

A. What the Bible claims to be:

1. Psalm 119:89-96, the abundance and endurance of God's written word.  
How long does God's word last? (89)  
How reliable is God's word? (89)  
How faithful is God? (90)  
What is a sign of how faithful God is? (90)  
What can God's law do for a person? (92)  
What can God's precepts or principles do for a person? (93)  
What is a person hoping for when they look for God's precepts? (94)  
Compared to anything else man sees, how good are God's commands? (96)
2. Matthew 5:17-18, what Jesus believed about the Old Testament of the Bible.  
How long did Jesus predict the Old Testament would last and remain accurate?
3. Luke 21:33, what Jesus claimed about his own word and teachings.  
How long did Jesus say his own word would last and be accurate?
4. 2nd Peter 1:12-21, Peter's description of the purpose of God's written word.  
When Peter said he would soon "put aside" the "tent of this body," what do you think he meant?  
Even though he would soon die, what did he want to make sure Christians could do? (15)  
How could Peter always remind us of the truth if he died?  
What evidence did Peter offer to support the truth of his testimony about Jesus? (16)  
What did Peter teach about the Old Testament writings? (19)  
Who did Peter say is the true author of the Bible? (21)
5. Galatians 1:6-12, Paul's teaching about the finishing of what was revealed.  
How many real gospels are there?  
Where does the real gospel come from?  
What if there seems to be some other revelation, even from an angel?

The verses we have just considered strongly assert that the Bible is God's written word. It came to men from the Holy Spirit in an accurate and useful form, and they wrote it down accurately as it was revealed to them. It has also been accurately preserved and passed on to other generations and cannot be supplemented or replaced by natural or supernatural means. The Bible is a permanent and unchangeable record of God's actions and will. Efforts to alter it, supplement it, replace it, ignore it, or disobey it are condemned, even though the source of such efforts be someone who seems good or was formerly godly, or appears to be supernatural. God invites us to know Him through His own word, revealed and preserved by the Holy Spirit.

## B. What the Bible Teaches About God:

1. Genesis 1:1-2:3, God created everything.
  - What all did God create?
  - According to these verses, how long did it take God to create everything?
  - What was the last thing created by God?
  - What is special or different about this last creation?
  - What all did God give man? (28, 29)
  - What was the condition of the entire creation when God was finished?
  
2. Genesis 2:4-25, a more detailed account of the creation of mankind.
  - What was one difference between the newly created earth and the earth we know today? (5)
  - What elements did God combine to make man? (7)
  - What do these combined elements tell us about human nature?
  - How many humans did God create from the dust?
  - Where did man first live? (15)
  - What jobs did God give man to do? (15, 19)
  - What one thing did God forbid? (17)
  - How many ways were there that man might have disobeyed his creator's instructions?
  - What was not good about the man's situation? (18)
  - What did God do to make it good? (21-22)
  - What day of creative work would this have been? (recall 1:31)
  - How did the man feel about the woman God had made?
  - What did that first pair of human beings symbolize for all future generations of human beings? (24)
  - Why should God be able to tell human beings what to do?
  - Why should human beings listen to God?
  
3. Isaiah 45:18-25, the fact that God made us demands that we obey Him.
  - Who is talking? (18)
  - What all did God make?
  - Why did God form the earth?
  - Who else is there like God?
  - What else has God done besides make everything? (19)
  - Does everyone who is religious serve the real God who created all things and reveals Himself? (20)
  - What else does God call himself besides a creator? (21)
  - What does God offer mankind? (22)
  - What will everyone do sometime? (23)
  - When do you think this will happen?
  - What will happen to those who have been against God at that time? (24)
  - What will happen to the descendants of Israel at that time (25)
  - Who are the descendants of Israel? (see Galatians 6:14-16)
  - Then who will enjoy being with God when the time comes?

