



Getting Started

The purpose of these lessons is to show you how you are blessed as a believer, as a Christian. You are blessed in many ways through God's Word.

Each of the six chapters begins with a list of goals marked with a small star (*). These goals will tell you what you will be learning in that chapter. There will be a few questions after each section, and a short test at the end of each chapter. If you read each section carefully, you should be able to answer the questions correctly without much trouble.

At the end of each group of questions and at the end of each chapter you will be given a page number to which you can turn to check your answers. Check your answers carefully, correcting any mistakes. Make sure you understand the answers before reading on any further.

At the end of each chapter there are Bible references that you should read. In these Bible references you can find further evidence of what is taught in the lesson. We want you to be sure that what this course is teaching is exactly what the Bible teaches.

At the end of the book there is a final test. Before you begin answering the questions in this final test, go back and review the chapter tests. When you have completed the final test, you can either give the test to the person who gave you this book or mail it to the address found on the back cover of this book.

You may order other books to read or to study.

God bless you in the study of his Word that brings many blessings to you in your life.



Mary listens to God's Word - Luke 10:38-42



Chapter One

God's Word is true and a guide in my life

When I was a young boy, I delivered newspapers from door to door each evening. In the middle of winter when it was dark outside and people had light in their homes, I would deliver a newspaper to an elderly husband and wife who lived across the street from my home. I remember that I could look through the window of their home and see them at their table after they were finished with eating their evening meal. I could see the man reading from a large open Bible. That scene of a husband and wife reading and listening to God's Word from a Bible made such a great impression on me that I can recall it today some 70 or more years later.

Why do people read God's Word? Why is reading God's Word so important in a Christian's life today? In this chapter we learn that God's Word is true and a guide in our lives.

- * God's Word is inspired by God and is without errors, and
- * God's Word is very powerful showing me my sin and my Savior.

God's Word, the Bible, is important! Through the Bible God speaks to you and me personally. God uses many men and women to bring his Word to us. I can think of men like Moses in the Old Testament who records the Ten Commandments in Exodus chapter 20; or of Isaiah, the prophet, who lived 700 years before the birth of Jesus. Isaiah writes about the sufferings of Jesus in Isaiah chapter 53.

Then there are books in the Bible about women such as Ruth, who is an ancestor of Jesus, and Esther, who saves her people from destruction. King David writes many of the Psalms. His son, King Solomon, writes the book of Proverbs. In the New Testament God speaks to us through men like Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John as well as the apostle Paul.

But it is God who breathes into these people the very words and thoughts to write. God the Holy Spirit guides them. Consider what the apostle Peter writes: "Above all, here is what you must understand. No prophecy in Scripture ever came from a prophet's own understanding. It never came simply because a prophet wanted it to. Instead, the Holy Spirit guided the prophets as they spoke. So prophecy comes from God" (2 Peter 1:20,21). The apostle Paul also writes: "We never stop thanking God for the way you received his word. You heard it from us. But you didn't accept it as a human word. You accepted it for what it really is. It is God's word" (1 Thessalonians 2:13). Therefore, it is God who speaks to you and me in the Bible. The Bible is God's Word.

1. The Bible is _____ Word.
2. Through the Bible, God speaks to _____ and me.
3. Isaiah writes about the sufferings of _____.
4. It is God who breathes into these people the very _____ and _____ to write.

5. It is God himself who _____ to you and me in the Bible.

(Answers to these questions are found on page 11)

There are no mistakes in God's Word. The Bible is true in all that I read and learn. Moses, the great prophet of God, writes, "God isn't a mere man. He cannot lie" (Numbers 23:19). Above all Jesus, God's Son, tells me in his prayer to God the Father: "Your word is truth" (John 17:17).

I know that God is very powerful. God's Word also is very powerful. The apostle Paul reminds me of this when he writes, "I am not ashamed of the good news. It is God's power. And it will save everyone who believes. It is meant first of all for the Jews. It is meant also for those who are not Jews" (Romans 1:16). This means that the Bible is written for all people. These words written by the apostle Paul at God's direction are very important to me. They tell me, first of all, that the "good news," or the news about my Savior, or the "gospel," is God's power. The central teaching of the gospel is that God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. Jesus, God's Son, came into this world when he was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the virgin Mary. He is both true God and true man. As the God-man, he lived under God's law and kept it perfectly

for me because I cannot keep it perfectly. God orders me to keep his law perfectly when he tells me, "Be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48).

