

1. Why Do We Need Jesus

When God created Adam and Eve they were in perfect harmony with God. Their thoughts were pure, their aims holy. But through disobedience, their powers were perverted, and selfishness took the place of love. Man's nature became so weakened through sin that it was impossible for him, in his own strength, to resist the power of evil.

The human race was taken captive by Satan, and would have remained so forever without God's intervention. It was Satan's purpose to frustrate God's plan in creating the human race, and fill the earth with suffering and heartache. Then he would point to all this evil as the result of God's work in creating man.

In their sinless state, Adam and Eve held joyful communion with their Maker. But after their sin, they no longer found joy in holiness, and they tried to hide from the presence of God. That is still the condition of a heart that has not been made new by Jesus. It is not in harmony with God, and finds no joy in spending time with Him. The sinner can never be happy in God's presence. If he were permitted to enter heaven, it would have no joy for him. He would be like a fish out of water. To him, heaven would be a place of torture; he would long to be hidden from Him who is its light, and the center of its joy.

In this lesson we will discover why we, as sinners, need Jesus and what must be done in order to experience His power in our lives.

1. What is the natural attitude of the mind toward God?

Romans 8:7 _____

2. Why is it impossible for the 'natural mind' to understand God's Word?

I Corinthians 2:14 _____

Note: The natural man always remains the same. He is what hereditary tendencies, nationality, education, and circumstances have made him. But when the natural man is changed by the grace of Christ, then the transformation is seen in the new man with a new heart, new purposes, and new desires.

3. What is the struggle of the carnal mind? Romans 7:18 _____

Note: What evidence do we have that we are still operating with the carnal mind? The inability to do that which is good and which we know we should do. "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish." Galatians 5:17.

4. What does the Lamb of God take away?

John 1:29 _____

Note: Satan was thrilled that he had succeeded in perverting the image of God in man. Jesus came to restore in man the image of his Maker. Nobody but Jesus can fashion anew the character that has been ruined by sin. He came to evict the demons that had controlled the will. He came to lift us up from the dust, to reshape the character marred by sin, and pattern it after His divine character, and to make it beautiful with His own.

5. What connected heaven to earth in Jacob's dream? And what was Jacob's response to his dream?

Genesis 28:12; 16-17 _____

6. What were the angels of God ascending and descending on?

John 1:51 _____

Note: The meaning of Jacob's dream met the need and longing of his soul. With joy and gratitude he saw a way by which he, a sinner, could be restored to communion with God. The mystic ladder of his dream represented Jesus, the only link of communication between God and man.

7. How many ways are there to God?

John 14:6 _____

Note: If by any effort of our own we could advance one step toward the ladder, the words of Christ would not be true. But when we accept Christ, good works will appear as fruitful evidence that we are in the way of life, that Christ is our way, and that we are treading the true path that leads to heaven.

8. What must take place before the times of refreshing?

Acts 3:19 _____

Note: The word repentance literally means a “change of mind.” God takes away the carnal mind and puts His mind in its place.

9. What two gifts does God give?

Acts 5:31 _____

Note: If it were possible for man to repent, of himself, Christ’s atoning sacrifice would be in vain. But this is not possible. If one step in the way of salvation could be taken without Christ, every step could be taken without Him. Without His gift, the sinner can not take the first step in this way.

10. What is the purpose of repentance? 2 Timothy 2:24-26 _____

11. What does God guarantee will draw all men to Him? John 12:32-33 _____

12. What must our eyes be focused on if we are to finish the race victoriously?

Hebrews 12:1-3 _____

Christ’s death proves God’s great love for man. It is our pledge of salvation. To remove the cross from the Christian would be like blotting the sun from the sky. The cross brings us near to God, reconciling us to Him. With the relenting compassion of a father’s love, He looks upon the suffering that His Son endured in order to save the race from eternal death.

Without the cross, man would forever be separated from God. On the cross of Christ depends our every hope. From it shines the light of the Savior’s love, and when at the foot of the cross the sinner looks up to the One who died to save him, he may rejoice with fullness of joy, for his sins are pardoned. Kneeling in faith at the cross, he has reached the highest place to which man can attain.

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2. Why You Must Be Born Again

To all who are anxious for the salvation of their souls, come to Christ for help. He says to you as He said to Nicodemus, "unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

He is knocking at the door of your heart, asking for entrance. He longs to renew your heart, filling it with a love for all that is pure and true. He longs to crucify self for you, raising you to newness of life in Him. Nicodemus was converted as a result of his interview with Christ. How is it with you? Will Christ knock at your heart in vain? Will you refuse him entrance? Or will you welcome him as an honored guest?

His presence of love in your life is of more value than the whole world. Its length, its width, its depth, its height, cannot be estimated. It will purify your heart and renew your mind, giving you a new capacity for knowing and loving God. Do not let self hinder you from hearing the call, "You must be born again." Fear not to make a full surrender of yourself to Christ. Place yourself, without reserve, under His control. Learn what it means to cease from sin; what it means to have a new heart, to bear the divine character.

As you behold Christ, self will sink into insignificance, and you will be changed into his image, "from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." This study will open to us what the Bible teaches about the born again experience.

1. What must take place before we can see the kingdom of God? John 3:3 _____

2. What two questions did Nicodemus ask which showed that he did not understand what Jesus was saying?

John 3:4 _____

3. What two births must a person experience to enter God's kingdom?

John 3:5 _____

Note: Being born of water is the experience of baptism. Being born of the Spirit refers to our spiritual birth. In baptism we participate in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this experience the life of sin we were born with is crucified with Christ on the cross, in exchange we receive the life of Christ. This is the new birth experience. It is not an improvement of the old life. It is His Life in exchange for my old life of sin.

4. Is being born of the flesh the same thing as being born of the Spirit?

John 3:6 _____

Note: When Adam and Eve were created in the beginning, Christ breathed into them the breath of life and man became a living being. It was the Spirit of God that gave life to His creation. Now it was told that the moment that they sinned they would surely die. They did not physically die at that moment but it was the Spirit of God that left them and their lives were then gripped with fear of the One who made them. This spiritual death has been our inheritance since Adam.

