

SALVATION BIBLE BASICS

LESSON 1

INSTRUCTIONS

You will need a King James Bible to fill in each blank. We will happily give you one free of charge. If at any time you feel you would like someone from our church to guide you through these lessons, or if you have a question, please contact us (details on the front cover). When you're finished, ask us for lesson 2.

By the time you finish lesson 4, you will know how to be ready to meet your Maker.

INTRODUCTION

We are going to be talking about the basics of the Bible. Often when people pick up the Bible and try to read it, they can't understand it. The Bible tells us in First Corinthians chapter two that people who do not know Christ as their Saviour will not be able to understand the Bible. Because they do not know the Author, they cannot know the Book. The Bible just cannot make sense to them.

I remember the first time I got interested in the Bible. It was before I was a child of God. I had heard about the Bible, so I decided I would read it. I picked it up and started to read it, but I did not understand what I was reading. I didn't even know where to start to read. Since there are sixty-six books in the Bible, it is hard to know where to start.

In order for us to understand the Bible, we have to start off with some very basic material. First, we need to understand the basic concepts of the Bible. Let's look at it this way. Suppose you went to visit in a foreign country that was very uncivilised. You went way back in the jungle, where the natives live who have never been out to see civilisation before. They had never seen an automobile in their lifetime.

If you told them, “We have an automobile at home that we drive around in,” do you think they would understand what you were talking about? No, of course they wouldn’t.

Imagine trying to describe something to someone who doesn’t understand what you are talking about to begin with. How are you going to start? You are certainly not going to deal with details, such as different models of cars, or the options available like air conditioning, leather seats, automatic windows, etc. Those things are going to make absolutely no sense to them. You are going to get right down to the basics. You are going to have to talk to them about wheels, seats, an engine, a steering wheel, brakes, etc. Those are the kind of things you are going to start with, doing it in such a way that it makes sense.

There are two approaches you can make. One would be what we might term a **chronological approach**. You could tell them about how the automobile first was invented, how it was designed, what the first car looked like and how it was put together, what each part is and what it does, the different changes that have been made through the years, and the kinds of cars available today. You could chronologically explain the making of an automobile. But probably for a native back in the jungle, that is not going to make a whole lot of sense.

The same is true with the Bible. If you sit down with someone and try to explain the Bible chronologically from Genesis to Revelation, you can eventually get the job done, but it is going to take a very long time. It will be hard for them to be able to get a clear understanding of what you are trying to tell them until you have covered most of the Bible.

The second way you could explain the automobile would be to organise your thoughts according to content, giving an overall view. You could explain that a car has a place for you to sit in and it has wheels on the outside that turn. Next you could explain how an engine causes those wheels to be propelled, and a steering mechanism allows a person to be able to turn in the direction they want to go. Now all of that would be designed to give them the basics. You wouldn’t need to explain the

difference between a Ford and a Holden. You would be interested in just giving them the very basics.

That is what we are going to do in this Bible study. We are going to be looking at some basic truths that will give us an overview of the Bible. Obviously, we won't be able to cover everything in 4 lessons. Neither are we going to be able to understand everything about the Bible when we are finished. In fact, there is no person in the world that understands everything about the Bible. Some people like to act as if they know it all. But they don't, because God is the only One who does know it all.

LOOKING AT THINGS GOD'S WAY

In this study we are going to look at things the way God looks at them. In First Samuel we have a story about Samuel, the prophet of God. God had told him to go and anoint the next king of Israel. He was to go to the household of Jesse and ask Jesse to call in all his boys. Samuel went as God commanded, and Jesse called in his sons, but he only called seven of them. Samuel looked at the oldest son named Eliab and thought that surely he was the one God wanted. In **First Samuel 16:7** it says, ***“But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward a***
, but the LORD looketh on the h_____.”

