



50 Days of Wisdom

Volume 1: Days 1-50

Introduction:

Regardless of which side of the cross you stand on, a proper spiritual diagnosis is essential because Satan's greatest deception of all is convincing people that they are Christians when in fact they are not. That is by far Satan's utmost deception because it's eternal. That's why 2 Corinthians 13:5 says, *"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves."* What could be more devastating than standing before Jesus someday and hearing the words, *"I never knew you; depart from me"* (Matthew 7:23)?

Scripture tells us that God's kingdom is only made up of people who understand that they are spiritually bankrupt, who mourn that condition, who are gentle or meek, who hunger and thirst for righteousness and holiness, who are merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, and who have been persecuted for His sake. The supernaturally transformed kingdom citizen embodies these divine characteristics. That is known as the beatitude attitude. The beatitudes demonstrate the divine qualities that Jesus claims all members of His kingdom must exhibit. Jesus tells us that theirs is the kingdom of heaven; they shall be comforted, they will inherit the earth, they will be satisfied or filled, they shall receive mercy, they will see and know God, and they will be called the Sons of God. *"For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* Matt 5:10. There are no exceptions. Anything short of that is Satan's lie, and the world is filled with people who have fallen for that lie.

If that description of a kingdom citizen does not describe your Christian experience, there is no need to despair. You now comprehend the expectations of a truly saved life. Until then, you must seek and beg for God's miraculous gift of salvation, which will cultivate the divine beatitude attitude that our Lord describes. God has given us free will, and therefore He will not force it on anyone who does not want it. So, you must cry out to God and beg for salvation in desperation.

However, if you have determined that you are a Christian who has the divine attitude and characteristics of a kingdom citizen, then well done! You have been born and delivered into the spiritual kingdom. Jesus said, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* John 3:3. Understand that God has planted a precious and holy seed in your heart, and it requires your protection, feeding, watering, and cherishing. The goal is to grow that seedling into a mighty tree, which will then produce much spiritual fruit. The supernatural fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control.

So be a good and faithful Christian, and understand that you are now part of the School of Christ Jesus. The Bible is your divine text book, and the world is your classroom. The Holy Spirit, who indwells you as a temple, serves as your resident truth teacher and personal interpreter, as He is

the author of the kingdom manual known as the Bible. Class is now in session, and skipping school will lead to being a clueless and therefore useless Christian. Also, be very careful who you choose as your spiritual mentor, because feeding on spiritual junk food (false teachings) will create a malnourished Christian.

Now, what follows is for everyone, regardless of which side of the cross you stand on. Of course, non-Christians will be limited without the indwelling Holy Spirit. However, the Christian must understand that in order to spiritually grow and mature, it is essential to obtain daily spiritual nourishment (soul food) from the Word. In order to grow in strength, a Christian must daily exercise their spiritual muscles in the world. Therefore, to become like Christ, a Christian must immerse themselves every day in God's Word and engage in spiritual conduct. God provides the circumstances of life, and blending those circumstances with the input of the Word brings about the maturation of the saints.

What is the ultimate purpose of this eBook? Its goal is to assist you with achieving a new level of Christlikeness every single day. In other words, *"that we all, with an unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."* 2 Corinthians 3:18.

[By Mark Paul](#)

Let's pray.

We pray, Lord, for those who may not know Christ, who have not entered the kingdom, that they would come to this place of recognition of their spiritual bankruptcy, that they would grieve over their sin, and in meekness and humility demonstrate a hunger and thirst for righteousness that only you can give. And, Lord, for Christians, help us to renew the commitment to be humble and meek. Take pride out of our lives and self-will, our own purposes, our own plans, and our own petty desires, and may we be consumed with that which brings you honor and glory, and may we realize our weakness and infirmity. Only in your power can we accomplish anything. We yield to that. Use us mightily with your power. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

The Truth in Love,

Mark Paul – (Servant of God)

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How to Use This eBook:

Simply read one message each morning. *(For a further understanding of the message content and context, click on the provided web link at the end of each message.)*

Starting each morning in this way is how you *"walk and talk with God in the cool of the day"* (Genesis 3:8), just like Adam and Eve did in the garden.

This process yields many benefits:

1. The early morning Bible study will be your spiritual breakfast (manna), which will nourish your soul throughout the day.
2. The early morning Bible study will fill your Holy Spirit's sails and propel your spiritual ship in the right direction throughout the day.
3. The early morning Bible study is the method that God uses to speak to you personally as the Word comes down through the Bible study.
4. Since prayer is the method that man uses to communicate with God by sending up his thoughts and concerns, the early morning Bible study sermon will put you in prayer mode throughout the entire day.
5. The early morning Bible study will produce many questions but will also provide all the answers. *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you."* Matthew 7:7.
6. The early morning Bible study is a demonstration of honoring and worshiping God.
7. Each Bible study guarantees your transformation into a more spiritually mature Christian through the renewal of your mind (Romans 12:2).
8. By following this process each morning, you will not only hear God speak directly to your heart through these messages, but you will soon become a mature, cast-iron soldier, saint, servant, and son or daughter of the Most High God.

Additional Notes:

1. It is recommended to share one message each day with your family, perhaps during mealtime.
2. To maximize concentration while listening to the audio files, it is helpful to read along with the audio transcript.
3. It is also beneficial to cut and paste transcript texts that are important to you while listening and then re-read those texts in the evening.
4. Please share this eBook with others; however, altering this content in any way is not permitted.

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Day 1

The Cure for the Deadliest Virus

All people are sinners by nature and by action. We are born alienated from God, who is holy, cannot look upon sin, and cannot fellowship with sinners. Sin prevents us from knowing God, and the result of that alienation is Godlessness, and the result is eternity in hell. The deadliest virus in the world is not the HIV virus; it is the SIN virus. It kills everyone it infects. There is no cure for the HIV virus, but there is a cure for the SIN virus. God has made it possible for sinners to be cured so they can be reconciled to God and have eternal fellowship in His presence now and forever. We do not need to suffer through this life without God and to suffer eternal torment without God in the life to come because reconciliation is possible. How? One brief sentence solves this most profound dilemma. *"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf."* 2 Cor 5:21. The only way that reconciliation could ever occur is if God reached out to sinners, which He did. Jesus went to the cross because God planned it, purposed it, and designed it as the absolutely necessary means by which alone reconciliation with God could take place. It is the purest and profoundest wisdom with which the infinitely holy God could devise a plan consistent with His infinite holiness to reconcile utterly wicked sinners to Himself. God initiated it because He loved us, and He Himself designed a way for sinners to have fellowship with Him now and forever. The good news is that you do not have to appease God or figure out a plan of reconciliation because the price of your sin has been paid by Jesus, and God now offers you forgiveness and reconciliation. How can you be cured? Jesus says, *"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."* Matt 11:28. Repent and believe!

[GTY.org \(47-39\)](http://GTY.org) – **Fifteen Words of Hope** – [TOC](#)

Day 2

Why Will You Die in Your Sin?

Jesus said, *"I go away, and you shall seek Me, and you shall die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come."* John 8:24. The question is: Why will you die in your sin? Dying in your sins, without forgiveness or payment for your sins, is the ultimate tragedy! People who reject Jesus Christ die in their sins and consequently face an eternity of unrelenting punishment. How can you die for your sins? 1. Be self-righteous; just believe that you are good enough the way you are. 2. Be worldly; just carry on with your love affair with the worldly system of evil. 3. Refuse to believe the great truths concerning Christ. 4. Love your sin so much that you choose the darkness and therefore remain willfully ignorant. But to do this, you are going to have to stumble over the cross of Christ because you know the gospel. Jesus, the God-man, came down from heaven to die on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins. Reject the work of Christ, and you will never go to the place where Jesus dwells. How can you not die in your sin? Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(80-167\)](http://GTY.org)

– **Four Ways to Miss Heaven** – [TOC](#)

Day 3

Great News for the Man in the Box!

Imagine a little box, utterly closed in on all sides. That represents man's world. Inside the box, man exists in a natural world. Outside the box is the supernatural. Outside is eternity. Outside is God. Man bangs around inside his little cube; it has no windows, so he speculates about what is outside. He searches to know God, but it is impossible for him to escape, for by very definition, the natural cannot enter into the supernatural. The confinement of time and space prevents any escape into eternity and infinity. So, man is confined in his little cubicle, but there is something in him that longs to comprehend what is outside. And so he invents gods that he thinks exist, and all of these are part of man's fantasy, as he wishes so desperately to get out of his box. But he cannot. All of the religions in the world tell him he can. They say, *"Just be a good person, and you will burst out of your little box and discover God. Just be sure that you fulfill these routines and rituals, and you will escape and meet God."* But it is all a lie because man is confined by his very nature. And that is where Christianity enters the scene. Christianity acknowledges that man is unable to get out of his box, and Christianity says, *"Good news!"* God has invaded the box from the outside. God has entered in to tell us what is out there and to tell us how we too can dwell out there in His presence forever. Man couldn't get out, but God could get in. And that is exactly what God did. He gave us this revelation in Scripture, and He also gave us this revelation in human flesh, Jesus Christ. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(45-03\)](http://GTY.org) – **The Promise and Person of the Good News** – [TOC](#)

Day 4

Why Christians Believe While Others Reject

People reject the Bible (the Word of God) because it seems foolish, offensive, unreasonable, unattainable, and incomprehensible. Why? Because, in the fall of Adam and Eve, God cast the human race into a condition in which it is impossible by means of human wisdom to come to know God. People cannot know God on their own. God designed it that way, and only God is able to deliver people from that condition. The Bible tells us that the only reason anyone understands the Bible is because God predestined them to eternal glory, and through regeneration and transformation, God gave them belief (faith) in His Son and understanding in the gospel, which is His Word. Why do Christians trust the Bible while non-Christians do not? Because the Bible is a living book designed for those who have been brought to spiritual life by God. How can God bring you to spiritual life? Recognize that you are a sinner in need of a savior, and cry out to Jesus to rescue you from the condition that makes the Bible seem foolish. *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."* *Matt 7:7*. Who believes the Bible? Those who are God's, and it is all a divine work. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(90-322\)](http://GTY.org) – **Why Christians Believe While Others Reject** – [TOC](#)

Day 5

What is Spiritual Death?