God has been pictured in the scriptures we've read as the one and only creator of everything, and the one and only God. He is shown to be lovingly interested in each of the people He has made, and a revealing God who has made both Himself and His plan known to human beings. He made all things good, and offers to redeem or save people from the consequences of their disobedience to Him. As creator He made all things good, and as redeemer He offers a new beginning to whoever will listen to Him and agree with His will.

However, as a righteous God His is also just, and will judge those who refuse His authority as their creator and His generosity as their redeemer. In listening to God and obeying His word, we find joyful life forever. In refusing His authority and generosity we find a fearful prospect of judgment and condemnation, forever. We must obey God, the all-wise creator, the loving redeemer, the righteous judge.

### C. What the Bible teaches about sin:

1. Genesis 3:1-24, the first human sin.
  - Who is the tempter mentioned here? (see also Revelation 20:2)
  - Which human disobeyed God or sinned first?
  - After both people had eaten the fruit that was forbidden, what change occurred in them?
  - Who was concerned about the change in human behavior?
  - Who was blamed for the sin?
  - Who received punishment for the sin?
  - Who all was affected by the sin and curse?
  
2. Genesis 4:1-15, more human sins:
  - What were the names of the sons of Adam mentioned here?
  - Which of Adam's sons committed a terrible sin?
  - Which of Adam's sons was the first human we know of to physically die because of sin?
  - Why did Cain kill his brother?
  - How did God react to Cain's wickedness?
  - Who was punished for Cain's sin?
  - Who all suffered because of Cain's sin?
  - What became of Cain?
  - Sin put a barrier between Cain and \_\_\_\_\_.
  
3. Genesis 6:1-22, evil thoughts and actions everywhere.
  - How much sin was there in those days? (5)
  - When we consider the progress of sin in these chapters of Genesis, what do we learn?
  - Who was the exception to the sin filled condition of the human race? (9)
  - What did God decide to do to reduce the effect of sin in the world?
  
4. Genesis 8:15-9:19, God gave man a fresh start.
  - Who and what survived the flood God had sent?
  - How did these survive?
  - What did God promise Noah about the future of the world?
  - When will God again destroy the world with water?
  - What is the sign of God's covenant with Noah?
  - Do you think this new beginning with only eight people in the whole world would solve the problem of sin? Why?
  
5. Romans 3:9-24, we are still sinners.
  - According to these verses, where does human misery and trouble come from?
  - What is the purpose of law? (19)
  - Can we be justified before God by being good or righteous according to any list of rules or code of laws? (20) Why?
  - What is God's answer to the problem of sin? (22-24)
  - Who needs God's answer for sin?

6. Colossians 2:9-15, a new life free from the guilt of sin.
  - What do Christians get rid of, in Jesus? (11)
  - When does Jesus cut off (circumcise) our dead sinful life? (11-12)
  - What does baptism accomplish? (12)
  - What must we have for baptism to do what God wants it to do? (12)
  - If in baptism we are buried with Jesus and then raised with him, what do we come out of baptism with and without? (12-13)
  - Where is victory or triumph over sin and all troubles found? (14-15)

In the scriptures we've looked at we've seen that all men are guilty of sin, they choose to do things they know to be wrong. All trouble and human suffering is a result of sinful behavior, and as long as there is sin there will be suffering. God did not create a world of suffering, but man contaminated the good creation of God by rejecting His loving instruction and brought death and suffering into the world. In spite of man's continual rejection of His help and instruction, God has provided a way of overcoming sin through His own son's sacrificial death on the cross. We can have this answer for our own sins and guilt, not by some difficult and complicated process, but by responding in faith to God's command and Jesus' example of burial and resurrection through baptism and into new life.

