

I have read  
John Bevere's book  
***“Rescued”***

**What Now???**

A Four Week Small Group  
Discussion Bible Study

## Explanation

Five times in the gospels, Jesus strongly warned that MANY will meet with God and be SURPRISED to find out that they are NOT Christians and are not permitted into heaven. (*Mt. 7:21-24, Mt. 25:1-13, Mt. 25:14-30, Mt. 25:31-46, Lk.12:35-46*)\_

I am very concerned that as many of half of the people in this country may have a false assurance of heaven. The most horrible, evil and terrible thing on the earth would be to have a false assurance of heaven. I can not think of anything worse than to spend your life “*Assuming*” that you are going to heaven and then find out too late that you were wrong and are now condemned to Hell for eternity.

John Bevere’s fictional book “Rescued” is one of the most amazing and thought provoking books ever written. This book separates the “*Americanized*” version of the Gospel of Jesus from the Gospel of Jesus as stated clearly in the Bible.

This book is so stirring spiritually that our church bought thousands of copies to give one to every family in our church. This Bible Study was written to try to answer some serious questions that people often ask after reading this book.

Please be aware that this Bible study is NOT an explanation of every aspect of the Gospel. The main goal of this Bible study is to help those who “*Think*” they “*May*” be Christians but are not sure. After 25 years of being a Pastor, I have seen one major difference between Victorious Christians and everyone else. All of those who are NOT Victorious Christians have all believed a specific lie. In the groups who have believed this lie, I would list all Non-Christians, all Backslidden, Weak and Former Christians. Each member of these groups has each believed this one lie.

All Victorious Christians have seen through this lie. Seeing through this lie is the reason why Victorious Christians ARE Victorious Christians.

Here is the lie that all NON-Victorious Christians have believed. They have fallen for the lie that SIN SATISFIES!

The book of Romans devotes the first seven chapters to explaining SIN! It is impossible to become a Christian until you have understood sin.

The root of all SIN is self rule. (*Is. 53:6*) Even a good deed done with a determination to run your own life is sin. We were created to be extensions of the living God. Thus the widest definition of SIN is simply “Self-Rule” in contrast to God Ruling over the decisions of your life.

The Victorious Christian passionately believes that ALL Self Rule will ALWAYS result in emptiness, pain, misery, decay and death in their life.

The weak, backslidden, former and non Christian all believe that Sin (Self-Rule) satisfies and fulfills them and makes their life good, enjoyable and full.

In this study we are going to test the truth about Self Rule (Sin) and see whether it satisfies.

### **A Great Analogy – QUICKSAND!**

If you were walking along a path in the woods and your face brushed against a rope hanging from a tree. That rope might irritate you since it interrupted a pleasant walk. As you watched you noticed that the rope was slowly being drawn up into the tree. Out of curiosity, you might grab the rope and let it draw you up into the tree. Eventually though, you would return to the ground since the ground is familiar and safe.

Now, if your eyes were opened and you saw that EVERYTHING around you was a Fantasy EXCEPT for the rope, you would see a completely different picture.

You would see that you are NOT standing in a comfortable path, but are actually in quicksand up to your nose. You are sinking and about to die. This changes your reaction to the rope. You would CLING to that rope with all of your strength.

That rope represents the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Fantasy is that you are deceived about walking in a comfortable, pleasant forest. The Reality is that your life is filled with the quicksand of the emptiness and misery of self rule.

Your reaction to the Gospel is determined by your awareness of the misery of your own life. In this study, we will test whether self rule is the satisfying world of a beautiful forest or if self rule is the horrible misery of quicksand.

### **Quick Quiz**

Do you agree or disagree with these two statements.

1. Jesus is the BEST choice!
2. I serve Jesus because it is what a person SHOULD do!

1. Any person who believes that Jesus is the “*Best*” choice will eventually GO BACK to SIN. Just the fact that they used the word “*Best*” shows that this person is deceived and believes that there are two good options. They are deceived into believing that Self Rule is satisfying.

2. Any person who serves Jesus because that is what they “*Should*” do will eventually GO BACK to SIN. Sadly, this second statement describes the half-Faith of children raised in church. They are deceived into thinking that the world of Self Rule is fun and exciting while serving Jesus is boring. Yet they try in their own will power to obey Jesus because that is what they “*Should*” do!

It is when we understand that Jesus is the ONLY hope for joy, fulfillment, peace, for anything that satisfies and for abundant life that we have seen “The Emptiness of Self Rule”. (*John 14:6 Jesus said “I am the ONLY life”*)

You can see that a Biblical understanding of “*The Emptiness of Self Rule*” produces great passion, hunger, zeal, & aggressive determination to seek Him.

Let’s test this lie that says that Sin Satisfies!

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## 1. Does Self Rule **Satisfy**- Let's **test** it!

*a. I live in a Fantasy World*

*b. I am Terrified to turn off the Noise.*

If you don't see that everything of Self Rule always results in emptiness, misery, pain, decay and death; the reason why you haven't seen these things is very obvious. You have not seen these things simply because you do NOT WANT to see Reality.

