

**St. Matthew Baptist Church
Five "F's Curriculum
2017 "Family Teacher Duty Roster**

WEEK	TOPIC	TEACHER	DATES	DAYS	Confirmed Teacher
1	Discovering Who You Are	Min. James Carter	10/08/17 10/11/17	Sunday Wednesday	
2	The Power of Identification	Min. James Carter	10/15/17 10/18/17	Sunday Wednesday	
3	Obedience	Rev. Mable Smith	10/22/17 10/25/17	Sunday Wednesday	
4	Wisdom	Rev. Mable Smith	10/29/17 11/01/17	Sunday Wednesday	
5	Transformational Living	Rev. Lavillian Jordan	11/05/17 11/08/17	Sunday Wednesday	
6	Strengthen Your Faculties	Rev. Lavillian Jordan	11/12/17 11/15/17	Sunday Wednesday	
7	Setting God Centered Priorities For Your Life	Rev. Lavillian Jordan	11/19/17 11/22/17	Sunday Wednesday	
8	Direction	Rev. Lavillian Jordan	11/26/17 11/29/17	Sunday Wednesday	
9	Knowing Your Abilities & Putting Them To Work	Rev. Lavillian Jordan	12/03/17 12/06/17	Sunday Wednesday	
10	Purpose	Pastor E. Joe Green Pastor E. Joe Green	12/10/17 12/13/17	Sunday Wednesday	

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Rev. Frank J. Jackson, Senior Pastor
“Building Strong Godly Lives”
5 F’s Series

Function / Faculties Course Outline

- 1) In Christ Realities (weeks 1-2)**
 - A) Discovering Who You Are
 - B) The Power of Identification

- 2) Discovering God’s Will for Your Life (weeks 3-4)**
 - A) Transformational Living
 - B) Strengthen Your Faculties

- 3) Renewing of Your Mind (weeks 5-8)**
 - A) Transformational Living
 - B) Strengthen Your Faculties
 - C) Setting God Centered Priorities For Your Life
 - D) Direction

- 4) Knowing Your Abilities & Putting Them To Work (week 9)**
 - A) Spiritual Gifts / Assessment

- 5) Purpose (week 10)**

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Introduction

Every Christian has a role in the church because we are all part of the body of Christ. Each member helps make up the whole, and if one member hurts, the whole body shares that pain (*1 Corinthians 12:26*). We support each other while serving our risen Savior Jesus Christ—who is the Head of the body—and everyone has a part to play.

Paul illustrated this truth when he stated, “The whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love” (*Ephesians 4:16*). Jesus does not select just a few members of His body to fulfill His command to make disciples; Christ uses everyone to accomplish His purposes.

We are all called to various tasks according to our God-given abilities, passions, and desires. If we try to do too much, we will be unable to do our best at anything. No matter what role we fill, we are serving God first and foremost. Everything we do should be done as unto the Lord (*Colossians 3:17*). Determining our part in the body requires acknowledging God in all things, and He will lead us as we follow Him.

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Week 1: In-Christ Realities..... Discovering Who You Are

Lesson Aim: To begin an exploration of the magnificent depths of your identity
in Christ Jesus

1) Discovering Who You Are / Understanding Our New Identities

John 1:12

[12] Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

➤ **We Are Adopted Into the Family of God**

Romans 8:16-18

[16] The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. [17] And if we are children, then we are heirs: heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ – if indeed we suffer with Him, so that we may also be glorified with Him. [18] Consider that our present sufferings are not comparable to the glory that will be revealed in us....

- Through God's mercy and grace, we can feel free to call him "Abba, Father," which means Daddy. We can also expect to share in the inheritance of his only son, Jesus. We are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ in the Kingdom of God. As believers, our identities are changed forever.

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Week 1: In-Christ Realities..... Discovering Who You Are

What does it mean to identify with Christ?

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- It's normal for us to identify with something or someone. It makes us feel connected and gives us a feeling of belonging.

You Belong!!!!

Ephesians 2:4-7 (ESV)

[4] But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, [5] even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ, by grace you have been saved [6] and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, [7] so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

The Identity Crisis

- Instead of identifying with Christ, we often identify with the problems that confronts us. We do this by calling ourselves by the issue(s) or situation(s) or problem(s).

Now take a moment and make a list of some identification crisis that you have made for yourself.

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Week 1: In-Christ Realities..... Discovering Who You Are

i·den·ti·ty iden·ti·cal iden·ti·fi·ca·tion

a : sameness of essential or generic character in different instances

b: sameness in all that constitutes the objective reality of a thing

c: the distinguishing character or personality of an individual

d: the relation established by psychological

What does it mean to identify with Christ?

1. You were purchased at a steep price:

The wages of your sin is death (**Romans 6:23**), but Jesus paid that price for you. God's Word tells us that we were purchased by the precious Blood of the Lamb: (**1 Corinthians 6:20**), "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

2. We are justified and declared innocent:

If you have repented of your sins and accepted the gift of God, referring to the forgiveness of sins through the precious shed Blood of Christ, then God's Word tells us that we are justified: (**Galatians 2:16**), "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

3. We are entitled to a clean conscience:

Since our sins have been put away and removed from us, and we are justified, that is, made right with God, you and I are entitled to a clean and un-defiled conscience! (**Hebrews 9:14**), "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

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4. Your sins are no longer a part of you

The truth is that your sins have not simply been covered, but actually removed from your account. This was not possible in the Old Testament, but through the precious Blood of Christ, the removal of sins is a reality. (John 1:29), "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (Matthew 26:28), "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

5. We are clothed with the righteousness of Jesus

As believers in Christ, there is a great exchange that has taken place. One of the things exchanged is our sin for Jesus' own righteousness. (Romans 3:22), "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference."

6. You are made new in Christ - Born of God!

The old saying, "We're just forgiven sinners saved by grace" is so devastating because it actually denies the work that God has done in us. We are not forgiven sinners, as addressed in my teaching, "Forgiven sinner or saint?" God's Word tells us that we are new creatures in Christ, old things having passed away and all things have become new: (2 Corinthians 5:17), "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

7. You are seated with Christ - A Position of Authority

Many people do not realize what this means. To be seated refers to a place of authority. Jesus is seated at the right hand of God, and God's Word tells us that we are seated with Christ: (Ephesians 2:6), "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Because of our position in Christ, we are seated in a place of authority over all sickness, diseases, demons and over any situation that we may approach.

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Week 1: In-Christ Realities..... Discovering Who You Are

Concluding thoughts

When we don't realize who we are in Christ, our faith will be crippled. If you don't feel worthy to exercise your authority in Christ, then you won't be doing it in the fullness of faith and will lack assurance. Satan works diligently to program people's minds to feel unworthy and unable to walk in power of God here on earth. This is one of the most popular strongholds in existence today in the body of Christ! The truth is that we, by our own power and effort, are unworthy, but it is the Blood of Christ that makes us worthy. And if we say we are unworthy when the Blood says we are, then we are denying the work that Christ did for us on the cross!

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Week 2: In-Christ Realities
The Power of Identification

Lesson Aim: To begin an exploration of the magnificent depths of your identity
in Christ Jesus

2) The Power of Identification

2Corinthians 5:17

What does being “in Christ” mean? Some Bible translations simply say “in union with Christ.” The in Him, in Whom, in the Lord, or in the Spirit. Actually, those two words “in Christ” (or “in Him” or “in Whom”), are used more than 130 times in the Apostle Paul’s letters to tell you who you are in Christ and what you have in Him.

“ In Christ”

- A) A Brand-New Creation.....2 Corinthians 5:17
- B) Declared Righteous.....2 Corinthians 5:21
- C) Blessed.....Ephesians 1:3
- D) Victory.....2 Corinthians 2:14
- E) Free.....Romans 8:1-2
- F) Wisdom.....Colossians 2:3
- G) Complete.....Colossians 2:9-10

Helpful Holy Hint!!!

Once you understand your identification with Christ, you can no longer identify with who you used to be. You can no longer identify with failure, depression, and defeat. You can no longer identify with being a sinner! Romans 6:6-7

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Week 2: In-Christ Realities: **The Power of Identification**

How does this happen?

Galatians 2:20

- I have been crucified with Christ

Paul does not refer to physical death but to the death of his former self.

In the book of Ephesians chapter 4:22

- Paul tells us to take off our former way of life. The old man who is being destroyed according to deceitful desires

Let’s take another look at the scripture

- I have been crucified with Christ nevertheless I live yet not I but Christ liveth in me.

What is Paul saying?

- When Christ was being nailed to the cross He became the greatest transgressor, murderer, adulterer, thief, rebel, and blasphemer, that ever was or could be in the world.

Why? *1 Peter 2:24*

The Breakdown

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

Behold, meaning; I present to you

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Week 2: In-Christ Realities: **The Power of Identification**

The scripture reads: I have been crucified with Christ nevertheless I live yet not I but Christ liveth in me.

- **But:** Conjunction connects or joins phrases

He says, “**But Christ Liveth in me.**”

We are deeply driven by our sense of identity, of who we are.

- Many social theories are to do with creating or preserving our sense of identity.
- Which causes us to now have what’s called an Identity Crisis

We often categorize ourselves in terms of other people and groups.

- When asked about yourself, you may well describe yourself in terms of your work and family relationships:

Identity, identify, identical, identification are all related and are defined as considering or treating as the same; or the conditions or fact of being the same in all qualities.

So whoever or whatever you identify yourself with, you are proclaiming to possess the same qualities.

Seated With Christ

Ephesians 2:5-6

Before we can stand against the satan and his tricks and before we can walk the Christian walk, we must learn how to sit!!

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Week 2: In-Christ Realities: **The Power of Identification**

- **Take your place in the finished work of Jesus Christ**

“It Is Finished” Jesus has already done everything He is going to do about the devil, your righteousness, and your victory in life. He has defeated the devil and has established your righteousness, given us victory, sat down, and said, “It is all over.”

The Finished Work of Redemption

Take your place in Christ, in the finished work of redemption, and sit down. You give the devil the most trouble when you sit down! Often people are fighting themselves and many other things. If you are fighting everything in the natural, you are going to lose. **Zechariah 4:6**

Ephesians 2:6

Knowing and acknowledging this, now you can deal with life from a different perspective. You can deal with your problems from a position of triumph and victory, not from a place of trying to get the victory.

Philemon 6

We are to acknowledge every good thing that is in us in Christ. We are to acknowledge who we are in Christ and the good things that are in us because of who we are in Him.

Obedience (To God)

Obedience: Biblical obedience means, simply, to hear, trust, submit and surrender to " God" and obey his Word.

In Jesus Christ we find the perfect model of obedience. As his disciples, we follow Christ's example as well as his commands. Our motivation for obedience is love:

John 14:15

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (ESV)

Obedience is an Act of Worship

While the **Bible places strong emphasis on obedience**, it's important to remember that believers are not justified (made righteous) by our obedience. **Salvation** is a free gift of God, and we can do nothing to merit it.

True Christian obedience flows from a heart of gratitude for the grace we have received from the Lord:

Exodus 19:5

Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. (NL T)

Obedience (To God)

Luke 11:28

Jesus replied, "But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice." (NL T)

"True 'hearing,' or obedience, involves the physical hearing that inspires the hearer, and a belief or trust that in turn motivates the hearer to act in accordance with the speaker's desires."

Active Obedience of Christ:

By His active obedience, Christ carried His people beyond the point of remaining in a neutral moral state, that of Adam before the fall, and gave the elect, a claim to everlasting life with Him.

Romans 5:19

"For as by the one man's disobedience [Adam] the many were made sinners [all humanity], so by one man's obedience [Jesus Christ] the many [the elect] will be made righteous"

The active obedience of Christ can be summarized this way: It shows us how Christ fulfilled the law perfectly. This perfect fulfillment of the law established Christ's righteousness by being sinless and this righteousness is given to us.

God's will for Jesus was completely fulfilled by Jesus as He lived His life in full accordance to the Father's will which ultimately was being completely obedient to the law to fulfill all righteousness.

Since all humanity has fallen into sin; they failed time and time again. But Jesus, since He was both fully divine and fully human; was able to fulfill all righteousness by obeying the law perfectly.

Obedience (To God)

Passive Obedience of Christ:

"Christ's sufferings for us, in which He took the penalty due for our sins and as a result died for our sins". So in addition to obeying the law perfectly (active obedience) for His whole life on our behalf, Christ also took on Himself the sufferings necessary to pay the penalty for our SIns.

The term "passive" comes from the Latin term "passio" which means "passion" or "suffering". Therefore, the passive obedience of Christ deals with the suffering that Christ went through in His whole life and in His death on the cross.

Suffering for His Whole Life:

If we take the suffering of Christ paying for our sins in a broad sense; we can conclude that this suffering in His body and soul was throughout His entire life. Christ, the Son of God, entered the fallen world through taking on the form of a human and being found in appearance as a man (**Philippians 2:5-8**). Some sufferings that Jesus went through on this earth are as follows:

His temptations in the wilderness by Satan (**Matthew 4: 1-11**)

He also suffered in growing to maturity (**Hebrews 5:8**)

Like stated above; there was not only the Pharisees who opposed His ministry and life, there were many other Jewish leaders who also opposed Him (**Hebrews 12:3-4**)

He experienced grief when a close friend died, Lazarus (**John 11 :35**)

Obedience (To God)

And the prediction of Isaiah was that the Messiah would be a "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (Isaiah 53:3)

Suffering on the Cross:

As Christ's time drew to a close on this earth; He became even more sorrowful. He told His disciples this, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death" (Matthew 26:38). On the cross; Jesus' sufferings for us reached a climax, for it was there that He bore the penalty for our sin and died in our place. Grudem points out that Scripture explains four different aspects of the pain that Jesus experienced:

(1) Physical Pain and Death

"Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh ... "

(1 Peter 4: 1)

(2) The Pain of Bearing Sin

"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree ... "

(1 Peter 2:24)

"For Christ also suffered once for sins ... "

(1 Peter 3:18)

Obedience (To God)

(3) Abandonment

Peter denies knowing Jesus three times

(John 18:15-27)

Jesus' betrayal by Judas

(John 18:1-11)

"And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'"

(Mark 15 :34)

(4) Bearing the Wrath of God

"He is the propitiation for our sins ... "

(1 John 2:2)

Therefore, **the passive obedience** of Christ does not mean that He wasn't active in it; it simply means the **"passion" or the sufferings** that came upon Him in His entire life and especially at His death.

