



Serving the **T**ruth in a **L**ove **S**andwich

The Fall of Man

Sin and our need for Atonement

1st Peter 3:15 "But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence."

This series of courses is about answering difficult questions about Christianity. As disciples of Jesus Christ we have a responsibility to be prepared to defend our faith. We are *not* going to study what Moslems, Hindus, Buddhists etc. believe. We are going to study the truth, not lies, except for a few of their questions, which often have lies as their basis. I hope as we go through these lessons you will create your own personal statement of faith, so you will have a clear idea of what you are defending.

However, as we study, remember God's truth is spread more heart to heart than mind to mind. Since we have minds they must also be included in the communication, but never forget to serve the truth in a love sandwich.

In this course we hope to show that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost, and can only be cleansed from his sins through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. We believe in the sovereignty of God in all things so, when a man is saved, he is totally without credit. We believe that each man is completely responsible for, and accountable for, his own depravity. I hope the evidence offered in this lesson substantiates these beliefs.

Lesson 1 – Created in the Image of God

Lesson 2 – The Fall into Sin - Lost

Lesson 3 – Cleansing Sin with the Blood

Lesson 4 – Sovereign God; Helpless Man

Lesson 5 – Taking Responsibility

Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's text aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer if it is based on Scripture.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. The final "Think & Pray" question should always be covered, because that is when everyone takes a quiet moment to listen to the Teacher, the Holy Spirit. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

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Additional Reading

These lessons are designed for small groups or individuals to use without reference to other materials besides the Bible. However, a lot more could be gained if those involved would do some additional reading between class meetings. (See <http://lovebiblestudy.com/CC/Library.htm>)

We plan to provide specific recommendations with each course at <http://lovebiblestudy.com/TLS/Adjunct/> We also hope to be making specific chapter recommendations from various Christian books that have helped us in our understanding of apologetics, but are not entirely about the topic of the course. Such as these books which would make good companions for this entire series of courses.

Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis

I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist by Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek

The Case for ... series of books by Lee Strobel

Cold Case Christianity, God's Crime Scene, and Forensic Faith – 3 books by J. Warner Wallace

Lesson 1 – Created in the Image of God

In this lesson we'll set the tone for the course with a big question, and then look closely at what it means to be created in the "image of God."

Read these scriptures and answer the associated question:

(1A) GOD AND MAN How would you describe man's relationship with God? How do you know?

Think & Pray _____

(1B) Read Genesis 1:26-27 In whose image or likeness are we made? _____

(1C) Read Genesis 9:6 In whose image or likeness are we made? _____

(1D) Read James 3:9 In whose image or likeness are we made? _____

(1E) Read Romans 8:29 In whose image or likeness are we being made? _____

(1F) Read Colossians 1:12-15 In whose image or likeness is the Son? _____

(1G) Read II Corinthians 4:4 In whose image or likeness is Christ? _____

(1H) IMAGE OF GOD What does it mean that man is made in the image of God?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

[1i] *Skeptic's Question:* If we are in God's image, why don't we all look alike?

[1j] *Atheist Attack:* "God Is Incompetent. God created Adam in his own image, so he must have been perfect. How then, could he have sinned? Regardless of how much free will he had, if he chose to sin, he wasn't perfect." How would you respond to this attack? (Hint: 1st Cor 1:25-27)

[1k] *Atheist Attack:* "The Bible contradicts itself when it says in one place that everyone is a sinner and another that some people were without sin." Rom 3:23 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God,' but Gen 6:9 'Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations...' and Job 1:1 'There was a man ... Job; ... was perfect and upright' If 'All' means 'all,' then Romans contradicts the other two" How would you respond to this attack? (Hint: 1st Tim 6:3-5)

----- SOME POSSIBLE ANSWERS -----

(Your answers do not have to match exactly.)

Lesson 1 – Created in the Image of God

(1A) GOD AND MAN I believe man was created in the image of God, but fell into sin and is therefore lost, and can only be cleansed from his sins through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. I believe in the sovereignty of God in all things so, when a man is saved, he is totally without credit. I believe that each man is completely responsible for, and accountable for, his own sinfulness. I hope the evidence offered in this lesson substantiates these beliefs.

