

# Christian Study

Lesson 229

## Be Light

*Focusing on Church beyond Sunday*

### How Can I Know and Understand What the Bible Means?

#### Understanding the Basic Gospel

Salvation is crossing over from death to life.

**John 3:36** "He who believes on the Son has everlasting life, and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides upon him. As we have taken time to explore in great detail what biblical faith is, and after reading the eleventh chapter of the book of Hebrews, we should by now be convinced that faith must have an object which is Christ Jesus, and the object must be trusted. As the trust in the object of our faith is been understood through spending time in the word, we are able to use the two words (trust and faith) interchangeably. He becomes the only person to believe in for all our wants. If we believe in the one who sent Him we cross over from death to life. **John 5:24** "I am telling you the truth: those who hear my words and believe in him who sent me have eternal life. They will not be judged, but have already passed from death to life." Because of our faith in Him, we trust what He says. He gives us the right to become children of God. **John 1:12-13** "But as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become children of God, even to them that believe on his name **13** who were born, not of bloods, nor of *the* will of *the* flesh, nor of *the* will of man, but *were born* of God." This right and invitation of receiving Him is a personal one. It involves turning away from unbelief and turning to God and His provision. It is trusting Christ for His forgiveness at the cross and for His promise of new life to all who believe.

When Jesus spoke or prayed to His father, there was always a tone of deep intimacy. He taught that all who believe in Him would have the same type of intimate personal relationship with God. However, coming from our background of alienation from God, and because of the sin which dwells in us this is often very hard for us to accept.

Because we do not know about or perhaps simply don't believe God's wonderful truths of our acceptance in Christ, many Christians are still acting like Adam and Eve—hiding from God. Many people put on a tremendous act, wearing their "Christian fig leaves." This is when a person uses external rules and regulations to

appear righteous because he is motivated by fear and desperately trying to cover up his own spiritual weakness. He will work very hard in religious activities in order to avoid meeting God one on one. But God has good news for us. He accepts us in Christ and He wants to draw us to Himself in a living personal relationship.

**Romans 8:15-16** "For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption by which we cry, Abba, Father! **16** The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God."

The word "Abba" is an intimate term of a little child for his father, similar to the English "Daddy." Jesus introduced a revolutionary truth when He taught that a man can relate to God on this level. Because of who He has made us, it is not incorrect or improper to speak to God from a heart of a childlike faith; it is what He most desires. The more I meditate on this truth, the more I wonder: How can we not be drawn to a God who loves us in this way?

Also as children of God we have access to the throne of grace. Under the Old Testament worship system, the Israelites had to approach the throne through the priests and there were more levels still. Only priests of a particular family could serve in the holy place and only the high priest could represent the entire nation inside the holy of holies. However, in Christ we can all approach God equally. Ephesians 3:12 "In union with Christ and through our faith in him we have the boldness to go into God's presence with all confidence." The only High Priest we will ever need has completed His work, so now "We have, then, my friends, complete freedom to go into the Most Holy Place by means of the death of Jesus." Hebrews 10:19

### *THIS IS OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST*

When we receive Him, He gives us assurance of salvation that God will never live you, no matter the situation. In good and bad times He will be there forever because once you receive Him He comes and take residence in you so there is no way you can run away from Him or loose Him. If you do not allow Him to lead you, he will still be there. If you let Him be the driver of your life, He will take you places you will never imagine. **1John 5:10-13** "So those who believe in the Son of God have this testimony in their own heart; but those who do not believe God, have made a liar of him, because they have not believed what God has said about his Son. **11** The testimony is this: God has given us eternal life, and this life has its source in his Son. **12** Whoever has the Son has this life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. **13** I am writing this to you so that you may know that you have eternal life---you that believe in the Son of God."

## Abide in Christ

Now that we have received the open invitation and has become children of the living God through faith in Jesus Christ, He is asking us to abide in Him. This is what He was pointing to when He said in **John 15:5** "I am the Vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

### Attention!!

*Even after you have been in Christ for a number of years, a few hours or in between, without Him you can do nothing*

Jesus calls you and me the branches, and the desired outcome of the relationship between a vine and a branch is "much fruit." Let's think through the roles of both the vine and the branch. Whose job is it to produce fruit? It is clearly the vine's responsibility to do the producing. For example, if you cut a branch from the vine, how much fruit could come from it? Absolutely none! The power of production is not in the branch: only the vine can serve as the source of life and therefore fruit. The role of the branch is to be a "fruit hanger." It can bear fruit if there is a vital link between it and the vine, but its role is one of total dependency.

This is the exact point the Lord is making about the Christian life. You and I cannot live it. Just as a branch has no ability in itself to produce fruit, neither do we have the ability to produce the life of Christ. The branches' "abiding" in the vine and my "surrendering" both illustrates our need to depend totally on Jesus Christ. "Apart from me you can do nothing." But how do we translate this "abiding" and "surrendering" into the kind of objective, intelligent faith that I have been describing? I believe we will find the answer in another passage from the same Gospel. Speaking to the people who had come to believe in Him, Jesus said in **John 8:31-32 & 36** "Then Jesus said to those who believe in Him "If you abide in my word, you are my disciples indeed. 32 You shall know the truth and the truth will make you free.....36 "Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you are free indeed."

