

**MAR THOMA DIOCESAN SUNDAY SCHOOLS
DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA AND CANADA
2021 DIOCESAN EXAM
GRADE 10**

Time: 90 Minutes

Maximum Score: 100 Points

Section 1 – Multiple Choice

Circle the most appropriate response for the following question/statement.

(25 x 1pt = 25 pts. Total)

1. "I do not nullify the _____; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing." ~ Galatians 2:21

- a. sacrifice of Jesus
- b. word of God
- c. grace of God**
- d. 10 commandments

C (L15 P76)

2. According to Deuteronomy 30, what has God set before you?

- a. angels and demons
- b. good and evil
- c. heaven and hell
- d. blessings and curses**

D (L3 P13)

3. Which is NOT an "I AM" statement of Jesus?

- a. I am the true vine
- b. I am the light of the world
- c. I am the bread of life
- d. I am who I am**

D (L20 P107)

4. All Christians should embody _____ within their lives.

- 1. Unity
- 2. Pride
- 3. Humility (L21, P113)**
- 4. meekness

5. Paul emphasizes justification of Salvation as being through _____

- a. Faith (L9, P48)**
- b. Good deeds
- c. Worship
- d. Action

6. Who told Job "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God and die."

- a) Friends
- b) Satan

- c) **c) Wife**
- d) Father

C (L5 P27)

7. How many beatitudes are in the Sermon on the Mount (L12 p61)

- a) 7
- b) 8
- c) 9**
- d) 10

7. What church is Paul putting up as an example of generosity in 1 Corinthians 8?

- a. church in Macedonia**
- b. church in Galatia
- c. church in Corinth
- d. church in Jerusalem

A (L25 P138)

8. Who attacked Job's property?

- a. Chaldeans and Sabeans**
- b. Chaldeans and Canaanites
- c. Philistines and Sabeans
- d. Philistines and Canaanites

A (L5 P27)

9. What new name for God did Jesus use in John 17?

- a. Holy One
- b. Abba Father
- c. Holy Father**
- d. God Almighty

C (L16 P82)

10. Where was Jacob when he uttered the words "Surely the Lord is in this place – and I did not know it!"?

- a. Haran
- b. Bethel**
- c. Beer-sheba
- d. Ur

B (L7 P38)

11. According to John the Baptist, what is in the hand of the "one who is more powerful" than him?

- a. sword
- b. sandals
- c. shepherd's staff
- d. winnowing fork**

D (L14 P71)

12. In James 2, who did James say was justified by works?

- a. Jesus
- b. Paul
- c. Job
- d. Rahab**

D (L9 P46)

13. How many years passed from when the Israelites returned from exile and God gave them a message through the prophet Haggai?

- a. 2
- b. 18**
- c. 16
- d. 40

B (L11 P58)

14. What event does Jesus remind Nicodemus about during their late-night conversation?

- a. Abraham's covenant with God
- b. Israel's return from exile
- c. Moses lifting up the serpent**
- d. Ezekiel's vision of a valley of dry bones

C (L13 P66)

15. What metaphor does John use in Revelation 21 to describe the new Jerusalem?

- a. as a lamb brought to the slaughter
- b. as a new vision of Paradise
- c. as a bride adorned for her husband**
- d. as a city on a hill

C (L24 P129)

16. According to 2 Timothy 4, what will be given to all who have longed for Jesus' appearing?

- a. crown of righteousness**
- b. the armor of God
- c. word of God
- d. breastplate of righteousness

A (L15 P76)

17. What does Jesus call you if you do what He commands?

- a. Friend**
- b. Servant
- c. Brother
- d. Disciple

A (L19 P99)

18. Which is NOT a promise that God made to the Israelites if they brought their full tithe?

- a. rebuke the locust
- b. vines will not be barren
- c. destroy your enemies**
- d. pour down an overflowing blessing

C (L23 P122)

19. Who provided a third party historical reference to the resurrection of Jesus?

- a. Josephus**
- b. Tacitus
- c. Paul
- d. Mary Magdalene

A (L22 P118)

20. What is NOT part of the Mar Thoma Church worship?

- a. Candles
- b. Incense
- c. Vestments
- d. Cymbals**

D (L4 P23)

21. What was NOT part of God's promise to the Israelites in the valley of dry bones?

- a. open their graves
- b. put His Spirit within them
- c. help them rebuild the Temple**
- d. place them on their own soil

C (L10 P51)

22. The God said to Ezekiel, "_____ to these bones and say to them, O dry bones, hear the Word of God!"

- a) Command
- c) Prophecy**
- b) Talk
- d) None of the Above

C(L10 P 61)

23. What do all the Beatitudes point to?

- a. Jesus
- b. Return from Exile
- c. The Promised Land
- d. Kingdom of Heaven**

