



Overview

The Foundations Series is designed to lead our people through a logical series of lessons that reveal biblical truths and clarify our beliefs. The Foundations101 class covers essential elements of our faith and subsequent classes will build on these basic truths.

Table of Contents – Foundations 101

Introduction: The Foundations 101 course is designed to teach the key tenants about our faith, and what The Church of Crossing believes about these key tenants.

<i>Class 1: Creation & Sin</i>	3
<i>Class 2: God - The Trinity</i>	7
<i>Class 3: Belief, Mercy & Grace</i>	13
<i>Class 4: The Bible</i>	17
<i>Class 5: Baptism & Lord's Supper</i>	20
<i>Class 6: Worship & Prayer</i>	25
<i>Glossary—The Crossing: What We Believe</i>	31

Class 1: Creation & Sin

The Beginning

Genesis 1:1 (NLT) – *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

John 1:1-3 (NLT) – *1 In the beginning, the Word already existed. The Word was with God and the Word was God. 2 He existed in the beginning with God. 3 God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.*

Key Points:

- God always existed
- God is the _____
- Jesus is God, Jesus is The Word
- God _____ Jesus as His messenger
- God spoke and His Word (Jesus) created all things
- _____ brings light to the darkness

God Is

Holy – God is _____, complete, set apart

Exodus 15:11 (NLT) - *“Who is like you among the gods, O Lord – glorious in holiness, awesome in splendor, performing great wonders?”*

Omnipotent – God is _____
Genesis 1:1, 3, 6, 9, 11, 14

Omniscient - God is _____

1 John 3:19-20 (ESV) - *By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and He knows everything.*

Omnipresent – God is _____

Psalms 139:7-10 (NLT) - *7 I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! 8 If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. 9 If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, 10 even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me.*

God created time, the physical world, space, and knowledge. He is not bound or limited by anything. When we acknowledge that God has these four traits, He can create however he sees fit.

The Beginning of Creation

Day 1 – God created _____ and Earth / Created Light and separated the light from darkness creating Day and Night. (*Genesis 1:1-5*)

Day 2 – Separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth, calling the space “_____.” (*Genesis 1:6-8*)

Day 3 – The waters flowed into one place and made the dry ground appear. God called the ground “_____” and the water “Seas” Then God said, “let the land sprout with vegetation.” (*Genesis 1:9-13*)

Day 4 – God created two lights in the sky, the Sun and Moon. God also made the stars and the universe. (*Genesis 1:14-19*)

Day 5 – God created fish and other water life, and also created _____ in the sky. (*Genesis 1:20-23*)

Day 6 – God created every sort of Animal and Livestock. God also created Human beings to be in “_____” image. (*Genesis 1:24-31*)

Day 7 – God _____, blessed the 7th day and said it was Holy. (*Genesis 2:1-3*)

👉 Key points:

- God created all things (and noted them as “good”)
- God created human beings in _____ (and noted them as “very good”)
- God gave human beings dominion over His creation and responsibility for it

The Fall – Genesis 3

The opening chapters of the Bible tell a beautiful and tragic story. It begins in Genesis 1 with the earth, trees and sunlight, flying birds and swimming fish, a beautiful garden, and a couple to cultivate it.

After a blissful beginning, the story goes downhill quickly.

Adam and Eve *ignore God’s instructions* and eat the only fruit that is forbidden to them. Their actions bring sorrow, suffering, and death into the world forever. Worse still, the Bible suggests that _____ this sinful nature and its consequences from them.

Genesis 3:1-7 (NLT) - 1 The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" 2 "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. 3 "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'" 4 "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. 5 "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." 6 The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. 7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

This is what theologians have traditionally referred to as "original sin".

Key Points:

- We are _____ of this sin (inherent sinful nature)
- We make _____ to it (participants by choice)

What is Sin?

Sin is what separates us from God. The word Sin means, "to miss the mark." When we miss the mark of what God's plan is for us, we sin. What mark am I missing? Missing the mark is symbolism that is derived from the practice of archery – of having shot an arrow and failing to strike the target. Therefore, sin is having failed to strike the bull's eye of God's standard of perfect obedience, or perfect living.

Being in error or failure of God's Plan.

It is a rebellion against God. When we sin we go against what God has intended for us.

Love is obedience – disobedience is _____.

Do I Have sin in my life?

The Bible is very clear that we all have sin.

Romans 3:23 (NLT) 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

It is in our _____ that we can't keep from sinning.

