

Truth for the World

Presents

『給世界的真理』

所提供

Basic Facts of the Faith

信仰的基本課程

by
John Grubb

**TRUTH FOR THE WORLD
P.O. BOX 5048
DULUTH, GA 30096-0065
U.S.A.**

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Why We Believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

Many people do not believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. If he is not the Christ, then our faith is of no value. If He is the Son of God, we must obey Him to go to heaven (Matthew 7:21-23).

Jesus is a real person. He lived on this earth about 2,000 years ago. Not everybody believes He is the Son of God. Some say, “He was a good man, and a great Teacher, but He was not the Son of God.” This is impossible. Either He is the Son of God, or He was the biggest liar in the world. He said He was the Son of God.

Why do we believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God? To believe something we must have good reasons. We must be able to prove why we believe Jesus is the Christ (1 Peter 3:15).

People must believe Jesus is the Christ to be saved (John 8:24; 14:6). We can give reasons for believing in Jesus.

1. **CHRIST IS ETERNAL.** *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him; and without Him nothing was made that was made...and the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth”* (John 1:1-3,14). The “Word” in these verses refers to Jesus. Jesus said, *“before Abraham was, I AM”* (John 8:58). Jesus was only on the earth for about thirty-five years, but he said, *“before Abraham was, I AM.”* The only way that is possible is that He was alive before he came to earth.
2. **HIS VIRGIN BIRTH.** The prophet Isaiah said Christ would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14). Matthew tells us Jesus was born of a virgin (Matthew 1:18-25).
3. **FULFILLED PROPHECY.** Jesus fulfilled over three hundred prophecies. He had the right ancestors—Abraham and David (Matthew 1:1-17). He was born in the right city—Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:5-6). He died on the cross (Isaiah 53). He rose from the dead (Psalm 16:8-10; Luke 24:6, 31, 34).
4. **HIS SINLESS LIFE.** The Bible teaches all men have sinned (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:6-10). But, Jesus did not commit sin (1 Peter 2:21-23). Jesus was tempted just like us, but he did not sin (Hebrews 4:14-15; Matthew 4:1-11).
5. **HIS MIRACLES.** Nicodemus said, *“we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no else can do these signs that You do unless God is with him”* (John 3:2). Later, the apostle wrote: *“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name”* (John 20:30-31). Jesus performed miracles to prove his words were true. The purpose of miracles was to prove the words of the speaker were from God. This has always been the purpose of miracles.

我們為什麼相信耶穌是基督、是 神的兒子

很多人不相信耶穌是基督，是 神的兒子。假如祂不是基督、我們的信心就沒有用。如果祂是 神的兒子、那我們就必須順從祂以能夠進入天堂（太 7:21-23）。

耶穌是一個真實的人物。不可否認、約在二千年前，他的確居住在這個地球上。然而、卻不是人人都相信祂是 神的兒子。有人說，『耶穌是一個好人兼偉大的師表、但並不是神的兒子』。耶穌若不是 神的兒子、即為世上最大的騙子。但是、祂自己說祂是 神的兒子。

為何我們相信耶穌是基督、是 神的兒子呢？必須握有足夠的理由、我們方能信以為真。我們必須提出有力的證據來證實耶穌是基督（彼前 3:15）。

世人必須相信耶穌是基督才能得救（約 8:24；約 14:6）。我們能夠提出證據來證明所信的為真。

- 一. **耶穌基督是永遠存在的。**『太初有道，道與 神同在，道就是 神。這道太初與 神同在。萬物是借著他造的；凡被造的，沒有一樣不是借著他造的。道成了肉身，住在我們中間，充充滿滿的有恩典有真理。我們也見過他的榮光，正是父獨生子的榮光』（約 1:1-3, 14）。在這段經節中、『道』是指著耶穌說的。耶穌說、『我實實在在的告訴你們，還沒有亞伯拉罕，就有了我』（約 8:58）。耶穌在世只有三十五年而已、但祂說：『還沒有亞伯拉罕，就有了我』。因此、唯一的可能便是在祂來到世上以前、祂便已存在。
- 二. **基督被童女所生。**以賽亞已預言必有一童女懷孕生子（賽 7:14）。馬太告訴我們耶穌是被童女所生（太 1:18-25）。
- 三. **應驗了的預言。**至少有三百個以上關於彌賽亞的預言、日後在基督身上應驗。亞伯拉罕、大衛是耶穌的祖先無誤（太 1:1-17）。祂在證確的地方出生 ~ 伯利恒（彌 5:2；太 2:5-6）。祂被釘死在十字架上（賽 53）。祂從死裏復活（詩 16:8-10）；路 24:6, 31, 34）。
- 四. **祂過無罪的生活。**聖經教導我們說人都犯過罪（羅 3:23；約一 1:6-10）。但是、耶穌沒有犯過罪（彼前 2:21-23）。耶穌像我們一樣受試探、但祂沒有犯罪（來 4:14-15；太 4:1-11）。
- 五. **祂所行的神迹。**尼哥底母說、『我們知道你是由 神那裏來作師傅的、因為你所行的神迹，若沒有 神同在，無人能行』（約 3:2）。之以後、使徒約翰寫著：『耶穌在門徒面前，另外行了許多神迹，沒有記在這書上；但記這些事要叫你們信耶穌是基督，是 神的兒子，並且叫你們信了他，就可以因他的名得生命』（約 20:30-31）。耶穌行神迹證明祂的話是真的。神迹的目的在於證實講道者的話由 神而來的。而這也正是神迹的目的。

Jesus did not perform miracles just to help the physical needs of people. He healed the sick, He fed the hungry, He raised the dead, He changed water to wine, He calmed the storm. He did not heal all the sick. He did not feed all the hungry people. He did not raise all dead people. Why? Because God never used miracles just to help physical needs. It was to prove a speaker was sent from God. When God had something new to tell people, He used miracles to prove it.

Moses used miracles to prove he was from God. His miracles helped Pharaoh and Israel know God sent him. Elijah and Elisha also used miracles to show they were from God. So, when Jesus came to the earth, He used miracles to prove His words were true. It was a new message.

Some people say they have the same power Jesus and the apostles had. But they do not do the same miracles Jesus did. Jesus never took money for doing his miracles, but people today who claim this power are always asking for money. We hear of these people “allegedly” healing the sick but nothing else. Jesus and His apostles did not just heal the sick. They also raised the dead and fed the hungry. We never hear of these “so-called” miracle workers feeding the hungry. People are starving every day. These “so-called” miracle workers should use their power to feed the starving people in Africa with “five loaves and two fishes” like Jesus did. But instead, they ask people to send money to feed the hungry. They do not have the power to perform miracles.

The power to perform miracles stopped in the first century after the New Testament was finished (1 Corinthians 13:8-10; Hebrews 2:1-4; Jude 3). In the first century, Christians could receive the power to do miracles if it was given to them by the apostles (Acts 8:5-22). When the last apostle died, this was not possible. God does not use miracles today. There is no new revelation, the Bible is all we need. Jesus proved He was the Christ by the miracles He performed. His enemies knew His miracles were real. After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, the Bible says: “*Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, What shall we do? for this Man works many signs*” (John 11:47).

6. **OTHERS BEAR WITNESS.** In addition to our Lord Himself saying He is the Christ the Son of God, there are a number of others who bore witness to that fact. *Our Heavenly Father* (Matthew 3:16-17; 17:5). *Pilate And His Wife* (Matthew 27:19, 24). *The Centurion* (Matthew 27:54). *Apostles* (2 Peter 1:16-18; 1 John 1:1-3). *John The Baptizer* (John 1:29-34).
7. **HIS DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION.** The first four books of the New Testament tell of the Lord's death, burial, and resurrection. Paul gives us the reason for His death in his letter to the Romans 5:6-11. Peter says it was planned before the world began (1 Peter 1:18-21). John adds the Lord's death was for everyone (John 3:16; 1 John 2:2).

耶穌行神迹的目的不只是幫助人屬世的需要。祂醫治一些病人、給饑餓的人吃飽、讓死人復活、把水變成酒、把風暴雨安靜下來。祂並沒有醫治每一個病人。祂也沒有給每一個饑餓的人吃飽。祂沒有讓每一個死人復活。爲什麼？因爲神從來不用行神迹來幫助人屬世的需要。祂用神迹證明一個傳道人是由神而來的。當神有新的啓示要告訴人時、祂用神迹來證實。

摩西用神迹來證明他是神而來的。他所行的神迹讓法老王和以色列人知道神派遣他來。以利亞和以利沙都用神迹證明他們是由神而來的。所以、當耶穌來世間、祂也用神迹證明祂的話是真的。祂所講的是新的啓示。

現今、有人說他們有像耶穌跟使徒一樣行神迹的能力。但是、他們沒有行像耶穌一樣神迹的能力。耶穌絕沒有因行神迹而來收錢、但是現今、那些宣稱有此能力的人常常是向人收取金錢的。我們聽說這些人會醫治病人、除此以外沒有行其他神迹的能力。但是、耶穌和祂的使徒不只是醫治病人。他們還讓人從死裏復活、給饑餓的人吃飽。我們卻從來沒有聽過這些『所謂』行神迹的人用神迹給饑餓的人吃飽。每一天都有人餓死。這些『所謂』行神迹的人應該像耶穌一樣用他們的能力以『五個大麥餅、兩條魚』給在非洲饑餓的人吃飽。但是、他們卻請人捐錢以使讓他們使饑餓的人有食物充飽。他們事實上是沒有能力行神迹的。

在第一世紀新約聖經寫成之後、行神迹的能力便永遠停止了（林前 13:8-10；來 2:1-4；猶 3）。第一世紀的時候、如果使徒按手在基督徒身上、那他們使有能力行神迹（徒 8:5-22）。在最後一個使徒死之後、基督徒便不能受到能力行神迹了。現今、神不用神迹。再也沒有新的啓示了、聖經才是我們唯一所需的。耶穌行神迹證明祂是基督。祂的仇敵知道祂的神迹是真的。耶穌使拉撒路從死裏復活之後、聖經說：『祭司長和法利賽人聚集公會上，說、這人行好些神迹，我們怎麼辦呢』（約 11:47）。

6. **別人爲祂作見證。**除了耶穌說祂是基督、神的兒子以外、也有其他的人爲祂作見證。**我們的天父**（太 3:16-17；17:5）。**彼拉多及其妻子**（太 27:19, 24）。**百夫長**（太 27:54）。**使徒們**（彼後 1:16-18；約一 1:1-3）。**施浸約翰**（約 1:29-34）。
7. **耶穌死的景象及其安葬、復活。**新約頭四卷書說到主的死亡、埋葬、復活。保羅在羅馬書 5:6-11、告訴我們耶穌爲什麼死亡。彼得告訴我們說在創世以前便已經有這種計劃（彼前 1:18-21）。使徒約翰也說耶穌是爲人人死（約 3:16；約一 2:2）。

Everyone believes that Jesus was crucified on the cross and buried (Mark 15:16-28, 42-47). But, there are many who doubt the resurrection. Many do not want to believe Jesus rose from the dead. They try to deny the resurrection of Jesus. However, it cannot be denied the tomb where Jesus was buried was empty. Three days after Jesus died, there was an “empty tomb.” Those who do not believe that Jesus rose from the dead try to give other reasons for the “empty tomb.”

“The Swoon Theory”

This theory says that Jesus did not really die, but just fainted. After a while Jesus woke up and left the tomb. However, the Bible tells us Pilate made sure Jesus was dead before he let Joseph of Arimathea bury Jesus (Mark 15:42-47). Jesus really died, he did not just faint.

“Buried In The Wrong Tomb”

Others try to say that Jesus was buried in the wrong tomb, so when the women came to the grave on the first day of the week, they did not find the body of Jesus because He was in another grave. The Bible clearly tells us that the women “observed where He was laid” (Mark 15:47).