This can be summed up by the prophet **Isaiah in Isaiah 53**.

Obedience (To God)

Isaiah in Isaiah 53

"For He grew up before Him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground;

*He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him,
and no beauty that we should desire Him.*

*He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows,
and acquainted with grief
and as one from whom men hide their faces*

*He was despised,
and we esteemed Him not.
Surely He has born our griefs and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed Him stricken,
smitten by God,
and afflicted.*

*But He was wounded for our transgressions;
He was crushed for our iniquities;
upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with His stripes we are healed.*

All we like sheep have gone astray;

Obedience (To God)

*we have turned--every one--to his own way;
and the LORD has laid upon Him the iniquity of us all.
He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so He opened not His mouth.*

How do these two fit together?

The active obedience of Christ was necessary to make His passive obedience acceptable with God, that is, to make it an object of God's good pleasure. It is only on account of it that God's estimate of the sufferings of Christ differs from His estimate of the sufferings of the lost. Moreover, if Christ had not rendered active obedience, the human nature of Christ itself would have fallen short of the just demands of God, and He would not have been able to atone for others. And finally, if Christ had suffered only the penalty imposed on man, those who shared in His fruits of His work would have been left exactly where Adam was before he fell" .

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Obedience (To God)

Basically, the righteousness Christ achieved through the fulfilling of the law proved the sacrifice that He made was worthy and acceptable to God for the sin of the elect.

What do these mean for us?

For the believer, the active and passive obedience of Christ are ways in which the atonement for sin was accomplished. Therefore, our sins have been atoned for and we are now reconciled back to God because of Christ's work. We are at one with Christ once again.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! As we think about the life of Christ

Micah 7: 18-19

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. 19 You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea

We ought to ask ourselves; are we good enough to deserve God's approval? And we are willing to rely on His record for obedience for our eternal destiny?

I pray that you choose to rely on what Christ has done in His life, death, resurrection and ascension!

THE NATURE AND SOURCE OF GODLY WISDOM

Without wisdom, life can be thorny. Our human wisdom can lead us into more trouble, life can seem very unfair.

If life contained perfect justice, every one of us would suffer eternally for every shortcoming in our imperfect lives.

It is better than fair that a righteous Savior bridges the gap between imperfect man and a perfect God with infinite wisdom.

Seeking the wisdom of God is the answer to each and every individual. If we can turn our heart to Him and allow His Word to guide us, we will live a life totally embraced with God's love and wisdom.

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
but
fools despise wisdom and instruction.*
(Prov. 1:7)

Rev. Mable Smith
STMBC

THE NATURE AND SOURCE OF GODLY WISDOM

Prov. 2:1-7

There is a wisdom which man does not naturally possess; yet without which no man can be happy.

This wisdom consists not in the depths of science and learning, but in the fear of the Lord.

This wisdom is the gift of God, and is given to everyone who desires it and diligently seeks for it according to God's Word.

Long ago, the question was asked, *'Where shall wisdom be found?'* (Job 28:12, 20-21).

The answer is now set before us, as the **fear** and **knowledge** of God (v. 5).

In our text, we are informed what '**Godly wisdom**' is and the **means** by which we can attain it.

I. WHAT GODLY WISDOM IS

A. Godly wisdom is that which only God can give.

B. Godly wisdom is the knowledge of God as He is seen in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus Christ is revealed to us through the Gospel (II Cor. 4:3-6).
2. Jesus Christ is the visible manifestation of the invisible God.
3. When we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we receive the 'Wisdom of God.'
4. As the eternal 'Word,' He came into this world to give life and light to all that will receive Him by faith.

C. God gives 'wisdom' and 'understanding' to every believer.

(vv. 2, 5).

1. '**Wisdom**' which comes from receiving the Gospel of Christ, will produce 'the fear of the Lord,' in the heart of every believer.
2. '**Understanding**' is given to those who receive the Gospel of Christ, and it is through the Gospel that the believer receives 'the knowledge of God,' which is 'life eternal'(Jn. 17:3).

D. There is a difference between intellectual wisdom and godly wisdom.

1. The **wisdom of the unsaved** resides only in his **head**.
2. **Godly wisdom** is seated in the believer's **heart**.
3. **Worldly wisdom** consists merely in a temporal knowledge of men, things, and present circumstances.
4. **Godly wisdom** is the result of the believer knowing that he has been reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - This results in a fear and love of Christ's name.
5. **Worldly wisdom** enlarges the **mind** and directs the conduct in things relating to **time**.
6. **Godly wisdom** informs and regulates the **soul** in reference to **eternity**.

E. 'The wisdom that is from above' brings every rebellious passion into subjection, and directs us into a right relationship with our God in order that we might enjoy Him forever.

- True wisdom is to fear God and have an understanding of His holiness. (Prov. 9:10).

II. THE MEANS BY WHICH GODLY WISDOM IS ATTAINED

- The wisdom of this world may be attained by study, but godly wisdom requires much more.

A. A person must be SINCERE in order to receive godly wisdom. (V1).

1. The person that has no desire to obey the Word of God will find some reason to dispute the plainest instructions.
2. The **Pharisees** of old remained ignorant of truth, because they loved '*darkness rather than light*'(Jn. 3:19).
 - a. Even though they had the Old Testament Scriptures and were instructed by our Lord Himself, they remained in darkness.
 - b. They refused the light that was offered to them by our Lord (Jn. 8:12; 43-47).
 - c. To remain in darkness is to love error more than truth, sin more than holiness, and the ways of the world more than the ways of our Lord.
3. If we refuse the word of our Lord, we too will remain in darkness.
 - a. If we would know God, we must strive to enter in at the strait Gate (Mt. 7:13-14).
 - b. The good seed of the Word will never bring forth fruit to perfection, unless it is '*received into an honest and good heart.*'
 - c. If we would be truly wise, we *must 'receive God's Word, and hide his commandments with us,'* as a precious jewel which we desire to possess and keep.

B. A person must seek godly wisdom with DILIGENCE.

1. We are to heed the instruction of the Gospel (V. 2).
 - a. The Gospel shows us how to be saved and justified through faith in Christ. (I Cor. 2:1-7, 14).
 - b. We need to apply the truths of the Gospel to our heart and life.
- c. It is one thing to hear the Gospel with the ear, but we must also apply its truths to our heart.

d. A hypocrite may appear to hear with great attention, and to show much affection, and yet his heart may be set on the things of the world. (Ezek. 33:31; Ps. 119:112.)

2. We should consider the Gospel as a precious hidden treasure (V 4).

a. It contains rich truths from heaven.

b. There are treasures of wisdom and knowledge in it.

c. Christ is the sum of it, who is full of truth as well as grace.

(Col. 2:3; Jn. 1:14).

d. The Gospel contains rich blessings of grace, and exceeding great and precious promises.

e. We are to search the Word with much diligence and labor.

f. The Lord promised to bless **Joshua** and the children of Israel as long as they put Him and His Word first in their lives. (Josh. 1:8).

g. We, like the **Bereans** of old, will be blessed of the Lord when we search the Scriptures daily and apply them to our minds and hearts.

C. A person must seek godly wisdom through PRAYER.

1. Nothing will succeed without prayer.

a. A person that does not seek the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, might commit much Scripture to memory, and yet not understand one spiritual concept.

b. Our blessed Lord assures us that none can know the Father, but those to whom the Son shall reveal Him. (Mt. 11:27).

2. If we want to understand the Word of God, we must cry out to the Lord for spiritual understanding. (V3).

a. The apostles themselves needed to have their understanding opened, before they could understand the Scriptures. (Lk. 24:45).

b. Even the most mature Christian still needs, '*a spirit of wisdom and revelation to be given*' to him in order that he might understand the precious truths of God's Word. (Eph. 1:17-18).

c. It is through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that the Word of God is made clear and impressive.

3. The Word must first come into the ears, and then it enters into the heart where it is safely hid. (Ps. 119:130).
4. Every verse read, meditated on, and prayed over opens a mine of 'unsearchable riches.'
5. In order to be taught of God, we, like David, must ask the Lord to open our understanding. (Ps.119:18).

III. THE LORD WILL ABUNDANTLY BLESS THOSE WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK GODLY WISDOM

A. God is the source and giver of all spiritual knowledge. (V. 5-6)

1. The person that is actively and prayerfully searching for Divine truth, will be given the ability to discern the two great principles of godliness which are '*the fear and knowledge of God*'(v. 5).
2. The grace of **fear**, which comes from wisdom and knowledge, is a treasure itself. (Prov. 1:7; 9:10).
 - a. **Godly fear** is a reverence of God, joined with a love to Him, a trust in Him, and a desire to serve and worship Him in a right manner.
 - b. As soon as a man is converted, he will have a fear of offending God, from a principle of love. (Jn. 10:27).
3. The Lord applies the Gospel in the hearts of His people by His Spirit, and leads them into the riches of His special grace, which moves them to love, fear, and serve Him. (Job 28:28; Ps. 111:10)
- 4. A person's state of mind is dependent upon the attitude in which he seeks divine knowledge.**
 - a. If he is willing to '*learn of the Father,*' then the Lord will teach him.

b. But if he is too proud to submit to the instructions of the Lord, then the Lord will leave him to wander further and further from the right way.

(1) He will *'take the wise in their own craftiness'*(I Cor. 1:18-19; 3:18-19).

(2) He will *'reveal to babes what he hides from the wise and prudent'*(Mt. 11:25).

B. The Lord will not allow us to seek godly wisdom in vain.

1. Humble hearts sit at Jesus feet, and are endowed with a rich inheritance. (Ps. 25:9, 12, 14).

a. The best way to know the mind of God is to walk with Him.

b. Christ made Himself known to the disciples in the breaking of bread. (Lk. 24:35).

2. The Lord will bless those who are willing to apply the means of obtaining godly wisdom.

a. If we are **sincere**, He will open our eyes. (Jn. 7:17).

b. If we are **diligent**, He will reveal Himself to us. (Prov. 8:17).

c. If we are **persevering in prayer**, He will give us liberally. (Jas. 1:5).

CONCLUSION

- We should value the **Gospel** as a very special gift from God.
- It is only through receiving the Gospel that sinners can be saved and the simple can receive wisdom. (Ps. 19:7).
- If it were not for the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, many that are now in heaven would have 'perished for lack of knowledge.'
- We need to pray that the Lord would use the preaching of the Gospel to bring many sinners to see their need of a Savior.

Handout 3

Book of Romans

Special Characteristics

1. *The most systematic of Paul's letters.* It reads more like an elaborate theological essay than a letter.
2. *Emphasis on Christian doctrine.* The number and importance of the theological themes touched upon are impressive: sin and death, salvation, grace, faith, righteousness, justification, sanctification, redemption, resurrection and glorification.
3. *Widespread use of OT quotations.* Although Paul regularly quotes from the OT in his letters, in Romans the argument is sometimes carried along by such quotations (see especially chs. [9](#) - [11](#)).
4. *Deep concern for Israel.* Paul writes about her present status, her relationship to the Gentiles and her final salvation. <http://www.biblestudytools.com/msg/romans/>

INTRODUCTION ROMANS

The event that split history into "before" and "after" and changed the world took place about thirty years before Paul wrote this letter. The event—the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus—took place in a remote corner of the extensive Roman Empire: the province of Judea in Palestine. Hardly anyone noticed, certainly no one in busy and powerful Rome.

And when this letter arrived in Rome, hardly anyone read it, certainly no one of influence. There was much to read in Rome—imperial decrees, exquisite poetry, finely crafted moral philosophy—and much of it was world-class. And yet in no time, as such things go, this letter left all those other writings in the dust. Paul's letter to the Romans has had a far larger impact on its readers than the volumes of all those Roman writers put together.

The quick rise of this letter to a peak of influence is extraordinary, written as it was by an obscure Roman citizen without connections. But when we read it for ourselves, we begin to realize that it is the letter itself that is truly extraordinary, and that no obscurity in writer or readers could have kept it obscure for long.

The letter to the Romans is a piece of exuberant and passionate thinking. This is the glorious life of the mind enlisted in the service of God. Paul takes the well-witnessed and devoutly believed fact of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth and thinks through its implications. How does it happen that in the death and resurrection of Jesus, world history took a new direction and at the same moment the life of every man, woman, and child on the planet was eternally affected? What is God up to? What does it mean that Jesus "saves"? What's behind all this, and where is it going?

These are the questions that drive Paul's thinking. Paul's mind is supple and capacious. He takes logic and argument, poetry and imagination, Scripture and prayer, creation and history and experience, and weaves them into this letter that has become the premier document of Christian theology.

From: Unlike the peasants who had traveled with Jesus, Paul was – an intellectual. Schooled by the rabbis to analyze a Bible passage and exposed also to Greek logic, he bent his skills to the story of Jesus. But he didn't do this in some comfortable scholar's study. He worked out his ideas while walking mile after mile across rugged Turkey, sunburned and rain-soaked, camping in the middle of nowhere or occasionally in a flea-infested inn. He puzzled about the Cross while trying to light a cooking fire in a wooden ship that might go up in flames were it not for the sea water that kept splashing over the bow.

