



BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **7th Grade | Unit 10**

BIBLE 710

God's Plan In Christ

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God's Plan In Christ

Introduction

The purpose of this last LIFEPAK® in the Bible 700 series is to summarize the material that you have studied in the previous nine LIFEPAKs. It is exciting material to review! In one sense, this LIFEPAK gives a “big picture” of the most important events that have ever happened! It gives a broad overview of *God's plan in Christ*.

From all eternity, God existed. In His wisdom and love, God created everything that exists, both in heaven and on earth. In the first section of this LIFEPAK, you will study about God and His plan for Creation, especially man. Next, you will review man's history, both before Christ and after Christ. Third, you will see how God's eternal plan for Creation was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Finally, in the last section of this LIFEPAK, you will review how man should respond to God's loving plan in Christ. You will see how part of man's response to God should be through worship and through growing in Christ.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAK. When you have finished this LIFEPAK, you should be able to:

1. Describe several aspects of God's essence.
2. Describe three key attributes of God toward man.
3. Explain the eternal plan of God, especially for man.
4. Describe the key events in the history of man before Christ.
5. Describe human life after the time of Christ.
6. Explain how Jesus Christ fulfills God's eternal plan.
7. Tell about the key Old Testament prophecies concerning Christ.
8. Describe the key events in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.
9. Explain how man is called to respond to God's plan in Christ.
10. Explain the meaning and some forms of worship.
11. Describe how all are called to grow in Christ.

1. GOD AND HIS PLAN

Over time, God has revealed Himself to human beings in many ways. First of all, He has revealed that He exists. For example, when God revealed His name to Moses on Mt. Sinai, His very name includes the fact that He exists (Exodus 3:14): "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM." God's very name reveals that He is real and that He exists.

Not only can we know that God exists, but we can also know many things about God because He has revealed them to us. For example, God has revealed Himself to us as one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We call this revelation of God the Trinity, or Holy Trinity. The Trinity of God is perhaps the greatest revelation of God's essence that He has made to us.

God is also spirit. He has no body. Because God is spirit, He can be everywhere at the same time. The Bible says in Psalm 139:7–10:

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

We call the ability of God to be everywhere at the same time His **omnipresence**. Omnipresence is an important attribute of God that He has revealed to us.

The Bible shows us that there are many important attributes of God. These attributes, or qualities, show us some things about God as a



| God said to Moses, "I AM THAT I AM."

person. They describe God. For example, five of God's attributes are *love, truth, faithfulness, goodness, and knowledge*. In this section of the LIFEPAC, you will review three important attributes of God that are particularly expressed toward human beings: *love, mercy, and grace*.

God has not only revealed many things to us about Himself, but He has also revealed many things about His plan for Creation. He has also revealed much to us about His plan for human beings. Perhaps the most important thing He has revealed to us is His plan in Christ! In this section of the LIFEPAC, you will also learn more about the plan of God.

Section Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Describe several aspects of God's essence.
2. Describe three key attributes of God toward man.
3. Explain the eternal plan of God, especially for man.

Vocabulary

Study these words. Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFEPAAC.

alteration (ôl' tã rã' shãn). A change in something or someone.

attribute (at' rã byüt). Trait, characteristic, or quality that is basic to a person or thing.

compensation (kom pãn sã' shãn). A payment or making up of something owed or lacking.

consequences (kon' sã kwen' sãz). Something produced by a cause or necessarily following from a set of conditions.

essence (es' ns). The real or ultimate nature of a thing.

immutable (im myüt' ə bəl). Not capable of change.

omnipresence (om' ni prez' ns). Being present everywhere at the same time.

pinnacle (pin' əkəl). The highest point of achievement or development.

redeem (ri dēm'). To free from captivity by payment of ransom.

restitution (res tã tü' shãn). An act of restoring or a condition of being restored.

unmerited (un mer' i ted). Without merit; or something that is not earned.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cãre, fãr; let, ēqual, tēm; it, Īce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.



| God has a loving plan for man.

