

ESSENTIALS

*The undeniable landscape of Biblical
Christianity*



Blackhawk Christian School
2015-2016

Essentials

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2015-2016
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Course Description

A year-long course designed both to explain what it is to have the “mind of Christ” in the 21st Century and also to investigate what this looked like in 1st Century Christian communities.

“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ‘For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 2:14-16 [ESV]

Course Objectives

1. To encourage students toward a Biblical understanding of what it means to have life in Christ
2. To encourage students toward a Biblical understanding of what it means to have the “mind of Christ”
3. To move students toward a Biblical understanding of the essentials of Christian belief and practice.

4. To explore how essential Christian beliefs worked in selected 1st Century Christian communities
5. To explore how essential, historical Christian beliefs impact life in the 21st Century

Course Grading

Study Guides [20%]

These will be worksheets that guide our class discussion unit by unit. They will be taken from Scripture and from online resources made available during the year. There will be 9 per semester.

Quizzes [50%]

These will be bi-weekly tests consisting of basic matching questions, short answer questions, and a memory verse (fill in the blank).

Memory Verses [10%]

There will be separate, stand-alone memory verse quizzes on the weeks that we do not have tests.

Journal/Essentials Tracking [10%]

Each unit, students will be required to publish an online journal detailing what they've learned and whatever questions they may have. This should be no more than 3/4 of a page in length.

Additionally, students will be required to track each of our 6 essentials by color during our 2nd Semester study of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians.

Exam [10%]

This will be a comprehensive semester exam, covering the balance of the information covered throughout the course.

Course Schedule

Weeks 1,2 - Intro

Week One

Memory Verses

1 Corinthians 2:14-16

Week Two

Isaiah 40:12,13

Weeks 3,4 - The Authority of Scripture

Week Three

2 Timothy 3:14-16

Week Four

Psalms 19:7-9

Weeks 5,6 - The Deity of Christ

Week Five

John 1:1-3

Week Six

Isaiah 40:3-5

Weeks 7,8 - The sinfulness of humanity

Week Seven

Ephesians 2:1-3

Week Eight

Psalms 14:2,3

Weeks 9-11 - Salvation by grace through faith in Christ

Week Nine

Ephesians 2:8,9

Week Ten

Ephesians 1:7,8

Week Eleven

Romans 5:1,2

Weeks 12-14 - The Nature of God — The Trinity

Week Twelve

2 Peter 1:16, 17

Week Thirteen

2 Peter 1:18, 19

Week Fourteen

2 Peter 1:20, 21

Weeks 15,16 - The resurrection of Christ

Week Fifteen

1 Peter 1:3-5

Week Sixteen

Isaiah 53:10,11

Weeks 17,18 - Review

Week Seventeen

Romans 5:6-8

Week Eighteen

Romans 5:9-11

1. The authority of Scripture
2. The deity of Christ
3. The sinfulness of humanity
4. Salvation by Grace through Faith in Christ
5. The nature of God - the Trinity
6. The resurrection of Christ

[This I Believe (The Creed)]

Our Father Everlasting
 The All-Creating One
 God Almighty

Through Your Holy Spirit
 Conceiving Christ the Son
 Jesus our Savior

*I believe in God our Father
 I believe in Christ the Son
 I believe in the Holy Spirit
 Our God is three in one
 I believe in the resurrection
 That we will rise again
 For I believe in the name of Jesus*

Our judge and our defender
 Suffered and crucified
 Forgiveness is in You

Descended into darkness
 You rose in glorious light
 Forever seated high

[chorus]

I believe in You
 I believe you rose again
 I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

[chorus]

I believe in life eternal
 I believe in the virgin birth
 I believe in the saints' communion
 And in Your holy church
 I believe in the resurrection
 When Jesus comes again
 For I believe in the name of Jesus

[chorus]

- Hillsong Worship

Study Guide #1

Weeks 1,2 - Intro

1. Take a look at 1 Corinthians 2:14-16. What kind of person “does not accept” things from God’s Spirit?
2. What are they to him? How do other translations (NASB, NET, NLT, NIV) translate the answer to this question?
3. Why is this person “not able to understand” spiritual things?
4. 1 Corinthians 2:15 says that the spiritual person “judges” all things. How do our other translations use this word?
5. How does Proverbs 28:5 help us understand the difference between a spiritual person and those that aren’t spiritual?
6. What verse does the author quote in 1 Corinthians 2:16?
7. Read Isaiah 40:12-17. What seems to be Isaiah’s point here? How does he describe God?
8. How does the NLT translate Isaiah 40:13?

9. What is the answer to this question? (1 Corinthians 2:16)
10. How would you respond to that?
11. So, based on what you've seen from 1 Corinthians 2 & Isaiah 40, what does it mean to have the "mind of Christ"?
12. What does John 15:15 say about those who follow Jesus? What does He now call them?
13. What has Jesus done for them?
14. What does John 15:15 seem to say about Jesus' access to the Father?
15. Why did Jesus choose them? (John 15:16) "That they would..."
16. What other command does Jesus give His disciples in John 15:17

17. Philippians 2 is a famous passage about following Christ's example. In Philippians 2:1, Paul asks a series of questions that are really statements. How will the church at Philippi make Paul "truly happy" (NLT - Philippians 2:2)?

18. How else does he describe this (the answer to #17) in Philippians 2:3,4?

19. The word translated as "have this mind" (ESV - Philippians 2:5) means something like: "to develop an attitude based on careful thought" What does Philippians 2:5 say about our minds?