“His Disciples Stole The Body”

It is not possible that the disciples stole the body of Jesus. Soldiers were guarding the tomb. The disciples would not be able to get past them to get to the body. Later, the disciples boldly said that Jesus had rose from the dead. They were even willing to die for the cause of the resurrected Christ. Would they be willing to do that if they knew they had stole the body of Christ? They were discouraged because they thought their hopes were ended. They had forgotten the promise of the resurrection. They did not steal the body to cause the tomb to be empty.

“His Enemies Stole The Body”

Why would the enemies of Jesus steal His body? They had guards to keep the body of Jesus from being stolen. Later, this is the story the guards were bribed to tell (Matthew 28:11-15). Had the guards stolen the body, on the day of Pentecost when Peter and the apostles preached that Jesus had risen from the dead, the enemies of Christ could have brought out the body. However, they did not do so! They did not do so because Christ really had risen from the dead (Acts 2:22-36).

Jesus Rose From The Dead!

There is plenty of evidence to prove Jesus actually rose from the dead. Jesus was “*declared to be the Son of God with power...by the resurrection from the dead*” (Romans 1:4). Paul gives us proof of the fact that Jesus really rose from the dead. He wrote: “*Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time*” (1 Corinthians 15:1-8). Christianity is based upon the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. If He did not, “*we are of all men the most miserable*” (1 Corinthians 15:19).

每一個人人都相信耶穌被釘死、埋葬（可 15:16-28, 42-47）。但是、有很多人懷疑祂的復活。很多人不相信耶穌是從死裏復活。他們想要否認耶穌的復活。但是、人卻不能否認耶穌安葬的墳墓是空的。耶穌死了三天之後、有『空無一物的墳墓』。那些不相信耶穌是從死裏復活的人提出一些理論來解釋『空無一物的墳墓』。

【昏倒理論】

這種理論說耶穌沒有真正的死掉、而是昏倒。在過一段時間之後、耶穌醒起來就離開墳墓。無論如何、聖經告訴我們彼拉多確定耶穌死才把耶穌的屍體給亞利馬太的約瑟埋葬（可 15:42-47）。耶穌真正的死了、而不是昏倒而已。

【耶穌被安葬的地點有誤】

有其他人也說：耶穌被埋葬在不對的地方、所以七日的第一日婦女來墳墓時、墳墓裏面是空的、因為耶穌的屍體在另外的墳墓裏。聖經很清楚的告訴我們那些婦女『都看見安放他的地方』（可 15:47）。

【耶穌的屍首為門徒所竊】

耶穌的門徒不可能偷走祂的屍體。軍人看守墳墓。而門徒不可能繞過他們而偷走耶穌的身體的。在那以後、門徒很勇敢的傳講耶穌的復活。他們甚至於也願意為從死裏復活的耶穌死。如果他們偷走基督的屍體、他們會這麼作嗎？他們因為希望不在而變得非常沮喪。他們忘記復活的應許。他們並沒有偷屍體而讓墳墓空無一物。

【耶穌的屍首為敵人所偷】

耶穌的仇敵為什麼要偷祂的屍體呢？耶穌的屍體被偷以防來、他們有軍人看守墳墓。以後、有人說軍人收賄賂說出這種故事來（太 28:11-15）。假如軍人偷屍體的話、那在五旬節彼得和使徒傳耶穌從死裏復活時、敵人就可以把基督的屍體給大家看。但是、他們沒有這樣作！他們沒有這樣作是因為基督是真的從死裏復活（徒 2:22-36）。

耶穌確實從死裏復活！

有很多證據證明耶穌真是從死裏復活。耶穌『按聖善的靈說，因從死裏復活，以大能顯明是神的兒子』（羅 1:4）。保羅給我們證據證明耶穌真是從死裏復活。他寫道：『弟兄們，我如今把先前所傳給你們的福音，告訴你們知道；這福音你們也領受了，又靠著站立得住。並且你們若不是徒然相信，能以持守我所傳給你們的，就必因這福音得救。我當日所領受又傳給你們的：第一，就是基督照聖經所說，為我們的罪死了，而且埋葬了；又照聖經所說，第三天復活了；並且顯給磯法看，然後顯給十二使徒看，後來一時顯給五百多弟兄看，其中一大半到如今還在，卻也有已經睡了；以後顯給雅各看，再顯給衆使徒看，末了也顯給我看；我如同未到產期而生的人一般』（林前 15:1-8）。基督的教義是植基於耶穌真是從死裏復活的事實。如果祂不是、『就算比衆人更可憐』（林前 15:19）。

Peter adds his testimony to that of the apostle Paul. In his second epistle, Peter says: *“For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain”* (2 Peter 1:16-18). The apostle Peter is not just talking about himself but all of the apostles when he uses the plural pronoun “we.” Peter and the other apostles were eyewitnesses of the resurrection of Christ.

The apostle John also uses plural pronouns to prove Jesus is the Christ. The apostles gave up everything because they knew Jesus really rose from the dead. *“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us—that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ”* (1 John 1:1-3).

Jesus rose from the dead, never to die again! This is unlike any other religious leader in history! There have been many religious leaders in the history of mankind. Everyone of them died, and they are still dead! Christianity is the greatest religion in the world because it offers hope for eternal life in heaven with the resurrected Savior. It is the greatest proof that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

8. **ASCENSION**. The Bible tells us that Jesus went back to heaven (Acts 1:9-11). The prophet Daniel said this would happen (Daniel 7:13). Jesus went back to heaven to begin being King over His Kingdom which began on the first Pentecost after He rose from the dead (Acts 2).

Conclusion

We have to believe in Christ to be saved. If we fail to believe and obey Him, we have no hope for heaven (John 8:24; Matthew 7:21-23). Let us all, with Peter say, *“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”* (Matthew 16:16). We have given many reasons why you should believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. We hope you will continue to study the Bible to learn how to be pleasing to God.

彼得也加上他的證詞來支援保羅所寫的。彼得在彼得後書說：『我們從前將我們主耶穌基督的大能和他降臨的事告訴你們，並不是隨從乖巧捏造的虛言，乃是親眼見過他的威榮。他從父神得尊貴榮耀的時候，從極大榮光之中有聲音出來向他說：這是我的愛子，我所喜悅的。我們同他在聖山的時候，親自聽見這聲音從天上出來』（彼後 1:16-18）。使徒彼得用複數的代名詞『我們』時、他不只是說到自己、而且也包括所有的使徒。彼得和其他的使徒都親眼看見復活之後的基督。

使徒約翰也用複數的代名詞證明耶穌是基督。使徒們撇下所有的因為他們確定耶穌真是從死裏復活。『論到從起初原有的生命之道，就是我們所聽見、所看見、親眼看過、親手摸過的。（這生命已經顯現出來，我們也看見過，現在又作見證，將原與父同在、且顯現與我們那永遠的生命，傳給你們。）我們將所看見、所聽見的傳給你們，使你們與我們相交。我們乃是與父並他兒子耶穌基督相交的』（約一 1:1-3）。

耶穌從死裏復活、以後永遠不會再死！這點跟歷史中所有其他的宗教領袖都不一樣。歷史中有很多宗教領袖。他們都已經死了、且沒有再活過來的！基督的教義是全世界最偉大的宗教信仰、因為它給我們提供了一個與復活的救主同在天堂永生的希望。基督的復活是最偉大的證明來證明耶穌是基督、是 神的兒子。

9. 升天。 聖經告訴我們耶穌回到天家（徒 1:9-11）。先知但以理預言到這件事情（但 7:13）。耶穌回天堂準備統治祂的國、而且祂從死裏復活以後的第一個五旬節開始統治祂的國（徒 2）。

結論

我們必須信基督才能得救。如果我們不相信而遵守祂、我們沒有上天堂的盼望（約 8:24；太 7:21-23）。我們都要跟者彼得說『你是基督，是永生 神的兒子』（太 16:16）。我們已經說出很多原因為什麼要相信耶穌是基督、是 神的兒子。我們希望您會繼續研究聖經學習如何討神的喜悅。

The Existence of God

Men have different ideas about the existence of God. In this lesson we will see some wrong ideas about God, then give reasons why we believe in the one true God.

Atheism

The Atheist says, "I know God does not exist. I have proof." This is a statement the atheist cannot prove. An atheist would have to be everywhere at the same time to prove God does not exist. However, "being everywhere at the same time" is called "omnipresence." "Being everywhere at the same time" is one of the characteristics of God.

A person must be able to be everywhere at the same time to prove God does not exist. For example: If you were looking for your friend and heard that he was in America, you could come to America and visit some of the major cities looking him. While you are in New York City, your friend could be in Chicago. If you then go to Chicago, your friend could have moved on to Dallas. By the time you made it to Dallas, your friend could have gone on to Los Angeles. You might travel around the whole country and never find your friend. But you would not be able to make the statement, "I know my friend is not in America." To make that statement, you would have to be everywhere at the same time.

So, a person would have to become God to prove God does not exist! But if a person was God, then God would exist! Atheists cannot prove their claims!

Agnosticism

The Agnostic says, "There is not enough evidence to prove there is or is not a God." This is really what the atheist believes. There is much evidence to prove the existence of God. We will discuss this evidence later in this lesson.

Deism

The Deist says, "A Supreme Being created the universe, gave laws, then had no dealings with his creation." He will admit the universe did not just happen. But, he claims that the God who created the universe does not care for his creation, and does not provide for the needs of man.

Theism

The theist believes that God created the universe, but does not believe that He is the God of the Old and New Testament, does not believe in Christ, the church, or the plan of salvation. This would include Jews and Moslems. It would also include the polytheist. The polytheist believes there is more than one God. Buddhists, Hindus, and other eastern religions fit into this category.

Christian Theism

The Christian theist believes in the one God of the universe, the God of the Old and New Testament who created the universe. This would include belief in Christ as the Son of God, the one church that was planned by God and established in the first century, as well as God's plan for saving man.

The Origin of the Universe

When we talk about the existence of God we must also talk about the origin of the universe. From where did the universe come? It is a fact that the universe had a beginning.

神的存在

關於神的存在、人有很多不同的觀念。在這個課程中、我們要提到關於神存在的一些錯誤的觀念、然後說出為什麼我們相信只有一位真神的原因。

无神论

無神論者說、『神不存在、並持有證據以資證明』。但是、無神論者沒有辦法證明這話。無神論者必須是神通廣大以至於無所不在才能證明神的不存在。然而，神的特性之一正是無所不在。

人必須無所不在來證明神不存在、比方說：假如你在尋找你的朋友也聽說他在美國、你便會到美國去一些大城市找他。你在紐約市的時候、可能你的朋友在芝加哥。於是你就去芝加哥、但是這時你的朋友卻已經去德州的達拉斯。當你一到達拉斯時、可能你的朋友又已經去洛杉磯了。可能你圍繞全國也找不到你的朋友。但是、你不能說、『我確實的知道我的朋友不在美國』。因為你必須是無所不在的才可以這麼說。

所以、爲了證明神不存在、一個人必須變成神。但是、如果一個人能成爲神、神就存在！無神論者沒有辦法證明他們所宣稱的話！

不可知論

不可知論者說、『缺乏足夠的證據、以證明神的存在』。這就是無神論者所相信的。有很多證據能夠證明神的存在。等一下就會談論這證據。

自然神論

自然神論者認爲宇宙是由一位高高在上的神所創造，萬物法則亦由祂訂立。但卻在其創造之物自生自滅。祂會承認宇宙不是偶然產生的。但是、祂卻宣稱神然後棄祂所造的萬物於不顧、對於人類的需求漠不關心。

有神論

有神論者相信神創造宇宙、但是不相信這位神是舊約和新約的神、不信基督、教會、或神拯救人的計劃。這包括猶太人跟回教徒。這也包括多神論者。多神論者相信有好幾個神。這包括佛教、印度教、還有其他東方的宗教是屬於這一類。

基督徒有神論

基督徒有神論相信宇宙有一位真神、是創造宇宙、舊約和新約的神。這包括相信基督是神的兒子、被神有計劃在第一世紀建立唯一的教會、還有神拯救人的計劃。

宇宙的起源

我們談論到神的存在時、我們也必須討論宇宙是從那裏來的。宇宙是從那裏來？宇宙萬物的形成均有一開始、不可能無中生有。

There are two possible explanations for the origin of the universe. It either came into existence by accident or it was created. Did the universe come about by accident? No, it did not. Things do not come into existence by accident. If I said the watch that I wear came into existence by accident, you would laugh. You would not believe it.

