



The
FLOW
Adult CURRICULUM

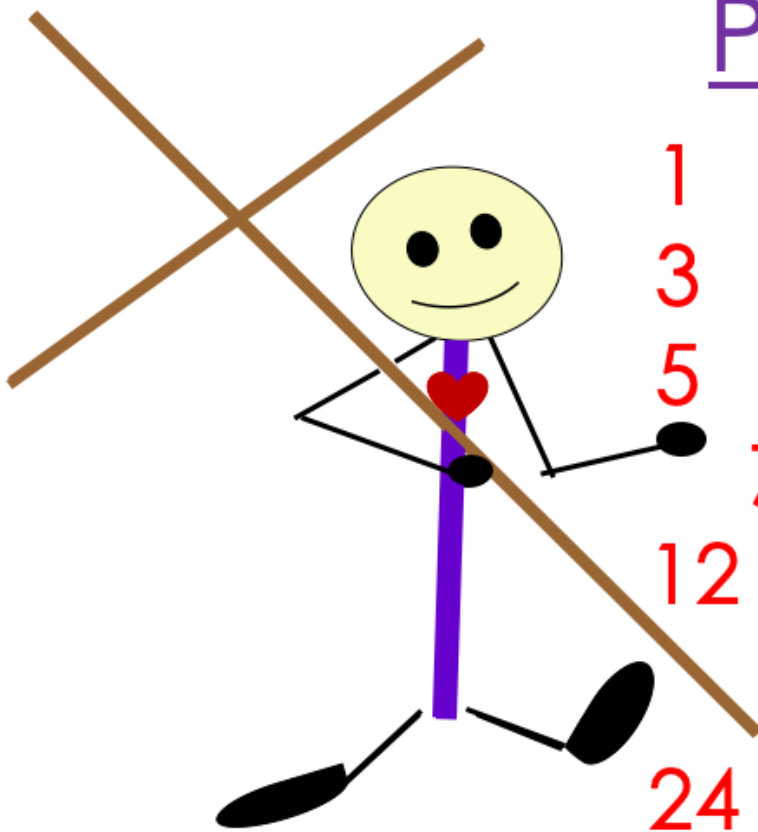
#12

FACTS

1 John 1:1

(Come And See Christianity book pages 44-45)

The FLOW

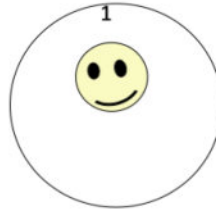


PREVIEW:

- 1 Design
- 3 Divisions
- 5 Disciples
- 7 Details
- 12 Disciplines
- 24 Distinctives

