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Introduction to DL2 (Doing Life 2gether)

For many years I have increasingly been burdened for those around me who make decisions based on their current emotional state or the circumstances that are currently going on around them. Many people make important decisions every day based on what they feel is right or what they are being pressured to do at that moment. Based on a biblical truth found in Isaiah 28:9-10, my goal in these sessions is to help all of us learn Biblical truths based on scripture, and then to make decisions based on those truths. When adversity, trials and storms come into our lives, we will then have already made decisions that we can go back to and make choices in our lives based on those decisions and not on the emotion or the circumstance of the time.

For example, many people make a decision about their eternal salvation based on their current situation and feelings; however, God desires us to know that we are saved so then when satan comes to tempt our minds away from truth, we can say with confidence "I am a child of God and possess Eternal Life!"

It is impossible for us to learn every biblical truth found in God's word in this material, but my goal is that we would learn some very important truths, some principles and a method of decision making that will affect every aspect of our lives and help us learn more Biblical truths on our own.

To get the most out of each session, look up the scripture references and fill in the actual word(s) from the Bible. There are also some questions that will ask you to give an opinion or thought about each Biblical Truth. All references in these lessons will use the Modern English Version (MEV). If you do not have this version, you still should be able to find the words. Do not hesitate to use the index in the front of your Bible if you have difficulty finding the passages.

Each session will be made up of three major components:

1. A Biblical Truth - with a short study on that truth
2. A Verse to point us to that Truth - try to memorize this verse
3. A place for you to write down any decision or thought you may have

Before you start each lesson, pray for God to show you truth from His Word and for Him to help you learn to apply that truth to your life!

Each session is designed to be done with others. Read it together, talk about it together, discuss it together, help each other apply it to your lives - together! **Now, go Do Life 2gether!**

The Biblical Truth:

Today we all live under God's New Covenant

A verse to point us to that truth:

Hebrews 8:13 In speaking of a new covenant He has made the first one old. Now that which is decaying and growing old is ready to vanish away.

➡ Our understanding of the Bible can lead us to read it with a grace perspective, a law perspective, or a combination of the two. That is why it is very important when we read our Bible to know that it is divided into a 'New Testament' and an 'Old Testament' and what section we are reading. If you want to truly understand the Bible, a good starting place is to know what this truth means.

➡ The division between the Old and New Testaments greatly affects how we understand the Bible. These two testaments (or covenants) show a major shift in how God relates to man. We do not live under the Old Testament (Covenant) - we live under the New Testament (Covenant).

➡ The Old Testament was a covenant that God made with Abraham and reaffirmed with the nation of Israel. It was His agreement with the Jewish nation about the relationship that they had together.

Leviticus 26:46 These are the statutes and judgments and laws that the LORD made between Himself and the children of _____
on Mount Sinai by the hand of Moses.

Psalms 147:19-20 He shows His word to Jacob, and His statutes and His judgments to _____. 20 He has _____ dealt so with any other nation; they have _____ known His judgments. Praise the LORD!

☞ This means that the Gentiles - anyone who was not a Jew - were not part of the Old Covenant. We were never meant to live under the Old Covenant or The Law. Keep this in mind as you read God's Word - the entire Bible was written for you, but not all of it was written to you!

Romans 2:14 For when Gentiles, who do _____ have the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, _____ having the law, are a law unto themselves,

☞ To understand it correctly, the Old Testament (Covenant) did not actually have anything to do with the laws of Moses. God gave the laws of Moses to the Nation of Israel a little over 430 years after He made His Covenant with them through Abraham. God knew that they would not be able to live up to those Laws that He gave them. Although God knew they would not keep the law, the Nation of Israel thought they could! This was a show of their own self-righteousness.

Romans 5:20 But the law entered, so that sin might _____, but where sin increased, _____ abounded much more,

➡ We need to make a distinction between these two Covenants - the Covenant of Abraham (Old) and the Covenant of Grace (New). We also need to understand that they cannot be mixed. When the time was right, God set the Old Testament aside and completely declared it 'faulty'.

Hebrews 8:7-8 For if that first covenant had been _____, then no occasion would have been sought for a second. 8 For finding fault with them, God says: "Surely the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a _____ covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,

➡ The New Testament (Covenant) is not like the old one. It is completely different. The Old Covenant is nothing like the New Covenant.

Hebrews 8:13 In speaking of a new covenant He has made the first one old. Now that which is _____ and growing old is ready to _____ away.

➡ If we fail to make the distinction between the Old and the New Covenants, we will become conflicted and confused when we read the Bible. It is critical, if we want to avoid confusion, to make the distinction between the New and Old Testaments.

➡ Many people would say that the New Testament begins with Matthew, because that is where the division is made in their Bible - the Old Testament ends with the book of Malachi and the New Testament begins with Matthew. However, this is not where God divided the Covenants.

Hebrews 9:16-17 For where there is a will, there must also of necessity be the _____ of the testator. 17 For a will has force after men are dead, since it has no force at all while the testator _____.

☞ Jesus made the New Covenant for us, but it was not valid, or put into effect, while He lived. It only became valid when He died. The New Covenant began at Christ's death.

Hebrews 10:9-10 then He said, "See, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the _____ that He may establish the second. 10 By this will we have been _____ through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Romans 5:19 For just as through one man's disobedience the many were made _____, so by the obedience of One the many will be made _____.

☞ God could not have left the Old Covenant in place because when it comes to knowing Him, experiencing Him, and pleasing Him, it has nothing to do with our efforts to behave. Instead, it has everything to do with His grace that allows us to have Life - and Life abundantly.

☞ A challenge to you would be to read the New Testament with new eyes. Begin to read it through both a lens of Grace under the New Covenant and also with an understanding that everything that was said before Christ went to the cross and died for you was under the Old Covenant.

The Biblical Truth:

Today we all live under God's New Covenant

A verse to point us to that truth:

Hebrews 8:13 In speaking of a new covenant He has made the first one old.
Now that which is decaying and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Time to make a decision about this truth.

Do you believe that you are living under the New Covenant today? _____

How does knowing you are living under the New Covenant effect the way you live on a
daily basis? _____

Write down any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

Discuss this Truth and your decision with your DL2 Team.

Now, go Do Life 2gether!

The Biblical Truth:

Jesus is God in the Flesh and came to fulfill God's Plan

A verse to point us to that truth:

1 Timothy 3:16 Without question, great is the mystery of godliness: God was revealed in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached to the Gentiles, believed on in the world, taken up into glory.

➡ In this lesson, the goal will be to see that Christ is God. Christ is the sum of all Christianity, and He is the center of all that is God. True biblical Christianity is not a religion, a system of beliefs, or a church. It is about a Person - Jesus Christ.

➡ Jesus was the perfect man. Jesus was hungry, tired, and experienced agony just like you and me.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who was in _____ sense tempted like we are, yet without sin.

➡ Jesus was also the perfect God.

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word _____. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3

All things were created through Him, and without Him nothing was created that was created.

☞ If we compare this verse with Genesis 1, we see that Christ, who is God, created all things. The Word, who is God, then became flesh in the form of a man named Jesus who was from Nazareth.

