



Christianity 101

What Is Christianity?
What Do Christians Believe?

Presentation by:

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Christianity 101

Introduction

Goal of Seminar
Closed-Hand / Open-Hand Teachings

"I believe in Christianity and I believe that the Sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

- C.S. Lewis

"Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee."

- Augustine

"The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."

- W.S.C. #1

- I. Basic introduction to the core beliefs of the historic Christian faith
- II. Goal - To give you a solid foundation regarding the essential teachings of the Christian faith. (Joshua 1:8; 2 Timothy 2:15; Titus 2:1)
- III. Through this Seminar you will learn the basics of the Christian faith, including what we believe regarding God, the Bible, Creation, Fall (Sin), Promise of Salvation, the Incarnation of Christ, the Crucifixion of Christ, the Resurrection of Christ, the Nature of the Church, Christian living, the Consummation (Return of Christ)
- IV. Closed- / Open-Hand Teachings
 - A. Closed-Hand Teachings (primary, foundational, no compromise)
 - 1. Inspiration of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:15-16)
 - 2. The Triune Nature of God
 - 3. God-Created Universe
 - 4. Fall of Mankind into Sin
 - 5. The Virgin Birth of Christ
 - 6. The Deity of Christ
 - 7. The Substitutionary Atonement
 - 8. Salvation by Grace Alone, through Faith Alone, in Christ Alone
 - 9. The Death and Physical (bodily) Resurrection of Christ
 - 10. Miracles
 - 11. Reality of Hell
 - 12. Return of Christ

The denial of any one of these is a denial of the historic Christian faith.

- V. Open-Hand Teachings
 - A. Very important, but secondary in nature
 - B. We may disagree -- we may discuss and defend our position(s) -- but we should not divide over issues such as:
 - 1. Days of Creation (24-hr vs. Long Day)
 - 2. Predestination (Calvinism vs. Arminianism)
 - 3. Baptism (Infant vs. Professing Believer)
 - 4. Modes of Baptism (Sprinkle vs. Immersion)
 - 5. Lord's Supper (Memorial vs. Spiritual)
 - 6. Charismatic Gifts (Cease vs. Continue)
 - 7. Eschatology (Pre-, Post-, A-mill)
 - 8. Church Govt. (Presbyterian, Baptist, etc.)

If you close your hand over any one of these issues, division will occur.

Christianity 101

God

What the Bible Teaches about God
What the Bible Teaches about the Trinity

"It is evident, by both Scripture and reason, that God is infinitely, eternally, unchangeably, and independently glorious and happy; that He cannot be profited by, or receive anything from, the creature."

- Jonathan Edwards

"God has no needs that I could ever be required to satisfy. God has no deficiencies that I might be required to supply. He is complete in Himself. He is overflowing with happiness in the fellowship of the Trinity."

- John Piper

"We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade, the presence of God."

- C.S. Lewis

I. What the Bible teaches about God

A. God is Spirit - non-material personal being

1. John 4:24
2. John 1:18
3. Colossians 1:15
4. 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:16
5. Anthropomorphism - the conception of God as having human characteristics or existing in human form (i.e. Exodus 7:5; Numbers 6:24; Psalm 34:15)

B. The Attributes of God - part of God's nature and essence

1. "Those distinguishing characteristics of divine which are inseparable from the idea of God and which constitute the basis and ground for His various manifestations to His creatures."

C. Incommunicable Attributes of God (distinct to God alone)

1. Eternal/Self-existence

- a) God does not have a beginning or a cause - He exists in and of Himself.
- b) God has the ground of existence in Himself; does not depend on anything outside Himself.
- c) He exists eternally and endlessly; He is free from all succession of time.
- d) His self-existence is expressed in His name -- "I AM"
 - (1) Exodus 3:14 - verb - imperfect - continuous unfinished action; i.e. "The One who Always Is."
 - (2) There is no other; He alone gives life (Isaiah 45:5-7; Acts 17:28; John 14:6)
 - (3) He alone is Savior (Isaiah 43:10-11; 2 Peter 1:1)
 - (4) Psalm 145:3
 - (5) Jeremiah 23:24
 - (6) Psalm 90:2
 - (7) Genesis 21:33

2. God is Immutable - He does not change. He is not capable or subject to change -- never becomes greater or lesser -- develops or improves -- evolves or gets older.