We also are unable to keep the Laws or commandments that God set before us to keep us from falling short or missing the mark. Paul puts it into perspective when he is writing

Romans 3:20 (NLT) – *For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.*

Exodus 20:1-17 (NLT) – 10 Commandments

Matthew 22:37-38 (NLT) – ³⁷ Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.”³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments

Taking a look at sin a little farther

Sin can also be viewed as any thought or action that endangers the ideal relationship between an individual and God. Often we think of sin as an action against God, but more often than not, it actually can start with just our thoughts. Jesus is very clear about this with hate:

1 John 3:15 (NLT) - *Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them.*

The Impact of Sin on our Lives

And what was the result? Shame, guilt, brokenness, and eventual death—just as God had said.

Romans 6:23 (NLT) – *For the wages of sin is death.*

The Bible teaches that God is a holy God. The idea behind the concept of holiness is "perfection." It comes from a word meaning "to separate or cut off." Because God is perfect he can't have anything imperfect around Him. He cannot be around sin.

When we have sin in our lives it _____ us from God.

Isaiah 59:2 (NLT) - *It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.*

Good News (Gospel):

But, as bad as this all sounds, there is good news. The Bible also says that through his perfect life, His sacrificial death for our sins, and his resurrection and victory over death, Jesus Christ offers us new life.

Christ _____ our relationship with God.

Romans 6:23 (NLT) – *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ.*

John 3:16 (NLT) – *For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*

Romans 5:1 (NLT) - *Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) - *This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT) - ⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Class 2: God - The Trinity

Introduction

The Trinity is one of the most difficult and complex topics of the Christian belief. We approach this topic today humbly and practically.

- **Humbly** - By understanding that due to the fact that we are created God and as our creator. He is infinitely more knowledgeable and complex, we will never fully understand Him or how He operates.
- **Practically** - As we seek in this lesson to simply focus on what the Bible says about the Trinity, we steer clear of the numerous attempts to speculate and create a God we can understand. We simply let God be God.

Today we will cover 3 things:

- Trinity
- Persons of God
- Why an understanding of the Trinity is important

What is the Trinity?

The doctrine of the Trinity says that there is one God who eternally exists as three distinct Persons:

- Father
- Son (Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus)
- Holy Spirit
- God is *one in* _____ and *three in persons*

👉 **essence** (noun): the intrinsic nature or indispensable quality of something, especially something abstract, **that determines its character**. (from Oxford)

- God is eternal and was not created (alpha=beginning, omega=end)
- Each of the three persons are _____, have different roles and are in constant communication with each other

Genesis 1:26 (ESV) - *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.*

Key Points:

Three crucial truths:

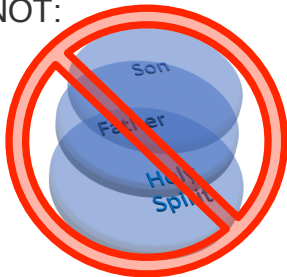
- the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct _____
- each Person is fully God
- there is only one God

What does the Bible say about the Trinity?

The word Trinity is _____ in the Bible, however this does not mean that it doesn't have anything to say about it. In fact it has much to say as we will explore.

The word **Trinity** means a union of "three-in-one". _____ Trinity differentiates which Trinity we are talking about. Theologians also sometimes speak of the **Tri-Unity** of God. That's a good description because it combines the two ideas of *diversity* and *unity* in one word. You may also hear of the **Triune** God, that that's another word that means the same thing as Trinity. The word **Godhead** is frequently used to also refer to the unity of the three Persons of the Trinity. **Trinitarianism** is the Christian doctrine that God exists as three persons but is one being.

For clarity of understanding, perhaps it is helpful to look at what the Holy Trinity is NOT:

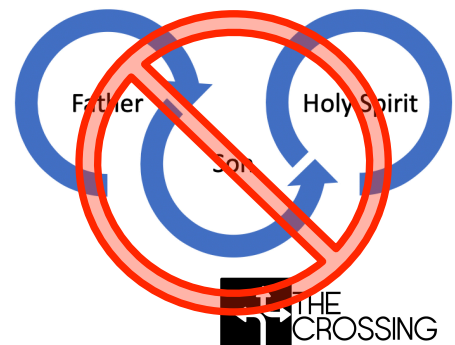


First of all, we don't believe in three Gods. That's a heresy called **Tritheism**. **Polytheistic** means many Gods. As Christian believers, we are **monotheistic** which simply means we believe in one God

Second, We should not think of God as a pie cut into three equal pieces, with each piece representing a Person. This would make each Person less than fully God and thus not God at all. We should view God as the completeness of the three Persons. We don't believe that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are "parts" of God. That would imply that Jesus is 1/3rd God, the Father is 1/3rd God, and the Holy Spirit is 1/3rd God. Three parts, which add up to the sum of God.



