

# God, Life and People

A home study course for those seeking to know more about the route to salvation.

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## INTRODUCTION

Dear Student,

It really is a pleasure for us to share this course, entitled **God, Life and People**, with you. We think that you will find it straightforward and, at the same time, filled with rich, life-giving lessons from the One who loves life.

To get the best out of the course you will need to read each lesson carefully, along with your Bible, and then answer the questions on the **Evaluation Sheet**. Having completed each lesson, you are invited to send the completed evaluation sheet back to us, by normal post to the address shown below.

Once we have marked your evaluation sheet, we'll send it back to you along with our comments and/or suggestions.

**Before you begin the course there are a number of things we'd like you to know:**

1. Whether or not you choose to return the **Evaluation Sheets**, we will never ask you for any money.
2. We suggest that you not rush into completing each lesson. Take your time and think carefully about what you are reading and the questions that are asked. Try not to take too long though - we don't want you to lose interest or direction in your studies.
3. We're anxious for you to read the word of God for yourself, so please read all the scriptures you find referred to in the lessons.
4. We want you to ask all the questions you wish to ask. We certainly don't pretend to have all the answers, but we'll do our best to provide a helpful answer. Please send any questions to the address shown below or through the person who gave you this study course.
5. We'd really like you to finish the course now that you have begun. Your getting to know the Life-giver better means that our time and money are well spent.
6. If you choose to return the **Evaluation Sheets**, when you've successfully completed all 7 lessons of the course we'll send you a certificate. You will have earned it and it's one way we can say "Thank You". You might well want to pursue your studies - we have other courses that we would be delighted to share with you.
7. Finally, our aim (like that of so many others) is to help people to grow to know God that little bit better. We know that it takes more than Bible study to do this, but we're also convinced that a warm-hearted study of God's word is indispensable to a deeper relationship with Him.

**If there is any way in which we may be of better service to you, please do let us know. We wish you well in your studies and look forward to hearing from you. May God bless you richly and enable you to be a blessing to those around you.**

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## **Lesson 1 Why Are We Here, and Where Are We Going?**

### **I. THE ATHEIST'S ANSWER TO OUR DEEPEST QUESTIONS.**

1. How did we get here? Where did we come from? Is there someone "out there" who lovingly made us or are we just a freakish accident which happened in a mindless universe? Why are we here? Does life have a purpose or is it meaningless? Are we going anywhere? Are we supposed to be going anywhere? Will everything end in ice-cold blackness when the universe dies?
2. If we're to believe what atheists have been telling us for over a hundred years, we'd say our solar system began with a chance explosion and things just turned out as they are.
3. They've told us the only difference between human life and the scum that floats on stagnant water is that human life is more complex than fungus or scum. (That is what they've told us!) When we look into the emptiness of space for a Father, they tell us, the only thing that stares back at us is a black empty eye-socket. The atheist, H.J. Blackham, said the greatest objection to atheism is this: "It's too bad to be true!"
4. The atheist, Teller, said: "There is no eternal Justice in the heaven, no helping hand. The stellar depths are silent as the grave to human misery and want. The vast abyss of space is both our womb and tomb. It cares neither for our coming nor our going ..." Bertrand Russell insisted that Man's "origin, growth, hopes, fears, loves and beliefs, are but the result of an accidental arrangement of atoms" and that in time Man will "be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruins". Ingersoll (an atheist) thought that "life is a narrow vale between the cold and barren peaks of two eternities ... We cry aloud and the only answer is the echo of our wailing cry." This is standard atheism! Thank God it isn't true!

### **II. THE ANSWER JESUS CHRIST GIVES TO OUR QUESTIONS.**

5. Jesus Christ himself accepts the answer Genesis 1-2 gives to our questions. (See Matthew 19:4-6, which quotes from Genesis 1:27 and 2:24.) Genesis tells us our world was created by God! We're told that God created an earth-home and then He created Man (Genesis 1:1-27). So, we're not an "accident" that just "happened" -- we're here because God wanted us to be here!

### **III. WHY DID GOD MAKE US?**

God made us because He loves us!

6. 1 John 4:8 says God is love. That means He can never act lovelessly. Psalm 136:5-9 tells us repeatedly that God created because His "love endures forever". The creation (humans included) is the loving expression of God's almighty power. God made us because He loved us! This truth often leads us to mutter: "If He loves us so much, why is the world in such a mess?" (We'll say something about this in Lesson 2.)

God made us for life within loving relationships!

7. You can see from reading Genesis 1 that God provided for Man's physical needs, even before He made Man. But humans need more than food and shelter. Man can't LIVE by bread alone! He must have love and he must have companions!
8. As far as God is concerned, there is no life without love (see 1 John 3:14). And love is experienced within relationships. When someone asked Christ what God wanted above all, He answered: "Above all, God wants you to love Him and to love your neighbours as you love yourselves." To love God is to do what God wants and God wants to be loved by us! We were made in His image (Genesis 5:1-2) so we could live with Him. And we were created a pair, a twosome, so we could live with one another (Genesis 2:18-23).

God made us to give us honour and dignity!

9. In Psalm 8:5-6, David says God made Man: "A little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet." David found it amazing that God could care for Man in this way, and Chesterton, Looking at modern

man, muttered: "Whatever else is true about Man, he isn't what he was intended to be!" (What happened to the dignity and power God gave Man at creation? We'll say something about that in Lesson 2.)

10. Man (male and female) was made "in the image of God" (Genesis 1:26-27). There are a number of truths involved in this. We're honoured to be in God's image, but we're not God! What we see in the mirror is our image, it isn't us. There's a truth we need to fully recognise: we aren't God and we shouldn't think or act as though we were!

11. Man (male and female) was given authority to rule over the earth (Genesis 1:28). The pair were never to think they earned this power, it was given to them. Just the same, they were God's representatives and were to rule for Him. As an ambassador reflects the honour and dignity of the country he represents, so Man was made to reflect the glory and honour of the God he represented. The glory and honour of God is seen in His power (Psalm 19:1). Here's another truth we need to remember: we are made to mirror the glory of God as we exercise influence and power.