- a) "It's the perfection of God by which He is devoid of all change, not only in His Being, but also in His perfections, purposes, promises..."
~ Louis Berkoff

- (1) Psalm 102:26-27
- (2) Malachi 3:6
- (3) James 1:17
- (4) 1 Samuel. 15:29
- (5) Hebrews 6:17-19

3. God is Omniscient (all-knowing)

- a) "God knows all things actual and possible, past, present, future."
~ Moody Handbook

- b) He is never taken by surprise or caught off-guard, confounded, confused
 - (1) Psalm 139:1-6
 - (2) Isaiah 46:9-10
 - (3) Psalm 147:4-5
 - (4) Matthew 16:21
 - (5) John 4:29
 - 4. God is Omnipresent (everywhere present at all times)
 - a) Not "in" everything (pantheism)
 - b) Genesis 16:13-14; Psalm 139:7-12; Jeremiah 23:23-24
 - 5. God is Omnipotent (all powerful)
 - a) God is able to accomplish anything He designs or desires, and it will not be contrary to His nature
 - (1) Psalm 139:13-16
 - (2) Genesis 17:1
 - (3) Psalm 115:3
- D. Communicable Attributes - (perfectly in God-imperfect / limited in us)
 - 1. Holiness
 - a) Isaiah 6:3
 - b) Revelation 4:8
 - c) "God is absolutely distinct from all His creation, creatures and is exalted above them in infinite majesty. Also, He is free from all moral impurity or sin..." ~ Berkoff
 - 2. Truthfulness
 - a) "He is absolutely dependable, without falseness of any kind. God's plan, principles and promises are completely reliable, accurate, real, and factual." ~ Keathly
 - (1) He is the true God - Isaiah 46:9; Psalm 96:4-5
 - (2) Communicates everything truthfully -- Psalm 119:160; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 2:15
 - 3. Love -- Mercy -- Goodness -- Sovereignty, etc...

II. What the Bible teaches about the Trinity

- A. One of the most fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith; without the Trinity there is no Christianity.
- B. The word "Trinity" is not in the Bible, yet it is clearly revealed in the Bible.
- C. Definitions of the Trinity:
 - 1. One God in three persons.
 - 2. One God in three persons, each being Deity, not inferior to one another.
 - 3. God in essence or nature is one, yet existing in three distinct persons, co-equal in nature, power, and glory.
- D. The Trinity in Scripture
 - 1. Oneness of the Trinity (God is one)
 - a) Deuteronomy 6:4
 - b) 1 Timothy 1:17
 - c) 1 Corinthians 8:6
 - d) Isaiah 43:10-11
 - 2. Distinct Persons (3)
 - a) Genesis 1:26 (plurality)
 - b) Matthew 28:19

3. Divine titles

- a) Exodus 20:2
- b) John 20:28
- c) Acts 5:3-4

4. Trinitarian Passages

- a) Ephesians 1:3,5,13,14
- b) Titus 3:4-6
- c) Hebrews 9:14
- d) Matthew 3:16-17
- e) Acts 20:28
- f) Matthew 28:19

E. Trinity sharing / participating in the same works...

1. Creation

- a) Isaiah 64:8; 44:24
- b) John 1:3; Colossians 1:15-17
- c) Genesis 1:2; Genesis 1:26; Job 33:4

2. Salvation (is of God)

- a) Ephesians 1:1-11

Christianity 101

The Bible

Bible Basics

The Bible as Revelation

The Inspiration of Scripture

Can We Trust the Bible?

"The more you read the Bible, the more you meditate on it, the more you will be astonished by it."

- Charles Spurgeon

"Let us yield ourselves to the authority of the Holy Scriptures, which can neither err or deceive."

- Augustine

"We must allow the word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency and to overthrow our patterns of thought and behavior."

- John R. Stott

I. Bible Basics

- A. The Bible contains 66 different books written over ~1,600 years. (1500 B.C. - 100 A.D.) by more than 40 authors and on three different continents.
 - 1. The Old Testament has 39 books; the New Testament has 27 books.
 - 2. The Old Testament was written mostly in Hebrew, some Aramaic. The New Testament was written in Greek.
- B. Who wrote the Bible?
 - 1. God's word, written by men
 - 2. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - 3. 2 Peter 1:20-21

II. The Bible as Revelation

A. Theological Meaning

- 1. "A disclosure from God [source] to man [recipient] of that which would otherwise not be known [content] of God's person, purpose and works [specifics] in acts and / or words [means & methods]."

B. Types of Revelations

1. General (Natural)

- a) Available to all people at all times
- b) Creation (Physical Universe)
 - (1) Psalm 19:1-4
 - (2) Romans 1:19-20
 - (3) Genesis 1
 - (4) Psalm 148
 - (5) Teaches us of God's existence, power, order, goodness (Acts 14:16-17)
 - (6) Creation contains enough truth to hold man accountable to God. (Romans 1:20-21)
 - (7) It does not provide enough truth to result in spiritual salvation.

c) The Conscience of Man

- (1) Romans 2:14-15
- (2) 2 Corinthians 4:1-2

d) God's Providence

- (1) Matthew 5:45
- (2) Matthew 10:29-30
- (3) Acts 14:15-17

2. Special (Divine) Revelation

- a) The way in which God makes Himself and His truth known at specific times and to specific people.
- b) The Scriptures
 - (1) Reveal God's plan of Redemption
 - (2) Teaches us specifically about God - Sin, Salvation, etc.
 - (3) Teaches us how we ought to live our lives in light of salvation

