



The
FLOW
Adult CURRICULUM

#16

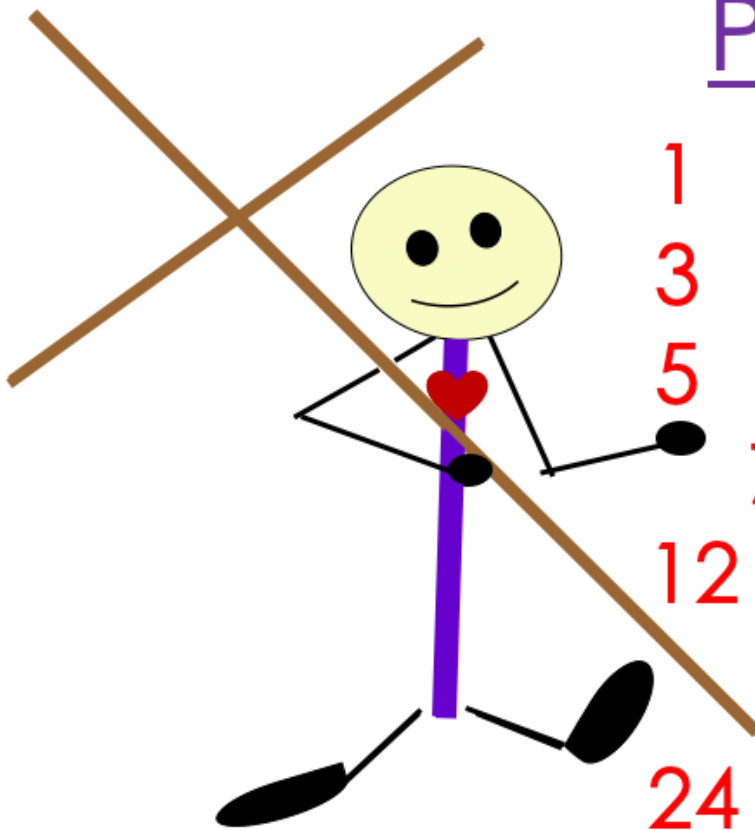
FOREVER

Hebrews 10:26-27

(Come And See Christianity book pages 52-53)

The FLOW

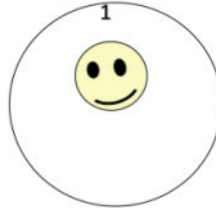
PREVIEW:



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

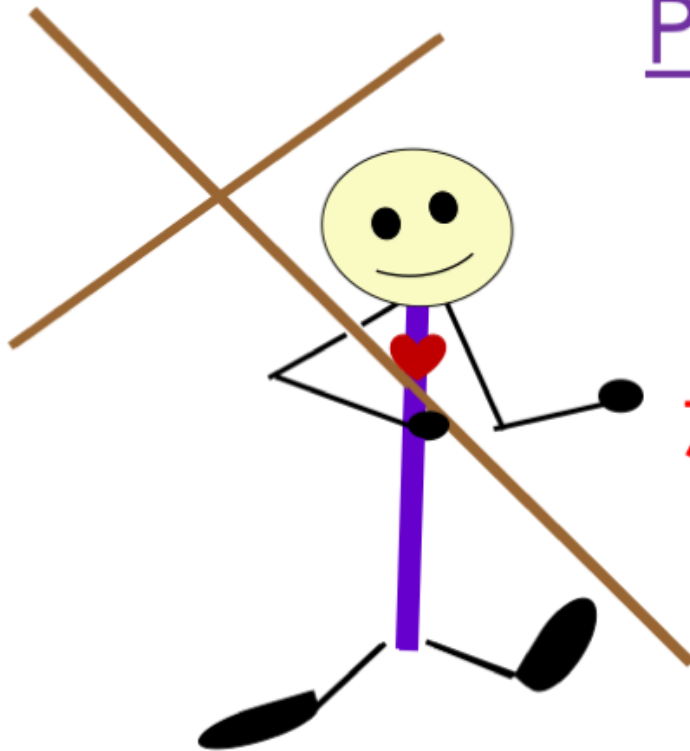
SECTION FOUR: 7 Details

The
HEAD

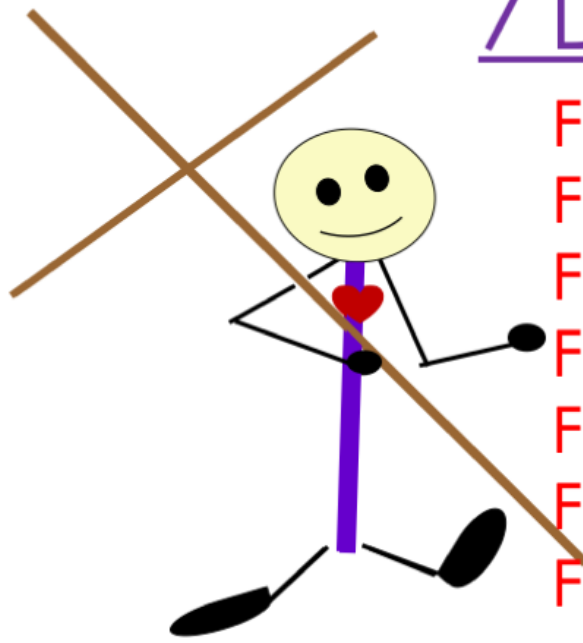


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PREVIEW:



7 Details



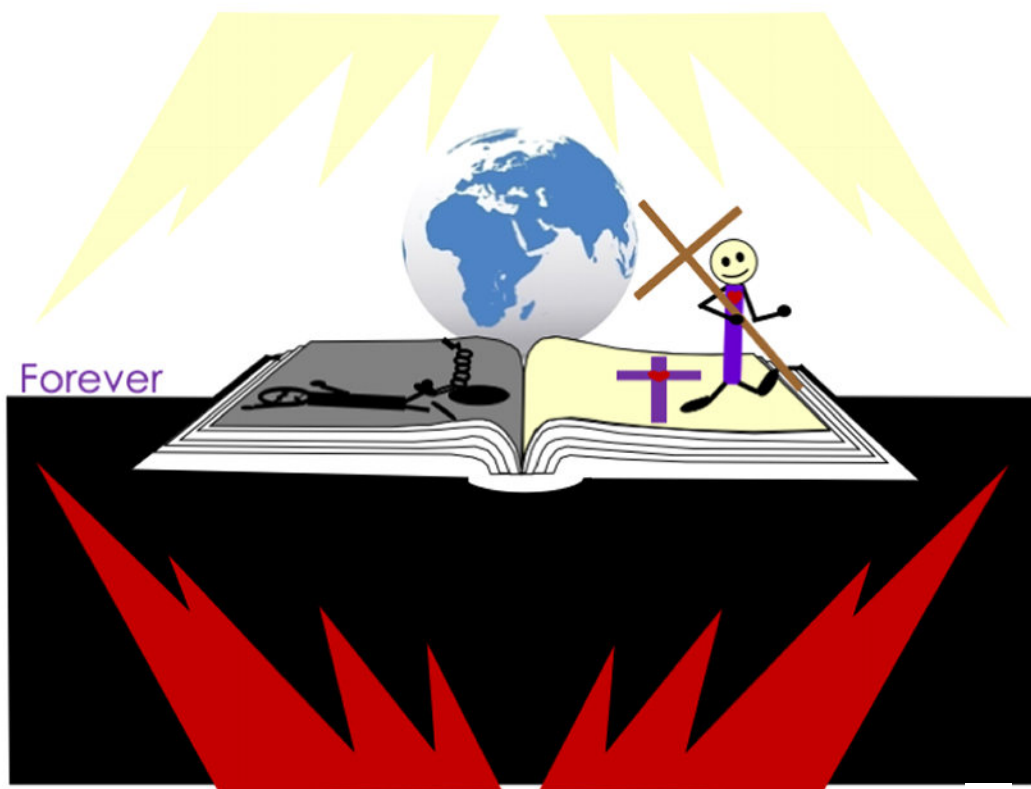
7 Details:

Foundations
Framework
Facts
Fight
Faith
Family
Forever

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 :-)



FOREVER:

The stakes could not be higher!

Christianity is the **only true** pathway to **eternal life**. From "here," everyone will go to either **heaven** or **hell forever**.

There are no other options.

