

The ABC's of Christian Growth

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Help From a Big Brother.

The “ABC’s Of Christian Growth” program is a Scriptural means of helping new Christians get on their feet and begin walking with the Lord in the light of His Word.

With your consent, a member of our Church has been assigned the responsibility of being available to help you as you proceed through these lessons.

Your older brother (or sister) will endeavor to get together with you at an acceptable time on a regular basis for the purpose of helping you with these lessons, praying with you and for you, and answering any questions you may have.

As a record for the future, you may wish to fill out the following:

NAME: _____

MY SALVATION:

I received Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour—

on: _____

at:

MY BAPTISM:

I was Scripturally baptized —

into the: _____ Baptist
Church

on: _____

MY PASTOR:

The man that God has placed over me to watch for my soul is:

MY OLDER BROTHER / SISTER:

The one who will help me learn to grow spiritually and become a fruitful and mature Christian is:

POINTS TO REMEMBER BEFORE YOU BEGIN STUDYING THESE LESSONS:

1. Find a quiet place away from noise and distractions, so that you may be able to think and concentrate on the lesson.
2. Pray — before you commence the lesson; ask the LORD to help you understand His Word.
3. Determine in your heart that you will not allow Satan to hinder you from completing these lessons. Make it a personal goal to finish the entire course.
4. By faith, believe that you will grow spiritually as you study this material.
5. When you learn a new truth, immediately put it into practice in your life.
6. Write down any questions you may have to ask your “older brother” or the pastor.
7. Remember — the **Bible** has the answer, not always your “older brother!” If your older brother cannot answer the question immediately, be assured—an answer will be forthcoming.

What Does Salvation Mean For Me?

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

Look up the Scripture references and answer the questions by filling in the actual words from the Bible. (All the references in this lesson are found in the New Testament — use the index in the front of the Bible if you have difficulty in locating them.)

WHAT I WAS:

- A. I was spiritually _____ in trespasses and sins — *Ephesians 2:1*.
- B. I was _____ already — *John 3:18*.
- C. I had the _____ of God abiding on me — *John 3:36*.
- D. I was a _____ of sin — *Romans 6:17*.
- E. I was headed for the _____ of _____ — *Revelation 20:15*.
- F. I was _____, yet sought by Jesus — *Luke 19:10*.

WHAT GOD PROMISED ME:

- A. The gift of _____ — *Romans 6:23*.
- B. The _____ of sins — *Colossians 1:14*.
- C. _____ through His grace — *Titus 2:11*.
- D. To _____ in my heart — *Ephesians 3:17*. (See also: *John 14:23*)
- E. The _____ of _____ which passeth knowledge — *Ephesians 3:19*.
- F. The _____ of Jesus Christ — *John 15:11*.
- G. The _____ of God, which passeth all understanding — *Philippians 4:7*.

WHAT I DID:

- A. I _____ upon the Name of the Lord — *Romans 10:13*.
 - B. I _____ E D in my heart — *Romans 10:9*.
 - C. I _____ Him (Jesus Christ) — *John 1:12*.
 - D. I _____ E D of my sins — *Acts 17:30*.
-

WHAT GOD DID:

- A. _____ me freely — *Romans 3:24*.
- B. _____ me from my sins — *Revelation 1:5*.
- C. Secured my name in the Lamb's _____ of _____ — *Revelation 21:27*.
- D. Adopted me as a _____ (child) of _____ — *Romans 8:14,15*.
- E. _____ me in the Beloved — *Ephesians 1:6*.
- F. S _____ me — *I Corinthians 6:11*.
- G. Made me a _____ — *II Corinthians 5:17*.

Some Words to Explain

- Repentance: a change of attitude resulting in a change of action (about sin).
- Justification: to be declared “as not guilty” (**just-if-I’d** never sinned).
- Sanctification: to be “set apart” by God and for God.
- Grace: undeserved (unmerited) favor.

READING ASSIGNMENT:

Commence reading through the Gospel according to John (the fourth Book of the New Testament). Read at your own comfortable pace, perhaps up to a chapter a day. Do not stop until you have completely read this Book.

MEMORIZATION: Try to memorize: *John 1:12*.

What Does God Expect Of Me?

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

A. Carefully read: *John 3:1-8.*

According to the Bible, another term for becoming a Christian is to be

B _____ A _____.

(*John 3:6* teaches TWO births — a physical birth, and a spiritual birth.)

B. Look up: *I Peter 2:2.*

As a new Christian, to what does this Scripture liken you?

A _____.

C. Look up: *II Peter 3:18.*

You cannot do much as a spiritual “baby,” but what does God expect you to do?

To _____ in grace.

D. Carefully read: *I Corinthians 3:1-3.*

What does the Lord call a Christian who doesn’t grow spiritually?

C _____.

E. Carefully read: *Ephesians 4:13-15.*

Into what does the Lord want His children to grow? [Use your own words.]

Six Steps to Christian Growth

The following acrostic will give you SIX basic steps to begin growing spiritually.

