



Discover the reality of **KNOWING GOD**

Have the certainty of eternal life in heaven after death

“Remember that you were...separate from Christ...having no hope and without God in the world.”

Ephesians 2:12

In the world there have always been evil groups like organized crime, terrorist organizations, even common criminals which are evident today. In human relationships there has always been discord like wars, human trafficking, abortion, divorce, and lawlessness which are evident today. In individual lives there has always been moral compromise like fraud, lies, thievery, adultery, drunkenness, and slander which are also evident today.

Observation of the myriad evils in the world have led many to agree with English writer, philosopher, lay theologian, and literary critic G. K. Chesterton: “Original sin is the only Christian doctrine that's been empirically validated by 2,000 years of human history.” In other words, the evidence of history confirms our sin nature. Long before Chesterton even lived, God had already declared that the fundamental disharmony within human beings is a sin nature. In fact, God says this is not limited to so-called “bad” people.

1. The Bible says: **Sin is a UNIVERSAL condition of all people.**

- *“...for there is no distinction, for **all** have sinned...”* Romans. 3:22b-23
- *“If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.”* 1 John 1:8

In the United States we are a people who historically respect the “rule of law.” We understand there are consequences for everyone equally, whenever laws are violated. Likewise, in spiritual matters, one of the attributes of the infinite and personal Creator is holiness. That’s good, unless you are a sinner! God has established a perfect moral law for His creation. All sinners violate that spiritual rule of law which has serious consequences.

Something to think about:

Sinning is not primarily something that a person does, but something a person is!

2. The Bible says: **The consequences of sin are SEPARATION from God and DEATH.**

- *“But your **wrongdoings** have caused a **separation** between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you...”* Isaiah 59:2
- *“For the wages of sin is death...”* Romans 6:23a
- *“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so **death** spread to all mankind, because all sinned...”* Romans 5:12

3. The Bible says: **Jesus Christ has provided the ONLY WAY back to God.**

- *“The next day he [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming to him, and said, ‘Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’”* John 1:29
- Jesus said to him, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.”* John 14:6
- *“And there is salvation [redemption] in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven... by which we must be saved.”* Acts 4:12

Does everyone who says they believe in God have a personal relationship with Him?

Jesus taught (John 8:34-47): If I don’t confess faith in Jesus as God the **SON**, then my sin separates me from God the **FATHER** too, and I am not in personal relationship with God.

Through the sacrifice system of ancient Judaism, God made one point clear: sin means **DEATH**. A just God would no longer be just if He ignored law breakers. A “Go’el” (redeemer) is needed who can remove the sin and its consequences so a forgiven relationship with God can be re-established. Through the Old Testament Law, God taught the Hebrew people that only a **kinsman** (relative) could qualify as a Go’el (see **Leviticus 25:24-5** [property], **48-9** [slavery]; **Ruth 3:13** [barrenness]; **Numbers 35:19** [murder]).

The Scriptures also observe that *“no one can by any means redeem another or give God a ransom for him – for the redemption of his soul is priceless...” (Psalm 49:6-7)*. Why? All have sinned and need a redeemer (Go’el”) themselves. God then announced that He would be our Go’el, *“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine”* (Isaiah 43:1). But how? God had said that only a kinsman (human) can qualify to be a redeemer. To be eligible, God became flesh (human) as Jesus Christ to be both qualified as a human and efficacious to redeem because Jesus was without sin.

Jesus taught (John 3:3-5): If I don’t have **NEW LIFE FROM ABOVE** then I’m not in personal relationship with God and will not have eternal life in heaven.

Something to think about ... Many people in the world believe in God or a god, but without faith in Jesus their sin remains – and they are still aliens, separated from God.

4. The Bible says: **Jesus Christ's death was a SUBSTITUTE to redeem people from sin into a forgiven relationship with God.**

- *“For Christ also suffered for sins once for all time, the just for the unjust; so that He might bring us to God.”* 1 Peter 3:18
- *“He Himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.”* 1 Peter 2:24
- *“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.”* Romans 5:6

Jesus’ death freed God to forgive us of our sin because our substitute, Jesus, satisfied His justice. Jesus paid our debt. This act reveals another attribute of God – His love – as expressed in the familiar Bible passage John 3:16. Personalize it by putting your first name in each of the blanks.

