

Why We Need



Why We Need God, The Bible, Jesus, etc.

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To God Be The Glory!

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Why We Need

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Why We Need God

INTRODUCTION

1. When we first come into this world, we are extremely dependent on others...
 - a. We need parents or other providers to feed and clean up after ourselves
 - b. Even as small children, we sense our need for parental care and protection
2. As we get older, it is common to believe that we no longer need anyone or anything...
 - a. Starting in adolescence, where many think they no longer need their parents
 - b. Often continuing throughout adulthood, where many think they can take care of themselves
3. Mankind is not as self-sufficient as many would like to believe...
 - a. We are extremely dependent on many things despite our denials
 - b. Which I intend to illustrate in this series of lessons (“**Why We Need...**”)

[Assuming that one believes in God (see “**Why I Believe in God**”), let’s begin with three simple yet significant reasons why we need God in our lives. Starting with the fact that...]

I. HE IS OUR CREATOR

A. GOD IS THE CREATOR...

1. Of the heavens and the earth - **Gen 1:1; Exo 20:11; He 11:3**
2. Of mankind, both male and female - **Gen 1:27; 5:2**
3. Even in the womb, God has a role in giving us life - **Psa 139:13-16; Jer 1:5**
4. He made us, not we ourselves - cf. **Psa 100:3**

B. GOD AS OUR CREATOR...

1. Knows us better than we ourselves
2. Even as the manufacturer knows his product better than anyone else
3. Knows our weaknesses and our strengths
4. Is the best source to find the answers to such questions as:
 - a. Where did I come from?
 - b. Why am I here?
 - c. Where am I going?
 - d. How should I live?

[We need God because as our **Creator** He is the only reliable “tech support” to help us make sense and use of our lives! Another reason we need God is because...]

II. HE IS OUR REDEEMER

A. GOD IS THE REDEEMER...

1. Unfortunately, all have made a mess of their lives - **Ro 3:23**
2. Some more than others, but all are in need of major correction - **Ro 3:9**
3. But God offers Himself as our Redeemer - **Psa 34:22**

B. GOD AS OUR REDEEMER...

1. Makes it possible for us to start anew - cf. **Psa 103:1-5**
2. This He did by sending His Son, Jesus - **Ga 4:4-5; Ti 2:11-14**
3. He offered His Son's blood to redeem from our sins - **1 Pe 1:17-19**

[We need God because as our **Redeemer** we have the opportunity to be forgiven of sins and to start our lives anew! A third reason we need God is because...]

III. HE IS OUR PROVIDER

A. GOD IS THE PROVIDER...

1. Of physical life itself - **Ac 17:28**; cf. **Psa 66:8-9**
2. Of that which sustains our physical life - **Ac 14:17; Mt 5:45**
3. Of spiritual strength that we need - **Ep 3:16,20; 6:10**

B. GOD AS OUR PROVIDER...

1. Has promised to meet our physical needs - **Mt 6:25-32**
2. If we will put Him and His righteousness first in our lives - **Mt 6:33-34**
3. Has promised to meet our spiritual needs - **Ph 2:12-13**
4. If we will put on His armor - **Ep 6:11-18**

CONCLUSION

1. More things could be said to illustrate our need for God, but for now let these suffice...
 - a. God is our Creator
 - b. God is our Redeemer
 - c. God is our Provider
2. Those who reject any need for God...
 - a. Go through life with no true knowledge of self or purpose in life
 - b. Have no way to atone for or to truly correct the many mistakes they make
 - c. Have lives devoid of the fullness of God's providential care
3. How much better to confess our need for God, and look to Him...
 - a. For wisdom and guidance in making the best of our time here on earth
 - b. For forgiveness and renewal when we mess up our lives through sin
 - c. For providential care and spiritual strength to live the truly "abundant life"

Yes, dear friends and brethren, that is why we need God...!

Why We Need The Bible

INTRODUCTION

1. We began this series of lessons by illustrating why we need God...
 - a. He is our Creator, who knows us better than we ourselves
 - b. He is our Redeemer, who seeks to save us from ourselves
 - c. He is our Provider, who is willing to meet our every need
2. Now I wish to focus our attention on why we need the Bible...
 - a. Both the Old and New Testaments
 - b. As the guide to salvation and comfort

[Assuming that one believes in the Bible as the Word of God (see “**Why I Believe In The Bible**”), we need the Bible because...]

