

THE COMPLETE
BIBLE
ANSWER
BOOK

Collector's Edition

REVISED & EXPANDED



HANK
HANEGRAFF



THOMAS NELSON
Since 1798

BASIC CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH



What must I do to be saved?

No one gets out of this world alive, so this is beyond a doubt the most important question you can ever ask yourself! In fact, the Bible was written “so that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13).

First, according to Scripture, you need to realize that you are a sinner. If you do not realize you are a sinner, you will not recognize your need for a savior. The Bible teaches we “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

Furthermore, you must repent of your sins. *Repentance* is an old English word that describes a willingness to turn from our sin toward Jesus Christ. It literally means a complete U-turn on the road of life—a change of heart and a change of mind. It means that you are willing to follow Jesus and to receive Him as your Savior and Lord. Jesus said, “Repent and believe the good news!” (Mark 1:15).

Finally, to demonstrate true belief means to be willing to receive. To truly receive is to trust in and depend on Jesus Christ alone to be the Lord of our lives here and now and our Savior for all eternity. It takes more than knowledge (the devil knows about Jesus and trembles). It takes more than agreement that the knowledge we have is accurate (the devil agrees that Jesus is Lord). What it takes is to trust in Jesus Christ alone for eternal

life. The requirements for eternal life are based not on what you can do but on what Jesus Christ has done. He stands ready to exchange His perfection for your imperfection.

According to Jesus Christ, those who realize they are sinners, repent of their sins, and receive Him as Savior and Lord are “born again” (John 3:3)—not physically, but spiritually. The reality of our salvation is not dependent on our feelings but rather on the promise of the Savior who says: “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life” (John 5:24).

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”

JOHN 3:16 NKJV

For further study, see Hank Hanegraaff, *The Prayer of Jesus: Secrets to Intimacy with God* (Nashville: W Publishing Group, 2001).

What are the secrets to spiritual growth?

According to Jesus Christ, those who repent of their sins and receive Him as Savior and Lord are “born again” (John 3:3)—not physically, but spiritually.

And with this spiritual birth must come spiritual growth. It is crucial, therefore, to be intimately acquainted with the ABCs of spiritual growth.

First, no relationship can flourish without constant, heartfelt communication. This is true not only in human relationships but also in our relationship with God. If we are to nurture a strong relationship with our Savior, we must be in constant communication with Him. The way to do that is through *prayer*.

Furthermore, it is crucial that we spend time reading God’s written revelation of Himself—*the Bible*. The Bible not only forms the foundation of an effective prayer life but also is foundational to every other aspect of Christian living. While prayer is our primary way of communicating with God, the Bible is God’s primary way of communicating with us. Nothing should take precedence over getting into the Word and getting the Word into us. If we fail to eat well-balanced meals on a regular basis, we will eventually suffer the physical consequences. What is true of the outer man is also true of the inner man. If

we do not regularly feed on the Word of God, we will starve spiritually.

Finally, it is crucial for new believers to become active participants in a healthy, well-balanced church. In Scripture, the church is referred to as *the body of Christ*. Just as our physical body is one yet has many parts, so, too, the body of Christ is one but is composed of many members (1 Corinthians 12). Those who receive Christ as the Savior and Lord of their lives are already a part of the church universal. It is crucial, however, that all Christians become vital, reproducing members of a local body of believers as well. Christian growth doesn’t happen in isolation.

Adapted from *The Face That Demonstrates the Farce of Evolution*

For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

HEBREWS 5:13–14 NKJV

For further study, see Hank Hanegraaff, *The Covering: God’s Plan to Protect You from Evil* (Nashville: W Publishing Group, 2002).

What is essential Christian D-O-C-T-R-I-N-E?

The importance of essential Christian doctrine can hardly be overstated. First, these are the very doctrines that form the line of demarcation between the kingdom of Christ and the kingdom of the cults. While we may debate nonessentials without dividing over them, when it comes to essential Christian doctrine there must be unity. Hence, the maxim: *In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; and in all things, charity.*

Furthermore, essential Christian doctrine is the North Star by which the course of Christianity is set. Just as the North Star is an unchanging reference point by which sailors safely guided their ships, so essential Christian doctrine has safely guided the church through doctrinal storms that have sought to sink it. Shooting stars may light the sky for a moment; following them, however, leads to shipwreck.

