

A LOOK INTO TRUTH

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
REVELATION	2
GOD	4
MAN	6
CHRIST	11
REDEMPTION	14
THE CHURCH	27
THE END OF THE WORLD	29

INTRODUCTION

These questions and answers have been written for all, unbelievers and true Christians alike. The answers are brief and by no means all-encompassing. It will be clear from the length of certain answers that one of my main concerns in these days is that we all discover and experience as much of God's life and power as He has made available to us through the cross of His Son.

Paul wrote to Timothy, "Take heed to thyself and to thy doctrine..." Clear understanding of correct doctrine is essential as a necessary safeguard for Christians in all ages. False doctrine creeps so easily into the hearts and minds of undiscerning and careless people. True doctrine is that which leads to godly living and real enjoyment of God. It is the true experience of the life of God by men and women that I am primarily concerned about.

Many people feel that certain true doctrines are unscriptural, and so they reject them; and those that believe the doctrines are considered fanatics without foundations. But as we discover through scripture the glorious and unsearchable riches available to us, the doors are flung wide open to lay hold of these riches by faith.

Oswald Chambers has written, "To think is an effort; to think rightly is a great effort, and to think as a Christian ought to think is the greatest effort of the human soul." Let's be those who are on fire in our

Gen 1:24-28, 2:7, 21-23

3. What is the purpose of man?

Man was made for God's pleasure. Since before the foundation of the world, God has desired that man should be in the image and likeness of God, that man should know God, serve Him, enjoy Him, reign with Him, and live in paradise forever in perfect communion with Him.

Gen 1:26, Mt 25:21, Lk 22:43, Jn 15:11, 17:3, 20-26, Rom 5:17, 6:22, 8:29, Eph 1:4-5,12, 1 Cor 1:9, 1 Tim 2:4, Heb 8:11, Rev 4:11, 21:3-4, 22:1-5

4. Did our first parents continue in the state in which they were created?

No. Adam and Eve went against God's command and sinned by eating the forbidden fruit. God had promised that in the day they ate of it they would die. And they did, entering into a state of spiritual death.

Gen 2:17, 3:6, Rom 6:23

5. What is sin?

Sin is willing transgression of the known law of God. What is commonly meant by "committing sin" in the New Testament is a willing and known transgression of a known law. Sin does not include involuntary or unconscious breaches of the perfect law of God (though these also require the cleansing work of the blood of Christ) because sin's essential characteristic involves willingness. Mistakes, infirmities, involuntary offenses, weakness and error are inevitable here on earth, but are not sin.

Is 53:6, Rom 3:23, 14:23, Jms 4:17, 1 Jn 3:4

6. What is the difference between "sins" and "sin"?

Sins are wrong acts done by a person. Sin is a state of being. Sins are the fruit, but sin is the root and substance of a man. It is not merely wrong things done by a man that keeps him apart from God. It is the whole core and nature and heart of a man that is wrong. It is the root of a man's life that is the problem, not the fruit alone.

Mk 7:6, 15-23, Rom 6:1,15, 7:12-23, Eph 2:1-3

7. How is Satan involved in man's temptation and sin?

He is the tempter, seeking his own gain and the ruin of God's kingdom and purpose. Having gained position as "prince of the power of the air" he is "the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." His aim is to draw us away and keep us away from all that God has for us. He is a liar and a deceiver. He tempts primarily by twisting the truth and the way our minds perceive things.

Gen 3:1, Mt 4:1-3, Jn 8:44, Eph 2:2, Rev 12:9, 13:14

8. How did Adam's sin and spiritual death affect mankind?

Every living thing reproduces and bears fruit after its own kind, and man is no exception. The state of sin and separation from God that Adam and Eve experienced has passed to all mankind. Man is descended from Adam and derives his nature from him. Through Adam has come sin, spiritual death, judgment, and condemnation to all men.