20. How do other translations use that word? ("mind")

21. What is an "attitude"? How would you define it?

22. What does Philippians 2:6 say about Jesus? Who is He?

23. How did He think about His position? (NLT - Philippians 2:6)

24. Since He thought this way, what did He then do? (Philippians 2:7)

25. How far was He willing to go as He “humbled himself”? (Philippians 2:8)

26. What was the result of this, for Jesus? (Phil. 2:9)

27. How will all people eventually respond to Him? (Phil. 2:10,11)

28. Remember, Paul’s point as he wrote here was to tell the Philippians that, if they are in Christ, they have the same attitude that He did. What might this look like for you, specifically?

29. So, based on what you’ve seen in 1 Corinthians 2:14-16, John 15 and Philippians 2, what does it mean to have the “mind of Christ”?

30. Are the 6 “Essentials” that we will be talking about ways to gain access to God? Explain your answer:

Study Guide #2

Weeks 1,2 - Intro

1. We learned from 1 Corinthians 2 that spiritual things are only understood when the Holy Spirit makes them understandable. Take a look at John 16:13. What did Jesus say would happen when the Holy Spirit comes?
2. How does Jesus refer to the Holy Spirit in John 16:13?
3. What will the Holy Spirit say to those who follow Jesus? (John 16:13)
4. What will the Holy Spirit do to Jesus? (John 16:14)
5. What will the Holy Spirit have to say about Jesus? (John 16:14)
6. What kind of access does Jesus have to the Father? (John 16:15)
7. In John 16:15 Jesus says: “therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” Who is the “he” that Jesus is referring to?
8. How does the NLT translate John 16:15?

9. Take a look at Romans 8:5-14. what do those who “live according to the flesh” think about? (8:5 - The ESV says “set their minds on”)
10. What do those who live according to the Spirit think about?
11. What is the outcome of “setting your mind on the flesh” (Romans 8:6)
12. What is the outcome of setting your mind on the Spirit?
13. Why are those who live according to the flesh hostile to God? (Romans 8:7)
14. Write out Romans 8:8 in the NLT:
15. So who are the two kinds of people according to Romans 8:5-9?
16. What does Romans 8:9 say about the person that is “in the Spirit”.
17. What will happen because you have been “made right with God”? (Romans 8:10 - NLT)

18. What will happen to those who have the Spirit dwelling within them? (Romans 8:11)

19. What does Romans 8:11 say that the Spirit of God did for Jesus? (Romans 8:11)

20. What does Romans 8:14 say about those who are “led by the Spirit of God”?

21. What was the problem with the Israelites in 2 Corinthians 3:14?

22. What is the only way that this problem can be fixed? (2 Corinthians 3:14)

23. What happens when Christ comes in?

24. How is a person “transformed”? (Romans 12:2)

25. What will a person who has a renewed mind be able to do?

26. How does Paul describe the way that people without the Spirit live? (Ephesians 4:17-19)

27. What has happened to someone's mind that follows Jesus?
(Ephesians 4:23)

28. What will a person's life now look like that has this renewed mind?
(Ephesians 4:24)

29. Can a person take credit themselves for this change of mind and life? (Ephesians 2:8-10)

30. Are the 6 "Essentials" that we will be talking about ways to gain access to God? Explain your answer:

Study Guide #3**Weeks 3,4 - The Authority of Scripture**

Memory Verses: 2 Timothy 3:14-16

14 *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it* **15** *and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.* **16** *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,*

1. 1 and 2 Timothy are letters that Paul wrote to a young pastor named Timothy. Timothy was leading a church in an important city called Ephesus. In order to lead this church well, he needed help and clear teaching. What does 2 Timothy 3:14 tell us about Timothy?
2. What does Paul call the Bible in verse 15? How do our other translations describe this?
3. What is the Bible able to do? (3:15)
4. How is a person saved? (3:15)
5. What does 2 Timothy 3:16 say that Scripture is? Where does it come from?

6. What are some things that it is “useful” (NLT) for?

7. If God’s people understand the Bible in this way, what will they be equipped to do? (3:17)

8. In 2 Peter 1, the apostle Peter (who knew Jesus personally and spent years with him) tells a story about something amazing that he personally witnessed. This story is told in Mark 9:2-8. What happened?

9. Back to 2 Peter 1:16-21. What does Peter say he DID NOT do when he told this story?

10. Why should we believe Peter’s story? (2 Peter 1:16)

11. What did Jesus receive from God the Father? (2 Peter 1:17)

12. So, how does God the Father feel about Jesus? What does He think of Him? (2 Peter 1:17)

13. Again, why should we believe Peter’s story? (2 Peter 1:18)

14. Read 2 Peter 1:19 in the NLT. What does Peter say about his confidence in what the Bible says?
15. What does he say that we should do when it comes to the Bible? (2 Peter 1:19)
16. Why should we do this? (2 Peter 1:19)
17. What does Peter say that the Bible is NOT? (2 Peter 1:20)
18. So, what is it then? (2 Peter 1:21) [Make sure you are reading ALL our translations in these verses]
19. Both Paul and Peter have mentioned the “prophets” in their letters. Let’s take a look at those prophets and see what they said and what they believed about what they were saying. Isaiah is the first in the list of the prophets of the Old Testament. In Isaiah 1:2, what does Isaiah say about why the people should listen to him? [Again, make sure you’re looking at all our translations]
20. Look at Amos 1. What phrase is repeated in Amos 1:3,6,9,11 and 13?
21. In Deuteronomy 18:18, why does God say He would “raise up prophets”? What would they do?

