



## **OUTSIDE READING ASSIGNMENT**

# **BEGINNING WITH CHRIST**

**Used by Permission**

# Beginning With Christ

Jesus Christ said, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with Me” (Revelation 3:20). Coupled with this wonderful truth is the statement in His Word that “...as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God...” (John 1:12).

If you have, to the best of your knowledge, received Jesus Christ, God’s Son, as your own Savior, according to the Scripture quoted above, you have become a son of God in whom Jesus Christ dwells.

Altogether too many people make the mistake of measuring the certainty of their salvation by their feelings. Don’t make this tragic mistake. *Believe God.* Take him at His Word: “These things have I written unto you that believe in the Name of the Son of God; that ye may *know* that ye have eternal life...” (1 John 5:13).

It is impossible in the short space of these few paragraphs to go into all the wonderful results of the transaction that took place when you received Christ. A child may be born into a wealthy home and become the possessor of good parents, brothers and sisters, houses and lands, but at the time of his birth it is not necessary that he be informed of all these wonderful things. There are more important matters to take care of first. He must be protected, for he has been born into a world of many enemies. In the hospital room he is handled with sterilized gloves and kept from outsiders that he might not fall victim to the myriad germs waiting to attack. It is the knowledge of such enemies which enable the doctors and nurses to take measures to protect the precious new life.

You have become a child of God; you have been born into His family as a spiritual babe. This is

a strategic moment in your life. It is our desire to share with you a few simple truths which will strengthen you for the battle ahead and keep you safe from the onslaughts of Satan.

In 1 Peter 2:2 you will read, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby.” In Acts 20:32 you will read, “And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up . . .” His Word will now serve as your spiritual food and will build you up in the faith. You probably have a Bible or New Testament. If not, get one and begin to read it faithfully every day. It is most important that you have time set aside, preferably in the morning, to read and study the Word of God and pray.

Now let’s be more specific with regard to your intake of the Word of God. In the 9th and 11th verses of Psalm 119 we read, “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word,” and then the psalmist speaks to the Lord saying, “Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.” So we challenge you to hide His Word in your heart—to memorize it. Each section titled “Assurance of...” has included in it a Scripture with which you may begin.

But we have spoken only about your spiritual food. Let us consider for a moment this new enemy which you face.

Before you trusted Christ, Satan may not have bothered you particularly, but now he has seen you make the step which angers him more than any one thing in all the world. You have left his crowd and joined the ranks of those who believe and trust in the Son of God. You are no longer in Satan’s domain; you now belong to the One who has “bought” and paid for you “with a price,” the price of His own blood shed

on the cross. You may be sure that Satan will attempt to trouble you. His attacks assume many forms, but we wish to speak of some of the most common ones and give you help on how to resist him successfully.

We can overcome him only as we use the weapons which God has provided. Ephesians 6:17 says “And take ...the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.” Not only is the Word of God spoken of as the sword of the Spirit but it is that through which faith comes as a shield to ward off the darts of the enemy (Romans 10:17, Ephesians 6:16). *The Word of God* then, is our weapon of defense as well as our weapon of offense.

For example, consider that our Lord was tempted by Satan in three specific ways, and He defeated him each time with Scripture, saying, “It is written ...” (see Matthew 4). If Christ deemed it necessary to meet Satan this way, how much more do we need this mighty weapon, the Word of God. How much more we need to be prepared to say to Satan, “It is written...” or “Thus saith the Lord...”.

### **Assurance of Salvation**

The five verses of Scripture we have suggested for memorization have been chosen to equip you for your first few encounters with the enemy. His first approach is often to cast doubt upon the work which God has done in your heart, and although you will not hear his audible voice, he will whisper in your heart:

“You don’t think you are saved and your sins forgiven just by believing and receiving Christ? Surely that is not enough?”

What will your answer be? Our only hope to withstand such an attack is to resort to God’s Word. What does God say about the matter? That is the important thing. And so the first memory passage, 1 John 5:11,12, entitled Assurance of Salvation, says:

“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He

that hath the Son hath life; and He that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”

When this passage has been written on the table of your heart so you are able to use it every time a doubt arises during the next few days, and when on the basis of this “record”—God’s written word—you are thoroughly convinced that you now have the Lord Jesus Christ and with Him eternal life, you will have overcome in one of the first tests. This attack may recur, but now you have the Word of God in your heart with which to meet it.

### **Assurance of Answered Prayer**

Another attack of Satan may be to cause you to doubt the effectiveness of prayer. He may whisper to you:

“You really don’t think God is personally interested in you? He is far away and is concerned about more important things. Surely you don’t think He’ll hear you when you pray—much less answer your prayers?”