Physical death means you cannot react to physical stimuli, and it doesn't matter what the stimulus is. Spiritual death is the same thing in the spiritual realm. It means that no matter what happens in a divine sense or what God says, you don't understand it because you are not receiving those impulses. You exist in a state of detachment from God, unable to receive assistance due to your lack of spiritual awareness. And then, all of a sudden, Jesus Christ reaches down and makes you spiritually alive, and you begin to sense God. Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me."* John 14:6. Now that you are spiritually alive, things begin to make sense. You begin to see what God wants and to think with the thoughts of God. Now a whole new dimension opens up to you, and you are spiritually alive for the first time, which means you are sensitive to God. As a Christian, you now have the ability to do right for the first time in your life because you are alive to God, and you can sense what He is saying and be obedient. Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live (spiritually) even if he dies (physically)."* John 11:25. A spiritual life awaits you. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(1623\)](http://GTY.org) – **Responding to the New Covenant** – [TOC](#)

Day 6

A Bride for His Son

Because God loves His Son, through all of human history, the Father has been gathering people who will make up the one bride for His Son. That is why, when you get to the end of the Bible, believers go to heaven, and it is a bridal city with a great bridal festival, and the whole city is adorned for a wedding. When all the believers of all ages are gathered together in heaven, there is a marriage celebration. God wants His Son to have a bride who will not only serve, love, honor, and glorify Him forever but even reflect His character. If you are a believer (Christian), it is because God gave you to Christ before the world began. The Bible says He wrote your name down as those whom the Father gives to the Son. Believing that we have the final say in that decision is completely incorrect. Believers are love gifts from the Father to His Son. The Father chooses and gives them; the Son receives, keeps, and raises them; and no one is ever lost. God loves us enough to choose us, and Christ loves us enough to keep us and get us to glory. The Son purchased the bride by dying for all the sins of all who believe in Him. How can you become a believer? Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(43-94\)](http://GTY.org) – **The Lord's Greatest Prayer, Part 2** – [TOC](#)

Day 7

The Bible and Science – First Law of Thermodynamics

When the Bible talks about science, it is the Word of God. God is infallible, and His Word is also equally infallible. Critics mock the Scripture, and yet the Bible is scientifically accurate and contains all the basic principles of science. For example, an evolutionist named Herbert Spencer discovered that everything in the universe fits into one of five categories: *time, force, action, space, and matter*. In 1903, he died, having been hailed as a great and brilliant man because he discovered the matrix of existence. What he didn't realize is that the matrix of existence is in the very first verse of the Bible: *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."* Gen 1:1. *In the beginning* (that's time), *God* (that's force), *created* (that's action), *the heavens* (that's space), *and the earth* (that's matter). Genesis 2:2 says, *"God ended the work which God had made."* Once the universe had been created, its processes were designed to operate in an orderly fashion. All energy and matter were sustained by their interplay, so no further creation was needed. God did it all at once when He created the whole matrix of existence. Science calls the complete cessation of creative activity the First Law of Thermodynamics. The Bible calls it creation. To learn more about what God has done. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(55-17\)](http://GTY.org) – **Our God-Breathed Bible – [TOC](#)**

Day 8

Be Transformed

"Be transformed by the renewal of your mind." Rom 12:2. How? By knowing the truth about salvation. Why? *"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* John 8:32. At the time of salvation, you are given a supernatural faith from God to believe the gospel, to believe the testimony of the Holy Spirit concerning Christ, and therefore to believe in Christ. Having come to Christ, you have come to know the true and living God. *"This faith is a supernatural gift from God."* Eph 2:8. It is a gift of grace and mercy, and this gift is a requirement in order to obtain eternal life in heaven. *"Without it, you will not enter heaven."* Matt 5:20. It's time to get busy. Take your eyes off the world and yourself and learn about your Creator. He made you, and He knows what is best for you. You tried it on your own, so now it's time to try it God's way. But first, you must ask for this gift with a sincere heart. God will not force it upon you. *"For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, it will be opened."* Matt 7:8. You have received the keys to the kingdom today. Be transformed. Repent and believe!

[GTY.org \(45-89\)](http://GTY.org) – **The Believer's Supreme Act of Spiritual Worship – [TOC](#)**

Day 9

The Christ We Love

We love Christ, who is the eternal Son, one in nature with the eternal Father and the eternal Spirit, the triune God. We love Christ, who is the Creator and life giver, as well as the sustainer of the universe and all who live in it. We love Christ, who is the virgin-born Son of God and the Son of Man, fully divine and fully human. We love Christ, who is the one whose life on earth perfectly pleased God and whose righteousness is given to all who, by grace through faith, become one with Him. We love Christ, who is the only acceptable sacrifice for sin that pleases God and whose death, under divine judgment, paid in full the penalty for the sins of His people, providing for them forgiveness and eternal life. We love Christ who is alive, having been raised from the dead by the Father, validating His work of atonement, and providing resurrection for the sanctification and glorification of the elect to bring them safely into His heavenly presence. We love Christ, who is at the Father's throne, interceding for all believers. We love Christ, who is God's chosen Prophet, Priest, and King, proclaiming truth, mediating for His church, and reigning over His kingdom forever. We love Christ, who will certainly and suddenly return from heaven to rapture His church, unleash judgment on the wicked, bring promised salvation to the Jews and the nations, and establish His millennial reign on earth. We love Christ, who will, after that earthly reign, destroy the universe, finally judge all sinners and send them to hell, then create the new heavens and the new earth where He will dwell forever with His saints in glory, love, and joy. This is the Christ we love. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(90-488\)](http://GTY.org) – **Calling the Church to Repent, Part 2** – [TOC](#)

Day 10

The Wasteful Son Gave God Joy

God has greatly glorified Himself in the work of creation and providence. All His works praise Him, and His glory shines brightly from them all. But as some stars differ from others in glory, so the glory of God shines brighter in some of His works than in others. And among all these is the work of redemption and His Son's willingness to die for us. The glory of God is most magnificent in this work of redemption, and therefore, God's joy is greatest in redemption. God has done greater things than create the world. What is the greatest thing? To obtain a bride for His Son and the joy of His Son's marriage to her. God's single end in redemption is His own happiness and joy. To live your life to the glory of God and the joy of God, you must be involved in the work of redemption, because that generates joy in heaven, and the celebration over the redemption of every sinner will go on forever. The object of celebration in heaven will not be us; it will be God. Our God, the saving, gracious Father in Christ, used His Son's murder as the means by which He purchased our salvation. It all ends at the cross, where He, in Christ, endured death. He took the shame for us so we could be at the celebration that brings him joy forever. Jesus made this very clear with His parable of the prodigal son who gives God joy. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(GTY104\)](http://GTY.org) – **The Tale of Two Sons** – [TOC](#)

Day 11

Trusting the Truth

Only a deeper understanding of truth can perfect faith. What is faith? Trusting in the truth means believing the truth. Trust increases with an increase in the truth. What gives you the ability to believe God in the midst of everything is that you know God, you know Christ, you know the Spirit, you know the purpose of God, the plan of God, the destiny, and the goal. You understand the doctrines of salvation in all their fullness and richness. You understand the purposes of God as laid out in Scripture, and the more you know about God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the stronger your faith is. The basic key to spiritual growth is growing faith, and faith only grows as an understanding of revealed truth grows. You will gain the most profound understanding of God through Christ, as Christ is the ultimate manifestation of God. The Christian life is one of faith. Greater faith is a result of greater instruction in the truth. Knowledge is the foundation of everything, and knowledge is what produces your trust in God and what drives your love. It really does not matter what happens to us in this world; what matters is what happens to us in the eternal world to come. It is the hope of the return of Christ and seeing Him face-to-face that will drive us toward holiness. Living in anticipation of Jesus' imminent arrival, you strive to find yourself in a place that pleases Him and bestows upon you His greatest blessings. *"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely."* 1 Thes 5:23. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(90-414\)](http://GTY.org) – **Exhortation to a Faithful Church** – [TOC](#)

Day 12

What is Saving Faith?

