
Christianity: The Only Logical Religion

Week **1**: *3 Foundational Questions*

Week **2**: *The Hand of Salvation*

Week **3**: *A Closer Look at the Hand of
Salvation*

Week **4**: *Jesus Christ Paid the Price*

Week **5**: *John Fichtner's Testimony*

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Key	
	Unit or Week
	Take Notes
	Discussion
	Answers

SESSION OBJECTIVE:

TO BEGIN TO INVESTIGATE CHRISTIANITY ON A PURELY LOGICAL BASIS

In this series
I am going to ask every one of you,
Non-Christians and Christians,
To INVESTIGATE Christianity
On a Purely Logical Basis

- Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the _____"
- Jesus is always logical
- Jesus always has clear, point for point answers
- In that clarity there's an order
- He is the God who created mathematics, physics, seasons, etc
- It's real important for every Christian to not only have experienced Jesus Christ, but at the same time to have solid, clear, logical answers to questions ('What is salvation?', 'Why I believe what I believe', etc)
- It is the greatest and only truth available to all people

Emotions

- Emotions are _____
- The study of the soul, Psychology, is an immense field which indicates that healthy individuals have mind, will, and emotion all going in the same direction with great clarity.
- Everyone has _____
- Your strongest areas of emotion are the indicators of what you have the _____ to.
- Examples: marriage, kids, worship, etc
- The only time emotions are dangerous is when your emotional, deep commitment to a subject causes you to _____.
- Example: Non-Christians who are irrational when it comes to Christianity
- Choose: I will not let emotion force me to not listen to truth

Three Questions

Question #1

Is the question, "Where will I spend eternity?" worth investigating?

- ➔ Even if there's only a millionth chance that we don't cease and desist, or a billionth chance that we really are eternal beings, is it worth investigating on a purely logical basis? Yes!
- ➔ How much? Is there any other subject or any other combination of subjects that are as important as this question on a purely logical basis? No, not at all!
- ➔ So therefore on a purely logical basis, I should put more energy and time and investigation into the issue of where will I spend eternity than my career, my marriage, my finances, etc.

The First Thing Jesus Said About Himself

- ➔ **John 14:6** - Jesus said, 'I am the (*only*) way . . . no one comes to the Father except through me.'
- ➔ If the question, 'Where will I spend eternity?' is worth investigating, do you _____ investigate Jesus Christ?
- ➔ Most religions have a root belief that man can somehow, someday, by some effort of his own reach perfection.
- ➔ Examples: Hinduism, Communism, New Age, etc.
- ➔ On the other side you have Christianity, which says that a perfect, holy God loves and must deal with a sinful man and that He took the form of man, came to earth for the purpose of dying, chose to receive all of the punishment that man deserved, and didn't take the issue of the evil of man and brush it under the carpet. He said, lets _____ it. After dying on the cross, He rose from the dead. No religion comes close.
- ➔ You cannot say that Jesus Christ was a good man or a moral teacher. He was either Lord of all or He was a nut, because He said 'I'm the only way'.

The Second Thing Jesus Said About Himself

→ "I am the . . . (*only*) truth . . ."

→ Examples of Truth

- Liberty Church visitors and tape series (Marriage, Parenting, etc)
- Books in a Christian vs. secular bookstore on marriage (you'll find lots in a Christian bookstore and few in secular stores, but secular stores have bookcases full on divorce)
- Four Personality Giftings seminars are given in seminars all across the country, and people don't know they're straight out of the Bible

Question #2

Can you have correct _____ and wrong
_____?

→ Obviously, yes.

→ If your emotions are bound up in one single fact (examples), you *can't* have truth.

→ To have truth you have to first get all the facts and all the perspectives. Even if you have all the facts, you have to assess them in the _____ and order.

→ Example: Christians who are hypocrites

The Third Thing Jesus Said About Himself

→ "I am the . . . (*only*) life . . ."

Question #3

Is a logical conclusion _____?

→ The best field for clear, logical thinking is the medical field.

→ They use the scientific method which requires certain things.

