

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 24:44

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

Coronation
Ephesians 1:18-23; Hebrews 8:1

Ascension
Acts 1:9-11

Resurrection
Acts 2:30-36; Romans 6:3-6

Crucifixion
1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Incarnation
John 1:12,14

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Eternity

Matthew 25:46



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

Your Gospel Journey With The Son Of God

Roger E. Dickson

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rdickson@mweb.co.za

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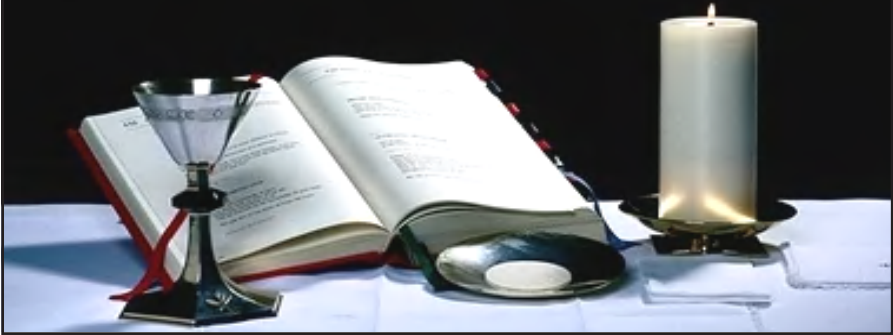
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Scripture quotations from *International King James Version*

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A GUIDE TO YOUR GOSPEL JOURNEY WITH JESUS



The above picture 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*”

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 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 hopeful 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)

Bible Study Is An 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 rituals. 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 religion 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 lifestyle, or content to live according to the religious traditions of our fathers, such may not be acceptable to God. We must remember what God 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

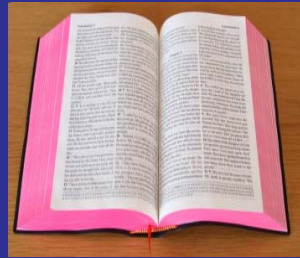
**THERE IS HOPE
FOR A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD!**

to social well-being. For this reason, we must allow God to determine our values. And how can we do this? David answers, ***“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!

The 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 guide Israel according to the will of God (Romans 3:1,2) and to prepare the world for the revelation of the gospel of the Son of God. There are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament that were made concerning Jesus. All these prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus (Luke 24:44).

– DIRECTION BY GOD FOR HOPE OF 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 two areas:

- We would sin by following after our own fleshly desires (Romans 3:9,10; 1 John 2:15).
- We would sin by creating self-sanctifying religions after our own traditions or emotions, 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 gospel of His Son Jesus. The Holy Spirit states,

“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 calls us to Himself and the truth of the gospel. He said, *“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 men or our own emotional misdirection (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 doctrines, 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 12:42). It is important, therefore, that we listen to Jesus. He 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 truth is that the Bible is filled with hundreds of prophecies about peoples, cities, nations, and specifically, Jesus. Historical records are also filled with reports of the fulfillment of these prophecies. The hundreds of prophecies in the Old Testament concerning Jesus and His present kingdom reign over all things.

– 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 in 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 gospel:

PROPHECY

- He would be of the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
- He would be of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10).
- He would be 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 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

– THE REIGN OF THE KING IN PROPHECY –

It was prophesied that Jesus would come and reign as King (Isaiah 9:6,7; 22:20-25; Psalm 110:1). 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: *“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, 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 men should now bow to His authority that He has over all things (Philippians 2:9-11)! Everyone should now submit to Jesus as their King and Lord (James 4:6-10)!

If you were convinced that the Bible contained true prophecies and their fulfillments, 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. All are different. All claim to be true faiths that were revealed from a higher power. So have all these religions confused you? It is certainly confusing for unbelievers who refuse to submit to God. They accuse that the great diversity of religions among men 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 think that it is wrong to believe that God allows 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 He has miraculously proved Jesus to be His Son. He has also miraculously proved the message of the gospel that brings all believers together in the one body of Christ.

– THE SUPERNATURAL EVIDENCE OF GOD –

- ▶ True confirming miraculous works of God are referred to in the Bible as *wonders* (Mark 6:51; 7:37), *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 of this world.

THE PURPOSE OF THE MIRACLES OF GOD

- True miracles proved that Jesus was the Son of God (John 20:30,31; Acts 2:22).
- True miracles proved the messengers of Jesus (2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:1-4).
- True 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 may indicate that we suffer from a lack of love of the truth of the gospel. 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!

– OBEDIENCE 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 incarnational death of His Son for our sins (John 14:15). In this way, the gospel is the power of the gospel unto our salvation (Romans 1:16).

The Holy Spirit pleads:

*“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 infers that one must obey the gospel in order to escape the coming punishment of Jesus, then every person must ask:

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

– THE GOSPEL! –

The gospel was an **event** 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 central revelation 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. 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.