D. God the creator's plan to save from sin preceded His creative work, has succeeded thus far, and will succeed.

1. Ephesians 1:3-6, God prepared to bless us in Christ.
  - Who is the source of blessing?
  - When did God choose the kind of children He would have? (4)
  - How do we become God's children? (5)
  - What does God receive as a result of our adoption through grace? (6)
2. 1 Corinthians 2:6-10, the revealing of the wisdom of God.
  - When did God ordain or design the pattern of our glorification? (7)
  - Who failed to understand God's wisdom and what did they do? (8)
  - What do you think people do today when they do not understand the wisdom of God?
  - Who has God prepared this for? (9)
  - How has His wisdom finally been revealed? (10)
  - How does the Spirit make God's wisdom known to us? (remember 2 Peter 1:21)
3. 2 Timothy 1:9-10, the grace of God given in Christ.
  - Who saves and calls us?
  - Why does He call us?
  - How has He given us grace?
  - When was His grace given?
  - Who can bring us life through this grace?
  - Do you want to enjoy the benefits of God's grace in your life?
  - How can we enjoy the benefits of God's grace?
4. Hebrews 1:1-3, the New and Old Testaments form one plan and message in Jesus Christ.
  - In past times, how did God speak to men?
  - How has God finally spoken?
  - What message is apparently most important, the message through the

prophets or the message by the Son? Why?  
 What days are these? (2)  
 Who is the Son whom God has spoken through?  
 What was the Son doing when God created everything?  
 Describe the power of the Son of God. (3)  
 Where is the Son of God now? (3) Then what is he doing?  
 What did Jesus do before going to the right hand of God to rule?  
 Who should we listen to and obey today above all others?

5. Romans 5:6, the perfect time.  
 When did Jesus die?  
 Who did Jesus die for?  
 What would our condition be away from Christ?

The scriptures we have looked at have shown that God always had the plan revealed by His Son, Jesus, in mind, even when He began to create. There was no power of rebellion or lawlessness capable of preventing His success with His plan. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus went just as God planned for them to go, and accomplished just what He wanted to accomplish. Today, Jesus Christ reigns over His kingdom from the right hand of God and Christians enjoy citizenship in that kingdom, as God promised in bygone days through His prophets and affirmed in these last days through His Son.

## E. The unveiling of God's plan for man.

1. Hebrews 1:1-2, the New Testament claims a continuity with the Old Testament.  
 Review: In past times, how did God speak to men?  
 How has He now spoken to us?  
 In what order or sequence did the following events occur?  
 \_\_\_ God speaking to the fathers by prophets, \_\_\_ the coming of the Son, \_\_\_ the creation of the world.
2. Isaiah 9:6-7, one example of what God said through the prophets about His Son Jesus, hundreds of years before he was born.  
 Who do you suppose the child promised here would be?  
 What was to be upon the shoulder of the Son?  
 How large or widespread would his kingdom be?  
 What would accomplish the kingdom and government mentioned here?  
 How much injustice will be found in the Son's rule?  
 How long will the Son's kingdom last?
3. Matthew 1:18-25, how Jesus was born to fulfill prophecies and bring us salvation.  
 Who was the mother of Jesus?  
 Who was the real father of Jesus?  
 Who would seem to be the father of Jesus?  
 How did Joseph react when he found out Mary was pregnant?  
 Who appeared to Joseph and why?  
 What prophecy was fulfilled at this time?  
 What did Joseph do after seeing the angel?
4. Luke 2:52, how Jesus grew up.  
 According to Luke, as Jesus grew older, what happened?  
 Who all was impressed with the growing boy Jesus?

5. Hebrews 4:14-16, Jesus never "falls" in his growing up.  
 According to Hebrews, as Jesus grew older, how often did he sin?  
 How much was Jesus tempted to sin?  
 How many other people have ever grown up and lived their whole lives  
 without sinning when tempted?  
 Because Jesus was tempted, what can he do for us?  
 Because Jesus never sinned, what can he do for us?
  
6. 1 Peter 2:21-25, Jesus, though sinless, suffered a violent criminal's death.  
 Who did Christ suffer for?  
 Was Christ a sinner?  
 How did he respond to his sufferings?  
 Who is the righteous judge he committed himself to?  
 Whose sins did he carry on the cross?  
 In him we become dead to sins so we can  
 \_\_\_\_\_?  
 \_\_\_\_\_?
  
