

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?
- ✓ 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, thank You so much for †Jesus, †His saving work, and †our trust in Him! Now, confident of heaven, *help us to share Your saving truth with others!*

Connect With Us

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(Last Update: 10-20)

The Bible Puzzle



Can you complete it?

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.BethlehemLutheranChurchParna.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.