

*WitnessKit Bible Study:*  
*Bible Doctrines As a System of*  
*Thought*

Class 8

What Is the Meaning of  
the Cross and  
Resurrection of Jesus  
Christ?

We can realize our eternal potential by understanding these

*Central truths of the Bible*

Central truths of the Bible

1. *The Cross*
2. *The Resurrection*
3. *Their Implications:  
Eternal Life,  
Eternal  
Responsibilities*

# *The Cross*

One of the questions that must be answered is  
**“Why would a good God allow His Son to die in such a terrible, painful, miserable way?”**

We already realized that a good God must be perfectly just—and must punish sin—and that His mercy cannot negate His justice. This reason for the cross is stated in **Romans 3:23-26**. Because of the infinite payment for sin Jesus Christ made on the cross for us, **God** remains **just** when He extends **mercy**.

# The Cross

God hates suffering, and was willing to pay such a painful price Himself, through the suffering of His Son, so that He could bring suffering to an end.

Because of the cross, our suffering can be temporary.

God “*remains just while being the Justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus,*” as in Romans 3:26.

# If the Trinity were not true



The cross would be unjust.

Only because it was GOD who was willing to lay down His life in the Person of His Son—only because it was **the JUDGE Himself** who died in our place—the Trinity makes the cross fair to everyone. This tells us what an amazing answer this is, to the most difficult human need. We could not, humanly speaking, make this up. It required God's wisdom to understand and create a way out for us.

# All the Suffering in the World



- God took upon Himself at the infinite sacrifice of the cross. All the sin, all the misery, all the unfairness of all time and all situations—concentrated and weighed down upon Jesus Christ. All the suffering in the world tells us how much we all NEED this answer.
- God defeated suffering and death for us, because HE LOVES us. He did that at infinite cost to Himself.

# The Cross: Justice and Mercy

Romans 3:23-26<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

<sup>24</sup> being justified **freely** by His **grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, (*by **grace** through faith,*)

to demonstrate His righteousness, (because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,)—<sup>26</sup> to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness—that **He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.** (NKJV)

# *The Cross: The Trinity means God paid the price.*

Acts 20:28 <sup>28</sup> Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.  
(NKJV)

John 10:17-18 <sup>17</sup> Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.” (NKJV)



# *The Cross: The Payment*

John 1:29<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (NKJV)

Isaiah 53:7-8<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. <sup>8</sup> He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. (NKJV)

# *The Cross: The Payment for Everyone*

Colossians 2:13-15<sup>13</sup> And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,<sup>14</sup> having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.  
(NKJV)

So our sins were nailed to the cross, and that was the gateway for God to take them away.

# *The Cross: The Heart*

2 Corinthians 5:10-21 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. <sup>11</sup> Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;

This says that God has delegated judgment to Jesus Christ—the ultimate in fairness because He has experienced everything we experience. He has triumphed over temptation, so He can help us when we are tempted. He has suffered. He knows what it is like when we suffer. He will be a perfectly fair Judge.

# The Cross: The Heart

2 Corinthians 5:10-21 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. <sup>11</sup> Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences. <sup>12</sup> For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have *an answer* for those who boast in appearance and not in heart.  
( Remember that God sees the heart.)

# *The Cross: The Motive*

- <sup>13</sup> For if we are beside ourselves, *it is* for God; or if we are of sound mind, *it is* for you.
- <sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; <sup>15</sup> and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.
- <sup>16</sup> Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer.

# *The Cross: The Result*



- <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
- <sup>18</sup> Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,
- <sup>19</sup> that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

# *The Cross: The Eternal Potential*

- <sup>20</sup> Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.
- <sup>21</sup> For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (NKJV)

# *The Cross: The Reason*

1 John 4:9-10 <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. (NKJV)



# The Resurrection

- Isaiah 53:8-10<sup>8</sup> He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. <sup>9</sup> And they made His grave with the wicked—But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor *was any* deceit in His mouth. <sup>10</sup> Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put *Him* to grief.
- Clearly this predicts Messiah's death 700 years before it occurred. It connects Messiah's suffering to the bruising of the heel in Genesis 3. It verifies the New Testament description of crucifixion among criminals, and burial in a rich man's tomb.