Third, we don't believe that the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are three "forms" of God—like, steam, water and ice. Perhaps you have heard the analogy that "I am one person and am a brother, son, and student" (which are roles). That's the heresy called



_____, which is limited by existing in only one state at a time.

The Bible is clear that all three Persons are each one-hundred-percent God, lacking nothing.

Scripture is clear that there is only one God:

Isaiah 45:21–22 (NLT) - ²¹ Consult together, argue your case.

Get together and decide what to say.

Who made these things known so long ago?

What idol ever told you they would happen?

Was it not I, the Lord?

For there is no other God but me,
a righteous God and Savior.

There is none but me.

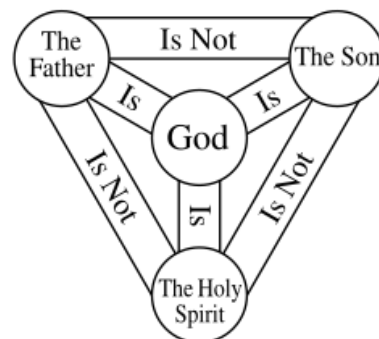
²² Let all the world look to me for salvation!

For I am God; there is no other.

Colossians 2:9 (NKJV) –⁹ For in Him dwells **all the fullness of the Godhead** bodily.

Luke 3:21-22 - ²¹ One day when the crowds were being baptized, **Jesus himself** was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, ²² and **the Holy Spirit**, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. **And a voice from heaven** said, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.

The fact that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons means, that the Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father. Jesus is God, but he is not the Father or the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God, but he is not the Son or the Father. They are different Persons, not three different ways of looking at God.



👉 Key Points:

- God is three _____ in one God
- There are not three Gods
- Each of the Persons are not partially God

- God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son (Christ Jesus), and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal _____, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

Persons of God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing. His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him, we owe the highest love, reverence, worship and obedience.

a. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. **He is _____ in His attitude toward all men.**

b. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Christ is His title, not his last name. **Christ translated to English means “the anointed” or “the messiah.”**

Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with humanity, yet without sin.

He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion.

He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the _____ between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever-present Lord.

c. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the **Spirit of God, fully divine**. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination, **He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He _____ people of sin, to righteousness, and judgment.** He calls men to the Savior and **effects** _____.

At the moment of regeneration, He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. **He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church.** He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption.

His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

d. One God.

Having seen that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are distinct Persons, that they are each fully God, and that there is nonetheless only one God, we must conclude that all three Persons are the same God. **In other words, there is one God and only one God who _____ exists as three distinct Persons.**

1 Timothy 2:5 (English Standard Version) - ⁵*For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*

There is one passage which most clearly brings all of this together:

Matthew 28:19 (NLT) - *Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

- **The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinguished as _____ Persons.** We baptize into the **name** of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- Each Person must be deity because they are all placed on the same level. In fact, would Jesus have us baptize in the name of a mere creature? Surely not. Therefore, each of the Persons into whose name we are to be baptized **is a _____.**
- Although the three divine Persons are distinct, we are baptized into their name (singular), not names (plural). The three Persons are distinct, yet only constitute one name. **This can only be if they share one _____.**

Why is an understanding of the Trinity important?

- 1) **Seek understanding.** While we may not have the capability of **fully** understanding God, but we glorify Him when we **seek** to understand Him more fully.
- 2) **Knowing God.** God wants us to know Him. Knowing Him means that we make all attempts to understand the different persons of God, their purpose, and their unique attributes and assignments. It certainly does not mean that we fully understand God.

- 3) **Guide our prayers.** Scripture primarily guides us to pray to God the Father, by the prompting of God the Holy Spirit, under the power and authority of God of the Son. This is often our posture in prayer, but be careful not to feel that it is not right to pray directly to The Son or The Holy Spirit. We are welcome to pray to Jesus as our intercessor and directly ask for guidance and understanding from the Holy Spirit.
 - a. In the New Testament, there are three prayers directed to Jesus (Acts 7:59; 2 Cor12:8; and Rev 22:20) and although there are no prayers directed to the Holy Spirit, it is not discouraged.
- 4) **Affect your worship.** Understanding more of who God is and what He is like should lead to worshiping Him more accurately and faithfully. Knowing God will never lead to loving Him less, it will **fuel** your worship.
- 5) **Unlock your Bible study.** Understanding the Trinity will unlock more truths as you study Scripture. Passages with references to each of the Persons of the Trinity will make more sense.
- 6) **Strengthen your witness.** The only God that can save is the One that exists. Knowing accurately who God is and what He is like allows us to more faithfully share this with others when sharing the Good News with others. A God who we have created in our own mind or after our own image cannot save. The one **true** God can save.