12. Man was made in God's image, and that meant he had the capacity for fellowship with his creator. God walked with Man in the garden (Genesis 3:8) and wanted people to live in His presence (Genesis 4:16). And He stressed the difference between Man and the animals, which were not made in His image (Genesis 2:18-20). So here's another truth to be remembered: In making us in His image, God made us capable of appreciating spiritual realities like truth, honour, obedience and loyalty to God and others.

God made us to give us life, joy and peace with Him and with one another!

13. God didn't make us to torture, cripple or curse us. He finds no pleasure in the pain we endure (Lamentations 3:33). His unchanging purpose is to bless Man (Genesis 1:28; John 3:17) and to offer him life which comes in intimately knowing God and being His friend (Deuteronomy 30:15, 20; John 17:3).

14. So, we humans didn't arrive on earth by accident. There is Someone "out there" who cares about us! Life is not purposeless. We were created to enjoy love-filled lives with God and one another! We are not just complex scum and we aren't simply sophisticated animals. We've been made in the image of God to enjoy fellowship with Him.

Isn't that another truth we should be pleased to understand and cherish?!

## **WHAT WE'VE LEARNED**

God made us, and He made us because He loved us.

We were made to enjoy love-filled lives with God and with one another.

Whatever else is true about man, he isn't what he was created to be.

Even atheists admit that "Atheism is too bad to be true".

## **Lesson 2 Evil in the World: Who is to Blame and What is the Solution?**

### **I. THE WORLD'S IN AN AWFUL MESS**

1. Everybody knows there is evil in the world. Television, radio, newspapers and our own eyes tell us of sadistic cruelty, child prostitution and torture, wars fought for profit, millions who starve while prosperous nations destroy food and raving politicians who drag nations into poverty and bitterness to satisfy their offended egos. We've read the figures on the number of victims (addicts and families) tortured by drug bosses or the booze industry. We're amazed at the brutal muggings of very old people and the aborting of millions of defenceless babies.

2. Sin isn't limited to the obvious kinds of evil. Two of Christ's most devastating pictures of Sin are of a young man who wasted what he had (Luke 15:13) and two religious men who did nothing when they could - and should - have done something (Luke 10:31-32). Then there are "respectable" sins - envy, bitterness, pride, revenge, smugness, snobbery, bad temper, cowardice and such like. You know what I mean, the kinds of evils people shrug at as they say: "Well, we're only human. At least I'm no drunken wife-beater!"

### **II. WHO OR WHAT IS TO BLAME FOR ALL THIS EVIL?**

3. Some blame our animal background. We just haven't outgrown our bad animal traits, they tell us. Some say it's all a matter of our genes. We hate, love and hurt each other because our brains are programmed to do that. Others tell us bad childhood experiences explain all our evil ways.

4. It's characteristic of people to blame someone else for their evil (see this in Genesis 3:12). We tell ourselves the world would be all right if "they" hadn't done or weren't doing this or that. And there are plenty of people, with Bible in hands, who want to lay it all on Adam. His choice, they tell us, resulted in our being born enemies of God and hating all that is righteous. A condition, they tell us, that leaves us utterly incapable of doing anything good. Lots of people think God himself is to blame (see Genesis 3:12). "If he hadn't made us," they protest, "we wouldn't have gotten into this mess." However we "explain" it, we all admit there is something that needs explanation. Sceptics and believers may not like the others' explanation but both offer something! We may argue about the origin or roots of evil but we all know it's here!

### **III. GOD INSISTS THAT WE ACCEPT THE BLAME FOR OUR SIN**

5. God insists that we accept the blame for our sin! We can't keep pushing it off on to someone else (not even Adam!). After we've made all our excuses (and some of them are reasonable), after we've shown how bad our background has been, we know in our heart of hearts of evil and shameful things for which we're fully responsible. In our better moments we aren't happy with how we've lived our lives. That's healthy - and it's the work of God in us.

6. Psychologists used to spend most of their time telling people "sin" is a Church invention, or that other people were altogether to blame for our sinful behaviour. But there's a growing realisation among them that no one is being helped by this, and that the dark stain in Man needs to be treated as real! Evil is real! People are guilty! There is something to be confessed, to be ashamed and afraid of!

7. In Hitler's death camps millions of men, women and children were tortured before they were murdered. Those who ran the camps and supervised the torture and murder refused to take the blame. They said they were only carrying out their orders. We're all amazed at such self-excusing but in our own areas of lesser guilt we so often go the same self-excusing route. And God still insists: "There is none righteous, no, not one!" (Romans 3:10)

### **IV. WHY DOES GOD INSIST THAT WE FACE OUR GUILT?**

8. The answer is simple: if we don't admit guilt we cannot accept forgiveness. The man who says he isn't guilty can't accept forgiveness because forgiveness is only for guilty people! You can't forgive innocent people - there's nothing to forgive!

9. You can't walk up to an innocent bystander and forgive him for smashing your window - he had nothing to do with it! You can't forgive a totally innocent schoolboy for beating your boy up! Innocent

people not only don't need forgiveness, they cannot be forgiven! As long as we insist on our innocence we can never accept forgiveness from the hand of God!

10. So God insists that we admit our guilt. He wants so much to forgive us because He wants so much to live with us in loving fellowship. But there can be no loving fellowship unless our rebellion against God is dealt with and it cannot be dealt with unless we admit it exists. God loves us enough to confront us with our evil.

11. The doctor loves us enough to tell us we have cancer. He might make alterations to the X-ray so that the cancer spots don't show on it - but would that change our condition? Would it change the truth to alter the X-ray? A good doctor wouldn't do that - neither will a good God!

12. The Bible insists that Christ died for every one of us, and that He died to rescue us from Sin (John 3:16 and 1 John 2:2). An evil more alarming than AIDS and more mysterious than all the riddles of the physical universe is devouring our race. Like a parasite, buried deep in our inner being, it is feeding on us and will destroy us. Some "wise" men smile and tell us there's nothing to worry about, but something's feeding on us! People are being brutally murdered in the streets, nations are being exterminated, countless millions awake each morning to another day of torture and misery. Our hearts are finding pleasure in perverse evils, we're watching more and more immorality and violence for entertainment, we're abusing more and more of our children.

Sin is feeding on us!