God rejected Eliab because He could see his heart. God knew he would not make a good king for Israel. Samuel went on down the line, looking at each of the sons. Each of the young men looked like fine, strong, brilliant young men on the outside but God rejected each one. Finally, Samuel asked Jesse if he had another son, and there was another one. David was out taking care of the sheep. He was called in, and the moment he walked in God spoke to Samuel and said, “That’s the one. Anoint him.” God’s explanation of the whole thing is right there in verse seven. God sees different than we do. God doesn’t look on the outward appearance. He looks on the heart. He knows what a person is truly like.

When you and I look at people, we make judgment calls. We make decisions about those people, based on the way they look, the way they dress, outward things we are able to observe about them or the things we hear them say. But we don't really know what goes on inside of another person's heart. The Bible tells us that when God looks at people, God doesn't judge by outward appearance. God judges by what is on the inside. God knows the truth of the matter.

I don't know why God rejected the first seven sons of Jesse. For some reason, those men were unfit for the job of being a king. But God knew that David was just the man. He was the one that God had chosen. David was just the man to accomplish the job God wanted done.

As we go through this study, we will be looking at things from God's point of view. How does God see things? How does that affect our lives as people? That will be the foundation of everything we will talk about.

FACING GOD

Eventually every one of us is going to have to face God. We will stand before God and will answer to Him. One day you are going to die. That is a fact of life, and anyone with any sense understands that. I don't care if you are into health foods, popping all the vitamins you can possibly take and you are taking care of your body the best you can. Sooner or later, that body of yours is going to give out. Death is sure to come. It may come slower to some than others, but it is going to come to all of us.

The Bible teaches us that we will all stand before God someday. **Notice Romans 14:12 says, “So then every one of us shall give**

a _____ of himself to God.” One day, you are going to stand before God. When you stand there before God, He is going to have you give account for your life. He is going to ask you some very important and serious questions, and you are going to have to answer for your life and how you lived it.

I don't know about you, but when I was in school, I didn't like tests. I always dreaded examination time. It definitely was not my favourite

day. But I knew the day was coming, and that fact caused me to listen for one purpose. I didn't want my grades to look too bad when I took my report card home.

Most people I know aren't too interested in taking the test when their life ends. They aren't too interested in standing before God. In fact, most people I know have so put God off in their life that they don't even think about death. But God says every person is going to stand before Him one day and give an account for his life.

In **Romans 2:2** the Bible says, ***“But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to t_____ against them which commit such things.”*** When we stand before God, we will be judged according to truth. I don't know what your opinion might or might not be of our justice system. In many cases, there are people who lie and get away, even though they are guilty. We may never know the truth, but God knows what really happened. God's judgment is according to truth.

When you and I stand before God, we will give an account for our lives. God will not judge us according to the outward appearance or the way things look. He won't judge us by popular public opinion. He won't take a vote on the matter, and there won't be a jury to make the decision. We will be judged according to truth. Now that is scary, because truth is so exacting, so straight, and so narrow. When we are judged by truth, we are all going to be found guilty. We are going to be found empty, without excuse.

John 17:17 tells us where truth is found. Jesus says there, ***“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy w_____ is truth.”*** So far we have seen three facts. God tells us that we are one day going to stand before Him. When we face Him, we are going to give an account for our lives, and we are going to be judged according to the truth of the Word of God.

Some people might say, “Well preacher, I don't really believe the Bible is right. I don't think it is truth.” Well, it certainly is your right to decide you don't agree with the Bible. But think about this. If you are wrong,

and God does judge people according to the Bible, what will you do then? You see, your not believing it won't change the fact.

You can believe whatever you want to believe and I can believe whatever I want to believe. But ultimately it is not what you believe or what I believe that matters. God says it is according to truth that He is going to judge us, and God tells us that it is the Bible that is His truth. You can choose not to believe that if you wish.

