

## A10 - The Christian Life

Study 1 - Being sure

### BIBLE READING:

John 10: 27-30, 1 John 5: 11-21

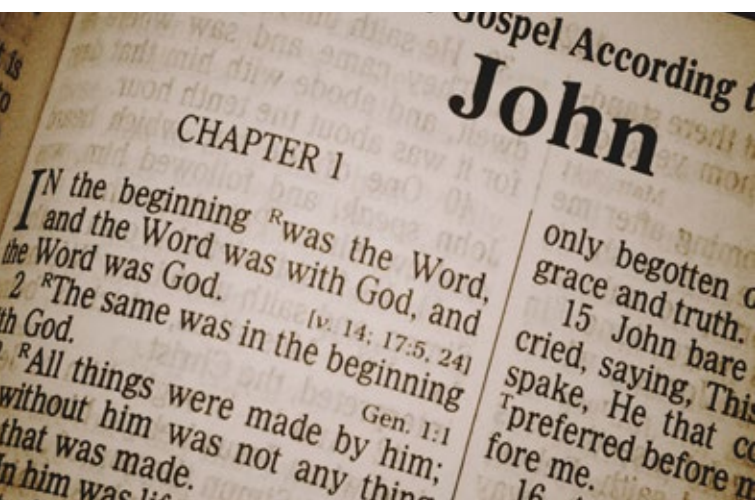
### KEY VERSE:

**“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.”**

1 John 5: 13

So, you are a Christian! Are you sure? How can anyone be sure? The devil, who is always attempting to upset the work of God, will try to make us doubt the fact that we are Christians. He may say, “How conceited you are, thinking you are going to Heaven! You will have to try hard all your life before God will let you in!” Or he will say, “You are a sinner. You sinned this morning. You do not think God will let you into Heaven, do you?” Doubts such as these can lead us to asking questions like: “Once I am a Christian am I always a Christian?”, or “If I sin or wander from my faith do I lose my salvation?”

However, we must not be deceived by the devil sowing such doubts in our minds. OUR AUTHORITY IS THE BIBLE, GOD’S WORD. In **1 John 5: 12** we see the victory and the certainty that a Christian can have, **“whoever has the Son has life”**. How can we be sure that we have life? We must rely on the promise of God that is given in the Key Verse – that those who believe in the name of the Son of God can be certain that they have eternal life. We should not rely on our feelings. These will vary with circumstances. Our faith should be in God’s unchanging promises. Jesus Himself assures those who believe in Him: **“I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand.” (John 10: 28)** Eternal life is just that - eternal. There is no one who can take God’s gift of salvation away from you. **(See Romans 8: 38-39)**



In **1 John chapter 5** there are other things that **we can know** as well as the fact that we have eternal life.



**1. Verses 14 and 15** tell us something that we can know when we pray. When we talk to God and pray for something which is His will and desire, then we can be confident that He hears our prayer and will answer it. We can find out God’s will by reading His Word, and then we can pray accordingly.

**2. Verse 18** states that: **“we know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning.”** Before we became Christians we lived to please ourselves, but when we are saved we become **“new creations”**, people who have broken with sin and bad habits, and who are seeking to please God. However the Christian is not perfect – we do sin from time to time. This does not mean that we are not Christians anymore, but it does mean that we should confess our sin to God and turn from it. **(See 1 John 1: 9)**

**3. Verse 19** goes on to tell us that **“we know that we are from God”**. Christians have been born again and are part of God’s family. See also **John 1: 12**. We are God’s children and are under His control, and He will help us overcome the attacks of the evil one.

**4. Verse 20** reminds us that **“we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding”**. We are certain that God has come to this world in the person of Jesus and has given to us an understanding which we did not have before. With this new understanding we can get to know God and His Son in a real way. As we get to know them, we are experiencing the reality of God and of eternal life more and more.

So, you can see that as Christians we have no need to doubt, we can be certain and sure. The Christian believes God’s Word, has a changed life, knows he has eternal life, knows the power of prayer, the protection from sin and the fellowship of the true and living God.

