

## Section V

## Chapter 1

### *The World*

Every Christian is called to be a Christian soldier (II Tim. 2:3) and every good soldier should make it a point to know his enemy well. The Christian has three (3) major enemies, the World, the Flesh, and the Devil. If you are to be a working, God pleasing, Spirit filled Christian, you need a knowledge of these enemies and the dangers they present, along with the methods they use to attack your Christian life and testimony. The next three chapters are to help the student define, and identify these enemies and their tactics.

When we speak of the “world,” we are not talking about the earth, and the untold beauty of it’s mountains, seas, forests, and natural wonders. But rather, we are talking about the wicked, ungodly, God denying, Christ rejecting, humanistic world system around us, including all places, things, and activities of the world that separate us from, and oppose the Living God.

Following, are some examples of things a Christian should beware of and how the world in general, is contrary to a holy and righteous God. Since it is impractical to try and list everything we will just mention some of the major things of the world you need to be aware of and avoid.

**1. Liberalism and secular humanism.** The biggest problem in our society today is that people **do not fear God**. This attitude is brought on by a multitude of problems in our present society, however, at the top of the list you will find **liberalism** and **secular humanism**. These are not just some moralistic, or political view points, but rather should be considered a new and dangerous religion. Although there are “mild” liberals that are not yet as extreme “left wing” as the secular humanists, they all reject God and His Word.

*The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom:*  
Prov. 9:10

The word “**liberal**” means more than just being “broad minded.” It means not restricted, or not limited to the literal interpretation of the Bible, according to Webster’s dictionary. It means, “reform” in religion to match a progressive

society. In other words, the liberal will change God's rules to match his own modern day beliefs and purposes. The word **secular**, simply means "not religious," not bound to any church or religion (they have their own). The word **humanism** reflects a philosophy centered on man himself, his condition, accomplishments, goals, etc.

\* They are by and large **atheists** although some are deists who profess some "form of God," but still reject the Bible as God's Word. They will however, quote the Bible out of context to prove their own view. They refuse to be limited to God's rules and rationalize their own morals based on emotion and their own warped logic. They believe man can work out his own problems and will eventually progress to perfection by himself. They are concerned with the material things of this life and are not concerned with God or the souls of men.

\* They are **socialists politically** and don't believe man has enough sense to take care of himself. Consequently, he needs big government to watch over and take care of him. Simply put, they favor a communist system over capitalism. Communism is a two class government, the rich leaders and the poor. There is no middle class in the communist system as there is in America. Big government loves to have many programs and services the people become dependent on so they can control them. Freedom and liberty as we know it is gone and the common people are ruled by the police state.

\* They are evolutionists and reject the Bible account of God and creation. They trust science rather than God to bring man to his perfection through the evolution of knowledge.

\* The liberal humanist is an **extreme environmentalist**. While it's good to protect and enhance our environment and wild life, it is a sin to worship the "creation" instead of the Creator! ***"Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."*** (Romans 1:25) God said they are liars! For example they are more concerned about saving the trees or the endangered woodpeckers, whales, manatees etc., than they are about the unborn human babies being murdered every day by abortion. It is not uncommon to see a liberal's vehicle with a "pro-choice" bumper sticker on one side and a "save the manatee" on the other side. Kill the babies, but save the animals and trees. Unbelievable!



(not noticeable to the conscious mind) and enters the sub-conscious mind, doing the damage without your being aware. But, it's not just the music that you need to be cautious with. Be careful of anything you listen to and allow to enter your mind! Feed the mind with Spiritual and Godly material, not the junk of unsaved people, and the world. They worship the wrong gods!

What you “see” and those things that enter in through the eyes is also extremely important in keeping your “temple” clean. Remember, the body is the temple of the indwelling Holy Spirit for all that are saved. *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? [20] For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”* (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

So, if you are to keep your “temple” clean and in order, you must be very careful with television and movies. Without a doubt these are the greatest sources of Spiritual pollution in America today. Granted, some movies can be great entertainment or educational tools with proper content. However, the Christian must be very careful of the programs they watch and allow their children to watch.

The mind is affected by what goes in through the eyes and unfortunately there is plenty of trash around today. The subject matter that dominates the visual media today is centered around sex and violence and serves as a primary source for this garbage. The media promotes pornography, adultery, sexual perversion, fornication, sex outside of marriage, foul language, the use of drugs and alcohol, violence and murder. **It is “Spiritual suicide” to let this trash enter your mind through your eyes or any other way.** It is not only bad for adults, but the results of children viewing this trash is tragic. Children as young as nine or ten years old are having sex, stealing, and even murdering their school mates, brothers, sisters, and parents. Many later admit they learned how to do it on TV. The adult Christian must realize that such programming is produced by unregenerated mankind (lost people) for the purpose of making money and is extremely harmful to your relationship with God. **Don't let it be your personal downfall!**

**Written material.** Naturally, there are numerous other ways you can allow the wrong influences to enter through the eyes. There is as much (or more) **written material** that is ungodly as there is in the visual media, although the average person does not read as much since TV was invented. Never the less, you must

be just as careful of the written garbage as the visual kind. Whether you see it, hear it, or read it, the subject remains in your sub-conscious mind and can return to cause problems later. Everyone has sinful images from the past that pop up on occasion, but if you don't put them there in the first place you don't have to worry about them coming back!

**3. The mouth** is also a doorway for worldly things such as alcohol, drugs, unhealthy foods, etc. to enter and harm the body. Remember, the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit after we are saved and should be kept in subjection and free of unclean things. *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”* (1 Cor. 6:19)

**4. People and places** can be your best friend or your worst enemy. Who a Christian associates with and the places they go will determine their Spiritual condition. If you associate with people who are not living the Christian life, their bad habits will rub off on you! You cannot expect to quit some of your own bad habits if you hang around with those who still engage in them after you are saved. There is just not enough will power! The same goes for the places you go. It is simple! Stay away from people and places of temptation or (bad influence) so that you may stay out of trouble and so your spiritual growth will not be hindered.

That means not to have fellowship with lost people. *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? [15] And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?”* (2 Cor. 6:14-15) And also, do not even fellowship with Christians who are not living right! *“Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. [7] For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;”* (2 Thes. 3:6-7) You can however, deal with the lost to get them saved, or the backslid Christians to get them to repent and come back to Christ. You just can't fellowship with either, and if they reject this attempt for help you need to stay away from them. (but continue to pray for them)!

There is no way to be in fellowship with God while you patronize the wrong

people and places. The key is to replace these bad elements in your past life with Christian people and places. Search until you find a good Bible believing Church and involve yourself and your family in that work and with those Godly people.

A good rule for determining what you do, or the people and places you patronize, would be to ask yourself the question: “would I do this if Jesus were here with me?” In fact, this is a good question to ask about anything. Remember: “***The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.***” (Proverbs 15:3)

Understandably, these are some of the hardest things the Christian must do, especially when first saved. Americans are used to being entertained and it’s hard to limit what we watch and read, change our lifestyle, and the people and places we spend time with. However, these are extremely important disciplines in the Christian life and you will never grow Spiritually until you have control of these things. **God will give you something better to replace what you give up for Him!**

In closing, some final thoughts on this subject. Jesus warned that the world would hate us (the born again child of God) just as it did Him! “***If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. [19] If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.***” (John 15:18-19)

Notice in the Scripture that Jesus said He had “***chosen us out of the world.***” In other words, He has called us out to be different. He wants us to be separate and set apart (sanctified) from the sins of this present world. **We are not to be partakers of the things others say is “alright” when God says it is wrong and sinful!** We all know the world is full of temptation, and has many things to covet and occupy our minds if we are not careful. However, we cannot allow the things of the world to come between us and our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Scripture is very plain on this subject: “***Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.***” (1 John 2:15) Where is your heart today? Is your time, your money, and your mind consumed with your desire for the things, lusts, and pleasures of this world? Are you more concerned with the creation than the Creator? Who do you love the most, Jesus, or the things of the world? Is there any evidence in your life

to prove you love Jesus the most? Or better put, is there even enough evidence in your life to convict you of being a “Born Again Christian” if you were on trial?