Gen 1:11-12, 24-25, 5:3, Ps 51:5, Rom 5:12-19, 1 Cor 15:22

9. Then is it fair that God holds each man responsible for his own sin if Adam is to be blamed?

Yes. Spiritual death passes on to each man as a result of his heredity derived from Adam. Though we have no choice concerning the spiritual state we are born in, we do have a choice concerning our eternal destiny. God offers us the opportunity to respond to the gospel and be changed. Because each has the choice to respond, each will be responsible for his own sin if he does not respond positively.

Ez 18:1-32, Jn 8:23-24, Rom 5:12, 2 Cor 5:17-20

10. What is the present condition of fallen man?

Man is separate from God and in darkness. No good thing dwells in him. He has no hope and is without God in the world, and the wrath of God rests on him.

Gen 3:24, Is 59:1-8, Jn 3:36, 15:4-5, Rom 7:18, Eph 2:1-3, 12, 5:8

11. What if a man chooses not to believe and obey the gospel?

At the day of judgment he will be brought to the judgment seat of Christ, judged according to what he has done while on earth, and then be cast into hell forever.

Mt 25:31-46, Rom 2:8-9, 16, 2 Cor 5:10, Rev 20:11-15

12. Was all mankind affected by Adam's sin?

Yes, all except Jesus Christ who is called the second man. He was born of a virgin that He should not be infected by the spiritual poison of the first man, Adam. He was the second man from heaven with a fresh opportunity to walk through this life in perfect conformity to the Father's will.

Mt 1:18-23, Jn 8:29, Rom 5:12, 18, 1 Cor 15:47, Phil 2:5-11, Heb 4:15, 5:8-9

CHRIST

1. Did God leave all mankind to perish in their sins?

No. In His great love for us, and in conformity with His original desire for man, in the fullness of time God revealed His plan for our salvation.

Gen 1:26, Eph 2:4-5, Gal 4:4-5

2. What is God's way in bringing us back to Him?

Jesus Christ! The sum of all teaching is this: the doctrine of Jesus Christ.

Jn 3:16-17, 14:6, Acts 4:12, Rom 7:24-25, 2 Jn 9

3. Who is Jesus Christ?

"Jesus" means "savior". "Christ" is the Greek form of the Hebrew word "messiah" which means "anointed, chosen one, marked, smeared (with oil)". He is the Father's "marked man" for the job of bringing us back to Him. Jesus Christ is God, the second person of the trinity. He has always existed and always will. He came to the world, took upon Himself the form of a man, lived in the world, was crucified and buried, and then rose from the dead in glorious power.

Mt 1:21, Jn 1:1-2, 41, Acts 1:1-3, Rom 1:3-4, 1 Cor 15:3-8, Phil 2:5-8, Heb 2:14-18, 7:3, Rev 1:8

4. Why is Jesus called the Son of Man?

Jesus was in every way a perfect human being. He had a human soul and body. He humbled Himself in wondrous love and left His throne above to identify with man in every way, except that He never sinned. He was born and raised among the poor and ordinary of this world. He was not gifted with any outward beauty, but "made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant." And He finally died at the hands of men. He is God's living example of a normal man, demonstrating the quality of life and relationship to God that He has intended for man.

Is 53:2-3, Mt 1:18-25, 20:27-28, Lk 24:39, Jn 1:14, 13:15, Rom 8:29, Phil 2:7-8, 1 Tim 2:5, Heb 2:14, 17, 4:15, 10:5

5. Why is Jesus called the "second man"?

He is called the "second man from heaven". He was not infected with the corrupt seed of Adam and his descendants because He was born of the Holy Spirit through the borrowed womb of a woman. If Jesus had been born of Adam's seed, He would have brought forth corrupt fruit. But being born of God, He could and did live a holy life, and was worthy to be the head of a new generation of people.

Rom 5:14-21, 1 Cor 15:45-48, Heb 4:15

6. Why is Jesus called the "Son of God"?

Along with being fully man, Jesus is also fully God. He came into the world not only to show us how man was meant to be, but also to show us who God is and what He is like.

