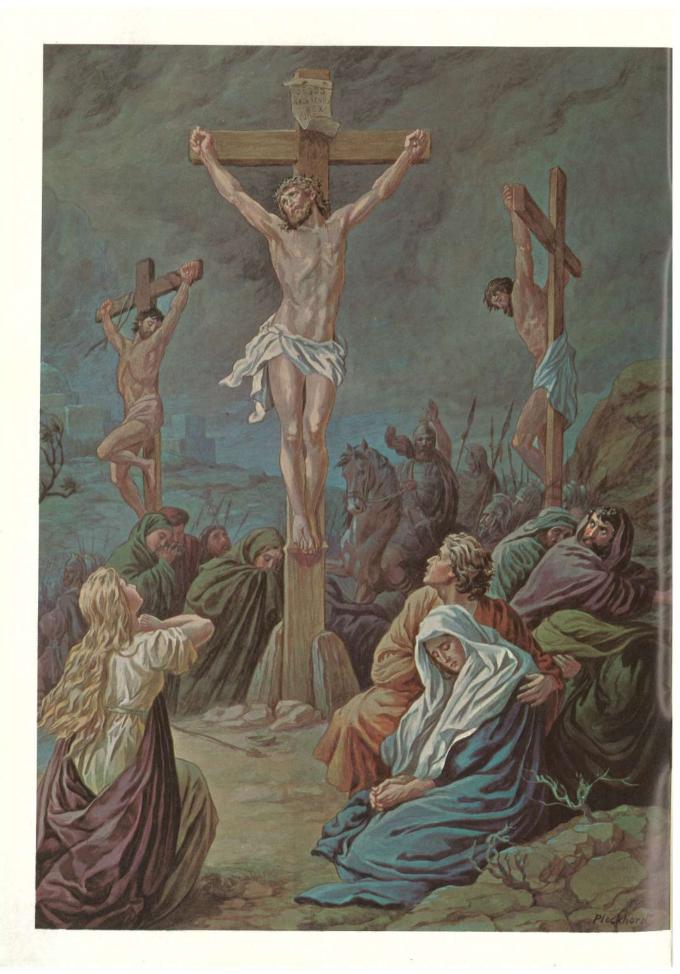
God's Plan for Redeeming Man

Vísualized Bíble Study Series

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AN OBJECTIVE SURVEY OF THE BIBLE
AND CHURCH HISTORY

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God's Plan for Redeeming Man

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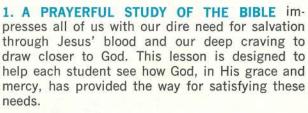
PURPOSE OF THIS LESSON

To set forth God's plan of redemption through the precious blood of Jesus—To show where a person must come in contact with the blood before he can be saved—To assure a person that he can know where he stands with God.

SYNOPSIS

Every person on earth is hopelessly lost until he is delivered from the bonds of sin. God sent His Son into the world to deliver the sinner from eternal punishment. God's love and concern for mankind is manifest through the various miracles of Jesus. Jesus announced the plan of redemption to His disciples who in their ministry gave us examples of Bible conversion. A person must meet the conditions of salvation through faith in Jesus before he can be redeemed.





Q. Everyone has a need for ______ through Jesus' blood.

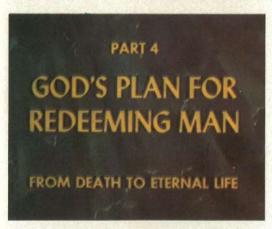
SALVATION



2. MANY CONFLICTING ANSWERS have been given by men to the question, "What must I do to be saved?" But, the one and only sure answer to this question is revealed by Jesus in the New Testament. Jesus has said, "... no man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6)

Q. Man can approach God only through

JESUS



3. PART FOUR, "God's Plan for Redeeming Man." That man might pass from the sentence of spiritual death to eternal life, God has provided and revealed His plan to redeem man from sin through the sacrifice of Jesus. Without this Sacrifice the whole world would be lost without hope. Since the Supreme Sacrifice has been made, everyone who remains lost can blame only himself.²

1 Acts 4:11, 12; 2 Hebrews 2:3.

Q. Jesus was sacrificed for the sins of the whole _____.

WORLD



4. ONCE JESUS TOLD THE STORY of the good shepherd who was so concerned over one lost sheep that he left 99 sheep to find one that was lost. When the shepherd brought back the lost sheep it was an occasion of great happiness for him and his friends. The Bible teaches that "all we, like sheep have gone astray . . ." (Isaiah 53:6). A person becomes lost from God by the guilt of his own sins.

1 Luke 15:3-7; 2 also 1 Peter 2:21-23; 3 Romans 3:23.

Q. The good _____ was concerned over the loss even of one sheep.

SHEPHERD

5. JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD, is concerned when one of His sheep strays into sin and is lost. He cares about our spiritual welfare. He was so concerned that He laid down His life. Just before He went back to heaven, Jesus instructed His followers to carry the message of salvation to others. John Nelson, a Christian man, is constantly leading others to Christ, the Good Shepherd. When the person who is lost is returned to the fold, even the angels in heaven rejoice. Jesus said, "Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke 15:7).