How can you learn to abide in Jesus who lived two thousand years ago in bodily form, and lives in you today through the Holy Spirit? In these statements He points us to an objective and trustworthy standard of truth "My word." Think through again the order of His teaching. First abide in His Word, then you will know the truth, then the truth will set you free. In other words, the Son Himself who is the truth will set you free. The key that makes Christ's life real in our daily experience is "abiding," or total dependence. A branch is totally dependant on the vine for fruit production, as well as life itself. Only the vine can produce fruit. A branch will bear fruit as it continually allows the life of the vine to flow through it Put in simple terms, abiding is fixing our eyes on Jesus. **Hebrews 12:2** "Let us keep our eyes

fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. He did not give up because of the cross! On the contrary, because of the joy that was waiting for him, he thought nothing of the disgrace of dying on the cross, and he is now seated at the right side of God's throne>"

There is no contradiction between Jesus and the scriptures. In fact, Jesus is the center of the entire word of God. He is the living Word. The first chapter on the book of John. John 1:1&14 "In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 14 The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son." So if we get to the scriptures with humble, teachable hearts seeking to know the Person of Christ that is where we will find Him revealing Himself to us. To abide in His Word is to abide in Him. Christ is the living Word and the Bible is the written Word

**1 Corinthians 1:30** But God has brought you into union with Christ Jesus, and God has made Christ to be our wisdom. By him we are put right with God; we become God's holy people and are set free.

The attitude of abiding is concisely described in **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**. "Rejoice always. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 In everything give thanks, for this *is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*"

We can rejoice and give thanks in all circumstances not because all things that happen to us are good, but because in all circumstances the love and grace of God is with us, and He has promised to cause all things to "work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." **Romans 8:28** Only to those who love Him, and not to those who reject Him and follow the lust of the world.

### Walk in TRUTH

**John 8:31-32** "So Jesus said to those who believed in him, "If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples; 32 you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Christianity is an object faith that is based on facts—truths upon which a person can think and act on. To think about Jesus in the biblical sense means to meditate on a real person---on the eternal Son of God who at a real point in time took on a human body and nature and lived among men and whose personality and character is clearly presented in the Gospels. This same Jesus later voluntarily went to a Roman cross to become a sin offering to reconcile man to a Holy God. Then having taken away man's sins once and for all, He rose from the dead and now gives that same resurrected spiritual life to any man, woman, boy or girl who receive the free gift

of salvation by faith in Him and His work. This same Jesus also promises a physical resurrection and a perfect eternity spent with a living heavenly Father. These are truths that you can think about.

Christianity stands alone separate from the world's religions because of its unique combination of the astounding claims of the man Jesus of Nazareth and its pinpointing of those claims at a concrete place and time in history. For example, there have been many other religious teachers in history, such as Confucius, Buddha, and Mohamed, but none of these (not any other man) ever claimed to be God and also convinced a significant number of followers that he actually was God.

**Matthew 16:17** "Good for you, Simon son of John!" answered Jesus. "For this truth did not come to you from any human being, but it was given to you directly by my Father in heaven.

**Luke 20:21** These spies said to Jesus, "Teacher, we know that what you say and teach is right. We know that you pay no attention to anyone's status, but teach the truth about God's will for people."

This is the only one who brought truth **John 1:17** "God gave the Law through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

This is what happens when you apply the truth **John 13:17** "Now that you know this truth, how happy you will be if you put it into practice."

Biblical truth is a person **John 14:6** "Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me."

Wait for the answer to the truth **John 18:38** "And what is truth?" Pilate asked. Then Pilate went back outside to the people and said to them, "I cannot find any reason to condemn him.

It points us to who to worship **Romans 1:25** "They exchange the truth about God for a lie; they worship and serve what God has created instead of the Creator himself, who is to be praised forever! Amen."

This is the truth message **1 Corinthians 15:20** But the truth is that Christ has been raised from death, as the guarantee that those who sleep in death will also be raised.

We cannot resist the truth **2 Corinthians 13:8** "For we cannot do a thing against the truth, but only for it.

This is why God sends us **1 Timothy 2:7** and that is why I was sent as an apostle and teacher of the Gentiles, to proclaim the message of faith and truth. I am not lying; I am telling the truth!

**2 John 1:1-2** "From the Elder to the dear Lady and to her children, whom I truly love. And I am not the only one, but all who know the truth love you, **2** because the truth remains in us and will be with us forever. Because Christ lives in you and He is The Truth will remain."

### *Our Mission*

Our mission is to help people find strength and security on the foundation that can never be shaken, cracked or shattered. This foundation is the remarkable truth of God's unconditional love and His indisputable grace experienced in a relationship with Jesus Christ. The critics of Christianity have launched a full attack to discredit the person and works of Jesus Christ and the reliability of His word. We cannot be silent anymore. Let us as children of light, stand firm in the faith, because He who has taken us this far will never forsake us. You are called Christians, be careful of that name. Let not our Lord Jesus Christ be blasphemed on your account

**Remember this**, "Jesus did not come to make bad people good, He came to make dead people live."

### Keep It Simple

**Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.**

If you have any questions, comments or you know anybody else who will benefit from this study please feel free to give us their email address and they will be added to our mailing list to receive weekly lessons. The email address is

[santigiemandol@yahoo.com](mailto:santigiemandol@yahoo.com),

**REMEMBER!! A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle** (Ephesians 5:8)

**Let's go light another candle**