

**Bible
Teachings
Series**

*A self-study
course on
how God
gives us
eternal life*



Life After Death

Life After Death

A self-study course on
how God gives us eternal life

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Level 1, Book 16



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Getting Started

In this book you will learn about life after death. That may sound like a pretty big topic to study in a small book. It is! So we are going to limit ourselves a little bit. We are going to look at what life and death are, and what some people believe about life after death. Most important, we are going to look at what God teaches us about life after death. We will do this by studying his Word, the Bible.

Each of the five chapters begins with a list of goals marked by a small star (*). These goals tell you what you will be learning in that chapter. Within each chapter there are some questions for you to answer. At the end of the chapter there is a short test. If you go back to the beginning of the chapter and check the goals, (*), you will see that you learned about those goals in the chapter.

After each set of questions, and after each chapter test, you will see a page number where you can find the correct answers to those questions. Check each of your answers and correct them if necessary.

At the end of the book is a final test. Before you take the test, go back and review the chapter tests. When you complete the final test, you can either turn it in to the person who gave you this book or mail it to the address found on the back cover.

May God help you as you learn more about life after death. May he bless your study!



Jesus speaks to the woman at a well in Samaria.



Chapter One

What is Life?

In some ways, that question can be very simple to answer. Look in the mirror: the fact that you can see yourself moving and your eyes blinking shows that you are alive! And, of course, your reading of this book also is evidence that you are alive!

But is “life” limited to what we can see and touch? Do we only know we are alive because we can

think? What is life? If you think you know the answer, this is an even harder question: “What is the meaning of life?”

In this chapter we will look at what many people believe life is. We will also look at what God says in the Bible about life. When we do that, we will especially look at the meaning, God gives to our lives (during our time on earth).

At the end of this chapter you will be able to:

- * know some of the false ideas people have about life;
- * understand what God’s definition of life is; and
- * see that God’s purpose for our lives is much better than the goals that most people have!

There was once a farmer who was very rich. One year his fields produced a great crop. His crop was so great he did not have room to store all the grain. So he decided he would build bigger barns. He was so happy with his crops and with himself that he thought, “Next year, I really do not need to work very hard. I can sit back, relax, and take life easy.”

This is part of a story that Jesus told when he was teaching a greedy man about the purpose of life on earth. (You can read the whole story in Luke 12:16-21). We know people like the farmer in the story, do we not? They sit around and take life easy. They want to get all the enjoyment they can out of life on earth while they have the chance. They think that there is no life after death, so they want to live like kings while they are here!

But if we think that life is only a time to surround ourselves with all the possessions that we can, will we ever be truly happy? If we somehow could get \$100,000, would not \$200,000 sound even better? If we get a big house, would we not want an even bigger house? Will we ever be happy with life if we only think about getting more and more things? Jesus answers this question for us in Luke 12:15—"Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has."

1. Many people think _____ is only about getting more and more things.

2. Many people think the purpose of life is to make _____ happy.
3. Jesus says that life is not about what we _____.

(Check your answers on page 10)

What is the meaning of life? Instead of believing that life is a time to get all you can, there are some people who believe life has no meaning at all! They believe that life is merely an accident that happened long ago. They think that life has no creator, that there is no God who gives meaning to our lives.

Other people believe that life is like a dream. They say that what we think is real is not real. Take pain, for example. When is the last time something fell on your toe or dropped on your head? Or, you twisted an ankle? It hurt, did it not? But some people believe that pain is all in your mind. It is make-believe. And so is everything else that you see, taste, touch, hear, or smell. For them, life is a time to search for whatever is behind this dream world, a time to find out what really is “real.”

Sadly, some people become very depressed and hopeless because they believe life has no true meaning. “After all,” they think, “if life has no meaning, what is the point? If my life does not matter to anyone, if I cannot make any real difference in this world, what does it matter if I am here?”

4. Some people believe life has no _____.
5. Some people believe any pain we suffer is not _____.
6. Some people become very _____ because they believe their life has no meaning.

(Check your answers on page 10)

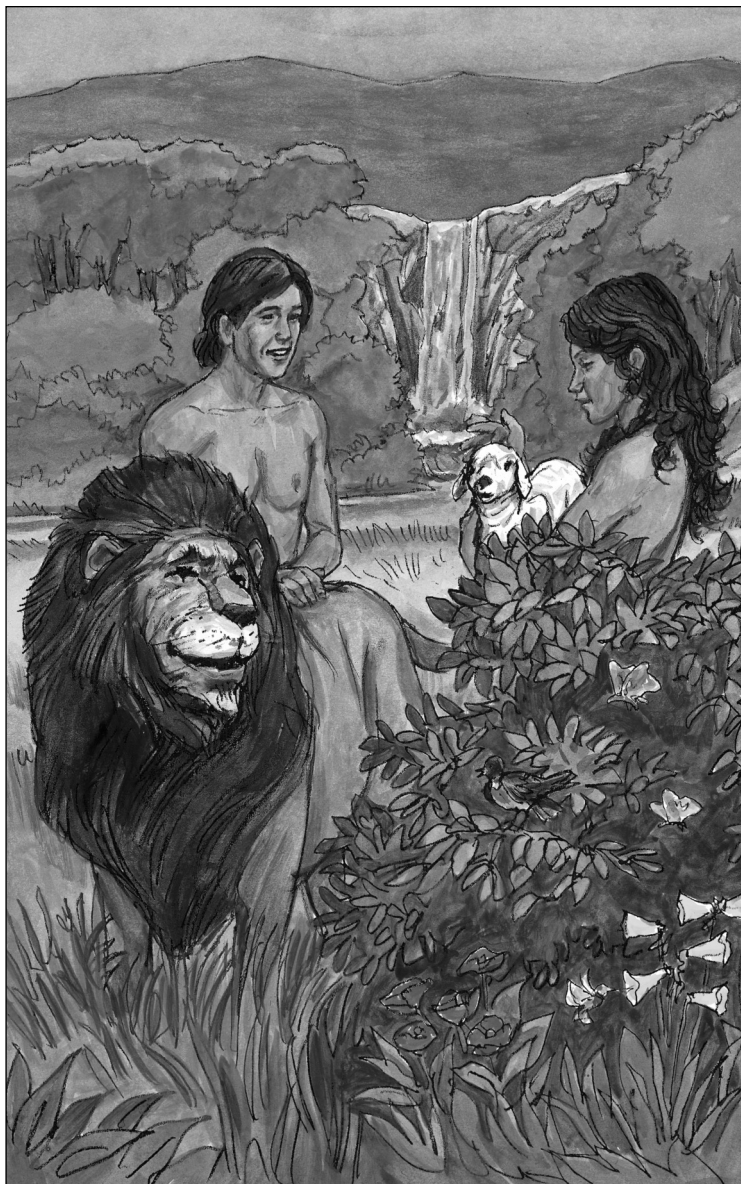
So what is the meaning, the purpose of life? The best answer to this question comes from the one who created life: God himself!