1 John 10:11-15; 3 Acts 1:8.

Q. Jesus cares so much for our ____ welfare that He laid down His life.

SPIRITUAL

6. ON ANOTHER OCCASION Jesus showed His concern for the lost by using little children to illustrate how man can be redeemed from sin. Jesus said, "Except ye become converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). In this statement Jesus implies that at the point when a man is redeemed he becomes pure and free from guilt like a little child. This also shows that only those who are old enough to know and distinguish between right and wrong are in need of redemption. Infants are safe for they have never sinned. Therefore, it was unnecessary for God to provide a plan of redemption for infants.

Q. Man must become like a little _____ in order to enter the Kingdom of heaven.

CHILD

7. GOD HAS SAID, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity (or sin) of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity (or sin) of the son" (Ezekiel 18:20). Since infants cannot inherit the sins of their own fathers, they certainly cannot inherit the sin of Adam. The guilt of sin cannot be inherited but is incurred only when one chooses to do wrong rather than right. Infants have no power of choice and, therefore, cannot be guilty of sin. A person can be guilty of sin only when he is old enough to choose between right and wrong.

Q. Children cannot _____ the sins of their parents.

INHERIT

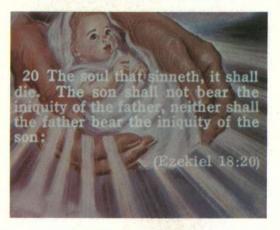
8. MANY PEOPLE SPEND their lives chained to sin. Having chosen to do wrong rather than right, they feel the guilt of their sins, but they have never learned how this guilt can be removed. A rational, mature person will surely realize that none of his earthly friends could ever bear the guilt of his sins for him. And it is unthinkable that any man could ever merit his own salvation.' Upon proper reflection every responsible person realizes that only a divine act of God's mercy could pay for his sins. To be freed from sin, we must learn of the only escape through Jesus Christ.² The Savior said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

¹ Romans 3:23; Titus 3:5; ² Romans 7:24, 25.

Q. No man could ever earn his own









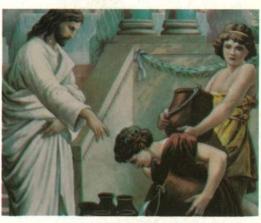


9. THANKS BE TO GOD that He has sent His only Son into the world to pay the price and redeem us from our sins. Some accept God's precious gift with open arms; others doubt; still others reject Him and forfeit their only hope of eternal life.

1 John 3:16; 2 Acts 13:42-49.

Q. Those who reject Jesus ______ their only hope for eternal life.

FORFEIT



10. SO THAT ALL MEN COULD KNOW and accept Him as the divine Son of God and only Savior, Jesus performed many wonders while on earth. The first of these miracles occurred at a wedding feast where the Lord miracuously turned water into the best wine. This demonstrated His power over the processes of nature.

1 John 2:1-11.

Q. The Miracles of Jesus show that He is the only _____ and the divine Son of God.

SAVIOR



11. LATER, THE COMPASSIONATE SAVIOR fed over 5,000 people with five small barley loaves and two fish. Only the Son of God could have multiplied this small amount of food into such a giant feast.

1 Mark 6:37-46.

Q. Only the Son of God could have multiplied five loaves and two fish to feed over people.

5,000



12. JESUS SHOWED HIS MASTERY over the physical law of gravity by walking on the surface of the sea to join His disciples in their boat.

1 Matthew 14:24-27.

Q. When Jesus walked on the water He showed His power over the law of

GRAVITY

13. WHEN JESUS AND THE DISCIPLES were caught in a raging storm, the disciples feared for their lives. But Jesus arose and calmed the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still." In response to this command of the Son of God, the sea suddenly became very quiet and still. Even the wind and the seas obeyed His voice!

1 Mark 4:37-41.

O. At the __ of the Son of God. the raging sea became quiet and still. COMMAND



14. THE MIRACLES that most endeared Jesus to His followers were those which showed His power over sickness and disease. These miracles confirmed His compassion for the suffering.2

1 Matthew 4:23-25; 2 Matthew 8:16, 17.

O. Jesus also had power over _ and disease.

SICKNESS

15. ON MANY OCCASIONS Jesus gave sight to the hopelessly blind. He showed no hesitation in healing even a man who had been blind from birth.2

¹ Matthew 11:4, 5; ² John 9:1-7.

Q. Jesus healed a man ____ from birth. BLIND



16. HE ALSO HEALED THE SICK, the maimed, the deaf, the dumb and the insane. One man had been paralyzed completely for 38 years but Jesus said to him, "Arise, take up thy bed and walk." The man arose immediately, perfectly healed.' Although Jesus healed many physical bodies, He is interested most of all in our souls.2

1 John 5:5-15: 2 Matthew 18-11-14.

O. The Lord told the paralyzed man to arise, take up his ____ and walk.

BED





17. JESUS' AUTHORITY reached even beyond the grave into the spirit world. Many people saw His power to call the dead back to life. On one occasion He restored physical life to a man named Lazarus who had been dead and buried four days. In these miracles He demonstrated His power to conquer death itself. Christ's victory over death assures us of hope for our own resurrection and eternal life with God.²

1 John 11:1-45; 2 1 Peter 1:3, 4.

Q. Jesus showed His power even to conquer _____.

DEATH



18. THE GREATEST PROOF OF JESUS' DIVINITY

was yet to come. Near the end of His ministry He foretold His own death and His ultimate victory over the power of death through His resurrection. He said, "... the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes ... and they shall mock him ... and shall kill him, and the third day he shall rise again" (Mark 10:33-34). The disciples were grieved.

