Ephesians 2:8-10 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

John 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

Romans 8:35-39 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2 Thessalonians 3:3 "But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one."

1 John 5:13 "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

First Steps

Initial Questions

This booklet has been prepared to assist people wanting more information about their spiritual life and growth. The book, "Bible Analysis", written by Dr. Albert Garner has been incorporated to complete the study.

This is your booklet to record your answers and use as a study guide later.

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Lesson 1

IS THE BIBLE CREDIBLE?



According to Webster's Dictionary, one meaning of the word "Bible" is "any book regarded as authoritative and official." For Christians, the Bible is God's authoritative and official revelation to man. The word "Bible" comes from the Greek, "ta biblia" literally meaning "the books." This is a "library," composed of 66 books, written by about 40 different authors, over a span of about 1500 years. The men used to author the Bible came from various walks of life - kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, physicians, and scholars. It was written on at least three continents in three different languages - Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. The thread of continuity from Genesis to Revelation, with the complete consistency of God's plan for salvation (redemption) and His character is found throughout. The Bible contains blatantly honest accounts of the lives of its main characters, exposing their strengths and weaknesses. In this lesson, we will examine and discuss why Christians believe the Bible to be the revealed Word of God.

How Can We Have Eternal Life?

John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

Acts 4:10-12 "let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

John 1:12 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:"

John 11:25 "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

Acts 10:43 "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."

1 John 5:11-12 "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

A Summary Verse

What d	id God's love cause Him to do?
What h	appens to those who believe in His Son?
 Do you	know that you have eternal life? Why or why not?



1.	The Apostle Paul wrote to the younger Timothy about the Holy Scriptures. Read 2 Timothy 3: 14-17. What does the word "scripture" mean? (Look up in a dictionary or reference book).
2.	What does inspired (or God-breathed) mean in verse 16?
3.	Does Paul believe the Bible to be useful?
	In what ways or for what reason?
4.	The Bible is divided in sections for ease of study. The two main divisions are Old and New Testaments
	In the Old Testament alone, the authors claim to be writing or speaking God's words over 2,600 times. The New Testament writer refers to these men in 2 Peter 1: 19-21. According to these verses, where did their prophecy (prediction of the future) originate?
5.	Whose words were they speaking? (v. 21)

Prophecies About Jesus Christ

The New Testament was written to show us the character and teaching of Jesus Christ. The word "testament" means "covenant or agreement," thus the Bible reveals God's covenant or promises to His people. The following are a few Old Testament promises about the Christ, the Son of God, and the New Testament fulfillments by Jesus. Fulfilled prophecy helps verify the fact that Jesus is the Christ.

Topic	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Place of birth	"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." (Micah 5:2) 700 b.c.	"Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea." (Matthew 2:1)
Born of a virgin	"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14) 700 b.c.	"His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 1:18)
His triumphal entry	"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." (Zechariah 9:9) 500 b.c.	"They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it." (John 12:13-14)

10.	Please carefully read I John 5:11-12. If someone has Christ, what else does he have?
	Can he have this without having Christ?
11.	According to Ephesians 2:8-9, do our own accomplishments, which we achieve in life, have anything to do with our being saved? Why or why not?
Ca	n We Know We Have Eternal Life?
	When Jesus promised eternal life to those who hear and believe him in John 5:24, with what phrase did He begin His promise?
13.	believe him in John 5:24, with what phrase did He begin His
13. 14.	believe him in John 5:24, with what phrase did He begin His promise? According to Romans 8:35-39, what can cut us off from

Wha 3:23	t condition affecting all mankind is stated in Romans ?
Now	please read Romans 6:23. What results from sin?
 Whe	re does eternal life come from?

How Do We Receive Eternal Life?