III. The Inspiration of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16)

- A. It is a work of the Holy Spirit in guiding human authors to compose and record God's message without error in the writings of the original documents. (Autographs)

B. Verbal Plenary Inspiration

1. Verbal - The Bible in its original composition (autographs), is an exact record of the mind and will of God.
2. Plenary - All of Scripture, not just certain portions, is the Word of God.
3. Inspiration - (2 Timothy 3:16)
 - a) The Holy Spirit moved through the writers in such a way that they wrote exactly what He intended them to write, even as their individuality, personality, and writing styles was not changed.

C. The Process (how God did it)

1. Guidance of the Holy Spirit
 - a) Acts 1:16; 4:25
 - b) John 14:26; 16:3
2. 2 Peter 1:21 - The Holy Spirit "carried" them along, which guaranteed both their revelatory character (spoken from God) and also insured their infallible trustworthiness.

D. The Writers of Scripture . . .

1. Were not passive instruments (trance)
2. Were not like a blank recorder
3. The Holy Spirit used their personalities, writing styles, backgrounds, etc.

IV. Can We Trust the Bible?

A. WLC #4 - How does it appear that the Scriptures are the Word of God?

1. "The Scriptures manifest themselves to be the Word of God, by their majesty and purity; by the consent of all the parts, and the scope of the whole, which is to give all glory to God; by their light and power to convince and convert sinners, to comfort and build up believers unto salvation; but the Spirit of God bearing witness by and with the Scriptures in the heart of man, is alone able to fully persuade it that they are the very Word of God."

B. Detailed Archaeological Evidence

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Story of Redemption

Creation

The Fall

Redemption

Consummation

The Story Begins (Genesis 1-2)

"If our lives are to be shaped by the story of Scripture, we need to understand two things well: the biblical story is a compelling unity on which we may depend, and each of us has a place within that story."

- C. Bartholomew

"When God set out to redeem his creation from sin and sin's effects on it, his ultimate purpose was that what he created good should be utterly restarted, that the whole cosmos should once again live and thrive under his beneficent rule."

- C. Bartholomew

- I. Everything that takes place from Genesis 3 to Revelation 22 is what is known as Redemptive History, which centers on the person and work of Jesus Christ.
 - A. Redemption - has to do with saving or being saved from sin; rescuing sinners from the consequence(s) of their sin, by making a payment (means of payment)
 - B. History - takes place in time; God's plan of redemption unfolds through the ages

II. Basic Biblical Structure of Redemptive History

A. Creation

- 1. God creates the world by the word of His power
- 2. God creates man in His own image
- 3. Everything was good, very good
- 4. Man was in perfect, unbroken fellowship with his creator

B. Fall

- 1. Mankind falls into sin
- 2. Results in broken fellowship with God; mankind is now under the curse of God and subject to His wrath
- 3. Driven out of the garden
- 4. We live in a sin cursed world, at enmity with God.

C. Redemption

- 1. Promise of a Savior (Genesis 3:15)
- 2. The O.T. is the story of how this promise comes to its fulfillment.
- 3. The promise finds its fulfillment in the person and work of Jesus Christ. (Galatians 4:4)
- 4. Jesus lives a perfectly sinless life...
- 5. Jesus dies on the cross, sinless substitute, atoning for sin -- He is buried
- 6. He rose from the dead on the third day.
- 7. He ascended to heaven.

D. Consummation

- 1. He will return to judge the living and the dead.
- 2. Sin will be put away forever.
- 3. New heaven and new earth
- 4. Eternity in His presence, uninterrupted, perfect fellowship

The Story Begins
Creation
Genesis 1-2

I. Chapter One

- A. God is assumed as already existing. (Psalm 90:2)
- B. Verses 1-5 introduce the creative work of God.
- C. The word "create" (*bara*) is a word in which God alone is the subject. He brings into existence that which formerly had no existence (no raw materials).
- D. Verse two is a commentary on verse one, not something in addition to it.
- E. The word used for God (*Elohim*) is the plural form (translated as singular) giving us a clue as to the nature of God. Hints to plurality of persons in the Godhead
- F. Introduced to the Spirit (v.2)
- G. Sequence of Evening and Morning, which is the Biblical order of the 24-hr period -- regular days (*Yom*)
- H. Beginning of General or Natural Revelation; built into creation, reflecting God's victory over darkness (John 1:1-5; 8:12; Revelation 22:5)
- I. "Great lights" - Sun, moon, stars are not created until day four. Significance?
- J. Lovingly preparing creation...
- K. Verse 26 introduces the crown of God's creation
- L. Plurality - "Let us" (not "me")