Is 7:14, Mt 1:23, Jn 1:14, 8:58, 14:9, Phil 2:6, Col 2:9, 1 Tim 3:16, Heb 1:8, 1 Jn 5:20

7. How does Christ Jesus function as prophet?

He came into the world as the word of God made flesh. He speaks the truth by His words and manner of life. He reveals the life and intentions of God the Father, which is the essence of prophecy.

Jn 1:14, 18, 8:28, 38, 14:9-10, Acts 3:22

8. How does Christ Jesus function as priest?

He is in reality what the old testament high priests were in type and figure. He is the one and only mediator between God and man, having offered up the required sacrifice - His body and blood - and is now at the right hand of God ever living to make intercession for us.

1Tim 2:5, Heb 2:17, 7:20-28, 8:1,9:1-28, 10:10

9. How does Christ Jesus function as king?

He is King of kings and Lord of lords. He is the ruler and judge of all men. He is the courageous and loving leader who is worthy to be worshipped, not merely because He commands it, but because of His goodness and rightness towards us.

Mt 21:5, Jn 18:33-37, Rev 15:3-4, 19:11-21

REDEMPTION

1. What is redemption?

Redemption is that which Jesus did for all men on the cross to buy us back - body, soul and spirit - from

our present condition of sin, bondage, worldliness, death, and the wrath of God; that He might bring us all to God Himself and His kingdom of freedom, righteousness, godliness and perfect love. Jesus gave His own blood as the redemptive price to God for us. And in doing so, He has made it so wonderfully clear that He sees something in us worth dying for, even at so great a cost.

Gal 3:13-14, Col 1:12-14, Titus 2:14, Heb 9:12-15, Rev 5:9-10

2. What was accomplished by Jesus when He died on the cross?

Jesus died in our place, the guiltless for the guilty. As God's acceptable sacrifice for sinful man, Jesus bore the punishment that was due us. All the wrong that has ever or would ever be done was laid on Him and nailed to the cross.

Also, Jesus put an end to the generation of Adam. Though Adam's corruptions had flourished to one degree or another in every man, Jesus, called the "last Adam" in scripture, was crucified, and our old man was crucified with Him. All those that are baptized into Jesus Christ by faith can experience the death of the old Adam nature in reality. With the death of Jesus came the long awaited release from the miry clay of the man of earth, Adam. So both the forgiveness of our sins and the death of the sin nature were accomplished at the cross. The cross! It is the power of God!

Rom 5:6-8, 6:6, 1 Cor 1:17-24, 15:45, 2 Cor 5:21, Eph 1:7, Col 2:13-15, 1 Pet 2:21-24

3. What is grace?

Grace is the undeserved favor of God. It is the wonderful disposition of God's heart for helpless, hopeless man. Though Jesus was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be rich. While we were sinners and without strength to please Him, Christ died for us. Grace encompasses all that is freely available to us in Christ to help us in our need.

Jn 1:14-17, Rom 3:24, 5:2,15,20, 1 Cor 15:10, 2 Cor 8:9, Eph 4:7, Heb 4:16, Jms 4:6

4. What is justification?

It is the work God accomplished in Christ in order to declare a man righteous and accepted before Him. A man that is justified before God is pardoned and received into His favor. A man's past sinful record is cleared by his faith in the cleansing blood of Jesus.

Acts 13:39, Rom 2:13, 3:20-30, 5:9, 16-19

5. What is the significance of the blood of Christ?

The precious blood of Jesus was the price paid to God for our redemption. If we come to the light of Jesus confessing our sins, and then continue in the light, the blood washes us and keeps us clean from all sin and unrighteousness. The blood of sheep and goats and bulls in the old testament could only cover and hide sin in the people. But the blood of Jesus takes it away, so that we need not experience any more consciousness of sins!