Who Created The Universe?

Since the universe did not come about by accident, it was created. Who created the universe? Man certainly does not have the power or ability to create the universe. How do we know? The nearest star is 4.3 light years away. Man does not have the ability to reach the nearest star in the universe. There are billions of stars in the universe. If man cannot reach the nearest star, how could he create the universe?

The Bible emphasizes that God exists and he created the universe. In addition to the first two chapters of Genesis, note the following passages: *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse”* (Romans 1:18-20). *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard”* (Psalm 19:1-3). *“For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God”* (Hebrews 3:4).

Design—Designer

Because the universe has design, this means there was a designer. Clothes have a design because they have a designer. If they came about accidentally, there would be no design. However, because there is a design, there has to be a designer.

Cause—Effect

If a ball rolls into the room, we would wonder who threw the ball into the room. The ball coming into the room is the effect. Whenever, there is an effect, there must be a cause. The universe is the effect, so there must be a cause. The cause of the universe is Almighty God.

Add to all of this the example of the human body. It could not have happened accidentally. Man was the creation of God (Genesis 1:26-27).

Attributes of God

The God of the universe does not have just one attribute. Some seem to think that God has only one attribute. People will say God is only a God of love, or only a vengeful God, etc. The Bible teaches there is just one God (Isaiah 44:6; 1 Corinthians 8:6). However, the Bible speaks of our one God having many attributes. He is all-powerful (Genesis 17:1); everywhere (Psalm 139:7-11); all-knowing (Hebrews 4:13); just (Psalm 89:14); eternal (Psalm 90:1-2); concerned for man (John 3:16); and He communicates with man (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

It is impossible to believe in Christ and not believe in God. Jesus tells us that God exists. He proved His words were true. We must believe in God to go to heaven (Hebrews 11:6).

宇宙的起源有兩種可能的說法。經由創造或是偶然產生的。宇宙是偶然產生的麼？不是。東西不是偶然產生的。我若說、我所帶的手錶是偶然產生的、你會笑。你不會相信。

誰創造宇宙？

因為宇宙不是偶然產生、所以宇宙是被造的。誰創造宇宙？人類的能力是無法創造宇宙。我們怎麼知道呢？離我們最近的星星距離是 4.3 光年。人類沒有辦法到宇宙中離我們最近的星星。宇宙有好幾十億星星。如果人類沒有辦法到最近的星星、怎麼會創造宇宙呢？

聖經強調神的存在、也強調祂創造宇宙。除了創世記頭兩章之外、並請注意下面的經節：
『原來 神的忿怒，從天上顯明在一切不虔不義的人身上，就是那些行不義阻擋真理的人。神的事情，人所能知道的，原顯明在人心裏；因為 神已經給他們顯明。自從造天地以來，神的永能和神性是明明可知的，雖是眼不能見，但借著所造之物，就可以曉得，叫人無可推諉』（羅 1:18-20）。『諸天述說 神的榮耀；穹蒼傳揚他的手段。這日到那日發出言語；這夜到那夜傳出知識。無言無語，也無聲音可聽』（詩 19:1-3）。『因為房屋都必有人建造，但建造萬物的就是神』（來 3:4）。

设计 ~ 设计有

宇宙有设计、其含意就是宇宙有设计者。衣服有设计、因为有设计者。如果是偶然产生的、就没有设计。然而、正因为有设计、所以就必然有设计者。

原因 ~ 结果

假如有球滚进屋子里来、我们会问是谁丢进来的。球滚进来是结果。有结果、就必有原因。宇宙是结果、所以就必有其原因。宇宙的原因便是无所不能的神。

加上另外一个例子、就是人类的身体。它不可能是偶然产生的。人类是被神创造的（創 1:26-27）。

神的本性

宇宙的 神不只有一種特性而已。有一些人以為 神只有一種特性而已。人們會說『神只是愛的神』或『神只是報應的神』、等類。聖經教導我們說只有一位真神（賽 44:6；林前 8:6）。但是、聖經說 神有一些不同的特性。祂是『無所不能』（創 17:1）；『無所不在』（詩 139:7-11）；『無所不知』（來 4:13）；『公義』（詩 89:14）；『自有永有』（詩 90:1-2）；『關愛世人』（約 3:16）；『與世人溝通』（提後 3:16-17）；彼後 1:20-21）。

信基督而不信 神是不可能的。耶穌告訴我們 神是存在的。祂證明祂的話是真的。我們必須相信 神才上天堂（來 11:6）。

The Origin of the Bible

From where did the Bible come? It did not come from man. The Devil would not write it either. If man had written the Bible, many of the facts would have been left out. If man had given us the Bible, we would not read of the weaknesses and sins of people. If the Devil had written the Bible, he would not be described as “the evil one.” The Bible came from God.

No Contradictions

The Bible was written by about forty different writers over a period of about 1600 years. The writers of the Bible were men who lived in different periods of time, having different occupations, living in different places. In many cases, the writers did not know each other. Yet, there are no contradictions in the Bible. No other book can make this claim. This could not have happened by accident.

Scientific Facts

We can also consider the scientific facts found in the Bible. The Bible is not a science book, but it has scientific facts in it. Columbus and Magellan proved the earth is round. That was just 500 years ago. The Bible told us the earth was round thousands of years before anybody ever heard of Columbus or Magellan. *“It is He who sits above the circle of the earth”* (Isaiah 40:22). *“When He prepared the heavens, I was there: When He drew a circle on the face of the deep”* (Proverbs 8:27).

The Bible also tells us we are not able to number the stars. In 1940, astronomers finally came to the conclusion they were not able to count all of the stars in the universe. Almost 2,500 years ago, Jeremiah recorded: *“As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me”* (Jeremiah 33:22). Almighty God cannot only count the stars, He can call them by name (Psalm 147:4).

Fulfilled Prophecies

There are more than 1,000 prophecies in the Bible. The fact that every prophecy is fulfilled is further proof that the Bible is from God. In addition to the prophecies concerning Christ, we note a few others. The prophecy and fulfillment concerning the city of Jericho (Joshua 6:26; 1 Kings 16:34). We could also mention the prophecy made by the prophet Isaiah concerning Cyrus, king of Persia (Isaiah 44:28; 45:1; Ezra 1). There were also many prophecies about the church that were fulfilled (Isaiah 2:1-4; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Daniel 2:31-46; Acts 2:14-47).

Archaeology

Archaeology confirms the facts of the Bible. Archaeology is a young science. It wasn't until about AD 1840 that archaeology began to be used to prove that the Bible record is true. Archaeology has established the location of Bible places. The location of Sheba. The Old Testament records the story of the Queen of Sheba traveling to visit king Solomon (1 Kings 10:1-3). Jesus tells us this story is true (Matthew 12:42). About one hundred years ago, two Europeans traveled to South Arabia and found writing on walls in the city of Marib. That city was the capital of ancient Sheba. Archaeology also proved the location of Nineveh. Archaeology has supported Bible doctrine. Some claim there were not enough pools of water in Jerusalem to baptize 3,000 people as recorded in Acts 2:41. Yet, archaeologists have found pool after pool in the ancient city. One pool was longer than two football fields and wider than one football field.

聖經的來源

聖經是從那裏來？聖經不是由人而來的。撒但也不會寫聖經。如果人寫聖經的話、有很多事實便無法記下來。假如人類賜給我們聖經的話、我們就不會念到人的罪跟軟弱的地方。如果撒但寫聖經的話、在聖經形容撒但時、不會叫他『那惡者』。因此聖經是由神而來的。

無矛盾、無衝突

聖經是由大約四十個作者，在約一千六百年的時間內所寫成的。聖經的作者是活在不同時代的人，有不同的職業、且住在不同的地方。從許多情形中我們知道、這些作者彼此間並不認識。然而在聖經中卻沒有矛盾。其他的書也都沒有這樣地宣稱的。聖經如此宣稱，也不可能是個意外的說法。

科學的根據

我們也可以考慮到在聖經中的科學的事實。聖經不是一本科學書、但在這裏面卻有科學的事實。從哥倫布及麥哲倫的探險中、我們知道地球是圓的。這也是在大約五百年前才知道的事。在人們聽說有哥倫布或麥哲倫發現地球是圓的幾千年前、聖經已經告訴我們說地球是圓的。『*神坐在地球大圈之上*』（賽 40:22）。『*他立高天，我在那裏；他在淵面的周圍，劃出圓圈*』（箴 8:27）。

聖經也記錄我們無法數算星星。在一九四〇年時，天文學家終於得到結論說他們無法算清楚在宇宙裏的星星。大約在二千五百年前、耶利米就這麼記錄著：『*天上的萬象不能數算，海邊的塵沙也不能鬥量。我必照樣使我僕人大衛的後裔，和事奉我的利未人多起來*』（耶 33:22）。全能的神不只能數算星星，且能『*一一稱他們的名*』（詩 147:4）。

已經應驗的預言

在聖經中有超過一千個的預言。每一個預言都應驗了、這可以進一步證明聖經是由神而來的。除了有關基督的預言之外、我們也會看到其他的，如耶利哥城的預言及應驗（書 6:26；王上 16:34）。我們也可以提到關於古列、也就是波斯王的預言、這是由以賽亞所說的預言（賽 44:28；45:1；拉 1）。同時、也有很多是關於教會的預言、且已經應驗了（賽 2:1-4；耶 31:31-34；但 2:31-46；徒 2:14-47）。

考古學

考古學證明了聖經中的事實。考古學是一門相當新的科學。一直到西元後一八四〇年以後、考古學才被用來證明聖經中的記錄是正確的。考古學有助於確認聖經中的地點、如確認示巴的地點。舊約中記載了示巴女王去拜訪所羅門王的故事（王上 10:1-3）。耶穌也確認這個故事的真實性（太 12:42）。大約在一百年前、有兩個歐洲人到阿拉伯南部去，且在馬利城的城牆上發現了刻文。這城就是古示巴國的國都。考古學也證明了尼尼微的存在地點。考古學也可以支援聖經的道理。有些人說在徒 2:41、耶路撒冷中並沒有足夠的水池來施浸這三千人。然而、考古學卻發現一個又一個的池子於耶路撒冷城中。有一個池子甚至有兩個足球場的長度及一個足球場的寬。

Conclusion

If we did not have the Bible, we would know nothing of the origin of man, the nature of God, the origin of sin, what happens to man after death, etc.

Christ, God, and the Bible all go together. We cannot believe in one without believing in the other. Some will say, "Oh, I believe in God, but I don't believe in Christ. Or, I believe in God, but I do not believe He gave us the Bible." Others will say, "I believe the Bible is from God, but I don't believe the first eleven chapters of Genesis are true fact." If we do not believe the first eleven chapters are from God, we cast doubt on the words of Jesus. Jesus often referred to the first eleven chapters of Genesis (Matthew 19:4-6; Luke 17:26-27). The Hebrew writer and Jude also refer to the first eleven chapters of Genesis (Hebrews 11:4-7; Jude verse 14). We have a reliable guide for our religious lives. It is the inspired word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

結論

假如沒有聖經的話、我們便無法知道人的起源、神的本性、罪的起源，及人在死後會如何等等。

耶穌基督、神、聖經三者都有關聯的。我們不能僅篤信其中之一、卻又否認其他二者。有些人也許會說：『我信奉神，但否定耶穌基督或是我信靠神但否認聖經是神所賜予的禮物』。也有人宣稱：『我相信聖經是神所賜予的、但創世紀的前十一章不足置信』。假如我們不相信前十一章是由神而來的，我們便是對耶穌的話語有所懷疑。耶穌常常提到創世紀頭十一章（太 19:4-6；路 17:26-27）。希伯來書跟猶大書都提到創世紀頭十一章（來 11:4-7；猶 14）。我們在信仰生活中有可靠指南，那就是由神所默示的聖經（提後 3:16-17）。

Our Standard of Authority in Religion

To be able to agree in religion, we must have the same rules to follow. If we follow different rules, we will never be able to be united. We will first discuss what is not our standard of authority.

