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THE LOGIC OF GOD

52 CHRISTIAN ESSENTIALS FOR THE HEART AND MIND

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

- How does the idea that "behind every question is a questioner" affect your understanding of apologetics?
- 2. What does it mean to "become the righteousness of God," and how is the gospel unique among other worldviews?

- Is your faith in Jesus reasonably grounded and experientially sustained, or do you struggle with doubt? How might you address any doubts of the mind or heart this week?
- 2. When someone asks you to explain either why you go to church or why you are a Christian, how do you respond?



- 1. What does it look like to "revere Christ as Lord"? Why does Peter begin his charge with this injunction?
- 2. What is "the single greatest obstacle to the impact of the gospel," and what is so difficult about "expounding the unlived life"?

- 1. How has your conversion experience made a visible difference in your life and in those around you?
- 2. What might you do this week to become a more effective witness for Christ?



- 1. Why must truth be exclusive?
- 2. How does understanding that every worldview has exclusive claims impact the way we proclaim the Christian faith?

- Has your life been changed by Jesus's statement, "I am the way and the truth and the life"? Consider reflecting on His words throughout this week.
- 2. Do you know someone who has found Christianity difficult and walked away from the faith? How might what you've heard today help you reach out to this person?



- 1. Why does the fact of a moral law necessitate a moral Lawgiver (God)?
- 2. Consider how the doctrine of the Trinity, God existing in a loving relationship before the creation of life, uniquely addresses the problem of pain.

- Has suffering been a roadblock for you or someone you know to receiving God's love? How might the cross bring comfort and hope?
- 2. Can you think of a time when pain was a pathway to joy or blessing in your life?



- 1. What is the first and most important step to understanding the nature of truth?
- 2. Why does truth demand an objective standard?

- Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples." How will His words change your life and witness this week?
- 2. Can you think of a time when, like the little boy with the marbles, you withheld your best from God and wondered if He was giving you His best?



- 1. Why is the belief that Jesus is the unique Son of God a nonnegotiable in the Christian worldview?
- 2. How are Jesus' description of the human condition and His solution utterly unique?

- 1. Jesus "changes everything." How might this truth change your life today?
- 2. Jesus offers us God's grace and forgiveness and calls us to extend His kindness to others. Whom could you reach out to with God's love and forgiveness?



- 1. When does Christian's burden fall off of him, and where might you find an example of this in the Bible?
- 2. What three gifts is Christian given, and how do they apply to the journey of faith?

- The Christian walk involves the spiritual, the practical, and the intellectual. Take an inventory of your life. Where are you most in need of God's direction and indwelling presence?
- 2. Consider someone you've been trying to reach with the gospel. Of these three areas, what is his or her most pressing need, and how could you address it?



- 1. Why do you think, as Luke records, that the two men traveling to Emmaus with Jesus were kept from recognizing Him?
- 2. In what way does A. W. Tozer describe the deeper spiritual life? How does it compare to a surgeon's work?

- The frenetic pace of our world can lead us to "nervous haste." What can you do today to invest in eternal matters and relationships?
- Blessed are those who seek God with their whole hearts, wrote the psalmist. What blessings have you known or would you hope to experience in spending time with God?



- 1. How did Cain's misunderstanding of God provoke him to kill his brother?
- 2. Why does the Bible equate hate with murder, and how does Jesus' emphasis on the heart speak to pressing social issues today?

- 1. What steps have you taken or could you take to shut the gate to unforgiveness and hate?
- "We need a God who not only changes what we do, but what we want to do." Take time to seek God's guidance, help, and restoration in your desires.



- 1. Read the story of paralyzed man in Luke 5:17–26. What do his friends' actions suggest about their estimate of this man and Jesus?
- 2. Why is forgiveness rather than healing the ultimate miracle? Why is the physical a shadow compared to the soul?

- Can you recall an instance when you made a great effort to introduce a person to Jesus? How could you model the compassion and persistence of the friends in today's Scripture for someone you know?
- 2. Rather than chasing truth, we often chase shadows. Where has chasing shadows led you? What about chasing truth?



- 1. What three things did the apostle Paul do in Athens to cross bridges and engage in conversation for the gospel?
- 2. Read Acts 17:22–34. Why do you think Paul's appeal to being God's offspring is so effective?

