

BORN TO WIN

WILLIAM MACDONALD



Developed as a study course by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.

Born to Win

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My Story

Hello! My name is Steve Thompson. I was born in Chicago, the 4th of 11 children born to my parents. I grew up on the south side of Chicago and attended public elementary and high school, graduating from Wendell Phillips High School.

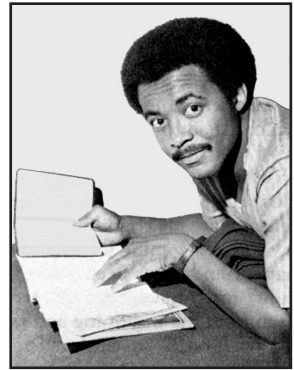
As most of my high school buddies would tell you, I wasn't the most outstanding student! I managed to get by without getting into any major trouble. There were enough problems in life without making more for myself and others.

What kind of problems? Being a member of a family of 13 is not the easiest situation in the world. Although we were not in total poverty, it was very rough on my parents. But we did have a respect and love for them. What mother said, went, and as for my father, one thing that has always impressed me was that he never abandoned us. I know of families of my close friends that were broken due to an absentee father, but he was with us all the way and still is. However, although he was with us, there was very little communication from him as to what life was all about.

So problems were real, and they had no apparent solutions—like, for instance, gangs. Imagine living on the south side of Chicago in the early sixties, and being a teenager. Stabbings, beatings, blindings, killings—and you're asked to survive in it. So you do. My way was to avoid it as much as possible. For the most part, it worked. I never joined, but I knew quite a few of the members. I had their respect as someone who could handle himself, but as soon as I could, I left home by joining the Navy at 18 years of age.

After Boot Camp I went to the west coast for more training, Shipfitter class "A," and upon graduation, to my first ship. It was an ammunition ship and we seemed to have fires on it every week, even out at sea. When this ship was put out of commission, I was put aboard a second one.

This time our home port was in Japan. There, as time went on, I met and began to live with a Japanese girl a year younger than myself. I was 19 at the time. We became very close. Here was someone whom I felt that I loved, and I was loved in return by her. So it is hard to understand how I would be convicted and sentenced to 7 years in prison for her death, a crime to which I had to confess—for I was truly guilty.



What made me do it? The immediate cause was drugs (heavy combination of alcohol and marijuana). But as time has gone by, I'd have to say that it was just my true self coming to the surface. For 21 years I had hid my frustration, fears, hatred, and anger deep down inside. I wasn't ready to admit to others that I didn't really have it together. I was lost, had been from the beginning, and had never asked anyone for directions. To top it all off, I was enslaved to sin. It was my master, and Satan was holding my chains. He had me dancing to his tune and I didn't even know it. How blind can you be? I was a born loser, born only to lose.

So I destroyed the one thing that I really felt was mine. The one that I loved was destroyed by my own hands. Hopeless, guilt-ridden, bringing shame to my family, and facing perhaps years in a foreign prison, I sat in my cell and wondered how it had happened and where it would end. I tried to end it myself but couldn't quite do it. I thank God now that I couldn't.

Then a man came to me—a missionary who told me of this Man named Jesus who was not just a man. Jesus was God. He said that Jesus had come to seek and to save that which was lost, and that He had come to give His life as a ransom for many. I was always opposed to the Bible and God and this man Jesus, for this was the “white man's religion.” Although I thought I knew all about the Bible, the fact was that I had never actually read it for myself! But through the missionary, God told me of the love that only God could have for me, of how He had sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to go through the whole life thing, just so that He could die for us—for the world and for me personally. I couldn't believe it. But once I did, once I believed, once I put my trust and life in, what He said He had already done, I simply confessed my sins to God and thanked Jesus Christ for dying for them for me. And God forgave me!

This course, *Born to Win*, is especially designed to meet the needs of men and women like ourselves—those who have had a view of hell and dread the idea of going to such a place. If you are where I've been, and perhaps even in worse condition, read it with an open mind and heart and seek God in His Word. This correspondence course will help you find Him. My sincere prayer is that you will join me and thousands of others who have found true freedom and life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—Steve Thompson

Steve Thompson completed more than a dozen correspondence courses during his prison term in Japan. These studies contributed greatly to his spiritual growth.