Mt 26:28, Heb 10:1-22, 1 Pet 1:19, 1 Jn 1:7-9

6. What is regeneration?

Justification and regeneration are two distinct aspects or stages of the redemptive work of Christ. Yet both happen in one instantaneous moment of time in a man's actual experience. Justification is something God does for us. Regeneration is something God does in us. Justification changes our relation to God from enemies to children. Regeneration changes our innermost being from sinners to saints. The one is the taking away the guilt of sin, the other the taking away the power of sin.

The first birth or generation of a man is imperfect and incomplete. He is born dead spiritually. Regeneration is the second birth of a man, in which his spirit is raised from death by the Holy Spirit of God and made alive. It is the joining of man's spirit with God's Spirit, by which a man is brought into union or oneness with God. It is Jesus formed in us by which He begins to do His work in us.

Jn 1:10-13, 3:1-8, Eph 2:4-6, Titus 3:5, 1 Pet 1:22-23, 1 Jn 2:29

7. How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?

Christ died for all mankind, and whoever so desires and comes to Jesus may drink of His life. We cannot save ourselves by doing good works, "going to church," joining a certain organization or by doing a thousand other things that appear good or religious. The key is simply repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

Mk 1:15, Jn 1:7-9, 3:16, Acts 20:21, Titus 2:11, Heb 2:9, 6:1

8. What is repentance?

It is a conscious, total turning away from and forsaking of the life we have lived. It is the turning of ourselves to God. It is a clear change of mind concerning how we have lived and how we want to live from here on. It is like the prodigal son who "came to himself" and said "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants." As often as we turn to God with genuine repentance, we can partake of the fullness of His merits. Unless a person lays down his life at the foot of the cross in total surrender to God, the redemption so perfectly accomplished by Jesus will never be his.

Ez 18:31-32, Lk 15:18-19, 24:47, Acts 2:38, 17:30, Rev 2:5,16

9. What is faith?

Faith is a gift of God that springs and operates from a man's heart. It is the spiritual currency by which spiritual things are received. Faith is trust in God. It is the determined response of the will of a man to God and His promises. Saving faith (the faith by which a man is justified and born of God) is a full reliance on the blood of Christ. It is the sure confidence which a man has in God that through the life, death and resurrection of Christ he can say, "My own sins are forgiven and I am reconciled to the favor of God."

Mt 9:29, 21:21-22, Mk 9:23, Rom 1:16-17, 3:21-28, 10:9-10, Eph 2:8, Col 2:9-12, Heb 11:1

10. Why is faith the thing God requires of us?

So that it may be all by grace. All men have the same privilege of knowing and enjoying and pleasing God because all have the capacity to believe. God is no respecter of persons. All have sinned, and all may be restored by faith.

Rom 2:11, 3:19-27, 4:16, Eph 2:1-10

11. What does it mean to be baptized into Christ?

This is another way of describing the new birth. When the Holy Spirit comes, He brings to a man the experiential knowledge of Jesus Christ. He brings the person and essence and life of Christ into us, and brings us into identification with Jesus, into Him. We are submerged in Jesus and made complete in Him. We are crucified with Him, buried with Him, raised with Him, and seated with Him in heavenly places, that we may be with Him where He now is in spirit.

Lk 3:16, Jn 1:33, 17:20-26, Acts 11:16, Rom 6:1-14, Col 2:9-12

12. What is a new heart?

A cold, stony, evil heart is another way of describing the old man that was crucified with Christ. In its place, God promised He would give to man a new heart. The heart of a man that used to drift into sin again and again, now "naturally" draws toward God when he is born of God. God had not only commanded, but promised, "thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart." This new heart is a new nature, a new disposition, the heart of Jesus.

Ez 36:25-27, Mt 5:8, 12:34, 22:37, Acts 15:9, Eph 3:17, Col 3:22, 2 Tim 2:22, Heb 8:10-12

13. What are the signs indicating that a person has been born of God?

The day a man is born of God his heart is purified by faith. He is set free from the guilt and power of sin. He receives life from God through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. He is raised with Jesus and seated with Him in heavenly places, there to enjoy peace, joy, and a new life of righteousness and love.