But suppose I was to tell you that you were going to be judged and your whole life, whether you were going to live or die, was going to hinge upon a particular test you were going to take in five minutes. Would you be interested in knowing what the test was about? Would you be interested in knowing the answers to the test? I would. I would want to listen to a fellow who said, "I have the questions and I know what the answers are." I would want to at least check it out and see if it was true or not. So before you discard the Bible, I think the wisest thing you could ever do is to sit down and at least check it out. Listen and see what God says and then make your choice.

TRUTH = BIBLE

We read in **John 17:17** that truth equals the Bible. According to God, the Bible is the truth He has given to us. In **Second Timothy 3:16-17** the Bible says, *“All scripture is given by i _____ of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”* The Bible claims that the Scriptures, another word for the Bible, were given by inspiration of God. The word inspiration means God-breathed. The words I speak are Doug-breathed words. I breathe them as I speak. The words of the Bible are not man-breathed words. The Bible claims to be God-breathed words. The Bible claims to be God speaking to you and me. Remember God said one day we are going to be judged according to truth, and the truth is the Bible, and now He tells us that the Bible is nothing less than Him speaking to us. We better pay attention.

In **Second Peter 1:21** the Bible says, *“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of m _____: but holy men of God spake as they were m _____ by the Holy Ghost.”* Some people say the Bible was just written by men, but that is not what the Bible claims. Remember we are trying to understand how God views things. God says the Bible didn't come by the will of men. A bunch of fellows didn't one day sit down and decide to invent a new book and start a religion. The Bible wasn't created in the mind of some prophets who wanted to have a book named after them. The Bible says these didn't do this by their own will, but they wrote these things by the will of God, as they were moved, as the Holy Spirit of God carried them along.

Some people might say, “Anyone could write a book and say it is God's Word. Anyone could write a book and say it is true. How do we know it is true?” Let's look at some things that prove it is true. The Bible is made up of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation. Literally we could say that the Bible is like a library of sixty-six books put together into one book. It has sixty-six books and forty different authors. There were forty different men who lived over a period of time of about sixteen hundred years who wrote down what God told them to write. Most of these men never even met each other. Many of the men never

even read the writings of the other authors. Yet when you put all sixty-six books together they perfectly agree with one another.

Think about that for a moment. There is not one contradiction from Genesis to Revelation. I dare you to pick up any two books written about science and see if they agree. Get two history books and see if two history books agree. You don't have to consider sixty-six books, just two. You are going to have a hard time finding just two that would agree totally on every point with each other. Yet the Bible is sixty-six books, written by forty different authors who lived over a period of sixteen hundred years. These men were widely apart in learning and background, yet they perfectly agreed with one another. How could that be?

We could also look at the honesty of the writers. You know, if I was writing a book and it was going to be a holy book with my name attached to it, I would not write about all my problems. I wouldn't tell you about my sins. There would be things I would hide because you don't need to know about them. God was pretty honest about His heroes. Even the best had chinks in their armor and God tells the truth about them. The men who wrote told the truth about their lives and the lives of others.

Next, let's consider the prophecies of the Scripture. In the Bible, a prophet is someone who tells the truth to other people. Also, from time to time, they actually foretell the future, or tell prophecies of things that are going to happen. It might be a prophecy about the name of a king four hundred years from now who is going to be born, and the country over which he is going to reign when he grows up. Can you imagine making a prophecy like that and having it come true? Or it could be a prophecy about a city being destroyed, how it would be destroyed and then how it would be rebuilt. Yet there are literally hundreds of prophecies like that in the Bible and they were all fulfilled literally, just as they were prophesied.

In **Second Peter 1:19** the Bible says, ***"We have also a more***

s _____ *word of prophecy.*” Peter, who wrote the book of Second Peter, had seen Jesus transfigured on the mount with Moses and Elijah. It was a spectacular sight, quite a miracle. But he realised that the written Word of God is more powerful, more sure, more steadfast than seeing a vision or seeing a miracle. That is exactly how God views His Word: as truth. This truth, the Bible, is what will judge you and judge me one day.