- How might the idea that "you will never lighten any load until you feel the pressure in your own soul" affect the way you pray and interact with others this week?
- Many Christians know very little about the teaching and history of their own beliefs. Consider reading through one of Paul's letters or even the book of Acts to dig deeper into God's Word.



A ROYAL WEDDING JUST LIKE MINE

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1. What is true love according to 1 John 3?
- 2. What does Romans 5:8 say about the human condition and Christ's response to us?

- "Love is a commitment that will be tested in the most vulnerable areas." Pray through the promises of Scripture and ask God to meet you in your areas of need.
- 2. How does the assurance that in Christ you are a daughter or son of the King of kings inspire you?



- 1. According to Romans 8, what is the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian?
- 2. What does it mean that God is the Grand Weaver of our lives? Do you believe this?

- Have disappointments moved you toward God or away from Him? Where do you see God at work in your life today?
- 2. God declares that "the Spirit helps us in our weakness," interceding on our behalf. Invite the Holy Spirit to be your Counselor, Comforter, and Advocate and to pray for you and your concerns.



- Take time to read through the brief book of Hosea or specifically chapters 11 and 14. Where do you see instances of God's unmerited love?
- 2. How does Hosea's love for his adulterous wife foreshadow Christ's love for us as sinners?

- The story of Hosea can send a deep ray of hope into our hearts if we listen carefully. What particular detail of this story offers you hope?
- 2. In Christ, God removes the corruption of sin and provides new life, hope, and meaning. Where has Christ made the most difference in your life? Where might He continue to transform you?



- 1. Why are Jesus' nail-scarred hands life-defining?
- 2. What does author Calvin Miller suggest is essential to living? Do you agree?

- 1. If you could interview Jesus Christ, what one question would you ask Him?
- 2. As you wrestle with life's questions or help another work through his or hers, do you believe there is a lack of evidence or perhaps courage to follow through where the answer leads? How might you probe deeper and surrender to God's guidance?



- 1. What does Psalm 9 communicate about God as Judge?
- Why must there be an absolute standard to rightly judge? How does this standard point to the reality of God's existence?

- Consider when you endured unfair judgment, whether in a simple game or a more serious situation. What emotions did you experience? If you still have unresolved anger and mistrust, invite God to bring justice, peace, and healing.
- 2. Have you wrongly judged someone? How might you make amends and ask forgiveness today?



- 1. You can judge without loving, but you can't love without also being just. Explain.
- 2. How is the cross the centerpiece of the gospel message?

- 1. What are the "twin gifts" Christ offers you? How might you dispense them to others this week?
- God has a "new day" for you today because Scripture promises His mercies are "new every morning" (Lamentations 3:23). Spend time meditating on Lamentations 3:22–23, and thank God for His mercy and love.



- 1. What is the single greatest obstacle to the gospel, and what challenge does it present?
- 2. Why can't morality alone solve our true malady?

- The call of Jesus is a bountiful invitation to trust and to live in the freedom of His love. How might you live in light of this truth today?
- 2. What is it about a surrendered heart that draws people to Christ? Have you experienced this?



- 1. In what way is the Christian worldview different from naturalism?
- 2. Why are our hearts' commitments so life-defining?

- 1. Consider memorizing Proverbs 3:3–6 or placing these words where you can see them often.
- 2. How would you answer the question "Who owns your heart?" Allow this question to direct your steps today.



- 1. What does the father alone see in his work as a weaver?
- 2. What did Jesus mean when He told His disciples, "Because I live, you also will live"?

- 1. What has the Grand Weaver done in your life to reveal His handiwork and design?
- 2. We are reminded that God is at work in places of beauty as well as pain. Who needs God's touch today, and how might you reach out?



- What does it mean to be made in God's image, and what does the Christian worldview uniquely say about personhood?
- 2. For what purpose did God create us? How does praying for people open their hearts to God's purpose for them?

- The problem of pain and the problem of pleasure both present distinct challenges to surrendering our hearts to God. What obstacles have you experienced or witnessed in others? Are these still obstacles to trusting God's love and grace?
- Have you prayed with someone who wouldn't identify as a Christian and seen a similar response? Pray for an opportunity to reach out with God's love in this way.



- 1. God has revealed Himself through His Word, through Jesus Christ, His Spirit in the life of the church, and even His created world. Is God hidden?
- 2. What does it mean to say that God's answers are both propositional and relational?

