

# DICKSON

## The Gospel Journey of the Son of God

John 4:24  
**Son of God  
in Spirit**  
Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 24:44  
Genesis 3:15  
Isaiah 53:1-2  
Psalm 110:1  
Daniel 2:44  
Daniel 7:13,14  
Malachi 4:5,6

PROPHECY

LUKE 22:11

**Consummation**

1 John 3:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9

**Coronation**

Colossians 1:18-22; Hebrews 8:1

**Ascension**

Acts 1:9-11

**Resurrection**

Acts 2:28-30; Romans 6:3-4

**Crucifixion**

1 Corinthians 1:1-4

**Incarnation**

John 1:1,2,14

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

**Eternity**

Matthew 25:46



Take Your Gospel Journey  
With The Son Of God Into The  
Heavenly Realm Of Eternal Life

# **The Gospel Journey Of The Son Of God**

**Roger E. Dickson**

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## The Greatest News Of History

The picture to the right represents all that we need in order to please our Lord. A little fruit of the vine, a little bread, and a Book. Because of the fruit and bread, we dig diligently into the Book in order to be held in awe at the revelation of the mystery of the gospel



that was in the heart of God before the first words were uttered, “*Let there be ....*” It is from this discovery that our lives are changed for the better. Living the gospel message will take one right on into heaven.

The word “gospel” simply means “good news.” The Bible is first about God’s commentary and explanation of this good news. It is then about our response to the news and how we can walk in gratitude for what the incarnate Son of God came to do for us, and what He is yet to do. The gospel is a wonderful occasion for celebration. Though the first disciples were discouraged because of the crucifixion of their friend Jesus before the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles in Acts 2, the Spirit revealed to all of them that the death of their friend Jesus and would be Messiah, was actually the eternal redemptive plan of salvation that the prophets of old searched diligently to discover. When it was finally revealed, it was time to go into all the world with this message of great news.

So they went forth and preached the gospel to the world. We seek to do the same through this book. Our plea to you is motivated by Jesus’ plea from the throne of God upon which He now reigns:

***Behold, I stand at the door and knock.  
If anyone hears My voice and opens the door,  
I will come in to him and will sup with him,  
and he with Me.***

(Revelation 3:20)

## **An Exciting Bible Study Opportunity For A Bold Adventure Into Discovering Great News For Gospel Living!**

Let's get started. *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"* (Genesis 1:1). *"Then God said, 'Let us make man in Our image'"* (Genesis 1:26). We live in a world where people have reversed what actually happened in the beginning. The Bible says that we were created in the image of the God who created all things. However, since the creation, people have sought to create all sorts of gods after their own image. In other words, if we like our particular behavior, we will create a god who approves of our life. We create a god after our own imagination. This is the spirit of idolatry.

We now live in a world where everyone wants a god who agrees with their beliefs and behavior. People often want a religion that either conforms to their religious heritage, or conforms to their present customary religious expression. We thus live in a very religiously confused world. It is a world of religions that are as diverse as the imaginations of those who have created them.

Is God satisfied with our efforts to direct our own lives? Certainly not! **God is the Creator.** It is He who determines the way we should live. God says, *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death"* (Proverbs 14:12). We may convince ourselves that our particular religion is correct. However, when we study God's ways, we may discover that our religious behavior is the product of our own invention. Therefore, the Bible instructs, *"Search from the book of the Lord, and read"* (Isaiah 34:16).

We must remember that though we may feel comfortable with our life-style, or content to live according to the religious traditions of our fathers, such may not be acceptable to God.

**There Is Hope Revealed In The Bible  
For A Better Relationship With God!**

We must remember what God revealed through the prophet Isaiah: ***“My ways are not your ways”*** (Isaiah 55:8).

Jeremiah added, ***“It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps”*** (Jeremiah 10:23). God says that we cannot determine our own ways because we often develop behavior that is self-centered, and thus, destructive to our social well-being. For this reason, we must allow God to determine our moral values. King David explained how to do this: ***“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”*** (Psalm 119:105).

Since God is our creator, do you think He has the right to give us laws to direct our lives, and then expect us to keep those laws? YES NO

## **The Bible Is An Exciting Book Of The History Of How God Has Worked In Order To Bring HIS SON INTO THIS WORLD!**

Bible is a book of 66 inspired documents that were written between about 1400 B.C. and the latter part of the first century (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21). The first 39 books are the Old Testament. These books were written primarily in Hebrew between 1400 and 400 B.C. They are used today for our learning (Romans 15:4). There are 27 documents in the New Testament. These documents were written in Greek. The Old Testament documents were directed specifically to the nation of Israel (Deuteronomy 4:1,2). They were written to preserve Israel according to the will of God (Romans 3:1,2), and to prepare the world for the incarnation of the Son of God into this world in the flesh. There are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament that were made concerning Jesus. All these prophecies were fulfilled (Luke 24:44).