5. What good does the flesh profit us? What does the Spirit give?

John 6:63 _____

Note: The flesh will profit nothing. We need not rely upon ourselves for any good thing for no good thing will ever come from it. Christ in you will produce life and produce it more abundantly than we could ever ask or think.

6. How do I have this born again experience and become a child of God? John 1:11, 12 _____

Note: The words received and believed go hand in hand, they mean the same thing. To believe in Jesus Christ is not only a mental assent to the truth, it is to receive Him into your life and let Him take control. Receiving Christ into your life is the born again experience.

7. Whose work is it that you believe? John 6:28, 29

Note: By faith we have the finished, perfect work of the Lord as our own. “*This is the work of God, that you believe on Him whom He has sent.*” John 6:29. When we receive Jesus into our lives He brings all that He is with Him and this includes His faith.

8. Of whom are we born when we receive Jesus? John 1:13**9. Who becomes our life when we are born again? Galatians 2:20**

Note: To be a new creature after a life of sin means the life is now contrary to sin, and as it says “he cannot sin, because he is born of God.” His mind has been renewed, his desires and affections have been changed, and his appetites and passions have been recreated. He cannot practice sin or habitually pursue it as a course of action, not because he is shut up so that there are no temptations, but because his desires are changed and he is kept by the word of God.

10. If Christ is in you what must you consider the body to be?

Romans 8:10

Note: This is the experience of every true child of God. “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.” 2Cor.5:17. He lives on in his body but it is no longer a life of sin, for that life has no power over him because he is dead. “The body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.” Romans 8:10.

11. Who is it that works the victory in the one who has been born of God?

Philippians 2:13

Note: When you receive Jesus in your heart He is now the One who lives there. Satan may come to knock at your door but it is Jesus who answers and says that “you don’t live here anymore.” Then Jesus says “may I help you,” and Satan flees like the defeated foe that he is!!!

12. How does one become born of God? 1 John 5:1

Note: Remember that it is the work of God that you believe. So with that in mind whose work is it that you are born of God? His work! The part that we have in all this is receiving Jesus into our lives and giving Him total control.

13. What is the victory for those who overcome the world?

1 John 5:4

Note: “Faith is the Victory.” In receiving Jesus it is now He who lives in you and He brings with Him His faith, which is your victory. What an awesome thought, “Christ in you the hope of glory.” He is the Champion, the Victor, the Power, and your all in all.

The Faith of Jesus

There is no opportunity now for anyone to say that his faith is weak. A man may say he has “weak faith” but faith is as strong as the Word of God. There is no saving faith but the faith of Christ, everything else is a counterfeit. Christ alone is righteous. He has overcome the world and in him dwells all the fullness of God. So it is only by His faith that we can be made righteous. The “faith of Jesus” will not fail us in any contest. Receive Him into your heart and life and experience what it means to be born of God.

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3. THE CROSS OF CHRIST

It was to redeem us that Jesus lived and suffered and died. He became "a Man of Sorrows," that we might be made partakers of everlasting joy. God permitted His beloved Son, full of grace and truth, to come from a world of indescribable glory, to a world spoiled and ruined with sin, darkened with the shadow of death and the curse. It was the burden of sin, the sense of its terrible nature, the separation of man from God--it was this that broke the heart of the Christ.

"God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son." He gave Him to live among men, to bear their sins, and die their sacrifice. He gave Him to the fallen race. Christ was to identify Himself with the interests and needs of the human family. Jesus has linked Himself with the children of men by ties that are never to be broken. Jesus is "not ashamed to call them brethren" Hebrews 2:11. Jesus has done all this that man might be uplifted from the ruin and degradation of sin that he might reflect the love of God and share the joy of holiness.

We must gather around the cross. Christ and Him crucified should be the theme of contemplation, of conversation, and of our most joyful emotion. We should keep in our thoughts every blessing we receive from God, and when we realize His great love we should be willing to trust everything to the hand that was nailed to the cross for us. This study will open to us the endless theme of the cross of Christ.

1. Did Jesus do anything worthy of death?

Luke 23:13-15

2. What was the response of the people when Pilot wanted to release Jesus?

Luke 23:20-23

Note: The penalty for blaspheme is being stoned to death. Leviticus 24:16. The priests, rulers, and people called out "crucify Him." It is clear that they had another purpose. For it is written "cursed is everyone that hangs on a tree." Galatians 3:13. Deuteronomy 21:22, 23. The people's desire was that He be cursed of God; and for their sake He was "Christ bore our sins in His own body on the tree." 1 Peter 2:24. As it says "He became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in him." 2 Corinthians 5:21.

3. Who was the subject of the prophecy that the Ethiopian eunuch was trying to understand?

Acts 8:32-35

4. When Jesus came to take away our sin how did we respond?

Isaiah 53:3

5. Who was responsible for putting Christ on the cross?

Isaiah 53:4-6

Note: The shameful cross has been lifted up, the nails have been driven through his hands and feet, the cruel spear has pierced to his heart, and the redemption price has been paid for the human race. The spotless Lamb of God bore our sins in his own body upon the tree; he carried our sorrows, our grief, our pain, and was bruised for our iniquities. They are now His; do not keep from Him what He bought with His own life.

6. What price did Jesus pay to purchase our sins?

Galatians 1:4

Note: His death has secured pardon and life for all. Nothing can keep us from salvation except we decide to keep what has been bought on the cross. Jesus paid it ALL! If you were to save and buy a brand new car; but upon delivery time it did not come. So you called about the matter and they said 'what car.' Would you let the matter rest? No, you would go after it right. Why? Because you paid for it.

7. Why was Christ crucified on the cross?

Romans 6:6-7

Note: Destruction of sin is the only way of salvation. "You shall call His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21. So when I receive Him into my heart I can know that "if I died with Him I shall also live with Him." 2 Timothy 2:11. So this is the object of the cross the destruction of sin.