# The Resurrection

- When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. <sup>11</sup> He shall see the labor of His soul, *and* be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. (NKJV)
- Clearly this indicates that He will come back to life—He will see His seed—His children by adoption—and that includes us. He shall prolong His days. These verses imply His resurrection. This was written about 700 years before the life of Christ.

# The Resurrection

- 1 Corinthians 15:3-8<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,<sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,<sup>5</sup> and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.<sup>6</sup> After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.<sup>7</sup> After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.<sup>8</sup> Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. (NKJV)

*This Resurrection  
Report of the Assembly  
(of 500+ People) was*

*predicted in Psalm 22 –  
about 1000 BC!*

# *The Resurrection: predicted 1000 years ahead of time.*

Psalm 22 My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? *Why are You* so far from helping Me, *And from* the words of My groaning? <sup>2</sup> O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; And in the night season, and am not silent.

<sup>3</sup> But You *are* holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel. <sup>4</sup> Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them. <sup>5</sup> They cried to You, and were delivered; They trusted in You, and were not ashamed.

<sup>6</sup> But I *am* a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people.

Psalm 22 was written about 1000 BC,

Bystanders at the cross **quoted** from this Psalm, and acted as it describes.

# The Resurrection

<sup>7</sup> All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*, <sup>8</sup> "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"

<sup>9</sup> But You *are* He who took Me out of the womb; You made Me trust *while* on My mother's breasts. <sup>10</sup> I was cast upon You from birth. From My mother's womb You *have been* My God.

<sup>11</sup> Be not far from Me, For trouble *is* near; For *there is* none to help. <sup>12</sup> Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong *bulls* of Bashan have encircled Me. <sup>13</sup> They gape at Me *with* their mouths, *Like* a raging and roaring lion.

The bystanders did these things.

Messiah was righteous from before birth.

The "Bulls of Bashan" were the Gentile Roman soldiers.

# The Resurrection

<sup>14</sup> I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.

<sup>15</sup> My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.

<sup>16</sup> For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me.

They pierced My hands and My feet; <sup>17</sup> I can count all My bones. They look *and* stare at Me.

The outflow of blood and water from the spear point indicate this about His heart.

Jesus' thirst at the cross is predicted.

The Psalm predicts crucifixion—pierced hands and feet—a form of execution not invented in 1000 BC.

# The Resurrection

- <sup>18</sup> They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.
- <sup>19</sup> But You, O LORD, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me! <sup>20</sup> Deliver Me from the sword, My precious *life* from the power of the dog. <sup>21</sup> Save Me from the lion's mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen!
- You have answered Me. <sup>22</sup> I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.

The soldiers  
gambled for  
His clothes.

Jesus prayed  
while on the  
cross.

God answered  
3 days later.

500 witnesses  
and Jesus  
half-brother  
James saw  
Him  
afterwards as  
reported, and  
Jesus sent a  
messenger to  
tell His  
brothers to  
meet Him.



# The Resurrection

<sup>24</sup> For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from Him; But when He cried to Him, He heard. <sup>25</sup> My praise *shall be* of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him. <sup>26</sup> The poor shall eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever!

What is the promise this Psalm makes in verse 26 and 29? Eternal Life for those who seek Him.

# The Resurrection

**27** All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the nations Shall worship before You. **28** For the kingdom *is* the LORD'S, And He rules over the nations. (NKJV)

The Suffering Messiah will be inclusive toward the Gentiles. He will open His kingdom to them.

**29** All the prosperous of the earth Shall eat and worship; All those who go down to the dust Shall bow before Him, Even he who cannot keep himself alive.

Every person will be accountable to Him.

# The Resurrection

<sup>30</sup> A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the *next* generation, <sup>31</sup> They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, That He has done *this*. Psalms 22:1-31 (NKJV)

Messiah will be declared to generations after the time of His suffering.

All the predictions in Psalm 22 fit Jesus Christ's time of suffering.

# *The Resurrection*

- ❑ The Old Testament talks about more than Messiah's resurrection.
- ❑ The Hebrew Scriptures talk about the resurrection of righteous human beings,
- ❑ And a separate category for wicked human beings.