### **- DIRECTION FOR A BETTER LIFE -**

When God created man, He knew that we would seek to go our own way. He knew that we would sin in the following two ways:

- **We would sin by following after our own fleshly desires (Romans 3:9,10; 1 John 2:15).**
- **We would sin by thinking that we can sanctify ourselves by keeping our own religious traditions, as opposed to God's word as the foundation of our faith (Mark 7:1-9; Colossians 2:20-23).**

Because we have sinned morally by selfishly living as we so choose, and religiously by rejecting God's word in order to maintain our own religious traditions, or attempts to self-sanctify ourselves of sin, God calls us back to the good news of His Son. The Holy Spirit reminds us,

*“God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.”*

(Hebrews 1:1,2)

The Son of God calls us to Himself and the truth of the gospel. He explains, ***“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”*** (John 14:6). ***“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but have the light of life”*** (John 8:12). ***“And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free”*** (John 8:32). Therefore, Jesus pleads, ***“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”*** (Matthew 11:28).

There are thousands of religions in the world today. Leaders of these religions claim to be teaching the truth of the gospel. However, we must keep in mind that through the Bible, the Holy Spirit warned that we should be careful not to be led astray by the religious craftiness of people or our own emotional hysteria (See 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Peter 2:1,2). Since there is in the world today numerous



religious leaders who are calling religious people away after their own desires and teachings, it is very important that we turn directly to the word of God for guidance. Therefore, we are asking you to give the Bible a chance to direct your beliefs and behavior. The Bible is our only safe guide to find Jesus who says, *“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day”* (John 12:48). It is important, therefore, that we listen to Jesus. **He only is the One by whom God will judge all people when He comes again** (Acts 17:30,31).

Can people of all faith be brought together if everyone recognizes and submits to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?  
YES NO

### **The Bible Is An Exciting Book Of Prophecies That Were Fulfilled In Order To Prove The Jesus Was The Messiah.**

Prophecy is not prediction. Predictions are made by those who base their thinking on surrounding circumstances that indicate the probability that something will happen. But with prophecy, there are no current circumstances that indicate future events. This is the nature of biblical prophecy. If we find in our study of the Bible just one valid prophecy that was fulfilled, then the Bible is proved to be from God, for only God can know the future (Isaiah 42:9; 44:6-8). The Bible is filled with prophecies about peoples, cities, nations, and specifically, the revelation of the Son of God, His earthly ministry, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension and present kingdom reign over all things. All that Jesus was two thousand years ago was a fulfillment of over 300 prophecies that were made in the Old Testament.

### **– JESUS IN PROPHECY –**

There are hundreds of prophecies in the Old Testament concerning the Messiah (“the anointed One”) who would

come to reign as King. Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled all these Old Testament prophecies (Luke 24:44). Keep in mind that the prophecies were written centuries before their fulfillment by Jesus. They could not have been fulfilled by accident. The following are just a few of the key prophecies that Jesus fulfilled when He came into the world in order to reveal the good news about His purpose for coming:

## **The Evidence Of Fulfilled Prophecy**

- He would be of the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
- He would be born of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10).
- He would be born of the seed of David (2 Samuel 7:12,13,16).
- He would be born in the city of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).
- He would have a forerunner (Malachi 3:1; 4:5).
- He would be King on David's throne (2 Samuel 7:12,13,16).
- He would be a priest on His throne (Zechariah 6:12,13).

### **FULFILLMENT**

Galatians 3:16

Hebrews 7:14

Matthew 1:1-17

Matthew 2:1,8

Matthew 3:1-3

Acts 2:29-31

Hebrews 8:1

## **- REIGN OF THE KING IN PROPHECY -**

It was prophesied that Jesus would come and reign as King (Psalm 110:1; Isaiah 9:6,7; 22:20-25). He would be given a universal reign over all things. This would be fulfilled in the days of the Roman Empire, for Daniel prophesied, *“And in the days of these kings [Roman kings] the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed”* (Daniel 2:44). This would happen when Jesus ascended to sit at the right hand of the Father. Daniel also prophesied in Daniel 7:13,14:

*“I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days [God], and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.”*

Jesus has ascended to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9-



10)! He is now reigning as King of kings and Lord of lords (Ephesians 1:20-23; 1 Timothy 6:15)! All people should now bow to His authority that He has over all things (Philippians 2:9-11)! Everyone should now submit to Him as their King and Lord (James 4:6-10)!