G **G**O....TO A BIBLE-BELIEVING BAPTIST CHURCH — *Hebrews 10:25*

R **R**EAD YOUR BIBLE DAILY — *I Peter 2:2; Acts 17:11*

O **O**BEY CHRIST and BE BAPTIZED — *Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:41*

W **W**ITNESS TO OTHERS OF CHRIST — *Acts 1:8; John 4:28,29*

T **T**HANK GOD DAILY IN PRAYER — *Philippians 4:6; Matthew 7:7*

H **H**ONORGOD WITH THE TITHE — *Malachi 3:10; I Corinthians 16:2*

(All of these steps will be covered in greater detail in the lesson series)

A Assurance of Salvation

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

Satan may try to get you to doubt your salvation. He may cause you to wonder if you really are a Christian, and tell you that because you do not **feel** any different than before, nothing really happened.

And then, you might sin. You might slip back into some of your old ways. Satan is quick to sow the seeds of doubt by telling you that Christians don't sin.

When doubts come, **what will your answer be?**

The purpose of this study is to teach you that by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you are saved now and forever — and you can **KNOW** it for certain!

WHAT IS MEANT BY “ASSURANCE?”

By “assurance of salvation” we mean the intellectual and spiritual certainty that you belong to God, that you possess eternal salvation.

A. Look up: *II Timothy 1:12.*

The “key words” in this verse are K_____ and P_____.

B. Look up: *I John 5:13.*

1. On the basis of this verse of Scripture, would you say God wants you to have assurance of salvation? _____

2. What word in this verse indicates this? _____

WHY DO I NEED ASSURANCE OF SALVATION?

A. Assurance brings us _____. *I John 1:4*

B. Assurance brings us C_____ before God. *I John 3:19,21*

C. Assurance brings us C_____ of Heart. *Colossians 2:2*

D. Assurance brings us _____. *James 1:8* (Use your own words.)

- E. Assurance enables us to O_____ the World. *I John 5:4,5*
- F. Assurance enables us to effectively serve the Lord by telling others about Jesus. Read the following Scriptures: *John 1:40,41; John 4:28,29; and Acts 16:10.*

WHAT IS THE BASIS OF ASSURANCE OF SALVATION?

Many Christians base their assurance of salvation upon personal FEELINGS.

The problem with this is that feelings change. One day you may feel saved; the next day, through circumstances, you may not feel saved.

You have something *MORE* than feelings to go by — the UNCHANGING WORD OF GOD.

Look up: *I John 5:11,12.* Write this Scripture out in full.

Circle the following two key words in the above verses: “RECORD” and “HATH”

There are three grounds for your assurance:

A . The PERSON Of God:

According to *Titus 1:2*, God cannot _____.

GOD SAID IT — THAT SETTLES IT!!

B. The PROMISES Of God:

1. According to *John 5:24*, God says I _____ everlasting life, I _____ come into condemnation.
2. According to *John 6:37*, because I came to Jesus Christ, He will in _____ cast me out.
3. According to *Romans 10:13*, those who call upon the Name of the Lord _____ be saved.

These are just a sample of the positive statements, put in writing, by the God Who cannot lie!

C. The PRESENCE Of God:

1. According to *Romans 5:5*, when we are saved, God gives us His _____, Who dwells in our hearts.
2. According to *Romans 8:16*, the Spirit of God bears _____ with our spirit that we are in fact God's children. See also the first part of *I John 5:10*.

HOW MAY I KNOW I AM SAVED?

Here is a Bible checklist:

- A. I **KNOW** I am saved because I _____ ED on the Lord Jesus Christ. *Acts 16:31*
- B. I **KNOW** I am saved because I _____ the Son. *I John 5:12*
- C. I **KNOW** I am saved because I have a love for the _____. *I John 3:14*
- D. I **KNOW** I am saved because I desire to keep God's _____ - _____. *I John 2:3*
- E. I **KNOW** I am saved because I desire to turn from the W _____ and all its sin. *I John 2:15*
- F. I **KNOW** I am saved because I am _____ I N G the world. *I John 5:4*
- G. I **KNOW** I am saved because I have the _____ of the Spirit within. *I John 5:10*.
- H. I **KNOW** I am saved because my life is evidencing good _____. *Matthew 7:17,18*.
- I. I **KNOW** I am saved because I hear the Lord's _____ (through the Word of God) and desire to _____ Him. *John 10:27*

WHAT BRINGS ASSURANCE OF SALVATION INTO MY LIFE?

It is possible you may have doubts from time to time. Just remember that Satan is a LIAR (*John 8:44*), and his first recorded words in the Bible were casting doubt upon God's Word (*Genesis 3:1*).

Here are some ways you can get assurance, or deepen your assurance in what God has done for you:

A. Learn The Word Of God.

Your salvation is based upon what God has said — not upon how you think or feel. Thus it is important for you to read and study the Bible. Read: *II Timothy 3:14,15*.

B. Thank God For His Gift Of Salvation.

Romans 6:23 says you have received the GIFT of _____. Have you thanked God for this gift yet? Thanksgiving is evidence of faith. (Read: *II Corinthians 9:15*.)

C. Make A Public Testimony Before Others.

1. Have you told someone that you have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ? Look at *I John 4:15* and see the relationship between confessing Christ and assurance.
2. Read: *Matthew 10:32* and *Romans 10:9,10*.

One way you can confess Christ publicly is to come forward at the “invitation” in one of our Church meetings. The pastor will gladly introduce you to the Church family, who will then pray for you.

D. Attend Church Meetings As Much As Possible.

Fellowshipping with your brothers and sisters in Christ will encourage you. Many of them have experienced the same doubts you may have. *Hebrews 10:25* commands this, while *Hebrews 10:22* talks about assurance.