Finally, essential Christian doctrine is the foundation on which the gospel of Jesus Christ rests. Covering topics ranging from His deity to the eschatological certainty that He will appear a second time to judge the living and the dead, essential Christian doctrine is foundational to the gospel. All other religions compromise, confuse, or contradict these essentials. Muslims, for example,

dogmatically denounce the doctrine of Christ's unique deity as the unforgivable sin of *shirk*, of putting something created on the same level as the Creator. They readily affirm the sinlessness of Christ, but they adamantly deny His sacrifice upon the cross and His subsequent resurrection as the only hope of salvation.

I am so passionate about inscribing the essentials on the tablet of your heart that I've organized them around the acronym D-O-C-T-R-I-N-E. It is my prayer that you will become so familiar with essential Christian doctrine that when a counterfeit looms on the horizon you will know it instantaneously.

DEITY OF CHRIST. The biblical witness is clear and convincing that Jesus Christ is the eternal Creator God (John 1; Colossians 1; Hebrews 1; Revelation 1). Throughout His earthly ministry Jesus claimed to be God in word and deed (Mark 14:61–62; John 5:18, 20; 8:58; 10:30–33). He vindicated His claim to deity by living a sinless life (John 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 1 John 3:5; 1 Peter 2:22); by manifesting His power over nature (Mark 4:39), over fallen angels (Luke 4:35), over sickness (Matthew 4:23), and even over death itself (John 4:50; 11:43–44; 1 Corinthians 15); and by accurately prophesying God's judgment on Jerusalem through the destruction of the temple that occurred in AD 70 (Matthew 24:1–2, 32–35).

ORIGINAL SIN. Sin is not just murder, rape, or robbery. *Sin* refers to any thought, word, deed, or state of being that fails to meet God's standard of holiness and perfection. The Bible unambiguously

proclaims that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). While the notion of generational curses and spirits is foreign to the text of Scripture, there is a sense in which all people are cursed as a result of an ancestor’s sin: Adam’s rebellion brought death to us all and tainted every aspect of our being (Genesis 3; 1 Corinthians 15:21–22; cf. Ephesians 2:3). God, however, has provided redemption through the atoning work of the Second Adam, Jesus Christ (Romans 5:12–21).

CANON. The Hebrew Scriptures along with the Greek New Testament constitute the Christian canon (meaning “standard of measurement”). While inspiration provides the divine authority for the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16), canonization provides human acknowledgment of that authority. As such, the canon was *determined* by God and *discovered* by church fathers who accepted books as part of the canon on the basis that they were widely used within the churches and ultimately traceable to the authority of the apostles and prophets.

TRINITY. Although the word *Trinity* is found nowhere in the Bible, it aptly codifies the essential biblical truths that (1) there is only one God (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10); (2) the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God (1 Corinthians 8:6; Hebrews 1:8; Acts 5:3–4); and (3) Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are eternally distinct (Matthew 28:19; John 15:26; 17:1–26). It is important to note that when Trinitarians speak of one God, they are referring to the nature or essence of God. Moreover, when they speak of Persons, they are referring to personal self-distinctions within the Godhead. Put another way, Trinitarians believe in one *What* and three *Whos*.

RESURRECTION. All four canonical Gospels record the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The immutable fact of Jesus’ resurrection is the cornerstone of Christian faith, because it not only vindicates Jesus’ claims to deity but also ensures the future bodily resurrection unto eternal life of all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior and proclaim Him as Lord (1 Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18). The historical reality of the resurrection can be demonstrated by eyewitness accounts of the fatal torment Jesus suffered on the cross; the empty tomb (early Christianity could not have survived an identifiable tomb containing the corpse of Christ); the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus; and the transformation of believers throughout the ages whose lives have been radically altered upon experiencing the resurrected Lord.

INCARNATION. The doctrine of the incarnation is aptly summed up in the words of the apostle John: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:1, 14 NKJV). The clear testimony of Scripture is that, in the incarnation, Jesus Christ was, and will forever remain, fully God *and* fully man; that is, the eternal Son of God, the second Person of the Triune Godhead, added to Himself an additional nature such that He exists as the perfect unity of a divine nature and a human nature in one Person (John 1; Colossians 1). As *Theanthropos* (“God-man”), the spotless Lamb of God (John 1:29) lived a perfectly sinless human life and died a sinner’s death to sufficiently atone—once, for all—for the sins of humanity (Romans 5:1–21; Hebrews 10:11–18).