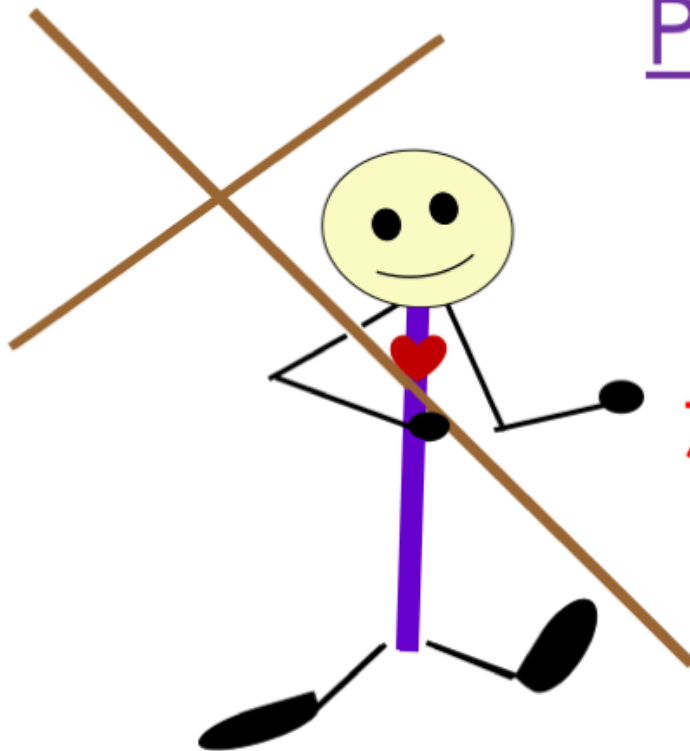
SECTION FOUR: 7 Details

The
HEAD

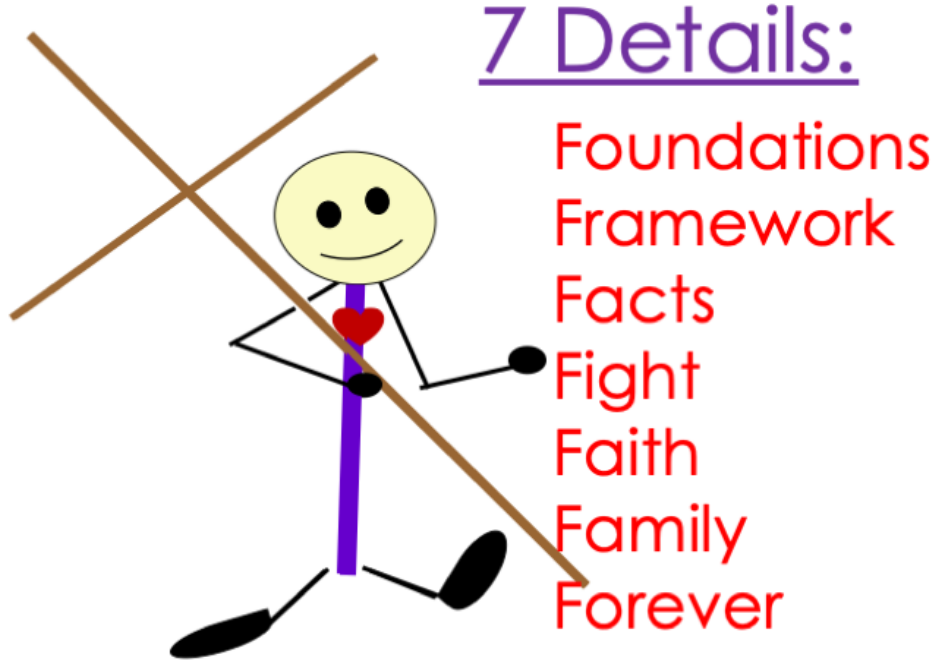


continued...

PREVIEW:



7 Details



7 DETAILS: The divine is in the details... Here we have what we also call **The Fundamentals**, that which explains the core & comprehensive truths of Christianity, as well as a biblical worldview.

The FUNDAMENTALS

We have described the 7
“details” as 7 “Fundamentals,”
each one beginning with
the letter “F” ...to help you
to remember them :-)



The Facts

The FACTS: Everything you need to know about **creation** & **all created things** can be understood under the **umbrella** of these 5 facts: **Creator, Corruption, Christ, Church, Coming-again...**

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

INTRO:

Welcome to Come And See Christianity's section four, "**The DETAILS.**" At this point, we have already established in sections 1-3 that Almighty God has "1 Divine DESIGN" (found in His authentic biblical worldview) for all of creation. Next, we addressed the fact that every human being is made up of "3 DIVISIONS," their HEAD, HEART, and HANDS (also known as their beliefs, their beloved, and their behaviors). From there, we moved on to the "5 DISCIPLES," the LOST, LOVERS, LEARNERS, LEADERS, and LIFERS, which proved that Christianity accounts for, with definitions and descriptions, ALL people... past, present, and future, from ALL parts of the world – bar none.