# *The Resurrection: One for the Righteous and One for the Wicked*

- Daniel 12:2-4 <sup>2</sup> And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.
- <sup>3</sup> Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.
- <sup>4</sup> "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."  
(NKJV)

# *The Resurrection: Separate for the Righteous and the Wicked*

Isaiah 26:19<sup>19</sup> Your dead shall live; *Together with* my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; For your dew *is like* the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead. <sup>20</sup> Come, my people, enter your chambers, And shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, Until the indignation is past. (NKJV) (Written about 700 BC)

Isaiah 26:14<sup>14</sup> *They are* dead, they will not live; *They are* deceased, they will not rise. Therefore You have punished and destroyed them, And made all their memory to perish. (NKJV) & Isaiah 66:24<sup>24</sup> "And they shall go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh." (NKJV)

# The Resurrection

- Genesis 46:4<sup>3</sup> So He said, "I *am* God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there. <sup>4</sup> I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up *again*; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."
- Genesis 49:33 <sup>33</sup> And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people. (NKJV)
- Jacob was gathered to his people (in heaven) before being carried to his tomb in Canaan. When God said "I will surely bring you up again," I believe He is talking about the future resurrection.

# The Resurrection

- Job 19:25-27 <sup>25</sup> For I know *that* my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; <sup>26</sup> And after my skin is destroyed, this *I know*, That in my flesh I shall see God, <sup>27</sup> Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. *How* my heart yearns within me! (NKJV)
- This says God is Job's Redeemer, and that Job expects to see Him on earth, with Job in the flesh. That implies the resurrection of Job.



# The Resurrection: Separate for the Righteous and the Wicked

- Job 14:10-12 <sup>10</sup> But man dies and is laid away; Indeed he breathes his last And where *is* he? <sup>11</sup> As water disappears from the sea, And a river becomes parched and dries up, <sup>12</sup> So man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more, They will not awake Nor be roused from their sleep.
- <sup>13</sup> "Oh, that You would hide me in the grave, That You would conceal me until Your wrath is past, That You would appoint me a set time, and remember me! <sup>14</sup> If a man dies, shall he live *again*? All the days of my hard service I will wait, Till my change comes. <sup>15</sup> You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands. <sup>16</sup> For now You number my steps, But do not watch over my sin. <sup>17</sup> My transgression *is* sealed up in a bag, And You cover my iniquity. (NKJV)

# The Resurrection

- These verses from Job are actually quite consistent with other passages. The wicked dead are predicted not to rise from the grave until the time at the end of Messiah's 1000 year reign— "Till the heavens *are* no more". However, the righteous dead will be raised earlier than that, and because God covers Job's sin, Job will be in that group. **There is also a promise of protection from the time of God's wrath.**

# *The Resurrection: Eternal Life for the Righteous*

- Psalm 145:1-2, 20-21 <sup>1</sup> A Praise of David. I will extol You, my God, O King; And I will bless Your name forever and ever. <sup>2</sup> Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever. Psalms 145:1-2 (NKJV)
- <sup>20</sup> The LORD preserves all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy. <sup>21</sup> My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, And all flesh shall bless His holy name Forever and ever. Psalms 145:20-21 (NKJV)

# *The Resurrection: Eternal Life*

- Psalm 21 <sup>1</sup> To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. The king shall have joy in Your strength, O LORD; And in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! <sup>2</sup> You have given him his heart's desire, And have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah<sup>3</sup> For You meet him with the blessings of goodness; You set a crown of pure gold upon his head. <sup>4</sup> He asked life from You, and You gave *it* to him—Length of days forever and ever.

# *The Resurrection: Eternal Life*

- Psalm 21 <sup>5</sup> His glory *is* great in Your salvation; Honor and majesty You have placed upon him. <sup>6</sup> For You have made him most blessed forever; You have made him exceedingly glad with Your presence. <sup>7</sup> For the king trusts in the LORD, And through the mercy of the Most High he shall not be moved.
- (The first 7 verses deal with the eternal life of the righteous—and David asked for and was promised that eternal life.) So we should ask for it, too.

# The Resurrection: Eternal Life

- Psalm 21 <sup>8</sup> Your hand will find all Your enemies; Your right hand will find those who hate You. <sup>9</sup> You shall make them as a fiery oven in the time of Your anger; The LORD shall swallow them up in His wrath, And the fire shall devour them. <sup>10</sup> Their offspring You shall destroy from the earth, And their descendants from among the sons of men. <sup>11</sup> For they intended evil against You; They devised a plot *which* they are not able *to perform*. <sup>12</sup> Therefore You will make them turn their back; You will make ready *Your arrows* on Your string toward their faces. <sup>13</sup> Be exalted, O LORD, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your power.
- (These verses tell the separate destiny of the wicked.)

