

Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart

CHAPTER 1: BAPTIZED FOUR TIMES

Have you read the chapter? Yes No

1. What were some of the questions J.D. asked himself to see whether his salvation was real? _____

Could you add one that you have asked yourself?

2. What simple question does J.D. seek to answer? (pg 3)

3. What short four word phrase offered false security to the basketball player? _____
Why is it confusing? _____

4. "Salvation is not a prayer you pray in a _____ and then move on from; salvation is a posture of _____ and _____ that you begin in a moment and maintain for _____."

5. According to the Barna study, how many adults in America have prayed a prayer and think they are going to heaven? _____

6. "The biblical summation of a saving response toward Christ is " _____ " and " _____ " in the gospel."

7. Summarize "Belief" in your own words. _____

8. What does "repentance" look like? _____

9. Why is it not wise to use the phrase "Ask Jesus into your heart." _____

10. "Salvation is not given because you _____ correctly, but because you have _____ on the finished work of Christ."

11. What do you think he means by that last quote?

12. Write out the titles of the chapter of this book:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

f. _____

g. _____

h. _____

13. What is one question you had while reading through this chapter? _____

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CHAPTER 2:

DOES GOD EVEN WANT US TO HAVE ASSURANCE?

Have you read the chapter? Yes No

1. Summarize chapter one, last week's chapter, in a few sentences: _____

2. How would you define "assurance"? _____

Does God want you to have it? Why or why not?

3. What "makes the gospel absolutely distinct from all other religious messages in the world"? _____

Give one religion and how the gospel is better than what it demands: _____

4. What are some things you will never have if you don't have assurance? (pg 16) _____

5. "So, far from _____ our motivation for obedience or spiritual growth, assurance _____ it." Why do you think that is? _____

6. List the three ways Jesus referred to believers in his final conversation with his disciples and explain why they are significant.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

7. "If people really see that Christ has removed _____ from them by taking it into Himself, they won't do whatever _____, they'll do whatever _____." (John Bunyan) Why would you say that is? _____

8. According to 1 John 5, what are the two components of assurance?

a. _____

b. _____

9. What is one question that came to your mind or one reminder you had while reading through this chapter?

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CHAPTER 3: JESUS IN MY PLACE

Have you read the chapter? Yes No

1. Summarize chapter two, last week's chapter, in a few sentences: _____

2. Write out John 3:36 _____

What two categories of people are there? _____

3. "Truly admitting _____ and inability is difficult because we have spent our whole lives trying to prove we are anything _____."
In what ways do we minimize our sinful state? _____

4. What is the definition of an "advocate"? _____

Why do we need one? _____

5. What is the definition of "propitiation"? _____

Why is it necessary for salvation? _____

6. "Jesus paid the _____ for our sin; not an ounce of _____ remains. It would be

_____ for God to hold the sins of Christians against them any longer, for He would be requiring _____ for the same sin!"

7. For what does Jesus appeal to God on my behalf?

_____ Why is that significant? _____

8. Briefly describe what happened on "Yom Kippur": _____

How is that like, or unlike what Jesus did? _____

9. Summarize the Gospel in 4 words: _____

10. When you receive Christ, what does he take from you? _____

What do you get from him? _____

11. "Our hope of heaven is based upon Jesus' finished _____, plus _____."

12. Write out Rom 4:5 on the margin of this paper.

13. What is one question that came to your mind or one reminder you had while reading through this chapter?

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CHAPTER 4: WHAT IS BELIEF?

Have you read the chapter? Yes No

1. Summarize chapter three, last week's chapter, in a few sentences: _____

2. When Jesus called others to repent and believe, was he adding an additional component to salvation? Why or why not? _____

3. What could go wrong with viewing salvation as a ceremony? _____

4. "Your _____ is more important than a _____." What does this mean?

