4) Even to this day, Jewish people will not confess that Jesus Christ is the _____ Yahweh of the Old Testament unless they have already believed on Him in their hearts.

5) Confession merely confirms verbally what has already gone on in the privacy of the _____, but it is not a requirement for salvation. 1 Corinthians 12:3

11. **Confusion: Pray the sinner's prayer**

a. A person is saved based on _____ in Christ and not because of praying a prayer. Acts 16:30-31 says, "*And after he brought them out, he said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household'*."

b. There is no _____ in the Bible of a person being required to pray a prayer in order to be saved. If prayer were required for salvation, God would have plainly communicated that to us. Prayer is a good work, and we already know we are not saved by doing works. Titus 3:5

c. Are we implying that prayer is wrong? _____. The Bible urges believers to *pray without ceasing* (1 Thess. 5:17) and to *pray at all times* (Eph. 6:18), but prayer is not a requirement for salvation for unbelievers. Faith in the gospel is what saves, not being led by someone to pray a prayer.

12. **Confusion: Just say yes to Jesus**

a. While this may seem like a very _____ response to the gospel message, it is not synonymous with "*believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved*." Acts 16:31

b. This statement is confusing, as it does not specify that we are to believe in Christ's death and resurrection for salvation. Many well-meaning people easily become convinced they are going to heaven based on a positive _____ towards Jesus.

c. Salvation is not based on a "_____" statement to the Lord. What exactly would a person be saying yes to? If saying yes to the Lord were part of some kind of promise or vow to the Lord, then it would be a human work. We know from the Word of God that our works do not save us. Titus 3:5

d. In fact, Matthew 7:22-23 speaks of people who were very positive towards the Lord and yet were not saved. To these kinds of people Jesus will say, "*Many will _____ to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me…'*."

13. **Confusion: Love God**

a. This confusion teaches that you can earn salvation by loving God and loving your neighbor as yourself. In reality, it is impossible to produce this kind of _____ before salvation. Ephesians 2:1-3

b. This _____ gospel message comes out of Deuteronomy 6:5 – *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might*.

c. Although _____ said this was the greatest commandment (Luke 10:27), He did not imply that a person could earn salvation by obeying it.

d. There are many similar commands given in the Word of God, but these are for God's _____ to obey, not unbelievers.

e. It is believing the good news about Jesus that _____ a soul, not loving God and others.

14. **Confusion: Follow Jesus; Bear your cross**

a. It is important to understand the _____ of Matthew 16:24-26. *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"*

b. The key to understanding this passage is to understand that Jesus was addressing believers: *Jesus said to* _____ *disciples*. Since Jesus was talking to His disciples, we know this is a sanctification passage rather than a how-to-be saved passage.

c. When Jesus spoke of someone losing their life and forfeiting their soul, He was not talking about believers forfeiting their souls in _____. If that were so, it would contradict many verses on the eternal nature of our salvation, as we will see.

d. Jesus was warning believers to not _____ out on the abundant life and become unfruitful in service here on earth. He was speaking against the believer selling out to the world. Romans 12:2, 1 John 2:15-17

15. **Confusion: Make Christ Lord of your life; Submit to the lordship of Jesus.**

a. It is true that in order to be saved you must believe Jesus is the _____ God. John 8:24 says, "*Therefore, I said to you that you will die in your sins for unless you believe that I am* [He]*, you will die in your sins*."

1) Jesus' _____, Christ, signifies that Jesus is the Lord. In Matthew 16:16, when Jesus asked Peter who He was, *Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" Acts 2:36, Luke 2:11, John 4:25, 1 John 2:22-23

2) It would be nonsensical to trust in Jesus for salvation if you thought He was merely an ordinary, sinful _____ like yourself.

b. However, while you must believe Christ is the Lord God in order to be saved, making Him Lord of your life will not save you. If that were the case, your salvation would not be based on Christ's finished work but on the addition of _____ work of making Him your Lord. Salvation would be based on your frail efforts to submit to Him. Titus 3:5-6

1) Making Christ Lord of your life is not a decision you make moments _____ you believe.