You are firmly entrenched in a FANTASY world and are TERRIFIED of facing Reality. In our end times society, TV, Movies and Video Games have greatly blurred the difference between "FANTASY" & "REALITY".

It is very hard for this end times society to sort out the difference between the "REALITY" of their life and the "FANTASY" of what they WISH their life would be.

In this "FANTASY" obsessed society it is much easier for Satan to convince a person that SIN SATISFIES because they NEVER TEST the actual REALITY of this truth.

Thus the promise that the end times will be a time of great deception is coming true.

1. Mt. 24:3-4

the **end of the age?"** Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one **deceives** you.

2. Matthew 13:22

The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the **deceitfulness** of **wealth** choke it, making it unfruitful.

3. Romans 7:11  
For **sin**, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, **deceived me**, and through the commandment put me to death.
4. Romans 16:18  
For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their **own appetites**. By smooth talk and flattery they **deceive** the minds of **naive** people.
5. 2 Corinthians 11:3  
But I am afraid that just as Eve was **deceived** by the **serpent's cunning**, your **minds** may somehow be **led astray** from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.
  
6. 2 Timothy 3:13  
**evil men** and **impostors** will go from bad to worse, **deceiving** and **being deceived**.
7. Hebrews 3:13  
that none of you may be **hardened** by **sin's deceitfulness**.
8. Revelation 20:10  
And the **devil**, who **deceived them**, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur,

The saddest part of our end times fantasy obsessed society is that most people live in a fantasy world on the subject of ETERNITY. Usually they have NOT carefully and humbly searched the scriptures.

Most people will put over 100,000 hours into the fantasy world of TV, Movies, Video games and Internet over the course of an average life time. Yet many of these same people have never put 10 hours into searching God's word about where they will spend eternity.

Psalm 4:2 **How long** will you **love delusions?**

Thus if you REALLY WANTED to test the lie and to see how empty, miserable, full of pain, full of restlessness and full of decay your life really is; it would be easy.

Simply go one month without any TV, Movies, Internet surfing, Music or Electronic Entertainment.

During that month, ask God to show you the true state of your life.

Of course you are TERRIFIED to turn off all of the noise and truly face the REALITY of the state of your own soul. People lived for thousands of years without all of this FANTASY noise, but you are TERRIFIED of going one month without it. The reason you are terrified is because one month without external fantasy trips would force you to face the reality of the emptiness of your own soul.

I am not saying that this one month without fantasy tools would be easy. If you went one month without the:

- *Cocaine* of TV & Movies,
- *Vodka* of Music or Radio Blaring in your ear,
- *Heroin* of Internet surfing & Video Games,

you would go through terrible withdrawals. It is not easy to leave the Fantasy world of the Matrix and re-enter back into reality.

However, when you DIE it will be TOO LATE to change the reality of your life and the consequences of living a life of fantasy. If you will face Reality now, then you have time to ask for mercy.

If you have the courage to turn off the noise for one month and to face reality, it is important to ask for God's Help!

We strongly suggest that you find 1-2 of the most joyful, passionate, loving and faithful Christians you know and ask them to join you on this fast. They can meet with you multiple times each week to study God's Word and discuss different books you are all reading. You will have plenty of time. ☺

If you ask God for his help, he will show you the reality of your life. Here are three prayers that you could pray that would set you free forever from The LIE!

### **3 prayers.**

1. *Lord, will you please show me the **Ugly MOTIVES** of my **heart**?*
2. *Lord, will you please show me the **LONG Term** effects of my **attitudes**?*
3. *Lord, will you please show me the **BATTLE** for my **mind**?*

**Prayer #1. "Lord, will you please show me the ugly MOTIVES of my heart?"**

If you truly want to see the quicksand of your own misery, then ask the Lord to show you the selfish, ugly MOTIVES of your heart.

Prov. 16:2

**All** a man's ways **seem innocent** to **him**,  
but **motives** are weighed by the **LORD**.

As you pray this prayer, be aware that your own Heart is the one thing that has LIED to you more than all other people combined. The Bible is very clear that your heart INTENTIONALLY is determined to DECEIVE you! In the verse above, it was your heart that told you that you are innocent and have pure motives.

Jeremiah 7:24 But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the **stubborn inclinations** of their **evil hearts**. They went **backward** and **not forward**.

Jeremiah 17:9 The **heart** is **deceitful** above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

The truth is that some of your motives are so ugly and selfish that you will feel great shame when you see clearly your own heart. This misery and pain is part of the death process of dying forever to The LIE! It is part of becoming a person of truth!

When you feel the shame and disgrace of seeing the ugly motives of your heart, please remember that the Lord offers to EXCHANGE your shame and disgrace for a double portion of His JOY.

If you never acknowledge the shame and disgrace of your own ugly motives, then you have NOTHING to exchange with the Lord. However, when you take ownership of the ugly motives of your heart, the Lord offers to exchange your shame and disgrace for double joy in Isaiah 61:7.