Remember His instructions: ***“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: [20] But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: [21] For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*** (Matthew 6:19-21)

# Notes



# Bread of Life Quiz

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Christian Growth

## THE WORLD

## Lesson 1

*This is a true or false quiz, in the space provided place T for True or F for False.*

1. Some Christians are called to be a Christian Soldier. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The liberal humanist is an extreme environmentalist. \_\_\_\_\_
3. In many cases animal life is more important to the liberal than human life. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Even written material can be harmful spiritually if it is worldly or fleshly material. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Liberals are by and large atheists. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The word liberal just means being "broad minded." \_\_\_\_\_
7. The eyes and hands are the doorways to the soul. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The major Christian enemies are the World, the Flesh, and the Devil. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The word secular means "not religious." \_\_\_\_\_
10. When we speak of the World, we are speaking of the earth and sky. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Atheists reject the Bible and God's laws. \_\_\_\_\_
12. The Christian should speak out and fight against ungodliness in our society. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Ungodly things we see and hear can draw us away from our Lord. \_\_\_\_\_
14. It doesn't matter who we fellowship with if we are careful to do what is right. \_\_\_\_\_
15. People and places can be our best friends, or our worst enemies. \_\_\_\_\_
16. It is alright to fellowship with anyone as long as they are saved. \_\_\_\_\_
17. John 15:18-19 assures us that everyone will love us after we are saved and living right. \_\_\_\_\_
18. God has called us out to be different from the World. \_\_\_\_\_
19. There should be evidence in our lives to prove to the world that we are saved. \_\_\_\_\_
20. Christians are not responsible for winning souls since that job was given to the preachers. \_\_\_\_\_

## Section V

## Chapter 2

### ***The Flesh***

In this chapter we will deal with another major enemy of the Christian and that is the “**flesh**.” All Christians will have trouble in the flesh sooner or later. With most of us it will be “sooner” rather than later! The key to your fellowship with God is how you handle the problems and temptations of the flesh. God understands the trials and temptations of the flesh since He was here and experienced the same temptations we do, yet remained sinless. (Heb. 4:15) Even the Apostle Paul, who without a doubt, was the greatest Christian to ever live, had trouble in the flesh. ***“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”*** (Romans 7:18) In other words, the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak! Like Paul, we are all rotten to begin with and must “crucify the flesh daily” to overcome the “old nature” that still lives in us.

So, we can all expect some sort of trouble in the flesh because there is a constant war between the flesh and the Spirit. ***“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”*** (Gal. 5:17)

First of all, let’s define the word “**flesh**.” The word has several meanings and different applications in which it is used. But, for the purpose of this lesson we are talking about the “flesh” as it applies to our physical desires, cravings, wants, lusts, covetousness, thoughts, and temptations. Meaning, the “things of the flesh” as opposed to “spiritual things.” Some of these are specifically listed in the Bible. ***“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, [20] Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, [21] Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: ....”*** (Gal.5:19-21) These are sins for the Christian to beware of. God’s Word says that we cannot please Him if we walk in the flesh. ***“So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”*** (Romans 8:8)

Let’s look at these works of the flesh in more detail.

\* **Desire and Lust (lasciviousness):** The desire for sexual pleasure often grows

to lust and then on to some sort of sexual sin. Possibly **the sin of adultery**, (which is a married person having sex with another), or **fornication**, (which is any sex act outside of marriage, including any homosexual act, or unlawful sexual intercourse). If you put yourself in a position to be tempted in these type of situations you will probably end up doing something you would not normally do. In the ungodly society we now live in, these are things people engage in daily for pleasure with no thought of God's Commandments, or the price they must pay for these sins. Once you are saved you are a new creature in Christ (I Cor. 5:17) and are expected to live by His standards. It's tough, but you can do it! (Phil 4:13) If not, you will pay the price of God's chastisement!

How do I do this? First, don't put yourself in the position of being subjected to temptation and you will avoid the sin. Remember the lesson on the "World" about avoiding the **people** (those unsaved or not living right), **places** (like bars, worldly parties etc.) and **things** (alcohol, drugs, etc.) that will tempt you? Naturally, there are situations where single, Godly Christians are dating and are tempted, especially with respect to fornication. Obviously, you can never get to know each other well enough to be married if you separate, but know this. If you honor your Saviour's wishes and wait to have sexual relations, not only will the blessings be many, but the bond between you will be more solid. Plus, you miss the chastisement of the Lord for that sin, and avoid the damage to your fellowship with Him.

This is not as hard as it sounds if you saturate yourself with Jesus Christ, the Word, and surround yourself with clean living people. You will be surprised how soon you will develop a new inner joy, and peace, that will replace those desires that were so important to the "old man" and the flesh. When you reach the point that His desires for you are greater than your own, you are beginning to "walk in the Spirit" with the living God rather than the flesh. Then you will be amazed at how easy it is to reject the "old man" and the sinful ways.

\* **Rebellion:** Idolatry, heresies, witchcraft, and seditions are all some form of rebellion against God and His Word. Idolatry, of course, is the worshiping of idols rather than worshiping God. An **idol** is generally envisioned as some man made statue, figure, beads, picture or object people worship. You can't worship God through these things! God is a Spirit and must be worshiped as such! ***"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."*** (John 4:24) Understand, an idol is anything you put before God in your life! Your idol

could be your work, hobbies, possessions, money, or even your family. If it consumes more of your time, thoughts, and energy, and is more important in your heart than your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, it is an idol! Jesus demands to be number one in your life and if not, **“..be sure your sin will find you out.”** (Num. 32:23) He just may take away the things you love more than you love Him! Think about that!

\* **Heresies** are false teachings that are contrary to the Christian teachings of our Bible. The fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith are given by the Apostle Paul, in the New Testament books from Romans to Philemon, primarily. Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles (anyone not a Jew) had some strong words for anyone teaching a false Gospel. **“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”** (Galatians 1:8) So this tells us that anyone teaching anything other than the shed blood and finished work (the Gospel, I Cor. 15:1-4) of Jesus Christ for salvation is teaching heresy!

The reason there are so many different denominations today is because of different doctrinal teachings regarding salvation. It's **faith** in His dying for you and **receiving** (asking for) that **free gift** that gets you “born again,” not any Church, sacraments, water, or anything you have to “do.” **No one else has paid for your sins but Jesus. Mohammed, Buddha , Confucius, and all the rest of the worlds’ idols never paid for anyone’s sin and can never get you to heaven! If you have to pay for your own sin you pay for it in the Lake Of Fire! So, if you want to stay out of Hell, trust Jesus Christ and His shed blood plus nothing!** If, for some strange reason you want to go to Hell, trust something or someone else!

That is the simplicity of salvation! (II Cor. 11:3) This may sound harsh, but this is something you better get straight because there won't be a second chance. **“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”** (John 14:6) Also, you should never trust any other book than the Bible as your guide to salvation. No other book in the world has proven to be God's Word by the fulfillment of hundreds of prophecies like our Bible (KJV) has. (See chapter on “Is The Bible True?”)

\* **Sedition** is the act of stirring up rebellion against the government, civil

authority, the law, or the administration of justice. In America, we have the freedom to speak out and protest things we disagree with. However, there are limits as to how far our actions can go before we are involved in an illegal act of civil disobedience. God has commanded us to be in subjection to the powers that He has ordained. ***“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. [2] Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.”*** (Romans 13:1-2) Of course, when man’s laws are contrary to God’s Laws, it is time to pray, and exercise the freedom we have in this country to legally speak out and petition the appropriate government bodies to bring about the necessary changes.

For example, because abortion is against God’s Law, Christians should peacefully demonstrate and canvas our government until laws are passed to make abortion illegal! It is not alright to blow up the abortion clinics or assassinate the doctors and those performing the act! Although we may sometimes have such feelings, that is the flesh and not the Spirit coming out in us. This is, however the unsaved liberals approach to things they don’t like! “Anything is alright if the end justifies the means!” That action would put you in violation of God’s Law and man’s law. Another good verse on this subject is in I Peter. ***“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; [14] Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.”*** (I Peter 2:13-14)

\* **Drunkenness and Revellings** go hand in hand. Everyone knows what a drunk is. There are many people in our society who consume alcohol to the extent they are in a state of drunkenness on a regular basis. Some actually never completely sober- up, or rid the alcohol from their system before drinking more. It is a sad thing that some of these are actually professing Christians who by doing this are destroying their testimony, their health, and are sinning against their own body. ***“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? [20] For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”*** (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

Revellings means being wild, noisy, unruly, and disruptive. This description fits a lot of people including most drunks who generally become worse the drunker

they become. Although drinking and drugs are not the only things that make people act this way, they are surely the most common. Unfortunately, there are some people who are this way by nature without the help of substances. Whatever the cause, the Lord does not like loud, boastful, and unruly people. **Drunkenness and revellings will wreck your fellowship with the Lord and destroy your testimony to the extent that people may even go to hell because of your worldliness and sinfulness.** It is just not worth it when you can be happier living right and serving the Lord. The reason God uses so many people for His work who had a rough past is so others will see how being “saved” can truly change a person’s heart, and make them happier than they were in their sinful, Godless life.