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 the final #7, **FOREVER.**

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

What comes to mind when you think about the word: **FOREVER?**

What a loaded question! There are countless ways that one might answer... Perhaps you think about the forward pointing, time-focused aspect of FOREVER. Others may be inclined to key into the backwards, historical realities of FOREVER. Together, such people would likely embrace a contemporary dictionary's definition. In noun form, Dictionary.com tells us that FOREVER is "time without end." When applied as an adverb, FOREVER reportedly means "eternally." Finally, if utilized as an adjective, FOREVER, we are told, can be defined as "lasting permanently."

While the descriptions above make good sense, they do not even begin to encapsulate the fullness of FOREVER's meaning and implications. For example, **what if you were to focus in on the TRUTH of FOREVER vs. the mere time aspect of FOREVER?** What if you were to ask, "What has been happening and what will be happening within the window of FOREVER's time?" What is the TRUTH? Who knows? How can YOU know?

Hold that thought... What if the TRUTH about FOREVER and its relationship to time reveals that FOREVER is time-less? What if the TRUTH about FOREVER is that it began before time began... and it will last long after time is running out? In such a reality, one would be wise to learn the TRUTH about FOREVER's Founder, Father, and Family. With that said, we like to say: **"Come And See Christianity!"**

In this lesson, we will not tap into the fullness of FOREVER and all that it entails. Instead, we will focus on the biblical, personal, spiritual, and eternal aspects that are designed to meet you where you are, explain how you got here, and illuminate clearly the only two options that will define your FOREVER future. In short, ***all of us start here and will ultimately end up in either heaven or hell.***

Message

*God keeps no half-way house.
It's either heaven or hell for you and me.
- Billy Sunday*

BIG IDEA: **From here, EVERYONE will go to either heaven or hell FOREVER.**

PREVIEW:

1. FOREVER's Past
2. FOREVER's Present
3. FOREVER's Future

TEXT:

Hebrews 10:26-27

[26](#)For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, [27](#)but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

1. FOREVER's Past

Illustration:

It has long been said that life is a journey. True. The question for us is: **“Where and when did the journey begin and where will we all end up?”** Moreover, *do you recognize where you are now, and do you know how you got here?* These are the questions for all of eternity... literally... for all of eternity!

Explanation:

Eternity is a term used to express the concept of something that has no end and/or no beginning. God has no beginning or end, but He cannot be *wholly* defined by eternity, especially as a measure of time. (God is eternal, but eternity does not equal God. Similarly, God is all-powerful, but power does not equal God.) Eternity is one of God's attributes, but, having created time, He is greater than time and exists outside of it.

Scripture reveals that God lives outside the bounds of time as we know it. Our destiny was planned “before the beginning of time” ([2 Timothy 1:9](#); [Titus 1:2](#)) and “before the creation of the world” ([Ephesians 1:4](#); [1 Peter 1:20](#)). “By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible” ([Hebrews 11:3](#)). In other words, the physical universe we see, hear, feel and experience was created not from existing matter, but from a source independent of the physical dimensions we can perceive.

“God is spirit” ([John 4:24](#)), and, correspondingly, God is timeless rather than being eternally in time or being beyond time. Time was simply created by God as a limited part of His creation for accommodating the workings of His purpose in His disposable universe (see [2 Peter 3:10-12](#)).

Upon the completion of His creation activity, including the creation of time, what did God conclude? “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good” ([Gen 1:31](#)). Indeed, God is spirit in the realm of timelessness, rather than flesh in the sphere of time.

As believers, we have a deep sense of comfort knowing that God, though timeless and eternal, is in time with us right now; He is not unreachably transcendent, but right here in this moment with us. And because He’s in this moment, He can respond to our needs and prayers.

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Application:

Focus on FOREVER! Recognize that **our lives are eternal journeys** (some with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, others... LOST without biblically believing in The Christ). Seek to understand the TRUTH about TRUTH, the TRUTH about time, and the TRUTH about FOREVER’s two final destinations. ***It is eternally critical that you believe, abide, and obey*** God’s truth in love!

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:1

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

2. FOREVER’s Present

Illustration:

We must learn to live on the heavenly side and look at things from above. To contemplate all things as God sees them, as Christ beholds them, (as Christ...) overcomes sin, defies Satan, dissolves perplexities, lifts us above trials, separates us from the world and conquers fear of death.

- A. B. Simpson

Explanation:

Is there life after death?

