

## Becoming A Christian

Please fill in the Bible References (in the space provided) before you come to the study.

*Are you a Christian?* This is the most important question you will ever have to answer. However, many people are confused by this question because they don't really know what the Christian message really is. The purpose of this study is to give an outline to show what the Bible means regarding this subject.



### 1. GOD'S PLAN

(a) God wants us to have the best He has to offer. In the beginning He created a world that was absolutely perfect. **Look up and write out Genesis 1:31**

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(b) Even today He still wants us to have the best He has for us; **look up John 10:10** and see what the Lord Jesus said

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### 2. OUR PROBLEM

(a) In order that we can enjoy the full life God wants us to have, we must be in a right relationship with Him and live as He intends. *Here lies the problem, - our relationship with God is in ruins!* Why? God is the rightful Ruler of the world, but we have all *rebelled* against His rule. The Bible describes this *rebellion* as *sin*. We have lived our way instead of God's way. **Look up Romans 3:23**

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(b) The consequences are devastating. We are cut off from God: **look up Isaiah 59:2**

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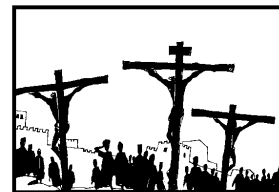
(c) We now live under God's judgement and the result is death, - eternal death; **look up Romans 6:23**

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People try to find God in various ways, but are powerless to restore their relationship with Him. We cannot undo our rebellion, and are incapable of living as we should. *We simply cannot stop sinning!*

### 3. GOD'S SOLUTION

(a) Although we cannot make our own way back to God, He has not given up on us. God's love for us is so great that He has found a way to mend our broken relationship, ... *at great cost to Himself*. As God's justice is perfect, it is impossible for Him to pretend that our rebellion never happened, - He cannot overlook sin. Instead, God dealt with the rebellion as justice demanded, but without destroying us. He sent His Son into the world to die in the place of all who believe, and to come alive again after the penalty was paid: **look up 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (and compare 1 Peter 2:24)**



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(b) God has declared that forgiveness and new life are available through Jesus Christ, and that all who become Christ's followers will receive the Holy Spirit: **look up Acts 2:38 (and compare 1 Peter 2:24)**

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Christ has paid the debt we owed, and now the way to God is open. God will forgive all those who are willing to come to Him.

**4. OUR RESPONSE**

(a) We face a choice: if we continue to rebel against God, He will condemn us. God will not tolerate our rebellion indefinitely: **look up 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**

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(b) But if we want to make a new start, if we repent and live for God from now on, then He and His angels will welcome us with joy: **look up Luke 15:10**

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(c) Since Christ has paid the believer's penalty at the cross, those who repent can not be treated as if they had never rebelled: **Look up Romans 8:1**

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**5. STEPS IN REPENTANCE (a command: Acts 3:19)**

(a) Admit you are a sinner who is justly condemned by God and unable to save yourself; **look up 1 John 1:8**

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(b) Confess your sins to God: **look up 1 John 1:9**

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(c) Forsake all known sin, and return to God (like the "lost" son, Luke 15:11-32). **Look up John 8:11**

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**6. STEPS IN FAITH (a command: Acts 16:31)**

(a) Acknowledge that only Christ can save you; **look up Acts 4:12**

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(b) Trust Christ as your Lord and Saviour. Ask Him, as Saviour, to deliver you from God's judgement through His death on the cross and to forgive you your sin. **Look up Acts 16:31**

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**7. FINALLY, ...**

(c) You should give up your rebellion, and accept Christ as the rightful ruler of your life. **Look up Mark 8:34**

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(d) If you do this, you will indeed be forgiven and your relationship with God will be restored: **look up Romans 5:1**

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You will also receive the Holy Spirit into your life, just as God promised (note Acts 2:38 above).

On becoming a Christian you have entered into the Family of God, - you have been 'born again' (John 3:3,5,7; 1 John 2:29; 1 John 3:9; 1 John 5:1,4,18). So bear in mind that you are like a new-born baby, ... and you need to grow. You need to 'feed' properly. God has already provided the diet that each child of God requires. As we progress in our studies we shall study Christian growth in more detail.