Q. Jesus foretold not only His death but
His ______ RESURRECTION



19. SOON JUDAS ISCARIOT, one of Jesus' own disciples, betrayed Him into the hands of His enemies by identifying Him with a kiss. Judas had turned traitor for a mere 30 pieces of silver from the Jewish leaders. Carrying torches to make their way through the night, the soldiers came fully armed to arrest Jesus.

¹ Matthew 26:47-50; John 18:2, 3.

Q. Though Judas was one of Jesus' own _____, he betrayed Him.

DISCIPLES



20. SINCE JESUS HAD SPOKEN earlier of HIS KINGDOM, the soldiers ridiculed Him by dressing Him in a scarlet robe with a reed for a sceptre and thorns for a crown. In mock humility they bowed before Him and sneered, "Hail, King of the Jews!" (Matthew 27:29). All the rest of the night Jesus was dragged before illegal assemblies where He was unjustly accused."

1 Mark 14:53-15:15.

Q. After He was arrested, Jesus was dragged the rest of the night before assemblies.

ILLEGAL

21. THE NEXT MORNING THE LORD was finally taken before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate soon became firmly convinced that Jesus was innocent. When he tried to persuade the Jewish mob of Jesus' innocence, they shouted him down clamoring, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Not having the moral courage to stand against the Jews, Pilate gave orders for Christ to be crucified.¹
Matthew 27:15-30.

Q. Pilate tried to persuade the mob that Jesus was ______.

INNOCENT

22. AS THE EXECUTION PARTY BEGAN its procession to a place outside the city called Calvary, Jesus carried His own cross at first. Soon Simon of Cyrene was forced to carry the cross the rest of the way.

Q. At first Jesus carried His own _____.

CROSS

23. UPON REACHING CALVARY the execution party began the traditional crucifixion ritual by laying Jesus on the cross. The executioner drove nails through His outstretched hands. There was the sound of spikes through the flesh—into wood. There was the flinching of muscles, the sharp pain. Then the cross was raised and dropped into position. The body of God's Son sagged and strained against the nails. Jesus knew that only through His suffering and death could He free man from Satan and the guilt of sin. Because of His deep love for all men, He patiently endured the terrible sufferings of the crucifixion that He might be our Savior.

1 Hebrews 10: Hebrews 12.

Q. Jesus endured the cross that man might be freed from the _____ of sin.

GUILT

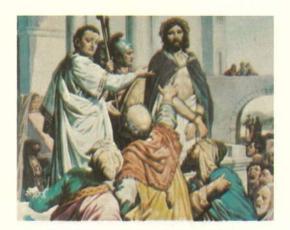
24. AS WE PICTURE THE DIVINE SON OF GOD nailed to the cross, the horrible consequences of sin shock and overwhelm us! Fallen man never could atone for his own sins. All the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament pointed forward to this One Perfect Sacrifice. Only the pure and sinless Son of God could pay the debt of sin for all mankind from the time of Adam to the end of

¹ Ephensians 2:8, 12; ² Hebrews 10:1-9.

the ages.

Q. The terrible sufferings of Jesus on the cross show the horrible _______

of sin. CONSEQUENCES

















25. JESUS, THE CHRIST, was now dead. His body was placed in the tomb of a friend. Because Jesus had foretold His resurrection, the Jews had the tomb sealed with the Roman seal to prevent its being opened. Also, Roman soldiers were placed on guard around the tomb. While Jesus was dead and buried, it seemed as if Satan had overpowered Him and made His sacrifice meaningless.2

1 Matthew 27:62-28:6: 2 1 Corinthians 15. Q. The enemies of Jesus sealed His tomb and placed a _____ around it.

GUARD

26. HOWEVER, THE GREATEST EVENT of all history took place just three days later when Jesus was raised from the dead.1 The resurrection of Jesus fulfilled His prediction that He would rise. He broke the power of death, and proved forever that He is the divine Son of God and Savior of the world.2 In numerous appearances, for a period of 40 days, Jesus demonstrated to His disciples beyond any doubt that He was raised from the dead.3

1 Luke 24:1-24; 2 Romans 1:4; 3 Acts 1 and 2. Q. Jesus proved that He rose from the dead by numerous _____ during a period of 40 days.

APPEARANCES

27. HAVING BEEN PROVED to be the Son of God with power by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus commissioned His followers to go and tell the whole world of God's plan for redeeming man. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved . . ." (Mark 16:15, 16). Only a few days later Jesus and the disciples were on Mount Olivet, near Jerusalem. Instructing the apostles to remain in Jerusalem until they received the Holy Spirit, Jesus then ascended into heaven.

1 Acts 1:9, 10.

O. Jesus told the _____ to remain in Jerusalem until they received the Holy Spirit.

APOSTLES

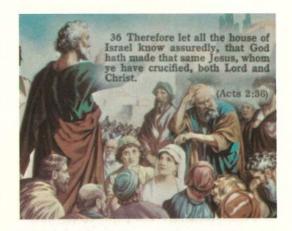
28. TEN DAYS AFTER JESUS ASCENDED to the Father, the apostles began to carry out the mission which Jesus had given them. During the Jewish Feast of Pentecost in Jerusalem they were filled with the Holy Spirit and had their first opportunity to tell of God's plan for redeeming man. Standing before a large audience, Peter showed by Old Testament prophecies that Jesus was the promised Savior. His death, resurrection and exaltation were all part of God's great plan. Peter then challenged the large audience with the following words:1

1 Acts 2.

Q. Peter proved that God's plan included the death. _ _____ and exaltation of the Christ. RESURRECTION 29. "THEREFORE LET ALL THE HOUSE OF Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36).