If you were convinced that the Bible contained true prophecies and their fulfillments concerning Jesus, would you change your life to do what the Bible says you must do in order to obey the gospel? YES NO

### **God Worked Powerfully To Provide Evidence Of His Presence And His Work**

There are thousands of religions in the world today. In some ways, all are different, though the adherents to these religions claim that their religion was revealed by a higher power. This is something that is certainly confusing for those who refuse to submit to God. They accuse that the great diversity of religions in the world is evidence that religion is only the invention of people who seek to be religious. It is true that people invent their own religions. However, we affirm that it is wrong to believe that God will allow people to do whatever they think or feel when it comes to worshiping and pleasing Him. God has revealed Himself in history. He has revealed His will to us in a way that will produce unity among those who believe the gospel. We also believe that God has miraculously proved Jesus to be His Son and that His message of the gospel brings all believers together into the one body of Christ.

### **- SUPERNATURAL EVIDENCE OF GOD -**

- ▶ True confirming miraculous works of God are referred to in the Bible as *wonders* (John 4:48; Acts 2:19,43; 4:30, *signs* (Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:4), *powers* (Acts 19:11), and *works* (John 5:36).
- ▶ True confirming miracles could be recognized by the senses of people. They were not hidden from

unbelievers (Acts 26:26). Unbelievers could not deny them (Acts 4:14-16).

► True confirming miracles were recognized to be something that was not considered an ordinary occurrence of natural laws (See 1 Kings 18:17-46; John 11:43-45). When God miraculously worked in miracle, witnesses knew that because the miracle was instantaneous, it was not something that was not occurring to the natural laws of this world.

### PURPOSE OF THE MIRACLES OF GOD

- True confirming miracles proved that Jesus was the Son of God (John 20:30,31; Acts 2:22).
- True confirming miracles proved the messengers of Jesus (2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:1-4).
- True confirming miracles proved the gospel message of Jesus and His apostles (Mark 16:20).

## BEWARE!

The Bible warns against believing false miraculous works. Jesus said,

***“For false christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect”*** (Matthew 24:24).

One must not be deceived into believing to be miraculous that which he or she does not understand. Our eagerness to believe such things may indicate that we suffer from a lack of love of the truth of the gospel. Or worse, such belief may reveal that we have little faith in the word of God (See Romans 10:17). Therefore, when considering something today to be miraculous when actually it is not, think of the following warning that is given in the Bible. This warning should be heeded by all today for there are many false prophets.

*“The presence of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan with all deceiving power and signs and wonders, and with all deception of wickedness among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion so that they should believe a lie, that they all might be condemned who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.”*

(2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)

If God miraculously proved the message of the gospel to be true in the first century, would He have to prove it miraculously again today in order to convince you to believe and obey the gospel? YES NO

**God Lovingly Sent His Only Son Into The World  
In Order To Save The World Through The Gospel**

Since you believe in God and the Bible, here is what you must now do. When Jesus came, He proclaimed, *“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel”* (Mark 1:15). Everyone today must also repent and believe the gospel! Since the Bible is the Holy Spirit inspired report of the Son of God coming into this world, then it is essential that we believe what the Bible says concerning the good news of Jesus Christ.

**– RESPONDING TO GOOD NEWS –**

When Jesus said that we must believe the gospel of God’s

grace, He meant that our belief must move us to obey the gospel. If we truly love God, then we will keep His will that we believe and obey the good news of the sacrificial death of His Son for our sins (John 14:15). In this way, the gospel is the power of God unto our salvation (Romans 1:16).

## Plea Of The Holy Spirit

*“You who are afflicted, rest with us when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, taking vengeance on **those who do not know God** and **who do not obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ. These will be punished with everlasting destruction away from the presence of the Lord and away from the glory of His power.”*

(2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; see also 1 Peter 4:17)

Since the above statement states that one must obey the gospel in order to escape the coming judgment of Jesus, then every person must ask and answer two questions:

**WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?  
HOW CAN ONE OBEY THE GOSPEL?**

### **– THE GOSPEL –**

The gospel was an **event** that took place in history. Paul explained, *“I declare to you **the gospel ... 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**”* (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). The heart of the gospel was the historical event of **the death of Jesus on the cross for our sins, His burial, and His resurrection to give us hope of eternal life**. But the good news is more than the atoning death of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection for our hope. We must remember the following from

the front cover of this book? The totality of the good news is the incarnational journey of Jesus from heaven into this world in order to take us out of this world into eternity with Him. Therefore, the whole gospel includes the coming of the Son of God into the flesh of man (incarnation), His atoning death for our sins on a cross, His burial, resurrection, ascension to sit on the throne of authority in heaven as King of kings and Lord of Lords, and thus His present kingdom reign over all things. The final event of the gospel will be when King Jesus returns again to redeem us from this world. This is the message of the gospel.

