

truth unlocked

A workbook of 16 essential Bible studies
to help you unlock the truth of God's Word

PAUL ADAMS & JOHN PHILLIPS

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Introduction

Who is Truth Unlocked designed for?

Truth Unlocked has been written primarily for Christians; for those who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and have chosen to live according to what the Bible teaches.

It will be of most benefit to new Christians to help them understand the essential truths revealed by God in the Bible. We cannot live godly lives unless we understand Biblical truth and apply it as the foundation for our lives.

Truth Unlocked will also be a helpful refresher for those who have been Christians for some time and wish to review the basics of their faith. They may be surprised by what they learn!

If you are not a Christian (and perhaps do not understand what it really means to be a Christian), you should find answers to many of your questions as you work through the studies. However, you will find pages 41-44 particularly helpful.

How to use Truth Unlocked

There are several ways in which **Truth Unlocked** can be used. You may wish to work through the studies on your own, allowing about an hour for each one. Ideally, you should look to have a 'mentor' who will be able to clarify any points of difficulty and check any answers you may be uncertain about.

An option is to work with one or two others. You can either go through the questions together or you can each answer the questions independently and then meet to compare answers, discuss areas of difficulty and consider the section, 'To think about'.

Another possibility is for a leader to run a course, split into two parts, each over eight weeks; the first covering studies 1 to 8 and the second, covering studies 9 to 16.

Ideally, the group members should work through the studies in advance (requiring about an hour), with a possible structure for the weekly session being:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| Review of answers to questions | - 35 minutes |
| Discussion of 'Key truths' | - 15 minutes |
| Consider questions under 'To think about' | - 20 minutes |

Whichever of these (or other) options is selected, there are two important guidelines which you should follow. Firstly, pray! Pray before you start a study, asking God to help you to understand what He is saying in the Bible verses. Then, after you have finished the study, ask God to show you how He wants you to put into practice what you have learned and ask Him to help you do it.

Secondly, as you consider each question, it is a good idea to come to your own view on the answer before you look up the Bible verse.

Notes

Where Bible verses are quoted, they are from the New International Version (NIVUK). However, we recommend that you use the version you are most familiar with.

The Bible references are shown as, for example, John 3:16, being chapter 3 verse 16. 'a' (or 'b') following a verse indicates the first (or second) part of the verse.

part one
Christian belief

studies 1 – 8

God the Father

1

People have strange ideas about God and what He is like. To understand what He is really like, we must look at what the Bible says for God has revealed Himself to us in the Bible.

Who is God?

Colossians 1:3

What evidence is there that God exists?

Psalm 19:1

Psalm 139:13-14

John 20:30-31

Hebrews 1:1-3

1 • God the Father

What is God like?

Isaiah 6:3

Psalm 90:2, 4

Psalm 139:7-10

John 14:7-9

James 1:17

1 John 4:8

How do we know that God loves us?

Romans 5:8

1 John 4:9-10

Key truths

- **It is foolish to think that there is no God.**

The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'

Psalm 14:1a

- **God loves us and longs that we might respond to His love.**

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

1 John 3:1a





To think about

- How would you try to convince a friend that God does actually exist?
- If asked the question, 'What is God like?', what would be the main characteristics you would mention?

Notes

Jesus Christ the Son of God

2

Contrary to popular opinion, Jesus did not come into existence when He was born to Mary at Bethlehem. He has always existed.

What do we know about Jesus before He came to earth?

John 1:1-3 (In this passage the 'Word' is referring to Jesus.)

Colossians 1:15-17

Why was He called Jesus?

Matthew 1:21

How do we know that Jesus is truly human?

Luke 2:7, 40

Luke 4:2

2 • Jesus Christ the Son of God

How do we know that Jesus is truly human? (Continued)

Matthew 8:23-24

John 19:32-33

How do we know that Jesus is truly God?

John 1:1

Mark 2:5-12

Mark 4:37-41

John 11:25, 43-44

How do we know that Jesus is truly God? (Continued)

John 14:8-9

Was Jesus tempted? Did He sin?

Hebrews 4:15

Key truths



- **Jesus is God (the Son of God) and He has always existed.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1

- **Because Jesus lived as a human being, He truly understands the temptations and problems we face.**

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to feel sympathy for our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin.

Hebrews 4:15



To think about

- How would you try to convince your friends that Jesus was more than a good teacher?
- If asked the question, 'What is Jesus like?', how would you answer?