It is not our opinions. *“There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death”* (Proverbs 14:12). If our opinions were the standard of authority in religion, there would be more than five billion standards of authority in this world.

It is not what most people think is not our authority in religion (Matthew 7:13-14). Jesus tells us there are only two roads that we can travel. We will travel the broad way that leads to destruction, or the narrow way which leads to life. All roads do not lead to heaven! There is a right way and a wrong way. As the writer Jeremiah said, *“O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps”* (Jeremiah 10:23). If we want to travel from New York to California, we do not travel northeast. We have to travel the right way to go to the right place. We have to follow the road map. We do not say, “well, it feels all right to me.”

The traditions of our ancestors are not the authority in religion. Jesus said, *“Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men”* (Matthew 15:3, 6b-9). The apostle Peter added, *“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you”* (1 Peter 1:18-20). Again, if traditions were our guide in religion, there would be thousands of standards of religion.

Zeal or sincerity is not our standard of authority. Paul wrote concerning the Jews, *“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God”* (Romans 10:1-3). The apostle Paul was one of the most zealous and sincere individuals who ever lived, but his zeal and sincerity were not enough to save him. He still had to obey the commands of God.

The apostle Paul also helps us to know that **our feelings and our conscience are not our guide in religion** (Acts 26:9; 23:1; 24:16). This is one of the main reasons that people are divided into many different religions. They follow their feelings and their conscience instead of the word of God. Our conscience is only a safe guide when it is guided by the word of God.

Denominational creeds are not the standard of authority in religion. In fact, denominational creeds cause much of the religious division in the world. If a book has more in it than the Bible, it is too much. If a book has less in it than the Bible, it is too little. If it has exactly the same in it as the Bible, we do not need it because we already have the Bible. The Bible tells us we are not to add to, take away, or change the word of God (Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18-19; Galatians 1:6-9).

我們信仰上的標準

爲了宗教上的合而爲一、我們必須服從同樣的規矩。如果我們服從不同的規矩、就永遠不會合一。我們首先來討論什麼不是我們信仰上的標準。

這不是我們自己個人的意見。『有一條路，人以爲正，至終成爲死亡之路』(箴 14:12)。如果我們的意見是我們宗教信仰上的標準、那世界上便有五十多億的不同的信仰標準。

大多數人的看法並不是我們信仰上的標準 (太 7:13-14)。耶穌告訴我們說我們只有兩條路可以走。我們可以走那通到滅亡的寬路、或走那通到永生的窄路。不是每一條路都會通到天堂！有正確的路也有錯誤的路。耶利米說、『耶和華啊，我曉得人的道路不由自己，行路的人也不能定自己的腳步』(耶 10:23)。假如我們要從紐約要到加州去、不是往東北走。我們必須走正確的路才會到達目的地。我們必須跟著地圖走。我們不會說『我感覺對就可以了』。

我們祖先的傳統不是我們信仰上的標準。耶穌說、『耶穌回答說、你們爲甚麼因著你們的遺傳，犯神的誡命呢。這就是你們借著遺傳，廢了神的誡命，假冒爲善的人哪。以賽亞指著你們說的預言是不錯的。他說、這百姓用嘴唇尊敬我，心卻遠離我；他們將人的吩咐當作道理教導人，所以拜我也是枉然』(太 15:3, 6-9)。使徒彼得也說、『知道你們得贖，脫去你們祖宗所傳流虛妄的行爲，不是憑著能壞的金銀等物，乃是憑著基督的寶血，如同無瑕疵、無玷污的羔羊之血』(彼前 1:18-20)。再者、如果傳統是我們信仰的標準、那就有幾千個不同的信仰標準了。

熱心或虔誠也不是我們信仰上的標準。保羅在寫到關於猶太人時說：『弟兄們，我心裏所願的，向神所求的，是要以色列人得救。我可以證明他們向神有熱心，但不是按著真知識；因爲不知道神的義，想要立自己的義，就不服神的義了』(羅 10:1-3)。使徒保羅是全世界最熱心虔誠的人之一、但是他的熱心和虔誠並不能拯救他。他還必須遵守神的命令。

使徒保羅也幫助我們知道**感覺跟良心不是我們信仰上的標準** (徒 26:9; 23:1; 24:16)。正因爲有感覺和良心、人便被區分成有不同宗教信仰了。他們跟從他們的感覺和良心而不是跟從神的話語。我們的良心只有在神的話語的指引下才會是安全的指標。

教派的信條不是我們信仰上的標準。事實上、教派的信條導致了世上宗教信仰的分歧。假如一本書的內容多過聖經的內容、那就僭越了。如果一本書的內容比聖經的內容少、那就太不足了。假如一本書的內容跟聖經的內容完全一樣、我們就不需要這本書因爲我們已經有聖經了。聖經告訴我們不可以加添、減少、或更改神的話 (申 4:2; 啓 22:18-19; 加 1:6-9)。

Our Standard Of Authority - The Word Of God

Jesus said, *“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”* (John 8:32). The truth is our standard of authority in religion. Jesus added, *“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth”* (John 17:17). Peter wrote, *“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God, which lives and abides forever.... But the word of the Lord endures forever. Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you”* (1 Peter 1:22-23, 25). Paul wrote, *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work”* (2 Timothy 3:16-17). He added, *“To which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (2 Thessalonians 2:14). Paul also said, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes; for the Jew first, and also for the Greek”* (Romans 1:16).

It is the truth, the word of God, the gospel, the scriptures that is our standard of authority in religion. It is when we follow the scriptures and the scriptures alone that we please God and are able to receive his blessings.

我們信仰上的標準 – 神的話語

耶穌說、『你們必曉得真理，真理必叫你們得以自由』（約 8:32）。我們宗教信仰上的標準是真理。耶穌也說、『求你用真理使他們成聖；你的道就是真理』（約 17:17）。彼得寫道、『你們既因順從從真理，潔淨了自己的心，以致愛弟兄沒有虛假，就當從心裏彼此切實相愛。你們蒙了重生，不是由於能壞的種子，乃是由於不能壞的種子，是借著神活潑常存的道。惟有主的道是永存的。所傳給你們的福音就是這道』（彼前 1:22-23, 25）。保羅也寫道、『聖經都是 神所默示的，於教訓、督責、使人歸正、教導人學義都是有益的，叫屬 神的人得以完全，預備行各樣的善事』（提後 3:16-17）。『神藉我們所傳的福音召你們到你們到這地步，好得著我們主耶穌基督的榮光』（帖後 2:14）。保羅也說、『我不以福音為恥；這福音本是 神的大能，要救一切相信的，先是猶太人，後是希利尼人』（羅 1:16）。

我們信仰上的標準是 神的話、是福音、是聖經。我們跟從聖經時、才會討 神的喜悅才會收到祂的福氣。

Old or New Testament?

The law was given to the Jews, and to them only. Gentiles were never under the law of Moses. Moses wrote: *“And Moses called all Israel, and said to them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your hearing today, that you may learn them and be careful to observe them. The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. The Lord did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive. The Lord talked with you face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire”* (Deuteronomy 5:1-4).

This law that was given to the Jews is no longer in effect. The apostle Paul makes this very clear in several passages of scripture (Ephesians 2:13-16; Colossians 2:14-16; Romans 7:1-7). The Hebrew writer devotes much of the book to show the law of Christ is better than the law of Moses (Hebrews 8:6-13).

The apostle Paul shows us we are not under the law of Moses, but under the law of Christ (Galatians 4:21-31).

One Son - Ishmael	One Son - Isaac
Mother - Hagar	Mother - Sarah
Represents OT	Represents NT
Source: Sinai	Source: Jerusalem
Bondage	Freedom
No promise	Promise

Cast Out Which One? (vs. 30)

The old law is cast out. We are now under the new law, the law of Christ. All of the above passages tell us no one is under the law of Moses. We are now under the law of Christ. Once again, there are a number of passages that tell us we are under the law of Christ, not the law of Moses (Matthew 7:21-23; 17:5; 28:18-20; John 12:48; Galatians 6:2).

Even though people are no longer under the Old Testament law, there is still much we can learn from its pages. Paul tells us: *“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope”* (Romans 15:4). *“Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.... Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come”* (1 Corinthians 10:6, 11).

Without the Old Testament we would not be able to understand many passages in the New Testament. When the New Testament mentions Old Testament characters, if we did not have the Old Testament, we would not be able to understand the point made in the New Testament. The Old Testament reveals from where the universe, sin, nations, and languages came. When Jesus said, “Remember Lot's wife,” if we did not have the Old Testament, we would not know who was Lot's wife, or why we should remember her.

All of the Bible came from God, but His law for us today is found in the New Testament.

舊約或新約？

舊約的律法賜給猶太人，而且也只賜給他們而已。外邦人從來都不在摩西的律法之下。摩西寫著、*『摩西將以色列眾人召了來，對他們說、以色列人哪，我今日曉諭你們的律例典章，你們要聽，可以學習，謹守遵行。耶和華我們的神在何烈山與我們立約。這約不是與我們列祖立的，乃是與我們今日在這裏存活之人立的。耶和華在山上，從火中，面對面與你們說話』*（申 5:1-4）。

這部給猶太人的律法現在也不生效了。保羅在一些經節中也強調這點（弗 2:13-16；西 2:14-16；羅 7:1-7）。希伯來書的作者用了大篇幅證明基督的律法比摩西的律法更好（來 8:6-13）。

使徒保羅幫助我們知道我們不在摩西的律法之下、而在基督的律法之下（加 4:21-31）。

兒子 - 以實瑪利	兒子 - 以撒
母親 - 夏甲	母親 - 撒拉
代表 - 舊約	代表 - 新約
泉源 - 西乃山	泉源 - 耶路撒冷
奴僕	自由
沒有應許	有應許

趕哪個出去？（30 節）

舊約是被趕出去的。我們目前在基督的律法下。上面的一些經節都告訴我們、現在沒有人在摩西的律法之下。我們現在在基督的律法之下。再者、有很多經節告訴我們我們是在基督的律法之下、而不在摩西的律法之下（太 7:21-23；17:5；28:18-20；約 12:48；加 6:2）。

雖然現在沒有人在舊約的律法之下，我們還是從舊約中能夠學習很多。保羅告訴我們：*『從前所寫的聖經都是為教訓我們寫的，叫我們因聖經所生的忍耐和安慰可以得著盼望』*（羅 15:4）。*『這些事都是我們的鑒戒，叫我們不要貪戀惡事，像他們那樣貪戀的；他們遭遇這些事，都要作為鑒戒；並且寫在經上，正是警戒我們這末世的人』*（林前 10:6, 11）。

我們沒有舊約的話、就不會明白很多新約的經節。新約提到舊約裏的人、如果我們對舊約不熟、就沒有辦法明白新約的意思。舊約告訴我們宇宙、罪、國家、和語言的起源。耶穌說、*『你們要回想羅得的妻子』*時、如果我們沒有舊約的話、我們不會知道羅得的妻子是誰、或我們為什麼應該記注她。

聖經全部都是由神而來的、但是祂今日給我們的律法就都在新約裏面。

Why Jesus Came To Earth

There are two main reasons why Jesus left heaven to come to earth. It is important we know these reasons.

Save Sinful Man

One reason was to give mankind a chance to have their sins forgiven. Why does mankind need a Savior? The reason man needs a Savior is because of sin. The Bible clearly says, *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23). Every person who can tell right from wrong commits sin. The apostle John also tells us this fact (1 John 1:6-10). What is sin? Sin is *“missing the mark”* (Romans 3:23). It is *“lawlessness”* (1 John 3:4). John added, *“all unrighteousness is sin”* (1 John 5:17). Also, *“the wages of sin is death”* (Romans 6:23). Sin causes us to go away from God (Isaiah 59:1-2), and Christ came to the earth to bring us back to God (2 Corinthians 5:20-21; Ephesians 2:16).