To: Paul had never even seen Rome when he wrote to the several hundred Christians there. He had met a few of them traveling through other cities, but he wanted to introduce himself and his thinking to those who had only heard the gossip (not all of it good) about him. Some of them were Jews who thought of Jesus as the Jewish Messiah. Many were

non-Jews sorting out what Jesus had to do with them. **All debated how a follower of Jesus ought to live**, and they were keen to hear Paul's account first hand.

Re: Probably AD. 57. Rome was immense for its time-over a million people packed into dense housing blocks, elegant villas for the rich, and imposing marble public areas. The emperor's palace was a massive complex, because most of the bureaucrats who ran the empire were officially servants in his household. Temples-some to the traditional gods, others to deified men like Julius Caesar-were everywhere. Nero, now twenty years old, had become emperor at seventeen after his mother murdered her husband, Emperor Claudius.

Romans Outline: Chapter 1

1. Greeting

- a. Reasons for writing the Book
 - i. Expressed desire to come to Rome and teach them
 - ii. Paul was interested in the Roman church, and intended to come for many years (1:13; 15:22-24,28-29; cf. Acts 19:21)
 - iii. Paul wanted to preach the Gospel and impart a spiritual benefit to the Romans (1:11,15)
 - iv. Since the book has so many doctrines, Paul wanted to instruct the Romans in their faith
- b. Theme of the Book: **purpose of the gospel – power to bring salvation
 - i. Paul desires to proclaim the gospel to the Romans because it is the power of God through which He reveals the righteous status of life for all people through faith 1:16-17
<https://bible.org/article/introduction-book-romans>

2. How did we get here: Beginning of his Treatise – the Apostle Paul

- a. Treatise = Dissertation, discourse, thesis
 - i. Establishes in vs. 2 that his treatise is based on the **Word of God**.
- b. This is a master work, a well crafted **systematic** treatment of the study of God and His intentions toward man (systematic theology)
- c. The intent here is to lay out in plain English from start to finish God's expectations of man
- d. Outlines the state of a world that has rejected God.
- e. Beginning at 1: 18-19 he lays out God's reaction to ungodliness – **WRATH** – because in their betrayal of their Creator:
 - i. They suppressed the **truth of the knowledge of who God is**
 1. **SUPPRESS'**, *verb transitive* [Latin suppressus, supprimo; sub and premo, to press.]
 - a. To **overpower** and **crush**; to **subdue**; to **destroy**; as, to *suppress* a rebellion; to *suppress* a mutiny or riot; to *suppress* opposition.
 - b. To **keep in**; to **restrain from utterance** or vent; as, to *suppress* the voice; to *suppress* sighs.
 - c. To retain without disclosure; to **conceal**; not to tell or reveal; as, to *suppress* evidence.
 - d. Without communication or making public; as, to *suppress* a letter; to *suppress* a manuscript.
 - e. To **stifle**; to **stop**; to hinder from circulation; as, to *suppress* a report.

- f. To stop; to restrain; to **obstruct** from discharges; as, to *suppress* a diarrhea, a hemorrhage and the like.
 - 2. ***This suppression is a conscious action by ungodly people to keep truth from other people***
 - ii. They **complicated the truth** that God had revealed
 - iii. They refuted the **truth of God as the Revelator**
- f. Result of denying God: 1: 20—32 (ISV)
 - i. 20-21: the invisible God **MADE Himself known** by the visible surroundings; He was **RECOGNIZED THEN IGNORED**
 - 1. **Result:** 21: Thoughts became worthless & Senseless **hearts darkened**
 - ii. 22-23: Claiming to be wise → **fools** & Exchanged God's glory **for idol worship**
 - 1. **Result:** 24: **GOD DELIVERED them** to (gave them into the power of) sexual impurity
 - iii. 25: Exchanged God's truth for a lie & worshipped and served creation
 - 1. **Result:** 26-27: **GOD delivered them** to degrading passions of homosexuality
 - iv. 28: did not see a need to **GROW in GOD**
 - 1. **Result:** : **GOD delivered them** to degraded **minds** to perform acts that should not be done
 - a. ²⁸⁻³² Since they didn't bother to acknowledge God, God quit bothering them and **let them run loose***. And then all hell broke loose: rampant evil, grabbing and grasping, vicious backstabbing. They made life hell on earth with their envy, wanton killing, bickering, and cheating. Look at them: mean-spirited, venomous, fork-tongued God-bashers. Bullies, swaggerers, insufferable windbags! They keep inventing new ways of wrecking lives. They ditch their parents when they get in the way. Stupid, slimy, cruel, cold-blooded. And it's not as if they don't know better. They know perfectly well they're spitting in God's face. And they don't care—worse, **they hand out prizes to those who do the worst things best!** (Message Bible)
 - b. ***Reprobate mind** =
 - i. a mind void of judgment or an unapproving mind
 - ii. that which does not prove itself such as it ought
 - iii. unfit for
 - iv. worthless
 - v. rejected

Romans 2 (ISV)

God will Judge Everyone

Therefore, you have no excuse—every one of you who judges. For when you pass judgment on another person, you condemn yourself, since you, the judge, practice the very same things.

² Now we know that **God’s judgment against those who act like this is based on^[a] truth.** ³ So when you, a mere man, **pass judgment on those who practice these things and then do them yourself,** do you think you will escape God’s judgment? ⁴ Or are you unaware of his rich kindness, forbearance, and patience, that it is God’s kindness that is leading you to repent?

⁵ But **because of your stubborn and unrepentant heart** you are reserving wrath for yourself on the day of wrath, when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ For **he will repay everyone according to what that person has done:** ⁷ **eternal life** to those who strive for glory, honor, and immortality by patiently doing good; ⁸ but **wrath and fury** for those who in their selfish pride refuse to believe the truth and practice wickedness instead. ⁹ **There will be suffering and anguish for every human being who practices doing evil, for Jews first and for Greeks as well.** ¹⁰ But there will be glory, honor, and peace for everyone who practices doing good, initially for Jews but also for Greeks as well, ¹¹ because God does not show partiality.

¹² **For all who have sinned apart from the Law will also perish apart from the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law.** ¹³ For it is not merely those who hear the Law who are righteous in God’s sight. No, **it is those who follow the Law, who will be justified.** ¹⁴ For whenever gentiles, who do not possess the Law, do instinctively what the Law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the Law. ¹⁵ **They show that what the Law requires is written in their hearts,** a fact to which their own consciences testify, and their thoughts will either accuse or excuse them ¹⁶ on that day when God, through **Jesus the Messiah,^[b] will judge people’s secrets** according to my gospel.

Who is a Jew?

¹⁷ Now if you call yourself a Jew, and rely on the Law, and boast about God, ¹⁸ and know his will, and approve of what is best because you have been instructed in the Law; ¹⁹ and if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light to those in darkness, ²⁰ an instructor of ignorant people, and a teacher of infants because you have the full content of knowledge and truth in the Law— ²¹ **as you teach others, do you fail to teach yourself?** **As you preach against stealing, do you steal?** ²² **As you forbid adultery, do you commit adultery? As you abhor idols, do you rob temples?** ²³ **As you boast about the Law, do you dishonor God by breaking the Law?** ²⁴ As it is written, “**God’s name is being blasphemed among the gentiles because of you.**”^[c]

Side note
to the
church

²⁵ For **circumcision is valuable if you observe the Law, but if you break the Law, your having been circumcised has no more value than if you were uncircumcised.** ²⁶ So if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the requirements of the Law, his uncircumcision will be regarded as circumcision, won’t it? ²⁷ The man who is uncircumcised physically but who keeps the Law will condemn you who break the Law, even though you have the written Law^[d] and circumcision. ²⁸ For a person is **not a Jew because of his appearance, nor is circumcision something just external and physical.** ²⁹ No, a person is **a Jew inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, brought about by the Spirit, not by a written law.**^[e] That person’s praise will come from God, not from people.

Romans 3 (ISV): Everyone is a Sinner

What advantage, then, does the Jew have, or what value is there in circumcision?² There are all kinds of advantages! First of all, the Jews^[a] have been entrusted with the utterances of God.³ What if some of the Jews^[b] were unfaithful? **Their unfaithfulness cannot cancel God's faithfulness, can it?**⁴ Of course not! **God is true, even if everyone else is a liar. As it is written, "You are right when you speak,^[c] and win your case when you go into court."^[d]**

⁵ But if our unrighteousness serves to confirm God's righteousness, what can we say? God is not unrighteous when he vents his wrath on us, is he? (I am talking in human terms.)⁶ Of course not! Otherwise, how could God judge the world?⁷ For^[e] if through my falsehood God's truthfulness glorifies him even more, why am I still being condemned as a sinner?⁸ Or can we say—as some people slander us by claiming that we say—"Let's do evil that good may result"? They deserve to be condemned!

⁹ What, then, does this mean?^[f] Are we Jews^[g] any better off? Not at all! For we have already accused everyone, both Jews and Greeks, of being under the power of^[h] sin.¹⁰ As it is written,

State of the world without Christ

"Not even one person is righteous.

¹¹ **No one understands.**

No one searches for God.

¹² **All have turned away.**

They have become completely worthless.

No one shows kindness, not even one person!^[i]

¹³ Their throats are open graves.

With their tongues they deceive.^[j]

The venom of poisonous snakes is under their lips.^[k]¹⁴ Their mouths are full of **cursing** and bitterness.^[l]

¹⁵ They run swiftly^[m] to shed blood.

¹⁶ Ruin and misery characterize their lives.

¹⁷ **They have not learned the path to peace.**^[n]

¹⁸ **They don't fear God.**^[o]

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the Law says applies to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.²⁰ **Therefore, God^[p] will not justify any human being by means of the actions prescribed by the Law,**

Cursing=gr. "ara" ar-ah = a prayer lifted up to heaven to bring evil on another

The People of God cannot look accusingly at the world— God is looking at His people

for through the Law comes the full knowledge of sin.

God Gives Us Righteousness through Faith

²¹ But now, apart from the Law, **God's righteousness is revealed** and is attested by the Law and the Prophets—²² God's righteousness **through the faithfulness of Jesus^[q] the Messiah^[r]— for all who believe. For there is no distinction among people,^[s] ²³ **since all have sinned and continue to fall short of God's glory.** **By his grace they are justified freely through the redemption that is in the Messiah^[t] Jesus,²⁵ whom God offered as a place where atonement by the Messiah's^[u] blood would occur through faith. He did this^[v] to demonstrate his righteousness, because he had waited patiently to deal with sins committed in the past.** ²⁶ **He wanted^[w] to demonstrate at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies anyone who has the faithfulness of Jesus.**^[x]**

State of the sinner & the People of God before receiving Christ

²⁷ What, then, is there to boast about? That has been eliminated. On what principle? On that of actions? No, but on the principle of faith.

²⁸ **For^[y] we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the actions prescribed by the Law.** ²⁹ Is God the God of the Jews only? Is he not the God of the gentiles, too? Yes, of the gentiles, too,³⁰ since **there is only one God who will justify the circumcised on the basis of faith and the uncircumcised by that same faith.**

³¹ **Do we, then, abolish the Law by this faith? Of course not! Instead, we uphold the Law.**

Faith in Christ empowers us to live/fulfill the Law (Matthew 5: 17-20)

Romans 4 (ISV)

The Example of Abraham

What, then, are we to say about Abraham, our human ancestor? ² For if Abraham was justified by actions, he would have had something to boast about—though not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? **“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”**^[a]

⁴ Now to someone who works, wages are not considered a gift but an obligation. ⁵ However, to **someone who does not work, but simply believes in the one who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.** ⁶ Likewise, David also speaks of the blessedness of the person whom God regards as righteous apart from actions:

⁷ “How blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven and whose sins are covered!

⁸ How blessed is the person whose sins the Lord^[b] will never charge against him!”^[c]

⁹ Now does this blessedness come to the circumcised alone, or also to the uncircumcised? For we say, “Abraham’s faith was credited to him as righteousness.”^[d]

¹⁰ Under what circumstances was it credited? Was he circumcised or uncircumcised? He had not yet been circumcised, but was uncircumcised. ¹¹ Afterward he received the mark of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. Therefore, he is the ancestor of all who believe while uncircumcised, in order that righteousness may be credited to them. ¹² He is also the ancestor of the circumcised—those who are not only circumcised, but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

The Promise Comes through Faith

¹³ **For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the Law, but through the righteousness produced by faith.** ¹⁴ For if those who were given the Law^[e] are the heirs, then faith is useless and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵ for the Law produces wrath. Now where there

is no Law, neither can there be any violation of it.

¹⁶ **Therefore, the promise^[f] is based on faith, so that it may be a matter of grace and may be guaranteed for all of Abraham’s^[g] descendants—not only for those who were given the Law,^[h] but also for those who share the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.** ¹⁷ As it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations.”^[i] **Abraham^[j] acted in faith when he stood in the presence of God, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence things that don’t yet exist.** ¹⁸ Hoping in spite of hopeless circumstances, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,”^[k] just as he had been told:^[l] “This is how many descendants you will have.”^[m] ¹⁹ His faith did not weaken when he thought about his own body (which was already^[n] as good as dead now that he was about a hundred years old) or about Sarah’s inability to have children, ²⁰ **nor did he doubt God’s promise out of a lack of faith. Instead, his faith became stronger and he gave glory to God,** ²¹ **being absolutely convinced that God would do what he had promised.** ²² This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”^[o]

Grace = the Power of God that keeps saves

Salvation comes by faith in CHRIST only!!