- If God seems hidden from you personally, is there someone who can pray for you? How might you rest in God's presence today? (Consider reading Psalms 23 and 139.)
- 2. Spend time reflecting on the truth that God is the answer to your heart's deepest question. Where or to whom might you turn to seek answers to your questions?



- What do you think compels us to etch the names of those we love in stone? How does this impulse relate to the act of worship and being made in God's image?
- 2. Contrary to what the naturalist or atheist may say, why is it impossible to live by sheer reason alone?

- Is there a destination or familiar place that inspires you to worship? What is it about this setting that draws you toward God?
- 2. Read Psalm 104 and ask God to open your eyes to the majesty of His creation and providential care.



- Reflect upon "Some answers need time before anger is overcome by trust" and "Behind every question is a questioner."
- 2. How did Jesus tenderly reveal the Samaritan woman's heart and allow her to see her deepest need?

- A wise counselor or trusted friend can help us to see ourselves as we truly are. Do you have unresolved heartache or anger that needs to be brought to light so you can experience your heavenly Father's healing?
- 2. How might you be a "Margie" this week to someone in need of a listening ear and Christ's compassion and prayer?



- 1. How does the Christian worldview best make sense of the two ounces of water in the illustration?
- 2. What is faith according to Hebrews 11?

- 1. What is the "greater miracle within us," and how might this reality guide you today?
- Even the disciples' paradigm of Jesus was challenged. Where do you need to grow in the constancy of trust in God?



- 1. Why must the reality of evil be denied if we deny an objective moral law?
- 2. Why must there be a moral Lawgiver (God) if a moral law exists?

- 1. Who was I before God's work in me, and who am I now?
- 2. How might you be a convincing witness to others this week?



- 1. What does Luke 11 tell us about both prayer and about the character of God?
- 2. Prayer remains a vital part of our lives when what elements of belief are in focus?

- 1. How have you handled disappointment in prayer?
- Are there areas of your life awaiting God's healing touch?
 Do you know someone who needs to be encouraged in prayer and reminded of God's goodness?



- What does Jesus' teaching on prayer communicate about God? What does it say about our needs?
- 2. What is the ultimate gift in prayer that God wants to give us (see Luke 11:13)? What does this perspective say about God's desires for His children?

- Chrysostom wrote that prayer is a splendid display of God's treasure and power. Have you witnessed this? Take time to read the prophet Daniel's prayers or about John Chrysostom's life and writings.
- 2. It's easy to turn prayer into a means to an end. How can the reminder of God's indwelling presence change the way you pray today?



- Consider some of the ways we attempt to rearrange the "furniture of life" to suit our view of how the world ought to be.
- 2. What is the unseen war we struggle with, and what is the solution?

- The Scriptures reveal that we are all prone to murder in our hearts. If you have anger and unresolved conflict, ask God to work in you and to bring peace, forgiveness, and healing.
- 2. Has violence and pain brought home your own need for God? How might you minister to someone in a similar place?



- 1. What are the many dimensions of hope presented in Romans 5?
- 2. Explain Chesterton's observation, "Sorrow is founded on the value of *something*."

- "Hope, like character, takes years to build and minutes to shatter." How might this perspective direct your steps this week?
- 2. What are you hopeful about, and where does your hope rest?



- 1. What are some biblical examples that support the idea that our knowledge of God's truth comes by obedience?
- 2. What happened as a result of Daniel and his friends' obedience to God? Is there a contemporary example of their faithfulness that inspires you?

- What are the three principles that allowed Daniel and his friends to obey God in a dire situation? Have you drawn these boundary lines as well? How and where?
- 2. Sometimes we are unable to sense God at work because we choose not to obey Him. Is there an area in your life you need to surrender to God and trust Him to meet you in His way and time?



- Can you think of some cultural differences between you and others that tend to divide when issues of values and religion are discussed?
- 2. According to 1 Peter 3:15, what two elements are critical when we engage others who may be worldviews apart from us?

- Do you know someone whose culture and worldview are radically different from yours? Consider how your friendship and kindness could be a bridge to reveal the love of Christ.
- The tenets of the Christian faith are essential, but if we have not love, we are "clanging cymbals" (see 1 Corinthians 13). Learning to love involves a lifetime, but what could you do today to grow in love and shine the light of the gospel?



- 1. What are some characteristics of God the Father found in the Scriptures?
- 2. Jesus said, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." How does Jesus "show us the Father"?