The Origin Of Sin

We have shown one of the reasons Jesus came to the earth was because of sin. From where did sin come? The answer is given to us in the first book of the Bible. After God created Adam and Eve, he put them in the garden of Eden, giving them everything they needed. He also gave them commands they were to follow. *“Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die”* (Genesis 2:15-17).

God clearly told them what to do. They were not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The third chapter of Genesis tells us what happened. *“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, Has God indeed said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden, but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die. Then the serpent said to the woman, You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate”* (Genesis 3:1-6).

Because of the sin of Adam and Eve, sin entered into the world (Romans 5:12). God already had the plan to send Christ to the earth to save man from his sin. *“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS: for he will save His people from their sins”* (Matthew 1:21). *“for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost”* (Luke 19:10). *“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly... But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:6, 8). *“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief”* (1 Timothy 1:15).

爲什麼耶穌到這世上來

耶穌爲什麼離開天堂到世上來有兩個主要的原因。我們得知道這些原因因爲這很重要。

拯救罪人

第一種原因是要給人類機會洗去他們的罪。人類爲什麼需要一位元救主呢？人類需要一位元救主是因爲人犯了罪。聖經很清楚地說『因爲世人都犯了罪，虧缺了神的榮耀』(羅 3:23)。每一位能分辨善惡的人都會犯罪。使徒約翰也告訴我們這個事實(約一 1:6-10)。罪是什麼？罪是『偏離標準』(羅 3:23)。就是『違背神的律法』(約一 3:4)。約翰並說、『凡不義的事都是罪』(約一 5:17)。還有、『罪的工價乃是死』(羅 6:23)。罪使我們離開神(賽 59:1-2)，而耶穌到世上來便是使我們與神和好(林後 5:20-21；弗 2:16)。

罪的來源

我們已經解釋耶穌來世間的原因之一便是由於罪。罪是從那裏來？聖經頭一卷書就已回答這個問題。神造亞當夏娃之後、就把他們放在伊甸園、也給他們所需用的。祂也給他們要遵守的一些命令。『耶和華神將那人安置在伊甸園，使他修理，看守。耶和華神吩咐他說園中各樣樹上的果子，你可以隨意吃，只是分別善惡樹上的果子，你不可吃，因爲你吃的日子必定死』(創 2:15-17)。

神很清楚地告訴他們該要怎麼作。他們不可以吃分別善惡樹上的果子。在創世紀第三章中則告訴我們發生了什麼事。『耶和華神所造的，惟有蛇比田野一切的活物更狡猾。蛇對女人說，神豈是真說不許你們吃園中所有樹上的果子嗎。女人對蛇說：園中樹上的果子，我們可以吃，惟有園當中那棵樹上的果子，神曾說：你們不可吃，也不可摸，免得你們死。蛇對女人說：你們不一定死。因爲神知道，你們吃的日子眼睛就明亮了，你們便如神能知道善惡。於是女人見那棵樹的果子好作食物，也悅人的眼目，且是可喜愛的，能使人有智慧，就摘下果子來吃了，又給她丈夫，她丈夫也吃了』(創 3:1-6)。

因爲亞當夏娃的罪、罪就進入這世界(羅 5:12)。神已經有計劃派遣基督到世上來爲了將人由罪中拯救出來。『她將要生一個兒子，你要給他起名叫耶穌，因他要將自己的百姓從罪惡救出來』(太 1:21)。『人子來，爲要拯救失喪的人』(路 19:10)。『因我們還軟弱的時候，基督就按所定的日期爲罪人死。惟有基督在我們還作罪人的時候爲我們死，神的愛就在此向我們顯明了』(羅 5:6, 8)。『基督耶穌降世，爲要拯救罪人。這話是可信的，是十分可佩服的。在罪人中我是個罪魁』(提前 1:15)。

Purchase His Church

The other reason Jesus came to earth was to purchase His church. The following passages show the church was planned before God created the world. *“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood”* (Acts 20:28). *“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you”* (1 Peter 1:18-20). *“to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Ephesians 3:10-11). *“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatsoever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven”* (Matthew 16:18-19). *“For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ”* (1 Corinthians 3:11).

It was never in God's plan to have hundreds and thousands of denominations. The plan was always to have just one church and that all believers were to be part of that one church. The Bible teaches unity, not division (John 17:20-22; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; Ephesians 4:3-6; 1:22-23). Christ is the only head of the one church He promised to build. It is in His church that we are able to be saved from our sins (Ephesians 5:23).

買下祂的教會

耶穌來世間的另外一個原因就是祂要買下祂的教會。下面的經節告訴我們 神在創世以前已經計劃有教會了。『聖靈立你們作全群的監督，你們就當爲自己謹慎，也爲全群謹慎，牧養神的教會，就是祂用自己血所買來的』(徒 20:28)。『知道你們得贖，脫去你們祖宗所傳流虛妄的行爲，不是憑著能壞的金銀等物，乃是憑著基督的寶血，如同無瑕疵、無玷污的羔羊之血。基督在創世以前是豫先被 神知道的、卻在這末世纔爲你們顯現』(彼前 1:18-20)。『爲要借著教會，使天上執政的、掌權的，現在得知 神百般的智慧。這是照神從萬世以前在我們主耶穌基督裏所定的旨意』(弗 3:10-11)。『我還告訴你，你是彼得，我要把我的教會建造在這磐石上；陰間的權柄，不能勝過他。我要把天國的鑰匙給你，凡你在地上所捆綁的，在天上也要捆綁；凡你在地上所釋放的，在天上也要釋放』(太 16:18-19)。『因爲那已經立好的根基就是耶穌基督，此外沒有人能立別的根基』(林前 3:11)。

神的計劃中、從來沒有建立成千上萬的宗派教會的意思。這個計劃是要建立一個教會、而所有相信的人都要成爲這一個教會的一份子。聖經中強調的是合一、而不是分黨派(約 17:20-22；林前 1:10-13；弗 4:3-6；1:22-23)。基督是祂所應許要建立的教會的唯一的頭。在祂的教會中我們能夠洗去我們的罪得救(弗 5:23)。

How To Find the Church Jesus Built

In the United States of America there are more than 2,000 different churches. Most of these churches claim to be the church Jesus established, or at least one of the “branches” of the church. We have already studied that Jesus came to the earth to build His church. He only built one church. He did not build hundreds or thousands of churches. If Jesus only built one church, why are there so many different churches?

From Where Did All These Churches Come?

The New Testament tells us that people would leave the truth (Acts 20:28-31; 1 Timothy 4:1-4; 2 Timothy 4:1-4). Since the church began, people have slowly gone away from the truth. This has resulted in the hundreds of denominations that are here today. Jesus does not approve of these churches. He did not build them.

Many people make the statement, “churches are all alike.” Is this statement true? We agree churches seem to be about the same, but they are not the same!

Characteristics

How do we find out which church is the one Jesus built? We find the church Jesus built by looking for the characteristics that are recorded in the New Testament. We all use characteristics in our lives. We identify people by using characteristics. People are identified by name, description, social security number or identification number. People can be identified by fingerprints. No fingerprints are the same.

If your child became lost, how would you find him? You would ask for the help of the police. When the police help you, they will ask you what the child looks like, and for a recent picture. For example: your child is a ten year old boy with blue eyes, blond hair, weighing about 75 pounds. Would you be satisfied if the police brought you an eight year old girl with brown eyes and red hair? Why not? She's a child isn't she? Are not children all about the same? You would not be satisfied until the child with all of your child's characteristics was found. Also, once a child with all of your child's characteristics was found, you would stop looking for your child. You would not keep on looking for your child. The child found would have to have all, not just a few, of the characteristics of your child.

Just as children are not all alike, cars are also not all alike. We identify automobiles by characteristics. If you paid \$50,000 for an automobile, would you want that automobile to be a small, cheap car? It had better be a Cadillac, Mercedes Benz, or BMW. What is the difference between a Cadillac and a small cheap car? They both have engines, windows, doors, tires, etc. They are about the same, right? No. They are similar, but they are not the same. If we pay that much money, we will not be happy with a small cheap car.

The same is true with the church. There is only one church that Jesus built. Even though it may seem to be like other churches, unless a church has all the characteristics of the church we read about in the New Testament, it cannot be the church Jesus built. The New Testament tells us the characteristics of the church. Once we know these characteristics, we can compare the churches in the world and see which one has the same characteristics as the church Jesus built. The angel Gabriel said, “*And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end*” (Luke 1:33). The church Jesus built still exists. By using the characteristics found in the Bible, we can identify that church and become a part of it.

如何找到耶穌所建立的教會

在美國有一千六百多個不同的教會。大部分都宣稱是耶穌所建立的教會、或教會的『肢體之一』。我們已經研究過耶穌來世界是爲了建立祂的教會。祂建立一個教會而已。祂從來沒有建立成千上萬的宗派教會。如果耶穌建立一個教會而已、爲什麼有那麼多不同的教會？

當今的教會是從那裏來的？

新約聖經告訴我們、人會離開真道（徒 20:28-31；提前 4:1-4；提後 4:1-4）。從教會開始起、人便慢慢地離開真道。這就造成現今有幾百個教派的結果。耶穌不贊成這些教派。他也沒有建立它們。

很多人都說這句話、『教會都一樣』。這句話是真的嗎？我們同意所有的教會好象一樣、但是在事實上並不一樣。

特性

我們如何找到那個耶穌所建立的教會呢？我們找新約裏耶穌所建立的教會的特性。我們生活中都用特性。我們用特性辨識人。我們用名字、描述、社會救濟號碼或身份證來辨識人。我們也用指紋辨識人。人的指紋都不一樣。

你的孩子迷路的話、你如何找他呢？你會請警察幫助你。警察幫助你時、他們會問孩子的表相、也要看照片。比方說：你有十歲大的男孩、藍色的眼睛、金色的頭髮體重大約三十五公斤。如果警察找到一位八歲且有咖啡色眼睛紅色頭髮的女孩、你會滿意嗎？爲什麼呢？她不是一個小孩嗎？小孩不是都一樣嗎？你會等到有你小孩子特性的那一位找到了你才滿意。並且、你找到你的孩子之後、你才會停止再找你的孩子。所找到的孩子也必須有你小孩所有的特性、而不只是一些特性而已。

恰如小孩不都一樣、氣車也不都一樣。我們用特性辨認氣車。假如你花五萬元美金買氣車、你想要的那輛車是小型的便宜貨嗎？這車應該是凱迪拉克、賓士、或 BMW。凱迪拉克跟小型便宜的車有什麼不同的地方？它們都有引擎、玻璃車窗、門、輪胎、等等。這就差不多了、是不是？不是。它們是類似、但卻不一樣。我們如果花那麼多錢、卻買到小型且便宜的車、我們不會滿意的。

說到教會、這原則也一樣。耶穌建立一個教會而已。雖然祂的教好象會跟別的教會一樣、但除非一個教會的特性跟新約聖經裏教會的特性完全一樣、否則就不可能是耶穌所建立的教會。新約聖經告訴我們教會有什麼特性。我們知道這些特性之後、我們便能夠比較世上所有的教會、然後就可以認出那一個是耶穌所建立的教會了。天使加百列說、『他要作雅各家的王，直到永遠、他的國也沒有窮盡』（路 1:33）。耶穌所建立的教會還存在。用聖經裏所記載的特性、我們就可辨認出這個教會成爲其中的一份子。

Jesus only promised to build one church, therefore, the rest of the churches that are here today were started by men, not by God. The way we can be sure the church we are in is the church Jesus built is to look at the characteristics.