(1B) Read Genesis 1:26-27 In whose image or likeness are we made? God's image

(Notice that the pronouns are plural indicating the Trinity.)

(1C) Read Genesis 9:6 In whose image or likeness are we made? God's image

(1D) Read James 3:9 In whose image or likeness are we made? God's image

(1E) Read Romans 8:29 In whose image or likeness are we being made? God's Son

(1F) Read Colossians 1:12-15 In whose image or likeness is the Son? God's image

(1G) Read II Corinthians 4:4 In whose image or likeness is Christ? God's image

(1H) IMAGE OF GOD Answer from GotQuestions.org: Having the “image” or “likeness” of God means, in the simplest terms, that we were made to resemble God. Adam did not resemble God in the sense of God’s having flesh and blood. Scripture says that “God is spirit” (John 4:24) and therefore exists without a body. However, Adam’s body did mirror the life of God insofar as it was created in perfect health and was not subject to death. The image of God refers to the immaterial part of man. It sets man apart from the animal world, fits him for the dominion God intended him to have over the earth (Genesis 1:28), and enables him to commune with his Maker. It is a likeness mentally, morally, and socially.

Mentally, man was created as a rational, volitional agent. This is a reflection of God’s intellect and freedom. Morally, man was created in righteousness and perfect innocence, a reflection of God’s holiness. Our conscience or “moral compass” is a vestige of that original state. Socially, man was created for fellowship. This reflects God's triune nature and His love.

(See also Colossians 3:10 and I Cor. 11:7)

My further thoughts:

[1i] For same reasons snow flakes are all unique. Apparently, God likes it that way.

[1j] Adam had a choice. He chose poorly. That does not mean that he was less than or different from what God meant to make. A being with a free will that does not have the ability to choose wrong sounds like a logical impossibility to me, like a square without corners. I am able to drive my car over a cliff. I do not. If I did, it would not be a fault in my design or that of the car. It would be a poor choice. Adam was given free will. Free will would be meaningless if he had no choices.

[1k] The Hebrew word "perfect" could also have been translated "mature" or "complete." I don't think the writers meant for it be understood as "sinless" in this context. However, suppose it did mean "sinless." Both the people mentioned sinned later in their lives making it possible for both statements to be true. Even though Noah may have been perfect in chapter 6, by the time we read ahead to chapter 9, he is not so perfect. Ditto for Job. By the time Paul wrote Romans 3:23, he was writing the truth. Either way you take it, there is no contradiction. (By the way the word "all" comes from the Greek *pan* which can be translated a number of different ways. Even the English word "all" has a wide range of sense. A whole different argument could be made based on that.)

Lesson 2 – The Fall into Sin - Lost

In this lesson we will see that man fell into sin and is therefore lost.

(2A) Read Ephesians 2:1-3 What are we the children of? _____

(2B) Read Romans 5:12 Who has sinned? _____

(2C) Read Romans 3:9-20 How many are righteous? _____

(2D) Read Romans 3:21-23 Who has sinned? _____

(2E) Read Psalm 14:3 How many do what is good? _____

For questions F-H read Genesis 3:1-19

(2F) Who did Adam say was to blame for the fall? _____

(2G) Who did Eve say was to blame for the fall? _____

(2H) BLAME GAME: Whose fault was the fall of mankind into sinfulness? Why? (Hint: Rom 5:12-18)

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

[2i] *Atheist Attack:* Why is God so mean that He put the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden? Why deliberately put something dangerous there to trip up Adam and Eve? How would you respond to this attack? (Hints: Rev 21:4, Mark 7:15)

[2j] *Atheist Attack:* "God's has no power. In Genesis 3, God's plan was ruined once. What prevents something awful from happening again?" How would you respond to this attack? (Hints: Acts 2:23; 1st Peter 1:2)

DON'T OPEN THAT DOOR A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it. - GENESIS 4:7 NIV

----- SOME POSSIBLE ANSWERS -----

(Your answers do not have to match exactly.)

