

I'M A CHRISTIAN, NOW WHAT?

TIM PARSONS, LEAD PASTOR



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tim Parsons was called into ministry in the fall of 1981, while studying at Liberty University, in Lynchburg, Virginia. Tim has served as a pastor to students in several locations since that time. He and his family presently reside in Lexington, Kentucky where he now serves as pastor to *Center Point Church*.

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PREFACE

Many people come to know Christ as Savior but never progress to the stage of knowing Him as Lord. Without this vital growth, they are miserable and unproductive. The goal of this book is to provide a tool for new believers to aid in these first few steps of growth. This book is designed to stimulate questions and encourage the growth of new converts. I trust it will help you to bridge the gap from *birth* to *adulthood* in the Christian experience!

T.J.P.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Receiving Christ is a great and awesome decision that you have made, and I congratulate you. Receiving Christ is just the first step, though. Now you must grow in Him. That's what this book is all about! Here's what to do:

1. Find a quiet place where you won't be disturbed.
2. Set aside a specific time to complete your lesson on a daily basis.
3. Beginning with day one, read the selected verses. Take your time and try to understand what each verse is saying.
4. Answer the questions for that day as completely as you can.
5. Record any questions that arise and save them until you meet with the person that is discipling you.
6. Try to memorize the selected verse each week.
7. Meet with your discipling partner each week to discuss the lesson.
8. Recommended Bible translations: NIV, NASB, ESV, NLT

To my special wife, Susan, with thanks for her help and patience with me. And to some close friends, models, and teachers that taught me a lot of what I know.

My Mother and Father

Dr. David Adams

Many students and disciples through the last 30 years

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STEPS TO GROWTH



Week 1: First Steps

Understanding SALVATION,
BAPTISM, & CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



Welcome to the family! It's great to have you! Congratulations on accepting Christ. It is, without a doubt, the most important decision in your life. Now, let's take a few days and go over all the steps to accepting Christ so you can digest and understand each one even better. Then in the last couple days of this week, we will look at what you should do as a new Christian. Be sure to complete the daily lessons. By devoting time to God and His word everyday, you'll develop a strong foundation.

DAY 1 In order to accept Christ, you must first see that you need Him.

(Date) How many of us does Romans 3:23 and Romans 3:10-12 say have sinned?

Read Psalm 51:5 - When did that sin begin in us?

What is the penalty for that sin as seen in Romans 5:12 and 6:23a?

(Death here refers to separation from God forever in hell—see Luke 16 for more detail)

DAY 2 Yesterday, we discovered that we are all sinners, and that our sin deserves death (hell). What is our only escape from that?

(Date)

Read John 14:6. Who is the *only way out*?

How did Christ pay for our sin? _____
(Read Romans 5:6-9 and John 3:15-17)
Describe His
death: _____

How is Jesus Christ different from other "so called" prophets? See 1 Corinthians 15:3-6 (Hint: Is He still dead?)

To become a Christian you must be willing to change or to start over and to receive Jesus Christ into your life.

What are the two simple steps to becoming saved in Romans 10:9-10?

1. _____
2. _____

Most people pray and ask Christ into their lives. An example of this *sinner's prayer* might be:

DAY 3

(Date)

*Dear Jesus,
I know I've sinned against you. I know
I've done wrong things. I realize that the
payment for my sin is death. I also know
that you died on the cross for me and
rose again, and now you are alive. Come
into my life and save me. I want to live
the rest of my life for You!
In Jesus Name,
Amen*

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. List some *old things* in your life that have *passed away* and some things that have *become new*:

There may come a time when you may doubt the decision you made to accept Christ. You may not *feel* saved.

Can you *know* you're saved? See 1 John 5:13

Can you *ever* lose that salvation?

Read John 10:27-30

Although salvation is *totally* and completely received by accepting Christ *alone*, there are some things that you should do immediately *after* you're saved. One of these is being *baptized*. We're going to take a close look at baptism today and tomorrow.

Baptism is a ceremony conducted in a Bible believing Church. It is a ritual that follows Christ's command to us (see Matthew 28:19-20). In most cases, the church would

DAY 4

(Date)

give you an opportunity at the end of the service to "come forward" (walk up to the front), and tell the Pastor that you've received Christ and that you want to "follow Christ's example by being baptized" (see Matthew 3:13-17). At another time, during a baptism ceremony, you will be given an opportunity to profess Christ, and then the pastor would simply place you under the water. It's quite painless, and it will give you the added assurance for which you're looking.

DAY 5

(Date)

Where was Jesus baptized, and by whom? (see Matthew 3:13)

Matthew 3:16 says, "As soon as Jesus was _____, he went _____ the water..." (this shows us that Christ chose to be baptized by immersion (means to go under the water - not to have water sprinkled on your head).

Some reasons that you should consider being baptized right away are:

1. God asks us to. (Matthew 28:19-20)
2. Our new love for Christ should make us want to identify with Him. (Acts 2:40-41)
3. We should follow Christ's example.

Attending church is absolutely important for you as a new Christian. It's a place where you can find answers to your questions, a place where you can worship God, and a place where you can learn more about him and your new life in Christ.

What does Hebrews 10:25 say about attending church?

A church should be a place that:

1. Teaches us the Bible (see 2 Timothy 2:15 and Romans 10:17).
2. Meets our needs (read Acts 2:42-47) List some of the ways this early church met its peoples' needs:

3. Challenges us to give our lives to God (see Romans 12:1).
4. Leads us in worship.
5. Gives us an opportunity to serve God.

DAY 6

(Date)

If you have to find a church on your own... then here is what to look for. A church should:

1. Teach the Bible.
2. Be a warm and friendly place.
3. Present salvation regularly from the Bible, and give people an opportunity to respond.
4. Teach concepts that help you grow in Christ.
5. Have a pastor and staff (other pastors that assist him) that meet your needs.

Let's review what you should do to begin this new life you have just received in Jesus Christ.

1. You need to find a church. Talk with the pastor about your decision to receive Christ and ask him about baptism. Sometimes an opportunity to indicate this is given during the worship service. This is called an invitation.
2. You should definitely complete this book. *You need it!* It will help you to grow spiritually, and it will also answer many of the questions you may have as a new Christian.
3. Begin to read your Bible and Pray DAILY. (You'll learn how to do that in Week 2.)
4. You may doubt your salvation. Who knows, this may have already bothered you. Trust God and take Him at His word. (1 John 5:13)

DAY 7

(Date)

