

[A-1] HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

All the knowledge in the world is unimportant unless you know where you are going to spend eternity. The question is never whether the Lord is on your side; the question is -- are YOU on the Lord's side? If you don't know that you are on the Lord's side, that issue needs to be settled once and for all.

The Lord our God and our Creator has given us commandments to follow. Disobedience to these commandments is sin. According to scripture, even thoughts that are contrary to the Lord's commandments are sin. Also, according to scripture no one has kept every commandment except Jesus Christ God's only Son. God the Father sent His only Son Jesus {God-in-the-flesh} to pay the price for the sins of the world. The promise has been given that anyone who accepts Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior will be saved. To be "saved" means that our sins are forgiven and we have the right as "adopted" children of God to enter the kingdom of heaven when we die, or when Jesus comes to take us home at the rapture of the church. It also means we have a special relationship with our heavenly Father now because once we've accepted His Son, His Holy Spirit lives in us to teach us, convict us when we sin, and to give us a glimpse of "heaven on earth."

King James 1769 Version	King James Paraphrase
(6) Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)	(6) Jesus said to him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man can come to the Father, except by Me. ({43} John 14:6)

To those who are lost, this seems very narrow minded, but consider this: Suppose someone owed you a lot of money and had no hope of ever having the ability to repay you. Suppose you told that person, "If you will just love and respect my only son, I will cancel all of your debt." Then suppose that person told you, "I will never love or respect your son. I despise Him and all He represents." How would you feel. This is a very good example of how God the Father views those who reject His Son.

The Roman Road to salvation: {From the book of Romans}

A. **All have sinned** -- We must all acknowledge that we are sinners and have not lived in accordance with the Lord's commands.

King James 1769 Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(10) As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: (11) There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. (12) They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. (Rom. 3:10-12)</p>	<p>(10) As it is written, “There is no one who is righteous, no, not one: (11) There is no one who understands, there is no one who seeks after God. (12) They have all gone out of the way, they have all together become unprofitable; there is no one who does good, no, not one.”^b ({45} Rom. 3:10-12)</p>

{Righteous -- means to be right with God and to keep ALL of His commandments -- Jesus said if you have thought a wrong thought you have broken all of the commandments.} [Mat 5:8]

King James 1769 Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(20) Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law <i>is</i> the knowledge of sin. (21) But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; (22) Even the righteousness of God <i>which is</i> by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: (23) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (Rom. 3:20-23)</p>	<p>(20) Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight: because by the law <i>comes</i> the knowledge of sin. (21) But now the righteousness of God without the law is revealed, being witnessed <i>to</i> by the law and the prophets; (22) Even the righteousness of God <i>which is</i> by faith of Jesus Christ to all and upon all those who believe: because there is no difference: (23) Because all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; ({45} Rom. 3:20-23)</p>

B. **All deserve to die** -- None of us deserves to live or to have eternal life.

King James 1769 Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(23) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (Rom. 3:23)</p>	<p>(23) Because all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; ({45} Rom. 3:23)</p>

C. The price of sin was paid for, for all who believe -- Believe that if you accept God's only Son, Jesus, as your personal Lord and Savior, He has paid the price for your salvation. {To accept Jesus as your personal Lord means that you are sincere in your desire to live in accordance with His commands; to allow Him to be Lord of your life; but also knowing that you can never repay Jesus for the love and mercy He has shone towards you. -- Jesus said,

King James 1769 Version	King James Paraphrase
(15) If ye love me, keep my commandments. (John 14:15)	(15) If you love Me, keep My commandments. ({43} John 14:15)

Salvation means to not have your sins counted against you and the right to spend eternity in heaven -- not because of what you've done, but because of what Jesus has done for you. It is a free gift, totally undeserved, given to everyone who accepts God's Son Jesus as his/her Lord and Savior.

