

WHY YOU NEED CHRIST!

Jn 14:16; 15:4-5

Man Needs

An object of worship
A sacrifice for sin
An Example of Manhood
A friend

A hope
A purpose in life
Freedom
An abundant life
Peace
Health

Jesus Is

Immanuel (God with us) Mt 1:23 Col 2:9
Lamb of God Jn 1:29
A True Friend Isa 55:4 Heb 2:10 1Pet 2:21
Leader and Commander Pro 18:24 Jn 15:13
Our Hope 1Tim 1:1 Col 1:27
The Way Jn 14:6 Jer 32:39
The Truth Jn 14:6; 8:31-32 Rom 11:26
The Life Jn 14:6; 10:10; 20:31
Our peace Eph 2:14 Jn 14:27 Phil 4:7 Jn 16:33
Great Physician Jer 8:22 Mk 2:17

CHART V - WHY YOU NEED CHRIST

INTRODUCTION:

One of the most impressive and unique things about the Bible and the Christ revealed in the Bible is the way in which Jesus supplies an answer for every problem and meets and satisfies every basic need of man (spiritual, moral, or psychological).

John 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be _____ . Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and _____ a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus answered, "I am the _____ and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 15:4 Remain in me, and I will _____ in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much _____; apart from me you can do nothing.

I. Man Needs An Object of Worship.

- A. One of the things that distinguishes men from animals is an inherent and intuitive sense of worship of some power higher than himself.
1. All nations and peoples, no matter how primitive, have had their objects of worship, their gods, altars, sacrifices, and temples.
 2. History shows that man fell from the true worship of One God, Jehovah, into idolatry and polytheism (the worship of a plurality of gods). This is pointed out in the Scriptures.

Rom 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen.

Ecclesiastes 7:29 This only have I found: God made mankind upright, but men have gone in search of many schemes."

3. One of the dilemmas and frustrations of paganism and idolatry is that the gods men have created are obviously no higher in wisdom, strength, moral character, etc., than the men who created them. Hence, the gods of paganism are pictured as having human passions and catering to the lusts and desires of men. There were gods and goddesses of war, love, sex, fertility, etc. Read Jehovah's expose of the vanity and futility of all these idols and false gods.

Isaiah 44:8 Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one." 9 All who make idols are nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless. Those who would speak up for them are blind; they are ignorant, to their own shame. 10 Who shapes a god and casts an idol, which can profit him nothing? 11 He and his kind will be put to shame; craftsmen are nothing but men. Let them all come together and take their stand; they will be brought down to terror and infamy. 12 The blacksmith takes a tool and works with it in the coals; he shapes an idol with hammers, he forges it with the might of his arm. He gets hungry and loses his strength; he drinks no water and grows faint. 13 The carpenter measures with a line and makes an outline with a marker; he roughs it out with chisels and marks it with compasses. He shapes it in the form of man, of man in all his glory, that it may dwell in a shrine. 14 He cut down cedars, or perhaps took a cypress or oak. He let it grow among the trees of the forest, or planted a pine, and the rain made it grow. 15 It is man's fuel for burning; some of it he takes and warms himself, he kindles a

fire and bakes bread. But he also fashions a god and worships it; he makes an idol and bows down to it. 16 Half of the wood he burns in the fire; over it he prepares his meal, he roasts his meat and eats his fill. He also warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm; I see the fire." 17 From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says, "Save me; you are my god." 18 They know nothing, they understand nothing; their eyes are plastered over so they cannot see, and their minds closed so they cannot understand. 19 No one stops to think, no one has the knowledge or understanding to say, "Half of it I used for fuel; I even baked bread over its coals, I roasted meat and I ate. Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left? Shall I bow down to a block of wood?" 20 He feeds on ashes, a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, "Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?" 21 "Remember these things, O Jacob, for you are my servant, O Israel. I have made you, you are my servant; O Israel, I will not forget you.

4. In a prior lesson we established the fact that the God of Heaven was, "an unknown God", unless He revealed Himself to man. We found the Bible to be that revelation. The Bible is centered on and was manifested in His Son! What better way could God have used to show Himself as a being worthy of man's worship and demonstrate His holiness, His power, His Wisdom, His moral excellence, than to give to the world in the life of Jesus a living demonstration of His nature?

B. Jesus is Immanuel (God with us).

Matthew 1:23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"

1. God came to earth in human form.

Colossians 2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" 16 From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known. 19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was.