- For some, the fatherhood of God elicits negative associations with an earthly father or parent. What aspect of God's character do you most need to believe? His faithfulness, His love, His protection, His compassion?
- 2. Consider how the answer to *Who are You, God?* responds to the deepest needs of your heart and mind. Ask God to reveal Himself today in your place of need.



- 1. According to William Temple (and Scripture), what is worship?
- 2. Consider the ways we might respond to prayer and preaching when we are on the receiving end, listening.

- Prayer is a taste of worship, drawing us into intimacy with God. Give thanks to God for the gift of prayer and the privilege to enjoy His fellowship.
- Is there a burden you might help lighten today by interceding for someone? Can you ask someone to do the same for you?



- 1. What is the function of a temple? What descriptions come to mind when you think of a temple?
- 2. Read 1 Corinthians 1. In what ways is the church understood to be the body of Christ?

- What thoughts and feelings are evoked by the truth that our bodies are the very temples of God, where His Spirit resides? How might you live in light of this awareness today?
- "You are not your own; you were bought at a price." You belong to God—you are a child of God! Take time to praise God for "his indescribable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15).



- 1. God is not merely good, and His holiness is not merely goodness. Explain.
- 2. How does Scripture define *holiness*? What is meant by *otherness*?

- 1. Read Isaiah 6 and/or Revelation 4. How is God's holiness linked with worship and intimacy with Him?
- 2. How can you be a beacon of God's hope in your sphere of influence this week?



- Consider the ways being well read—or having an office filled with books—can be intimidating. How might it be less so?
- How does culture, especially in a social media era, encourage us to misuse knowledge and literacy to gain an edge or promote a certain image of ourselves?

- 1. Which books have made the most impact on you? How and why do you think they have been so life-defining?
- 2. What do the passages from 2 Timothy 3 and Hebrews 4 tell you about the Word of God and its effects? How has reading Scripture changed you?



- 1. Consider how the professor's question belied her true intentions. What did she really want?
- 2. Right doctrine and conduct don't save us, so what does Paul mean when he urges Timothy, "Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers"?

- When are you prone to sever the heart from the head perhaps at the prospect of pleasure and for fear of missing out? Ask God to reveal to you habits of the heart that need His corrective grace.
- 2. Have you been in a situation similar to the student's? What did you do, or how would you conduct yourself now?



- What perspective and reasoning would drive a person to forfeit his or her life and commitments for the sake of pleasure and limitless freedom?
- 2. How did the businessman betray his own heart? Why must the question of evil first begin with the one asking it?

- 1. If there were a portrait of your soul, what would it look like after God's brushstrokes of grace and forgiveness?
- 2. How do you want to be remembered? Are you investing in this legacy in your relationships, work, and ministry?



- Imagine a generation that is "intellectually uncapped, morally unzippered and volitionally uncurbed." Consider how the beauty and truth of the gospel can transform people bearing each of these descriptions.
- 2. What elements become the sword of the Spirit to break down the armored resistance of a culture at war with God's truth?

- How did the regenerative power of the Scriptures and the love of Christ first change your life? Thank God for the gracious work He has done and is doing in your life.
- God's Word is "a light shining in a dark place." Read 1 John 3:19–22 and invite God's Word, Christ Himself, to shine His light and love in every corner of your life.



- 1. What does it mean to say that sorrow is holy ground?
- 2. What does the prophet Isaiah tell us about the person and ministry of Jesus and the response He would encounter during His life on earth?

- Have you found that life's most sacred truths are learned in the midst of sorrow? How might this perspective change your understanding of suffering or minister to someone you love?
- 2. Spend time praying for Jesus' peace and healing in your life and for others in need.



- "At the heart of the law is God's very character.... There is a spiritual essence that precedes moral injunctions." Explain how this is true.
- 2. What does the parable of the prodigal son and his father reveal about the heart of God?

- If your life were cast in the pages of Scripture, what character most resembles you apart from Christ's forgiveness—the questioning Pharisee, fearful adulterous woman, prodigal son, or angry brother?
- 2. Where do you need Christ's rescue today?



- 1. Why do Muslims consider the cross of Christ so offensive?
- 2. How are God's glory, power, love, and justice displayed at the cross?

- Take time to consider one or all of the phrases listed in this chapter (e.g. "unworthy loves"). Ask your heavenly Father to fill you with the fullness of His Spirit and to help you surrender to His correction and grace.
- 2. Thank God that He frees us from the foolishness of sin and the weakness of ourselves. How might you also be an example of His kindness and mercy this week?