M. Image of God

- 1. Spirit/Soul (immaterial aspect)
- 2. Sense of eternity, self-awareness
- 3. Morality (right - wrong - justice, etc.)
- 4. Worship (Acknowledge - Revere - Serve)
- 5. Knowledge (Rationality - Conscience - Reason)
- 6. Complex Language (Write - Read)
- 7. Abstract thinking (Logic - Math)
- 8. Science (Medicine - Business)
- 9. Design (Build - Discover - Invent)
- 10. Appreciation for. . .
- 11. Arts (Music - Poetry) (genres)
- 12. Complex Emotions (joy, sorrow, love, hate, thankfulness, jealousy, etc.)
- 13. Dignity (honor - respect - regard)
- 14. Institutions: Marriage, Family, Government (Laws - Punishment, etc.)

N. Cultural Mandate (v. 28f)

- 1. Dominion
 - a) Given to mankind (image-bearers)
 - b) Rule on his behalf
 - c) Our attitudes/actions are based on His direction/Word
- 2. Dominion does not mean domination
 - a) We may not do whatever we please.
 - b) We are stewards called to care for creation and the responsible use of resources.
- 3. We do not give the creation higher honor than God.
 - a) Earth/Nature is not to be exalted (i.e. Mother Earth).
 - b) Mankind is not to be seen as "the problem"
(Reversal of God's intention).

O. Creation Ordinance - Sabbath (ch. 2:1-3)

1. Built into Creation for His glory and our good
2. Seventh Day - Concept for the "week" comes from Creation
(Year - Month - Day = Solar)
3. God rested from his work. Pattern and example for us
4. He made it holy (set apart) for worship / rest.
5. The Fourth Commandment (Exodus 20:8-11)
6. Symbolically - Picture of our entering into our rest. . . (Hebrews 4:3-11)
7. Each Sabbath is a reminder of God's goodness and our future hope.

II. Chapter Two

- A. Chapter one gives the order of creation. Chapter two places the emphasis on the relationship between Creator and Creature.
- B. Verse four - Introduces us to God in a more personal way.
- C. The word for "God" is His personal name - *Yahweh* or LORD (I AM).
- D. Verse seven - Details the creation of man
1. Formed from the dust of the ground
 2. Breath of God
- E. Verses 8-14 - Shows how God graciously provides for his needs
- F. Verse 9 - Introduced to two special Trees
1. Tree of Life
 2. Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil
 3. Sets up a choice Adam would have to make . . . Depend on God's revealed will or self-sufficiency
- G. Verse 15 - Creation Ordinance - Work
1. Reflects God's nature
 2. All honest work is good
 3. Provision for self, family, etc.
 4. Constructive, contributes to the well-being of the society
 5. The Bible speaks against laziness, slothfulness - unwillingness to work.
- H. Verses 16-17 - Covenant of Life
1. Command - Test of obedience
 2. Parties - God & Adam (Representing Mankind)
 3. Prohibition - The Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil
 4. Promise (Implied) - Continuing in unbroken fellowship with God
 5. Penalty - Death (Spiritually / Physically)
- I. Verses 18-25 - Creation Ordinance - Marriage
1. God perfectly meets Adam's need for companionship.
 2. Elaboration of 1:27 - He fashions the woman and presents (gives her away) to Adam.
 3. She completes him; they compliment each other.
 4. Marriage = One man, one woman (till death) -
 - a) Oneness in diversity - companionship
 - b) Unconditional love - mutual dependence
 - c) Procreation (consistent throughout scripture)
 5. Intimacy (marriage provides the context for sex)
 - a) Expression of oneness - love - devotion
 - b) Intended for pleasure/joy
 - c) Gives security, closeness (1 Corinthians 7:5)

6. God made woman from the body of the man and ordained from then on that man would be born of woman. (stresses mutual dependence - need)
7. God made woman from the "side" of the man, not from in front or from behind. (stresses equality)
8. God establishes the concept of Family
 - a) "Be fruitful and multiply"
 - b) Provides structure/order for Society
 - c) Generational Relationships
 - d) Provides for a lineage/legacy(1)Lineage that would lead to the Redeemer of His people

Con. - God lovingly prepared all that we would need to survive, thrive. He created man in His image, who had enjoyed unbroken fellowship with Him. . . . What went wrong??

Christianity 101

Satan

The Facts

The Testimony of Scripture

Names / Titles and Origins

Characteristics / Activity

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors . . ."

- C.S. Lewis

". . . Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

- 1 Peter 5:8

"Hell is the highest reward that the devil can offer you for being a servant of his."