Isaiah 61:7

**Instead** (As an exchange) of their **SHAME** my people will receive a **DOUBLE PORTION** And **instead** (Again an exchange) of **DISGRACE**, they will **REJOICE** in their inheritance.  
And so they will inherit a **double portion** in their land  
And **everlasting JOY** will be theirs.

Please remember that choosing to NOT ask to see the ugly motives of your own heart is to choose to be Self-Deceived. When you die, God will then have to force you to look at those motives after it is too late.

**Prayer #2. “Lord, will you please show me LONG Term effects of my attitudes?”**

The longer anyone sins, the emptier they become. To live in the Fantasy world of Self Rule, you have to always look at your sin in the context of IMMEDIATE PLEASURE and NEVER, EVER EVER EVER look LONG TERM.

When you look at your attitudes and actions through the eyes of an old person or through the eyes of eternity, then the pain of selfishness becomes very clear.

Praying for a LONG Term perspective will explain a lot about why Sin (*Self Rule*) seemed to feel good.

**Why does Sin SEEM to feel Good?**

For Sin to “Feel” Good, you have to do two things.

1. You have to be **DETERMINED** to **NOT CARE** about **ANYONE** but yourself.

The further into the sin you go the emptier you will become and the more destruction, decay and misery will spread to you and to everyone around you. At each point, you will have to go **DEEPER** into **NOT CARING** about **ANYONE** but yourself for sin to continue to **FEEL Good**.

2. You have to be **DETERMINED** to **NEVER look** at the **LONG TERM** effects of your sin.

You **HAVE** to **ALWAYS** live in the moment and **NEVER, EVER, EVER** look at the future.

Sin is like spraying perfume on a pile of dung. If you spray enough perfume, it can smell good for a short time.

The longer you live in the dung pile the more perfume you have to spray to fool yourself into believing that it smells good.

When the Apostle Paul came to Christ he realized that all of his human efforts at Self Rule were dung.

Phil. 3:8 (KJV) Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do **count them** but **dung**, that I may win Christ.

I would like to briefly share about three amazing sections of Scripture.

- a. The book of Ecclesiastes
- b. Psalm 73
- c. Romans 6

### **a. Ecclesiastes.**

Solomon had more wealth, power and wisdom than any other man. He tried to use all of this to find satisfaction apart from God in power, wealth, sensual pleasure, scientific productivity. Solomon tested them with reality and found all of them MEANINGLESS and EMPTY. This is the entire message of this book.

Unlike Solomon, the reason that many Christians swallow the lie that SIN would SATISFY is that they are basing their belief on a FANTASY. They have never had any sin that satisfied, but if Satan can keep the FANTASY in their brain then he can get them to swallow the lie.

FANTASY is the opposite of REALITY!

These Christians have never had a sin SATISFY for six months, much less sixty years. Yet, they DREAM in their mind of a Future where this sin would satisfy.

*(By the way, Satan still fantasizes that he will overthrow God in the end.)*

The difference with Solomon is that he used REALITY as a test and not FANTASY.

**Chuck Swindoll** has a terrific book and series of teachings on the book of Ecclesiastes called **LIVING ON THE RAGGED EDGE** if you want to study Ecclesiastes in greater depth.

### **b. Psalm 73**

Psalm 73 is an entire psalm about a man who was DECEIVED for a season into believing that SIN SATISFIES. In the first 16 verses, this man is battling bitterness that the way of sin SEEMS more satisfying.

Then in verse 17, he enters into God's presence. When he is in God's presence, it is like a veil is lifted off of his brain and he can see clearly. He begins to see clearly how miserable, nervous and fearful are the people who walk in the way of sin.

He also sees how he was in a fantasy or like a person who was dreaming. He was not living in REALITY but in a FANTASY. This is a powerful Psalm and I highly recommend studying it.

Psalm 73:20-22 As a ***dream*** when one awakes, so when you arise, O Lord, you will despise them as ***fantasies***. When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, ***I was senseless*** and ***ignorant***; I was a ***brute beast*** before you.

Foolish, weak, backslidden and wandering Christians and most Non-Christians actually swallow the lie that one day in the future in their FANTASY:

- Self Rule will Satisfy
- Anger will Satisfy
- Sensual Pleasure will Satisfy
- Love of Money will Satisfy
- Pride will Satisfy

The reality is that the more you sin: the emptier, more miserable, more self-centered and more filled with death everything in your life becomes. Yet in this FANTASY, you think that one day in the far off future this sin will SATISFY.

### **c. Romans 6**

1981 was the first year that I began memorizing chapters of God's Word. The first chapter I memorized was Romans 6. Romans 6, 7 and 8 are considered by many to be the three greatest chapters in explaining the Gospel in the Bible.

This chapter greatly opened my eyes to how deeply the subject of "*The Emptiness of Sin*" is the starting part of Faith in Jesus. It constantly and emphatically states that sin always results in death. Death stands for emptiness, misery & pain.

