

## SESSION ONE



### Our Salvation

Galatians 3:26-28

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

### What Does It Mean To Be A Christian?

Many people live their entire lives without ever knowing "Why?" They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or what God's purpose is for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, "*What is the meaning of life?*"

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways to attain it:

...Some look for happiness by acquiring possessions.

...Some look for happiness by experiencing pleasure.

...Some look for happiness by gaining prestige and power.

But real happiness comes from understanding our purpose in life.

### Why am I here?

- **God Made Me to Love Me!**

God says, "*I have loved you with an everlasting love!*" Jeremiah 31:3b

Ephesians 1:4-5

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love

5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

- **We Were Created to Enjoy a Personal Relationship with God and to Manage All of the Rest of God's Creation! This Makes Us Special!**

Gen 1:27-28 "*And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

1 Tim 6:17 Instruct *those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.*

John 10:10 “... *I came that they might have life and might have {it} abundantly.*”

- **When We Know and Love God, and Live in Harmony with His Purpose for Our Lives, it Produces Tremendous Benefits in Our Lives.**

<i>Clear Conscience</i> <i>Romans 8:1</i>	<i>Life &amp; Peace</i> <i>Romans 8:6</i>	<i>Help with Weakness</i> <i>Romans 8:26</i>
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<i>Purpose</i> <i>Romans 8:28</i>	<i>Confidence</i> <i>Romans 8:31</i>	<i>Security</i> <i>Romans 8:39</i>
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<i>Power &amp; Strength</i> <i>Philippians 4:13</i>	<i>Fulfillment</i> <i>Philippians 4:19</i>	<i>Freedom</i> <i>John 8:32,36</i>
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## **What’s The Problem?**

Man has a natural desire to be boss and to ignore God’s principles for living.

“Look out for #1. Do your own thing.”

“If it feels good, do it – regardless of what God says about it.”

“It’s my life and I’ll do what I please!”

**The Bible Calls this Attitude Sin.** (An “I” problem)

Isa 53:6 *All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.*

I Jn 1:8 *If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to fear God and try to live our lives outside of His will.

Isa 59:2 *“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God...”*

Rom 3:23 *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

When our relationship to God is not right, it causes **problems** in every area of our lives – marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc.

**When People Have Problems, They often Try Many Different Ways of Coping Before Turning to God.**

Prov 16:25 *There is a way {which seems} right to a man, but its end is the way of death.* (NAS)

Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to Him:

- Heritage – “My mother was a Christian so...”
- Sincerity – “It doesn’t matter what you believe, just be sincere.”
- Substitution – “I’ll give up all my bad habits.”
- Works – “I’ll work really hard and earn it.”
- Exposure – “I’ll be religious and go to church.”

## **What’s The Solution?**

Jesus Christ said to him, “***I am the way, and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me!***” John 14:6

God Himself came to Earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come. The **Way** is **Jesus!**

## **Jesus Has Already Taken Care of Your Sin Problem!**

Rom 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

God did this for us because He loves us and wants us to know Him.

Rom 5:8 *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

1 Tim 2:5 *For there is one God, {and} one mediator also between God and men, {the} man Christ Jesus.*

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

## **What Does God Want Me To Do?**

- **Admit That God Has Not Been First Place in Your Life and Ask Him to Forgive Your Sins.**

1 Jn 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

- **Believe That Jesus Died to Pay for Your Sins and That He Rose Again and Is Alive Today.**

Rom 10:9 *that if you confess with your mouth Jesus {as} Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.*

Acts 4:12 *"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."*

- **Confess God's Free Gift of Salvation. Don't Try to Earn It.**

Eph 2:8-9 *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, {it is} the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.*

Our relationship to God is not restored by anything **we** do, but on the basis of what **Jesus** already did for us!

- **Invite Jesus Christ to Come into Your Life and Be the Director ("Lord") of Your Life.**

John 1:12-13 *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, {even} to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Rev 3:20 *'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.*

**You Can Take These Steps By Praying a Prayer of Commitment To God:** (Pray from your heart... this is only an example)

"Dear Jesus, thank you for making me and loving me, even when I've ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. I believe that you died for me and rose again and are alive today. Please help me to understand it more as I grow in your love. As much as I know how, I want to follow you from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your gift of salvation. Amen!

Rom 10:13

*"Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."*

# The Importance of Being Baptized

## Why Should I Be Baptized?

### 1. To follow the example set by Christ.

Mark 1:9 *And it came about in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.*

### 2. Because Christ commanded it.

Matt 28:19-20 *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

### 3. It demonstrates that I really am a believer.

Acts 18:8 *And Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized.*

I Jn 2:3 *And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.*

## What Is The Meaning Of Baptism?

### 1. It illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection.

1 Cor 15:3-4 *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,*

Col 2:12 *having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*

### 2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian.

2 Cor 5:17 *Therefore if any man is in Christ, {he is} a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

Rom 6:4 *Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*

Baptism does not make you a Believer – it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not “save” you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring – it’s the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

Eph 2:8-9 *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, {it is} the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.*

## **Why Be Baptized By Immersion?**

### **1. Because Jesus was baptized that way.**

Matt 3:16 *And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, {and} coming upon Him,*

### **2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.**

Example -

Acts 8:38-39 *And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch saw him no more but went on his way rejoicing.*

### **3. The word “baptize” means “to dip under water.”**

The Greek word *baptizo* means “to immerse or dip under water.”

### **4. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection!**

The founders of denominations agree:

Martin Luther... “I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.”

John Calvin... “The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”

John Wesley... “Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

## **Who Should Be Baptized?**

### **Every Person Who Has Believed in Christ.**

Acts 2:41 *So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.*

Acts 8:12-13 *But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. And even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip; and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.*

## **When Should I Be Baptized?**

### **As soon as you have believed!**

*Acts 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.*

*Acts 8:35-38 And Philip opened his mouth and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. And as they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him.*

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized.

It is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. Baptism will not save you or get you into heaven. Only by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ can you be assured of salvation.

*Eph 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, {it is} the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.*

## **THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called "ordinances") as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are: Baptism and The Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

### **What is the Lord's Supper? (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)**

1. It is a simple act, not an elaborate ceremony.

*"... the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 1 Cor 11:23*

2. It is a reminder

*"...and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, 'This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.'" 1 Cor 11:24*

3. It is a symbol

*"In the same way {He took} the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink {it,} in remembrance of Me.'" 1 Cor 11:25*

4. It is a statement of faith

*“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.” 1 Cor 11:26*

## **Who should take the Lord's Supper?**

The Lord's Supper should only be taken by those who are already believers. (Mark 14:22-26)

*1 Cor 11:29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly.*

## **How do I prepare myself for the Lord's Supper?**

*1 Cor 11:27-28 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.*

### **By...**

1. **Self-Examination** (1 Corinthians 11:28)
2. **Confessing my sins** (1 John 1:9)
3. **Recommitment** (Romans 12:1)
4. **Restoring Relationships** (Matthew 5:23-24)

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe the Lord's Supper. At Grassy Valley Baptist Church we observe the Lord's Supper on a quarterly basis and at other special times of the year such as Easter, Christmas, etc.