King James 1769 Version	King James Paraphrase
(9) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (Rom. 10:9)	(9) That if you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and will believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ({45} Rom. 10:9)

{Believing also means that you believe that Jesus was truly born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on the cross for the sins of the world, arose from the dead, and will soon return to take us to be home with Him. If any of these things were not true, then He could not be our savior.}

King James 1769 Version	King James Paraphrase
(21) But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; (22) Even the righteousness of God <i>which is</i> by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: (23) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (Rom. 3:21-23)	(21) But now the righteousness of God without the law is revealed, being witnessed <i>to</i> by the law and the prophets; (22) Even the righteousness of God <i>which is</i> by faith of Jesus Christ to all and upon all those who believe: because there is no difference: (23) Because all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; ({45} Rom. 3:21-23)

King James 1769 Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(6) Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, (7) <i>Saying</i>, Blessed <i>are</i> they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. (8) Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. (Rom. 4:6-8)</p>	<p>(6) Even as David also describes the blessedness of the man, to whom God credits righteousness without works, (7) <i>Saying</i>, “Blessed <i>are</i> those whose sins are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.”^b (8) “Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not count sin.”^c ({45} Rom. 4:6-8)</p>

[cf. Ps. 32:1-2]

King James 1769 Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(13) And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, <i>even</i> the Son of man which is in heaven. (14) And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: (15) That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (16) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (17) For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (18) He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.</p>	<p>(13) And no man has ascended up to heaven, but He Who came down from heaven, <i>even</i> the Son of Man Who is in heaven. (14) And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,^b even so must the Son of Man be lifted up: (15) That whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. (16) Because God loved the world so much, that He gave the only Son He has ever fathered, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (17) Because God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. (18) He who believes on Him is not condemned: but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the Name of the only fathered Son of God.</p>

King James 1769 Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(19) And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.</p> <p>(20) For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.</p> <p>(21) But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. (John 3:13-21)</p>	<p>(19) And this is the condemnation, that light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.</p> <p>(20) Because everyone who does evil hates the light, neither comes to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.</p> <p>(21) But he who does what's right comes to the light, that his deeds may be revealed, that they are done in God. ({43} John 3:13-21)</p>

Do not think to yourself that when you "get your act together" you'll ask the Lord into your life. You can't live a life that is pleasing to Him without His help. Ask for forgiveness and ask Jesus to come into your life. **If there is anything in your life that shouldn't be there, He'll take care of it AFTER you've made a commitment to Him.**

None of us knows when our life will end and we will stand in the presence of the Lord. It may be years from now; it may be 5 minutes from now. This life is only a testing grounds. It is here your life must count for the Lord. The scriptures state: "Now is the time for decision." [II Cor. 6:2] When this life ends, there will not be another chance!

King James 1769 Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(38) Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. (Mark 8:38)</p>	<p>(38) Whoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels. ({41} Mark 8:38)</p>

Suggested prayer:

Father, I know that I have sinned against You and I have not lived the kind of life I know You want me to live. Please, forgive me for the ways I have failed You. I know that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to pay the price for my salvation and I believe You raised Him from the dead to become King of Kings and Lord of Lords. I believe that one day soon He is coming back again to reign forever and ever. I accept Your Son, Jesus, as my personal Lord and Savior. With Your help, I will strive to live for You and to be the person You want me to be. Father, let Your Holy Spirit come into my heart and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I know I do not deserve what Jesus has done for me, but forgive me and help me to live for You every moment of my life. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

If you are sincere and believe the things in this prayer you have the promise of God that your salvation is assured. Your salvation is based on His faithfulness, and He is always faithful.

For those who do not already have an established daily Bible study routine, I would recommend reading {01} Genesis (to get some historical background) followed by {42} Luke. Luke gives Jesus' ministry in chronological order, explains some of the Jewish customs, and shows Jesus as the Savior for all who will accept Him as their Lord. For those with a Jewish background, I would recommend reading {40} Matthew before reading Luke, since Matthew shows Jesus as fulfilling Bible prophecy for the Jews' long awaited Messiah.

{40} Matthew chapters 5 through 7 gives Jesus' sermon on the mount explaining how God wants us to live. The book of {59} James gives us practical applications of the sermon on the mount.