I. IT IS GOD’S POWER TO SAVE

A. BY CREATING FAITH...

1. Without faith it is impossible to please God - **He 11:6**
2. Without faith in Jesus we cannot be saved - **Jn 8:24**
3. It is the Word of God that produces such faith - **Ro 10:17**
4. For example, the gospels were written to produce faith - **Jn 20:30-31**

B. BY CAUSING ONE TO BE BORN AGAIN...

1. Jesus taught the necessity of being born again - **Jn 3:3-5**
2. The rebirth involving water and the Spirit is produced by:
 - a. Receiving the “incorruptible seed” of God’s Word - **1 Pe 1:23-25a**
 - b. In particular, that word proclaimed in the gospel of Christ - **1 Pe 1:25b**
3. Which gospel calls for one to be baptized - **Mk 16:15-16**
 - a. As proclaimed by Peter - **Ac 2:38**
 - b. I.e., the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit - **Ti 3:5**

C. BY KEEPING ONE SAVED...

1. Paul emphasized this value of the Scriptures
 - a. To the Corinthians - **1 Co 10:11-12**
 - b. To Timothy - **2 Ti 3:14-17**
2. The saving value of the Word of God is for both young and old
 - a. The young can keep their ways pure by it - **Psa 119:9**
 - b. Elders were commended to the Word for their salvation - **Ac 20:32**

[Lack of knowledge concerning God’s Word destroyed Israel (**Hos 4:6**). But when received with meekness into our hearts, the Word of God has the power to save (**Ja 1:21**)! But notice also...]

II. IT IS GOD’S POWER TO COMFORT

A. THROUGH THE HOPE IT GIVES...

1. Paul wrote of the hope provided by the OT scriptures - **Ro 15:4**
2. The OT provides assurance of our hope in Christ, because it illustrates how God always keeps His promises
3. How much more so the NT, providing hope by revealing the grace to be shown when Christ comes again! - cf. **1 Pe 1:13**

B. THROUGH THE PEACE IT GIVES...

1. Especially as it reveals the means and source of true peace - cf. **Ph 4:6-9**
2. With such inner peace, nothing causes one to stumble - **Psa 119:165,92-93**
3. "In all my perplexities and distresses, the Bible has never failed to give me light and strength." - **Robert E. Lee**

C. THROUGH THE HAPPINESS IT GIVES...

1. Blessedness (happiness) through the stability and nourishment it provides - **Psa 1:1-3**
2. Note that this comes to the one engaged in daily Bible reading ("day and night")

CONCLUSION

1. To fulfill our need for God, we need the Bible...
 - a. For God has spoken through prophets and His Son - cf. **He 1:1-2**
 - b. He has made His Word accessible to every nation and tongue - **Ro 10:17-18**
2. With the aid of the Bible, we can experience God's power in our lives...
 - a. As we learn the way of salvation, and accept it with an obedient faith
 - b. As we walk in the way of salvation, and receive the hope, peace, and happiness God gives

Great men have spoken of the value of the Bible:

"Within the covers of this one single book, the Bible, are all the answers to all the problems we face today. If only we would read it and believe." - **Ronald Reagan**

"I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated to us through this book." - **Abraham Lincoln**

"The Bible is worth more than all other books which have ever been printed." - **Patrick Henry**

Is that our attitude toward the Bible...?

Why We Need Jesus Christ

INTRODUCTION

1. Previous lessons have discussed why we need God and the Bible...
 - a. God is our Creator, Redeemer and Provider
 - b. The Bible is our guide to salvation, and source of great comfort
2. In this study, we will review why need Jesus Christ...
 - a. As our **Mediator**
 - b. As our **Mentor**

[Assuming that one believes in Jesus as the Son of God (see “**Why I Believe In Jesus Christ**”), we need Jesus Christ because...]

I. HE IS OUR MEDIATOR

A. WHO RECONCILES US TO GOD...

1. There is but one mediator between God and man - **1 Ti 2:5**
2. God sent Christ to reconcile sinful man back to Him - **2 Co 5:18-20**
3. This God did by offering Christ as the propitiation (sacrifice) for our sins - **1 Jn 4:9-10**
4. We now have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins - **Ep 1:7**
5. Thus Jesus is the only way to God - **Jn 14:6; cf. 14:21-23**
- **We need Jesus, for He is the only way a sinner can be reconciled to God**

B. WHO INTERCEDES FOR US TO GOD...

1. Now at God’s right hand, Jesus makes intercession for us - **Ro 8:34**
2. He serves as our “Advocate” with the Father - **1 Jn 2:1**
3. By coming to earth, He has become our perfect High Priest - **He 2:17-18; 4:14-15**
4. He enables us to come boldly to the throne of grace to obtain mercy and help - **He 4:16**
5. He now “always lives” to intercede on our behalf - **He 7:25**
- **We need Jesus, for He is the only way a sinful Christian can remain in fellowship with God - cf. 1 Jn 1:6-10**

[As we walk with God with Jesus as our Mediator, we also need Jesus because...]