E . Live A Righteous Life.

Sometimes a full assurance does not come until God sees we mean business for Him.

According to *Isaiah 32:17*, the effect of _____ is quietness and _____ for _____. See: *Proverbs 10:9*.

Remember, your peace and assurance is based upon believing God's promises and **not** on your feelings.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I SIN?

- A. Look up: *I John 1:8* . Is it possible for a Christian to sin? _____
- B. Look up: *I John 2:1*. Does God want a Christian to sin? _____
- C. Look up: *I John 1:9*. If a Christian sins, what is the one thing we are to do about it? C _____ it to God.
- D. Look up: *I John 2:1* again. When I sin, Who appears before God the Father in heaven on my behalf? _____ the Righteous.
- E. Look up: *I John 1:6,7* . In your own words, what does a Christian lose if he sins?

CAN I EVER LOSE MY SALVATION?

- A. *John 10:28* says we shall _____ perish.
- B. *John 10:29* says no man is _____ to remove us from God's hand.
- C. *John 6:37* says God will in _____ cast out those who come to Christ.
- D. *John 6:39* says the responsibility of keeping us saved is the Lord's, not ours, and that Christ can _____ nothing.
- E. *John 5:24* says the kind of life I now have is _____ .
- F. *Romans 8:38,39* says that nothing can _____ us from the love of Christ.
- G. *I Peter 1:5* says we are _____ by the _____ of God.
- H. *Jude 24* says Christ is able to _____ us from _____ .
- I. *Philippians 1:6* says that Christ will continue His good _____ in us until the _____ of Jesus Christ.
- J. *Ephesians 1:13* says our salvation has been _____ with the Holy Spirit.

- K. *Ephesians 2:8* says that our salvation is the _____ of God. A gift taken back by the giver is **no** gift.
- L. *Ephesians 2:9* says that we have done nothing to gain salvation. If we have done nothing to gain it — we can do nothing to lose it!
- M. According to *Ephesians 2:2,3* and *I John 3:10*, before we were saved we were in the control of Satan. Now that we are saved, we have a new relationship with God.

God is our heavenly _____. *Romans 8:15*

Christians are the _____ of God. *I John 3:1*

In our earthly family, when a child does wrong, his parents do not cast him out of the family and disown him. They will correct and chasten their son — but he is still their son and a member of that family.

When a Christian sins, he is not cast out of God's family, thus losing his salvation. However, like any loving father, God will _____ the erring Christian. *Hebrews 12:6*.

"Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine,
O , what a fore-taste of glory divine.
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood."

READING ASSIGNMENT:

If you have finished reading the Gospel of John, now read through the first epistle of John (*I John*). This Book is found towards the end of the New Testament.

MEMORIZATION:

Try to memorize: *I John 5:11,12.*

B The Bible

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

What is the “authority” in your life? Those who believe something must have a reason for their beliefs. Just as there are standards in the business world, in government, and in education — the Christian needs an **absolute standard** for his beliefs, his duties — indeed, his whole conduct.

Many people have as their authority their inner **CONSCIENCE**. “Let your conscience be your guide!” they say. This sounds good, but according to *Titus 1:15* the conscience may be _____; according to *1 Timothy 4:2*, _____ and according to *1 Corinthians 8:7*, _____.

Other people, especially religious folk, have the ‘**CHURCH**’ or man-made **CREEDS** as their authority. Again, such standards are unreliable — because man is involved. *Colossians 2:8* warns against P _____ and T _____. (Look up and read: *Matthew 15:3,6,9*.)

For the Christian, only the BIBLE, the Word of God, is the unchanging authority for faith and practice.

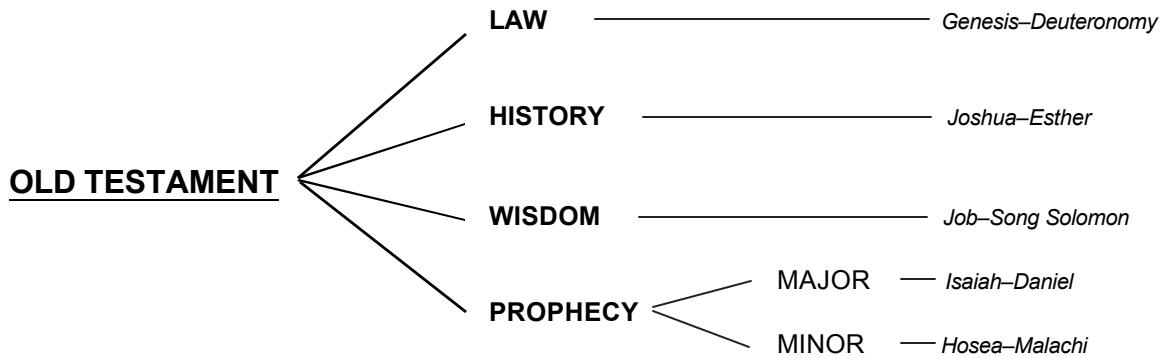
This study will teach you what the Bible is, why you can take it as your authority, and how to use it as a child of God.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