What we Believe

- There is One God and _____ One God
- He Exists in three Persons (one in essence, three in Person)
 - Each of the Persons are _____, *in constant communication*, and are *eternal*
 - Each is distinct, yet they act in _____
 - Each is equally worthy of our praise and worship
- The three persons are Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Together they are the one true God _____

There are so many things to learn about God and His desires for us. We glorify Him when we seek to know him more, **but getting hung up with full understanding** of the Holy Trinity and explaining it as something scientific **can take us away from the glory of His creation.**

- ☞ We need to just **remember that He is our God** and **He is a good Father.**
- ☞ We need to **read the teachings of Jesus** The Son and **live them out.**
- ☞ We need to seek and **listen to His Spirit** who is always talking to us.

This is the purpose of the Trinity, and that is the most important thing we need to understand about it.

Class 3: Belief, Mercy & Grace

What we Believe

For the Christian

We believe that Jesus Christ is the _____ of the _____, and that our belief through Him provides _____.

John 3:16 (NLT) - *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Jesus is the only way

The Christian faith teaches that Jesus is the only means of salvation for the whole world and that _____ in Heaven is promised to those who die who have put their _____ in Jesus while on this earth.

John 14:6 (NIV) - *Jesus answered, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

His sacrifice is for the whole world

The Christian faith also teaches that Jesus' _____ for sin is offered to everyone. We believe that through His sacrifice, _____ is available to all, but it is only those who believe in Jesus whose sins will be forgiven.

1 John 2:2 (ESV) - He is the _____ for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

- The word "PROPITIATION" means the atoning sacrifice
- Jesus' atoning sacrifice is sufficient for all - And was accepted by God
- God's wrath was satisfied as Jesus was sacrificed for all sin

Acts 3:19 (NLT) - *Now _____ of your sins and turn to God, so that all of your sins will be wiped away.*

- The word "REPENT" means a radical change of mind that leads to a change of heart or direction.
- When we repent from our sins, we turn to God.

"It is an inward, deeply introspective understanding that produces an outward, measurable shift in your actions and desires."

~ Robby Gallaty in Bearing Fruit.

What is it that we believe about Jesus - Why is He the only way?

The Gospel

The word, "Gospel" is translated as "_____."

So what is the good news of Jesus?

- Jesus _____ and lived a _____, _____ life
- Jesus _____ on the _____ for our _____
- Jesus was _____ for _____
- Jesus _____ from the _____
- Jesus _____ into Heaven and will one day _____

1 Corinthians 15:2-4 (NIV) - *It is the Gospel that saves you if you believe the message I told you, unless you believed something that was never true in the first place. I pass on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures. He was buried, and then rose from the dead on the third day according to the scriptures.*

If we believe this Gospel in faith, we are children of God and are now saved forever.

So how do we know this?

- Jesus died because we all have sinned against Him
- Missed the mark of perfection
- God is perfect ... And we are not
- God's perfection is His glorious standard
- Because we have sinned, we deserve death (Eternal separation)

Romans 3:23 (ESV) - *For all have _____ and fallen short of the glory of God.*

Romans 6:23 (NLT) - *For the wages of sin is _____, but the _____ of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 5:8 (NIV) - *But God _____ his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

- Jesus, the perfect Son of God was the sacrifice for our sins.
- His sacrifice is what allows us back into His presences.

The Holy Spirit

The Bible also teaches that the Holy Spirit is the One that confronts and convicts us of our sins, and is the One who leads us to Jesus for Salvation.

John 6:44a (NIV) - *No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.*

But our faith is not fully promised through just believing in His sacrifice

Romans 10:9-10 (ESV) - *For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that Jesus rose from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.*

1 Corinthians 15:17 (ESV) - *And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.*

According to these verses, the _____ seals our Eternity.

- If Jesus had not risen from the dead, then our faith would be in vain.

Jesus also promises His return

John 14:1-3 (NIV) - *Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in Me. There is more than enough room in my Father's house. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come again and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.*

New Life in Christ

Ephesians 2:1-10 (NIV) – *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions; it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

How do Grace and Mercy differ?

