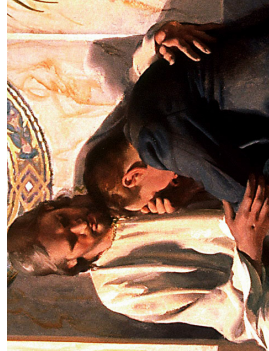


us. It is as if all our sins were written on a blackboard and God rubs them off. How God delights to forgive us our sins.

A word of caution: Forgiveness is not feeling. Feelings are unstable but God's promises are not. When we truly repent and confess our sins, God forgives us regardless of whether we feel they are forgiven or not. Martin Luther was once asked "Do you feel your sins are forgiven?" He replied "No. But I am as sure they are, as I am sure there is a God in heaven." We don't need feeling for assurance, we need faith.



When we have done our part we can arise from prayer confident that God has forgiven our sins, and confident that He will give us further victories. Don't be discouraged if you stumble, you may fall many times, but Jesus will lift you up and place you on the path again. Confession is not a convenience to the non-genuine Christian; it is a remedy for the one who falls into sin by weakness and not by design.

My friend, everything has been provided for you to receive the gift of salvation. Jesus paid a high price to redeem you, and all He asks in return is your life. You can stand before God, sinless. Not because you are sinless but because your sins are forgiven. If your sins are forgiven when the Lord comes you will one day hear those wonderful words of Jesus "Come, blessed of my Father; inherit the kingdom." Have you confessed your sins to God? If you haven't — why not do it now?

Is it your desire to ask Him to guide your life from this day onward? _____



Life's VITAL ANSWERS

The Way to Eternal Life.

God loves you – no matter who you are or what you have done. He loves every person in this world. His love extends to all, even murderers, adulterers, liars, and even atheists. This love was demonstrated by the fact that Jesus Christ was prepared to come to this world and pass through the agony of Calvary to redeem a lost world. Salvation has been offered to every person, but not all will receive it. People are asking, “How can I get right with God?” and “How can I keep right with God?” The way to everlasting life is so simple to understand, but very few are enlightened as to how to come to Christ, and experience happiness, peace of mind and a hope for the future. This study shows the Bible’s answer for victorious Christian living.

Romans 3:23 . . . for _____ and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 3:10 As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one;

Here is outlined our hopeless condition. We are sinners. No person can claim to be right with God through his/her own merits, because all have sinned, which means nobody has the right to eternal life.

Romans 6:23 For _____, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The only outcome for the sinner is eternal death – this he/she truly earns, but eternal life is free – it is a gift – but only if we accept the gift. Our way of life will indicate whether we have a genuine conversion or not.

Acts 16:30,31 He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, _____” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”



The Philippian Jailer asks “What must I do to be saved?”

The question asked by so many who are seeking life everlasting is, “What must I do to be saved?” The answer is clear – “Believe in Je-

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.

When do we receive the forgiveness for our sins? It is not when we are good enough or when we are changed and receive eternal life – it is NOW.

1 John 1:7,9 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

If we confess our sins to God in prayer, the promise in these texts is that we will find forgiveness. How much of our sin is cleansed away? ALL. There are no exceptions, if we fulfill our part by confession – our sins are forgiven. God’s forgiveness is complete.

Luke 11:4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.



Jesus wants us to pray for forgiveness. He wants us to be cleansed. He wants us in His eternal kingdom.

Micah 7:19 You will again _____ you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

When we are forgiven, God will “remember our sins no more”

The sea is 11 kilometres deep in parts.

God wants to remove our sins from us more than we realise. He has our interest at heart. He wants us to be saved.

Hebrews 8:12 For _____ and will remember their sins no more.

When God forgives, He is prepared to forget. When our iniquities (lawless deeds) have been forgiven, God will not hold them against

The test of love to God is obedience to His commandments.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Obedience is not accomplished by our own efforts; it is achieved by the power of Christ living within. Nevertheless we cooperate willingly on the side of obedience. All of our victories over temptation, and our achievements in Christian living can only be credited to Him. Self has nothing to boast. Unless Christ lives within, we are dwells within we are His precious treasure.

1 John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

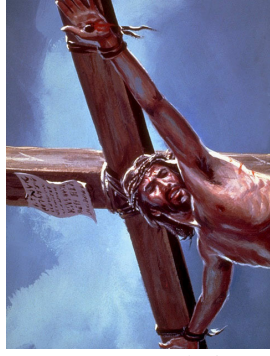
So we can have absolute confidence in the promise of eternal life. The battle over sin has been fought and won at Calvary, now all we have to do is submit our lives to Him and the victory and the reward becomes a reality.