7.	According to John 1:12, what response to Christ must we have
	in order to become God's children?

8.	Now read John 11:25.	What does Jesus promise?

9.	In Acts 10:43, what did the prophets say we receive when we
	believe in Christ?

Торіс	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Betrayed by a friend	"Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against." (Psalm 41:9) 1000 b.c.	"Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them." Mark 14:10
His rejection	"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering, Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not." (Isaiah 53:3) 700 b.c.	"He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him." (John 1:11)
Crucified with sinners	"he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors." (Isaiah 53:12) 700 b.c.	"Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left." (Matthew 27:38)
Hands and feet pierced	"they have pierced my hands and my feet." (Psalm 22:16) 1000 b.c.	"Put your fingers here; see my hands, Reach our your hand and put in into my side." (John 20:27)
His resurrection	"You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay." (Psalm 16:10) 1000 b.c.	"You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead." (Acts 3:15)
His ascension	"You amended on high" (Psalm 68:18) 1000 b.c.	"He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight." (Acts 1:9)

6. Jesus believed the Scriptures; in fact, He quoted from over 22 Old Testament books during His time on earth. Match the following verses with the Old Testament people and places Jesus referred to in Matthew alone.

A.	Matt. 5:17,18	Abraham	H	low Can We Have Eternal Life
В.	Matt. 6:29	Solomon		
C.	Matt. 8: 4	Sodom and Gomorrah		Lesson 4
	Matt. 8:11	The law and prophets Moses	All of	ery age of history men seek to know the secret of life after death f us have only a short period of time on earth, and then we mus eternity.
7.		ad about Jesus walking a road with nat are they discussing? (verse 19-24).	Bible	t does it mean to have eternal life, and how do we get it? The gives us the answers. e Source of Eternal Life Please read John 3:16. What people have eternal life?
8.	What did Jesus explain	to them? (verse 25-27).		What happens to everyone else?
9.	What does this say about Scripture?	ut Jesus' confidence or trust in the	2.	In John 14:6, what did Jesus claim about the way in which people can reach God?
10.	What kind of bearing sho Word?	ould this have on our trust in God's	3.	How did Jesus define eternal life in John 17:3?
			4.	In Peter's speech in Acts 4:10-12, what did he say about the source of salvation?
		6		23

Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."



11.	List two things you have discovered for the first time in this study.
12.	What more would you like to learn?

Summary

Men throughout history have tried to discredit the Bible and have failed. Some simply call it a good book with some good ideas, but have never seriously considered what it says. The Bible is what it claims to be and must be take seriously, as so many people through the ages can testify. A person of intelligence will consider and read the best selling book of all time that has influenced human history with great impact.



Scripture Passages

Is the Bible Credible?

- **2 Timothy 3:14-17** But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
- **2 Peter 1:19-21** We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.
- **Matthew 5:17-18** Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.
- **Matthew 6:29** And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.
- **Matthew 8:4** And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.
- **Matthew 8:11** And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

- **Acts 3:15** "and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses."
- **Acts 4:33** "And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all."
- **Romans 1:4** "and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time."
- **1 Corinthians 15:17** "And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!"
- Acts 1:9-11 "Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."
- **John 14:1-2** "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."
- **John 14:3** "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."
- **Ephesians 1:18-23** "the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in

Scripture Passages

What did Christ Jesus do?

Matthew 1:21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Matthew 16:21 "From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day."

Matthew 27:38 "Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left."

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Isaiah 53:5-6 "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

1 Peter 2:24 "who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed."

John 10:17-18 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

John 2:18-22 "So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of the temple of His body. Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said."

Matthew 10:15 Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city.

Luke 24:13-32 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned. Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

Lesson 2

Jesus once asked His followers, "Who do people say I am?" They replied with a few of the opinions the public had of him at that time. Then Jesus said, "But what about you? Who do you say I am?" (Matthew 16:15).

The question was important then - and it's just as important today. The answer is the foundation for true life.

