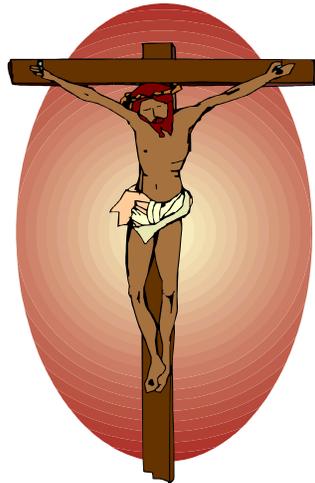


GOD HAS A MARVELOUS  
GIFT WAITING FOR YOU...

*...His Grace!*



In this pamphlet you'll learn

- How we know God does exist.
- How we know the Bible is His word.
- Are we all sinners?
- Is God angry with us?
- What you must do to be saved.

Hello, friend! Thank you for taking your time to read this pamphlet. Over time I'm sure you've received a lot of religious materials. You may have thought, "Oh no, not another one!" I'm glad you decided to read at least part of this one.

Are you confused by all of the different things being taught by Christian churches today? I know I was, and I was confused for a very long time. So several years ago I decided to go back to the Bible and see what it had to say about the basics. Questions like, "Does God exist?" "Is the Bible the word of God?" "If I am lost, what must I do to be saved?" Believe me, this isn't something I did on my own. I had a lot of help from people who knew the Bible well and were excited about teaching it to others. As I learned the answers to these and many more questions I became just as excited about teaching it, too. This pamphlet is my humble effort to help as many people as I can come to understand the basics of the word of God. The scriptures we will study are found in the last two pages of this pamphlet.

### *Does God Exist?*

I can't think of a more basic question a person could ask as they begin their study of the scriptures. If God doesn't exist then the Bible can't be His word. If the Bible is not the word of God it is no different than any other book one might read. On the other hand, if God does exist then one might do well to determine whether or not the Bible is His word.

Have you met the person who built the car you drive? How about the man or woman who made your wristwatch or built your house? If you're like me you've never met the people who made these things that play such important roles in our lives today. But none of us doubt these people exist. The fact we are driving a car, wearing a watch or living in a house is enough evidence to prove the existence of the ones who made these things. *The same is true for God!* As we look around us every day we see the things He made. The sun rising in the morning, the birds singing, the flowers blooming are all proofs of His existence. Romans 1:20 tells us that all men are without excuse, because everything we can know about God is shown to us in the things He made.

There are two things that must be present before anything can exist: matter and force. Imagine you decided to build a house on a piece of property you own. You call the lumber yard and order the materials. A truck delivers the materials to your property and drives away. Do you have a house? Not yet. You still need the workmen to assemble the materials into a house. In this example the materials are the matter and the workmen are the force.

Now imagine a time in the distant past when no matter existed but a force capable of creating matter did exist. Could everything we see today exist? Yes, it could. The force could create matter and bring the universe into existence. Now consider a situation where there was no matter and no force capable of creating matter. Could the universe exist? No, it couldn't. Something doesn't come from nothing. If there was ever a time when no creative force existed, nothing could exist. Frequently people ask, "Where did God come from?" You may have asked this yourself. Think for a minute about what we've already learned. You know from your own experience that it's not necessary to meet the people who build the things we use every day to know they exist. The automobiles we drive, watches we wear and houses we live in are enough proof for us. The same is true for God. Everything we can know about God we learn in the things He made. But if there was ever a time when God didn't exist the universe couldn't exist. Since something doesn't come from nothing, if there was ever a time when God didn't exist then God could never exist. If God never existed then He wouldn't be around to create the universe. But the universe exists. Therefore, God must exist. Since God exists there could never have been a time when God didn't exist. *The existence of the universe proves the existence of God, and also proves that He has always existed!* God is eternal, that is, He never had a beginning and will never have an end. So the answer to our first question is "Yes": God does exist.

### *Is the Bible from God?*

After reading the first few paragraphs in this pamphlet you've learned something about me: I like analogies. They make it easier for me to understand complicated things. Here's one I use when I'm discussing the origin of the Bible with other people. It's amazing how much money people will pay for an original Van Gogh painting, isn't it! As one might expect, some talented artists take advantage of this situation and sell duplicate "Van Gogh" paintings for much more than they're worth. To protect themselves, people in the market

for a real Van Gogh ask art experts to examine the painting they're thinking about buying. How does an art expert identify a real Van Gogh? He or she looks for details in the painting that prove it was painted by Van Gogh and not a talented duplicator. The paint, canvas, brush strokes and other details prove the genuine or reveal the fake. The same is true for the Bible. If we examine the Bible and find facts within it that only God could have known then the Bible must be from God. On the other hand, if we find nothing extraordinary within the Bible then it may not be an extraordinary book. Let's see if there's anything extraordinary about the Bible.