This is the fifth of five units on  
**The Christian Life.**

## A10 - The Christian Life

### Study 2 - Serving God

#### BIBLE READING:

**Romans 12: 9-13**

#### KEY VERSE:

**“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”**

Romans 12: 1

In the next three studies we will look in more detail at how God expects us to use our lives as Christians. Being saved is not merely a passport to Heaven. In A7 Study 1 we learned that Jesus is both our Saviour and Lord. This should impact our lives every day.

Many of the letters in the New Testament begin with the writer identifying himself as a servant. (**Romans 1: 1; Titus 1: 1; James 1: 1**) God’s servants, however, are not just church leaders or those who have jobs in Christian work – rather, it is all Christians who have been purified **“from dead works TO SERVE the living God”**. (**Hebrews 9: 14**)

Think of how much God has done for each of us. Christ offered His body when He laid down His life as a sacrifice for our sins on the cross. The Key Verse explains that it is our best and most obvious response that we should now offer our bodies to God for Him to use for His glory. Our willingness to serve is one way in which God wants us to worship Him.

Service certainly includes being useful and involved in church activities, but it is more than this. It is motivated by God’s love and His claim upon our lives, just as a servant is totally concerned with his master’s business.



To understand more of what it means to be a servant, let’s look at the characteristics of the Perfect Servant, the Lord Jesus:

### 1. HIS OBEDIENCE

Jesus spoke about His Father saying, **“I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.”** (**John 8: 29**) This meant that He was **“obedient to the point of death....”** (**Philippians 2: 8**)

### 2. HIS HUMILITY

Being obedient involved humility. The Lord Jesus who created the universe was willing to come to earth and do the work of a servant. **Mark 10: 45** states **“the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve....”**. The act of washing the disciples’ feet (**John 13: 3-5**) was a preview of how He was about to serve in a far greater way when He would give His life for us.

### 3. HIS COMPASSION

Jesus showed His love to people by recognising and meeting their needs in His life of service. To Him, people were **“like sheep without a shepherd”**. (**Matthew 9: 36**) He had compassion on the sick, the bereaved, the hungry and all who needed forgiveness.

### 4. HIS FATHER’S GLORY

As a servant, Jesus’ ultimate purpose was always to bring glory to His Father. When He anticipated the cross and the outcome of sinners being saved from sin, He knew that the result would glorify God. (**John 12: 27-28; John 17: 1**)

There is much that we can learn from the example of the Lord Jesus as a servant. God expects you to be obedient and promote His interests rather than your own. You can pray for opportunities to show God’s love to others and share the good news of the Gospel. Christian service is a demonstration of Christ living in you as seen by your words and actions. This will be a means of bringing glory to God.

We can learn from the examples of others’ service in the Bible and also from more recent life-stories of Christians. In **Acts 3: 1-10** Peter and John were going to the Temple for daily prayer when they had an opportunity to serve.

Note the following points:

- Peter and John stopped with a man and took note of his need. (**verses 3, 4**)
- By themselves they could not help but they pointed him to Jesus who could help. (**verses 5, 6**)
- The end result brought praise and glory to God. (**verses 8-10**)

Peter and John served God in the place where they were. Likewise, each day, God will bring you into contact with people in need of Him. It is God who is the source of strength as we serve, not ourselves. (**Philippians 4: 13**) Our service brings joy in this life but we can also be sure that we will have a future reward - **“If anyone serves Me, the Father will honour Him.”** (**John 12: 26**)

# Answer Sheet

## A10 - The Christian Life

Study 1 - Being Sure

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Return address on back of answer sheet

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. Complete the sentences from these verses in 1 John 5 that tell us things we can know.