With our Creator and all His image-bearing (Genesis 1:27) creatures accounted for, the next logical step on the narrow path of understanding will concentrate on the sure-footedness of core, non-negotiable, and eternally essential content. In short, **we need to know what we need to know.**

To that end, The DETAILS will define and describe, in a broad and biblical context, (7) seven progressive principles of God's truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) that serve to engage, explain, equip, empower, and exemplify the fundamentals of Christianity. Herein, we will unveil and unpack a comprehensive summary and cohesive overview of God's biblical blueprint for understanding His created reality. Having said that, in moving forward, to help paint the fuller portrait of genuine Christianity, each DETAIL will receive its own lesson. Herein, we will focus on #3, **The FACTS.**

PRAYER:

LORD, we seek to bless You with all that is within us. Help us here, we pray, to be that blessing as we come to better understand You and Your eternal truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Help us to see with Your eyes and love with Your love, all that You would reveal to us through Your Word, Your will, and Your ways. May we grow in our grasp of Your realities, Your means of restoration, and Your mission of reproduction. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen and Amen

CONTEXT:

Macro

When it comes to learning about Christ, Christianity, and the biblical Church, relatively speaking, a thousand lifetimes filled with devoted study would not dig through the endless depths of God's divine grace, gospel, and glory. Frankly (and thankfully), the fullness of Creator Christ is far beyond our ability to fully comprehend. To quote Him directly and prove the point, hear Almighty God, "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations?" (Job 38:4). In short, we need to maintain a sense of genuine awe and reverent fear (1 Peter 1:17) when it comes to loving and learning about the LORD.

At the same time, the character, commands, and commissioning of the living God, Christianity's Christ and King, compels us to draw near to Him (James 4:8) with the promise that He will draw near to us. Moreover, the God of the Bible promises that He has miraculously given all true Christians "everything needed for life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3), which includes an anointed understanding of His Word, will, and ways (1 Corinthians 2:14).

NOTE: the unification and blessed tension of the two paragraphs above can be harmonized when one realizes how these truths complement each other. On one hand, there are (7) fundamental details that share a progressive and straight-forward, principle-based explanation of Christianity. And, at the same time, all (7) have a divine depth and truth-filled treasure that is both bottomless and priceless – Amen!

Christianity's 7 DETAILS or FUNDAMENTALS:

1. *The FOUNDATIONS*
2. *The FRAMEWORK*
3. *The FACTS*
4. *The FIGHT*
5. *The FAITH*
6. *The FAMILY*
7. *FOREVER*

*I seek the will of the Spirit of God through or in connection with the Word of God.
The Spirit and the Word must be combined. If I look to the Spirit alone
without the Word, I lay myself open to great delusions also.*

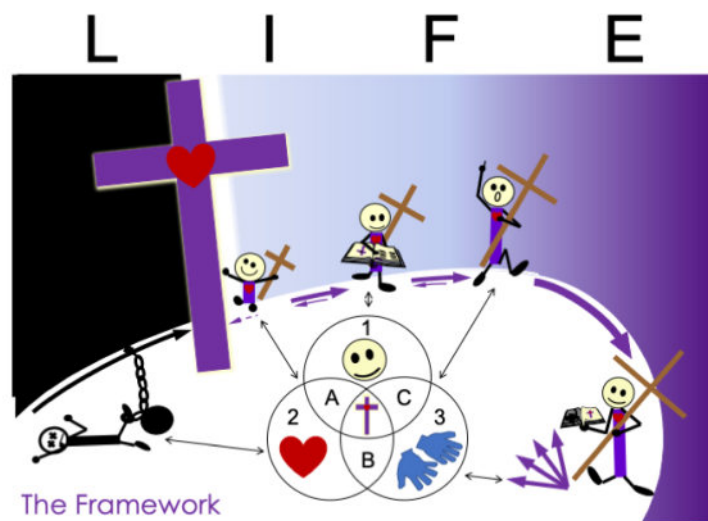
- George Mueller

Micro

Remember where we have been and what we have learned... In our last lesson, we established and explained that **“The FRAMEWORK is a true, visual, and biblical blueprint of LIFE.”** When thoroughly understood, it can be used to describe and explain Almighty God’s 1 divine DESIGN for humanity, to include what has gone wrong, where the Solution can be found, and how saved souls are sanctified through missional growth. Herein, we harmonize and display all of the previous lessons in the Come And See Christianity curriculum. In short, while there is still a lifetime of learning in front of every biblical believer, practically speaking, **to rightly understand the FRAMEWORK is to righteously understand Christianity.**