“God so loved DON that He gave His one and only Son, that if DON believes in Him, DON shall not perish but have eternal life.”

5. The Bible says: **God's forgiveness through Christ's death must be affirmed by REPENTANCE and a CONFESSION of FAITH.**

- *“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out...”* Acts 3:19
- *“... if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”* Romans 10:9
- *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”* 1 John 1:9

God is our righteous and omnipotent Creator but will not coerce us to do His will. His will is for everyone to be in heaven and invites us to settle our sin debt “out of court.” We can ignore His invitation, say “no” to it, or we can accept His forgiveness by acknowledging our sin and confessing faith in Jesus. If “yes” then the Bible exclaims, *“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”* Romans 8:1

Something to think about:

Repentance is a change of mind resulting in a change of life!

6. The Bible says: **God's act of grace in those who confess faith in Jesus Christ includes NEW BIRTH, ADOPTION into God’s eternal family, and the indwelling HOLY SPIRIT.**

- Jesus answered and said to him [Nicodemus], *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again [new life from above], he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* John 3:3
 - *“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God -- children born not of natural descent... but born of God.”* John 1:12
 - *“Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you.”* I Cor. 3:16
- The new relationship we experience is based on God’s grace, *“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should*

boast.” **Ephesians 2:8-9** This contradicts the erroneous view that many people have about becoming/being a Christian; that is, people think that it is based on being good enough. Not true!

The gift of the Holy Spirit has special meaning. The Bible says, regarding the Spirit, that “*you were sealed in Him*” (Ephesians 1:13). The word ‘sealed’ indicates ownership – you now belong to God. You have been adopted into His family and He is now your heavenly Father.

The Holy Spirit is also “*given as a pledge of our inheritance*” (v. 14). The word ‘pledge’ is like an earnest we give to secure a home purchase until the closing date. It is His promise that He will show up at the closing to complete His purchase of you. It is God’s promise that He is coming again to complete our redemption by taking us with Him to heaven forever.

7. The Bible says: **God's act of grace in those who place their trust in Jesus Christ includes the GIFT and ASSURANCE of eternal life in heaven.**

- “*...the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” Romans 6:23b
- “*For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son, and believes in Him may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.*” John 6:40
- “*These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.*” I John 5:13

Action Step

God promises that we will have peace with Him and receive eternal life after death if we act on these seven biblical truths. I have personally found that by repentance of my sin and embracing Jesus Christ as my Savior years ago, every aspect of my life even now has been enriched. If you are uncertain about your relationship with God or sense a conviction to take the step of initiating a new beginning with Him, take time now to talk with Him about it. The prayer below may help you verbalize your heart.

Dear God,

I have ignored or resisted your invitation to follow you for forgiveness and eternal life. I want to know the reality of a personal relationship with you. I now understand that you desire that relationship with me as well, but my sin is in the way. I acknowledge that I am a sinner and am truly sorry for my sin. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross in my place so I can be forgiven. I am thankful for that. Create new life within me by your gift of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit and enable me to understand and follow your Word from this day on. Thank you for adopting me into your heavenly family and giving me the gift and assurance of eternal life. Amen.*

“But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ...So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow-citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household.” Ephesians 2:13, 19

*If you have sincerely repented of your sin and embraced Jesus Christ as your Savior as a result of this Bible study, author Dr. Don invites you to let him know (email to info@faithsearch.org). He will send a free copy of his *Growing Faith* Bible study manual to encourage and help you grow in your faith. You can also go to our free Bible Learning Center (www.FaithSearchLearning.org) and register there for the *Growing Faith* course (free). There Dr. Don will guide you through the manual with video instruction. If you have questions or concerns, E-mail to info@faithsearch.org or call 952-401-4501 (T-Th 9:00-4:00 CT). God be with you!