Martin Luther describes saving faith as a powerful, life-altering force. Listen to the words of Martin Luther: *"O, this faith is a living, busy, active, and powerful thing. It is impossible that it should not be ceaselessly doing what is good. It does not even ask whether good works should be done, but before the question can be asked, it has done them. And it is constantly engaged in doing them. But he who does not do such works is a man without faith. He gropes and casts about him to find faith and good works, not knowing what either of them is, and yet he prattles and idly multiplies words about faith and good works."* "Further," he says, *"faith is a living, well-founded confidence in the grace of God, so perfectly certain that it would die a thousand times rather than surrender its conviction. Such confidence and personal knowledge of divine grace make its possessor joyful, bold, and full of warm affection toward God and all created things, all of which the Holy Spirit works in faith. Hence, such a man becomes without constraint willing and eager to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer all manner of ills in order to please and glorify God who has shown toward him such grace."* End quote. Saving faith is such a powerful, life-altering force. May the force be with you! Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(60-43\)](http://GTY.org) – **The Christian's Duty in a Hostile World, Part 3** – [TOC](#)

Day 13

Why Be Prepared?

The Lord is coming unexpectedly. *"Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come." Matt 24:42.* If the Lord came today, would you be ready? William Barclay records the interesting story of three apprentice demons who came before Satan. And he sent them to Earth to do their apprenticeship. And the first apprentice demon said, *"I will tell people there is no God."* And Satan said, *"It won't work; they know better."* And the second apprentice demon said, *"I will tell people there is no hell."* And Satan said, *"It won't work; they know better."* And the third demon said, *"I will tell people there is no hurry."* And Satan said, *"You will gain many souls."* Today, we're closer to the second coming than we have ever been in human history. Tomorrow may be too late, so be alert, faithful, and ready today. Repent and believe!

[GTY.org \(2374\)](http://GTY.org) – **Ready or Not—Here I Come! Part 2** – [TOC](#)

Day 14

How to Know We Are Saved

A.W. Pink poses this question. *"How may I know my election? Firstly, the divine power of the Word of God penetrates my soul, shattering my self-complacency and leading me to renounce my self-righteousness. Second, by the Spirit's having convicted me of my woeful, guilty, and lost condition. Third, by having revealed to me the suitability and sufficiency of Christ to meet my desperate case and by a divinely given faith, causing me to lay hold of and rest upon Him as my only hope. Fourth, by the marks of the new nature within me. A love for God, an appetite for spiritual things, a longing for holiness, and a seeking after conformity to Christ. Fifth, by the resistance that the new nature makes to the old, causing me to hate sin and loathe myself for it. Sixth, by avoiding everything that is condemned by God's Word and by sincerely repenting of and humbly confessing every transgression. Failure at this point will most surely and quickly bring a dark cloud over our assurance, causing the Spirit to withhold his witness. Seventh, by giving all diligence to cultivate the Christian graces and using all legitimate means to this end, thus the knowledge of election is cumulative."* End quote. It is characteristic of a true believer to obey Jesus Christ. The mark, result, and response of a truly redeemed individual is obedience. *"Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!" 2 Cor 13:5.* Repent and believe!

[GTY.org \(60-4\)](http://GTY.org) – **Chosen by God Part 3** – [TOC](#)

Day 15

Genuine Saving Faith

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There are five things that neither prove nor disprove genuine saving faith. 1. Morality: outward morality is not necessarily true holiness. 2. Intellectual knowledge: knowledge of biblical truth does not equal salvation. 3. Religious Involvement: those who have a form of godliness but have no power. 4. Active Ministry: the Holy Spirit convicts men of sin, righteousness, and judgment and yet convicts many who never repent. 5. Assurance: Just because someone persuades you to be a Christian, it doesn't necessarily mean you are a Christian. These five, in and of themselves, are not sufficient evidence of saving faith. However, the true tests of saving faith are: 1. Love for God: God is your chief happiness, and Christ is your chief joy. 2. Repentance: true repentance involves a constant confession and turning from sin, as well as a state of brokenness and grief over sin. 3. Genuine Humility: There is a meekness that disdains ever offending the Lord or bringing any reproach to His name. 4. Devotion to the Glory of God: You seek the glory of God in everything. 5. Selfless Love: You manifest saving faith in your love for others. 6. Separation from the world: *"If the love of the Father is in you, you will not love the world."* 1 John 2:15. 7. Spiritual Progress: You are experiencing spiritual growth and have a desire to be like Christ. And 8. Obedience: *"If you abide in My word, then you are My real disciple."* John 8:31. Is your saving faith genuine? Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(80-345\)](http://GTY.org) – **Christ Died for God** – [TOC](#)

Day 16

Glorifying God in the Gray Areas

The Bible is quite clear about which activities are explicitly right and which ones are explicitly wrong. But what about those activities that fall in the middle and really pose a difficult problem when it comes to decision-making? When faced with a decision in one of life's gray areas, Christians need to consider these practical questions: Edification: Will this activity produce spiritual benefit? Enslavement: Will this activity lead to spiritual bondage? Exposure: Will this activity expose my mind or body to defilement? Esteem: Will this activity benefit others or cause them to stumble? Evangelism: Will this activity further the cause of the gospel? Ethics: Will this activity violate my conscience? Exaltation: Will this activity bring glory to God? Armed with those basic principles, every believer ought to be able to navigate the gray areas with integrity, protecting their consciences and testimonies without resorting to legalism, isolationism, and other unbiblical responses that can impede the progress of the gospel. The point is, we can make the hard decisions easier if we use these principles. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(80-24\)](http://GTY.org) – **Making the Hard Decisions Easy** – [TOC](#)

Day 17

The Nature of Forgiveness

Our God is a God of forgiveness who forgives eagerly, totally, and lavishly. And of all of the human qualities that make men in any sense like God, none is more divine than forgiveness. Therefore, man is never more like God than when he forgives. *"For if you forgive men their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."* Matt 6:14. However, God's forgiveness of us is based on our forgiveness of others. *"If you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."* Matt 6:15. If you don't forgive, God won't forgive you, and you will have violated the relationship and fellowship that you could enjoy with God. Then God is going to keep His distance from you and put His hand of chastening on you rather than His hand of blessing. *"Whom the Lord loves, He disciplines, and every son He scourges."* Heb 12:6. A believer is never more like God, more like Christ, than when he or she forgives, because that's the nature of God and the nature of Christ, which is most wonderfully applied to us in salvation. Thomas Watson said, *"We need not climb up into heaven to see whether our sins are forgiven. Let us look into our hearts and see if we can forgive others. If we can, we need not doubt that God has forgiven us."* Christlikeness is our goal. Repent and believe. GTY.org (57-1) – **A-Living-Lesson-on-Forgiveness – TOC**

Day 18

The Sufficiency of Christ Alone

The Christian gospel is simply this: All the answers you need for time and eternity are in Christ. All the answers for your soul, your sin, and your hope for life to come are all in Christ and only in Christ. There is no other authority in the Bible; there is no other Savior than Jesus Christ, and you will find everything you could ever desire or need in Him. *"In Him you have been made complete."* Col 2:10. Watch for those who want to corrupt the simplicity of Christ with human wisdom, philosophy, psychology, legalism, rules, rituals, ceremonies, and sacraments that somehow are necessary in their minds to connect you to God. All is in Him—complete transformation, complete forgiveness, complete victory—and you cannot do anything to add to Christ. When you come to Christ, you receive forgiveness of sins, a new nature, a new disposition, and a new heart that loves righteousness. You come to Christ, you die to the past, and you rise to new life. You come to Christ, and you are delivered from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His dear Son. You come to Christ, and you literally come to the truth that transcends, the truth you will never find anywhere except in the Word of God, and even this truth you will never understand until the Spirit of God takes up residence in you and becomes your teacher. Only then will you know the deep things of God. It's all in Christ. All truth, wisdom, knowledge, understanding, peace, joy, value, fulfillment, satisfaction, purpose, deliverance, strength, comfort, and all eternal hope are in Christ. To have Him is to have everything! To not have Him is to have nothing. Repent and believe! GTY.org (90-281) – **The Sufficiency of Christ Alone – TOC**

Day 19

The Most Important Question

What is the most crucial question to address? Who is Jesus Christ? Jesus is God in human flesh. The incarnation is the central miracle of Christianity, where God descended from heaven and became a man. Who is Jesus Christ? Scripture says, He is the one who is in every sense God but who did not regard equality with God something to cling to but emptied Himself of His privileges, prerogatives, and rights and took the form of a servant to serve the purposes of His Father. He came down to become like men and emptied Himself in order to advantage others. But He didn't just come down to be a good example or to show us how men ought to live. Jesus came all the way down to die. This is who He is. This is why He came. Jesus is God, the God-man who came all the way down to die on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins. God was so pleased with His sacrifice that He exalted Him to heaven, made Him Lord overall, and will cause every person who has ever lived and every angel who has ever been created to bow to Him, willingly or unwillingly, either in the joy of heaven or the punishment of hell. How can you obtain the eternal blessing instead of eternal cursing? *"If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."* Rom 10:9. The affirmation of His lordship is the heart of Christianity. He came down that He might go up. All of this, Scripture says, to the glory of God the Father. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(90-280\)](http://GTY.org) – **The Humility and Exaltation of Christ** – [TOC](#)

Day 20

The Power of Unforgiveness and Forgiveness

There is much power in an unforgiving attitude. It makes you a prisoner of your past; it gives you the all-pervasive disease of bitterness, and bitterness is not just a sin; it is an infection, and it will infect your whole life. It opens the door for demons, and it alienates you from the full, rich fellowship that God desires to have with you. It will pollute your life and steal its joy, and you will make yourself a victim of your own past. There is plenty of good reason, then, to be a forgiving person. Forgiveness, on the other hand, dispels bitterness and replaces it with love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control. But what kind of person has the capacity to forgive? Only those who are reconciled to the Lord Jesus Christ forgive because they have the capacity to forgive. Only Christians can really forgive from the heart because their faith is real and they have been given the ability to forgive. They have a new nature; they are a new creation, and the indwelling Spirit gives them that capability. To forgive is to turn the key, open the cell door, and let the prisoner out. The one who forgives is the one who loves the Lord Jesus Christ, loves the saints, loves the fellowship, loves true knowledge, loves the glory of Christ, and loves to be a blessing. That's the character of the kind of people who forgive. Therefore, by the power of God, Christians are compelled to forgive. It is a gift. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(57-2\)](http://GTY.org) – **The Characteristics of One Who Forgives** – [TOC](#)

Day 21

How Can We Forgive?