**We must not confuse the Bible with the gospel. The Bible is the Holy Spirit's historical account of the gospel event. We study the Bible, therefore, in order to learn more about the gospel journey of Jesus from heaven, into this world, and back into heaven. The Bible, therefore, is not the gospel. It is the report of what Jesus did in history in order to reveal the grace of God through Jesus in order to give us an opportunity to respond to His loving grace that was revealed through His Son.**

### **Suggested Reading**

At this point in your study of this book, we suggest that you download and read the following book from our website:

**Book 79: *GOSPEL RESTORATION***

Download from: [www.africainternational.org](http://www.africainternational.org)

**In order to go on the gospel journey with Jesus that is pictured on the cover of this book, read the following scriptures in the Holy Spirit's history book of what transpired when Jesus came into this world to fulfill all prophecy concerning God's eternal plan to bring us into His presence for eternity.**

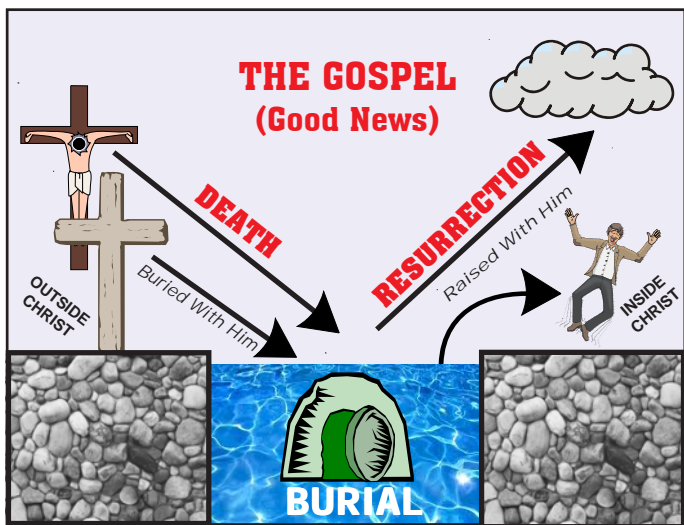
### *Researching The Gospel Journey Of Jesus*

- **INCARNATION:** John 1:1,2,14; 3:2; Galatians 4:4; Ephesians 3:3-7; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 2:14,17; 10:5

- CRUCIFIXION: Romans 5:8,9; 1 Corinthians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 13:4; Hebrews 9:12; 10:10; 1 John 4:9,19
- RESURRECTION: Acts 2:31-38; Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:20; 1 Peter 1:3; 1 John 1:1
- ASCENSION: Psalm 110:1; Daniel 7:13,14; 2 Corinthians 5:16; 1 Peter 3:21,22
- CORONATION: John 17:3-5; Romans 5:17; Colossians 1:13; 3:1,2; 1 Timothy 6:15; 2 Timothy 2:11,12; Hebrews 1:1-3; 2:8; 8:1,2
- CONSUMMATION: John 12:48; 14:1-3; Acts 17:31; 1 Corinthians 15:28,51,52; 2 Corinthians 5:10,11; Colossians 1:5,23; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Peter 1:13; 4:17; Revelation 20:11-15

The eternal Son of God humbled Himself to become as we are in this world. All those who believe in this gospel incarnation of the Son into the flesh of man, should respond in obedience to this good news. It is in response to this gospel that we come into fellowship with God.

## - RESPONDING TO THE GOSPEL -



If one must obey the gospel in order to escape the coming punishment of being separated from God, **then how can one obey the historical event of the gospel?** Here's how. Paul explained this in the following statement:

*“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him”*

(Romans 6:3-6)

Obedying the death, burial and resurrection of the incarnate Son of God involves much water (John 3:23). It takes much water to be baptized (immersed) into the water as Jesus was buried in a tomb. Everyone who would seek to be in a saved relationship with the Son of God, therefore, must be immersed with Jesus for remission of sins in order to be raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21). By doing this, one has responded to and obeyed the gospel!

If one does not obey the gospel by immersion with Jesus into His death, burial and resurrection, then can he or she expect Jesus' judgment of vengeance when He comes again?  
YES NO

### **The Church Is God's Community Of Believers Who Have Responded With Submission To King Jesus**

When one believes in Jesus as the King and Savior of his or her life, and subsequently obeys the gospel by immersion in water for remission of sins, it is then that Jesus reigns in one's heart. In this way the kingdom of Jesus is established in our hearts (Luke 17:20,21), for the will of the Father is then done on earth in our hearts as it is done in heaven (Matthew 6:9,10). Upon baptism, therefore, the Father adds one to the universal body of Christ, the church (Acts 2:47). In this way, one has been immersed (baptized) into the one body (1 Corinthians 12:13).

## - FACTS ABOUT THE BODY OF CHRIST -

- \* Jesus is the only head of the body, the church (Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18).
- \* There is only one universal body of Christ, the church (1 Corinthians 12:12-25).
- \* Among other terms in the New Testament, the body is described as the *church of God* (1 Corinthians 1:2), the *church of Christ* (Romans 16:16), the *house of God* (1 Timothy 3:15), the *flock of God* (1 Peter 5:2,3), and *temple of God* (2 Corinthians 6:16).
- \* New Testament references describe members of the body as *Christians* (Acts 11:26), *saints* (Romans 1:7), *children of God* (Galatians 3:26) and *priests* (1 Peter 2:5,9).