22. How does Deuteronomy 18:20,21 say that the people would recognize a false prophet?
23. [this is a blank question]
24. In Acts 3, Peter says that Jesus was the One that Moses talked about in Deuteronomy 18. How does He say that we should listen to Jesus? (Acts 3:22)
25. What does Peter say will be the outcome for those who do not listen to Jesus? (Acts 3:23)
26. Back in Acts 3:18, what does Peter say that the prophets said would happen?
27. In Acts 7, a man named Stephen gives an amazing speech about the whole story of Israel. What does he say about the reaction of the people to what the prophets said? (Acts 7:52)
28. What does he say about those who delivered God's law? (Acts 7:53)
29. What does Hebrews 2:2 say about the message delivered by angels?
30. So, all I have to do is think that the Scriptures are God's authority and He'll overlook my sin, right?

[Say the Word]

Say the word and there is light
 Say the word and dead bones rise
 Every start and end hangs on Your voice
 For Your word never returns void

Written in a billion skies
 Speaking to this heart of mine
 All that I am with all creation
 Hanging on every word that You've spoken
 And it will not be shaken
 Clinging for life to all Your promise
 Hanging on every word that You say

It will remain
 And my soul will hang on every word You say

Word made flesh You wrote in grace
 Promise kept through cross and grave
 Over words of stone You spelled out love
 And when You say it is done
 It is done

Written in a billion skies
 Speaking to this heart of mine
 All that I am with all creation
 Hanging on every word that You've spoken
 And it will not be shaken
 Clinging for life to all Your promise
 Hanging on every word that You say

It will remain
 And my soul will hang on every word You say
 Cause I know Your word will never ever fail
 And my soul will hang on every word You say

- Hillsong United



Study Guide #4

Weeks 3,4 - The Authority of Scripture

Psalm 19:7-9 (ESV)

7

*The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple;*

8

*the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes;*

9

*the fear of the Lord is clean,
enduring forever;
the rules of the Lord are true,
and righteous altogether.*

1. In Psalm 19, David refers to the “law of the LORD”. When the Old Testament talks about the “law” it is referring to its first 5 books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. These books tell the story of the creation of the world and of God’s choice of a people to make Him known in the world. They were written by Moses, who personally witnessed much of what we see in those books. In order for God’s people to make Him known to the world, they would need to live in a certain way - the way that God designed people to live. When God’s people lived this way they told all those who watched them that their God was the only God. When they didn’t, they cut themselves off from God and the life that could only be found in Him. What does Psalm 19:7 say that the law of the Lord is?
2. What does the law of the Lord do for the soul?

3. What does Psalm 23:3 say that God will do for our souls?
4. Notice that there is no disconnection between what God does and what His Word does. How else does Psalm 23:1-3 describe God and what He wants to do for His people?
5. Do you ever think this way about the commands that God gives? Is it easy sometimes to think of His commands as a burden and not a gift? Is it easy to think about God as merely someone who tells you what to do?
6. Psalm 19 uses 5 words that all refer back to God's commands in the first five books (law, testimony, precept, commandment and rules). What does Psalm 19:7 say about the testimony of the Lord?
7. How does the NLT translate the word "sure"?
8. What comfort does this give in our world that is broken and confused?
9. What word is found in both Psalm 19:7 and 2 Timothy 3:15?
10. What power do God's precepts have when it comes to "simple" people like us?
11. According to Psalm 111:7, how many of God's precepts can we trust?
12. According to Psalm 119:4, how should we respond to them?

13. How does Psalm 19:8 say that we can tell right from wrong?
14. What is the right response to this? (Psalm 19:8)
15. What does David say about God's commandments? Is there anything wrong with them?
16. What does the NLT say that God's commands will help us with in our living? (Psalm 19:8)
17. How does the NLT translate the "fear of the Lord"? (Psalm 19:9)
18. Is there any lasting power to seeing God this way?
19. According to Psalm 119:160, how long will God's "righteous rules" last?
20. What did Jesus say about the law of the Lord? (the "Scriptures" - John 5:39-46)
21. Whom did He say Moses was writing about? (John 5:46)
22. What did Jesus do for His followers after He rose from the dead? (Luke 24:27)
23. What did Jesus say that He came to do regarding the Law? (Matthew 5:17-18)

24. In Matthew 5, Jesus says that He came to “fulfill the Law”. This means, in part, that He was the only One who could ever keep the Law perfectly. His perfect obedience is what made Him an acceptable sacrifice for us. What does 2 Corinthians 1:20 say about the “promises of God”? What does the NLT say?
25. What does 2 Corinthians 1:22 say about our “guarantee” if we believe in Jesus?
26. So what is our relationship to the law if we believe in Jesus? (Romans 10:4)
27. What about the blood sacrifices that the law says should be kept to deal with sin? What did Jesus do about those? (Hebrews 9:12)
28. So the law also says that we should worship God in His temple. What did Jesus do about that? (John 2:19-21)
29. What about the food laws in the Old Testament? (Mark 7:18,19)
30. So all I have to do is follow all the laws in the Old Testament and God will accept me, right?