- Billy Sunday

I. The Facts

- A. He is real, he is active
- B. Not equal powers struggling for supremacy
- C. Satan is a created being.
- D. He is under God's authority. (i.e. Job; Permission to "sift" Peter)

II. The Testimony of Scripture

A. Old Testament

- 1. Genesis 3
- 2. Cain - Murdered his own brother (John 8:44)
- 3. Genesis 4:23f - Lamech (two wives, murder)
- 4. Genesis 6:5 - Wickedness on earth
- 5. Job

B. New Testament

- 1. Jesus acknowledges his existence
 - a) Mark 4:ff
 - b) John 8:44
 - c) Luke 22:31-32
- 2. Paul acknowledges the reality of Satan's existence
 - a) Acts 26:18
 - b) 2 Corinthians 2:10-11
 - c) 2 Corinthians 12:7
- 3. Peter and John acknowledge the reality of Satan's existence
 - a) 1 Peter 5:8-9
 - b) 1 John 3:8

III. Names / Titles (Describe his nature)

- A. Satan = (Adversary) - one who resists; an opponent
- B. The Devil = False accuser; slanderer
- C. The Enemy
- D. The Father of lies
- E. god of this world
- F. prince of the power of the air
- G. The Tempter
- H. The Dragon

IV. Origins

- A. Created, not self-existent
- B. Isaiah 14:12-15
- C. Ezekiel 28:13-19

V. Characteristics / Activity

- A. 1 Peter 5:8-9 - "prowls like a roaring lion . . ."
- B. 1 John 3:8 - "has been sinning from the beginning"
- C. 2 Corinthians 11:4 - "disguises himself as an angel of light."
- D. Acts 5:3 - Filled the heart of Ananias
- E. Luke 22:31 - Entered into Judas
- F. 1 Corinthians 7:5 - Temptation towards infidelity, immorality
- G. See Further - 2 Timothy 2:24-26; John 8:42-45; Ephesians 6:10-12

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The Fall

Preliminary Observations
Verse by Verse Account of the Fall

"There is an old joke that went around - it goes, in the beginning God made man in his own image, and since the Fall, man has been seeking to return the compliment."

- Alistair Begg

". . . but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in that day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

- Genesis 2:17

Genesis 3:1-15

I. Preliminary Observations

- A. There is nothing inherently evil in the Serpent, it was used by Satan.
(cf. Revelation 12:9)
- B. Satan's intent is to disrupt, distort, and destroy the plan and purpose of God.

II. Verse by Verse Account of the Fall

A. V.1) Satan's Approach: (Crafty)

- 1. Challenges the Word of God
- 2. Approaches the Woman - (usurps God's order)
- 3. Subtle addition to God's Word (overstated, implies harshness)

B. V. 2-3) Eve engages him in conversation

- 1. Allowed for conflicting voices to come into her life
- 2. She adds to God's word. (reveals resentment towards God)
- 3. She sets aside the authority of God's word.

C. V. 4-5) Satan (The Liar) - essentially calls God (who cannot lie) a liar

- 1. Implication - God's withholding, not allowing her (them) to reach their fullest potential.
- 2. Fostering distrust, dissatisfaction and discontentedness towards God

D. V. 6) Three Categories of Temptation / Eating of the Fruit

- 1. "Saw that it was good . . ."
 - a) Believed that it would be helpful
 - b) This is what was needed in order to be fulfilled
- 2. "Delight to the eyes . . ."
 - a) It was attractive / inviting
 - b) Beauty stirs the emotions, draws you in
- 3. "Desired to make one wise . . ."
 - a) Pride
 - b) God's word was not enough
- 4. Eating of the fruit is the culmination of sin that first began in her heart when she determined to no longer be led by the word of God.
- 5. Her husband also ate of the fruit
 - a) Adam was with her the entire time.
 - b) He failed to take his rightful place of spiritual leadership.
(cf. 2 Timothy 2:11-15; 1 Corinthians 11:1-3)

E. V. 7-8) Sin drastically affected their outlook / behavior

(not gradual, but sudden)

- 1. Original innocence was gone (shame)
- 2. Sin brings guilt, shame, distance, discord
- 3. Fellowship with God has been altered; alienated from Him
- 4. The loincloths show their futile attempt to "cover" their sin.
- 5. Foolishness of sin is seen in their attempt to hide from God.

F. V. 9-10) The Goodness of God

- 1. By calling to them he demonstrates Grace / Goodness.
- 2. His question had to do with their spiritual condition and not their physical location.
- 3. God calling Adam indicates that he is ultimately responsible.
 - a) Romans 5:12
 - b) Satan approached the woman; God calls to the man.

