



THE ABC's



HDC






Did You Say “Yes” To Jesus?

Perhaps you just responded to an invitation to receive Christ as your Savior and Lord. If so, congratulations! But, what does that mean? What did you do? What has changed? The following information will help you better understand the Gospel and the decision you just made. Make sure you have an easy-to-read version of the Bible, such as a New International Version, as you go through this lesson. Write down your answers and also write down any questions you may have that you can ask another believer.

How Do You Start This New **Life** In Jesus?

HDC uses the ABC’s of Salvation to explain the necessary steps in becoming a Christian. Let’s go through them one-by-one.





The ABC's of Salvation



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

According to Romans 3:23, how many have sinned?

What does this verse say about your spiritual condition?

(See also: Romans 3:10-12)

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

According to the first half of Romans 6:23, what is the final result if you pay for your own sin? _____

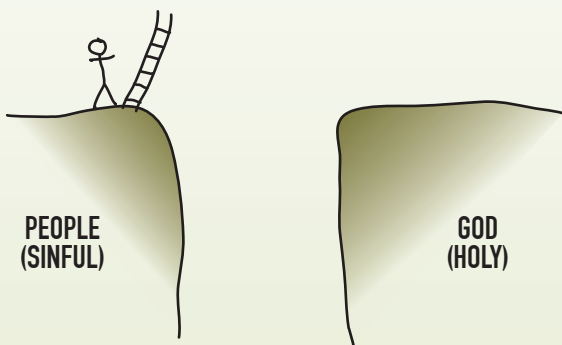
(See also: Ephesians 2:1)

According to the second half of Romans 6:23, what is the final result if you receive the gift of God (meaning Christ pays for your sin)? _____

1 John 1:8-9 “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

According to 1 John 1:8-9, if we confess (agree with, admit) our sins, what will Jesus do? _____

(See also: Colossians 2:13)



OUR ATTEMPTS TO REACH GOD

Many try to earn their way to God by...

Doing Good Works

Attending Church

Reading the Bible

Being Baptized

Taking Communion

Being Sincere

Summary: No one has enough “good” within them to make it to Heaven on their own, as holiness and perfection are a prerequisite for eternity. We wish this wasn’t true. We wish that it would be sufficient if we were just “decent” or if we “just tried very hard.” This is why we need a Savior. We need someone to “save” us from our sins and the penalty of eternal death.



BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE ONLY SAVIOR AVAILABLE.

Acts 4:10,12 “...It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified... Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under Heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

Who is the only one that can give you salvation and save you from your sins according to Acts 4:10,12? _____
(See also: John 14:6)

1 Peter 3:18 “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit”

Why did Christ die for your sins according to 1 Peter 3:18?

John 3:18 “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”

What is true of those who believe/trust in Christ for salvation according to John 3:18? _____
(See also: John 5:24)

What is true of those who do not believe/trust in Christ for salvation? _____
(See also: John 3:36)

Summary: All sin has to be paid for. Either we can do it ourselves and experience eternal death (spiritual separation), or we can receive the “gift of salvation” and allow Christ to pay the penalty we deserved to pay, meaning Christ will be our substitute. But a personal choice must be made. Choose wisely.



CHOOSE TO FOLLOW JESUS.

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no-one can boast.”

According to Ephesians 2:8-9, we are saved (rescued) “by... _____” and “through... _____.” What will not save you or anyone else? _____

(See also: Ephesians 2:4-5; Titus 3:4-6)

Summary: The gift of salvation is by grace, meaning it is undeserved and unmerited favor from God. No one can ever deserve this salvation no matter what “works” they accomplish. Real faith is the only requirement. Faith is more than a feeling or intellectual assent; it is a personal decision of your will to make Christ the Leader and Forgiver of your life. Real faith is a choice that requires a complete surrender to what you understand God’s call on your life to be. Another way of saying this is: A real faith in a real Jesus equals a real salvation.

