

THE EXPECTATIONS OF A BELIEVER ABOUT THE NEW LIFE

- The meaning of the expression: “in Jesus Christ”. Ephesians 1:3-7; 2:4-6.

A. THE FIRST EXPECTATION: A BELIEVER'S POSITION IN CHRIST

The Bible teaches “what a believer in Jesus Christ already now is”.

1. Your position as a believer in Christ: You stand in the right relationship to God.
 - A Christian has been perfectly justified. Romans 5:1-2.
 - A Christian is now reconciled to God. Romans 5:9-10.
2. Your position as a believer in Christ: you have assurance of salvation.
 - A Christian has three assurances. John 5:24; 10:27-28.
3. Your position as a believer in Christ: You have become a member of God's family.
 - A Christian has been adopted by God into his household. Ephesians 1:5.
 - A Christian is a member of the Body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:13.
 - A Christian is also a citizen of the Kingdom of God. John 3:3-8.

Summary.

B. THE SECOND EXPECTATION: A BELIEVER'S PROGRESS IN CHRIST

- The Bible teaches, “what a believer in Jesus Christ ought to become”.

1. Your progress as a believer in Christ: You ought to grow as a Christian.
 - A Christian ought to grow in different areas. Luke 2:52.
 - A Christian ought to grow up into Christ in all things. Ephesians 4:13-15.
 - A Christian ought to make roots downwards and build upwards. Colossians 2:6-7.
2. Your progress as a Christian: You ought to live as a Christian.
 - A Christian ought to glorify God with his body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.
 - A Christian ought to glorify God with his spirit (mind). Romans 12:1-2.
 - A Christian ought to resist all temptations. 1 Corinthians 10:13.
 - A Christian ought to allow the Bible to correct his behaviour. 1 Timothy 3:16-17.
 - A Christian ought to bend his knees in prayer before God. Ephesians 3:14.
3. Your progress as a believer in Christ: You ought to serve as a Christian.
 - A Christian ought to bear much and lasting fruit. John 15:5,16.
 - A Christian ought to teach and encourage other people. Colossians 3:16.
 - A Christian ought to love other people with deeds. 1 John 3:16-18.

Summary.

C. THE THIRD EXPECTATION: A BELIEVER'S FUTURE IN CHRIST

- The Bible teaches, “what a believer in Jesus Christ will become”.

1. Your future as a believer in Christ: You will receive a Christ like human spirit (character).
 - A Christian will receive a transformed human spirit (character) like that of Jesus Christ. 1 John 3:1-3.
2. Your future as a believer in Christ: You will receive a Christ like human body.
 - A Christian will receive a body conformed to Christ's glorious body. Philippians 3:21.
3. Your future as a believer in Christ: You will receive a Christ like universe.
 - A Christian will experience the renewal of all things. Romans 8:18-21; 2 Peter 3:9-13; Revelation 21:1-5.