John 1:14 The Word became _____ and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

☞ Jesus said He and God are one, and He is the One who gives Eternal Life.

John 10:28-30 _____ give them eternal life. They shall never perish, nor shall anyone snatch them from My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them from My Father's hand. 30 My Father and I are _____."

☞ Because Jesus said He was God, the religious crowd who followed God took stones to kill Him because of these blasphemous statements.

John 10:31-33 Again the Jews took up stones to stone Him. 32 Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" 33 The Jews answered Him, "We are not stoning You for a good work, but for _____, and because You, being a Man, claim to be _____."

☞ Jesus was always a part of God's Eternal Redemptive Plan. He knew that mankind would choose death over life, choose darkness over light, and choose themselves over Him. He also knew that because of this choice mankind would not be able to be righteous enough to live with Him in Heaven without Him providing a failsafe plan. He would have to be that plan.

☞ There are many Bible verses that speak of this truth ... look them up to help you understand this amazing truth. But ultimately, it comes down to your faith in Who Christ is to you.

Philippians 2:5-6

John 17:21

John 1:18

Colossians 2:9-10

John 10:33

John 5:18

1 John 5:20

John 8:57-58

John 13:18-19

1 Corinthians 8:6

Matthew 2:1-2

Matthew 28:8-9

John 20:27-28

Acts 20:28

The Biblical Truth:

Jesus is God in the Flesh and came to fulfill God's Plan

A verse to point us to that truth:

1 Timothy 3:16 Without question, great is the mystery of godliness: God was revealed in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached to the Gentiles, believed on in the world, taken up into glory.

Time to make a decision about this truth.

Do you believe this truth in your life? _____

How does it affect your thoughts about your life and your thoughts about Jesus?

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

Discuss this Truth and your decision with your DL2 Team.

Now, go Do Life 2gether!

The Biblical Truth:

God's plan is to give us Eternal Life through Jesus Christ

A verse to point us to that truth:

1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

➡ God desires us to have faith in Him and trust His Eternal Redemptive Plan. That by no means obligates God to do what we want. We only tend to see things from our own perspective and with our limited knowledge, but He is eternal - no beginning and no ending.

➡ He is the real Father time, the creator of time. God is Triune, and each 'person' of the Godhead is eternal. He is Omniscient and fully conscious of each element of time without lack of clarity. He is Omnipotent - all powerful - operating outside of time. And, in the clearest sense, He is Omnipresent - everywhere at the same time. He is fully interacting with all elements of time and space. He is 100% unique in every part of His being! He is holy - completely unique unto Himself! He never began to exist, He cannot stop existing, and He depends on nothing but Himself to exist. He does not change - from eternity past to eternity future - He is still the same!

Psalms 90:2 _____ the mountains were brought forth, or You had formed the earth and the world, even from _____ to - _____ You are God.

➡ If you understand and believe that God is an eternal, everlasting God. This would also be true about His mercy and His grace.

Psalms 100:5 For the Lord is good; His mercy endures _____, and His faithfulness to _____ generations.

☞ God is everlasting and has all power, and we will grow weary and we will faint as we try to attain everlasting Life in our own strength and in our own efforts. It will never happen. But through Him, through His efforts and His power, we can obtain everlasting Life!

☞ This thought is completely contrary to man's thoughts and ideas. Mankind wants to have some type of effort that they can accomplish to gain everlasting Life so that they can say "Look at what I have done! I am good!" This is man's plan.

☞ But God has His own plan – His Eternal Redemptive Plan.

1 Peter 1:18-23 For you know that you were _____ redeemed from your vain way of life inherited from your fathers with perishable things, like silver or gold, 19 but with the _____ of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He was foreordained _____ the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for you. 21 Through Him you believe in God who raised Him up from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope might be in God. 22 Since your souls have been purified by obedience to the _____ through the Spirit unto a genuine brotherly love, love one another deeply with a pure heart, 23 for you have been born again, not from perishable seed, but imperishable, through the word of God which lives and _____ forever.

☞ God has a perfect Eternal Redemptive Plan and that is exactly what 1 Peter 1:18-23 is all about. We serve an omniscient God, who does not see eternity through a flawed perspective like ours, but who sees all of eternity as if it were all right now. All of this mess we are in ... has not surprised Him.

☞ He knew before time that man would sin and come short of His glory. He knew there would be a need for a plan even before the earth was formed. God foreknew that man would choose sin and that the wages (consequences) for that horrible choice would be death.

☞ You see, God's righteousness must be met somehow. If man died in his sin, it would be eternally too late. What would He do? But God had a plan for mankind to be redeemed and He would do it for you!

☞ Here is God's Eternal Redemptive Plan. He would save man through faith in the coming Messiah through the Sacrificial System in the Old Testament times.

Hebrews 10:1 For the law is a _____ of the good things to come, and not the very image of those things. It could never by the same sacrifices, which they offer _____ year after year, _____ those who draw near.

☞ God also knew there would be a personal cost of His Eternal Redemptive Plan

1 Peter 1:19 but with the precious _____ of Christ, ...

➡ The cost for our redemption was not silver or gold but it was the blood of Jesus Christ, who is God manifested in the flesh, born of a woman, and without sin. In John 3:16-17, John writes that God "so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." And that He "did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved"

➡ This is where God's everlasting mercy met with God's everlasting, immutable truth - at the Cross of Calvary!

Psalms 85:10 _____ and _____ have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed.

➡ Because He loved us so much He decided to take our sin upon Himself and to bear the shame, the reproach, the wrath, and the justice on our behalf. God would redeem the world through Christ, and He planned this before you and I committed our first sin! The everlasting God has an everlasting plan for redemption for all of the world. It is a plan that you can believe in, it is a plan you can trust and it is a plan you can put your whole faith behind.

➡ This is the question that is before all of mankind and the same question that is put before you today: Do you want to follow God's Eternal Redemptive Plan to gain everlasting Life with God in Heaven? Or do you want to follow your own flawed plan that leads to death, separated from God?

The Biblical Truth:

God's plan is to give us Eternal Life through Jesus Christ

A verse to point us to that truth:

1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

Time to make a decision about this truth.

Do you believe this truth in your life? _____

How does it affect your thoughts about your life and your thoughts about God's Plan?

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

Discuss this Truth and your decision with your DL2 Team.

Now, go Do Life 2gether!

The Biblical Truth:

Salvation is given freely to those who believe in God's Eternal Redemptive Plan

A verse to point us to that truth:

Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved,

➡ For thousands of years mankind has asked this important question: "If God is real and He requires me to be saved, 'what must I do to be saved?'" (Acts 16:30) God wants us to be clear about this answer. He told us the answer in the very next verse.

Acts 16:31 They said, "_____ in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you and your household will be saved."...

➡ Paul sums up God's Eternal Redemptive Plan for mankind's salvation when he says that it is by God's grace. The word grace has various meanings, but as it relates to salvation it speaks of kindness bestowed on one who does not deserve it. In other words, grace pours favor on those who do not deserve favor. In God's grace, the question is not whether or not a person deserves favor or blessing, but only whether God desires to give it.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by _____ you have been saved through faith, and this is not of yourselves. It is the _____ of God, 9 not of works, so that no one should boast.

