

# To Whom Will You Go?



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

# To Whom Will You Go?

Learn who you should listen to and follow in a world full of voices claiming to have the "right" answers

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## Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

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**About the author:** My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

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**My plea:** It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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# To Whom Will You Go?

There are many different voices calling for your attention in this world. They are all claiming to have the answers to the problems and questions you face in this life. However, you clearly cannot listen to all of these voices at the same time (since many of them are pulling you in opposite directions).

Who will you listen to? This is one of the most basic, yet essential, questions you must consider during your earthly life. You will certainly have to make a decision regarding this. Your life is going to adopt something/someone as its standard. Then, you will determine whether your decisions and actions are right or wrong based on that standard you choose.

Therefore, you need to choose your standard wisely! It will surely influence your entire worldview. During this study, let's put some of your options to the test and discover how you should each answer the question, "To whom will you go?"

## *Jesus Offers Eternal Life*

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As you begin to consider this question, take some time to consider Jesus Christ. If you are going to make any kind of decision about the course of your life, you will certainly have to make some kind of decision about Jesus!

### **Evidence for Jesus Christ**

Throughout Jesus' earthly life, He claimed to be the Son of God. He claimed to be the Messiah concerning whom the Old Testament had

prophesied. He claimed to be the way to eternal life in Heaven with God.

Certainly all of this merits our attention if it can be demonstrated to be true. Certainly, you cannot accept such a claim without evidence. Fortunately, God never wanted people to accept Jesus without evidence. He does not want those who follow after His Son to have a blind faith – following Him only because of tradition or only because of the great claims and promises He made. Instead, God has seen to it that there is sufficient evidence for you to accept and follow Jesus Christ.

Whenever Peter was preaching on the Day of Pentecost, trying to convince the Jews about Jesus Christ as the Son of God, He said, "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know" (Acts 2:22). Indeed, there were real and verifiable miracles and signs Jesus Christ performed during the time that He lived on this earth. Individuals who lived during Jesus' life witnessed Him perform miracles like turning water into wine, healing the sick, making the blind see, causing the lame to walk, and even raising the dead.

Today, we listen to their eye-witness accounts of these miracles and signs which were performed by the one who claimed to offer eternal life in Heaven. For instance, Jesus' apostle John wrote, "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30-31).

Particularly, we should be impressed with the fact that many were witnesses to Jesus' own resurrection from the dead. In fact, this was a large part of the work of the apostles – that they would be witnesses of the resurrected Christ throughout the world (see Acts 1:8). Therefore, whenever the apostle Peter was preaching on the Day of Pentecost (in Acts 2), he focused on the fact that God has raised Jesus up from the dead – and that all the people there could examine the evidence for themselves to know that Jesus' body was no longer confined to His tomb;

but, that He had risen from the dead and ascended into Heaven (Acts 2:22-36). In addition, when Paul was writing concerning the resurrection from the dead (in 1 Corinthians 15), he demonstrated that there was a great number of people who were witnesses to Jesus' resurrection by seeing His body after He had been risen – including more than 500 people at one time (see 1 Corinthians 15:1-11). Therefore, you should listen to the testimony of those who witnessed the resurrected Christ – especially since many of them even sacrificed their lives for Him!

## **Jesus is the Bread of Life**

Now, having established some general evidence for Jesus Christ as the Son of God (though more could certainly be added to the things we discussed), let's focus on some events that transpired in John chapter 6.

First, appreciate that a great multitude witnessed one of Jesus' miracles. As Jesus saw a great multitude of people approaching Him, Jesus and His disciples began to discuss how that all those people might be fed. As they looked around them, Andrew said to Jesus, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" (John 6:9). Then, Jesus instructed that all the people would be made to sit down. The number of the men were about five thousand (plus women and children, Matthew 14:21). Jesus proceeded to take the two small fish and five loaves of barley bread and provide enough food for all of the people to eat – and fill twelve baskets with the leftovers (John 6:10-14)!

Later, after Jesus had went away from the people, the multitude searched for Jesus (John 6:22-25). However, Jesus recognized something about why they were searching for Him. "Jesus answered them and said, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him'" (John 6:26-27). Therefore, these people were seeking for *something* and they thought Jesus could provide what they were seeking; but, what they were

seeking was not what Jesus was offering! Sadly, they sought after Jesus just so they could continue to receive physical food from Him. However, Jesus identified that they should have paid greater attention to the miracle He performed so that they would recognize Him as the source of eternal life!