[A Million Suns]

You stand eternal
The uncreated One
Who knows no end

The starry wonders
The vast expanses
Bound to Your command

*You shine like a million suns ablaze
Wrapped in eternal light and praise
Jesus the First, the Last
The Bright, the Morning Star*

You spoke creation
Into existence
Life and all we are

Beyond all measure
The universe
An echo of Your power

[chorus]

Everlasting
Never ending
You will reign forevermore
You are holy
You are worthy
Lord of all

*You shine like a million suns ablaze
Wrapped in eternal light and praise
Jesus the First, the Last
The Bright, the Morning Star*

- Hillsong United



Study Guide #5**Weeks 5,6 - The Deity of Christ****John 1:1-3 (ESV)**

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

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

1. The “deity of Christ” is another way of saying that Jesus is God. Who is the “Word” that John is talking about in John 1? (John 1:14 might help with this)
2. What does John 1:1 tell us about the Word?
3. What was His role in creation? What did He do? (John 1:3)
4. What does John 1:4 say that Jesus “gave” (NLT)
5. What does John 1:14 say that the Word did?
6. What words are attached to the Son from John 1:14?
7. What does John the Baptist say in John 1:30 about Jesus’ existence?

8. What does John 8:56 say about Abraham's opinion of Jesus?
9. What does Jesus say about Himself in relation to Abraham? (John 8:58)
10. Is there any significance to Jesus using the words "I AM"? HINT: Yes. (Exodus 3:14)
11. What does Hebrews 1:2 say about God's promise to Jesus? (NLT)
12. What does Hebrews 1:3 say about who Jesus is?
13. What kind of power does Jesus have? (Heb. 1:3)
14. How do the angels feel about Jesus? (Hebrews 1:6)
15. How does Hebrews 1:8 describe the Son?
16. Who is speaking about Jesus in Hebrews 1:8? Whose perspective does this verse give?

17. What title is Jesus given in Hebrews 1:10?

18. What does Philippians 2:6 say about who Jesus is in His nature?

19. How does Colossians 1:15 describe Jesus?

20. How does the NLT translate “firstborn of all creation”? (Colossians 1:15)

21. Again, according to Colossians 1:16, what was Jesus’ role in creation?

22. Fill in these blanks from Colossians 1:16: “all things were created _____ Him and _____ Him”. How would you respond to that?

23. Write out Colossians 1:17 in the NLT:

24. According to Colossians 1:18, what position should Jesus have?

25. Write out Colossians 1:19 in the NLT:

26. What did God do through Jesus? (Colossians 1:20 - Make sure that you're listing everything in this verse)

27. Take a minute to read over your answers to questions 8-15. Does this picture of Jesus match what you often hear about Jesus?

28. How does the Bible's picture of Jesus from Colossians 1 help you to understand who He is more clearly?

29. How does 2 Corinthians 4:4 describe Jesus?

30. What are unbelievers unable to see?

Study Guide #6**Weeks 5,6 - The Deity of Christ**

Isaiah 40:3-5 (ESV)

3

A voice cries:

*“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

4

*Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.*

5

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”*

1. Take a look at Mark 1:1-8. Read it in a couple versions. Who is the “voice” that Isaiah was talking about?
2. Whose way is he preparing? How does Isaiah 40 talk about Him?
3. What will the people see when He shows up? (Isaiah 40:5)
4. Why should anyone trust what Isaiah says? (Isaiah 40:5)
5. What does Malachi 3:1 say about what the messenger would do?

6. Whom does Malachi 3:1 say would show up in response to what the messenger said?

7. What is Jesus' opinion of John the Baptist? (Luke 7:28 - Take a look in the NLT)

8. What is John the Baptist's opinion of Jesus? (Mark 1:7 - again, look at the NLT)

9. So, taking these two opinions together, what does this say about Jesus?

10. How does Jesus refer to Himself in Mark's Gospel? (Mark 2:10; 2:28; 8:31; 8:38)

11. What does Daniel 7:13,14 say about the "Son of Man"? How did He come to Daniel in his vision?

12. What was given to Him? (Daniel 7:14)

13. What kind of authority does He have?

14. Psalm 110:1 is quoted in Matthew 22:44 by Jesus. What does Jesus say that David calls Him?
15. What position does Jesus have? (Psalm 110:1)
16. What does Ephesians 1:20 say about Jesus' position?
17. What about Ephesians 1:21? What else does it say about Jesus' position?
18. What does Ephesians 1:22 say about Jesus' authority?
19. Read Ephesians 1:23 (NLT) - what does it say that Jesus fills?
20. So what is the point that Jesus is making when He quotes Psalm 110?
21. What does Colossians 2:9 say about Jesus? (NLT)
22. Jesus is the head of _____ (Colossians 2:10).
23. What kind of praise does John give Jesus in Revelation 1:6?
24. How would you connect Revelation 1:7 with Daniel 7:13,14?
25. Whom does John see in Revelation 1:13?

26. How does he describe Him? (Revelation 1:13-16)

27. How does John react to Him? (Revelation 1:17)

28. Why were the Jews trying to kill Jesus in John 5:18?

29. Why were the Jews trying to kill Jesus in John 10:31?

30. So all I have to do is know these things about Jesus and I'm good, right?

[Nothing But The Blood]

What can wash away my sin?
 Nothing but the blood of Jesus
 What can make me whole again?
 Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Come to us, Lord
 You reward those who earnestly, diligently seek You
 I want to see Your face, I want to know Your way
 Come to us, Lord

We want You more than this world
 More than our way Your way is higher
 Your thoughts are higher
 We surrender here tonight

What can wash away my sin?
 Nothing but the blood of Jesus
 What can make me whole again?
 Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Oh, precious is the flow
 That makes me white as snow
 No other fount I know
 Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Oh, precious is the flow
 That makes me white as snow
 No other fount I know
 Nothing but the blood of Jesus
 Nothing but the blood of Jesus

- Hillsong United



Study Guide #7

Weeks 7,8 - The sinfulness of humanity

Ephesians 2:1-3

*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*

It is important to remember that Paul is speaking here (in Ephesians 2) to Christians. He is describing their lives (all of our lives) before they knew Christ. He says “in which you once walked...” - indicating that they no longer walk this way.