Over the past few years we've learned much about the earth. As you can see in this picture, the earth hangs in empty space. There is no giant string suspending the earth from a celestial ceiling and no immense pedestal supporting the earth from below. This is no surprise to us who have lived during the time of modern space exploration. But what about those who lived hundreds or thousands of years before mankind flew into space? Job lived several thousand years before mankind ventured into space, but he writes about an empty space in the north and the earth hanging upon nothing (Job 26:7). We now know this is true, but how did Job know this several thousand years ago? One who knew must have told him. But who other than God could possibly have known? Nobody.



sibly have known? Nobody.

Isaiah was another prophet who lived during Old Testament times. The revelations he received from God are recorded in the book that bears his name. In Isaiah 40:22 he speaks of the "circle of the earth". Again, we know the earth is circular in shape because we've seen it from space. But Isaiah never did. The only way he could have known the earth was circular was to have been told this fact by God.

The strange object in the picture to the right is called a "black smoker". Black smokers are undersea springs of water that exist at an average depth of 8,000 feet. It wasn't until 1977 that oceanographers developed a deep sea submersible that

was able to go to these depths and take photographs of these interesting underwater phenomena. But in Job 38:16 we read about the "springs of the sea". Just as with the earth hanging in empty space, Job couldn't have known on his own that these springs exist. Only if one who knew they were real told him about them could he have written about them in his book. The only one who could have known was God.



If we had the time we could consider more scientific facts, historical facts and fulfilled prophecies that also prove the Bible is no ordinary book. These evidences prove the Bible truly is an extraordinary book. It is the mind of God in written form. Not only does

God exist, He's spoken to us in the pages of the Bible.

Before we move on, let's think about one more thing. Paul, a New Testament writer, wrote to one of his co-workers, a man named Titus. In Titus 1:2 he told us of one of God's characteristics: He cannot lie. Since we know the Bible must be the word of God and God cannot lie, there cannot be anything in the Bible that is not true! This answers another question that is oftentimes asked by people seeking to understand God and His word. The Bible doesn't change to fit our circumstances or that of the society in which we live. God's word was true when it was written, it is true today, and will remain true for all time. What was wrong 2,000 years ago when the New Testament was written is still wrong today and will be wrong in the future, and what was expected of those in that time is expected of us today and will be expected of those who live in the future. So the answer to our second question is also "yes": the Bible is from God.

### *Am I a Sinner?*

Let's begin applying what we've learned about the Bible. Now that we know it is the mind of God in written form, was it written to *me*? One of the central themes of the Bible is sin. John, an apostle of Jesus Christ and author of four books of the New Testament, tells us what sin is: it is the transgression (or violation) of law (1 John 3:4). Frequently you'll hear preachers today tell us that we're not under religious law. If that is true, then it is impossible for us to sin. We can't violate something we're not subject to. The apostle Paul, however, tells us that all have sinned (Romans 3:23). This is a very important verse for several reasons. First, it tells me the Bible was written to me! I am one of the "all" who have sinned. Second, it tells me we are under religious law today and I am subject to it. Third, it shows me how I can't believe everything preachers tell me.

If I'm listening to a preacher and he says that we are not under religious law today I know he isn't telling me the truth. Peter, another apostle of Jesus Christ and author of two New Testament books, warns us that there will be false teachers among us (2 Peter 2:1). John warns us to "try" (or prove) everything we hear to confirm it is from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world (1 John 4:1). Remember one of the first questions I asked you, about the confusing things being taught in Christian churches today? Now we're beginning to see why that is: not everything that's taught is true. It's our responsibility to confirm that what we're hearing is really true, just as the Bereans did in Acts 17:11.

Well, back to the question I asked to begin this section. "Am I a sinner?" The answer is "yes". The Bible was written to me, just as it has been to all who are capable of understanding God's commandments, both now and in the future.

### ***Is God Angry with Me?***

As we've learned, the Bible is written to me and it tells me I'm a sinner, just as it does everyone else. Paul tells us that we present ourselves as instruments of unrighteousness when we sin (Romans 6:13), and John says that all unrighteousness is sin (1 John 5:17). The New Testament uses a different word to speak of anger. That word is wrath. A Bible dictionary defines the Greek word translated "wrath" to mean "anger, indignation, vengeance". In Romans 1:18 Paul says that the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all unrighteousness of men. Let's put these thoughts together. I'm a sinner, and all sin is unrighteousness. God's wrath (anger) is revealed from heaven against the unrighteousness of men. This means that God's wrath is directed against me! What a frightening thought! The same God whose anger caused Him to send fire from heaven to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah is angry with me! (You may read about God's destruction of these two cities in Genesis 19.) As the writer of Hebrews has said, it's a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hebrews 10:31). What can I do to avoid destruction myself?