God and His Attributes

In the introduction to this section, several aspects of God's **essence** were mentioned: God's existence, the Trinity (there is One God in Three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), and the fact that God is spirit. We also mentioned that the Bible reveals many **attributes** of God. In this first part of the section, we will examine three attributes of God that are expressed in a profound way toward human beings: *love, mercy, and grace*.

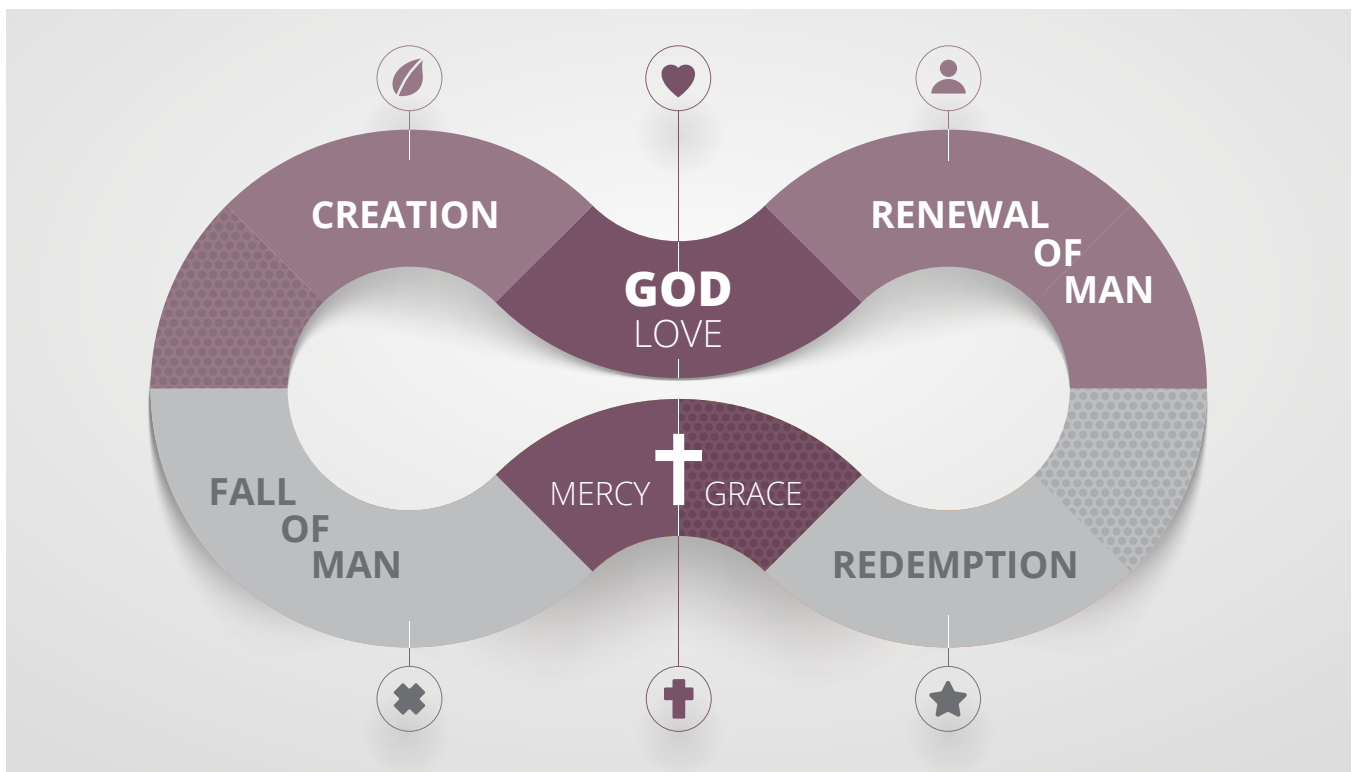
The Love of God. Love is a very important attribute of God toward man. Love is not only one of the most important attributes of God, it is also a very important part of the essence of God. As 1 John 4:8 and 16 state, "God is love." God is love; that is, love is part of God's very essence and nature. Out of love, God created all that exists. He particularly created man in love. He created *you* in love! First John 4:16 says, "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and

he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." Therefore, love is both an attribute of God toward man and also part of God's essence. To understand God's love better, it is helpful to consider three aspects of His love.