God commands us to forgive. *"If you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."* Matt 6:14. But how can you dispossess yourself of some of these attitudes of anger, hostility, unforgiveness, and revenge? Begin by seeing the one that you will not forgive as the creation of God. In other words, love that person and forgive them for that of God which is in them. For every one of us is created in the image of God, and though that image is scarred and marred, if I look at a believer who is a Christian, he is therefore holy, and he bears something of the moral image of God. I can then forgive him for that which is of God in them. Or, if I look at an unbeliever who is unholy, he still bears the natural image of God, and I can forgive them for that of God, which is in them. If I can only see the image of God in someone, it will replace my anger and my lack of forgiveness with reverence. Jesus says, *"Love your neighbor as yourself."* Mark 12:31. What does that mean? You are certainly eager to forgive yourself, so love your neighbor as yourself and forgive them. It is exactly that undeserved affection for yourself that makes you aggravate the faults of others who offend you. On the other hand, if you are humble, unselfish, and self-denying, you will see yourself as such a lowly person that no offense against you could be considered significant. Every time somebody offends you, that is a trial or a temptation. If you pass it and you forgive them, it is a trial producing strength. If you fail it and are not forgiving, it is a temptation producing sin. How can you obtain the power to forgive? Repent and believe! GTY.org (57-3) – **The Actions of One Who Forgives** – [TOC](#)

Day 22

God's Last Word to Us

What is the only book in the entire New Testament that was delivered and transmitted by angels? It is the book of Revelation. It is the last book of the Bible, and it is so precious because it is God's last word to us. We do not have anything beyond this in Revelation. What began in the first book of the Bible, Genesis, ends in Revelation. In Genesis, you have the commencement of heaven and earth; in Revelation, the consummation of heaven and earth. In Genesis, you have the entrance of sin and the curse; in Revelation, you have the end of sin and the curse. In Genesis, you have the dawn of Satan and his activities; in Revelation, you have the doom of Satan and his activities. In Genesis, you have the tree of life relinquished; in Revelation, the tree of life is regained. In Genesis, death enters; in Revelation, death exits. In Genesis, sorrow begins; in Revelation, sorrow is banished. In Genesis, paradise is lost; in Revelation, paradise is regained. But most centrally, in Genesis, the Savior is promised; in Revelation, the Savior is preeminent. The essential nature of the book is the revelation. The divine source is God. The central theme is Jesus Christ. The specific recipients are His bondservants, namely believers. The prophetic characters are the things that must shortly take place. Its supernatural delivery comes through angels. Its human agent is John, and it promises spiritual blessings for all who read it. It is the only book that makes such a

promise. Jesus is coming. There is no question about it. And His coming is next in the redemptive plan. Will you be ready when He returns? Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(66-2\)](http://GTY.org) – **Back to the Future, Part 2** – [TOC](#)

Day 23

A Definition of Forgiveness

The book of Philemon is a living lesson on forgiveness. What is forgiveness? Forgiveness is a promise. That's really what it is. It's a promise. It is a promise never to take revenge. It is the opposite of a refusal to forgive, which is a promise to seek revenge. If you want a simple definition of forgiveness, then think of it as a promise never to take revenge. It is a verbally declared promise. It is a statement of love that affirms, *"I hold no anger, I hold no hatred, and I hold no bitterness against you."* And it has a three-fold perspective: I will never bring it up to you, I will never bring it up to anybody else, and I will never bring it up to myself. That's forgiveness. No matter what you have done to me, no matter how you have offended me, I make a promise never to seek revenge. I hold no anger, no hatred, no bitterness; I will never bring it up to you, I will never bring it up to anybody else, and I will never bring it up to me. That's forgiveness. Forgiveness is not possible in the flesh because the flesh wants vengeance. Forgiveness is not possible under the law because the law wants justice. But forgiveness is possible in the spirit by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, working with your spirit, your inner man, and your new nature. Forgiveness becomes possible then because it is the exact same grace that allowed Christ to forgive. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(57-4\)](http://GTY.org) – **The Motives of One Who Forgives** – [TOC](#)

Day 24

How to Walk in Wisdom

It is apparent that many people never finish what they begin. There are unfinished symphonies, unfinished paintings, and sculptures that have never had the finishing touch because, in each case, the master died. There are relationships that never become all that they could be. There are ministries that never really come to fruition. There are dreams that always remain dreams, and there are hopes that always remain hopes. They never materialize into actualities. And I suspect that, for a lot of people, life can be an unfinished symphony. It can be a dream without becoming a reality. It can be an ideal without the truth. But it does not have to be that way. Look at Ephesians 5:15–17. *"Therefore, look carefully at how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. On account of this, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."* Three simple words in the middle of this text make a major statement. It is *"redeeming the time."* If we are ever to turn our dreams into reality, it's going to be when we have redeemed time. God has bound our lives with eternity, and God has

prescribed before we were ever born the time that we were to live, and only as we maximize that time can we maintain its potential for fulfillment. God has given us a time boundary, and within that time, he has defined a course. Hebrews 12:1 says, *"Let us lay aside every weight... and run the race that is set before us."* He is saying that a race awaits us, so for the sake of who you are and for Christ's sake, use your time wisely! Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(1935\)](#) – **Walking in Wisdom, Part 2** – [TOC](#)

Day 25

Do Not Be Anxious

Scripture records the Lord Jesus saying, *"Do not worry, do not be anxious,"* at least twelve times, and then explains why. Anxiety-free living is part of what the Lord offers. It's part of the gospel message. It is what Christians have as kingdom citizens if we want to take it. Fear of dangling in this inexplicable universe, feeling all alone, and not knowing why you are even here or where you are going stresses out the world. We are living in an anxiety-ridden world, and there are underlying subliminal fears and anxieties that rise to the surface very often. The medical community says, *"The goal of any treatment is to make anxiety a manageable part of daily existence."* The best the world can offer you is to manage your anxiety with cognitive behavior therapy or a long list of drugs. But Jesus offers you to eliminate it. Our compassionate God offers a far better solution, and that is the elimination of your anxiety altogether. He says, *"Stop being anxious! Stop worrying! Stop being afraid!"* There are only two realms in which you can worry. You can worry about the physical world, or you can worry about the spiritual world. And that is precisely what Jesus says you don't need to worry about. If you do worry as a Christian, it is a sin because that worry arises from a failure to understand God, His sovereign love, His sovereign care, and His sovereign resources. Jesus offers anxiety-free living. God takes care of you when you enter His kingdom, eliminating the worry that once defined your life. But you have to understand the promises and purposes of God to come to this worry-free, anxiety-free life. How can you have an anxiety-free life? Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(42-172\)](#) – **Anxiety-Free Living, Part 1** – [TOC](#)

Day 26

What is Wisdom?

There are two kinds of wisdom. There is earthly wisdom and heavenly wisdom. Keep in mind that wisdom is the test of true, saving, and living faith. Those who are truly saved, those who genuinely know God, and those who possess a living faith have a certain kind of wisdom. In other words, their spiritual conversion is manifest in their wisdom. Wisdom is evidence of what kind of person you are and I am. And wisdom does not mean knowledge. It does not mean information. It means

the application of knowledge with divine power to the reshaping of life, transforming attitudes, and transforming behavior into righteousness. Wisdom, then, is not what I know; wisdom is how I live. And so how I live, according to the wisdom of God, is a barometer of my spiritual condition. God puts no premium on a wisdom that is cerebral or a wisdom that is creedal. The only premium God has to put on wisdom is the wisdom that transforms life. Wisdom, then, in biblical terms, equals lifestyle and behavior. True wisdom means knowing God in a life-changing relationship. True wisdom is the outworking of a life-changing knowledge of God. The entry into wisdom is through faith in God through Jesus Christ. We are saved into wisdom. Once we come into wisdom, then Scripture becomes the source of wisdom. The Holy Spirit becomes the teacher of wisdom. And if we lack any wisdom, we can what? Ask of God. Repent and believe!