Notes

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, not a 'force' as many people seem to think. He is the third person of the Trinity, alongside God the Father and God the Son (Jesus Christ). The Holy Spirit is also referred to in the Bible as the Spirit of Jesus (and of Christ and of God's Son).

How do we know that the Holy Spirit is a person?

Romans 8:26-27

Ephesians 4:30

What are some of the fluid images used to describe the Holy Spirit?

John 7:37-39; Acts 2:2-3

To whom does God give His Spirit?

Romans 8:26

3 • The Holy Spirit

What are some of the roles of the Holy Spirit?

John 16:7-9 (Advocate - or, in other versions, Helper, Comforter or Counsellor - is referring to the Holy Spirit.)

John 14:25-26

Romans 8:26

What is the Holy Spirit's ultimate purpose?

John 16:14

How does the Holy Spirit help us as Christians?

Acts 1:8

Galatians 5:22-25

How does the Holy Spirit help us as Christians? (Continued)

1 Corinthians 2:10-15

We receive gifts from God through His Spirit –

- what are the gifts?

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

- for whose benefit are they given?

1 Corinthians 12:7, 11

Key truths

- **The Holy Spirit is a person, the third person of the Godhead.**

'...Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...'
Matthew 28:19

- **The Holy Spirit has been given to all believers, to show that they are God's people.**

He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.
2 Corinthians 1:21b-22





To think about

- What gifts do you think God has given you? Are you using them for the good of the church? (If you need help in identifying your gifts, speak to a Christian friend or church leader.)
- Are there any 'fruits of the Spirit' (see Galatians 5:22-23) which are not evident in your life?

Notes

Creation

4

In any discussion with someone who doubts the existence of God, the subject of creation is often raised. In this study it is not possible to tackle all the arguments about creation but we will look at the Biblical account.

Who was involved in the Creation?

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 45:12

John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16-17

Genesis 1:2b; Psalm 104:30

What was created?

Genesis 1:1-2:3 Name six main elements which God created.

How did God create the world?

Genesis 1:3 (also verses 6, 9, 11 and others)

4 • Creation

Why did God create the world?

Psalm 19:1

What did God think about everything He had created?

Genesis 1:31

Why did God create human beings?

Isaiah 43:7

Why are we so special?

Genesis 1:27

What responsibility has God given human beings?

Genesis 1:26

Genesis 2:15

Key truths



- **When God made the world, He declared that it was 'very good'; indeed, it was perfect.**

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the sixth day.

Genesis 1:31

- **We are made in God's image.**

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

Genesis 1:27



To think about

- What does it mean to you to know that you are made in God's image?
- How can we look after God's creation?

Notes

In the last study we saw that the world which God made was perfect. In this study we will look at sin; how it came into the world, its effect upon the world and how God looks upon sin.

What state is the world in now?

Ecclesiastes 1:14-15; John 7:7

Romans 8:19-22

How does the Bible describe sin?

Isaiah 53:6

Psalms 106:43

When did sin first come into the world?

Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-7

5 • Sin

What does sin involve? Where does it come from?

Mark 7:14-23

How does God feel about sin?

Genesis 6:5-6

Romans 1:18

In the world today, who is guilty of sinning?

Romans 3:9-12, 23

What is the consequence of our sin?

Romans 6:23

What is the only hope for us?

Romans 7:21-25



Key truths

- **Sin is rebellion against God. It came into the world through the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, as they deliberately disobeyed God.**

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Genesis 3:6

- **Every human being who has ever lived has sinned against God.**

... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ...

Romans 3:23



To think about

- How would you explain to a friend the meaning of sin according to what the Bible teaches?
- What do your friends think about sin? Do they think that they sin themselves?

Notes

1 The Cross

In the last study we learned what God thinks of sin and the consequences of our sin. In this study we begin to look at God's plan to rescue us, instead of punishing us.

What does God think about His world?

John 3:16

Why did God send His Son, Jesus, into the world?

Mark 10:45; Romans 5:8; 1 Timothy 1:15

As a result of Jesus' death -

- what are believers saved from?
Romans 5:9

- what do believers gain?
John 3:16-17

6 • God's Remedy: 1 The Cross

What does the Bible say about those who do not believe on Jesus?

John 3:18; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

How does Jesus' death save us?