8. After having died with Christ what will he now do?

Hosea 6:2

Note: "For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection." Romans 6:5. If we receive Him into our hearts we can know that the body of sin was put to death in the grave on the first day; and on third day He raises us to 'newness of life' in Him. Romans 6:4

9. What was abolished on the cross?

Ephesians 2:15-16

Note: That which is destroyed is the body of sin, and it is destroyed only by this personal presence of the life of Christ. It is destroyed in order that we may be freed from its power and no longer need to serve it. It is destroyed for everybody, for Christ in His own flesh has abolished "the enmity," the sinner's carnal mind. Our sins, our weaknesses, were upon Him. For every soul the victory has been gained, and the enemy has been disarmed. We have only to accept the victory which Christ has won.

10. What does the Bible declare the "Power of God" to be?

Romans 1:16

Note: Therefore the Gospel simply reveals to us the power which was used to bring the worlds into existence, now exercised for the salvation of men.

11. What is the "Power of God" to those who are being saved?

I Corinthians 1:18

Note: The cross of Christ is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary. To the world the cross is the indisputable message that God is truth and light and love.

12. What is given up in order to gain Christ?

Philippians 3:8

Note: As we are crucified with Him the world becomes dark and we count everything else as rubbish. Heaven, eternal life, is worth everything, and Christ has died that we might come into possession of the eternal weight of glory.

The cross of Christ is to be so distinctly presented before the world that every other power will be eclipsed, and the human race be drawn in homage to Christ Jesus. The Father has given everything into the hands of Christ,--all power, dominion, and glory have been bestowed upon the Son of God. When the eye is directed to Calvary, the soul beholds Jesus, the royal Sufferer, dying for the sin of man. When Jesus Christ is evidently set forth before the sinner's eyes, manifest in the flesh and crucified for him, the result will then be transformation of character for the sinner has become a new creature in Christ Jesus.

4. Walking in the Spirit

A person may not be able to tell the exact time or place, or trace all the chain of events in the process of conversion; but this does not prove him to be unconverted. Christ said to Nicodemus, "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes and where it goes: so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." John 3:8. Like the wind, which is invisible, yet the effects of which are plainly seen and felt, is the Spirit of God in its work upon the human heart.

If the heart has been renewed by the Spirit of God, the life will bear witness to the fact. We cannot do anything to change our hearts or to bring ourselves into harmony with God. We will reveal in our lives whether the grace of God is dwelling within us. A change will be seen in the character, the habits, and desires. The contrast will be clear and decided between what we have been and what we are.

Those who become new creatures in Christ Jesus will bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." Galatians 5:22, 23. They will no longer fashion themselves according to the former lusts, but by the faith of the Son of God they will follow in His steps, reflect His character, and purify themselves even as He is pure. This study will open to us the experience of 'walking in the Spirit.'

1. How do we keep from fulfilling the lust of the flesh?

Galatians 5:16

Note: Genuine faith is followed by love, and love by obedience. All the powers and passions of the converted man are brought under the control of Christ. His Spirit is a renewing power, transforming to the divine image all who will receive it. The lusts of the flesh are no longer desirable, for your life is now 'hidden with Christ in God.' Colossians 3:3

2. What happens to my lifestyle when I walk in the Spirit?

Galatians 5:22-25

Note: Notice that when Paul talks about the flesh in Galatians 5:19 he uses the phrase "works of the flesh" because that is all that man can do. In verse 22 he uses the word "fruit," because it is the Holy Spirit that produces fruit; we simply bear the fruit.

3. What blessing does a Christian experience in Christ?

Romans 8:1

Note: The reason that there is no condemnation for the Christian who has accepted the truth as it is in Christ Jesus is because on the cross Christ condemned the law of sin that is in the flesh (read verses 2 and 3).

4. What is fulfilled in those who walk according to the Spirit?

Romans 8:4

Note: In Christ alone will the sinner find release from the curse of the law, for in Christ the righteousness of the law is fulfilled, and by Him it is fulfilled in us. Romans 8:4. The law will allow nobody to be saved unless he has "the righteousness which is of God by faith," the faith of Jesus Christ.

5. What part of the body does the flesh or the Spirit control?

Romans 8:5

Note: The mind is the battle ground in the Christian warfare. The question is, "What is your mind occupied with?" Those who are walking in the flesh are always thinking about pleasing the desires of their sinful nature. When you walk in the Spirit, you want to please Christ. This is the battle of the mind from which you cannot relax. The key for victory is the continual receiving of Christ into the heart.

6. What is the result of being carnally minded? What is the result of being spiritually minded?

Romans 8:6 (first part) _____

Romans 8:6 (second part) _____

Note: The word "carnal" means controlled by the sinful desires of the flesh, your sinful nature. The flesh can only bring death to you, not life, because all that the flesh can produce is sin and "the wages of sin is death" (see Romans 6:23).

7. Why is the carnal mind, the mind controlled by the flesh, hostile to God?

Romans 8:7 _____

Note: When the mind is not under the direct influence of the Spirit of God, Satan can mold it as he chooses. All the rational powers which he controls he will turn to sin and death. He is directly opposed to God in his tastes, views, preferences, likes and dislikes, choice of things and pursuits; there is no appreciation for what God loves or approves, but a delight in those things which He despises; therefore a course is maintained which is offensive to God.

8. What is the result of being controlled by the fleshly mind? Romans 8:8 _____

Note: Those controlled by the fleshly mind cannot please God. In Hebrews 11:6 it says that 'without faith it is impossible to please Him.' So this concludes that those controlled by the fleshly mind are without faith and if we are without faith we are without God; but when we receive Jesus into our lives we have His faith and with His faith all things are possible.

9. If Christ's is living in me, what should I consider my body to be?

Romans 8:10 _____

Note: Can a man who has died, live? "Certainly not, then how shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" Rom.6:2. "Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin." Rom.6:6. The hearts that are open to receive the life of Christ will walk in a holier atmosphere than that of earth and will have constant communion with heaven.

10. Who should the Christian allow to control his or her mind?

Philippians 2:5 _____

Note: By obeying the gospel you have said in your heart, "Not I, but Christ." You have chosen not the flesh but the Spirit to control your life.