[GTY.org \(59-21\)](#) – **Earthly and Heavenly Wisdom, Part 3** – [TOC](#)

Day 27

The Superiority of Christ

God promised man an eternal inheritance in heaven. But scripture tells us that old covenant animal sacrifices were unable to bring full access to God. It only provided for a limited relationship between man and God, a relationship that was not permanent. The relationship lasted only until the next sin, after which a new animal sacrifice was required to reestablish it. Why? Because "*the wages of sin is death.*" *Romans 6:23*. The bloody and continuous animal sacrifices could not take away man's sin; they could only cover man's sin temporarily. The sacrifices also served to remind man of the ugliness of his sin, which must be removed once and for all if he is to ever have full access to God. That is what everything is designed to do in the new covenant: bring men to God. Jesus came and brought a new and better covenant that gives full access to God on an eternal basis. How? Let me summarize the six steps: 1. God designed and promised an eternal inheritance. 2. The obstacle in the way was sin. 3. The obstacle must be removed. 4. The old covenant could not remove it. 5. There must be a new covenant to remove the obstacle. 6. Christ comes, provides a new covenant, and removes the obstacle. 6. The promise is fulfilled for those who believe. Those are the steps. The good news is that the new covenant was ratified by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and it provided the full salvation that men had been waiting for since the fall of Adam and Eve. How can you gain access to God now and forever? Repent and believe!

[GTY.org \(1621\)](#) – **The New Covenant, Part 3** – [TOC](#)

Day 28

Supernatural Peace

Since Adam and Eve's rebellion, God has alienated the entire human race from birth. The whole human race has been born enemies of God. The whole human race has been born as children of

wrath under divine judgment. We are the enemies of God by birth; we're born that way, and we're the enemies of God by choice. We are the enemies of God by heritage, and we're the enemies of God by action. Humanity and God are at war. All of us came into the world at war with God. We are part of the world, and James 4:4 says, "*Friendship with the world is to be the enemy of God.*" However, the gospel of peace proclaims the reconciliation of enemies and the establishment of peace through the blood of the cross. That is justification. God has forgiven all the sins of those who believe and put an end to their rebellion. The enemies have become friends; the enemies have even become sons of God. We are welcomed into God's family and God's presence forever. Jesus made peace by fully bearing our punishment, reconciling us, and granting us eternal peace with God. The result of that is peace and joy. That is the joy that we have in being believers. It is a peace that not only protects you from anxiety, fear, doubt, and despair, but it is also a peace that triumphs over everything with courage, confidence, and contentment. How can you experience supernatural peace and joy? Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(43-77\)](#) – **Supernatural Peace** – [TOC](#)

Day 29

Why Worry?

Worry does not help to add one day to our lives. We are not the determiners of the span of our lives; that is a divine privilege. And you do not want to be ignorant of God's privilege. It is His privilege to determine where we're born, to whom we're born, when we're born, and how long we're here. God has given us life. He will continue to sustain that life until we complete our service. Worry makes no contribution. The Lord gives; the Lord takes away. If we live obediently to His Word, He will sustain us to the end. You cannot lengthen it beyond the purposes of God. Luke 12:26 says, "*If you cannot do even a very little thing, like add a unit to your life, why are you worrying about what you are going to eat and what you are going to wear?*" To worry is a failure to understand: 1. God's priority, that your life matter spiritually and achieve a spiritual end. 2. God's provision, that He will sustain that life to fulfill that end. 3. God's privilege, which is God's to determine when we live and when we die and how we fit into the redemptive scheme for the advancement of His glory and His kingdom. So, how can you become God's priority? First, start by entering the kingdom. Start by believing the gospel. Start by self-denying and embracing Jesus Christ, hungering for righteousness, and turning from sin. Start that way and enter the kingdom. Once you've come in, seek only those things that exalt Christ and honor Christ. Give your life for salvation, for righteousness, for obedience, for truth, for service, for worship, and for witness. Then there is nothing to worry about. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(42-173\)](#) – **Anxiety-Free Living, Part 2** – [TOC](#)

Day 30

Understanding the Times

In any era, certainly for the people of God, it's critical to understand the times. Obviously, in a general sense, we could say today is a post-Christian time. We could say it is, even more so, an anti-Christian time. We could go a step beyond that and say it is anti-Scriptural, and we could even say it is anti-Christ time. Decades of corrupt thinking have killed Western society in the sense that it had Christian influence. Western culture under the influence of Christianity has disappeared in every aspect, from education to economics, from media to medicine, from politics to public health—it's all gone. Proverbs 16:18 says, "*Pride comes before a fall,*" and you might say that in this case, gay pride has been the final act that pushed the culture off the platform into the incoming train of divine judgment. Why is it that we Christians understand the times? Why is it that we understand the truth? Why is it that we embrace wisdom? Because it has been revealed to us by the Lord Himself. How marvelous is it to realize that while everyone else is in unbelief and rejection, and consequently, confusion, we know the truth because that is what God chose to deliver to us? Again, the reason we know and the world does not know is not because we're smarter; it's because God, in His sovereignty, chose to reveal the truth to us. Sovereign grace. We are called to the truth, to be the people of the truth in a world drowning in lies. How can you know the truth? Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(81-135\)](http://GTY.org) – **Facing a Tolerant World with Intolerant Truth** – [TOC](#)

Day 31

Act Like Men

Repeatedly, God says corrupt fathers create in society a legacy of corruption that is generational. Here's the current reality. Twenty-five million children in our country live without a biological father—one out of three. In grades 1 to 12, forty percent of children live without a biological father in the home. Over 50 percent of children are now born outside of marriage. Eighty-five percent of prisoners grew up in a fatherless home. Eighty-five percent of children with behavioral disorders came from fatherless homes. Ninety percent of youth who run away and become homeless come from fatherless homes. Children from fatherless homes are three hundred percent more likely to deal drugs and carry weapons. This is a holocaust. Children will get their view of God from the Bible, but children will get their view of a man and what a man is from the Father. Evil abounds absolutely everywhere, and how men respond to its presence determines the survival and well-being of a society. No culture will ever rise above the character of its men: fathers. The only hope for stability, sanity, and peace in a society is masculine, virtuous men. The feminist lie has been that patriarchy is bad. It is tyrannical. It is toxic. We must eradicate it. And they've been doing it for decades by destroying masculinity, strong male leadership, and character. And that has led to the current disaster: irresponsible men running loose in the streets, terrorizing a society. Weak men have given us this legacy. Weak men lead to the death of society.

It's time for men to act like men, and the Bible tells us how. Repent and believe! GTY.org (81-82)
– **Act Like Men** – [TOC](#)

Day 32

The Reigning Monarch of the World

The Bible teaches us that because of sin, death is king over the entire human race. Death reigns over human beings. All men, at some point, become the subjects of death. Statistics show that sixty million people die every year. That's two every second. Death is the king and the ultimate monarch. Why? How is it that death reigns in the world? Why is it that everyone must die? How did death come to be the reigning monarch of the world? The Apostle Paul answers that question by using a comparison between Adam and Christ. Because the one man, Adam, in the one act of sin, affected the whole human race. And he becomes analogous to what Christ did in one act, affecting many. The sum of it comes in Romans 5:19, *"For as by one man's disobedience, many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."* And you have here a marvelous analogy where Adam becomes the illustration of how one man's deed can affect many. Through Adam, all men are alienated from God, just as through Jesus Christ, all men can be reconciled to God. That's his whole point. Paul answers our question as to where death came from. In Adam, you have been given sin, condemnation, and death. In Christ, you have offered obedience, righteousness, and life. Adam reigns over the kingdom of sin and death. Christ reigns over the kingdom of righteousness and life. Everything lost in Adam is gained, and much more is gained in Christ. We are looking then at the influence of one man so that he dominates a whole flow of human beings by his one act. Because of Adam's disobedience, all men are condemned, and paradise was lost. But because of Christ's obedience, all men are offered pardon and paradise regained. Why is the world like it is? It's right here. This is the key to understanding everything. It tells us why man is the way he is, and it tells us why death is the dominant monarch. It also tells us why human history has gone the way it's gone. What is the fix? Repent and believe!

GTY.org (45-43) – **Adam and the Reign of Death** – [TOC](#)

Day 33

The Greater Work of Redemption

The heart and soul of Christianity is redemption. Our message is a message of redemption. The most defining component of the gospel that we must present is the concept of redemption. Our responsibility is not to moralize the unconverted; it's to convert the immoral. Our responsibility is redemptive, not political. We do not have a moral agenda. We have a redemptive agenda. Our message is not about morality. Our message is redemption, and it will always be the pure and true message of the church. The Creator created us and then redeemed us. That's really the story

of Christianity. The word "redeemed" may not be often used among Christians, but it should be. We should refer to Jesus much more frequently as our Redeemer, thus exalting this wonderful aspect of His saving work. Thomas Watson said this: Quote: *"Great was the work of creation, but greater was the work of redemption. It costs more to redeem us than to make us. In the one, there was but the speaking of a word. In the other, there was shedding blood. The creation was the work of God's fingers. Redemption is the work of His arm."* End quote. It's true. Redemption is the greater work. Our Lord Himself directed us to the centrality of His redeeming work when He said the Son of Man has come *"to give His life a ransom for many."* [Mark 10:45](#). Redemption is more specific than salvation. It speaks of the heart and soul of salvation. It focuses on the means by which salvation is achieved. Redemption has to do with the purchase by payment of a price. Redemption then focuses on how God bought us from our bondage to sin and how God paid the price. It views man's condition as that of a prisoner, a prisoner to hopeless iniquity, and sees God coming to set the prisoner free by paying the full required price. Sin calls for justice. Justice demands a price. The price justice demands is death. Redemption, then, of the sinner must come through death. Repent and believe! [GTU.org \(80-200\)](#) – **The Basics of Redemption** – [TOC](#)

Day 34

Does God Bless America?