1. What does Psalm 51:5 say about how we come into the world?
2. What does Ephesians 2:1 say about the effects of sin in the lives of those that do not know Christ?
3. What does Ephesians 2:2 say about those who are not “in Christ”? What are they called?
4. What does Ephesians 2:3 say that the sons of disobedience do? How do they live?
5. What does Ephesians 2:3 say about those who are “subject to God’s anger”?
6. What does Proverbs 22:15 say about the heart of a child?

7. What does Genesis 8:21 say about the thoughts and imagination of people? (NLT)
8. How does Psalm 58:3 reflect this truth?
9. What does Jeremiah 17:9 say about the human heart?
10. What does Romans 3:9 say about all people and the power of sin?
11. What OT verses are being quoted in Romans 3:10-12?
12. Who is “right with God” (righteous), according to Romans 3:10?
13. Who understands and seeks God? (Romans 3:11)
14. Who does good before God? (Romans 3:12)
15. What OT verse is being quoted in Romans 3:13?
16. How do people use their mouths? (Romans 3:13 - NLT)
17. What does Psalm 140:1-3 say about the effect of what people say?
18. What kind of people are being described in Psalm 140:1-3?

19. So, if Romans 3 says that this is true of all people, what are all people then, according to Psalm 140?
20. What OT verse is being quoted in Romans 3:14?
21. What kind of person is being described in Psalm 10:2-9?
22. What is a person's mouth "full of" in Romans 3:14?
23. What OT verse is being quoted in Romans 3:15?
24. What are people in a hurry to do? (Romans 3:15 - NLT)
25. What does Isaiah 59:2 say our sins have done between us and God?
26. What does Isaiah 59:13 say about what it means to be a "sinner"? (NLT)
27. What will always follow a person who does not know Christ? (Romans 3:16 - NLT)
28. What will they not know? (Romans 3:17)
29. What does Psalm 36:1 say is going on deep within the heart of a person that does not know God?

30. So, people are born basically good, right? I know lots of people who are good who don't know anything about God. Do I really need to know these things from the Bible in order to be "good"?

[Stronger]

There is love that came for us
 Humbled to a sinners cross
 You broke my shame and sinfulness
 You rose again victorious

Faithfulness none can deny
 Through the storm and through the fire
 There is truth that sets me free
 Jesus Christ who lives in me

*You are stronger, You are stronger
 Sin is broken, You have saved me
 It is written, Christ is risen
 Jesus You are Lord of all*

No beginning and no end
 You're my hope and my defense
 You came to seek and save the lost
 You paid it all upon the cross

[chorus]

So let Your name be lifted higher
 Be lifted higher, be lifted higher
 So let Your name be lifted higher
 Be lifted higher, be lifted higher

*You are stronger, You are stronger
 Sin is broken, You have saved me
 It is written, Christ is risen
 Jesus You are Lord of all*

- Hillsong Chapel



Study Guide #8

Weeks 7,8 - The sinfulness of humanity

Psalm 14:2,3 (ESV)

*2 The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man,
to see if there are any who understand,
who seek after God.*

*3 They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt;
there is none who does good,
not even one.*

“Sin... is always an act of wrong judgment. To commit a sin a man must for the moment believe that things are different from what they really are; he must confound values; he must see the moral universe out of focus; he must accept a lie as truth and see truth as a lie; he must ignore the signs on the highway and drive with his eyes shut; he must act as if he had no soul, and was not accountable for his moral choices.

Sin is never a thing to be proud of. No act is wise that ignores remote consequences, and sin always does. Sin sees only today, or at most tomorrow; never the day after tomorrow, next month or next year. Death and judgment are pushed aside as if they did not exist, and the sinner becomes for the time a practical atheist who by his act denies not only the existence of God but the concept of life after death.”

... A. W. Tozer (1897-1963), *Man: The Dwelling Place of God*, Harrisburg, Penn.: Christian Publications, Inc., 1966, p. 47

1. How does A.W. Tozer describe sin?
2. What does he say that we must do (are doing) when we commit a sin?
3. What does sin always do?

4. What is a “practical atheist”?
5. What does Psalm 14:1 say about fools? (NLT)
6. They are described as “corrupt”. Why are they corrupt?
7. What is God’s assessment of humanity as He looks down from heaven? (Psalm 14:2)
8. Who is God talking about in Psalm 14:2,3?
9. Is anyone exempt from what God says here?
10. How does Romans 3:23 reflect this truth?
11. What does Ecclesiastes 9:3 say about the human heart?
12. What does Psalm 10:3 say about the wicked person’s view of their sin? How do they feel about it?
13. What do they think about God’s judgment for their wicked actions? (Psalm 10:11)

“When we accept God’s forgiveness by placing our trust in Christ, we are completely freed from the penalty of sin. At the same time, however, we continue to experience the presence of sin.” - Dr. Robert A. Pyne

14. What does Galatians 1:4 say about what was necessary to free us from our sin?
15. What does Romans 5:12 say about the consequences of sin?
16. How are Adam and Jesus contrasted in Romans 5:13-21? (NLT)
17. So I should keep on sinning so God can show me more grace? (Romans 6:1-3 - NLT)
18. What are the wages of sin? (Romans 6:23)
19. What is the ultimate result of sin if left to grow? (James 1:15)
20. What have our sins created between us and God? (Isaiah 59:2)
21. How does James 4:17 describe sin?
22. How does 1 John 3:4 describe sin?
23. How does Titus 2:14 describe sin?
24. What if I keep the whole law (if I obey everything God says) but fail in one thing? (James 2:10)
25. What makes a person sinful? (Mark 7:20-23)

26. What has happened to the mind of a person that doesn't know Christ? (Ephesians 4:17,18 - NLT)
27. What about their lives? (Ephesians 4:19 - NLT)
28. How does God describe the hearts of the people of Israel when they worshipped other gods? (Ezekiel 36:26)
29. What did God promise to do about it? (Ezekiel 36:26)
30. So, I'm sinful. A terrible person. Is there any hope at all?