Jesus proceeded to encourage them to believe in the one God had sent to them (John 6:28-29). However, they continued to be focused on their own physical desire for food when they asked Jesus to perform a sign such as was performed whenever God provided manna to the Israelites from Heaven to eat (John 6:30). Then, Jesus told them that they needed the true bread God was providing that would give eternal life, not the manna God provided the Israelites in the wilderness that only temporarily sustained life.

Jesus said to them: "I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world" (John 6:48-51).

Therefore, those who were listening to Jesus on that occasion needed to realize their dependence upon Jesus Christ for eternal life in Heaven. They needed to be partakers of Him by believing Him and obeying what He taught. Likewise, Jesus continues to be the Bread of Life for *you* today. The physical food that you partake of will only help you sustain your physical life temporarily. However, partaking of Jesus Christ will result in eternal life in Heaven!

## **Do you also want to go away?**

Unfortunately, those in John 6 (who had seen the great miracle Jesus had performed) were only focused on physical things. They simply could not understand Jesus' message. They were seeking physical food and physical life. Therefore, whenever Jesus spoke about being the Bread of Life and taught concerning their need to partake of His flesh and blood, they only heard a physical message they could not accept (as even the Law of Moses spoke against eating man's flesh and drinking blood).

“Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, ‘This is a hard saying; who can understand it?’” (John 6:60). Then, John 6:66 says that “many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.” They were simply not seeking what Jesus was offering them.

Now, consider the question Jesus proceeded to ask His twelve apostles: “Do you also want to go away” (John 6:67)? Then, John 6:68 says, “But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.’” Unlike the multitude, Peter clearly was seeking eternal life. And, since this is what He was seeking, he recognized that he would be unable to find it in any other way besides through Jesus Christ! Therefore, Peter did not depart from Jesus (as the rest of the multitude and many who had been disciples of Jesus had done).

## ***What Are You Seeking?***

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Now, I want you to come back to the question we are considering during this lesson: To whom will you go? Based on the things we have already discussed, let me simply assert that your answer will depend upon what you are seeking!

### **Many are seeking things they will not find in Jesus**

In John 6, the multitude sought Jesus – but only for as long as they thought He provided them with what they desired (i.e. physical food), see John 6:22-27. Whenever they discovered that Jesus was not going to continually provide them free physical meals, they left Him.

Today, there are many people who are seeking things they will not find in Jesus Christ. Consider the following as examples of common things people are seeking – and how they will *not* find these things in Jesus.

**(1) Ease and comfort of life.** Many people are seeking for an easy earthly life that is full of comforts and luxuries. They seek the most comfortable living conditions possible. They seek

paths of least resistance throughout their earthly lives. They stay away from anything/anyone that will produce any degree of displeasure in their lives.

This kind of life, though, will not be found in Christ Jesus. Now, that is not to say that every moment of every day is full of pain and sorrow. Actually, the Christian’s life is full of joy (Philippians 4:4) – just not the kind of joy many people are looking for. Still, the Christian’s life will not be easy. In Luke 9:58, for instance, Jesus told an individual who said he would follow Jesus anywhere Jesus went, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” Jesus Christ, Himself, did not have ease and comfort of life. He was hated and mistreated by the world. Therefore, He said that His followers should not be surprised when they experience the same kind of mistreatment (see John 15:18-21). In Acts 14:22, as Paul had experienced great hardship for the cause of Christ, he said, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

Now, I realize that some periods of time have been less hostile toward disciples of Christ than others – and that there can be greater persecution in some places in the world than others. However, Jesus has never promised that His disciples would have easy lives. In fact, Jesus has taught that many will not follow His ways because of its difficulty – compared to the ease of living that can result from rejecting Him. In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus said, “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

For those who decide to follow Jesus Christ, there will be temptations, persecutions, and trials involved in living life on this earth. Therefore, if you are seeking only ease and comfort of living, you will not desire to follow after Jesus.

**(2) Earthly pleasures.** Many people are seeking pleasures associated with living life on this earth. They are seeking to fulfill as many of their own earthly desires they possibly can. While it is possible to seek these earthly pleasures through things which are in harmony with God’s laws, many earthly

pleasures are also pursued contrary to God's laws. So, pleasures can be sought through any number of earthly things – depending upon what your earthly desires are.

