

Assembling Building Blocks of Truth

(Why are some questions difficult to answer?!?)

Question at the Feast Q&A Session ...

Paul says ... when he dies he would “be with Christ” ...

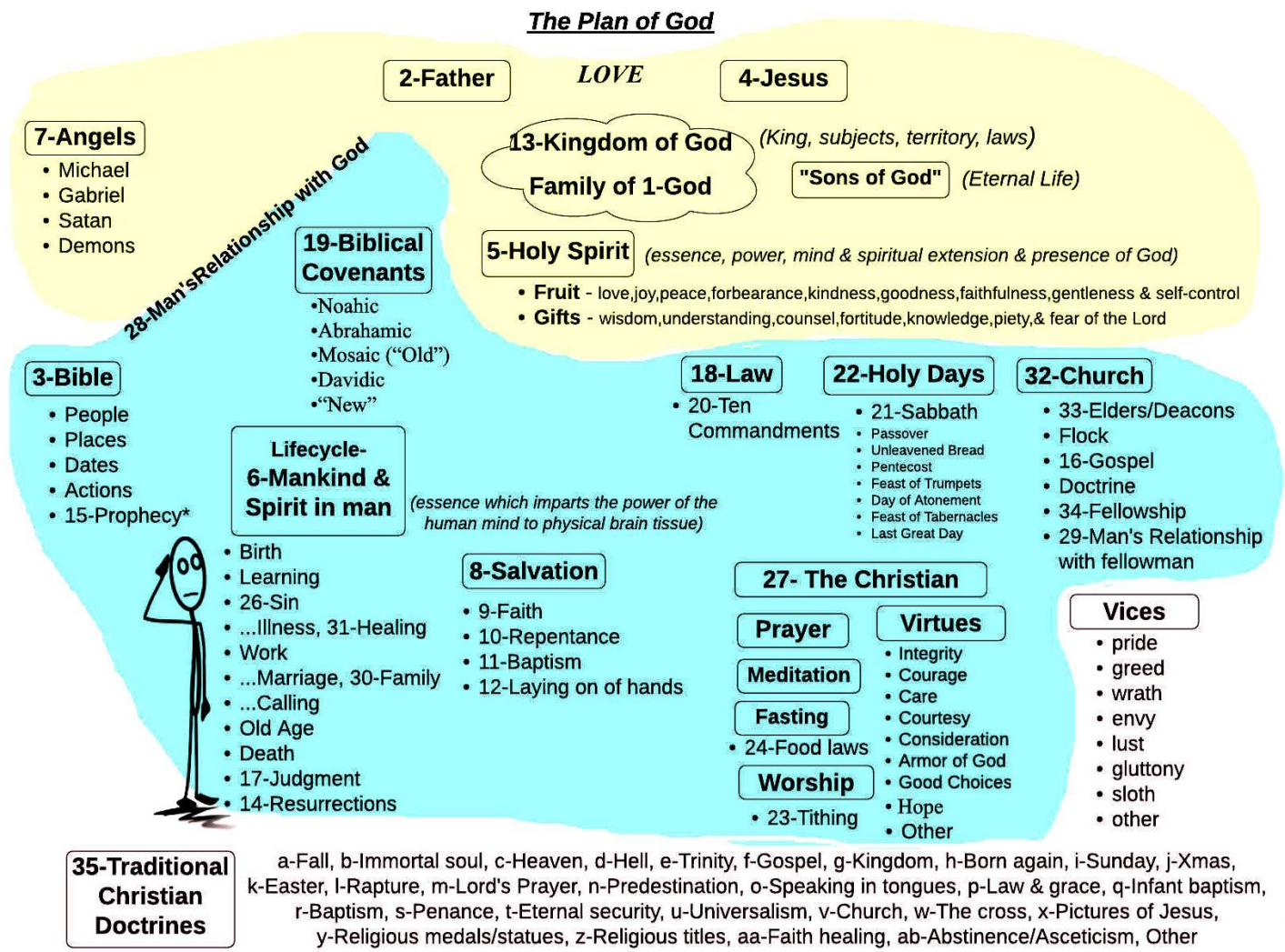
Php 1:21-24 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to **depart & be with Christ**, which is far better.

Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

So ... If people are “with God” already (when they die) ... Why does God need to find a physical body to resurrect them? (Are they not **already** with God!?!)

In today’s sermon we’ll explore this question to:

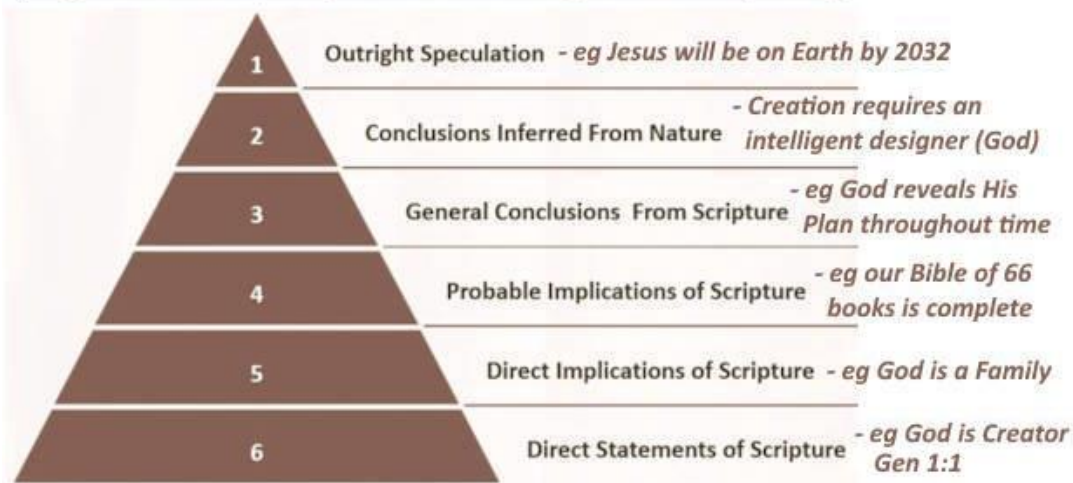
- use **Scripture & Reasoning** (Isaiah 1:27) to provide some answers ... AND ...
- to understand **things to consider** to successfully answer questions



Second Death - (Perishing)

Time: (Past - History - Creation, 25-Hebrew Calendar ... **Present** -(World events) ... **(Future** - 15-Prophecy*) ... **Eternity** ...)

Degrees of Authority for Establishing Doctrine (Truth)



7 Factors to consider when answering someone's question

1. Understanding the Question

Proverbs 18:13 He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly & shame to him.

- **Clarify intent:** What is the person *really* asking? (surface vs deeper question)
- **Context:** Why are they asking? What situation prompted it?
- **Scope:** Is it a general inquiry, a personal issue, or a factual question?
- **Ambiguity:** Are any terms or assumptions unclear and need clarification?

2. Audience Awareness

Proverbs 20:5 The purposes of a man's heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out.

- **Knowledge level:** How much do they already know about the topic?
- **Age, background, or culture:** Tailor language & examples accordingly.
- **Emotional state:** Are they curious, confused, upset, or skeptical?
- **Motivation:** Are they seeking understanding, reassurance, debate, or practical help?

3. Accuracy & Truthfulness

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

1 Peter 3:15 Always be ready to give a defense... for the hope that is in you.

- **Check facts:** Give reliable, evidence-based, or scripturally sound answers.
- **Avoid speculation:** Be honest when you don't know something.
- **Cite sources:** Reference authority when needed (e.g., Bible verses, studies, data).

4. Tone & Attitude

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

Proverbs 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

- **Respectful:** Avoid condescension or impatience.
- **Gentle & kind:** Especially if the question touches on sensitive issues.
- **Encouraging:** Help the asker feel safe to keep exploring or learning.
- **Patient:** Give them space to process or follow up.