[Scandal of Grace]

Grace, what have You done?
 Murdered for me on that cross
 Accused in absence of wrong
 My sin washed away in Your blood

Too much to make sense of it all
 I know that Your love breaks my fall
 The scandal of grace, You died in my place
 So my soul will live

*Oh to be like You
 Give all I have just to know You
 Jesus, there's no one besides You
 Forever the hope in my heart*

Death, where is your sting?
 Your power is as dead as my sin
 The cross has taught me to live
 And mercy, my heart now to sing

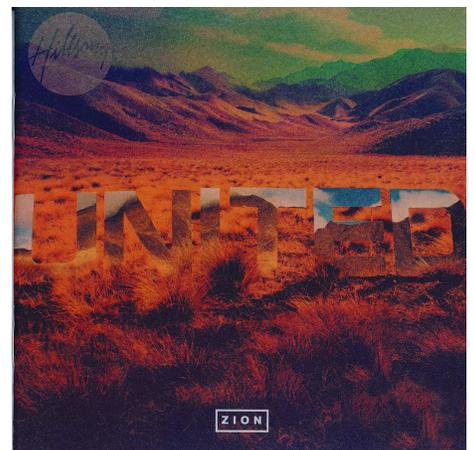
The day and its trouble shall come
 I know that Your strength is enough
 The scandal of grace, You died in my place
 So my soul will live

[chorus]

And it's all because of You, Jesus
 It's all because of You, Jesus
 It's all because of Your love that my soul will live

*Oh to be like You
 Give all I have just to know You
 Jesus, there's no one besides You
 Forever the hope in my heart*

- Hillsong United



Study Guide #9

Weeks 9-11 - Salvation by Grace through Faith in Christ

Ephesians 2:8,9 [ESV]

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

New Testament Word Study on “Salvation”

1. Who is Zechariah? (Luke 1:5 and following) Who were the members of his family?
2. What did he say about salvation? (Luke 1:68-79)
3. What does Acts 4:12 say about salvation?
4. How does Romans 1:16 describe the “gospel”?
5. What OT verse is being quoted in 2 Corinthians 6:2? What does 2 Corinthians 6:1-3 say about salvation? (NLT)
6. How does Ephesians 1:13 describe the Bible? What does it say that the Ephesians believed in the Bible?
7. What does 2 Timothy 2:10 say about salvation?
8. What does 2 Timothy 3:15,16 say about the connection between the authority of Scripture and salvation?

9. What does Titus 2:11 say about what happened once God's grace appeared?
10. What happens in the life of a person that is "saved"? (Titus 2:12)
11. What is the ultimate destiny of those who have been saved by grace through faith in Christ? (Titus 2:13)
12. What does Titus 2:14 say about Jesus' work of salvation?
13. What kind of people did Jesus purify for Himself? (Titus 2:14)
14. How would you connect Titus 2:14 & Ephesians 2:10? What common words or phrases do you see there?
15. What does Hebrews 2:9 say about what Jesus did to save us?
16. How does Hebrews 2:10 describe Jesus?
17. What does Hebrews 5:9 say that Jesus is the "source" of?

1 Peter 1:3-9 [ESV]

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, **5** who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **8** Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, **9** obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

QUESTIONS 18-26 ARE TAKEN FROM 1 PETER 1:3-9

18. What does 1 Peter 1:3 say about what God “caused”?

19. Why did He do this? (1:3)

20. How does 1 Peter 1:3 talk about our new life in Christ? (What common language is used with John 3:3?)

21. Why is this living hope possible? (1:3)

22. What words does Peter use to describe the inheritance of a person that has been born again? (1:4)

23. When will God's salvation be revealed? (1:5) Hasn't God's salvation already been revealed?

24. Why does the person who has been born again experience trials?
(1:7)

25. Even though the person who is born again does not see Jesus,
what is their reaction to Him? (1:8)

26. What is the outcome of the faith of a person who believes in
Jesus? (1:9)

27. What should the person who knows Christ “long for” (1 Peter 2:2)

28. To whom does salvation belong? (Revelation 7:10)

29. What is necessary in order to be “saved”? (Romans 10:9,10)

30. So, if we are supposed to be “saved” - how does this connect with
the sinfulness of humanity?

[Grace Abounds]

You lay aside Your throne
And to this world
You have come

You offered up Your life
The debt You paid
Was not Yours

[Chorus]

Your grace abounds to me
Your grace abounds to me
Jesus
In You I find all that I need

A gift I could not earn
Your open arms
Are undeserved

Enabled by Your grace
Now to live
Is Christ alone

[Chorus]

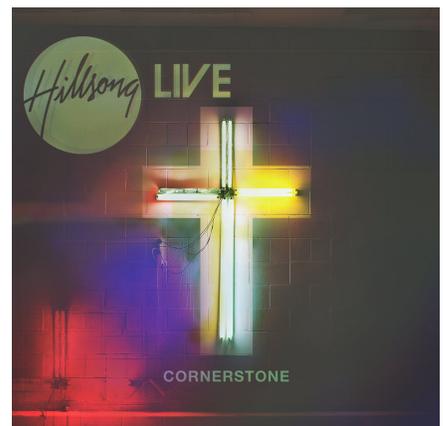
All powerful
All glorious
There's nothing like the Name of Jesus

All powerful
All glorious
There's nothing like Your Name

[Chorus (x2)]

Find all I need in You

- Hillsong Live



Study Guide #10

Weeks 9-11 - Salvation by Grace through Faith in Christ

Ephesians 1:7,8 [ESV]

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight

“Grace is *costly* because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow *Jesus Christ*. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is *costly* because it cost God the life of his Son: “ye were bought at a price,” and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is *grace* because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.”