G. V. 12-14) Failure to own their sin / Pronouncement of judgement

1. Adam indirectly blames God.
2. He blames his wife directly.
3. Eve is equally responsible, but she blames the serpent (not her husband).
4. Judgement pronounced regarding the Devil
 - a) Cursed in a visible way
 - b) Serpent, a visible reminder to man of the consequence of the curse of God. (i.e. Rainbow)

H. V. 15) Grace in the Midst of Judgement

1. Protoevangelion - First Gospel - The Promise of a Savior
2. Ultimately this promise pertains to Jesus Christ.
 - a) Isaiah 7:14
 - b) Matthew 1:18; 22-23
 - c) Galatians 4:4-5
3. At the Cross we see both, the wounded Christ and the "crushing" of Satan's head.
 - a) Jesus both, died on the cross and on the third day rose from the dead.
 - b) Reverse of the curse of Genesis 1:27
4. The rest of the Bible is the unfolding and blossoming of this promise contained in seed form.

Christianity 101

The Effects of Sin

Sinners by Nature
Sinners by Choice
Different Words Describing

"We are not sinners because we sin. We sin because we are sinners."

- R.C. Sproul

"We have a strange illusion that mere time cancels sin. But mere time does nothing either to the fact or guilt of sin."

- C.S. Lewis

"The recognition of sin is the beginning of Salvation."

- Martin Luther

I. We are Sinners by Nature and Choice

A. By Nature

1. Adam was our representative. (Romans 5:12)
2. We are born sinful, even conceived in sin. (Psalm 51:5; 58:3)
3. It is impossible for us to be without sin. (Job 14:4; 25:4)
4. Naturally inclined towards sin
5. Death is the evidence of our sinful nature.
 - a) The punishment for sin has always been death.
(Genesis. 2:17; Romans 6:23)
 - b) All people die. (Hebrews 9:27; Romans 5:12)

B. By Choice

1. Sins of Commission - Doing things that the Law forbids
 - a) Sexual sins
 - b) Lying
 - c) Stealing, etc.
2. Sins of Omission - Not doing what the Law requires
 - a) Not worshipping God sincerely
 - b) Not doing what we know is the right thing to do

C. Different Words used to Describe Sin (~ 24)

1. ra' (ra'a) - bad or broken
2. hamartia - Missing the mark; wander from the path
3. `avah - Crookedness, perversity, depravity - "to bend, twist, distort"
4. pesha' - Rebellion - Resistance to authority
5. parabaino - trespassing, transgression, to overstep; offending
6. ta`ah - to err, to go astray, to swerve
7. kakos - evil - intrinsic evil - wrong, wicked

Christianity 101

Salvation

The Old Testament

The New Testament

The Active & Passive Obedience of Christ

The Gospel

"Salvation comes through a cross and a crucified Christ."

- Andrew Murray

"Christ is a substitute for everything, but nothing is a substitute for Christ."

- Harry Ironside

"Is it not wonderful news to believe that salvation lies outside ourselves?"

- Martin Luther

I. The Old Testament

- A. Genesis 3:15
- B. Isaiah 53:1-7
- C. Psalm 22
- D. Types & Shadows

II. New Testament

- A. Matthew 1:21
- B. Luke 2:8-11
- C. John 3:16-17
- D. John 14:6

III. The Active and Passive Obedience of Christ (The work of Christ)

A. Active Obedience

- 1. Willingly leaving the glories of heaven and identify with man
 - a) Philippians 2:5-8
 - b) Hebrews 2:14
- 2. Living a perfect, sinless life (keeping the Law at every point)
 - a) Hebrews 4:15
 - b) Matthew 4:1-11

B. Passive Obedience

- 1. Willingly submitting himself as a sacrifice of atonement for sins
- 2. Propitiation for Sin

IV. The Gospel

- A. 1 Corinthians 15:1-3
- B. Romans 10:9-10

Christianity 101

Incarnation

What Does It Mean?

How Did People Know God was Coming?

How Did God the Son Come Into History?

Is Jesus Fully God and Fully Man?

Why is the Incarnation Essential?

"The Son of God became man to enable men to become sons of God."

- C.S. Lewis

"Even when he became what he was not, he remained what he was."

- H. Bavink

"The name Emmanuel takes in the whole mystery. Jesus is "God with us." He had a nature like our own in all things, sin only excepted. But though Jesus was "with us" in human flesh and blood, He was at the same time very God."

- J.C. Ryle

- I. What does 'incarnation' mean?
 - A. *Incarnatio* - 'enfleshment'
 - B. Refers to the doctrine that the pre-existent Son of God became a human being in the person of Jesus

- II. How did people know God was coming?
 - A. Genesis 3:15
 - B. Isaiah 7:14
 - C. Micah 5:2
 - D. Malachi 3:1

- III. How did God the Son come into history?
 - A. Philippians 2:5-7
 - B. Matthew 1:18ff

- IV. Is Jesus fully God and fully man?
 - A. YES - He is one person with two distinct natures.
 - B. 'Christ added to himself which he was not, he did not lose what he was.'
(Augustine)
 - C. Jesus is fully God
 - 1. Forgives sin (Mark 2:5-7)
 - 2. Received worship (Matthew 28:17; John 20:28)
 - 3. Creator (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2)
 - 4. Miracles (nature, disease, death, etc.)
 - 5. Claims (John 14:9-11)
 - D. Jesus is fully human
 - 1. Born and raised (Luke 2:40)
 - 2. Normal appearance (Isaiah 53:1-2)
 - 3. He ate, drank, got tired, slept, wept; felt pain, sorrow, temptation, joy, etc.