### ***What must I do to be Saved?***

We've already learned of one of God's characteristics: He is a God of wrath. Paul tells us how God's wrath is revealed from heaven against the unrighteousness of men. But there's another aspect to God's nature: He is a God of love. John 3:16 tells us of this very important characteristic of God. God is also patient and doesn't want anyone to perish but for all men to repent (2 Peter 3:9).

Paul tells us that we can be saved from God's wrath, and he tells us how this is possible: through Jesus Christ (Romans 5:9). God has always required the shedding of blood to appease His wrath. During the days of the Old Testament He required animal sacrifices be offered for the sins of the people. However, it was not possible for the blood of the bulls and goats they offered to take away their sin (Hebrews 10:4). In the next verse of Hebrews 10 the writer tells us that God prepared a body for Jesus Christ, and in verse 10 of the same chapter he tells us that we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ. So the blood of Jesus does something for us that the blood of the untold numbers of animals offered during the Old Testament period of time could not: it gives us true forgiveness of sins!

How loving would it be for God to tell us that we can have our sins forgiven but never to tell us how to receive this forgiveness? That wouldn't be a picture of a loving God, would it. Since God has told us that a way exists for our forgiveness He must have also told us what we must do to receive this forgiveness. Let's look to the word of God and see how it is that we receive the forgiveness of sins.

Let's begin by considering Romans 10:17. Here Paul tells us how we develop faith: by hearing the word of God. In Hebrews 11:6 we learn that it is impossible to please God without faith. Our salvation begins by our hearing the word of God and developing faith as a result. But how is it we come to hear the word of God? Before Jesus returned to heaven He commanded His apostles to preach the gospel to every creature (person) and to teach those who obeyed their preaching to observe everything He commanded them (Mark 16:15 and Matthew 28:20). I come to know the word of God through the preaching of a disciple of Jesus. This disciple is obeying Jesus' commandment to preach the gospel to everyone. As a result of this teaching I develop the faith that is necessary for me to be pleasing to God.

But it's not enough for me to hear the word of God. I must believe that which has been preached to me. In Mark 16:16 Jesus emphasizes the importance of believing the gospel. If I don't believe the gospel I will be condemned. I must also believe in Jesus as the Son of God. If I don't believe in Him I will die in my

sins (John 8:24).

Before we go on I'd like for us to think about the verb "believe" for a moment. In the English language this word commonly refers to a "mental assent" toward something, that is, an acceptance of the truth of some fact. In the Greek language, however, the word means much more. There are three parts to the original Greek word translated "believe" in the New Testament. The first is a mental assent. This is usually as far as the English word "believe" goes. The second part of the Greek word is a complete surrender and the third part are actions consistent with surrender. So in contrast to our understanding of "believe" in our language, belief in the New Testament requires surrender to that which is believed and actions consistent with surrender. Please keep this important point in mind as we continue our study of salvation.

After I've heard the word of God through the preaching of another person and believed that which was preached to me I must repent of my sins. In Acts 2:38 Peter tells the Jews on the day of Pentecost that they must repent in order to have their sins forgiven, and Jesus tells us that we will perish unless we repent (Luke 13:3). I cannot continue to willingly commit sin and expect to have God's wrath taken away from me. Without repentance I cannot be saved.

God has also required that we confess before men our believe in Jesus as His Son. In Matthew 10:32-33 Jesus makes our confession of Him before men a requirement for Him to confess us before His Father (God). Paul tells us that confession with our mouth brings us unto salvation (Romans 10:10). The language Paul uses in this verse is very important. Notice he says that confession takes us unto salvation, not into salvation. When I'm unto something I'm right next to it, but I'm not yet there. We'll consider the importance of into shortly. So after hearing the word of God, believing what I've been taught and repenting of my sins I must confess with my mouth before men my belief in Jesus as the Son of God.

Remember how I titled this pamphlet: "God has a marvelous gift waiting for you...His grace!" We're now on the eighth page of this study and I haven't yet gotten to that point. Everything we've covered so far was necessary, however. It was important for you to know that God does exist, that the Bible is his word, that we are all sinners, that the wrath of God is revealed against the unrighteousness of men and that God has provided a way of salvation for us. Now let's learn more about that gift God has waiting for us.

In Ephesians 2:8 Paul tells us how we are saved: by grace through faith. I cannot be saved without hearing the word of God, believing the gospel and that Jesus is the Son of God, repenting of my sins and confessing my belief in Jesus before men, but it is grace that saves me. Let's see what else the Bible says about grace.