- Can you think of ways imagination has been used for both good and evil, whether in a fictional work or an actual event?
- 2. How do reason and will bear upon the imagination?

- 1. Jesus tells us to keep our eye single. How might His gracious admonition guard your steps today?
- 2. Our imaginations can distort reality and disregard the boundaries God set for our protection. Or perhaps you've stifled the good gift of imagination. Ask God to heal and renew your imagination so that you can receive "every good and perfect gift . . . from the Father" (James 1:17).



- 1. What does it mean to say there is a law above our laws and what is this law?
- 2. How do both social media and our sports-obsessed world encourage us to project ourselves as invincible? What are the risks in doing so?

- Knowing does not guarantee doing. Doing engages the will and a preset commitment. Ask God to direct your steps to do what He has set before you this week.
- Can you recall when you have been "wise in your own eyes" (Proverbs 3:7) and the results that ensued? Pray through the entire prayer in Colossians 1:9–14 and "ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives" (v. 9).



- 1. What question has a greater bearing on your life than anything else? Why?
- 2. What points to a transcendent order set in place by God? Explain.

- One's belief in values of any kind follows from one's belief or disbelief in God. Take an inventory of your values (e.g., charity, honesty) and consider how they flow from or perhaps contradict your perspective of God.
- 2. What does the "inner space" of your life look like? Is it in turmoil, constant motion, at peace? Ask Jesus to feed you with His bread of life and fill your soul with His abundance and peace.



- 1. What is the one pursuit that pulls our lives together, and how does it begin to answer the problem of loneliness?
- What is "the friendship of the LORD"? Spend time in Psalm
 25 or John 15 to pursue this truth in Scripture.

- 1. When do you most feel lonely—and how do you attempt to meet this need? When do you most feel loved?
- 2. Ask God to encourage you with the knowledge of His friendship. How might this amazing truth direct your path today and open a door of ministry to someone else?



- How have communication and technology changed the way we relate to each other? Have they brought more intimacy and connection or less? How?
- 2. Why is the enjoyment of a gift often so fleeting? Can you think of a gift that's brought you lasting joy or still touches your heart? Why is that?

- 1. How might you guard the treasure of God's gift—His very presence and consolation—this week?
- 2. Consider how your view of God's generosity or lack thereof informs the way you go to Him in prayer and relate to others. Ask God to conform your view of Him to who He really is.



- 1. Think about the two brief statements that changed the direction of the Pakistani man's life. Where do you find the ideas of dying to self and living for God in Scripture?
- 2. What four resources has God given to guide us?

- "The guide for life presupposes whom you belong to." Are you being directed by God as His child, or are other influences pulling you onto a divergent path? How do you know when God is guiding you?
- 2. Have you learned to handle disappointment? How about failure and success? How might you grow in one of these areas this week?



- 1. According to the hymn writer and Scripture, what is the foundational reason for a Christian's peace?
- 2. What is the "momentous decision" we make daily whether we realize it or not? How does this decision relate to the apostle Paul's admonition to Timothy?

- To get where you are today, you needed the prayers and the efforts of someone else. Who has prayed for you over the years or been a support and an ally? Take time today to thank that person and God. Likewise, whom are you praying for faithfully?
- 2. What are you doing today to help you rest securely in God's peace and to guard the good deposit of His Spirit entrusted to you?



- 1. Consider how Jesus's words in Matthew 25 disrupt us with His call to surrender.
- 2. Read Luke 2:1–20. What does the first Christmas story reveal about God's invitation and the significance of hospitality?

- Do you recall a similar Christmas or time when you were interrupted? How might you open your heart today to those God has placed in your life?
- 2. Perhaps you are like the lonely man in this story. Ask your heavenly Father where you might find community and be a blessing to someone else.





- 1. What is a sacrilege? What is its worst form, according to G. Campbell Morgan?
- 2. What is worship at its core? How does Luke 10:27 apply here?

- 1. Pause to take stock. Ask yourself: Do I give God the best of my time? How will I give God the best of my energies today?
- Use Wesley's words to guide you in prayer and refresh your spirit: "Jesus, confirm my heart's desire to work, and speak, and think for Thee; still let me guard the holy fire, and still stir up the gift in me."