• We must keep in mind that in the preceding scriptures it is the Holy Spirit who is identifying the body of baptized believers, either as individuals or as the universal body. We must not be confused by the presumptuous efforts of people to invent their own names and titles by which they would refer to that which belongs to God.

**ONE BODY:** Jesus is the only head of His one universal body. In order to be with Jesus for eternity, one must be a member of this body, for when Jesus comes He is coming for His body, the church (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Therefore, one must be joined to Christ in order to be a member of His body.



### GOSPEL UNITY OF THE ONE BODY

- Jesus prayed that all believers be united as one church of Christ (John 17:20,21).
- The apostles taught unity among all those who have obeyed the gospel (1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:4-6).
- The early Christians behaved as the one universal church (Acts 2:44-47; 4:32).
- We must seek unity based on the gospel (Philippians 1:27).



In the following statement, Jesus explained how His disciples would be identified throughout the world:

***“A new commandment I give to you,  
that you love one another;  
as I have loved you, that you also love one another.  
By this all will know that you are My disciples,  
if you have love for one another.”***

(John 13:34,35)

## **- CHOOSING GOSPEL LIVING -**

### **A Plea For Gospel Restoration**

Our plea to you is to join with us to answer the prayer of Jesus on the night of His betrayal that all His disciples **“may be one”** (John 17:21). This unity can exist only if all of us base our faith on His gospel. When we use the word “gospel,” we are referring to “good news” from God. Our unity, therefore, is based on our faith in the **incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, coronation** and **consummation** of all things in the final return of the Son of God.

### **• Inspired Report Of The Gospel •**

**The entire Bible is a news report of the gospel.** From the very beginning of the Bible, and after the fall of man into sin, a promise was made in **Genesis 3:15** of a future gospel event that would bring all of us back into fellowship with God, and thus unity among all those who believe on His Son, Jesus Christ. The Old Testament, therefore, was written to focus the attention of God’s chosen people, the Israelites, on the prophetic coming of the Son of God through the seed of woman (See Luke 1:26-38; 2:8-11; 24:46,47). The Genesis 3:15 prophecy and promise was fulfilled when the Son of God was incarnate in the flesh of man in order to be an offering for our sins on the cross of Calvary. The Old Testament of the Bible is a written record of

prophecy concerning the gospel of Jesus Christ. It was written in order to provide us with a continued source of research of the Lord Jesus Christ that is explained in the New Testament (See Romans 15:4). The final event of the gospel will never be written, for the gospel of the consummation of all things will mark the end of all things.

### **– THE GOSPEL FOUNDATION FOR UNITY –**

All who believe in Jesus can be united upon the foundation of the gospel.

- **We can be united on the fact that Jesus was the Son of God in the flesh (See John 1:1,2,14; 20:30,31; Philippians 2:5-8).**
- **We can be united on the sacrificial death of Jesus for our sins (See 1 Corinthians 15:3).**
- **We can be united on the fact that we all know Jesus as our resurrected Savior (See 2 Corinthians 5:16; 2 Timothy 1:10).**
- **We can be united on the fact that Jesus is now King of kings and Lord of lords who rules over all things from heaven at the right hand of God the Father (See Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:20-23; Philippians 2:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:15; Hebrews 2:8; 1 Peter 3:22).**

### **– THREE CHOICES OF HOW TO LIVE –**

Everyone in our community must make a choice as to how they will live, for there are only three ways to live in this world:

- **LIVING WITHOUT FAITH:** One can live as a “pagan,” that is, live with no religious faith at all. The majority of the world lives in this manner. Faithless people may be good citizens of the community in which they live, but they have no faith and no consistent moral code that is controlled by a conscience that is focused

on God. They eat, drink and live without any hope of life after death. And when they die, their friends stand over their graves, knowing that they are gone forever.

• **LIVING WITH RELIGION:** There are many in the world who live religiously. They have a faith by which they seek to please God. However, living religiously does not mean that one is living as a Christian, or according to the gospel. It does not mean that one is actually pleasing God. And then there are many faiths of the world that have no concept of Christ as the Son of God. Muslims, Buddhists, and many other religions of the world worship a god that they have created after their own image, or after the traditions by which they want to live religiously.

There are also those religious people who include in their faith Jesus as the Son of God. However, they often believe according to the following words of Jesus: ***“Not every one who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven”*** (Matthew 7:21).