Q. God exalted as Lord and Christ the very Jesus whom the Jews had

CRUCIFIED



30. "NOW WHEN THEY HEARD THIS, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, What shall we do" (Acts 2:37). At this point these people believed so firmly that the One whom they had crucified was actually the Christ that they interrupted Peter's sermon to ask what they must do.

Q. The Jews interrupted Peter's sermon with a question because they ______ so firmly what he was preaching.

BELIEVED

31. "THEN PETER SAID UNTO THEM, Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). We are not surprised at Peter's answer, for Jesus had commissioned the apostles to preach: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." About three thousand Jews were baptized that day and they received the Holy Ghost (or Holy Spirit) in their lives.

Q. About 3000 Jews were ______ that day in response to Peter's preaching. BAPTIZED

Q. The New Testament shows consistently that something is left for _____ to do to be saved.

38 Then Peter said unto them,
Repent, and be baptized every one
of you in the name of Jesus Christ
for the remission of sins, and ye
shall receive the gift of the Holy
Ghost.

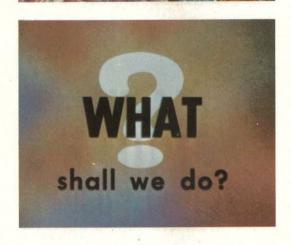
(Acts 2:38)

37 I Now when they heard this,

they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest

of the apostles. Men and brethren,

what shall we do?



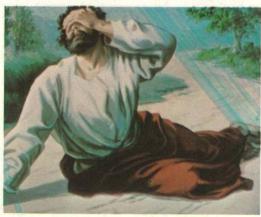
32. "WHAT SHALL WE DO?" the Jews had asked. Of all the questions anyone may ask, this one is the most important. But since Jesus paid the price on the cross for the remission of our sins, is there really anything left for us to do? This question, "What shall we do?" is asked and answered several times in the New Testament. All the answers show consistently that man must be active, not passive, in receiving God's saving grace.

MAN









33. THIS SAME QUESTION, "What shall I do?" eventually was asked by Saul of Tarsus. Before his conversion, Saul was in the Jewish religion in which his parents had reared him. Saul, like all others who are truly converted to Christ, eventually found it necessary to change his religious beliefs which conflicted with God's will. Before becoming a Christian he was a very devout Jew and his zeal made him a leader in the Jewish religion and a persecutor of Christians.

1 Galatians 1:13, 14.

Q. In order to become a Christian, Saul had to _____ his religious beliefs.

CHANGE

34. FEARFUL OF SAUL AND THE JEWS, the Christians were forced to meet in secret to worship God. They knew their lives were in danger every time they came together, but love and loyalty to their Savior gave them courage. Saul sincerely believed he was pleasing God by capturing these Christians for imprisonment and death.

1 Acts 26:8-11.

Q. Despite the dangers involved Christians continued to meet together because of their _____ and loyalty to Jesus.

LOVE

35. FROM THE VERY BEGINNING of his career as a persecutor, Saul "breathed threatenings and slaughter" against THE CHURCH (Acts 8). When a bloodthirsty gang of angry Jews stoned Stephen, the first Christian to die for the faith, Saul was their ringleader. He held the coats of those who led the howling mob in throwing stones which bruised and crushed Stephen's defenseless body until he died."

1 Acts 7:57-8:4.

Q. Saul was the _____who stoned Stephen.

_ of those RINGLEADER

36. BUT SAUL WAS SOON TO RECKON with the Christ whose followers he was persecuting. It happened while Saul was leading a band of men on a 150 mile journey to Damascus in order to track down and imprison more Christians. Suddenly a brilliant light blazed from heaven and blinded Saul. When he fell to the ground, he heard a voice, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Saul asked, "Who art thou, Lord?" The voice answered, "I am Jesus of Nazareth whom thou persecutest." Then Saul asked the very same question that was asked by those on Pentecost, "What shall I do, Lord?" Jesus answered, "Arise and go into the city and it shall be told thee what thou must do" (Acts 9:6).

Q. Jesus told _____ to go into Damascus where he would be told what to do.

SAUL

37. SAUL WAS LED into the city of Damascas where he remained blind and neither ate nor drank for three days. Though he was already a penitent believer, Saul had not yet been told what he must do as Jesus had promised earlier on the Damascus road. Saul's sins had not yet been washed away by the blood of Jesus.

1 Acts 22:11-16.

Q. Saul was a penitent ______ before he was even told what to do to be saved.

BELIEVER

38. FINALLY, WHILE SAUL WAS PRAYING, the Lord sent a disciple named Ananias to lay his hands on Saul so that he might receive his sight. Saul then knew that Ananias had been sent by Christ and he was ready to hear Christ's answer to his question, "What must I do?" Ananias gave him the Lord's answer, ". . . why tarriest thou: arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins . . ." (Acts 22:16). This was another way of saying what Jesus had told the apostles earlier, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." This was also in keeping with the answer Peter gave on Pentecost when he said, "Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins . . ."

Q. Ananias told Saul to arise and be that his sins might be washed away.

BAPTIZED

39. HOW CAN WE KNOW that we can be cleansed of our sin just as Saul of Tarsus and the people on Pentecost were cleansed? The Bible teaches that God is no respecter of persons. The faith and obedience which He required of Saul in his conversion is required of all men. Therefore, a person may know he is forgiven of sin when he accepts God's grace by faith and obedience to His will. Other Bible examples of conversions prove this to be true.