5. Relevance & Clarity

Proverbs 25:11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver.

Proverbs 15:23 A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, & a word spoken in due season, how good it is!”

Proverbs 10:19 In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise

- **Stay on topic:** Don’t wander off into unrelated details.
- **Be concise:** Keep it focused but complete.
- **Structure clearly:** State the main answer first, then explain or support it.
- **Use examples or analogies:** To make complex ideas understandable.

6. Purpose & Outcome

1 Corinthians 3:2 I fed you with milk & not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it.

Matthew 22:15–22 The Pharisees asked, “Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” Jesus perceived their wickedness, & said, “Why do you test Me, you hypocrites?”

- **Do you want to inform, guide, persuade, or comfort?**
- **Consider impact:** How will this answer influence the listener’s thinking or feelings?
- **Follow-up:** Leave room for continued discussion or questions.

7. If the Question Is Spiritual or Moral (& not about auto repair)

Mark 10:17–22 – *The Rich Young Ruler* ... He asked, “Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” Jesus, looking at him, **loved him**, and said...

Luke 12:11–12 Now when they bring you to the synagogues & magistrates & authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the **Holy Spirit will teach you** in that very hour what you ought to say.

- **Discernment:** Ask God for wisdom (James 1:5).
- **Scriptural foundation:** Align the answer with biblical truth.
- **Spirit-led compassion:** Respond in **love & humility**, not pride or argument.



Breaking down the question ...

- to see what information is being asked for in a complex question!

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So ... If people are “with God” already (when they die) ... Why does God need to find a physical body to resurrect them? (Are they not **already** with God!?!)

Doctrines & Building blocks that may be needed to answer ...

- What is **man**?
 - Body, soul, spirit?
 - Spirit in man
- What is **life**?
 - Heartbeat? Brain activity?
- What is **death**?
 - Transition to another form of living?
 - No life, no brain activity, no awareness
- What does Paul mean “**be with Christ**”?
 - Go to heaven as a living conscious “**immortal soul**”?
 - Go to the grave & await “being **resurrected**”?
- Are people “**with God**” immediately after they die?
 - Yes? No?
- Does God **need** a body to resurrect someone?
 - Yes? No?

So ... Lets address some of these points/questions with answers ... and with the building blocks of Scripture, reasoning & facts to help establish the answers as correct!

Resurrection



Does God **need** a physical body to resurrect someone?

A) Jesus' physical body was resurrected to be a spirit body that could appear & disappear, walk through walls, eat fish & be touched

Mat 28:6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

B) The 1st resurrection is to eternal life (spirit body)

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

C) The 2nd resurrection is to life (a physical body) while people have a chance to know God & accept His opportunity for eternal life

Eze 37:3,5 And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know."

Eze 37:5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live."

D) Some bodies (made up of atoms) no longer exist ... they may have decayed over thousands of years or been vaporized by nuclear bombs ... cremated (with the ashes scattered) ... Is it **reasonable** that they are "lost" because **God never anticipated** this might happen?!?

E) Might it be ... that God keeps a record (recording) of our life (that returns to Him at our death) while our body returns to "dust"?

Ecc 12:7 Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.

Job 32:8 But there is a **spirit in man**, And the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding.

F) Okay Paul (& Jesus)... explain this "resurrection" thing!

1Co 15:35-58 But someone will say, "**How** are the dead raised up? And with **what body** do they come?"

Joh 3:4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Conclusion ... God does not **need** a physical body to accomplish a resurrection... It is a comforting thought that we are "asleep" in our graves awaiting a resurrection. For those being resurrected into a Spirit body there are no "atoms" (spirit is not physical). CGI teaches that the "spirit in man" is the spirit mechanism used by God to "store our information" so we can be resurrected. The "spirit in man" is not conscious until it is in a physical or spirit body ... at the resurrection.

Are people "**with God**" (in heaven) immediately after they die?