- V. Why is the Incarnation essential?
 - A. Clear teaching of scripture
 - B. If Jesus is not fully God AND fully man, we cannot trust the scriptures.
 - C. There could be no perfect sacrifice for sin - no forgiveness
 - 1. Titus 2:13-14
 - 2. John 8:58, 14:9
 - 3. Hebrews 1:1-3, 2:17-18, 4:15, 10:11-14

Christianity 101

Crucifixion

What is the Crucifixion?

How Did Jesus Die?

Why Did Jesus Die?

Penal Substitution Atonement

What Did Jesus' Death Accomplish (Benefits)?

"It was not the nails that held Jesus to that wretched cross; it was his unqualified resolution, out of love for his Father, to do his Father's will - and it was his love for sinners like me."

- D.A. Carson

"Before we can begin to see the cross as something done for us, we have to see it as something done by us."

- John Stott

"The cross is proof of both the immense love of God and the profound wickedness of sin."

- John MacArthur

I. What is Crucifixion?

- A. Extremely painful death by asphyxiation
- B. Description
- C. 'Most wretched of deaths' (Josephus)

II. How did Jesus die?

- A. Scourged (Isaiah 52:14)
- B. Crucified (Mark 15)
- C. He went to the cross willingly (Isaiah 53:7; 1 Peter 2:23)
(i.e., Jesus' words on the cross)

III. Why did Jesus die?

- A. Matthew 1:21
- B. Isaiah 53:5,12
- C. Romans 4:25
- D. Romans 5:8
- E. 1 Corinthians 15:3
- F. 1 Peter 2:24
- G. 1 Peter 3:18
- H. 1 John 2:2
- I. Galatians 3:13

IV. Penal Substitution Atonement

- A. Penal - penalty for sin (Genesis 2:16; Romans 3:23, 6:23)
 - 1. Jesus was punished for sins
 - 2. 2 Corinthians 5:21a
 - 3. 1 Peter 2:24
 - 4. John 19:30 - "It is finished"
- B. Substitution - Jesus went to the cross as our substitute.
 - 1. Isaiah 53:4-6
 - 2. Mark 10:45
 - 3. 1 Timothy 2:5-6
- C. Atonement - to make amends; to repair a wrong; to re-establish the original relationship between man and God by dealing with sin
 - 1. 1 John 4:10
 - 2. 1 Peter 3:18
 - 3. Romans 5:8-10

V. What did Jesus' death accomplish (benefits)?

* Brings us into a right (saving) relationship with God

- A. Justification - declared to be 'not guilty'
pardoned of all our sins; accepted as righteousness in His sight
 - 1. Romans 3:23-25
 - 2. Galatians 2:16
 - 3. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (Great Exchange)
- B. Adoption - received into His family
have right to all the privileges of the sons/daughters of God
 - 1. Galatians 4:4-7
 - 2. 1 John 3:1
 - 3. Romans 8:14-17

- C. Sanctification - being renewed after the image of God
enabled more and more to die to sin and live for righteousness
1. Ephesians 4:24
 2. Colossians 3:1-17
 3. Philippians 1:6
- D. Eternal Glory
1. Luke 23:43
 2. Matthew 25:34
 3. Revelation 21:4
 4. 1 Thessalonians 4:17

Christianity 101

Resurrection

Biblical Evidence of the Resurrection
Historical Evidence

"We understand and acknowledge that the Resurrection has placed a glorious crown upon all of Christ's sufferings."

- A.W. Tozer

"If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching, but whether or not he rose from the dead."

- Tim Keller

I. Biblical evidence for the Resurrection

A. Prophecy

1. Psalm 16:10 with Acts 2:25-27,31
2. Isaiah 53:10

B. Jesus' Predictions

1. Mark 8:31
2. Mark 9:30-31
3. Mark 10:33-34

C. Jesus Died on the Cross / Buried (all 4 gospels)

1. John 19:30
2. John 19:31-34
3. John 19:38-42

D. The Resurrection

1. Luke 24:1-7
2. Luke 24:13-15; 1 Corinthians 15:6
3. Luke 24:25-27, 44-47
4. Luke 24:36-43

E. Reaction Among the Disciples

1. Luke 24:10-11
2. Matthew 28:17
3. John 20:24-29

F. Disciples Transformed

1. Scattered - locked in Upper Room
2. Acts 5:29-31

G. Preached the Resurrection of Christ

1. Acts 2:22-24
2. Acts 17:2-3, 16-18, 29-32
3. 1 Corinthians 15:1-3

H. Importance of the Resurrection

1. Reverse of the Curse
 - a) Genesis 3:15
 - b) Isaiah 25:8-9
 - c) Revelation 21:3-4
2. Our Hope
 - a) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14
 - b) 1 Peter 1:3
3. Guarantee of Our Resurrection
 - a) 1 Corinthians 15:20-23
4. Second Coming
 - a) Revelation 1:7, 17-18