11. What is brought into captivity for those who are in Christ?

2 Corinthians 10: 4, 5 _____

Note: God wishes us to have the mastery over ourselves. But He cannot help us without our consent and co-operation. The divine Spirit works through the powers and senses given to man. Of ourselves, we are not able to bring the purposes and desires into harmony with the will of God; but if we are "willing to be made willing," the Savior will accomplish this for us, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:5.

12. How do we walk in Christ? Colossians 2:6 _____

Note: This means that you are to study the life of Christ. You are to study it with as much more earnestness than you study secular lines of knowledge, as eternal interests are more important than temporal, earthly pursuits. If you appreciate the value and sacredness of eternal things, you will bring your sharpest thoughts, your best energies, to the solving of the problem that involves your eternal well-being; for every other interest sinks into nothingness in comparison with that.

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5. The True Meaning of Baptism

Nangira, who lived in Central Africa, did not consider baptism to be merely optional. For more than a year she had eagerly studied the Bible. She longed to become a Christian. One evening she shared with her husband the things she had learned. Outraged, he shouted, "I don't want this kind of religion in my home and if you keep on studying I will kill you." Although she was crushed, Nangira continued studying, and was soon ready for baptism.

Before leaving for the baptismal service Nangira knelt respectfully before her husband and told him she was to be baptized. He picked up his large hunting knife and shouted, "I have told you that I do not want you to be baptized. The day you are baptized I will kill you." But Nangira, determined to follow her Lord, left with her husband's threats resounding in her ears.

Before entering the water, she confessed her sins and dedicated her life to her Savior, not knowing whether she would be laying down her life for her Lord that day, too. But peace filled her heart as she was baptized. When she returned home, she brought the knife to her husband. "Have you been baptized?" He asked angrily. "Yes," replied Nangira simply. "Here is the knife." Amazed at her courage, he could not take her life.

This lesson opens to us the true meaning of baptism.

1. In Christ's great commission, what were they to make?

Matthew 28:18,19 _____

Note: Notice God did not say, "Go and make church members!" God said, "Go and make disciples. A disciple is a follower of Christ.

2. What three things define a disciple?

Matthew 16:24 _____

Note: This is the kind of conversion that we need. Christ must be the center and substance of everything. If we surrender to Jesus, if we open the door of our hearts and invite Him in, we will be in safe keeping.

3. What was done away with at the cross? Romans 6:6, 7

Note: The old man was destroyed on the cross. We are either a "Slave to God...or a slave of sin." Romans 6:22 Now you become a slave to Christ. A slave doesn't have any time off. Jesus delivers us from the slavery of sin and makes us FREE.

4. What symbol is used to describe this experience? Romans 6:3-5

5. What happens to the desires and passions of the flesh when you belong to Christ?

Galatians 5:24 _____

Note: The problem today is that too many people have been buried alive. The power of the Cross is that when I've been crucified with Christ I really do become a new creature in Him. It's time to invite Jesus to come into our hearts and take control. The reason Jesus had to die on the cross was to destroy sin in our lives! You and I can be free right now.

6. What did the 'spiritual rock' represent? 1 Corinthians 10:2-4

Note: Notice that the Israelites were baptized into the cloud and into the sea. This is going to be very important as we learn about the true meaning of baptism.

God illustrates the purpose of Baptism

7. What instrument did God instruct Moses to strike the rock with?

Exodus 17:5-6 _____

Note: According to I Corinthians 10:4 the 'Rock' that was struck represented Christ. The striking of the rock pointed forward to Christ's death, and through His death would come rivers of living waters. The instrument that Christ was struck with was the cross. So when we see the rod we see the cross.

8. What was in Moses' hand when Aaron and Hur held up his hand and Israel prevailed?

Exodus 17:8-12 _____

Note: Aaron represented the High Priestly ministry of Christ in heaven, Hur represented the earthly ministry of Jesus, Hur was from the tribe of Judah (Exodus 31:2), and Jesus was the Lion of the tribe of Judah in His earthly ministry. Notice how both the heavenly ministry of Christ and the earthly ministry of Christ is to hold up the cross. Remember the Rod (symbolizing the cross) was in Moses' hand as Aaron and Hur lifted up his arms.

9. What does the story of the Red Sea teach us about the purpose of baptism?

Exodus 14 _____

Note: The (Rod) was stretched out over the Red Sea to show the first work of the cross, deliverance from sin. The second work of the cross is demonstrated when Moses stretched out his (Rod) back over the sea, and the Egyptian army representing that old life of sin was utterly destroyed. The Red Sea is symbolic of the blood of Jesus. It is as we go through the cleansing blood of Christ that we experience deliverance from sin and power to move into the future. The power of the cross not only takes us from death to life...it delivers us from the power of SIN. Hallelujah!! The old life us sin is entirely destroyed. We serve a living Savior, that old man that Christ crucified on the cross is still dead. I think its time to sing.

10. What song will the redeemed sing when they get to heaven?

Revelation 15:2-4 _____

That song does not belong to the Jewish people alone. It points forward to the destruction of the enemies of all righteousness and the final victory of the people of God. John the revelator beholds, in vision, the white-robed multitude that have "received the victory." They are singing the song of Moses and the Lamb"

In freeing us from the slavery of sin, God has brought about a greater deliverance than that of the Hebrews at the Red Sea. Like the Hebrews, we should praise God with heart and soul and voice for His "wonderful works." The daily blessings that we receive from the hand of God, and above all else the death of Jesus to bring happiness and heaven within our reach, should be a theme for constant gratitude.

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6. Spiritual Warfare Unmasked

As the teachings of spiritualism are accepted by the masses, the restraint imposed upon the carnal heart is removed, and the profession of religion will become a cloak to conceal the worst of sins. A belief in spiritual manifestations opens the door to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils, and thus the influence of evil angels will be felt in the churches.

Those who teach spiritualism will engage in controversy with those who teach the truth. They will quote Scripture, as did Satan to Christ. "Prove all things," they say. But their idea of proving is to listen to their deceptive reasoning's, and to attend their meetings. It is true that spiritualism is now changing its form, and, veiling some of its more objectionable features, and is assuming a Christian guise.