➡ Although God's grace is freely given and seen, grace can only affect you personally when you exercise faith in Jesus Christ. This brings up a very practical question - "What is meant by faith?" Faith is a belief in something, and then trusting in that belief. According to James 2:19, "... the devils also believe, and tremble..." The devils believe in Christ but do not put their trust in His work on the cross for their own salvation.

➡ This is what is meant in Romans 10:9 when it says "... believe in your heart ..." This is a trusting believe - faith!

Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and _____ in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you _____ be saved,

➡ Salvation is not in someone doing good things, belonging to a church, getting baptized, or having their sins forgiven. It is about Life. Before we believe in God's Eternal Redemptive Plan, we are dead - though Christ has redeemed the world, without faith (believe and trust) we cannot receive Life!

➡ You have already looked at God's Eternal Redemptive Plan in an earlier lesson. Remember, God does not force His plan on you. He allows each and every person to decide for themselves if they want to choose His plan or choose their own plan. The problem with our plan is that our plan will not take us to heaven, give us Eternal Life, or allow us to be with God for all of eternity. God will not force you to believe His plan, but since He created us all, He gets to decide what that plan is and what happens when you do not follow His plan.

John 3:15-18 that whoever _____ in Him should not perish, but may _____ eternal life. 16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should _____ perish, but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be _____. 18 He who believes in Him is not condemned. But he who does _____ believe is condemned _____, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:36 He who believes in the Son _____ eternal life. He who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

The Biblical Truth:

Salvation is given freely to those who believe in God and His Eternal Redemptive Plan

A verse to point us to that truth:

Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved,

Time to make a decision about this truth.

Do you believe and trust this truth in your life? _____

How does it affect your thoughts about your life and your thoughts about Jesus?

Have you received salvation? _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

Discuss this Truth and your decision with your DL2 Team.

Now, go Do Life 2gether!

The Biblical Truth:

God seals me with His Spirit for all eternity

A verse to point us to that truth:

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also, after hearing the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and after believing in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

➡ Satan tries to get us to doubt our salvation. He tries to get us to question if we are even a Christian or not. When you slip up and sin, he will try to get you to forget who you are and what God has done inside of you!

2 Timothy 1:12 For these things I suffer, but I am not ashamed, for I _____ whom I have believed, and am _____ that He is able to keep that which I have committed to Him until that Day.

1 John 5:11-13 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life, and whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 I have written these things to you who _____ in the name of the Son of God, that you may _____ that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

➡ What you CAN know about your salvation:

Acts 16:31 They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you and your household _____ saved.”

✓ Did you believe? _____

John 10:28 I give them eternal life. They shall _____ perish, nor shall anyone snatch them from My hand.

✓ If you have Eternal Life, can you perish? _____

John 10:29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all. _____ is able to snatch them from My Father’s hand.

✓ Can you be plucked out of God’s hand? _____

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also, after hearing the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and after believing in Him, _____ sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

✓ Have you been sealed? _____

➡ God cannot lie (Titus 1:2), and when He makes a promise, He keeps it! He has promised that when you trust in Him alone for your salvation, He will give you Eternal Life and you will not come into condemnation! (John 5:24) God knew that mankind could not, and would not, keep His Covenant. He showed us this in the Old Testament. So He made a Covenant with Himself that could not be broken! This is His plan!

Hebrews 6:13-20 For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could vow by no one greater, He vowed by _____, 14 saying, “Surely I will bless you, and surely I will multiply you.” 15 So after Abraham had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. 16 For men indeed swear by a greater authority than themselves, and for them an oath of confirmation ends all dispute. 17 So God, wanting to show more abundantly the immutability of His counsel to the heirs of promise, confirmed it by an oath. 18 So that by _____ things, in which it was impossible for God to _____, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. 19 We have this hope as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, which enters the _____ behind the veil. 20 This is where Jesus has entered for us as a forerunner, since He has become the everlasting High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.

The Biblical Truth:

God seals me with His Spirit for all eternity

A verse to point us to that truth:

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also, after hearing the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and after believing in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

Time to make a decision about this truth.

Do you believe you are eternally secure in your salvation? _____

Is there anything that can remove you from God's hands? _____

If you answered 'Yes', can you write down what it would be and a Bible verse to explain your answer? _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

Discuss this Truth and your decision with your DL2 Team.

Now, go Do Life 2gether!

The Biblical Truth:

God has created a new creature in you

A verse to point us to that truth:

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things have passed away. Look, all things have become new.

➡ One of the most asked questions I have received is “Who am I? What is my identity in this world?” It seems like a basic question. Many may quickly answer with a list of titles to cover the truth that they may not really know who they are. They may answer something like this: Father, Mother, son, daughter, boss, employer, nurse, waiter, secretary, or Grandparent. But these are labels about what we do and our position in life. But does it really answer who we are?

➡ Sadly, many Christians have absolutely no confidence or even knowledge of who they are.

➡ The Holy - completely unique - God had a plan for mankind to be redeemed before He even created the world. Part of God’s Eternal Redemptive Plan is - at the moment we believe and trust in His Plan we receive Life (salvation) and He creates a new creature in us. He exchanges our old nature for a new nature and comes and lives in us!

➡ Who we are in Christ needs to be a part of our core value system! It ought to be a fundamental teaching in our Churches and in our homes. When a child who has been saved for a while is asked “Who are you?”, the first answer off of their head should be “A child of the King of kings!” The opposite is usually taught - who we are is based on what we do, and if we don’t do right then who we are ... is flawed and broken!

➡ Who we are is not a mystery. God tells us and desires us to believe His Word about who we are!

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a _____ creature. Old things have _____. Look, _____ things have become new.

➡ He literally made a new creation in us!

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with _____ blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

➡ This phrase “in Christ” is used to characterize our identity. “In Christ”, “in Him” or “in whom” can be found at least 27 times in Ephesians!

➡ As Paul said, "the old is gone"...

Romans 6:6 knowing this, that our old man has been _____ with Him, so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we should _____ be slaves to sin.

... and "the new has come"

Romans 5:17 For if by one man's trespass death reigned through him, then how much more will those who receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in _____ through the One, Jesus Christ.

➡ Peter says it this way:

2 Peter 1:4 by which He has given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, so that through these things you might become _____ of the divine nature and escape the corruption that is in the world through lust.

➡ Our salvation is more than just an improvement on what was already there, it is not a renovation project. We have been re-created new and different. Made holy (unique – different) in our spirit! We were born having a spirit, who has a soul, and lives in a body. Our identity is in our spirit! When we put our faith in Jesus Christ, we are "born again" and our spirit is "made alive with Christ".

Colossians 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has _____ together with Him, having forgiven you all sins.

➡ Understanding our identity is so absolutely essential to our success in living the Christian life because none of us can consistently behave in a way that is inconsistent with the way we perceive ourselves. Our behavior comes out of what we believe about ourselves. That is why it is so important to come to understand the truth about who you are in Christ.

➡ Those who are believers have something that the world doesn't have - Christ in them! The nonbelievers do not have the One who is Life living in them to give them Life!

➡ What does God call those who believe in his Eternal Redemptive Plan?