Blessings are associated with protection and prosperity. Due to all the worldly problems, Americans are in a state of fear. They're crying out to heaven. The prayer is simple: *"God, bless America. Keep us protected. Keep us long-term safe. Keep us free. Keep us prosperous."* Will God bless America? Can God bless America? Should God bless America? If God did bless America, what would He be saying about His holiness? Could God bless America and protect His reputation as a holy God? When it comes to blessings, He has clearly and repeatedly set conditions. But I don't hear anybody saying, *"God, what do we need to do to be blessed?"* We're, frankly, in no position at all to be blessed because blessing has always had its conditions. Blessing begins when you admit your sin and your violation of the law of God. Israel had to start there, and they were a covenant people with everlasting promises. We are not. America is not a covenant nation. We are not an elect nation. We're just another nation, like many nations that have come and gone through human history. We bear no eternal covenant with God as a nation. America is not a Christian nation, as such. We have no covenant to protect ourselves. We have no eternal promises on a national level that God somehow must keep. So, if Israel, which has those covenants and those promises, cannot be blessed unless they obey the law of God and repent for their disobedience, why would we assume that the standard for us would be any different? This is a simple principle. You subscribe your life to the truth of God, to the Word of God, and where you fall short, you repent, you seek His forgiveness, and you then put yourself in a place of blessing. Apart from a national penitence, a national brokenness, and a national contrition for having turned their backs on God, on His Word, lived in sin, and disdained to worship the true and living God, there is no basis upon which God would bless America. If we meet the conditions, God will be delighted to bless us. If we don't, He will be equally delighted to curse us. You can be sure of

one thing: God is always consistent with His holiness. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(80-245\)](http://GTY.org) – **Can God Bless America?** – [TOC](#)

Day 35

Does God Bless Morality?

There are people who think that if America becomes moral, God will bless America. There are people who think if America becomes moral and religious, then God will doubly bless America. If we can just bring about some kind of morality and, better yet, some kind of commitment to God, then we will be blessed. Morality and religion will not invite or secure the blessing of God. They never did, and they never will. A more moral and religious America does not advance in divine favor one inch. A more moral and religious America will not escape divine judgment any more than Pharisaic Judaism in Jesus' time escaped the devastating judgment of God in 70 A.D. There's only one thing God blesses, and that is that He blesses saving faith in and love for His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. That's the only thing He blesses. Anybody who does not believe in and love the Lord Jesus Christ is among the cursed. Today, the public morality issue consumes many professing Christians. But moralism was never the message of the Old Testament prophets. It was never the message of the Messiah. It was never the message of the New Testament apostles and prophets. It has never been God's message to the world, because when all is said and done, listen to what Isaiah 64:6 says: *"All your righteousness is filthy rags."* There's only one thing God will bless, and that's faith in and love for His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(80-257\)](http://GTY.org) – **The Deadly Dangers of Moralism** – [TOC](#)

Day 36

Why Does Religion Exist?

Why does religion exist in the world? Materialists tell us that there is nothing but the material world; there is no supernatural world. But, still, religion exists. Why does it exist? And why is it so universal? And why is it so personal? And why is it in every period of time, in every location, and in every culture, every society, and every ethnic group that's ever lived? Why does religion take so many forms? Why is there religion everywhere, and why are there so many kinds of religion? Those are long-standing questions. Now let me define religion, just in a dictionary definition. Religion is the connection between human beings and supernatural beings; that is what religion is. It is a system of belief that connects people to their deities. It is a bridge to the supernatural (holy or unholy). It is universal. Why is it universal? It is universal because all people are created by God and in the image of God. All people are in some way a reflection of the divine God. They bear the image of God, and they feel innately that connection. But why are there so many forms of religion? That is not answered by looking at God; that is answered by looking in the other

direction at Satan. Why does Satan then devise so many false religions? He is the archenemy of God. He is the arch-hater of God. He, along with a third of the holy angels who rebelled and fell, composed the demonic forces. Those demonic forces do all the evil that they can possibly perpetrate against the purposes of God and against God Himself. They give us the reason why there are so many false religions. There's only one God. There are many, many, many demons concocting false religions. That said, there are only two real religions in the world: the true religion of God and the false religion of Satan, in their multiplicity of forms. Satan knows there is only one God, one Savior, one gospel, one salvation, and one way to heaven. And that is why he has proliferated human history and the world with as many religions as conceivable in the sinful hearts of men and the wicked minds of demons. The earth is overrun with all kinds of forms of false religion, and they all lead to hell. How can you know the one and only true religion that leads to heaven? Repent and believe! [GTU.org \(48-9\)](#) – **The Danger of Adding to the Gospel** – [TOC](#)

Day 37

The Claims of Christ

Jesus was indistinguishable from any other Galilean man. His deity was completely invisible. But men did not make the claims that he made. Jesus said that he had come down from heaven, that he had eternally existed, and that he had been sent into the world by the Father. He claimed to be the savior of the world and the only savior of the world. He claimed to be the determiner of everyone's eternal destiny. He claimed to be the source of everlasting life and the only source. He claimed to be the only way to God. He claimed to have the right to be honored and worshipped on an equal basis with the eternal God. He claimed to be one with the Father. He claimed to have the power to give life and even to raise the dead. He claimed to be able to raise himself from the dead. He claimed to be the one of whom the Old Testament Scripture spoke and the one who was the main subject of the Old Testament. He claimed to be the supreme judge of all men who would one day judge them all at His return in glory. He claimed to be without sin. He claimed to have all authority in heaven and earth. He claimed to be able to forgive sins legitimately and to have both the power and the authority to do that. He claimed to rule over the Sabbath. He claimed to have the right to answer prayer. He claimed to be greater than the temple, Jonah, Solomon, Jacob, and Abraham. He claimed to have been alive before Abraham was even born. He claimed to be the only source of soul sustenance, the only bread that could feed the soul. He claimed to be the light of the world. He claimed to be the resurrection and the life. He claimed to be the anointed one; Christ, the Messiah, claimed to be the son of God. He claimed that he had the privilege and that one day He would enter into that privilege of being seated at the right hand of God to reign forever. He also claimed that you had better come to the light now while the light is still shining, because it's not always going to be here. Repent and believe! [GTU.org \(43-41\)](#) – **Embracing the Claims of Christ** – [TOC](#)

Day 38

In God We Trust

Knowing the divine mind of God in all of its infinite complexities is not possible for us. The innumerable, incalculable, and infinite complexities and contingencies that function in the mind of God and cause Him to do what He does in the way He does it and where He does it are far beyond our capacity to grasp. And certainly, knowing the reasons why God does anything and knowing the future are beyond us. But it's not only beyond us; it's not good for us. You wouldn't want to know the future. You think you would, but you wouldn't. If you knew the future, it would rob you of present joy. If you knew the future was better, that would rob you of current joy because you would be anticipating something better. If you knew the future was worse, that would rob you of present joy because you would live in fear. God spares us mercifully the knowledge of the future. The information God does give us is all we need. Ignorance of the future leads to trust in God, who has eternally secured our future, and ignorance of the future is a sweet and kind gift from God to us. God wants us to know this: *"You're mine. I love you. I sent My Son to die for all who believe. You are my child. Trust Me. Trust Me."* God is in charge of everything. He's not revealing everything, but He is doing something, and that is that He's teaching us to trust Him. And most of those lessons are much more enhanced, much more intense, and much more effective when we're in trouble. We don't learn a lot when everything's going well, and we don't listen very well. We start listening when we're at the end of our ability to control something, when life's getting away from us, when forces beyond us have taken over. Then we become a little more eager to listen. Just remember that God is doing what He wills and what He purposes in everything. He is accomplishing your good in everything because He loves you and you're His child, and He is to receive glory in the end for all of it. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(81-73\)](http://GTY.org) – **Finding Security in a Troubled World – [TOC](#)**

Day 39

The Reprobate Mind

It's July 19, 2015, and we are now living in Romans 1. How do you know when the wrath of God is unleashed against a society? First, Romans 1:24 says there is a sexual revolution. We've had that—in the 1960s, the last century. Then there is a homosexual revolution led by lesbians. The women are mentioned first in Romans 1:26. And then there is the reprobate mind. And that's when the thinking is really the product of the sexual and homosexual revolutions, and the thinking is so corrupt we cannot find our way back. That's where we are. The people in our country tasked with the responsibility of thinking clearly for everybody else—the President, the leaders, the Supreme Court, those who are supposed to be the most clear-minded, clear-headed, who have the greatest responsibility to protect this nation—they literally can't think straight. The reprobate mind has ascended the bench. I received a letter from a judge that said, *"One of the duties of a judge is to marry people. I am now under a government mandate to marry people of*

the same sex. I cannot do that." Due to the quality and character of his virtue, he will lose his position and be replaced, essentially, by someone with no virtue and a reprobate mind. Christian clerks across the country who issue marriage licenses and can't do that either are losing their jobs. The takeover is going to be massive. Christian people in high places are going to be replaced by people who will do what this court says you must do. Get ready, folks; the reprobate mind has now reached the highest levels. And that level will demand a reprobate mind everywhere else. And where there is a depraved mind, then everything that's improper begins to happen. *"All unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil, envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossips, slanders, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful, and though they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but they give hearty approval to those who practice them."* That's the end of Romans 1. There isn't a sitting judge on the Supreme Court who doesn't know what the Bible says about homosexuality. But they affirm it anyway. That's the reprobate mind. And it's now going to dominate our society. What must you do? Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(80-425\)](http://GTY.org) – **We Will Not Bow** – [TOC](#)