1 Peter 2:24

What was the effect upon Jesus for paying the penalty for our sins?

Matthew 27:46

2 Corinthians 5:21

Galatians 3:13

Why was Jesus not defeated by death?

Acts 2:24

How is Jesus described by Paul?

1 Timothy 2:5-6



Key truths

- **Jesus is the only way to God**

Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me...'

John 14:6

- **All who believe in God's Son will have eternal life: all who do not believe will be condemned**

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:16,18



To think about

- If your friends feel certain that God will accept them because they have always been honest and helped others, what would you say to them?
- How would you answer a friend who argues that a God of love would not inflict everlasting punishment on anyone (except, perhaps, the very worst criminals)?

Notes

God's remedy:

2 The resurrection and ascension

7

Father God raised Jesus from the dead. Christians do not worship a dead teacher but a risen Saviour and Lord.

Why is the raising of Jesus from the dead (His resurrection) so important?

1 Corinthians 15:14, 17-19

What proof is there that Jesus rose from the dead?

Luke 24:1-7

Luke 24:36-43

John 20:19-20

1 Corinthians 15:5-8

7 • God's Remedy: 2 The resurrection and ascension

What was achieved by the resurrection?

1 Corinthians 15:54-56

Romans 8:11

What does the resurrection teach us about God?

Ephesians 1:19-20

How did Jesus ascend into heaven?

Acts 1:9-11

Where is Jesus now? What authority does He have?

Ephesians 1:20-22; 1 Peter 3:22

7 • God's Remedy: 2 The resurrection and ascension

What is Jesus doing now for His followers?

Hebrews 7:25b

What can Christians look forward to as a result of the resurrection and ascension of Jesus?

John 14:2-3



Key truths

- **The resurrection is an essential part of our faith. If Jesus had not been raised from the dead, we would still be condemned by our sins.**

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ... But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, ...
1 Corinthians 15:17, 20a

- **Jesus is now ruling with God the Father in heaven. He acts as a priest, speaking and pleading with the Father on our behalf.**

... but because Jesus lives for ever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Hebrews 7:24-25



To think about

- How would you try to persuade a friend that Jesus did actually rise from the dead?
- Which of the Bible verses in this study gives you the greatest comfort or strength? Why?
- What, if anything, have you learned from this study which has really surprised you?

Notes

Our response to God's remedy

8

Advances in medical science and the development of new technologies demonstrate man's ability to prolong life and to enhance the quality of life. However, as human beings, we have no answer of our own to our biggest problem - sin.

Why are we unable to save ourselves from the consequences of our sin?

Romans 3:20

Ephesians 2:1-2

If we cannot save ourselves, how can we be saved?

Ephesians 2:8-9

What are the two things we need to do to be saved?

Mark 1:15b

8 • Our response to God's remedy

Faith ... why is this so important?

Hebrews 11:6

Faith ... how has Jesus promised to help us?

John 6:39-40

John 10:27-28

Hebrews 7:24-25

Repentance ... what does it involve?

Ezekiel 18:30-31a; Acts 26:20

8 • Our response to God's remedy

Repentance ... why is it so important?

Luke 13:3, 5

When we choose to follow Jesus, why must we change the way we live?

Romans 6:15, 18



Key truths

- **Salvation is a free gift from God. There is nothing we can do to earn it or deserve it.**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8, 9

- **There can be no forgiveness without repentance.**

Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit...'

Acts 2:38



To think about

- How would you try to answer your friends who insist that God will accept them because they are essentially good people?
- We have been saved by grace. How would you explain the meaning of grace?

Notes

knowing the Bible

knowing God

Knowing the Bible, Knowing God

It is possible to study the Bible and know it well and, yet, miss the point of why it was written – to show us how we can have a right relationship with God.

The following explanation of how we can know God personally, by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, may be helpful to those who have yet to make that discovery for themselves.

If you are not already a Christian (or child of God) – or even uncertain what that really means – do read these notes before moving on to Part Two of **Truth Unlocked**.

Why are we not already in a right relationship with God?

When God created the world, He made us in His likeness so that we might relate with Him and live to glorify Him. But sin spoiled the relationship which God intended, when Adam and Eve disobeyed Him in the Garden of Eden.

We have all inherited that sinful nature.

The Bible tells us:

... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 3:23

God is absolutely holy and pure. He cannot tolerate sin and that has become a barrier between God and man.