Acts 15:9, Rom 5:17, Heb 10:1-10

He does not commit sin. He does the will of God naturally and is consistent enough in his performance that he is no longer a daily transgressor of the law of God. Sin is the exception rather than the rule.

Jn 8:31-36, Rom 6:1-23, 1 Pet 2:24, 4:1-2, 1 Jn 3:4-10, 5:18

He believes in God. Faith has come to his heart. It is the kind of faith that overcomes the world. There is a faith that is overcome by the world, and there is a faith that overcomes the world. The first kind is what a natural, unregenerate man possesses. The second is the kind a man born of God possesses, the kind of faith that overcomes "the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life."

Gal 5:22, 1 Jn 5:1-5

He does righteousness. He is not merely a sinner in heart that God now considers righteous. He has been made inwardly righteous by Jesus. He that does righteousness is righteous. We are not saved by works that we do in an attempt to obtain salvation. But when filled with the life of Jesus by the Spirit, good and perfect works flow from a man by that Holy Spirit of God within.

Rom 5:17-19, 6:18, 14:17, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Jn 2:29, 3:7-10, Rev 19:8

He loves with the love of God. This is the great hallmark of a true Christian. "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us." Hate is removed, and love for friend and foe alike takes its place. A man who is born of God has set his sights to grow in love, realizing that without love he is nothing.

Jn 13:35, Rom 5:5, Gal 5:22, 1 Jn 4:7-21

A man born of God keeps himself, and Satan does not touch him. The mighty arm of Satan is broken, and a man born of God has moved clearly from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God, and "greater is He that is" now in him "than he that is in the world." He now has power available to keep himself from sin and Satan.

Col 1:12-13, 1 Jn 4:4, 5:18

14. What then is man to grow into after being born of God?

As a baby is born perfect yet immature, so is a man reborn perfect yet immature. Purity of heart comes

instantly. Holiness is something we pursue and lay hold of in greater and greater degrees. The cross of Christ is applied to our lives, breaking us, crucifying self, removing all the traits, habits, and character of the old. A man's heart is made right when he is born of God. Then his whole soul must be dealt with and possessed by God. What has taken place inwardly must become more and more manifested outwardly. This is done through process of time, and it is written that even Jesus grew strong in spirit during His years on earth. It is a continuous change from glory to glory by the Spirit of God.

Lk 2:40, 21:19, Rom 12:2, 2 Cor 3:18, 4:10-11, 7:1, Eph 1:17-19, 3:16, 4:12-16, 1 Thes 3:12-4:1, 5:23-24, 2 Tim 2:22, Heb 10:10-14, 12:6-11, 1 Pet 2:1-3, 2 Pet 3:18

15. What is it to be sanctified?

It is to be renewed in the image of God in righteousness and true holiness. Sanctification follows justification and regeneration as the next stage in the redemptive work of Christ. As soon as a man is born of the Spirit, the work of sanctification begins.

Rom 6:19-22, 2 Cor 7:1, Eph 4:24, 1 Thes 4:3-7, 5:23, 2 Tim 2:21, Heb 12:10, 1 Pet 1:14-16, 1 Jn 3:2

16. What is Christian perfection?

Sanctification and Christian perfection go hand in hand. It is the loving God with all our heart, and mind, and soul, and strength. This implies that no wrong temper, none contrary to love, remains in the soul; and that all thoughts, words and actions are governed by pure love. A man is made perfect so far as not to commit sin.

Mt 5:48, 19:21, Mk 12:28-31, Jn 17:23, 2 Cor 7:1, Jms 3:2, 1 Jn 2:5, 4:12-18

17. Do we have to be holy? Is perfection required by God?

Yes. Without holiness no man shall see the Lord.

Gen 17:1, Deut 18:13, Mt. 5:8, 48, Heb 12:14,

18. Can we be made perfect in this life?

Yes. However, we will always be subject to mistakes, possess infirmities, be in ignorance about many things, and have a continuous need for increase in perfection. Yet we can be perfect in the way God expects us to be perfect: our will continuously resigned to His.