The Bible tells us that God created everything. Last, and most important, God created two people, Adam and Eve, a man and a woman. And when God created these people, he gave their lives meaning. He put them in charge of the world! God told them, “Fill the earth and bring it under your

control. Rule over the fish in the waters and the birds of the air. Rule over every living creature that moves on the ground” (Genesis 1:28).

It is even more important that when God created these two people, they were perfect. He enjoyed being with them, and they enjoyed being with him. Think of it! Adam and Eve did not pray to a God they could not see—they talked face-to-face with him in the same way as you talk to the person who lives next door to your home. Adam and Eve never wondered whether God existed or if he cared about them—God spoke directly to them and showed them that he loved them.

It is clear that from the very beginning, God gave life meaning. He loved all people and wanted us to live as his dear children who loved him also. He provided us with a wonderful world to live in. He gave us everything we would ever need. He planned that we would live forever with him in this beautiful and perfect world. He was the perfect Father, and God’s plan from the beginning was that our life with him would be completely perfect.



God creates Adam and Eve as our first parents.

Does not this sound better than the ideas that many people have about “life”? When God created the world, people did not worry about how much “stuff” they had. The entire world was theirs! God created the world so that the man and woman could walk and talk with their Creator and worship him. Life was enjoyable. It was filled with meaning and purpose.

7. When God created the world, he put _____ and _____ in charge.
8. When God created the first two people, the contact between God and these people was _____.
9. God gives life _____.

(Check your answers on page 10)

Answers to questions within Chapter One:

1. life; 2. themselves; 3. have; 4. meaning; 5. real;
6. depressed or sad; 7. Adam & Eve; 8. perfect;
9. meaning.

Chapter Summary

What is the meaning of life? That is probably a question we all have asked at some time. As people try to find meaning in life, they imagine all kinds of answers. Some people believe life's purpose is getting more and more "stuff." They live by the motto, "He who dies with the most possessions wins!" Other people do not think life has much meaning. They try to create some meaning for their own life, or they give up hope.

It is important to read the Bible in order to hear what God says about our lives. God gives our lives real meaning. God created life in the first place! He not only created the world, he created the first two people. He created them to have a perfect and loving, worship-filled life with him. He gave them all they needed so they would not worry about how to get more "stuff." He made them the most wonderful part of his visible creation. God wanted all of us to enjoy a perfect and loving, endless life with him.

Chapter One Test

1. Many people think _____ is only about getting more and more things.
2. Many people think the purpose of life is to make _____ happy.
3. Jesus says that life is not about what we _____.
4. Some people believe life has no _____.
5. Some people believe any pain we suffer is not _____.
6. Some people become very _____ because they believe their life has no meaning.
7. When God created the world, he put _____ and _____ in charge.
8. When God created people, the contact between God and the people he made was _____.

(Check your answers on page 67)



Chapter Two

What Is Death?

Think about the last time you went to a funeral. Did you walk up to the coffin? Undertakers work very hard at making the dead person look “natural.” And as you look at the person lying in the coffin, maybe it is easy to think of that person as simply being asleep since he or she looks so peaceful.

Is death really all that bad? Is it not more like a really long nap from which we do not wake up? Is it not a good way to escape from whatever problems we have right now? What is death anyway?

Let us take a brief look at death in this chapter. We will find, as we saw when we looked at “life,” that there are different ideas about what “death” is. We will look at several incorrect or wrong beliefs about death. We will also see that, in many ways, death is something terrible.

When you finish this chapter you will be able to:

- * understand why the idea that death can be beautiful is false;
- * know that God did not intend people to die; and
- * see that death, for someone who does not believe in God, is a terrible thing!

Maybe you have heard the story of “Romeo and Juliet.” It is a story about two young people

who were very much in love. But their parents did not want them to marry. Romeo and Juliet were not allowed to see each other. Secretly they would meet, and they made plans to run away together. But Juliet's parents had decided she would marry another man. So Juliet took a drug that caused her to appear dead. The plan was that her family would bury her; Romeo would rescue her from the burial vault, and they would run away together. But when Romeo found Juliet, he believed she was really dead. So he took poison and killed himself. When Juliet awoke and found Romeo dead, she also killed herself (her death was real this time).

It is not a happy ending. But many think that this is a beautiful "love story." And shouldn't they? After all, these two young people in love were willing to die because they loved each other so much!

But what did Romeo and Juliet gain by killing themselves? By showing their love for each

other in this sad but “beautiful” way, they simply revealed the ugliness of death.

We see similar ideas about death in our lives. A hero is so dedicated to his cause that he is willing to die fighting hard even though he knows it will cost him his life. His courage may be beautiful, but not his death.

1. Romeo and Juliet were willing to _____ because they loved each other.
2. Romeo and Juliet ended up _____, their death was ugly, not beautiful.
3. Sometimes in life the hero ends up _____, and this is very sad.

(Check your answers on page 21)

At times we start to believe everything we read and see about death. We start to believe that death is not all that bad. We see death all around us in our lives so that we lose the sense of how awful it is.

Remember from Chapter One that God created people to live forever. God did not create death. There was no death in the world until Adam and Eve, the first people, sinned against God. God had told Adam and Eve that they could eat fruit from any tree except for one. He told them that if they ate fruit from that one tree, they would die. And what happened? That is right—they ate from that one tree! (You can read the whole story in Genesis chapter 3.)

It is true that Adam and Eve did not fall down dead on the spot. It would be many years before their bodies would finally wear out, and they would die physically. But immediately, as soon as they sinned, they suffered a spiritual death that separated them from God their loving father. Did you notice that? They were afraid to be around him anymore and tried to hide. Instead of thinking of God as their kind father, they started thinking of him as their mean and angry judge.



Jesus speaks to Martha at Lazarus' grave.

Sin causes death. We know this. We cannot avoid it. And before we die, we suffer many other bad results of that first sin against God. We get sick. We have pain of all kinds. We get cancer. We have heart attacks. We break bones. We get cut.

Again, this is not what God wanted for us in the first place. He loves us and only wants us to be with him. Just think—if Adam and Eve had not sinned, everyone would live forever in a perfect, loving family with God as our Father! There would never be any trouble or pain or death in our lives at all.