²³ Now the words “it was credited to him” were written not only for him ²⁴ but also for us. Our faith will be regarded in the same way,^[p] if we believe in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He was sentenced to death because of our sins and raised to life to justify us.

Romans 5 (ISV)

We Enjoy Peace with God through Jesus

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have^[a] peace with God through our Lord Jesus the Messiah.^[b] ² Through him we have also obtained^[c] access by faith^[d] into this grace by which we have been established, and we boast^[e] because of our hope in God's glory. ³ Not only that, but we also boast^[f] in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ endurance produces character, and character produces hope. ⁵ Now this hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

⁶ For at just the right time, while we were still powerless,^[g] the Messiah^[h] died for the ungodly. ⁷ For it is rare for anyone to die for a righteous person, though somebody might be brave enough to die for a good person. ⁸ But God demonstrates his love for us by the fact that the Messiah^[i] died for us while we were still sinners.

⁹ Now that we have been justified by his blood, how much more will we be saved from wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life! ¹¹ Not only that, but we also continue to boast about God through our Lord Jesus the Messiah,^[j] through whom we have now been reconciled.

Death in Adam, Life in the Messiah

¹² Just as sin entered the world through one man, and death resulted from sin, therefore everyone dies, because everyone has sinned. ¹³ Certainly sin was in the world before the Law was given,^[k] but no record of sin is kept when there is no Law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, death ruled from the time of^[l] Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the same way Adam did when he disobeyed.^[m] He is a foreshadowing of the one who would come.

¹⁵ But God's free gift^[n] is not like Adam's offense.^[o] For if many people died as the result of one man's offense, how much more have God's grace and the free gift given through the

kindness of one man, Jesus the Messiah,^[p] been showered on many people! ¹⁶ Nor can the free gift be compared to what came through the man who sinned.^[q] For the sentence that followed one man's offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift brought justification, even after many offenses. ¹⁷ For if, through one man, death ruled because of that man's offense, how much more will those who receive such overflowing grace and the gift of righteousness rule in life because of one man, Jesus the Messiah!^[r]

¹⁸ Consequently, just as one offense resulted in condemnation for everyone, so one act of righteousness results in justification and life for everyone.

¹⁹ For just as through one man's disobedience many people were made sinners, so also through one man's obedience many people will be made righteous.

The dividing line b/t Holy and unholy is obedience & disobedience

²⁰ Now the Law crept in so that the offense would increase. But where sin increased, grace increased even more, ²¹ so that, just as sin ruled by bringing death,^[s] so also grace might rule by bringing justification^[t] that results in eternal life through Jesus the Messiah,^[u] our Lord.

Once I have been justified it is once for all.. I CANNOT BE UNJUSTIFIED!!

This is CHRIST IN ME forever

Inherited
Sin
Nature

Romans 6 (ISV)

No Longer Sin's Slaves, but God's Slaves

What should we say, then? Should we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² Of course not! How can we who died as far as sin is concerned go on living in it? ³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into union with the Messiah ^[a] Jesus were baptized into his death?

The Message Bible:

¹⁻³ So what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we've left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? Or didn't you realize we packed up and left there for good? That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land!

⁴ Therefore, through baptism we were buried with him into his death so that, **just as the Messiah ^[b] was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too may live an entirely new life.** ⁵ For if we have become united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that **our old natures were crucified with him** so that our **sin-laden bodies might be rendered powerless** and we might **no longer be slaves to sin.** ⁷ For the person who has died has been freed from sin.

I no longer **RESPOND** to the **URGE** to sin

⁸ Now **if we have died with the Messiah, ^[c]** we believe that we will also live with him, ⁹ for we know that the Messiah, ^[d] who was raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ For when he died, he died once and for all as far as sin is concerned. But now that he is alive, he lives for God. ¹¹ In the same way, **you too must continuously consider yourselves dead as far as sin is concerned,** but living for God through the Messiah ^[e] Jesus. ^[f]

¹² **Therefore, do not let sin rule your mortal bodies** so that you obey their desires. ¹³ Stop offering ^[g] the parts of your body ^[h] to sin as instruments of unrighteousness. Instead, offer

yourselves to God as people who have been brought from death to life and the parts of your body ^[i] as instruments of righteousness to God.

¹⁴ **For sin will not have mastery over you, because you are not under Law but under grace. (We are under the Power of God)**

The Law is now **IN** us because of our faith in Christ

¹⁵ What, then, does this mean? ^[j] **Should we go on sinning because we are not under Law but under grace? Of course not!**

¹⁶ Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, **you are slaves of the one you obey—either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?** ¹⁷ But thank God that, though you were once slaves of sin, you became obedient from your hearts to that form of teaching with which you were entrusted! ¹⁸ And **since you have been freed from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness.**

¹⁹ I am speaking in simple ^[k] terms because of the frailty of your human nature. ^[l] Just as you once offered the parts of your body ^[m] as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater disobedience, so now, in the same way, you must offer the parts of your body ^[n] as slaves to righteousness that leads to sanctification. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were "free" as far as righteousness was concerned. ²¹ What benefit did you get from doing those things you are now ashamed of? For those things resulted in death. ²² **But now that you have been freed from sin and have become God's slaves, the benefit you reap is sanctification, and the result is eternal life.** ²³ **For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in union with the Messiah ^[o] Jesus our Lord.**

→Justified
→Purified

Verse 14-Grace: gr. *charis* – "khar-ece
*The spiritual condition of one governed by the Power of God; the divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life
*merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues

Rule=reign, govern, be the king

Romans 7 (ISV)

Now We are Released from the Law

Don't you realize, brothers—for I am speaking to people who know the Law—that the Law can press its claims over a person only as long as he is alive?

² For a married woman is bound by the Law to her husband while he is living, but if her husband dies, she is released from the Law concerning her husband. ³ So while her husband is living, she will be called an adulterer if she lives with another man. But if her husband dies, she is free from this Law, so that she is not an adulterer if she marries another man.

⁴ In the same way, my brothers, through the Messiah's ^[a] body you also died as far as the Law is concerned, so that you may belong to another person, the one who was raised from the dead, and may bear fruit for God.

Before Christ, we had no power IN US to obey/RESIST sin and the purpose of the Law was to CLEARLY draw a line of distinction between Holy and unholy

⁵ For while we were living according to our human nature, ^[b] sinful passions were at work in our bodies ^[c] by means of the Law, to bear fruit resulting in death. ⁶ But now we have been released from the Law by dying to what enslaved us, so that we may serve in the new life of the Spirit, not under the old writings.

The Law Shows Us What Sin Is

⁷ What should we say, then? Is the Law sinful? Of course not! In fact, I wouldn't have become aware of sin if it had not been for the Law. I wouldn't have known what it means to covet if the Law had not said, "You must not covet."^[d]

FORBIDDEN FRUIT Syndrome

⁸ But sin seized the opportunity provided by this commandment and produced in me all kinds of sinful desires, since apart from the Law, sin is dead. ⁹ At one time I was alive without any connection to ^[e] the Law. ^[f] But when the rule was revealed, sin sprang to life, ¹⁰ and I died. I found that the very rule that was intended to bring life actually brought death. ¹¹ For sin, seizing the opportunity provided by the rule, deceived me and used it to kill me. ¹² So then, the Law ^[g] itself is holy, and the rule is holy, just, and good.

The Problem of the Sin that Lives in Us

¹³ Now, did something good bring me death? Of course not! But in order that sin might be recognized as being sin, it used something good to cause my death, so that through the rule, sin might become more exposed as being ^[h] sinful than ever before. ¹⁴ For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am merely human, ^[i] sold as a slave to sin. ^[j] ¹⁵ I don't understand what I am doing. For I don't practice what I want to do, but instead do what I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I practice what I don't want to do, I am admitting that the Law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, I am no longer the one who is doing it, but it is the sin that is living in me.

¹⁸ For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I don't do the good I want to do, but instead do the evil that I don't want to do. ²⁰ But if I do what I don't want to do, I am no longer the one who is doing it, but it is the sin that is living in me.

Flesh is the human nature apart from the influence of God

²¹ So I find this to be a principle: ^[k] when I want to do what is good, evil is right there with me. ²² For I delight in the Law of God in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my body ^[l] a different principle ^[m] waging war with the Law in my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin that exists in my body. ^[n] ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is infected by ^[o] death? ²⁵ Thank God through Jesus the Messiah, ^[p] our Lord, because with my mind I myself can serve the Law of God, even while with my human nature ^[q] I serve the law of sin.

Vs. 1-6: Everything about the Law ends at death. It has no provision or power of enforcement—even if you did everything right it can't be enforced.

The Law's purpose was to teach you how to govern your life but lacked the power you needed to actually do it

Now!!!! If Christ is in you and you are IN CHRIST, Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit is the governing power that makes it possible to live in obedience to the Law

*Before Christ man had no power to RESIST sin

The Law would be of no effect if it did not EXPOSE sin

*Not many people can enjoy sin w/o the torment of guilt. Doing RIGHT feels good to humans

Before Christ I had no power over sin or the guilt it brought

Opens up the possibility for change

Romans 8 (ISV)

The Spirit Gives Life

Therefore, there is **now** no condemnation for those who are in union with the Messiah^[a]

Jesus.^[b] **2 For the Spirit's law of life in the Messiah^[c] Jesus has set me^[d] free from the Law of sin and death.** ³ For what the Law was powerless to do in that it was **weakened by the flesh, God did.** By sending his own Son in the form of humanity,^[e] he condemned sin by being **incarnate,** ⁴ **so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not live according to human nature but according to the Spirit.**

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but **those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.** ⁶ To focus our minds on the human nature leads to death, but . ⁷ That is why the mind that focuses on human nature is hostile toward God. It refuses to submit to the authority of God's Law because it is powerless to do so. ⁸ Indeed, those who are under the control of human nature cannot please God.

⁹ **You, however, are not under the control of the human nature but under the control of the Spirit, since God's Spirit lives in you.** And if anyone does not have the Spirit of the Messiah,^[f] he does not belong to him. ¹⁰ **But if the Messiah^[g] is in you, your bodies are dead due to sin, but the spirit^[h] is alive due to righteousness.** ¹¹ And if the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then the one who raised the Messiah^[i] from the dead will also make your mortal bodies alive by his Spirit who lives in you.

¹² Consequently, brothers, **we are not—with respect to human nature, that is—under an obligation to live according to human nature.**

¹³ For if you live according to human nature, you are going to die, but if by the Spirit you continuously put to death the activities of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ **For all who are led by God's Spirit are God's children.**

¹⁵ For you have not received a spirit of slavery that leads you into fear again. Instead, you have received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry

out, "Abba!^[j] Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with the Messiah^[k]—if, in fact, we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

God's Spirit Helps Us

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed to us. ¹⁹ **For the creation is eagerly awaiting the revelation of God's children,** ²⁰ **because the creation has become subject to futility,** though not by anything it did.^[l] The one who subjected it did so in the certainty^[m] ²¹ that the creation itself would also be set free from corrupting bondage in order to share the glorious freedom of God's children. ²² For we know that all the rest of creation has been groaning with the pains of childbirth up to the present time. ²³ However, not only the creation, but we who have the first fruits of the Spirit also groan inwardly as we eagerly await our adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For we were saved with this hope in mind.^[n] Now a hope that can be observed is not really hope, for who hopes for what can be seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet observe, we eagerly wait for it with patience.

²⁶ **In the same way, the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, since we do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself intercedes for us^[o] with groans too deep for words,** ²⁷ and the one who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, for the Spirit^[p] intercedes for the saints according to God's will.^[q] ²⁸ **And we know that for those who love God, that is, for those who are called according to his purpose, all things are working together^[r] for good.**

²⁹ For those whom he **foreknew** he also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that the Son^[s] might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined, he also **called**; and those whom he called, he also **justified**; and those whom he justified he also **glorified**.

Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love

³¹ What, then, can we say about all of this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² The one who did not spare his own Son, but offered him as a sacrifice^[t] for all of us, surely will give us all things, along with his Son,^[u] won't he? ³³ Who will accuse God's elect? It is God who justifies! ³⁴ Who is the one to condemn? It is the Messiah^[v] Jesus who is interceding on our behalf. He died, and more importantly, has been raised and is seated at the right hand of God.

³⁵ **Who will separate us from the Messiah's^[w] love?** Can trouble, distress, persecution, hunger, nakedness, danger, or a violent death^[x] do this?^[y] ³⁶ As it is written,

"For your sake we are being put to death all day long. We are thought of as sheep headed for slaughter."^[z]

³⁷ **In all these things we are triumphantly victorious due to the one who loved us.** ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,³⁹ nor anything above, nor anything below, nor anything else in all creation can separate us from the love of God that is ours^[aa] in union with the Messiah^[ab] Jesus, our Lord.

Romans 9 (ISV)

Paul's Concern for the Jewish People

I am telling the truth because I belong to^[a] the Messiah^[b]—I am not lying, and **my conscience confirms it by means of the Holy Spirit.** ² I have deep sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart, ³ for I could wish that I myself were condemned^[c] and cut off from the Messiah^[d] for the sake of my brothers, my own people,^[e] ⁴ **who are Israelis. To them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants,^[f] the giving of the Law, the worship, and the promises.** ⁵ To the Israelis^[g] belong the **patriarchs**, and from them, **the Messiah^[h]** descended,^[i] who is God over all, the one who is forever blessed. Amen.