- a) "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_." (Verse 13)
- b) "We know that He hears us \_\_\_\_\_,  
we know that we have \_\_\_\_\_." (Verse 15)
- c) "We know that everyone who has been born of God \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_." (Verse 18)
- d) "We know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_." (Verse 20)

□ /5

### 2. Read 1 John 5: 11-12 again and write short answers to these questions:

- a) Who has given us eternal life? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Where does this life come from? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Who has eternal life? \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Who does not have eternal life? \_\_\_\_\_

□ /4

### 3. Read the verses below and briefly explain from each verse what God promises to those who believe in Him:

- a) **John 1: 12** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b) **John 3: 16** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c) **John 5: 24** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d) **John 6: 37** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e) **John 10: 28** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

□ /10

### 4. Answer TRUE or FALSE:

- a) Christians can be sure that they are going to Heaven. \_\_\_\_\_
- b) We can rely on our feelings to assure us of our salvation. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Christians can rely on the promises of God which are found in His Word. \_\_\_\_\_
- d) A Christian never sins. \_\_\_\_\_
- e) A Christian does not go on sinning. \_\_\_\_\_
- f) A Christian can know God in a real way because God gave him an understanding when he  
believed in the Son of God. \_\_\_\_\_

□ /6

**THINK:** Many Christians find real assurance in their faith by memorising and believing **John 10: 28** which reminds us of the security we have in the Lord Jesus. Why not take some time to memorise this verse?

TOTAL = □ /25

# Answer Sheet

## A10 - The Christian Life

### Study 2 - Serving God

1. Explain why it is an obvious response for a Christian to serve God? Use *Romans 12:1* to help you. \_\_\_\_\_

□ /2

2. Look up *Romans 1: 1, Titus 1: 1 and James 1: 1* to find the names of two writers who referred to themselves as servants.

□ /2

3. How was the Lord Jesus obedient as a servant?

□ /2

4. Read *John 13: 3-5* and explain IN YOUR OWN WORDS how Jesus showed humility.

□ /4

5. Write TRUE or FALSE beside each statement:

a) Service is to please our church leaders. \_\_\_\_\_

b) You must have a job in Christian work to be one of God's servants. \_\_\_\_\_

c) You can serve God in the places where you find yourself each day. \_\_\_\_\_

d) Christian servants put God's interests before their own. \_\_\_\_\_

e) Christians rely on their own strength to serve God. \_\_\_\_\_

f) God the Father will honour anyone who serves Him. \_\_\_\_\_

□ /6

7. Use the Bible Reading (*Romans 12: 9-13*) to answer these questions:

a) How are we to serve? (**verse 11**) \_\_\_\_\_

b) What two ways of serving are mentioned in **verse 13**? \_\_\_\_\_

□ /3

8. Read *Acts 3: 1-10* again and answer the following questions:

a) Where were Peter and John going? \_\_\_\_\_

b) What was the problem of the man whom they met? \_\_\_\_\_

c) What could Peter and John not give him? \_\_\_\_\_

d) In whose name was the man healed? \_\_\_\_\_

e) In what ways did the healing glorify God? (**verses 8 -10**) \_\_\_\_\_

□ /6

**THINK:** Think about the appeal which Paul makes in *Romans 12: 1*. (Key Verse) How will you respond in light of "the mercies of God" which have been shown to you?

TOTAL = □ /25

# Answer Sheet

## A10 - The Christian Life

### Study 3 - Good Works

#### 1. Read *James 2: 14-24* and answer the following questions:

a) Is it possible for a Christian to have faith without works?

\_\_\_\_\_

b) What good works would a Christian need to do for the brother or sister mentioned in **verse 15**?

\_\_\_\_\_

c) What did Abraham do to prove that his faith was active?

\_\_\_\_\_

d) Write the verse number which tells us that Abraham demonstrated both faith and works together.

\_\_\_\_\_

 /5

#### 2. Look up these references and connect them with what they tell us about good works.

**Titus 2: 7**

God's people are eager to do good.

**Titus 2: 14**

Set an example by doing good.

**Titus 3: 1**

God's people are ready to do good

 /3

#### 3. Read *Titus 3: 8, 14*;

a) What should those who believe in God be careful to do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) What are the two benefits of this which are mentioned in **verse 14**? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 /4

#### 4. Look up *Romans 16: 12,13*;

a) Name the three women commended for working for the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Who had acted like a mother to Paul? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 /4

#### 5. Explain **IN YOUR OWN WORDS** the good deeds which the Good Samaritan did for the injured man. (*Luke 10: 25-27*)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 /4

#### 6. Read *1 Peter 2: 12*. What impact can good works have on those who do not believe?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 /5

**THINK:** What opportunities has God created in your life to do good works at home, at school, at work or in your church community or neighbourhood? Pray about what God would have you do.