13. Science can't save us! Psychiatrists can't save us! Politics can't save us! medicine can't save us! Armies can't save us! Police can't save us! Social workers can't save us! School-teachers can't save us! Philosophers can't save us! National leaders can't save us! We can't war, bribe, threaten, talk, study, protest or educate our way out of this. Christ comes confronting us with our Sin, telling us: "I'm the way out!" (John 14:6). Instead of shutting God out of our lives, we must let Him work with us and in us to deliver us from a sinister power that is much too strong for us. What do you think about all this? Aren't you, like the rest of us, wrestling with evil? Haven't you found you are unable to conquer it and haven't thought that it must all be answered for some day, somewhere to someone? If so, you're hearing the voice of God! Don't ignore it - give it a hearing!

#### **WHAT WE'VE LEARNED:**

No one is innocent; we're all sinners.

The person who claims to be innocent cannot be forgiven.

Something sinister is feeding on us.

Only Jesus Christ can save us.

## **Lesson 3 Why Does God Continue To Lovingly Pursue Us?**

### **I. A HOLY GOD IN SEARCH OF A LOST PEOPLE!**

1. In Australia, some years ago, a small plane went down in the desert after making a distress call. The pilot was killed but the boy with him survived. By the time they had located the wreck the lad had wandered off. Afraid that the boy would panic at being lost, the father printed thousands of leaflets which he dropped from an aeroplane over the area. The central message was: "Dirky don't be afraid! I'm looking for you! I'll find you! I love you .... Dad." Dirky found one of the leaflets and this assurance helped see him through. God sent us a loving message too .... in the person of His son (John 3:16-17 and Luke 19:10)

### **II. HOW CAN GOD CONTINUE TO LOVE SINFUL PEOPLE?**

2. Paul insists that we can't completely answer that question (Ephesians 3:19). Still, even if we can't fully explain it, we can know He does, says Paul, because God showed it to us in Jesus Christ (1 John 4:9).

3. Even love among humans is often mysterious! Haven't you been amazed by a woman who continues to love a husband who has hurt her since the day they married? You may even have urged her to "get rid" of him. She knows you care, and smiles, and murmurs something about loving him no matter what he is. Haven't you seen parents weep for the return of a child whose selfishness at home drove them to heartbreak? How do you explain that? And you must know of children who, despite being terribly mistreated, loved their parents with deep devotion and would make all sorts of excuses for them! If sinful people can love beyond explanation, should it surprise us if God can? The parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15) gives us a lovely illustration of the nature and character of God.

### **III. HOW CAN GOD LOVE US AND PUNISH SIN AT THE SAME TIME?**

4. Humans know how to do that when they lovingly chastise their children, don't they?! God insists that chastisement is part of loving (Revelation 3:20). The greater the wrong, the more seriously it must be viewed. Doesn't that make sense? It does with God. God tells us that when Judgement day arrives, it will be more bearable for some than others (Matthew 11:22, 24).

5. When God sent a flood to destroy the bulk of humanity (Genesis 6 - 9), Sin had filled the earth. Mankind didn't need a gentle rebuke. They ate, drank, slept and dreamed evil (Genesis 6:5, 11) and radical surgery had to be performed. God alone sees Sin as it really is and will do what He must to deal with it!

6. Punishment of Sin is God taking our sin seriously. We take crime seriously in a just society, don't we? We should want God to take evil seriously. Could we respect a God who doesn't? What would you think of a God who smiles at the rape of little boys and girls? Could you praise a God who grinned when thugs beat an old man to death just for fun? How would you feel about a God who got pleasure by watching children forced into evil movies and prostitution? Who wouldn't despise a God who chuckled while wicked rulers enslaved and crushed the poor? Don't we want someone to do something about the drug bosses who make vast fortunes out of the misery of millions (addicts and families)? A God who yawned at all this wouldn't be worshipped. A God like that shouldn't be worshipped! We might be afraid of Him, but we'd never respect Him or praise Him.

7. Sin is an offence against God himself, and that leads Him to view it with severity. Should that surprise us? Evil is repulsive to His nature and dishonouring to His person (1 John 4:8; Psalm 29:2). In this lies Sin's fundamentalist nature ... it is an offence against God (Psalm 51:4).

8. But God's anger at Sin is partly because He loves those who are being exploited! God will right all the wrongs done to the oppressed and defenceless people (Genesis 18:25)! We don't have to feel personal hatred against a brutal criminal to imprison him to protect those he is cruelly abusing. The nations didn't have to feel personal hatred for Hitler during World War II to know they had to keep him from exterminating whole nations. Must we view God as a hate-filled lunatic if, for love of the oppressed and unborn generations, He buries their tormentors?

#### **IV. BIBLE HISTORY TELLS THE STORY**

9. Bible history is the story of how God has pursued us! It reveals Man's awful sinfulness again and again, but it shows us God coming after him. He promises the sinful pair that a redeemer is coming (Genesis 3:15). He chooses Noah and his family to bless the coming generations (Genesis 6:8; 7:1) and saves them from the flood. He leaves the rainbow as a permanent sign of Man's evil and His love of Man (Genesis 9:12-17).

10. He graciously chose to bless a childless old man and his barren wife so that he would be a blessing to the whole world (Genesis 12:1-2). He later made Abraham's offspring into a nation at mount Sinai (Exodus 19:5-6) after delivering them from slavery under an evil oppressor (Exodus 1 - 12). Abraham and Israel became models of what God wanted for the whole world.

11. Israel's rescue from slavery under Pharaoh teaches us about rescue from slavery under Satan and Sin. Their worship taught them and us that God wants us to live (tabernacle) in the midst of people despite their sinfulness. Their sacrificial system told them that life with God could only exist where sin was taken seriously. But since it was God who provided the sacrifices (Leviticus 17:11), we are taught that it is God who pursues us and them and provides what we need to have life with Him! They had an inner sanctuary in which God dwelt and which was "off-limits". This, and the endless sacrifices which had to be offered, taught them and us that full intimacy with God would only come later in Jesus Christ (see Hebrews 9:7-8 and 19:19-20).

12. This tabernacle and those sacrifices foretold the day when God would tabernacle among all people in Jesus Christ. And they taught that God would offer the sacrifice which would enable Him to forgive the ungodly and give life to those who deserve death (see John 1:14; 1 John 2:2 and Romans 3:23-23).

13. This NATION was to be a sign to the world that God loved MAN (and not just Israel). It was to be a proof (like the rainbow) that God was still longing for loving fellowship with sinful humans!