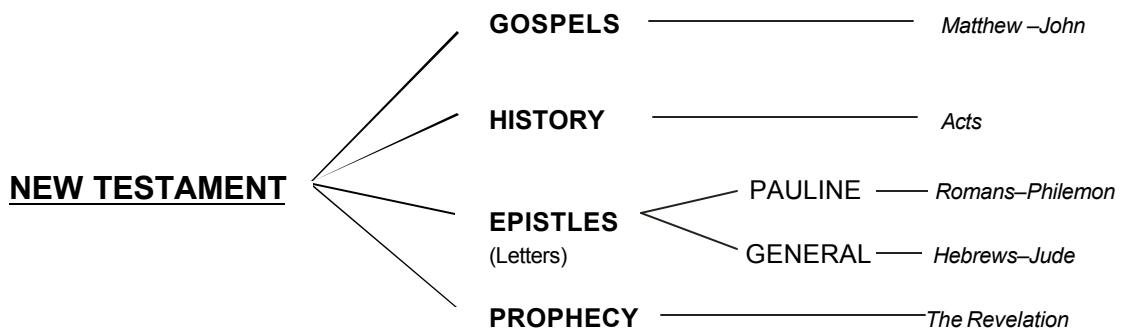
- A. The Bible is a collection of ____ books, divided into two major sections known as the OLD and NEW _____.
- B. Other names given to the Bible are:
 1. The _____ — *Romans 10:17*.
 2. The _____ — *II Timothy 3:15*.
- C. The Books of the Bible are not arranged chronologically, but rather “topically.” Both the Testaments have their Books set in groups, as shown on the next page.

(All new Christians experience difficulty at the first in finding the Books of the Bible, especially during a preaching service. Don’t be embarrassed to use the index in the front

of your Bible or to accept the assistance of another Christian. The more you use your Bible, the sooner you will become familiar with the location of its Books.)



From the close of the Old Testament (*Malachi*) to the birth of Jesus Christ (*Matthew*), over 400 years transpired. These years are called the “Silent Years.”



HOW DID WE RECEIVE THE BIBLE?

The Bible is not just a book, it is **THE BOOK** — different from any other book that has or will be written. The Bible is a **SUPERNATURAL** Book because of the way in which God gave it to mankind.

A . Look up and write out: II Peter 1:21.

This verse of Scripture teaches us three vital facts concerning how we got the Bible:

1. It wasn't made up by men — "...came **not** by the will of man..."
2. Men of God wrote the Bible — "...holy men of God spake..."
3. God authored the Bible — "...as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

B. God used human writers to pen His Words.

1. God used about 40 different men from all walks of life to write down the Bible. This was accomplished over a period of some 1,600 years.
2. Most of the Old Testament was originally written in *HEBREW*. The New Testament was originally written in *GREEK*.

C. God authored the Bible.

A good way to illustrate this miracle is to consider how you would write things down on paper. First, it is the *PEN* which actually does the writing — but it only writes as you move it. Second, the characteristics of the script will depend on the kind of pen or writing instrument you use. Write your name down on paper using a "fine ball-point pen," a "felt marking pen," and a paint brush — notice there will be the same words, but a **different** appearance!

1. The Holy Spirit moved the human writers of the Bible in such a way that they recorded the very words and sense of God, though couched in their own literary style.
2. The way in which God gave us the Bible is called **INSPIRATION**.

- a. Because the Bible is the *INSPIRED* Word of God, we can take it as the authority for all we believe and do.

BEWARE of men who say, "*The Bible BECOMES the Word of God*" when it speaks to you personally. Look up *Matthew 24:35* and *I Corinthians 2:13*. According to these passages, God has inspired the _____ (not just the ideas & thoughts).

BEWARE of men who say, "*The Bible CONTAINS the Word of God*," meaning there are parts of it which are not God's Word. Look up *II Timothy 3:16*. According to this Scripture verse, how much of the Bible is inspired? _____.

- b. Because the Bible is inspired of God, it is _____ from beginning to end — *Psalm 119:160*.

DO WE HAVE THE BIBLE TODAY?

The original manuscripts of the Bible have long been lost. Does this mean we no longer have the pure Word of God?

A. Look up: Psalm 12:6,7 and Matthew 24:35.

Not only did God give us His Word, but He also promised to

P _____ it until the end of the world.

B. How has God preserved His Word ?

God has providentially kept His Word from destruction and corruption in two ways:

1. Down through the centuries, the Lord has raised up men with a love for His Word to keep it from harm.

Zealous Jewish patriots, then simple Bible-loving Christians (in particular, our Baptist forefathers), have kept the Scriptures available to all generations.

Satan has on numerous occasions attempted to remove the Bible from the face of the earth. Hellish decrees have seen the Bible banned, burned, banished, and battered by scornful men.

2. The Hebrew text of the Old Testament has been faithfully preserved by fastidious Jewish scribes — it is called the Masoretic Text. The Greek text of the New Testament has been faithfully preserved in what is called the Textus Receptus, or Received Text.

Over 3,000 ancient manuscripts of the New Testament, along with some 2,000 lectionaries (selected readings) still exist today — the majority of them attesting to the Received Text.

C. Do we need to understand Hebrew And Greek to know the Bible?

NO! The preservation of God's Word extends to our English Bible.

**The ONLY version of the Bible
accurately translated from the Masoretic
Text and the Textus Receptus
is the KING JAMES VERSION of
1611 A.D., also known as the
AUTHORIZED VERSION.**

1. When you hold a copy of the King James Version (KJV), you hold in your hands the Word of God.

2. BEWARE of all other translations such as the Revised Standard Version (RSV), the New International Version (NIV), the New American Standard Version (NASB), Good News Bible, the New English Bible — they are all based upon corrupt manuscripts and contain serious errors.