With that said, remember, the second of the DETAILS is built upon the first. More specifically, **the FRAMEWORK is built upon the FOUNDATIONS.** Take note, here, as in many aspects of LIFE, a righteous understanding of the sequence, order, and relationship between components is mission-critical. Case in point, when it comes to the FRAMEWORK, God’s WORD, God’s WILL, and God’s WAYS come first. Only then can we know with certainty that we are building to biblical code... and our FRAMEWORK is both accurate and trustworthy.

Understanding of the whole requires understanding of the parts. An essential element of the FRAMEWORK’s value and helpful application is a proper understanding of its components. With that said, let us outline and explain how the FRAMEWORK’s depiction of “LIFE”: the darkness, the dead man, the ball and chain, the cross, the growing men, the little crosses, and the various arrows... all come together to cohesively explain the Christian LIFE’s Scope; Sin; Sequence; Salvation; and Sanctification.



1. SCOPE

All of life is designed, defined, and described, for better or for worse, by God's Word, God's Will, and God's Ways. Thus, the FRAMEWORK reveals and explains reality for ALL of humanity.

2. SIN

The Bible describes sin in many ways, but "missing the mark" of God's will is arguably the most helpful for our purposes. In the FRAMEWORK, sin is depicted as the black darkness on the far left, which marks the starting and default position for all people. The effects of sin are also shown to be deadly and divisive, separating the children of Satan from the family of God.

3. SEQUENCE

Christianity is anchored in a right understanding of sequence. Creator before creation... Death before life... Messiah before miracle... Grace before obedience... Mission before ministry... Sadly, most people do not believe or understand the realities of spiritual life, spiritual death, spiritual stagnation, and spiritual growth. To help, the FRAMEWORK explains how and why these dynamics, and more, all relate to one another.

4. SALVATION

Christianity is all about God's glory, grace, and Gospel, as shared through the saving work of Christ and His cross... Per God's Word, SALVATION is a miraculous work of the Lord's sacrificial love and substitutionary grace (John 3:16), which delivers Christians from sin's power and eternal damnation (John 8:32). To that end, the FRAMEWORK's most prominent and vital component is Christ's cross. It divides the light from the dark, the living from the dead, the good news from the bad. To be sure, it is also critical to realize that there is an unbreakable biblical relationship between SALVATION's cross of Christ and every saved sinner's perpetual carrying of their own sanctifying cross (Luke 14:27).

5. SANCTIFICATION

Directional arrows are designed to show people the way... In Come And See Christianity's FRAMEWORK, the arrows point to and exemplify the way of SANCTIFICATION. With that in mind, there are (5) important "arrow attributes" to see and understand:

- A. *Origin:* God's miraculous love and grace (John 6:44)
- B. *Progression:* From death to the fullest of life (John 10:10)
- C. *Directions:* Christians grow up AND go back (John 20:21)
- D. *Trajectory:* Sanctification humbles Christians (John 3:30)
- E. *Perpetuity:* Christians live in God's love loop (John 7:38)

Without God's miraculous grace and Christ's cleansing cross, there would be no arrows – no hope, no healing. But, because Christ died, Christians can live! Moreover, as biblical believers grow in faith and maturity, they embrace God's living mission and become His loving missionaries – the Christlike, who go back to help any and all who are behind them on their journey with Jesus... especially those still lost in the darkness of their sin. As the sanctification process continues and the Christian grows IN Christ, he/she will take on the pouring-out posture and priorities that perpetuate Christ's Gospel mission and ministries – locally, regionally, and globally (Acts 1:8).