This kind of life, though, will not be found in Jesus Christ. Now, this is not to say that those who follow Jesus never experience any kind of pleasure on this earth. Instead, Jesus' disciples must simply determine not to make their own pleasures more important to them than doing the will of God. Jesus perfectly demonstrated this in His own life when He determined to submit to and obey God by leaving Heaven in order to come to earth, suffer, and die on the cross. Certainly, He denied Himself of His own pleasures in order to accomplish the will of God (see Philippians 2:5-11). In Luke 9:21-22, Jesus told His disciples that the “Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.”

Then, after demonstrating that He was going to deny Himself of earthly pleasure in order to accomplish His Father's will, He said to them, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels” (Luke 9:23-26).

For the disciple of Jesus, the will of God must be pursued rather than his/her own fleshly desires. There will be many times whenever following the Lord will require that you deny yourself of the things that appeal to your physical body (both lawful and unlawful things) – because your focus cannot be on your own physical desires! In fact, those who are disciples of Jesus must even be *willing* (as Luke 9:23-26 demonstrates) to deny their own physical lives and be put to death – if such is required in order to put God first in their lives. Therefore, if you are seeking to fulfill as many of your earthly desires as possible, you will not desire to follow after Jesus.

**(3) Earthly wealth.** Many people are seeking earthly wealth. They are seeking earthly treasures in the form of money, houses, vehicles, etc. They are seeking anything possible to increase their overall net worth from a physical perspective – and anything they might be able to purchase that they believe would add “happiness” to their lives.

This kind of life, though, will not be found in Christ Jesus. Now, that is not to say that an individual cannot be a follower of Jesus Christ and still be wealthy (from an earthly perspective). I believe we can even find Bible examples of individuals who had physical wealth and were following Jesus Christ acceptably. You see, the problem is not the wealth itself, the problem is the focus on earthly treasures instead of spiritual treasures. In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus said, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” In Matthew 6:24, Jesus said, “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon” (note that “mammon” is riches/money).

What Jesus requires is for His service to come *before* your pursuit of earthly wealth. In Matthew 19:23, Jesus told His disciples, “And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” This statement comes directly after Jesus' interaction with a rich young ruler (in Matthew 19:16-22). This man came to Jesus and desired to have eternal life. He had even been doing many good things in keeping the Law of Moses. However, when Jesus told Him to sell what he had and give to the poor, the man went away sorrowful, because he had great possessions. This man was not willing to put Jesus *before* His earthly wealth by using His wealth to serve Jesus.

For the disciple of Jesus Christ, everything must be sacrificed in the service of the Lord – including whatever physical possessions and wealth God blesses you with. So, rather than viewing those things as your own, you must view them as tools to

be used in God's service and evaluate how you can best use your wealth in His service. Therefore, if you are seeking earthly wealth to be used primarily for your own earthly enjoyment, you will not desire to follow after Jesus.

**(4) Acceptance by the world.** There are many people who are seeking to be accepted by the world (generally) and by their peers (specifically). They want to be viewed favorably by everyone. They don't want others to disapprove of how they conduct their lives – and they do not want to disapprove of how others conduct their lives. They want to just accept everyone and every kind of lifestyle – and be accepted by the same.

This kind of life, though, will not be found in Christ Jesus. Now, this does not mean that followers of Christ will be trying to anger people or will attempt to be alienated from others. Instead, the Christian will be seeking peace with all mankind. Romans 12:18 says, "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men." However, the Bible warns that those who are Christians will be hated by the world (that the world will not accept them). Consider what Jesus said in John 15:18-19: "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

The world did not accept Jesus because the life Jesus lived was contrary to the ways of this world. Jesus' life was like light exposing the darkness of the world. For instance, Jesus had to confront the wicked activity of some religious leaders of the time in Matthew 15 – even to the point that they were offended at what Jesus had said (Matthew 15:12). Therefore, the world hated Jesus (even to the point that the world wanted to put Jesus to death).