NEW CREATION. The essential doctrine of New Creation is aptly codified in the words of the apostle Paul: “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV). All who believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and confess Him as Lord are reconciled to God and inherit eternal life in His glorious presence (John 3:16; Romans 10:9–10). Jesus’ resurrection from the dead inaugurated the renewal of all things. The new creation of faithful believers and the new creation of the natural world will be consummated in the resurrection when Jesus returns bodily to earth as the conquering King (Romans 8:18–25).

ESCHATOLOGY. The word *eschatology* is an intimidating word with a simple meaning: the study of end times. While the meaning of eschatology is simple to grasp, its importance is difficult to overemphasize. Far from being a mere branch in the theological tree, eschatology is the root that provides life and luster to every fiber of its being. Put another way, eschatology is the thread that weaves the tapestry of Scripture into a harmonious pattern. It is the study of everything we long and hope for. Early in Genesis, Adam and Eve fell into a life of constant sin terminated by death. The rest of Scripture chronicles God’s unfolding plan of redemption. Although Christians debate secondary aspects of eschatology, such as the timing of the Tribulation or the meaning of the Millennium, we are united in the truth that just as Christ came to earth once to bear the sins of the world, so, too, He will return again to gather the elect and to usher in the resurrection of all things (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Hebrews 9:27–28). On that day, the just will be resurrected to eternal life and the unjust

to eternal conscious torment and separation from the love and grace of God (John 5:28–29). Paradise lost will become paradise restored, and the problem of sin and Satan will be fully and finally resolved (Revelation 20–22).

*Watch your life and doctrine closely.
Persevere in them, because if you do, you
will save both yourself and your hearers.*

1 TIMOTHY 4:16

The essential tenets of the Christian faith are:

DEITY OF CHRIST
ORIGINAL SIN
CANON
TRINITY
RESURRECTION
INCARNATION
NEW CREATION
ESCHATOLOGY

For further study, see the plethora of articles at www.equip.org.

What is the biblical definition of faith?

The shield of faith described by the apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesian Christians is of paramount importance to believers because it is the grace “with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one” (Ephesians 6:16). This is not an uncertain promise. Rather, it is divine assurance that faith equips us to escape the very extremities of evil. But what is faith?

First, the Bible defines *faith* as “being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1). Thus, biblical faith is a *channel of living trust—an assurance*—that stretches from man to God. Moreover, it is the *object* of faith that renders faith faithful.

Furthermore, faith is the assurance that God’s promises will never fail, even if sometimes we do not experience their fulfillment during our mortal existence. Hebrews 11 underscores the fact that we trust God to fulfill His promises for the future (the unseen) based on what He has already fulfilled in the past. Thus, our faith is not blind, but based squarely on God’s proven faithfulness.

Finally, the faith that serves to protect us in spiritual warfare is not to be confused with mere knowledge. Millions worldwide believe in the trustworthiness of Billy Graham. They have

heard him proclaim the good news on television and yet do not believe that his message corresponds to reality. Thus, they have the knowledge that it takes to be saved but do not have saving faith. Others hear the message, agree that it corresponds to reality, but, due to the hardness of their hearts, do not bow. Rather, like the demons, they continue to live in fearful anticipation of the judgment to come (James 2:19). Some, however, have what Scripture describes as genuine justifying faith—a faith that not only knows about the gospel and agrees that its content corresponds to reality, but a faith by which they are transformed.

In part adapted from *The Covering*

Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.

JOB 13:15 NKJV

For further study, see Hank Hanegraaff, *The Covering: God’s Plan to Protect You from Evil* (Nashville: W Publishing Group, 2002), chapter 7; and Hank Hanegraaff, *Christianity in Crisis: 21st Century* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2009), Part Two.

What is sin?



While it has become politically incorrect to talk about sin, the Scriptures make it crystal clear that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). But what is sin from a biblical perspective?

First, sin is not just murder, rape, or robbery. Sin is failing to do the things we should and doing those things that we should not. In short, *sin* is a word that describes anything that fails to meet God’s standard of perfection. Thus, sin is the barrier between you and a satisfying relationship with God. Just as light and dark cannot exist together, neither can God and sin.