Jesus came into a world of many religions, specifically the Jews’ religion (See Galatians 1:13,14). Those who lived according to the Jews’ religion lived a religious life. However, the Jews had created a religion after their own religious traditions (See Mark 7:1-9). Such systems of traditional religiosity will not produce unity among those who believe on Jesus as the Son of God. Unity can never be based on religion because everyone has different religious traditions, rituals and ceremonies by which they identify their unique religion. Living religiously, therefore, is not living according to the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ that produces unity. Religion always produces division,

for religion is always based on unique religious traditions of the adherents who promote a specific religious group.

- **LIVING BY THE GOSPEL:** This is the third way we can live, and thus be united for Jesus. If living religiously will not bring us together in unity, then religion can never be the foundation upon which we can answer the prayer of Jesus to be unified in our communities (See John 17:20,21).

There is a difference between living religiously and living according to the gospel. In the New Testament, the books of **Romans** and **Galatians** explain the difference between living according to religion and living according to the gospel. For example, the Holy Spirit explained in Romans 10:1-3 that the religionist may **“have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge”** of what God requires. Therefore, religionists, **“being ignorant of God’s righteousness and seeking to establish their own righteousness,”** will not submit themselves to the righteousness of God.

Religion is a system of self-sanctification in reference to atoning for one’s sins. **Sanctification** means that we were cleansed of all sin at the cross by the sacrificial blood of Jesus. This is good news! And if we walk in the light of the gospel of Jesus, then we are cleansed (sanctified) of sin every day of our lives (1 John 1:7). If we seek to perform certain religious traditions, rituals, or ceremonies in order to cleanse our own sins, then we are trying to subsidize the sanctification of the cross of Jesus. As a system of self-sanctification, religion accuses Jesus of not completely cleansing our sins at the cross (See Hebrews 10:10,14,29).

Religion, therefore, always leaves one with a sense

of guilt. One feels guilty that he or she is not doing enough to cleanse oneself of all his or her sins. In religion one is always trying to justify himself or herself before God through good works. By doing such, one is saying to Jesus that His cleansing of our sins at the cross was not sufficient. But when one lives the gospel, he or she understands that good works are not a system to justify one's self before God (See Galatians 2:16). Good works are the result of one walking in gratitude of his or her salvation in Christ (2 Corinthians 4:15; Ephesians 2:10).

### **– OBEDIENCE TO THE GOSPEL –**

In contrast to living according to religion, living the gospel brings peace of mind. In order to have this peace of mind with God, we must respond to His gospel of grace that He offers to all people. In 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9, the Holy Spirit explains that when King Jesus comes again, He will take vengeance on all those who ***“do not obey the gospel.”*** Therefore, in order to escape this coming vengeance of King Jesus, **we must know the gospel.** And, we must know **how to obey the gospel.** We have sent this book throughout the world in order inform everyone that God has sent His Son into this world to give us an opportunity to live forever. This we can do through obedience to the good news of the offering of the Son of God on a cross outside Jerusalem over two thousand years ago.

In view of the fact that Jesus is coming again in order to take vengeance on those who do not obey His death, burial and resurrection, we are asking everyone throughout the world to do as the Holy Spirit instructed in **Romans 6:4:**

***“We are buried with Him [Jesus] through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised up from***

***the dead through the glory of the Father, even so we also might walk in newness of life.”***

Those who respond to the gospel in this manner will seek to walk in gratitude of what Jesus did for them. The Holy Spirit explained,

***“If you then were raised with Christ [in obedience to the gospel in baptism], seek those things that are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God”*** (Colossians 3:1).

We are asking people everywhere who are in the bondage of religion to walk again in unity and in the freedom that is in Christ (See Galatians 5:1). Living the gospel minimizes all those differences that we have with one another. Contrary to walking in the doubt that religion causes, we seek to encourage everyone to walk in response to the freedom of the gospel. One thing is true: If we walk according to our own religious inventions, **we will move further away from one another**. However, if we walk in the unity of the one gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, **we will move closer to one another**. It is our prayer that everyone who learns of the gospel of our Lord Jesus will choose to walk in thanksgiving of all that the Son of God did for us when He was incarnate in the flesh of man in order to offer Himself as a sacrifice to restore us to a covenant relationship with God.



**Are you willing to sacrifice any divisive religious traditions in order to enjoy the unity that results from obedience to the gospel? YES NO**

## - OUR PERSONAL CHALLENGE -

Your reception and reading of this small book is the result of our desire that you join with us in restoring the gospel. If all those who believe in Jesus unite together on the authority of God's word alone, then we will be a strong force against the work of Satan. Ours is the following plea:

- We ask that our faith be based on the authority of the word of God (Read Galatians 1:6-9; Revelation 22:18,19).
- We ask that all of us be willing to sacrifice any traditional religious rites and rituals for the sake of unity that is based on the gospel (Read Mark 7:1-9).
- We ask that all believers in the gospel accept the present gospel reign of King Jesus over all things (Read Ephesians 1:20-23; 1 Timothy 6:15).
- We ask that everyone respond to the gospel reign of Jesus by being baptized into Christ for remission of sins (Read Acts 2:36-38).
- We ask that all those who obey the gospel to focus their minds on heavenly things in order to walk according to the gospel (Read Ephesians 4:1-6; Philippians 1:27; Colossians 3:1-17).