Similarly, those who are Jesus' disciples will refuse to live their lives for the wicked ways of the world and will be pursuing God's way of holiness. Then, as they pursue God's way of holiness and righteousness, they will also be teaching others to live in the way that is approved of God. This will necessarily involve identifying certain things as

being sinful (contrary to the will of God). As a result of this stand for the gospel, Jesus has said that those who follow Him will find enemies even within their own families (Matthew 10:34-39). Furthermore, God says that if we make ourselves friends of the world, we make ourselves the enemies of God (James 4:4). Therefore, if you are seeking acceptance by the world, you will not desire to follow Jesus Christ.

**(5) Tangible promises.** Many are seeking things they can see, touch, feel, etc. – right now! They will only work toward things that they can observe. They will never invest themselves in living for things they cannot prove by scientific processes and worldly wisdom.

This kind of life, though, will not be found in Christ Jesus. Now, this does not mean that Christians have nothing tangible to offer as evidence for their faith in God, in Christ, or in the promise of eternal life in Heaven. Certainly, as we discussed in the beginning of this lesson, God has provided us with sufficient evidence to accept Him. Specifically, we focused on some of the evidence that exists concerning Jesus Christ earlier in the lesson. However, we could also look at numerous tangible proofs concerning the existence of God. For instance, Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork." Everything in God's creation that we can see, hear, feel, etc. demonstrates that there must be an intelligent Designer behind it all! All of the order that exists could not have just happened by chance! In addition, we could look at tangible evidence to validate the fact that the Bible is not a man-made book. We could look, for instance, at the many truths revealed in the Bible that were later "discovered" by man and accepted as fact. Yet, they were stated in the Bible long before man "discovered" them. We could also consider the many prophecies made in the Old Testament that would be fulfilled many years later.

Certainly, God has given mankind sufficient evidence to base his faith upon. Still, the promises made by God in the Bible for eternal life in Heaven cannot be validated through any scientific method or by using worldly wisdom. We cannot (by using only tangible methods) determine what will happen to us after our earthly lives end. We cannot (by using only tangible methods) identify what kind of earthly life

will bring about the most favorable experiences after our physical deaths.

However, based upon the clear and unmistakable evidence concerning God, Jesus, and the Bible (as we have very briefly considered), God's people will place their full trust in God and in Jesus – and listen to what the Bible says concerning the afterlife and what it takes to obtain the most favorable outcome. God's people need no other proof besides what the Bible says (because they are fully convinced in these truths). Certainly, God invites everyone to examine the sufficient amount of evidence He offers and then calls upon mankind to “walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7). Therefore, if you are seeking only tangible things and tangible promises, you will not desire to follow Jesus Christ.

**(6) Convenient religion.** Many people are seeking for the promises Jesus offers concerning eternal life. They want to live eternally with God in Heaven. They believe the Bible's warnings about Hell. However, they also want to live for themselves. So, they try to find a “middle ground” in their religion that attempts to serve God for the promises beyond their earthly lives, but will not follow all God's laws. They want hope after death, but do not want to be burdened by religious laws and guidelines that will not allow them to do the things they desire to do.

This kind of life, though, will not be found in Christ Jesus. Now, that is not to say there is never anything pleasurable associated with following Jesus Christ. Instead, this is simply to say that following Jesus Christ is about living in a way that fully sacrifices our own earthly lives to the service of Jesus. Romans 12:1 says that we must present our bodies as living sacrifices to God. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says that we must use our bodies and spirits to the glory of God because they are His (since He has bought us with the blood of Jesus Christ).

Routinely, then, the Christian faith will involve things that are not convenient for us, things which are not pleasing to our own physical desires, and things that will require us to make changes in our lives. However, God wants people who will follow Him at all times – whether it is convenient or not.

Sadly, there are many people who are like the rich young ruler in Matthew 19:16-22 (who we studied about earlier), who want eternal life in Heaven without the sacrifice! So, they will consistently reject the calls of God's people to follow *all* of the teachings of God's word. Instead, they will often claim that mentally accepting Jesus Christ as Lord is enough for salvation. Rather than listening to and obeying everything God's word teaches, these individuals will “not endure sound doctrine” and will “turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables” whenever they seek out someone who will tell them what they desire to hear (see 2 Timothy 4:3-4).

However, those who truly want to be Jesus' disciples will be willing to listen to God's word regarding whatever it teaches! In fact, God's people *want* to know the areas they need to make changes to their lives in – rather than searching for someone who will only tell them what they desire to hear so they do not have to change! Therefore, if you are seeking to follow a religion that will be convenient for you, allow you to live according to all your physical desires, and one that will not force you to make any changes to the way you live your life, you will not desire to follow Jesus Christ.