But I was born in sin and I commit sins every day. I cannot keep God's law perfectly. Jesus, as the sinless Son of God, kept God's law for me. As both God and man Jesus was born in the world to bear the punishment for my sins. I deserve to die. The Bible tells me, "When you sin, the pay you get is death" (Romans 6:23). This pay is not only death at the end of my life on earth, but also eternal death in hell, eternal separation from a loving God. But the apostle Paul also brings me good news in Romans 6:23 when he writes, "But God gives you the gift of eternal life because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done."

6. The Bible is written for _____ people.
7. I cannot keep God's law _____.
8. I was born in _____ and commit _____ every day.
9. Jesus, as the sinless Son of God, kept God's _____ for me.

10. Because we sin, the payment we should receive is _____.

11. God gives us the gift of _____
_____ because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.

(Answers to these questions are found on page 11)

What did Christ Jesus, our Lord, do for me? He not only kept God's law perfectly for me, but Jesus also was punished for my sins when he died for me on the cross and then rose from death. God tells me in the Bible, "Jesus was handed over to die for our sins. He was raised to life in order to make us right with God" (Romans 4:25). Jesus is my Savior from sin, death and hell.

12. Jesus kept God's law for me _____.

13. Jesus also was punished for my _____
when he died for me on the _____.

14. Jesus is my _____.

(Answers to these questions are found on page 11)

This message from God's Word fills my heart with joy. God is my loving Maker and Jesus is my loving Savior. Now I want to learn more about how God saves me through what Jesus did for me. There are many ways I can do this.

- I can read the Bible to learn about God's love for me through Jesus.
- I can study the Bible together with others to understand God's message about Jesus.
- I can worship Jesus in my church.
- I can sing hymns of praise to Jesus.
- I can live a Christian life to honor Jesus.

**Jesus, Shepherd of the sheep,
Who your Father's flock does keep,
Safe we wake and safe we sleep,
Guarded still by you.**

**By your blood our souls were bought;
By your life salvation wrought;
By your light our feet are taught,
Lord, to follow you. (CW 436)**

Review of Chapter One

It is God who breathed the thoughts and very words into men he chose to write his Word, that is, the Bible. Some of these men are the prophets of the Old Testament. Others who wrote God's Word are the Gospel writers and apostles of the New Testament.

Everything I read in the Bible is God's Word and it is without any errors. The two main teachings of the Bible are God's law and the good news also known as the gospel. The Word of God is very powerful in our lives. It shows me that I am born in sin and commit sins every day. Because of my sin I deserve to die, not only at the end of my life on earth, but also eternally in hell. However, in love God shows me my Savior, Jesus Christ. As both true God and true man, Jesus kept God's law for me perfectly. Jesus also was punished for everyone's sins when he died on the cross. God was satisfied with Jesus' deeds and raised him from the dead.

This message of God's law and the gospel fills my heart with joy, and I want to study God's Word and worship Jesus for what he has done. I praise God with the spiritual songs that I sing and the Christian life that I live.

Answers to the questions in Chapter One:

1. God's; 2. you; 3. Jesus; 4. words, thoughts; 5. speaks; 6. all;
7. perfectly; 8. sin, sins; 9. law; 10. death; 11. eternal, life;
12. perfectly; 13. sins, cross; 14. Savior.

Chapter One Test

1. The Bible is _____ Word.
2. It is God himself who _____ to you and me in the Bible.
3. The Bible was written for _____ people.
4. I cannot keep God's law _____.
5. Jesus, as the sinless Son of God, kept God's _____ for me perfectly.
6. Jesus was punished for my _____ when he died for me on the _____.
7. Jesus is my _____.
8. Write some ways you learn more about Jesus.

(Answers to these questions are found on page 97)



***Read how people of the Bible
learned more about their Savior:***

Luke 10:38-42 – Jesus teaches Mary.

Acts 17:10-12 – The people in the city of Berea studied God's Word.