1 Acts 10:34.

Q. Bible examples of conversions show that faith and _____ are required of all men.

OBEDIENCE

40. BIBLE CONVERSIONS: We have seen that the 3,000 Jews on Pentecost and later Saul of Tarsus were all told the same answer to their question, "What shall we do?" In the conversions of the queen's treasurer, the jailer and Lydia these same requirements were met in order to accept God's saving grace. All who became Christians in the New Testament were saved in the same way and all were members of the same church."

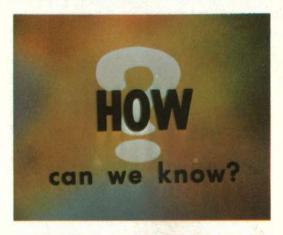
Ephesians 4:4-6.

Q. In the New Testament all who became were saved in the same

CHRISTIANS

















41. IN ACTS 8 GOD SENT PHILIP to preach to a queen's treasurer who was riding in a chariot. As Philip taught this treasurer about Jesus, they came to a body of water. The treasurer said, "Behold, here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptized?" Just as in other conversions before him, when this man came to believe in Jesus whom Philip preached, he wanted to be baptized immediately. But why?

Q. Philip taught the treasurer about

JESUS

42. THE CONVERSION OF A HEATHEN JAILER and his family recorded in Acts 16 illustrates again that all men, regardless of circumstances. are saved by the blood of Christ in the same manner. This unbelieving jailer had fastened Paul and Silas in stocks in the inner prison after they had been beaten unmercifully with rods because they preached Christ. At midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing to the Lord. Suddenly an earthquake rocked the jail and freed all the prisoners, but none of them escaped. Seeing this, the jailer fell at the feet of Paul and Silas, pleading, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Paul told this unbeliever first to "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ," then proceeded to teach him and his family what to believe. As soon as the whole family were taught, their faith moved them to be baptized the same hour that night. Again we ask why?

1 Acts 16:25-34.

Q. After telling the jailer that he must believe, Paul proceeded to teach him and his family what to ______.

BELIEVE

43. OUR FINAL EXAMPLE IS THAT OF LYDIA, a business woman. Evidently a very religious person, she had met for prayer with other ladies by the river side when Paul came and taught her about Jesus. When Lydia and her household believed Paul's message about Jesus, they too were baptized. Why? To help answer this question, let us sum up three great Bible truths we have learned.

1 Acts 16:14, 15.

Q. Lydia was a _____ person even before she believed in Jesus.

RELIGIOUS

44. FIRST, JUST AS A SHEEP can be lost from the fold so all men without Christ are lost. Without a savior a man's own sins condemn him to eternal banishment from God. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). After death, there is no further chance of salvation!

O. Without Christ all men are _____

LOST

45. SECOND, KNOWING THAT MAN could not pay for his own sin, God in love sent His only Son to bear the burden of our sins on the cross. Think of all the sins that have ever been committed brought together in one nauseous mass! The very thought of it staggers our imagination. Enduring the horror of this awful burden the Son of God cried, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). Christ was actually tasting the hell we deserve, being separated from God by the burden of man's sins. This suffering was far more horrible than the mere death of the body.

Q. While on the cross Jesus was _____ from God because He was bearing all the sin of mankind.

SEPARATED

46. THIRD, IN THE BIBLE CONVERSIONS we have studied, we saw God's answer to the question, "what must I do to be saved?" All these people accepted God's love and were cleansed by Jesus' blood in the same way. Their faith in Jesus led them to repent of their sins, to confess Him before men and to be baptized immediately for the remission of sins. But this brings us back to our question:

Q. All must be ______ by Jesus' blood in the same way.

CLEANSED

47. WHY? WHY WERE THEY ALL BAPTIZED immediately upon believing on Christ? The simplest answer, of course, is that Jesus had commanded, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." This was enough for those who really loved Him and wished to do His will. But in order to understand more about the "why", let us use a familiar illustration.

Q. Those who _____ on Jesus were baptized immediately.

BELIEVED

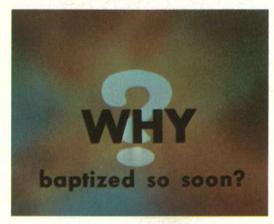
48. WHEN WE SEE THAT OUR HANDS are dirty, it is only natural that we should want to wash them as soon as possible. We all realize how foolish it would be for someone to see a need like this and do nothing about it, especially when the means for cleansing our hands is available.

Q. When a person sees a _____ and does nothing about it, we consider him to be foolish.

NEED





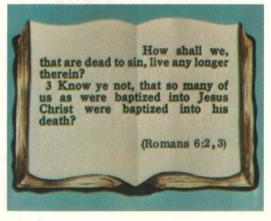












49. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WE USE SOAP and water and our hands are cleansed. With much more urgency we should desire the cleansing of our souls by the blood of Christ. This is why the people in the Bible conversions were baptized to wash away their sins through Jesus blood as soon as they believed in Christ. The apostle Paul said, "We are justified by his blood" (Romans 5:9).

¹ Hebrews 9:13, 14.