4. Sometimes we begin to think death is not all that _____.
5. God did not create _____.
6. After Adam and Eve sinned, they saw God as their _____ instead of their loving Father.

(Check your answers on page 21)

Because Adam and Eve sinned, the ugliness of death now is with us. Death takes away hope. Death can be tragic or terrible. Death makes us sad, especially when someone close to us dies.

Death is most dreadful for people who do not believe that Jesus is their Savior from sin and death. People who do not believe that Jesus died on the cross to take away their sin can only see death as a tragic end. For them, death brings an end to all hope.

But for us who believe that Jesus is our Savior, is death the end of all hope? We will see the answer to this question in the next chapter. (Hint: Christians do not see death the same way non-Christians do!)

7. Adam and Eve's sin made death _____.

8. In many ways, death takes away
_____.

(Check your answers on page 21)

Chapter Summary

What is death? Because we are alive right now, and because we know we will die, that is a question we need to think about.

Some people believe that death is not all that bad. Books sometimes show people who would rather die than live. But God's plan for us when he created us was that we would never die! Death is a punishment that God never wanted us to receive. It is a result of sin.

Because of sin we all must die someday. If we do not believe that Jesus saved us from sin, death brings fear to our hearts. Even if we do believe Jesus is our Savior, we may still be afraid of dying.

But death is not the end!

Answers to questions within Chapter Two:

1. die; 2. dead; 3. dead; 4. bad; 5. death; 6. judge; 7. real; 8. hope.

Chapter Two Test

1. Romeo and Juliet were willing to _____ because they loved each other.
2. Romeo and Juliet ended up _____, their death was ugly, not beautiful.
3. Sometimes in life the hero ends up _____, and this is very sad.
4. Sometimes we begin to think death is not all that _____.
5. God did not create _____.
6. After Adam and Eve sinned, they saw God as their _____ instead of their loving Father.
7. Adam and Eve's sin made death _____.
8. In many ways, death takes away _____.

(Check your answers on page 67)



Chapter Three

Is There Life After Death?

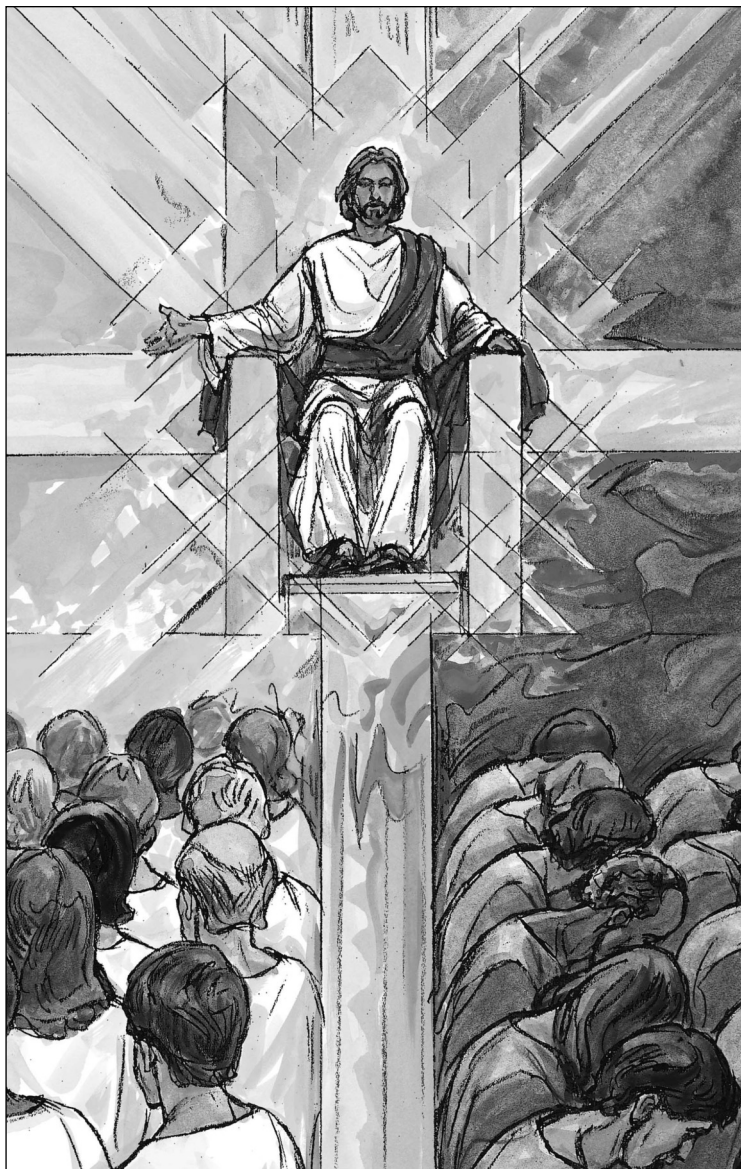
As you might imagine, people have different ideas and different answers the question, is there life after death?

How do we really know? There have not been many people who have died and lived to tell about it! Only by looking at what the Bible says can we answer that question, “Is there life after death?” with confidence.

In this chapter you will learn that:

- * there are people who do not believe in life after death;
- * there are people who believe in life after death but have wrong ideas about it; and
- * God alone tells us what to believe about life after death.

The Bible tells us that every person has a body and a soul (Matthew 10:28). It tells us that when we die, the body decays (Genesis 3:19) but the soul separates from the body and continues to live after death (Philippians 1:23, 24). The souls of believers in Jesus go to heaven, and the souls of those who do not believe in Jesus go to hell (Mark 16:16; Luke 16:22, 23). On the last day, God will make all of the dead come back to life. And he will reunite their souls with their bodies (Job 19:25-27). Believers in Jesus will be changed; they will have perfect bodies and souls, and they will live in heaven with Jesus forever (Matthew 25:34). The bodies and souls of unbelievers will spend eternity in hell (Matthew 25:41).



Jesus judges the people of the world on the Last Day.

A man was very sick and about to die. He once said that he did not worry too much about what was going to happen to him after he died. “I have had a good life,” he said. “I have a good family and good friends. And since this life is all there is, what more can I want?”

This man did not believe in life after death. He believed that his soul was simply going to stop existing when he died. This false belief is called the *annihilation* (ah-nye-ill-LAY-shun) of the soul.

In the Bible God is very clear that a person's soul does not die. In Matthew 10:28 Jesus says, “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but can't kill the soul. Instead, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” When Jesus speaks of “destroying” or ruining someone's body and soul in hell, he is speaking about the punishment of being separated from God's love forever in hell. Jesus says that in hell, the fire never goes out (Mark 9:48).