II. HE IS OUR MENTOR

A. WHO OFFERS US A BETTER LIFE...

1. A more abundant life - **Jn 10:10b**
2. Peace that surpasses understanding - **Jn 14:27; 16:23; Ph 4:6-7**
3. Love that passes knowledge - **Jn 15:9; Ep 3:19**
4. Joy that is inexpressible - **Jn 15:11; 1 Pe 1:8**
5. Hope that sustains in the face of death - **Jn 11:25; Re 14:13**
- **We need Jesus, for He provides the way to a truly better life**

B. WHO GUIDES US BY WORD AND DEED...

1. His words provide a solid foundation upon which to build our lives
 - a. Such as those spoken in His sermon on the mount - **Mt 7:24-27**
 - b. Such as those later revealed through His apostles - **Jn 16:12-13**; e.g., **2 Pe 1:1-11**
 2. His example provides both direction and inspiration
 - a. The example of His humility and service - **Ph 2:3-8**; e.g., **Ro 15:1-3**
 - b. The example of His perseverance - **He 12:1-3**
 - c. The example of His suffering - **1 Pe 2:21-25**
- **We need Jesus, for by word and deed He will guide us to life eternal**

CONCLUSION

1. As we go through this life...
 - a. We need to be in fellowship with God
 - b. We need guidance to make the most of this life and prepare for the one to come
2. That is why we need Jesus Christ...
 - a. As **Mediator** He will maintain our relationship with God
 - b. As **Mentor** He will guide us through this life and on to life eternal

There are many other reasons why we need Jesus. But let these two remind us of why we cannot risk going through life and facing eternity without Jesus Christ...!

Why We Need The Holy Spirit

INTRODUCTION

1. In this series we have briefly discussed why we need...
 - a. God
 - b. The Bible
 - c. Jesus Christ
2. Let's now turn our attention to why we need **the Holy Spirit**...
 - a. The subject of much confusion and error
 - b. Prompting some Christians to avoid the subject altogether

[Yet the Holy Spirit plays a prominent role in the life of the Christian, and error should not discourage us from seeking truth. With that in mind, we need the Holy Spirit...]

I. BECAUSE OF THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. PROMISED BY JESUS...

1. To all who believe in Him - **Jn 7:37-39**
 2. A special dispensation of the Spirit unlike any before; different from:
 - a. The miraculous workings of the Spirit
 - b. The normal influences through the Word
- **Jesus promised the Spirit to all who believe**

B. PROMISED BY PETER...

1. To all who repent and are baptized - **Ac 2:38-39**
 - a. The "gift" could be that which the Spirit gives (e.g., salvation)
 - b. But I understand it to be the Spirit Himself (see ["The Gift Of The Holy Spirit"](#))
 2. To those who obey God - **Ac 5:32**
- **Peter promised the Spirit to all who obey**

C. PROMISED BY PAUL...

1. To those who become children of God - **Ga 4:6; Ro 8:14-16**
 2. Indeed, one cannot be Christ's unless they have the Spirit dwelling in them - **Ro 8:9**
- **Paul proclaimed that those who are in Christ have the Spirit in them**

[The **promise** of the Spirit described above mostly relates to His indwelling and the accompanying blessings (which we will summarize shortly). We also need the Spirit...]

II. BECAUSE OF THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. CONVICTING THE WORLD...

1. Of sin, righteousness, and judgment - **Jn 16:7-11**
2. Done through the gospel of Christ
 - a. The instrument designed to produce faith - **Ro 10:17**

- b. Which is God's power to save - **Ro 1:16-17**
- c. And determines who will be judged (condemned) - **2 Th 1:7-9**
- **Through the Word, the Spirit convicts the world of sin**

B. REGENERATING THE SINNER...

- 1. Saving those who respond through the washing of regeneration - **Ti 3:4-6**
 - a. Being born again of water and the Spirit - **Jn 3:5**
 - b. In which one's sins are washed away by the blood of Christ - **Ac 22:16; Ep 1:7**
- 2. Causing them to be reborn, in conjunction with the Word - **1 Pe 1:22-23,25**
- **When one obeys the Word, the Spirit regenerates the sinner**

C. SANCTIFYING THE SAVED..

- 1. A process that begins when washed and justified - **1 Co 6:11**
- 2. A process that continues with the aid of the Word
 - a. We are sanctified by God's Word - **Jn 17:17**
 - b. Which is the sword of the Spirit - **Ep 6:17**
- **When one abides in the Word, the Spirit sanctifies the believer (cf. Ro 15:16)**

[The **work** of the Holy Spirit is necessary for both salvation and sanctification. The need for the Spirit for the Christian is seen even further...]

III. BECAUSE OF THE BLESSINGS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. THE INDWELLING OF THE SPIRIT...

- 1. Indwelling the Christian - **Ro 8:9-11; cf. 1 Co 6:19**
- 2. Enabling us to put to death the deeds of the body - **Ro 8:12-13**
- 3. Strengthening us in the inner man - **Ep 3:16,20; cf. Ph 2:12-13**
- **The Spirit is the Father's instrument to empower the Christian**

B. THE SEAL OF THE SPIRIT...

- 1. A seal marking us as belonging to God - **Ep 1:13**
- 2. Looking forward to the day of our redemption - **Ep 4:30**
- **The Spirit is the Father's identifier that we belong to Him**

C. THE EARNEST OF THE SPIRIT...

- 1. A guarantee or down payment of our inheritance - **Ep 1:13-14**
- 2. Given in our hearts as a guarantee of our redemption- **2 Co 1:22; 5:5**
- **The Spirit is the Father's insurance that He will deliver as promised**

D. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT...