Lesson 2 – The Fall into Sin - Lost

(2A) Read Ephesians 2:1-3 What are we the children of? Wrath or disobedience (Some versions say "objects of wrath" instead of "children of wrath")

(2B) Read Romans 5:12 Who has sinned? All or everyone

(2C) Read Romans 3:9-20 How many are righteous? None

(2D) Read Romans 3:21-23 Who has sinned? All or everyone

(2E) Read Psalm 14:3 How many do what is good? None

(2F) Who did Adam say was to blame for the fall? Eve Gen 3:12

(2G) Who did Eve say was to blame for the fall? Satan Gen 3:13

(2H) BLAME GAME: I believe it was Adam's fault, but I cheated by looking at the answer in the back of the Book. In Romans 5:12-18 "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned— ... 15 But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.... 17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. 18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men."

My further thoughts:

(2i) I answered this way, "What kind of parent protects his children from danger and never teaches them to avoid it on their own? Adam was not a little child when he was put in the garden. He was a full grown man who knew better and did it anyway." How could I have been more loving?

Perhaps I could have acknowledged that it does appear a little strange to have a beautiful garden with one trap in the middle and then said what I said above and then asked him patiently if it made a bit more sense now that I had explained it.

(2j) I answered this way; "Where does it say that God's plan was ruined? God's plan has not been ruined once, nor will it be." I thought about adding, "Yes, 'something awful' is going to happen again; you will die and face the judgement. Are you prepared for it.?" Would that have been a love sandwich? I don't think so.

Lesson 3 – Cleansing Sin with the Blood

In this lesson we will see that sinful man can only be cleansed from his sins through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

(3A) Read Exodus 12:12-13 What did the blood do for them? _____

(3B) Read 1 Peter 1:18-19 What are we redeemed with? _____

(3C) Read Ephesians 1:7..Through what do we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins? _____

(3D) Read Romans 5:9 By what are we justified or declared righteous? _____

(3E) Read Revelations 1:5 What is used to wash away, or free us from, our sins? _____

(3F) Read Ephesians 2:13 What brings us closer together? _____

(3G) Read Hebrews 13:12 What makes holy or sanctifies the people? _____

(3H) Read Colossians 1:20 But what means is peace and reconciliation made? _____

(3I) BLOOD OF THE LAMB: Some theologians say that when the bible talks about "the blood of Jesus Christ" it does not mean the actual red fluid that came from His veins but is a figure of speech meaning "the death of Christ." What is your opinion and why? (Hint: Hebrews 9:11-14)

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

[3j] *Atheist Attack:* "God is not just. It makes no sense for Jesus to be executed for the sins of other people. No real judge would allow such a thing." How would you answer this attack? (Hint: John 11:49-51)

[3k] *Atheist Attack:* "Blood atonement is immoral. The 'blood atonement' of Jesus is immoral, uncivilized and repugnant. Everyone knows blood atonement is an evil idea." How would you answer this attack? (Hints: Heb 9:22; John 10:18)

[3l] *Atheist Attack:* "Blood stains, make a mess, and smell bad. How could Christ's blood clean anything?" How would you respond to this attack? (Hint: 1st Cor 15:20)



----- SOME POSSIBLE ANSWERS -----

(Your answers do not have to match exactly.)

Lesson 3 – Cleansing Sin with the Blood

(3A) Read Exodus 12:12-13 What did the blood do for them? Saved their lives

(3B) Read 1 Peter 1:18-19 What are we redeemed with? the precious blood of Christ

(3C) Read Ephesians 1:7 Through what do we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins? blood

(3D) Read Romans 5:9 By what are we justified or declared righteous? His blood

(3E) Read Revelations 1:5 What is used to wash away, or free us from, our sins? His blood

(3F) Read Ephesians 2:13 What brings us closer together? the blood of Christ

(some versions say the "the blood of the Messiah" instead of "the blood of Christ")

(3G) Read Hebrews 13:12 What makes holy or sanctifies the people? the blood of Jesus

(3H) Read Colossians 1:20 But what means is peace and reconciliation made? blood of His cross