With the FRAMEWORK revisited, now let us return to the FACTS and see how the two (both of which are building upon the FOUNDATIONS) fit together... In short, whereas the FRAMEWORK reveals and explains the eternal life (or death) of every human, the FACTS define and describe the realities of eternity, to include the One and only Creator God, as well as ALL that He alone has created. **The FACTS tell all of time's defining truth...**

Message

God has declared 5 FACTS that stand as His eternal pillars of truth. These non-negotiables explain God's sovereign plan from the broadest perspective. In other words, the 5 FACTS (see below) serve as the context for all of reality. Let that statement sink in... EVERYTHING that was, IS, and is to come... is found, explained, and validated in Christianity's defining and descriptive 5 FACTS.

Think about it this way... per the FOUNDATIONS of God's Word, God's Will, and God's Ways, the 5 FACTS offer us, by God's grace and for His glory, both, the perfect backdrop for understanding the micro dynamics of the FRAMEWORK, as well as the macro movements across all of created time.

BIG IDEA: Everything you need to know about creation and all created things can be understood under the umbrella of the 5 FACTS.

PREVIEW:

1. CREATION
2. CORRUPTION
3. CHRIST
4. CHURCH
5. COMING-again

TEXT:

[John 1:1](#)

In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God.

1. CREATION

Illustration:

Every building proves its builder, every painting its painter, our creation... our Creator!

Explanation:

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” ([Gen. 1:1](#)). This tells us several things all at once... First and foremost, it tells us that God is the ultimate Being. Before there was a universe, there was God. He exists independently of matter and sequence of time. God transcends space and time. He is not limited by spatial considerations (He is everywhere in His fullness, continually)... It is not strictly accurate to say that before the universe was created there was “nothing” ...before the created universe existed, there was God (and) He creates out of nothing.

Everything that exists originates from God. Genesis employs a special Hebrew verb for the act of creation (bārā') the subject of which is always God. No other subject is employed or implied. Man, too, “creates” (poetry, music, literature, architectural wonders, for example) but not in this sense. “To create” is exclusively an act of God, and by employing it in the first and last verse of the creation story (Genesis 1:1 and 2:4), the writer is employing something that looks like “bookends” that encase the central idea that God is at work. Easy as this is to write (and read!), try to imagine the power it takes to bring into existence the entire cosmos!” - **Derek Thomas** (Ligionier.org)

Application:

**Love, praise, worship, thank, obey, and abide-in Creator Christ...
no more, no less, no matter what!**

The very word authority has within it the word author. An author is someone who creates and possesses a particular work. Insofar as God is the foundation of all authority, He exercises that foundation because He is the author and the owner of His creation. He is the foundation upon which all other authority stands or falls.

- R.C. Sproul

2. CORRUPTION

Illustration:

One leak will sink a ship: and one sin will destroy a sinner.
John Bunyan

The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible.
Dwight L. Moody

Explanation:

Satan's first recorded words in the Bible ("*Now the serpent (Satan) was more crafty than any beast of the field that the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Did God really say..." Genesis 3:1*) opened the cancerous floodgates of sin's CORRUPTION and crushing effects on humanity.

To understand creation's corruption and Christianity's loving Cure, **people need to recognize the reality of spiritual warfare** (1 Peter 5:8 and Ephesians 6:10-20). Further still, it is important to note that preparation for combatting corruption should include explanations and exhortations regarding the sequence and substance, plus the roles and responsibilities connected to the devil's strategic applications of doubt, deception, and destruction... Then, as we will see, the help, hope, and healing of The Messiah's divine DESIGN, miraculous deliverance, and missional discipleship will make more sense and move more hearts.

Men tell us in these days that sin is what you think it is. Well, it is not. Sin is what God thinks it is. You may think according to your own conscience. God thinks according to His.

John G. Lake

Romans 3:23

For ALL have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God...

