to become Son of Man, living a sinless human life, in order to be qualified to take our place and bear the judgment pronounced by God against our rebellion and sin. On the cross He had to suffer the unspeakable agony of separation from the Father, enduring hell's most intense pains, in our behalf.

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:5,6).

“For He hath made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (II Corinthians 5:21).

“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him” (Romans 5:8,9)

***RECONCILIATION IS SECURED BY THE DEATH OF CHRIST AND THEN GUARANTEED BY HIS RESURRECTION.***

The bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus is an objective, historical fact, demonstrated beyond any reasonable question, as certain as any other fact of history. The combined testimony of the empty tomb and the numerous post-resurrection physical appearances of Christ to His disciples has never been shaken by skeptics. The bodily resurrection of Christ demonstrates His uniqueness among men and demonstrates the truth of all His claims concerning Himself and His works; further, it shows that God is fully satisfied that the price of redemption is fully paid. Finally, it guarantees the ultimate triumph of God's purposes over all the effects of sin and rebellion in His universe.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (I Peter 1:3).



“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” (Romans 6:8-10).

“Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification” (Romans 4:25).

***RECONCILIATION WILL BE CONSUMMATED AT THE RETURN OF CHRIST***, when all who have been redeemed, both dead and living, will be raised and glorified, purged of all remaining sin, and united forever with the Lord!

“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (I Thessalonians 4:16,17).

“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself” (Philippians 3:20,21).

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**“What must I do to obtain this salvation?”**

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***BELIEF IN THE ABSOLUTE DEITY AND SAVIOURHOOD OF JESUS CHRIST*** is, of course, fundamental to salvation. One cannot appropriate that in which he does not even believe. God has provided a perfect and complete salvation, at tremendous cost to Himself, through His own incarnation and sacrificial death. Therefore, it is the greatest possible sin to call God a liar, to brand His Son a deceiver, and to tread under foot His precious blood, as all who reject (or ignore) Him and His atoning death are doing.

“He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:18).

“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar:

because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son. 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" (1 John 5:10-12).

**RENUNCIATION OF ALL SELF-JUSTIFICATION**, or any self-righteous effort toward salvation, together with a deep conviction, implanted by the Holy Spirit, of one's own sinfulness and desperate need of a Saviour, is necessary before you can genuinely receive personal forgiveness and salvation through Christ's atoning death.

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us" (Titus 3:5).

"And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified (i.e., declared righteous)" (Luke 18:13, 14).

**UNRESERVED ACCEPTANCE OF JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR ONLY PERSONAL SAVIOUR**, receiving Christ by faith, sincerely trusting Him and Him alone to provide salvation, on the basis of His substitutionary death and triumphant resurrection, will thereupon enable the Holy Spirit to come into your life. He will provide full spiritual cleansing and then impart to you the very life of Christ Himself, which, of course, is everlasting life. Reconciliation will thereby be effected between you and God; you will have been, in the words of Scripture, "born again!"

"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" (Romans 10:9).

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

## IV. BLESSINGS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

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**“How will it affect my life, if I accept Christ?”**

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**DAILY FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**, by means of the indwelling Spirit of God, is the fountainhead of all the wonderful blessings of the new life in Christ. This fellowship, if appropriated and treasured, will secure for any sincere believer the power to live a life victorious over sin and discouragement. True peace, joy and security are possible only for the redeemed child of God.

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

“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost” (Romans 15:13).

**PROVISION FOR DAILY CLEANSING FROM SIN** and resultant triumph over sin’s power in the life has been made through the shed blood of Christ. There is a conflict between the old and new natures in the believer, but when we do lapse into an act or thought of sin, the Holy Spirit convicts us of it, and our experience of fellowship with God is broken. However, that fellowship is fully restored upon repentant confession of that sin to God.

“If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:7-9).

“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield 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” (Romans 6:13-14).