1. The Bible tells us that every person has a _____ and a _____.
2. If a person's _____ ceases to exist when he dies, it does not matter how he lives.
3. Jesus makes it very clear that hell is a place of _____ punishment for body and soul.

(Check your answers on page 32)

Some people believe in *reincarnation* (ree-in-car-NAY-shun). Reincarnation is the false belief that when a person dies, his soul comes back in a different physical body. After that physical body dies, his soul returns in another physical body. Some believe this cycle continues forever, with the soul simply moving from one physical body to the next. Others believe that this cycle only continues until the person's soul reaches the "highest" level of life. Different religions, such as Hinduism and "New Age" religions, have a strong belief in reincarnation.

Are souls “reincarnated” over and over again? Does a person die, return to life in another body, die, return to life in another body, and so on forever? God tells us, “No,” in the Bible. In Hebrews 9:27 we read, “People have to die once. After that, God will judge them.”

Reincarnation’s endless cycle of life-death-life-death is not true. According to the Bible, the cycle is either life + death equals hell or life + death equals heaven!

4. Reincarnation teaches that when someone dies, his _____ comes back in another physical body.
5. Some believe this cycle of life-death-life-death goes on _____.
6. The Bible says that when a man dies his soul is _____.

(Check your answers on page 32)

Still others have at least some sort of belief that when someone dies, he goes on to a “better place.”

Still others believe that when someone dies, he goes to a “better place.” But there is no agreement about what that place is, or where it is.

Ancient Egyptians believed that one’s body had to be well-preserved when it died. This was so that the person could live in a better place after this life. (That is why they were so good at making mummies!)

Viking warriors believed that when they died in battle they were allowed to go to a place called “Valhalla.” This was a place of eternal eating and drinking.

Buddhism (a religion) believes that after a good person dies, he comes back (reincarnation) and lives another life even better than the first. If he continues to live good lives, he may reach “Nirvana,” which is the highest form of life possible.

All these lies have people heading to the wrong place!

Every person has a desire to live forever. And eternal life is what God has in mind for us. The Bible says that God wants to give us life after death, life with him in heaven forever. In fact, the Christian's true home is heaven. Paul writes in Philippians 3:20, "But we are citizens of heaven."

When you think about it, this makes perfect sense. Remember that God created people to live forever with him in a perfect world. Because people sinned, this perfect world was ruined, and all living things suffer death as a result. Would not God want to erase all this evil and start again?

In God's plan, death is not the end. In God's plan, there is not only life after death—**there is perfect life after death**. This perfect life is with him in heaven. In Matthew 25:34, Jesus tells the people who are going to enter heaven, "My Father has blessed you. Come and take what is yours. It is the kingdom prepared for you since the world was created." Again, God has

always wanted people to live forever with him. He wants people to have life in heaven after they die. Life in heaven with God is *true* life after death.

The best thing about this true life after death is that we do not need to do anything to get it. God gives it to us as a gift! Romans 6:23 tells us, “But God gives you the gift of eternal life because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.” (More on this in Chapter 5)

7. Any idea of life after death that is not God’s idea is _____.
8. _____ is the true home of any Christian.
9. In God’s plan, there is _____ life after death.

(Check your answers on page 32)

Chapter Summary

Every person believes *something* about life after death. Some people believe there is no life after death! They believe that “life” is nothing more than what we are experiencing or enjoying right now living in this world. Some people believe that once you die, your body and soul stop existing.

Many other people believe that a person’s soul keeps living after his body dies. But his soul moves to another body...and then to another body when that one dies...and then to another body when that one dies....

Still other people believe that a person’s soul will go to a place better than this world. But the only true “better” place to look forward to is heaven. This final destination is the only true home that lasts forever.

Answers to questions within Chapter Three:

1. body and soul; 2. soul; 3. eternal; 4. soul; 5. forever;
6. judged; 7. wrong; 8. Heaven; 9. perfect.

Chapter Three Test

1. The Bible tells us that every person has a _____ and a _____.
2. If a person's _____ ceases to exist when he dies, it does not matter how he lives.
3. Jesus makes it very clear that hell is a place of _____ punishment for body and soul.
4. Reincarnation teaches that when someone dies, his _____ comes back in another physical body.
5. Some believe this cycle of life-death-life-death goes on _____.
6. The Bible says that when a man dies his soul is _____.

7. Any idea of life after death that is not God's idea is _____.
8. _____ is the true home of any Christian.
9. In God's plan, there is _____ life after death.

(Check your answers on page 67)



Chapter Four

How Do I Get Life After Death?

Imagine that you are visiting a huge mansion or house on the seacoast. As you walk through the mansion, you see beautiful pictures on the walls. You see very fine furniture that looks too nice to sit on. You see gorgeous, colorful rugs that look too good to walk on. Everything in this wonderful house is amazing.

You walk into a huge living room. Someone in the house says, “I am happy to tell you that before the owner of this mansion died, he included each one of you in his will.” You and your group listen very carefully. “That is right,” your friend says, “the owner gave each one of you one million dollars. The money is yours.”

Everyone lets out a little cry. Finally a person next to you asks in a quiet voice, “Where is it? How do we get the money?”

You are told, “Oh, umm, OK. Well, we are still looking for the money in the house. We think it is in a hidden place in one of these rooms. But do not worry—the money is still yours!”

Now, what kind of gift would that be? Not much of one! It is wonderful, therefore, that life in heaven after death is not a “gift” like the missing million dollars. Getting life after death is actually fairly simple.