Lk 6:40, 1 Cor 2:6, 2 Cor 7:1, Eph 4:12-13, Col 1:28, 4:12, 2 Tim 3:17, Heb 6:1, 10:14, Jms 1:4

19. Can two natures (Adam's and Christ's) dwell together in a man?

No. A man has one nature, whatever that may be. A dog doesn't have two natures. It is what it is. The same with man. If he has a sinful nature, he can't help but sin, no matter what good intentions he may have. If he has the Jesus nature, he will gravitate to what is right, and love to do it.

Mt 7:16-20, 12:33, Mk 7:15-23, Rom 7:15-8:11, 2 Cor 5:17

20. Where then is the battle in a man who has received a new nature and is now a new creation?

The struggle is between the flesh and the spirit. The flesh is an entirely different aspect of a man than the sinful Adam nature. Jesus Himself was made flesh, and so could be tempted like as we, though He never had a sinful nature. But because He "naturally" loved the Father and righteousness, He never allowed the flesh to rule. Jesus said that the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. Once born of God, a man must

continue to press forward day by day, following the Spirit's leading by the Spirit's power. If we walk in the Spirit, we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh and will remain free from the law of sin and death. But if we walk in the flesh, we will fall into the grip of the law of sin and death, just like a jet plane in the sky that runs out of fuel will become subject to the law of gravity and crash.

Mk 14:38, Jn 1:14, Rom 13:14, 2 Cor 10:2-3, Gal 5:16-25, Phil 3:13-14, Heb 5:7

21. Can we really be made free from sin?

Yes. "Being then made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness," wrote Paul. In reference to sin, Jesus said, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

Jn 8:31-36, Rom 6:7, 18, 22

22. Is it possible to sin after being made new?

Yes. If we take our eyes off of Jesus because of pressures or temptations and move away from our place of faith. Christians need not sin, but the capability to sin remains. If one is overtaken in a sin, let him not despair. God, in His mercy, has made sufficient provision in Christ for his forgiveness and cleansing again if he confesses the wrong he has done.

Heb 3:12-14, 1 Jn 1:9, 2:1

23. What is temptation?

Temptation is the test by an outside personality or force of the things possessed by an individual. When a person is tempted he is drawn away by his desire and enticed. That is not sin. It is sin if he gives in to it. Jesus was "in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." We may be tempted a hundred times or more in a day. Without God in us, we are helpless to defend ourselves against all the temptation and confusion that the devil throws against us. But by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit within, we need not fall into temptation. We are well able to overcome and stand through Christ.

Gen 3:1-6, Lk 4:1-13, 1 Cor 10:13, 2 Cor 2:14, Phil 4:13, Heb 4:15, Jms 1:12-16

24. Do we expect to sin again?

We don't have to sin again. The apostle John tells us that if we sin we have Jesus as our advocate. But John doesn't say when we sin. We don't have to sin again because we have been set free from sin, and what a glorious joy and hope that is. With two natures, there is no hope of thoroughly escaping sin. But with the death of the old and the bringing in of the new, we need not ever sin again.

Jn 5:14, 8:11, Rom 6:6, 14, 8:2, 2 Cor 2:14, Phil 4:13

25. Can we lose our salvation once we are saved?

Yes. Though God bears long with His children and will not easily let them go, there is clear indication from scripture that if we turn from God and continually ignore Him, He will consider it a breach of covenant and will break the contract.

Num 14:34, 2 Chron 36:14-21, Rom 11:22, 1 Cor 10:1-2, Col 1:21-23, Heb 3:12-14, 2 Pet 2:20-21

26. What is man's responsibility in going on to perfection?

We are told to endure to the end, denying ourselves and taking up our cross daily in continual submission to the Lord Jesus and the leading of His Spirit. As we are simply yielded in faith, love and obedience to

God's will day by day, He will have the cooperation He needs in order to work in us "both to will and to do of His good pleasure" and take us on to perfection. And as we feed on Jesus and enjoy the wonder of who He is, He will complete His ultimate and original intention of making us in His image, according to His likeness. By faith we begin our walk in the Spirit and it is by faith alone that we go on to perfection.