Job, speaking out of his despair, asked, “If a man dies, shall he live again?” ([Job 14:14, ESV](#)). All of us have been challenged by this question. Is there life after death? What happens to us after we die? Do we simply cease to exist? Is death a revolving door of departing and returning to earth? Does everyone go to the same place after death, or do we go to different places? Is there really a heaven and hell?

The Bible tells us that, yes, there is life after death. This world is not all there is, and mankind was made for something more. At death, the body ceases to function and begins the process of returning to the earth, but the spiritual part of man lives on: “The dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it” ([Ecclesiastes 12:7](#); cf. [Psalm 146:4](#)).

To those who are redeemed and have their sin forgiven, God gives [eternal life](#), an existence so glorious that “no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him” ([1 Corinthians 2:9, NLT](#)). This eternal life is inextricably linked to the Person of Jesus Christ: “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent” ([John 17:3](#)). In Jesus’ prayer in this passage, He equates “eternal life” with a knowledge of God and of the Son. “Whoever has the Son has life” ([1 John 5:12](#)).

Jesus Christ, God incarnate, came to the earth to pay for our sins and give us the gift of eternal life: “He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed” ([Isaiah 53:5](#)). Three days after His crucifixion, Jesus proved Himself victorious over death by rising from the grave—He is life personified ([John 11:25](#)) and the ultimate proof that there is life after death.

The [resurrection of the Christ](#) is a well-documented event. The apostle Paul invited people to question the over 500 eyewitnesses who saw Jesus after His resurrection ([1 Corinthians 15:6](#)). All of them could bear testimony to the fact that Jesus is alive and that there is indeed life after death.

The resurrection of Christ, which gives us the sure hope of life after death, is the cornerstone of the Christian faith ([1 Corinthians 15:12–19](#)). Because Christ was raised from the dead, we have faith that we, too, will be resurrected. As Jesus told His disciples, “Because I live, you also will live” ([John 14:19](#)). Christ was only the first of a great harvest of those who will be raised to life again ([1 Corinthians 15:23](#)). Just as God raised up Jesus’ body, so will our bodies be resurrected upon Jesus’ return ([1 Corinthians 6:14](#)).

The fact of life after death does not mean everyone will go to heaven, however. People will continue to exist after they die, and there will be a resurrection someday, but **God makes a distinction between the resurrection of the just (those who are in Christ) and the unjust (those who die in their sin)**: “Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt” ([Daniel 12:2](#)). Paul put it this way: “**There will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked**” ([Acts 24:15](#)).

Each person must make a choice in this life, a choice that will determine his or her eternal destination. *It is appointed for us to die once, and after that will come judgment* ([Hebrews 9:27](#)).

Those who have been made righteous by faith in Christ will go into eternal life in heaven, but those who have rejected Christ as Savior will be sent to eternal punishment in hell.
([Matthew 25:46](#)).

Hell, like heaven, is a literal place. It is a place where the unrighteous will experience the never-ending, eternal wrath of God. Hell is described as a lake of fire where the inhabitants will be tormented day and night forever and ever ([Revelation 20:10](#)). In hell, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, indicating intense grief and anger ([Matthew 13:42](#)).

God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked but desires them to turn from their wicked ways so that they can live ([Ezekiel 33:11](#)). But He will not force us into submission; if we choose to reject Christ, the one and only Savior, we reject the heaven that He has prepared, and we will live eternally apart from Him. ***Life on earth is a preparation for what is to come.*** Faith in Christ prepares us for life after death: “*Whoever believes in [God’s Son] is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son*” ([John 3:18](#)).

Everyone will experience life after death in some manner. For believers in Christ, life after death is eternal life in heaven with God. For unbelievers, life after death is eternity in the lake of fire. How can we receive eternal life and avoid hell? There is [only one way](#)—through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “***I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die***” ([John 11:25–26](#)).

The free gift of eternal life is available to all. “***Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects [does not obey] the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them***” ([John 3:36](#)).

We will not be given the opportunity to accept God's gift of salvation after death. Our eternal destination is determined [revealed and finalized] in our earthly lifetimes by our reception or rejection of Jesus Christ. "*I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation*" ([2 Corinthians 6:2](#)). If we trust in the death of Jesus Christ as the full payment for our sin, and we [biblically] believe in His resurrection from the dead, we are guaranteed eternal life after death, in glory ([1 Peter 1:3-5](#)).

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Application:

The simple ABC's of The Gospel's healthy and heavenly FOREVER are:

Accept God's TRUTH. Become God's TRUTH. Commit to God's TRUTH.