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the _____ who are at Ephesus and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

- Saints” - meaning set apart ones, or separated, or holy ones!
- We are no longer labeled sinners, but saints. Our identity has been changed.

Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirits that we are the _____ of God, 17 and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and _____-_____ with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified with Him.

- “Joint-heir” of Christ!

Galatians 2:16 yet we know that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ. Even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be _____ by faith in Christ, rather than by the works of the law. For by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

- “Justified” is derived from the Greek word ‘dikaioo’. Which means, “to render, that is to show or see as innocent - righteous.” You are more than just being innocent - you are made as if you never sinned!

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the _____ of God in Him.

Ephesians 4:24 and that you put on the new nature, which was created according to God in righteousness and true _____.

- We are declared righteous.
- Without blemish and completely made unique - holy in Christ!

1 Corinthians 6:11 Such were some of you. But you were _____, you were _____, and you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus by the Spirit of our God.

- We are washed, and made clean, and set apart, and declared innocent, and righteous!

➡ If you have believed and trusted God's Eternal Redemptive Plan, He calls you a saint, a child of His, a joint heir of Christ, justified, righteous, holy, washed, and sanctified! But often we think that saying these truths sound arrogant or egotistical. Which is more arrogant - agreeing with God about who He declares you to be and speaking it out loud ... or disagreeing with God and calling yourself something different than what He declares you to be? It is not arrogant to speak truth from God's Word!

The Biblical Truth:

God has created a new creature in you

A verse to point us to that truth:

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things have passed away. Look, all things have become new.

Time to make a decision about this truth.

Who or what are you identified with? _____

Do you believe that today? _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

Discuss this Truth and your decision with your DL2 Team.

Now, go Do Life 2gether!

The Biblical Truth:

Christ's blood did not cover our sins, it took them away!

A verse to point us to that truth:

Colossians 2:13-14 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has resurrected together with Him, having forgiven you all sins. 14 He blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us and contrary to us, and He took it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.

➡ What was the main purpose of Christ's death? Some might answer "To atone for our sins!" But what does this mean and is it accurate? One of the lies satan likes to spread is that the redemptive work that Christ did was nothing and how does that apply to mankind. Because if we can misunderstand what that Work was, then we will misunderstand our role in receiving Eternal Life and ultimately how we share the Gospel to the lost world.

➡ One of the most confusing words in the Bible is the word 'Atonement'. What does this word really mean? Yom Kippur is probably the most important holidays of the Jewish year. Many Jews who do not observe any other Jewish custom, will take a day off from work, fast and usually attend synagogue services on this day. The name "Yom Kippur" means "Day of Atonement". Today, it is a day set aside to "afflict the soul" and that by afflicting the soul, you can atone for the sins of the past year. But in the Old Testament times, this was a day that God had set aside when the High Priest would be the Mediator for the Nation of Israel. This Atonement provided the way for the people to be one with God by covering their sin for a year. Every year he would offer the same sacrifices and every year the responsibility was all his. He alone would be the one to bring the atonement to the people.

➡ This is what Hebrews chapter 10 is referring to

Hebrews 10:1-4 For the law is a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of those things. It could never by the same sacrifices, which they offer continually _____ after _____, perfect those who draw near. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshippers, once purified, would no longer be conscious of sins? 3 But in those sacrifices there is an _____ reminder of sins. 4 For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to _____ sins.

➡ Year after year this would have to happen until one day a real Sacrifice would be given and the world would never be the same. But this Real Sacrifice of Blood ... would take away sin! This Real Sacrifice would be a once and for all sacrifice. This Real Sacrifice would bring eternal reconciliation

Romans 5:11 Furthermore, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received _____.

➡ Some versions will translate this word reconciliation with the word atonement. The literal meaning of this Greek word is “To be exchanged” or “reconciled”.

Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies, we were _____ to God by the _____ of His Son, how much more, being reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.

➡ In the Old Testament the word Atonement meant to cover. Which makes sense. The blood of goats and bulls covered the sins for one year, but did not remove them. This is taken from the literal act of spreading of blood on the Mercy Seat - covering the Mercy Seat.

➡ But in the New Testament, other than this one place and only in some versions, we do not see the word atonement. The word atonement - to cover - in the New Testament is not used because Christ did not cover our sins - He took them away! He exchanged the curse of sin - death - for the gift of Life - Himself! The exchanged Life of Christ!

➡ This word reconciliation in verse 11 is showing the effect that comes from the death of Christ. But the word is also used to mean the action from what the reconciliation, is brought about by ... the death of Christ itself. The word atonement is used as the act of satisfying the need for the blood sacrifice AND the result of that act – the reconciliation.

➡ Christ's work - His suffering - was not merely for our benefit, but was in our place. Our guilt is satisfied by the blood that He shed and the punishment which He bore. Satisfaction has been made for sin once and for all. Our punishment has been dealt with by a vicarious satisfaction and the result of it being satisfied is ... reconciliation.

➡ So to understand this completely, Christ's Blood is the atonement - the payment - and with His own self as the payment, He was what satisfied the need for a blood Sacrifice. But He did not cover our sins - atone for them - He reconciled the world to God by removing the sins once and for all. His blood was more powerful than the blood of bulls and goats. His blood literally obliterated sin!

➡ Many may have a hard time with that idea of ‘taking them away’, but when you read this next passage, you cannot deny what has happened on the cross - Christ literally obliterated sins!

Colossians 2:13-14 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has resurrected together with Him, having forgiven you all sins. 14 He _____ out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us and contrary to us, and He took it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.

➡ That word blotted out means “obliterate, or tear”. He offered Himself as the payment as the satisfaction for the need for a blood sacrifice - the need for our blood to be shed in death to reconcile us to God! And the only way we can be reconciled once and for all is if the sin is no longer there!

➡ The primary idea of this redemptive process given to us in different forms throughout the Bible, is that the death of Christ is a satisfaction of infinite worth that reconciles mankind to God.

Colossians 1:20-22 and to _____ all things to Himself by Him, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him, I say—whether they are things in earth, or things in heaven. 21 And you, who were formerly alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has _____ 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and blameless and above reproach in His sight,

☞ There was no way man could come into the presence of God by himself without a sacrifice of Blood to bring reconciliation! Christ did this about 2000 years ago! He does not do it after you accept Him as Savior. He does not take your sins back to the cross, after you trust in Him as Savior. He did it once - for all mankind!

☞ Here is some more biblical proof of this wonderful truth

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also has once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but made _____ by the Spirit,

Romans 6:10 For the death He died, He died to sin _____ for all, but the life He lives, He lives to God.

Romans 5:18-19 Therefore just as through the trespass of one man came condemnation for all men, so through the righteous act of _____ came justification of life for all men. 19 For just as through one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the obedience of One the many will be made _____.

The Biblical Truth:

Christ's blood did not cover our sins, it took them away!

A verse to point us to that truth:

Colossians 2:13-14 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has resurrected together with Him, having forgiven you all sins. 14 He blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us and contrary to us, and He took it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.

Time to make a decision about this truth.

Do you live your daily life understanding that Christ paid the cost for you? _____

What does that mean to you? _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

Discuss this Truth and your decision with your DL2 Team.