Now that Jesus Christ is your Saviour and Lord, you have the unique privilege of speaking directly with your heavenly Father through Him. He wants you to come confidently into His presence (Hebrews 4:16) and to talk to Him about everything (Philippians 4:6). He is intensely interested in you and your needs. In the second verse, John 16:24, Jesus gives us His Assurance of Answered Prayer:

“Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My Name; ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”

Jesus did not say His disciples had never asked before. You yourself have probably asked many times, especially when in trouble. But now you can ask “in Jesus’ Name,” because you belong to Him. To ask in His Name means to ask in His authority and on His merit. Just as the Father answered Jesus’ every prayer, so will He answer you when you ask in Jesus’ Name. He *delights* to answer your call and meet your needs. Memorize this wonderful promise, ap-

ply its truth and experience the joy of answered prayer.

### **Assurance of Victory**

Still another attack may be along this line. Satan may whisper to your heart:

“You have life, all right, but you are a weakling; you have always been a weakling.”

He will remind you of some sin which has gripped you throughout the past years of your life. He will point to something of which you are keenly aware, and say:

“You are weak; you will not be able to stand against this particular temptation. Perhaps you will be able to stand against others, but not this one.”

How will you answer him? Will you attempt to reason? Will you try to produce your own arguments? Will you run to see what this person or that one says, or will you resort to the invincible Word? The third verse, 1 Corinthians 10:13, is chosen especially to meet this attack of Satan:

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

This gives Assurance of Victory. God promises victory. It belongs to you as a child of His. Believe it and you will see that things impossible with men are possible with God. It will thrill you to see that chains of lifetime habits can be broken by His mighty power. Memorize this verse; write it on the table of your heart.

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

This brings us to the next attack of Satan. Although victory is rightfully yours, you will likely fail at some point. Sin will suddenly crop up and immediately your enemy will be on the job to say: “Now you’ve done it. Aren’t you supposed to be a Christian? Christians don’t do those things.”

Nevertheless, God makes provision in His Word for the failures of His children, and so the fourth verse speaks of the Assurance of Forgiveness, 1 John 1:9:

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

To *confess* a sin means to uncover it by calling it exactly what God calls it. Implicit in honest confession is the willingness to forsake the sin (Proverbs 10:13). God promises not only to forgive us, but also to cleanse us. What a gracious provision!

### **Assurance of Guidance**

The four preceding assurances have been given to help you meet the principal attacks of Satan. However, the fifth passage for you to memorize is for a different purpose. You may have questions about the future, wondering how this new life of yours is all going to work out. What about God’s will for your life? Will He really lead you? Hence, this verse comes to give you Assurance of Guidance, Proverbs 3:5-6.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”

God promises to lead you and direct your path when you rely on Him completely. Memorize and apply this Scripture and you will surely experience His guidance in your life.

We suggest this procedure as you memorize these verses:

Start with the first one, 1 John 5:11,12. Read it over several times to help grasp the passage as a whole. Then break it into natural phrases. Memorize the reference and the first phrase. Then add the second phrase, then the third and so on. Each time you go over it, state the reference, the verse and the reference again at the end. Repeating the reference “fore ‘n aft” will prevent future difficulty in remembering the location of the passage.

When you are able to quote the first passage, tackle the second in the same way and review the first. Then when you can quote these two, start the third. When you can repeat the three perfectly, work on the fourth, and so on.

The secret of mastering these verses is *review*. So each day as you work on your newest verse, review the ones you have already learned. One of the best ways to do this is to carry this pack with you in pocket or purse so that it is handy to use during spare moments.

After you have memorized these verses and learned to apply them, you will be aware of the strength and blessing that comes from hiding God's Word in your heart. You may continue a systematic Scripture memory program that will help you grow in your Christian life by purchasing the Topical Memory System.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

**1**

**NKJ The Saints in Ministry**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

**2**

**NKJ The Great Commission**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

**3**

**NKJ Laboring as a Priest**

**W  
E  
E  
K**

So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

**4**

**NKJ Biblical Perspective on Time**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Salvation**

**Ephesians 5:15,16**

**1/5**

**John 16:24**

**1/5**

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**5**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Answered Prayer**

**Matthew 4:19**

**1/6**

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

**1/6**

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**6**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Victory**

**Romans 10:9,10**

**1/7**

**1 John 1:9**

**1/7**

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**7**

**NKJ**

**Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**2 Timothy 1:7**

**1/8**

**Proverbs 3:5,6**

**1/8**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

**W  
E  
E  
K**

**8**

**NKJ**

**Boldness in Evangelism**

**NKJ**

**Assurance of Guidance**