Because of a lack of faith:
Ishmael (Genesis 16)
Keturah's children (Genesis 25)

⁶ **Now it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all Israelis truly belong to Israel,** ⁷ **and not all of Abraham's descendants are his**

true descendants. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that descendants will be named for you."^[j] ⁸ That is, it is **not merely the children born through natural descent** who were regarded as God's children, but **it is the children born through the promise who were regarded as descendants.** ⁹ For this is the language of the promise: "At this time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."^[k] ¹⁰ Not only that, but Rebecca became pregnant by our ancestor Isaac. ¹¹ Yet before their children^[l] had been born or had done anything good or bad (so that **God's plan of election might continue to operate** ¹² **according to his calling and not by actions**), Rebecca^[m] was told, "The older child will serve the younger one."^[n] ¹³ So it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."^[o]

It is God's choice

¹⁴ **What can we say, then? God is not unrighteous, is he? Of course not!** ¹⁵ For he says to Moses, "I will be merciful to the person I want to be merciful to, and I will be kind to the person I want to be kind to."^[p] ¹⁶ Therefore, **God's choice^[q] does not depend on a person's will or effort, but on God himself, who shows mercy.** ¹⁷ For the Scripture says about Pharaoh,

*

"I have raised you up for this very purpose, to demonstrate my power through you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."^[r]

¹⁸ Therefore, God^[s] has mercy on whomever he chooses, and he hardens the heart of whomever he chooses.

God Chose People who are Not Jewish

¹⁹ **You may ask me, "Then why does God^[t] still find fault with anybody?"^[u] For who can resist his will?"** ²⁰ On the contrary, who are you—mere man that you are—to talk back to God? Can an object that was molded say to the one who molded it, "Why did you make me like this?" ²¹ **A potter has the right to do what he wants to with his clay, doesn't he?** He can make something for a special occasion or something for ordinary use from the same lump of clay.

Why does He give us a choice if He is the Chooser?

²² Now if God wants to demonstrate his wrath and reveal his power, can't he be extremely patient with the objects of his wrath that are made for destruction? ²³ Can't he also reveal his

glorious riches to the objects of his mercy that he has prepared ahead of time for glory—

²⁴ including us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but from the gentiles as well?

²⁵ As the Scripture ^[v] says in Hosea,

“Those who are not my people

I will call my people, and the one who was not loved I will call my loved one. ^[w]

²⁶ In the very place where it was told them,

‘You are not my people,’ they will be called children of the living God.” ^[x]

²⁷ Isaiah also calls out **concerning Israel**,

“Although the descendants of Israel are as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore, only a few will be saved.

²⁸ For the Lord ^[y] will carry out his plan decisively, bringing it to completion on the earth.” ^[z]

ALL who BELIEVE will be SAVED

²⁹ It is just as Isaiah predicted:

“If the Lord of the Heavenly Armies had not left us some descendants, we would have become like Sodom and would have been compared to Gomorrah.” ^[aa]

They failed to recognize the Messiah they had been looking for

³⁰ **What can we say, then? Gentiles, who were not pursuing righteousness, have attained righteousness, a righteousness that comes through faith.** ³¹ But Israel, who pursued

righteousness based on the Law, did not achieve the Law. ³² Why not? **Because they did not pursue it on the basis of faith, but as if it were based on achievements.** They stumbled over the stone that causes people to stumble.

³³ As it is written,

“Look! I am placing a stone in Zion over which people will stumble—a large rock that will make them fall—and the one who believes in him will never be ashamed.” ^[ab]

Romans 10 (ISV)

The Person who Believes will be Saved

Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God about the Jews ^[ac] is that they would be saved.

² For I can testify on their behalf that **they have a zeal for God, but it is not in keeping with full knowledge.** ³ For they are ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God while they try to establish their own, and **they have not submitted to God’s means to attain** ^[ad]

righteousness. ⁴ **For the Messiah ^[ae] is the culmination ^[af] of the Law as far as**

Made their desires the truth and judged Jesus by their truth

FAITH

righteousness is concerned for everyone who believes.

Romans 10: 4 (Thayer)

Christ is the end of the Law:

End=gr. telos “tel’os

-to set out for a definite point or goal

-a point aimed as a limit

-result (prophetic)

-purpose

► Christ is the whole point of why we even had the Law. All events from Moses to the resurrection were for the express purpose of plotting the path to Christ then through Christ to Holy Living (which is fellowship and communion with God) to eternal life and rest.

⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness that comes from the Law as follows: “The person who obeys these things will find life by them.” ^[ag] ⁶ But the **righteousness that comes from faith** says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will go up to heaven?’ (that is, to bring the Messiah ^[ah] down), ⁷ or ‘Who will go down into the depths?’ (that is, to bring the Messiah ^[ai] back from the dead).”

Don’t try to make it deep, complicated, or impossible

⁸ But what does it say? “**The message is near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart.**” ^[aj]

JUST BELIEVE THE GOSPEL

This is the message about faith that we are proclaiming: ⁹ If you **declare** with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your **heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be **saved.** ¹⁰ For one believes with his and is justified, and declares with his mouth and is saved.

Declare/Confess=to say the same thing as God. To agree with, assent to

Heart=the centre and seat of spiritual life; the understanding, the faculty and seat of intelligence

Saved=to rescue from danger or destruction; to deliver from the penalties of the Messianic judgment

¹¹ The Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will never be ashamed.” ^[ak] ¹² **There is no difference between Jew and Greek, because they all have the same Lord**, who gives richly to all who call on him. ¹³ “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord ^[al] will be saved.” ^[am]

FAITH NOR SALVATION is culture specific

¹⁴ **How, then, can people^[an] call on someone they have not believed? And how can they believe in someone they have not heard about? And how can they hear without someone preaching?** ¹⁵ And how can people^[ao] preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are^[ap] those who bring the good news!”^[aq] ¹⁶ But not everyone has obeyed the gospel, for Isaiah asks, “Lord, who has believed our message?”^[ar] ¹⁷ Consequently, faith results from listening, and listening results through the word of the Messiah.^[as]

¹⁸ But I ask, “Didn’t they hear?” Certainly they did! In fact, “Their voice has gone out into the whole world, and their words to the ends of the earth.”^[at]

¹⁹ Again I ask, “Did Israel not understand?” Moses was the first to say, “I will make you jealous by those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation that doesn’t understand.”^[au]

²⁰ And Isaiah boldly says, “I was found by those who were not looking for me; I was revealed to those who were not asking for me.”^[av]

²¹ But about Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and rebellious people.”^[aw]

Romans 11 (ISV) God’s Love for His People

So I ask, “**God has not rejected his people, has he?**” **Of course not!** I am an Israeli myself, a descendant of Abraham from the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected his people whom he chose^[ax] long ago. Do you not know what the Scripture says in the story about Elijah,^[ay] when he pleads with God against Israel? ³ “Lord, they have killed your prophets and demolished your altars. I am the only one left, and they are trying to take my life.”^[az] ⁴ But what was the divine reply to him? “I have reserved for myself 7,000 people who have not knelt to worship Baal.”^[ba] ⁵ So it is at the present time: **there is a remnant, chosen by grace.** ⁶ **But if this is by grace, then it is no longer on the basis of actions. Otherwise, grace would no longer be grace.**

⁷ **What, then, does this mean?**^[bb] **It means that Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking, but**

the selected group obtained it while the rest were hardened. ⁸ As it is written,

“To this day God has put them into^[bc] deep sleep. Their eyes do not see, and their ears do not hear.”^[bd]

⁹ And David says, “Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a punishment for them.

¹⁰ Let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and keep their backs forever bent.”^[be]

The Salvation of the Gentiles

¹¹ And so I ask, “They have not stumbled so as to fall, have they?” Of course not! On the contrary, **because of their stumbling, salvation has come to the gentiles** to make the Jews^[bf] jealous.

¹² Now if their stumbling means riches for the world, and if their fall means riches for the gentiles, how much more will their full participation mean!

¹³ **I am speaking to you gentiles.** Because I am an apostle to the gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴ in the hope that I can make my people^[bg] jealous and save some of them. ¹⁵ For if **their rejection results in reconciliation of the world,** what will their acceptance bring but life from the dead? ¹⁶ **If the first part of the dough is holy, so is the whole batch. If the root is holy, so are the branches.**

¹⁷ Now if some of the branches have been broken off, and **you**, a wild olive branch, **have been grafted in** their place to share the rich root of the olive tree, ¹⁸ **do not boast about being better than^[bh] the other^[bi] branches.** If you boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you. ¹⁹ Then you will say, “Branches were cut off so that I could be grafted in.” ²⁰ That’s right! **They were broken off because of their unbelief,** but you remain only because of faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid!^[bj] ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, he certainly will not spare you, either.

²² Consider, then, the kindness and severity of God: his severity toward those who fell, but God’s kindness toward you—if you continue receiving his kindness. Otherwise, you too will

be cut off. ²³ **If the Jews ^[bk] do not persist in their unbelief, they will be grafted in again, because God is able to graft them in.** ²⁴ After all, if you were cut off from what is naturally a wild olive tree, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much easier it will be for these natural branches to be grafted back into their own olive tree!

The Restoration of Israel

²⁵ For I want to let you know about this secret, brothers, so that you will not claim to be wiser than you are: **Stubbornness has come to part of Israel until the full number of the gentiles comes to faith.** ^[bl] ²⁶ In this way, all Israel will be saved, as it is written,

“The Deliverer will come from Zion;
he will remove ungodliness from Jacob.

²⁷ This is my covenant with them
when I take away their sins.” ^[bm]

²⁸ As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake, but as far as election is concerned, they are loved for the sake of their ancestors. ²⁹ **For God’s gifts and calling never change.** ³⁰ For just as you disobeyed God in the past but now have received his mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so they, too, have now

God
allowed it

Principle:

Israel still
God’s
chosen
people

disobeyed. **As a result, they may ^[bn] receive mercy because of the mercy shown to you.**

³² For God has locked all people in the **prison of their own disobedience** so that he may have mercy on them all.

In Praise of God’s Ways

³³ O how deep are God’s riches,
and wisdom, and knowledge!
How unfathomable are his decisions
and unexplainable are his ways!

³⁴ **Who has known the mind of the Lord?**
Or who has become his advisor? ^[bo]

³⁵ Or who has given him something
only to have him pay it back? ^[bp]

³⁶ **For all things are from him, by him, and for him.**

Glory belongs to him forever! Amen.

Romans 12: 1-2

What in the World is a Christian Worldview?

By Michael J. Vlach, Ph.D.

It was no surprise that a recent report by the Barna Group confirmed that America's culture "continues to evolve through new worldviews." This is clearly evident as our pluralistic society offers a smorgasbord of various philosophies to choose from. Some of the many perspectives on the 'worldview buffet' include Naturalistic Atheism, Eastern Pantheism, the New Age Movement, Marxism, Nihilism, Existentialism, and Postmodernism. The influence of these worldviews has been so great that only four percent of Americans today are said to possess a biblical worldview as the basis for their decision making.

Not only are more people opting for non-Christian worldviews, but many Christians are adopting all or parts of philosophies that are not Christian. According to Barna, only nine percent of born-again Christians have a biblical worldview. That is why Christian philosophers and apologists of the past like Francis Schaeffer and more recently Charles Colson, James Sire, and Nancy Pearcey, have rightly trumpeted the urgent need for Christians to understand and articulate the Christian worldview and refute non-Christian philosophies.

Worldview—The Mental Roadmap for Navigating Reality

So just what is a worldview? As a college professor I find that a lot of students have heard the term "worldview" but very few actually know what it means. So let's start with a basic definition of "worldview" and then discuss what constitutes a "Christian worldview."

The term "worldview" comes from the German word Weltanschauung which literally means "look onto the world." In today's usage, "worldview" refers to the overall perspective from which a person or group both consciously and unconsciously understands and interprets the world. A worldview includes presuppositions and beliefs about issues such as the existence of God, the origin of the human race, our purpose in life, ethics, and life after death. As Nancy Pearcey in her book Total Truth asserts, a worldview is like a "mental map" that, if accurate, "will enable us to navigate reality effectively." To summarize, we can affirm that a worldview is any philosophy, ideology, religion, or movement that provides an all-encompassing approach to understanding reality.

Naturalistic Atheism, for instance, is a worldview that offers a comprehensive understanding of reality. It asserts that our existence is the result of random chance and the evolutionary process. Thus, humans hold no special place in the universe since we are just one random part in a chaotic cosmic community. Our problem is that we rely too much on a mythical God and religion and not enough on human reason and potential. The solution is to throw off Christianity and embrace secular humanism and ethical relativism. Naturalistic Atheism asserts that we have no future beyond the grave since there is no God and no immortal soul.

The Christian Worldview

What, though, is a Christian worldview? The Christian worldview is a comprehensive understanding of reality based on the teachings in the Christian scriptures. ***In other words, the Christian worldview is the roadmap or systematic understanding of the scripture that guides us down the path that leads to eternal life.***

In particular, the Christian worldview hangs on four strategic events:

- (1) Creation;
- (2) Fall;
- (3) Incarnation; and
- (4) Restoration.

Together these events explain the Christian philosophy of history and offer a blueprint for living.

First, the Creation addresses how we got here. A perfect and eternal God created the universe by speaking it into existence without the use of preexisting materials. This God also directly created the human race. This means that this universe is the result of intelligent design; it has meaning and purpose. Creation means people are God's image bearers and, thus, have dignity and a special role in mediating God's will over this planet.

Second, the Fall explains what went wrong. It explains why there are things like evil, death, suffering, and natural disasters. Through Adam and our participation in his sin, the world is experiencing the results of God's curse. Things are not as they should be because the human race has separated itself from its creator. The image of God still remains in us but it has been marred and all parts of our being have been tainted with sin.

Third, the Incarnation explains the solution. It is God's Son—**Jesus Christ**. By becoming a man and paying for the sins of the human race, the God-man, Jesus, removed the barrier between God and humanity and a relationship with God is possible.