The Characteristics of the Church

When It Began

When was the Lord's church built? We can learn the answer to this question by studying the following scriptures: *“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatsoever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven”* (Matthew 16:18-19). Jesus tells us in this passage that at this time, the church had not yet started, because He said, *“I will build My church.”* At the time Jesus made this statement, the church had not yet started. Also, in this passage He tells us the kingdom and the church are the same. *“And He said to them, Assuredly I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power”* (Mark 9:1). The kingdom had not yet come when Jesus made this statement. It was still in the future. It was also still in the future when Jesus died on the cross because Joseph, who buried Christ, was still waiting for the kingdom (Mark 15:43). Jesus told his apostles to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the power to come (Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:5-8). As the first chapter of the book of Acts closes, the church (kingdom) had not yet come.

In Acts 5:11, the Bible records: *“So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.”* We see in this passage the church had already started. Later, Paul wrote: *“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love”* (Colossians 1:13). In this passage Paul tells us the kingdom is already here. Even later, the apostle John wrote: *“I John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ”* (Revelation 1:9). The kingdom had not yet started at the death of Christ, but from Acts chapter five, the church (kingdom) was already here.

The church started sometime between the death of Christ and Acts chapter five. To find the time, we can turn to Acts chapter two. It was the first Pentecost after Jesus rose from the dead, in about A.D. 30 that Christ kept his promise to build his church. If a church had its beginning at any other time, it cannot be the church Jesus promised to build (Acts 2:1-4, 36-42, 47). (Please see chart at the end of this booklet.)

Where It Began

Upon learning when the church began, it becomes very easy to see where it began. We just have to see where they were when the church began and we will have the answer.

In Acts chapter two, they were in the city of Jerusalem. This was according to prophecy (Isaiah 2:2-3; Luke 24:47). The church Jesus built began in Jerusalem. If a church started in a place other than Jerusalem, it cannot be the church Jesus promised to build (Acts 2:5, 14).

耶穌只應許建立一個教會而已、所以、現今其他的教會都是人建立的、不是 神建立的。而爲了確定我們是在耶穌所建立的教會裏、我們就必須研究教會的特性。

教會的特性

何時建立的？

主的教會什麼時候開始的？我們研究下面的經節卻可回答這個問題。『我還告訴你，你是彼得，我要把我的教會建造在這磐石上；陰間的權柄，不能勝過他。我要把天國的鑰匙給你，凡你在地上所捆綁的，在天上也要捆綁；凡你在地上所釋放的，在天上也要釋放』（太 16:18-19）。耶穌在這段經節中告訴我們說、教會在那時還沒有開始、因爲祂說、『我要建立我的教會』。耶穌說這句話時、祂的教會還沒有開始。而且、在這段經節中、祂還告訴我們教會跟國度是一樣的。『耶穌又對他們說、我實在告訴你們，站在這裏的，有人在沒嘗死味以前，必要看見 神的國大有能力臨到』（可 9:1）。耶穌說這句話時、祂的國度還沒有開始。這意謂的是將來的事情。耶穌死在十字架上時、國度還沒有開始因爲埋葬基督的約瑟那時正在『等候 神的國』（可 15:43）。耶穌吩咐祂的使徒在耶路撒冷等能力來（路 24:46-49；徒 1:5-8）。使徒行傳在第一章結束時、教會——國度還沒有開始。

在使徒行傳五章十一節、聖經記載著、『全教會和聽見這事的人，都甚懼怕』（徒 5:11）。在這段經節中我們可以看到教會已經開始了。之後、保羅寫著、『他救了我們脫離黑暗的權勢，把我們遷到他愛子的國裏』（西 1:13）。在這段經節中保羅告訴我們國度已經存在。甚至在稍後、使徒約翰也寫著、『我約翰就是你們的弟兄，和你們在耶穌的患難、國度、忍耐裏一同有分，爲 神的道，並爲給耶穌作的見證，曾在那名叫拔摩的海島上』（啓 1:9）。基督死的時候國度還沒有開始、但是從使徒行傳第五章之後、教會——國度已經存在。

基督死亡跟使徒行傳第五章之間於教會開始。爲了找出時間、我們可以看徒行傳第二章。在耶穌從死裏復活的頭一個五旬節時、大約西元 30 年後、基督成就祂的應許建立了祂的教會。假如一個教會在另外時間開始、那個教會便不可能是耶穌應許建立的教會（徒 2:1-4, 36-42, 47）。（請參考這本書後面的圖表）。

在那裏開始的

在我們學習到教會是什麼時候開始的以後、就很容易知道教會在那裏開始了。只要看教會在開始的時候是在那裏、就可以找到我們的答案了。

在使徒行傳第二章裏、根據預言的說法大家都在耶路撒冷城裏（賽 2:2-3；路 24:47）。耶穌所建立的教會是在耶路撒冷開始的。假如有一個教會是在別的地方開始的、那個教會便不可能是耶穌所應許建立的教會（徒 2:5, 14）。

The Name Given to the Church

Jesus said, “*I will build My church*” (Matthew 16:18). He used His own blood to buy the church (Acts 20:28). The apostle Paul called it “*the churches of Christ*” (Romans 16:16). It has to have the right name to be the church Jesus built. Of course, it could have a Bible name and not have the other characteristics. Remember, a church must have all the characteristics to be the church Jesus built.

Some say the name is not important. We do not believe that in other areas of life. We do not give bad names to our children. But if names were not important, it would not matter. We do not name our children Jezebel or Judas because names are important!

Founder—Foundation

Jesus is the founder of his church and the only foundation (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:11). If a church has a founder other than Jesus, that church cannot be the church Jesus built.

Organization

Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22-23). His church does not have any earthly headquarters. Instead, Jesus’ church is organized into independent, self-ruling congregations. Each congregation has a group of men to lead the congregation under Christ. The names or titles given to this group of men are: **elders, pastors, and shepherds** (Acts 14:23; 20:17-18, 28; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). These congregations also have deacons to serve the congregation (1 Timothy 3:8-13; Philippians 1:1). The Bible says nothing about one man ruling over one or more congregations, a conference, or a pope. If a church has a headquarters here on earth, conferences and councils, it cannot be the church Jesus built.

Worship

Please remember, just because things are similar does not mean they are the same. All churches have some of the same items of worship, but they are not exactly the same as the church Jesus built.

Most churches pray and preach in their worship services. What they pray and preach might, on some occasions, be right. But it is not enough just to be right in some areas only. We have to do things the way the Bible teaches (John 4:24).

Lord’s Supper

Jesus commanded us to observe the Lord's supper (Matthew 26:26-29). When are we to partake of the Lord's supper? We are commanded to assemble (Hebrews 10:25). The church partook of the Lord's supper when they assembled (1 Corinthians 11:33). They ate the Lord's supper when they assembled on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). Just as the Jews kept every Sabbath, Christians partake of the Lord's supper every first day of the week. If a church does not partake of the Lord's supper every first day of the week, they cannot be the church Jesus built. We use unleavened bread and fruit of the vine when we partake of the Lord's supper. We do not have the authority to use anything else.

教會的名字

耶穌說、『我要建立我的教會』（太 16:18）。祂用祂自己的血買教會（徒 20:28）。使徒保羅稱它是『基督的眾教會』（羅 16:16）。一個教會必須有正確的名字才是耶穌所建立的教會。當然、一個教會可能有聖經裏的名字而沒有其他的特性。但是不要忘記、作為耶穌所立的教會的話、這個教會必須具備有所有的特性。

有人說名字不重要。但在生活中有些方面我們卻不這麼想。我們不會用壞人的名字給我們的孩子取名字。但是、如果名字不重要、那就是無所謂了。正因為名字重要、所以我們不給我們的孩子取名叫耶洗別或猶大。

根基和建立者

耶穌是教會的建立者和唯一的根基（太 16:18；林前 3:11）。如果一個教會的建立者不是耶穌而是另外一個人、那個教會便不可能是耶穌所建立的教會。

組織

基督是教會的頭（弗 1:22-23）。祂的教會沒有世上的總部。耶穌的教會是自主、自治、獨立的組織。每一個地方教會有一群人在基督的權力之下帶領那地方教會。這群人的稱呼是：長老、牧師、監督（徒 14:23；20:17-18, 28；提前 3:1-7；多 1:5-9）。這些地方教會也有執事服事教會（提前 3:8-13；腓 1:1）。聖經沒有提到由一個人來管一個地方教會或一些地方教會、也沒有說到有議會、或教皇。如果一個教會有世上的總部跟議會、不可能是耶穌所建立的教會。

敬拜的方法

不要忘記、縱使東西有類似的、但卻不意謂是一樣的。所有的教派都有一些同樣的敬拜神的方法。但卻不是跟耶穌所建立教會的敬拜神的方法完全一樣。

大部分的教會在聚會時、禱告跟講道。他們所禱告和所講的也許是對的。但是只在一一些地方用正確的方法是不夠的。我們必須按照聖經的道理去作（約 4:24）。

主的晚餐

耶穌吩咐我們吃主餐（太 26:26-29）。我們應該在什麼時候吃主餐？我們必須參加聚會（來 10:25）。教會在聚會的時候吃主餐（林前 11:33）。他們七日的第一日聚會時吃主餐（徒 20:7）。就像猶太人在每一個禮拜守安息日一樣、每一個禮拜天基督徒也應該吃主餐。假如一個教會不是每一個禮拜天吃主餐、那個教會不可能是耶穌所建立的教會。我們吃主餐時、我們用無酵餅和葡萄汁。我們沒有權力擅用其他種食物。

Singing

The Bible clearly teaches us we are to sing in worship (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). There is no authority found in the New Testament for using instrumental music in worship. Yet, almost all religious groups use instrumental music in their worship. The church Jesus built does not use instruments of music in worship. If a church adds instrumental music to the worship, it cannot be the church Jesus built.

Contribution

Paul taught us to contribute of our means “every first day of the week” (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). These contributions were to be free-will offerings (2 Corinthians 9:5-7). This is the way the church Jesus built gets the money to do its work. If a church uses any other method, it cannot be the church Jesus built.

God’s Plan For Saving Man

The Bible teaches us to hear, believe, repent, confess Christ, and be baptized (Romans 10:17; John 8:24; Acts 17:30; Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 22:16). The Bible clearly shows us that baptism is essential to salvation (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3-4). Bible baptism is immersion (Acts 8:35-39; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12). The purpose of baptism is to wash away our sins (Acts 22:16), and cause us to enter Christ (Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:27), where all spiritual blessings are found (Ephesians 1:3). If a church does not teach this way for man to be saved, it cannot be the church Jesus built.

Conclusion

Jesus built only one church. We must be a member of that one church to be saved. We can identify His church. If you are in a church that does not have these characteristics, you are not in the church Jesus built. May God help us all to be a member of His church and not some man-made church.

唱詩

聖經很清楚的教導我們、敬拜時我們要唱詩歌（弗 5:19；西 3:16）。新約聖經也沒有給我們權力在敬拜時、用樂器伴奏。耶穌所建立的教會不用樂器敬拜神。如果一個教會加上樂器來敬拜神、那個教會便不是耶穌所建立的教會。

捐錢

保羅教導我們『每逢七日的第一日』要捐錢（林前 16:1-2）。這是從樂意的心捐出來的（林後 9:5-7）。耶穌所建立的教會用這種方法得到金錢作它的聖工。假如一個教會用其他種方法、那就不是耶穌所建立的教會。

神拯救人的計劃

聖經教導我們聽道、通道、悔改、承認基督、受浸（羅 10:17；約 8:24；徒 17:30；太 10:32-33；徒 22:16）。聖經很清楚的告訴我們受浸是爲了得救（可 16:16；徒 2:38；彼前 3:21；羅 6:3-4）。聖經所提到的『受洗』就是『受浸』（徒 8:35-39；羅 6:3-4；西 2:12）。受浸的目的是洗去我們的罪（徒 22:16）、也使我们歸入基督（羅 6:3-4；加 3:27）、所有屬靈的福氣都在基督裏（弗 1:3）。如果一個教會不是這樣教導人以便得救的話、那這個教會便不是耶穌所建立的教會。

結論

耶穌建立一個教會而已。爲了能夠得救我們必須在那唯一的教會裏面。我們能夠認出祂的教會。假如你在一個沒有這些特性的教會裏、你就不是在耶穌所建立的教會裏。求神幫助我們在祂的教會裏、而不是在人爲的教會裏面。

Living the Christian Life

After we become a Christian, we are a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17). We are in Christ and have access to all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3). We have a change of mind and a change of life (Colossians 3:1-17).