If God hates sin, does that mean He is not a God of love?

As God is just, He cannot simply ignore our sin. There has to be a punishment for it.

The Bible tells us:

For the wages of sin is death, ...

Romans 6:23a

However, He is certainly loving and merciful. His love is so great that He longs to restore us rather than punish us. He made that possible by sending His Son, Jesus, to come to live on earth as a human being and to die in our place.

The Bible tells us:

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

Does that mean God will not punish us?

It means that we will not have to face God's punishment but only if we choose to receive God's forgiveness. We can ask God to forgive us if we believe that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins.

Receiving the forgiveness of our sins is described in the Bible as being 'born again'. It is the start of a new life as a follower of Jesus.

What happens if we decide not to accept Jesus?

If we say, 'No', to God's rescue plan, we will be punished ourselves. That will happen when Jesus returns to earth, for He will come to judge – and punish – everyone who has not accepted God's offer of forgiveness.

It will be the most awful punishment of being separated from God forever.

The Bible tells us:

... but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:18

What do I need to do to become a Christian?

You can become a follower of Jesus and have all your sins forgiven by:

- accepting that you have not kept God's laws and deserve to be punished,
- believing that only Jesus can rescue you from God's punishment,
- confessing the wrong things in your life and repenting of them, that is, turning away from them,
- deciding to live to please God as a follower of Jesus.

If you are ready to take those steps, you can do so now by using the following prayer.

Dear Father God,

I am very sorry for everything in my life, past and present, which is not right.

I now repent of my sin.

Thank You for sending Jesus to die in my place, for my sins, in order to save me from the punishment which I deserve.

I want to live to please Jesus and to make Him the centre of my life - to be my King.

Please forgive all my sins and accept me as Your child. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit to help me live a new life.

Amen

If you have been sincere with this prayer, God has received you as His child. All your sins – past, present and future – are forgiven.

And what now? You will need to grow as a Christian and that can only happen if you meet regularly with other Christians where the Bible is taught carefully. Therefore, the first step is to link with a local church and with Christians who will be able to help and support you.

part two
Christian living

studies 9 – 16

Christian certainty

9

The last study explained that we are saved (and so become a Christian) when we put our faith in Jesus Christ and repent of our sins. In this study we consider how we can be certain that we are truly saved.

Why was the Bible written?

1 John 5:13

What has Jesus Christ promised?

John 1:12

John 6:47

John 10:27-28

Revelation 3:20

9 • Christian certainty

How can we be sure that we truly are God's children?

Romans 8:16

How can we be certain that Jesus will always be with us?

Matthew 28:20b

How can we be certain that we will be able to keep going as a Christian?

Jude 1:24

What can separate us from Christ's love?

Romans 8:31-39

When we sin as Christians, what must we do? What does God promise?

1 John 1:9

Key truths

- **Jesus will receive everyone whom the Father gives Him.**

All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

John 6:37

- **When we sin we do not lose our salvation but we do need to confess our sin to God: unconfessed sin clouds our relationship with Him.**

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

1 John 1:9





To think about

- Do you ever doubt whether you truly are a child of God? If so, how do you deal with those doubts?
- Do you thank God every day for giving you to Jesus (see John 6:37 above)? It is a very good daily habit!

Notes

The cost of living as a Christian

10

As we have seen, salvation (eternal life) is a free gift. There is nothing we can do to earn it. However, this study explains that there is a real cost to living the Christian life.

What does it mean to be a Christian?

Romans 12:1-2

Matthew 5:13-16

What must we give up if we are to follow Jesus Christ?

Hebrews 12:1

- what are some of the specific things?

Colossians 3:5-11

10 • The cost of living as a Christian

What are some of the new things we must take on as disciples of Jesus Christ?

Philippians 2:1-5

Acts 17:11

Colossians 4:2

Hebrews 10:24-25

2 Corinthians 8:1-7; 9:6-7

What warning has Jesus given His disciples?

John 16:33b

10 • The cost of living as a Christian

What opposition did the early Christians face?

Acts 4:1-4, 18-22; Acts 5:17-18; Acts 8:1-3

How should we react if we suffer because of our faith?

1 Peter 4:12-16

Key truths



- **Following Jesus can be costly. It is not a decision to be taken lightly.**

'If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters – yes, even their own life – such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple...'