→ Example: solving downs syndrome

Truth	Life
1. _____ conclusion (research, logic, principles)	1. _____ conclusion (evidence, test cases, proof)
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____

Examples: Smallpox vaccine, Colon cancer, HIV, Smoking



Take Notes:

What This Means

In any person who espouses any philosophy or religion, they must pass the test of having logical, clear answers for:

1. Why they believe what they believe
2. Having a life that's _____

Examples: Philosophy, Mormons, Muslims, Christianity

2 More Thoughts

1. For a non-Christian to evaluate Christianity, they must evaluate the logic of Christianity and they must evaluate the _____.
 - ➔ They should find the healthiest church and be in that church every service for 6 months to a year. Will non-Christians do that? No. They're irrational. Why won't they? Because Christianity won't try to smooth over sin. Man's first reaction is to hide.
2. John 15:25, 22-24 – they hated Jesus without any sense of logic. Jesus gave them all the logical and empirical proof they could want!

Discussion Questions

Questions for Non-Christians

1. Have you ever studied Christianity from a purely logical basis before? Why or why not?

2. Would you be willing to investigate the lives of Christians in a healthy church as part of your evaluation of Christianity? Why or why not? _____

Questions for Christians and Non-Christians

3. What points of logic did you learn in this teaching that helped with your understanding of Christianity? _____

4. CHALLENGE QUESTION: Think about and write down the main logical truths that either brought you to faith (or that you believe that you would have to come to in order to have faith). _____

ANSWERS:

¹ truth ² not illogical ³ strong emotions ⁴ deepest commitment ⁵ refuse to listen to truth ⁶ have to ⁷ resolve ⁸ facts ⁹ conclusions ¹⁰ correct priority ¹¹ enough proof ¹² theoretical ¹³ empirical ¹⁴ principle ¹⁵ proof ¹⁶ verbal ¹⁷ visual ¹⁸ different ¹⁹ people

SESSION OBJECTIVE:

TO UNDERSTAND THE FIVE KEY TRUTHS OF THE GOSPEL

The Hand of Salvation



1. Heaven is a _____



2. Man is a _____

a. History - not a pretty picture:

- More common in history to find times people were murderous than times that were not.
- If man thinks they can do something evil and get away with it, always, if given the opportunity, the inclination of his heart is toward evil.
- Every nation that ever got prosperous got _____.
- If you are of the opposite persuasion (which every other religion is), that the inclination of man's heart is toward good, you have to ignore all of history.

b. Children

- The Christian perspective is that children are born with a bent toward selfishness. There must be affirmation and discipline.
- If man is good, the logical conclusion is let children do what they want.



2. Man is a Sinner Cont'd

- c. Grand Canyon Between Every Other Religion
- Every other religion has as it's core that man can _____ himself, that man's inclination is to do good
 - On the other side is Christianity which says man will do as much evil as he can
- d. Acknowledged Need - _____
- Ephesians 2:1
 - You're like a living dead person



3. God is _____ and God is the _____

- a. Every other religion _____
- I John 4:8
- b. _____
- People say, "I can't believe God didn't fix this or didn't stop this".
 - The essence of love is that love is a gift and God must give us a choice
- c. He must deal with all issues _____ or _____
- d. The big question: "How can an all-loving all-powerful God allow such pain on the earth?"
- When a single wrong has happened, who decided that this is worse than any other wrong that's ever happened? The person.
 - At the same time, in their own life of sin, they decided God should butt out
 - If you say, "I want to resolve my situation", that's available. If you tell God, "You should remove all evil", God says "I will one day deal with all evil".



4. Jesus Christ _____ the



5. You must _____

- a. _____ of _____
- b. A place in heaven forever
- c. _____
- d. A new _____
 - Righteousness
 - 'Right' = a single action ('you did right, you did wrong')
 - 'eous' = having a characteristic or habit or lifestyle of being right
 - 'ness' = having the _____ or _____.
 - When man sinned he turned away from God and his soul became bent toward evil
 - When the price is paid, not only are you given forgiveness of sins, heaven, and sonship, but He takes something deep in your heart and gives you a _____.
 - Examples from history
 - Lordship - question, 'If it's a gift I can do whatever I want, right?' The gift is more than a toy. You are changed from a depraved slave to sin, and your heart wants to do right all the time.

Summary

1. Heaven is a free gift
2. Man is a sinner
3. God is love and God is the judge
4. Jesus Christ paid the price
5. You must respond



The thumb is different from all other appendages. The thumb is a special appendage. Heaven is a free gift is the _____ gospel, and each of the other points just expands or explains the gospel.

