

new life in CHRIST



the believer's guide to a new life in Christ

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Dear Friend,

The day you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour was the greatest day of your life. Congratulations on your decision. You now have eternal life in Heaven forever! It doesn't get any better than that! Not only is Heaven given to you after this life, but now you have a fresh start – a new life – down here on this earth. II Corinthians 5:17 says, *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”* I am so happy and excited for you as you begin your journey in your Christian life.

This booklet is designed to give you a jump start on your personal relationship with your Saviour. We will cover issues like assurance of salvation, baptism, Bible reading, and many others. I want to see you grow into all that God has for you in your new life in Him. Pray and ask God to help you as you learn more and more about how wonderful He really is. Expect God to bless you for learning the truths of His Word and applying them to your life. We hope that *New Life in Christ* will be helpful and encouraging to you as you begin that fresh start – your new life.

Your friend,

Pastor Jack Cox
Senior Pastor

SALVATION, CRYSTAL CLEAR

We were all born with something in common—our sinful natures. We never had to be taught to disobey. We were pretty good at it naturally. God's Word tells us in Romans 5:12, *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."* The result of Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden was simply that every man or woman would henceforth be born into sin. That is unfortunate for us, yet it is the truth. I don't know about you, but I have been committing sin for as long as I can remember. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Every last one of us has done wrong at some point and time in our lives. In fact, we do wrong on a daily basis.

So, first of all, we recognized that **we *all* are sinners**.

The obvious follow-up on our first observation is that there is a penalty for the sin that we commit. Just as a parent disciplines a child for telling a lie, God must punish our sin. The verse we looked at earlier in Romans 5:12 helps us with this point as well. The sin that we inherited from Adam also brought death with it. Romans 6:23 says, *"For the wages of sin is death..."* Now, that may seem like a harsh punishment, but God is a just (fair) and holy God. He wants to give us that home in Heaven, but Heaven is a perfect place—and we aren't perfect! If God allowed an imperfect person into Heaven, then Heaven would no longer be perfect. So we die in our physical bodies. No one likes to think or talk about this physical death, but it is a reality that we all must face. When our physical bodies pass on, our soul will then move to either Heaven or Hell. Here is that "death" that these two verses in Romans speak of. Because of our sin, we deserve to be cast into Hell. That's not excellent news. Bear with me, and I promise you it will get better.

Secondly, we learned that **sin brings with it death in Hell.**

I am so glad we have a Saviour Who did not leave us at this second point, aren't you? God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus, to this earth for one main reason: *"to seek and to save that which was lost."* (Luke 19:10) John 3:16, the most famous verse in the Bible, tells us, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* Jesus Christ came to this earth and died for YOU! We deserve Hell, yet Jesus took our place when He died on the cross and shed his blood for our sins. Romans 5:8 and 9 say, *"But God commendeth (demonstrated or proved) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."*

We now see how **Jesus paid our penalty on the cross.**

Jesus would not have died on the cross for no reason. He had a specific reason and purpose: to offer us Heaven for all eternity. The end of Romans 6:23 says, *"...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* God offers us that free gift of Heaven for all eternity THROUGH Jesus Christ! We can only receive that gift if we go through Jesus Christ. Heaven cannot be attained any other way. We cannot work our way there; we cannot buy our way there; we cannot hope our way there. We must receive the gift that Jesus paid for on the cross. Believe in Him, and trust Him to take your soul to Heaven when you die. That's it! That's all! That's easy!

Jesus wants to give that **gift of eternal life in Heaven.**

In order to receive a gift, all one simply has to do is accept it. I used to enjoy receiving gifts for my birthday as a child.

I never had to cut the grass or take out the trash in order to receive my birthday gifts. They were freely given to me. Heaven has been offered as a gift, and we must take that gift. Romans 10:9 and 13 say, *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou **shalt be saved**.....For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord **shall be saved**."* What a great promise! God will save us if we just call upon His Son Jesus for eternal life in Heaven. I trust that you have made this important decision in your life already, but maybe you haven't. Won't you simply "call upon the name of the Lord" and ask Him to save you? He has promised that you **shall be saved**. No "if's, and's, or but's" about it! It's done!

Pray a simple prayer like this: "Dear Lord, I know that I am a sinner. I realize that my sin has caused me to deserve Hell. But I also realize that Jesus Christ came to earth and died for my sins. Jesus, I now accept your free gift of eternal life in Heaven. Please save my soul and take me to Heaven when I die. I trust You, Jesus, and only You. Amen."

If you prayed that prayer, truly believing in your heart, then Romans 10:9 says that you *are* saved. What a great start! Now you can focus on that new life that Christ has waiting for you! Let's get started!

BAPTISM: THE FIRST STEP

Now that you have trusted Christ, and you know your home is eternally secure in Heaven, you must take that first step in your Christian faith—baptism. While baptism does not save you, it does identify you as a Christian. It is a symbol, similar to a wedding ring, that you have trusted Christ and are now a Christian. Just as a young lady who marries the love of her life is proud to wear that wedding ring, we as Christians should be more than willing to be baptized.