Romans 6:16 sin which leads to death

Romans 6:19 you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to **ever increasing wickedness**

The reason wickedness is EVER-INCREASING is because sin makes you so empty and miserable that you have to go to deeper levels of wickedness to repeat your fantasy.

One of the scriptures that impacted me the most was vs. 21

Romans 6:21 **What benefit** did you receive at **that time** (*Years ago*)

From the things you are **NOW** (*Future perspective*) **Ashamed** of?

Those things **result** in **Death**. (*Misery, pain, emptiness etc.*)

To this day I quote Romans 6 every week. Every week Romans 6:21 reminds me that part of the LIE of sin; is that sin tries to make us look at a SELFISH IMMEDIATE focus.

Will you please ask this question that Paul gives in Romans 6:21?

*“What **BENEFIT** are you currently receiving from the things that one day in the future you will be so very **ASHAMED** of?”*

Thirty years from now when everyone around you has suffered deeply from your stubborn determination to do your own thing, how will that **BENEFIT** you?

When you stand before God and you see how much these sins have **COST** you, how will you look at these sins then?

Please ask the Lord to show you the **REALITY** that a **LONG** term perspective brings.

Once we **SEE** the **LIE** and face the reality of our true condition, then we **RECEIVE** His grace with a deep passion. Every Victorious Christian knows that all Self Rule is **QUICKSAND!** When tempted they simply ask the Lord to open their eyes to the Reality of the Emptiness of Sin.

### **Prayer #3. “Lord, will you please show me the Battle for my mind?”**

As you ask the Lord to move you from the world of **FANTASY** to **REALITY**, it would be very wise to expect some resistance. There will be a battle on multiple fronts.

#### **3a Your own sin will battle against you.**

The selfishness of sin is addictive. It does not let go easily. The longer and deeper you have given in to sin, the harder it is to get it out of your life.

I Pt. 1:12

***sinful desires***, which ***war*** against your ***soul***.

#### **3b Satan and this World will battle against you.**

You can't watch 40 hours a week of TV, focus on areas of lust, focus on constant pleasure and regain your mind. This world system is designed to **KEEP** you in the world of **FANTASY**.

Somewhere inside your spirit is the calling of a warrior. Yes, it may be a great battle to regain your mind and to live in Reality. Just because it is a battle does **NOT** mean that it is **NOT** Satisfying. Some of the most satisfying and fulfilling things are the ones that involve the greatest battle.

Satan hates you! Satan desperately wants to keep your mind in the **FANTASY** zone. Satan is the father of all lies! A Fantasy is a lie to your self!

John 8:44 You belong to your father, the ***devil***, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for

there is **no truth** in **him**. When he **lies**, he speaks his native language, for he is a **liar** and the **FATHER** of **lies**.

When you see the Emptiness of Self Rule, then scriptures like II Tim. 6:19 will become very dear to you.

Timothy 6:19 so that they may take hold of the **life** that is **TRULY life**.

## 2 Serious Warnings!

These three prayers and one month without the noise of electronic entertainment will hurt a lot. However, taking these steps will strip away Fantasy like someone stripping paint off of an old piece of furniture.

If you are too terrified or too stubborn to take these simple steps to leave the world of Fantasy and face Reality, then it is very important that you understand that God has stated clearly in his Word that:

### Warning # 1

**God has NO OBGLIGATION to Reveal Himself**

to those who **REFUSE** to **SEEK God** with **ALL** of their **Heart!**

1. Deuteronomy 4:29

But **IF** from there you **seek** the LORD your God, you will find him **IF** you look for him with **ALL** your **heart** and with **ALL** your **soul**.

2. 2 Chronicles 7:14

**IF** my people, who are called by my name, will **humble** themselves and pray and **seek** my face and **turn** from their wicked ways, **then** will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

3. Psalm 14:2

The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to **see** if there are **any** who understand, **any** who **seek** God.

4. Psalm 119:10

I **seek** you with **ALL** my **heart**; do not let me stray from your commands.

5. Proverbs 8:17

I **love** those who **love me**, and those who **seek** me **find me**.

6. Isaiah 58:2

For **day** after **day** they **seek** me out; they **SEEM eager** to know my ways,

Note: If you study Isaiah 58, you will see that they were PRETENDING to seek the Lord but were NOT seeking the Lord with their whole heart.

7. Zephaniah 2:3

**Seek** the LORD, all you **humble** of the land, you who do what he commands.

**Seek righteousness, seek humility;** perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.

8. Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who **EARNESTLY seek** him.

9. Matthew 22

Teacher, which is the **greatest commandment** in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with **ALL** your heart and with **ALL** your soul and with **ALL** your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment.

There is a second great danger.

**Warning # 2**

The **longer** you sin the **more**  
you **LOSE** your **ABILITY** to THINK clearly.

