

# The Canton Christian

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**ASK GOD**  
FOR THE ANSWER

## The Most Important Thing

By Michael Grigsby

Salvation is often misunderstood as something earned through good behavior, yet the most important Bible lesson reminds us that salvation is God's gift, not our accomplishment. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection show we could never do it on our own.

If you asked believers to identify the most important Bible lesson, each answer might highlight a different truth: love your neighbor, forgive as Christ forgave you, or serve with humility. These are beautiful and essential as they are commandments of God, yet beneath them all is a deeper truth — our salvation does not begin with "us" at all.

Scripture consistently points us to this foundation. We are saved "by grace through faith," even faith is a gift from the Holy Spirit and is not a human achievement. Ephesians 2:8-9, *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast."* NIV.

This truth does not diminish the call to Christian living; however, it anchors it. In a worldly culture — even within some corners of Christianity — where spiritual worthiness is often measured by output, this is a profoundly freeing reality. You do not have to live a perfect life. Jesus already lived it for you.

### What Is Salvation?

The question "What is salvation?" has echoed through centuries of Christian reflection. Some believe in salvation as a process of becoming better, more moral, more disciplined. Others imagine it as a lifelong checklist of spiritual accomplishments. Yet the heart of salvation is far simpler and more humbling.

Salvation is God's rescue: His decisive act of claiming us through Jesus' life, death and resurrection. It is not a reward for good behavior. It is not spiritual promotion. It is God bending toward us in mercy when we have nothing to offer but our need.

This means salvation is not fragile. It is not re

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# Prayer is the Way

Steve Driskill  
Amy Warner  
Kaylynn Philpot  
Emma Burich  
Levi Hunt  
Connie Johnson  
David Lupo  
Shirley Moore  
Arta Waltman  
Kraig Birchfield  
Tammy Long Qualls  
Brian Wilson  
Colton Cottrill  
Mary Ann Phillips  
Ty Gardner  
Amanda Driskill  
Tim Kirk  
Vicki Reavis  
Pete Petree

Ashley Crews  
Jim Rose  
Steve Bond  
Barbara Mason  
Steve Reist  
Josephine Gonzalez  
Dave Schwind  
Dean Cavett  
Raymond Barnes  
Jeff Thompson  
Josh Blevins  
Beverly Cannon  
Delbert Hladik  
Blake Boulard  
Nicole Bowman  
Melvin Warner  
Dwight Lunsford  
Bob Ogle  
Ceryl Flynn

Tristan Hladik  
Ron Waltman  
Donnita Murray  
Greg Hargrove  
Gayle Roberts  
Regina Ray  
Tim Chaloupek  
Jeremy Walker  
Becky Garriott  
Robin Hladik  
Mark Williams

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*Family of Barbara Weece  
Family of Bill Bruen  
Family of Wes Robinson  
Family of Jason Smith  
Family of Art Rodriguez*

*Note: To call out a prayer need during the week, contact Laberta at 580-886-5225.*

## FISH FRY FUNDRAISER




Sunday, April 3rd

Following Morning Worship Service

- There will be a Fish Fry to raise money for our youth to help
- with the cost of summer camp. This will be by donation only.
- Everyone is invited to stay after the morning worship service for
- a great meal. Also bringing a side dish or dessert to share would
- be most welcomed!



# May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Hayley Farris Will Robinson	2 Delana Canada Jason Seifried
3 Bryan Thompson <b>FISH FRY</b> Fish Fry Fundraiser following morning worship service	4 Amy Pearson	5	6 Alex Blaylock	7 Keller Jones	8 Jim McGinn	9 Annie Farris
10 Matthew Sparks 	11 Leonard Walters	12 Jim Stokes	13	14 <b>Joe &amp; Angela Cantelly</b>	15 Lucille Kephart	16 Lanna Chaloupek Gary Sander <b>Elio &amp; Brenda Palacios</b>
17 Candace Hughes	18 Jason Jenkins	19 Pat Null Chole Hughes	20 Kayley Rollins	21 Brandon Webb Travis Canada Curtis Hoskins	22 Jean Howard Ben Marks	23 <b>Tom &amp; Karen Robinson</b> <b>Chris &amp; Rhonda Lance</b>
24 Nate Lang Kaghan Stephens <b>Dean &amp; Sandra Cavett</b>	25 	26 Bella Swartwood	27 Steve Bond Brett Sander	28 Cade Mitch	29 Joe Hart Bill Woodall Ricky Moore	30 Larry Stephens
31	<i>Bella Grace - May</i> <i>Deanna Barker - June</i> <i>Brenda Palacios - July</i>  <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>		Please notify us if a name needs to be removed or added.  <b>Contact:</b> tonigo4th@hotmail.com or text or call 580-822-5109.	<b>ANSWERS: BIBLE KNOWLEDGE (on page 6)</b>  240 b 241 b 242 a 243 a	244 c 245 b 246 b 247 d 248 b 249 a 250 a	251 a 252 c 253 c 254 a 255 b



# MAGNIFIED VBS

Sunday, May 17 – Thursday, May 21

The dates are set for **Magnified VBS**, so mark you calendars for Sunday, May 17th thru Thursday, May 21st. The Mission this year will be for the local food bank. The participants will be making a unique Can Sculpture. If you would like to volunteer to help the kids get started, feel free to bring a canned good or so over the next several weeks. Anyone wanting to help with VBS this year, please contact Alex.