... [Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#) (1906-1945), *The Cost of Discipleship*, Simon and Schuster, 1959, p. 45

1. Why is grace costly (expensive)? (According to the above quote)
2. What verse is he quoting? (“You were bought at a price”)
3. Bonhoeffer mentions the “Incarnation”? What is that?
4. Who was Dietrich Bonhoeffer?
5. How would you connect the song “Grace Abounds” to any of our Essentials to this point?
6. How does the NLT translate “redemption” in Ephesians 1:7?

7. How much grace was necessary in order for our transgressions to be forgiven? (Ephesians 1:7)
8. What does Romans 3:24 say about God's grace?
9. What does it mean to be "justified"? (Romans 3:24 - NLT)
10. How does the NLT translate "lavished" in Ephesians 1:8?

Romans 5:15-21 [ESV]

15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

16 And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. **17** For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. **19** For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. **20** Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, **21** so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

QUESTIONS 11-18 are taken from Romans 5:15-21

11. What is the "free gift" that Paul refers to in 5:15? What is the "trespass"?

12. How does Paul compare the free gift and the trespass? (Romans 5:15)
13. What happened as a result of the trespass? (Romans 5:16)
14. What happened as a result of the free gift? (Romans 5:16)
15. What reigned as a result of Adam's sin? (Romans 5:17)
16. What reigns as a result of Christ? (Romans 5:17)
17. What happened as sin increased? (Romans 5:20)
18. What does grace lead to? (Romans 5:21)
19. What should happen as grace is extended to more and more people? (2 Corinthians 4:15)
20. How does 2 Corinthians 8:9 describe the grace of Jesus?
21. What is God able to do? (2 Corinthians 9:8)
22. What will happen in our lives once He has done this? (2 Corinthians 9:8 - NLT)
23. What if keeping the law could make us right with God? (Galatians 2:21 - NLT)

24. How does Paul describe the gospel in Colossians 1:6?
25. What has come to us through grace? (2 Thessalonians 2:16)
26. How does Paul describe the grace that was given to him in 1 Timothy 1:12-14?
27. How does Paul describe the gospel and grace in 2 Timothy 1:8-10?
28. How does Paul describe God's grace in Titus 3:4-7?
29. What does Hebrews 4:14-16 say about Jesus and grace?
30. So, grace is about effort, then? Adam screwed everything up and I have to work really hard to make it right?

Study Guide #11Weeks 9-11 - Salvation by Grace through Faith in Christ**"Faithfulness"**

From rising sun till Kingdom come
Your faithful love is unending
Though shadows turn and tempests stir
Still You oh God are unchanging

Through every hour
I will recall
All my hope is Jesus

Great is Your faithfulness
Great is Your faithfulness
I lift my eyes I won't forget
How great Your faithfulness

When battle's near I will not fear
Your promises are unshaken
My faith is sure of nothing more
Than Christ alone my portion

There'll be a season
For joy and weeping
In everything our God is faithful
His arms are open
I will come running
Now and always our God is faithful

- Hillsong Worship



Romans 5:1,2 - ESV

*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **2** Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

Hebrews 11:1-3 - ESV

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. **2** For by it the people of old received their commendation. **3** By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Psalm 36:5-9

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

6

Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;
your judgments are like the great deep;
man and beast you save, O Lord.

7

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

8

They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

9

For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light do we see light.

1. What does Romans 5:1 say has happened by faith?
2. What does the justified person have with God? Through what person does this come?
3. What does Romans 5:2 say that we have by faith?
4. Where does the person who has faith “stand”?
5. What is the outcome of this grace by faith? How does the faithful person respond?
6. What does Romans 15:13 say comes from God through believing?
7. How does Hebrews 11:1 define faith? (ESV)

Look up our other translations (NIV, NASB, NLT, and NET) and write out their version of this definition:

8. NIV -

9. NASB -

10. NLT -

11. NET -

12. What did the people of old receive through faith? (Hebrews 11:2)
13. How would you relate this to the “access” we receive? (Romans 5:2)
14. What is a “commendation”? How do other translations explain this word?
15. What does a person “understand” through faith? How does this relate to things that we can or cannot see? (Hebrews 11:3)
16. What is the extent of God’s love and faithfulness? (Psalm 36:5)
17. What is the result of God’s righteousness and fair judgment? (Psalm 36:6)
18. How does the Psalmist feel about God’s love? What does God’s love provide for people? (Psalm 36:7)
19. How would you connect Psalm 36:8 to our discussion about grace? What common words does the Psalmist use that are also used in Romans 5:15-21?