Q. The cleansing of our _____ is more important than the cleansing of our hands.

SOULS

50. PEOPLE RESPONDED BY HUNDREDS and sometimes by thousands to the preaching of the apostles. The basic theme of all apostolic preaching was the good news that God loves us and that Jesus died for our sins; that He was buried and then raised by the power of God to be our living Savior. Upon hearing these truths people felt the urgency of being cleansed by Jesus' blood as soon as possible.

1 Acts 5:14; 2 Corinthians 15:1-4.

Q. Jesus was raised to be our ______ Savior.

LIVING

51. THESE SAME BASIC TRUTHS which impelled so many to become Christians were also stressed in the writings of the apostles. They are now available in the New Testament for everyone to read and study. For example, when the apostle Paul wrote the book of Romans, he reminded these Christians how the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus was connected with their salvation.

Q. The basic _____ which the apostles preached are written in the New Testament.

TRUTHS

52. PAUL ASKED THEM TWO QUESTIONS: "How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" and, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" (Romans 6:2-3). The expression "dead to sin" in verse two shows that in their conversion these Christians had determined not to live in sin any longer. Verse three teaches that when they were "baptized into Jesus Christ" they were "baptized into His death".

 53. ALTHOUGH NO ONE CAN DIE ON THE cross as Jesus did, yet, everyone who would be saved through Him must die to sin. This means that we become dead to the desire and intent to sin by renouncing our sins and turning toward God. This is repentance.

Q. Before a person can be saved through Jesus, he must ____ to sin.

DIE



54. AFTER JESUS DIED, His friends lovingly wrapped His body in clean linen cloths and buried it in a new tomb. Everyone realizes that where there has been a physical death, there must also be a burial. When we renounce sin and turn to God, it is only fitting that a symbolic burial take place that we might be separated from our old sinful life. How can this be?

1 Colossians 2:12.

Q. When there is a death a ____ must take place.

BURIAL

55. GOD HAS ORDAINED that those who have determined to die to sin must be "buried with Christ" in baptism. Although John Nelson is not a preacher, he is happy for the privilege of baptizing those whom he has taught. He is especially thankful when he can see both husband and wife united in Christ. The Bible teaches that in baptism we are buried with Christ into His death.

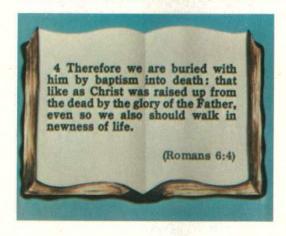
Q. A Christian does not have to be a _____ in order to baptize others. PREACHER

56. "THEREFORE, WE ARE BURIED WITH HIM by baptism into 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" (Romans 6:4). Notice that in baptism, we are also buried into Jesus' death. In His death Jesus shed His blood for the remission of sins. This is why we can rise from baptism to walk in newness of life. The Greek word "baptizo" means only "to immerse".

¹ Matthew 26:28; John 19:33-35.

Q. The original Greek word for baptize means "to _____".

IMMERSE



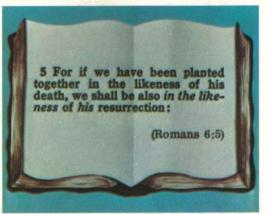


57. WHEN ONE IS BURIED by baptism into Christ's death, he must truly believe that God will remove the guilt of all his past sins through the blood of Jesus. In Bible baptism, a penitent believer is lowered into the water as into a grave. This pictures to everyone the death and burial of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the next verse the apostle Paul continues this thought.

1 Mark 16:15, 16.

Q. The Bible teaches that in baptism a penitent ______ is lowered into the water.

BELIEVER



58. "FOR IF WE HAVE BEEN PLANTED togather in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection" (Romans 6:5). We have already learned that we cannot die on the cross as Jesus did or be buried in His tomb. However, when a person is scripturally baptized, this is a likeness or portrayal of Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

Q. Scriptural baptism portrays the death,
and resurrection of Christ.

BURIAL

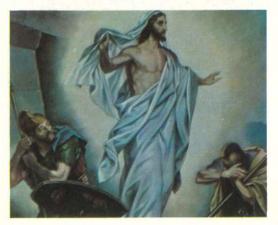


59. AS ONE ALLOWS HIS BODY to be lowered beneath the water, he is showing his complete willingness to submit to Christ. Far from being a work of merit which man can do to earn his own salvation, baptism is a passive act in which a person submits to being submerged in water by someone else. Through faith in God's promise to forgive past sins, the convert is then raised from the watery grave to a new life in Christ!

1 1 Peter 3:21, 22; Colossians 2:12.

Q. Baptism is not a _____ done to merit salvation.

WORK



60. THREE DAYS AFTER CHRIST WAS BURIED

in the tomb, He was raised from the dead and given a new life by the power of God. Later, Jesus told John, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; . . ." (Revelation 1:18)

Q. Jesus was raised to a new ____ by the power of God.

LIFE

61. FROM OUR BURIAL WITH CHRIST, we are also raised together with Him. With all past sins forgiven, we begin a new life in Christ Jesus. Since the new life follows baptism, Jesus referred to being born of water and of the Spirit as the new birth (John 3:5). Also, Paul speaks of our life before baptism as our "old man."

Q. The new life in Christ Jesus ______ baptism.

FOLLOWS

62. "KNOWING THIS, that our old man (or former life) is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin" (Romans 6:6,7). This means that the person who dies to the practice of sin is no longer the slave of sin.