The more you sin, the more you will CRAVE the sin like a heroin addict craves heroin. Sin doesn't just DECEIVE you; it causes you to become ADDICTED to the sin. It is a vicious and destructive cycle. The more you sin with Self Rule, the more you have to deny truth, deny Reality and live a lie.

The more you live that lie the LESS you are able to think clearly. You become a **Brute Beast** living to try to satisfy desires that will never be satisfied. Do you remember the reference to becoming a **Brute Beast** in Psalm 73? It is repeated in II Peter.

1. 2 Peter 2:10,12 This is especially true of those who follow the **corrupt desire** of the **sinful nature**. They are like **BRUTE BEASTS**, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like **beasts** they too will **perish**.
2. Ephesians 2:3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the **cravings** of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

3. 1 John 2:16 For everything in the world—the **cravings** of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world.
4. Eph. 5:6 Let no one **deceive** you with **empty** words
5. 1 Peter 1:18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the **empty** way of life handed down to you from your forefathers
6. II Peter 2:18-19 For they mouth **empty**, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, while they themselves are **slaves of depravity**—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him
7. John 8:34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a **slave to sin**
8. Romans 6:19 I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in **slavery** to impurity and **to ever-increasing wickedness**, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness
9. Eph. 4:19 Having **lost all sensitivity**, they have **given themselves over to sensuality** so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a **continual lust for more.**

Because these two warnings are very serious, I appeal to you to be willing to do a one month fast from the world of fantasy and to seek the Lord with your whole heart.

I also urge you to not delay too long while you still have some sense of reality left in your soul.

### **Small Group Discussion Format**

Each week please go around the room and give each person an opportunity to share. The main goal of the discussion is to draw closer to God. Thus the main question each one is asked is:

“Please point out one thought in this chapter that you liked. Please share a comment on insight on what the Lord is speaking to you through that point!”

2. Am I a “Good” person – Let’s test it!

It may be that you have believed the most FOOLISH of all the lies that your heart has ever told you. It may be that you actually have a FANTASY that you are a “Good” Person.

The truth is that each person who stands before God on their own merit will have to answer for tens of millions of sins of selfishness.

The word “Good” implies “PURITY”. In Genesis chapter 1, when God created the different aspects of the earth before sin, he looked at them and proclaimed them “Good”. Every thing that God made was perfect & pure. It was “Good”.

When the rich young man was flattering Jesus by flippantly using the word “Good”, Jesus challenged him on the truth of the word “Good”.

Jesus wanted to know if the man understood that he was talking to God in the Flesh or if he was flippantly paying a false compliment.

Mark 10:18

***“Why do you call me good?”***

Jesus answered. ***“NO ONE is good—except God alone.***

The Bible says that no one is good!

Romans 3:12

All have turned away, they have together become worthless;  
there is ***NO ONE*** who does ***good, not even one.***

If you have considered yourself a “Good” person then you have given yourself a FALSE COMPLIMENT!

If you want to strip away the lie of being a “Good” person from the world of Fantasy and move into Reality then this Fast will open your eyes wide.

### **1-2 day fast from Selfishness**

For 1-2 days, try to be a Good person in EVERY thought and action.

During this fast from Selfishness, it is important to make sure that you do NOT ask for God’s help. You are testing if you can truly be a “Good” person apart from God’s help.

I Cor. 13:5 ***“Love is NOT Self Seeking”***

- For 1-2 days, have ONLY loving kind thoughts toward every person.
- For 1-2 days, do NOT think about yourself other than basic needs of sleep and food.

- In every thought and action make sure that you treat each person as more important than yourself.
- Set aside your wants and preferences and do all that you can to bless and serve each person.

Note: We were originally going to ask for a one WEEK fast. However, we recognized that an entire week of being a “Good “ person is so hopeless that no one would even TRY the fast. Thus, we shortened the length to 1-2 days in the hope that some will actually want to find out the REALITY of how much selfishness is in the human heart.

### **Small Group Discussion Format**

Because chapter two is the shortest chapter, you may want to expand your discussion subject for this chapter. You may want to share instances of people you know who “Claim” that they should be welcomed into heaven because they are a “Good” person. How would this information help them?

3. The *Emptiness of Self-Rule*” makes it easy to understand:

- a. All Temptation
- b. Receiving the Lordship of Jesus
- c. The true meaning of the word “Repent”
- d. Receiving God’s Grace and Forgiveness

### **3a Temptation**

THREE times, God will have his creation turn away from Him in a PERFECT world. These three situations are the perfect (*pun intended*) ☺ places to understand the inner workings of the subject of temptation.

#### **1. In Heaven (*Lk 10:18, Rev. 12*).**

For millions of years, Lucifer had worshiped our God in heaven. He KNEW that God is good and all things about God are good. YET, Lucifer believed the LIE that SELF RULE would SATISFY.

#### **2. In the Garden of Eden (*Gen. 1-3*).**

Adam and Eve KNEW that God is good and all things about God are good. YET, they believed the LIE that SELF RULE would SATISFY.