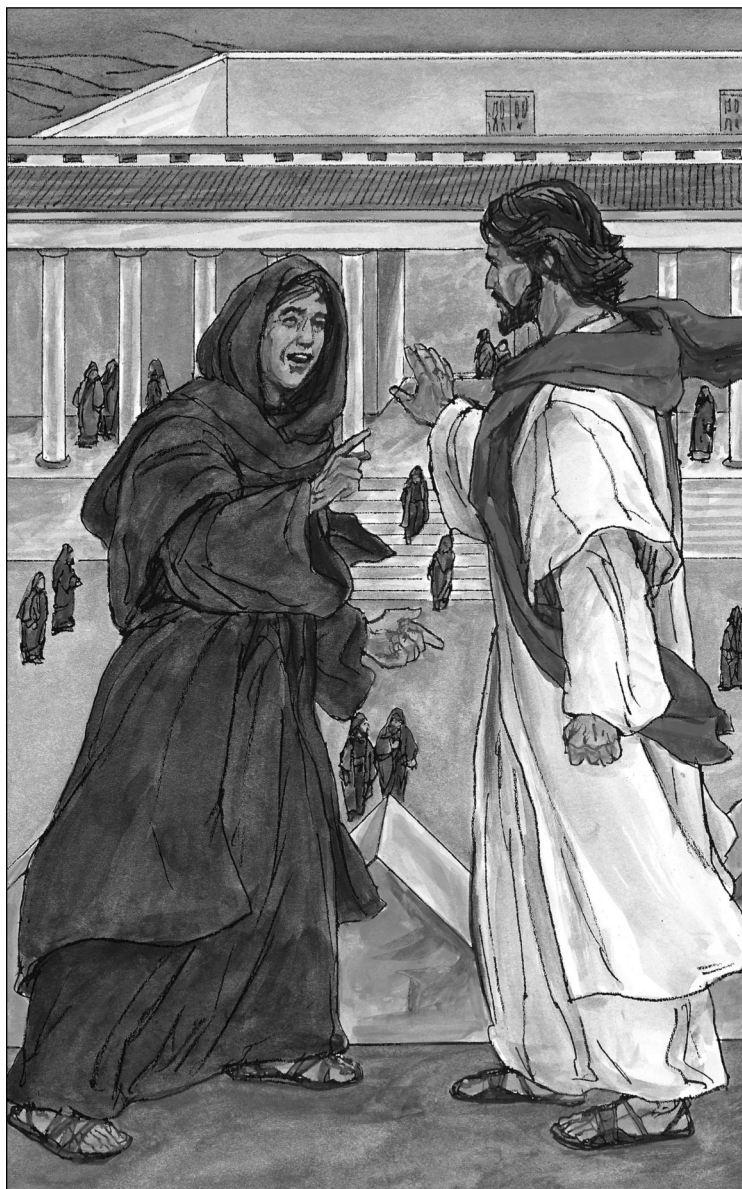
In this chapter you will see that:

- * life after death is not given to you because of anything you do, but rather
- * life after death is given to you because of what Jesus Christ did!

Ask someone, “How do you think you get to heaven?” More than likely he will tell you something like this: “Sure, I have made mistakes in my life. But I have paid for them. I am a pretty good person. Besides, I have tried to make up for all the bad things I have done by doing good things. God cannot keep me out of heaven. He will give me life after I die.”

This is a common answer, but that does not mean it is right. The Bible tells us, “There is a way that may seem right to a man. But in the end it leads to death” (Proverbs 16:25).

There is a problem with believing that we can do enough good things to outweigh the bad things we have done. The problem is that God says to have life in heaven after death we



Jesus overcomes the temptations of the devil.

cannot do *any* wrong things. Never. Not in our whole life!

Jesus tells us, “So be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). Even if we slip up only once, we lose our chance to earn life in heaven after death! “Suppose you keep the whole law but trip over just one part of it. Then you are guilty of breaking all of it” (James 2:10). But getting life after death is not a lost cause. We cannot be perfect, but Jesus, our Savior, was perfect in our place. The Bible says about Jesus that he “has been tempted in every way, just as we are. But he did not sin” (Hebrews 4:15). And because Jesus lived a perfect life for us, God gives the perfect life of Jesus to us. In other words, he looks at Jesus’ perfection and says that it is ours. (Read Romans 5:11-19 for more about this.)

1. Many people believe they should get a good life after death because of _____ things they do.

2. God tells us that to get life after death with him we have to be _____.
3. _____ was perfect in our place.

(Check your answers on page 47)

But then there is the problem of punishment. That is something we learn to expect from the time we are young. If you do something wrong, you get punished.

When we break God's law, we sin, and we must be punished. But God's punishment for sin is not merely a few years in jail. God's punishment for sin is death and damnation in hell (see Chapter 2). Now, since we all sin, should not all of us die? And not simply die physically, but shouldn't we die forever and ever, suffering in hell?

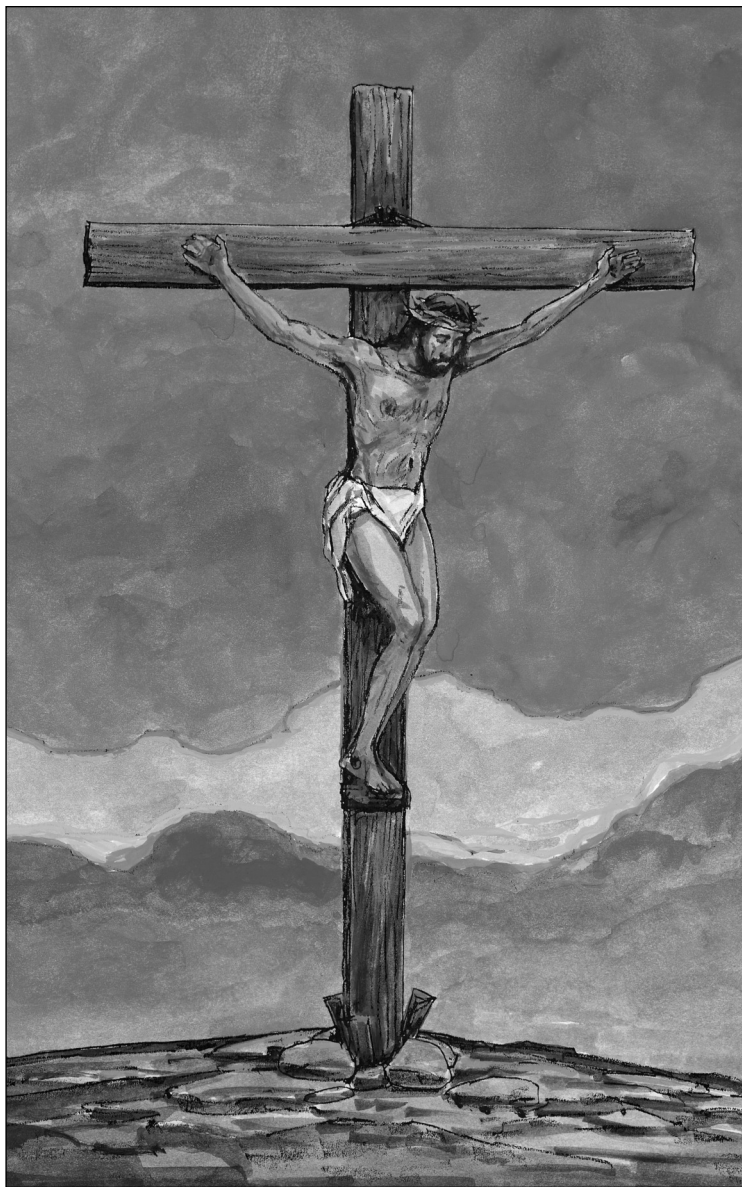
Yes, that is what should happen to us. The Bible tells us that each one of us deserves this death penalty. But what if God were to tell you that someone else took that punishment for

you? What if God told you that someone else died so that you have been forgiven?