Day 40

The Revelation in the Garden

If you want the Lord's commentary on the cross, you have to go back to the garden of Gethsemane. As He drew close to the cross and we considered His agony in the garden, we learned what His thoughts were. It wasn't the physical features that were on His mind; it was what was coming spiritually to Him from God that drove Him near death in the garden. He would receive the curse of God. He would be struck with the sword of the Lord's vengeance, penal desertion, by His Father at the cross. He would be a curse for us. No human being has ever had this kind of sorrow. This is holy sorrow, which is, in a sense, sorrowful, even to the point of death over having to bear guilt for sin. Nothing could be more horrifying to His holy soul than to have His Father pronounce a curse on Him. He sees the fury of God coming at Him, the fury over sin, and all He's ever known is perfect love from the Father. He had seen the Father's anger, and He had witnessed His Father's divine anger. He knew what it was; it drowned the entire world. To have, as He did, the perfect knowledge of His Father's wrath, the perfect knowledge of His own sinless purity, and not to be filled with a desire to escape the coming judgment would bring His holiness into question. What is the cup from which He had to drink? It is the imputation of the guilt of all who would ever believe in Him. It is to be punished for all the sins of all the people who would ever believe through all of human history as if He were guilty. The punishment is incalculable. It is the cup of the hour of darkness. He is sorrowful, but His is a sorrow we don't understand. It is a holy sorrow, the sorrow of revulsion of the one who is perfectly pure and about to be made sin for us. This is the revelation of His glory in the garden. In the garden of Gethsemane, you see His holy sorrow, His holy trust, His holy strength, and His holy worship. Oh, what a savior we have in Jesus! Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(82-1\)](http://GTY.org) – **The Garden of Glory** – [TOC](#)

Day 41

The Only Real Happiness

Jesus is in the business of providing people with happiness. Happiness is his concern. In the very first sermon ever recorded as having been preached by Jesus Christ, He uses the word "blessed" nine times. The word simply means "happiness" or "happy." Matthew 5:1–12 says, *"And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain, and when he was seated, his disciples came unto him, and he opened his mouth and taught them, saying, 'Happy are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Happy are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Happy are they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. Happy are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Happy are the pure of heart, for they shall see God. Happy are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God. Happy are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy are you when men shall revile you and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so persecuted the prophets who were before you."* The Lord is in the happiness business. The Lord is in the business of giving men and women blessings. God is in the business of making our lives full of joy, full of gladness, and full of happiness. I'm not talking about the world's happiness based on happenstance or circumstance. But true happiness is the goal. The very beginning of the Sermon on the Mount tells you the whole point of the Sermon on the Mount, and that is that we should know real blessedness, real happiness, real joy, real gladness, and genuine divine reward. And then from there on, he goes to talk about how it is that that becomes possible and what kind of lifestyle it is that produces this kind of happiness. That becomes the running theme throughout the Sermon on the Mount. How can you have that kind of happiness? Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(2197\)](http://GTY.org) – **Happiness Is...** – [TOC](#)

Day 42

Is the Resurrection Important?

The resurrection is the heart of everything, and Christianity is a religion of the resurrection. Without the resurrection, there is no Christianity. More than anything else, we count on the reality of the resurrection because it is the vital point in Christian faith that holds up everything else. And naturally, the enemy hits at that reality. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the basic cornerstone of all Christian faith, and it is the hope of all human history. If there is no resurrection, there is nothing to hope for. Denials and so forth are widespread throughout the history of the church. We can understand that because this is where Christianity must be destroyed if it is to be destroyed, at the point of the resurrection of Christ. If there's no resurrection of bodies, then Christ didn't rise. If Christ didn't rise, all of our gospel preaching is useless, and your response to it in faith is just as useless. You are still trapped in the folly of your faith, listening to false witnesses and believing their lies, and you are locked inevitably and forever in your sin, and the

consequence of that is that the people who already died with their faith in Christ are damned. If Christ didn't rise, then Christians are the world's most pitiful people. This is the very antithesis of Christian hope. This is utterly unacceptable. But Christ is risen, and if Christ is risen, then what? Then just the opposite is true. Everything is in reverse: gospel preaching is valuable, faith is priceless, the apostles spoke the truth, sin is forgiven, the dead in Christ are with Him, and Christians are the most glorious people in the world if Christ is risen, but the whole thing hinges on that. The resurrection of Jesus Christ proves that He conquered sin, death, and hell. What do you have to do to appropriate His resurrection life? Romans 10:9 says, "*Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved.*" If you want to see your life transformed, if you want your life to come into harmony with God's glory and His will, it's a matter in your own heart of commitment. In your heart, simply express that desire to God, and He'll answer it. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(1278\)](http://GTY.org) – **If Christ Didn't Rise--Then What?** – [TOC](#)

Day 43

The Uniqueness of Christianity

One of the most clarifying and defining statements Jesus ever made was Luke 5:32, "*I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*" In that sentence, Jesus tells us why there was an incarnation, why He was virgin born, why He lived, why He died, why He rose, why He ascended, and why He intercedes. That statement truly encapsulates the entire glorious scheme of salvation. He came to call sinners to repentance. The Lord Jesus Christ came to save the sinners who would repent. It is at the heart of all gospel ministries to call sinners to repentance. Defining men as they must be defined as sinners means measuring them against the law of God, by which the Spirit of God can then produce repentance, pointing out the glories of Christ, which can be elicited by the Spirit faith. Because of that faith and repentance, salvation comes. This has always been the theme of authentic preaching. The message is one of repentance, specifically aimed at those who know they are sinners. The Christian faith is not for good people. It's for sinners. The church is not for people who think they're righteous. It's for people who know they're not. That's why we're here. This is not a club for the righteous. This is a hospital for the sin sick. We understand that. And have you noticed that the more you grow in Christ, the more you love Him, the more you mature, and the more you grasp the great truths of Scripture, the more you understand how wretched you are? It is a sign of maturity to be unsettled and distressed about your sinfulness. So, we could say that the more mature a congregation is, the more they recognize their sinfulness. One can't even enter the kingdom of God without a recognition of sinfulness. The purpose of this Messiah's arrival was to provide salvation to those who fall into the categories of the poor, prisoners, blind, and oppressed. There will never be salvation, there will never be forgiveness of sin, and there will never be eternal life for anybody who thinks he's righteous. Jesus centered His ministry on people who understood their true sinful condition. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(42-67\)](http://GTY.org) – **Jesus Came to Call and to Save Sinners** – [TOC](#)

Day 44

A Definition of Salvation

Salvation is deliverance. To be delivered is to be rescued. And the rescue involves taking the unqualified and making them qualified. It involves taking those who were poor and making them rich with the inheritance. It involves taking unholy people and turning them into saints. It involves removing them from darkness and bringing them to light. It involves taking them out of the sphere of satanic influence and bringing them under the authority and sovereignty of the beloved Son of God. It involves paying a purchase price to buy them back, and the price was paid to God, who is the One who is the judge who had to be satisfied. It involves the forgiveness of sins. When you think about your Christian life, what you have here is a sort of summary of all the elements of salvation. Here we were, the unqualified, and we became qualified and justified. Here we were, the poor and destitute, and we inherited the kingdom. Here we were, the unholy, and we became saints, which is just another word for holy. Here we were in darkness, and now we are in light. Here we were in the kingdom of hell, or the kingdom of Satan, and now we are in the kingdom of God's beloved Son. We were slaves, but we have been redeemed. We were guilty, but we have been forgiven. And all of that fills up the meaning of the word delivered. So, salvation is a synonym for deliverance. Deliverance brings with it justification, sanctification, illumination, redemption, and forgiveness. We've been delivered. And now we are in a permanent state of having been delivered. What could you have done to qualify yourself and earn the inheritance? Nothing. What could you have done to make the unholy holy or to extract yourself out of darkness and draw yourself into light? What could you have done to get out of Satan's kingdom and into the kingdom of Christ? What price could you have paid for redemption? And what could you have done to achieve forgiveness? The answer is absolutely nothing. It was all God's plan. He would save unqualified, undeserving, poor, and unholy slaves from sin. Why? So that He would be thanked for it and receive all the glory. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(80-218\)](http://GTY.org) – **Giving Thanks for God's Deliverance** – [TOC](#)

Day 45

Life in the Spirit

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Rom 8:1. That describes how we, who have the Holy Spirit, live a spiritual life. Like a pardoned criminal on Death Row, we have been given no-condemnation status. We were condemned to eternal punishment in hell. We were already sitting on Death Row, occupying a cell in the prison of our iniquity, already declared guilty by a holy God, the Judge of all the earth. Simply waiting for the day of our execution when the Savior delivered a pardon, placing that pardon, as it were, in the hand of God, and having paid our penalty for sin moved us into a no-judgment, no-condemnation position. He was killed for us. He was executed for us. This promise of no condemnation is the last pearl in the string of pearls that represent the benefits of justification. Other pearls would be peace and grace

and hope and love and life and holiness and freedom and fruit and spiritual service, and then the glory of all glories in this beautiful string of pearls—no condemnation, declared not guilty. Through the marvelous person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ, our sins are paid for in full. He endured our penalty; He faced condemnation on our behalf, thereby relieving us, through faith in Him, from ever experiencing punishment for our sins. That is settled. Punishment is a settled issue. We are in a no-condemnation status, and that is how it is for those who live in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit frees us from sin and death; He enables us to fulfill the law; He changes our nature; He empowers us for victory; He confirms our adoption; He guarantees our glory; and He intercedes for us. The Holy Spirit plays a part in our no-condemnation status. It's as if he applies that status to our lives and brings us all its benefits. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(90-171\)](http://GTY.org) – **The-Key-to-Spiritual-Victory** – [TOC](#)