Q. After receiving the new life one should no longer _____ sin.

SERVE

63. WHEN WE TRULY UNDERSTAND how we are freed from sin by Jesus' blood, baptism becomes the greatest, happiest and most meaningful event of our lives—even more than marriage itself. The apostle Paul said, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27). Each baptized believer rejoices in the Lord with his loved ones and friends as they also put on Christ in baptism. Many times a husband and wife will yield their lives to Jesus together.

Q. Baptism becomes a very meaningful event when we realize how we are _____ from sin by Jesus' blood.

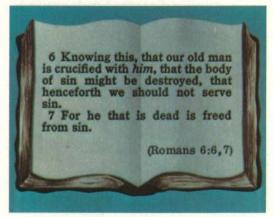
FREED

64. THIS CHART SHOWS CLEARLY that salvation by grace through faith involves baptism. Saving faith moves the sinner to submit to the will of God. Through His grace God forgives and blesses the obedient believer. When one is baptized into Christ he puts on Christ (Galatians 3:27). At the same time he is "baptized into his death" and therefore has access to the merits provided through the death of Christ (Romans 6:3). In this same act of obedience, one is buried with Christ and raised to walk in "newness of life" (Romans 6:4). He is also planted in the likeness of Christ's death, to come forth in the likeness of His resurrection (Romans 6:5). By the grace of God the old man (or self) is crucified (or done away) and the body of sin destroyed when one is baptized for the remission of sins.

Q. Salvation by _____ through faith involves baptism.

GRACE



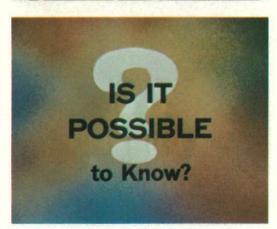














65. AFTER BAPTISM we should walk in "newness of life". The John Nelsons congratulate and rejoice with their friends who now experience together a deep joy they never could have known before. They now wear a new name, "Christian". Having been born of water and of the Spirit they now are children of God and enjoy continual access to the cleansing blood of Jesus. Now that they are Christians, when they sin they can receive forgiveness of sins daily through the blood of Christ simply by repenting of sins and praying for forgiveness."

1 1 John 1:7-9.

Q.	Christians	can	receive	forgiveness	of
sin	s				

DAILY

66. ANOTHER GREAT JOY of becoming a Christian is that God adds all the saved to HIS SPIRITUAL FAMILY, THE CHURCH. Christians belong together, therefore, they meet together regularly to worship God, to study His word and to enjoy fellowship with God and with one another. This helps each one to live for Christ continually and to grow into spiritual maturity. Everyone who is truly converted to Christ will look forward to every assembly with God's people.²

1 Acts 2:47; 2 Hebrews 10:24, 25.

Q. Christians should meet together to worship God.

REGULARLY

67. BUT IS IT POSSIBLE for a person to know whether or not he actually is a Christian, and that God has added him to THE CHURCH? Or, in other words, is it possible for him to know just how near he is to being saved? The Bible answers, "Yes."

1 2 Timothy 1:12; 1 John 2:3; 3:14.

Q. A person can ____ when God adds him to the church.

KNOW

68. WE CAN LEARN IN WHAT STATE we stand in relation to salvation in precisely the same way that a cross-country traveler can determine whether he is in California, Florida or some point in between. With a road map the traveler can determine not only the proper route to follow but also the distance he has already traveled and how far he must go to reach his destination.

Q. A map can show both the route to follow and the _____ already traveled.

DISTANCE

from California to Florida, he expects to receive different answers to the same question, "How far is it to Florida?" In California someone answers, "2,310 miles to Florida." In Utah, the answer is, "1,840 miles to Florida." Still a different answer is given in Oklahoma, "960 miles to Florida." In Mississippi the traveler is told, "400 miles to Florida." The traveler is not disturbed over receiving different answers to his same question, "How far is it to Florida?" The different answers show that at each point he has moved closer to his destination.

Q. The same question can have different

ANSWERS

70. IN THIS SAME WAY, as a person travels toward salvation, different answers will be given to the same question, "What must I do to be saved?" The answer to this question always depends on just how near the questioner is to salvation. This can be determined only by consulting God's spiritual map, **the Bible.**¹

1 Psalms 119:105.

Q. God's only spiritual map is the _____.

BIBLE

71. JESUS POINTED the rich young ruler to the Scriptures in answer to his question, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Since the Old Testament Law was then in effect, Jesus' answer to this young ruler was to keep the commandments of the Law of Moses. Jesus' answer was appropriate because the Old Testament Law of Moses was God's only spiritual map until the Savior died on the cross.

¹ Luke 18:18-27.

Q. The Law of Moses was God's only spiritual road map prior to the _____ of Jesus.

DEATH

72. AT THE END OF JESUS' LIFE ON EARTH,

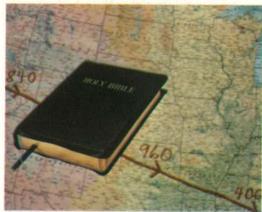
when He hung on the cross between two thieves, the Old Testament was still in effect. When one of the thieves showed an interest in salvation, Jesus answered him, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). This answer is different from the answer Christ has given for men today because the thief lived and died under the Law of Moses before New Testament Law came into effect. This is why Jesus' answer to the penitent thief did not include New Testament baptism. After all, how could anyone have been buried in baptism with Christ before Christ, Himself, had been buried in the tomb?

¹ Colossians 2:14; ² Colossians 2:12.