Grace goes hand in hand with mercy

Hebrews 4:16 (ESV) - *Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Mercy and Grace are some of the most powerful words in the Bible, what do they mean, and what is the difference between them?

- Grace is God _____ us something that we don't deserve (His unmerited favor)
- Mercy is God _____ us what we do deserve (Death/Eternal Separation)

Psalm 51:1-2 (NLT) - Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins.

Grace is a _____
We do not have to do anything to _____ God's grace

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) - For it is by GRACE you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, IT IS A GIFT FROM GOD, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

We must be on guard to understand the simple, but profound act of Grace and Mercy.

Class 4: The Bible

What is the Bible?

From Crossing Website:

*The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. **Therefore, all Scripture is true and trustworthy.** It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. **All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.***

“God caused the Bible to be written for the express purpose of revealing to us God’s plan for His redemption. God caused the Book to be written that He might make His everlasting laws clear to His children, and that they might have His great wisdom to guide them, and His great love to comfort them as they make their way through life.”

~Billy Graham

The Bible is the _____. It is God’s very own words to us, without _____, written by men who were inspired by the _____.

2 Peter 1:20-21 (NLT) - ²⁰ Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding ²¹ or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.

Interesting Facts about the Bible

The Bible is broken up into _____ sections

The _____ and the _____

There are _____ books in the Bible

- The Bible was **canonized**, meaning completed in 325 AD.
- The group that canonized the Bible was known as the Council of Nicea.
- The Council of Nicaea, which was set up by Constantine the Great, was composed of 300 Christian leaders.
- This specific council took place three centuries after Jesus lived,

- This council was given the task of separating divinely inspired writings from those of questionable origin (The 2nd Hebrew writings and the intertestamental books, aka the Apocrypha) .
- In 367 AD, a man by the name of Athanasius made the acknowledgment of separating the first 39 books, and the last 27 books, creating the Old and New Testaments.

Who was the Bible written for and why was it written?

The Bible was written for everyone in this world, why?

- So we could know Who God is
- So we can know His promises

The Bible teaches us about _____

It teaches about the _____

It promises _____ and _____ for mankind's failures

Psalm 18:30 ESV - *This God - His way is perfect; the Word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him.*

- The Bible teaches us how to grow in our relationship with God
- It also shows us how we are to live in this world
- We are to know God through it
- We are commanded to live by it

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT) - ¹⁶ *All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.* ¹⁷ *God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.*

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT) - *For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.*

Psalm 119:9-11 (NLT) - ⁹ *How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word.* ¹⁰ *I have tried hard to find you — don't let me wander from your commands.* ¹¹ *I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*

James 1:22 (NIV) - *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*

The Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit of God plays a huge role when it comes to scripture
- Since all of scripture was inspired by the Holy Spirit
- We need the Holy Spirit's help to interpret scripture
- It is very easy to take scripture out of context
- It is the Holy Spirit's assignment to teach us how to understand and live out what scripture says

God's Word is Eternal and Does Not Change

- The Bible is true and relevant for the past, present, and future
- It does not change with modern times or thoughts
- It is final and there are no new revelations for today
- The Bible is not meant to change
- It is meant to change us

Isaiah 40:8 (ESV) - *The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.*

Psalms 119:89 (ESV) - *Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.*

Psalms 33:11 (ESV) - *The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.*

Class 5: Baptism & Lord's Supper

Baptism and the Lord's Supper were two ordinances instituted by Christ, they were taught by the apostles, and they were practiced by the early church.

These ordinances are _____ a requirement for salvation.

These are not things that we do to earn God's favor, and they are not conduits of God's grace.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are two powerful SYMBOLIC _____ of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

Baptism

Baptism does not make you a believer. It shows the world that you _____ a believer. Baptism _____ save you. Only your _____ in Christ saves you. You are baptized _____ you commit to following Jesus.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)- For it is by GRACE you have been SAVED, through FAITH—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – NOT BY WORKS, so that no one can boast.

What is the meaning of baptism?

Baptism is a _____ of what Jesus did for us on The Cross.

Baptism is a symbol of the _____, _____, and _____ of Jesus Christ. When we are lowered into the water, it symbolizes Christ's death on the cross, and His burial in the tomb. When you come out of the water, it symbolizes the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Matthew 26:28 (ESV) – for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 2:12 (NLT) - When you were baptized, you were buried as Christ was buried. When you were raised up in baptism, you were raised as Christ was raised. You were raised to a new life by putting your trust in God.

We are baptized because _____ was baptized.

He was not a sinner, yet he humbled himself in obedience to identify with us and give us an example to follow.