- a. Note: This One who is called “The Word” was with God in the beginning (Gen. 1:26 “Let us make man” —) and He is God (i.e., He possesses all of the attributes of God, the Father) – the same one who “became flesh made his dwelling among us’ (Jn1:14) and when we see Jesus we see God in the flesh. (Jn 1:18).

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Hebrews 1:1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

1 Timothy 3:16 Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

Philippians 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross! 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

- a. All of these passages affirm the same great truth of the Incarnation—that a Being who was God took upon Himself human flesh and lived a physical existence on this earth.
- b. God is, love, mercy, grace, goodness, holiness and power. Everything that would cause us to love, respect and obey Him was vividly demonstrated in the life of Jesus.
- c. Jesus manifested to the world a God who is:
 - (1) Personal - He is our Father, He loves us and is concerned about us. He grieves at our sins and provides us a way of escape and a better way of life.
 - (2) Moral - He is perfect in Holiness, giving man an ideal toward which he can strive. He has no partiality. He has none of the weaknesses and human inclinations that characterized the heathen gods

Acts 10:34 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.

- d. Man needed an object of worship who was higher in wisdom, power, and holiness

than himself so that his worship would uplift and enable him rather than degrade him. Jesus answered the need perfectly by demonstrating in His life the qualities of God.

II. Man Needs a Sacrifice For Sin.

- A. Worship is virtually universal among mankind. This reflects the desire of man to be in favor with the being (or beings) he worships.
1. All nations have had a concept of a fall from an original state of purity and innocence. All the sacrifices offered down through the centuries (animal or even human) have been an admission of man's sense of guilt and have shown his desire to regain the favor of the God (or gods) he has offended.
 2. The Bible affirms all men of every nation have sinned.

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

3. All men of every nation have been alienated from God.

Isaiah 59:1 Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

4. God's law had been violated and His will tramped underfoot. Justice demanded that man must pay the penalty for such transgression. A government that does not punish wrongdoers is bound to fail: a law without penalties attached is useless.

Hebrews 2:2 For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, 3 how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.

5. How could God uphold the validity of His law and meet the demands of justice and yet at the same time extend mercy and pardon to fallen man?

B. Once Again Jesus Answered The Need!

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

Ephesians 5:2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Romans 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our

justification.

Romans 5:21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Timothy 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners - of whom I am the worst.

1. The terribleness of sin was demonstrated in the tremendous price that was paid to cancel the debt of sin.

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

2. Because Jesus' act was voluntary, He "gave himself for our sins" (Gal. 1:4), we see in it the greatest possible demonstration of sacrificial love. We admire and commend the actions of mothers and fathers who lay down their lives to save their children or of soldiers who gave their lives to save a group of their comrades. How much more should we admire and appreciate the action of this sinless person who was willing to accept the death penalty for us and to accept the punishment that each one of us was due because of our transgressions of Divine Law?

1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

3. In the Cross of Christ we see:
 - a.. Divine Justice Upheld, the penalty paid and the world taught that God's law cannot be broken with impunity.
 - b. Divine Mercy Extended as God gave "His only begotten Son".
 - c. Sacrificial Love Manifested. Jesus died "the just for the unjust". He "bore our sins in His body".

III. Man Needs an Example of Manhood and Leadership.

- A. From earliest childhood we are, consciously or unconsciously imitators of others. Invariably we develop heroes whose lives we admire and after whom we strive to pattern ourselves. The influence of great men like Washington, Lincoln, Edison, Sweitzer, etc., is felt for generations after they live.
 1. To be of true benefit to us the leader we choose to follow and imitate must possess greater wisdom, judgment, zeal, courage, and moral strength than we do. Only in this way can we be made better by following them.

B. Jesus Answers the Need! He is leader, commander, and example!

1. God promised such a leader.

Isaiah 55:4 See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples.

Hebrews 2:10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.

2. The essence of Christian living is to imitate, emulate and follow His example.

1 Peter 2:21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

Philippians 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

1 John 2:6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

3. Where could you find a more worthy example to follow? What leader ever demanded and received greater loyalty, devotion, and service? What leader has ever had the impact upon the world and influence for good that Jesus has? Who has ever been made worse by following His example?

IV. Man Needs A Friend.

A. Every normal person wants and needs the friendship of others, those whom he respects, admires, and has confidence in to whom he can turn for advice in times of decision, comfort in times of sorrow, or strength in times of weakness.