D (L12 P63)

24. What did the twelve stones that Elijah used to build the altar represent?

- a. 12 disciples of Jesus
- b. 12 tribes of the sons of Jacob**
- c. 12 judges of Israel
- d. 12 years of famine

B (L2 P6)

25. Who else was offered living water in the New Testament?

- a. the Disciples
- b. John the Baptist
- c. the Pharisees
- d. the Samaritan Woman**

D (L24 P132)

Section 2 – Short Answers

Answer any four (4) of the following. (4 x 5pts = 20 pts. Total)

1. Describe Ezekiel's vision in Ezekiel 37. (2 pts) What does the vision mean? (3pts) **(L10 P51-53)**

- **God sets Ezekiel down into a valley of very dry bones and asks him if they can live. Ezekiel responds that God knows. God tells Ezekiel to prophecy to the bones and they start rattling and coming together with sinews and flesh. He prophesies again and breath from the 4 winds breathes on the bones and makes them live again.**
- **The dry bones are the house of Israel who think all hope is lost and they are cut off from God. When God asks Ezekiel to prophecy to the bones, He is telling the people of Israel that He will bring them back from their graves and bring them back to the land of Israel. They will know that He is Lord when He opens their graves, and brings them up from them, and puts His spirit in them, and they live, and He puts them on their own soil.**

2 Which of Job's friends visited him? (1.5 points) How did they respond seeing his suffering? (3.5 points)

Job's three friends heard of all these troubles that had come upon him, each of them set out from his home—Eliphaz (the Temanite), Bildad (the Shuhite), and Zophar (the Naamathite).

They met together to go and console and comfort him. When they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him, and they raised their voices and wept aloud; they tore their robes and threw dust in the air upon their heads. They sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

L5, P27

3. Write 5 or more sentences about Haggai: What was the word of the LORD to Haggai? What was Haggai's message to the Israelites and how did they respond and what did they accomplish?

Then the word of the LORD came by the prophet Haggai, saying: Is it a time for you yourselves to live in your panelled houses, while this house lies in ruins?

Prophet Haggai came to deliver God's message urging them to rebuild the Temple. His message stands out for one key reason: the people listened and obeyed. His message was passionate, inspiring and straightforward. He addressed the key issue with a question, "Is it a time for you yourselves to live in your panelled houses, while this house lies in ruins?". Haggai urged them to continue working and not to be discouraged. He assured them that God was with them and that the future glory of this modest temple would be greater than the former one.

The people feared and obeyed the voice of the Lord through prophet Haggai. The Lord inspired everyone to work on the temple. As a result of Haggai's messages, they resumed their work and continued until its completion in 515 B.C.

4. What do the Old Testament prophecies say about John the Baptist? (2 pts) How is he different from Jesus? (3 pts)

(L14 P71)

- **Isaiah 40: "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"**
- **John the Baptist baptizes with water; Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire.**
- **Jesus is more powerful than John the Baptist**
- **John the Baptist is not worthy to untie the thong of Jesus' sandals**
- **Jesus is the Messiah. John the Baptist is the voice of one crying out in the wilderness.**
- **Jesus comes after John the Baptist but ranks ahead of him because He was before him.**
- **Jesus is the Son of God. John the Baptist is the son of the high priest Zechariah.**

5. What is worship? (1 pt) Compare and contrast Old Testament and New Testament understandings of worship. How are they similar and how are they different? (4 pts)

(L4 P22-23)

- **Worship is...**
 - **Worthiness, respect or reverence paid to the Diving Being**
 - **Giving God His value**
 - **Human response to revelatory work of God in the past, present and future**
 - **Adoration and thanksgiving for God's intervention in human history**
- **Old Testament worship centered around the Ark of the Covenant**
 - **Used Old Testament Scriptures and psalms, had a system of sacrifices, included instruments and music**
- **New Testament worship centered on the person of Jesus Christ, His teachings, resurrection, ascension and 2nd coming**
 - **Uses Scriptures and psalms, includes instruments and music**

- Does away with system of sacrifice because Christ's sacrifice makes God's grace effective once and for all

6. What is Paul's view of justification? (2 pts) What is James' view of justification? (2 pts) How can you reconcile the two? (1 pt) (L9 P46-48)

- Paul's view of justification:
 - Justification through faith, not action
 - Faith Alone
 - Justification is thru the grace of Christ → Salvation is thru faith in God's justification
- James' view of justification:
 - Faith without works is dead
 - Natural result of faith in Christ is action
 - Works inevitable characterize genuine faith
- Reconciliation:
 - Both are saying that salvation is thru faith, but James takes it a step further by saying that the natural consequence of genuine faith is works

Section 3 – Memory Verse

Complete any five (5) of the following. (5 x 5pts = 25 pts. Total)

1. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. ~ Acts

2:46-47 (L23 P128)

2. "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." ~

Romans 12:1 (L4 P25)

3. "Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ~ Genesis 28:15

(L7 P40)

4. I have **made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept** your word. ~ John 17:6(L16 P86)

5. If a **brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So, faith by itself, if it has no works,** is dead. ~ James 2:15-17 (L8 P 50)

6. Blessed are **those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of** heaven. Matthew 5:10 **Lesson 12**

7. Do nothing **from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than** yourselves. Philippians 2:3 **Lesson 21 P115**

Section 4 – Multiple Choice – Mar Thoma Church: Our Foundation and Vision

Circle the most appropriate response for the following question/statement.