Luke 14:26-27

- **We should recognise the value of trials: they test and strengthen our faith.**

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

James 1:2-3



To think about

- What has been most costly for you as a follower of Jesus?
- How are Christians being persecuted in many countries today? Do you pray for them regularly?
- Reflect again on what it cost Jesus to pay the penalty for our sins. Read Philippians 2:6-8

Notes

The Bible

11

Christians need to grow more like Jesus. Our vital source of spiritual food is the Bible which is God's Word. God inspired different people to write what He wanted to communicate. The Bible is entirely relevant to us today and God is able to speak to us personally as we take time to study it.

How do we know the Bible was important to Jesus?

Luke 4:1-13

Why was the Bible given to us?

John 20:31

2 Timothy 3:15-17

How was the Bible given to us?

2 Peter 1:19-21

11 • The Bible

In the Apostle Paul's day, why and how did the Berean Jews study the Scriptures?

Acts 17:11

- with what result?
Acts 17:12

What should we expect from God's Word?

Psalms 119:105

Acts 20:32

How should we respond to God's Word?

Jeremiah 15:16

How should we respond to God's Word? (Continued)

Psalm 119:11

James 1:22-25



Key truths

- **Scripture is not just a collection of man's random thoughts and ideas. God Himself inspired and directed the writing of it to record what He wants us to know.**

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ...

2 Timothy 3:16

- **The Bible is the Christian's handbook for daily living: we cannot afford to neglect it.**

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws.

Psalm 119:105-106



To think about

- What priority do you give to regular reading of the Bible? If you are finding it difficult, what might you be able to do to fit this into your daily schedule?
- Do you read the Bible expecting God to speak to you? Can you think of a time when He has clearly spoken to you?

Notes

Prayer

12

Prayer is a crucial part of a Christian's life. We cannot maintain a strong relationship with God, our Father, unless we have regular conversations with Him, both speaking to Him and listening.

How do we know that prayer was important to Jesus when He was on earth?

Matthew 14:23; Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12

What should prayer involve?

Psalm 32:5

Philippians 4:6-7

Romans 15:30; Colossians 1:9; Ephesians 1:16-17

12 • Prayer

What instructions are given about praying?

Matthew 6:6

Luke 18:1-8

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Hebrews 4:16

What can we learn from the prayers the Apostle Paul prayed for other Christians?

Ephesians 1:17; Colossians 1:9-10; Philippians 1:9-11

How does the Holy Spirit help us to pray?

Romans 8:26

Why might God not answer our prayers as we would wish?

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

James 4:3



Key truths

- **God longs that we spend time alone with Him.**
But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
Matthew 6:6
- **We can be sure of God's grace and mercy in our times of need.**
Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
Hebrews 4:16



To think about

- What have you learned from this study which might help you in your prayer life?
- Do you already meet with other Christians to pray, either in a church setting or with just one or two friends? If not, perhaps it is something you might begin to do.

Notes

The Church

13

By 'Church' we do not mean a building but God's people; all who have put their trust in Jesus Christ. The word 'church' means 'congregation' or 'assembly' or 'gathering.' The Christian Church is made up of all true believers, found in churches across the world.

How is the Church described?

1 Corinthians 12:12, 27

Ephesians 2:19-20

Ephesians 5:25-27

1 Peter 2:9-10

Who is the head of the Church?

Ephesians 5:23

13 • Church

What is the purpose of the Church?

Acts 1:8

Acts 2:42

1 Peter 2:9

Why should Christians meet together (as a local church)?

Luke 4:16

1 Corinthians 12:21-27

Hebrews 10:24-25

What is God's desire for us as believers together?

Galatians 6:1-2

Ephesians 4:14-16



Key truths

- **All Christians are part of one body, of which Christ is the head.**

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:16

- **The purpose of the Church is to take the message of Jesus Christ across the world (including our local communities).**

'... But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

Acts 1:8



To think about

- Are you helping your local church to fulfil its purpose (see above)? How?
- How might you spur on others in your church 'towards love and good deeds' and encourage them? See Hebrews 10:24-25.

Notes

Worshipping and Serving

14

We worship God as we show our love, devotion and obedience to Him in response to His grace, mercy and love. Although we can express our devotion through music, worship is more than that: it is the surrender of our whole lives, leading to obedient and willing service.

What is true worship?

Romans 12:1-2

With what attitude did Jesus serve?