Mark 1:9 (MSG) - *At this time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. The moment he came out of the water, he saw the sky split open and God's Spirit, looking like a dove, come down on him. Along with the Spirit, a voice: "You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life."*

Jesus _____ us to be baptized.

Matthew 28:19-20 - ¹⁹ *"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*
²⁰ *Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Baptism is a _____.

Baptism declares that you are a follower of Jesus Christ. It is a public confession of your faith in, and commitment to, Jesus Christ. It is the next step after salvation through repentance and faith and is an important foundation for the Christian life.

Baptism is a symbol of a _____.

Baptism is also a symbol of your new life as a Christian. We bury the old life, and we are raised to walk in a new life.

2 Corinthians 5:17(NLT) - *This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

Romans 6:4 (NIV) - *We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

Baptism is like a _____.

Here is a simple way to explain baptism. A wedding ring is a symbol that a person is married. It is an external symbol of the commitment a person made to their spouse on their wedding day. If someone looks at that person's left hand, they will see the ring and know that person is married. In the Wedding Ceremony, the bride and groom exchange rings AFTER their wedding vows.

Similar to a wedding ring, baptism is an external symbol of commitment. It shows the world that you love, trust, and have put your hope in Christ.

Baptism is an increadable way to share the _____.

When you are baptized, you are publicly declaring that Jesus Christ is Lord of your Life. When people see you baptized, you are sharing the Gospel. The Good News that Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and arose from the dead. Your obedience may encourage someone else to follow Christ or be baptized.

Baptism connects you to a _____.

Baptism also connects us to the body of Christ and his people on earth. In baptism, there is a sense of being joined with other believers. Baptism isn't just an individual act on our spiritual journey.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 - ...*For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body...*

How are we to be baptized?

By the example of Jesus, baptism is the act of being immersed in water. The word "baptize" comes from the Greek word "_____", which means "to _____", or _____.

Matthew 3:16 (NIV) - *As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water.*

Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion under water. The book of Acts shows us that this was typical for every believer.

Acts 8:38-39 (NIV) - ...*then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water....*

Who should be baptized?

Everyone who is a Believer in Christ should be baptized. When Paul writes to the believers in Rome, he assumes that all of them have been baptized (Romans 6). The one requirement for baptism is _____ in Christ.

Acts 2:41 (NIV) - *Those who accepted his message were baptized....*

Acts 8:12 (NIV) - *But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*

We believe in baptizing children when they are old enough to understand what it means and can make a personal declaration of belief.

When are we to be baptized?

Believers in the New Testament were baptized soon after they believed in Christ. As soon as a person decides to believe in Christ, he can be, and is encouraged to be, baptized.

Acts 8:35-39 (NIV) - ³⁵ So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus. ³⁶ As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?" ³⁸ He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing.

The Lord's Supper

What is The Lord's Supper?

The Lord's Supper is recorded in the Gospels in Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20.

Luke 22:14-20 (NLT) - ¹⁴ When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table. ¹⁵ Jesus said, "I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. ¹⁶ For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God."¹⁷ Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come."¹⁹ He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."²⁰ After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.

The Lord's Supper is one of two special ordinances obeyed by the Church that Jesus put into place while he was still on earth. The second special ordinance put into place by Jesus is Baptism.

The Lord's Supper or Communion is an act of remembrance of what Jesus did on the Cross for us. It reminds us of the Promise that God made between Himself and Man—That whoever believes in Jesus and what He did on the Cross shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

What is the Purpose of Lord's Supper?

- To commemorate the death of Christ: "This do in remembrance of me"
- To spend time in self-reflection and remembering Christ's sacrifice

- To signify, seal, and apply to believers of the new covenant that Christ fulfills his promises to his people
- To indicate and to promote the communion of believers with Christ

What does the Lord's Supper mean?

Today, when we partake in the Lord's Supper, we understand that it is in two parts:

1. The Bread—As we take the Lord's Supper, we understand that as we break the bread or take pieces of bread, that it is Christ's Body, which is broken for us. We understand that as Jesus was on his way to the Cross and on the Cross, that his body was broken for us as a sacrifice.
2. The Wine—As we take the Lord's Supper, we understand that the wine that was poured out, is a symbol of Jesus' Blood that was shed for us.

"Do in remembrance of Me"—As we take the Lord's Supper, we are to remember the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, because these are the key essentials that give us salvation through Christ.

Attitude of the heart during Lord's Supper

During the Lord's Supper, it is essential that we take time to reflect on the Sacrifice that Jesus made on the Cross and to examine any sin in our life, so that we can come before the Lord's Supper with as clean a heart as possible.