20. According to Hebrews 11:6, how important is faith?
21. Where does this faith come from? (Ephesians 2:8)
22. How did Abraham exercise faith? (Genesis 15:1-6 - NLT)
23. What was the outcome of that faith? (Genesis 15:1-6 - NLT)
24. To have faith is to believe - in what does John's Gospel say that a person should believe?
25. John 1:12
26. John 2:22
27. John 5:24
28. John 5:46,47
29. John 9:35-38
30. So, all I have to do is have "faith", right? It doesn't really matter what I believe, as long as I REALLY believe it.

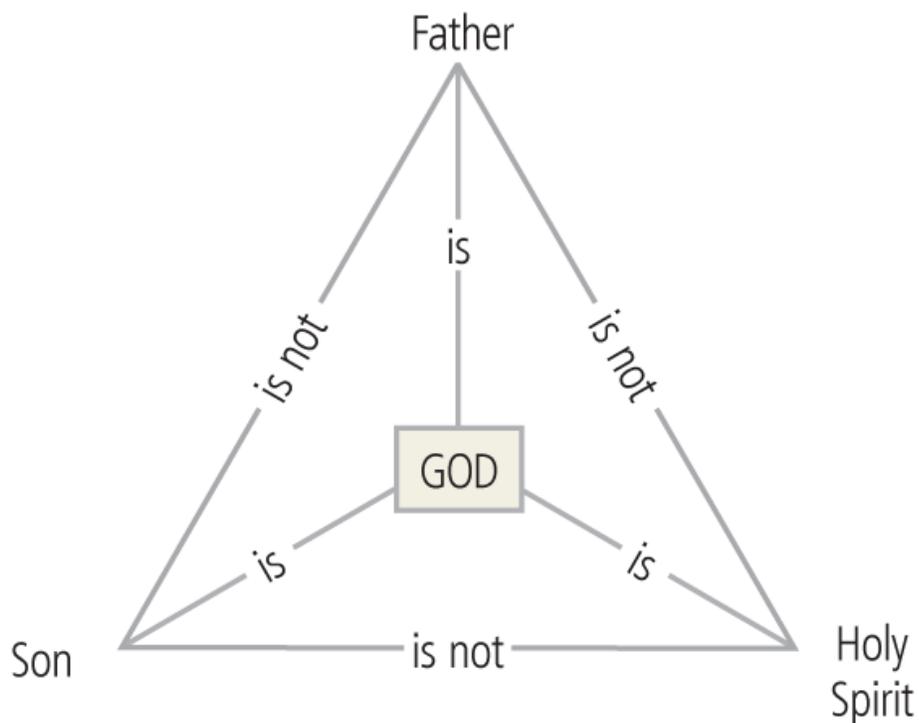
Study Guide #12

Weeks 12-14 - The Nature of God: The Trinity

The Trinity

The biblical teaching on the Trinity embodies four **essential** affirmations:

- 1 There is one and only one true and living God.
- 2 This one God eternally exists in three persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- 3 These three persons are completely equal in attributes, each with the same divine nature.
- 4 While each person is *fully* and *completely* God, the persons are not identical.¹



source: <http://static.esvmedia.org/media/esv-study-bible/images/big/diagram-doctrine-02.png>

¹ esvstudybible.org

1. How does Hillsong Worship's *This I Believe (The Creed)* (pg. 7) talk about the Trinity?
2. What does Deuteronomy 6:4 say about the nature of God?
3. What about Isaiah 40:18, 45:5 & 46:9?

Does the New Testament agree with the Old Testament about there only being one God?

4. John 17:3
5. 1 Corinthians 8:4-6
6. 1 Timothy 2:5
7. James 2:19
8. What did Jesus say about the nature of God? (Mark 12:29)
9. What did Paul say about the nature of God and the uniqueness of Jesus? (1 Timothy 2:5)
10. What are some ways that a person might show that they are not worshipping the one, true God? What word do these verses use to describe worshipping other gods? (Ephesians 5:5, Colossians 3:5)

11. What are the dangers of worshipping other gods? (1 Corinthians 10:19,20)
12. How should a person respond to the fact that there is only one God? (Deuteronomy 6:5)

What “hints” about the Trinity do we see in the following verses from Genesis?

13. Genesis 1:2
14. Genesis 1:27
15. Genesis 3:22
16. Genesis 11:7
17. How does Psalm 45:6–7 talk about different persons as “God” or “Lord”?
18. How does Psalm 110:1 talk about different persons as “God” or “Lord”?
19. How does Hebrews 1:8 & 13 talk about the verses from the Psalms in the previous two questions? How does the author of Hebrews interpret what the Psalms are saying?
20. How does Jesus understand Psalm 110:1? (Matthew 22:41–46)

Study Guide #13

Weeks 12-14 - The Nature of God: The Trinity

2 Peter 1:16-21

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. **17** For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," **18** we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. **19** And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, **20** knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. **21** For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

1. What does Proverbs 8:22-31 say about the deity of someone other than Yahweh (God the Father)?
2. What does Daniel 7:13,14 say about the deity of someone other than Yahweh (God the Father)?
3. In what way are all three persons of the Trinity present at the baptism of Jesus?
4. How does the prayer of 2 Corinthians 13:14 reflect the Trinity?
5. In what way does the Great Commission feature all three persons of the Trinity?

How do these passages reveal the Trinitarian nature of God?

6. John 14:16, 26

7. John 16:13-15

8. John 20:21-22

9. Romans 8:9

10. Romans 15:16, 30

11. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

12. Galatians 4:4-6

13. Ephesians 2:18

14. Ephesians 4:4-6

15. 1 Peter 1:1, 2

16. 1 John 4:2

17. 1 John 4:13-14

18. Jude 20-21