First, God's love is not influenced by the object of His love: man. Nothing in you, in me, or anyone else can attract God's love by anything we do or say. God already loves us! Deuteronomy 7:8 declares,

But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Our love for God is a response to the fact that He first loved us. The apostle John wrote (1 John 4:19), "We love him, because he first loved us." Because God loved us even though we might have been unlovable, we can know that His love



| Grace Expressed

for us does not depend upon the object of His love. His love is not influenced by who we are or by what we do or say.

Second, God's love is eternal. God's love always has been, and God's love will never end. In Jeremiah 31:3, God says, "...Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love...." This truth becomes a source of joy when we realize that God's love for us has always been there, and it always will be there. His eternal love also has no limits. Ephesians 2:4-6 tells us,

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Third, God's love for us is **immutable**. This means that the love of God never changes. God's love is stable and unchanging. James 1:17 says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." This tells us that God is neither contrary nor changeable. He is immutable, and His love is immutable, too. Another way to say this is that God's perfect love is not subject to **alteration**.

Romans 8:38-39 assures us,

...neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Write true or false.

- 1.1 _____ In His wisdom and love, God created everything that exists, both in heaven and on earth.
- 1.2 _____ Not only can we know that God exists, but we can also know many things about God.
- 1.3 _____ God's presence in the universe is somewhat limited at times.
- 1.4 _____ God has not only revealed many things to us about Himself, but He has also revealed many things about His plan for Creation.
- 1.5 _____ God's eternal love is somewhat limited at times.

**Complete these activities.**

1.6 Identify the meaning of these terms.

a. essence _____

b. attribute _____

c. omnipresence _____

1.7 List four aspects of God's essence that have been mentioned in this LIFEPAK.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

1.8 List eight attributes of God that have been mentioned in this LIFEPAK.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

f. _____

g. _____

h. _____

1.9 List three aspects of God's love.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

The Mercy of God. Mercy is another important attribute of God toward man. In the Bible, the term mercy is used to show a relationship between love and justice. Justice means to give someone what that person is due. In our legal system today, we hear a great deal about justice. When a law has been violated, the responsibility of a judge is to administer the due punishment to a person for that violation. This due punishment is called justice. Other times, people are wronged by another person, group, or organization. Justice would be administered by a judge when the people who are wronged receive the appropriate **restitution** or **compensation** for the harm caused to them by an offender.

However, a judge might decide not to give a person the just punishment for violating a law. The judge might give the person a lesser punishment for the violation—or even no punishment at all! In this case, the judge would show *mercy* to the person. Likewise, a person who is wronged could decide, out of love and forgiveness, not to require just compensation or restitution. This wronged person could decide to require much less, or even nothing at all, in return for the harm done to them. In this case, the wronged person would show mercy to the offender.

God's mercy is something like the judge and the wronged person. God shows mercy to sinful human beings when He does not give the just punishment due to violations of His law. He shows mercy when He does not require the just restitution or compensation when He is wronged. God's mercy to us flows from His love for us. The Scriptures tell us of God's mercy in many places. For instance, the Psalmist prays (Psalm 69:16), "Hear me, O LORD; for thy lovingkindness is good: turn unto me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies."

God is both just and merciful. First, He is a God of justice. If we violate His commandments and wrong Him by our sinful actions, we will suffer the **consequences** of God's just punishments.



| Through Christ, we can receive abundant mercy from God.

The Scriptures show this happening many times to the people of Israel. However, God is also very merciful and does not always treat us according to our sins. He is usually quick to show mercy when we ask for it. Again the Psalmist says (Psalm 25:6), "Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old."