That someone was Jesus. We have learned that Jesus was perfect in our place. But that is not all. Jesus also was punished in our place! Peter tells us, “[Jesus] himself carried our sins in his body on the cross” (1 Peter 2:24). When Jesus was killed on the cross, he was not killed for his own sins (he did not have any). He allowed himself to be killed for the sins of all people. The punishment that God requires for our sins has already been suffered and removed by Jesus.

4. If we do something _____,
we get punished.
5. The punishment we deserve for breaking
God’s law is _____.
6. _____ was punished instead of us.

(Check your answers on page 47)

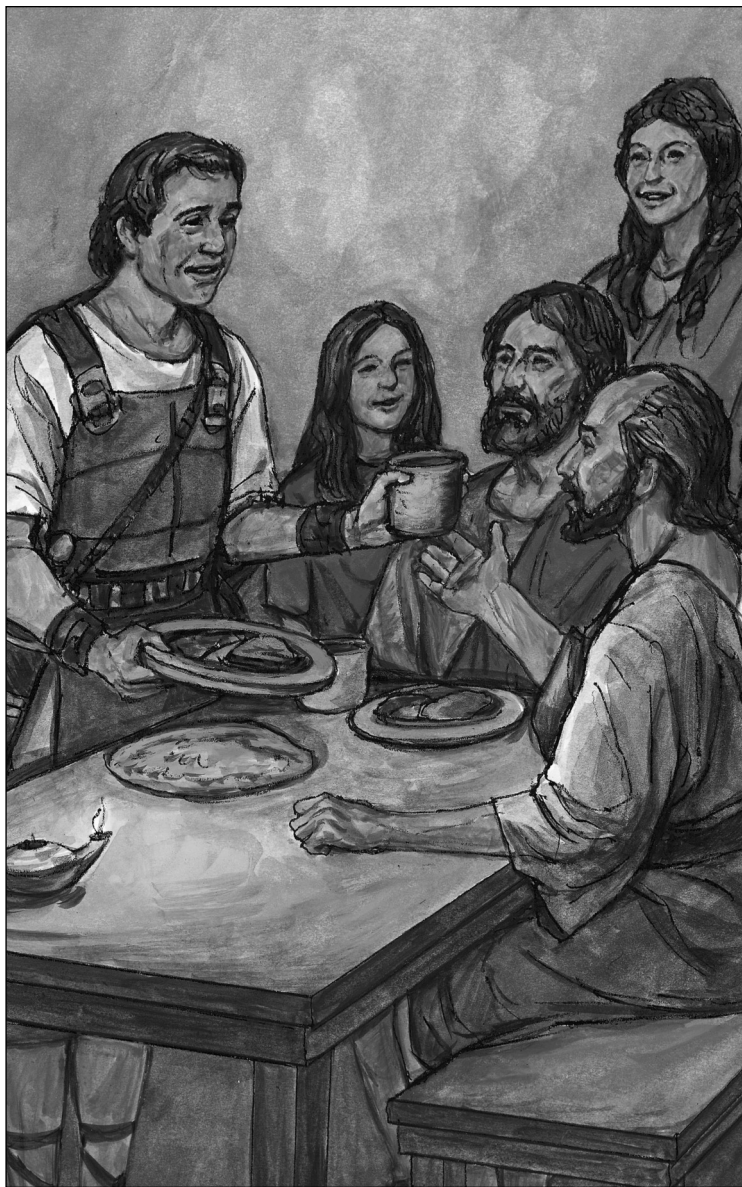


Jesus dies on a cross.

Jesus was perfect for us. Jesus was punished for us. And because of that, we have true life after death! Or do we? We still die. But is physical death a bad thing for someone who believes in Jesus? Exactly how do we get life after death? Do we get it simply because we are human? Or is it like that gift of a million dollars that is hidden and no one can find?

The way to have the gift of true life after death, the gift of life forever in heaven with Jesus, is not hidden. It is right where Jesus put it for all people to see. Jesus shows us how to receive the gift of life after death in the Bible, his Word.

Very simply, the Bible tells us that Jesus gives us eternal life in heaven through *faith*. “Faith” is simply believing that Jesus is your Savior. Faith believes that Jesus lived a perfect life for you, and that he died in your place to take the punishment that your sins deserve. When the jailer in Philippi asked the apostle Paul how to be saved (how to have true life after death), Paul simply told him, “Believe in the Lord Jesus” (Acts 16:31).



A jailor gives food to the apostle Paul and to Silas.

This faith is what one of the men who was crucified next to Jesus received at the last moment, near the end of his life. When Jesus hung on the cross, two other men were crucified at the same time. At first, both of these men hated Jesus. Even though they were criminals and Jesus was innocent, they said many bad things to him. But after watching and listening to Jesus for several hours, one of the men started defending Jesus. He told the other criminal to stop saying bad things. And then this dying man whose mind had been changed said to Jesus, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom” (Luke 23:42). This criminal now believed that Jesus was the Savior of the world, and he now believed Jesus was his personal Savior. How did Jesus answer that thief on the cross? “Today you will be with me in paradise (heaven)” (Luke 23:43). So even after the criminal died, he would live again. Jesus promised him life in heaven. We, too, as sinners have this same promise!

7. The gift of life after death is not _____.
8. The gift of life after death is given to us through _____.
9. One of the criminals crucified next to Jesus _____ in him.

(Check your answers on page 47)

Chapter Summary

How do you get life after death? It is really not hard. You cannot work for it. When you try, you must remember that God says you need to be perfect in everything you do. He says you must be perfect to get into heaven. You cannot do that. It is not possible for you to be perfect.

You also must remember that God has a right to punish you for every one of your sins. He punishes sin with death, and not merely with physical death at the end of life. The punishment for sin is eternal death for body and soul in hell.

So how do you get life after death? You do not get it by doing anything! You get it by what Jesus did for you. God gives you true life after death as a gift. His Son, Jesus, lived a perfect life in your place. Jesus also suffered the punishment of death in your place. Now he simply says, "Believe." Believe that Jesus is your Savior. Believe he is the one who rescued you from *eternal* death and gives you life in heaven *after* death.