The process of receiving eternal life is simple, but actually believing that we are forgiven, can often be very difficult. Accepting that our sins are forgiven in spite of what we have done in the past is crucial to the Christian experience. We will now study a little more about the concept of forgiveness.

GOD FORGIVES

Acts 13:38 Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.

It is through Jesus that we find forgiveness of sins. God's forgiveness is based on mercy and justice. God is merciful in that He is prepared to forgive us our sins but justice was met when Christ paid the wages of sin by His death on the cross.



As Christians we die to the old way of life and in this sense are crucified with Christ.

sus". This does not mean just to believe He existed, but to believe Him to the point of doing what He says. Scripture states that even the devils believe and tremble, but the Christian's belief involves the whole life. The born-again Christian will have faith in Jesus that leads to a life of obedience to Him.

There are definite steps to take on the path to eternal life:

1. BELIEVE

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that shall not perish but have eternal life.

The convicting power of the Holy Spirit will bring us to the point of decision. We can choose to believe in Jesus or choose not to – God does not force. But if we choose to believe, the wonderful promise of everlasting life will be the reward.



2. REPENT

Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

Luke 13:3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

True repentance is a gift of God. It is the goodness of God that leads to repentance and not something sinful people seek after. But again we are given the choice to repent or not to repent, and in this Jesus is most definite – repent or perish. However, there are two types of repentance, genuine and non-genuine. For example, a little boy may be very repentant for his wrong because he is going to be punished. He is sorry, but not for the wrong he has done. So a person may be sorry for the results of sin, but not sorry for the sin itself – this type of repentance is not genuine. True repentance is manifest in genuine sorrow for sins committed.

Psalms 51:7,9,10 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. and blot out all my iniquity.

steadfast spirit within me. O God, and renew a

King David was truly sorry for his dual sin of murder and adultery and pleaded with God for a cleansed life. He knew God's forgiveness would wash away his sins. His repentance was genuine for he was not just satisfied to have his past sins forgiven – instead he prayed that he would not fall again and said, "Create in me a clean heart O God". To genuinely repent means we will not seek or desire to sin in the future.

3. CONFESSION

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Our part is to confess our sins. God's part is to forgive them. So many feel their life has been too sinful for God to forgive them, but here is God's promise for all who fulfil the conditions. The promise is to cleanse from ALL unrighteousness.

4. NEW BIRTH OR CONVERSION

John 3:3-7 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth,



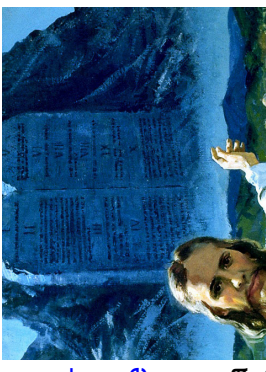
An amazing conversion took place in the life of Peter after the resurrection of Jesus.

"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

If the first three steps have been taken, genuine conversion or the new birth experience has taken place. Unless these conditions are met, the kingdom of God will not be seen. Some feel that a conversion must be miraculous or instantaneous, and with some it appears

this way, but it could be due to the previous workings of the Holy Spirit and suddenly one is brought to the point of decision. Others have a sunrise type conversion and cannot pinpoint an exact time, but they are just as genuine as the one who came to Christ suddenly. How it came about is not as important as the fact that it has actually happened – but it must happen.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the old has gone, the new has come!



Jesus gives us power to overcome and be obedient to Him.

Here is the evidence of true conversion – a changed life. The things we once loved we now hate, and things we once hated we now love – we are new creatures – we have been born again. The first birth is carnal, the new birth is spiritual. This does not mean we will not have any temptations, or will never sin again. The power of evil will endeavor to regain lost property. There will always be a conflict between our sinful nature and the spiritual desires as long as we live – but while we look to Jesus for strength, we need never fail. Our delight, as new creatures, will be to do the will of God.

5. OBEDIENCE

Hebrews 8:10 This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds . I will be their God, and they will be my people.

If we are genuinely converted it will be seen in our obedience to the will of God. Here is where so many fail. They are prepared to render lip service and make a profession of Christianity, but do not live by God's standard of righteousness. The new covenant promise is that God will put His laws into the minds and hearts of His followers.

1 John 5:2,3 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,