These teachings cannot be denied or hidden. The people of God should be able to meet Satan, as did our Savior, with the words: "It is written." Those who would stand in this time of peril must understand for themselves the truth of the Bible. This study will search out the Christians spiritual warfare.

1. What type of battle are we faced with?

Ephesians 6:12 _____

Note: "Spiritual hosts of wickedness." Notice that not everything spiritual is good. We do not understand as we should the great conflict going on between invisible agencies, the controversy between loyal and disloyal angels. Over every man, good and evil angels strive. This is no make believe conflict.

2. What will happen to many professed Christians in the last days?

1 Timothy 4:1 _____

Note: False teachers will arise among us, giving heed to deceiving spirits whose doctrines are of satanic origin. These teachers will draw away disciples after themselves. Creeping in unawares, they will use flattering words, and make skilful misrepresentations with seductive tact.

3. How does a Christian stand against doctrines of demons?

Isaiah 8:19, 20 _____

Note: In these days of delusion, every variety of error will be brought out in the mysterious working of Satan, which would, if it were possible, deceive the very elect, and turn them from the truth. Everything must be tested by the Bible.

4. What is the danger in these last day deceptions?

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 _____

5. Where does the desire to heap up false teachers come from?

2 Timothy 4:3, 4 _____

Note: The time has come when people will be guided by their own desires and feelings rather than what God has said in His word. We must be guarded and not follow our own desires for they may lead us astray.

6. What have some crept into the church and done?

Jude 4 _____

Note: Many who profess Christianity turn the grace of God into a license to sin. Those who make a profession of being Christians, and still live a life of sin cast dishonor upon the truth of God.

7. How do these teachers allure the people?

2 Peter 2:18, 19 _____

8. What does the Bible call a person who turns people from the truth?

Acts 13:6-12 _____

Note: Bar-Jesus means son of Jesus in the Greek. Today it would be the equivalent of calling yourself a Christian.

9. What do false teachers make no difference between?

Ezekiel 22:26 _____

10. What will God's servants make a difference between?

Ezekiel 44:23 _____

Note: "Therefore, "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:17, 18. "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Corinthians 7:1

11. What has God called us to?

1 Thessalonians 4:7, 8 _____

Note: To make no distinction between the holy and the unholy, between the clean and the unclean, is to reject not man but God.

12. How do we stand in the evil day?

Ephesians 6:13-17 _____

Note: The deceptions will increase, and we are to call rebellion by its right name. We are to stand with the whole armor of God. In this conflict we do not battle against men but principalities and powers. We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against what is unseen. The only weapon for the Christian soldier is the sword of the word of God.

The warnings of the word of God regarding the perils surrounding the Christian church belong to us today. To many the Bible is as a lamp without oil. Personal opinions and religious traditions are destroying faith in the Bible as a divine revelation. They are robbing God's word of power to control, uplift, and inspire human lives. Through spiritualism, multitudes are taught to believe that desire is the highest law, that license to sin is liberty, and that man is accountable only to himself.

7. The Sign of a New Creation

The power of the cross creates and continues to work in all creation. When God creates it is "very good." So in Christ, there is "a new creation." "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10.

God wants us to think about His works all the time. When God had finished His work of creation in six days, "He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all His work which He had done in creation." Genesis 2:2, 3

Through the cross we are crucified to the world and the world to us. By the cross we are 'sanctified' [sin is removed from our life]. Sanctification is the work of God, not of man. In the beginning God sanctified the Sabbath as a memorial of His creative work, the evidence that His work was finished. Therefore He says, "Moreover I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I the Lord sanctify them." Ezekiel 20:12.

So we see that the Sabbath is the memorial of creation, and redemption is creation, creation through the cross. In the cross we find the complete and perfect works of God and we are clothed with them. Being crucified with Christ means inviting Jesus into my heart and giving Him full control. In Him we rest. In Him we find Sabbath. Resting upon the seventh day of the week is the sign of a new creation as seen in the cross, a rest from sin.

1. Who rested from work on the 7th day?

Genesis 2:1-3 _____

Note: The 7th day was a day of rest for God from all His Work which He had done. True rest can only be experienced when the work is done. As a result God is the only one who can ever truly rest from His work.

2. Who does the Sabbath belong to? Exodus 20:8-11

Note: The Sabbath is God's memorial to His works of creation. Deuteronomy 5:15 says, "remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand, by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord commanded you to keep the Sabbath day." The Sabbath is a memorial both at Creation and at Redemption.

3. What does a heart of unbelief do? Hebrews 3:12

4. What does unbelief keep a person from entering?

Hebrews 3:18-19 _____

Note: The word "sabbath" in Hebrew simply means rest. So in failing to enter His rest they were failing to enter sabbath rest.

5. What did Christ invite Thomas to do in response to his unbelief?

John 20:27 _____

Note: The attention was drawn to the wounds of the cross.

6. What impact does the cross have on unbelief?

John 20:28 _____

Note: Christ crucified and risen, is the message, the argument, the doctrine, and the warning to every sinner. Hanging upon the cross Christ was the gospel. No one who catches a vision of Jesus crucified can walk away with a lingering doubt. Unbelief is gone.

7. When the Gospel was preached to the people what did they fail to enter?

Hebrews 4:1-2 _____

Note: How did they come short of it? By not seeing Christ crucified with themselves in the sacrifices which they were offering.

8. How do we enter God's Rest?

Hebrews 4:3 _____

Note: But somebody will say, "Well, I don't believe it is necessary for me to keep the Sabbath." The Lord would say to them, "You cannot keep it, because only those who believe can enter into My rest." Only those who believe enter into God's rest, and those who do not believe cannot enter into God's rest.

9. What day is linked in some way with God's Rest?

Hebrews 4:4-5 _____

10. What invitation does Jesus give to those who are worn out?

Matthew 11:28-30 _____

Note: Do you know what makes us weary and tired, it is the pride of life that makes us think that we can and must do everything ourselves. But we can't do it, and that is what makes us tired. It is a simple fact that it is not the work that men do, so much as the work that they cannot do, that tires them? It is the work they try to do and fail to accomplish that tires them.