II. Historical Evidence

A. Josephus

B. Thomas Arnold (Oxford)

"No one fact in the history of mankind is proven by better and fuller evidence of every sort than this one - Christ died and rose from the dead."

Christianity 101

The Church

What is the Church?
When Did the Church Begin?
Marks of the Church
Dangers

"The Church is the one institution that exists for those outside of it."

- William Tyndale

"Wherever we find the word of God surely preached and heard, and the sacraments administered according to the institution of Christ, there, it is not to be doubted, is a church of God."

- John Calvin

"The glory of the gospel is that when the church is absolutely different from the world, she invariably attracts it."

- Martin Lloyd-Jones

I. What is the Church?

- A. Ekklesia - 'called out'
- B. People called by God, saved by/through Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit to live their lives in such a way that seeks to honor, obey, and glorify God in every way.

II. When did the Church begin?

A. Continuity between Old and New Testaments

- 1. Genesis 4:26
- 2. Acts 7:38
- 3. Psalm 89:5-7

B. New Testament

- 1. Jesus' ministry
 - a) Preaches the gospel
 - b) Call disciples
 - c) Teaches
 - d) Commands to make disciples
 - e) Promises to send the Holy Spirit to them
- 2. John 14:16-17, 26
- 3. John 16:7-15
- 4. Acts 1:8

C. Pentecost

- 1. Acts 2:1-13
- 2. Acts 10:34-35, 44-48
- 3. Ephesians 2:11-21

III. Marks of the Church

A. Acts 2:42-47

B. Centrality of the Word

- 1. Preaching - 2 Timothy 4:2-4
- 2. Teaching - 1 Timothy 4:13; Titus 2:1
- 3. Study - 2 Timothy 2:15; Psalm 119
- 4. Practice - Matthew 7:24; Joshua 1:8

C. God Centered Worship

- 1. Regulative Principle - If it is not commanded, it is forbidden
- 2. Normative Principle - If it is not forbidden, it is permitted

D. Regular Observance of the Sacraments

- 1. Lord's Supper
 - a) Matthew 26:17-29
 - b) 1 Corinthians 11:17-34
- 2. Baptism
 - a) Matthew 28:18-19
 - b) Acts 2:38

E. Discipline for Holiness

- 1. Matthew 18:15-17
- 2. 1 Corinthians 5:1-2 with 2 Corinthians 2:5-11

F. Qualified Leadership / Plurality of Leaders

- 1. Exodus 18:13-23
- 2. 1 Timothy 3:1-13
- 3. Titus 1:5-9
- 4. Acts 6:1-7

G. Fellowship of Believers

1. Meeting for worship (Hebrews 10:24)
2. Meeting for study (Acts 20:20)
3. Meeting for mutual encouragement ('one anothers')
4. Meeting physical needs (Mercy)
 - a) Romans 12:9-13
 - b) Galatians 6:9-10
 - c) Philippians 2:3-4
 - d) Acts 2:44-45, 4:34,35

H. Discipleship

1. Paul & Timothy
2. Titus 2:3-5

I. Practice of Prayer

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
2. Acts 4:23-31
3. Philippians 4:6-7
4. 'ACTS'

J. Evangelism

1. Matthew 28:18-20
2. Acts 8:4

IV. Dangers

- A. False Teachers - deny essential teachings; redefine terms
- B. 'Wolves' - undermine teachings; 'closing' the 'open' hand

Christianity 101

Return of Christ

Jesus Will Return (Physically)

He Will Judge the World

The New Heaven and Earth

"What will you see when the great event of Christ's return takes place? You will see the eternal Son of God return in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. He will come to raise the dead saints and to change the living ones, to punish the wicked and reward the godly."

- J.C. Ryle

"For this time it will be God without disguise; something so overwhelming that it will strike either irresistible love or irresistible horror into every creature. It will be too late then to choose your side."

- C.S. Lewis

I. Jesus Will Return (Physically)

A. It will be sudden . . .

1. Matthew 24:36-39, 44

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

B. All will see him . . .

1. Revelation 1:7-8

2. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

II. He Will Judge the World

A. Matthew 25:31-46

B. Revelation 20:1-15

III. The New Heaven and Earth

A. Revelation 21:1-4

B. Matthew 19:28-30