How the Other Points Explain Heaven is A Free Gift

2. Man is a sinner - heaven is a free gift means that you can _____
_____ your own debt (Examples: gift illustration, debtors prison)
3. God is love and God is the judge
 - a. God is love = God takes _____
 - b. God is the judge = you must be _____.
 - ➔ Huge point - everyone believes Heaven is a perfect place. God as the judge guards the gates of heaven and says, "No one but perfect people enter here."
 - ➔ The issue is never who's done more right? The only issue is, have you done _____?
 - ➔ The person who says "I can't believe the serial murderer can say a prayer with their last breath and go to heaven" is actually saying "I've done more right than them". It avoids the real question. The question is, "Are you perfect?"
 - ➔ 10 million sins short of perfect or 10 trillion sins short of perfect, you've got no hope of getting back to perfect.
 - ➔ The 'goody two shoes' who says they can't believe the serial murderer can go to heaven is accusing God and saying, "The life and the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is not enough to pay for that man's sin." There's an arrogance and lack of logic.
 - ➔ You can't use good things to cancel out bad things.
 - ➔ Matt 5:48, Heb 12:23, 10:14.

Concluding Scriptures

- ✓ Romans 5:15-17 – look for the word “gift”.
- ✓ Ephesians 2:1-9



Take Notes:

Discussion Questions

1. What new things did you learn about salvation through this teaching? _____

2. What is your reaction to the notion that 'man is a sinner'? Do you agree or disagree with the statement? _____

3. Regarding the question "How can an all-loving all-powerful God allow pain on the earth", what did you learn about the answer to this question through this teaching? _____

4. Describe in your own words the new nature God gives you at salvation. _____

5. CHALLENGE QUESTION: Write down any objections you might have to salvation, and compare the objections to the five main points of salvation mentioned in this sermon.

ANSWERS:

¹ free gift ² sinner ³ evil ⁴ improve ⁵ emptiness ⁶ Love ⁷ Judge ⁸ believes this
⁹ Free will ¹⁰ justly ¹¹ equally ¹² paid ¹³ price ¹⁴ respond ¹⁵ forgiveness ¹⁶ sins
¹⁷ sonship ¹⁸ nature ¹⁹ nature ²⁰ desire ²¹ new nature ²² whole ²³ never repay
²⁴ initiative ²⁵ perfect ²⁶ any wrong

SESSION OBJECTIVE:

TO GAIN GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF TWO POINTS OF THE GOSPEL

Review and Expand What Was Covered Last Week

1. The Five Major Overview Points
 - a. Heaven is a Free Gift
 - b. Man is a Sinner
 - c. God is love and God is the judge
 - d. Jesus Christ paid the price
 - e. You must respond
2. Two Books
 - a. More Than a Carpenter by Josh McDowell
 - b. Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis
3. Sixteen Sub-Points
 - b. Man Is a Sinner
 - i. History
 - ii. Raising Children
 - iii. Christianity is the only religion that says the tendency of man's heart is toward sin
 - iv. Acknowledged need (emptiness) - *expansion of this point*
 - Parable of two men
 - The rope represents Jesus in both situations, the only difference in the second situation is the man _____
_____.
 - This is the biggest issue of how people respond to the gospel
 - This is the reason people get saved
 - Does this mean that you must experience great failures in your life in order to come to Christ? _____.
 - It is true that you can have awful circumstances that awaken you to your need for God, but just as much and maybe better is the person who is doing great but realizes they need more of life.



- You can be just as empty when everything in life is successful as you can be when everything has failed.
 - Acknowledging your need during success is more permanent
 - Example of prison ministry
 - You're not ready to give your life to Jesus until you're willing to look at sin and say you don't want it
- v. You cannot earn this gift.
- c. God is love and God is the judge
- i. Every religion believes this
 - ii. God is love means "free choice" – *expansion of this point*
 - You will meet many non-Christians who will say, "Well I believe God will fix it all after we all day."
 - They believe that while they're on the earth, they get free choice; after they die they expect God to override their free will
 - God wants you to _____
 - iii. God will judge all things equally – the essence of self-righteousness is *rating* sins. The worst sins are the ones I've never done!
 - iv. The big question – how can an all-loving all-powerful God allow pain on the earth? Why doesn't He remove it? The answer is – He will.
 - v. God takes initiative
 - vi. You must be perfect
- d. Jesus Christ Paid the Price
- e. You Must Respond
- i. Forgiveness of sins
 - ii. Heaven
 - iii. Sonship
 - iv. A new nature
 - v. You can turn it down

