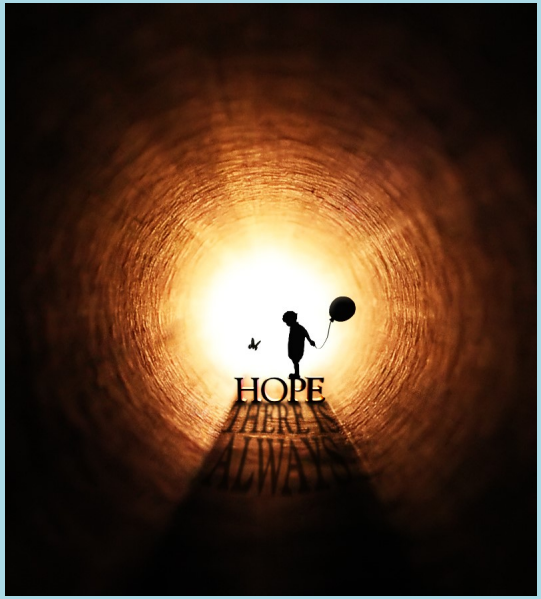
Christianity 101



Discover
the meaning of
Bible Christianity.

Enter into the hope of the gospel
to be enjoyed through faith
in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christianity Reveals the Nature of God.

The key thing in life is to know the true and living God. To go wrong here is to lose our way in all religion. We must not create a god of our imagination.

> "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

God reveals Himself in Creation

Because there must be a sufficient cause behind every effect, the marvels of design within the created world declare that a great designer was at work.

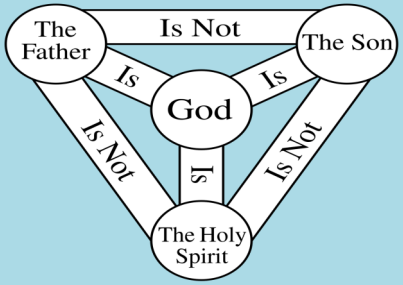
> "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20).

God reveals Himself in the Bible

Mercifully, God has also revealed Himself to us in a more particular manner in the Bible. We are not left to find the way back to God by our own wisdom or experience. He has shone the light of His glory within the pages of the Bible.

> "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my pathway" (Psalm 119:105).
> "The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia..." (Acts 7:2).
> "Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort" (2 Cor.1:3).

God has revealed Himself as a Trinity.



In the Trinitarian family, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit dwell as three distinct persons. Each person is equal in power and glory; each person possesses the same divine attributes. Each person dwells in perfect harmony with the other. The Father sends the Son and the Spirit. The Son prays to the Father and the Holy Spirit fulfills the will of the Father and the Son.

The Lord Jesus used the Trinitarian baptismal formula:

> "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19).

The apostle Paul used the Trinitarian benediction formula:

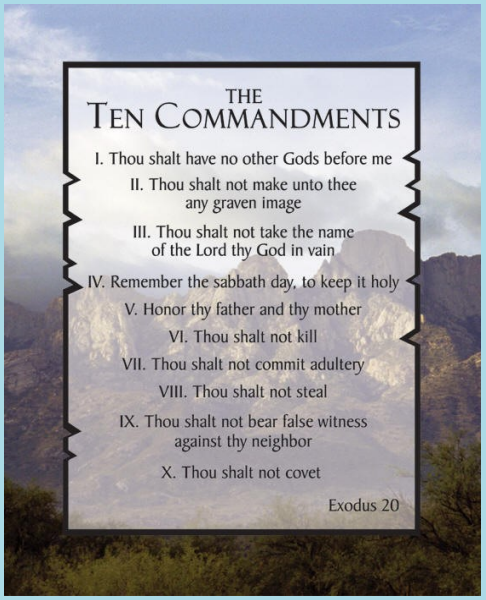
> "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, *be* with you all. Amen" (2 Corinthians 13:14).

Each person in the Trinity has a part in man's salvation

God the Father planned to redeem sinners from their lost condition. God the Son took a human body in Mary's womb to die as a sacrifice for sinners. God the Holy Spirit works conviction of sin to lead sinners to repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus. You will find the Trinity in this gospel text:

> "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied" (1Peter 1:2).

Christianity is Based on Law and Gospel.