***THE ONLY REAL SECURITY THAT ANYONE CAN POSSESS IN THIS LIFE*** is found in the wonderful assurance of eternal salvation, given to the believer, according to God's Word and the witness of the indwelling Holy Spirit. This is perhaps the greatest of all incentives to a life of holiness and of love for God and man. The assurance of one's own salvation makes it possible for a believer to bear a clear and dynamic witness for Christ to others yet unsaved.

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life" (I John 5:13)

"For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day" (II Timothy 1:12).

***THE PRIVILEGE OF SHARING IN CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS,*** and therefore also in His glory, is paradoxically one of the greatest blessings of the Christian life. Christ was crucified for the sins of others, in order that He might bring salvation to them; similarly, those redeemed individuals in whom now Christ dwells through the Holy Spirit, are commissioned to live sacrificial lives, crucified with Christ," in order that others might be won to Him. This may even involve, as it did for Him, a life of self-denial, being misunderstood, unjustly accused, sometimes persecuted—all in order that others might be saved. Nevertheless, it is a life of inner peace and eternal perspectives, joyous in the present experience of fellowship with Christ and in His promises for the eternal future.

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you" (I Peter 4:12-14).

"And He said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it" (Luke 9:23,24).

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**“As a Christian, then, how can I know God’s  
specific will for my life?”**

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***A SINCERE DESIRE TO DO HIS WILL***, without reservation or equivocation, is obviously the indispensable prerequisite to learning His will about such specific matters as one’s vocation, marriage, decisions about matters of personal conduct, and other problems of life. God has made people morally free and will not force them to conform to His will, either before or after becoming a Christian. He desires the individual to do His will voluntarily.

“Jesus answered them, . . . If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God” (John 7:16,17).

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:1,2).

***A DESIRE TO GLORIFY CHRIST AND TO KNOW HIM BETTER*** should be the motivating factor in every decision. His will always is that which brings us into closer fellowship with Him, and which enables us to win others to that fellowship more effectively.

“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:17-19).

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved” (I Corinthians 10:31-33).

***GOD’S WILL MUST ALWAYS CONFORM TO HIS REVEALED WORD***, and the Scriptures contain clear solutions to most of the significant problems of life, as well as fundamental principles for guidance in all circumstances whatever. Therefore a daily study of the Bible is essential for both Christian growth and spiritual guidance.

“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” (II Timothy 3:16,17).

“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105).

***GOD HAS PROMISED TO ANSWER THE PRAYER OF THE CHRISTIAN SEEKING HIS WILL*** / as well as all believing prayers offered in the name of Christ and seeking His glory. The answer to the prayer for guidance may come immediately or it may come after long continued prayer; it may be in the form of providential circumstances brought about by God or by an inner spiritual conviction, or both.

“And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us: And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him” (I John 5:14,15).

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him” (James 1:5).

***THE PATH OF GOD’S WILL IS THAT OF THE GREATEST JOY***, as well as usefulness and blessing, that the individual can experience in this life. It may involve trials and sufferings, as did the path our Saviour followed, but it is nevertheless the path of profoundest peace and joy.

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:1,2).

“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; . . . Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness” (Colossians 1:9,11).

## V. PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES

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**“But how can I know that the Bible  
is really the Word of God?”**

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***THE WRITERS OF THE BIBLE THEMSELVES MADE THE CLAIM*** that they were writing the inspired Word of God. This claim is made in various ways over 3000 times in the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments. If these claims were not true, then these men must either have been wicked liars or crazy fanatics, to say such things. In either case, they could never have produced the book that contains the finest literature, the most profound and incisive logic and philosophy, the highest morals and ethics, the most accurate histories, the most universally read and loved book, and, in short, the greatest book of all the ages, as indeed they have done!

“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (II Peter 1:21).

“But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ” (Galatians 1:11,12).