A) Doctrinal Statement on HEAVEN

The reward of the saved is not "going to heaven" at death. No conscious human beings have ever ascended into the heavens after death (except Jesus Christ). Man's destiny is to enter God's Family as His sons and daughters and to rule in His Kingdom, which will be set up on earth. The dead in Christ "rest" in their graves until the resurrection when God will bring them into His Family. Eventually, when the new heaven and new earth of Revelation

21 comes, which also brings New Jerusalem to earth from God out of heaven, God the Father's dwelling and throne will be forever with man. In this light, the question of "going to heaven" becomes meaningless, for heaven will then be on earth, which will be the final home of both God the Father and Christ the Son. **John 3:13, Revelation 5:10; 21:1-2, Matthew 5:5**

B) Joh 3:13 No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

C) Ecc 9:5 For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten.



D) Ecc 3:18-21 I said in my heart, "Concerning the condition of the sons of men, God tests them, that they may see that they themselves are like animals." For what happens to the sons of men also happens to animals; one thing befalls them: as one dies, so dies the other. Surely, they all have one breath; man has no advantage over animals, for all is vanity. All go to one place: all are from the dust, and all return to dust. Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal, which goes down to the earth?

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

F) Job 14:14 If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, Till my change comes.

Conclusion: No ... People who have died... are not awake "in Heaven with God". God has a record of every life that can be used to resurrect them at Christ's return or in the Great White Throne Judgment period.

Be with Christ

What does Paul mean "be with Christ"?



A) 2 Timothy 4:6–8 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering... Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me **on that Day** (*Christ's Return*)."

B) 1Th 4:13-17 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep (*died*), lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, & with the trumpet of God. **& the dead in Christ will rise first.** Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And **thus** (*in this way*) we shall always be with the Lord.

C) 1Co 15:51-52 Behold, I tell you a **mystery**: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet**. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

D) Paul understood death is like sleep (we are not conscious of passage of time) ... It will seem like a blink of an eye between our death, and our meeting with Jesus at His return.



Conclusion: Paul clearly understood what death is & the resurrection from the dead of those who "sleep in Jesus" ... to them, death will appear to be a blink of the eye, awaking at Christ's Return where Paul says ... we shall always be with the Lord.

Mankind

MANKIND

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

The greatest truth of the Bible is that God is reproducing Himself through mankind. Hence, humanity's goal and purpose for existence is, ultimately, to enter God's family and become literal sons of God.

Human beings are physical beings with no inherent immortality, but they can receive eternal life as a free gift from God. Man was created by God to be wholly flesh and blood, yet in God's image and with a spiritual component—the “**spirit in man**”— included in his brain, which together compose the human mind.



Genesis 1:26–27; Job 32:8; Psalm 22:9–10; 71:5–6; 139:13–14; Ecclesiastes 3:21; 11:5; 12:7; Isaiah 44:2, 24; Jeremiah 1:5; Zechariah 12:1; Acts 2:38; Romans 8:16; 1 Corinthians 2:11–15; 1 John 5:11–13

Further doctrines ... such as “what is life?” “What is death?”, etc, etc ... are open to be further explored ...

A purpose in this sermon is to show:

- how simple questions can actually spill into several topics making it very difficult to provide a concise answer!
- how a Q&A format can be very difficult to provide answers ... because people are at different learning levels ... so it may be inappropriate to “assume” new people have the same “building blocks” of knowledge needed to answer a question

Some questions can be answered with a Yes or a No ... and some questions require a sermon or a booklet to ensure the foundation is laid -- as the world has so much error to confuse “even the elect!”



SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY PROJECT

Cgicanada.org/stp

Systematic Theology Project – The most detailed explanation of our Doctrinal teachings

STP_Section_1.pdf
STP_Section_2.pdf
STP_Section_3.pdf
STP_Section_4.pdf
STP_Section_5.pdf
STP_Section_6.pdf
STP_Section_7.pdf

Topics covered ...