The law of God, as contained in the ten commandments, reveals God's holy character and what He requires of us to live in fellowship with Him. These commands call men to perfect obedience. In His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5 — 7), the Lord Jesus taught that God's law applies to our thoughts as well as our actions:

> "Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:28).
> "But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment" (Matthew 5:22).

The Lord Jesus also taught that we are to love God first and foremost, and that to break God's commandments is to rebel against His love.

> "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself" (Luke10:27).

The ten commandments are not ten steps to heaven. They are, rather, ten fingers pointing to our sins for we have failed to keep God's law as we should. This means that all men are lawbreakers.

> "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the Law" (1John 3:4).

To have peace with God we all need to be cleansed from the guilt of sin and made right in God's sight. The gospel of Christ is designed to make men righteous, or right, before God. The Lord Jesus kept the law of God for us by his sinless life, and He satisfied the broken law for us by His payment for sin on the cross.

Christianity is God's Way of Saving Sinners Through Christ.

Here we discover God's gracious nature. God is full of mercy even to guilty sinners who have offended Him. By sending His Son down into this world to live a perfect life and to die as a sacrifice for sin, God opened a way to save guilty souls who have broken His law. His salvation plan makes men righteous, or right in His sight, and thereby fit to live with Him in Heaven.

The Name "Jesus" means Saviour.

> "Thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

The name "Christ" means anointed one, appointed one, or Messiah.
God, in his infinite grace, wisdom and power, planned with His Son to save His people from the curse of sin and its penalty of eternal death. Jesus, being God, when fashioned in human flesh with a perfect human body, was equipped to reconcile sinful men to God. Being the God-Man, or God and Man in one Person, He had infinite power to redeem His people.

It was as the God-Man that Christ lived a supernatural life.

> "We know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him" (John 3:2).

It was as the God-Man that Christ died on the cross.

> "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father" (John 10:17-18).

As God's anointed Son and our Saviour, the Lord Jesus died an atoning death on the cross of Calvary. Because Christ died as the God-Man His blood has supernatural power to justify all who believe on Him. When justified from all sin God declares believers in Christ to be fit for heaven.

> "But God commendeth his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (Romans 5:8-9).

It was as the God-Man that Christ rose again from the dead.

> "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole" (Acts 4:12).

It is as the God-Man that the Lord Jesus reigns now at God's right hand.
He is given all power in heaven and in earth to save His people and to present them to the Father in glory.

> "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Mat 28:18).
>
> "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen" (Jude 1:24,25).

Christianity Calls Us to Personal Faith in Christ.

In the New Testament, when people were convinced of the supernatural life, death and resurrection of Christ and called on Him to be their Saviour they were called Christians. Today, Christianity is a wide-sweeping term with many traditions using the name "Christian", but, in the true Biblical sense, to become a Christian a person must personally call on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

> "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Romans 10:9

Here is what it takes to be a Christian:

First, recognize that you have sinned against the holiness and goodness of God.

This was the confession of King David:

> "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin *is* ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, *and* be clear when thou judgest (Psalm 51:3-4).

Second, repent of your sin with heart-felt sorrow.

> "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.
>
> Now when they heard *this,* they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?
>
> "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:36-38).

Third, receive the Lord Jesus by personal faith trusting in His name and His work for full salvation.

It is not enough to know these truths. Each person must come personally to the Lord in prayer calling on His name to be saved from sin.

> "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).
>
> "See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:36-37).

Fourth, trust completely in the life, the death and the resurrection of Christ for the assurance of salvation. To totally trust in Christ as Lord and Saviour is the essential thing because it places the entire work of your salvation and your eternal welfare into the hands of Christ. Your soul will be in good hands for the Lord promises to give eternal life to every one who calls on Him for salvation.

The Lord Jesus said,

> "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise [for no reason] cast out" (John 6:37).
>
> "Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye

Christianity Changes Society by Changing Hearts.

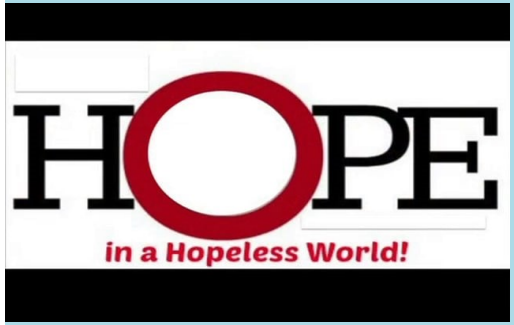
When a person believes on the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour he or she receives a new heart and is empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a new life—a victorious life over sinful lusts and worldly desires.