\* **Uncleanness, Envyings, and Murder.** Being **unclean** can apply to being physically dirty, foul, and filthy, or it can mean being morally impure, obscene, or spiritually unclean according to religious laws. **Envy** is a feeling of discontent and desiring or coveting another’s possessions, qualities, or advantages. (To envy another for what they are or what they have.) The Christian should learn to be content and thankful for what God has given him and not be concerned with what another has. **Murder**, of course is taking the life of another human being without justification. War is not murder. Taking the life of another in self defense is not murder. Capital punishment is not murder regardless of what the ungodly liberals say. In fact, the Bible teaches capital punishment in both the Old and New Testaments. (There will be a lesson on this subject later in this series.)

\* **Imaginations:** The Christian must be careful of his imaginations as they can be sinful or lead to sin. *“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.”* (2 Cor. 10:5-6)

Although it is impossible to keep unclean thoughts from entering the mind on occasion, we don’t have to entertain them! Don’t give them fertile ground to take root in your mind! Quickly move your thoughts on to another subject. This will help get rid of the unclean thought before it has time to take root. Then ask the Lord to forgive the sinful thought (I John 1:9) and to cleanse your mind.

Now that we have briefly looked at some of the most obvious problems the flesh can present to the Christian, we need to sum it all up. The bottom line is that

today's permissive society is a worldly society ruled by the flesh. It is everywhere and is a dominant factor in almost every aspect of our daily lives. It is almost impossible to avoid as we go to work, shop, or attend public events. Moreover, sins of the flesh have become so common it almost seems alright to do some of these things. Christians absolutely cannot allow themselves to be drawn into this trap of doing what "everyone else is doing". Man has changed and become more tolerant of sin, but God has not changed. **The rules are the same, and the price for disobedience and separating oneself from God are the same.** Hell for the lost, and chastisement for the rebellious, backslidden Christian!

You must apply God's Commandments to your life and separate yourself from the world and the sins of the flesh. Remember that there are sins of "word," something you say, "thought," something you think, and "deed," something you do. For example: "***But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.***" (Matthew 5:28) The flesh must be constantly monitored to keep it under subjection. "***For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.***" (Romans 8:5)

If you walk in the Spirit the Lord will bless and reward you. "***There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.***" (Romans 8:1) And if on the other hand, you as a born again child of God reject His laws, you will pay the price. "***So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.***" (Romans 8:8) "***Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. [13] For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.***" (Romans 8:12-13)

Now, there is nothing hard to understand about these plain verses from the Word of God. He has it worked out where if you are a "born again" child of God, you cannot possibly be happy living after the world and the flesh in sin. Moreover, along with being miserable in this life in your backslidden condition, you will feel the whip of the Lord's chastisement. "***For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. [7] If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? [8] But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.***" (Hebrews 12:6-8)

# Bread of Life Quiz

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Christian Growth

## THE FLESH

## Lesson 2

*This is a true or false quiz, in the space provided place T for True or F for False.*

1. The Apostle Paul did not have any trouble in the flesh because he was a great Christian. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Drunkenness and revellings go hand and hand. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Abortion is against the laws of God. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Sedition means stirring up rebellion against the government. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Adultery means having sex with another member of the opposite sex who is married. \_\_\_\_\_
6. We must "crucify" the flesh daily to stay in fellowship with God. \_\_\_\_\_
7. We cannot follow our fleshly lusts and still please God. \_\_\_\_\_
8. An idol is anything you put ahead of God in your heart and life. \_\_\_\_\_
9. We can be saved but still be spiritually weak and unclean. \_\_\_\_\_
10. We live in a society that is ruled by the World and the Flesh. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Money, sex, having fun, and entertainment are more important to most people than God. \_\_\_\_\_
12. If you put something ahead of God He may take it away to get your attention back on Him. \_\_\_\_\_
13. We don't necessarily need to stay away from people and places that will tempt us to sin. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Romans 8:8 says if we live for our flesh we cannot please God. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Heresies are false teachings that are contrary to the true Word of God. \_\_\_\_\_
16. According to Romans 13:1-2, we don't necessarily have to obey our rulers and their laws. \_\_\_\_\_
17. Jesus wants to be number one in your heart and life. \_\_\_\_\_
18. If you "walk in the Spirit," God will bless and reward you. \_\_\_\_\_
19. You can overcome temptations with God's help. \_\_\_\_\_
20. It is OK to have sex before marriage as long as you get married shortly afterward. \_\_\_\_\_



## ***The Devil***

The devil is not some “make believe” red character with horns and a forked tail! He is not one to joke about, and his existence and motive with respect to man is certainly not a laughing matter. He is the second most powerful being in the universe outside of the God Head. He is the personification of evil, wickedness, and ungodliness. His desire regarding man is to see all of us in the Lake of Fire! If you take him too lightly, he will lead you to hell and then laugh while you burn in that literal, physical, Lake of Fire forever! He is the ultimate enemy! Regardless of what you have been told, you have little power over him other than to resist him with the amour of God (Eph. 6). Don’t be foolish enough to believe that you can handle him alone! ***“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*** (James 4:7) Study this short lesson and learn about the arch enemy of God Almighty. The one called the man of sin, the roaring lion, the beast, and the son of perdition to name a few titles the Bible gives him.

### **His Origin**

The Devil, or Lucifer as he was originally called, is a created being. The same God that created man also created all of the heavenly creatures including Lucifer. The Bible speaks of Angels, Cherubims, and Seraphims. Although, some preachers call all heavenly creatures angels, this is not scriptural. The Bible plainly indicates a difference in these Heavenly creatures and to place them in one group is to show an unbelievable ignorance of the Word of God. Lucifer was a Cherub and not an angel as some would have you believe. He was not created as an angel, was never referred to as an angel in the Bible, and never will be an angel! The Bible says he appears as an Angel of Light. It doesn’t say he is an angel. We will deal with this issue later on in more detail.

***“Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. [15] Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. [16] By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee,***

*O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. [17] Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. [18] Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. [19] All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.” (Ez 28:14-19)*

There, in just a few verses you have a picture of the anointed cherub (Lucifer), his position, his fall from Heaven and his ultimate end. He will be joined in his final home (Rev.20:10) by all the false religions of the world, all the cults, all professing Christians teaching a false gospel (Gal. 1:8-9), all the Christ rejecting atheists, liberals, secular humanists, and all those that put off being saved and die in their sin! Like most unsaved people today, his problem is his pride.

If you are unsaved, it is largely because of your pride, and the fact that you refuse to give up your sin and trust Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. You say, “No, that’s not it, I just don’t believe!” That’s not it. Truth is you have not studied the Book He left as a guide showing you how to get rid of your sin and to attain eternal life! If you had, it (His Word) would have convicted you of sin and judgment to come. Or maybe you are under conviction and afraid you will have to give up something if you get saved. Either way, you have rejected the One who died for your sins Who said: *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”* (Matthew 11:28-30) And *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”* (John 14:6) So get it right before it’s too late!

Lucifer was created as a beautiful and powerful creature. As the fifth cherub he covered the top of God’s throne until he was cast down from that position because of his pride. *“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! [13] For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the*

*sides of the north: [14] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. [15] Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.”* (Isaiah 14:12-15) The sad part here is that the devil will take so many unbelievers with him to that eternal Lake of Fire.

As we mentioned earlier, Lucifer was created as a cherub and not an angel. A cherub has four (4) faces and wings while angels are wingless and always appear as men in the Bible. Although, angels are usually portrayed as having wings and being sexless by those ignorant of the Bible, this is not true. First we will look at some Scripture about the cherubims. *[20] “This is the living creature that I saw under the God of Israel by the river of Chebar; and I knew that they were the cherubims. [21] Every one had four faces apiece, and every one four wings; and the likeness of the hands of a man was under their wings.”* (Ezekiel 10:20-21)

As for the angels, they always show up as men. Two angels appeared as men to Lot and warned him of the coming destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19. Two more appeared as men at the tomb of Jesus in Luke 24, and yet another two as men in Acts 1 as the Lord ascended up into Heaven. You will find more men as angels in Judges 13-15 and Revelation 21-22. They are always referred to as “men” or “he.” So we see from Scripture that there is a big difference between angels and cherubims. Angels are not females, do not have wings, and are not sexless!