#### **3. At the end of the thousand year reign of Christ on the Earth (*Rev. 20*).**

The people on Earth will experience one thousand years with NO sin and with Jesus himself ruling on the earth. YET, after these thousand years, many will turn against God because they believe the LIE that SELF RULE will SATISFY.

Once a Christian has SEEN the LIE that Sin NEVER Satisfies and has seen the truth that Sin ALWAYS ends in misery emptiness, decay, pain and death, then the possibility of them ever turning away from the Lord has been removed.

- A Victorious Christian NEVER forgets how DECEPTIVE sin is.
- A Victorious Christian also NEVER forgets how DECEPTIVE our own hearts can be.

That is why a Victorious Christian CONTINUES to ask the Lord to show them the motives of their Heart! The process of moving from Fantasy to Reality described in the one month Fast is NOT a ONE TIME PROCESS.

For a Healthy Christian it is a Daily Process. Paul Said:

1 Cor. 15:31 **I die every day**—I mean that, brothers

As long as you live on this earth, your own heart will continually try to deceive you. The Lord wants to search our hearts and to show us wrong motives. However, if we STOP asking the Lord to search our hearts and to show us any ugly motives in our hearts, we open ourselves up for deception. As long as you are willing to SEE the death of Sin, by letting the Lord search your heart, then you will forever be safe from deep temptation. We DIE to the LIE that Sin Satisfies by asking the Lord to open our eyes daily.

1. Hebrews 4:12-13

For the **word** of **God** is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it **judges** the **thoughts and attitudes** of the **heart**.

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. **Everything** is **uncovered** and **laid bare** before the eyes of him to whom we must **give account**.

2. James 4:8

**Come near** to **God** and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and **purify** your **hearts**, you double-minded.

3. Hebrews 10:22

let us **draw near** to **God** with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our **hearts sprinkled** to **cleanse us** from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

4. 1 Chronicles 28:9

"And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD **searches every heart** and **understands every motive** behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

5. Psalms 4:4

In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, **search** your **hearts** and be silent.

6. Psalms 7:9

O righteous God, who **searches** minds and **hearts**,

7. [Psalm 139:23](#)  
**Search me, O God**, and know my **heart**; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
8. [Jeremiah 17:10](#)  
**"I the LORD search the heart** and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."
9. [Romans 8:27](#)  
**he** who **searches** our **hearts**
10. [Revelation 2:23](#)  
**I** am **he** who **searches hearts** and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.
11. [Proverbs 16:2](#)  
All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but **motives** are **weighed** by the **LORD**.
12. [1 Corinthians 4:5](#)  
He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will **expose** the **motives** of **men's hearts**. At that time each will receive his praise from God.
13. [James 4:3](#)  
When you ask, you do not receive, because you **ask** with **wrong motives**, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.
14. [Hebrews 3:8](#)  
do **not harden** your **hearts** as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert,
15. [Hebrews 3:12](#)  
**See to it**, brothers, that **none** of you has a **sinful, unbelieving heart** that **turns away from** the living God.
16. [Hebrews 3:15](#)  
As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do **not harden** your **hearts**
17. [Hebrews 4:7](#)  
"Today, if you hear his voice, do **not harden** your **hearts.**"

18. Colossians 3:1

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, **set** your **hearts** on **things above**, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Thus, when a Victorious Christian understands the inner workings of temptation, they know how to pray for the Lord to open their eyes so they can Die to the Lie!

### **3b. Receiving the Lordship of Jesus**

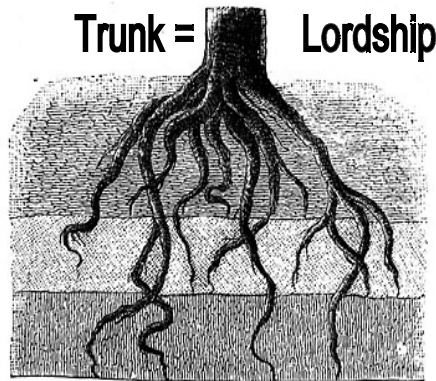
The Lordship of Jesus is the TRUNK of the tree of Salvation but it is NOT the ROOTS of the tree.

Lordship is a clear requirement of salvation.

Yet it is possible to teach on Lordship and to Not Understand that there is a LIE that people have swallowed that is KEEPING THEM from accepting the Lordship of Christ in their lives.

The lie of all temptation is that Sin Satisfies!

The ROOTS of the tree of Salvation is to SEE the EMPTINESS of ALL Sin.



When you see the lie and recognize that self rule always results in emptiness, misery, pain and death, you no longer WANT to rule your own life.

When you see the lie, then the Lordship of Jesus is AUTOMATIC because ONLY Jesus can give a life that satisfies.

### **3c. The true meaning of the word “Repent”**

The Bible word for “Repent” does NOT mean a “**WILL POWER** decision to do better”!