1. But friendships are not always what they should be.

a. There are "fair-weather" friends who desert us when we need them most.

b. There are those who disappoint us, betray our confidence, and give us erroneous advice.

B. Jesus is a "Friend that Sticks Closer than a Brother"

Proverbs 18:24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

1. These words of Solomon apply more than to Jesus than anyone else.

C. Here is a Friend indeed!

a. Here is a Friend who is completely unselfish, who loves us and sacrificed for us

even though we did not earn or deserve that friendship.

Romans 5:6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- b. Here is a Friend with amazing compassion, who gave up honor, glory, riches etc., in order to prove His love for us.

Philippians 2:4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross!

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

- c. Here is a Friend who is constant, who is always there when we need Him, and who never changes.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Ephesians 3:17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

- d. Here is Friend with unlimited ability and resources. Worldly friends do not know our innermost thoughts and feelings. They may misjudge our motives or misinterpret our actions, and they may fail to bear, with sympathy and patience our weaknesses. This is not so with Jesus.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Matthew 11:19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners." 'But wisdom is proved right by her actions.'

- e. Here is a Friend who has proved Himself!

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

Truly we can sing with grace in our hearts "What a Friend we Have in Jesus!" But we must remember that true friendship cannot be one-sided; it must be reciprocated.

John 14:15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command.

John 15:14 You are my friends if you do what I command.

Proverbs 18:24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

V. Man Needs a Hope.

- A. From his earliest existence man has struggled for some hope:
 - 1. Something to sustain him in the trials and tribulations of life.
 - 2. Something to comfort him in sorrow.
 - 3. Something to give him courage as he faces serious illness and death.
- B. The false hopes entertained by man down through the years are simply expressions of the urgent and desperate need for a real hope:
 - 1. The Indian concept of a happy hunting ground.
 - 2. The Hindu concept of re-incarnation to a better existence.
 - 3. The still more vague and fanciful conceptions of a "Utopia", or "Shrangri-La", or "Fountain of Youth".
- C. The dictionaries define "hopeless" as meaning "having no expectation", "forlorn" or "desperate".
 - 1. The only thing more pathetic than the person who entertains a false hope is the person who has lost all hope.

Ephesians 2:12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

- D. But again, Christ supplies the answer — He is our Hope!

1 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of

Christ Jesus our hope

Colossians 1:27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

E. Take away that Hope and the world would be shrouded in the blackest darkness.

1 Corinthians 15:19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

F. Upon what does a Christian's hope rest?

1. God's Promise

Titus 1:2 a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,

- a. Men may make promises, excite our desire and expectation, and then go back on their word.
- b. It is impossible that God could break a promise.

Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

2. God's Power

Mark 10:27 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

- a.. Men may make promises and sincerely desire to fulfil them but fail for lack of means.
- a. Whatever God promises, He is able to fulfill.

2 Timothy 1:12 That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

Romans 4:20 Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us

3. God's Record

- a. Worldly persons' promises are measured by their past record at keeping their word (politicians, businessmen, etc.).
- b. Look at the record. Has God kept His Promises in the past?

Genesis 8:22 "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

Genesis 9:15 I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. 16 Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

Deuteronomy 18:15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him.

Daniel 2:44 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

- c. We can put our trust in God's promises then because "He is faithful that promised".

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

4. God's Oath

Hebrews 6:13 When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, 14 saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." 15 And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. 16 Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. 17 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. 18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. 19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, 20 where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

- a. If a man's word is considered more binding if he confirms it with a solemn oath,

how much more the promise of God!

- F. Hope is a combination of two essential elements — desire and expectation. The sinner is said to be “without hope” because:
 - 1. He cannot hope for heaven. He may desire to go to such a place but he has no basis for expecting to go there.
 - 2. He cannot even hope for hell. He may, if he believes the Bible at all, expect to go there, but surely does not desire to spend eternity in hell!
- G. The hope entertained by Christians then is not some vague “pie-in-the-sky” day dream. It is based upon the word and promise and even the oath of God, and it is centered in Christ. It is an anchor to which we can tie our souls in the storms and struggles of life.