# The Resurrection:

- 1 Corinthians 15:20-27 <sup>20</sup> But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming. ...

# *The Resurrection:*

- <sup>24</sup> Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death. <sup>27</sup> For "*He has put all things under His feet.*" But when He says "all things are put under *Him*," *it is* evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. (NKJV)



# The Resurrection: A Different Kind of Body

- 1 Corinthians 15:35-50 <sup>35</sup> But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?"
- <sup>36</sup> Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other *grain*. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.
- <sup>39</sup> All flesh *is* not the same flesh, but *there is* one *kind of* flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, *and* another of birds.

# The Resurrection: A Different Kind of Body

- <sup>40</sup> *There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.* <sup>41</sup> *There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.*
- <sup>42</sup> *So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.* <sup>43</sup> *It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.* <sup>44</sup> *It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*

# The Resurrection: A Different Kind of Body

- <sup>45</sup> And so it is written, "*The first man Adam became a living being.*" The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.
- <sup>47</sup> The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven.
- <sup>48</sup> As *was* the *man* of dust, so also *are* those *who are made* of dust;
- and as is the heavenly *Man*, so also are those *who are* heavenly. <sup>49</sup> And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man*.

# *The Resurrection: The Final Defeat of Death*

- <sup>50</sup> Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.
- <sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ...

# *The Resurrection: The Final Defeat of Death*

- <sup>53</sup> For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written:  
*"Death is swallowed up in victory."* 1 Corinthians 15:35-54 (NKJV)

# *The Resurrection: Freedom from Fear of Death*

Hebrews 2:14-18<sup>14</sup> Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same,

- that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,
- <sup>15</sup> and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

# *The Resurrection: Freedom from Fear of Death*

- <sup>16</sup> For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.
- <sup>17</sup> Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
- <sup>18</sup> For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted. Heb 2:14-18 (NKJV)

# *The Resurrection*

Isaiah 25:6-9<sup>6</sup> And in this mountain The LORD of hosts will make

**for all people**

- ❖ A feast of choice pieces,
- ❖ A feast of wines on the lees,
- ❖ Of fat things full of marrow,
- ❖ Of well-refined wines on the lees.

<sup>7</sup> And He will destroy on this mountain The surface of the covering cast over all people, And the veil that is spread over all nations. <sup>8</sup> He will swallow up death forever,



# *The Resurrection*



Isaiah 25:6-9

And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces;  
The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the  
earth; For the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> And it will be said in that day: "Behold, this *is* our  
God;

We have waited for Him, and He will save us.

This *is* the LORD; We have waited for Him;

We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." (NKJV)

# *Their Implications: Eternal Life, Eternal Responsibilities*

One of the difficulties of Scripture is understanding that God's **judgment** is a matter of His judging human **works**, both for rewards and for punishments, but God's **salvation** is a matter of His **grace**, not our works.

However, salvation is a matter of our choice—our choice of repenting of sins and receiving Him.

God does not make that choice for us, although His Holy Spirit draws us toward that choice, and we cannot make that choice without His drawing us toward it.

Thus, God's work is intertwined with our choice, and the outcome is certain because His character is totally good.

# *Their Implications: Eternal Life, Eternal Responsibilities*

This is the reason the only unpardonable sin is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, because His work is necessary for our salvation—and people can choose to slam the door on His work.

(However, if you feel worried about having done that, you have not done it—because those who have done so have seared their conscience in the process and are not likely to be worried about anything spiritual any more. So press on toward a closer walk with God!)

- ❑ The Holy Spirit convinces people of sin, righteousness, and judgment. They have to search for God to find grace.

# *Their Implications: Eternal Life, Eternal Responsibilities*

- ❑ Much of the debate over predestination focuses on what people can and cannot do. However, God's character is the foundation for the truth in the debate, because God cannot be untrue to His good character.
- ❑ The same goodness—perfection in justice and perfection in mercy—that chose the cross in our place governs the openness of salvation for all who will receive it.
- ❑ And when salvation is received, each life is transformed.