7. Acts 2:22-40, Jesus, the perfect man, the son of God, did not stay in the  
 grave.  
 Who was the apostle Peter speaking to? Who was he speaking about?  
 What did Peter accuse that crowd of doing? (23)  
 What did he claim God had done for Jesus? (24)  
 What evidence did Peter present to confirm his claim that Jesus had been  
 resurrected? verse 25                      verse 32                      verse 33  
 Where, according to Peter, is Jesus now? (33)  
 Whose throne has Jesus been placed on? (30)  
 Whose throne had Isaiah prophesied the son would sit on? (see E.2  
 above)  
 How did the people react to Peter's testimony? (37)  
 What did Peter command them to do? (38)  
 What did he promise them in return? (38)  
 What is your reaction to Peter's teachings?

The assertion of the New Testament writers and preachers is that Jesus came in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. His perfect sinless life was the perfect sacrificial remedy for our sins, and he is now the perfect king and priest ruling and shepherding his people from the right hand of God, fulfilling the promise of a new king on David's throne. Salvation for us is found in the simple instructions delivered by Peter on the basis of convincing evidence that Jesus died and rose to reign. Like his crucifiers, we need to be convinced of the glory and power of Jesus Christ, and on the basis of that belief turn from our past conduct toward obedience to him, acknowledging his name and being baptized, so that God can give forgiveness and a new life through His Spirit.

## F. God's eternal plan of salvation is still in effect and can save us too.

1. John 3:16-18, God desires a belief in His Son.  
 Why did God give His son?  
 How can we have everlasting life?  
 What is the other option besides belief in Jesus?
  
2. Acts 2:37-42, belief demands a response.  
 Did these people believe in Jesus?

What two things did Peter command them to do after they believed?  
Who was baptized?  
What did they do after their baptism?

3. Romans 6:1-6, baptism into Christ cleanses believers.  
What is sin? What is a sinner?  
Is the follower of Christ to be a sinner?  
If not, why not?  
Where does baptism put us?  
What is coming up out of the water like in Paul's illustration?  
How are people different after baptism?
4. 1 Corinthians 6:9-20, repentant, baptized believers have a new lifestyle.  
God will not have certain people in his kingdom, Who?  
What makes Christians different?  
What is the body for?  
Who lives in the Christian?  
Who does the Christian belong to, and why?
5. Matthew 28:16-20, final instructions Jesus gave his apostles.  
How did the disciples treat Jesus?  
How much power had Jesus received?  
What did he tell his disciples to do?  
What are the followers of Jesus to do or obey?  
How long will Jesus be with his followers?  
Whose teaching should we follow today?  
Where are these teachings found?
6. Ephesians 3:14-21, Paul's prayer for Christian growth.  
Who is this prayer directed to?  
Where does the strength Paul prayed for come from?  
What did Paul want Christians to comprehend?  
What can we be filled with?  
How much can God do for us?  
Where does He receive glory?  
By whom does the glory come?  
How important is it then that we recognize the church and participate with it?  
How long will glory come to God in this way, in the church and in Christ Jesus?

Paul was praying for you and I as well as the people in Ephesus. It was his desire, as it is ours, that all people would come to Christ, believe in him, repent of their sinful life, be baptized into him and come up out of the water as a new person; live for Jesus instead of self; and join with the church in bringing glory to God through his perfect son Jesus.

Have you responded to Jesus? Have you followed the pattern Jesus showed his disciples? If not, when will you do so? Believe in Jesus and confess his name. Turn from your former life with its sin and guilt and be baptized into Jesus so that your sins can be taken away and you can begin a new life of obedience to God the Father in His son, Jesus Christ. We will assist you now, or anytime, because we believe that as God has said, there will be a time when every knee will bow to Him. Let this be the time for you!