Baptism actually means a “ceremonial immersion in water.” Biblical baptism is by immersion. We do not sprinkle, nor do we baptize infants. Neither practice is taught in the Bible. Mark 1: 9 and 10 say, *“And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway **coming up out of the water**, he saw the heavens opened...”* We do, however, want to baptize every person that has trusted Christ as his Saviour. Christ commanded us to do so in Matthew 28: 19 by saying, *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”* Even Christ Himself was baptized by John the Baptist. Matthew 3: 13 says, *“Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.”*

Baptism is only done after one has received Christ. In two major instances in the Bible, two different men were baptized *immediately after* trusting Christ. Acts 8: 36-38 tell the story of the Ethiopian eunuch: *“...and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”* The Ethiopian eunuch had just received Christ, and he was

LOOKING for a place to be baptized! The other story is about Paul and the Philippian jailor. The jailor received Christ and was baptized on the same night. Acts 16:31 and 33 say, *“And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house....And he took them **the same hour of the night**, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.”*

So you may be wondering, “When can I be baptized?” The answer is simple—**any time** after you have trusted Christ as Saviour. At the conclusion of each service, while we have a brief invitation and song, we invite people to come to the altar and pray for various reasons. If you will simply come forward at that time, one of our pastors will explain the baptism process to you and make you feel completely comfortable. We have fully-stocked baptistery rooms with gowns and towels ready for you. Once you have changed into a baptismal robe, the church will witness your baptism and rejoice in your decision.

New life! Being identified with Christ! How exciting! This first step of baptism in your new life is so important. It is the Biblical foundation of obedience that you will use throughout your life in Christ.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

Now that you have been saved and baptized, God wants you to learn more about Him and grow in your faith. God has placed local churches throughout this world specifically for that reason—to help you grow and learn. Ephesians 5:25 says, *“...even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”* God has His hand on the church.

While there are hundreds of churches around the country and around our area, we would LOVE for you to choose to attend here at Liberty. However, God may lead you in a different direction. Seek His direction in this important decision. Above all, attend church faithfully. Hebrews 10:25 says, *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is;...”*

Once you have been saved and baptized, you qualify for membership at Liberty Baptist Church. Church membership does not save anyone, but it is an important aspect of your new life. Along with church membership comes the opportunity to serve in the wide variety of ministries offered here at LBC. We can always use more help. Contact any of our pastors regarding ministry work.

One of the most enjoyable benefits of church attendance and membership is the relationships you will develop with other Christians. Whether it is a small Bible class or simply an evening at a restaurant, you will often find members of LBC spending time with each other. It is great to know that you and your friends share that common bond of salvation. Christian relationships are important in your new life in Christ. You may request to join LBC at the conclusion of any of our services during the invitation. Simply meet one of our pastors down front, and they will assist you.

SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

In a world full of insecurity, it is great to know that we can have security for today and for eternity. God did not save us through His Son so we could constantly live an insecure spiritual life. If you truly trusted Christ, then salvation is YOURS! You possess it! No one can take it from you.

The Holy Spirit of God occupies the heart of the believer. He has several jobs, but my favorite is the job of security. Ephesians 4:30 says, *“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”* God, the Holy Spirit, has sealed our fate. Neither the Devil nor anyone else can remove us from the family of God. While we may disappoint our Saviour, He has promised us ETERNAL life. It is just that—eternal—forever—infinite. John 6:37 says, *“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me **I will in no wise cast out.**”* That is a promise from the lips of Jesus Christ.

As we live our daily lives, we can live in security. We can be secure in the decisions we make at work, in our family, and in our finances because we have the Holy Spirit in our hearts guiding us. Jesus told his disciples in Luke 12:12, *“For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.”* The Holy Spirit teaches and guides us in our everyday lives. Listen to Him. Develop a relationship with the Holy Spirit. Trust His leadership in all aspects of your life.

CONCLUSION

Congratulations on completing *New Life in Christ!* I trust that you will take the principles given in this booklet and use them in your new life in Christ. Get baptized. Attend and join a Bible-believing church. Look for opportunities to serve. Live in the security that only the Holy Spirit gives.

I hope to see you at one of our weekly services. We have small group adult Bible classes every Sunday morning at 9:45. Each class offers detailed Bible lessons and opportunities to meet other Christians. I hope you will take advantage of these classes. We have two Sunday preaching services (10:45 am and 6:00 pm) where you will hear a message from the Word of God. We also have a Wednesday evening Bible study. This is a great family night at LBC. There is a Bible study for every member of your family. We would love to see you!

If there is ever anything that I or our church can do for you, please let me know. We are here to help and encourage you as you journey on your new life in Christ.

Your friend,

Pastor Jack Cox
Senior Pastor