(3I) BLOOD OF THE LAMB I think it is talking about literal blood. Heb 9:11-14 tells us that Jesus performs the high priestly functions for us by His own blood. The priests which He replaced sprinkled the blood of animals in their purification rituals. Simply killing the animal was not enough. (See also Heb 9:14-22, 1st John 1:5-10, 1st Cor 6:19-20)

My further thoughts:

[3j] I answered, “You need to look up the word justice in the dictionary. I do not think you know what it means. This kind of thing happens all the time in our court system. If I am fined \$125 dollars for speeding the judge could care less whether it is me, my father, my son, or my neighbor down the street who actually pays the \$125. Perhaps they don’t allow substitutions for jail time or the death penalty in the USA right now. But at other times and places, such things did and do happen.” How could I have been more loving?

[3k] I answered, “Everyone knows no such thing. I know of no culture whose history does not include blood atonement through the sacrifice of animals. We do not like it, but what evidence is there it is wrong?” (The only evidence it is wrong comes from God’s word.) How could I serve this truth in a love sandwich?

[3l] When I first heard that blood was supposed to wash away our sins it seemed very strange to me, too. If you watch crime shows on television, human blood is difficult to remove evidence. How could it be a means of cleaning?

When I was in college, I had a job one summer cleaning a butcher shop after the butchers were done for the day. There was blood on everything. The worst was the blood on the floor of the big cooler. It was about 20 degrees in there and the blood was frozen.

I am here to tell you that blood is an icky mess and it is very difficult to see how it could be used to clean anything. But that is exactly one of the main things it does in our bodies. It constantly cleans our tissues. It carries away waste, attacks germs, coagulates to protect wounds, and provides oxygen and nutrients throughout our bodies.

The difference is that it is living blood. The blood in the butcher shop was dead. This is an important point. Christ's blood is able to cleanse us because He is alive. His living blood cleanses His body, the church, just as our blood cleanses our bodies. The blood of dead animals was just an Old Covenant symbol of Christ's death as the Lord's Supper is the New Covenant symbol. (See also Rev 1:18, John 11:25, 1st Sam 2:6)

Lesson 4 – Sovereign God; Helpless Man

In this lesson we will see that God is sovereign in all things so that when a man is saved, he is totally without credit.

(4A) Read 1 Chronicles 29:11 Who owns everything? _____

(4B) Read Daniel 4:35 Who can stop God from doing something? _____

(4C) Read Psalm 115:3 What does God do? _____

(4D) Read Psalm 22:28 Who is the ruler of all? _____

(4E) Read Revelation 4:11 For whose pleasure was everything created? _____

(4F) Ephesians 2:7-10 Who gives us the gift of salvation? _____

(4G) 2 Timothy 1:7-9 According to whose purpose are we granted our salvation? _____

(4H) 1 Corinthians 1:29-31 By who are we saved? _____

(4I) I Corinthians 15:10 What made Paul who he was? _____

(4J) Read Romans 5:6 How strong were we when Christ died for us? _____

(4K) FREE WILL? How does God's sovereignty work together with our free will?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

[4l] Read Luke 19:10. Have you ever heard anyone claim to be searching for God, a seeker after the truth, or something like that? In light of this scripture passage what do you think of such claims?

[4m] *Atheist Attack*: "Jesus was racist – John 4:22 Jesus said: 'You people worship what you do not understand. We worship what we understand, because salvation is of the Jews.' What? Salvation is documented to be a racial thing? Didn't Jesus make a racial statement? Did Jesus prove to be a racist? Or, did Jesus lie?" How would you answer this attack? (Hint: John 3:16)



[4n] *Atheist Attack*: "Only God Saves. Mark 10:26-27 'Who can be saved? Jesus said: For human-beings, it is impossible.' Obviously, all Christians, who try to convert you, believe Jesus to be a liar concerning salvation. Otherwise why would they be running around trying to 'save' people?" How would you respond to this attack? (Hint: John 6:40)

----- SOME POSSIBLE ANSWERS -----

(Your answers do not have to match exactly.)