TEN LAWS -- EXODUS 20

In light of that, let’s ask ourselves, how does God judge us? What are the things that God is concerned about? Turn to **Exodus 20**, and we are going to see God’s law. The Bible teaches that God is holy. Because of His holiness, God has given us in the Old Testament what is called His law. There are 613 laws in all. The Old Testament law is divided into three kinds. There is the civil law that deals with the nation of Israel and how the nation of Israel was to operate. The civil law was the law that governed their society.

The second category is the ceremonial laws, the laws that talked about the ceremonies that the Jewish people were to go through in offering animals and different sacrifices, different consecrations and offerings to God. The ceremonial law had to do with the daily rituals of the nation of Israel.

Then there were the moral laws. The moral laws talked about how God sees man and how God believes man ought to live, the kind of activities man ought to be involved in, the kind of life man ought to have.

God’s law has never been repealed. Jesus even said in the New Testament, in **Matthew 5:17**, *“Think not that I am come to d _____ the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to f _____.”* The law is still in effect. It has never been stopped or stamped out. The law is what God will use to judge your life and my life by. The law still exists and one day, men and women will stand before God, and if they do not know Jesus Christ, that law will judge them. Now God has broken down those 613 laws into ten specific ones that

are very important, and those are the ones we are going to look at. These are called the Ten Commandments and are found in Exodus chapter 20.

1. NO OTHER GODS

Look in **Exodus 20:3**, the first of the Ten Commandments. God says, ***“Thou shalt have no other g_____ before me.”*** God says we are not to have any other gods before Him. What does God mean when He says no other gods? He means that no one else, and nothing else is to take the place of God in your life. In other words, God demands first place in your life and mine.

If you were married, would your spouse accept you having another boyfriend or another girlfriend on the side? No, not normally anyway. There is something wrong with them if they would accept that. You would be very jealous if you found out your spouse had some other love, some other rival for your affection. God says He demands our affection. He wants no other gods in our life.

Now let me ask you this. On the basis of that, as you look back through your life from the day you were a child, all the way up to today, can you say you have always loved God with every fiber of your being? Have you loved God with every part of your life, with all of your heart? Can you really say that? I can't. I don't believe there is a person alive who can say, “I have always loved God and wanted Him more than I have wanted anything or anyone else.” Most people in our world have filled their life with chasing after things or chasing after others. They are trying to find fulfilment in people and things that God never said we should chase and things that never will satisfy.

2. NO IDOLS

Notice the second commandment in **verse four**. *“Thou shalt not make unto thee any g_____i_____, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth.”*

Now God talks about idols. Most people would say they don’t have any idols or statues in their house that they bow down to and worship, and I’m glad that they don’t. But God isn’t just talking about idols you and I have made. According to **Romans 1:21-25**, He is also talking about the imagination of our heart with which we make the gods we want.

Now follow this thought with me for a moment. God says, “I don’t want you to have any other gods before Me. I don’t want you to put your affection on anything or anyone else besides Me. I don’t want you to invent your own god.” But people in our world have invented a lot of different gods.

Some people have a god that is a good god. He is so loving, kind and wonderful he just lets anyone and everyone do whatever they want. So you can go ahead and live however you want and when you die and stand before God, He is going to say, “Forget it. Just come on in.” That is the idea most people in the Western world have of what God is like.

Some people have made a god that is more like Santa Claus. They have a need and they say, “God, I’m looking to you and I need this, and you better give it to me.” Then when God doesn’t do what they commanded Him to do, they get very angry. Maybe someone is sick in the family and they are telling God what He is going to do about that sick person. But when God doesn’t do with that sick person what they tell Him to do, they are mad at God.

Have you ever been there? You see, what you have done is made God in your own image. You have made an idol of your own. God says He condemns this. These are the commands of God.