Earlier I asked a question about how loving it would be for God to tell us that salvation is possible but not how to be saved. It's inconceivable that God would do such a thing. Now that He's told us how we're saved He must have told us how to receive His grace. He does! In 2 Timothy 2:1 Paul tells us that grace is found in Jesus Christ. Therefore, in order to receive His gift of grace I must be in Jesus Christ, the only place where grace is found. Since we're saved by grace, where would you expect salvation to be found? That's right! In Jesus Christ. Paul confirms this fact in 2 Timothy 2:10. Since we now know grace and salvation are found in Jesus Christ, next we need to learn how to enter into Jesus Christ. Two verses in the New Testament tell us how we do so: Galatians 3:27 and Romans 6:3. Each of the verses that tell us how to enter into Jesus Christ tell us that baptism is the means whereby we do so. In addition to these two verses that tell us how to enter into Jesus Christ, Acts 2:38 and Mark 16:16 make baptism a requirement for one to receive forgiveness of sins and to be saved. My friend, you cannot be saved without being baptized for the remission of your sins. To truly believe in Jesus Christ requires baptism, an action consistent with surrender. If I haven't been baptized I don't believe in Him.

I have an analogy I use to illustrate grace and salvation in Jesus Christ. Imagine I come home from work one day and my wife has prepared all of my favorite foods for supper and placed them on the table in the dining room. In our house there's a door between the living room and the dining room. When I get home I go into the living room and plop down in my recliner. My wife comes into the living room and tells me, "Honey, I've fixed all of your favorite foods for supper. I did this because I love you. But, if you want them you're going to have to come into the dining room. I'm not bringing them into the living room to you." I now have a choice to make. If I want to eat the supper she's prepared I'm going to have to get out of my recliner and go into the dining room. If I do so did I earn the wonderful meal she fixed for me? No! She did this because she loves me. In this analogy the living room is the world and the dining room is Jesus Christ. God has come into the world in the form of His Son and told us about the gift of grace He has waiting for us. He prepared this gift because of His love for us. He's told us where this gift is found and how to get there. We now have a choice to

make. We can choose to remain in the world and not receive this gift, or we can move from the world into Jesus Christ and receive the marvelous gift He has waiting for us. The door between the world and Jesus Christ is baptism. It's the only way to receive the gift of grace. If I choose to go through it I haven't earned the gift. God prepared it because He loves us.

Friend, there is no other way to receive this marvelous gift of grace. You may have heard a preacher tell you to pray the "Sinner's Prayer" and Jesus will come into your heart and save you. The next time you hear that ask your preacher to show you in the Bible where that is found. He won't be able to do it. It's not found anywhere in the Bible, either by command or by example. The gift of grace is too valuable and too important to lose. Don't just trust the word of another man, make sure you have received this gift.

Finally, Revelation 2:10 tells me I must remain faithful to Jesus until death in order to receive the crown of life He's promised to those who love Him (James 1:12). Yes, it is possible to fall from grace. If I don't remain faithful I won't receive the crown of life. As with baptism, if a preacher says that a person cannot fall from grace ask him to show you where this is taught in the Bible.

Remember, God has prepared this marvelous gift of grace for YOU! There's nothing you've done that will keep you from receiving it, if you're willing to obey His commandments.

## *Scriptures*

### **Romans 1:20**

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"

### **Job 26:7**

"He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing."

### **Isaiah 40:22**

"It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:"

### **Job 38:16**

"Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth?"

### **Titus 1:2**

"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"

### **1 John 3:4**

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."

### **Romans 3:23**

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

### **2 Peter 2:1**

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."

### **1 John 4:1**

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

### **Acts 17:11**

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

### **Romans 6:13**

"neither present your members unto sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves unto God, as alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."

### **1 John 5:17**

"All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death."

### **Romans 1:18**

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;"

### **Hebrews 10:31**

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

### **John 3:16**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

### 2 Peter 3:9

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

### Romans 5:9

"Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

### Hebrews 10:4

"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."

### Romans 10:17

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

### Hebrews 11:6

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

### Mark 16:15-16

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

### Matthew 28:20

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

### John 8:24

"I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."

### Acts 2:38

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

### Luke 13:3

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

### Matthew 10:32-33

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."

### Romans 10:10

"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

### Ephesians 2:8

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"

### 2 Timothy 2:1

"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."

### 2 Timothy 2:10

"Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory."

### Galatians 3:27

"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

### Romans 6:3

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?"

### Revelation 2:10

"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

### James 1:12

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

Review: What must I do to be saved?

1. Hear the word of God: Romans 10:17
2. Believe in Jesus as the Son of God: John 8:24
3. Repent of your sins: Acts 2:38
4. Confess before men your belief in Jesus: Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized for the remission of sin: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38
6. Live a faithful life until death: Revelation 2:10

I pray this short pamphlet has been helpful to you. I have published to my website more information on each of these topics, as well as many other studies and a series of interactive Bible lessons. The website address is [www.noeo.net](http://www.noeo.net). If you need a Bible, would like to start a series of Bible studies in your home, or are in need of anything else, please let me know. My e-mail address is [taekwondoc@noeo.net](mailto:taekwondoc@noeo.net).