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

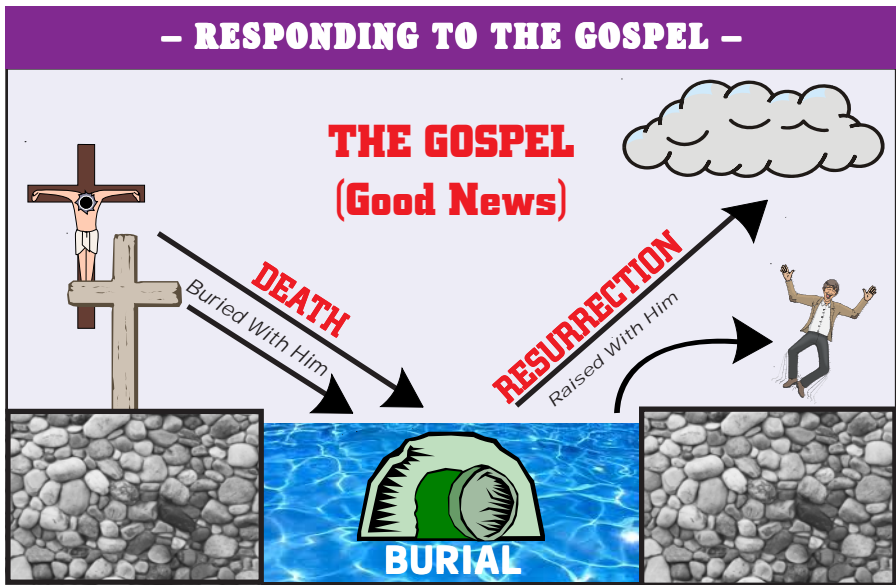


BY READING ALL THE SCRIPTURES NOTED ON THE ABOVE CHART, ONE CAN TAKE THE EXCITING GOSPEL JOURNEY OF THE SON OF GOD FROM ETERNITY IN THE SPIRIT, TO THE INCARNATE FLESH OF MAN, AND THEN AGAIN BACK INTO ETERNITY.

RESEARCHING JESUS' GOSPEL JOURNEY

- **INCARNATION:** John 3:2; Galatians 4:4; Ephesians 3:3-7; Hebrews 2:14,17; 10:5; 1 Peter 1:10-12; Revelation 19:18
- **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.



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

“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 obeyed the gospel!

If you do not obey the gospel by immersion with Jesus into His death, burial and resurrection, then can you expect His 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 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 reign of Jesus is established in us (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 obedience to the gospel, the Father adds the obedient to the universal body of Christ, the church (Acts 2:47). In this way, therefore, 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).

ONE BODY: Jesus is the only head of His one universal body. In order to be saved, 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 believers (1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:4-6).
- The early Christians practiced unity of the 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 Over Religion – – 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 can happen 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. The gospel is the good news about the **incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, coronation and consummation** of all things in the final return of the Son of God.



THE GOSPEL

The entire Bible is a news report of the gospel. From the very beginning of the Bible 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 first focus 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). This 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 of 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.

A 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 RELIGION:** One can live as a “pagan,” that is, live with no religious faith at all. The majority of the world lives in this manner. They may be good citizens of the community, but they have no faith and no morals that are 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 traditions.

*** 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 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 (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 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 the book throughout the world in order to 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] in 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 freedom in the gospel of Jesus (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

YOUR PERSONAL CHALLENGE

Your reception 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 if 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 the gospel (Read Mark 7:1-9).
- We ask that all believers 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 you have now learned in this brief explanation of the gospel. Millions have 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 join with us on this great journey by walking in gratitude for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- 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 (See 2 Timothy 2:15). In order to continue your nobility as a student 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

- 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. Since they 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 plan of salvation. After studying through this book, answer the following questions in a group study. After you have answered the questions personally, we suggest that you meet with others who have downloaded the book and answered the questions. This will encourage group Bible study.

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 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 present circumstances is ... (A) prophecy, (B) prediction, (C) faith
6. _____ The Messiah would be born of the seed of ... (A) David, (B) Ephraim, (C) Issachar
7. _____ God set up a kingdom 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 truth to believe ... (A) lies, (B) stories, (C) tales
10. _____ Of what does Jesus say 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 does not obey the ... (A) gospel, (B) traditions, (C) faith
13. _____ The body of Christ is the ... (A) church, (B) faith, (C) church building
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) faith, (B) traditions, (C) truth.
16. _____ In order to have unity, what must be our only authority? (A) traditions, (B) Bible, (C) faith
17. _____ One head of the church indicates there is one ... (A) denomination, (B) church, (C) Nation
18. _____ Why is one baptized? (A) to obey tradition, (B) remission of sins, (C) because he is saved
19. _____ Jesus said to repent and believe in the ... (A) church, (B) traditions, (C) gospel
20. _____ When one is baptized, he is added to ... (A) a denomination, (B) the church, (C) nothing

Other books by Roger E. Dickson
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