

BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

National Presbyterian Church, April 27, 2014

Question 1: What is our chief end in life?

Answer: To *glorify* God and *enjoy* God for ever.

Presbyterian Constitution, Westminster Shorter Catechism

Book/Article Recommendation: *Finding God: A Treasury of Conversion Stories*,
edited by John M. Mulder (former president, Louisville Seminary)
Surprised by Oxford, Carolyn Weber.

David Suchet (“Poirot”) Search Web for: “David Suchet reveals how he found faith”

Immediate: Paul’s conversion to Christ and call to ministry (Acts 9); **The Samaritan Woman** (John 4)

Over Time: Nicodemus Comes, and keeps coming to Jesus (John 3-9, 7:45-52, 19:38-41); **Jacob** (Genesis 29-32)

John 10:10, 15:11

Jesus said: “I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly . . . so that *my joy* may be in you and *your joy* may be complete.”

Romans 10:9-10

If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified (“*put right*” with God), and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

John 17:3

Jesus said: This is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Philippians 3:8

The Apostle Paul’s Testimony: “I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”

Genesis 1:26, 31

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image.” God saw all that he had made, and, behold, it was very good

Habakkuk 1:13

Your eyes are too pure to behold evil, and you cannot look on wrongdoing

1 John 1:5-6

God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true;

Genesis 2:16, 3:6

And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may eat freely of every tree in the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for on the day you eat of it you shall die. . . . and *he* ate.

- Romans 3:23 *All* have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
- Isaiah 53:6a *All* we like sheep have gone astray . . .

- Isaiah 53:6b . . . and the Lord has laid *on him* the iniquity *of us all*.

1 Timothy 1:15

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost.

Ephesians 2:8,9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and *this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God*, not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

Romans 6:23

The wages of sin is death; the *free gift* of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 26:28

Jesus: This is my blood of the covenant, poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

1 Peter 3:18

Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

2 Corinthians 5:19

In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

Romans 5:1

Since we have been justified (“*put into a right relationship*” with God) by faith, we have peace with God

Revelation 3:20

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if *anyone* hears my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.

Galatians 2:20

It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Luke 11:13 (Jesus said)

“How much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Mark 1:15

Jesus said: “Repent, and believe in the good news.”

Matthew 10:32-33

Jesus said: “Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.”

A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT:

“Almighty God my Creator, you have made me for yourself, and by living in your will I glorify you, bring you joy, and find my greatest joy. Yet I have gone my own way. I have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. I am sorry for my sins. I turn away from them in repentance. I believe that you died for me, bearing my sins in your own body. I thank you for your great love. Now I open the door of my heart to you. Come in, Lord Jesus. Come in as my savior, and cleanse me. Come in as my Lord, and take control of me. Now give me your Holy Spirit that I may love and serve you all the days of my life from this day forward. Amen! John Stott, Basic Christianity, p.129 (adapted)