#### **WHAT WE'VE LEARNED**

Human love can teach us something about the love of God.

Right thinking people want God to take evil seriously.

Bible history is written to show how God has lovingly pursued Man down through the centuries.

The structure of Old Testament worship taught man he couldn't get full intimacy with God until Christ would come.

## **Part 4      Why did Jesus Christ come to the Earth?**

### **I. SOMEONE IS COMING**

1. A writer summarised the Old Testament message this way: Someone is Coming! That's too simple, but it does remind us that the promise of a coming one runs all the way through the Old Testament. It has been estimated that there are more than 400 prophecies in the Old Testament about Christ and his Work.

### **II. WHO IS IT THAT WAS COMING?**

2. The Old Testament tells us the coming One would be both God and Man. In Genesis 3:15 we're told he would be "the seed of the woman" (human). In Isaiah 7:14 we're told he would be a child born of a virgin but that he would also be "Immanuel" (God with us). In Isaiah 9:6-7 we're told he would be a descendant of David but that he would also be "the Mighty God". In Micah 5:2 we hear he would be a Judean but also that he would be eternal.

3. Only one man in world history seriously claimed to be God as well as man - Jesus Christ, the son of David and the Son of God. It was God who was "in Christ" reconciling the world unto himself – 2 Corinthians 5:19.

### **III. WHY DID HE COME?**

4. Jesus Christ came to tell us that God is "with us". The prophet said the baby would be "Immanuel" (see Matthew 1:23), which means, "God with us". In coming to be "with us" God joined us in our pain and struggle. He doesn't "sit out there" yelling orders at us. His love for us caused him pain and led him to join with us in our pain. In seeing Jesus pushed around, oppressed and mistreated we see God making himself woundable for our sakes. God so wants to live with us! (See John 1:1, 14 and Colossians 2:9).

5. Jesus Christ came to show God's love in its most glorious light. The love of God for us didn't begin at Christ's coming. No, but in Jesus we have the clearest and most lovely expression of it (1 John 4:9).

6. Jesus Christ came to expose the awful evil of our Sin. He did this in two basic ways. First, he lived his life so radiantly, courageously and selflessly. Our lives by comparison are so loveless and withered and Christ assures us: "Sin does that to you!" Secondly, he allowed Sin to show its true nature when it hounded him to the cross. It was God Sin was attacking! It was Man Sin was crucifying! In all this, Christ is saying to us: "I want you to see that Sin is evil beyond description and must be destroyed if God and man are to enjoy life together!"

7. Jesus Christ came to be mankind's Representative. Jesus doesn't represent a chosen few! He came to speak for all! He came as Man so he could confess the Sin of mankind! In him mankind has found a Man who can fully understand God's view of sin. In him mankind has found a Man who can approach a holy God on their behalf as their Mediator (1 Timothy 2:4-5).

8. Jesus Christ came to die to bear the Sin of Mankind. Justice between people is regulated by good laws but the law is mocked and is worse than useless when crime isn't dealt with! So how can God acquit sinners without mocking his law? How can God expect us to respect his law if, by "just letting sinners off", he doesn't respect it himself? That's why Christ came (Romans 3:24-26).

9. Can we look at the cross and think God doesn't take Sin seriously? The death of Christ shows that forgiving sinners isn't easy, not even for God! God so respects his law that he won't offer a cheap and easy forgiveness that would make a mockery of it. Still, while he won't despise his law, God loves sinners and pays the price so he can offer a just forgiveness to all men (1 John 1:9 & 1 Peter 2:24).

10. Jesus Christ came to call us to trustful and holy living. The only man who knows Sin in all its awful evil is the man Jesus Christ. And when a man trusts in the crucified Christ, Sin comes to mean to him what it means to Christ! (This is part of what the New Testament means by "repentance".) That's why a follower of Christ cannot choose a sinful lifestyle or think of Sin in a casual way.

11. Some have a strange view of Christ's dying for them. They feel that somehow the moral law was set aside or at least weakened so they could be forgiven. The reverse is true: it's because God wouldn't weaken or set aside the demands of his holy law that Christ had to die for our pardon! His cross doesn't

stand as a symbol that God despised his holy law - it stands as a reminder that God honours that holy law!

12. Jesus Christ came to give us hope. If our hope for the future is based on our health, what do we do when serious illness comes? If it's resting on our wisdom, what do we do when old age weakens our intellect? If we're relying on our wealth, where are we when the economy stumbles or our business collapses? If our hope depends on our children, where do we turn if our children turn from us or if they have no hope for themselves? If we hope on the basis of society's progress, how will we feel when the mass exploitation and oppression going on in the world gets worse and worse and crime figures continue to spiral?

13. the good news is: Christ has met and conquered all that Man fears! He met our Sin and defeated it. He met Suffering and made it serve his purposes. He met Death and killed it. (There's a tombstone in England with this written on it: Gone away with a Friend!) The Christian's hope is firmly grounded in God and Christ so change and decay, threats and fears have no power to destroy it (see 1 Timothy 1:1 and 4:10).

14. But for many, the thing that worries them most is the presence of evil in their own lives. They've earnestly fought against it but have no reason to believe they'll win against it. Christ comes promising us that not only will we win against the penalty of Sin, if we submit our lives to him, we'll finally win against the power of Sin too.

15. Listen to these faithful words and let the hope stir in you (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24): "May God himself, the God of peace, make you holy through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it." I've emphasised the last sentence because God's faithfulness is the basis for the Christian's confident hope of victory over Sin! Remember, the victory is not only over the penalty of sin, we beat its power as well!

Aren't you glad he came?

## **WHAT WE'VE LEARNED**

The Old Testament is full of the story that Jesus Christ would come.

In Jesus Christ, God actually came to be with us.

In Jesus Christ, Mankind has someone who can be their Representative before a holy God.

Our hope of final and total victory rests on God's faithfulness.

## **Lesson 5 Changing the Direction of Our Lives: To What? How?**

### **I. THE GULF BETWEEN GOD AND US ISN'T GOD'S IDEA**

1. God created us out of a heart of love (Psalm 136:5-9). God created no one for the purpose of torturing him, here or hereafter. The awful mess the world is in is Man's work, not God's!