To pretend to trust Christ to save you from sin while you are still determined to continue in it is making a mockery of Christ.

Charles Spurgeon

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death...

We are saved from nothing if we are not saved from sin. Little sins are pioneers of hell. The backslider begins with what he foolishly considers trifling with little sins. There are no little sins. There was a time when all the evil that has existed in the world was comprehended in one sinful thought of our first parent; and all the now evil is the numerous and horrid progeny of one little sin.

James Howell

Fallen man is not simply an imperfect creature who needs improvement: he is a rebel who must lay down his arms. Laying down your arms, surrendering, saying you are sorry, realizing that you have been on the wrong track and getting ready to start life over again from the ground floor-that is the only way out of a "hole." This process of surrender-this movement full speed astern-is repentance.

C. S. Lewis

Genesis 6:5

*The LORD saw that **the wickedness of man was great** in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

Application:

When you find yourself in the midst of corruption, cry out to Christ, confess and repent of your sin, believe and obey the Word, will, and ways of God... then, by God's grace and for His glory, abide and repeat with a loving and righteous heart!

The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works.
- Augustine

Ephesians 5:11

"Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them."

3. CHRIST

Illustration:

The name Emmanuel takes in the whole mystery... though Jesus was "with us" in human flesh & blood, He was at the same time very God.
- J. C. Ryle

Explanation:

The whole of God's Word is centered on the fact that Jesus is The CHRIST, the second Person of the Trinity. Here is just a small sampling of that truth from the Holy Scriptures, followed up by a handful of inspiring insights.

Jesus is CREATOR GOD!

(John 1:1)

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.*

Jesus is TRUTH!

(John 14:6)

*I am the way, the truth, and life,
no one comes to the Father except through Me.*

Jesus is LOVE!

(1 John 4:16)

*God is love,
and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.*

Jesus is The GOSPEL!

(Genesis 3:15 & John 19:30)

*And I (God) will put enmity (cause hostility) between you (Satan)
and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He (Christ)
will crush your head, and you will strike His heel."*

*...when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "**It is finished!**"
And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.*

Jesus is SAVIOR, MESSIAH/CHRIST, and LORD! (Luke 2:11 & Acts 5:42)

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord.*

*And every day, in the temple and from house to house,
they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.*

Application:

*Not only do we not know God except through Jesus Christ; We do not
even know ourselves except through Jesus Christ.*

- Blaise Pascal

*As many have learned and later taught, you don't realize Jesus is all
you need until Jesus is all you have.*

- Tim Keller

*Jesus is not one of many ways to approach God, nor is He the best of
several ways; He is the only way.*

- A. W. Tozer

*How sweet the name of Jesus sounds, in a believer's ear! It soothes
his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear.*

- John Newton

4. CHURCH

Illustration:

We must say to ourselves something like this: 'Well, when Jesus looked down from the cross, he didn't think 'I am giving myself to you because you are so attractive to me.' No, he was in agony, and he looked down at us - denying him, abandoning him, and betraying him - and in the greatest act of love in history, he stayed. He said, 'Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing.' He loved us, not because we were lovely to him, but to make us lovely.
- Tim Keller

Explanation:

The Christian Church is a people vs. a place; a body vs. a building.

The Church is the Messiah's miraculously saved (John 6:44, Ephesians 2:1-10), supernaturally unified (Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 4:1-3), set-apart and sent-out family of disciple-making servant-warriors (Ephesians 6:10-20) and Holy Spirit empowered (Acts 1:8) missionaries (Matthew 28:18-20). In application, **the Christian Church is the local, regional, and global home of living hope and everlasting truth in love** (1 Peter 1:3; Ephesians 4:15).