- 1. Developing graces of Christ-like conduct - **Ga 5:22-26**
- 2. Engendering a deepening love for God as Father - **Ga 4:6; Ro 8:15-16**
- 3. Filling us with hope - **Ro 15:13**
- **The Spirit is the Father's instrument to bless the Christian**

E. THE INTERCESSION OF THE SPIRIT...

- 1. Helping us in our weakness, even in our prayers - **Ro 8:26**
- 2. Making intercession for with groanings that cannot be uttered - **Ro 8:26-27**
- **The Spirit is the Father's interpreter to hear the Christian**

CONCLUSION

1. Why do we need the Holy Spirit? Simply because...
 - a. He was promised to us!
 - b. He has much work to do in us!
 - c. He is the source of wonderful blessings for us!

2. We may not always understand how the Holy Spirit works...
 - a. We must beware of false doctrines regarding Him
 - b. Studying the truth concerning the Spirit is the best antidote to error

3. But we must also beware of..
 - a. **Quenching** the Spirit in our lives - **1 Th 5:19**
 - b. **Grieving** the Holy Spirit of God - **Ep 4:30**

4. Receive the Spirit initially through obedience to the gospel...
 - a. Which involves faith, repentance and baptism - **Ac 2:38; 5:32; Ep 1:13**
 - b. Whereby we become children of God, and thereby receive the Spirit in our hearts - **Ga 4:6**

5. Be filled with the blessings of the Spirit by...
 - a. Feeding on His Word (the things of the Spirit) - **Ro 8:5-6; Ep 6:17**
 - b. Praying for God to strengthen you by His Spirit in the inner man - **Ep 3:16,20**
 - c. Singing with melody in your hearts to the Lord - **Ep 5:18-19**

Do we truly appreciate the need for the Holy Spirit in our lives as Christians...?

Why We Need The Gospel Of Christ

INTRODUCTION

1. So far I have briefly covered why we need...
 - a. God
 - b. The Bible
 - c. Jesus Christ
 - d. The Holy Spirit

2. Now we turn our attention to why we need **the Gospel of Christ**...
 - a. The good news concerning Jesus Christ
 - b. A message Jesus wanted proclaimed to every person in the world - **Mk 16:15**

[We will examine two main reasons why we need the gospel. The first is rather obvious, the second perhaps not so. Without question, we need the gospel of Jesus Christ...]

I. TO BE SAVED

A. THE GOSPEL CONTAINS GOD'S POWER...

1. To save those who believe - **Mk 16:16; Ro 1:16**
 2. To produce fruit in those who hear and understand God's grace - **Co 1:5-6**
 3. To purify souls, causing them to be born again - **1 Pe 1:22-25**
- **We need the gospel to be saved by God's power!**

B. THE POWERFUL GOSPEL INCLUDES...

1. Facts to believe, for example:
 - a. Jesus was crucified for our sins - **1 Co 15:1-3**
 - b. Jesus was raised from the dead - **1 Co 15:4**
 - c. Jesus is exalted as Lord and Savior - **Ac 2:33-36**
 - d. Jesus is coming again, to judge the world - **Ac 17:30-31**
 2. Commands to obey, such as:
 - a. We must believe the gospel concerning Jesus - **Mk 16:15-16**
 - b. We must repent of our sins - **Ac 2:37-38; 3:19; 17:30-31**
 - c. We must confess our faith in Christ - **Ro 10:9-10**
 - d. We must be baptized for the remission of sins - **Mk 16:16; Ac 2:38; 22:16**
 3. Promises to receive, including:
 - a. The remission of sins, through the blood of Jesus - **Ac 2:38; Ep 1:7**
 - b. The gift of the Holy Spirit, to empower the Christian - **Ac 2:38-39; Ep 3:16**
 - c. The gift of everlasting life, received at the end - **Jn 3:16; Ro 6:22-23**
- **We need the gospel, not in part but in its entirety**

[Mankind's need for the gospel **in order to be saved** should be rather clear. For those who have been saved by the gospel, their need for the gospel is no less. Saved people need the gospel...]

II. TO REMAIN SAVED

A. WE MUST HOLD FAST TO THE GOSPEL...

1. It is possible to believe in vain - **1 Co 15:1-2**
2. To believe for a while, then fall away - **Lk 8:13**
3. To receive the grace of God in vain - **2 Co 6:1**
4. For believers can develop an evil heart of unbelief - **He 3:12-14**
- **We must hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end**

B. WE CAN SUFFER THE END OF THOSE WHO DO NOT OBEY...

1. As described by Paul regarding the coming of the Lord - **2 Th 1:7-9**
2. By drifting away through neglecting our great salvation - **He 2:1-3**
3. By falling short through lack of faith and obedience in the gospel - **He 4:1-2,11**
4. By failing to properly value the blood by which we are sanctified - **He 10:26-31**
- **There is great danger if we forget or neglect the importance of the gospel**

