

Score the goal of your life!

This brief course has been prepared
by the personnel of DIME
(International Distributors of
Evangelical Materials) with the object
of presenting the reader with a simple
study about God's plan for their life.

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Introduction

If we conducted a poll to determine the most important goal in life, we would end up with an enormous number of different theories and ideas about this question.

Considering that the Lord Jesus Christ said in Matthew 16:26, "What will it benefit a man (or a woman) if he gains the whole world but loses his soul?", what do you think is the most important thing for a human being from the following list?

- a. ☐ to obtain the best possible education
- b. ☐ to leave a good inheritance to one's children
- c. ☐ to concern oneself with the salvation of his or her soul

What the Lord Jesus said is a matter of supreme importance for our lives. The salvation of our soul, which is another way of saying "not losing our soul", is not an easy issue to resolve.

In this brief study we will consult the Bible in the belief that it is the absolute truth and that if we follow its advice to the end, we will know with surety that we have arrived at our goal: to ascertain our eternal destiny.

The fact is, it is important that you think about what God says about you and about how you can obtain the salvation of your soul. If what you come to believe lines up with what God says in the Bible, you will have scored the goal of your life.

We believe that the Bible clearly presents God's point of view concerning your life. Thank you for giving us the privilege of sharing that point of view with you.

What do we base our study on?

The world in which we live abounds in disillusionment, frustrations, loneliness, rejection and even desperation. On the other hand, in the Bible we find hope, encouragement, and the answers to many of our most important questions.

In the second letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, it says in chapter 3, verse 16, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."

We believe that this affirmation written by Paul is worthy of our consideration. At this point, which of the following statements best fits your opinion of the Bible?

- a. ☐ The Bible is an ancient book, and its principles are out of date.
- b. ☐ The Bible is the only reliable authority because it is the Word of God.
- c. ☐ The Bible is a difficult book to understand.
- d. ☐ We should take other opinions into account before we put our entire trust in the Bible.

The victorious life

Throughout the ages, men have sought to discover how to live a successful and worthwhile life. Everyone wants to come out on top, to take the steps that assure the best outcome for oneself. We believe that this is true of you as well, and that you have elected to study the Bible to learn more about the plan that God has for you, and how you can arrive at the most desirable goal of all: to go to heaven.

If you answer “Yes” to any of the following questions, we invite you to study this course, which aims to guide you to achieving the greatest objective in life:

____ Would you like to be sure that you're going to heaven?

____ Do you believe that God might not let you into heaven?

____ Do you believe that God loves you?

____ Would it interest you to know why God sent His Son Jesus into the world?

____ Would you like to know what the Bible says about what God is offering?

LESSON 1

What God offers

In the Bible, Jesus said in the book of John, chapter 10, verse 10, *"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."* In John 5:24, Jesus said, *"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."*

Who is Jesus Christ?

When we meet a person for the first time, two questions are likely to come to mind: Who is this? What does he or she do?

Upon encountering Jesus Christ in the Bible, we could ask the same two questions. On one occasion, Jesus asked his disciples, *"Who do men say that I am?"* When they gave various incorrect answers, He asked, *"And you, who do you say that I am?"* The question was of vital importance in that day, and it still is centuries later. The answer is the foundation of Christian faith, and we hope that pursuing this study will help you find the answer.

Read the following Bible verses and answer the question which follows each verse:

His humanity

1. *"But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law..."* (Galatians 4:4).

How does this verse describe the birth of Jesus, the Son of God? _____

2. *"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king..."* (Matthew 2:1).

Where was Jesus born? _____

(If you have a Bible, read the complete account of the birth of Jesus Christ in Matthew 1:18 and in Luke 1:26 to 2:20).

3. *"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."* (Luke 2:52).

How was the childhood of Jesus similar to that of other children? _____

4. *"Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour"* (John 4:6).

How is Jesus' humanity demonstrated in this verse?

Human, but without sin

5. *"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin."* (Hebrews 4:15).

Although Jesus was tempted like all humans are, how was he different from everyone else?

6. *"Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?"* (John 8:46).

For what reason did Jesus reprimand the Jews who did not believe in Him?

His divinity

Some refer to Christ as a "great man". To others, he was the founder of just another religion among many. But Jesus declared Himself to be the Son of God. If He is not really the Son of God, we can't very well think of Him as a "great man", because He would be an impostor and a liar for misrepresenting who He is.

750 years before Christ was born, the prophet Isaiah foretold this event, and declared *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* (Isaiah 9:6).

7. *"That all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent Him."* (John 5:23).

Jesus Christ shows us that He should receive the same honor as:_____

8. *"Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God!'"*
(John 20:28).

Jesus allowed Thomas to call Him his:_____

His divine characteristics

Jesus Christ has many titles: Son of God, Son of Man, Savior, Lord, Master, Messiah, and many others. One title given to Christ in the gospel is "The Word" since He is the living message of God for mankind.

9. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"* (John 1:1).

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only,

who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

According to these verses, how long has the Word (Jesus Christ) existed? _____

What is the meaning of "the Word became flesh"?

10. *"When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven'" (Mark 2:5).*

"I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.' He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'" (Mark 2:11-12)

Jesus demonstrates His power to heal a paralyzed man, and at the same time declares that He has authority to:

Before continuing with the next lesson, we want you to consider something very important:

The Bible shows us that God loves us and that He sent His Son Jesus Christ to this world.

But does He assure us that we will go to heaven? Will we be able to enter into the presence of a holy God?

Human beings have a big problem, and this problem is called SIN.

Romans 3:23 says, *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

What is sin? To mention a few examples, we can say it means to rob, to disobey, to lie, to hate, to think evil, etc.

According to Romans 3:23, do you think that you are a sinner? _____

However, there is hope for sinners: *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 6:23). This verse says that the consequence of sin is DEATH, that is, eternal death. But also tells us, "the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

LESSON 2

The work of Jesus Christ

What did Christ do? He healed the sick, raised people from the dead, fed hungry multitudes, and made friends with sinners and the marginalized persons of the society of His time. From His lips flowed words of wisdom and power that astonished His listeners. He lived a sinless life, a life that was an example, as well as a challenge, for those who knew Him. He allowed His enemies to take Him to His death as if He were a common criminal.

The life and teachings of Jesus are important, but we see the essential purpose of His coming to earth in His death, His resurrection, and His ascension into Heaven.

Read the following Bible verses and answer the questions which follow:

Jesus dies

1. *"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save His people from their sins"* (Matthew 1:21).

When the angel announced Jesus' birth, what reason did He give for Jesus coming to the world?

2. *“From that time on Jesus began to explain to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life” (Matthew 16:21).*

Jesus revealed to his disciples that he needed to go to Jerusalem, be _____ by the religious leaders, and later to be _____ and _____ on the third day following.

The account of the trial and death sentence of Jesus Christ is found in Matthew 26:47 to 27:56, Mark 14:47 to 14:57, Luke 22:47 to 23:56 and John 18:1-19:42.

3. *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).*

How did God show his love for mankind?

Here are some pertinent verses from the Old Testament: *“But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:5-6).*

4. According to the prophet Isaiah, why did Christ have to suffer? _____

5. How would you describe the sinful attitude of man?
-

6. According to the same verses from Isaiah, what happened to our sin? _____
7. Scripture adds, in Hebrews 10:17, *"Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."*
- Through the death of Christ, a new relationship between God and man was established. What is God's attitude about the sins of man? Check the correct answer:
- a. ☐ He will postpone punishment.
 - b. ☐ God will completely forget our sins (if we believe in Him).
 - c. ☐ God will write off our sins as human weakness.
 - d. ☐ God will allow man to gain pardon of sin through man's own efforts.

Jesus rose from the dead

8. *"Jesus answered them, "'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.'" They replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?' But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken" (John 2:19).*

What did Jesus say would happen after His death?

9. *"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve" (1 Corinthians 15:3-5).*

According to these verses, who saw Jesus after
His resurrection? _____

10. *"...through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by His resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Romans 1:4).

The resurrection of Jesus revealed that He was:

The founders of man-made religions have died. The followers of Christ have a living Savior who arose from the grave as a conqueror over death.

Jesus ascended to Heaven

11. *"Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven'"* (Acts 1:9-11).

While his disciples were watching, what happened to Jesus?

12. *"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you"* (John 14:2).

Here we learn that Jesus had gone to heaven to:

13. *"Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us"* (Romans 8:34).

Now that Jesus Christ is at the right hand of God, what is He doing for us? _____

In His time on this earth, Jesus prayed not only for His disciples, but also for the rest of us as well. *"I don't pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word"* (John 17:20). For almost 2,000 years, Jesus Christ has prayed for those who have trusted in Him; and He continues to pray for the same things now that He prayed back then.

Review the questions and answers already posed in this chapter, and think about them.

Have you learned anything special?

Dear student, before starting the last lesson of this course, please think about the following:

- Is it fair for God to punish sin with death?
- Can any human pay his or her way out of the penalty for sin?
- Why was the death of Jesus Christ necessary to pay the cost of our sins?

"...who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit" (1 Peter 3:18).

God is perfect and holy, and nothing imperfect can be in His presence.

Jesus Christ is just, and without sin. He alone could pay the

penalty of death for the unjust (that's us!) in order to make us blameless before God.

We would never be able to pay our way out of punishment for our sins, because the price had to be paid by one who never sinned. Jesus Christ never sinned, and therefore didn't deserve death, but because of His great love for us He became as a mortal man in order to pay the price for our sins, and to give us eternal life.