2. And when we rejected his will for us and betrayed the trust he placed in us, God didn't wash his hands of us. He pursued us throughout the ages, teaching us, pleading with us, working with us in people like Noah, Abraham, and the nation of Israel. Finally, God came to planet earth and showed himself in the One we know as Jesus of Nazareth. The life he lived and the death he died, for all of us, tells us once and for all time how God feels about us.

### **II. WHAT DO WE TURN TO WHEN WE TURN TO GOD?**

3. First and foremost, we turn to a personal God! We don't turn to a force or a power. We turn to a Person! Someone who fulfills our need for friendship and comradeship. "Mother Nature" can't fill our emptiness and a force or power leaves us lonely and longing. In our better moments we look for more than a soft life and things going our way, we look for a Friend and a Confidant. We find these and more in a personal God, the Father of Jesus Christ (see John 17:3 and Genesis 2:18).

4. We turn to forgiveness. Forgiveness is a gift. It's a gift that persons give to each other. A personal God gives the gift of forgiveness to personal sinners. Forgiveness is an ongoing thing (1 John 1:9) and it depends on our living in relationship with Christ because there, and only there, can forgiveness be found - in Christ (Ephesians 1:7).

5. We turn to life. Jesus didn't come just to convict us of our trespasses, he came to convict us of our possibilities! He urges us to look less at what we're running from and more at what we're running to! The stress is not on what we have been and are but what we can and will be with his help. Christ stresses not what we give up but what we gain. Abraham gives up his family (Genesis 12:1) and becomes father to multiplied millions. Moses gives up the riches of Egypt (Hebrews 11:26) and becomes one of the world's greatest liberators. Paul gives up his prized possessions (Philippians 3:4-7) and becomes Christ's glorious ambassador. God doesn't cheat us - he gives us life, fullness of life (John 10:10). All of the experiences of life become useful and touched with glory (even the suffering and the defeats) because God is with Man in them (Isaiah 43:1-3; Matthew 1:23). When Man turns to God he turns to hope in the face of hardship, peace in the face of turmoil, joy in the face of suffering and a deep sense of mission in the face of a sad world where millions fritter their precious lives away.

### **III. HOW DID PEOPLE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT TURN TO GOD?**

1. They came recognising their sinfulness!
2. They recognised they couldn't save themselves!
3. In trusting repentance they were baptised into Christ!

6. See how the following scriptures make this clear: When people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied: "Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit ..." Those who accepted his message were baptized and about three thousand were added to their number that day (Acts 2:37, 38 & 41).

7. The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized (Acts 16:29-33).

8. "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you Lord?" I asked. "I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting ..." "What shall I do, Lord?" I asked. "And now, what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name" (Acts 22:7, 8, 10 & 16).

9. It would be helpful if you read carefully the following texts:

John 3:16; Galatians 3:26-27; Acts 10:43; Matthew 28:19; Acts 17:30-31; Romans 6:3-7; Romans 10:9-10; Titus 3:5 and Ephesians 2:8-9.

10. Why, in the New Testament, did God link forgiveness with baptism? Because baptism was the sinner's confession of faith in Jesus Christ! What Paul preached as of "first importance" (1 Corinthians 15:3) was the saving work of God in Christ (the death, burial and resurrection). When people who knew themselves to be lost in sin wanted to turn to God on the basis of the redeeming work of Jesus Christ, they were called to confess their personal faith in the crucified and risen Lord. This was done by being buried with him and being raised with him (Romans 6:3-4 and Colossians 2:12 with Romans 10:9-10). That's how people turned to God in the New Testament; that's what people in the New Testament were commanded to do. How should we respond?

11. And it was when they were baptized that they took the name of Jesus Christ on them as you can see from Acts 2:38; 19:5; 22:16 and Matthew 28:19. Only one name under heaven can save (Acts 4:12) and people embracing that name (the person) by faith in submitting to baptism in his name.

12. It's tempting in our day and age to dismiss baptism as of little importance or as something which "should" be done (but if it isn't, it doesn't matter much). Whatever else is true, the New Testament doesn't speak of it in that way. What you need to ask yourself is this: When the New Testament speaks of baptism what does it say about baptism? Does the New Testament link it with sins being washed away? Does the New Testament associate it with forgiveness of sins? Does the New Testament say we're baptized "into Christ and put on Christ"? In the New Testament, baptism was the way sinners placed their trust in the crucified and risen Lord and in doing that they received free and full forgiveness,

How should we respond to all this?

## **WHAT WE'VE LEARNED**

The gulf between God and us isn't what God wants.

God offers us much more than the forgiveness of sins.

Life with and forgiveness from God are found only in Jesus Christ.

In the New Testament people entered Christ when they trustingly submitted to baptism in his name.

## **Lesson 6 God's Chosen People and the Dawning of a New Day**

### **I. MAN WORKING WITH GOD TO BLESS THE WORLD**

1. One of God's favourite virtues in man is gallantry! It's true that God has concluded all under sin (Romans 3:10 - no exceptions) but it's also true that by God's grace people often pursue noble dreams and bravely make God's longing to bless the entire world their longing too. (Will you be one of these?)

2. Noah worked with God! Whatever his faults, by God's grace (Genesis 6:8), Noah stood where the rest fell. Noah, says the Bible, "walked with God" and God saw the bravery of this righteous man in an incredibly evil generation (Genesis 7:1). I will use this man, God seems to say, to bless the whole world (Genesis 9:1).

3. And Abraham worked with God. An old man with a wife who couldn't bear children, yet when God called him to follow a dream, he trusted God and went (Hebrews 11:7-12). Years passed without the promises being fulfilled but still he trusted God and called him his friend (Isaiah 41:8). And God blessed Abraham that the old man might be a blessing to the world (Genesis 12:1-3; 18:18).

4. Of Abraham's descendants God created the Israelite nation after he had rescued them from Egyptian oppression and made a covenant with them (Exodus 19:5-6 & 24:1-8). Israel became a sign for the whole world that God was seeking fellowship with all men. They were the visible proof of God's intention towards mankind and God gave them the task of telling the world about it (Isaiah 49:3-6 & John 4:22).