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

We are glad that you are interested in studying the Bible. Our Bible courses provide an excellent introduction to the Bible and will lead you, one step at a time, through many of its great truths (salvation, Christian growth, Bible book studies, doctrine, topical, Bible survey, etc.). Feel free to complete these courses at your own pace and your own schedule.

The Bible pictures losers in many ways—as lost sheep, mug victims, lower class citizens, frauds, and runaway kids, to mention just a few. But the Bible also contains the good news that God has provided a way to have a fresh start in life. Do you feel like you’re a “born loser”? This Bible course will help you learn how you can be born (again) to win! Someone has expressed it this way:

There’s a way back to God from the dark paths of sin,
There’s a door that is open and you may go in.
At Calvary’s cross is where you begin,
When you come as a sinner to Jesus.

—E. H. Swinstead

Lessons You Will Study

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Course Components

This course has two parts: this study course and the exam booklet.

How To Study



1 This study has twelve chapters, and each chapter has its own exam. Begin by asking God to help you understand the material.



2 Read the chapter through at least twice, once to get a general idea of its contents and then again, slowly, looking up any Bible references given.

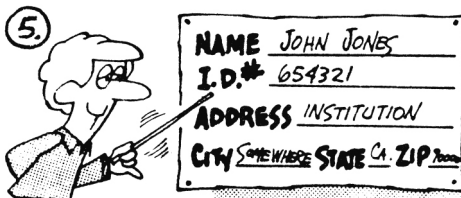


3 In the front of your Bible you will find a table of contents. For example, to find John 3:16, the table of contents will tell you the page number of the book of John. The “3” stands for the third chapter and the “16” stands for the sixteenth verse in the third chapter.

Begin studying immediately, or if you are in a group, as soon as the group begins. We suggest that you keep a regular schedule by trying to complete at least one chapter per week.

Exams

In the exam booklet there is one exam for each chapter (exam 1 covers chapter 1 of the course). Complete exam 1 after you have read and studied chapter 1. Do the same with the remaining chapters. Do not answer the questions by what you think or have always believed. The questions are designed to find out if you understand the material given in the course. You may use your Bible and the course book to answer the questions.



4 Be sure to print your name, ID number, and address clearly on the front page of the exam sheet.

If you enrolled in a class, submit your exam papers to the leader or secretary of the class who will send them for the entire group to the Correspondence School. See the back of the exam booklet for more information on returning the exams for grading.

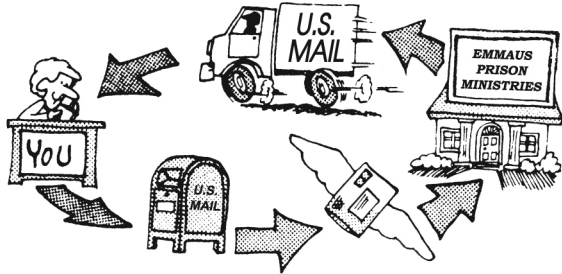
How Your Exams Are Graded

Your instructor will mark any incorrectly answered questions. You will be referred back to the place in the Bible or course textbook where the correct answer is to be found. After finishing this course with a passing average, you will be awarded a certificate. The certificates are for you to keep in your records. We will keep records of your achievements in our office. We will also send additional courses for you to complete.



In Our Office

After you complete your courses, send the exam booklet or single page answer sheet in immediately. While we grade and process your exam, you can start to work on the next course. Our goal is for you to always have at least one Bible course to work on. Please allow 4-6 weeks for the return of your exam and new courses. This is the time needed for the Post Office to deliver them to you. We will do all we can to get them to you sooner.



Talk To Us

A number of people will be grading your exams, so your instructor may be different from course to course. We would appreciate your personal comments throughout the exams. They help us to get to know you and your needs better. Please let us know *specific* questions you may have about the Bible, God, or other spiritual matters. Enclose these questions with your completed exam.

Your candid answers to the “What Do You Say?” questions will help us to know you better as an individual. They will also help us evaluate the general effectiveness of this course in your life.

Tell a Friend

We are glad to send courses to prisoners free of charge. We offer these courses in English and Spanish. To enroll others, just ask for enrollment cards or send us their name, ID number, and complete address.