Mark 1:17 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

What two things are we to do according to Mark 1:17?

_____ Are you willing to “come” and “follow” Christ? _____ Have you put a real faith in a real Jesus for a real salvation? _____ If not and you want to or if you are unsure, and you want to be sure, then you can express your faith in Jesus right now by praying something like the following:

“Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me so much that you died on the cross to pay in full for all of my sins. I am sorry for going my own way for so long. I now admit that I am a sinner who needs a Savior. I believe that Heaven is a gift that you alone can give me, a gift that I cannot earn and will never deserve. Help me to become the individual you created me to be as I choose to follow you and become a world changer.”

THE ABC'S OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH



If you have not already done so, make sure you tell 2-3 other believers about your decision to follow Christ. Why?

Romans 10:9-10 "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

What are you supposed to confess with your mouth according to Romans 10:9-10? _____ Where does your belief need to come from? _____
What does this personal choice and public confession reveal?

Summary: According to the Bible, the choice to follow Jesus is always a personal decision (from your heart), but never a private decision. Following Jesus is always to be declared publicly (with your mouth). This brings us to the issue of baptism.

Acts 2:41 "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."

What did these believers do before they were baptized?
_____ What did they do immediately after they accepted the message? _____
How many accepted the message of Jesus and were baptized on that day? _____ Are you willing to obey Christ's command to be publicly baptized? _____
(See: Acts 2:38)

Summary: Baptism is the outward expression of an inward decision. No one was ever baptized as a sign of salvation until they first received God's salvation offered through Jesus Christ.

Baptism never preceded one's acceptance of Christ, thus the Bible teaches "Believers' Baptism." If you are a Christian and have not been baptized, you should be. If you were baptized before you made a deliberate choice of your will to accept Christ as Lord and Savior, you should be re-baptized in order to follow the biblical order of events.



BELIEVE THE BIBLE.

God's Word, made up of the 66 books of the Old and New Testament, is to be believed and followed. But it is impossible to believe and follow something you do not know.

Romans 10:17 "...faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."

According to Romans 10:17, if you want to grow in your faith, what must you do? _____

Luke 11:28 "...Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

According to Luke 11:28, what will happen to you if you hear the word of God and obey it? _____

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

According to this passage, "*All Scripture is...*" _____ (This means God is the author behind the human authors.)

List four things that this verse says Scripture is useful for: _____, _____, _____, _____.

What will Scripture equip you for? _____.

Summary: God's Word is our absolute authority. In it, we have everything we need to live a life pleasing to God. If you haven't done so already, begin reading your Bible everyday for at least

10-20 minutes. If you are new to the Bible, begin reading at the start of the New Testament (i.e., the gospel of Matthew), before reading the Old Testament.



CHOOSE TO BE INVOLVED IN CHURCH.

Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

According to Hebrews 10:24-25, what were some believers in the habit of doing? _____ What should be the purpose and goal of meeting together? _____ According to the last sentence in this verse, why do we need one another? _____


Summary: Notice the use of the term “one another.” Being actively involved in a Bible-believing local church with other believers is vital to our Christian growth and obedience.

Acts 2:42 “They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

What four things did these followers devote themselves to? _____, _____, _____, _____

Acts 2:46 “Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.”

Where did these followers meet?
_____, _____



Summary: Meeting together in the temple courts (today’s version of church) and in homes (today’s version of small groups) was a practical application of the command to “encourage one another to love and good deeds.” Make a commitment to attend and serve in church faithfully. Likewise, make an on-going commitment to a small group of believers who are seeking to grow in their faith.



QUESTIONS I STILL HAVE

If you would like to know more about growing in your obedience to Christ, come to the Welcome Center in the church lobby or contact the church office and ask about other discipleship opportunities. Also, make sure to attend our OZONE Classes. OZONE is a series of four classes geared for people who want to know and embrace the purpose, philosophy, vision, and values of HDC.