***JESUS CHRIST TAUGHT THAT THE BIBLE WAS DIVINELY INSPIRED***, frequently quoting from the Old Testament as inerrant and authoritative, even to the very words, and promising similar Spirit guidance to His own apostles as they were later to write the books of the New Testament.

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled” (Matthew 5:17,18).

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26).

***THERE ARE INNUMERABLE OTHER EVIDENCES OF INSPIRATION***, both external and internal. Hundreds of volumes have been written setting forth these evidences,<sup>1</sup> and they have never been exhausted. The accuracy of the Bible has been vindicated by many historical and scientific investigations. No mistake or contradiction has ever been validly demonstrated in the Bible. One such evidence of inspiration, found uniquely in the Bible, is that of hundreds of fulfilled prophecies, written in detail centuries prior to their meticulously accurate fulfillment's, including over 300 Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by Christ Himself at His first coming.

“Then He said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself” (Luke 24:25-27).

“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the Word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isaiah 40:8).

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**“How do I know that Jesus Christ  
was really the only begotten  
Son of God?”**

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***HE MADE CLAIMS WHICH COULD ONLY BE MADE BY ONE WHO WAS GOD.*** Statements which would seem ridiculous, even insane, coming from a mere man, sound right and true coming from Christ, and indeed have been **proved** true in the experience of those who have received Him as Saviour. He claimed that He was the Son of God, the only Way to God, the Door to heaven, the only Saviour, the Resurrection, the Judge of all. He said that He alone had come down from heaven, that He was always doing the will of His Father, that to Him had been given all power in heaven and earth, that His words would never pass away, that the gates of hell would not prevail against His church, and that He would draw all men unto Himself.

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<sup>1</sup> For answers to many other common questions and objections, see *The Bible Has the Answer*, by Henry M. Morris and Martin E. Clark (San Diego: Master Book Publishers, 1976), 378 pp.



“Then spake Jesus unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12).

“All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him. Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:27,28).

“Again the high priest asked Him, and said unto Him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven” (Mark 14:61,62).

***HIS CHARACTER AND TEACHINGS WERE PERFECT IN THE HIGHEST DECREE*** as even those who have rejected Him as Saviour have testified. No one but Jesus ever lived a sinless, perfect human life. No one but God incarnate could ever have spoken and taught the things of God as Jesus did.

“Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth” (1 Peter 2:22).

“The officers answered, Never man spake like this man” (John 7:46).

***HIS BODILY RESURRECTION IS THE CROWNING PROOF*** of His Deity and of the truth of all His claims and promises. The twofold evidence of His resurrection—the empty tomb and the post-resurrection appearances to His disciples—was sufficient at the time to convince the most critical investigators that He had risen indeed! Multitudes were converted to Christianity, even in the face of terrible persecution, by the preaching of the fact of the resurrection, at a time when the firsthand witnesses and evidences could still be checked. Large numbers of trained historical investigators, even in modern times, have concluded that the objective, historical evidence for the truth of the bodily resurrection of Christ from the dead demonstrates it to be as well proved as any other fact of all history!

“And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. . . And the Word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith” (Acts 4:33, 6:7).

“Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of Holiness, by the resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:3,4).

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**“If I sincerely follow some other religion,  
isn't that good enough?”**

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***THERE IS REALLY ONLY ONE OTHER “RELIGION,”  
THOUGH UNDER MANY FORMS,*** and it always teaches that salvation is obtained by some system of works. Christianity, on the other hand, is absolutely unique in revealing salvation to be entirely by grace through faith rather than by works; it is also unique in being founded on historic facts centered around the incarnation of God in human history through Jesus Christ rather than being a collection of teachings; and it is unique in having a Founder who conquered death forever, rather than one who died and remained dead like all other men. Thus, no religion” whatever possesses the means of salvation; this is found only in the Lord Jesus Christ!

“We ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead” (Acts 17:29-31).

“Then said they unto Him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent” (John 6:28, 29).

“For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens” (Psalm 96:5).

***THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE WAY OF SALVATION,*** since there is only one Creator and therefore only one ultimate Truth. All people stand in common need of salvation; the one true God must therefore provide and reveal that salvation. The accomplishment of man’s salvation required the incarnation and sacrificial death and resurrection of the very Son of God Himself. Any religion which teaches that salvation can be attained by works of any kind, without

Christ (or even one of the many religious systems that teach salvation partly through Christ and partly through a system of human works), must therefore be false. Only Christ can save.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour” (Titus 3:5,6).

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**“But what about the millions  
who never heard of Christ?”**

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***ALL PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED AT LEAST SOME LIGHT***, and will be judged accordingly. In nature, in their consciences, in the heritage remaining to them of the original revelation given the common ancestors of all nations, there is sufficient evidence of the true God, His holiness, our sinfulness, our need of a Saviour, and of the truth that a God of love would provide such a Saviour. There is reason to believe that God will send more light to any individual truly responding in faith to such light as he or she has received. The atonement of Christ was universal in efficacy, requiring only personal repentance and faith in God as Saviour on the part of the individual. Only God can know our hearts and how much specific knowledge might be necessary in any individual case to serve as the basis of saving faith.

“For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20).

“And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world” (I John 2:2).

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have

not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?. . .But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world” (Romans 10:13,14,18).

***CHRISTIANS ARE COMMANDED TO EVANGELIZE THE WORLD***, telling everyone the good news of Christ and salvation. Every Christian has the responsibility of doing all he can to witness for Christ, especially to those who have never heard, in order that they might have more light and knowledge concerning the true God and His salvation. Though it may be possible for some to believe unto salvation with only very limited knowledge, many more believe when the full light of the Gospel comes to them.

“And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

“Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man’s foundation: But as it is written, To whom He was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand” (Romans 15:20,21).

***MANY THINGS HARD TO UNDERSTAND MUST BE TRUSTED TO GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY***. In the last analysis, God has created every man and woman and is justified in doing as He will with all of us. All people are deliberate sinners before God; **none deserve salvation**. Yet God, in His sovereign love and grace, has provided a marvelous salvation at infinite cost to Himself, through the death of His Son. That He makes this salvation freely available to those who desire it and receive it in faith, and that He tells those who have been saved to preach the Gospel (meaning “good news”) to every creature, are truths clearly taught in His inspired Word. Certain things are impossible for finite minds to fathom completely, including this mystery of God’s election and predestination. We must simply believe where we cannot understand, knowing that God is all powerful and perfectly righteous, and yet also a God of infinite redeeming love.

“What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. . . Therefore hath He mercy on whom He will have mercy, and whom He will He hardeneth. Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth He yet find fault? For who hath resisted His will? Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to Him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?” (Romans 9:14,18-20).

“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been His counsellor?” (Romans 11:33,34).

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**“Wouldn’t salvation by grace mean that I would be free to sin whenever I please?”**

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***REAL SALVATION DELIVERS ONE FROM SIN’S POWER AS WELL AS ITS PENALTY.*** The believer has been regenerated by the Holy Spirit, who imparts to us a new nature, motivated by gratitude to the Lord Jesus for our salvation, rather than fear of loss of salvation. For the first time, we are free from the bondage of Satan, and are able to bear spiritual fruits and good works which will be acceptable and pleasing to God. Though the old nature remains with us throughout this life, resulting in conflict with the new nature, and the Christian may yet lapse into sin, we nevertheless have the power for full victory over sin, through the Holy Spirit. One’s life should manifest a continual growth in grace and in likeness to Jesus Christ. These are marks of **genuine** salvation.

“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 His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:8-10).

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts” (Galatians 5:22-24).

“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works; shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works” (James 2:17,18).