Furthermore, sin is a barrier between us and other people. You need only read the newspaper or listen to a news report to see how true this statement really is. We live in a time when terrorism abounds and when the world as we know it can be instantly obliterated by nuclear aggression.

Finally, sin is the deprivation of good. As such, sin is characterized by a lack of something rather than being something in itself. As noted above, sin is a break in relationship with God and with others rather than being an ontological substance.

Adapted from *The Face That Demonstrates the Farce of Evolution*

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

ROMANS 5:8–9 NKJV

For further study, see Carl F. H. Henry, *Basic Christian Doctrines* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1962).

SIN IS FAILING to do the things we should . . .

SINS OF OMISSION

Failing to believe in Jesus (John 3:16–18; 6:29; 1 John 5:12)	Failing to discern and guard against false teachers and prophets (Matthew 7:15–20; Acts 20:28–31)
Failing to love God (Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:30)	Failing to learn and believe Scripture (Deuteronomy 6:6; 2 Timothy 2:15)
Failing to love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:31)	Failing to guard life and doctrine (1 Timothy 4:16)
Failing to trust God (Proverbs 3:5; Isaiah 26:4)	Failing to repay debts (Romans 13:7)
Failing to worship God (Deuteronomy 6:13)	Failing to care for orphans and widows in distress (James 1:20)
Failing to honor God (Proverbs 3:9; John 5:23)	Failing to defend the faith (1 Peter 3:15; Jude v. 3)
Failing to honor the Son (John 5:23)	Failing to share the gospel (Matthew 28:19)
Failing to honor one's parents (Exodus 20:12)	Failing to honor others (Romans 12:9)
Failing to give thanks to God in everything (Psalm 105:1; Romans 1:21; 1 Thessalonians 5:18)	Failing to keep your fervor (Romans 12:9)
Failing to glorify God (Psalm 34:3; Romans 1:21)	Failing to serve or give (Romans 12:9)
Failing to fear the Lord (Deuteronomy 6:13; Proverbs 3:7)	Failing to live at peace (Romans 12:18)
Failing to do the good one knows one ought to do (James 4:17)	Failing to be clear-minded and alert (1 Peter 5:8)
Failing to test new teaching by Scripture (1 Thessalonians 5:21; Acts 17:11)	Failing to rejoice (1 Thessalonians 5:16)
	Failing to pray without ceasing (Luke 18:1; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)
	Failing to pray for fellow believers (James 5:16)
	Failing to forgive (Matthew 6:15)

and doing those things that we should not.

SINS OF COMMISSION

Idolatry (Exodus 20:3–6; Romans 1:21–25; 1 John 5:21)	Sorcery (Deuteronomy 18:10)
Blasphemy (Mark 3:29)	Witchcraft (Deuteronomy 18:10)
Misusing the Lord's name (Exodus 20:7)	Divination (Deuteronomy 18:10)
Covetousness (Exodus 20:17; Romans 1:29; 7:7; 13:9)	Interpreting Omens (Deuteronomy 18:10)
Wrong teaching (Matthew 23:15; Galatians 1:8; James 3:1)	Consulting the dead (Deuteronomy 18:11)
Insincere love (Romans 12:9)	Astrology (Deuteronomy 18:9–13; Isaiah 47:13–14)
Causing someone else to sin (Mark 9:42)	Depravity (Romans 1:29)
Sexual impurity (Matthew 5:28; Romans 1:24)	Envy (Romans 1:29; 1 Peter 2:1)
Adultery (Exodus 20:14; Hebrews 13:4)	Deceit (Romans 1:29; 1 Peter 2:1)
Homosexuality (Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:26–27; 1 Corinthians 6:9)	Murder (Romans 1:29)
Selfish ambition (Galatians 5:20)	Strife (Romans 1:29)
Fits of rage (Galatians 5:20)	Malice (Romans 1:29; 1 Peter 2:1)
Slave trading (1 Timothy 1:10)	Gossip (Romans 1:29)
Lying (Exodus 23:1; Romans 13:9; Revelation 21:8)	Slander (Romans 1:30; 1 Peter 2:1)
Hypocrisy (1 Peter 2:1)	Hating God (Romans 1:30)
Drunkenness (1 Corinthians 6:10)	Insolence (Romans 1:30)
Stealing (Exodus 20:15; 1 Corinthians 6:10)	Arrogance (Romans 1:30)
	Boastfulness (Romans 1:30)
	Inventing evil (Romans 1:30)
	Disobeying parents (Romans 1:30)
	Disobeying the governing authorities (Romans 13:1–7)
	Worrying (Luke 12:22–32)

How can I be certain I haven't committed the unforgivable sin?