## MILLIONS HAVE ALREADY RESPONDED!

Millions of people in the world today have already discovered what is discussed in this book concerning the gospel. Millions have subsequently obeyed the gospel. God has added them to the universal body of Christ. They now have hope of heaven that is beyond this world (Titus 1:2), a better place that is free of the pain and suffering that we now endure (2 Corinthians 5:1-8). As they live according to the gospel that they obeyed, they are thus waiting for the glory that will be revealed to the children of God (Romans 8:18). Our plea is that you also join with us on this great journey by walking in gratitude for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please remember the following words that came from the Holy Spirit through the apostle Paul:



***“For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace that is reaching many people may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God”*** (2 Corinthians 4:15).

**• GOSPEL PEOPLE STUDY THE GOSPEL TEXTBOOK •**

We have discovered that gospel-obedient believers are always as the Bereans: “*These were more noble-minded . . . in that they received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the Scriptures daily*” (Acts 17:11). These are those who are diligent in their studies of the Bible, our textbook of the gospel (See 2 Timothy 2:15). In order to continue our nobility as students of God’s word, we suggest that you download from the *Biblical Research Library* the following books that will aid in your studies:

[www.africainternational.org](http://www.africainternational.org)

- Book 1: *The Bible*
- Book 3: *The Sovereignty of Deity*
- Book 4: *The Seedline Wars*
- Book 7: *The Gospel Covenant*
- Book 79: *Gospel Restoration*
- Book 85: *The Incarnational Journey of God*

**– GROUP BIBLE STUDIES –**

When people who love the gospel come together because of their common love for the word of God, they seek to study the textbook on the gospel, the Bible. They naturally begin a Bible class on the gospel as Paul established in Rome (See Romans 1:13-16). Since gospel-obedient people understand that the Bible was primarily written to reveal God’s plan to send His Son into the world in order to take us out of this world into eternity, then they seek to know more about this gospel road map of salvation. After studying through this book, answer the questions on the following page in a gospel Bible class environment. After you have first answered the questions personally, we suggest that you meet with others in order to begin your own Bible study group. Studying of the word of God with others is the best way to continually be encouraged to live the gospel.



**TESTING YOURSELF**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The self-determined ways of men are the ways of ... (A) ... hope, (B) ... death, (C) ... faith
2. \_\_\_\_\_ How many books are there in the Bible? (A) 66, (B) 39, (C) 27
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus said that He is the way, the truth and the ... (A) ... faith, (B) ... life, (C) ... peace
4. \_\_\_\_\_ By whom will God judge the world? (A) angels, (B) Christians, (C) Jesus
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Telling the future by observing present circumstances is ... (A) ... prophecy, (B) ... prediction, (C) ... faith
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The Messiah (the Christ) would be born of the seed of ... (A) ... David, (B) ... Ephraim, (C) ... Issachar
7. \_\_\_\_\_ God set up the kingdom of His Son in the days of what kings? (A) Roman, (B) Assyrian, (C) Persian
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Miracles are called wonders, signs, powers and ... (A) ... magic, (B) ... tricks, (C) ... works
9. \_\_\_\_\_ God allows those who do not believe the truth of the gospel to believe ... (A) ... lies, (B) ... stories, (C) ... tales
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Of what does Jesus say we must beware? (A) false prophets, (B) zealous men, (C) ambition
11. \_\_\_\_\_ The centrality of the gospel is the death, burial and ... (A) ... faith, (B) ... resurrection, (C) ... hope
12. \_\_\_\_\_ One will not be saved if he or she does not obey the ... (A) ... gospel, (B) ... traditions, (C) ... faith
13. \_\_\_\_\_ The body of Christ is the ... (A) ... church, (B) ... faith, (C) ... theology of Christ
14. \_\_\_\_\_ The new commandment of Jesus was ... (A) ... faith in God, (B) ... love one another, (C) ... hope
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Some reject God's commandments in order to keep ... (A) ... the faith, (B) ... traditions of men, (C) ... the truth.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ In order to have unity, what must be our only authority in matters of faith? (A) traditions, (B) Bible, (C) faith
17. \_\_\_\_\_ One head of the church indicates there is one ... (A) ... denomination, (B) ... universal church, (C) ... nation
18. \_\_\_\_\_ Why is one baptized? (A) to obey tradition, (B) for remission of sins, (C) because he is already saved
19. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus said to repent and believe in the ... (A) ... church, (B) ... traditions of men, (C) ... gospel
20. \_\_\_\_\_ When one is baptized, he she is added to ... (A) ... a religious denomination, (B) ... the church, (C) ... the religion of his or her forefathers