Seraphims are a little different than cherubims. *“Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. [3] And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. [4] And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.”* (Isaiah 6:2-4) Once again, these creatures are nothing like the men who appeared as angels. It is amazing that people accepted as fact so many things they have heard about the Bible that just do not line up with Scripture. People simply believe things they hear and pass it on without checking it out. That is why we are commanded to study the Scripture! (II Tim 2:15)

### **His Nature**

By nature, Satan is a deceiver. *“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was*

*cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”* (Rev. 12:9) He is a counterfeit. The one he envies and tries to counterfeit the most is the Lord Jesus Christ. *“Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”* (2 Thes. 2:4)

He desires worship! He was not satisfied with the great attributes and position God gave him. He wanted to be equal with God and thought himself worthy of worship! He is king over all the children of pride. (Job 41:34) Satan is a false god. Because he is temporarily in control of this earth, he is called the “God of this World.” *“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: [4] In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”* (2 Cor. 4:3-4) He is in the business to deceive and blind all that are lost so they will never come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. He has many tricks and devises that he uses along with the world and the flesh to confuse, blind, and damn the lost.

He is a thief! He will steal the Word of God right out of your heart to keep you from being saved. *“When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.”* (Matthew 13:19)

He is a roaring lion! If you are already saved he will do his best to destroy your Christian life. His goal is to ruin your fellowship with the Lord, and to destroy your personal testimony to the world. The last thing the Devil wants is for you to enjoy the fruits of the Spirit and be a happy soul winning Christian. He will stop at nothing to discourage, and make you a miserable backslidden Child of God. *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”* (1 Peter 5:8)

### **His Devices**

The devil has many tricks and devices, some of which have already been covered in lessons on the World and the Flesh. But other than his personal power, his greatest weapon is that he is not working alone. The Devil has plenty of help. He is the “Prince of the Air.” He is the king over a multitude of other devils, unclean spirits, rulers of darkness, and the spiritual wickedness in high places. *“For we*

***wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.***” (Eph. 6:12) Your protection against the Devil and his workers of iniquity is the “armor of God.” (See Ephesians chapter 6 and the lesson on page forty three (43) dealing with the armor of God.)

Where do all these demons and unclean spirits come from? The Bible is not clear on their origin but many scholars agree that they are disembodied spirits. (In Mark 1:23 a devil is called an unclean spirit.) There is speculation they could have originated from the pre-Adamic race that perished between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2, or from the angels in Genesis six (6) mating with women and animals on earth. Some believe they are the fallen angels who rebelled against God with Lucifer, but this is unlikely because of the different way they are described in the Bible. Fact is, it doesn't really matter where they came from, we know they are real! Jesus recognized them on several occasions in the gospels and even spoke to them and cast them out. Another interesting thing was that when demons were confronted by Jesus, they knew who He was! ***“And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.”*** (Mark 5:7)

We know from Scripture these unclean spirits are intelligent beings with supernatural strength and knowledge. They can often accurately predict the future and can cause blindness, dumbness, insanity, and suicidal tendencies. A person can be possessed by thousands (Mark 5:9) at a time, and animals can be possessed. (Mat. 8:32) Demons are described as winged creatures and likened to fowls of the air. (Mat. 13, Mark 4, Rev 18) There are also, supernatural demoniac creatures in physical form coming up out of the bottomless pit in Revelation chapter 9. It is not known if these can travel around in spirit form or not, but is a possibility.

Many people are hindered and oppressed by these unclean spirits and don't even realize it. They can affect the body as well as the mind. Contrary to popular belief, they can rule a Christian as well as a lost person! If you are not filled with the Spirit of God, there is room for something else! Besides, you don't have to be demon possessed if one is sitting on your shoulder and leading you by suggestion! Unclean spirits are associated with excessive and compulsive crying, suicidal tendencies, opposition to God and Godly people, depression, drugs, alcohol, unspiritual music, pornography, insanity, lying, hatred, witchcraft, divination,

sorcery, necromancy, (pretended communication with the dead) prognostication, magic, and false doctrines, to name a few.

We are in a critical time in history from a spiritual standpoint. In these last days demonic activity is at an all time high. These demons and unclean spirits are even in many churches. *“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; [2] Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; [3] Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.”* (1 Tim. 4:1-3) They also control any and all religious groups that are not preaching and teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (I Cor. 15:1-4) *“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”* (Galatians 1:8)

Satan is also called the “Dragon,” the “beast” and the “son of perdition.” He will rule the nations of this world for a short time in the not too distant future. Your only protection from him is to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your saviour, walk in the Spirit of the Living God with Him, and put on the whole armor of God. (Eph 6) Even if you are saved, you will be deceived and used of the devil without the armor.

Christians today are literally bombarded with the fiery darts of the devil (Eph. 6) and the influences of demons (devils) and unclean spirits. They are often subtle, (as the devil was when he deceived Eve) and the Christian can be mislead without realizing it. As we have mentioned in the lessons on the World and the Flesh, there are many things in and around us in our everyday life that the powers of darkness use to weaken or destroy our Christian life. Satan was even able to reach the Apostles on occasion. (Luke 22:31-32) So don't be foolish enough to think he can't reach you!

### **His Last Hurrah**

As we mentioned earlier, Satan wants worship and this desire plus his pride were the cause of his downfall. However, he will achieve his wish and will receive worship from some deceived nations of the earth for a short while during the Great Tribulation. In his physical form (a dragon at present) he is in the second heaven

in that great body of water over our head (Ps. 148:4) called the great deep. (Job 41) He will be cast down to earth and his angels with him in the near future. ***“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”*** (Rev. 12:9)

In Revelation 13:1, the second part of the unholy trinity (see lesson on the anti-Christ in Section Five) shows up and the spirit of the devil enters the “beast.” This is the anti-Christ, the son of perdition who will take over a one world government and rule during the Tribulation. Satan will receive worship from the unsaved world (Rev. 13:4 & 8) cause everyone to take a mark in their hand or forehead to be able to buy or sell. ***“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: [17] And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”*** (Rev. 13:16-17)

Those refusing to take the mark will be beheaded. ***“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”*** Rev. 20:4 (KJV)

And those who did take the mark were cast into hell! ***“And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”*** (Rev. 14:11)

After his rule, and at the end of the Tribulation, Satan will be chained for the one thousand year Millennial Reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. After this one thousand years of peace, with Jesus on the throne in Jerusalem, Jesus and the Christian saints will return to heaven and the Devil will be released for a little season and then cast into the Lake of Fire! ***“ And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”*** (Rev. 20:10)

This is the destiny of the one so many people are following in these last days. The

unsaved will have the same end as their father the devil! It seems almost unreal that so many will burn in Hell simply because they rejected the One (Jesus) who loved them the most, and suffered untold agony so they may live eternally with Him! This is the end result of pride! Will it be your end, or are you saved? Hopefully, by this point in these studies you have been saved long ago. If not, now is the time to take care of it once and for all. In just a few seconds you can join the family of God and miss the eternal Lake of Fire with the Devil. If you want to be saved pray this or a similar prayer from your heart.

"Lord, I believe in my heart, and now confess with my mouth that Jesus died for my sins, that He rose from the dead, and that His shed blood alone is ample and full payment for all my sins. On that basis, I now receive Him as my Lord and Saviour. Thank you Lord God for saving my soul." (Rom. 10:9)

If you prayed this prayer and were sincere in your heart you can now know for sure that you are saved! ***"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."*** (I John 5:12)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Bread of Life Quiz

Christian Growth

THE DEVIL

Lesson 3

*This is a true or false quiz, in the space provided place T for True or F for False.*

1. The Devil was created as an angel. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The devils original name was Lucifer. \_\_\_\_\_
3. There are several different creatures in Heaven, however, they are all considered angels. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The Devil was created as the "angel of light" but he fell from grace. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The problem that Lucifer had that caused him to fall from grace was his pride. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The devil wants worship and to be like God. \_\_\_\_\_
7. There were originally 6 Cherubs. and Lucifer was the 6<sup>th</sup> one. \_\_\_\_\_
8. A Cherub has wings and also has four (4) faces. \_\_\_\_\_
9. All angels have wings and are usually described in the Bible as females. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Two female angels with wings came to warn Lot of the coming destruction of Sodom. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Satan is called a: deceiver, dragon, serpent, roaring lion, beast, and other names in the Bible. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Satan is ruler over many unclean spirits and demons that work with him to destroy Christians. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Many people are oppressed and hindered by unclean spirits and don't even realize it. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Unclean spirits are intelligent beings with superhuman strength and knowledge. \_\_\_\_\_
15. The Anti-Christ is the son of perdition, and he will rule the whole world for a short time. \_\_\_\_\_
16. This Anti-Christ will rule during the Tribulation period, and will cause all people to take a mark in their forehead or right hand. \_\_\_\_\_
17. To fight the devil all the Christian has to do is cast him out or command him to leave and he will obey. \_\_\_\_\_
18. If you take the mark in the Tribulation you can get rid of it by being saved. \_\_\_\_\_
19. The rich people will not have to take the mark because they have money to buy things. \_\_\_\_\_
20. The devil will be chained a thousand years after the Tribulation and during the Millennium. \_\_\_\_\_

**Addictions**

The word "addiction" automatically brings to mind "alcohol" or "drugs" to most of us. Although those are certainly the two most common and most devastating addictions in our society, there are many, many more addictions that hold people in bondage. What is an addiction? An addiction is simply when someone gives in to a strong desire or habit on a regular basis until they lose control. Addictions can become so strong and compelling that a person actually becomes a slave in bondage to their particular addiction.