Q. The thief lived and _____ under the Law of Moses.

DIED





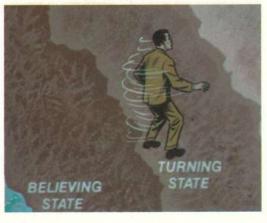






BELIEVING STATE





73. BUT NOW, SINCE JESUS HAS DIED for our sins, the man in the "lost state," as represented in the chart, must look in the New Testament for his answer to the question, "What must I do to be saved?" Since this man begins his spiritual journey as an "unbeliever", the answer for him at this point will be the same as that given to the unbelieving Philippian jailer, "Believe on the Lord Jesus . . ." (Acts 16:31).

1 John 8:24.

Q. An unbeliever must first be told to

BELIEVE

74 THE MAN COMES INTO THE "BELIEVING

state" when he believes that Jesus is the Son of God. Belief can come only through hearing or reading the Word of God. Unfortunately, many people live and die in the "believing state" mistakenly feeling that they are saved. But when they consult their spiritual road map more carefully, they see that their faith must move them over several milestones before reaching the "saved state" which leads to eternal life. The man in the "believing state" still must ask, "What must I do to be saved?" Since the believer is nearer salvation than when he was an unbeliever, his answer will be different. This is illustrated by the events on the Day of Pentecost when believers were told what to do to be saved.

Q. On the Day of Pentecost ______ were told what to do to be saved.

BELIEVERS

75. ON THIS OCCASION, which we have already studied, several thousand Jews believed Peter's message as he preached a sermon proving Jesus to be the Son of God. After they became believers, they still asked, "What shall we do?" Peter's answer was, "Repent and be baptized . . ." This answer is appropriate only for those who have come all the way into the believing state.

1 Acts 2:36-38.

Q. The believers on the Day of Pentecost were told to _____ and be baptized.

REPENT

76. THE BELIEVER WHO REPENTS, moves into what might be called "the turning state". Before he can be baptized, the believer must repent, that is, turn from sin and determine to yield his entire life to God. Repentance takes place in the mind of the sinner, while forgiveness of sins takes place in the mind of God. Therefore, while repentance moves one nearer to salvation, the penitent believer must still ask, "What must I do to be saved?"

Q. Repentance takes place in the _____ of the sinner.

MIND

77. THE ETHIOPIAN TREASURER, for example, had believed Philip's message about Jesus. Since he showed his willingness to repent and yield himself to the Lord, the question he asked was appropriate, "What doth hinder me to be baptized?" Philip answered, "If thou believest . . . thou mayest." This is yet another answer to the same basic question, "What must I do to be saved?" Notice that each Bible answer takes into account the spiritual progress of the person as he moves toward salvation.

1 Acts 8:26-39.

Q. Each Bible answer considers the spiritual _____ which one has made toward salvation.

PROGRESS

78. WHEN THE TREASURER confessed his faith in Jesus, he moved into what may be called the "telling state". At this stage of spiritual progress, the believer is eager for others to know of his faith in Jesus as God's Son. Romans 10:10 says, "With the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Q. The believer must confess Jesus as God's _____.

SON

79. THE BELIEVER WHO HAS CONFESSED

Jesus as the Son of God still has not reached the "saved state". The blood of Jesus is the dividing line between members of CHRIST'S CHURCH and those who are still unsaved. Only the blood of Jesus can wash away sins and bring a person into the saving grace of God. Therefore, the same basic question must again be asked, "What must I do to be saved?" The answer to the believer who has repented and confessed Christ is found in Acts 22:16, "Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins..."

1 Matthew 7:21.

Q. Only the blood of Jesus can bring a person into the saving _____ of God.

GRACE

80. SINCE JESUS PROMISED, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved," the traveler now enters the "saved state" which leads to eternal life. This is THE CHURCH, GOD'S KINGDOM, for God adds all saved people to HIS CHURCH. Without the love of God and sacrifice of Jesus, there could be no "saved state". Having followed God's spiritual map through belief, repentance, confession of faith and baptism the man can know he is in the "saved state", not through his own merits but by the grace of God.² The saved person is now ready, with the help from fellow Christians and his Heavenly Father, to begin living the Christian life. The hope of eternal life now becomes an anchor for the soul.³

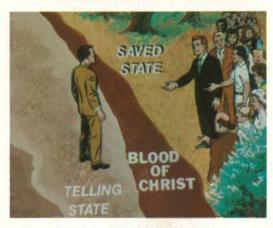
1 Acts 2:47; 2 Titus 3:5; 8 Hebrews 6:19, 20.

Q. No one can reach the "saved state" through his own ______.

MERITS













81. WHERE ARE YOU SPIRITUALLY? In what state are you living? You have learned from God's Word that if you believe in Jesus as God's Son, you are in the "believing state". If your faith has led you to turn from sin and move toward God, you are in the "turning state". If you are eager now to confess your faith in Christ, only one thing stands between you and salvation, cleansing by the blood of Christ. Where you are at this moment could well determine where you will be throughout eternity.

Q. Where a person will be throughout may well be determined by where he is now.

ETERNITY

82. JESUS SAID, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). It is God's will that you be saved. He sent His Son to make it possible. He gave His inspired word to show you the way. He holds out His promise to encourage you. Jesus is waiting for you to surrender your life completely to Him. But the choice, the final decision, must be yours.

Q. The final ______ for or against Christ must be made by each individual for himself.

DECISION