# *Their Implications: Eternal Life, Eternal Responsibilities*

2 Peter 3:9 says “God is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance.”

God, in His perfect character, wishes for every human being to find eternal life.

But His justice prevents those from receiving the rewards of the righteous,

- who refuse to repent and refuse to receive His grace—His payment for their sin.
  - ❖ His payment was made through the blood of the cross.

# *Their Implications: Eternal Life, Eternal Responsibilities*

1 Peter 3:18 says, “For Christ died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.”

Hebrews 7:25-27, <sup>25</sup> Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

<sup>26</sup> For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; <sup>27</sup> who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's,

for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.  
(NKJV)

# *Their Implications: Eternal Life, Eternal Responsibilities*

- Acts 10:34-43 <sup>34</sup> Then Peter opened *his* mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. <sup>35</sup> But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.
- <sup>36</sup> The word which *God* sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all— <sup>37</sup> that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

# *Their Implications: Eternal Life, Eternal Responsibilities*

- Acts 10:34-43 <sup>39</sup> And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree.
- <sup>40</sup> Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, *even* to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.



# *Their Implications: Eternal Life, Eternal Responsibilities*

- Acts 10:34-43 <sup>42</sup> And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God *to be* Judge of the living and the dead.
- <sup>43</sup> To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.“ (NKJV)

# *Their Implications: Eternal Life, Eternal Responsibilities*

How did God describe the transformation of those who previously had been thought outside God's care, in Acts 11:1-18?

People whom God has cleansed, should no longer be considered unholy.

They were people upon whom the Holy Spirit fell,  
People to whom God granted the repentance that leads to life, and

People to whom God gave the same gift of the Holy Spirit that He gave the first group of believing Jews in Jerusalem.

# *Their Implications: Eternal Life, Eternal Responsibilities*

How does Isaiah chapter 49 describe Messiah's work, and who is included?

It is too small a thing for Messiah only to help Israel.

Israel is included, as well as the nations reaching to the end of the earth.

His work is to raise up and restore the preserved ones of Israel, to be the Redeemer of Israel,

and to be a light of the nations so that God's salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

So everyone is included.

# *Their Implications: Eternal Life, Eternal Responsibilities*

The Letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament interprets the Greek Scriptures in the context of the Hebrew Scriptures, and especially the books of Moses.

It is clear from that letter that the entire Old Testament was planned to reveal the truth about Jesus' identity when the time came for Him to lay down His life for us.

It is important not to turn away from Him for superficial reasons—and reasons that are temporary (for this lifetime only) ARE superficial.

# *Their Implications: Eternal Life, Eternal Responsibilities*

As important as family is, one's own eternal life is more important, according to Psalm 17:14-15.

If we, as individuals find eternal life, we may be able to reach other family members later. So our priority is our own spiritual situation. Psalm 49:7-15 has this same priority. No one can redeem his brother because the redemption of a soul is costly.

Yet we can trust that God—who DID ransom our brother's soul as described in the Psalm—God will be working for his salvation as well as for ours.

# *Their Implications: Eternal Life, Eternal Responsibilities*



Because we HAVE eternal life and we will face judgment, we have a responsibility to study eternal matters. We have a responsibility to repent of our sins, and to receive God's gracious payment for those sins, when we understand what He did for us.

Contrary to popular opinion, the Old Testament DOES teach about eternal life. Psalm 21 reports King David asking for eternal life, and receiving an affirmative answer from God. Psalm 61 reports that King David knew his own eternal life depended upon Messiah's eternal life. Because Messiah-King lives forever, King David will praise God forever.

# *Their Implications: Eternal Life, Eternal Responsibilities*



Under the New Covenant, as described in Joel 2:28-29, God sends His Holy Spirit into our lives when we receive His payment for our sins.

When He comes into our lives, He changes us for the better. Read Acts 1:1-8. What did Jesus promise the Holy Spirit would do and give?

The Holy Spirit would come upon us and we would receive power to be His witnesses to our own locality, nearby localities, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

# *Their Implications: Eternal Life, Eternal Responsibilities*



Especially for people whose family does not yet believe in Jesus, this promise includes the power to handle that situation and be a witness in that situation by actions and through words.

God understands the difficulty and supplies the needed power. Success is not in our hands, but His. We don't have to worry about success or lack thereof. We have to trust Him for the outcome. He LOVES them.