On Mt. Sinai, God passed by Moses and proclaimed (Exodus 34:6-7), "The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...."

We should continually rejoice that mercy is one of God's attributes. Mercy revealed itself fully when God offered an alternative to the punishment for mankind's sins. Out of love, God sent His own Son to the world to die for us that we might receive God's mercy instead of God's just punishment. Through the death of Jesus on the cross, God has poured out His mercy upon all. Jesus made restitution and compensation for our sins and offenses against God. Through Christ, we can receive abundant mercy from

God if we come to God asking for mercy and forgiveness.

There are two aspects of God's mercy: *general* and *specific*. God's general mercy is extended to all believers, unbelievers, and to all His creation. In the Book of Lamentations, we read (Lam. 3:22–23), "It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." God's love and general mercy extends to all people and all creation. The Bible says in Psalm 145:9, "The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works."

Jesus spoke about the way that God is good and merciful in a general way to all people. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:45), Jesus taught that we should be like our "...Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." This is an example of God's general mercy.

A second aspect of God's mercy is His specific mercy toward those who are believers in Christ. God shows a specific mercy toward those who receive His provision for forgiveness of sins through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. God's specific mercy is always available to those who seek Him and to His people. The Letter to the Hebrews (Hebrews 8:10–12) speaks of the new covenant that believers have through Jesus Christ and its offer of specific mercy:

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.



Complete these statements.

- 1.10** In the Bible, the term _____ is used to show a relationship between love and justice.
- 1.11** Justice means to give someone what that person is _____.
- 1.12** God shows mercy when He does not require the just restitution or compensation when He is _____.
- 1.13** Through the death of _____, God has poured out His mercy upon all.
- 1.14** There are two aspects of God's mercy: a. _____, and
b. _____.
- 1.15** God's _____ mercy is extended to all believers, unbelievers, and to all His creation.
- 1.16** God's _____ mercy is toward those who are believers in Christ.

The Grace of God. The third key attribute of God toward human beings is grace. Grace is the undeserved favor of God toward those who have no merit of their own. Grace cannot be bought, earned, or won by any person. If it could be, then it would not be grace. Grace is freely given by God.

The greatest treatment of God's attribute of grace found in the Bible occurs in the writings of the apostle Paul. In his writings, Paul contrasts grace with works; that is, the works performed by men in obedience to the Laws of Moses. In Romans 11:6, Paul writes about our being chosen by God through Christ: "And if by grace, then is it [being chosen by God] no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work." In another very important passage of Scripture (Ephesians 2:8–9), Paul says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Therefore, it is by *God's grace* that we are put into right relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. The word grace simply means **unmerited** favor. We receive something that we neither earned nor deserved.

There are two aspects of God's grace that are worth noting. First, God's grace is eternal. God's grace existed before the Fall of man and before it was needed to help man obtain salvation. In 2 Timothy 1:9, we read that God "...saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began...." In other words, Paul is saying that God's plan long ago, before the world began, included the grace that He would give us when His Son, Jesus Christ, appeared on earth.

The second aspect of God's grace is that it is a free gift. Romans 3:23–24 says: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." God's grace is freely given to human beings. It is not earned, and it is not owed to us by God. His grace is a free gift to us.

The message of God's grace to us is good news! When we share the good news of Jesus Christ with others, we should tell them that they can have eternal life, forgiveness of sins, and the peace of God simply by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Match these items.**

- | | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1.17 _____ | love, mercy, and grace | a. writings of Paul |
| 1.18 _____ | unmerited favor | b. shows relationship between love and justice |
| 1.19 _____ | works | c. sin |
| 1.20 _____ | greatest treatment on grace | d. key attributes of God toward man |
| 1.21 _____ | general and specific | e. do not gain salvation for us |
| 1.22 _____ | eternal and free gift | f. does not include truth |
| 1.23 _____ | mercy | g. to give someone his due |
| 1.24 _____ | justice | h. aspects of grace |
| 1.25 _____ | God's love | i. grace |
| | | j. aspects of mercy |
| | | k. not influenced by its object; eternal, and immutable |

The Plan of God

In His love and wisdom, the eternal God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) planned to create all that exists and set man as the **pinnacle** of all His material creation. Yet He knew from all ages that man would sin and fall from God's grace. He therefore planned from all ages to send the Savior, Jesus Christ, to **redeem** man from the slavery of sin and help those who believe in Jesus to become children of God (John 1:12).