Day 46

Victory Over Problems

The question is not Who's got problems? The question is: Who's got victory over problems? Now there are only three ways to handle problems in life. You either break out—you get a rash or a panic—or you get angry. Or you break down—you go inside and silently withdraw, eat your insides out, and get all kinds of psychosomatic illnesses. Or you break through in triumph. Breaking through is the only way to live. To be really alive to the fullest in the richest sense is to break through the trouble and come out victorious. How? Let me give you a basic answer to what the Word of God says. Key number one: an adequate stand. If you're nothing but a piece of protoplasm waiting to become manure, and that's your philosophy of life, then you're in real trouble. There must be something upon which I can plant my feet and stand firmly. I've got to have a reason for living and a rhyme for my existence. Adequate living begins with being firmly grounded. This adequate stand is in Christ. *"Stand fast in the Lord."* *1 Thes 3:8*. Jesus Christ pervades our whole existence. We are in Christ. A total union with Christ. If a man attempts to live in the world apart from Christ, he has nothing to stand on. Everything is shifting sand. So, to begin with, a man must be in Christ because existence is a floating thing, and it's a great, mysterious variable until a man meets God. And then, all of a sudden, he knows why he exists, what living is all about, what loving is all about, what time is all about, what forever is all about, and what purpose is. But he doesn't know it until he meets God. The only way a man can ever meet God is through Christ. Jesus said, *"No man cometh unto the Father except by me."* *John 14:6*. And the only way you can ever know Christ is to hear about Him, read about Him in the gospels, see what He did, and believe it with your whole heart. And so, to begin with, an adequate view of life demands an adequate stand. Adequacy begins with a personal relationship with a living God, through a living Christ, by faith. Repent and believe! [GTY.org \(1216\)](http://GTY.org) – **Leave Me Alone; I Can't Cope** – [TOC](#)

Day 47

What is the Good News?

What is the most distinctive benefit that Christianity offers, and what is man's greatest need? Forgiveness of sin. What sends people to hell? Not sin, unforgiven sin. We all commit sins, and without forgiveness, our sins would lead us to eternal damnation in hell. This is the message of Christianity: that God, through His lovingkindness, has designed a way for sinners to be forgiven, and forgiven with such magnanimity that it could be spoken of as if it's removing your sins as far as the east is from the west, or burying them in the depths of the sea, or putting them behind His back, or remembering them no more. The greatest benefit that Christianity offers is forgiveness, because it is an unforgiven sin that sends people into eternal punishment in hell. Christianity answers, then, the compelling question, "*Can I be forgiven?*" And if you are giving a faithful message concerning the Christian message, the Christian truth, or the Christian gospel, the good news is that you can be forgiven. You can receive forgiveness if you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. The gospel is the only way that you can have your sins forgiven, and that's the only way you'll escape hell. What is the message that God gave in the Old Testament and in the New Testament? He forgives sin. This raises the question of justice. God says it's an abomination if you do something that violates justice. But God Himself has chosen to violate that law in the sense that He justifies the ungodly. How can God do that? How is it possible? And the answer is because He punishes His Son in place of believing sinners. He passed over sins, but in order to be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus, those sins had to be punished, and Jesus bore our sins in His own body. God sacrifices His only Son to accomplish His will of justifying the ungodly. This is the glorious message of the Christian gospel. Jesus came to offer forgiveness—everlasting, eternal forgiveness. Forgiveness is the good news. Spread the Word. Repent and believe!

[GTY.org \(81-140\)](http://GTY.org) – [Man's Greatest Need, God's Greatest Gift](#) – [TOC](#)

Day 48

Abandoned by God

I can't imagine anything worse than being abandoned by God. When God lets you go, it's serious. I'm convinced beyond doubt that God has abandoned America because this is the cycle of human history that Paul describes in Romans. He perfectly describes the moral chaos in our own nation today. God's wrath of abandonment is when He lets go of a society and lets it catapult full speed without restraint in the direction of its own sinful desires, devices, and choices. We often discuss how America's founding was based on Christian principles, with God at its core. But whatever it might have been in our founding, it's no longer the way it is. What are the reasons for the wrath of God? "*The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.*" *Rom 1:18*. There comes a time in a nation when God has had enough, and He literally lets them go and turns them over to the sentence that they have passed upon themselves by their incessant sinful choices. They are deprived of restraining grace. The first thing you look for

in a society if you're trying to discern whether God has abandoned that society is whether or not that society has gone through a sexual revolution so that illicit sex, adultery, and every form of immorality are accepted as normal in that society, and we're there. The second step in the progression: You know a society has been abandoned by God when it celebrates homosexuality, and we're there. Therefore, you follow the sexual revolution with the homosexual revolution, leading to the normalization of homosexuality in society. Then the final step comes: *"God gave them over to a depraved mind."* Rom 1:28. A depraved mind is one that's tested and found useless; therefore, it is disqualified for its intended use. The reasoning faculty has been corrupted by the influences that surround it, so they are without reason and without conscience, and we're there. This is what it means when God abandons a society. Sexual revolution, down one more step; homosexual revolution, down one more step; a depraved mind. You can't ever get out of it because the mind—the cultural mind—is gone. What can you personally do? Draw near to God and pray. Repent and believe! GTY.org (GTY109) – **A Nation Abandoned by God** – [TOC](#)

Day 49

Which Way to Heaven?

The biggest question that will ever be answered is, Which way to heaven? The most important decision that anyone will ever make is the one regarding their eternal destiny. According to the Bible, life here is a vapor that appears for a short time and then vanishes. It's like steaming off a cup of coffee—nothing more compared to eternity. Everyone will live somewhere forever, with no end. The place you live forever is absolutely critical. There are only two options: hell and eternal punishment, or heaven and eternal joy. The question then is, Which way to heaven? Jesus always asks for a choice. In the Sermon on the Mount, our Lord gives an invitation. It is a sermon about the way to heaven. This sermon demands a choice, an absolute choice, and a choice that renders finality—a choice that leads to a fixed forever in eternity. You want to come to heaven? There are two doors marked heaven: one goes there, and one does not. Throughout this entire sermon, there is a contrast between false religion and true religion, false worship and true worship, man-made religion and divine religion. It's a contrast between a religion that does not satisfy God and a religion that does. Reality tells us there are only two religions in the world. There is the religion of human achievement that says you can be good enough, holy enough, religious enough, and spiritual enough to get to heaven all on your own. And then there is the other option: the religion of divine accomplishment, the religion of faith, grace, mercy, and the Holy Spirit, which do not mix. That's the choice. The Lord Jesus offered a religion of faith and grace, dependent upon the Holy Spirit, a religion of divine accomplishment where salvation and acceptance into heaven depended on what God did, not what men did. There's only one way to be saved: there's only one person who is the Savior, and faith in that person is required to enter heaven. The entire gospel itself is a command: *"Repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ."* Mark 1:15. It's a choice to obey or disobey. Thus, it's a choice between eternal heaven and eternal hell. Repent and believe! GTY.org (80-325) – **The Only Road to Heaven** – [TOC](#)

Day 50

Why Christianity Seems Foolish

Unconverted people don't understand Christianity. In 1 Corinthians 2:14, the apostle Paul says a natural man—a man in his natural condition, an unspiritual man, a man outside the kingdom of God, an unregenerate man, an unconverted man or woman—does not accept the things of the Spirit of God. And it isn't just that they don't accept them; it is that they are foolishness to him. Now, this is a reality. Unconverted people look at the cross, the Christian gospel, and the Christian faith, and it appears foolish because they are spiritually dead in trespasses and sin. They are spiritually blind, blinded by Satan, and blinded by their own sinfulness. They are deaf to the voice of God. They are ignorant of their condition and God's truth, so the gospel appears to them to be foolish. Even when they study it, perhaps with some vigor, it might continue to look foolish to them because there are so many contrasts in the gospel message. The natural man cannot understand it, and it appears to him to be foolish, contradictory, unreasonable, and illogical. Why? Because he is spiritually dead. However, believers understand everything I just said. Why? Because he who is spiritual is that one who has come out of that natural condition into a spiritual life by virtue of the mighty work of God in his or her soul. For those of us who have experienced God's work, gained life, had our blinders removed to see, our ears unobstructed to hear, and our minds opened to comprehend, we possess, as 1 Cor 2:16 says, the mind of Christ. To have Christ's mind means to think the way He does. And we know exactly how He thinks because He's revealed what He thinks in His book. Therefore, as the Word of Christ dwells in you richly, you have the mind of Christ. Thus, it's the gospel that saves, gives life, and brings transformation. And when the transformation comes, all of these mysteries in the Bible become clear because we receive the mind of Christ. So, we know how God thinks, and we know how Christ thinks, because the pages of Scripture reveal it. What God says is a reflection of what God thinks, and that is precisely what Scripture is. Repent and believe! GTY.org (80-239) – **The Paradox of Faith** – [TOC](#)

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The Truth in Love,

Mark Paul

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