Now tell me that in your life you have never had an image of God that wasn't right. Tell me that in your life you have always understood who God was. Tell me that you have understood exactly what God was like and you have always worshipped Him with all your heart. Tell me that and I will call you a liar. My friend, you can't say that and neither can I.

3. TAKING GOD'S NAME IN VAIN

Notice in **verse seven** a third command. ***“Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guilty that taketh his name in vain.”***

A lot of people understand that commandment to mean that you aren't allowed to curse. You can't take God's name or Jesus' name and then link it with the word “damn” or some other expletive and curse. They are right for this commandment certainly forbids cursing. I would hope you have never cursed. But if you have, do you know how God views that? You have broken His law.

But let's look a little closer. He says not to take ***“the name of The Lord thy God in vain.”*** The word vain means empty. It is not just talking about blaspheming or taking God's name and cursing. It is also talking about taking God's name lightly. It means lightly saying, “God said this,” or “God did this,” or “God will do this,” or “God told me to do that.” It even includes singing God's name and not thinking about what you are singing. It includes just talking about God, but the heart not being attached to what we are talking about. It could be defined as a person mindlessly babbling about God. That is taking God's name in vain. Who is not guilty now?

The Jews were very careful about this. When a scribe got ready to write God's name, they had to wash their hands and then write with a special quill, and then they would go wash their hands again. They were careful about God's name because it was important to them.

We use God's name so lightly today. We joke about Him. We have comedies on television about Him. We make light of Him. The Bible

says we are guilty because we have broken His law. We have taken His name in vain.

That is only the third commandment. How are things checking out in your life? We are not doing too well, are we? When we stand before God, these are the things God is going to examine us with. We are going to give an account for these things. God is going to check out these areas and we are going to be judged because we have broken God's law.

4. SABBATH DAY

But there is a fourth commandment. He says in **verse eight**, ***“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it h_____.”*** Under Jewish law the Sabbath day was on a Saturday. But the purpose of the Sabbath was not a day of rest, a day to kick back, take it easy, and enjoy yourself. The Sabbath day was meant to be a holy day, a day in which they set aside the normal labours they would be involved in, so that they could pursue the labour of praising God, worshipping God. That was the purpose of the Sabbath.

Now today we worship on Sunday because Jesus rose from the grave on Sunday. But we find in the New Testament, in **Romans 14:5-8**, that as a child of God, whether we set one day aside for God or whether we choose to honour God on every day, God wants our life to be committed to Him totally. All of our time belongs to Him. **Hebrews 10:25** tells us that we are not to forsake the assembling together in church.

Have you ever heard anyone say, when they are invited to church, “Oh, that's my only day to rest.” What blasphemy! They are perverting God's Word by calling Sunday a day of rest. Rubbish! It is meant to be a day of setting aside your work so you can pursue God with all your heart. Can you say you have faithfully sought God at least one day a week all of your life? Do you give God time every day in devotions? Does your time belong to God or do you use it the way you want? Now remember, we are just trying on the law. These are the things that we will give an account for one day. How are you doing so far?

5. HONOUR PARENTS

The fifth commandment is in **verse twelve**, ***“Honour thy f_____ and thy m_____, that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.”***

The word “honour” means to give respect, to lift up. It means more than just obey. Your parents say, “Empty the rubbish,” and you go empty the rubbish. Well, you have obeyed, but that doesn't necessarily mean you have honoured your parents in that action. To honour them would be to empty the rubbish before you are told. To honour them means you will pick up the rubbish and take it outside and do it with a sweet spirit. It means you won't be cantankerous about it, you won't mutter under your breath, and you won't have any hard feelings in your heart.

Tell me, as you sit there, that you have never muttered against your parents. Tell me you have always honoured them from the day you were born until this day. Tell me that you have always honoured your mother and father as they ought to have been honoured according to God's Word and I will say you are a liar. Let's call your parents, if they are still alive and tell them to give testimony. God's law says we are to always honour our parents in everything we do. But we have dishonoured our parents, so we have broken God's law.