If you don't already possess a Bible your pastor recommends you purchase a plain Authorized, King James Version, without added notes or comments.

Make sure the type is readable.

Bibles range in price from about \$5 to \$150 — the difference in cost is mainly due to the type of cover and quality of the binding.

WHY DO WE NEED THE BIBLE?

- A. Look up: *I Peter 2:2; Matthew 4:4; I Corinthians 3:2; Hebrews 5:12,13; Psalm 19:10; and Jeremiah 15:16.*

According to these Scriptures, the Bible is our spiritual _____.

- B. Look up: *Hebrews 4:12 and Ephesians 6:17.*

The Bible is our spiritual _____.

- C. Look up: *Psalm 119:11.* This verse says the Bible keeps us from _____.

- D. Look up: *Psalm 119:105.* According to this Scripture, the Bible is life's:

_____. (Use your words.)

- E. Look up: *II Timothy 3:16* again. The Bible is profitable for:

_____, (what is right)

_____, (what is not right)

_____, (how to get it right)

and _____. (how to keep it right)

- F. Look up: *I Thessalonians 4:18* and *Psalm 119:50*.

The Word of God is for our _____.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THE BIBLE?

- A. *John 5:39* _____ *Acts 17:11*
- B. *II Timothy 2:15* _____
- C. *James 1:22* _____
- D. *I Corinthians 2:13d* C _____
- E. *II Timothy 4:2* _____
- F. *Psalm 1:2* _____ *Joshua 1:8*
- G. *Colossians 3:16a* _____
- H. *Psalm 119:11* _____

You may wish to write the following statement in your Bible as a wise reminder:

**“THIS BOOK WILL KEEP YOU FROM SIN —
OR SIN WILL KEEP YOU FROM THIS BOOK.”**

READING ASSIGNMENT:

Read through *Psalm 119* (24 verses per day). This is called the “Word of God Chapter,” and is the longest chapter in the Bible.

MEMORIZATION:

Try to memorize *Psalm 119:9,11*.

C The Church

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

This study looks at one of the most confusing and misunderstood doctrines of the Bible. People have all kinds of ideas as to what a church really is. Some people think it is a **building** (a cathedral, or some place of worship). Others think of a church as a **denomination** (a human organization) and speak of the “Catholic Church,” the “Presbyterian Church,” the “Baptist Church,” etc. Many Christians conceive the “Church” as consisting of all born-again believers in the world, a kind of **“invisible, universal”** church.

Our task is to put aside these notions and determine what **God** says a church is in His Word.

THE CHURCH IS A NEW TESTAMENT INSTITUTION

Look up: *Matthew 16:18*. This is the *FIRST* mention of the Church in the Bible.

A. Who founded (built) the Church? _____

B. Look up: *John 1:42*. What is the meaning of Peter’s name? _____

Note: Peter’s full name is *Simon Peter bar Jona*.

C. Look up: *1 Peter 2:3,4,6-8*. Who did Peter identify as the “Rock” upon which the Church would be built? _____

Note: The Old Testament is primarily addressed to the **nation** of Israel. The New Testament is mainly addressed to **churches**. DO NOT CONFUSE THE TWO. The Bible makes the clear distinction in *1 Corinthians 10:32*.

THE CHURCH IS AN ASSEMBLY

The word “church” (or “churches”) is found 114 times in the New Testament, and is rendered from the Greek word “EKKLESIA.”

This word ‘ekklesia’ has only one meaning — “*a company of people called out for a specific purpose.*” (It has its roots in the democracies of the Greek city-states, where the Town Crier would call out the citizens to a meeting to conduct business.)

In *Matthew 16:18*, the Lord Jesus did not change the meaning of ekklesia, but He distinguished it from other assemblies of the day with the personal pronoun “*MY.*”

Thus a New Testament church is the “Lord’s Assembly.”

THERE ARE FOUR IMPORTANT FACTS CONCERNING AN “ASSEMBLY:”

A. An assembly must be LOCAL.

1. People cannot “come together” and yet be all over the world! For example, an automobile is an “assembly” of many and various parts: How absurd to think of it as being everywhere — a “universal car”!!!
2. In all but about 15 instances, where it is used in a “generic” or “institutional” sense (that is, any church in general, no church in particular), the word “church” or “churches” is **always** used in connection with definite, geographic localities.
3. Look up the following Bible references and write down the actual cities or regions where some **real** churches were located:

Romans 16:1; I Corinthians 1:2 ; I Corinthians 16:1,19 ; II Corinthians 8:1; Colossians 4:16 ; I Thessalonians 1:1; I Peter 5:13 ; Revelation 2:1,8,12,18 ; Revelation 3:1,7.

4. For these reasons, the Bible knows nothing of a universal (catholic), world-wide “church.” The New Testament speaks of many churches which were all meeting in different localities.

B. An assembly must be VISIBLE.

1. People cannot “come together” and not be seen! Many like to talk about the “invisible church” (which allows them to move around in Christian circles) — but all the churches mentioned in the New Testament were “see-able.”
2. Look up: *Philippians 1:27* and *I Thessalonians 2:17* and *3:6*. The Apostle Paul, writing to the churches at Philippi and Thessalonica, desired to come and _____ these assemblies.