Paul spends time in 1 Corinthians 11 warning believers about their attitude and their spirit before they take the Lord's Supper. Paul specifically states...

1 Corinthians 11:27-28 (NLT) ²⁷ *Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord.* ²⁸ *Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.*

Both before and during the Lord's Supper, it is important that we take the time to reflect on ourselves, confess any sin, and thank Jesus for the sacrifice that he made.

Class 6: Worship & Prayer

What is worship?

Most people think that worship is the songs we sing on Sunday morning in church, but worship is more than that.

Webster's Dictionary defines *worship* as:

1. : to _____ or show _____ for as a divine being or supernatural power

2. : to regard with great or _____ respect, honor, or devotion

John 4:23-24 (NLT) - ²³*But the time is coming and is already here when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for anyone who will worship him that way.* ²⁴*For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.*

Are Worship and Music the same thing?

Worship and music are not necessarily the same thing. God certainly wants us to worship Him with music.

Psalms 92:1 (NLT) *It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to the Most High.*

But *worship*, as scripture defines it, has to do with _____ or _____ controls our . It is reflected not just in what we sing, but in the way we speak, think, and act.

Can I worship outside of the church?

Yes! Worship is a lifestyle. It's a life lived in constant surrender to God.

Worship is much more than the songs we sing on Sunday mornings. Worship is the overflow of our heart, _____ by our _____. It is honoring God with our lives.

Romans 12:1 (NLT) *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

How can we live a lifestyle of worship?

Through a life of love

Living a life of worship is simply this; Living a life of _____ and extravagantly.

Mark 12:30-31 (NLT) - 30 And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. 31 The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these.

Through a life of obedience

God calls us to love Him, and when we fall in love with our Father, it will be a natural response to be _____ to His word. Worship requires something of you, and that is obedience.

John 14:23 (NLT) – “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them.

Through a life of confession

When your humanness is _____ with the awesome presence of God, you are made aware of your _____ for His grace in your life.

Isaiah 6:5 (NLT) –Then I said “It’s all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.

Through a life of hunger and thirst

One of our natural responses to His presence is that we grow more hungry/more thirsty for the things of God; His Word, His presence, His Truth.

Psalms 143:6 (NLT) - I lift my hands to you in prayer. I thirst for you as parched land thirsts for the rain.

We worship God in many different ways, but our main source of worship is our _____.

What are the different physical ways we can worship?

We worship by bowing down

When we bow down to the Lord, it is a sign of showing _____. It shows that we honor Him. This is also a sign of _____. It takes you humbling yourself to bow to someone. The most commonly used Greek and Hebrew words for worship mean to prostrate oneself.

2 Chronicles 7:3 (NLT) - *When all the people of Israel saw the fire coming down and the glorious presence of the Lord filling the Temple, they fell face down on the ground and worshiped and praised the Lord saying, "He is good! His faithful love endures forever!"*

Psalms 95:6 (NLT) - *Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker...*

We worship by clapping our hands

Clapping our hands is another way of showering praise on someone. When we clap our hands to God, we are _____ out our praise on Him (e.g., clapping for veterans or for a football team).

Psalms 47:1 (NLT) *Come everyone! Clap your hands! Shout to God with joyful praise!*

We worship by dancing

In 2 Samuel 6, David _____ before the Lord, as they were bringing the Ark of the Covenant back into the City of David. He was showing the joy he had to have the presence of God in the city.

2 Samuel 6:14 (NLT) - *And David danced before the Lord with all his might, wearing a priestly garment.*

Psalms 149:3 (NLT) - *Praise his name with dancing, accompanied by the tambourine and harp.*

We worship by shouting to God

As when we go to a sporting event and yell for our team, we shout to the Lord when our heart _____ with _____. In fact, we are yelling for our Captain!

Psalms 47:1 (NLT) - Come everyone! Clap your hands! Shout to God with joyful praise!

Psalms 35:27 ESV - Let those who delight in my righteousness shout for joy and be glad and say evermore, Great is the Lord, who delights in the welfare of his servant!

We worship by lifting up our hands

Hands in the bible are a symbol of our _____. We use our hands to do just about everything in life. So when we lift our hands to the Lord, it is a sign that we are lifting our _____ whole lives up to God.

Psalms 63:4 (NLT) - I will praise you as long as I live, lifting up my hands to you in prayer.

Psalms 134:2 (NLT) - Lift your hands toward the sanctuary and praise the Lord.