TODAY

Two More Thoughts on Man is a Sinner

Two More Thoughts on God is Love and God is the Judge

Man Is A Sinner

- **Matthew 5:20** - if you were the average Jew and heard that unless you were more righteous than the Pharisees, you had no chance of going to heaven, what would your response be? Forget it, it's hopeless.
- The root concept for how the Pharisees thought they would go to heaven was by being a "good person".
- This is the single greatest passage where Jesus says, "You think you can go to heaven by being a good person? Okay, let's talk about it."
- The rest of this chapter answers people who say, "I will get to heaven by being a good person".
- **Matthew 5:21-48**
 - ✓ "I've never murdered anyone" - Jesus says if you ever once get angry, irritated, or just get mad, you can go to hell just for that. If you use sarcasm just once, you can go to hell for that.
 - ✓ You have to be innocent in _____ you've ever been in.
 - ✓ "I've never cheated on my wife" - Jesus said one lustful thought is enough to send you to hell.
 - ✓ Divorce - if you want to be perfect, you can't ever have a divorce.
 - ✓ Have you ever once not kept your word? You have to keep your word in every situation if you want to be perfect enough to go to heaven.
 - ✓ Jesus said, "You want to be good enough to go to heaven? It's not enough to be a 'nice person'. You've got to _____ those who _____ you.
 - ✓ "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Two Points

1. Definition of Sin/Sin Count - anything in your motives, thoughts, or actions that is not _____, _____, or _____.
2. Jesus Died for Me/I _____

God is Love and God is the Judge – 2 Points

1. Every human _____ - two assumptions in it:
 - a. There is a _____. Genesis 18:25
 - b. Wrongs must be _____. Exodus 34:7.Every human being is appealing to God the judge.

2. _____
 - a. If God is only love, how many people go to heaven? _____
 - b. If God is only the judge, how many people go to heaven? _____

What does it mean to say God is love?

- God created laughter
- God created beauty
- God created hunger for relationship

What does it mean to say God is the judge?

- Every time you've been wronged you cried out for justice
- Every person cries out for resolution of issues
- Every person cries out for answers

The only way God can be fully love and fully the judge
Is if every single sin is paid for in full.



Discussion Questions

1. Do you believe it's easier for someone to come to Christ after they've been through difficult times, or if their life is going pretty good? Why or why not? _____

2. **(Please answer if you are a Non-Christian)** Have you believed that you could get to heaven by being a good person? What did you learn in this teaching about the fallacy of this way of thinking? _____

3. **(Please answer if you are a Christian)** Have you ever thought of looking at Jesus on the cross and saying, "That's what I deserved?" How would that affect your relationship with Jesus? _____

4. What did you learn the most out of the section on God is love and God is the judge?

5. CHALLENGE QUESTION: Ask people how they think they can get to heaven, and record how many of them believe it is through some variation of being a good person. _____

ANSWERS:

¹ Recognized his need ² No ³ ask ⁴ every human conflict ⁵ love ⁶ abuse ⁷ pure
⁸ perfect ⁹ innocent ¹⁰ Deserved that ¹¹ argument ¹² right and wrong ¹³ punished
¹⁴ If only ¹⁵ Everybody ¹⁶ No one

SESSION OBJECTIVE:

TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANT FOR JESUS CHRIST TO PAY THE PRICE FOR SALVATION

Review the Hand of Salvation

1. Heaven is a Free Gift
2. Man is a Sinner
3. God is love and God is the judge
4. Jesus Christ paid the price
5. You must respond