C. An assembly must be ORGANIZED.

1. An assembly is not a rabble (disorderly mob). The word “assembly” implies organization.
 - a. Look up: *Colossians 1:18.* A church is likened figuratively to a _____.
The human body is an “assembly” of many parts; but does a pile of skin, flesh, organs, bones, etc., constitute a body? Of course not! They must be put together according to a plan. (See: *Psalm 139:14.*)
 - b. Look up: *I Timothy 3:15.* Here, a church is likened figuratively to a _____. The house you live in is also an “assembly;” but does a pile of bricks, timber, plaster, nails, etc., constitute a house? Of course not! These things must be put together according to a plan or blueprint. Study *I Corinthians 3:9-11,16*, where the church at Corinth was likened to a temple.
2. A New Testament church is to be organized — the blueprint is found in the New Testament.

D. An assembly must be CONSTITUTED.

1. By this we mean it must be made out of the right components. How absurd to assemble a motor vehicle out of milk, leaves, and uranium!! How foolish to build a house out of paper, bandages, and meat!!
2. So too, a New Testament church is not to be made up of just anything — or anyone. God specifies the correct components in the New Testament.
3. Write out *Acts 2:41.*

(Circle the following words: *RECEIVED*, *BAPTIZED*, *ADDED*.)

This verse gives God’s order and qualifications for church membership:

- a. *Receive* the Word of God = _____
↓
 - b. *Baptism.*
↓
 - c. *Added* to the church. (See also: *Acts 2:47; 5:14.*)
4. This is the **only** Scriptural way by which people become members of a Baptist church — salvation first, then baptism.

DEFINITION

**A New Testament *Baptist* Church is
an organized assembly of baptized believers.**

THE CHURCH HAS A “HEAD”

Man-made religious organizations have their heads — presidents, popes, moderators, superintendents, etc. Each New Testament Baptist church also has a Head — but One vastly different from any of the above.

Look up: *Colossians 1:18* and *Ephesians 5:23,24*.

- A. Who is the Head of each New Testament Baptist church?

- B. Each church is to be S _____ to its Head.

- C. Look up: *Galatians 3:1* and *5:7*. In what way is a church subject to its Head?
-
-

Note: Jesus Christ is not a “figure-head.” Any “church” which is not subject to Him and His laws is out of control.

No church has the right to make laws — it may only obey the laws already given by the Head through His Word.

A church without a living Head is dead!!

THE CHURCH HAS OFFICERS

- A. Look up: *Philippians 1:1*. What are the 2 offices in a church?

_____ , (elders, pastors) and _____ .

- B. Look up: *I Timothy 3:1-13*. This reference gives the qualifications required for these two offices.

Note: The terms “bishop,” “elder,” and “pastor” are used interchangeably in the New Testament. We prefer to use the term “pastor” because the other two have been given unbiblical ecclesiastical connotations.

C. MY PASTOR:

1. Look up: I Peter 2:25 and 5:4. Who is the Chief Pastor of my Church ?

-
2. The word “pastor” means shepherd. Look up *IPeter 5:2* and *Acts 20:28*. What does the Bible call the church in relation to its pastor(s)?

The F _____.

3. According to *I Peter 5:2*, what is the duty of a pastor?

4. According to *Ephesians 4:12-14*, why has the Lord given my Church a Pastor or pastors?

5. According to *Acts 20:17,28-31*, how will my Pastor(s) protect me?

6. According to *Hebrews 13:7*, I am to R _____ my Pastor and F _____ him.

7. According to *Hebrews 13:17*, I am to O____ my Pastors and S _____ to their leadership in the Church.

How Should I Address My Pastor?

Many feel unsure as to what they should call their Pastor in conversation. There is no God-given title for a pastor, and it is unwise to refer to him as “Reverend” or “Father.” (See: *Psalm 111:9* ; *Matthew 23:9*.)

However, just as we train children not to call their parents by first names out of respect for their place and authority, and thus with their teachers and policemen, etc., it is right to show similar respect to the man God puts over you in your Church.

My Pastor prefers to be addressed as:

You And Your Pastor.

Give your pastor your confidence, love, encouragement, and constant prayers. Be his co-worker. Go to him in your difficulties; call him when in need. He is best able to help you with counsel from the Word of God. Never make him your idol — keep your eyes on the Lord, but neither harshly criticize your pastor or be a party to scheming against him.

Read: I Thessalonians 5:12,13 and I Timothy 5:17-19 .

Love and appreciate the wife of your pastor also. She holds no office in the Church and has no authority — yet she is so important to her husband's ministry. His children are too — *I Timothy 3:4,5; Titus 1:6!*

THE CHURCH MAKES DECISIONS

A true New Testament Baptist Church never makes laws — it simply follows its Lord's commands as set forth in His Word. In a practical sense, a church often needs to make decisions in keeping with this principle. Unlike the hierarchical systems of many religious bodies, Baptist churches practice what is known as *Congregational* church government, where the congregation under pastoral leadership decides how to implement God's will.

A. Look up: *Acts 6:1-5.* Who chose the seven deacons?

B. Look up: *Acts 1:15-26.* What preceded the vote of the whole church in electing a successor to Judas? P _____.

C. According to *Matthew 18:17*, what is the highest decision-making body in spiritual affairs?

The C _____.