Such bondage places the addiction in the forefront of the addict's life and it becomes more important than anything else. They absolutely must have or do it. The habit then consumes the person's time, thoughts, and energy to the extent that it becomes a god, and eventually everything else in their life takes a back seat to the addiction.

Addictions come in various forms and can be drugs, alcohol, sex, pornography, stealing, gambling, work or hobbies, or almost anything that controls your life. Addiction controls the mind, will, and emotions of a person. The person's very being, their Soul, is in bondage.

**The Cause**

Some drugs are so strong with habit forming characteristics, that anyone who takes them for any length of time becomes addicted. Naturally, there may be some difference in the time and quantity required for different individuals, but the end result is the same.

Then, there are the less addictive, but still dangerous drugs (along with alcohol) that seem to affect people differently. We know that some people have less resistance to certain things than others. For example, we have all known people who could use very little of a particular substance, before showing signs of addiction, while others can use many times more of the same thing and simply quit when they are ready. Why is this?

There are many different opinions on why some people become addicted and are totally out of control, while others are less susceptible under the same conditions. There are speculations on genetic, psychological, and even mental factors being the contributing cause to these differences.

A genetic tendency toward addiction inherited from our ancestors appears to be one of these causes. Similar body chemistry may well follow genetic lines making entire races or groups more susceptible to addiction with a particular substance than others. For example, we have always heard stories that the American Indian cannot handle "firewater" (alcohol), and that it attacks the liver in this particular race of people more so than some others. There is evidence that different races do have different traits and reactions to alcohol or drugs. Naturally, there are exceptions to every rule.

The body chemistry can also be different within the same groups or even families, at least with regard to their tolerance. For example even brothers and/or sisters may be different with respect to their tolerance for a specific type of alcohol. It could be, each inherited traits from different parents. One may be able to drink beer in quantity, but have a low tolerance for whiskey, while the other may have a high tolerance for whiskey. So, at least in some cases, even the different types of alcohol are a factor in the same genetic line. It stands to reason that the same could be true with respect to the different drugs.

Now, it comes down to this: Whatever we put into our body must be dealt with by our own body chemistry whether it comes in through the mouth, lungs, blood, etc. If our particular body cannot properly deal with a substance then the problem begins. Since the body chemistry affects the brain, this could also account for emotional and mental addictions. So, there are many possibilities and different aspects associated with the cause of addictions, and many more variances among different people. But, it doesn't really matter.

**They call it dope because  
you are a dope if you take  
it!**

The bottom line is, don't participate and you cannot become addicted, regardless of what your weakness is!! On the other hand, if you continue using drugs or alcohol you will eventually become addicted and/or destroy your health. People say "I'll never go that far. It won't happen to me." But they do, and it does! It

always starts with just a little. Many alcoholics started with beer and later graduated to the hard stuff. Likewise, the drug addict often starts with smoking an occasional joint or two, and then a little recreational cocaine, with a few pills here and there, and finally to "crack" cocaine and other hard core drugs. Bingo! You are addicted! So what then??

You say "it's too late! I'm already addicted and I can't stop!" Yes you can, but probably not by yourself! Regardless of the cause of your particular addiction you will need help! In many cases you will need more help than society and man can give you. You will need Spiritual help to permanently solve your problem.

### **The Spiritual Element**

There is more to the problem of addiction than meets the eye. Beyond the known factors we've mentioned there is one more that is by far the most important. There is a spiritual element to addictions and that element is what we are concerned with in this lesson. Why is the spiritual element so important? Because after twenty two years of dealing with addicts of all kinds, the writer has seen a Spiritual change work when the meetings, programs, and every other methods had failed. Also, Jesus is proven to be the most permanent remedy.

Why is this? Because spirits are associated with drugs, alcohol, and other addictive elements. The powers of darkness use these weaknesses of the flesh. Most people don't know that the word "pharmacy," (where legal drugs come from) or "pharmaceutical" is from a Greek word linked to the practice of witchcraft. The Greek word for "sorcery" literally means "drugs."

Drug addiction is a common element in the practice of witchcraft and devil worship, thus, the spiritual link. If you are fooling with drugs and alcohol, you are subjecting yourself to the spirit world and the powers of darkness. (Eph. 6) You can literally open the door for unclean spirits to come in and control you to some degree. For example most everyone has done something under the influence of alcohol or drugs that they would not have normally done without the substance. This is not just impaired judgment. You are simply weak and your judgment is easily altered by outside influences. To correct the spiritual part of the problem, you must make spiritual changes.

After 20 years of working with addicts I can promise you that once addicted, it will

take the work of the Holy Spirit to get you off of the “stuff” and keep you off. The “meetings” and “programs” may be of some help initially. However, you will never have “closure,” or be able to put the addiction behind you until you cease to fellowship with addicts and frequent the places they do! Otherwise, you are constantly reminded of your problem! You can’t put it behind you and move on with the plan God has for your life if you are talking and thinking about your addiction all the time and hanging around those with the same problem!! Granted, this is hard to do but necessary to put it completely out of your life.

### **The Remedy**

So, if you want to ever have victory over your addiction, the first step is to get saved! Then, with the indwelling Holy Spirit of God, you can begin a new life without the substance you were addicted to and the people and places that go with it! If you are already saved and in this condition, you need to repent, recommit your life to Jesus Christ and surrender all to Him!

Will being saved guarantee your cure? Not necessarily. It will give you the power (through the Holy Spirit) and ability to achieve the victory over your addiction, but you must do your part. Many Christians never receive complete victory over their addiction because they have not totally surrendered the problem to Christ. You have to completely turn away from the substance, the people, and places that tempt you, because, by association they keep the substance in the forefront of your mind. Then, with the physical temptation removed, the Holy Spirit will begin to heal the mind and body so you will not need the substance.

It will not be easy. You will have to saturate yourself with the Word of God, establish a close relationship with Jesus, and develop a good prayer life to succeed. You need to find a “Bible Believing Soul Winning Church” and be involved in that work to keep you busy. You will find that serving the Lord and associating with Godly people will help you get your mind off the emotional and physical need your body feels for the substance you abused.

This new life will make you feel so much better about yourself and give you more confidence than you can imagine. But remember: Jesus can only help you solve your problem and give you the greatest joy you’ve ever had if you truly surrender it all to Him and seek His will in your life. I know it will work because this writer has “been there and done that,” and He has kept me for twenty two years since I

gave it all to Him.

I said earlier that if you are an addict and already saved, you need to repent and recommit. But if you are unsaved you need to be saved now! Jesus said: “...*Ye Must be born again.*” ( Jn.3:7) The Bible says, “....*behold, now is the day of salvation.....*” (II Cor. 6:2)

**If you are not absolutely sure that you are saved, take care of it now!**

**COME NOW JUST AS YOU ARE !! COME AS A SINNER:** "Lord, I know I have sinned against you."

**COME WITH A REPENTANT HEART:** "Lord, the best way I know how, I now turn away from my sins and seek the righteousness of Jesus Christ."

**COME RECEIVING JESUS AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOUR :** "Lord, I believe in my heart, and now confess with my mouth that Jesus died for my sins, that He rose from the dead, and that His shed blood alone is ample and full payment for all my sins. On that basis, I now receive Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. Thank you Lord God for saving my soul."

Can you pray those words and mean them with all your heart ? If you can, and did, then the Holy Spirit came *down and spiritually circumcised you, baptizing you with His Holy Spirit.* (Col 2:10-14, I Cor 12:13)!