# *Their Implications: Eternal Life, Eternal Responsibilities*

What do John 14:26 and John 16:8-15 promise the Holy Spirit will do for us?

He will teach us all things and bring to our remembrance what Jesus said. I assume this means all things we need to know—of course we cannot comprehend all the truth of the universe in our finite human mental capacity. But we can learn what we need to know as we need to know it, with the help of the Holy Spirit. It is a great comfort during challenging times to be able to trust God for this kind of knowledge.

# *Their Implications: Eternal Life, Eternal Responsibilities*

What does 1 John 2:27 promise the Holy Spirit will do for those who receive Him?

He will anoint us for service and His anointing will teach us about all things, truly, so we must abide in Him. Here again, I assume this means all things we need to know for the area of service He gives us.

# *Their Implications: Eternal Life, Eternal Responsibilities*

What was God's purpose in sending Messiah according to 1 John 3:8?

□ God sent Him to destroy the works of the Devil!

Does this mean God's power in our lives is only for religious matters, or does His power extend to all our areas of need?

□ This includes ALL our areas of need. The Bible does not compartmentalize life. Everything is spiritual in its influence. Everything matters to God. He created all of life. He has all wisdom. Colossians 2:3 says that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ—so we can access His wisdom for all the matters of concern to us.

# *Their Implications: Eternal Life, Eternal Responsibilities*

So what are our eternal responsibilities, given that we WILL have eternal life **either** in God's heaven **or** in a place of punishment for our sins?

- The first responsibility is to get right with God. Then the next responsibility is to follow His leadership in our everyday lives, seeking His wisdom and guidance through His word. Our focus should be on Him.

# Romans 8:1-2

- There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

# Micah 7:18

- <sup>18</sup> Who *is* a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage?
- He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights *in* mercy. <sup>19</sup> He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea. (NKJV)

# Homework Class 8 Set 1

- ❑ These homework sets cover some of the same material in the slides. It is important to look up the verses for yourself to see what they say.
- ❑ Why would a good God allow His Son to die in such a terrible, painful, miserable way, according to **Romans 3:23-26**?
- ❑ Read Acts 20:28. How does the Trinity affect the righteousness of the cross?
- ❑ How is the Trinity revealed in John 10:17-18?
- ❑ Read John 1:29. What does this say Jesus would accomplish on earth?

# Homework Class 8 Set 1

- ❑ Read Isaiah 53:7-8. Why was He called the Lamb of God?
- ❑ Read Colossians 2:13-15. What does this say God did to our sins when Jesus died for us on the cross?
- ❑ Read 2 Corinthians 5:10-21. What was God's goal for the cross of Christ to accomplish?
- ❑ Why was that goal important to God? –1 John 4:9-10.



# Homework Class 8 Set 1

- Now choose one of the gospel accounts of Christ's suffering, and read what Jesus Christ went through for you. The accounts are found in Matthew 26:31-28:8, Mark 14:27-16:8, Luke 22:31-24:12, and John 18:1-20:31. Ask God to help you see His love for you as you read.

# Homework Class 8 Set 2

- The resurrection of Messiah was promised in the Old Testament—Isaiah 53:8-10. His offspring are people adopted into God's family by faith. If He sees His offspring after He renders Himself a guilt offering and is with a rich man in His death—then His resurrection is implied.
- Read all of Psalm 22. This Psalm describes His death on the cross, and promises that God will deliver Him and that He will praise God to His brothers and the assembly afterwards—again implying His resurrection. What is the promise this Psalm makes in verse 26 and 29?

# Homework Class 8 Set 2

- ❑ In 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, how many people were in that assembly?
- ❑ The resurrection of the righteous was promised in the Old Testament—Isaiah 26:19. How is it described here?
- ❑ In the same chapter, verse 14 says the wicked will not rise at that time. Isaiah 66:24 describes the punishment of the wicked.
- ❑ The promise of resurrection was made on an individual level to Jacob in Genesis 46:4. How was the promise of the resurrection expressed?

