

Christian Compass

Table of Contents

<i>Introduction.....</i>	<i>1</i>
How This Book Came to Be	3
The Need for This Book	3
General Layout	4
<i>Section 1: God and His Purpose (chapters 1–6).....</i>	<i>7</i>
Chapter 1: The Bible	9
Credibility	9
A Manual to Life	10
Bible Confusion.....	11
Chapter 2: God and People.....	13
People Are Unique	13
Time	14
Understanding Eternal God.....	14
God’s Holy Spirit.....	14
Logic Versus Conceivability	15
The Evidence Surrounding Us All.....	16
The Only True Hope	17
Chapter 3: God’s Purpose	19
God’s Glory and Knowledge.....	19
Creation Continues.....	20
Paradise Restored.....	20
Becoming One with God	21
Becoming Like Jesus	23
God Dwelling within Us.....	23
People Perfected	24
Summary of God’s Purpose	24

Chapter 4: Dynamics..... 25

Free Will	25
Free Will Makes Love Possible	26
God's Eternal Temple	27
God's Desire.....	29
The Invitation.....	30
Understanding Sin.....	30
Repentance	31

Chapter 5: The Purpose of Adversity..... 35

God Creates Adversity	35
Sometimes Bad Things Happen to Good People	38
The Story of Job	40
Adversity and Discipline	43
The Wisdom of the World Opposes God	48

Chapter 6: The Problem and Solution..... 53

Why We Die.....	53
Understanding Death.....	55
The Problem	56
Defeating Sin	57
Uniting with Jesus	57
The Attraction of the Gospel Hope	59
Faith Takes Root in Our Hearts	60

Section 2: Faith and Mercy (chapters 7–10)..... 63

Chapter 7: Understanding Faith..... 65

We All Have Faith in Something.....	65
The Testimony of God's Creation	66
Faith Is Mind-Sight.....	70
Saved by Faith	71
Faith Requires Obedience.....	71
Faith in Practice	74

Good Works Validate Our Faith.....	75
The Relationship of Faith to Works.....	76
Through Love Our Faith Grows	78

Chapter 8: Love Versus Selfishness..... 81

Understanding Love	81
Love Is Sacrificial	82
Inherent Selfishness	84
God’s Love for Us.....	86
God, the Loving “Father”	87

Chapter 9: The Logic of Redemption..... 91

How Jesus Christ’s Death Enables Salvation	91
1. God’s ultimate goal and purpose	94
2. Love requires free will.....	94
3. Free will enables sin.....	95
4. Sin is the cause of death	95
5. All men sin	96
6. Jesus is the way	97
7. Why Jesus?	97
8. How Jesus’ sacrifice saves us.....	101
Summary: How Jesus Christ’s Death Saves Us	103
Why THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH Cannot Be Neglected	104
God’s Mercy under the Law	105

Chapter 10: Understanding Mercy..... 107

God's Offer of Mercy	107
Our Hope Depends upon God's Mercy.....	109
Becoming Truly Righteous.....	110
God's Grace	113
The Many and the Few.....	114
Baptism	116

Section 3: Church (chapters 11–15)..... 123

Chapter 11: Community..... 125

Avoiding Churches.....	125
God's View of the Church	125
The Body of Christ.....	126
The Family of Jesus Christ	127
The “Bride” of Jesus Christ.....	128
Communion	130
Church Function.....	131
“I Don’t Have Time”	133
Resisting “Coming Together”	134
Our Church Responsibility	136
Respect.....	137
The Challenge of Church	138

Chapter 12: Scriptures in Context 139

Saved by “Faith”	139
Calling on Jesus.....	140
No Universal Salvation.....	141
Knowing God	146
Saved by “the Truth”	148
Dogmatism	149
Do Doctrines Matter?	152
The One Critical Doctrine.....	154

Chapter 13: Selecting a Good Church 157

Different Christian Denominations.....	157
Faith and Church	159
Criteria of a Good Church.....	161
There Are Many Good Churches.....	163
Good Churches Create Better Society.....	164
How to Search for a Good Church	166
How to Recognize a Bad Church	167
Avoiding Controversies.....	170
Freedom in Christ.....	172
Controlling Churches and Disassociation Abuse.....	174
The “Prosperity Gospel”	176
Churchianity.....	178

Chapter 14: Why Is There Church Confusion?..... 181

Some Churches Are Not Good	181
Politically Aggressive Churches	183
Purpose of Church Problems.....	187
One Church.....	190

Chapter 15: Make Your Church a “Good Church” 191

Church Institutionalization.....	191
Building up Your Church	193

Section 4: Personal Challenges (chapters 16–18)..... 197

Chapter 16: Finding Freedom from Anger 199

Anger with God.....	199
Misplaced Anger.....	201
Anger with People	202

Chapter 17: The Challenge of Mercy..... 205

Mercy toward Others	205
Accepting God’s Mercy.....	207
Ongoing Sin	210

Chapter 18: Dangers of Spiritual Passivity..... 213

Apathy.....	213
Salvation Is Proactive.....	215
Passive Faith Is Not a Saving Faith.....	219
Storing up Riches	220
Sacrifices Must Be Made	221
Parable of the Talents.....	222

Section 5: Discipleship (chapters 19–22)..... 225

Chapter 19: Relationship Building 227

What Is My Identity?.....	228
Building Our Relationship with God.....	230
Why Pray?	230
Thanksgiving in Prayer.....	231
How to Pray.....	231
The Lord’s Prayer	233
Prayer Requests	235
Pray When?	236

Chapter 20: Working Out Salvation 239

Escaping the Grave	239
First Steps	240
Internalize Jesus Christ.....	241
Love One Another.....	242
Humility Matters.....	243
Nurturing Faith	244
Our Walk of Faith.....	245
Purity of Heart.....	246
Genuine Effort Is Enough.....	248
True Worship	249

Chapter 21: Reading the Bible..... 253

Daily Readings.....	253
Our Conversation with God.....	256
The Bible: Two Testaments.....	257
Types of Bibles.....	258

Bible Versions	259
Punctuation and Numbering	261
Bible Commentary	262
Cross-References	262
Wide-Margin Bibles.....	262
The Canon of Scripture	263
Bible Criticism	264
Chapter 22: Moving Faith Forward	267
Spiritual Maturity.....	267
Maturing Our Faith.....	269
Thy Kingdom Come	274
Judgment Day.....	277
A Glimpse of God’s Kingdom	279
Sharing the Gospel Hope	281
Do Not Get Lost along the Way.....	283
True Discipleship	284
Bible Reading Planners.....	285
<i>Summary.....</i>	<i>287</i>
<i>Conclusion.....</i>	<i>289</i>
The Gospel Hope	289
<i>Glossary.....</i>	<i>291</i>
<i>Afterword.....</i>	<i>295</i>
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>297</i>
<i>Helpful Resources</i>	<i>299</i>
Get the “Bible Companion” App	299
Bible Reading Planners.....	300
Spread the Word.....	300
<i>Coming Soon.....</i>	<i>301</i>
<i>Index</i>	<i>303</i>