We worship with our instruments

2 Chronicles 5:13-14 (ESV) - 13 The trumpeters and singers performed together in unison to praise and give thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and other instruments, they raised their voices and praised the Lord with these words: "He is good! His faithful love endures forever!" At that moment a thick cloud filled the Temple of the Lord. 14 The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for the glorious presence of the Lord filled the Temple of God.

What is the ultimate reason we worship?

There are many biblical benefits to a life of praise and worship, but we must be careful to focus on the _____ and not the _____. The ultimate reason we praise Him is that He's _____. We praise Him for who He is to us, and not just what He does for us. The focus of our worship is to be the Lord. Our emotional and physical response to the music of worship should never be a substitute for the spiritual response to the One we worship.

Prayer and quiet time

One of the most important things that we can do as begin our walk with Christ is to learn the spiritual discipline of having a quiet time and spending time in the _____ and _____.

Why do we have a quiet time?

We are following Jesus' example:

Matthew 26:36 (NLT) - *The Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said "Sit here while I go over there to pray".*

Mark 1:35-38 (NLT) - *35 Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray. 36 Later Simon and the others went out to find Him. 37 When they found Him, they said "Everyone is looking for You" 38 But Jesus replied "We must go on to other towns as well, and I will preach to them, too. That is why I came".*

Jesus knew that He needed to have time with the Father. He knew that was where the strength to get through His day was. Jesus was 100% _____ and 100% _____. The 100% God needed that Heavenly communication. The 100% man needed the strength from above.

Just like Jesus, we have a very real God living inside of us—and that part of us desires heavenly fellowship with our Father. We are also still of the flesh. We need strength, wisdom, and guidance to get through every day.

If Jesus felt like time with God was important, a task worth getting up early and stepping away from the busyness of the day, should we value it any less? Jesus was busy with the Father's business, and yet He made time. What are the things in my life that are keeping me from my quiet time with God?

How do I have a quiet time?

Don't overthink having a quiet time. It doesn't have to be a magical moment every time you sit down. Your quiet time is meant to spend time with the Father. We grow close to the Father just as we grow close to a friend; we spend time with them.

Here is a simple way to start practicing the discipline of having a quiet time with just 7 minutes. This is a great jumping off point. You will find very quickly that 7 minutes will turn in to 15 minutes, which will turn in to 30 minutes. It's hard to just spend 7 minutes with the Lord, but it is a great starting goal.

Preparing your heart (½ minute)

Invest the first 30 seconds preparing your heart. You might pray, "Lord, cleanse my heart so You can speak to me through the Scriptures. Make my mind alert, my soul active, and my heart responsive. Surround me with Your presence during this time."

Listening to God – Scripture reading (4 minutes)

Take the next four minutes to read the Bible. Your greatest need is to hear a word from God. Allow the Word to strike fire in your heart. Meet the Author!

Talking to God – Prayer (2½ minutes)

After God has spoken through His Book, then speak to Him in prayer. One method is to incorporate four areas of prayer that you can remember with the word **ACTS**.

- _____—This is the purest kind of prayer because it's all for God. Tell the Lord that you love Him. Reflect on His greatness.
- _____—Having seen Him, you now want to be sure every sin is cleansed and forsaken. "Confession" comes from a root word meaning "to agree together with." When we apply this to prayer, it means we agree with God's estimation of what we've done.
- _____—Think of several specific things to thank Him for: your family, your business, your church—even thank Him for hardships.
- _____—This means to "ask for, earnestly and humbly." Ask for others, then ask for yourself. Include people around the world, missionaries, friends, and those who have yet to hear about Jesus.

Glossary—The Crossing: What We Believe

(excerpt from The Crossing Website > Who We Are : What We Believe)

GOD

There is one and only one living and true God. God is infinite in holiness and is all-powerful and all knowing. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

GOD THE FATHER

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

JESUS CHRIST

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with humanity yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross, He made provision for the redemption of men from sin.

He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever-present Lord.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. Through illumination, He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and judgment. He calls men to the Savior and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration, He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

SCRIPTURE

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the

world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

MAN

Man is the special creation of God, made in His image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. Man was free of sin but by his choice, sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan, man transgressed the command of God and fell from his original innocence. Man is lost and without hope apart from the gospel and salvation found in Christ alone.

SALVATION

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man and is offered freely to all who repent and accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense, salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

GRACE

Will is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace but shall persevere to the end.

THE CHURCH

The church is the Body of Christ, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ. In such a congregation, each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord.

BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

LAST THINGS

God, in His own time and in His way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised, and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.