Lk 9:23, Jn 6:53-58, Rom 6:13,16, 2 Cor 3:18, Phil 2:8, 13, 3:8-14, Heb 12:1-11, Rev 12:11

THE CHURCH

1. What is the Church?

The Church is made up of true believers in heaven and on the earth who have been justified from sin and born of the Spirit into new life in Christ.

Heb 12:22-23, 1 Pet 2:9-10

2. How may the Church be described?

It is a body, in which all members are unique, yet all one and part of a whole, with Jesus Christ as the head.

1 Cor 12:12-27, Eph 1:22-23, 4:11-16

It is a bride, who brings joy and everlasting pleasure to the bridegroom, which is Christ. The bride's dress is clean and white by the blood of Jesus, and her relationship to Him is intimate and secure, bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh.

Jn 3:29, Eph 5:22-32, Rev 19:7-9, 21:9-11

It is a building, the chief cornerstone being Jesus Christ. The Church is made of many precious jewels and stones, all fitly joined together to stand firm and shine for Jesus.

Mt 16:18, 1 Cor 3:9-17, Eph 2:19-22, 1 Pet 2:4-8

It is a family, in which all have become brothers and sisters in the family of God. God is our Father, Jesus is our brother, and the Spirit ties us all into one.

Jn 20:17, Rom 8:17, Gal 4:6, Eph 2:18, 3:15, Heb 2:10-18, 1 Jn 3:1

It is an army, with Jesus Christ as our leader and captain. The Church is to fight alongside one another, victorious in Christ against sin, self, and Satan, the enemy of God.

Ez 37:10, Eph 6:10-17, 2 Tim 2:3-4, Rev 19:11-21

3. How can so many and varied people be unified?

The Lord's plan is that believers will all be made perfect in one. It is His plan and so it will be, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. It is by baptism into Christ by the Holy Spirit that God adds individuals to the one body, and it is by the mighty work of the Holy Spirit that God will complete the perfect communion of God with His people.

Mt 16:18, Jn 16:13-15, 17:20-26, 1 Cor 12:13

THE END OF THE WORLD

1. When will Jesus Christ come?

No one knows but the Father. And no man knows for sure the exact order of events involved in the return of Jesus and the end of the world.

Mt 24:36,42, 1 Thes 5:2

2. What is meant by the "return of Christ"?

It is promised that Jesus Christ will return again to reign on the earth for a thousand years with those who have not worshipped the beast or been involved in his system.

Mt 24:30, Rev 20:4, 1-7

3. What will happen at the end of the world?

At the end of the thousand year reign of Christ with the saints, Satan will be released for a short period of time to deceive the nations. Then he and his host will be cast into the lake of fire that burns forever. Heaven and earth and all the works in it will be consumed with fire.

Rev 20:7-9, 10, 11, 2 Pet 3:7, 10, 12

4. What about judgment?

All men will be raised from the dead to stand at the great white throne of God to be judged according to their works. Those not having their names written in the book of life shall be cast into the lake of fire, along with death and hell.

Mt 13:41-42, 25:31-32, Jn 5:22-29, Rom 2:2-10, Rev 20:11-15

5. What then?

There shall be a new heaven and a new earth, in which only righteousness shall dwell. The Church, the wife of Jesus the Lamb, shall descend out of heaven onto the new earth as a bride adorned for her husband, having the glory of God. Then comes the end when Jesus shall be subject to the Father, that God may be all in all, and the saints shall behold the Lamb and reign with Him and serve Him forever and ever.

Mt 13:43, 1 Cor 15:24-28, 2 Pet 3:13, Rev 21:1-22:5