*Continued from page 1,*

## ***The Most Important Thing***

voked when we struggle or stumble. Our worst days do not outweigh Christ's finished work, and our best days do not increase it. We do not "earn" our belonging in the family of God — we receive it by believing in Jesus. *Ephesians 2:4-5, "But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved." NIV.* The only way to forfeit that salvation is to reject Jesus's sacrifice.

### **Living as People Already Redeemed**

Because salvation is God's gift, not our achievement, the Christian life becomes a response rather than a requirement. We do good works not to secure God's approval, but because we already have it.

In some Christian denominations, it is easy to absorb the idea that the most faithful believers are the busiest ones — the ones volunteering at the food pantry every week, leading every Bible study and church extra-curricular, sacrificing all of their free time. These practices are beautiful expressions of

devotion, but they are not the ground of our worth in God's eyes.

You are not "more saved" when you succeed, and you are not "less saved" when you fall short. Salvation is not a score to keep track of; instead, it is a gift to rest in. And resting in that truth frees us to serve joyfully rather than anxiously — to act out of gratitude, not fear. This is the peace Jesus offers: the confidence of knowing that His righteousness covers us, His grace sustains us, and His love defines us.

### **Living Truth in Life**

The most Important Bible lesson always draws us back to the cross. There, Jesus accomplished what we could never achieve. His obedience stands in place of our imperfection, and His sacrifice stands in place of our guilt.

At the cross, our earthly worries quiet. Our shame dissolves. The debt is paid, and there is nothing left for us to add or prove. The cross reveals exactly that — it is a gift freely given by a Savior who gave everything.

# Test Your Bible Knowledge

## (Joshua)

240. The line of scarlet thread bound in the harlot Rahab's window in Jericho was [Joshua 2:1-21]

- a a sign to clients
- b a safeguard against slaughter
- c a signal to attack
- d an inconsequential decoration

241. The twelve stones taken by the Israelites from the Jordan after they passed over toward Jericho [Joshua 4:1-20]

- a had served as stepping stones for crossing the river
- b came from the place where the priests had stood in the dry river bed
- c had been hurled at them by the Hittites as they forded the river
- d were used, one by each tribe, to shatter the walls of Jericho

242. The Israelite children born during the forty years' wandering in the wilderness crossed the Jordan [Joshua 5:2-7]

- a uncircumcised
- b circumcised
- c circumcised save for those under ten years of age
- d perhaps circumcised, perhaps not

243. After the crossing of the Jordan, the mana [Joshua 5:11-12]

- a ceased
- b continued as before
- c redoubled
- d improved in flavor

244. The total number of times the Israelites marched around the walls of Jericho was [Joshua 6:1-4]

- a two
- b seven
- c thirteen
- d forty-nine

245. The second march around the walls of Jericho is reported in Joshua 6 to have been made [Joshua 6:12-14]

- a in silence
- b with blowing of trumpets
- c with shouting and blowing of trumpets
- d in casual conversation

246. On the last march, with trumpets and shout, the walls of Jericho [Joshua 6:20]

- a exploded upward in small pieces
- b fell down flat
- c opened in seven wide breaches
- d crumpled into hills of rubble

247. Joshua's second attack on Ai succeeded, when the first had failed, fundamentally because [Joshua 7:1-26; 8:1-29]

- a Joshua was gaining skill with practice
- b he used 30,000 men instead of 3,000 men
- c he invented the ambush
- d the Lord had been placated by the death of Achan

248. The inhabitants of Gibeon talked poor, and

as their reward

[Joshua 9:3-27]

- a received gifts of silver and gold
- b became hewers of wood and drawers of water
- c were wiped out to the last man
- d were loaned money at zero interest

249. The five kings of the Amorites had the misfortune to encounter a [Joshua 10:5, 11]

- a hailstorm
- b rainstorm
- c lightning
- d hot, sticky weather

250. The Israelites had to live with those who inhabited the one city from which they were unable to drive out the occupants; namely, [Joshua 15:63; 10:28-32]

- a Jerusalem
- b Makkedah
- c Libnah
- d Lachish

251. Shiloh was the place where [Joshua 18:1]

- a all the children of Israel assembled to set up the tabernacle when the land before them was subdued
- b the battle raged in which the Ephraimites defeated the Canaanites
- c the busiest river crossing of the Jordan was located
- d lots were cast for the inheritances of Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah

252. The refugee to a city of refuge (No. 194 above) was to be allowed entrance [Joshua 20:4]

- a unconditionally
- b if he brought a certificate of good character from two of his fellow inhabitants
- c if he stopped at the city gate and explained his case to the elders
- d if he offered a ram in sacrifice

253. The huge altar built by the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh almost [Joshua 22:10-34]

- a bankrupted them
- b provoked a rash of huge altars
- c involved them in a hopeless war
- d fell down

254. The great stone at Shechem was to serve as a witness against the Israelites if they betrayed the covenant they made with Joshua to serve the Lord, since the stone [Joshua 24:1, 26-27]

- a had heard that covenant spoken
- b bore that covenant engraved upon it
- c faced in the direction of the covenants/ lands
- d covered the covenant

255. Joshua's life, compared with Moses', was [Joshua 24:29; Deuteronomy 34:7]

- a longer
- b shorter
- c the same
- d unknown

*Answers on page 3-4*