11. What evidence is there that we have entered His Rest?

Hebrews 4:9, 10 _____

12. What is the Sign that we have entered His Rest?

Ezekiel 20:12 _____

13. What connected with the seventh day Sabbath is holy?

Leviticus 23:3 _____

Note: The word Convocation means to call together a meeting. So like Christ, our custom will also be to go to church on the 7th day, the holy convocation of God's people.

When Christ was nailed upon the cross, what were the last words he uttered? - "It is finished." What was finished? - The new creation. As we invite Jesus into our hearts He crucifies self for us and then raises us to a new life in Christ. The 7th day Sabbath is the sign of Christ's power to make us holy. Therefore the 7th day Sabbath is the sign of the perfect rest.

8. The Crucified Life

The cross of Christ is lifted up between heaven and earth. Here comes the Father and the whole train of holy angels; and as they approach the cross, the Father bows and the sacrifice is accepted. Then comes man, with his burden of sin, to the cross. It is at the cross that Christ takes the burden of sin rolls it away. Here mercy and truth have met together and righteousness and peace have kissed each other. And Christ says, "I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto Me."

As the sinner falls at the foot of the cross, he begins to marvel, and is abased. What is the reason for this? Why, he sees that there is a transgressed law, and that man cannot keep it, but he sees Christ, and with hope and faith he grasps the arm of infinite power and repents at every step.

The knowledge of the law would condemn the sinner, and crush hope from his breast, if he did not see Jesus as his substitute and surety, ready to pardon his transgression and to cleanse him from all sin.

1. What is the Bible definition for sin? 1 John 3:4 _____

2. What happened to sin through the commandment?

Romans 7:13 _____

Note: This text shows the purpose of the law was not the creation of sin, but the discovery of sin. It was not designed to increase the amount of sin, but to reveal the exceeding sinfulness of sin already existing.

3. What is the law considered to be?

Romans 7:14 _____

Note: If this fact were more generally recognized, people would not try to enforce the observance of the commandments of God. Since the law is spiritual, it can be obeyed only by the power of the Spirit of God. "God is Spirit" (John 4:24); therefore the law is the nature of God. Spiritual is opposed to carnal, or fleshly. So the man who is in the flesh can not please God.

4. How many sins does it take to separate us from God?

Genesis 3:6, 7 _____

Note: The gospel demands holiness, righteousness. Whoever is looking for the soon return of Jesus purifies himself even as Christ is pure. We are called to live a life in Christ. It only took one sin to exclude Adam and Eve from the garden.

5. Why does the law bring us to Christ?

Galatians 3:24 _____

Note: To be justified means to be pardoned. Those who are justified by God receive the righteousness of Christ; for the Savior has taken away their sins. They stand before the throne of God justified and accepted. They have crucified self, and Christ abides in their hearts.

6. What will a person justified by Christ refuse to live in?

Romans 6:1, 2 _____

Note: The soul who sees Jesus by faith, despises his own righteousness. He sees himself as incomplete, his repentance worthless, his strongest faith but weakness, his most costly sacrifice as nothing, and he sinks in humility at the foot of the cross. But a voice speaks to him from the pages of God's Word. In amazement he hears the message, "You are complete in Him." Colossians 2:10.

7. Why was the old man crucified with Christ on the cross?

Romans 6:6 _____

Note: That which is destroyed is the body of sin, and it is destroyed only by this personal presence of the life of Christ. It is destroyed in order that we may be freed from its power, and may no longer need to serve it. It is destroyed for everybody, for Christ in His own flesh has abolished "the enmity," the carnal mind; not His own, for He had none, but ours.

8. What did Christ become for us? 2 Corinthians 5:21 _____**9. What will be fulfilled in us as a result of Christ's sacrifice on the cross?**

Romans 8:3, 4 _____

10. How is the born again experience to be maintained?

1 John 3:6 _____

Note: No one abides in Christ, who understandingly breaks the law of God. "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked." 1 John 2:6

11. What keeps the born again Christian from his old life of sin?

1 John 3:9 _____

Note: Therefore "abide in Him."

12. What is Christ's invitation?

Revelation 3:20 _____

Many have an idea that they must do some part of the work alone. They have trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sin, but now they try by their own efforts to do what is right. But every effort like this will fail. Jesus says, "*Without me ye can do nothing.*" Our growth in grace, our joy, our usefulness--all depend upon our abiding in Christ. It is by abiding in Him--that we grow in grace.

But, I ask, "How am I supposed to abide in Christ?"--The same way I received Him at first. "*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him*" (Col. 2:6). You gave yourself to God, to be His totally, to serve and obey Him, and you took Christ as your Savior. You could not of yourself atone for your sins or change your heart, but having given yourself to God, you believed that He for Christ's sake did all this for you. By faith you became Christ's, and by faith you are to grow up in Him--by giving and taking. You are to give all --your heart, your will, your service--give yourself to Him to obey all His requirements; and you must take all--Christ, the fullness of all blessing, to abide in your heart, to be your strength, your righteousness, your everlasting helper--to give you power to obey.

Your weakness is united to His strength, your ignorance to His wisdom, your frailty to His enduring might. So you are not to look to yourself, not to let the mind dwell upon self, but look to Christ. Let the mind dwell upon His love, upon the beauty, the perfection, of His character. Christ in His self-denial, Christ in His humiliation, Christ in His purity and holiness, Christ in His matchless love--this is the subject for the soul's contemplation. It is by loving Him, copying Him, depending entirely upon Him, that you are to be transformed into His likeness.

9. Three Ways to Die

Satan cannot hold the dead in his grasp when the Son of God bids them live. He cannot hold in spiritual death one soul who in faith receives Christ's word of power. God is saying to all who are dead in sin, "Awake you who sleep, and arise from the dead."

In the new birth the heart is brought into harmony with God, and there is a death to sin and self. When this mighty change has taken place in the sinner, he has passed from death to life, from sin to holiness, from transgression and rebellion to obedience and loyalty.