**(7) Other?** I'm sure that there are things I have not listed that pertain to this physical life and the pleasures and comforts therein that many people are seeking. Perhaps you are seeking something that is focused on life on this earth that has not been on or associated with this list. Regardless what earthly thing you are seeking, please consider this general warning from 1 John 2:15-17: “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” If you are seeking the things of this life, you will not desire to follow Jesus Christ.

### **Few are seeking what Jesus does offer**

As you have been able to see, those who are seeking after things which are primarily about this earthly life will not desire to follow after Jesus



Christ. The offers that Jesus Christ makes to those who will follow Him are not primarily about this physical life!

The main promise that Jesus Christ makes is for eternal life in Heaven with the Father! Again, consider Jesus' promise in John 6:48-51: "I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

In John 14:2-3, Jesus promised, "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

In 1 Peter 1:3-5, therefore, Peter writes the following concerning the Christian's hope: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

## **What are you seeking?**

Are you seeking earthly pleasures and treasures to enjoy during the course of your lifetime? Are you focused on the things that pertain to life on this earth? Or, are you focused on living your life in view of eternity?

As we have seen, most people will choose to live their lives focused on the things of this earth. They will choose to take the easy path through their earthly lives. However, this path will lead them to everlasting torment in Hell fire (Matthew 7:13-14; Romans 2:5-11)! Are you among those who are seeking the things of this earth?

However, there will be a few who recognize that the pleasures and joy promised to those who love and follow the Lord are much more precious and

eternal, compared to the pleasures and joys of this earth. These individuals will choose to live lives of self-denial in order to serve the Lord faithfully. And, this path will lead them to everlasting life in Heaven (Matthew 7:13-14; Romans 2:5-11)! Are you among those who are seeking eternal life?

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## ***To Whom Will You Go?***

Now that you know what you are seeking, you will be able to determine where you will go. Look again at Matthew 7:13-14: "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

Let me suggest that you will find someone/something to lead you down the path you most desire to travel. If you are seeking the things of this earth, you will find plenty of voices to pull you down that path. However, if you are truly seeking the eternal life that only Jesus Christ provides, you will be able to hear and follow Him!

### **If you are seeking earthly things**

There are many different standards to live your life by if you are seeking earthly things. In the end, all of these standards of right and wrong are *subjective* in nature (i.e. they are open to many different interpretations and differ from person to person). Consider a few examples of these kinds of standards.

- Your conscience. If you are seeking earthly things, you may be convinced that following your own conscience and feelings is sufficient to determine what is right and what is wrong in your life.
- Man-made traditions. If you are seeking earthly things, you may be convinced that following the established ways and traditions of man is sufficient to determine what is right and what is wrong in your life.

- Your personal experiences. If you are seeking earthly things, you may be convinced that following your own personal experiences in life is sufficient to determine what is right and what is wrong in your life.
- Opinions. If you are seeking earthly things, you may be convinced that following the opinions of particular men/women is sufficient to determine what is right and what is wrong in your life.
- Your peers. If you are seeking earthly things, you may be convinced that following the influences of your peers (i.e. your family members, your friends, your co-workers, your neighbors, etc.) is sufficient to determine what is right and what is wrong in your life.
- The will of the majority. If you are seeking earthly things, you may be convinced that following the will or opinions of the majority is sufficient to determine what is right and what is wrong in your life.
- Worldly wisdom. If you are seeking earthly things, you may be convinced that following worldly wisdom that may be rooted in secular education and worldly experiences is sufficient to determine what is right and what is wrong in your life.
- Man-made religious doctrine. If you are seeking earthly things, you may be convinced that following man-made religious doctrines and associating yourself with a man-made church is sufficient to determine what is right and what is wrong in your life.

The fact is that there are many different standards that are available for you to listen to if you are seeking earthly things (even in addition to the things I have listed here). However, there is a common problem with them all: They all originate with mankind – and man is fallible! We may very well accomplish some or all of our physical goals by listening to these standards; but, we will never find salvation for our souls through these physical things!

Listen to God’s warnings about standards of right and wrong that originate with mankind. Proverbs 14:12 says, “There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.” Jeremiah 10:23 says, “O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.” Isaiah 55:8-9 says, “‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.’”