D. According to *Matthew 18:18*, the decisions of a church congregation are ratified in H_____.

THE CHURCH IS AN INDEPENDENT INSTITUTION

A. Each New Testament Baptist Church Is Independent.

In *Acts chapter 15*, men from the Church at Antioch came to the Church at Jerusalem to consider a matter of extreme doctrinal importance. After they determined the teaching of God's Word on the matter (*verses. 15-18*), the issue was resolved. Even then, the Church at Jerusalem HAD NO AUTHORITY over the Church at Antioch. Their sentence was that "...we trouble not them..."; and they simply wrote a letter making a request. See: *verse 19*.

This is a far cry from the hierarchical religious systems of man — where the various congregations within a denomination are controlled and dictated to by "higher authorities."

B. Churches Are To Be Separate From Governments.

1. The Word of God teaches a **complete** separation between the spiritual and the secular. See: *Matthew 22:21b*.
 - a. Christians are to be law-abiding citizens. *Romans 13:1-7*.
 - b. Christians may disobey a civil law **only** in the case where they are compelled to disobey God's law. *Acts 5:29*.
2. Governments should not involve themselves with the establishment or support of any particular religious group, except to offer security and protection as it would for all citizens of the land.

C. Churches May Scripturally Coöperate With Other Churches.

Independence does not mean isolationism. Baptist churches may Scripturally coöperate in certain areas with other Baptist churches of like faith and order — provided such coöperation is voluntary, and does not violate the sovereignty, independence, and autonomy of each church.

1. New Testament churches worked together to help each other and support evangelism. See: *I Corinthians 16:1-3; Acts 11: 22-26; II Corinthians 8:19*.
2. New Testament churches worked together in social relief. *Acts 11:27-30; Romans 15:25,26*. This financial assistance was a gift, not a loan.
3. New Testament churches were obviously involved in regional fellowship.

Galatians 1:2 Churches (pl.) of _____

I Corinthians 16:19 Churches (pl.) of _____

Galatians 1:22 Churches (pl.) of _____

See also: *Colossians 4:16*, where two churches were to share the Scriptures and other apostolic writings.

THE CHURCH IS A COMMISSIONED ORGANIZATION

- A. The Lord Jesus Christ established His churches to continue His work here on Earth. This is not a social ministry, but a spiritual one. Just before the Lord returned to Heaven, He left His Church with what is known as the "Great Commission."

B. Look up: Matthew 28:19,20. List below the verbs (actions) in these verses:

1. ____ ye.
2. _____ all nations.
3. _____ them.
4. _____ them to observe.

C. This Great Commission is repeated in each of the Gospels and in the Book of Acts. Read them and see exactly what the mission of a Baptist church is.

(*Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 20:21; Acts 1:8. Also, I Corinthians 15:58.*)

THE CHURCH HAS ORDINANCES

- A. BAPTISM will be taught in Study #9.
- B. The LORD'S SUPPER will be taught in Study #12.

THE CHURCH IS TO BE FINANCED

TITHING will be taught in Study #20.

THE CHURCH AND ME

Having learned these many things about the New Testament Church, how should it be applied?

Listed below are some practical suggestions for you to receive great blessings from your Church:

A. JOIN IT.

1. It is God's will for every born-again believer to be a member of a sound, Bible-believing, New Testament Baptist church.
2. Look up: Acts 2:47. "The L _____ added to the _____ D _____ such as should be saved."
3. Look up: I Corinthians 12:18. God has _____ the _____ in the _____ .

B. LOVE IT.

A Christian ought to love the things his Lord loves. Look up *Ephesians 5:25*.

Christ _____ the _____ and _____ Himself for it.

C. SUPPORT IT.

1. Your Church is the place where you will grow, find comfort and fellowship, and serve the Lord. Write out *Hebrews 10:25*.

2. Plan now to attend as many of the services and meetings of your Church as you can. Decide in your heart never to miss a service unless providentially hindered.

READING ASSIGNMENT:

Read through *I Timothy Chapter 3*.

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory *Hebrews 10:25*.

PERSONAL NOTES & QUESTIONS TO ASK

D Daily Walk

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

Bible Christianity is **not** a *CREED* (a set of beliefs), but a *PERSON*: the Lord Jesus Christ. When we receive the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, we receive **Him** as a real Person into our heart and life — and although there are many *THINGS* to learn about the Lord and the Christian life, we must *never forget* there is a personal relationship to be enjoyed and maintained.

Personal relationships are maintained by **communication**. Every Christian needs a “Daily Walk” with his or her Lord to enjoy all that God has in store.

This is the battleground where victory or defeat in your Christian life will be decided!!

THE VITAL REQUIREMENTS OF A GOOD DAILY WALK

- A. Check back to “Preliminary Study #2.” God’s will for you as a young Christian is to _____ into spiritual maturity.
- B. There are a number of essential requirements for physical growth, and there are some essential requirements for spiritual growth. This study will deal with TWO vital things you need for a daily walk with the Lord.



WHEN SHOULD I WALK WITH GOD?

A. In actual fact our walk with the Lord needs to be **constant**.

1. Look up: *Joshua 1:8.*

Joshua's command was that God's Word would not _____ from the mouth of God's people day and _____. See also: *Deuteronomy 6:6-9.*

2. Look up: *I Thessalonians 5:17.*

Here we are bid to pray without _____.

B. Nevertheless, in our busy schedules of daily life, it is necessary for a Christian to set aside a *DEFINITE TIME EACH DAY* for a devotional walk with the Lord.