LESSON 3

Eternal life in Christ

Throughout the ages, mankind has tried to discover the mystery of the "great beyond." It is certain that each one of us will personally face eternity.

What is eternal life? Who can have eternal life? Can we be sure that we have it? The Bible answers these questions.

Read the following Bible verses and answer the questions which follow:

What is the source of eternal life?

1. *"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'" (John 14:6).*

- a. What did Jesus say about Himself?

- b. What did Jesus say about the belief that there are many roads to God _____

2. *"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36).*

Those who believe in Christ have _____.
On the other hand, those who decline to believe in Him will
not have eternal life in heaven, but will

3. *"And you He made alive..."* (Ephesians 2:1).

In what condition is each person who has not received the life
that Jesus offers?

How do we receive eternal life?

Faith, the kind which saves our souls, is more than just accepting the facts about Jesus Christ; it means that one admits to his or her sins and trusts only in Christ for salvation. Most factual ideas are accepted with certainty, but they don't require your life's commitment to them. But to have saving faith in Jesus Christ means that you completely entrust your eternal destiny to Him. Upon doing this, you have eternal life, and you are free from the penalty that your sins have earned.

4. *"And he brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' So they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household'"* (Acts 16:30-31).

What was the Apostle Paul's reply to the Philippian jailer
when he asked Paul what he must do to be saved?

- a. ☐ That he should change his life around.
- b. ☐ That he should change religions.
- c. ☐ That he should believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- d. ☐ That he should quit mistreating prisoners.

5. *“To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins”*
(Acts 10:43).

What do we receive when we believe in Christ?

6. *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name”*
(John 1:12).

Who has the right to be called a child of God?

7. *“And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life”*
(1 John 5:11-12).

Who has eternal life? _____

Have you trusted Christ for eternal life? _____

Can we be sure that we have eternal life?

Some people think that we can't know for sure if we have eternal life. Others think that only certain people know it. Still others say that we'll only know when we reach the "life beyond".

Satan (the devil) enjoys planting seeds of doubt in our hearts about salvation, but God gives us complete assurance of eternal life through His words in the Bible.

8. *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:13).*

What was John's purpose in writing his first letter?

9. *"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18).*

What does Jesus declare about:

- a. ☐ Those who believe in Him?
-

- b. ☐ Those who don't believe in Him?
-

10. *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand" (John 10:27-29).*

In whose hands is the assurance of the believer in Christ?

11. *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life" (John 5:24).*

There are three promises in this verse for him or her who hears the word of God and believes it. Can you say what they are?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The promise of the Holy Spirit

As a result of salvation, God has promised the believer that He would send the Holy Spirit to live in him or her. The Holy Spirit guides and teaches the believer in his or her new life in Christ, and repeatedly gives assurance of salvation when doubts occur. In the following verse, the Holy Spirit is called God's advocate.

12. *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever"* (John 14:6).

Jesus said that He had prayed to the Father, and that the Father would give us the Holy Spirit. How long will the Holy Spirit be with the believer?

13. *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you"* (John 14:26).

What reason does Christ give for God sending the Holy Spirit?

Conclusion

14. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16).

This verse clearly states the ideas of the three lessons that you have just studied. Please answer the following questions:

a. Who does God love? _____

b. What did God do for the sake of His love for us?

c. What is meant by the expression “God gave His Son”?

d. How does a person receive eternal life?

e. *“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him”* (John 3:36)

What will happen to those who don’t come to belief in Christ?

15. *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me”* (Revelation 3:20).

If you aren’t completely convinced that you have trusted your life to Christ, and that you therefore have eternal life, please answer the following questions:

a. What is Jesus doing in this verse?

b. According to this verse, what do you need to do to ask Jesus into your life?

c. When you ask Jesus into your heart, what does He promise?

Be assured that Jesus promises salvation and eternal life to the believer. If you invite Him into your heart right now, He will come into your life, and He will be your Savior and Lord. You can invite Him in at this very moment, saying in your own words the following prayer:

“Lord Jesus, I admit that I am a sinner. I believe that you are the Son of God, that you died for my sins, and that you arose from the dead. Because of this, I repent of my sinful life. At this very moment, I ask you to pardon all of my sins, and I invite you to come into my life as my Savior and Lord.

Signature_____Date_____

If you have made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have made the most important decision of your life; you have scored the goal of your life. Welcome to the family of God! You are now one of those who has triumphed with Christ and who will live eternally with Him.

For further materials that will help you to continue to study the Bible and thereby to grow in your new life in Christ, please provide your contact information on the attached card and send it by mail, or, if possible, give it to the person who gave you this

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Por favor,
pegue aquí
una
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----- Doble aquí -----