Responsibilities In Living The Christian Life

First, we must study the Bible, God's word. This is the way we can have spiritual growth. This is the way that God talks to us. *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15). *“as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby”* (1 Peter 2:2). *“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so”* (Acts 17:11). *“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil”* (Hebrews 5:12-14).

Second, we are to pray. This is the way we talk to God. The following verses tell us why and how we should pray. *“Pray without ceasing”* (1 Thessalonians 5:17). *“Be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:6-7). *“In this manner therefore pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen”* (Matthew 6:9-11). The only thing in this “model prayer” we can no longer use is the phrase *“Your kingdom come.”* We cannot use that because the Lord's kingdom has already come (Colossians 1:13; 1 Thessalonians 2:14; Revelation 1:9). *“Confess your trespasses one to another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit”* (James 5:16-18).

Third, we are to assemble for worship. *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another: and so much the more as you see the Day approaching”* (Hebrews 10:25). *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you”* (Matthew 6:33). *“If you love Me, keep My commandments”* (John 14:15). As we noted in the lesson on the identity of the church, when we assemble for worship we sing, pray, teach, and on the Lord's day, we partake of the Lord's supper and contribute money to the support of the Lord's work.

過基督徒生活

我們成爲基督徒之後、我們是新造的人（林後 5:17）。我們在基督裏也可以得到所有屬靈的福氣（弗 1:3）。我們的思想跟生活都改變了（西 3:1-17）。

過基督徒生活應該負什麼責任？

第一、我們必須研究聖經、神的話語。我們用這種方法在屬靈方面成長。神藉祂的話語對我們說話。『你當竭力在神面前得蒙喜悅，作無愧的工人，按著正意分解真理的道』（提後 2:15）。『就要愛慕那純淨的靈奶，像纔生的嬰孩愛慕奶一樣，叫你們因此漸長，以致得救』（彼前 2:2）。『這地方的人賢于帖撒羅尼迦的人，甘心領受這道，天天考察聖經，要曉得這道是與不是』（徒 17:11）。『看你們學習的工夫，本該作師傅，誰知還得有人將神聖言小學的開端，另教導你們，並且成了那必須吃奶，不能吃乾糧的人。凡只能吃奶的，都不熟練仁義的道理，因爲他是嬰孩；惟獨長大成人的，才能吃乾糧，他們的心竅習練得通達，就能分辨好歹了』（來 5:12-14）。

第二、我們必須禱告。這是我們對神說話的方法。下面的經節告訴我們爲什麼且要如何來禱告。『不住的禱告』（帖前 5:17）。『應當一無掛慮，只要凡事借著禱告、祈求，和感謝，將你們所要的告訴神。神所賜，出人意外的平安，必在基督耶穌裏，保守你們的心懷意念』（腓 4:6-7）。『所以，你們禱告要這樣說、我們在天上的父、願人都尊你的名爲聖。願你的國降臨、願你的旨意行在地上；如同行在天上。我們日用的飲食，今日賜給我們』（太 6:9-11）。『禱告的模板』中我們唯一不能用的詞是『願你的國降臨』。我們不能用這詞因爲主的國已經來了（西 1:13；帖前 2:14；啓 1:9）。『所以你們要彼此認罪，互相代求，使你們可以得醫治。義人祈禱所發的力量是大有功效的。以利亞與我們是一樣性情的人、他懇切禱告，求不要下雨，雨就三年零六個月不下在地上。他又禱告，天就降下雨來，地也生出土產』（雅 5:16-18）。

第三、我們必須聚會敬拜。『你們不可停止聚會，好象那些停止慣了的人，倒要彼此勸勉，既知道那日子臨近，就更當如此』（來 10:25）。『你們要先求他的國和他的義，這些東西都要加給你們了』（太 6:33）。『你們若愛我，就必遵守我的命令』（約 14:15）。正如我們在辨認教會的課程中已說過的、我們聚會敬拜時、我們唱詩歌、禱告、講道、還有在禮拜天時、我們吃主餐和捐錢是爲了支援主的聖工。

Fourth, we have the responsibility to teach the lost. *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age”* (Matthew 28:19-20). *And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned”* (Mark 16:15-16). *“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth”* (2 Timothy 2:24-25). *“At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the Word”* (Acts 8:1, 4).

Fifth, we must live a godly life. *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God”* (Romans 12:1-2). *“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present age”* (Titus 2:11-12). *“You are the salt of the earth: but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven”* (Matthew 5:13-16). *“For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you”* (1 Peter 4:3-4). *“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution”* (2 Timothy 3:12).

Sixth, we must be faithful to Christ, enduring to the end. *“Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter”* (1 Peter 4:12-16). *“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart”* (Galatians 6:9). *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”* (1 Corinthians 15:58). *“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life”* (Revelation 2:10).

Conclusion

Being baptized into Christ is not the end of our obedience, but the very beginning. We are born into the family of God. We must then grow in Christ. It is our hope this lesson will help each of us to better understand God's will.

第四、我們有責任教導失喪的人。『所以，你們要去使萬民作我的門徒，奉父子聖靈的名，給他們施洗。凡我所吩咐你們的，都教訓他們遵守，我就常與你們同在，直到世界的末了』(太 28:19-20)。『他又對他們說、你們往普天下去，傳福音給萬民聽。信而受洗的必然得救，不信的必被定罪』(可 16:15-16)。『然而主的僕人不可爭競，只要溫溫和和的待眾人，善於教導，存心忍耐，用溫柔勸那抵擋的人；或者神給他悔改的心，可以明白真道』(提後 2:24-25)。『從這日起，耶路撒冷的教會大遭逼迫，除了使徒以外，門徒都分散在猶大和撒瑪利亞各處。那些分散的人往各處去傳道』(徒 8:1, 4)。

第五、我們必須過虔誠的生活。『所以弟兄們，我以神的慈悲勸你們，將身體獻上，當作活祭，是聖潔的，是神所喜悅的；你們如此事奉乃是理所當然的。不要效法這個世界，只要心意更新而變化，叫你們察驗何為神的善良、純全、可喜悅的旨意』(羅 12:1-2)。『因為神救眾人的恩典已經顯明出來，教訓我們除去不敬虔的心和世俗的情欲，在今世自守、公義、敬虔度日』(多 2:11-12)。『你們是世上的鹽。鹽若失了味，怎能叫他再鹹呢。以後無用，不過丟在外面，被人踐踏了。你們是世上的光。城造在山上，是不能隱藏的。人點燈，不放在鬥底下，是放在燈檯上，就照亮一家的人。你們的光也當這樣照在人前，叫他們看見你們的好行為，便將榮耀歸給你們在天上的父』(太 5:13-16)。『因為往日隨從外邦人的心意行邪淫、惡欲、醉酒、荒宴、群飲，並可惡拜偶像的事，時候已經夠了。他們在這些事上，見你們不與他們同奔那放蕩無度的路，就以為怪，譏謗你們』(彼前 4:3-4)。『不但如此，凡立志在基督耶穌裏敬虔度日的，也都要受逼迫』(提後 3:12)。

第六、我們必須『堅持到底』、『至死忠心』。『親愛的弟兄阿，有火煉的試驗臨到你們，不要以為奇怪（似乎是遭遇非常的事），倒要歡喜；因為你們是與基督一同受苦，使你們在他榮耀顯現的時候，也可以歡喜快樂。你們若為基督的名受辱罵，便是有福的；因為神榮耀的靈常住在你們身上。你們中間卻不可有人因為殺人、偷竊、作惡、好管閒事而受苦；若為作基督徒受苦，卻不要羞恥，倒要因這名歸榮耀給神』(彼前 4:12-16)。『我們行善，不可喪志；若不灰心到了時候，就要收成』(加 6:9)。『所以我親愛的弟兄們，你們務要堅固，不可搖動，常常竭力多作主工，因為知道你們的勞苦，在主裏面不是徒然的』(林前 15:58)。『你務要至死忠心，我就賜給你那生命的冠冕』(啓 2:10)。

結論

受浸歸入基督不是服從的結束、而是一個開始而已。我們重生進入神的家。然後、我們必須在基督裏長大。我們希望這個課程幫助我們每一位更清楚的明白神的旨意。

The Second Coming of Christ

People are interested in the second coming of Christ. Every few years someone will come along setting the date for our Lord's return. In fact, one of the most popular religious subjects in the past twenty-five years has been the teaching that Jesus is going to come back to earth, set up His kingdom, and reign on the earth for one thousand years. This doctrine is called premillennialism. People have made a great deal of money from promoting this doctrine. Tribulation maps, posters, bumper stickers, books and movies have all been produced to promote this doctrine. A host of preachers in the religious world preach this doctrine. At least 90% of the denominational preachers believe this doctrine. There are even some in the church who believe and teach this doctrine. If we were to take a survey in just about any town and asked every person if they believed Christ was going to set up an earthly kingdom, the majority would answer: YES!

What about this teaching? Can it be proved in the Bible, or is it just the doctrine of men? *“Test all things; hold fast what is good”* (1 Thessalonians 5:21). *“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men”* (Matthew 15:8-9). *“If anyone wills do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is of God, or whether I speak on My own authority”* (John 7:17).

What does this doctrine include? The first time Jesus came to the earth, He came to establish His kingdom, but since the Jews rejected Him, instead He set up a temporary institution, that is, the church. The New Testament refutes this claim (Ephesians 3:10-11). This doctrine claims the kingdom and the church are not the same. Jesus promised to establish His church (kingdom) (Matthew 16:18-19), and He did that in the first century (Acts 2:47; Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:9). Premillennialism teaches that Christ's coming is imminent! It says there are many signs before Christ's coming. It implies God failed in His first attempt to establish the kingdom talked about in the Old Testament. It teaches that Christ will reign on a literal throne, in a literal temple, in literal Jerusalem.

This doctrine is false! It is not supported by the teachings found in the Bible. In this lesson we will examine the scriptures to see what it teaches in regard to the second coming of Christ.

Is Christ Coming Again?

Is Christ coming again? Definitely! *“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). *“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a*

基督第二次的再來

人們對基督的再來有興趣。每隔幾年就有一些人來訂主再來的日期。其實、在最近的二十五年間最熱門的宗教題目之一便是耶穌要再來世間、建立祂的國度、並在世上統治一千年。這個理論叫做『千禧年主義』。有人提倡這種道理而發財。而為了提倡這種道理、人們賣災難圖、海報、黏貼的卷標、一些書跟電影。在有宗教信仰的世界中有很多傳道人講這種道理。信這個道理的至少有百分之九十而教派的傳道人中。在教會裏、甚至也有一些人相信這種道理。假如我們在任何城鎮裏去調詢查問每一個人問他們相不相信基督會再來建立世上的國度、多數的人會說：我相信！

這個理論到底是怎麼樣呢？有沒有辦法用聖經證明、或只是人為的道理而已？『但要凡事察驗，善美的要持守』(帖前 5:21)。『這百姓用嘴唇尊敬我，心卻遠離我；他們將人的吩咐當作道理教導人，所以拜我也是枉然』(太 15:8-9)。『人若立志遵著他的旨意行，就必曉得這教訓或是出於神，或是我憑著自己說的』(約 7:17)。

這種道理包括什麼樣的說法呢？耶穌第一次來世間、祂想要建立祂的國、但是因為猶太人拒絕祂、祂建立暫時的機構、就是教會。新約反駁這種說法(弗 3:10-11)。這種道理是說到國度跟教會不一樣。但耶穌應許建立祂的教會(國度)(太 16:18-19)、祂在第一世紀時便這麼作了(徒 2:47；西 1:13；啓 1:9)。千禧年主義說耶穌的再來是就要發生的了。這種理論說、耶穌再來之前會有很多預兆。這個道理的含意是說神沒有建成舊約裏所提到的國度。這個道理說、基督將會在真正的耶路撒冷、在真正的聖殿裏、坐在真正的寶座上統治者。

這個道理是錯誤的！聖經裏的教訓無法支援這個理論。在這課程中我們將要檢閱聖經所說關於基督再來的教訓。

基督會再來嗎？

基督會再來嗎？一定的！『說了這話，他們正看的時候，他就被取上升，有一朵雲彩把他接去，便看不見他了。當他往上去，他們定睛望天的時候，忽然有兩個人身穿白衣，站在旁邊，說、加利利人哪，你們為甚麼站著望天呢。這離開你們被接升天的耶穌，你們見他怎樣往天上去，他還要怎樣來』(徒 1:9-11)。『按著命定，人人都有一死，死後且有審判。像這樣，基督既然一次被獻，擔當了多人的罪，將來要向那等候他的人第二次顯現，

second time, apart from sin, for salvation” (Hebrews 9:27-28). “Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation. For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:1-9).