6. DO NOT KILL

The sixth commandment is in **verse thirteen**, ***“Thou shalt not k_____.”*** Now there is a powerful one. Most people would claim that they have never murdered anyone. But Jesus reinterprets this commandment and gives us a new perspective on it in **Matthew 5:21-22**. He says if you are angry with your brother, you have committed murder.

Have you ever been angry with someone? Have you ever driven down the road and had someone pull out in front of you and cut you off when they should not have done it? Did you get angry with them? Jesus says it is murder in your heart. Have you ever had someone do you wrong and you got angry in your heart towards them? They could have done it to someone else and it wouldn't have bothered you nearly as much. That just proves there is a selfish nature inside you, and God says you are a murderer.

You might be sitting there now thinking, “We’ve all done those things. It is no big deal.” Yes, we sure have. We are definitely all guilty. But the fact is, when we stand before God **it will be a big deal**. God is a holy God. We are getting a glimpse now of how God looks at your heart and mine and what God requires.

Religion today says let’s just forget all this. It is no big deal because we are all like this, so surely God will forget and forgive. But let me remind you, God says you are not to have any idols. When you have that attitude, you are making a god after your own way instead of following the God of the Bible. You have just broken the second commandment.

7. NO ADULTERY

The seventh commandment is in **verse fourteen**, “*Thou shalt not commit a _____*.” You might think you are OK here since you have only ever been with your spouse. But let’s listen to what Jesus says in **Matthew 5:27, 28**. He said if you look upon a woman to lust after her in your heart, you have committed adultery with her already.

Now tell me you have never looked upon someone of the opposite sex and never had wrong thoughts. If you are of any age at all, you are guilty. Jesus says you are an adulterer. That is a pretty serious charge. We don’t have to dwell on these very long, I would hope, before you begin to see you are in trouble when you stand before God.

8. DO NOT STEAL

The eighth commandment is in **verse fifteen**. “*Thou shalt not s _____*.” You might not think of yourself as a thief, but have you ever taken a paper clip without permission? Have you ever taken a rubber band or a pencil or a pen? Who hasn’t? The Bible says, “*Thou shalt not steal*.”

The Bible doesn’t say, “Well, as long as it is under twenty-five cents it really doesn’t count.” I remember being taught that in school. My teacher said, “As long as it is under twenty-five cents, it doesn’t count.”

That stuck in my mind. According to her I can steal twenty-four cents here and twenty-four cents there and get away with it. But God doesn't look at it that way. You will not find that in your Bible. Have you ever taken anything that wasn't yours? Then you have broken the 8th commandment and are guilty before God.

9. DO NOT LIE

The ninth commandment is in **verse sixteen**, ***“Thou shalt not bear f _____ w _____ against thy neighbour.”*** Bearing false witness means lying. Have you ever told a lie? We are all guilty there. Every person who has ever lived has told a lie at least one time in their life. We have all broken this commandment.

A false witness isn't just a blatant lie. A false witness is also a misleading statement. Have you ever told half the truth because you knew the whole truth might incriminate you? You thought that by telling half the truth you could mislead them. We lie more often than we care to admit. Have you ever told someone they looked good but didn't mean it? Have you ever told someone you liked what he or she was wearing but inside you were thinking just the opposite?

We need to be careful about what we say. In fact, Jesus says in Matthew chapter twelve that we are going to be judged for every idle word we speak. There is not a person alive on earth that can get by this 9th commandment. We are all guilty of breaking it.

10. DO NOT COVET

The tenth commandment is in **verse seventeen**. ***“Thou shalt not c _____ thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not c _____ thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.”***

To covet means to desire strongly. Have you ever desired something that God had not provided for you? Have you desired it so much that you sat there, really wishing it were yours? In fact, you desired it so much that thinking about how you could get it and make it yours captivated your mind and your heart. The Bible says that is coveting.

