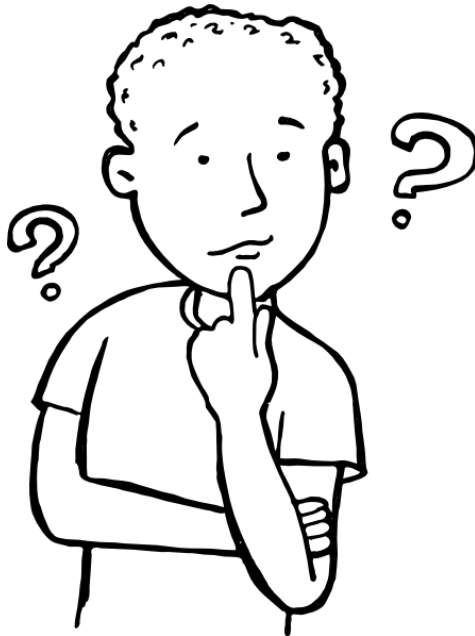


SHARON COPLEY ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

Why Am I Here?

Lesson 5

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Why Am I Here?

Lesson 5 – A Life of Faith

Over the course of this study, we have seen that the Bible gives clear answers to life's biggest questions. We have demonstrated that the Bible is indeed God's Word. We have discussed the gospel; the good news concerning God's Son who died on a cross to redeem us from sin so that we can fulfill our created purpose, experience true fulfillment, and look forward to eternal life.

In this final lesson, we want to consider the characteristics of one who has been born again through the blood of Christ. There are some very important things for us to understand:

1. You died. We must realize that, as Christians, you and I are no longer in charge. Realizing our purpose means allowing Christ to guide our thoughts and actions so that we can indeed glorify our Maker and be recipients of His promises.

- Read **Colossians 3:1-17**.

- i. What things are no longer to characterize us?
- ii. What things are we to put on?
- iii. What quality serves as a foundation for the others? (**vs. 14; cf. Mark 12:28-31; Gal. 5:6; John 14:15**)
 1. Our attitude towards _____, is a direct reflection of our love for God (**Phil. 2:3-8; 1 John 4:20-21; Matt. 25:31-46; Gal. 6:2**)
- iv. By putting on the new man, what can rule our hearts? (**vs. 15**)
- v. We are to do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus (**vs. 17**). What does this mean? (**2 John 9**)

- Read **2 Peter 1:2-9**.

i. How are grace and peace multiplied to us? (**vs. 2**)

1. Has God given us everything we need regarding His will for us? (**vs. 3; cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17**)

ii. Since we have “*escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust*” (**vs. 4**), what are we told to do with our faith? (**vs. 5-7**)

1. How would you define the word “diligence?” (**vs. 5; cf. 2 Tim. 2:15**)

iii. Based upon the language in **verse 8**, should we look at this list of godly attributes as a check list?

- Based upon passages such as **Galatians 2:20** and **Philippians 1:21**, would you say that our view of “putting on Christ” (**Gal. 3:27**) should be that of putting on a coat or that of having new skin?

2. You have been added to Christ's church. It is important to note that, according to the New Testament, there is only one true church (body of believers). There are many "churches" in existence today, but none of these are found in Scripture. Consider the following chart:

Denomination	Place of Origin	Year	Founder
Baptist Church	London, England	1607	John Smyth
Presbyterian Church	Switzerland	1535	John Calvin
Roman Catholic	Rome, Italy	606	Boniface III
Salvation Army	London, England	1865	William Booth
Seventh Day Adventism	Massachusetts	1846	Ellen G. White
Jehovah's Witnesses	Pennsylvania	1874	Charles T. Russell
Lutheran Church	Germany	1530	Martin Luther
Methodist Church	London, England	1729	John Wesley
Mormon Church	Seneca, NY	1830	Joseph Smith

The church described in the New Testament was established on the day of Pentecost in A.D. 33 and its founder is Jesus Christ (**Acts 2:1, 36-38, 41, 47; Matt. 16:13-18**).

- Read **Ephesians 1:22-23** and **4:4**.
 - i. Is there a difference between the church and the body?
 - ii. How many bodies are there?
- Read **1 Corinthians 12:12-14**.
 - i. Some today will claim that the various denominational churches (see chart above) are each "members" of the overall "body" of Christ. However, how are "members" of the body defined in the passage above? (**cf. vs. 27**)
 - ii. How are we to view one another as brothers and sisters in Christ? (**vs. 15-26**)

- Read **Colossians 1:1-2, 13-14** and **1 Corinthians 15:21-24**.