# Homework Class 8 Set 2

- ❑ Genesis 49:33 implies eternal life for Jacob and his people who had already died. It was some time before he was gathered to his people in terms of returning his body to the tomb of his fathers, but this verse says he was gathered to his people **BEFORE** his body was embalmed—actually before Joseph fell on his face weeping to kiss him goodbye.
- ❑ The same promise of his own resurrection was affirmed by Job, in Job 19:25-27. How did Job describe the time of his own resurrection?

# Homework Class 8 Set 2

- ❑ The same promise of eternal life shows up in Psalm 145:1-2, 20-21. How is it expressed here?
- ❑ In Psalm 21, how did King David say he found assurance of eternal life?
- ❑ The resurrection of the wicked was promised in the Old Testament—Daniel 12:2-3. How is that resurrection described here?
- ❑ In Job 14:10-12, when does that final resurrection of the wicked occur?

# Homework Class 8 Set 2

- Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. How many witnesses did God provide for the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Does this fulfill the requirements of the law that 2 or 3 witnesses are required to establish facts?
- Because God promised to raise the righteous from the dead, His raising Messiah from the dead is a foreshadowing of that event. 1 Corinthians 15:20-27 calls Christ's resurrection the first fruits—the beginning of the harvest—of those who will be raised. What does this passage say is the last enemy to be conquered?

# Homework Class 8 Set 2

- What were God's goals for the resurrection of Jesus Christ according to Hebrews 2:14-18?
- What are God's goals for all peoples (meaning people groups) according to Isaiah 25:6-9?
- Remember that we are not puppets on strings, and that the covenant must be agreed to by both parties, and that the adoption into God's family must be chosen by the individual. Remember also that a different destiny is promised for the righteous dead and for the wicked dead. Does God's goal for all people groups mean that all individuals automatically go to heaven?

# Homework Class 8 Set 2

- Read Acts 17:22-31. According to this passage, what did the resurrection of Jesus Christ prove? What response does it require on our part?
- Now read at least one account of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the gospels, found in Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20-21. Write down any new insights or discoveries or questions you have.



# Homework Class 8 Set 3

- ❑ In 2 Peter 3:9, why does God need to delay judgment so that more can repent? What is His purpose in the delay, and how is that purpose related to His love?
- ❑ In 1 Peter 3:18 and Hebrews 7:25-27, who did Jesus Christ lay down His life for?
- ❑ Acts 10:34-43 states that God is not \_\_\_\_\_. What do these verses say an individual must do to receive forgiveness of sins?

# Homework Class 8 Set 3

- ❑ How did God describe the transformation of those who previously had been thought outside God's care, in Acts 11:1-18?
- ❑ How does Isaiah chapter 49 describe Messiah's work, and who is included?
- ❑ Read Psalm 17:14-15 and Psalm 49:7-15. If a person cares deeply for another person and is concerned about that other person's soul, does staying outside the faith help the other person?
- ❑ What does Jesus tell Peter he needs to do in John 21:15-22, when Peter was allowing John's situation to impact Peter's own decisions?

# Homework Class 8 Set 3

- Because we HAVE eternal life and we will face judgment, we have a responsibility to study eternal matters. We have a responsibility to repent of our sins, and to receive God's gracious payment for those sins, when we understand what He did for us.
- Contrary to popular opinion, the Old Testament DOES teach about eternal life. Psalm 21 reports King David asking for eternal life, and receiving an affirmative answer from God. Psalm 61 reports that King David knew his own eternal life depended upon Messiah's eternal life. Because Messiah-King lives forever, King David will praise God forever.

# Homework Class 8 Set 3

- Under the New Covenant, as described in Joel 2:28-29, God sends His Holy Spirit into our lives when we receive His payment for our sins. When He comes into our lives, He changes us for the better. Read Acts 1:1-8. What did Jesus promise the Holy Spirit would do and give?
- Read John 14:26 and John 16:8-15. What do these verses promise the Holy Spirit will do for us?
- What was God's purpose in sending Messiah according to 1 John 3:8?

# Homework Class 8 Set 3

- ❑ Does this mean God's power in our lives is only for religious matters, or does His power extend to all our areas of need?
- ❑ So what are our eternal responsibilities, given that we WILL have eternal life **either** in God's heaven **or** in a place of justice-based punishment for our sins?
- ❑ If we are obeying God's command to love Him with all our heart and soul and mind and strength, which place will we want to spend eternity?
- ❑ If we are not obeying that command, what do we need to do about that sin?