Lesson 4 – Sovereign God; Helpless Man

- (4A) Read 1 Chronicles 29:11 Who owns everything? the LORD
(4B) Read Daniel 4:35 Who can stop God from doing something? None
(4C) Read Psalm 115:3 What does God do? Whatever he pleases or anything he likes
(4D) Read Psalm 22:28 Who is the ruler of all? the LORD
(4E) Read Revelation 4:11 For whose pleasure was everything created? the LORD
(4F) Ephesians 2:7-10 Who gives us the gift of salvation? God
(4G) 2 Timothy 1:7-9 According to whose purpose are we granted our salvation? His own purpose
(4H) 1 Corinthians 1:29-31 By who are we saved? God
(4I) I Corinthians 15:10 What made Paul who he was? God's grace
(4J) Read Romans 5:6 How strong were we when Christ died for us? We were helpless or powerless
(See also Romans 3:28, Ephesians 2:1-5, Colossians 2:13, Ezekiel 11:19, Luke 19:10, Jeremiah 13:23)
(4K) FREE WILL? Answer from GotQuestions.org: People can take one of two extremes in regard to this question. Some emphasize the sovereignty of God to the point that human beings are little more than robots simply doing what they have been sovereignly programmed to do. Others emphasize free will to the point of God not having complete control and/or knowledge of all things. Neither of these positions is biblical. The truth is that God does not violate our wills. Rather, He changes our hearts so that our wills choose Him. “We love Him because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19), and “You did not choose me, but I chose you” (John 15:16).

My further thoughts:

[4l] Luke 19:10: It appears to me that according to this verse in Luke it is Jesus that does the seeking and finding. The rest of us wander around lost until He does. I do not think that people who are "seeking God" find Him any better than anyone else. But I don't say anything to them about it. I just smile and tell them about Jesus. John 6:45 (Jesus talking) "It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught of God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me."

[4m] Yes, salvation is a racial thing. You must be adopted into the family of God to be saved from your sins. It is pure nepotism. The invitation is still open to you.

How could I serve this truth in a love sandwich? Perhaps I could have patiently explained that what it means when it says "salvation is of the Jews" is that the Savior was descended from the patriarchs; Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Judah, not that only Jews could be saved. (See Ez 47:21-23, 1Kgs 8:41, Rom 9:1-14 and Eph 1:5)

[4n] The Atheist has a point here. I guess even a blind pig can find an acorn every now and then. I certainly do not believe I can convert anyone. I couldn't even convert myself. Only God can do that. And, yes, there are Christians who believe they are “saving” people.

Lesson 5 – Taking Responsibility

In this lesson we will see that each man is completely responsible for, and accountable for, his own sinfulness.

(5A) Read Romans 14:12 Who will have to give an account of themselves to God? _____

(5B) Read 1 John 3:8 Who belongs to the devil? _____

(5C) Romans 3:19 Who is guilty before God. _____

(5D) Psalm 14:1-3 How many have decided to seek God? _____

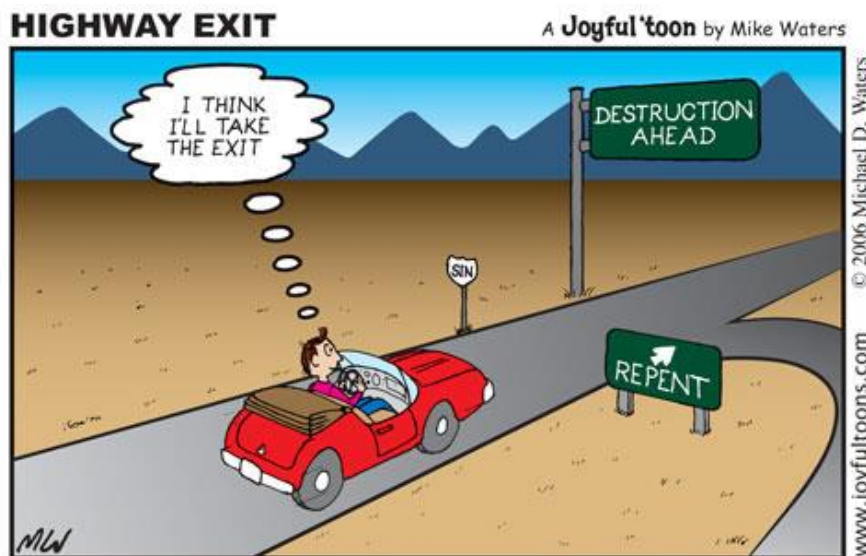
(5E) CHILDREN GUILTY? At what age do children become responsible and accountable before God for their sin? Why do you believe this?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