Fourth, Restoration tells us where history is going. It is headed for a New Heavens and New Earth in which righteousness dwells. Sin, death, and evil do not win. The curse will be removed and a perfect world will arise and God will dwell with his people forever.

These four events, *that can be taught on until Jesus returns*, encapsulate the Christian worldview and offer a comprehensive perspective on reality including how we got here, what our problem is, what the solution is, and where we are going. Paul, in his Mars Hill address to the Athenian philosophers presented such a Christian worldview (see Acts 17). He started with an explanation of God's role as creator and sustainer of the world. He then introduced the issue of sin and the need for repentance in light of the coming judgment.

Other essential truths also lie at the heart of a Christian worldview. For example, **a Christian worldview includes belief in the inerrancy and authority of Scripture, the Trinity, the deity of Jesus, salvation by grace through faith alone, and a literal second coming of Jesus.**

How Now Shall We Live?

The Christian worldview has significant implications for how we should live. For example,

- Understanding creation means that since God created the world everything we do has significance since we are accountable to him. Also, since all people are God's image bearers we must treat all with respect including people of different races, the unborn, and the helpless.
- Understanding the Fall means understanding that we are tainted with sin, have the capacity to do evil, and are in need of a Savior.
- Understanding the Incarnation means believing in Jesus Christ, for salvation.
- Understanding restoration means living with the hope that evil, sin, and death will some day be vanquished.

As Chuck Colson said in *How Now Shall We Live?*, **a Christian worldview is "intensely practical."** It makes a huge difference in how a person lives.

While many bemoan that Christians act ‘just like the world,’ research by the Barna Group actually shows that **those who truly hold a biblical worldview evidence a life that is radically different from those who do not.**

In addition to experiencing the saving grace of God and knowing the essentials of the faith, those with a biblical worldview are much less likely to engage in non-marital sex, use profanity, gamble, view pornography, get drunk, or approve of same sex relations and abortion.

Refuting Non-Christian Worldviews

Properly understanding the Christian worldview also means refuting non-Christian worldviews.

- It means refuting Naturalistic Atheism’s assertion that everything is the product of blind random chance.
- It means refuting Eastern Pantheism’s views concerning reincarnation and the belief that the main goal in life is to escape all desire and merge with some impersonal Absolute.
- It means refuting Nihilism’s pessimistic assertion that there is no meaning to life.
- It means refuting Existentialism’s claim that obtaining certain knowledge is impossible and that all truth is subjective.
- It means refuting the assumption of Postmodernism that there are no foundations for knowledge.

Having a Christian worldview is not just some nice exercise for Christian scholars and seminary professors—it **is an absolute necessity for all Christians.** Much is at stake. Pearcey points out that other worldviews are “connecting all the dots” and giving people a full explanation of their perspectives on reality. That is why Christians better connect the dots as well. The Barna Group is correct when it asserts that **unless the church starts presenting a coherent worldview to our society it “will lose influence” and Christianity will represent “one more option among the numerous worldviews that Americans may choose from.”**

(Statistics in this article were taken from www.barna.org. See *Fragmented Populations Require Diverse Means of Connection*, June 23, 2003; and *A Biblical Worldview Has a Radical Effect on a Person's Life*, December 1, 2003.

http://www.theologicalstudies.org/christian_worldview.html

added info indicated with italics

Why is it important to have a Biblical Worldview?

Every life needs foundational truths before forced with tough decisions. Few people can develop a logical, let alone biblical, train of thought in the midst of a crisis. If I have not determined what my **AIM** is in life, I will not know if or when I **hit** or **miss** the mark.

Christians must have a clear footing (place to stand) that defines them as Christians. Christ says we are in this world yet not of this world. That means there is a difference in God’s people and the world. The Christian worldview provides a framework within which to make the decisions that shape our lives.

Romans 12: 2-What is that difference & how do we recognize it in our lives?

It all begins with renewing the mind!!! Changing the **mindset is imperative for a lifestyle change.**

The **MIND**:

- Is a tool **USED** to interpret & engage this world
- Is a **SERVANT** to the person and intended to be under subjection to the **WILL**
- Needs instruction-it will **AUTOMATICALLY** play new or re-play old information
- Needs a **goal**-has to know where it is supposed to go to be **SUCCESSFUL**

Goal: Philippians 2:5 (Amp) – Mind/Attitude of Christ

John 5:30 (Amp) – Jesus' mind training

Romans 8: 1-5 (HCSB) Mind options

The renewed mind phase is something that needs to make some progress long before we get to the “what’s your gift phase.”

Again, why is it important to have a biblical or Christian worldview?

To the Individual: The way I view the Word of God, Salvation & the things Christianity teaches will determine how I live my life. The importance I place on the things I read in the Bible, Sunday School book and those things taught in the church will determine how I live.

Renewing the Mind: Romans 12: 1-2

I. Foundational Scriptures

- a. Where are we supposed to be going? Transformed Living: Romans 12:1-2
- b. What is our tool for change? Mind of Christ: Philippians 2:5-8
- c. What will it look like when we get there? Image of God: Genesis 1:26-28
- d. How do we get there? Ephesians 4:11-16
 - i. Role of Christian Education

II. What is the Mind?

- a. Mind=gr. dianoia (dee-an'-oy-ah) [Thayer]
- b. The mind as a faculty of understanding, feeling, desiring.
- c. Understanding
- d. Mind, i.e. spirit, way of thinking
- e. Thoughts, either good or bad [Strong's]
- f. Deep thought, faculty (mind or it's disposition, by implication its exercise, imagination, mind, understanding)

III. What is the Function of the Mind?

- a. Brain=HARD DRIVE . . .receive impulses from external stimuli via the 5 gates of the senses
- b. Mind=SOFTWARE . . .decision making, contains man's default system, aka MINDSET, the programming that tells the hardware what to do. The function of the mind is to **know objectively** and then to **decide** what to do with what is known. The **mind**, not the heart, functions to **set direction, to make decisions**, and then to **summon all other faculties** to follow after.¹ For our optimal functioning, we must have a **balanced** mind. this only happens when our mind is directed by the Spirit of God
 - i. **Know Objectively** – Webster defines know as to have a practical understanding. It defines objectively as based on facts rather than feeling
 - ii. **Decide** – defined to make a choice about something after “thinking” about it
 - iii. **Set Direction**–set means to furnish as a pattern or model; direction means the course or path on which something is moving or pointing
 - iv. **Make Decisions** – make means to frame or formulate in the mind; decisions refer to the ability to make a determination arrived at after consideration
 - v. **Summon Other Faculties** – summon means to call upon for a specified action; other is used to refer to all the embers of a group except the person or thing that has already been mentioned; faculties refer to the inherent capability, power or function of a thing.



IV. Where is the Mind?

- a. Scientists have spent centuries trying to find the **MIND**. With all of today's modern advances in medicine and neuroscience, they still cannot definitively conclude where the mind of man is located... **SELAH!!! WHY IS THAT? Because the mind is not a part of the physiological part of man. The mind is incorporeal ethereal and was given to man by God at the moment He breathed into man and man became a**

living SOUL. The does not have a location. The mind is a location/position/spot/locality/arrangement/point/understanding/agreemet. It is the intersecting point of all that is humankind. Everything I am everything I think everything I wish want seek after keep secret expose to the world STARTS IN MY MIND FIRST.

Genesis 1: 26-28

²⁶And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth

Man was placed on earth to be God's representative, and to resemble God in certain ways. Just as God is a Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), so man is a tripartite being (spirit, soul, and body). Like God, man has intellect, a moral nature, the power to communicate with others, and an emotional nature that transcends instinct. There is no thought of physical likeness here. In contrast to animals, man is a worshiper, and articulate communicator, and a creator. (Believers Bible Commentary, p. 33)

Genesis 2: 7

Then the Lord God formed [that is, created the body of] man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being [an individual complete in body and spirit].

Amplified Bible

The soul of man, which houses the mind of man, takes rise from the breath of heaven and is produced by it. It was not made of earth, as the body was; it is a pity then that it should cleave to the earth, and mind earthly things. It came immediately from God; he gave it to be put in the body.

The body would be a worthless, useless, loathsome carcase, if the soul did not animate it. To God that gave us these souls we must shortly give account of them, how we have employed them, used them, proportioned them, and disposed of them; and if then it be found that we have lost them, though it were to gain the world, we shall be undone for ever. (Matthew Henry Commentary: Genesis 2:6-7)

A fuller account of the creation of man is now given. God formed his body from the dust of the ground, but only the impartation of the breath of God made him a living being. (Believer's Bible Commentary, p. 34)

V. Why Does the Mind Need Renewing?

Our Articles of Faith state: We believe that man was created by the special act of God, as recorded in Genesis 2:7. **He was created in a state of Holiness under the Law of his maker, but through the temptation of satan, he transgressed the command of God and fell from his original Holiness and Righteousness;** whereby his posterity inherit a nature corrupt and in bondage to sin, are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors

a. The Mind of Man: How did it develop?

i. **In the Beginning** . . . Man was created to commune with God and duplicate on earth what was happening in Heaven (Matthew 6: 9-13)

1. Spirit Man – God-breathed – representing God in the earth. Man was created Body—Soul—Spirit in the Image of God. Because we have established that God Himself has and is the source of mind, we must also understand that Man's mind emanates from God.

- ii. **Created to Choose** . . . in His infinite wisdom, God knew His “Image of God” creation could only truly represent God if the creation had the ability to choose – even the choice for God.
 - 1. Adam and Eve’s debacle – Genesis 3: 1-6
 - 2. Exercise of free will/choice
- iii. What went wrong?
 - 1. **Romans 5: 12-14**
 You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we’re in—first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death. That sin disturbed relations with God in everything and everyone, but the extent of the disturbance was not clear until God spelled it out in detail to Moses. So death, this huge abyss separating us from God, dominated the landscape from Adam to Moses. Even those who didn’t sin precisely as Adam did by disobeying a specific command of God still had to experience this termination of life, this separation from God. But Adam, who got us into this, also points ahead to the One who will get us out of it. (The Message Bible)
 - 2. **Romans 7:21-25**
 It happens so regularly that it’s predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God’s commands, but it’s pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.²⁴ I’ve tried everything and nothing helps. I’m at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn’t that the real question? ²⁵ The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different
- iv. **Living with the Consequences**
 - 1. Flesh Man – the result of a bad choice
 - 2. **1 Corinthians 2: 14** The unspiritual self, just as it is by nature, can’t receive the gifts of God’s Spirit. There’s no capacity for them. They seem like so much silliness. Spirit can be known only by spirit—God’s Spirit and our spirits in open communion (The Message Bible)
- v. What are some of the **evidences of that skewed thinking**
 - 1. God had to set an angel to block the way to the **Tree of Life**. Why? If they ate from the TOTKOGAE (represented the dividing line between being self-directed and God-directed) certainly would not **THINK** to respect God’s command concerning the TOL.
 - 2. Cain **THOUGHT** killing his brother was okay. Genesis 4
 - 3. Noah’s generation did EVERY evil thing they could **THINK** of – Genesis 6
 - 4. Nimrod **THOUGHT** he had a right to build a tower tall enough so he could walk in and out of Heaven at will – Genesis 10
 - 5. Lot **THOUGHT** Sodom/Gomorrah was a good place to raise a family – Genesis 13
 - 6. Sarai **THOUGHT** she could help God through Hagar – Genesis 16

...and that' only the first few chapters of the book of Genesis as God, through the written word, begins to lay out for us the evidence that we need the redeemer promised in Genesis 3: 14-15, to **renew/transform the mind of man back to the mind of God.**

VI. **What is the Goal of Mind Renewal?**

- a. Holy sinless living
- b. Mind renewal, also called transformation is more than just something the church came up with. Mind renewal is the vital process God uses to bring us into right living. The goal of the renewal/transformation process is to LOOK like God's representatives in the earth. To accomplish this, we must CONFORM to the image of CHRIST, which is what we call the pre-fall IMAGE OF God. Historically, church stumbles because she puts too much effort and concern into changing the world. The church, Body of Christ, is actually tasked with the job of changing – transforming – HERSELF. As simple as that sounds, and as common and the word transformation is in the Christian church, most of us would think it an obvious concept. But the more I heard the word transformation the more I begin to see that it was greatly misunderstood. The process of transformation has been **oversimplified** in the church and I believe it has caused the church to appear powerless to the world and to us. I believe the church has been duped by a "cute-sounding" phrase: We are just sinners saved by grace...That's a lie...we were sinners. We are new creatures in Christ. Created in holiness for the good works God has prepared. The transformation process is a time-consuming arduous process, but it is **required** if the church is to fulfill her role in the earth. **So why is transformation necessary, and what is it?** Transformation is necessary because, we live in a world where evil is rampant and hopelessness and depression are on the rise. Everywhere we turn, there is searching and searching for an answer that will bring relief. It is the role of the church, as it was the nation of Israel, to **be the hope of God** in the world – **pointing the way to God in Christ as the answer**. Transformation is key. Why? When the world looks at the church, it will **scrutinize us** based on **our** testimony that we have been transformed by the power of God and are qualified to help them be transformed too. **So what is transformation? To Transform** means to **change** something **COMPLETELY**. **Transformational** = a complete or major change in someone's or something's appearance or form; An operation that **converts** (as by insertion, deletion, or permutation[change the order of a thing]); A **genetic modification** by the uptake **and** incorporation of exogenous DNA; **So what was it that needed to change or transform?**

i.