# Notes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Bread of Life Quiz

Christian Growth Series

ADDICTIONS

Lesson 4

*This is a true or false quiz, in the space provided place T for True or F for False.*

1. An addiction is a strong desire or habit a person gives in to on a regular basis. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The only addictions are basically drugs and alcohol. \_\_\_\_\_
3. A genetic tendency toward addictions can be inherited from our ancestors. \_\_\_\_\_
4. People can become addicted to their work. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Addiction can control everything except a persons will. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Some drugs are so strong anyone can become addicted to them with regular use. \_\_\_\_\_
7. All races have the same reaction to drugs and alcohol if they take the same amount. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Science says race has nothing to do with addiction to drugs. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Addiction is only a problem of the flesh and there are no spiritual ties. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Different types of alcohol can affect the same person differently. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Body chemistry can account for emotional and mental addictions. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Mild drugs almost always lead to stronger, and stronger ones. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Unclean spirits are associated with drugs. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Drug addiction is a common element in the practice of witchcraft. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Addictions have a spiritual element. \_\_\_\_\_
16. The Hebrew word for Sorcery literally means "drugs." \_\_\_\_\_
17. Romans 8:13 says if "You live after the flesh you shall die." \_\_\_\_\_
18. Saved people have the Holy Spirit inside to help them get off the drugs and alcohol. \_\_\_\_\_
19. Being born again is the most important first step in getting rid of addictions. \_\_\_\_\_
20. You must be confident Jesus will help you get rid of your addiction if you belong to Him.. \_\_\_\_\_



## Section V

## Chapter 5

### ***Capital Punishment***

One of the most controversial issues in our society today is the “death penalty,” or capital punishment which our laws impose for murder and a few other crimes. Regardless of the laws, there are some who are adamantly opposed to capital punishment for any reason. There is the occasional Christian who is opposed simply through ignorance of the Word of God. Then naturally, those with a criminal mind are opposed as are the liberals and secular humanists. Neither of the latter two groups are the least bit concerned with what God and His Word have to say on the matter.

Their basic problem is, always has been, and always will be, that they worship the creation rather than the Creator! **“Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.”** (Romans 1:25) Also, they are not concerned with the poor victim, or the victim’s family, but are constantly screaming about the killer’s rights!

What is amazing is that those who don’t even believe the Bible will still try and “use it” by quoting Scripture out of context to prove their point. Their final authority is their own opinion flavored with a double dose of emotion. Their wisdom is foolishness to God. (I Cor.1:20) The true Bible believer however, will use the Word of God, Scripture for Scripture, to prove the truth on this or any other doctrinal matter. So, what does the Bible teach on the subject of capital punishment? Let’s apply those principals just mentioned and see what God has to say on the subject.

We will approach this study from the stand point of three (3) separate dispensations of time, to coincide with (1) the Old Testament times before the Jewish Law was given, (2) the Old Testament after the Law, and (3) the New Testament times after the resurrection of Christ under the New Covenant. We will show you through the Word of God that the Bible teaches capital punishment from cover to cover!

In Genesis chapter 9 we find God’s first act of setting up human law and government. ***“And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of***

*every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. [6] Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.*" (Genesis 9:5-6)

He instructed them not to eat blood in verse 4, and then in verse 5 He let them know he would require the life of any beast or man who shed man's blood. This was to be capital punishment executed by God Himself. In verse 6 He takes it a step further and announces that if a man kills another man, then his life will be taken by man. It was not God's intention that this apply to individuals, but to man's government. So capital punishment was originally set up as a rule and standard of government by God.

Man's life is precious to God as man was created in His own likeness and image. The rule of not taking another man's life was one of the first rules He gave Noah and his family as they began to populate the earth once again after the flood had destroyed mankind, which in itself, was an act of capital punishment! More rules were to come later in the form of the Ten Commandments and after that, the balance of the Jewish Law which also commanded capital punishment.

### **After The Law**

In Exodus 20 God called Moses up to Mount Sinai and gave him the Ten Commandments. These were not suggestions, but commandments that God gave man to give him a start in setting up laws to govern himself by. The sixth commandment given was *"thou shalt not kill."* This is the verse that all the capital punishment opponents bring up to the Christians who support the death penalty. The problem is, these people are showing their ignorance of the Word of God, not realizing that the context of that commandment is murder! How do we know this? Well aside from the fact the Hebrew word used in this case actually means "murder," we have sufficient proof in plain English.

***"He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death. [13] And if a man lie not in wait, but God deliver him into his hand; then I will appoint thee a place whither he shall flee. [14] But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die. [15] And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death. [16] And he that stealeth a man, and selleth him, or if he be found in***

*his hand, he shall surely be put to death.. [17] And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.”* (Exodus 21:12-17)

Obviously, if God meant the sixth commandment to include capital punishment, He would not have then commanded a murderer be put to death only a few verses later under the same Jewish Law! Moreover, He commanded the death penalty for stealing, kidnaping, or selling a man, and even for cursing his father or mother! Why, if that law was in effect today our population would immediately be cut by about 60%! So, there is **“a time to kill”** (Ecclesiastes 3:3) according to God’s Word. Thank goodness we are no longer under the Old Testament Law!

Something else to consider is self defense. If we applied “thou shalt not kill” as some would have us interpret it we could not even kill to save our own life or that of another. You and your family would be at the mercy of the wicked who wants to do you harm. And what about war? God Himself sent many men into war in the Old Testament times. In fact, the Bible says in Exodus 15:3 **“The Lord is a man of war: the Lord is his name.”**

### **New Testament Times**

Today, under the New Testament Covenant, Jesus made the question of capital punishment abundantly clear. First of all He replaced the word “kill” with the word murder so there would be no mistake about later instructions in the Bible. Jesus said, **“Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, [19] Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”** (Matthew 19:18-19) So here, the stage is set for further instructions in the Word of God concerning this subject.

The government has made laws for the good of all people. In many cases, the “man made” laws such as capital punishment duplicate the law made previously by God. We have already studied God’s law on the subject and now we find where our Lord has commanded us to obey the laws of man as well. With capital punishment being the law of our country we are bound by both God and man’s law to support and execute that law.

**“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. [2] Whosoever therefore resisteth**

*the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. [3] For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: [4] For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. [5] Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. [6] For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.”* (Romans 13:1-6) Another good verse on the subject is in I Peter.

*“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; [14] Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. [15] For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:”* (I Peter 2:13-15)

Another point is that if the death penalty was wrong, then God would not do it Himself as He did in Acts 5 where He killed two people for lying. Although, He would not expect us to make such a stringent law for lying, the basic principal of capital punishment remains the same. God does it and expects us to carry it out also, within the scope of our man made laws and those He gave us.

Now, we have seen from God's Word that the death penalty is not against God, but is in fact ordained of God! It is that way at present and will be until the final judgment of man, at which time God will execute capital punishment on every soul that is not saved!

God not only endorsed capital punishment for man, He practices it Himself!

*“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”* (Rev. 20:15)

Now that we have studied and determined God's position on capital punishment, we should, as Christians, support the Word of God and not be concerned with the opinions of men. To murder a human being God created in His own image is an act against God Himself and therefore, worthy of the “death penalty.” Fortunately, one guilty of murder can still be saved before he is executed. As the death penalty only

applies to this life if the person is saved it could actually be the beginning rather than the end! Once again we come back to the same point. Either the Bible is your final authority or it is not. You cannot select the parts you agree with and reject the rest, but rather accept or reject the Book in it's entirety! Either God is in charge of your life or someone or something else is.

# Notes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Bread of Life Quiz

## Christian Growth

## CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

## Lesson 5

*This is a true or false quiz, in the space provided place T for True or F for False.*

1. The death penalty is a controversial subject in America today. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Most people do not care what God says on the subject of Capital punishment. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Liberal people are more interested in the "creation" than the "creator." \_\_\_\_\_
4. The Bible only supports capital punishment in the Old Testament. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The death penalty is against God because He is a God of love and would not condone killing. \_\_\_\_\_
6. God commanded the death penalty before and after the Old Testament Law. \_\_\_\_\_
7. "Thou shalt not kill" in Exodus 20 was not talking about execution by the Government. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The Bible says "He that smiteth a man, so that he die shall surely be put to death." \_\_\_\_\_
9. The sixth commandment says "thou shalt not kill." \_\_\_\_\_
10. In Exodus 20 God gave Moses ten suggestions for Christian living. \_\_\_\_\_
11. The Bible says "there is a time to Kill." \_\_\_\_\_
12. The Bible teaches capital punishment before the Law, after the Law, and in the New Testament. \_\_\_\_\_
13. "...do no murder" means for the government not to have capital punishment. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Romans 13:1-6 does not include capital punishment. \_\_\_\_\_
15. The death penalty is ordained of God. \_\_\_\_\_
16. God will pronounce the death penalty on many at the White Throne Judgement. (Rev. 20) \_\_\_\_\_
17. The Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice for the true Christian. \_\_\_\_\_
18. God considers murder a great sin because He created man in His Own Image \_\_\_\_\_
19. I Peter 2:13-15 tells us to obey man's laws. \_\_\_\_\_
20. Jesus said "if you love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15) \_\_\_\_\_

## **Characteristics Of God**

What is God like? If you ask most people who believe in God this question you will likely hear these answers: “God is love,” or “God is a Spirit,” or “God is everywhere,” or “God intimidates.” I have been told that He is an inspiration and a helper in time of need. Naturally, all of these answers are true but our God has many more attributes than the average Christian realizes. Out of several people asked (all professing Christians) not one said “a Saviour.” Actually, the more Christians you ask the more one begins to realize that even saved people know very little about their God. It seems everyone’s opinion is centered around his or her own personal experience with God, and in most cases that experience itself is limited.