*A man can slip into hell with his hand on the door-knob of heaven.
- Billy Sunday*

3. FOREVER's Future

Illustration:

There are very few words in this world that rival the simple AND eternal complexity of the word FOREVER. In one sense, as noted earlier, you could spend a lifetime digging into the countless facets of FOREVER... Time, timelessness, TRUTH, trust, and so much more are attached to one's faith (or lack of faith) in the paradox of FOREVER's biblical finality.

At the same time, there are few things in life easier to understand than a simple journey with two potential destinations... In the case of humanity, **God's Word is clear, we all start here and will ultimately end up in either heaven or hell.** Consequently, in the same way that God has exhorted His faith-family to hear and heed His truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), all with a here, heaven, and/or hell perspective (Hebrews 10:26-39), we will close this lesson with some comprehensive and complementary insights.

Explanation:

HERE

*Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither.
- C.S. Lewis*

Soon the battle will be over. It will not be long now before the day will come when Satan will no longer trouble us. There will be no more domination, temptation, accusation, or confrontation. Our warfare will be over and our commander, Jesus Christ, will call us away from the battlefield to receive the victor's crown.

- Thomas Watson

We all profess that we are bound for heaven, immortality, and glory: but is it any evidence that we really design it if all our thoughts are consumed about the trifles of this world, which we must leave behind us, and have only occasional thoughts of things above?

- John Owen

The best we can hope for in this life is a knothole peek at the shining realities ahead. Yet a glimpse is enough. It's enough to convince our hearts that whatever sufferings and sorrows currently assail us aren't worthy of comparison to that which waits over the horizon.

- Joni Erickson Tada

*Satan can make men dance upon the brink of hell
as though they were on the verge of heaven.*

- Charles Spurgeon

*I would rather go into the kingdom of heaven through the poor house
than go down to hell in a golden chariot.*

- Dwight L. Moody

Free will carried many a soul to hell, but never a soul to heaven.

- Charles Spurgeon

We don't seek to escape this life by dreaming of heaven. But we do find we can endure this life because of the certainty of heaven. Heaven is eternal. Earth is temporal.

People do not have to do something to go to hell; they just have to do nothing to go to hell.

- John MacArthur

Those who know where the treasure lies joyfully abandon everything else to secure it.

- D. A. Carson

There are no crown-wearers in heaven who were not cross-bearers here below.

- Charles Spurgeon

*Life, if properly viewed in any aspect, is great,
but mainly great when viewed in its relation to the world to come.*

- Albert Barnes

Without holiness on earth, we shall never be prepared to enjoy heaven. Heaven is a holy place.

The Lord of heaven is a holy Being. The angels are holy creatures. Holiness is written on everything in heaven... How shall we ever be at home and happy in heaven if we die unholy?

- J. C. Ryle

O my Lord Jesus Christ, if I could be in heaven without Thee, it would be hell; and if I could be in hell, and have Thee still, it would be heaven to me, for Thou are all the heaven I want.
- Samuel Rutherford

The apostolic church thought more about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ than about death and heaven. The early Christians were looking, not for a cleft in the ground called a grave but for a cleavage in the sky called Glory.
- Alexander MacLaren

A continual looking forward to the eternal world is not a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do.
- C.S. Lewis

*What! Get to heaven on your own strength?
Why, you might as well try to climb to the moon on a rope!*
- George Whitefield

The nearer anyone is to heaven, the more earnestly he desires to be there, because Christ is there.
- John Owen

Let your hope of heaven master your fear of death.
- William Gurnall

We are as near to heaven as we are far from self, and far from the love of a sinful world.
- Samuel Rutherford

He whose head is in heaven need not fear to put his feet into the grave.
- Matthew Henry

*If the way to heaven is so narrow, and so few find it,
what will become of those who never seek it?*
- William Tiptaft

The social gospellers are so obsessed with this-worldliness that other-worldliness (is) laughed at, and next-worldliness is rated low. It is as though it were sinful to talk about heaven on earth. Thank God, there is still a band of us pilgrims who have gotten out, who are going on, and who are happy to be getting home.
- Vance Havner

*How far away is Heaven? It is not so far as some imagine. It wasn't very far from Daniel...
Men full of the Spirit can look right into heaven.*
- Dwight L. Moody

He alone can believe in immortality who feels the resurrection in him already.
- Frederick W. Robertson

*Heaven is not here, it's There. If we were given all we wanted here,
our hearts would settle for this world rather than the next.*

- Elisabeth Elliot

HEAVEN

Every saint in heaven is as a flower in the garden of God, and holy love is the fragrance...