This is one of the most frequently asked questions on the *Bible Answer Man* broadcast, and it stems from the following words spoken by Christ: “I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come” (Matthew 12:31–32 NASB). As a result of these words, Christians are often paralyzed by fear.

In response, let me first point out that from a historic perspective, the Pharisees mentioned by Matthew militantly hated Christ and attributed His miracles to Beelzebub, the prince of demons. Unlike people who are afraid they have committed the unforgivable sin, the Pharisees were totally unconcerned about receiving Christ's forgiveness. Instead, with premeditation and persistence, they willfully blasphemed the Holy Spirit's testimony that Christ was the Son of the living God. It is crucial to recognize that the unforgivable sin is not a single act but a continuous, ongoing rejection of Jesus.

Furthermore, those who have committed the unpardonable sin have no godly regrets. As Paul emphasized in the book of Romans, they not only continue in their evil ways but approve of others who do so as well (1:32). Conversely, “godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation” (2 Corinthians 7:10). Sorrow for sin and the desire for Christ's forgiveness are proof positive that you have not rejected the Savior of your soul. Never forget that three times Peter denied his Lord with vile oaths. Yet not only did Christ forgive him, but his confession, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16 NASB) became the cornerstone of the Christian church.

Finally, the Bible consistently teaches that those who spend eternity separated from God do so because they willingly, knowingly, and continuously reject the gospel. John referred to this as the “sin that leads to death” (1 John 5:16) in the sense that those who refuse forgiveness through Christ will spend eternity separated from His grace and love. Be assured that those who sincerely desire God's forgiveness can be absolutely certain that He will never turn them away.

About the Author

Hendrik (Hank) Hanegraaff serves as president and chairman of the board of the North Carolina-based Christian Research Institute. He is also host of the *Hank Unplugged* podcast and the nationally syndicated *Bible Answer Man* radio broadcast, which is heard daily across the United States and Canada—and around the world via the Internet at www.equip.org.

Widely regarded as one of the world's leading Christian authors and apologists, Hank is deeply committed to equipping Christians to be so familiar with truth that when counterfeits loom on the horizon, they recognize them instantaneously. Through the multi-faceted outreaches of the Christian Research Institute, Hank equips Christians to mine the Bible for all its wealth, answers questions on the basis of careful research and sound reasoning, and interviews today's most significant leaders, apologists, and thinkers.

Hank is the author of more than twenty books, which have sold millions of copies. *Christianity in Crisis* and *Resurrection* each won the Gold Medallion for Excellence in Christian Literature awarded by the Evangelical Christian Publisher's Association (ECPA); and *Counterfeit Revival* and *The FACE That Demonstrates the Farce of Evolution* each won ECPA's Silver Medallion—the latter published in the condensed *Fatal*

Flaws: What Evolutionists Don't Want You to Know.

Other noteworthy volumes include *The Prayer of Jesus*, which rose to number one on the Christian Marketplace Bestseller list October 2002. Hank exposes the dangers of both Christian and secular Zionism through his groundbreaking *The Apocalypse Code: What the Bible Really Teaches about the End Times and Why It Matters Today*, and his historical fiction series *The Last Disciple Trilogy*, as well as *Fuse of Armageddon*.

In *Has God Spoken?* Hank provides memorable proofs for the Bible's divine inspiration. Additional works include *The Legacy Study Bible*, *The Covering: God's Plan to Protect You from Evil*, and *The Creation Answer Book*.

Hank's magnum opus is *Truth Matters, Life Matters More: The Unexpected Beauty of an Authentic Christian Life*, which carefully lays out *why* life matters more and *how* the life that matters more can be experienced today—now—in intimate union with the Triadic One.

He is a regular contributor to the award-winning *Christian Research Journal* and an articulate communicator on the pressing issues of our day, having spoken in leading churches, conferences, and on college campuses throughout the world (including such faraway institutions as the University of Tehran, Iran).

Hank and his wife, Kathy, live in Charlotte, North Carolina, and are parents to twelve children.