It is appalling that the vast majority of God’s people know more about the characteristics of movie stars, TV personalities, or sports figures than they do their own God who suffered, bled, and died, that they may live! It is not uncommon to hear professing Christians elaborate on every detail of their favorite sports player’s life, abilities, and accomplishments. Ditto for many when asked about their pets or hobbies! But ask this same person to describe the living God and you will normally get only one or two attributes in response.

This should not be! God has revealed Himself to us through His Word the Bible, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through His creation around us. Our source for this lesson will be His written Word, the Bible. That way there will be no guesswork in our description of His nature and characteristics. Hopefully, this lesson will help the student come to know God better, so not only his understanding, but his relationship with God will improve.

### **God is Holy**

If you had to give a “one word” description of God, the one word that would cover the most ground would be “**Holy.**” God’s Holiness is synonymous with His other characteristics. His Holiness is what separates Him from sinful man. The word “holy” means whole, sinless, and spiritually pure. He is perfect! He is totally righteous! *“There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither*



*is there any rock like our God.”* (1 Samuel 2:2) He is the only purely righteous, totally sinless and perfect Being in the universe! *“... God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.”* (Psalm 47:8) Not only is He holy, but all His works are holy. *“The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.”* (Psalm 145:17)

God expects us to be holy as he is holy. Although we could never reach the level of His holiness, we are expected to try! *“For I am the Lord your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: .....”* (Leviticus 11:44)

God is holy and will always be holy. *“And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”* (Rev. 4:8)

### **God Is Righteous**

God is righteous. Righteous means just, virtuous, morally right. *“O Lord God of Israel, thou art righteous: for we remain yet escaped, as it is this day: behold, we are before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee because of this.”* (Ezra 9:15) *“His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever.”* (Psalm 111:3) God’s righteousness goes hand and hand with His holiness. His judgments are perfect every time. He is never wrong. *“And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah.”* (Psalm 50:6)

### **God is Light**

God is so righteous and pure that He is likened to Light. Pure Light so bright and brilliant you could not even look at it and live.(Ex. 33:20) Jesus dwells in the presence and Light of God the Father which no man can see or approach. *“Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.”* (1 Tim. 6:16) When Jesus, who of course is God’s body, (see lesson on the Trinity) appeared to Saul (Paul) on the road to Damascus, the Light blinded Paul for three (3) days until he was healed.

In the great city New Jerusalem there will be no need for the sun or moon because He will supply all the light for it! ***“And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.”*** (Rev. 21:23) We as Christians are called “children of light,” and told not to walk in darkness. ***“Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.”*** (1 Thes. 5:5)

His Light is the opposite of darkness. The Devil and his demons are likened to darkness. (Eph 6:12) ***“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. [7] But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*** (1 John 1:5& 7)

### **God Is Eternal**

God has no beginning and no end. He **is** the beginning and the end. This is another characteristic that is hard for our minds to conceive. One natural question would be: “If He was always here was there anything or any other creature always here as well, or was God the only one, or thing?” God has always existed and He created every person, every place, and every thing. We know from the Bible He was here at the very beginning. ***“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”*** (Genesis 1:1)

He is the past, the present and the future! ***“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”*** (Rev. 1:8) If there is no beginning time for God, then His existence would be a circle of time. He is in the past, present and future all at the same time. What we know for sure is what the Word of God says. He **WAS** before the world was formed and **WILL BE** here forever! ***“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”*** (Ps 90:2) His Kingdom will last forever. ***“...For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.”*** (Mat. 6:13)

### **God The Creator**

***“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”*** (Genesis 1:1) He is Almighty God, Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end of all things. He is creator of the universe, mankind, and all things that exist, ever did exist, or ever

will exist. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] The same was in the beginning with God. [3] All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. [4] In him was life; and the life was the light of men. [5] And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”* (John 1:1-5)

God is superior to all, and all creation is subject to Him and under His control including the Devil, his angels, and demons. (Job 1:6-12, I Cor. 8:5-6, Isa 14:12-17) This one single characteristic is hidden to 99.9 % of the world. They are all busy trying to make everything happen the way they want it to with total disregard to what God said was going to happen! Unfortunately, it will be too late for those who have spent a lifetime ignoring Him when He returns to claim His earthly Kingdom by force.

### **God A Trinity**

God is a tripartite being. He has three (3) parts. Although He is **one** God, He has **three** distinct personalities: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Bible has this to say on the subject: *“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”* (I John 5:7) The Scripture is very plain here about the three parts of God since John 1:1-14 identifies who the **Word** is. The **Word** is Jesus! *“And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.....”* (John 1:14)

**Here is the breakdown of that three part nature:**

- 1) God the Father.....the Soul**
- 2) God the Son.....the Body (Jesus)**
- 3) God the Holy Ghost.....the Spirit.**

So, we see that the one true God is made up of three parts and has a tripartite nature. Therefore, since man was made in the image of God according to Scripture, he too is a Trinity, having a body, a soul, and a spirit! *“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him: male and female created he them.”* (Genesis 1:26-27)

There you have man created with three parts like God. The Apostle Paul understood and accepted this three part man as evidenced in his letter to the

Thessalonians: ***“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*** (I The. 5:23) The student should review the lesson on the Trinity (#2) in the Spirit Series for a more detailed study.

### **God is Omnipotent**

In other words, God is all powerful. His power and authority over all things is unlimited. He has the power to speak things into existence. God said, ***“let there be light:”*** and there was light. He said: ***“let there be a firmament..,”*** and there was a firmament. He said: ***“let the dry land appear ..,”*** and it appeared. He said: ***“let there be light in the firmament of heaven,”*** (Gen. 1) and it was so. The whole universe was created with the Spoken Word. ***“For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.”*** (Psalm 33:9)

I heard a government worker one time say: “we’ve done so much, for so long, with so little, that now we can do anything with nothing!” Well, obviously that was an exaggeration for man, but God can truly create without anything to work with or begin with! There is only one thing God cannot do. He cannot sin. That would be against His holy and righteous nature.

There is nothing outside of, or beyond God’s power. He can give life, or take life away, and then bring it back again. He can make the poor rich or the rich poor. He speaks and it happens, He wills and it takes place, there is none that has power over Him! ***“The Lord killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. [7] The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up. [8] He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he hath set the world upon them.”*** (1 Samuel 2:6-8)

***“.....neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.”*** (Deut. 32:39)

***“Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. [12] Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.***

*[13] Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.*” (1 Chr. 29:11-13)

God’s power and authority extends to every person, every place and every thing in the universe. His power and abilities are beyond the understanding or even the imagination of man.

### **God is Omniscient**

God is all knowing. He knows everything about you! Your every word, your every thought! His understanding is without end. *“....There is no searching of His understanding.”* (Isaiah 40:28) Your very thoughts are an open book to Him who is all knowing and all seeing! *“Then Job answered the Lord, and said, [2] I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.”* (Job 42:1-2)

And, *“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”* (Hebrews 4:13) There are no secrets before Him. *“...for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.”* (Matthew 10:26) He sees it all! *“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.”* (2 Chron. 16:9)

Moreover, God has foreseen every possible thought and intent of the heart of man and He has dealt with it in the Bible written thousands of years before you even had the thought or intent in your heart! *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* (Hebrews 4:12) He even has the hairs on every person’s head numbered! *“But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”* (Matthew 10:30)

### **God Is Omnipresent**

God is everywhere! There is no place in the universe you could be that He would not be present. You can’t get away from Him because He is in every place at the same time. Our mind simply cannot comprehend the vastness of God and His ability to be omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent. As for His being

omnipresent, David put it well in Psalm 139:7-10. ***“Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? [8] If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. [9] If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; [10] Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.”***

There are no secret places, no where one can hide from God. He is always here. ***“Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off? [24] Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord.”*** (Jeremiah 23:23-24) You cannot even hide in your dreams because the Lord is there also. God spoke to Jacob as he slept. ***“And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not.”*** ( Genesis 28:16)

This is why it is fruitless to run from God and His will in our life. There is no escape, there is no way to overcome or to win against a Holy and all powerful God. For the Christian there is no peace, contentment, or happiness outside of living and walking in the Spirit with Him. You can't beat Him, so join Him. Then you will be happier and reap the rewards and fruits of the Spirit in Christ.