C. WE NEED THE GOSPEL TO REMIND US...

1. That it was God who loved us first, and not we Him - **1 Jn 4:9-10**
2. What true love really is - **1 Jn 3:16**
3. That since Jesus died for our sins, He will certainly save us from wrath - **Ro 5:9**
4. That since God gave us His Son, He will certainly be with us in all things - **Ro 8:31-39**

CONCLUSION

1. The gospel of Jesus Christ is **“good news”**...
 - a. For the **sinner** who wants **to be saved**
 - b. For the **saint** who wants **to remain saved**
2. The gospel of Jesus Christ is truly the **“best news”**...
 - a. Of which we should never be ashamed to share - **Ro 1:15-16**
 - b. In which we should place our confidence and boasting - **Ga 6:14**

Is our appreciation for the gospel today as strong as it was when we were saved by the gospel...?

Why We Need Baptism Into Christ

INTRODUCTION

1. In our previous study, I shared why we need the gospel of Jesus Christ...
 - a. It contains good news that Jesus wanted everyone to hear - **Mk 16:15**
 - b. It is God's power to salvation for everyone who believes it - **Ro 1:16**
2. I also pointed out that the gospel of Jesus Christ contains...
 - a. **Facts to believe** - the message of God's love and grace
 - b. **Commands to obey** - not difficult works done to earn salvation, but simple acts of faith whereby we receive God's grace and mercy
 - c. **Promises to receive** - helping us deal with the problem of sin in our lives
3. Included in the commands of the gospel is the call for **baptism into Christ**...
 - a. An immersion in water by a penitent believer of the gospel
 - b. Which many people today say is not necessary

[Yet baptism into Christ is very much needed. First of all, because...]

I. BAPTISM WAS COMMANDED BY JESUS AND HIS APOSTLES

A. BY JESUS IN THE GREAT COMMISSION...

1. As part of the process of producing disciples - **Mt 28:19-20**
 - a. The apostles were commanded to "make disciples"
 - b. Disciples were made by baptizing them and continuing to teach them
 2. As an integral part of responding to the gospel of Christ - **Mk 16:15-16**
 - a. Jesus wanted His gospel preached to every person in the world
 - b. Those who believe and are baptized will be saved; those who do not believe in the gospel will be condemned
- **Can we fulfill the Great Commission and not tell people the need to be baptized?**

B. BY THOSE SENT OUT BY JESUS IN THEIR PREACHING...

1. Peter on the day of Pentecost - **Ac 2:36-38**; cf. **2:41**
 - a. When his listeners asked "what shall we do?", Peter told them to be baptized
 - b. 3000 people who gladly received his word were baptized
2. Philip in preaching Jesus - **Ac 8:5,12,35-38**
 - a. He preached Jesus in Samaria, and people responded in faith and baptism
 - b. He preached Christ to the Ethiopian, who immediately requested baptism
3. Peter to the household of Cornelius - **Ac 10:47-48**
 - a. The outpouring of the Spirit made it clear that God was no respecter of persons
 - b. Thus Peter commanded baptism for Cornelius and his household
4. Ananias in his words to Saul of Tarsus (Paul) - **Ac 22:16**
 - a. Saul had been praying and fasting for three days since the Lord appeared to him
 - b. Yet despite faith and repentance, he was still in his sins
 - c. Baptism was commanded, to wash away his sins!

-- **Can we preach like the apostles, without commanding people to be baptized?**

[Baptism into Christ is clearly an **integral part** of preaching the gospel of Christ and fulfilling the Great Commission. To appreciate further why we need baptism, consider that...]

II. BAPTISM IS THE AVENUE OF GREAT BLESSINGS

A. FORGIVENESS OF SINS...

1. Forgiveness of sins is made possible through the blood of Jesus - **Ep 1:7**
 - a. Without the blood of Christ there is no forgiveness of sins
 - b. We cannot earn or merit our salvation in any way
 2. Such forgiveness is promised to those who repent and are baptized - **Ac 2:38; cf. 22:16**
 - a. Those who respond in baptism are assured their sins will be forgiven
 - b. In some way, it is at baptism that we receive forgiveness through Jesus' blood
- **Baptism is tightly connected with forgiveness of sins in the Scriptures**

B. THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT...

1. There is the promise of the Spirit - **Jn 7:37-39; Ac 2:38-39**
 - a. Promised by Jesus to those who believe
 - b. Promised by Peter to those who repent and are baptized
 2. Baptism involves the working of the Holy Spirit - **1 Co 12:13; Ti 3:5**
 - a. We are made to drink of the Spirit
 - b. We experience a washing of regeneration and renewing of the Spirit
- **Through baptism, we benefit from the Spirit's aid in regeneration and sanctification**

C. UNION WITH CHRIST...

1. Union with Christ is necessary for spiritual life - **Jn 15:4-5**
 - a. We cannot bear fruit unless we abide in Christ
 - b. Without Christ we can do nothing
 2. In baptism we are united with Christ - **Ro 6:3-4; Ga 3:27**
 - a. Buried with Him through baptism into His death
 - b. We put on Christ in baptism
- **Baptism is the means by which we receive Jesus through faith**