Hebrews 6:19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,

VI. Man Needs a Purpose in Life.

- A. Ask any psychiatrist, sociologist, or psychologist what is wrong with modern man — why people are frustrated and unhappy, and why one out of eight people in this country will spend some time in a mental institution.
 - 1. Their answer may mention several factors but one will stand out — people are living meaningless lives, people have lost a real sense of purpose in their existence. “About a third of my cases are suffering from no clinically definable neurosis, but from the senselessness and emptiness of their lives” — Carl Jung, Famous Psychiatrist.
 - a. They set false goals and worship the false gods of money, fame, etc.
 - (1) Those thousands who fail to achieve this false goal are disappointed, frustrated, and unhappy.
 - (2) Those who achieve success find that it does not satisfy their innermost longings; there is always something lacking.
 - b. Look about you in the world at the millions of people working, struggling, planning, grasping — FOR WHAT? How many have a worthwhile and meaningful goal or purpose in life?
- B. This is exactly what the expressions “lost” in the Bible conveys.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

- 1. Dictionary definition - “having gone astray or lost the way bewildered, perplexed, as a child lost in the woods”.
- 2. People by the millions have lost their bearings. They do not know where they are going or why they are going there. In fact, the Bible affirms that all men have lost their way.

Romans 3:11 there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- a. Not only that, but they cannot find their own way.

Jeremiah 10:23 I know, O LORD, that a man's life is not his own; it is not for man to direct his steps.

Proverbs 4:19 But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble.

Proverbs 13:15 Good understanding wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard.

Proverbs 24:12 If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?

- b. Neither can they rely upon the wisdom of others to show them the way.

Matthew 15:14 Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

C. Again Jesus Meets the Need; He is The Way!

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- 1. He is the only way of life, the only way to God.

Jeremiah 32:39 I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me for their own good and the good of their children after them.

Matthew 7:13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,

- a. He shows us the way to live.
- b. He shows us the way to die.
- c. His way brings us the greatest joy because it is based upon divine wisdom and it leads to home and to God.
- d. There is absolutely no other way, no other approach or access unto God.

Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

- e. That is why the best adjusted, the most serene and contented, and the happiest person you will ever know is the faithful Christian.
2. Are you in that “way”?

Galatians 3:27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

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

- a. When Saul of Tarsus went out to persecute those of “the way”, who did he persecute? Those in the church of Jesus Christ.

Acts 22:4 I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison,

Acts 9:1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest

Acts 8:3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

VII. Man Needs Freedom.

- A. The history of man is a record of a long and ceaseless struggle to be free. (The children of Israel in Egypt, the pioneers in this country, the new African nations, the American Black, etc.).
 - 1. The struggle for freedom from tyranny, slavery, disease, ignorance and poverty still occupies much of man's attention and efforts.
 - 2. Even if we should succeed in securing freedom from all political and social tyranny, there is still a form of bondage common to all mankind in which we would still be involved, the bondage of sin.

John 8:34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

Romans 6:16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey - whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.

2 Peter 2:19 They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of

depravity - for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.

B. Again Jesus supplies the answer, He is the Truth.

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

1. Jesus is truly the Great Emancipator, the Deliverer of Man.

John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Romans 11:26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.

Romans 11:26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead - Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

2. The medium Jesus has used to effect this deliverance is the Truth.

John 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

3. That we value and love that Truth above every other consideration in life, that we believe and obey it, is absolutely essential to our salvation.

Proverbs 23:23 Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.

1 Peter 1:22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

2 Thessalonians 2:12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

VIII. Man Needs an Abundant Life.

A. Inherent within man is the desire for the "good life", the "abundant life", the "happy life". There has to be more to man's life than the mere existence of eating, sleeping and

working.

1. Our constitution, and similar documents throughout the world, recognizes as God-given and inalienable rights life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
2. Men have died to defend our rights to “pursue” happiness, great statesmen have written and debated upon this pursuit of happiness, but with all their wisdom they have failed to tell us where to find it!
3. In this “land of the free and home of the brave”, we see close to 300 million people running to and fro, pursuing, chasing happiness and the abundant life and very few ever finding it.
4. The frustrations, disappointments, and disillusionments of this vain search for the better and happy life is written across the pages of human history.
 - a. No person better personifies and illustrates that frantic and empty search than does Solomon as he outlines his search for happiness in the book of Ecclesiastes.
 - (1) Like many, he thought “the good life” meant riches, but this failed to bring him happiness.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.

Proverbs 11:4 Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. 28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

- (2) Like many, he thought “the good life” meant laying up worldly wisdom and knowledge and this too failed to satisfy his needs.

Ecclesiastes 1:13 I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven. What a heavy burden God has laid on men!17 Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind. 18 For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief.

- (3) Like many he imagined that the “good life” was to satisfy fleshly desires, to live for pleasure, and to “eat, drink, and be merry”, and this too left an empty void.