- i. What are those in Christ translated into?
- ii. In the end, what will be delivered to God for eternal life?

- Read **Acts 20:7** and **1 Corinthians 16:1-2**.

- i. Upon what day did the church assemble together?
- ii. What else took place on this day? (**Mark 16:9**)
- iii. Do we have a responsibility to assemble with the church on the Lord's Day? (**Heb. 10:23-25**)
 1. What should our attitude be? (**Psa. 122:1**)
 2. What two things are mentioned in **Acts 20:7** that the church engaged in upon the first day of the week? (cf. **Matt. 26:26-29; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 11:23-26**)
 - a. Why do you think God would want us to observe a memorial of His Son's death every first day of the week instead of only once a month/year/etc.? (**Heb. 12:1-3**)
 3. What command given in **1 Corinthians 16:1-2** is to be carried out when the church is assembled? (cf. **2 Cor. 9:7**)
 4. What action is commanded in **Colossians 3:16** and **Ephesians 5:19**?

a. What instrument is specified? (**Eph. 5:19**)

5. What other action did the church carry out when assembled? (**Acts 2:42; Jas. 5:13-16**)

What an honor and privilege it truly is that we can be called children of God (**1 John 3:1**) and be a part of the kingdom of His Son. Let us take seriously our responsibility, as His church, to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world (**Matt. 5:13-16**)!

3. You can fall from grace (**cf. Gal. 5:4**)! There are many today who teach that once you are saved, you are always saved. This concept, however, is not supported by what we read in Scripture. Paul asked the question in **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**: *“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”*

- Read **Romans 5:1-2**.

- i. What puts us into Christ and also allows us to remain in God’s grace?

- Read **Titus 3:8**.

- i. What must Christians be careful to maintain?

- Read **Romans 6:1-2**.

- i. Should we continue in sin after becoming Christians? If not, why?

- Read **2 Peter 2:20-22**.

- i. How does Peter describe the condition of one who chooses to return to his previous life of sin?

- Read **Hebrews 10:26-31**.

i. What awaits those who reject the faith?

- We certainly understand that despite a desire to no longer sin, we all are still bound to make mistakes. Thankfully, we can continually be cleansed by Christ's blood if we will, upon falling short, return again to Him (**1 John 2:1-2**). Read **Acts 8:9-24** and **1 John 1:5-10**.

i. According to the passages above, what must a Christian do if he or she sins?

Peter wrote in **2 Peter 1:10-11**: *"Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* If we are faithful unto death (**Rev. 2:10**), we will be able to inherit a heavenly home. Paul, near the end of his life, wrote: *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing"* (**2 Tim. 4:7-8**).

4. God has given us *"all things"* that we need to succeed (**2 Pet. 1:3**). We can overcome each and every scheme of the devil by drawing near to God and utilizing the tools He has given us. In **Ephesians 6:10-18**, Paul exhorts us to *"be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints."*

- Read **1 Corinthians 10:13**.

- i. Can we overcome all temptations or only some?
- ii. What is the way of escape? (cf. **Matt. 4:1-11; Jas. 4:7-8; Heb. 4:14-16**)

Conclusion

As a new Christian, remember that self is no more. You are now part of something much bigger than yourself: the body of Christ. Humbly play your small part in something big so that God will be glorified (**Jas. 4:10**)! Utilize the tools (Scripture and prayer) God has given you to overcome our adversary who seeks your soul's destruction (**1 Pet. 5:8**)! Remember that hell is not prepared for you. The Bible tells us that hell is "*prepared for the devil and his angels*" (**Matt. 25:41**). God desires for all men to be saved so that they can be with Him eternally (**2 Pet. 3:9**). Therefore, "*fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses*" (**1 Tim. 6:12**).

Throughout the course of this study, we have examined life's purpose in light of what God has revealed to us in His Word. As we have noted, our purpose is noble, our God is gracious and loving, and our reward for faithful service to Him is glorious indeed. It is my hope and prayer that, having completed this series of lessons, you will (if you have not already) render obedience to God through His Son, Jesus Christ, and, as a result, be able to live a life of realized purpose, experience true peace (**Phil. 4:6-7**), and have confidence of your eternal destiny. The apostle John wrote in **1 John 5:11-13**: "*This is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*"