

STUDY GUIDE

CLASSIC  
CHRISTIANITY

BOB GEORGE



HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS

EUGENE, OREGON

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible: New International Version®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Pronouns referring to the deity have been capitalized in the quotes from the NIV for clarity. This capitalization is the preference of the author of this book and does not appear in the complete NIV Bible.

Verses marked NASB are taken from the New American Standard Bible®, © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

Verses marked KJV are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

*Cover by Dugan Design Group, Bloomington, Minnesota*

**CLASSIC CHRISTIANITY STUDY GUIDE**

Copyright © 1989 Harvest House Publishers  
Eugene, Oregon 97402

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

George, Bob, 1933—

Classic Christianity

Includes bibliographical references.

1. Christian life—1960— . 2. George, Bob, 1933— I. Title

BV4501.2.G42 1989 248.4 87-83230

ISBN 978-0-7369-2915-8

**All rights reserved.** No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, digital, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

**Printed in the United States of America**

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 / ##-SK / 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

# CONTENTS



Not How-To, but Who .....	5
1. Busy and Barren .....	7
2. The Truth About Error .....	15
3. Man Alive! The Neglected Half of the Gospel ...	23
4. Forgiven to Be Filled .....	29
5. Putting the Pieces Together .....	37
6. Toward a Proper Self-Image .....	43
7. Loved <i>and</i> Accepted .....	51
8. The Great Exchange .....	59
9. The Ministry of Condemnation .....	69
10. Free from the Yoke of Slavery .....	81
11. Living by a Higher Law .....	89
12. Freedom in Dependency .....	99
13. Growing in Grace .....	109
Whatever Happened to the Real Thing? .....	119
A Personal Invitation .....	125

## BUSY AND BARREN

### **Lord, Take Me Back**

**I**t was another Monday morning, and I was inching my way down the expressway to one of the busiest schedules imaginable. My eyes clouded up with tears as I cried out, “Lord, take me back to the days when I first knew You.” I had lost the joy of my salvation.

Perhaps you are crying out in your own way, “Lord, take me back to the days when I first knew You.” Through the following questions and illustrations you will see the many reasons why the joy of our salvation slips away.

### *Doing the Right Things*

Mac was a hard-driving businessman, 70 years of age. He realized that he had never personally trusted Christ. Greeting Mac as he walked down the aisle to publicly profess his faith in Christ, the pastor exclaimed, “This is one of the most brilliant businessmen in our city. He’s wealthy, talented, and we need to put him to work.”

Mac, with tears in his eyes, looked up at the pastor and said, “Pastor, I don’t need a job. I need the Lord.”

In John 6:28, what was the question the disciples asked Jesus?

---

What was His response in verse 29?

---

---

Read the story of Martha and Mary in Luke 10:38-42.

What is Martha's complaint to Jesus?

---

---

How does He respond?

---

---

According to this story, what would you say is the priority of the Christian life?

---

---

In the illustration about Mac, what was wrong with the pastor's comments?

---

---

What does Mac's response say about our true need as Christians?

---

---

### *God's Wooden Spoon*

Mary grew up in a strict denomination where she learned to be afraid of God. Her whole life she carried the burden of sin on her shoulders. Until learning about God's grace and total forgiveness, she constantly

looked over her shoulder to see if God was running after her with His great big wooden spoon.

According to Romans 5:9, what are Christians—those justified by Christ’s blood—saved from?

---

What does John say fear is related to in 1 John 4:18?

---

What did Mary fear before she came to know God’s grace and total forgiveness?

---

---

Will a person ever experience the joy of the Lord if he or she is fearful of being punished by God?

---

How do people act when they fear being hit with God’s wooden spoon?

---

According to Galatians 3:10, what is the result of these efforts?

---

---

How are we justified according to Romans 5:1?

---

How does Romans 5:1 apply to our lives when we struggle with guilt and fear?

---

## Answers Learned on the Expressway

The Christian life can be real. It doesn't have to be an act—pretending you are doing great, when deep down you know something is wrong.

Through the tears I shed while driving on the expressway, God led me to the answers I was looking for. Through your tears and hurts, God can lead you to truth that will set you free.

### *Truth Sets You Free*

Read John 8:31-36.

Why does John tell us to abide in God's Word?

---

What is the result of knowing truth?

---

---

---

If truth sets you free, what puts you in bondage?

---

If you are in bondage today, what is the reason according to this passage?

---

### *Christianity: A Relationship, Not a Religion*

When I first received Christ, I could hardly wait to read the Bible. My wife said I had a black-leather face. But soon my sincere love of Christ was exchanged for a desire for theological knowledge. Even in something good, I had strayed from my relationship with Christ.

What does 1 Corinthians 8:1 say that knowledge does?

---

Many of us read the Bible for knowledge. What does 1 Corinthians 8:2 say about the person who is enamored with his own knowledge?

---

In John 8:31-32 what does John say will set you free?

---

In John 8:36, who sets you free?

---

What two qualities does John 1:14 say Jesus possesses?

---

In John 5:39-40 to whom do the Scriptures testify?

---

Where is life to be found?

---

How does Jesus define eternal life in John 17:3?

---

---

According to 2 Corinthians 11:3, how are we led astray from our relationship with Christ?

---

---

### *I'm Ready to Listen to You*

Many of the sermons we hear challenge us to do more, to be better Christians, or to make a difference in this world. I responded to a challenge to "Come Help Change the World." It sounded so good, but soon I realized I couldn't even change me.



Who will teach you all things, according to 1 John 2:27?

---

---

---

To whom does the Spirit testify, according to John 16:14?

---

What does Colossians 2:21-22 say about the man-made commands we submit to?

---

---

What do these regulations have an appearance of, according to verse 23?

---

---

What are they unable to do?

---

Where should we set our hearts and minds, according to Colossians 3:1-2?

---

What does Galatians 5:22-23 say is the result of keeping our eyes on Christ?

---

---

Paul asked the Galatians, “What has happened to your joy?” He asks us the same question today.

Through error we have turned our relationship with Christ into a job.

Maybe you are like me. I was committed to God's plan, but had strayed from the God of the plan.

I got tired of pretending. I wanted reality in my life. Finally, I pulled off the expressway and said to God, "I'm ready to listen to You."

Are you ready to listen to God? If so, know that what He will teach you is real, and that through His truth you will once again experience the joy of your salvation.