*Every soul there is as a note in some concert of delightful music that sweetly
harmonizes with every other note, and all together blend in the most
rapturous strains in praising God and the Lamb forever.*

- Jonathan Edwards

*How divinely full of glory and pleasure shall that hour be when all the millions of mankind
that have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God shall meet together and stand
around Him, with every tongue and every heart full of joy and praise! How astonishing will be
the glory and the joy of that day when all the saints shall join together in one common song of
gratitude and love, and of everlasting thankfulness to this Redeemer!*

- Isaac Watts

The beginning of the way to heaven, is to feel that we are on the way to hell.

- J. C. Ryle

*God never said that the journey would be easy,
but He did say that the arrival would be worthwhile.*

- Max Lucado

*Scripture repeatedly makes clear that heaven is a realm of unsurpassed joy, unfading glory,
undiminished bliss, unlimited delights, and unending pleasures... It will be a perfect existence.*

*We will have unbroken fellowship with all heaven's inhabitants. Life there will be
devoid of any sorrows, cares, tear, fears, or pain.*

- John MacArthur

*For the Christian, heaven is where Jesus is. We do not need to speculate on what heaven will
be like. It is enough to know that we will be forever with Him.*

- William Barclay

*The more labor you have put forth for the Kingdom of heaven, the more degrees of glory you
shall have. As there are degrees of torment in hell, so of glory in heaven (Matthew 23:14).*

- Thomas Watson

HELL:

None sink so far into hell as those that come nearest heaven...they fall from the greatest heights.

- William Gurnall

*The saddest road to hell is the one that runs under the pulpit, past the Bible,
and through the middle of warnings and invitations.*

- J. C. Ryle

*The hell of hells will be the thought that is forever. The soul sees written over its head,
"You are damned forever." It is a very remarkable fact that no inspired preacher of whom
we have any record ever uttered such terrible words concerning the destiny of the lost as our
Lord Jesus Christ. Your damnation is your own election, not God's.*

- Charles Spurgeon

*Those who go to Heaven ride on a pass and enter into blessings that they never earned,
but all who go to hell pay their own way.*

- John R. Rice

If we had more hell in the pulpit, we would have less hell in the pew.

- Billy Graham

*As C. S. Lewis points out, the journey to hell is a process, which can begin with
something as apparently innocuous as a grumbling mood.*

- Tim Keller

How many souls have been blown into hell with the wind of popular applause?

- Thomas Watson

Application:

[Proverbs 9:10](#) says, "The [fear of the LORD](#) is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Basically, this verse teaches that the fear of God is foundational to true [wisdom](#); all other types of learning are worthless unless built upon a knowledge of the Lord Himself. Many other passages talk about the fear of the Lord (e.g., [Psalm 111:10](#); [Proverbs 1:7](#); [14:27](#); [15:33](#)). Before we can understand how the fear of the Lord leads to wisdom, we need to define what the Bible means by "fear..."

In the Bible, the word translated "fear" can mean several things. It can refer to the terror one feels in a frightening situation ([Deuteronomy 2:25](#)). It can mean "respect" in the way a servant fears his master and serves him faithfully ([Joshua 24:14](#)). *Fear* can also denote the reverence or awe a person feels in the presence of greatness ([Isaiah 6:5](#)). The fear of the Lord is a combination of all of these.

Fear of the Lord can be defined as "the continual awareness that our loving heavenly Father is watching and evaluating everything we think, say, and do" ([Matthew 12:36](#); [Psalm 139:2](#); [Jeremiah 12:3](#)). As Jesus told each of the seven churches in [Revelation 2—3](#), "I know your works." Nothing escapes His attention.

In order to develop the fear of the Lord, we must recognize God for who He is. We must

glimpse with our spirits the power, might, beauty, and brilliance of the Lord God Almighty ([Revelation 11:17](#); [Hosea 12:5](#); [Isaiah 6:1-5](#)). Those who fear the Lord have a continual awareness of Him, a deep reverence for Him, and sincere commitment to obey Him.