Those who will stand in this time of peril must understand the testimony of the Bible concerning the spiritually dead, the death to sin and self, and the physical death; each of these build on another to explain the power of the cross to save us from sin and deception. This study will investigate the topic of death in the Bible.

1. What is our condition from birth because of sin? Psalms 58:3 _____

2. What is our spiritual condition as a result of sin?

Ephesians 2:1 _____

Note: By nature we are alienated from God. The Bible describes our condition in such words as these: "Dead in trespasses and sins." We are held fast in the snare of Satan; "taken captive by him at his will." God desires to heal us, to set us free. But since this requires an entire transformation, a renewing of our whole nature, we must yield ourselves completely to Him.

3. What do we need to be delivered from?

Romans 7:24 _____

Note: This is the cry that has gone up from burdened hearts in all lands and in all ages. There is only one answer, "Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world."

4. What is the result of dying with Christ?

Romans 6:8 _____

Note: When we give up our life to Christ and everything that is connected with it, at that very moment we die with Christ. What is it that we naturally have in ourselves to give up? It is sin! It is envy, hatred, selfishness, and pride. We give this up in order to live. We die with Christ so that we live forever with Him.

5. What can the Christian count as a fact?

Romans 6:10-11 _____

Note: We are dead to the sin which has held us, because sin has been put to death by Christ. "The law has dominion over a man as long as he lives." When he is dead, there is nothing more that it can do to him. Sin is dead, count it a fact.

6. What is the purpose of the gospel?

Luke 15:22-24 _____

Note: Christ has abolished death by destroying the power of sin in all who receive Him into the heart, for death has no power except through sin. So now we may joyfully say, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

7. What does Jesus refer to Himself as?

John 11:11-14, 23-25 _____

Note: He says to the repenting, "I am the resurrection, and the life" (John 11:25). Death is looked upon by Christ as sleep--silence, darkness, sleep. "Whoever lives and believes in me," He says, "will never die" (John 11:26). "If anyone keeps my word, he shall never taste death" (John 8:52) And to the believing one, death is but a small matter. With him to die is but to sleep.

8. What two components make up a living soul?

Genesis 2:7

Note: God formed man of the dust (earth). Here we have two elements: a clay body and God's breath of life. Through the union of these, man became a living soul. It's important to note that man was not given a "soul" as something separate from the body, but became a soul through the union of body and God's breath. Body + Breath = Soul. Body - Breath = Death.

9. What happens at the physical death?

Job 34:14-15

Note: The Spirit or breath returns to God at death. "It is the Spirit who gives life." The Spirit and breath in the Bible are interchangeable; the spirit gives life to the mortal body and to the body that is dead because of sin. "The Spirit is life because of righteousness." See Psalms 104:29-30.

10. What gives us life? Job 33:4

Note: It is only by the power of the Spirit of God that any person can live; it is the same Spirit that in the beginning hovered over the face of the deep and brought order out of chaos. By the same breath were the heavens made. Psalm 33:6. The Spirit of God is the life of the universe. Jesus said on the cross "Father into your hands I commend My spirit and having said this He breathed His last." Luke 23:46

11. What happens to our thoughts when we die?

Psalms 146:4

Note: When the old man of sin is crucified in that very day his thoughts perish; and it is also for the physical death.

12. What do the dead know?

Ecclesiastes 9:5-6, 10

Note: "The dead know nothing." This Scripture will keep us from that old life of sin and will guard us from the deceptions of Satan in manifesting himself as dead loved ones. When the temptation comes to lead us from the cross we must respond with "the dead know nothing" and if a dead loved one is manifested we respond the same, "the dead know nothing."

13. When does our change come?

Job 14:10-14 & 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Note: The second coming of Jesus is the great hope of every believer.

10. How to Carry the Cross by Faith

Faith has always led its possessor to keep the commandments of God; and it has inspired human beings with a calm and rational fearlessness of death, whether it came to them in the form of the sword or the cross.

We are to be controlled by faith and not by feelings. We should go in direct opposition to our feelings when they go contrary to the Word of God. This is denying ourselves and this is exactly what Jesus has asked us to do; this is crucifying the old man and crucifying the flesh with its passions and desires.

The possessor of faith is often called to pass through many dark hours, many trials, and inward sorrow and anguish. This lesson will open to us how to carry the cross by faith, feeling or no feeling.

1. How do we walk with the cross? 2 Corinthians 5:7

Note: Faith and feeling are as far apart as the east is from the west. Faith does not depend on feelings.

2. What restricts our walk with the cross?

2 Corinthians 6:12

Note: Our Christian life does not depend upon our feelings, but upon our having a right relationship with Christ. Our temptations, our ideas, our feelings, must all be laid at the foot of the cross. Then the soul is ready to listen to words of divine instruction.

3. What must be done with our own affections and desires?

Galatians 5:24

Note: Human nature is always struggling for expression. If we are to be made complete in Christ, we must be emptied of pride and selfishness. Then there is silence in the soul, and God's voice can be heard. But until self is crucified at the cross we can not reach God's ideal for us.

4. What did Christ overcome for us in the garden of Gethsemane?

Matthew 26:38-39

Note: Christ was feeling how terrible the wrath of God is against transgression, when He exclaimed, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death." He was feeling the offensive character of the sin that He must bear. Although the terrible feeling of condemnation loomed over Christ, He clung to His Father in prayer saying "Nevertheless not as I will but Your will be done." See also Luke 22:44-45

5. What protects us from our old desires and emotions?

Ephesians 6:14

Note: Those who are always verbalizing their doubts and demanding additional evidence to get rid of their unbelief are not building on the Word of God. Their faith is based on their feelings and circumstances. There is only one power that can guard and keep us steadfast--the power of God.

6. What did Paul and Silas do when they were in physical pain?

Acts 16:25-31

Note: Faith and feeling are distinct, one not being dependent upon the other. Faith, relying upon the simple promise, takes God at his word, not because of any special feeling, but because the Lord has said it, and will fulfill His word.

7. What does Jesus tell us to rejoice in?

Luke 10:17-20

Note: We cannot mix faith and feeling together. Our feelings have nothing to do with faith. When by faith the blessing comes and you rejoice in the blessing, you are no longer walking by faith but by feeling.