### **If you are seeking eternal life**

In contrast to all of these man-made standards of right and wrong you may live by if you are seeking earthly things, there is only one standard you will live by if you are seeking eternal life. That standard is Jesus Christ and His law!

Jesus Christ is the way to eternal life in Heaven. In John 14:6, Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” Jesus Christ is the only way to eternal life in Heaven with the Father. Jesus Christ has provided the sacrifice that was necessary in order for our sins to be washed away and the consequences of our sins to be removed. Therefore, God requires that we put all of our trust in Jesus (which will require being obedient to Him). John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

If you are seeking eternal life, know that Jesus Christ is your only answer – the only one you can turn to for the right answers and the only one who has ever been able to bridge the gap between you and God that resulted from your sin! You will not find the answer to the problem of sin in anyone or anything else besides Jesus. Acts 4:12 says, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” ***You will not find this answer in science, in technology, in your family members, in your friends, in wealth, in earthly pleasures, in man-made traditions, in your own conscience, in false religious teachings, in secular education, or in any other earthly thing or person!***

If you want to have eternal life, you *must* go to Jesus Christ (who is the Bread of Life). And, if you want eternal life with God in Heaven, you must look to the Bible for the necessary instructions. Think of it this way: The B-I-B-L-E contains “Basic-Instructions-Before-Leaving-Earth”. The Bible is the book that tells you the good news about salvation in Jesus Christ. And, it is the Bible that tells you what God expects of you in order to have eternal life.

You see, God does expect you to live your life in a particular way in order for you to be given the eternal life that Christ Jesus provides. Hebrews 5:9 says that Jesus Christ is “the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.” Matthew 7:21-23 demonstrates that simply believing who Jesus is – is not sufficient for salvation; but, that you must also be obedient to the will of the Father. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 identifies that those who do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ will be punished with everlasting destruction and experience the vengeance of God.

Therefore, it is God’s word that will perfectly equip you to live in a way that is pleasing to God. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” So, it is through God’s word (the Bible) that we are given all of the answers we need in order to live in a way that will please God (see 2 Peter 1:3)!

This is simply true because if we are seeking eternal life with God in Heaven, it is the Bible that will prepare us to stand before Jesus Christ on the Day of Judgment – because the Bible will be the standard that will be used in Judgment! Jesus said, “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him — the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). But, this is not just applicable to the words Jesus spoke Himself, but to all the inspired word of God. For instance, Paul said that God will judge the world according to his gospel (Romans 2:16). Then, in the picture of the Judgment Day, Revelation 20:11-15 demonstrates that we will all be judged according to our works (that we have done while living on this earth), by the things written in the books (the books containing the words of God – all of the Bible)!

## **Conclusion**

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To whom will you go? For the answers to life’s questions? For the answers to the problems you face throughout your life? For the answers about eternal life? It depends on what you are seeking.

Please understand that Jesus is the only way to the Father and eternal life in Heaven. Please understand that no man-made, subjective standard will be able to lead you to Heaven! The answers to man’s greatest questions and problems are not answered by men – but by God. Heed the admonition of Jesus in Matthew 15:14 when He said: “Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”

I hope that you will determine to make your response as Peter’s response was to Jesus in John 6:68: “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” When you realize that Jesus is the only way to eternal life with God, you will realize there is no other place to turn for answers besides the word of God!

## **Study Questions**

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Who have you been listening to determine what is right and wrong?

### **1. Jesus Offers Eternal Life**

How can you know that Jesus Christ really is the Son of God?

How is Jesus the “Bread of Life”?

Why did many go away from Jesus after hearing this? Do you also want to go away?

## **2. What Are You Seeking?**

Discuss each of the following things many people are seeking that they will not find in Jesus.

(1) Ease and comfort of life –

(2) Earthly pleasures –

(3) Earthly wealth –

(4) Acceptance by the world –

(5) Tangible promises –

(6) Convenient religion –

(7) Others –

What does Jesus offer that you should be seeking?

What are you seeking? Why?

## **3. To Whom Will You Go?**

What are some of the different standards you may live your life by if you are seeking earthly things? What is wrong with each one of these standards?

What is the standard you will live your life by if you are truly seeking eternal life? Why?

**\*To whom will you go? Explain your reasoning.**