**Other books by Roger E. Dickson**  
**Download free from the Biblical Research Library,**  
**[www.africainternational.org](http://www.africainternational.org)**

- Book 1: *Introduction To The Bible*  
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 Book 4: *The Seedline Promise*  
 Book 5: *Finding The Priceless Pearl*  
 Book 6: *Law And Covenants*  
 Book 7: *The Gospel Covenant*  
 Book 8: *The Gospel World View*  
 Book 9: *The Gospel Reign Of The Son Of God*  
 Book 10: *The Judgments Of God*  
 Book 11: *The Church In Eternity*  
 Book 12: *God The Father*  
 Book 13: *God The Son*  
 Book 14: *God The Holy Spirit*  
 Book 15: *The Promise Of The Holy Spirit*  
 Book 16: *The Holy Spirit And The Early Church*  
 Book 17: *The Holy Spirit And The Church Today*  
 Book 18: *Satan And Demons*  
 Book 19: *Gospel Leadership*  
 Book 20: *Equipping The Saints*  
 Book 21: *Developing Character*  
 Book 22: *The Function Of Discipleship*  
 Book 23: *Experiencing The Gospel With Jesus*  
 Book 24: *Authentic Church*  
 Book 25: *The Existence Of God*  
 Book 26: *The Bible And Science*  
 Book 27: *The Bible And Faith*  
 Book 28: *Luke's Historical Defense Of Christianity*  
 Book 29: *Sectarian Denominationalism*  
 Book 30: *Roman Catholicism*  
 Book 31: *Justified By Works*  
 Book 32: *Making Disciples In A Global Community*  
 Book 33: *21<sup>st</sup> Century Restoration*  
 Book 34: *Restoration!*  
 Book 35: *Worship God*  
 Book 36: *Worship Freely*  
 Book 37: *One Lord With All Authority Over All Things*  
 Book 38: *The Christ-Centered Faith*  
 Book 39: *The Lord's Supper*  
 Book 40: *Fundamental Messages*  
 Book 41: *Obedience To The Gospel*  
 Book 42: *The Music Of The Church*  
 Book 43: *Exercising Sobriety And Self-Control*  
 Book 44: *Experiential Religion Versus Word-Based Faith*  
 Book 45: *Grace Response Versus Tithing By Law*  
 Book 46: *The Religious Sectarian*  
 Book 47: *Fellowship And Unity Of The Organic Body*  
 Book 48: *The Cross-Centered Faith*  
 Book 49: *Escape From Bondage*  
 Book 50: *Perceptions And Postulations*  
 Book 51: *Our Faith – Our Salvation*  
 Book 52: *His Grace – Our Faith*  
 Book 53: *The Living Sacrifice*  
 Book 54: *Committed To World Evangelism*  
 Book 55: *Organic Function Of The Body Of Christ*  
 Book 56: *The World As It Is*  
 Book 57: *The Godly Giver*  
 Book 58: *Thirsting For Word From God*  
 Book 59: *Following Jesus Into Glory*  
 Book 60: *The Seven Flickering Flames Of Asia*  
 Book 61: *The Giants Among Us*  
 Book 62: *Dead Preachers*  
 Book 63: *New Creation*  
 Book 64: *Character For Christ*  
 Book 65: *The Power Of Many As One*  
 Book 66: *The Last High Priest*  
 Book 67: *Survivors*  
 Book 68: *Change For Growth*  
 Book 69: *Building Eternal Relationships*  
 Book 70: *Inscriptions I: Living The Word Of God*  
 Book 71: *Disciples Of Divinity*  
 Book 72: *Fasting*  
 Book 73: *The Gospel Of God's Heart*  
 Book 74: *Inscriptions II: Implementing Gospel Living*  
 Book 75: *It's All About Jesus*  
 Book 76: *Escape From Religion*  
 Book 77: *Rise And Fall Of Civilizations*  
 Book 78: *In Search Of The First Love*  
 Book 79: *Gospel Restoration*  
 Book 80: *Solutions To The Problem*  
 Book 81: *Tethered To Christ Through The Gospel*  
 Book 82: *The Gospel According To Hebrews*  
 Book 83: *Gospel Teacher*  
 Book 84: *Gospel Teacher In Times Of Turmoil*  
 Book 85: *The Incarnational Journey Of God*  
 Book 86: *Angels*  
 Book 87: *Beginner's Road Map For Gospel Living Into Eternal Life*  
 Book 88: *Inscriptions III: Just Saying*  
 Book 89: *Your Gospel Journey With The Son Of God*  
 Book 90: *The Incredible Mystery*  
 Book 91: *Inscriptions IV: Finding Our Way Back*  
 Book 92: *Releasing The Gospel*  
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