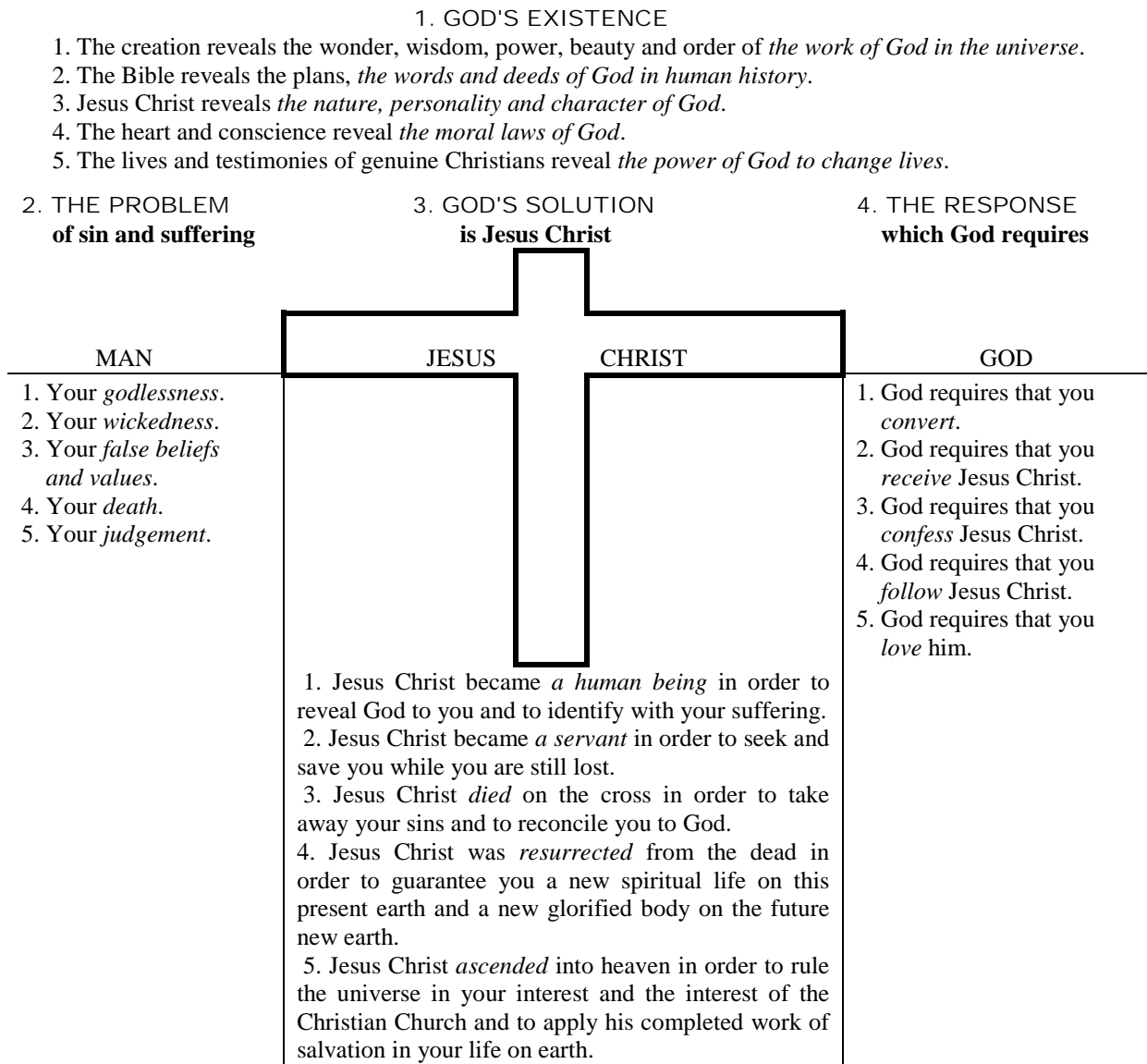
Summary.

Summary. Believers in Christ may have the following three certain expectations about the new life:

1. Justification. Your position as a believer in Jesus Christ is shortly called “justification”. Justification means that the Christian has been saved from the *penalty of sin*”. This is salvation from *sin in the past*.
2. Sanctification. Your progress as a believer in Jesus Christ is shortly called “sanctification”. Sanctification means that the Christian is being saved from the *power of sin*. This is salvation from *sin in the present*.
3. Glorification. Your future as a believer in Jesus Christ is shortly called “glorification”. Glorification means that the Christian will be saved from the *presence of sin*. This is salvation from *sin in the future*.

D. OVERVIEW OF GOD'S SALVATION PLAN

Draw or photocopy the following diagram.



5. THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE NEW LIFE

1. Your *position* as a believer in Christ is shortly called *justification*. In justification you have been saved from *the penalty of sin*. This is salvation from *sin in the past*.
2. Your *progress* as a believer in Christ is shortly called *sanctification*. In your sanctification you are being saved from *the power of sin*. This is “salvation from *sin in the present*”.
3. Your *future* as a believer in Christ is shortly called *glorification*. In glorification you will be saved from *the presence of sin*. This is salvation from *sin in the future*.