In **Colossians 3:5**, the Bible says covetousness is the same as idolatry. Now we are right back to that second commandment again, and also the first because what you have done is said, “I want this car more than I want God. I want this money more than I want God. I’d do anything to get that job. I want that job so much, I’ll give up church for it.” Wait a minute that is covetousness so you have broken commandment #10. You are also breaking the 4th commandment because you are not giving God the time He deserves. You have also broken the 2nd commandment because you are putting things before God. Friend, you are in trouble.

SUMMATION

As we look through all ten of these commandments and think about them, we see what we really are. We are liars, thieves, blasphemers, idolaters and adulterers. This is serious business. Where do we stand? We are guilty before God, condemned because we are guilty of breaking His law!

In **Matthew 22:35-40** Jesus sums up the law in two verses. He says we should love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and body, with every fiber of our being and we should love our neighbour as we love ourselves. That sums up the Ten Commandments.

Can you say that every minute you have been consciously awake you have loved God with every bit of strength that you have? Can you say that you have pursued God, you have sought God, you have loved God, and you have wanted God with every fiber of your being during every waking moment? Can you say that? If you can’t, you are guilty of breaking God’s law!

Can you say you love your neighbour like yourself? That means you care more about your neighbour than you do about yourself. You are willing to put yourself out for your neighbour. You are willing to meet the needs of your neighbour, no matter what it costs you, even if it becomes a detriment to hurt you, you would rather meet their needs and you would do that freely, willingly, and joyfully. Can you say that you

love your neighbour that way? If not, you are guilty of breaking God's law!

You still might think you are not so bad. But look at **James 2:10**, "*For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in o _____ p _____, he is g _____ of all.*" That means that if you could perfectly keep all the law except one little point, you would still be guilty of it all. You must keep the whole law perfectly to meet God's standard of righteousness.

Can you honestly say that you have always loved God with all your heart? Can you say that you have never tried to fashion a god after your own thinking and liking? Can you say that you have always given God the time He deserves?

Can you say that you have always honoured your parents? Can you say that you have never been angry towards anyone in your entire life? Can you say that you have never had a wrong thought about the opposite sex? Can you say that you have never ever told a lie?

Can you say you have never stolen anything that didn't belong to you, even a piece of paper? Can you say that you have never desired anything that God didn't want you to have? Can you honestly say that you have never let anything captivate your soul other than God?

Could you say on all Ten Commandments that you have never broken one, not even just one time? There is no person alive in the world that can make that claim. Since you can't say, "I've never broken one not even just one time. I'm perfect overall," the Bible says you are guilty. God makes it clear that if you break one, if you offend in one point of the law, as far as God is concerned, when you stand before Him, you are guilty of it all.

One day you are going to stand before God. It really doesn't matter what I think, or what you think, or if all of us get together and vote and say, "We don't think it is ever going to happen," God says it will happen. It is a sure thing. When God judges you, He will judge

according to truth, and the truth is the Word of God. For once in your life, I hope you will allow the truth to search your heart. You need to do it now before you die because then it will be too late. You need to understand that you are a guilty sinner before God.

So far all we have talked about has been bad news. But the good news is that it is possible to be right with God. In fact, the Bible says that when God looks at the world, He sees two kinds of people. There are those who have no relationship to Him. They have been judged by the law, and found guilty. That is where the vast majority of the human race falls.

But there are some that enjoy the tremendous blessing of having a relationship with God. They are related to Him. God has found a way of dealing with their sin, so that when they stand in judgment before Him, their sin will be taken care of. The answer is found in Jesus Christ. We will look at that truth more as our study continues.

READY FOR LESSON 2?

Ring us on 02 4262 8700 or look us up through www.icbc.org.au or write to 22 Bong Bong Road, Dapto NSW 2530. We'll be happy to send you lesson 2 with our compliments.