1. Primary Doctrines: God, The Father, Bible, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, Mankind, Angelic Realm;

2. Salvation: Salvation, Faith, Repentance, Baptism, Laying on of Hands;

3. Kingdom of God: Kingdom of God, Resurrections, Prophecy, Gospel, Judgment;

4. Law of God: Law of God, Biblical Covenants, Ten Commandments, Sabbath, Annual Holy Days, Tithing and Giving, Biblical Dietary Laws, The Hebrew Calendar, Sin;

5. The Christian: The Christian, The Christian's Relationship with God, The Christian's Relationship with Fellow Man, The Christian Family, Healing;

6. The Church of God: The Church of God, Ministry of the Church, Fellowship of the Brethren;

7. Traditional Christian Doctrines: Statements on almost thirty traditional doctrines, such as immortal soul, heaven, hell, trinity, Sunday, Christmas, Easter, rapture, etc., presenting the theological viewpoint of the Church of God International

Lessons

- [Understanding Repentance](#)
- [Understanding Faith](#)
- [Understanding Baptism](#)
- [Understanding the Laying-On of Hands](#)
- [Understanding Resurrection](#)
- [Understanding Eternal Judgment](#)
- [Understanding Perfection](#)
- [Understanding the Sabbath](#)
- [Understanding Passover](#)
- [Understanding the Feast of Unleavened Bread](#)
- [Understanding the Day Of Pentecost](#)
- [Understanding the Feast of Trumpets](#)
- [Understanding Atonement](#)
- [Understanding the Feast of Tabernacles](#)
- [Understanding the Last Great Day](#)
- [Understanding the Holy Spirit](#)
- [Understanding the Sanctified and Unsanctified Feasts](#)
- [Understanding Clean and Unclean Meats](#)
- [Understanding the Pagan Trinity](#)



1

Understanding Repentance

Doctrinal Statement:

Repentance signals the start of a changed and godly life. It involves a fully conscious recognition of one's sinful, lawless way of life that is antagonistic toward God and His law. It is accompanied by a firm conviction to make a total change and to begin to live in full accord with God's way of life as described in the Bible.

The Church of God International

HOME BIBLE Study Course E

God, by His very nature and in His supreme wisdom, has determined that every debt must be reconciled. How could we possibly believe His Word and trust Him to fulfill His manifold promises to us if He was of a changing character and lacked dependability, integrity, honesty, and fairness? Obviously we couldn't.

Sin in God's eyes is too serious to just be shrugged off. God's perfection and holiness are so great, He will not tolerate sin in His presence. The debt of sin must be settled, and the books balanced. Once we understand the immensity of His righteousness and holiness, we can then understand the great necessity for our repentance from dead works.

Jesus Christ has settled this debt of sin for us. God was willing to allow the life of His own Son to be sacrificed to pay the debt that no human being could ever afford to pay. Christ died because God's character is so consistent that there could be no other way for Him to extend mercy to us.

The Bible you will be using in this course was written for all men of all times. It is the most up-to-date book you can read today. Within its pages are revealed the causes of all of mankind's ills, the social problems, the economic problems, and the constant threat of warfare among the nations.

The Bible shows where all the sins of mankind are leading us and what the final outcome will be. Strange as it may seem, it is the most purchased book in the world and at the same time the least understood book in all the world.

Why? One major reason for failure to understand is their unwillingness to allow God's Word to bring them to the point of repentance.

As in all endeavors, there are certain basic rules which, when followed, will help you in gaining the truth from God's Word. Some of these basic rules are: praying for guidance, accepting correction, and being grateful.

Pray for Guidance

Before opening your Bible, it is very beneficial to ask God in prayer to open your mind to His Word in the study you are undertaking. It has been written that David was a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). He studied the Word of God that was available to him, meditating upon God's laws and His ways. Throughout the Psalms we find David asking God to guide him in his study, and to open his mind to receive the truth of God.

"Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the