(10 x 1pt = 10 pts. Total)

1. Koinonia means _____.

a. Sisters of Charity

b. Call to worship

c. Communion and Fellowship

d. Servant Ministry

C (L1 P217)

2. Who was awarded the Pope John XXII Peace Prize and the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding?

a. Dr. E. Stanley Jones

b. Nirmal Hriday

c. Mother Theresa

d. Mahatma Gandhi Association

C (L3 P230)

3. What is the name of the home for the dying destitute started by Mother Theresa in 1952?

a. Sat Tal

b. Asha Bhavan

c. Nirmal Hriday

d. Mochana

C (L3 P230)

4. What did Dr. E. Stanley Jones establish at Sat Tal?

- a. Orphanage
- b. Home for the Destitute
- c. Ashram**
- d. Missionary Hospital

C (L3 P229)

5. In which 2 communities are the Diocese of North America engaging in Mission Work?

- a. Mexican and African American
- b. Mexican and Native American**
- c. Native American and Elderly
- d. Homeless and Orphans

B (L5 P242)

6. In which year was the Mar Thoma Sunday School Samajam established in?

- a. 1912
- b. 1896
- c. 1905**
- d. 1965

C (L5 P240)

7. What was the name of a book written by Dr. E. Stanley Jones?

- a. Foundation and Vision
- b. The Christ of the Indian Road**
- c. My Utmost for His Highest
- d. The Case for Christ

B (L3 P228)

8. Who was the first Bishop to receive an earned PhD?

- a. Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan**
- b. Dr. Abraham Mar Thoma Metropolitan
- c. Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos
- d. Rt. Rev. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos

A (L2 P223)

9. What is the term used for servant ministry?

- a. Diakonial ministry**
- b. Koinonia
- c. Centrifugal ministry
- d. Centripetal ministry **A (L1 P217)**

10. Who said: "The message of the Kingdom of God calls upon us to serve others in all their needs – physical, mental, and spiritual."

- a. Dr. E. Stanley Jones
- b. Dr. Abraham Mar Thoma Metropolitan
- c. Mother Teresa

d. Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan

D (L1 P218)

Section 5 – Short Answers – Mar Thoma Church: Our Foundation and Vision

Answer any two (2) of the following. (2 x 5pts = 10 pts. Total)

1. . Give five reasons why Mother Theresa is a supreme example of love, humility and Christlikeness. (L3 P230)

- **She challenged society and her sermons were thought provoking.**
- **She sacrificed her time and life to the betterment of the neglected, the abused, the marginal and destitute of society.**
- **Her actions and her lifestyle were all representative of God's love and Christlikeness.**
- **With very little she was able to have such profound impacts, including the large number of organizations and groups that exist today because of her work**
- **She lived a simple life, one that was the epitome of simple faith and humble living**

2. Describe the philosophy of evangelization Dr. E. Stanley Jones. (1 pt) Discuss 2 major contributions and relate these contributions to his philosophy. (4 pts)

(L2 P227-232)

- **Dr. E. Stanley Jones:**
 - **Philosophy of Evangelization: Indianizing and de-Westernizing the gospel → see Christ in Indian cultural context**
 - **Contributions:**
 - **Started Christian Ashrams → an ongoing local community of living together which attempts to study the gospel, its implications, its relationship to India's heritage, and to India's religions**
 - **Provided scholarships for those studying to become priests in the Mar Thoma Church at Leonard Theological Seminary, Jabalpur → highlights the necessity for the message of Christ in India to come from an Indian**

3. Discuss 2 major contributions each of Dr. Abraham Mar Thoma Metropolitan (2 pts) and Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan (2 pts), **specifically related to evangelism**. Describe their impact on the Mission work of the current Mar Thoma Church (1 pt).

(L2 220-225)

- **Dr. Abraham Mar Thoma Metropolitan**
 - Pioneer in sending missionaries from Kerala to preach gospel to corners of India
 - Established Mar Thoma Voluntary Evangelists' Association (MTVEA) based on understanding that every member is an Evangelist
- **Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan**
 - Prophetic Vision → challenged social evils that weaken spiritual life
 - Fought for abolition of use of liquor, eradicate corruption, fight against injustice and inequalities
 - Concern for the poor → not pleased with material progress of church
 - Recognized congregations of Mar Thoma Dalits as independent parishes with representation in Mandalam
- Their concern for evangelization and working among the poor is reflected in the number of Missionaries and Evangelists sent out by the Church to various parts of India among marginalized and underrepresented communities.