Note, while there are many counterfeit churches and corrupting false teachers to beware of (see Revelation chapters 2-3; Titus 1:10-16; Acts 20:29, and Matthew 7:15), **Christ's true Church is made up of the imperfect** but passionate, **new creations who counter the world's culture** (James 4:4) as an active expression of Christian love (John 14:15) and Christlike light (John 8:12; Matthew 5:14). Lastly, the Church is also defined and validated by their cross-carrying, truly vertical AND horizontal love (Luke 14:27; John 13:35), which exemplifies what it means to BE in Christ as ministers of reconciliation, ambassadors, and the very righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

Application:

By God's grace, through His gospel, and for His glory... go make disciples!
Find the Lost, Grow the Found.
BE The Church!

5. COMING-again

Illustration:

He came the first time to die; He is coming again to raise the dead. When He came the first time, they questioned whether He was King; the next time the world will know that He is King of kings and Lord of lords. The first time He wore a crown of thorns; the next time He will be wearing a crown of glory. The first time He came in poverty; the next time He is coming in power. The first time He had an escort of angels; the next time He will come with ten thousand of His saints. The first time He came in meekness; He is coming again in majesty.

- Adrian Rogers

Explanation:

- A. Christ created and sustains every aspect of reality (see Hebrews ch.1-2).
- B. Christ was crucified and rose again, proving He is corruption's Cure.
- C. Christ promised He was coming again to complete His divine DESIGN.

While no one knows the exact time of Christ's return (Matthew 24:36), EVERYONE has been exhorted repeatedly in God's Word to **BE READY for the coming day of the LORD**, which will bring and unleash His eternal wrath and reward (Matthew 7:21-23; 1 Peter 1:5-7 & 13; Acts 3:19-21; John 14:1-3; Matthew 24:42-44; Romans 8:22-23; 1 Corinthians 1:7-8).

Joel 2:1

*Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For the day of the LORD
is coming; Surely it is near,*

Application:

*Whatever subject I preach, I do not stop until I reach the Savior,
the Lord Jesus, for in Him are all things.*

- Charles Spurgeon

Romans 14:11-12

*for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God." [12](#) So then each of us
will give an account of himself to God.*

REVIEW: **Everything you need to know about creation and all created things can be understood under the umbrella of the 5 FACTS.**

CLOSE:

The FACTS of Christ's creating, curing, coming, commissioning, and coming-again demand a response, and to be clear, no response is a response. The good news is that there are only two options and they are not confusing. The bad news is that there are only two options and they are not confusing.

1. There are only two spiritual paths: the narrow and the broad.
2. There are only two definitive categories of information: truth and lies.
3. There are only two states of being: the ready and the ill-prepared.
4. There are only two groups of people: the lost and the found.
5. There are only two eternal residences: heaven OR hell.

2 Peter 3:11-13

11Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

For What?

There are only two kinds of men: the righteous who think they are sinners and the sinners who think they are righteous.

Blaise Pascal

God's infinite power is manifested in the works of creation, but isn't exhausted by them. God could have created more than He has, if He so pleased. What God has done, therefore, is no measure of what He could have done or can do.

- Sam Storms

God had one son on earth without sin, but never one without suffering.

- Augustine

So What?

The 5 FACTS are biblical truth in love... and **time is running out. BE READY!**

God made all of His creation to give. He made the sun, the moon, the stars, the clouds, the earth, the plants to give. He also designed His supreme creation, man, to give. But fallen man is the most reluctant giver in all of God's creation.

John MacArthur

We have a strange illusion that mere time cancels sin. But mere time does nothing either to the fact or to the guilt of a sin.

C. S. Lewis

Now What?

God had an only Son, and He was a missionary and a physician.

- David Livingstone

God commands these people, made in His image, to multiply so that they, and thus God's image, will fill the earth.

- Daniel Fuller

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You so much for the Truth and Love of Your Word, will, and ways. Please help us to absorb and apply ALL that You have shared and commanded in the Bible. May our heads be infilled with Your defining Scriptures, for the express purpose of informing, inspecting, and inspiring our sanctified hearts and serving hands.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen and Amen

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June 29, 2014

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