### **II. THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**

5. When the Old Covenant had served its purpose, God removed it and brought in a New Covenant through Jesus his Son (Hebrews 8:6-13). He took away the first, says Hebrews 10:9-10, that he might establish the second through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

6. The Old Covenant, which had been made only with physical Jews, was replaced by a New Covenant which is offered to the whole human race. On the basis of that New Covenant, a new Community of Faith was set up. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus called it His Church in contrast to the Old Covenant Church in the wilderness (Acts 7:38). At first, as the prophets had foretold, it was made up of believing Jews who then took the gospel to all the nations (Romans 1:16; Luke 24:47; Matthew 28:19).

### **III. THE IDENTITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**

7. In the New Testament, Paul is able to tell us, in Ephesians 4:4-6, that the disciples of Christ held these major truths in common. They saw themselves, whatever their differences in culture and heritage, as one Body into which they were brought by one Spirit. They joyfully shared one Hope for the future and served only one as their Lord (Jesus Christ). They firmly held to one body of Truth they called the Faith and everyone knew they submitted to one Baptism. They recognised no God but one, and he was the Father of Jesus Christ.

8. The Old Testament church had Moses as its mediator but this New Testament Church had Christ as its Mediator (Hebrews 8:6). The New Testament Church held on to all the abiding truths of the Old Covenant and gently laid the rest aside as belonging to a former age. God's new people were bound by God's new covenant (Hebrews 8:6-7).

### **IV. THE NATURE AND PLACE OF THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD TODAY**

9. The Church is the Body through which Christ moves in the world today. The New Testament speaks of "the Church which is His body" (Colossians 1:18). Until He returns, Christ lives in the world through the Church. His mission in the Church is the same as when He was here in His personal body - to seek and save the hurt, the weak and the lost.

10. The Church keeps profound truths before the eyes of the world. In the New Testament, when a person wanted to become a Christian he submitted to being immersed in water as a confession of his

faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (see Lesson 5). Baptism is a visible proclamation of the gospel. When Christians meet each Sunday to share Holy Communion, they were confessing their faith in the living Christ who communed with them there until he returns (1 Corinthians 10:16-17 & 11:26). Holy Communion is a visible proclamation of Christ's dying and living again. These truths, said Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, are "of first importance".

11. The Church by, its very existence, shows that life with God is possible for sinners. The Church doesn't save itself - it is the saved Community! It doesn't proclaim its own goodness - it proclaims His saving grace! The Church's life is part of God's witness that Christ is alive and not dead. His life keeps her alive, His life is her life.

12. The Church has greater strength than any individual. "The Church" is the sum total of all who have submitted their lives to Christ as Lord. The believers as a body are able to help individuals stay alive. If you love your country and go to a noble-spirited and patriotic meeting, you come away loving and believing in your country more. If you love Christ and worship with noble Christ-loving people, you come away loving Him more! See 2 Timothy 2:22 and Hebrews 10:24-25.

13. The effect of the Church on the world is greater than that of an individual. The power of any community lies in its unity. Organised crime knows there is more power when crime is organised, when it bands together. This is one of the reasons God does not save individuals in isolation. As people are saved, they are added to the believing Community (Acts 2:47). Christians have been made into one Body because this way they can better serve God and the world He loves so much. Church membership isn't optional! We can't have Christ as Saviour and refuse Him as Head (Ephesians 1:22-23).

14. For the Church to be the Church "of Christ", it must be like him! If the Church doesn't exist for others, it isn't "of Christ" because he came to bless others (Matthew 20:28). To be his Church, the Church must love truth and pursue it as it is found in him (John 14:6). And when she sees it she must do as he did, bear witness to it even at awful cost. See Luke 9:23 and Matthew 10:25. It isn't enough for the Church to recognise the truth, be able to recite the truth or correctly formulate the truth, the truth is also for doing (John 3:21). Man was redeemed by the Word "become flesh" (John 1:14). Rehearsing truth and doing truth may be related but they're not the same thing!

## **WHAT WE'VE LEARNED**

We are very sinful, but by God's grace we can live nobly and bravely.

The Old Covenant, which was made only with Israel, was replaced by the New Covenant, which is offered to all Mankind.

The Church that doesn't exist to serve others is not the church "of Christ".

We can't say YES to Christ and NO to the Church.

## **Lesson 7 And what does the future hold? Life beyond this life!**

### **I. HE'S COMING BACK**

1. Before their very eyes, says the Bible, Jesus was taken up from the watching disciples (Acts 1:9). So it isn't hard for us to understand that they stood gaping up into the heavens. An angel assured them (Acts 1:11): "This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven." From that day to this, the Church has been waiting for the bodily return of Christ!

### **II. WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN HE RETURNS?**

2. He will resurrect the dead! His critics were shaken by His claim to be able to free men from spiritual death so He added (John 5:28-29): "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice and come out; those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned." Paul speaks of this general resurrection in Acts 24:15 when both the righteous and the wicked will rise.

3. He will destroy death! 1 Corinthians 15:25-26 tells us that Christ is reigning now and that He will reign until He destroys His last enemy - death. Death is destroyed by resurrection. It's at the resurrection at Christ's coming that "death is swallowed up in victory" (15:23, 54-55).

4. He will transform and glorify the bodies of those who belong to God! The Bible gives us no details about the bodies of those who have rejected God but it does speak of the glorification of the bodies of those who are His. Christians who are alive when Christ returns will be gloriously changed (1 Corinthians 15:51-52 and Philippians 3:20-21). Those who have died will be raised in glory and deathlessness (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). These bodies are suited to their new environment - that's what "spiritual" means in verse 44.

5. He will judge mankind! Christ claimed that the father has given Him authority to judge Mankind because He himself is Man (John 5:22, 27). Paul insists that the judgement of the world is as sure as the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Acts 17:30-31). And there is no need for us to worry over questions we can't find fully satisfying answers to, because God is judging us by Jesus Christ. That means everyone, everyone without exception will be treated fairly. The Judge of all the earth can be depended on to do what is right (Genesis 18:25). God will right all wrongs! Nothing will be overlooked and no one will be cheated! Some will be sentenced to eternal punishment and some blessed with eternal life (Matthew 25:46). It will be more bearable for some at judgement than for others (Matthew 11:22, 24).

