



The Bible Puzzle

Can you complete it?

A step-by-step guide to truth, relevance, and encouragement!

Saturday, 10/24 at 4:00 | Sunday, 10/25 at 9:00

Reformation Day (Observed) – 2020

Introduction: Dear Friend: Think about your life...; then ask **yourself**, “What is MOST IMPORTANT to me?” Your answer may be **food** – *if you are hungry*, or **relief** – *if you are in pain*, or a **job** – *if you are unemployed*. All of those things are certainly important, *but they are all connected to life on earth*. Since *life here is so short and the life to come is so long*, eternal things are MOST IMPORTANT!

Think about a puzzle: When you first open the box, you are confident that all of the pieces are there; *then you attempt to put those pieces together in the proper way*. The Bible is like a HUGE ETERNAL puzzle; some of its pieces include God, angels, creation, people, sin, Jesus, miracles, faith, works, heaven, and hell. The Bible puzzle is not easy, *but important*; therefore, *let’s put the major pieces together!*

Carefully follow these steps:

- ➔ **Read** and **think about** each of today’s ✓ statements, ✓ Bible passages, and ✓ brief explanations!

- ➔ **Be confident that each statement is true** – *because of each supporting passage* (if you are unsure about the Bible, listen to or read through the first five sermons in the series, Abide in Me: Go to www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com; then, click “sermons”; then search for “Abide in Me”)!
- ➔ **Apply** each ✓ statement and ✓ passage to your life!
1. **God created a perfect world:** ^{NAU} **Genesis 1:31** God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. // God made a perfect world; therefore, **no sin, no pain, no suffering, no sadness, no death!**
 2. **God gave Adam one rule:** ^{NAU} **Genesis 2:16-17** The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.” // When God created Adam and Eve, they were alive in two ways – *physically and spiritually*; then God gave them the opportunity to express ♦their trust in Him and ♦their love for Him *by keeping His one rule!*
 3. **Adam and Eve fell into sin:** ^{NAU} **Genesis 3:6** When the woman saw that the tree was **good for food**, and that it was **a delight to the eyes**, and that the tree was **desirable to make one wise**, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. // The devil convinced Eve that *her will* was better than *God’s will* – so she ate, and then Adam ate!
 4. **All people have inherited sin and death:** ^{NAU} **Romans 5:12** ...just as through one man [*Adam*] sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread

to all men, because all sinned... // Once Adam had sinned; *then the whole human race had fallen!* Adam and Eve *immediately died spiritually* – severing their relationship with God, and *eventually died physically* (on the day they sinned, *God promised to send the Savior* – see [Genesis 3:15](#); those who believed God’s promise were saved)!

5. **No one can earn his way to heaven:** ^{NAU} [Matthew 5:48](#)
[Jesus said:] “...you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” // That is the requirement for heaven: **BE AS PERFECT AS GOD!** What does that mean? *Be completely sinless, holy, and right!* Okay, now we know, but can anyone actually meet that requirement? **NO!** Furthermore, *God will NOT LOWER His requirement!* So let us admit: **We are helpless!**
6. **God made the way to heaven through Jesus:** ^{NAU} [John 3:16](#) “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” // *Jesus IS the way!* But how did Jesus make THE WAY?
 - a. **Jesus lived as our sinless substitute:**
^{NAU} [Hebrews 4:15](#) ... [Jesus] has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.
 - b. **Jesus received our sins and our punishment:**
^{NAU} [1 Peter 2:24](#) ... [Jesus] bore our sins in His body on the cross...
7. **We benefit from Jesus by faith alone:** ^{NAU} [Romans 3:28](#) ...a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law. // We **MUST** be just – *thus sinless, holy, right* – in God’s sight. How is that possible? **ONLY BY FAITH**

ALONE, *apart from any good works!* Since Jesus' work was **all-sufficient**, **HE IS ALL WE NEED TO BE JUSTIFIED!**

8. **We are sure of heaven only through Jesus:** ^{NAU} **1 John 5:11-13** ...God has given us [*thus gifted us with*] eternal life, and this life is in His Son [*Jesus*]. He who has the Son has the life [*eternal life*]; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. // Our assurance: **100% Jesus, 0% us!**

9. **Our works express our thanks to God:** ^{NAU} **Matthew 5:16** [Jesus said:] “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” // Since we are saved by faith alone, *we are happy and thankful!* Therefore, according to our new nature – *which we received when we were saved*, **we desire to know and follow God’s will unto His glory!**

Conclusion: Has the Holy Spirit enabled you to complete the Bible puzzle? In other words, are you aware of your own helplessness, do you understand what Jesus has done for you, and are you trusting in Jesus – and only in Jesus – as your Savior? If you said, **Yes, Yes, and Yes;** then ↻rejoice and ↻share the contents of this folder with others!

Let Us Pray: Our Father in heaven, TYSM for †Jesus, †His saving work, and †our trust in Him! Now, confident of heaven, *help us to share Your saving truth with others!*

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