***A CHRISTIAN WILL RECEIVE PUNISHMENT FOR ANY UNCONFESSSED SINS,*** but only in this life. When we sin as Christians, we may lose our temporal fellowship with God, and He may have to chastise us in some way to bring us to the point of repentance and confession of the sin. Then the fellowship and joy of salvation is

restored. Furthermore, there are eternal rewards (or loss of rewards) in the future life for the Christian, based on our works in relation to our opportunities here in this life. Therefore, although salvation is entirely by grace through faith, our fellowship with God, our usefulness and happiness as a Christian, and our eternal rewards in heaven are dependent upon our present life and service for the Lord.

“For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world” (I Corinthians 11:31,32).

“Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire” (I Corinthians 3:13-15).

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**“Shouldn’t I consider all these things more thoroughly before accepting Christ?”**

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***DELAY IS UNNECESSARY, AND MAY BE DANGEROUS,*** if you have really come to the place of understanding that you need a Saviour and that the Lord Jesus Christ has paid the price for your redemption from the penalty and power of sin. In addition to the daily uncertainty of life itself, there is the greater danger that the Holy Spirit may not continue to deal with you, allowing you to become indifferent and finally resolutely hardened against the Gospel and the great salvation which is now being urged upon you.

“. . . behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” (II Corinthians 6:2).

“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. . . Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:14,17).

“Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?” (Hebrews 10:29).

**ALL REMAINING PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED FAR BETTER AFTER ACCEPTING CHRIST.**<sup>1</sup> No matter what the reasons may be for wanting to delay the decision, whether unsolved intellectual difficulties, fear of opposition or ridicule from family or friends, hesitancy to commit certain areas of one's life to God's correction, or whatever the problems may be, they can all be better resolved after receiving Christ as Saviour, through the great resources one has as a Christian. Prayer, the indwelling Holy Spirit, the Word of God, the counsel and help of fellow Christians, all are available to the new Christian for strength and guidance. Nothing can possibly justify one in rejecting or in neglecting the Lord Jesus Christ and His offer of eternal life!

“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26).

“But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

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<sup>1</sup> See the book *Many Infallible Proofs*, by Henry M. Morris (San Diego: Master Book Publishers, 1974, 381 pp.) for an exposition of many of these evidences, along with answers to the more important objections raised by skeptics.

## SUMMARY

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**“What, then, must I do to be saved,  
and to fulfill God’s purpose in my life?”**

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***SIMPLY RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS, BY FAITH, AS YOUR OWN PERSONAL SAVIOUR!*** In sincerity and humility, open your mind and heart to God and His perfect will. Confess to Him your lost condition and urgent need of a sin-bearer and Saviour. Acknowledge your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as the God-man, who took **your** place as a guilty sinner before God, dying for you on the cross and rising from the dead for your justification. By faith in God’s Word, then appropriate for yourself His gift of cleansing and forgiveness and everlasting life! Commit yourself to Him as your Lord and Redeemer, resolving by His power and grace to live for Him from this time on.

Begin to feed daily on His Word, the Bible, which is to be your spiritual food. This will enable you, as a babe in Christ,” to grow spiritually. If you have really trusted Christ and have been made a new creature in Him, you will have the desire to tell others about Him. Your witness to the unsaved should be both by your transformed life and by your spoken testimony. Also, you should confess Christ publicly by baptism and by active affiliation with an assembly of fellow Christians in a Christ-centered local church, one which is spiritual and Bible-believing and which seeks to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ.

Through prayer, study of the Scriptures, and a yielded heart, strive to follow His will about all things, small and great. Whenever the Holy Spirit reveals to you a sin in your life, immediately judge it, confess it to God, and by His help forsake it. When important decisions need to be made about matters not specifically revealed in Scripture—who to marry, what career to follow, where to live, etc.—you will have tremendous resources to help you. Through believing prayer, sanctified common sense, divinely ordained circumstances, and finally, a Spirit imparted inner conviction, the Lord will direct your path.



“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ: to whom be glory for ever and ever” (Hebrews 13:20,21).



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