Now, go Do Life 2gether!

The Biblical Truth:

We are to live in Christ and live Life abundantly!

A verse to point us to that truth:

John 10:10 The thief does not come, except to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

➡ How can we look like Christ, show Christ to others, do things that please Him and still keep messing up in our everyday life? And how do we do those things without feeling like we are back on the treadmill of work and guilt?

➡ We are taught from God's Word that there are things that can happen and things that cannot happen:

We cannot

- Be separated from God's love - Romans 8:35-39
- Be lost or perish - John 10:28 and John 3:16
- Be taken out of my Father's hand - John 10:29
- Be charged or accused - Romans 8:33
- Be condemned - 1 Corinthians 11:32

We can

- Do all things through I - Philippians 4:13
- Find mercy and grace to help - Hebrews 4:16
- Come boldly to the throne of grace - Hebrews 4:16
- Quench all the fiery darts - Ephesians 6:16
- Declare liberty to captives - Isaiah 61:1
- Pray always and everywhere - Luke 21:36
- Defeat and overcome the enemy - Revelation 12:11

➡ In spite of these things that can and cannot happen, every one of us still has obligations and responsibilities – these are completely separate from having to follow ‘laws’ or ‘rules’.

➡ Think of it this way: as an employer, an employee, a parent, or a student, there are things we must do even if we do not like it or do not want to do it. These are our obligations and responsibilities. Employers must pay their employees, pay taxes, and provide health insurance. Employees must work, show up on time, and follow the work’s rules to keep the job. Parents must protect their children, provide for them, teach them what they need to know for life, and show them that they are loved. Students must do their homework, study, respect their teachers and leaders in the school, and respect the other students.

➡ No one has a problem with these and other obligations and responsibilities that are enacted on them, but as soon as a Church leader begins to lay out obligations or responsibilities for members of God’s local Church, they are called out to be ‘legalists’. This is not what legalism is. This is simply teaching how to walk in Christ and how that will show out to the world. Legalism is demanding you to do things for salvation or so you can receive blessings or favors from God or from the Pastor or the local Church.

➡ There are natural rewards and natural consequences to those who choose not to fulfill their responsibilities and to those who fulfill their responsibilities.

➡ The New Testament writings are designed to show us how to solve conflict with others, how to solve conflict with ourselves, and how to solve conflict with God. The solution to all of these is Christ! The New Testament also lays out for us what our life will look like when we allow Christ to live in and through us.

Philippians 1:20-21 Accordingly, it is my earnest expectation and my hope that Christ shall be ashamed in nothing, but that with all boldness as always, so now also, Christ will be _____ in my body, whether it be by life or by death. 21 For to me, to continue living is Christ, and to die is gain.

Romans 6:6-14 knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him, so that the body of sin might be _____, and we should no longer be slaves to sin. 7 For the one who has died is freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death has no further dominion over Him. 10 For the death He died, He died to sin once for all, but the life He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise, you also consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but _____ to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 Do not yield your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but _____ yourselves to God, as those who are alive from the dead, and your bodies to God as instruments of righteousness. 14 For sin shall _____ have dominion over you, for you are not under the law, but under _____.

➡ This is the portrait that God paints for us. Not a portrait of how to behave, but how our life will look when we allow Christ to reign and live in our lives. God never intended for us to live alone or to be perfect. At salvation, He put His Spirit within us and came and dwelled in us to give us Supernatural Life - Himself!

➡ He desires for us to be victorious over the circumstances we face, but many times we make the mistake of asking God to help us through the circumstances rather than yielding to His Spirit that lives in us so that He can live in and through us in the middle of that circumstance. God tells us that we can and should expect to have Christ as our Life and to also have His mind, His strength, His provisions, His peace and His joy.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the _____ is love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 meekness, and self-control; against such there is no law.

➡ When Christ came to live in you, He created a new creature in you. A 'being' that has a new spirit and that is alive and in union with Him always!

Colossians 3:1-4 If you then were _____ with Christ, desire those things which are above, where Christ sits at the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on earth. 3 For you are dead, and your _____ is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life shall appear, then you also shall appear with Him in glory.

☞ We are to do the opposite from doing works in our own strength. God says that good works will be a result of us walking (seeking and setting) in Christ because Christ will be living through us.

Romans 8:9-13 You, however, are not in the flesh but _____ the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. Now if any man does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. 10 And if Christ is in you, though the body is _____ because of sin, the Spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit that lives _____ you. 12 Therefore, brothers, we are debtors not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if through the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, 9 not of works, so that no one should boast. 10 For we are _____ workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, so that we should _____ in them.

➡ Both us being in Christ and Him being in us, happened at the time of our salvation. It is an instantaneous process; however, we may not understand it and try to live Christ's life for Him. The reality is, Christ's Life is to be expressed through us by Him.

➡ Have you ever said "I just can't get victory over this problem!", "Just keep praying and victory will come.", "Victory comes only after much hard work.", or "I lost the victory."? These are very common - but incorrect - statements about victory.

➡ God's Word has many true promises about victory, but victory is not achieving, winning, being on top of it, or something we have to do. Why are these not Victory? Because they direct us away from The One who is our Victory. We often work for victory instead of from Victory!

Galatians 5:1 For freedom Christ _____ us. Stand fast therefore and do not be entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

➡ Walking in defeat is not that we do not have victory - we have been set free and Christ's Life is victorious in us - but that we choose (consciously or subconsciously) not to claim our victory, and we continue to live as though we are still in bondage. This condition of our lives is called "walking after the flesh" instead of "walking in the Spirit"

Romans 6:11-14 Likewise, you also consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 Do not yield your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but _____ yourselves to God, as those who are alive from the dead, and your bodies to God as instruments of righteousness. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law, but under grace.

Galatians 5:16-17 I say then, _____ in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. These are in _____ to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

➡ Every day wake up and know you are alive in Christ, and allow your flesh - the old habits - to yield to Him as He leads. As you ask God to walk and live in you, He will show you how to live through His Word, through preaching and teaching, through feeling peace as you live when all these line up.

➡ We used to believe God said we were bad because we did bad things and we thought our behavior made us distant from Him. Then, when we studied the Bible and learned that God tells us that we WERE dead and needed His Life. We thought that we were distant from God because we did bad things and we thought we could just change our behavior and be in close fellowship with Him. But God solved our 'distance' problem by making us close to Himself by the death and resurrection of Christ ... not our good works!

➡ Remember, not everyone's life will look the same, not everyone will be working on the same things, and not everyone has issues with the same things. Each person will be living their life as Christ is leading them, and you will be living your life as Christ is leading you.

➡ When your life is not showing Christ - allowing Christ to show out - the answer is not 'do more - try harder - be better'. The answer is Christ - know Him more, trust him more, and immerse yourself in Him. The result will be: your life will show the character of Christ.

The Biblical Truth:

We are to live in Christ and live Life abundantly!

A verse to point us to that truth:

John 10:10 The thief does not come, except to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Time to make a decision about this truth.

Can you live a perfect life? _____

Do you think God expects you to live a perfect life? _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

Discuss this Truth and your decision with your DL2 Team.