Jesus Christ is God

18. Read Paul's stateme how much does Chri	
	ng
1	you learned somethin so, write it below and

As	cension
Nov	w please read Acts 1:9-11. Where did Jesus ascend to
	ohn 14:1-2, for what reason did Jesus tell His disciple doing to heaven?
In J	ohn 14:3, what else did He promise?
	ad Paul's statement of prayer in Ephesians 1:18-23. C
	v much does Christ Jesus now rule? (verse 21-22).
	view the questions and your answers in this chapter. It learned something that is especially important to you

		4.	What did Jesus claim about himself in Matthew 28:18?
	Jesus was forced to a premature death by the actions of his enemies.		
	Jesus did not resist his suffering and death because he knew he was powerless to avoid it.	5.	How did Jesus demonstrate his power in Mark 1:40-42?
is	Resurrection		
	Now please refer to John 2:18-22. What did Jesus say would happen to him after he was killed?	6.	What power does Jesus claim to have in John 5:21?
	In Peter's speech near the temple recorded in Acts 3, what did he proclaim in verse 15?		According to what Jesus said in John 5:40, why do some people not experience what Jesus has to offer?
	According to Acts 4:33, in what manner did the apostles talk about the resurrection of Jesus Christ?	7.	In John 5:22-23, what attitude toward the Son of God did Jesus teach we should have?
	Read Romans 1:4, What did the resurrection demonstrate about Christ?	8.	Please read John 10:22-33, about a dramatic confrontation Jesus had with some Jews. How did Jesus identify himself with God the Father? (verse 33)
	According to Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, what people saw Jesus Christ after His resurrection?		Why did the Jews who heard him speak these words want t stone Jesus? (verse 33)

9.	Now please read John 20:24-28, about the doubts the disciple Thomas had about Jesus' resurrection. What did Thomas say when Jesus later appeared to him? (verse 28)	3.	According to Matthew 27:26, what kind of death did the Roman governor Pilate sentence Jesus to?
		4.	What kind of men were executed with Jesus? (Matthew 27:38)
10.	Does this show you that Jesus Christ is God? (convincingly) If so, why?	5.	According to Romans 5:8, what did the death of Jesus prove to God the Father?
		6.	Please carefully read the prophecy in Isaiah 53:5-6. Why did Jesus Christ suffer?
Jes	sus Christ's Humanity		How is man's sinful attitude described?
11.	How is Jesus shown to be human in these verses?		
	John 4:6		Who put the punishment for our sins on Christ?
	John 11:35		who put the pullishment for our sins on Christ:
12.	John 19:28 According to Hebrews 2:14, why did Jesus come to the earth to live as a human being and to die?	7.	Now read I Peter 2:24. For what purpose did Christ bear our sins?
		8.	Read Jesus' words in John 10:17-18. Check one of the following statements which is the best summary of these verses:
	12		Jesus went to his death voluntarily, and God the Father loved him for this.

What Did Christ Jesus Do?

Lesson 3

Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead, fed the hungry multitudes, and was friend to social outcasts and sinners. He spoke words of wisdom and power which astounded His hearers. He lived a sinless life, but was put to death as a common criminal.



But His story doesn't end there. His death, His resurrection, and His ascension into heaven mark the most amazing aspects of His life on earth.

His Death

(Mattl	a an angel told Joseph about the coming birth of Jesus, new 1:21), for what purpose did he say Jesus was ng into the world?

How was He	different?		

Scripture Passages

Who Is Jesus Christ?

Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Matthew 16: 15-16 "He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Matthew 14: 22-33 "Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to

come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

Matthew 28:18 "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."

Mark 1: 40-42 "Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed."

John 5: 21 "For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will."

John 5:40 "But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life."

John 5:22-23 "For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him."

John 10: 22-33 Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one." (continued on next page)

Vs. 31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

John 20: 24-28 "Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

John 4:6 "Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour."

John 11:35 "Jesus wept."

John 19: 28 "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"

Hebrews 2:14 "Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, "

Hebrews 4: 14-15 "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."