VII. **How do We Fix It? – The Role of the Holy Spirit**

- a. First, REPETANCE WHICH LEADS TO SALVATION
- b. Second, DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING in conjunction with
- c. New CHOICES that MUST BE MADE
 - i. **1 Corinthians 2:14-16** But the unbeliever (natural man) does not welcome what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluated spiritually. ¹⁵ The spiritual person, however, can evaluate[□] everything, yet he himself cannot be evaluated by anyone. ¹⁶ For who has known the Lord's mind, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ. (HCSB)
 - ii. **Ephesians 1: 17-20** I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so you may know what is the hope of His calling, what the glorious riches of His inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power to us

who believe, according to the working of His vast strength. 20 He demonstrated this power in the Messiah by raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavens—(HCSB)

d. Be Ye Transformed

- i. **1 John 2: 27** The anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you don't need anyone to teach you. Instead, His anointing teaches you about all things and is true and is not a lie; just as He has taught you, remain in Him. (HCSB)
- ii. **Isaiah 11: 1-2** Then a shoot will grow from the stump of Jesse and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him—a Spirit of Wisdom and understanding, a Spirit of counsel and strength, a Spirit of knowledge, and of the fear of the LORD
- iii. **Romans 12: 1-2** Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God. (HCSB)
- iv. **2 Timothy 1:7** For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment

VIII. **How do I know if I am transformed?**

a. **I MUST BE a student of the word of God.**

- i. If I don't know what God's instructions to me say, how will I know if I have done the right thing
- b. I must have a desire to be obedient to God's word. Therefore, I will:
 - i. feel what God feels
 - ii. Judge life like God would judge life
 - iii. Want what God wants
 - iv. Go after what God would go after
 - v. Think what God thinks

IX. **How does my mind impact my faculties: Body, Soul, & Spirit**

X. Conclusion – mind renewal is a process carried out in the life of the believer by God in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. However, it only works when I make up my mind to submit myself to the process.



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SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE DISCIPLE-MAKING CHURCH
Yvonne Carter

HANDOUT B

QUIZ: WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Mark the statements below true or false, then fill in the biblical answer when you hear it during the workshop.

1. Spiritual gifts are God's rewards to faithful Christians. T F
2. When a person receives a spiritual gift, he or she will possess it their whole life. T F
3. Most, but not all, Christians have a spiritual gift. T F
4. Any Christian can receive any gift, if only he or she desires it. T F
5. God endows each Christian with the same gifts; only the manner in which they are utilized varies from person to person. T F
6. Every Christian should do his or her best to exercise all of the spiritual gifts mentioned in the New Testament. T F
7. In order not to become one-sided, Christians should be particularly active in those areas in which they do not possess any gifts. T F
8. Spiritual gifts are only present when there is no adequate natural explanation for an event. T F
9. A spiritual gifts assessment needs to be taken only once; the results apply for a lifetime. T F
10. The only reason God gives us spiritual gifts is to deepen our personal relationship with him. T F



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Which Gifts Do You Have?

Explanation of Inventory Score Sheet

When you score yourself, keep in mind that all of the traits listed are desirable for Christians to have. Giving yourself a 0 or a 1 on a particular trait does not mean that you are unspiritual in that area. It simply means that trait is not a primary motivating factor for you and indicates that is not a primary area in which you are gifted. Remember, the church will not see your individual scores.

Ministry Gifts Inventory Score Sheet

To complete this score sheet, read the Ministry Evaluation Questionnaire and place a numeral based on the following four criteria in the box below each question number.

Score How EACH Statement Describes Me

- 0 – I am seldom or never this way.
- 1 – I usually am not this way,
- 2 – I am this way some of the time.
- 3 – I am this way most or all of the time.

Ministry Gifts Inventory Questionnaire

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I like to organize and plan. 2. I want to spend time with unbelievers so I can share my faith. 3. I enjoy being asked to share my counselor being an encourager to others. 4. It is important to me that money I give to the church be used as effectively as possible. 5. I am motivated more by meeting a need than by performing a task. 6. I enjoy using my home to minister to others. 7. I can easily get others to complete a ministry project. 8. Those who are distressed or elated seem drawn to me. 9. I seem to be able to notice sin before others are aware of it. 10. I enjoy routine work for church that others find tedious. 11. I have a burden to disciple others so they can help one another. 12. I am able to instruct others in the exact meaning of words and passages in Scripture. 13. I enjoy setting goals and then making plans to meet those goals. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. I urgently feel that a decision for Christ be made when I witness to someone. 15. I am more interested in studying passages of Scripture for practical applications than for deep theological truth. 16. It is fun for me to give freely because I love God. 17. I rapidly meet others' need for help. 18. I have the ability to make strangers feel at ease. 19. I have the ability to make decisions rapidly and stand by them. 20. I like encouraging those in hospitals and homes for the aged by visiting them. 21. I boldly tell others about evils in our government and in other worldly systems. 22. I like being asked to do jobs at church. 23. I deny myself in order to help weak or new Christians. 24. Others have told me that I have assisted them in learning biblical truth in a meaningful way. |
|---|---|



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- 25. I thrive on organizing people, ideas, and resources to improve the efficiency of a ministry.
- 26. I have an overwhelming desire to share with unbelievers.
- 27. I like assisting others in resolving difficult problems in their lives.
- 28. I notice when others have a material or financial need.
- 29. I find contentment in helping someone who can use my abilities.
- 30. I like having people visit my house.

- 31. If a group does not have a leader, I will lead it.
- 32. I yearn for hearers to be convicted after I have proclaimed God's Word.
- 33. I like doing special things for people who are sick or having difficulties.
- 34. I consider myself a task-oriented person.
- 35. I like being given the job of discipling a group of believers.
- 36. I find contentment studying God's Word and communicating my understanding to others.

Ministry Gifts Inventory Score Sheet

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L

Ministry Gifts Inventory Analysis

To compute totals for this Inventory Analysis, add the vertical columns on the Ministry Gifts Inventory Score Sheet and write the totals in boxes A-L. For example, write the total of the scores in boxes 1, 13, 25, 37, 49, and 61 in box A below, and so on until you complete the grid.

Now, place a check mark beside the three ministry areas for which you have the highest scores.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| A. ___ Administration | D. ___ Giving | G. ___ Leadership | J. ___ Service |
| B. ___ Evangelism | E. ___ Helps | H. ___ Mercy | K. ___ Shepherding |
| C. ___ Exhortation | F. ___ Hospitality | L. ___ Prophecy | L. ___ Teaching |



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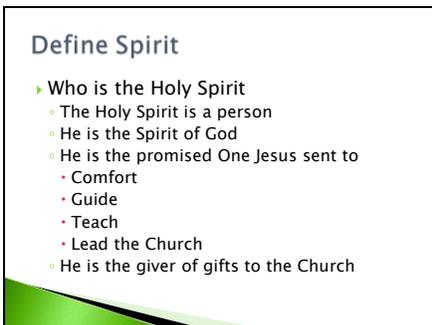
Slide
1



Slide
2



Slide
3



Slide
4





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Slide

5

The Holy Spirit Shapes the Church

- ▶ The Church, also called the Body of Christ, is outfitted for service by God Himself

Slide

6

What Is A **Spiritual Gift** or **Gift of the Spirit**?

»

Slide

7

Define Gift

1. The English word *gift* has two meanings:
 - a. A **special ability or talent**—such as playing a piano, learning languages, and so on
 - b. Something **given without charge and freely**—such as a present for a birthday

Slide

8

Define Spiritual

1. Consisting of spirit; not material; incorporeal; as a spiritual substance or being. The soul of man is spiritual.
2. Mental; intellectual; as spiritual armor.
3. Not temporal
4. Pertaining to spirit; pure; holy.
5. Pertaining to the renewed nature of man; as spiritual life.
6. Not fleshly; not material



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Slide
9

Define Spiritual Gift

- ▶ "... a **special qualification** granted by the Spirit
- ▶ "... **divinely ordained** spiritual ability
- ▶ "... **extraordinary endowments** bestowed by the Holy Spirit

Slide
10

In Summary

- ▶ These definitions point up certain facts about gifts:
 - ▶ **Source**
 - the special grace of the Holy Spirit
 - ▶ **Nature**
 - spiritual ability, endowment, power
 - ▶ **Purpose**
 - service, or ministry, to edify saints
- ▶ So we see, "a gift is a *Spirit-given ability for Christian service.*"⁵

Slide
11

Focus of Spiritual Gifts

- ▶ Spiritual gifts focus on **how they function in the ministry of the church** and not the actual ability itself

Slide
12

How Do We Receive These Gifts?

»» WHO - WHAT - HOW



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Slide
13

How do Gifts of the Spirit
Differ from Fruit of the Spirit

»

Slide
14

Define Fruit

- the usually edible reproductive body of a seed plant
- the effect or consequence of an action or operation
- something resulting from or necessarily following from a set of conditions
- Thayer: that which originates or comes from something, an effect, result

Slide
15

Gift vs. Fruit

Gifts are **GIVEN**

Fruit is **PRODUCED**

Slide
16

Love
Joy

Peace

Patience

Kindness
Goodness

Fruit of the Spirit »
What God's Spirit Indwelling Produces

Faithfulness
Gentleness

Self-Control



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17

	
To have Fruit: Seed Planted in Soil Water Sunshine Time to Develop	To have Gift: Given/Received Put to use Or Misused Or Shelved
The fruit that is produced contains ALL the essence of God that is in the seed John 15: 1-5	Inside the gift is ALL the receiver needs to fish for men, powered by the Holy Spirit Luke 24: 48-49

Slide
18

Why is this important?

- ▶ What is exhibited as **Gifts** can be
 - Counterfeited
 - Faked
 - Learned
 - Sought after
 - Misused

Slide
19



Slide
20

What are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

»»



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Slide
21

Spiritual Gifts:

Ephesians 4: 11	Romans 12: 6-8
Apostles	Prophecy
Prophets	Service/serving
Evangelists	Encouragement
Pastor-teachers (or pastors and teachers)	One who gives
	One who leads
	One who shows mercy

Slide
22

Spiritual Gifts:

1 Corinthians 12: 8-10	1 Corinthians 12: 28-30
A word of wisdom	Apostles
Word of Knowledge	Prophets
Faith	Teachers
Healing	Miracles
Working of miracles	Healings
Prophecy	Helps
Distinguishing the spirits	Guidance
Kinds of tongues	Speaking in tongues
Interpretation of tongues	Interpreting tongues

Slide
23

QUESTIONS???????

»



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Descriptions of Ministry Gifts:

The following are descriptions of the areas of giftedness identified by this evaluation. These descriptions will give insight into your motivation and will help direct you toward areas of service that will utilize the strengths God has given you.

Administration

Persons gifted in the area of administration are goal-and objective-oriented. They often have strong organizational skills and are able to coordinate resources to accomplish tasks quickly. They are motivated by accomplishing desired tasks and often derive great satisfaction from viewing the results of what they have accomplished. If you scored high in this area, you should consider being involved in an area of ministry in which you can utilize your organizational strengths to carry out the church's measurable goals. (Measurable goals are objectives such as numerical growth, ministries advance, missions expansion.)

Evangelism

Persons gifted in the area of evangelism have a strong desire to share the gospel with nonbelievers in every situation and by all possible means. Their greatest joy in ministry is seeing the unsaved won to Christ. They have a deep desire to fulfill the Great Commission's evangelistic emphasis and prefer to devote more time and effort to the ministry of evangelism than to other church ministries that are for the edification of believers. These persons look for areas where the need for the gospel is greatest and are willing to make personal sacrifices to share the "gospel. If you scored high in this area, you should consider being involved in a ministry that places great emphasis on sharing the gospel with the unsaved and reaching out to the unchurched.

Exhortation

Persons gifted in the area of exhortation have a special ability to encourage others in the body of Christ by giving them words of comfort, encouragement, and counsel in times of need. They are attracted to individuals seeking spiritual growth and often are willing to share their past personal failures to help motivate others toward greater spiritual maturity. Persons gifted in exhortation can make accurate assessments of people's spiritual needs and have the ability to explain truth logically; giving step-by-step instructions that are easy to follow. If you scored high in this area, you should consider being involved in an area where you can use your strengths to minister one-on-one to people in need.

Giving

Persons gifted in the area of giving have the ability to give material goods and financial resources with joy so that the needs of the Lord's work are met. They often can discern wise investments and usually are effective money managers. They want to give quietly without recognition and are encouraged when they know needs are being met and prayers are being answered. These persons are more likely to give at the Lord's promptings than at humans appeals. They have the ability to see financial needs others may overlook. If you scored high in this area, you should consider prayerfully what ministries of the church to support with your finances and how your example can motivate others to follow the Lord's leadership in their giving.

Helps

Persons gifted in the area of helps are motivated by a desire to further the church's ministry by meeting the needs of others, especially those in leadership positions. They enjoy giving immediate help to key individuals in order to relieve them of their financial burdens and responsibilities. While these persons are willing to do whatever is needed, they are motivated more by a desire to provide assistance than by a desire to accomplish a task. If you scored high in this area, you should consider being involved in a ministry in which you can provide assistance to someone in a leadership role to enable them to be more effective than they would be without you.

Hospitality

Persons gifted in the area of hospitality have the ability to make guests feel comfortable and at home. They have a desire to provide a warm welcome to guests, whether in a ministry or social setting. They often delight in opening their homes to individuals or groups and often look for opportunities to use their gift to minister to others. If you scored high in this area, you should consider being involved in a ministry where you can use your strengths to help make others in the church feel at home.