When Will Christ Come Again?

When will Christ come again? Not one person on this earth knows the answer to this question. No signs will be given for the second coming. *“But of that day and that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the keeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch” (Mark 13:32-37). “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10).*

What Will He Do When He Returns?

First, He will raise the dead. *“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves shall hear His voice And shall come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation” (John 5:28-29).*

Second, He will judge the world (Matthew 25:31-46). *“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead” (Acts 17:30-31). “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10). “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the Books” (Revelation 20:12).*

並與罪無關，乃是為拯救他們』(來 9:27-28)。『親愛的弟兄阿，我現在寫給你們的是第二封信。這兩封都是提醒你們，激發你們誠實的心，叫你們記念聖先知豫先所說的話，和主救主的命令，就是使徒所傳給你們的。第一要緊的，該知道在末世必有好譏誚的人隨從自己的私欲出來譏誚說、主要降臨的應許在那裏呢。因為從列祖睡了以來，萬物興起初創造的時候仍是一樣。他們故意忘記，從太古憑神的命有了天，並從水而出藉水而成的地。故此，當時的世界被水淹沒就消滅了；但現在的天地還是憑著那命存留，直留到不敬虔之人受審判遭沈淪的日子，用火焚燒。親愛的弟兄阿，有一件事你們不可忘記，就是主看一日如千年，千年如一日。主所應許的尚未成就，有人以為他是耽延，其實不是耽延，乃是寬容你們，不願有一人沈淪，乃願人人都悔改』(彼後 3:1-9)。

基督什麼時候再來？

基督什麼時候再來？在世上沒有人能夠回答這個問題。關於基督什麼時候再來也不會有什麼預兆。『但那日子，那時辰，沒有人知道，連天上的使者也不知道，子也不知道，惟有父知道。你們要謹慎，警醒祈禱，因為你們不曉得那日期幾時來到。這事正如一個人離開本家，寄居外邦，把權柄交給僕人，分派各人當作的工，又吩咐看門的儆醒。所以你們要儆醒，因為你們不知道家主甚麼時候來，或晚上、或半夜、或雞叫、或早晨。恐怕他忽然來到，看見你們睡著了。我對你們所說的話，也是對眾人說：要儆醒』(可 13:32-37)。

『但主的日子要像賊來到一樣；那日天必大有響聲廢去，有形質的都要被烈火銷化，地和其上的物都要燒盡了』(彼後 3:10)。

祂再來時要作什麼？

第一、祂要讓死人復活。『你們不要把這事看作希奇，時候要到，凡在墳墓裏的，都要聽見他的聲音，就出來；行善的復活得生，作惡的復活定罪』(約 5:28-29)。

第二、祂會審判這世界(太 25:31-46)。『世人蒙昧無知的時候，神並不監察，如今卻吩咐各處的人都要悔改。因為他已經定了日子，要借著他所設立的人按公義審判天下，並且叫他從死裏復活，給萬人作可信的憑據』(徒 17:30-31)。『因為我們眾人必要在基督台前顯露出來，叫各人按著本身所行的，或善或惡的受報』(林後 5:10)。『我又看見死了的人，無論大小，都站在寶座前。案卷展開了，並且另有一卷展開，就是生命冊。死了的人都憑著這些案卷所記載的，照他們所行的受審判』(啓 20:12)。

Third, He will return the kingdom to the Father. *“But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power”* (1 Corinthians 15:23-24).

Fourth, eternity begins. There will be just one resurrection, not two. NOTE: The word resurrection is in the singular, not plural. *“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves shall hear His voice And shall come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation”* (John 5:28-29). *“I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust”* (Acts 24:15).

Fifth, the earth will be destroyed. *“But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?”* (2 Peter 3:7, 10, 12).

Conclusion

Christ came to earth almost 2,000 years ago. He is going to come again. Because He is coming again, we are preaching the gospel to a lost and dying world. *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men”* (2 Corinthians 5:10-11). May each of us prepare to meet the Lord in judgment.

第三、祂要把國度交還給天父。『但各人是按著自己的次序復活；初熟的果子是基督；以後在他來的時候，是那些屬基督的。再後末期到了，那時基督既將一切執政的、掌權的、有能的，都毀滅了，就把國交與父 神』（林前 15:23-24）。

第四、永遠開始了。只有一個復活、不是兩個。注意：『復活』這詞、是單數、不是複數的。『你們不要把這事看作希奇，時候要到，凡在墳墓裏的，都要聽見他的聲音，就出來；行善的復活得生，作惡的復活定罪』（約 5:28-29）。『並且靠著 神，盼望死人，無論善惡，都要復活，就是他們自己也有這個盼望』（徒 24:15）。

第五、全世界將被毀滅。『但現在的天地還是憑著那命存留，直留到不敬虔之人受審判遭沈淪的日子，用火焚燒。但主的日子要像賊來到一樣；那日天必大有響聲廢去，有形質的都要被烈火銷化，地和其上的物都要燒盡了。切切仰望 神的日子來到。在那日天被火燒就銷化了，有形質的都要被烈火鎔化』（彼後 3:7, 10, 12）。

結論

大約在 2,000 年前時基督第一次來到這世上。而還祂會再來。由於祂會再來、所以我們要傳福音給失喪的世界聽。『因為我們眾人必要在基督台前顯露出來，叫各人按著本身所行的，或善或惡的受報。我們既知道主是可畏的，所以勸人』（林後 5:10-11）。希望我們每一位準備受主的審判。

Counting the Cost

Before a person becomes a Christian, he needs to consider very carefully if he is willing to pay the price that it takes to live the Christian life. We have found this to be especially true in our work among the Chinese people. In the states we might be able to teach a new Christian some things after they become a Christian. The Chinese do not have the religious background that westerners have and therefore they need to fully understand what they are doing.

Every person needs to know that becoming a Christian means entering the Lord's church, not a denomination; and that becoming a Christian carries with it much responsibility. We know that a person who becomes a Christian and then falls away is worse off than one who never knew the truth. *“For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: A dog returns to his own vomit, and, a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire”* (2 Peter 2:20-22). *“And that servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more”* (Luke 12:47-48).

Passages That Emphasize “Counting The Cost”

It would be very helpful for every person who is thinking about becoming a child of God to study passages that urge us to count the cost before making a commitment to God (Matthew 10:32-39; Luke 14:26-33). For people who have counted the cost, we need to encourage them to obey the gospel. *“We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you”* (2 Corinthians 6:1-2). *“Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor; that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. Therefore to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin”* (James 4:13-17).

Conclusion

This lesson has been designed to help those who have not yet obeyed the gospel to have a better understanding of what is involved in becoming a child of God and having the hope of heaven (Matthew 7:21-23). It was also presented to help remind those of us who have already obeyed the gospel what we must always remember. *“For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth”* (2 Peter 1:12). Further, it was presented to help Christians to teach others these basic truths (2 Timothy 2:2).

計算代價 - 獻身於耶穌

一個人在成爲基督徒之前、他應該先好好的考慮願不願意付出過基督徒生活的代價。這點在傳福音給中國人時是很重要的。在美國我們能夠等到人在成爲基督徒之後才教導他們一些事情、但是中國人並沒有像西方人一樣的宗教背景。所以、在成爲基督徒之前需要更清楚的明白他們所要作的事情。

每一個人需要知道成爲基督徒的意思是歸入主的教會、而不是宗派教會；其實基督徒也必須要付出很多責任。我們知道人成爲基督徒後又墜落了、是比從來不知道真理的人更不好了。『倘若他們因認識主救主耶穌基督，得以脫離世上的污穢，後來又在其中被纏住、制伏，他們末後的景況就比先前更不好了。他們曉得義路，竟背棄了傳給他們的聖命，倒不如不曉得爲妙。俗語說得真不錯，狗所吐的他轉過來又吃；豬洗淨了又回到泥裏去輓，這話在他們身上正合式』(彼後 2:20-22)。『僕人知道主人的意思，卻不豫備，又不順從他的意思行，那僕人必多受責打；惟有那不知道的，作了當受責打的事，必少受責打；因爲多給誰，就向誰多取；多托誰，就向誰多要』(路 12:47-48)。

強調『計算代價 - 獻身於耶穌』的經節

作決定成爲 神的兒女計算代價之前，各人應該研究關於獻身於 神的經節 (太 10:32-39；路 14:26-33)。人已經計算代價的話、我們需要鼓厲他們遵守福音。『我們與神同工的，也勸你們不可徒受他的恩典；因爲他說、在悅納的時候，我應允了你；在拯救的日子，我搭救了你。看哪。現在正是悅納的時候；現在正是拯救的日子』(林後 6:1-2)。『噫，你們有話說、今天明天我要往某城裏去，在那裏住一年，作買賣得利。其實明天如何，你們還不知道。你們的生命是甚麼呢。你們原來是一片雲霧，出現少時就不見了。你們只當說、主若願意，我們就可以活著，也可以作這事，或作那事。現今你們竟以張狂誇口；凡這樣誇口都是惡的。人若知道行善，卻不去行，這就是他的罪了』(雅 4:13-17)。

結論

我們準備這個課程是要幫助還沒有成爲基督徒的人更清楚的明白作 神的兒女有天堂的指望 (太 7:21-23)。我們也準備這個課程來提醒已經成爲基督徒的人應該永遠要記住的事情。『你們雖然曉得這些事，並且在你們已有的真道上堅固，我卻要將這些事常常題醒你們』(彼後 1:12)。並且、我們也準備這個課程來幫助基督徒去教導別人這些基本的真理 (提後 2:2)。

It is our hope and prayer that every person might be saved and go to heaven. *“But also for this reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 1:5-11). *“who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Timothy 2:4). *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up”* (2 Peter 3:10).

May God help us to live a faithful Christian life so we might go to heaven (Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 3:14).

我們希望也代禱每一位都得救且上天堂。『正因這緣故，你們要分外的殷勤；有了信心，又要加上德性；有了德性，又要加上知識；有了知識，又要加上節制；有了節制，又要加上忍耐；有了忍耐，又要加上虔敬；有了虔敬，又要加上愛弟兄的心；有了愛弟兄的心，又要加上愛衆人的心。你們若充充足足的有這幾樣，就必使你們在認識我們的主耶穌基督上不至於閑懶不結果子了。人若沒有這幾樣，就是眼瞎，只看見近處的，忘了他舊日的罪已經得了潔淨。所以弟兄們，應當更加殷勤，使你們所蒙的恩召和揀選堅定不移。你們若行這幾樣，就永不失腳。這樣，必叫你們豐豐富富的得以進入我們主救主耶穌基督永遠的國』（彼後 1:5-11）。『他願意萬人得救，明白真道』（提前 2:4）。『但主的日子要像賊來到一樣；那日天必大有響聲廢去，有形質的都要被烈火銷化，地和其上的物都要燒盡了』（彼後 3:10）。

我們求 神幫助我們過忠實的基督徒的生活使我們能夠上天堂去（啓 2:10；來 3:14）。