Someone has correctly said: “When all else fails, read the instruction manual!” The Bible is not only a love letter to us, but is also an ***Instruction Manual on Life***.

When we have failed in our attempts to find genuine love, peace, happiness, and meaning to life, could it be because we have failed to ***read and heed God’s instruction manual?***

The central message of the Bible is God’s love for us as demonstrated by giving His Son to suffer and die as our Substitute, to pay for our sin. He has also promised to give peace, joy, and an abundant life to all who ***receive*** Him as their Lord and Savior.

A Word of Warning and Encouragement

Satan does not want you to study the Bible. He will attempt to discourage you and bring ridicule from others to keep you from studying ***God’s Instruction Manual***. The ***hardest part*** in anything is ***getting started***. Begin today. We care about you and we are praying for you.

1

THE LOST SHEEP

(MATTHEW 18:12-14; LUKE 15:1-7)

It is one of the best-loved stories of the Christian faith—the story of the lost sheep. It is about a shepherd who had a flock of one hundred sheep. One day one of them wandered off and became thoroughly lost. What should the shepherd do? Should he be satisfied that he still had ninety-nine sheep left? No! He left the ninety-nine and searched tirelessly until he found the missing one. Then he put it on his shoulders and went home happy and triumphant. As soon as he arrived, he called his friends together and said, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!”

When Jesus told the story, He had two classes of people in mind. There were the tax collectors and sinners—people who knew they were “lost” And there were the Pharisees (the strictest of the Jewish sects) and scribes (writers, and interpreters of Jewish laws) who would never confess to being sinners. The one sheep that went astray represents the tax collectors and sinners. The ninety-nine sheep picture the Pharisees and scribes who were never broken before God and never admitted their lost condition. The fact was, they were as lost as the tax-collectors and sinners, but they refused to admit it.

Jesus used the story to teach that there is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine self-righteous persons who refuse to admit their need to repent.

We can apply the story to ourselves. We are like the sheep that wandered away. That sheep was pretty stupid and dumb. It was lost, helpless, in danger, and it couldn’t find its own way back. Isaiah, the prophet, was right when he said, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to

his own way” (Isaiah 53:6). And the apostle Peter reminds us also that we are like sheep going astray (1 Peter 2:25). Jesus, of course, is the Shepherd. He is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11), the Great Shepherd (Hebrews 13:20) and the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4). Let’s notice the close parallels between Jesus and the shepherd who went after the lost sheep.

Love Is More Than a Song

First of all, Jesus loved us. Long before we ever knew Him, He loved us. Before the foundation of the world, He loved us. No one ever loved us like He did.

His love made Him leave His home in heaven. He really didn’t have to come here. He was living in perfect happiness with God the Father. Nothing ever entered heaven to upset or disturb Him. There was nothing He needed to make His rest and peace more complete. But because He knew that there were lost sheep like us on earth, He left heaven above.

His love made Him come down to this jungle of sin. We can’t imagine what a tremendous step down it was for the Son of God to come to earth and to be born as a baby in a cattle-shed in Bethlehem. We can’t realize what it meant for the absolutely Holy One to live in a world of sin and rotteness. We can’t conceive what it cost Him who was so rich to become so poor!

Then, like the shepherd in the story, He went out searching for the lost sheep. He said, “The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Men rejected Him, but still He kept seeking. The religious leaders persecuted Him, but still He kept seeking. Even His friends forsook Him, but still He kept seeking. He would not be discouraged. He would not turn back. He would not give up. He was determined to “find” the sheep.

The shepherd’s love led Him to give His life for the sheep, as He said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep” (John 10:11). This was most unusual. Ordinarily the sheep have to die for the shepherd, that is, he sells them to the meat packer so he can get money. But the Good Shepherd died for the sheep. On the cross of Calvary, the Lord Jesus died to save us from our sins. He died to pay the penalty that our sins deserved. He died so that He could bring us to God. None of us will ever know what He had to suffer in order to seek the sheep that was lost.