John 13:1-16

With what attitude should we express our worship as we serve God?

Psalms 100:4

John 4:23-24

14 • Worshipping and Serving

What should be our attitude towards others?

John 13:34-35

Galatians 6:10

How can we worship and serve God at work?

Colossians 3:22-25

Titus 2:9-10

Why should we serve Christ by witnessing?

Matthew 28:19-20

2 Peter 3:9

14 • Worshipping and Serving

How should we witness?

Matthew 5:13-16

Mark 5:19-20

1 Peter 3:15

Key truths



- **We truly worship God when we surrender ourselves wholly and willingly to Him.**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 12:1

- **We must follow Jesus' supreme example in serving others.**

'... Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

Mark 10:43-45



To think about

- Where do you find it most difficult to worship (and serve) God? (For example, in your home, in your workplace – or school/university – or socially with friends.)
- Do you ever serve out of a sense of duty, rather than willingly as an act of worship?
- Read the account of Jesus in the home of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42. What do you think of Martha's complaint against her sister? What do you think of Jesus' response?

Notes

Satan

15

The devil or Satan is often thought of as a cartoon creature with cloven feet, horns and a tail – something of a joke. The truth is he was once a heavenly being of great power and beauty. Pride and ambition brought about his fall to become the enemy of God and humanity.

How is Satan described?

John 8:44

2 Corinthians 11:14-15

Matthew 13:19

1 Peter 5:8

How did Jesus defeat Satan?

Ephesians 2:1-5; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14-15

How does Satan attack Christians?

Matthew 4:1

How does Satan attack unbelievers?

2 Corinthians 4:4

How should Christians respond to Satan?

James 4:7

1 Peter 5:9

Ephesians 6:11

What is the armour of God? How is it used?

Ephesians 6:13-18

What will happen to the devil in the end?

Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10

Key truths

- **For Christians, Satan is a very real and active enemy and we must take him seriously.**

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8

- **We must submit to God's authority if we are to stand firm against Satan.**

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:7



To think about

- Can you think of a situation when you were aware of being under attack by Satan? Were you able to resist his attack?
- How can you prepare yourself against Satan's attacks? Read Ephesians 6:13-18.

Notes

Jesus' Second Coming

16

Because of His resurrection, Jesus has already won the victory over sin, evil and death. However, He will not be universally acknowledged as King until He returns to earth. He will then bring in a whole new creation, restored, redeemed and healed.

During these 'last days', what warnings are we given as we wait for Jesus to return?

1 John 2:18-26, 4:1-3

Galatians 1:6-9

2 Timothy 3:1-9

How do we know Jesus will come again?

Daniel 7:13-14

John 14:2-3

16 • Jesus' Second Coming

How do we know Jesus will come again? (Continued)

Acts 1:10-11

What do we know about His Second Coming?

Matthew 24:44

2 Peter 3:10

Revelation 1:7

What will happen when Jesus comes back?

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

16 • Jesus' Second Coming

What will happen when Jesus comes back? (Continued)

1 John 3:2

What will happen to those who reject Him?

Matthew 25:31-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

What will the New Heavens and New Earth be like?

Revelation 21:1-4

Revelation 22:1-5

How should Jesus' coming again affect our daily lives?

Titus 2:11-14



Key truths

- **In the world in which there is so much pain and suffering, Christians can look forward with great joy to the return of Jesus.**

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ...
Philippians 3:20

- **We must be ready for Jesus' return: He might come at any time.**

So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.
Matthew 24:44



To think about

- **Are you looking forward to Jesus coming again? Why? Or why not?**
- **Knowing that Jesus might return at any time, is there anything in your life that you need to change?**

Notes

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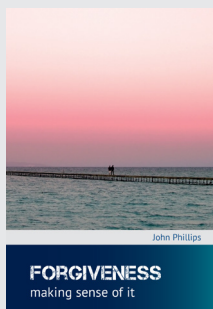
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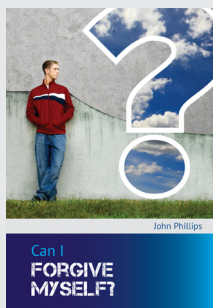
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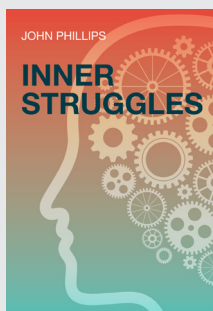
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