Ecclesiastes 2:1 I thought in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good." But that also proved to be meaningless.10 I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor.17 So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

- b. The experience of Solomon has been, and is being, re-lived in the lives of countless millions. People are still trying the same worn out old paths to find the “good life”, yet there is always that feeling of “vanity” and “striving after the wind”, the feeling that there has to be something better, something more meaningful, and something more conducive to happiness. **But what and where is it?**
- B. Again Jesus supplies the answer—He is the Life.

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- a. Jesus’ primary purpose in coming into the world was to bring Life.

1 John 1:2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

John 5:40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

- 2. Not only does Jesus us offer the better, the fuller, the more abundant life here but more than that, eternal life.

1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

- a. It is obvious that this gift of eternal life is located in His Son. ... if you are in Christ, you have that life. It you are not in Christ, you do not have it.
- b. The significance of scriptural baptism (an immersion in water for the remission of sins upon our confession of faith in Him) can be seen in that it puts us into Christ where that life is found.

Galatians 3:27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Romans 6:4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5 If we have been united with him like this in his

death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

3. In that life, the “new life”, the “abundant life”, there is true and lasting happiness.

Psalms 144:15 Blessed are the people of whom this is true; blessed are the people whose God is the LORD.

Jeremiah 9:23 This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches,

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

IX. Man Needs Peace

- A. The struggle for peace is as old as man himself. All over the world prayers are offered, books are written, governments meet in conference, in a compelling quest for peace.
 1. But it is not just world peace that man seeks and needs desperately, but more important still, peace with God and peace within himself.
 2. The chaotic condition in our country and in the world is but an outward expression of the unrest, unhappiness, and emotional instability of millions of people.
 3. One of the greatest causes of this general lack of peace of mind is a sense of guilt. Man knows that he cannot hope for peace with self until he is at peace with God .

Colossians 1:21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

Ephesians 4:18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

- B. Again, Christ Meets the Need—He is our Peace.

Ephesians 2:14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,

1. Peace of mind is not something that you can get out of a bottle of booze or tranquilizers, or in a book written by man, or on a psychiatrist's couch (while these may all have their place); it is a divine legacy that Jesus left to His disciples.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the

world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

- a. This peace can only come by faith.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

- b. This peace is found only in Christ.

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- c. This peace is enjoyed only in the body (or church) of Christ .

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Ephesians 1:22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

X. Man Needs Health.

A. The world is extremely health-conscious. Millions are spent yearly on health magazines, health foods, and health fads. Doctors are doing a thriving business and admit that a large percentage of those who visit them have nothing physically wrong with them. Culture classes, gymnasiums for body building, etc., are doing a booming business. Billions of dollars are spent each year in research and treatment to fight the enemies of health.

1. One of the greatest incongruities in all this emphasis on physical health is the tendency to ignore almost completely our spiritual health.
2. Man is a dually natured creature having both body and soul.

Matthew 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

2 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

2 Corinthians 5:1 Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

- a. God's evaluation of the body is that of a tent, a temporary dwelling place.

Job 14:1 "Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.

Psalms 90:10 The length of our days is seventy years - or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

James 4:14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. .

- b. The Bible places greater emphasis upon our spiritual health rather than our physical health.

Matthew 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Luke 12:19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." 20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' 21 "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." 22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.

Matthew 6:26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

2. Just a casual look at the world with the growing incidence of crime, hatred, violence, war, divorce, dope addiction, alcoholism, etc., should convince us that the world is truly sick.

Isaiah 1:5 Why should you be beaten anymore? Why do you persist in rebellion? Your whole head is injured, your whole heart afflicted. 6 From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness - only wounds and welts and open sores, not

cleansed or bandaged or soothed with oil.

- a. When all of man's remedies fail, people cry out with Jeremiah?

Jeremiah 8:22 Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?

B. Again, Jesus is the answer; He is the Great Physician.

Mark 2:17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

1. He has all the qualifications:

- a. His knowledge is infinite!

Colossians 2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

- b. His power is unlimited!

Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

- c. His success is phenomenal. He has never failed in any case where complete trust and confidence were put in Him.
- d. His terms are amazing. "Without money and without price".

Isaiah 55:1 "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

CONCLUSION:

Every need of man is freely and completely answered in Jesus.

Without Him you rob yourself of all these blessings and more.

Without Him you can do nothing.

John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Without Him you cannot please God!

Romans 8:8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.