In the next section of this LIFEPAAC, you will cover the history of man in more detail, both human life before Christ and human life after Christ. In the remainder of this section, you will study a brief overview of the plan of God that was accomplished in Jesus Christ. This plan of God is sometimes called "the plan of salvation." It is God's plan that would solve the problem of sin in the universe. This plan has both a *provision* and a *process*.

Ephesians chapters 1-3.

The Provision. Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary and of God, His Father. Jesus is the most unique person in the universe. He is fully God and fully man. Jesus died on the cross for all of our sins.

While Jesus hung upon the cross, God the Father allowed Jesus to take upon Himself the sins of the whole world, both past, present, and future. In 2 Corinthians 5:21, the apostle Paul wrote, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Even though we are dead in our sins and by nature rebel against God, we can have hope in Christ. Through Christ's death on the cross, our sins are forgiven and we can have a new life in God.

The Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas what he must do to be saved. Their answer was brief and to the point, "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..." (Acts 16:31).

When we believe in Christ, we receive the Savior and His wonderful gift of eternal spiritual life. Have you believed in Christ as your Savior? If not, you can receive the gift of eternal life now by repenting of your sins, believing in Jesus, and asking Him to live in your heart.

When we receive Christ into our hearts, we receive new life! In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul wrote to the believers there, reminding and encouraging them, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked...." (Ephesians 2:1). John 10:10 promises us not just life, but abundant life: Jesus said, "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Salvation brings us into God's family and provides grace and blessings so that we might live a life pleasing to God.

The Process. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul wrote to the Ephesians reminding them of the source of their great and precious gift of salvation: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8). Man is unable to save himself. Perhaps the best a man could do is to try to produce human good, but the truth is that man's good cannot save him. Adam's sin of disobedience led to condemnation for all men, but Jesus' act of obedience provides redemption for all men: "Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life." (Romans 5:18).

What should our reaction be when we realize our own inability to save ourselves? We should be thankful and rejoice that God has given us a Savior whom we can depend upon to remove all that stands in the way of our fellowship with our Creator.

The apostle Peter explains in 1 Peter 2:24 that the sin problem was solved because of Christ,



"...Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed...." Romans 6:23 tells us that the penalty of sin is death, but that Christ "...died unto sin once..." (Romans 6:10). Thankfully, we are born again when we accept Christ as our Savior (1 Peter 1:23). We should be especially thankful that "For he hath made him [Jesus Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him...." (2 Corinthians 5:21).

When you accept Christ, God's righteousness is credited to you. God's perfect character was satisfied at the cross by the work of His Son (Romans 3:25). Man's human life, which limited him to human things only, was overcome at the cross. No longer is the Christian in Adam; he is now in Christ (1 Corinthians 15:22).



Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank.

- 1.26** God the Creator set man as the _____ of all His material creation.
 a. low point b. pinnacle c. first made d. least important
- 1.27** God knew from all ages that man would _____ and fall from God's grace.
 a. make mistakes b. build many things c. trip over the law d. sin
- 1.28** God sent the Savior, Jesus Christ, to redeem man from the slavery of sin and help those who believe in Jesus to become _____.
 a. children of God b. good people c. more like Him d. more intelligent
- 1.29** Jesus is both fully God and _____.
 a. like the angels b. fully intelligent
 c. fully man d. an important person
- 1.30** Through Christ's death on the cross, our sins _____ and we can have a new life in God.
 a. increased greatly b. are exposed c. are forgiven d. condemn us

Answer these questions.