D. NEWNESS OF LIFE...

1. Newness of life is the result of dying to sin and rising with Christ - **Ro 6:3-7**
 - a. We die with Christ in baptism
 - b. As we come forth from the watery grave, we rise to walk in newness of life
 2. In baptism we are buried with Christ, then made alive together with Christ - **Co 2:12-13**
 - a. Buried and raised with Christ, through faith in the working of God
 - b. It is God who makes us alive, having forgiven us all our trespasses
- **Baptism is not a work of man, but a work of God to which we submit!**

E. SALVATION...

1. Baptism saves us - **1 Pe 3:21**
 - a. Many say baptism **does not** save us
 - b. Peter says baptism **does** save us!
2. How baptism saves us - **1 Pe 3:21; cf. He 9:14**
 - a. Not through any cleansing of the flesh, as though the water itself has cleansing power

- b. But as an appeal for a clear conscience, made possible by the blood of Christ
- **Baptism is the sinner's appeal for forgiveness, to which God graciously answers!**

CONCLUSION

1. Why do we need baptism into Christ? Because...
 - a. It was commanded by Jesus and His apostles
 - b. It is the avenue of wonderful blessings
 - See ["Baptism - A Special Study"](#) for a more detailed study
2. **If when baptized**, we are...
 - a. Buried with Christ into His death - **Ro 6:3-4**
 - b. Raised with Him to newness of life - **Ro 6:4-5**
 - c. Crucified with Him, thus made free from sin - **Ro 6:6-7,17-18**
 - d. Clothed with Christ - **Ga 3:27**
 - e. Washed from our sins - **Ac 22:16**
 - f. Recipients of the remission of sins - **Ac 2:38**
 - g. Baptized into the body (church) of Christ - **1 Co 12:13**
 - **Then what is our condition without baptism?**
3. Indeed, baptism is integral to the preaching of the gospel...
 - a. "In an apostolic sermon it comes as its logical conclusion." - **George Beasley-Murray**, Baptism In The New Testament
 - b. "An effort ought to be made to restore this note in our preaching." - **ibid.**

So it was in the first gospel sermon preached after the resurrection of Christ:

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." - Ac 2:36-38

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. - Ac 2:41

Have you been baptized (immersed) for the remission of your sins? If not, then you need baptism, and should heed the same words of Ananias spoken to Saul of Tarsus:

"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." - Ac 22:16

Why We Need The Church Of Christ

INTRODUCTION

1. It is not uncommon today to hear people disparage the church...
 - a. People who say in effect, “Christ, yes; the church, no.”
 - b. Professing they love Jesus, they have no need for “the church”
2. In this series, I have endeavored to show why we need...
 - a. God
 - b. The Bible
 - c. Jesus Christ
 - d. The Holy Spirit
 - e. The Gospel of Christ
 - f. Baptism into Christ

[Now I would like to show why we need the Church of Christ, both in the universal sense and in the local sense. Let’s begin with...]

I. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST - UNIVERSAL

A. WHAT I MEAN BY CHURCH UNIVERSAL...

1. Not as envisioned by many today:
 - a. Made up of all the denominations (**denominational view**)
 - b. Made up of all churches that wear just one scriptural name (**sectarian view**)
 2. But as unveiled in the Scriptures:
 - a. The universal assembly (ekklesia) that Jesus said He would build - **Mt 16:18**
 - b. The body of Christ, made up of saved members - **Ep 1:22-23; 4:4; 5:23; Ro 12:5**
 - c. The household or family of God - **1 Ti 3:15**
 - d. The temple or dwelling place of God - **Ep 2:19-22; 1 Co 3:16**
 - e. The kingdom of Christ - **Co 1:13; Re 1:9**
- **The church universal is the body of all believers redeemed by the blood of Christ, who submit to His authority as Lord**

B. WHY WE NEED THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL...

1. Jesus is the Savior of the body (church) - **Ep 5:23**
 2. Jesus loves the church - **Ep 5:25**
 3. Jesus gave Himself for the church - **Ep 5:25**
 4. Jesus purchased the church with His own blood - **Ac 20:28**
 5. Jesus has sanctified and cleansed the church with the washing of water by the word - **Ep 5:26; cf. Jn 3:5; Ac 22:16; Ti 3:5-7; He 10:22; 1 Pe 3:21**
 6. Jesus will present to Himself a glorious church, holy and without blemish - **Ep 5:27**
 7. Jesus nourishes and cherishes the church - **Ep 5:29**
 8. Jesus is head over all things to the church (for the benefit of the church) - **Ep 1:22**
 9. The church is the fullness of Jesus who fills all in all - **Ep 1:23**
 10. Jesus adds those who are saved to His church - **Ac 2:41,47**
- **If we desire to be saved, nourished and cherished by Jesus, we must be in His church!**

[In view of the Lord's love for His church, how can we not need it? But in love for the church, Jesus has not just established the church universal, He also provides for our benefit...]

II. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST - LOCAL

A. WHAT I MEAN BY CHURCH LOCAL...

1. Not as envisioned by many today:
 - a. Every local congregation that deems itself a church (**denominational view**)
 - b. Every local congregation that calls itself a "Church of Christ" (**sectarian view**)
 2. But as unveiled in the Scriptures:
 - a. Congregations made up of Christians in a geographical area that assemble together to work and worship - **Ac 11:26; 13:1; Ro 16:16**
 - b. Congregations that continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers - **Ac 2:42**
 - c. Congregations that assemble weekly to break bread, i.e., to observe the Lord's Supper - **Ac 20:7; cf. 1 Co 11:20-34**
 - d. Congregations that seek to be organized just as local churches were in days of the apostles - **Ac 14:23; cf. Ph 1:1; Ti 1:5-9; 1 Ti 3:1-13**
 - e. Congregations where members care for one another - **1 Co 12:25-26**
 - f. Congregation with members who are of one mind, one judgment - **1 Co 1:10**
- **Such local congregations are truly the "churches of Christ"**

B. WHY WE NEED THE CHURCH LOCAL...

1. For fellowship with other Christians - **Ac 2:42**
 2. For assemblies designed to stimulate love and good works - **He 10:24-25**
 3. For growth that comes from all members doing their part - **Ep 4:11-16**
 4. For encouragement to remain faithful - **He 3:12-15**
 5. For comfort in difficult times - **2 Co 1:3-5; 1 Th 4:18; 5:11**
- **The Lord intended the local church to provide much of the support and encouragement we need as His disciples**

CONCLUSION

1. To put it most simply...
 - a. We need the church of Christ **universal** in order to be saved
 - b. We need the church of Christ **local** in order to stay saved
2. How do we become part of **the church of Christ universal**...?
 - a. By responding to the gospel of Christ - **Mk 16:15-16; Ac 2:36-39**
 - b. For as we are saved, Jesus Himself adds us to His church - **Ac 2:41,47**
3. How do we become part of **a church of Christ local**...?
 - a. By finding a local congregation of Christians abiding in the apostles' doctrine - **Ac 2:42**
 - b. Then joining ourselves with such a congregation - e.g., **Ac 9:26-28**

If we value the church of Christ as Jesus Himself does, then we will readily confess our need for both the church universal and the church local...

Note: For a more in-depth study of the church, check out the series, **["The Church Jesus Built"](#)**

Why We Need The Lord's Supper

INTRODUCTION

1. In this series, I have sought to emphasize why we need.....
 - a. God
 - b. The Bible
 - c. Jesus Christ
 - d. The Holy Spirit
 - e. The Gospel of Christ
 - f. Baptism into Christ
 - g. The Church of Christ
2. We now turn our attention to the Lord's Supper, also known as...
 - a. The Communion - **1 Co 10:16**
 - b. The Breaking Of Bread - **Ac 2:42; 20:7**
 - c. The Eucharist, from the Greek **eucharisteo**, "giving of thanks", which Christ did at the time of its institution - **Mt 26:26-27**
3. The Lord's Supper is a simple act, in which Christians...
 - a. Partake of unleavened bread, and drink of the fruit of the vine
 - b. Do so together, as they assemble for that very purpose
4. Why do we need the Lord's Supper? I suppose one could simply say...
 - a. It was instituted by the Lord Himself - cf. **Mt 26:26-28**
 - b. It's observance was commanded by the Lord - cf. **1 Co 11:24-25**

[But to encourage stronger appreciation for the Supper, and a greater commitment to keeping its observance, let's first review...]

I. THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SUPPER

A. THE BIBLICAL EVIDENCE...

1. The Biblical evidence is that it was done on the first day of the week
 - a. Christians came together on the first day of the week to "break bread" - **Ac 20:7**
 - b. "Breaking bread" is likely a reference to the Lord's Supper - cf. **1 Co 10:16-17**
 2. Other indications of a weekly observance:
 - a. The church at Corinth was coming together to eat the Lord's Supper, though they were abusing it - cf. **1 Co 11:17-22**
 - b. Instructions concerning the collection suggest their coming together was on the first day of the week - cf. **1 Co 16:1-2**
- **Following the divinely approved example of Christians in the Bible, we know God approves of a weekly observance on the first day of the week**