Section 6 – Essay

Answer any one (1) of the following with an essay of 150 words or more. (10 pts. Total)

1) 1 John Chapter 4 introduces the idea of sacrificial love and transformational love. Explain how we can personify the love of God in our lives. Include the following:

a. Introduction (2)

b. Message of sacrificial love (2)

c. Message of transforming love (2)

d. Personifying God's love in our lives (2)

e. Conclusion (2)

a) The apostle John wrote the Epistle of John around AD 85-90. In this epistle, he spoke of the true love both transformational and sacrificial.

b) John writes about the sacrificial love that God has for us. A love that requires sacrifice is a love that worth following, living for, and even dying for. For we had no merit in our own work to give value to the "love" we bear, but by the divine, just and perfect nature of God.

c) John writes on a love that not only sacrifices all for others but a love that transforms its bearer. God is love and God dwelling in us changes our actions to reflect our faith in God and when you have faith in Christ Jesus, you reflect his Love.

d) As a result, we need to personify our love. Loving others through the mission work provided by church and loving others who are in need. Giving our time and talents to help those who are in need.

e) The love our Father has given us is the greatest gift, seen when his only Son died on the cross. For us to be true followers of Christ, it is our duty to show this love to others. (L19 P101)

2. List any 4 Beatitudes found in Matthew 5 and explain their meaning. (8 pts) Identify contemporary communities or groups who would fall into these categories. (2 pts) (L12 P61-64)

1. "Blessed the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."

- Fundamental attitude of believers
- "spiritually poor" = those who have humbled themselves before the Lord, acknowledge sinful condition and need of a Savior
 - This is the attitude believers should possess → understand their dependence on God and need for a fulfilled relationship with Him
- Homeless and impoverished communities; marginalized communities

2. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

- Everlasting hope for believers
- Mourning comes for the loss of something significant
- Out of mourning comes a hope that things will go back to normal; things will get better
- Jesus speaks to all who mourn and assures that their hope is in Him
- Jesus will be their comfort and hope
- Refugees fleeing warfare, famine, persecution; families of those mourning the 400K+ dead due to the coronavirus in this country

3. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."

- Spirit of gentleness and self-control possessed by the believer
- "meek" people are gentle and have self-control → don't oppress others and are free from malice
- "Meekness" is also a fruit of the Holy Spirit
- Will inherit the earth → not the physical earth but most likely the "promised land" or the ultimate heaven sought by the Jews
- "the earth" exemplifies the security and inheritance of God that will be given to the meek
- Introverts, those who are shy, those picked on by others

4. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

- Yearning nature of the believer for the Lord's vision
- Those who are constantly thirsting or desiring to seek uprightness and searching for God's way → they will be filled
- Also recurs in Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."
- Social justice warriors/activists; Innocence Project

5. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy."

- Forgiving nature of the believer

- Outward expression of dependence and need of help from God
 - A merciful heart acknowledges our own flaws so we are enabled to forgive others and show them mercy
 - God will show mercy to those who are merciful because they have understood the grace given by God and are therefore willing to extend that grace to others
 - Families of victims of violence who have chosen to show mercy
6. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."
- Vision and seeking of God by believers
 - "pure in heart" = actions aligned w/God's vision and are good in God's eyes
 - To "see God" requires faith and a vision-abiding walk
 - The "pure in heart" will see God in every situation or circumstance → allows them to fully praise and honor God in both struggles and joy
 - Differently abled individuals; those with mental and/or developmental challenges
7. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."
- Advancement of the Kingdom of God by believers
 - "peace" is not end of war → instead it is a drastic change of nature that the world has not yet seen
 - "peacemakers" are not just those who promote peaceful relationships but those who promote the Kingdom of God on earth
 - "children of God" implies an even greater relationship with God
 - United Nations peacekeepers; those working around the world with refugees
8. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."
- Perseverance of believers
 - Those who seek righteousness will be persecuted because they pursue God's heart
 - But Jesus assures us to take heart because the reward is great
 - Persecuted Christians; new converts in minority Christian countries
9. "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
- Great reward for believers
 - In this last Beatitude, Jesus changes the subject to "you" and "my"
 - Shows direct relationship formed with Jesus → He is the center of all the Beatitudes
 - Shows the aspect of martyrdom and perseverance during times of trial
 - Suffering on this earth will not be in vain for the reward is great in heaven
 - Persecuted Christians; new converts in minority Christian countries