[Proverbs 1:7](#) says, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” This verse gives us some added insight with its [antithetical parallelism](#)—there is a sharp contrast between the wise life and the foolish life. A wise person fears/reverences/obeys the Lord; a fool despises God’s instruction and cannot be told what to do. The wise person is wise because he has started at the starting place; the fool has no foundation on which to build wisdom.

[Romans 1:21-22](#) speaks of those who “neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools.” This is a description of people who try to obtain wisdom while ignoring God—it cannot be done for the simple reason that God is the source of wisdom.

The link between the fear of God and wisdom means we cannot possess wisdom if we recreate God in our own image. Too many people want to “tame” God into a non-threatening nobody. But, if we redefine the Lord as a god that makes us feel comfortable, a permissive “buddy” who exists simply to bless us and give us what we want, we will not fear Him in the way He deserves to be feared. The Lord God Almighty is far greater than that, and the fear of the Lord begins when we see Him in His majesty and power ([Revelation 4:11](#); [Job 42:1-2](#)) The Lord shows Job (and us) a glimpse of His power in [Job 38-41](#) when He describes His absolute sovereignty over everything.

When the reality of God’s true nature has caused us to fall down in worship, we are then in the right position to gain wisdom. Wisdom is merely seeing life from God’s perspective and responding accordingly. Wisdom is a priority, and we are told to seek it above all else ([Proverbs 3:13](#); [16:16](#)). Proverbs is known as the wisdom book, and the entire second chapter gives a detailed explanation of the value of gaining wisdom.

Until our hearts are in a right relationship with God, we are unable to have the “wisdom that comes from heaven” ([James 3:17](#)). Without the fear of the Lord, we may gain knowledge of earthly things and make some practical choices for *this* life, but we are missing the one ingredient that defines a wise person ([Psalm 14:1](#); [Exodus 20:3](#); [34:14](#); [Jeremiah 25:6](#); [Matthew 22:37](#)). In the [parable of the rich farmer](#), the rich man had a “wise” and practical plan for his profits, but God said to him, “You fool!” because the farmer’s plans were made with no thought of God and eternity ([Luke 12:16-21](#)).

Without the fear of the Lord, we make final decisions based on our faulty human understanding ([Proverbs 3:5-6](#)). When we incorporate the fear of the Lord into every moment of our lives, we make decisions based upon His approval. We live with the knowledge that the Creator of the universe is intimately involved in our every move. He sees, knows, and evaluates all our choices, and we will answer to Him ([Psalm 139:1-4](#)).

Our respect for God's majesty causes us to honor Him ([Psalm 29:2](#)). Our gratitude for His mercy causes us to serve Him well ([Psalm 2:11](#); [107:15](#)). And the understanding that our God of love is also a God of wrath inspires enough fear to help us stay away from evil ([Romans 1:18](#); [Proverbs 8:13](#)). Sin is foolish; righteousness is wise. When we live righteously, we are on the path to wisdom, and everyone in our lives benefits ([Proverbs 13:20](#); [19:8](#)).

- [GotQuestions.org](#)

CLOSE:

*Sin's first-born is death - and its last-born is hell.
- William Secker*

*When sinners are careless and stupid, and sinking into hell unconcerned, it is time the church should bestir themselves. It is as much the duty of the church to awake, as it is for the firemen to awake when a fire breaks out in the night in a great city.
- Charles Finney*

For What?

*I believe that a great number of people are going to die and go to hell because they're counting on their religiosity in the church instead of their relationship with Jesus to get them to heaven. They give lip service to repentance and faith, but they've never been born again.
- Adrian Rogers*

So What?

Holy fear and a heavenly FOREVER are The Gospel's front and back doors!

*Multitudes of people who expect to go to Heaven will go to a Hell of torment. Thousands of "good" people, "moral" people, church members, even church workers - yes, and, alas, even prophets, priests and preachers - will find themselves lost when they expected to be saved, condemned when they expected approval, cast out of Heaven when they expected to be received into eternal bliss. That is the explicit meaning of the words of our Lord...
[Spoken in Matthew 7:21-23.]*

- John R. Rice

Now What?

What a compelling motive we have for prayer, for preaching, for soul winning when we learn that every responsible human being who leaves this world without a definite change in heart immediately lifts his eyes in Hell, tormented in flame!

- John R. Rice