The Greek word for “Repent” in the New Testament is the word metaneo {met-an-o-eh'-o} which means to “**Change the way you THINK**”

This word metaneo {met-an-o-eh'-o} is used 34 times in the New Testament. If you changed your internal definition of the word “Repent”

**from:** “*WILL POWER decision to do better*”!

**to:** “*Change the way you THINK*”

It makes you realize how much of the spiritual battle is simply having your eyes opened.

When you “*THINK*” that: Self-Pity, Complaining, Anger, Pride, TV, Money or Being in Charge of your own life will SATISFY then you have NOT yet “*Repented*”. Your eyes are not open. You have fallen for the lie!

When you SEE the LIE that anything you do (Apart from God) produces emptiness, misery and death then you have “*Repented*” because you now “*THINK*” differently.

When you SEE the LIE that you can NOT even be a Good person in your own strength; then you have “*Repented*” because you now “*THINK*” differently.

The true meaning of the word “Repent” shows how Victorious Christians live by Grace. We ask God to open our eyes to the lie, are able to Trust God for His strength and do NOT count on their own strength or effort to get them to heaven.

### **3d Receiving God’s Grace and Forgiveness**

“*Receive*” is an ACTION word. It implies an aggressive determination to take hold of that which is being offered to you. There are TWO important parts of “*RECEIVING*”. They are:

#### **1. Receiving the FREE Gift of Eternal life and our sins forgiven which is offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus.**

I John 5:13 I write these things to you who **believe** in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have **eternal life**.

#### **2. Receiving STRENGTH to follow the Lord today!**

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may **receive** mercy and find grace to help us in our **time of need**.

At this point, there is a VERY MAJOR TRUTH that is important to understand. The *Emptiness of Self Rule* is even BIGGER than you may realize.

The *Emptiness of Self Rule*

**INCLUDES:**  
understanding that we do  
**NOT** have the **POWER**  
to **OBEY GOD**  
in our **OWN ABILITY.**

If you try to walk with Jesus in your own strength you will be a constantly frustrated person who fails. You have not yet seen the “*Emptiness of Self Rule*”

Sadly, many people raised in church actually believe that they can be Godly in their OWN POWER! They live in the state of Romans 7.

Romans 7:15-19

I do **not understand what I do.**

For what **I want to do** I do **not do,**  
but what **I hate I do.**

And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that

**nothing good** lives **in me,** that is, in my **sinful nature.**

For I have the **desire** to do what is **good,** but I **cannot** carry it out.

For **what I do** is **not** the good I want to do;  
no, the **evil** I do **not want** to do—**this I keep on doing.**

Paul went on from this painful passage to write the amazing eighth chapter of Romans. In that chapter the Holy Spirit is mentioned more than any other chapter in the Bible. Paul learned that God’s Spirit could live THROUGH him!

When you have died to any ability to obey Jesus in your OWN strength, then the promises in scripture that we can “*RECEIVE*”

- His **Love,**
- His **Word**
- His **Spirit**
- His **Mercy**
- His **Grace**
- His **Peace**
- His **Wisdom**
- His **Truth**
- His **Heart**
- His **Strength**-----**All** come **alive.**

Again, this is when you see PASSIONATE, HUNGRY Christians! When Jesus is our ONLY option for anything that will SATISFY, then we become more aggressive in our faith.

We forcefully take hold of His promises. We forcefully take hold of his presence, peace and grace.

We RECEIVE!

Do you remember the QUICKSAND analogy? Do you remember that the person did NOT climb up the rope? All they did was cling to the rope. The rope was moving up by God's grace.

My prayer is that you will allow the Lord to open your eyes to the Reality of the emptiness of Sin (Self-Rule) so that you can experience the joy, peace, love, laughter, fun, richness and satisfying life of serving Jesus by His grace.

### **Small Group Discussion Format**

**Again, please go around the room and give each person an opportunity to share which point God spoke to you in this chapter.**

## 4. Conclusion - Scriptures on Salvation

Does God's Word say that MANY will be SURPRISED to find that they are NOT Christians, NOT permitted into heaven and are assigned to Hell for eternity? YES!!

In fact Jesus emphatically made this specific point five times. (*Mt. 7:21-24, Mt. 25:1-13, Mt. 25:14-30, Mt. 25:31-46, Lk.12:35-46*)

We conclude this short study by asking you to read carefully what God's Word says about Salvation.

### 1. II Peter 2:19-22

They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. **If** they have **escaped** the corruption of the world by **knowing** our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are **again entangled** in it and **overcome**, they are **worse off** at the **end than** they were at the **beginning**.

It would have been **better** for them **not** to have **known** the way of righteousness, than to have **known it** and then to **turn** their **backs** on the sacred command that was passed on to them. Of them the proverbs are true: "A **dog returns** to its vomit, "and, "A **sow** that is washed **goes back** to her wallowing in the mud."