### **A God Of Love**

Our God is a loving, merciful, and kind hearted God. Love is synonymous with God. In fact, God is Love. ***“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. [9] In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.”*** (1 John 4:8-9)

The Bible is full of God stating His love for mankind as well as showing that great love through His actions toward us. There can be no greater love than to give one's life for that of another, and that is exactly what God did for us. He left Heaven and came down to earth in human form to die for the sins of the world so that we may live. ***“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. [13] Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”*** (John 15:12-13) and, ***“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*** (John 3:16)

God created man so that He may love and be loved in return. He even loved us before we were saved. ***“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, [5] Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)”*** (Eph. 2:4-5)

### **God Is Saviour**

From man’s standpoint, outside of His Holiness, God’s Grace is the most important. Because of the grace of God, man was given a way to redeem himself from his sinful nature. (Eph 2:8, Rom 5:12) Although God Himself is holy and righteous, He is also a forgiving God who does not want us to die in our sins and face a burning Hell for all eternity. (II Pet. 3:9, Rom. 6:23) Because He loved us He was willing to leave a perfect and righteous place, Heaven, and come down to a wicked and sinful earth, to suffer, bleed, and die for our sins. ***“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”*** (John 15:13) Thank God that He loved us enough to die for us and give us a chance to be redeemed. ***“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. [9] Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”*** (Romans 5:8-9)

He wants us all to be saved. ***“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*** (2 Peter 3:9) ***“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; [4] Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”*** (1 Tim. 2:3-4) ***“Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; [19] To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.”*** (Psalms 33:18-19)

Hopefully, the student can claim the next verse for their own life. ***“Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.”*** (Psalm 25:5) The same Saviour who loved us so much (John 3:16) will become a God of wrath for those who reject His free gift of salvation.

### **God Of Wrath**

Few people think of God as an angry God or God of wrath. However, we must understand that although He is a loving God He is perfectly balanced, and so being, is also a God of wrath. God is Holy and righteous and hates sin; therefore

His wrath is kindled by sin and wickedness. ***“God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.”*** (Psalm 7:11)

The average person pictures God as some great big lovable santa claus and this is definitely not the picture our Bible paints. ***“The Lord is a man of war: the Lord is his name.”*** (Exodus 15:3) That verse would drive the anti-war crowd nuts but they would really crash and burn on this next one: ***“I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. [4] For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.”*** (Isaiah 63:3-4) Or this one.....

***“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. [12] His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. [13] And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. [14] And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. [15] And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. [16] And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. [17] And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; [18] That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.”*** (Rev. 19:11-18)

My, my, but isn't that a different God than what most people have in mind! By this time it's too late and many will be crying out for death rather than face an angry God.. ***“And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; [16] And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: [17] For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”*** (Rev. 6:15-17)



## A Jealous God

Our God is a jealous God. He will not allow the worship of other gods to go unpunished. *“Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;”* (Exodus 20:5) *“God is jealous, and the Lord revengeth; the Lord revengeth, and is furious; the Lord will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.* (Nahum 1:2)

He is so jealous the Scripture even gives “Jealous” as one of his names. *“For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:”* (Exodus 34:14) It doesn’t take many of these verses for one to get the “picture” that will not put up with you putting anything ahead of Him! *“Woe to the rebellious children, saith the Lord, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:”* (Isaiah 30:1)

The Child of God should be very careful not to put anything or anybody ahead of God in their heart. He may very well take away that thing you count more worthy of your love and attention than Him. He wants to be number one in our life, ahead of family, friends, job, hobbies, etc. He wants your heart and soul. When you really surrender to Him, your happiness and reward will be great.

## God’s Names

God has many names, some of which are also used in reference to the Lord Jesus Christ. Some of the most common are: “Everlasting Father,” “Jehovah” or “Lord,” “Mighty God,” “Alpha and Omega,” “Lord of Lords,” and many, many more commonly used names. (See Lesson 2 in the Doctrinal series on The Deity of Christ) We will also list some of the less common names and what they mean. We will first give the Hebrew name and then the meaning in English.

1. **“Elohim”** = “One who is mighty”, or “The Lord who creates.”
2. **“Elelyon”** = “The one who is supreme,” or “the Lord who owns.”
3. **“Adonai”** = “The Lord our Master” or “The one who is ruling.”
4. **“El olam”** = “The one who reveals Himself,” or “The one who is mysterious.”
5. **“Jehovah jireh”** = “The Lord who provides.”

6. “**Jehovah nissi**” = “The Lord our Banner.”
7. “**Jehovah rapha**” = “The One who heals.”
8. “**El Shaddai**” = “The all sufficient One.”
9. “**Jehovah shalom**” = “The Lord our Peace.”
10. “**Jehovah sabaoth**” = “The Lord of Hosts.”
11. “**Jehovah tsidkenu**” = “The Lord of our Righteousness.”
12. “**Jehovah shammah**” = “The One present” or “The One close by.”
13. “**Jehovah elyon**” = “The One who is blessing” or “The Lord our Blesser.”
14. “**Jehovah raah**” = “The Lord our Shepherd.”

In conclusion, we have given only a few of the characteristics of God. There are many more such as: His *wisdom, faithfulness, fatherhood, goodness, grace, longsuffering, mercy* etc. However the student should by now have a better understanding of God than prior to this lesson. There is much more to be found in the Bible on this subject. In fact you could write a whole book on the characteristics and nature of God. **He is an awesome God. Worship Him!!**

# Notes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Bread of Life Quiz

Christian Growth

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

Lesson 6

*This is a true or false quiz, in the space provided place T for True or F for False.*

1. God only has a few basic characteristics. \_\_\_\_\_
2. "Holy" would be a good one word description of God. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Most people have no idea what God is really like. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Many people know more about their pets than they do about God. \_\_\_\_\_
5. God is everywhere at one time. \_\_\_\_\_
6. God knows everything but your thoughts. \_\_\_\_\_
7. God began at the same time as the earth. \_\_\_\_\_
8. God can be in the past, present, and future at the same time. \_\_\_\_\_
9. You could not look upon God the Father and live., \_\_\_\_\_
10. God created the earth, and stars with the spoken word. \_\_\_\_\_
11. God is a one part being. \_\_\_\_\_
12. God is all powerful and can do anything but sin. \_\_\_\_\_
13. God knows the number of hairs on your head. \_\_\_\_\_
14. God came down from heaven in human form to die for the sins of the world. \_\_\_\_\_
15. The wrath of God is balanced with the love of God. \_\_\_\_\_
16. God is not jealous because that would be a sin. \_\_\_\_\_
17. God has many names that describe Him. \_\_\_\_\_
18. God has revealed Himself through His Word. \_\_\_\_\_
19. God expects us to try and be holy as He is. \_\_\_\_\_
20. God is light and the devil is darkness. \_\_\_\_\_

# Bread of Life Quiz

## Master Answer Sheet # 6

### Christian Growth

The World	The Flesh	The Devil	Addictions	Capital Punishment	Characteristics Of God
Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4	Chapter 5	Chapter 6
1. _____	1. _____	1. _____	1. _____	1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____	4. _____	4. _____	4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____	5. _____	5. _____	5. _____	5. _____
6. _____	6. _____	6. _____	6. _____	6. _____	6. _____
7. _____	7. _____	7. _____	7. _____	7. _____	7. _____
8. _____	8. _____	8. _____	8. _____	8. _____	8. _____
9. _____	9. _____	9. _____	9. _____	9. _____	9. _____
10. _____	10. _____	10. _____	10. _____	10. _____	10. _____
11. _____	11. _____	11. _____	11. _____	11. _____	11. _____
12. _____	12. _____	12. _____	12. _____	12. _____	12. _____
13. _____	13. _____	13. _____	13. _____	13. _____	13. _____
14. _____	14. _____	14. _____	14. _____	14. _____	14. _____
15. _____	15. _____	15. _____	15. _____	15. _____	15. _____
16. _____	16. _____	16. _____	16. _____	16. _____	16. _____
17. _____	17. _____	17. _____	17. _____	17. _____	17. _____
18. _____	18. _____	18. _____	18. _____	18. _____	18. _____
19. _____	19. _____	19. _____	19. _____	19. _____	19. _____
20. _____	20. _____	20. _____	20. _____	20. _____	20. _____