Answers to questions within Chapter Four:

1. good; 2. perfect; 3. Jesus; 4. wrong; 5. death; 6. Jesus;
7. hidden; 8. faith; 9. believed.

Chapter Four Test

1. Many people believe they should get a good life after death because of _____ things they do.
2. God tells us that to get life with him after death we have to be _____.
3. _____ was perfect in our place.
4. If we do something _____, we get punished.
5. The punishment we deserve for breaking God's law is _____.
6. _____ was punished instead of us.
7. The gift of life after death is not _____.
8. The gift of life after death is given to us through _____.
9. One of the criminals crucified next to Jesus _____ in him.

(Check your answers on page 67)



Chapter Five

Why Should I Want Life After Death?

Ever since death came into the world, people have looked for ways to escape death. Some of the great explorers of the world looked for a magic spring of water that would keep them alive forever. Today scientists keep looking for ways to help people live longer.



Jesus returns to heaven.

So maybe you are thinking to yourself, “Why would I not want life after death?!” And you are right; there is really no good reason. Remember that when God created the first people he made them to live forever. In Ecclesiastes 3:11 it says that God “has also given men a sense of what he's been doing down through the ages.”

In other words, “God has put *eternity* into the heart of man.” We have a built-in knowledge that there is more to life than *this* life. We *want* to live forever.

At the end of this chapter you will be able to:

- * understand that some people do not want life after death;
- * see that eternal life in heaven is something we should want; and
- * know that this present life cannot be compared with life in heaven.

You may feel that your life right now is a heavy load to carry.

A young man named Jim had similar thoughts. As he sat in prison he thought about his life. His father had left him and his mom when Jim was really young. His mom could not handle the stress of being a single mother and started taking drugs. After she was arrested, Jim ended up in a foster home. He was sent from place to place, getting in more and more trouble at each new home. Jim was arrested a few times for some small stuff. Finally he got in a fight and killed a man. He was sent to prison for life.

A pastor visited Jim one day in prison. The pastor told him about Jesus and about heaven. In heaven, the pastor told Jim, he could live forever.

All Jim could think was, “Why? Why would I want to keep going through all the troubles and problems I have had in this life forever and ever? Thanks but no thanks!”

That makes some sense, doesn’t it? If “life after death” is only more of the troubles that

this life has, why would anyone want it? Even if your life does not seem that bad or it is not as bad as some people have it, would you want to have sickness and pain and heartache ... *forever*? Would you want to wonder if the doctor is going to tell you that you have cancer? Would you want to fight every day against the evil thoughts that suddenly come into your head?

1. Your life right now might not be all that _____.
2. A pastor told Jim he could live _____.
3. Will all the _____ things of this life last forever?

(Check your answers on page 60)

The pastor went on to explain to Jim that eternal life in heaven was not the same as this life, life as we know it now, going on forever and ever! Heaven is perfect! And once you know what heaven is like, it is easy to see why you would want to have eternal life there.

There is no death in heaven. Death is a curse for the world where we live now. It came upon all of creation because Adam and Eve sinned. But in heaven this curse will be taken away. In Revelation 22:3 we read that in heaven, “There will no longer be any curse.” If there is no curse that means there is no sin. Think about it—in heaven we never have to worry about doing anything wrong ever again. And if there is no sin, there is no death.

When God created the first people, life was not filled with pain and suffering. But after Adam and Eve sinned, the lives of people became hard, and there was suffering from then on. But in heaven there is no more sorrow or suffering! Heaven provides eternal rest from everything that burdens us now. Life there will include delightful service and God ruling all things perfectly and joyful singing. You and I will finally rest from the pains and struggles of this life.

In heaven our bodies will be perfect. There are all kinds of bad things that happen to our bodies while we live on earth. Cuts and broken bones and bruises and sicknesses inside us—sometimes our bodies weaken before we are ready for that. In heaven, our bodies will be perfect. St. Paul says in Philippians 3:21, “By his [Jesus’] power he will change our earthly bodies. They will become like his glorious body.” In heaven, our bodies will be like they were first created to be. They will be perfect.

Think of all the hard and bad things in your life. Now, think of all of that being gone. Whatever is bad now will be gone in heaven! Revelation 21:4 tells us that in heaven God “will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or sadness. There will be no more crying or pain. Things are no longer the way they used to be.”

**No tears! No death! No sadness! No crying!
No pain! What a perfect place!**



Adam and Eve had to work after they sinned against God.

In heaven we will be brought together with believers we knew and loved who also went to heaven. Our mother who died as a believer in Jesus when we were younger—we will see her again! Our wife or husband who was killed in a terrible accident—since she or he believed in Jesus, we will see them in heaven!

Most important, when we get to heaven, we will be with our Savior forever. In Chapter Two we learned about some of the things that happened in the world because of sin. One of them, the saddest one, is that God and man no longer walked and talked together as they did before sin. But in heaven, our contact with God will be perfect again. We will see Jesus face-to-face! St. John wrote, “But we know that when Christ appears, we will be like him. We will see him as he really is” (1 John 3:2).

Since this is what eternal life in heaven is really like, how could anyone not want it?

4. In heaven we never have to worry about doing anything _____ again.
5. In heaven, our bodies will not just be better, they will be _____.
6. When something bad happens in this life, sometimes we cry. In heaven there are no _____.
7. The best part of heaven is that we get to be with _____.

(Check your answers on page 60)

We look forward to life after death. Why?

Another reason is because God promises us endless life. During our life on earth we measure everything by time. We count our days by hours. We count our weeks by days. We count our months by weeks. We count our years by months.

Although the Bible teaches that life in heaven lasts forever, all of us wonder, “Just how long is forever?” To a person in prison, maybe a “long” time is the months or years he or she is going to be locked up. A “long” time to a mother

having a baby might be a few hours of pain. A “long” time to a little child might be one hour if he has nothing to do!

But God looks at time differently. Peter tells us, “With the Lord a day is like a thousand years. And a thousand years are like a day” (2 Peter 3:8). In other words, God does not measure everything by hours and days and weeks. He is outside of time. So we cannot put a time value on the word “forever.”

But one thing we do know. However long our life on earth may be, it is nothing compared to how long life after death in heaven lasts! It will be perfect and it will never end!

8. During this life we measure many things by _____.
9. God does not measure days and _____.
10. Heaven lasts _____.

(Check your answers on page 60)

Chapter Summary

It is hard to think that there would be people who do not want to live after they die.

Everyone should want that. But some people think that “life after death” only means more of the same things they suffered during their difficult life on earth.