## 2. Hebrews 6:4-6

It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they **fall away**, to be **brought back to repentance**, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

## 3. Hebrews 10:26-39

If we **deliberately** keep on sinning **AFTER** we have **received** the knowledge of the **truth, no sacrifice for sins is left**, but only a **fearful expectation of judgment** and of **raging fire** that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will **judge his people.**" It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. So do **not throw away** your **confidence**; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For in just a very little while,

"He who is coming will come and will not delay. But my righteous one will live by faith. And **IF** he **SHRINKS BACK**, I will not be pleased with him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are **DESTROYED** but of those who believe and are saved.

## 4. 1 Corinthians 15:2

By this gospel you are **saved, IF** you **hold firmly** to the word I preached to you. **Otherwise**, you have **believed in vain**. (Brief Comment: "**IF**" is a HUGE word!)

## 5. Hebrews 3:14

We have come to share in Christ **IF** we **hold firmly** till the **end** the confidence we had at first.

## 6. Matthew 10:22

All men will hate you because of me, but he who **stands firm to the END** will be **SAVED**.

7. Matthew 24:13

but he who **stands firm** to the **END** will be **SAVED**.

8. Hebrews 6:11

We want each of you to show this **same diligence** to the very **END**, in order to **make** your **HOPE SURE**.

9. John 15:1-2

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He **cuts off** every branch in me that **bears no fruit**, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful

10. John 15:6

If anyone does **not remain** in me, he is like a branch that is **thrown away** and **withers**; such branches are picked up, **thrown** into the **fire** and **burned**.

11. Matthew 13:18-21

"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he **lasts** only a **short time**. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly **falls away**.

12. 1 Timothy 1:6

Some have **wandered away** from these and turned to meaningless talk.

13. 1 Timothy 6:10

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have **wandered** from the **faith** and pierced themselves with many griefs.

14. 1 Timothy 6:21

which some have professed and in so doing have **wandered** from the **faith**.

15. II Timothy 2:11

If we **disown** him, he will also **disown us**.

16. 2 Timothy 2:18

who have **wandered** away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they **destroy** the **faith** of some.

17. James 5:19-20

My brothers, if one of you should **wander** from the truth and someone should bring him

**back**, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will **save him** from **death** and cover over a multitude of sins.

18. 2 John 1:8-9

Watch out that you do **not LOSE** what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. Anyone who runs ahead and does **NOT CONTINUE** in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

19. 2 Peter 2:15

They have left the straight way and **wandered off** to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness.

20. Romans 11:22

Consider therefore the **kindness** and **sternness of God**: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, **PROVIDED** that you **continue** in his kindness.

**OTHERWISE**, you **also** will be **cut off**.

21. II Peter 1:10-11

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to **make** your **calling** and **election sure**. For **IF** you **do these things**, you will **never fall**, and you will receive a **rich welcome** into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

22. Matthew 10:37-39

"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does NOT take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever **finds** his **life** will **lose it**, and whoever **loses** his **life** for **my sake** will **find it**.

23. I John 2:19

They went out from us, but they did **not really belong to us**. For if they had belonged to us, **they would have remained with us**; but their going **showed** that **none** of them **belonged to us**.

24. I John 3:6,9-10

v.6 **No one** who lives in him **keeps on sinning**. **No one who continues to sin** has either seen him or **known him**. v.9-10 **No one** who is **born of God** will **continue to sin**, because God's seed remains in him; he can **not go on sinning**, because he has been born of God. This is **how** we **know who** the **children of God are** and who the children of the devil are: **Anyone** who does **not** do what is **right** is **not a child of God**; nor is **anyone** who does **not love his brother**.

### **Small Group Discussion Format**

In this final discussion, there are many powerful passages. Please have each person point out one scripture that impacted them and explain why.

## **Appendix - Related Bible Studies available at [www.LibertyChurch.org](http://www.LibertyChurch.org)**

### **1. Audio Teaching – “The STORY of the last 24 Hours of Jesus life”**

This emotional study series combines all four gospels in a chronological study of the last 24 hours of Jesus life on the earth leading up to the cross. It examines all five trials of Jesus legally. It also examines what happened on the cross medically and spiritually.

We often ask those who are seeking for God to SET ASIDE all RELIGION and just examine Jesus. Look at who he is, what he did and what he said. This series may cause you to deeply fall in love with Jesus.

### **2. Audio Teaching – “Christianity the only LOGICAL Religion”**

In contrast to the “Story” series, this study IS a study of Religion. The point of this study is that Christianity is the ONLY logical religion in the world. Jesus said that people would hate him without LOGIC. (John 15:25). Sadly that is true.

### **3. Written study of the covenant of Salvation.**

This study is longer than the current study and covers a wider variety of subjects. It covers:

1. Does the Bible say that MANY will be SURPRISED when they stand before God to find out that they are NOT Christians and are condemned to an eternity in Hell?
2. Does the Bible say that a Covenant can be broken?
3. What does the Bible say are the terms of the Covenant of Salvation?
4. What does the Bible mean when it uses the word “Believe”?
5. What does the Bible say about Fear and the Fear of God?
6. Does the Bible allow room in heaven for those who are weak in faith?
7. What does the Bible say about how a Christian can live Victoriously?