2) How can an unbeliever who is dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1-3), under Satan's control and without the Spirit of God in his or her life ever honestly and successfully promise _____ to the lordship of Jesus Christ? If making Jesus the Lord of your life were a requirement for salvation, no one could ever be saved.

c. Lordship is a discipleship issue for the _____ not a salvation issue for the unbeliever.

1) We know the Lord Jesus Christ wants to be Lord of every member of His _____. He initiates this lifelong process the moment a person believes in Him and He promises to continue working toward this goal until the second we die. Philippians 1:6, 2:12-13; 1 Peter 1:13-16

2) As believers, we all struggle with sin and at times _____ ourselves fighting the lordship of Christ in some area of our lives. Romans 7:18, 1 John 1:8

3) However, as we consistently _____ the members of our bodies as instruments of righteousness to the Lord, Christ's lordship over our lives increases. Romans 6:19-22

16. **Confusion: Just have faith**

a. To tell an unbeliever to just have faith, meaning a positive _____ toward God or toward life, is confusing because the _____ of faith is not stated or clearly defined. Many people mistakenly believe they will be saved because they have positive optimism about life or about God. Sadly, this is a fatal mistake.

b. The concept of having faith is biblical, but for salvation, faith must be in Christ specifically. John 6:29 – *Jesus replied, "The work of God is this: to believe in the _____ He has sent."*

c. To many modern thinkers, Jesus is an undefined good man or good example. Christ becomes an _____ to ultimately achieve by simply having a good outlook on life. Many of these people see faith as a mystical type of Karma or holy cosmic force.

d. Because the statements "just have faith" or "believe" do not describe a faith placed in the Lord Jesus Christ's death for our _____ and resurrection, this is a misleading message. Acts 16:29-34, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

17. **Confusion: Keep the faith**

a. This false gospel message implies that salvation is about maintaining your faith in Christ. If you happen to _____ believing, then you'll lose your salvation and go to hell.

b. In this scenario, the reason people go to heaven is because _____ faithfully upheld their faith and not because of the reliability of Christ to uphold them. The object of their faith for salvation is their own ability to hold or maintain their faith.

c. In 2 Timothy 1:12 the apostle Paul stated, "*I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that _____ is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day*.

d. This error boils down to reliance on your own _____ rather than on Christ's finished work for salvation.

18. **Confusion: The cross-less gospel; The promise-only gospel**

    a. This false gospel invalidates faith in who Christ is (the God-Man) and what He did (died for our sins and rose again). These essential details are viewed as _____ information and unnecessary truths for salvation.

    b. Some cross-less gospel preachers go so far as to say that if you require faith in Christ's person and work, you are actually _____ to the gospel.

    c. Proponents of this false gospel _____ that these are nonessential truths for eternal life. They often call the message to be believed for eternal life the "saving message," saying that the word gospel refers to the entire Bible.

    d. This _____ gospel teaches that for salvation a person must believe in the promise of Jesus to give us eternal life. To these teachers, all that is essential for salvation is faith in eternal security through a man named Jesus.

    e. While it is true that Christ gives us eternal life when we believe in Him, we are not told to believe merely in Christ's _____ to give us eternal life.

    f. Peter and Paul both preached the person and work of Christ when they shared the gospel with the _____.

        1) When Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:23-24, 36), he preached the deity, death and resurrection of Christ: *This Man…you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again…. Therefore …know for certain that God has made Him both _____ and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified*.

        2) Paul preached the cross to the unsaved. 1 Corinthians 2:2 – *And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him* _____. 1 Corinthians 1:18, 23; Galatians 1:1-9, 3:1

        3) Paul preached the resurrection to the unsaved. Acts 17:32 – *Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to* _____.

H. Summarizing what the gospel is not

1. The gospel is not a subjective message.
    a. The gospel is not something we say or do in our _____.
    b. The gospel is not an _____ we have had.
2. The gospel is not a formula.
    a. The gospel is not repeating some _____.
    b. The gospel is not what we say or what someone _____ us to say.
3. The gospel is not saying the so-called "sinner's _____."
4. The gospel is not an emotion.