Leadership

Persons gifted in the area of leadership have the ability to lead others toward spiritual growth. They often are considered visionary and have the ability to set goals and motivate others toward accomplishing the goals. They usually have the ability to communicate effectively to large groups of people. These persons often are chosen for leadership positions because of their ability to accomplish objectives. While giftedness in leadership is similar to



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Ministry areas using Your Spiritual Gifts:

Administration

Christian Education
 Staffing
 Staff-Support

Apostle

Outreach
 Visionary

Discernment

Discernment
 Prayer
 Staffing
 Staff-Support
 Visionary

Evangelism

Outreach

Exhortation

Benevolence/Caring
 Counseling
 Shepherding
 Speaking
 Staffing
 Staff-Support
 Teaching
 Worship

Faith

Prayer
 Visionary

Giving

Benevolence/Caring
 Worship

Healing

Counseling

Prayer

Knowledge

Christian Education
 Staff-Support
 Teaching

Leadership

Christian Education
 Visionary

Mercy

Benevolence/Caring

Miracles

Prayer

Missionary

Outreach

Pastor

Shepherding
 Staff-Support

Prophecy

Outreach
 Speaking

Service

Benevolence/Caring
 Clerical
 Communications
 Hospitality
 Service-Oriented
 Staff-Support
 Worship

Teaching

Christian Education
 Speaking
 Teaching

Worship

Helps

Clerical
 Communications
 Service-Oriented
 Staff-Support

Hospitality

Benevolence/Caring
 Hospitality

Wisdom

Christian Education
 Counseling
 Staffing
 Staff-Support
 Teaching

Resources available upon request

JPURPOSE

(Goal, Objective, Plan)

How can we find purpose in our life?

BIBLE READING: [Numbers 9:15-23](#)

KEY BIBLE VERSE: **They camped or traveled at the LORD's command, and they did whatever the LORD told them through Moses.** ([Numbers 9:23](#))

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TRANSFORM

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

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FUNCTION PLANS

([Goals](#), [Outline](#), [Preparations](#))

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God's plan is for our eternal benefit. God's "secret wisdom . . . which was hidden" was his offer of salvation to all people. Originally unknown to humanity, this plan became crystal clear when

Jesus rose from the dead. His resurrection proved that he had power over sin and death and could offer us this power as well. God's plan, however, is still hidden to unbelievers because they either refuse to accept it, choose to ignore it, or simply haven't heard about it.

God's plan is more wonderful than we can imagine. We cannot imagine all that God has in store for us, both in this life and for eternity. He will create a new heaven and a new earth ([Isaiah 65:17](#); [Rev. 21:1](#)), and we will live with him forever. Until then, his Holy Spirit comforts and guides us. Knowing the wonderful and eternal future that awaits us gives us hope and courage to press on in this life, to endure hardship, and to avoid giving in to temptation. This world is not all there is. The best is yet to come.

BIBLE READING: [Ephes. 1:1-14](#)

KEY BIBLE VERSE: **God's secret plan has now been revealed to us; it is a plan centered on Christ, designed long ago according to his good pleasure. And this is his plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.** ([Ephes. 1:9-10](#))

God's plan cannot be understood apart from Christ. God was not just keeping a secret; he was keeping it until the right moment. His plan for the world could not be fully understood until Christ rose from the dead. His purpose for sending Christ was to unite Jews and Gentiles in one body with Christ as the head. Many people still do not understand God's plan; but when the time is right, he will bring us together to be with him forever. Then everyone will understand. On that day, all people will bow to Jesus as Lord, either because they love him or because they fear his power (see [Phil. 2:10-11](#)).

Related Topics: [BIBLE](#), JESUS, [SALVATION](#)

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(Goal, Objective, Plan)

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Related Topics: [GOD'S WILL](#), [GUIDANCE](#), [PLANS](#)

Handbook of Bible Application.

GOD'S WILL

(Desire, [Guidance](#), [Purpose](#))

How can we know God's will for our lives?

BIBLE READING: [Numbers 9:15-23](#)

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God guides his people moment by moment. A pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night guided and protected the Israelites as they traveled across the desert. Some have said this pillar may have been a burning bowl of pitch whose smoke was visible during the day and whose fire could be seen at night. However, a bowl of pitch would not have lifted itself up and moved ahead of the people, and the Bible is clear that the cloud and fire moved in accordance with the will of God. The cloud and the fire were not merely natural phenomena; they were the vehicle of God's presence and the visible evidence of his moving and directing his people.

What we learn is that the Israelites traveled and camped as God guided. When you follow God's guidance, you know you are where God wants you, whether you're moving or staying in one place. You are physically somewhere right now. Instead of praying, "God, what do you want me to do next?" ask, "God, what do you want me to do while I'm right here?" Direction from God is not just for your next big move. He has a purpose in placing you where you are right now. Begin to understand God's purpose for your life by discovering what he wants you to do now!

BIBLE READING: [Esther 4:1-17](#)

KEY BIBLE VERSE: *If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. What's more, who can say but that you have been elevated to the palace for just such a time as this?* ([Esther 4:14](#))

God's will is worked out in everyday events. After the decree to kill the Jews was given, Mordecai and Esther could have despaired, decided to save only themselves, or just waited for God's intervention. Instead, they saw that God had placed them in their positions for a purpose, so they seized the moment and acted. When it is within our power to save others, we must do so. In a life-threatening situation, don't withdraw, behave selfishly, wallow in despair, or wait for God to fix everything. Instead, ask God for his direction, and *act!* God may have placed you where you are "for just such a time as this."

BIBLE READING: [Matthew 21:18-22](#)

KEY BIBLE VERSE: *If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.* ([Matthew 21:22](#))

Our prayers must be in harmony with God's will. This verse is not a guarantee that we can get *anything* we want simply by asking Jesus and believing. God does not grant requests that would hurt us or others or that would violate his own nature or will. Jesus' statement is not a blank check. To be fulfilled, our requests must be in harmony with the principles of God's kingdom.

The stronger our belief, the more likely our prayers will be in line with God's will, and then God will be happy to grant them.

BIBLE READING: [Phil. 2:1-30](#)

KEY BIBLE VERSE: *Dearest friends, you were always so careful to follow my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away you must be even more careful to put into action God's saving work in your lives, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him. (Phil. 2:12-13)*

Our greatest happiness is found in willingly obeying God. What do we do when we don't feel like obeying? God has not left us alone in our struggles to do his will. He wants to come alongside us and be within us to help. God helps us *want* to obey him and then gives us the *power* to do what he wants. The secret to a changed life is to submit to God's control and let him work. Next time, ask God to help you *want* to do his will.

It is God's will that we become like Christ. To be like Christ, we must train ourself to think like Christ. To change our desires to be more like Christ's, we need the power of the indwelling Spirit ([Phil. 1:19](#)), the influence of faithful Christians, obedience to God's Word (not just exposure to it), and sacrificial service. Often it is in *doing* God's will that we gain the *desire* for it (see [Phil. 4:8-9](#)). Do what he wants, and trust him to change your desires.

Related Topics: [FREEDOM](#), [GUIDANCE](#), [OBEDIENCE](#)

Handbook of Bible Application.

God's Purpose

Proverbs 19:21 (NKJV)

²¹ There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD'S counsel--that will stand.

Proverbs 19:21 (NLT)

²¹ You can make many plans, but the LORD's purpose will prevail.

Proverbs 19:21 (MSG)

²¹ We humans keep brainstorming options and plans, but GOD's purpose prevails.

Proverbs 19:21 (YLT)

²¹ Many *are* the purposes in a man's heart, And the counsel of Jehovah it standeth.

Proverbs 19:21 (CEV)

²¹ We may make a lot of plans, but the LORD will do what he has decided.

Isaiah 46:5-13 (KJV)

⁵ To whom will ye liken me, and make *me* equal, and compare me, that we may be like?

⁶ They lavish gold out of the bag, and weigh silver in the balance, *and* hire a goldsmith; and he maketh it a god: they fall down, yea, they worship.

⁷ They bear him upon the shoulder, they carry him, and set him in his place, and he standeth; from his place shall he not remove: yea, *one* shall cry unto him, yet can he not answer, nor save him out of his trouble.

⁸ Remember this, and shew yourselves men: bring *it* again to mind, O ye transgressors.

⁹ Remember the former things of old: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else; *I am* God, and *there is* none like me,

¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things* that are not *yet* done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

¹¹ Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken *it*, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed *it*, I will also do it.

¹² Hearken unto me, ye stouthearted, that *are* far from righteousness:

¹³ I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory.

Isaiah 46:5-13 (NKJV)

⁵ "To whom will you liken Me, and make *Me* equal And compare Me, that we should be alike?

⁶ They lavish gold out of the bag, And weigh silver on the scales; They hire a goldsmith, and he makes it a god; They prostrate themselves, yes, they worship.

⁷ They bear it on the shoulder, they carry it And set it in its place, and it stands; From its place it shall not move. Though *one* cries out to it, yet it cannot answer Nor save him out of his trouble.

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¹¹ Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken *it*; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed *it*; I will also do it.

¹² "Listen to Me, you stubborn-hearted, Who *are* far from righteousness:

¹³ I bring My righteousness near, it shall not be far off; My salvation shall not linger. And I will place salvation in Zion, For Israel My glory.

Isaiah 46:5-13 (MSG)

⁵ "So to whom will you compare me, the Incomparable? Can you picture me without reducing me?"

⁶ People with a lot of money hire craftsmen to make them gods. The artisan delivers the god, and they kneel and worship it!

⁷ They carry it around in holy parades, then take it home and put it on a shelf. And there it sits, day in and day out, a dependable god, always right where you put it. Say anything you want to it, it never talks back. Of course, it never *does* anything either!

⁸ "Think about this. Wrap your minds around it. This is serious business, rebels. Take it to heart.

⁹ Remember your history, your long and rich history. I am GOD, the only God you've had or ever will have— incomparable, irreplaceable—

¹⁰ From the very beginning telling you what the ending will be, All along letting you in on what is going to happen, Assuring you, 'I'm in this for the long haul, I'll do exactly what I set out to do,'

¹¹ Calling that eagle, Cyrus, out of the east, from a far country the man I chose to help me. I've said it, and I'll most certainly do it. I've planned it, so it's as good as done.

¹² "Now listen to me: You're a hardheaded bunch and hard to help.

¹³ I'm ready to help you right now. Deliverance is not a long-range plan. Salvation isn't on hold. I'm putting salvation to work in Zion now, and glory in Israel.

PRIORITIES

([Goals](#), [Objectives](#), [Purposes](#))

How can we develop the right priorities?

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Right priorities begin with God. To receive God's guidance, said Solomon, we must acknowledge God in all our ways. This means turning every area of life over to him. About a thousand years later, Jesus emphasized this same truth ([Matthew 6:33](#)). Look at your values and priorities. What is important to you? In what areas have you not acknowledged him? What is his advice? In many areas of your life you may already acknowledge God, but it is the areas where you attempt to restrict or ignore his influence that will cause you grief. Make him a vital part of everything you do; then he will guide you because you will be working to accomplish his purposes.

BIBLE READING: [Matthew 6:25-34](#)

KEY BIBLE VERSE: *He will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.* ([Matthew 6:33](#))

Right priorities grow out of consistent dependence on God. To "make the Kingdom of God your primary concern" means to turn to God first for help, to fill your thoughts with his desires, to take his character for your pattern, and to serve and obey him in everything. What is really important to you? People, objects, goals, and other desires all compete for priority. Any of these can quickly bump God out of first place if you don't actively choose to give him first place in every area of your life.

BIBLE READING: [Matthew 8:18-22](#)

KEY BIBLE VERSE: *Jesus told him, "Follow me now! Let those who are spiritually dead care for their own dead."* ([Matthew 8:22](#))

Right priorities grow out of obedience to Christ. Jesus was always direct with those who wanted to follow him. He made sure they counted the cost and set aside any conditions they might have for following him. As God's Son, Jesus did not hesitate to demand complete loyalty. Even family loyalty was not to take priority over the demands of obedience. His direct challenge forces us to ask ourselves about our own priorities in following him. The decision to follow Jesus should not be put off, even though other loyalties compete for our attention. Nothing should be placed above a total commitment to living for him.

Related Topics: [CONSISTENCY](#), [GOALS](#), [OBEDIENCE](#)

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BIBLE READING: [1 Cor. 2:6-16](#)

KEY BIBLE VERSE: **The wisdom we speak of is the secret wisdom of God, which was hidden in former times, though he made it for our benefit before the world began.** ([1 Cor. 2:7](#))

God's plan is for our eternal benefit. God's "secret wisdom . . . which was hidden" was his offer of salvation to all people. Originally unknown to humanity, this plan became crystal clear when

Jesus rose from the dead. His resurrection proved that he had power over sin and death and could offer us this power as well. God's plan, however, is still hidden to unbelievers because they either refuse to accept it, choose to ignore it, or simply haven't heard about it.

God's plan is more wonderful than we can imagine. We cannot imagine all that God has in store for us, both in this life and for eternity. He will create a new heaven and a new earth ([Isaiah 65:17](#); [Rev. 21:1](#)), and we will live with him forever. Until then, his Holy Spirit comforts and guides us. Knowing the wonderful and eternal future that awaits us gives us hope and courage to press on in this life, to endure hardship, and to avoid giving in to temptation. This world is not all there is. The best is yet to come.

BIBLE READING: [Ephes. 1:1-14](#)

KEY BIBLE VERSE: **God's secret plan has now been revealed to us; it is a plan centered on Christ, designed long ago according to his good pleasure. And this is his plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.** ([Ephes. 1:9-10](#))

God's plan cannot be understood apart from Christ. God was not just keeping a secret; he was keeping it until the right moment. His plan for the world could not be fully understood until Christ rose from the dead. His purpose for sending Christ was to unite Jews and Gentiles in one body with Christ as the head. Many people still do not understand God's plan; but when the time is right, he will bring us together to be with him forever. Then everyone will understand. On that day, all people will bow to Jesus as Lord, either because they love him or because they fear his power (see [Phil. 2:10-11](#)).

Related Topics: [BIBLE](#), JESUS, [SALVATION](#)

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