How to Get a Pardon

Now, the shepherd sends out the good news to all the world. If any guilty, lost sinner will repent of his sins and receive Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, that person gets saved. His sins are forgiven. He receives eternal life as a free gift (Romans 6:23). That's when the Savior finds us—when we cry out to Him, “Lord, save me!”

We see the shepherd putting the rescued sheep on his shoulders. The shoulders, in the Bible, speak of strength. What a beautiful picture this is! It reminds us that our Shepherd is able not only to save us, but to keep us too. The Savior said, “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” (John 10:27-29).

The shepherd never stops till he brings the lost sheep safely home. And our Shepherd will never stop until He has brought all of His sheep safely home to heaven. It gives great happiness to His heart every time one of His loved ones lands safely on the other side!

Years ago, David wrote a beautiful tribute to the Good Shepherd. We know it as the twenty-third Psalm. It goes like this:

“The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”

In this Psalm we have:

1. The secret of a happy life—“The LORD is my shepherd.” There are many people who say, “The LORD is *a* shepherd.” Others say, “The LORD is *the* shepherd.” But that isn’t enough. We must be able to say from the heart, “The LORD is *my* shepherd.”
2. The secret of a happy death—“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me.” When a man’s sins are unconfessed and unforgiven, he is afraid to die. But the believer isn’t afraid to meet God, because he knows that his sins are gone. And he does not fear death because he knows Jesus will be with him and take him safely through the valley.
3. The secret of a happy eternity—“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” The future is safe and sure for the child of God. He is certain of a home in heaven. The Shepherd has promised it, and He can never go back on His promise.

BORN TO WIN

EXAM BOOKLET AK '12 (1 UNIT) BTW

STUDENT NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

I.D. #

INSTITUTION

H.U.

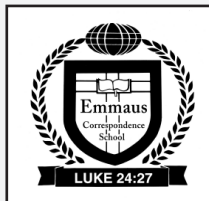
CELL #

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

COURSE GRADE: _____

INSTRUCTOR



Exam developed by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.

A NOTE ON THE EXAMS

The exams are designed to check your knowledge of the course material and the Scriptures. After you have studied a chapter, review the exam questions for that lesson. If you have difficulty in answering the questions, re-read the material. If questions contain a Scripture reference, you may use your Bible to help you answer them. If your instructor has provided a single page Answer Sheet, record your answer on that sheet. This exam contains the following types of questions:

MULTIPLE CHOICE

You will be asked to write in the letter of the correct answer at the space on the right. Here is an example:

The color of grass is

- A. blue
- B. green
- C. yellow

 B

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Questions headed this way are designed to help you express your ideas and feelings. They will help you to apply the principles and concepts taught in this course. You may freely state your own opinions in answer to such questions.

RETURNING THE EXAM

See the back of this booklet for instructions on returning your exam for grading.

DO NOT PHOTOCOPY THESE EXAM PAGES

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1. Who wrote, "All we like sheep have gone astray"?
- A. Moses
B. Isaiah
C. Luke
2. Jesus left His home in heaven because
- A. He loved us
B. He was unhappy there
C. He was restless and dissatisfied
3. Why did the Good Shepherd die?
- A. because He was a martyr
B. because He couldn't escape
C. so that He might save us from our sins
4. After we're saved, the Savior tells us
- A. "Hold on or you may be lost again."
B. "I give you eternal life and you'll never perish."
C. "I've done my part—now you get the rest of the way to heaven on your own."
5. The secret of a happy death is
- A. having lived a long life
B. having lived a productive life
C. knowing that your sins are forgiven

6. The writer of the beloved Shepherd Psalm (23rd) is
- A. Moses
B. David
C. Isaiah
7. The secret of a happy life is to be able to say with truth "the LORD IS
- A. a shepherd"
B. the shepherd"
C. my shepherd"
8. According to Luke 15:7, where is there rejoicing over the lost sheep (sinner) being found and saved?
- A. among the Pharisees
B. among the 99 already in the fold
C. in heaven
9. When we repent and receive Jesus as our Savior
- A. we get religion
B. we get saved
C. we start on the road toward salvation
10. According to Romans 6:23, eternal life is
- A. partly earned and partly a gift of God
B. earned by good works such as church attendance
C. entirely a free gift of God

WHAT DO YOU SAY? Are you lost or are you saved? How do you know?