5. What did God command the Israelites to do in Leviticus to picture the coming salvation? _____

How is that like faith in Jesus? _____

6. What are some actions that occur at the moment of salvation? _____

7. The author realized, after reading Luther, that "Salvation was obtained by simply _____ on the two 'facts' God had promised about Jesus:

1. _____
2. _____

8. "Don't try to find assurance from a _____ in the past; find assurance by resting in the _____ on what _____ in the past." How would you explain that to a child if they were afraid they hadn't prayed the right words? _____

9. "There is only one _____ ever appropriate to Christ: surrendered to His _____, and _____ that He did what He said He did."

10. How is righteousness from Christ "passive"?

11. Write out Rom 4:5 on the margin of this paper.

12. What is one question that came to your mind or one reminder you had while reading through this chapter?

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CHAPTER 5: WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

Have you read the chapter? Yes No

1. Summarize chapter four, last week's chapter, in a few sentences: _____

2. What is the point of the beginning story? _____

3. "We don't come to Him as _____ trying to become good people; we come as _____ to lay down our arms." C. S. Lewis. What does that mean?

4. What does Jesus mean by "hating" everything and everyone besides him? _____

What is the hardest for you to "hate"? Why? _____

5. "This recognition that _____ is called 'repentance'."
6. "Repentance is not merely changing your _____; it is changing your actions because you have changed your _____ about Jesus' _____."
7. List the 6 things that Repentance is not:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Which of the previous six have you seen confused with repentance in your life? How? _____

8. List the 3 things that Repentance is:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Which of the previous three do you see as being a particular challenge in your life? Why? _____

9. "Repentance ushers us into a life of greater _____, not out of one...The struggle is proof of their _____. They fall often, but when they do, they always get up looking His _____." How can this be both a scary and comforting truth?

10. "Be encouraged: a desire to _____ is the first echo of a heart _____ to God."

11. Write out Phil 2:12-13 on the margin of this paper.

12. What is one question that came to your mind or one reminder you had while reading through this chapter?

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CHAPTER 6:

IF "ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED," WHY DOES THE BIBLE SEEM TO WARN US SO OFTEN ABOUT LOSING OUR SALVATION?

Have you read the chapter? Yes No

1. Summarize chapter five, last week's chapter, in a few sentences: _____

2. Why do you think offering assurance of salvation to someone could be dangerous? _____

3. What are some verses that teach that a believer is secure in their salvation? _____

4. How would you define "perseverance"? _____

What does that look like in regards to salvation? _____

5. What are some verses that are warnings about not persevering? _____

6. Write down one or two quotes from pages 78-81 that describe what true faith really looks like: _____

7. What are two things the author lists that Heb 6:4-6 teaches us? _____

8. "This shows us that the difference between saving faith and superficial faith has little to do the _____ of emotion at its beginning and everything to do with its _____ over time. Faith that _____, no matter how luscious its firstfruits, is not saving faith."

9. Give examples (with references) of 1) someone who wandered from the faith, but returned, and 2) someone who deserted the faith to never return. _____

10. Can we conclude that we are not predestined, or have committed an unforgivable sin? Why or why not? _____

11. How is "once saved, always saved" incomplete? _____

12. Why were warnings concerning faith given in Scripture? _____

13. Write out 2 Cor 13:5 on the margin of this paper.

14. What is one question that came to your mind or one reminder you had while reading through this chapter? _____

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CHAPTER 7:

THE EVIDENCE YOU HAVE BELIEVED

Have you read the chapter? Yes No

1. Summarize chapter six, last week's chapter, in a few sentences: _____

2. List 5 evidences (with references) of true belief from 1 John:
 1. _____

 2. _____

 3. _____

 4. _____

 5. _____

3. How does the author boil down these evidences? _____

4. "When you have been born again, you begin to _____ sin not just because you _____ punishment, but because it _____ from God." How does sin keep us from God if we are counted righteous? _____

5. What does he mean when the author says the "Spirit of God transforms our spiritual tastes..."? _____

6. What are some ways our view of others changes when we believe the gospel? _____

7. Why can the presence of a struggle with sin be an encouraging thing? _____

8. "Often the strongest evidence of my _____ is my growth in the knowledge of my _____."
9. What has God given to believers to help them identify true regeneration? _____
Has someone commented to you where they have seen you growing recently? What did they say? _____