Three Points Under Jesus Christ Paid the Price

1. The _____ - it's a bloody book. There are so many sacrificial offerings. To this day, the Jews wait for the rebuilding of their temple so they can reinstitute animal sacrifice. The whole subject of Jesus Christ paid the price - the logic of it is proven by the fact that God spent 4000 years saying, "This is my chosen people, and through them I'm going to send a message - that is that no sinful man can by his own merit stand before a holy God and enter into a perfect heaven." Over and over He said, "When you sin, an innocent one must give their life for you."
 - a. _____ - the effort of God to prepare you for the Messiah.
 - b. The _____ - there are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament about the Messiah? Do you realize the depth of detail?
 - The Messiah would be born a virgin
 - He'll be born in Bethlehem
 - Traced down the lineage
 - His side will be pierced
 - He will be sold for 30 pieces of silver
 - A friend will betray Him

Jesus Christ Paid the Price

- They will pierce his hands and feet (before crucifixion was invented)
- Not one of his bones will be broken (they pierced his hands right between the bones and his ankles right between the bones)
- Psalm 22 – they divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing
 - ✓ That's impossible – dividing garments means equal distribution by number.
 - ✓ If you divide garments, you say one for you, one for you, etc. but casting lots means gambling for the whole lot.
 - ✓ There was apparently one more piece of his clothing than there were soldiers. They said lets roll the dice for this one.
- Daniel 9 – from the time of the decree to restore and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem to the time the Messiah is cut off from his people for their sins will be 483 years. From the time Cyrus made the decree to restore the walls of Jerusalem, exactly 483 years later Jesus Christ rode into Jerusalem.
- Paper Trails – in court cases they talk about paper trails to prove a point. This was a paper trail of the greatest magnitude!
- By the Science of Probability, the chances of just 48 of those prophecies being fulfilled by one person is 1 in 10^{157} .
 - ✓ A trillion is 10 with 12 0's.
 - ✓ A quadrillion is 10 with 15 0's.
 - ✓ A quintillion is 10 with 18 0's.
 - ✓ The chance of one man fulfilling all of these prophecies is a 10 with 157 0's behind it.
- Isaiah 53 – I can never quote this chapter and let my mind wander.



Take Notes:

- Luke 24:25-27 – a six hour walk Jesus took with his disciples on Easter Sunday.

2. Jesus Is _____
 - a. Why is that important and why is it a point of logic?
 - b. The dying of an innocent one in the place of sinful man is not something that God would _____.
 - c. Four Scriptures
 - John 1:1,14
 - John 8:58
 - John 20:28
 - Philippians 2:6,10
3. The Bible is _____
 - a. Josh McDowell's *More Than a Carpenter*
 - b. Three historical tests of authenticity of a book
 - c. He exposes the hypocrisy of historians
 - d. He gives three examples of books that historians openly acknowledge as accurate word for word
 - e. The highest number of ancient manuscripts of any book is the Iliad, which has 640 manuscripts. There are over 20,000 manuscripts of the New Testament.
 - f. The Dead Sea Scrolls have proven in detail the accuracy of the Old Testament.
 - g. The gap was only 80 years. Some of the oldest manuscripts are from 130 A.D.
 - h. No book has been more scrutinized as much as the Bible. The Bible is the most cohesive, pure, irrefutable book that's ever existed in the history of mankind.
 - i. Historically, it's the most accurate book ever written.
 - j. Even to this day, there may be minor errors. We don't say that this book is word for word the Word of God, the ancient manuscripts are.
 - k. I've never seen a person who criticizes the Bible who's ever _____ the Bible.
 - l. If the Bible's accurate, what are you going to do with the _____ of Jesus Christ?


 **Discussion Questions**

1. Which of the prophecies impacted you the most and why? _____

2. What did you learn about the Bible's reliability from this teaching? _____

Questions For Non-Christians

3. CHALLENGE QUESTION: Ask yourself if you are ready to make a decision for Christ. Sit down and talk with a Christian about it. _____

 **ANSWERS:**
¹ Entire Old Testament ² Blood Sacrifices ³ Prophecies ⁴ God ⁵ delegate
⁶ reliable ⁷ read ⁸ resurrection

SESSION OBJECTIVE:

TO HEAR HOW ONE MAN FOUND SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

Please listen to this testimony
and write down any notes that you want to.



Take Notes:

 **Discussion Questions**

1. What did you learn from hearing John's testimony? _____

2. CHALLENGE QUESTION: Share your testimony with someone this week, and ask them to tell you theirs. If they don't know the Lord, share the Lord with them. _____