TOTAL =  /25

# Answer Sheet

## A10 - The Christian Life

### Study 4 - The Christian as a Steward

#### 1. Use lines to connect the phrases in the left column with the Bible references on the right column.

- Everything in the earth belongs to God.
- God wants us to enjoy His creation.
- God gave humans authority (dominion) over His creation.
- God has entrusted creation to our care.

**Genesis 1: 28**

**Genesis 2: 15**

**Jeremiah 2: 7a**

**Psalms 24: 1**

□ /4

#### 2. Read the Parable of the Talents again (*Matthew 25: 14-30*).

- Complete the grid below. The first line has been done for you.

	Number of Talents given	What the servant did with the talent(s)	Number of Talents on the Master's return	What the Master said
1st Servant	5	traded	10	Well done!
2nd Servant				
3rd Servant				

- Why was the Master pleased with the first and the second servants?

- Why was the Master angry with the third servant?

□ /10

#### 3. Read *1 Peter 4: 10-11* again:

- How are we to use the gifts which God has given us?

- Which two gifts are mentioned in this passage?

□ /3

#### 4. Read *2 Corinthians 9: 7* again and explain IN YOUR OWN WORDS what our attitude should be when we give.

□ /2

#### 5. Read the verses below and briefly explain what they teach us about being good stewards of our time.

- Ecclesiastes 3: 1** \_\_\_\_\_

- Ephesians 5: 15-16** \_\_\_\_\_

- Psalms 90: 12** \_\_\_\_\_

□ /6

**THINK:** What changes to my lifestyle do I need to make in the week ahead to be a wise steward of my talents, my money, and my time?

## A10 - The Christian Life

### Study 3 - Good Works

#### BIBLE READING:

**James 2: 14-24; 3: 13**

#### KEY VERSE:

**“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”**

Ephesians 2: 10

In this Study we will look at a subject which is an integral part of Christian life – that of “doing good” or “good works”. We will look at what the Bible says about good works under a number of headings.

### 1. WHO CAN DO GOOD WORKS?

We must be clear at the outset that **“good works”** are not a means of salvation. As Christians, we are saved not on our own merits but by God’s grace. Nothing we do can add to our salvation or cause God to love us any more than He already loves us. **Ephesians 2: 8-10** explains that our salvation is **“not a result of works”**, but that having accepted salvation as a gift, we are now ready to do the good works which God prepared for us in advance to do. (Key Verse) This is exciting and gives a whole new purpose to our Christian lives! God has designed each of us so that there are specific tasks we can do for Him.

In addition to this purpose, James explains that good works are the visible evidence of our faith. Our Bible Reading explains that faith which is not accompanied by works is dead! (**James 2: 17**)

### 2. WHO ARE GOOD WORKS FOR?

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus Himself spoke about letting **“your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven.”** (**Matthew 5: 16**) Paul says, **“...let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”** (**Galatians 6: 10**) Good works help those to whom they are directed, are a means of witness to others but are ultimately for God.

### 3. ARE THERE EXAMPLES TO FOLLOW?

The greatest example is the Lord Jesus who **“went about doing good”**. (**Acts 10: 38**) In previous studies we have noted that we are His followers and should seek to live as He did. Dorcas, a Christian lady who lived in Joppa, was commended for being **“full of good works and acts of**

**charity.”** For her, this involved using her skills to make clothes for widows. (**Acts 9: 36, 39**) At the end of his letter to the Romans, Paul refers to a number of Christians who had **“worked hard in the Lord.”** (**Romans 16: 12-13**) Another example is Barnabas, whose name means **“son of encouragement”**. He is described as a good man and clearly supported many in the church by his words and actions. (**Acts 11: 23-24**)

### 4. WHAT SHOULD BE OUR ATTITUDE OF HEART?

Jesus said, **“Beware of practising your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them...”**; in other words, good works are not about showing off! (**Matthew 6: 1**) When Paul wrote to Titus, he mentioned being eager to do good, ready to do good and being devoted to doing good.