10. Write down where you have seen genuine repentance and growth in the life of someone participating in this study with you. _____

_____ Write down when you will tell them: _____
11. List the three primary bases for assurance we have covered so far: _____

12. Write out 1 John 2:3-6 on the margin of this paper.
13. What is one question that came to your mind or one reminder you had while reading through this chapter? _____

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CHAPTER 8:

WHEN YOU CONTINUE TO DOUBT

Have you read the chapter? Yes No

1. Summarize chapter seven, last week's chapter, in a few sentences: _____

2. When might you be tempted to doubt your salvation? _____

3. What does the author tell us to do during those times?

4. "On your very _____ of days, you must _____ on God's grace. On your worst of days, His finished work should be your _____."
5. What are you tempted to do on your "best days"?

6. What do your "worst days" look like and what are you tempted to do on those? _____

7. What does it mean that "God's prescription for every diagnosed spiritual malady is faith in the gospel."

8. How does our continued struggle with our sin actually help us? _____

Does that mean that we should embrace sinning? Why or why not? _____

9. "Scripture never points us to our '_____ ' for assurance." If it did, why might that be a bad thing?

10. How can we keep our feelings from being the basis of our assurance or the basis of our doubt? _____

11. "And when you know for certain that heaven is your inheritance, you'll be moved to _____ and audacious _____ for the kingdom of God. You can give up all you have because you know that in Him you _____." What might that look like in your life? List something that God might want you to give up and risk? _____

12. Write out Eph 2:8-9 on the margin of this paper.

13. What is one question that came to your mind or one reminder you had while reading through this chapter?

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Appendix 1: WHAT ABOUT BAPTISM?

Have you read the chapter? Yes No

1. Summarize chapter eight, last week's chapter, in a few sentences: _____

2. If a friend from another religion were to ask you, "What actually is baptism?" how would you respond? _____

3. What about if that same friend asked you, "What does baptism actually do?" _____

4. What about if that same friend asked you, "Why is it so important?" _____

5. "Every _____ we see in the New Testament, however, was a believer _____ his or her own faith."
6. Can you think of a passage that someone might use against the previous statement? _____
Explain why it does or doesn't present a problem for the author's statement: _____

7. Thinking over our summer study of salvation, how would you respond to someone who says that you have to be baptized to be saved? _____

8. Can one's baptism help to give them assurance of salvation? Why or why not? _____

9. What does the author suggest you do if you think you were regenerated after your baptism? _____

What do you think you should do? _____

10. Write out Matt 28:18-20 _____

11. What is one question that came to your mind or one reminder you had while reading through this chapter? _____

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Appendix 2:

THE INDISPENSABLE LINK BETWEEN ASSURANCE AND THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE

Have you read the chapter? Yes No

1. Summarize appendix one, last week's study, in a few sentences: _____

2. Why did the author write this appendix? _____

3. Some people believe that "we ' _____ ' Christ's righteousness by keeping the law." They would say that "God gives us the _____ of wanting to act right, and then _____ us on the basis of how righteously we act." Can you think of any groups or religions who would teach something like this? _____

4. "These expressions of faith, however, cannot be confused with _____ itself. Faith's object is _____ and His substitutionary work alone." What does the author mean by "His substitutionary work"? _____

5. "Where there is no righteous _____, Paul will say, there has been no _____. And where there has been no heart change, there has been no _____." How would you summarize what the author is saying here? _____

6. Do you agree or disagree with the author's regular statement of "faith that saves"? _____
Explain: _____

7. How would you explain to someone the difference between "works for salvation" and "works because of salvation"? _____

8. How have you ever put works in the wrong place in your life? How? _____

9. In summary, how does justification by faith alone give the believer assurance? _____

10. Write out Titus 3:4-7. _____

11. What is one question that came to your mind or one reminder you had while reading through this chapter? _____