1.31 According to Paul and Silas, what must we do to be "saved"? _____

1.32 According to John 10:10, what did Jesus come to bring us? _____

1.33 According to the apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, how are we "saved"? _____

1.34 What did Adam's sin do for man, and what did Christ's obedience do for man? _____

1.35 What should our reaction be when we realize our inability to save ourselves? _____



Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test. The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

SELF TEST 1

Match these items (each answer, 2 points).

- | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|---------------------|-----------|--|
| 1.01 | _____ | grace | a. | to give someone his due |
| 1.02 | _____ | mercy | b. | credited to you when you accept Christ |
| 1.03 | _____ | God's love | c. | love, mercy, and grace |
| 1.04 | _____ | abundant life | d. | sin |
| 1.05 | _____ | God's righteousness | e. | general and specific |
| 1.06 | _____ | justice | f. | unrighteousness |
| 1.07 | _____ | works | g. | unmerited favor |
| 1.08 | _____ | aspects of grace | h. | in John 10:10, Jesus says He came to give this |
| 1.09 | _____ | aspects of mercy | i. | not influenced by its object; eternal and |
| 1.010 | _____ | attributes of God | immutable | |
| | | | j. | shows relationship between love and justice |
| | | | k. | eternal and free gift |
| | | | l. | do not gain salvation |

Answer true or false (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.011** _____ In his wisdom and love, God created everything that exists, both in heaven and on earth.
- 1.012** _____ To say that God is omnipresent means that He is all-powerful.
- 1.013** _____ We can know not only that God exists, but we can also know many things about God.
- 1.014** _____ To say that God is immutable means that He is stable and unchanging.
- 1.015** _____ God's presence in the universe is somewhat limited at times.
- 1.016** _____ God's grace must be earned by human beings and is given according to their efforts.

- 1.017** _____ God has not only revealed many things to us about Himself, but He has also revealed many things about His plan for His Creation.
- 1.018** _____ The Christian is no longer in Adam; he is now in Christ.
- 1.019** _____ God's eternal love is somewhat limited at times.
- 1.020** _____ Man's good deeds can save him.

Complete these lists (each answer, 3 points)

1.021 List two aspects of God's essence mentioned in this LIFEPAK.

- a. _____
- b. _____

1.022 List three aspects of God's love.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Complete these statements (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.023** God shows mercy when He does not require the just restitution or compensation when He is _____.
- 1.024** Through the death of _____, God has poured out His mercy upon all.
- 1.025** God's _____ mercy is extended to all believers, unbelievers, and to all His creation.
- 1.026** God's _____ mercy is toward those who are believers in Christ.
- 1.027** "For by grace are ye saved through _____; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God..." (Ephesians 2:8)

Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.028** God the Creator set man as the _____ of all His material creation.
a. low point b. pinnacle c. first made d. least important
- 1.029** God knew from all ages that man would _____ and fall from God's grace.
a. make mistakes b. build many things c. trip over the law d. sin
- 1.030** God sent the Savior, Jesus Christ, to redeem man from the slavery of sin and help those who believe in Jesus to become _____.
a. children of God b. good people c. more like Him d. more intelligent

1.031 Jesus is both fully God and _____ .
a. like the angels
c. fully man

b. fully intelligent
d. an important person

1.032 Through Christ's death on the cross, our sins _____ and we can have a new life in God.
a. increased greatly b. are exposed c. are forgiven d. condemn us

Answer these questions (each answer, 5 points).

1.033 How is God's mercy like a loving judge or a loving wronged person? _____

1.034 What did Adam's sin do for man, and what did Christ's obedience do for man? _____

	SCORE _____	TEACHER _____	initials _____	date _____
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BIB0710 - May '14 Printing

ISBN 978-1-58095-070-1



804 N. 2nd Ave. E.
Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

800-622-3070
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