8. What sanctifies the blessing?

Matthew 23:18-19

Note: The message of the cross is to be proclaimed with a loud voice through out the land. Every thread of selfishness is to be swept away by the cross. Let every altar be thrown down, except the one that sanctifies the gift and the giver--the cross of Calvary.

9. What must we not be moved away from?

Colossians 1:23

Note: It is not to be physically moved away from the ‘hope of the gospel’ that Paul is concerned with but rather having our emotions lead us away from principle and into unbelief.

10. What must be girded up? 1 Peter 1:13-14

Note: We must recognize how important it is to keep the mind from wandering to forbidden themes or from spending our energies on petty subjects. Those who want to have victory over temptation must guard the avenues to the mind; they must avoid reading, seeing, or hearing that which will suggest impure thoughts. The mind must not be left to dwell at random upon any subject that the Satan may suggest.

11. What is the result of setting our minds on earthly things?

Philippians 3:18-19

Note: All should guard the senses or Satan will gain the victory over them. Satan and his angels are busy creating a paralyzed condition of the senses so that cautions, warnings, and reproofs will not be heard; or, if heard, that they will not take effect upon the heart or change the life.

12. Where will the mind of the Christian be?

Colossians 3:2-3

Note: As we surrender our lives to Jesus and take up our cross we have signified that we “are dead, and our life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear then you will also appear with Him in glory.”

Many know so little of faith that when they have asked God for his help and blessing, they look to themselves to see if their prayer is answered; and if they have a happy feeling, they are satisfied. This is not faith, but unbelief. We should trust God, whether we experience any change of feeling or not. We cannot expect to be joyful and hopeful while we look to ourselves; for we must think of self as sinful. The majority of professed Christians are watching their feelings; but feeling is an unsafe guide, and those who depend upon it are in danger of being deceived. Satan can move upon our feelings, and he can so arrange surrounding circumstances as to make our feelings changeable. Victory in God is not feeling, but faith. It is the faith that will not yield although there are seeming impossibilities to be encountered.

11. The Second Coming

The second coming of the Lord has been in all ages the hope of His true followers. The Savior's parting promise that He would come again, lighted up the future for His disciples, filling their hearts with joy and hope. Even sorrow and trials could not quench this hope.

From the dungeon to the stake saints and martyrs witnessed for the truth. Down through the centuries come the utterance of their faith and hope. They looked for the Lord to come from heaven in the clouds with the glory of His Father, this blessed hope burned within their hearts.

The Reformers of old longed for this day. "This aged world is not far from its end," said Melanchthon. John Calvin urged Christians, "We must hunger after Christ, we must seek Him with the whole heart, till the dawning of that great day, when our Lord will return in all of His glory."

If death is the last enemy to be destroyed at the resurrection, we may learn how earnestly believers should long and pray for the second coming of Christ, when this full and final victory will take place. This is the day that all believers should hope, and wait for, because it is the fulfillment of all the work of their redemption. May the blessed day of the Lord come quickly!

1. At Jesus' trial, just before His crucifixion, what did He predict?

Matthew 26:63-64 _____

Note: Jesus predicted His coming again which would be in power. His power is the message of the cross which has freed the captives of this world from the slavery of sin.

2. What is God's promise to us?

John 14:1-3 _____

Note: The Second Coming of Christ is the great promise for every Christian. Our home is in heaven. Until then we must realize, and constantly keep reminding ourselves, that we are pilgrims here waiting for the day when He returns.

3. Who is going to come again the same way he was taken up into heaven?

Acts 1:9-11 _____

Note: This same Jesus, who was crucified for our sin will return in like manner. This same Jesus who was buried and resurrected will come to redeem His children from earth, to live and reign with Him forever.

4. What are Christ's followers to continue to proclaim until He comes?

1 Corinthians 11:25-26 _____

Note: Christ's death, burial, and resurrection is the power for all Christians who live in this sinful world. "Always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body."

5. What will God's end time people be looking for?

Titus 2:13-14 _____

Note: All heaven is busily engaged in preparing for the day of the Lord. The time of waiting is almost over. The pilgrims and strangers on earth who have been seeking a better country are almost home. It makes you feel like crying out, Homeward bound! Rapidly we are nearing the time when Jesus will come to gather His redeemed.

6. What influence does this hope have on the life?

1 John 3:2-3 _____

Note: With the realization of Christ's soon return, the Christian will seek Jesus to cleanse his life from all things that would cause separation.

7. Who will see Jesus come?

Revelation 1:7 _____

Note: Here are the very men who placed upon Jesus the purple robe, who placed a thorny crown upon His head, and bowed before him in blasphemous mockery. The men who struck and spit upon the Prince of life, now turn from his piercing gaze, and seek to flee from the overpowering glory of his presence. The unrepentant one's who drove the nails through His hands and feet, behold these marks with terror and flee.

8. What influence does the second coming have on those who reject it?

Revelation 6:14-17 _____

9. What awesome event takes place at the second coming?

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 _____

Note: Then Jesus' silver trumpet sounded, as He descended on the cloud, wrapped in flames of fire. He gazed on the graves of the sleeping saints, then raised His eyes and hands to heaven, and cried, "Awake! Awake! You that sleep in the dust, and arise." The graves opened, and the righteous dead come up clothed with everlasting life. They shout "Hallelujah!" as they recognized their friends and family who had been torn from them by death.

10. When Jesus comes again what will the redeemed say?

Isaiah 25:9 _____

Note: With such a glorious hope before us, with a redemption that Christ has purchased for us with His own blood, can we be silent? We should praise God with a loud voice. We have tasted the power of the world to come, and long for more.

11. How many need to make a decision for Christ now? Joel 3:14 _____

Note: Our attention must be focused on Jesus. Multitudes are in the valley of decision. Before the second coming of our Lord a voice is crying out "If the Lord is God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him."

12. When will the end of the world come?

Matthew 24:14 _____

Note: "Prepare to meet your God." The Gospel will prepare the world to meet Jesus. It is the message of the cross the total destruction of sin that will prepare the believers to meet their God.