> "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2Corinthians 5:17).

The Lord doesn't save us *in* our sins, He saves us *from* our sins.

The Lord reigns as King within the hearts of His people to give them victory over sin. He told a woman who had committed adultery to "go and sin no more." With the same power by which the Lord raised Lazarus from the physical corruption of the grave, He raises up sinful souls from moral corruption to walk in the power of a new life. The law of God becomes the believer's rule of life and his delight as he learns to please God.

> "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1Corinthians 6:11).
> "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace (Romans 6:14).



Christianity is the answer to the systemic problems of moral corruption in communities and nations.

The corruption that takes place in political life, on the streets and in domestic life is the result of sin's destructive powers in the heart of man. Because Christ changes hearts He changes lives, which changes societies. Wherever Christianity takes root there is a genuine moral uplift in society. Where gospel truth is taught and received with open hearts, self denial is practiced, pride and malice are put away. Better people make better societies. While the Lord's chief gift to believers is eternal life, He also empowers His converts to live a new life in this world.

> "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).

The hope of this world is that Christ's saving power be preached and believed on.

To reject the power of the gospel of Christ to change your heart is to plunge your soul into spiritual darkness and one day into everlasting destruction.

> "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whore-mongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." (Revelation 21:8).

If men will not have Christ in this life, and confess Him before men, He will not have them on the judgment day.

> "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven."
> "But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32-33).

Christianity is Based on the Bible and Its Promises of Eternal Life.

To become a Christian you must claim the promises of the Lord that are found in His word, the Bible. You can put your finger on the page of Scripture and claim the word of God as your own. Faith comes to hearts through reading and hearing the Bible.

In His word, the Lord promises to give you a new heart.

> "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36;26).

In His word, the Lord promises to forgive all of your sins, past, present and future.

> "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.
>
> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
>
> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1John 1:7–9).

In His word, the Lord promises to give you eternal life.

> "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.
>
> For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.
>
> He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:16-18).

In His word, the Lord promises to save all that come to Him for salvation.

> "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out (John 6:37).
>
> "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10:13).

It is essential that you claim the promises of the Lord for your own salvation. To know these things in your head will not do. It is only when you claim the promises of the Lord for your life and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ to receive Him as your Saviour that you will be saved from sin. Do not put it off. The promises of God for salvation through Christ are for today, not tomorrow.

> "For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Bow your knee to the Lord Jesus Christ today and pray to be saved. Call on the Lord to wash away your sins. Receive Him as your Lord and your Saviour and He will save your soul.

> "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;
>
> That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that "God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:8 -10).

In this introduction to Bible Christianity, many Bible quotes have been given so you may read the plain statements of the Bible for yourself. If you would like a copy of the Bible, or personal help to further understand the message of Christianity, please contact us.

We also invite you to attend our church services where you can hear more about the gospel message that will lead you to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who alone has the power to change your life and save your soul.

You will be warmly received at any of our church services and we will gladly assist you in your interest to know the Lord and His so great salvation.

To learn more about Bible Christianity:

- **Attend our Sunday Services at 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.**
  Pastor Ian Goligher.
- **Join our church services by live webcast on our website at www.cloverdalefpc.ca during our service times.**
- **Listen to our Radio Ministry Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**
  Weekdays at 5 a.m. & 5 p.m. on Radio Kari 550 AM
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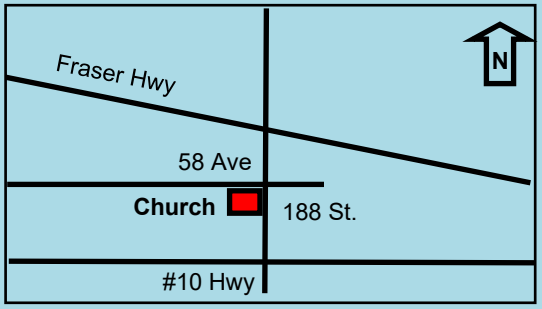
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