The parable of the Good Samaritan is about a man who did good by loving his neighbour as himself. (**Luke 10: 25-37**) He gave of his time, showed compassion to the injured man and was ready to use his possessions to help. He was so devoted to doing good in that he promised to return to the inn and give more money to ensure the man’s recovery.

### 5. WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE FOR US?

We need to pray that the Holy Spirit will prompt and enable us to do what we can. Good works can begin at home in our own families by being helpful and thoughtful. There are also the elderly, lonely and sick – perhaps there are individuals in your church fellowship to whom you could give encouragement and practical support. God wants us to help the poor and promises a reward for those who do so. (**Proverbs 19: 17**) There are many ways for Christians to show love and care - from supporting local food banks to contributing to crisis appeals from further afield.

The quotation by the famous preacher John Wesley (1703 – 91) helps us to think about the many opportunities given to us by God so that we can do the works He has prepared for us.

**Do all the good you can,  
by all the means you can,  
in all the ways you can  
in all the places you can,  
at all the times you can,  
to all the people you can,  
as long as you ever can.**



- John Wesley

## A10 - The Christian Life

### Study 4 - The Christian as a Steward

#### BIBLE READING:

**Matthew 25: 14–30**

#### KEY VERSE:

**“It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.”**

1 Corinthians 4: 2

You may have heard the word “steward” being used to describe a flight attendant or a person who works on a ship. The stewards mentioned in the Bible were often like “managers” in today’s world. A manager is someone who is given the responsibility to take care of something on behalf of someone else. A manager or steward has authority but works for the owner, and so is also a servant.

We find the concept of stewardship right at the very outset of our Bible. **Genesis 1: 1** tells us that **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”** As Creator, God is the owner of all things, however, He gave humans authority over the earth. (**Genesis 1: 26-28**) Adam was put in the Garden of Eden to **“work it and keep it”**, (**Genesis 2: 15**) and he **“gave names to all livestock...”** (**Genesis 2: 20**). In short, Adam was to manage or **“be a steward”** of God’s creation.

From these verses we see that God created the world for mankind and we are stewards of His creation. This means it is our responsibility to look after and take care of this world. We should accept this responsibility and appreciate God’s gift of creation, caring for our environment and all who live in it.

As Christians, God not only wants us to be caretakers of His creation, but also wants us to be good stewards of all the resources He has entrusted to us. In The Parable of the Talents (**Matthew 25: 14-30**), Jesus highlights the qualities of good stewards. In the story, three stewards each receive money to manage on behalf of the owner. The first two stewards invest their talents and double what they are given. To each the owner replies, **“Well done, good and faithful servant.”** In contrast, the third servant, digs a hole, hides the money, and goes about his own life. He disregards his job of properly caring for the owner’s money. When the owner returns, this servant digs it up and gives back only the amount given to him. So, we learn from the parable that good stewards are diligent and hardworking, they take care of the gifts God has given them to manage.

We are now going to consider three areas of our lives in which we are called to be good stewards.

## 1. STEWARDSHIP OF TALENTS

The Bible tells us that each Christian has been given at least one gift, or talent to use to build up God’s Kingdom. In **1 Peter 4: 10-11** we read, **“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies...”**

## 2. STEWARDSHIP OF MONEY

Our money belongs to God, it is not ours to do as we like with it, we are to be good stewards who manage it wisely. (See A8 Study 4 on Giving) Our attitude as a steward is important: **“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”** (2 Corinthians 9 :7)



## 3. STEWARDSHIP OF TIME

Time is one of the most precious resources that we have, we need to be aware of how important it is to manage our time well. It’s easy to let time slip away from us without even realising it. God has given us this gift of time and He expects us to use it wisely so that we may glorify Him. This will mean that we will have to make choices about how we spend the hours in each day. There are several Bible verses about stewarding our time, encouraging us to use our time wisely and to be purposeful about how we spend each hour. (**See Ephesians 5: 15-16, Colossians 4: 5**)

The Parable of the Talents also reminds us that the Lord Jesus is coming back and we have work to do. We live a short period of time on this earth and must give an account to Jesus, our heavenly Master, of how we used talents, our money, our time and all the other resources that He has entrusted to us to manage.

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