Now, go Do Life 2gether!

The Biblical Truth:

The Law of Christ will always be true.

A verse to point us to that truth:

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

➡ In Galatians we see a phrase that continues to stump many believers.

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so _____ the law of Christ.

➡ The phrase "The law of Christ" is said to have an uncertain meaning and is found only in this verse. Some have stated that it is related to:

1 Corinthians 9:21 to those who are outside the law, as outside the law (being not without God's law, but under Christ's _____) that I might win those who are outside the law.

➡ But under further examination we see that this verse is not connected to "The Law Of Christ" at all. It is dealing with a completely different aspect of our freedom in Christ - it states "the law to Christ" not "the law of Christ".

➡ Here is how the discussion of Galatians 6:2 usually is discussed. Since God has created natural laws to govern His universe, then there must be a standard of conduct for His children to follow. If not, chaos and anarchy would follow. God is not the author of confusion (I Corinthians 14:33).

➡ It would continue by talking about the Old Testament by saying that God gave Moses laws for the Nation of Israel to follow. Following these laws did not grant them citizenship - that was not the purpose of law. The Law of Moses was simply a guide for people to follow to ensure unity, agreement, and peace in civil and personal relationships. And if they could follow the Law of Moses perfectly, then they would also have a right relationship with God. Without a standard, enforced by God and His called men, everyone would act according to his own desire, and nothing good would be found. God's Kingdom will be peaceful and orderly because everyone will voluntarily submit themselves to the law of God.

➡ And then the discussion would begin deal with the New Testament by saying that under the New Testament, most Christians would agree that Christ either 'replaced', 'completed' or 'fulfilled' the previous Law of Moses. There are many New Testament verses that state that Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament Law, bringing it to completion and conclusion. And many believers would also say those born under the New Covenant would now have to follow "The Law of Christ". To ensure that chaos and anarchy does not arise in our Churches or in the lives of the Believer.

➡ But what exactly is the "Law of Christ", and how is it fulfilled by carrying each other's burdens? The Bible does not specifically define what exactly is the "Law of Christ". So is the above argument valid?

➡ Most Bible teachers would say that the "Law of Christ" encompasses what Christ stated were the greatest commandments in:

Mark 12:28-31 One of the scribes came and heard them reasoning together. Perceiving that Jesus had answered them well, he asked Him, “Which is the first commandment of all?” 29 Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is, ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord. 30 You shall _____ the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. 31 The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as _____.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

➤ And they would continue on to state that the “Law of Christ” is to love God with all of our being and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. In place of the Old Testament Law, Christians are to obey the “Law of Christ”. Rather than trying to remember the over 600 individual commandments in the Old Testament Law, Christians are simply to focus on loving God and loving others. If Christians would obey those two commands with their whole heart, we would be fulfilling everything that God requires of us.

➤ Many bible scholars would continue the teaching of the “Law Of Christ” by saying that “some use the fact that we are not under the Old Testament Law as an excuse to sin. The apostle Paul addresses this very issue in Romans 6:15. In the Believer's life, the avoidance of sin will be accomplished out of love for God and love for others. When we recognize the value of Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf, our response is to be obedience. When we understand the sacrifice Jesus made for us and others, our response is to be to follow His example in expressing love to others. Our motivation for overcoming sin should be love, not a desire to legalistically obey a series of commandments. We are to obey the law of Christ because we love Him, not so that we can check off a list of commands that we successfully obeyed.”

➡ Here in is the dilemma: how has that worked for us so far? How good have we been at loving others as God loved them? I do not know about you, but I can't! I can't love those who hurt me, hurt my family and hurt my Church family - as Christ loved them! And to add to that, if I can't 'obey' the law of Moses, how can I 'obey' the "Law of Christ"? I can't! In fact, I do not think God actually tells us to 'obey' it. He says this:

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's _____, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

➡ When you bear one another's burdens - you will fulfill the law of Christ! I have also realized that since Love is an action word - I cannot love and I cannot bear another's burdens either. I am awful at that! Oh, I try to be nice to people, and I try to be kind, and I try to make them feel better about their terrible situation, but I am awful at really bearing their burden! Isn't that what James is saying in James 2?

James 2:8 If you fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your _____ as yourself," you are doing well.

➡ If you can do all of the royal law (The Levitical Laws - The Laws of Moses) great! You do well! But you will not be able to, so ... you are not so well I guess. Because if you break one part of the law of Moses, you are breaking the whole thing. So if you break one part of the "Law of Christ" you are breaking the whole thing. I cannot say I love God and not love others and I cannot say I love others and not love God. It is an all or nothing kind of law.

1 John 4:7-11 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God, and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is _____. 9 In this way the love of God was revealed to us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we _____ love one another.

☞ I have also learned that since I cannot do it - I must allow Christ to do it through me.

Galatians 2:20:21 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the _____, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. 21 I do not nullify the grace of God. For if righteousness comes by the law, then Christ _____ in vain.

☞ So here is the conclusion, since we cannot in our own ability love others as we should and we cannot in our own ability love God as we should, then the "Law of Christ" is not a 'command' type law, but a natural law. Natural law, or the law of nature, is determined by nature, therefore it is universal. Some call this scientific law. In that we can observe nature through repeated experimental observations that describe some aspect of nature. A natural law or scientific law always is true under the same conditions, and implies that there is a causal relationship involving its elements (they are connected to each other through cause and effect).

➡ We can see examples of this in the four laws of thermodynamics. These laws define physical qualities that characterize thermodynamic systems. We can also see an example of natural law in Newton's law of universal gravitation which states that: "any two bodies in the universe attract each other with a force that is directly proportional to the product of their masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them."

➡ This is a law derived from experimental observations by Isaac Newton. These natural laws are a constant and cannot be changed. They were created by God to keep order in the universe. They are real, measurable and predictable. And just as gravity and thermodynamics are a natural law of the characteristics of nature. God is love ... Christ is God ... Christ is love. The characteristics or "law" of love is Christ. When Christ is allowed to live in you and through you - the "law of Christ" or the "Character of Christ" is shown. When we bear another's burden then Christ is shown - His law is fulfilled just like when an apple falls from the tree it fulfills the law of gravity.

➡ We also see Paul saying the same thing in:

Romans 7:21-25 I find then a law that when I desire to do good, evil is present with me. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inner man, 23 but I see another _____ in my members, warring against the _____ of my mind and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then, with my mind, I serve the _____ of God, but with my flesh, the _____ of sin.

➡ The law of sin is the natural law that our flesh naturally desires things that feed its needs. The Law of God is the same as the "Law of Christ" - the natural law that I follow when I follow the Spirit and allow Him to live in and through me.

Galatians 5:16-18 I say then, walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. These are in _____ to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

➡ So we can either go and do all we do to show people we love Christ on our own strength - or - allow Christ to live through us in His strength as we live every day and the world will see Christ - so fulfill the law of Christ.

The Biblical Truth:

The Law of Christ will always be true.

A verse to point us to that truth:

Galatians 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Time to make a decision about this truth.

Can you live a perfect life? _____

What is the Law of Christ? _____

Do you think God expects you to live a perfect life? _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

Discuss this Truth and your decision with your DL2 Team.

