

*Heaven and the Afterlife*  
*Lesson 1 – Why does God want to Know about the afterlife?*  
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**Introduction:** It is crucial that we come to see the unseen.

- A. How can any man come to accept a reality that he *cannot see with his eyes*?
  - 1. This reality will come as we learn to handle *the delivered words of God*.
  - 2. Jesus in His ministry challenged every man to *hear His testimony* of the unseen realm from which He came! **(Jn 3:11-13)**
  - 3. How should we read the Bible? How should we *handle testimony*?
- B. God's plan is for men to seek after Him *beyond what they see*.
  - 1. We have been *created* with this very need! **(Ecc 3:11; Acts 17:26-28)**
  - 2. God's plan is to show Himself and His promises to those who will *humbly seek for Him*.
  - 3. This approach will "*weed out*" the arrogant and self-sufficient. **(1 Cor 1:26-28)**

**I. Is there a God and has He spoken?**

- A. The *first step* in seeing the unseen is asking about the existence of God. How can we know? **(Heb 11:1-3)**
  - 1. There are many ways we can *reason and conclude* this from the creation. **(Rom 1:20)**
  - 2. This is only a step! What *is God like*? Has He spoken?
- B. The ministry of Christ was to answer these questions for all men! *Who* is this Jesus? **(Mt 16:13-15)**
  - 1. *Evidence was given* during the ministry of Christ to establish this.
  - 2. The resurrection of Christ provided *evidence for the entire world*. **(Rom 1:3-4)**
- C. God wants us to know His character and for all men to *come to trust Him*.
  - 1. What is God like? *Jesus came* to show us! **(Mt 7:8-11)**
  - 2. Our God loves us and desires *to make us His own people*.
- D. This revealing of the afterlife shows us *the character of God*. **(Jn 14:1-9)**
  - 1. God wants us to know of His love and *the ultimate fulfillment* and security we have in trusting Him.
  - 2. He also wants us to *know of His holiness* and how we cannot stand before Him unchanged and unforgiven. **(Acts 24:15-16; 25)**
  - 3. How serious is judgment day and the hell awaiting *the unforgiven*?
  - 4. Consider *the sufferings* by Jesus on the cross. He did not want us to be lost! **(Jn 3:36; 8:21, 24; 2 Pt 3:9-11)**

**II. The Power of the One Hope to strengthen our hearts**

- A. Consider the significance of these foundational truths **(Eph 4:4-6)**

**Hope** - ἐλπίς, ἰδος, ἡ hope; (1) as an expected and awaited good *hope, expectation, prospect* (AC 27.20); ... (3) as expectation of a divinely provided future (*the*) *hope* (CO 1.27); ...

1. Hope is a confident expectation in the promises of God. **(Titus 1:2)**
  2. A promise from God is the most certain reality I can have!
- B. When we see the unseen reality behind the promise of God, we can now find moral courage! Consider Moses. **(Heb 11:24-27; Heb 6:18-19)**
1. Faith in God produces men and women that have strong convictions and will go against the culture they live. They have a real purpose.
  2. How can we keep seeking the unseen? We need to daily renew our minds and remember our forgiveness and our future resurrection.

### **III. Only a life built with courage and conviction in the Lord can bring purpose**

A. Hannah suffered disappointments that hurt. She consistently trusted God.

**(1 Sam 2:1-3)**

1. Even in suffering, if we can see the Lord, we can maintain perspective!
2. The Lord will watch over and care for His people. We ask and God will answer with what we really need! You also can “smile at your enemies.”

B. Building a life based on God’s character makes God our rock! **(Deut 32:4)**

1. What a blessing to know that God is holy!

**(1 Sam 2:2; Isa 40:25; Hosea 11:9)**

“In the Old Testament, the verb holy in the Hebrew is “quodesh”, meaning “to consecrate, to sanctify, to prepare, to dedicate, to be separate.” The noun holiness means “apartness, sacredness, separateness.””

2. This lets us know that all that God does is perfect and will never fail!
3. Since God is holy then anything that comes from God is holy.

**(2 Sam 22:31)**

4. The scriptures are not a mere product of men influenced by past cultures.

**(Rom 1:2; 2 Tim 3:15; 1 Thess 2:13)**

5. A single promise from God is worth more than the entire world.

C. The world will look different when we know “by Him actions are weighed.”

1. When the “knowledge of God” is with us we can be certain of our path.
2. The world will never understand the quite confidence of one that knows God.

3. They may laugh, mock and defraud him while he responds with kindness and a smile. **(Mt 5:11-12; 1 Pt 4:14-16)**

4. For the thoughtful, this may well open a heart to consider, “Am I the one that is wretched and miserable?” **(Rom 12:19-21; Ps 1:1-2)**

*Give Me The Truth by Bill Crews*

If you are my friend, if you are concerned about my soul, give me the truth. Do not flatter me. Do not praise my virtues while remaining silent about my vices. Do not fear that the truth will offend me. Do not treasure our friendship, our friendly relations, above my salvation. Do not think that by ignoring my sins you can help. Do not think that being blind to my sins will prove yourself charitable. However I may react to it whatever may be my attitude toward you after you have done it, give me the truth! For the truth, and only the truth, can make men free from the shackles of sin, strengthen me in the pathway of righteousness and lead me to the joys of heaven. If I am wavering, weak, lukewarm, indifferent, neglectful; if I have been overtaken in a trespass, if I have been drawn into the pleasures of the world; if I have left first love; if I have been led astray by error; or if I have done none of these, but simply need to grow in knowledge and be edified, give me the truth!