Listen to what God says! Life after death is not a never-ending repeat of this life! Life in heaven will be better than anything we can imagine. Think of all the bad things we have in this life. Remove them. Think of all the aches and pains you have in your body. Take them away. Think of how far away from God you feel sometimes. Picture him right next to you. Heaven will be like that, and we will be filled with joy!

This life on earth definitely has an end. But life in heaven after death has no end. It lasts forever.

Answers to questions within Chapter Five:

1. great; 2. forever; 3. bad; 4. wrong; 5. perfect; 6. tears;
7. God; 8. time; 9. weeks; 10. forever.

Chapter Five Test

1. Your life right now might not be all that _____.
2. Will all the _____ things of this life last forever?
3. In heaven we never have to worry about doing anything _____ again.
4. In heaven, our bodies will not only be better, they will be _____.
5. When something bad happens in this life, sometimes we cry. In heaven there are no _____.
6. The best part of heaven is that we get to be with _____.
7. God does not measure days and _____.
8. Heaven lasts _____.

(Check your answers on page 67)



Glossary

(A list of words you may not know)

amazing - wonderful and surprising

annihilation - complete destruction

blink(ing) - to shut the eyes and quickly open them again

chance - good luck; an opportunity

coffin - a box used to bury a dead person

confidence - certain or sure about something

criminal - a person who breaks the law

cycle - circle

decays - to become bad or rotten

dedicated - wanting to finish or complete a task

defend(ing) - speaking good about someone

definitely - clearly; certainly

destination - a place to which a person goes; the end of a journey

erase - to take away

eternal - lasting forever and ever

exist(ing) - to be real; to be living

explorer(s) - a person who travels in or to a place
in order to learn about it

gorgeous - very beautiful; splendid or very good

hero - a person remembered for being brave or
good

imagine - to form a mental picture or idea

limited - small in amount or lack of strength

mansion - a large, beautiful house-

mistake - an error; a wrong judgment or idea

motto - a short statement to guide our actions

nap - a short sleep

paradise - heaven

permanent - lasting forever

repeat - to do something again and again

rescue(d) - to save

ruined - destroyed

scientist - a person who studies things in nature

similar - almost the same

struggle(s) - to put forth a great effort; to work
hard

stuff - things; goods or possessions

tragic - very terrible

vault - a box or room to bury the dead

visible - something we can see

will - the written wishes of a person about how his
or her property is to be shared after the
death of that person

wonder(ed) - to question or be uncertain about
something



Answers to the Chapter Tests

Chapter Test One (Page 12)

1. life; 2. themselves; 3. have; 4. meaning; 5. real;
6. depressed (or sad); 7. Adam/Eve; 8. perfect.

Chapter Test Two (Page 22)

1. die; 2. dead; 3. dead; 4. bad; 5. death; 6. judge;
7. real; 8. hope.

Chapter Test Three (Page 33)

1. body/soul; 2. matter; 3. eternal; 4. soul; 5. forever;
6. judged; 7. wrong; 8. Heaven; 9. perfect.

Chapter Test Four (Page 48)

1. good; 2. perfect; 3. Jesus; 4. wrong; 5. death;
6. Jesus; 7. hidden; 8. faith; 9. believed.

Chapter Test Five (Page 61)

1. great; 2. bad; 3. wrong; 4. perfect; 5. tears;
6. God; 7. weeks; 8. forever.



Final Test

Congratulations! You have completed your study of how you can have a long, perfect life in heaven after you die. Go back through the book and review the chapter tests, especially the questions on which you made a mistake. Also review the goals from each chapter. When you are sure you are ready, take the Final Test.

Complete the Final Test without looking at the book. When you are finished, give the test to the person who gave you this book or mail it to the address on the back cover of this book. You may also ask for more Bible study books in this series.

If you are ready, remove the test from the book and put the book away. Take the test without opening the book.



Life After Death ***Final Test***

Fill in the blank.

1. Many people think _____ is only about getting more and more things.
2. Some people become very _____ because they believe their life has no meaning.
3. God gives life its _____.
4. Romeo and Juliet were willing to _____ because they loved each other.
5. Sometimes we begin to think death is not all that _____.
6. Jesus makes it very clear that hell is a place of _____ punishment for body and soul.
7. Any idea of life after death that is not God's idea is _____.
8. The best part of heaven is that we get to be with _____.
9. God tells us that to earn life after death we have to be _____.
10. _____ was perfect in our place.
11. The gift of life after death is not _____.

True or False.

1. ____ The purpose of life is to make myself happy.
2. ____ Life has no meaning at all.
3. ____ When God created the world he put man in charge.
4. ____ As soon as Adam and Eve sinned they thought of God as their loving Father.
5. ____ If a non-Christian's soul ceases to exist when he dies, it does not matter how he lives.
6. ____ The Bible says that when a man dies his soul is judged.
7. ____ The earth is the true and permanent home of any Christian.
8. ____ In heaven we never have to worry about doing anything wrong again.
9. ____ Heaven only lasts for one thousand years.
10. ____ Instead of punishing us, God punished Jesus.

Multiple Choice: Pick the best answer.

1. ____ Jesus says that “life” is not all about
 - a. fun.
 - b. how much a person has.
 - c. serving God.
 - d. paying your dues.

2. ____ When God created people, the relationship between God and people was
 - a. ruined.
 - b. shaky.
 - c. perfect.
 - d. somewhat good.

3. ____ God did not create
 - a. death.
 - b. man.
 - c. the world.
 - d. animals.

4. ____ In many ways, ____ takes away hope.
 - a. God
 - b. Jesus
 - c. death
 - d. life

5. ____ To believe that our soul ceases to exist after we die is to believe in
 - a. reincarnation.
 - b. Jesus.
 - c. existentialism.
 - d. annihilation.

6. ____ Reincarnation teaches that when someone dies, his ____ comes back in another physical body.
- a. mind
 - b. soul
 - c. brain
 - d. goodness
7. ____ In God's plan, there is ____ life after death.
- a. sometimes
 - b. never
 - c. perfect
 - d. often
8. ____ In heaven, our bodies will not only be better, they will be ____.
- a. perfect
 - b. improved
 - c. like ghosts
 - d. weightless
9. ____ Most people believe they will get life after death because of ____ things they do.
- a. more
 - b. some
 - c. good
 - d. many

10. ____ The punishment we deserve for breaking God's law is ____.
- a. life in prison
 - b. death in hell
 - c. unhappiness
 - d. a slap on the wrist
11. ____ The gift of life after death is given to us through ____.
- a. works
 - b. earning it
 - c. paying for it
 - d. faith in Jesus our Savior

***For additional information
or to order more courses write to:***

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