B. THE HISTORICAL EVIDENCE...

1. The earliest historical evidence outside the Bible confirms the day and frequency
 - a. The Didache (ca. 95 A.D.) indicates Christians were to come together on the first day of the week to break bread - **Didache 14:1**
 - b. Justin Martyr (ca. 150 A.D.) records how Christians assembled on Sunday and partook of

the Supper - **Apology I, 67**

- c. "...the early church writers from Barnabas, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, to Clement of Alexandria, Origen and Cyprian, all with one consent, declare that the church observed the first day of the week. They are equally agreed that the Lord's Supper was observed weekly, on the first day of the week." - **B. W. Johnson, People's New Testament**
- 2. Religious scholars confirm this was the practice
 - a. "As we have already remarked, the celebration of the Lord's Supper was still held to constitute an essential part of divine worship every Sunday, as appears from Justin Martyr (A.D. 150)..." - **Augustus Neander (Lutheran), History Of Christian Religion And Church, Vol. I, p. 332**
 - b. "This ordinance (the Lord's Supper) seems to have been administered every Lord's day; and probably no professed Christian absented themselves..." - **Thomas Scott (Presbyterian), Commentary On Acts 20:7**
 - c. "This also is an important example of weekly communion as the practice of the first Christians." - **A. C. Hervey (Episcopalian), Commentary On Acts 20:7**
 - d. "It is well known that the primitive Christians administered the Eucharist (the Lord's Supper) every Lord's day." - **P. Doddridge (Congregationalist), Notes On Acts 20:7**
- **The overwhelming consensus of extra biblical sources supports our conclusion that the Biblical practice was to observe the Lord's Supper each first day of the week**

[Even so, some who would agree that when done it should be on the first day of the week are not always diligent to observe the Supper each week. Perhaps they need to be reminded of...]

II. THE VALUE OF THE SUPPER

A. AS A MEMORIAL...

- 1. Note Paul's account as given by the Lord Himself - **1 Co 11:23-25,29**
 - a. We eat the bread in memory of His body
 - b. We drink the cup (fruit of the vine) in memory of His blood
- 2. We therefore commemorate the death of Jesus on the cross - **Mt 26:28**
 - a. Whose death make the new covenant possible - **He 9:16**
 - b. Whose blood was shed for the remission of sins - **Ep 1:7**
- **Is not the memorial of the Lord's suffering, death, and shed blood worthy of faithful observance?**

B. AS A PROCLAMATION...

- 1. We proclaim our faith in the efficacy of the Lord's death - **1 Co 11:26a**
 - a. That His death was indeed for our sins
 - b. If we don't believe He died for our sins, why keep the Supper?
- 2. We also proclaim our faith in the Lord's return - **1 Co 11:26b**
 - a. For it is to be done "till He comes"
 - b. If we don't believe He is coming, then why keep the Supper?
- **Is not the proclamation of the Lord's redemption and return worthy of faithful observance?**

C. AS A TIME FOR REFLECTION...

- 1. Reflecting upon one's spiritual condition - **1 Co 11:28-32**
 - a. Examining one's self
 - b. Discerning the Lord's body

- c. Judging ourselves so as not to be judged
 2. Are we living in a manner that shows appreciation for His sacrifice?
 - a. By accepting the grace of God in our lives? - cf. **2 Co 5:18-6:1**
 - b. By living for Jesus who died for us? - cf. **2 Co 5:14-15; Ga 2:20**
 3. Or are we living in a manner that shows disregard for His sacrifice?
 - a. By willful sinning - cf. **He 10:26-29**
 - b. By refusing to repent - cf. **He 6:4-6**
- **Is not the time for such reflection worthy of faithful observance?**

D. AS A COMMUNION...

1. It is a fellowship or sharing in the blood of Christ - **1 Co 10:16a**
 - a. As we partake, we commune with the blood of Christ
 - b. Perhaps in the sense of reinforcing blessings we enjoy through the blood of Christ
 2. It is a fellowship or sharing in the body of Christ - **1 Co 10:16b**
 - a. As we partake, we commune with the body of Christ
 - b. Perhaps in the sense of reinforcing fellowship together in the body of Christ (i.e., the church), as we break bread together
- **Is the communion that we have with the Lord's blood and body worthy of our faithful observance?**

E. AS A MEANS OF BUILDING FELLOWSHIP...

1. The disciples "came together" to break bread - **Ac 20:7**
 2. Eating of the same bread reflects our oneness in Christ - **1 Co 10:17**
 3. Thus Christians were to wait for one another - **1 Co 11:33**
- **Is the not the fellowship we have with one another in Christ reflected in the Supper worthy of faithful observance?**

CONCLUSION

1. The first Christians "continued steadfastly" in its observance...
 - a. Just as they did in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship and prayer - **Ac 2:42**
 - b. Coming together on the first day of the week for that very purpose - **Ac 20:7**
 - c. Coming together every first day of the week, as supported by historical sources
2. Christians today should never lose sight of the significance of the Lord's Supper...
 - a. As a **memorial** of the great sacrifice Jesus paid for our sins
 - b. As a **proclamation** of our faith in the Lord's death and His return
 - c. As a **time for reflection** and **rededication** of our service to the Lord
 - d. As a **communion** or **sharing** in the body and blood of the Lord
 - e. As a means for **building fellowship** with one another in the body of Christ

Do we appreciate our need for the Lord's Supper today? The **frequency** and **manner** of our observance reveals the extent of our understanding of the need for this wonderful ordinance...