Now, go Do Life 2gether!

The Biblical Truth:

God calls all Believers His Priests!

A verse to point us to that truth:

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may declare the goodness of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

➡ Christians are taught from childhood that pastors are the 'religious specialists'. That they are somehow the only ones qualified to handle the 'spiritual things' of God and everyone else is only able to do secular work. Since pastors are viewed as 'the religious specialists', the rest of the church sees themselves as passive recipients of all that is 'spiritual'.

➡ God's plan for the church is for everyone to be involved in ministry. You don't have to be ordained to be effective in the Kingdom. You don't have to go to a pastor, or any other person for that matter, to get to God and seek His leading for your service in His kingdom. God, desires to lead you directly to be used greatly in His Kingdom!

➡ Think about what it means when we say "We who are Believers are all called to be priests"? What do you think of when we say we are called to be priests?

Isaiah 61:6 But you shall be named the _____ of the Lord;
men shall call you the ministers of our God...

➡ What are priests of the Lord? Do you usually think of a certain religion when you think of priests? What does God say about it?

1 Peter 2:8-10 ...They stumble because they are disobedient to the word, to which also they were appointed. 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal _____, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may declare the goodness of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 10 In times past, you were not a people, but _____ you are the people of God...

➡ In the beginning, every man was his own priest, and presented sacrifices to God. Afterwards that office moved to the head of the family (Noah, Abraham, etc.). But after Mt. Sinai only men from the tribe of Levi and the house of Aaron could serve as priests. In the church age - today - every born-again believer is a priest in God's Kingdom. God wants a kingdom of priests, not just priests in the kingdom.

➡ There were two ways to become a priest

One - Be qualified according to rules of the Mosaic Law and Levitical system

Two - Have God declare you a priest!

➡ God has declared Jesus to be our High Priest and since we who are believers - are in Christ, what does that make us? His priests!!! God's desire is that every living soul would accept Christ as their Savior and come to Him boldly as a Born again priest of God.

➔ Priests had a duty to serve and they took their job seriously. What would happen if we took our duty as priests as serious as the priests in the Old Testament? What do you think would happen in our society if we all realized the position we all have in Christ? If we realized we are all His priests called to minister to the needs of all those around us?

➔ The office of a priest is not only our high privilege, or our responsibility - but more importantly, it is the identity of every child of God. God's intention for the priesthood was for them to come near to God and experience Him personally. When we were born again Jesus "brought us out of darkness into His marvelous light" and our ministry from that point on became and remains to "let our light shine for Him, so that others may see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven"

The Biblical Truth:

God calls all Believers His Priests!

A verse to point us to that truth:

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may declare the goodness of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Time to make a decision about this truth.

Do you believe that you are a Royal Priest? _____

What does that mean to you? _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

Discuss this Truth and your decision with your DL2 Team.

Now, go Do Life 2gether!

The Biblical Truth:

Grace is not just a New Testament concept or teaching!

A verse to point us to that truth:

2 Timothy 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not by our works, but by His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

➡ What words come to mind when you think of the Old Testament? Dietary laws? Curses? Wars? Sacrifices? Many Christians don't often associate the word grace with the Old Testament. Those who don't, miss this central theme that God weaved throughout His entire Word. After all, the God who inspired the writers of the New Testament also guided the writers of the Old Testament. How can you not see that the writings of Moses, the prophets, and the other writers are full of grace?

➡ So where does this myth of the graceless god who burdened the Jew with law come from? This thought also reflects another common fallacy. The idea that grace began with Jesus' resurrection. Some have said that the God of the Old Testament is harsh and vindictive, but the God of the New Testament is tender and forgiving. And some people think that the Old Testament believers were saved by keeping the law and New Testament believers are saved by Grace through faith!

➡ Of course, there is much more of an outward showing of grace in the New Testament, but God never changes. It is a common misconception among Christians to think about the Old and New Testaments in these neat categories of 'law' and 'grace'. This tendency is understandable because, at times, this seems to be the broad portrait which the Bible paints of itself.

John 1:17 For the _____ was given through Moses;
_____ and truth came through Jesus Christ.

☞ In both Testaments - both Covenants - people are saved by Grace through faith in the Messiah. Underneath all of the themes of the Old Testament. Is the teaching of God's grace

Genesis 15:6 Abram _____ the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness.

☞ We can see the grace of God in every book of the Bible - throughout both the Old and New Testaments. God did not begin with an idea of impossible expectations and later changed His mind to lighten up and send Jesus instead. Jesus is not the "Plan B". The Old Testament is not a failure which needed to be corrected with Jesus. The atoning power of God is on every page. God's grace is the foundation upon which the Gospel message is built.

☞ One of the most incredible stories in the Old Testament regarding what God's grace does and how far reaching God's Grace is, comes from the book of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles. Manasseh was born around 710 BC - two years into the 15 year extension of life of his father Hezekiah. Hezekiah was one of the most godliest kings that the Kingdom of Judah had ever had. But when Hezekiah was about to die, he begged God to give him more life - and God gave him 15 more years - and Manasseh was born during this time.

➡ Manasseh began his reign when he was 12 and reigned 55 years. He was the longest reigning king in Judah. He would have been trained in the ways of God from birth by his father. But all the time while he was king, he did all that was evil in the sight of God. He even burned his son alive in a ceremonial fire to Baal.

➡ Manasseh pretty much spit in the face of God. He looked everywhere for guidance, but never in the right place. Jewish history records Manasseh killed Isaiah - his own grandfather by sawing him in two.

➡ God said 'Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations, evil will come upon Jerusalem - they will be delivered into the hand of their enemies. Manasseh was bound and carried to Babylon. A bad man and a harsh God - that is the story of the Old Testament. Right? After all the evil Manasseh had done, some might even say that he deserved what he got! And he deserved to never see mercy!

➡ But here is what happened to him:

2 Chronicles 33:12 And when he was distressed, he _____ the face of the Lord his God, and he greatly humbled himself before the God of his fathers.

➡ He came back to God! Not in doing good things, but in his heart! Does it work that way? Doesn't he have to do some service for God first? Is it that easy? Let's see how God responds - surely God will say 'no!', right?

2 Chronicles 33:13 And he prayed to God, and He was _____ and responded to his plea and returned him to Jerusalem to his kingdom. Then Manasseh _____ that the Lord was God.

☞ God forgave him! And God restored him back to his kingdom! That is grace! And AFTER the forgiveness, and AFTER the restoration, Manasseh led others back to God! It was because of God's grace that led Manasseh to live a godly life.

☞ The God of the Old Testament is the same God of the New Testament. God delights in showing mercy and grace to His children.

☞ This is what Paul is fighting in many of his writings - Romans and Galatians. Paul demonstrated from the Old Testament that God always accepted people by grace through faith alone and not by works. God accepted Abraham on this basis, and if God accepted Abraham by faith, certainly this is how He accepts others.

☞ God's grace to His people permeates the Old Testament story, from the moment He allows Adam and Eve to live after they have sinned, through His loving preservation of His people in the face of their frequent grumblings and rebellions, and all up until Christ dies on the Cross.