6. He will give back to the Father the authority He was given! The One we know as Jesus Christ left aside the glory and privileges of Godhood when He took manhood upon himself (Philippians 2:6-7). Rather than continuing to exercise equality with God, He became God's servant (Philippians 2:6-7). Because He was such a faithful servant to God and man, the Father gave Him the honour of ruling mankind (1 Corinthians 15:24-28). When He has defeated the last enemy and completed the work the Father gave Him, Jesus will surrender the authority given to him. And, in him as Man's representative, Man will acknowledge his subjection to God (1 Corinthians 15:24, 28).

7. He will take his own to live with him in heaven! We read this in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 and 1 Peter 1:3-4. The Bible says precious little about the precise conditions in heaven but there's been so much nonsense taught about it, it's a wonder anyone wants to go there! Some have the feeling it's a place where [people float around on clouds, bored stiff and eternally beating on harps. Others have seen it as an eternal monastery where the inmates eternally chant hymns and pray. Some Bible pictures have been taken literally and applied to heaven. A city with golden streets and jewelled walls, for example. This is only picture language!

8. God is alive with LIFE! He won't be narrowing their lives when he takes his people to heaven. It will be fuller, larger and deeper there. The world beyond our own has kingdoms, powers and authorities, just as ours does (Ephesians 1:21). There is no knowing what marvellous things are ahead for God's people in that mysterious other world. There isn't a reason in the world to believe that human history is the sum total of God's wondrous workings and purposes. And it won't really come as a surprise if we learn that

earth history is only one little part of a grand purpose of God which defies description! Think majestic and great things of God!

9. Whatever else is true, this is true: There'll be no death there. There'll be no children cowering in a corner trying to hide from a drunken father. There'll be no quiet incurable wards where people cough their way to the grave in pain. There'll be no racism there, no beatings and humiliation for people of the "wrong" colour or ethnic background. There'll be no drug or booze addicts making a shambles of their lives while their fellow humans make fortunes through their pain. There'll be no rat-infested ghettos to drive families to despair, no children weeping in the night because their parents are breaking up and no men driven to near madness by greedy landlords and unemployment. There'll be no war-mongers there! No stockpiles of nuclear or chemical weapons. There'll be no husbands, alone and broken-hearted, deserted by selfish wives and no wives, used and then tossed aside like a worn out shoe.

10. And Christ will be there! The great people of human history will be there. People like Moses, Abraham, Paul, Elijah, Esther, Mary the mother of Jesus, Peter, John, Noah, Sarah and Hannah. All your friends and family who have said "Yes" to Christ. There will be LIFE there. Real and full and rich! LIFE beyond our most cherished dreams. There will be multiplied millions of wonderful things to be discovered. We will have purpose and place there! Whatever is necessary to make and keep us fully human and fully alive will be there! (Don't you want to go there?)

### **III. HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO ALL THIS?**

11. We should do as he asks: Submit our lives to him here and now! In trusting repentance we should be immersed into a relationship with Jesus Christ as he has urged us to do. Do see lesson 5 again! Then with people who have also said "Yes" to Christ we should enjoy life with God as we love and serve Him and the world He loves. We should joyfully look forward to the day when God's purposes here on earth are accomplished and we join Him in the life and adventure planned for us in another world.

Think inspiring things about God!

### **WHAT WE'VE LEARNED**

Christ is coming back!

Righteous judgement is going to take place and we'll all be there.

Christ will surrender the authority God gave him when He has defeated death.

Going to heaven won't narrow our lives, it will deepen and enrich them.

## Evaluation Sheet - God, Life and People - Lesson 1

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Jesus Christ believed the teaching of Genesis!
2. God made a part of mankind to torture them!
3. What we see in the mirror isn't us, it's only our image!
4. It was an atheist who said atheism is too bad to be true!
5. Humans need only food and shelter to satisfy their needs!

COMPLETE THIS STATEMENT:

(As found in the lesson text)

1. As far as God is concerned ...
2. We aren't God and we ...
3. We were created to enjoy ...
4. As an ambassador reflects ...
5. God didn't make us to ...

LIST THE FOUR REASONS GIVEN FOR GOD CREATING US:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

BRIEFLY SAY WHICH OF THOSE 4 MEANS MOST TO YOU AND WHY:

MATCH THE SCRIPTURE WITH THE STATEMENT:

Genesis 5:1-2; Psalm 136:5-9; John 17:3; 1 John 3:14; Matthew 19:4-6

1. Knowing God brings life.
2. Without love there is no life.
3. Man was made in God's image.
4. God created because He loves.
5. Christ accepted the teaching of Genesis.

## Evaluation Sheet - God, Life and People - Lesson 2

CAN YOU LIST THREE EXCUSES PEOPLE MAKE FOR THEIR SIN?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

MATCH THE SCRIPTURE WITH THE STATEMENT:

(Write the scripture reference opposite the statement)

Romans 3:23   John 14:6   1 John 2:2   Luke 15:13   Luke 10:31

1. A son who wasted his inheritance
2. Men who could have helped and didn't
3. Without exception, all have sinned
4. Christ died for everyone's sin
5. Only Christ is the way to life

IN YOUR EXPERIENCE, WHAT DO PEOPLE BLAME MOST FOR THEIR BAD BEHAVIOUR?

TRUE OR FALSE?

(write the appropriate word at the end of the statement.)

1. God insists that we admit our sinfulness because He wants to humiliate us!
2. Adam is responsible for all our sin!
3. People who will not admit they're sinners can't be forgiven!
4. If there is no sin to forgive, Christ was a fool for thinking He had to die for us!
5. We do evil things because we evolved from animals!
6. Adam blamed Eve for his sinning!
7. Doctors who tell us the truth about our x-rays are doing us a real favour!
8. God is doing us a favour by confronting us with our sin!
9. Christ died for all people without a single exception!
10. Those who tell us not to worry about "sin" are wise people!

COMPLETE THIS STATEMENT: (as found in the lesson)

1. God loves us enough to ...
2. God insists that we ...
3. If we don't admit guilt ...
4. An evil more alarming than AIDS ...
5. The man who says he isn't guilty ...
6. After we've shown how bad our background has been ...