[5f] *Atheist Attack*: The Bible says there is more than one way to be saved. We are told salvation is obtained by faith alone in Ephesians 2:8-9, yet in James 2:24 it says salvation is by works. So, which is it, only one way, or many ways?" (Hints: Matthew 3:15; 1st John 3:24)

[5g] *Atheist Attack*: "God loves Jews only: Matt 10:5-6 Jesus said: 'Go not into the way of the gentiles, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' What? Is Jesus saying that He only wanted to save the Jews and not to bother with pagans and gentiles? Aren't pagans and gentiles also human beings? Did Jesus Christ lie? Did He?" How would you respond to this attack? (Hint Matt 28:19-20)



Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.
- MATTHEW 7:13 NIV

----- SOME POSSIBLE ANSWERS -----

(Your answers do not have to match exactly.)

Lesson 5 – Taking Responsibility

(5A) Read Romans 14:12 Who will have to give an account of themselves to God? Everyone

(5B) Read 1John 3:8 Who belongs to the devil? Those that sin

(5C) Romans 3:19 Who is guilty before God. all the world

(5D) Psalm 14:1-3 How many have decided to seek God? None

(See also Ezekiel 18:25, Psalm 53:3, Rom 1:28-30, Jeremiah 17:9, Job 15:16)

(5E) **CHILDREN GUILTY?** Answer from GotQuestions.org. Thirteen is the most common number given for the age of accountability, based on the Jewish custom that a child becomes an adult at the age of 13. However, the Bible gives no direct support to the age of 13 always being the age of accountability. It likely varies from child to child. A child has passed the age of accountability once he or she is capable of making a faith decision for or against Christ.

The one passage that seems to identify with this topic more than any other is 2 Samuel 12:21-23. The context of these verses is that King David committed adultery with Bathsheba, with a resulting pregnancy. The prophet Nathan was sent by the Lord to inform David that because of his sin, the Lord would take the child in death. David responded to this by grieving, mourning, and praying for the child. But once the child was taken, David's mourning ended. David's servants were surprised to hear this. They said to King David, "What is this thing that you have done? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept; but when the child died, you arose and ate food." David's response was, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows, the LORD may be gracious to me, that the child may live.' But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me." David's response indicates that those who cannot believe, such as infants, are safe in the Lord. David said that he could go to the child, but that he could not bring the child back to him. Also, and just as important, David seemed to be comforted over this. In other words, David seemed to be saying that he would see the child in heaven, though he could not bring him back.

Although it is possible that God applies Christ's payment for sin to those who cannot believe, the Bible does not specifically say that He does this. Therefore, this is a subject about which we should not be adamant or dogmatic. God's applying Christ's blood to those who cannot believe would seem consistent with His love and mercy. It is our position that God applies Christ's payment for sin to young children and those who are mentally handicapped, since they were not mentally capable of understanding their sinful state and their need for the Savior, but again we cannot be dogmatic. Of this we are certain: God is loving, holy, merciful, just, and gracious. Whatever He does is always right and good.

My further thoughts:

[5f] Yes, anyone who follows all the commandments will be ushered to first place in line to get into heaven. The Bible makes that clear everywhere. It also makes it clear that Jesus is the only one who will ever be successful keeping the commandments. If we put our faith in Him, he will take us with Him to eternal life.

[5g] He was giving specific instructions to a few people during His earthly ministry, not making general statements. The Atheist claims this is an indication of some kind of neglect on the part of Jesus for people besides Jews. That is silly. Just because I have one of my children over for dinner one night, does not mean I am neglecting the rest. It just means I pay attention to one and then to another. In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus tells his disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Jesus certainly wanted salvation to be offered to everyone.