The Biblical Truth:

Grace is not just a New Testament concept or teaching!

A verse to point us to that truth:

2 Timothy 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not by our works, but by His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Time to make a decision about this truth.

Do you believe that grace was part of God's plan from the beginning? _____

What is grace? _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

Discuss this Truth and your decision with your DL2 Team.

Now, go Do Life 2gether!

The Biblical Truth:

Christ loved the Church so much that He died for it

A verse to point us to that truth:

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it,

➡ The concept of 'Church' has been a confusing one for many throughout time. Some have said it is a building - but Christ would not have died for a building; some have said it was a system of beliefs (religion) - but Christ would not have died for a system of beliefs; and some have said it is a denomination - but Christ would not have died for a denomination formed by man.

➡ Christ died for the Church - and that Church is a living, breathing, moving, serving, praising, worshipping organism made up of believers who community together for His glory! If you are a believer in Christ, He desires for you to love the same thing He loves - He desires for you to gather together with other believers for the purpose of worshiping, praising, learning, serving, teaching and reaching.

➡ The word Church (or Churches) is found 114 times in the New Testament. The word *Church* comes from the English word meaning the same as the Greek word *ekklesia* which is defined as 'an assembly' or 'called-out ones'.

➡ *Ekklesia* is the root word of the words 'ecclesiology' and 'ecclesiastical'.

Romans 16:5 Likewise greet the _____ that is in their _____.

➡ Paul refers to the church in their house - not a building, but a body of believers meeting together.

➡ The church is the body of Christ, of which He is the head.

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things in subjection under His feet and made Him the head over all things for the _____, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all things in all ways.

➡ The body of Christ - The Church - is comprised of two aspects:

1) The Institution of the Church. Some may call this the *universal church*. This would consist of all those who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This verse says that anyone who believes is part of the body of Christ. A way to understand this would be to think about Marriage and School - the institution of marriage consists of all those who are married (though not everyone is married to everyone else who is married) and the institution of school consists of all of those who go to school (though not everyone who goes to school attends the same school as everyone else). If we understand the original word of *ekklesia* we would see the term 'assembly'. It would be impossible for all believers to assemble at one place at one time - now. One day we will be gathered together in one place - before the throne of God!

2) The local Church - An assembly of believers in a particular city that gather together for a purpose to glorify God, praise God, worship God, and serve God together.

Galatians 1:1-2 Paul, an apostle ... 2 and all the brothers who are with me, to the _____ of Galatia:

➡ Here we see that in the province of Galatia there were many churches - what we call local churches. A local body of believers. All of those who are believers in Christ and in God's Eternal Redemptive Plan should seek fellowship in a local church. The local church is where believers can fully apply the 'body' principles of 1 Corinthians chapter 12 - encouraging, teaching, and building one another up in the knowledge and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Biblical Truth:

Christ loved the Church so much that He died for it

A verse to point us to that truth:

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it,

Time to make a decision about this truth.

Do you love Christ's Church? _____

Are you currently joined with other believers in a local Church? _____

If not, please take time to write down why. _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

Discuss this Truth and your decision with your DL2 Team.

Now, go Do Life 2gether!

The Biblical Truth:

Water Baptism by immersion is the Biblical way for Baptism

A verse to point us to that truth:

Acts 8:38 And he commanded the chariot to halt. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him

➡ Many religions have different ideas about what baptism is and what baptism is not. Some believe baptism accomplishes the washing away of sin. Others consider baptism a form of exorcism from evil spirits. Still others teach that baptism is a step of obedience - an acknowledgment of salvation. But are any of these right? One word that could be given for the meaning of baptism would be identification.

➡ Baptism speaks primarily of a personal, public identification with Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:3-4 Do you not know that we who were baptized _____ Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism _____ death, that just as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

➡ Notice the strength of the expressions—"baptized into Jesus Christ" and "baptized into his death" and "buried with him by baptism." Someone might say that the primary meaning here is talking about Spirit baptism and that would be true, but water baptism is clearly in the background of this passage when talking about identity.

➡ How important is baptism? It is our personal identification with the greatest act of human history - the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Identification!

➡ Baptism does not save you.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through _____, and this is not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, 9 _____ of works, so that no one should boast.

➡ Baptism is our personal testimony of our passage from the old life to the new Life in Christ. Baptism means we are publicly identifying with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. When you are baptized, you are visually preaching the gospel - a sermon without using any words. As you are lowered into the water, you symbolize Jesus being buried in the tomb, and as you are raised from the water, you symbolize Jesus rising from the dead. By your baptism you are saying, "When I believed in God's redemptive plan for my Eternal Life, I died with Jesus Christ, I was buried with him, and now I am raised with Christ."

➡ The process of baptism is simple. Another believer (one who has been recommended by your local church) lowers you under the water and then brings you back up out of the water. Literally you are 'immersed' in water. Some religions sprinkle water on people instead of immersing them, but is this okay? Nowhere in the Bible does anything but 'immersion' take place during a baptism. Baptism is always by immersion.

➡ This makes sense if you understand that *baptize* is a transliteration of the original Greek word *baptizw* (baptizo). *Baptizo* comes from the root word *baptw* (bapto), a term used for immersing a garment into dye - changing the color of the cloth. When you process cloth to change its color, you are said to *baptize* it.

➡ When looking in the New Testament we see some interesting facts about baptism:

- Baptism needed water - Matthew 3:11
- Baptism needed plenty of water - John 3:30
- Baptism was going down into the water - Acts 8:30
- Baptism was also coming up out of the water - Matthew 3:16, Acts 8:39
- We also see the Apostle Paul call baptism a “burial” in Romans 6:4 and Colossians 2:12.

➡ The early church always ‘immersed’ when baptizing.

➡ A new believer in Jesus Christ should desire to be baptized as soon as possible.

Acts 8:35-38 Then Philip spoke, beginning with the same Scripture, and preached Jesus to him. 36 As they went on their way, they came to some _____. And the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” 37 Philip said, “If you _____ with all your heart, you may.” He answered, “I _____ that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” 38 And he commanded the chariot to halt. Then both Philip and the eunuch went _____ into the water, and he baptized him.

➡ Philip taught the good news about Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What is in my way of being baptized?”

➡ Phillip asked him if he believed all that he had taught him about Christ, and the eunuch said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” Right away, they stopped the chariot, and Philip baptized the man.

➡ We should not be ashamed - or afraid - to tell the world what I has done for us. One easy way is baptism.

Romans 10:9-11 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and _____ in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved, 10 for with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in Him will not be _____.”

➡ Baptism illustrates a believer’s identification with I’s death, burial, and resurrection. And with that they also are identifying themselves with a fellowship of believers - the Church - that they were baptized by.

The Biblical Truth:

Water Baptism by immersion is the Biblical way for Baptism

A verse to point us to that truth:

Acts 8:38 And he commanded the chariot to halt. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him

Time to make a decision about this truth

Do you believe this truth from God's Word about Baptism? _____

Have you been Biblically Baptized? _____

If not, why? _____

Write any thoughts you have about this truth. _____

Discuss this Truth and your decision with your DL2 Team.

Now, go Do Life 2gether!



Compiled by Blake Alling

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