## Evaluation Sheet - God, Life and People - Lesson 3

UNDERLINE THE CORRECT SCRIPTURE

1. Love may sometimes involve chastisement.

Luke 19:10   Ephesians 3:19   Revelation 3:19   Psalm 51:4

2. Judgement will be more bearable for some than for others.

1 John 4:9   Matthew 11:22,24   Psalm 29:2   Genesis 9:12-17

3. Tells the story of judgement by flood

Genesis 18:25   Hebrews 9:27-28   Genesis 6 - 9   Leviticus 17:11

4. Christ was God living among us.

John 1:14   Exodus 19:5-6   Genesis 7:1   Romans 3: 25-26

5. God can be depended upon to do what is right.

1 John 4:8   Matthew 11:22, 24   Luke 15   Genesis 18:25

IN YOUR OWN WORDS, SAY WHAT KIND OF GOD SHOULDN'T BE WORSHIPPED.

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Israel's rescue from slavery teaches us about rescue from sin!
2. Sin's fundamental nature is that it's an offence against God!
3. The rainbow only reminds us of how wicked man is!
4. We should want God to take sin seriously!
5. A God who smiles at sin is worth worshipping!

COMPLETE THIS STATEMENT; (as found in the lesson text)

1. If sinful people can love ...
2. Could you praise a God ...
3. God will right all the wrongs ...
4. This tabernacle and those sacrifices ...
5. Bible history is ...

## Evaluation Sheet - God, Life and People - Lesson 4

THE LESSON LISTS SEVEN REASONS CHRIST CAME: GIVE FOUR:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Of the seven reasons listed for Christ's coming into the world, which seems most important to you? And why?

In your experience, which one is most easily forgotten by Christians? Why do you think that is?

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. God is so powerful he cannot feel pain!
2. Jesus Christ was nothing more than a great human!
3. Forgiving people their sins is very easy for God!
4. God wants to save only some of mankind!
5. Christ has borne the burden of mankind's sin himself!
6. The Christians hope is based on God's faithfulness!
7. The cross of Christ shows God despised his holy law so that we could be forgiven!
8. "Immanuel" means "God watching us"!
9. Jesus Christ exposed our evil by his sinless life!
10. Sin was attacking God when it attacked Jesus Christ!

COMPLETE THIS STATEMENT: (as found in the lesson)

1. Jesus Christ came to call us \_\_\_\_\_
2. It's because God wouldn't weaken \_\_\_\_\_
3. If our hope depends on our children \_\_\_\_\_

WHICH SCRIPTURE?

1. Foretold Christ would be born of a virgin?
2. Says Christ was made sin for us?
3. Says Christ is the only mediator between God and man?
4. Says God is faithful and will do what he promised?
5. Says Christ himself is our hope?

## Evaluation Sheet - God, Life and People - Lesson 5

List three things we turn to when we turn to God.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The N.T. links baptism with forgiveness or the washing away of sins! (Note Acts 2:37-38 and 22:16). In light of this, how should I view baptism?

In light of this, how should people respond when they decide to become Christs'?

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Forgiveness has to be earned, it's not a free gift!
2. The New Testament gives us examples of infant baptism!
3. The N.T. gives us many examples of believers' baptism!
4. God is a sort of "Force" or "Power" rather than a "Person"!
5. 1 John 1:9 teaches forgiveness is an ongoing thing!

COMPLETE THIS STATEMENT: (as found in the lesson text)

1. What you need to ask yourself is this: .....
2. The stress is not on what we have been .....
3. And now, what are you waiting for? Get up .....
4. What Paul preached as of "first importance" .....
5. And people embraced that name (the person) .....

## Evaluation Sheet - God, Life and People - Lesson 6

CIRCLE THE CORRECT SCRIPTURE:

1. God took away the Old (first) Covenant and replaced it with the New (second) Covenant.

Acts 7:38      Eph 4:4-6      Heb 8:6-13      1 Cor 15:1-4

2. The church is the body of Jesus Christ

1 Cor 11:26      Acts 2:47      Col 1:18      Romans 6:3-5

3. Believing Jews were to make disciples of all nations.

Exodus 19:5-6      Matt 16-18      1 Tim 3:15      Matt 28:19

4. God blessed Abraham so he would be a blessing to the whole world.

Isa 41:8      Heb 10:9-10      Genesis 12:1-3      Gal 3:8

5. Christians are to follow (pursue) righteousness in the company of those who also love God.

John 4:22      Matt 10:25      Eph 4:4-6      2 Tim 2:22

EXPRESS YOUR OWN FEELINGS ABOUT THIS STATEMENT:

"One doesn't have to belong to the Church to be right with God!"

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. The NT Church has Moses as its mediator!
2. The New Covenant has replaced the Old Covenant!
3. Israel was called the church in the wilderness!
4. Baptism is a visible proclamation of the gospel!
5. The death, burial and resurrection of Christ are of "first importance"!
6. The Church saves itself!
7. Holy Communion (Lord's Supper) is a visible proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection!
8. A Church that exists merely to serve itself is "of Christ"!
9. We can have Christ as Saviour and refuse Him as Head!
10. The Church is still governed by the Mosaic Covenant!

COMPLETE THIS STATEMENT (as found in the lesson):

1. Baptism is a visible .....
2. The Church's life is part of .....
3. God's new people were .....
4. For the Church to be the Church .....
5. They held firmly .....
6. Organised crime knows there is .....

## Evaluation Sheet - God, Life and People - Lesson 7

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Christ is not yet ruling mankind!
2. Both the righteous and wicked will be resurrected!
3. We can't be sure God will be fair at the judgement because there are many questions we can't answer!
4. Death is the "last enemy" Christ is to destroy!
5. Heaven will probably be boring!
6. Some will suffer eternal punishment!
7. A "spiritual" body means an unreal body, a ghostly body!
8. Christ will surrender his authority to the Father one day!
9. The judgement of the world is as certain as Christ's resurrection!
10. Judgement will be more bearable for some than others!

COMPLETE THIS STATEMENT (as found in the lesson):

1. From that day to this .....
2. There is no knowing what marvellous things .....
3. It will be more bearable for some .....
4. There's been so much nonsense taught .....
5. In trusting repentance we should .....

GIVE TWO SCRIPTURES WHICH TEACH THAT CHRIST IS NOW REIGNING.

- 1.
- 2.

Have you, in trust and repentance, been baptised into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins?  
(See lesson 5 again and say something about this question.)

What is it about heaven that appeals to you most? Say why!

If you don't belong to Christ yet, say why that's so.