1. Look up: *Daniel 6:10.* How many times did Daniel pray each day?

2. Look up: *Acts 17:11.* How often did the Berean Christians read the Word of God?

3. There is no prescribed time for your daily devotions — the important thing is that you set a time aside.

It may be early in the morning . . .

It may be after the family has left home for the day . . .

It may be during an undisturbed lunch break . . .

It may be when the family have gone to bed . . .

YOU SET THE TIME — *THEN STICK TO IT!*

Having considered my family, my duties, and my usual activities in the light of God's clear command, I now promise the Lord that I will set aside the following time each day for the purpose of Bible study and prayer:

Signed: _____ Date : _____

HOW SHOULD I WALK WITH GOD?

Now that you have set aside a definite time for devotions, remember that good habits are hard to form. Ask the Lord to help you keep this one vital appointment. If you fail, don't quit — there's always the next day to re-start.

- A. Divide your time roughly into thirds.

$\frac{1}{3}$ — for Bible reading

$\frac{1}{3}$ — for thinking about what God has said (*meditation*)

$\frac{1}{3}$ — for prayer

This time, 20 minutes at least, must be deliberately reserved, conscientiously kept, and valiantly defended against the attacks of the Devil.

- B. Make *Habakkuk 2:1* your motto!

SOME RULES FOR BIBLE STUDY

- A. Begin with a short prayer, asking the Lord to teach you.

Look up and write out *Psalm 119:18*. This is a model prayer for you.

- B. Remember God means what He says and says what He means. Take every word in its primary, literal meaning — unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

“When the plain sense makes common sense, seek no other sense, or it all becomes nonsense.”

- C. While all of the Bible was written **for** you, it was not all written to you, nor was it all written about you.

To help you understand a passage apply the **GOLDEN KEY**. Ask these 4 questions:

- WHO IS SPEAKING?
- TO WHOM IS HE SPEAKING?
- ABOUT WHAT IS HE SPEAKING?
- WHEN WAS HE SPEAKING?

- D. Have a definite Bible reading schedule. If you don't, your Bible reading will become hit and miss — and so will your Christian life.

- E. Keep a notebook to write down truths, insights, and questions.
- F. Mark your Bible. Underline key verses. Write down other references in the margins. (If you do not wish to do this in your best Bible, purchase a cheaper one for study purposes.)
Note: Not all pens are suitable.
- G. Treat the Bible as a personal letter from God. Read it ardently and expectantly — as a lover reads a love letter. *Jeremiah 31:3*
- H. Scripture always interprets Scripture. *II Peter 1:20*. Always interpret an obscure passage in the light of a clear passage.
- I. You *MUST* resolve to obey the Word of God as you read it and study it. *John 15:14*
- J. When you cannot understand a Scripture, remember you have a pastor who cares for you, and who delights in teaching the Word of God. Call him, listen to him, and then check the Scriptures to see if what he says is so.

SOME TEACHING ON PRAYER

In your daily quiet time with the Lord, you will want to pray. A full lesson on prayer will be presented in Study #16.

- A. What Is Prayer?
 1. Look up: *Matthew 6:5-7*. In your own words, tell what prayer is not.
Prayer is not _____.
 2. Look up: *Matthew 7:7a*. The word “pray” simply means “to _____.”
Prayer is asking — it is the cry of a Christian unto God, the request of a child to his or her Father.

- B. To Whom Do We Pray?

Look up: *John 15:16f*; *John 16:23c*; and *Luke 11:2*. To Whom should we address our prayers? _____

Note: Nowhere does the Bible teach us to repeat *Luke 11:2-4*. It is not the Lord’s prayer. (He never prayed it — it is a “model” prayer.)

- C. In Whose Name Do We Pray?

Look up: *John 14:14* and *John 16:24*. We pray in the Name of _____.

D. What Things May We Ask For?

Matthew 6:11 _____

James 1:5 _____

II Thessalonians 3:1 _____

Acts 4:29 _____

Psalm 34:4 _____

Psalm 119:18 _____

Psalm 119:133 _____

There are many other things we can pray for; the above are some examples. As a general rule:

Begin your prayer by thanking God for blessings.

In the middle, pray for others and their needs.

At the end, pray for yourself and your needs.

E. Keep An On-Going Prayer List.

1. Keep a prayer list with your Bible. On it write down any definite requests you have — special family needs, church needs, and the special requests other Christians may share with you.
2. Don't forget to write down the answers as they come.

READING ASSIGNMENT:

Read: *Matthew Chapter 6.*

MEMORIZATION:

Review all the memory verses to date :

John 1:12

I John 5:11,12

Psalm 119:11

Hebrews 10:25

PERSONAL NOTES & QUESTIONS TO ASK

E The Enemy (Satan)

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

Some people do not believe in the existence of a personal Devil, calling “him” a medieval invention designed to scare people into the ‘Church.’

Others imagine the Devil to be dressed in a red suit complete with horns, cloven feet, and a long dragon’s tail — standing in Hell, tormenting folk with his pitchfork.

Both these views of Satan are false!!

The Devil is *NO JOKE!* He’s real, and he is a danger. In this lesson we shall learn what the BIBLE teaches concerning Satan.

DOES SATAN EXIST?

- A. Seven Old Testament Books and 19 New Testament Books refer to the existence of Satan.
- B. Look up and read: *Matthew 4:1-11*. Satan was real in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 1. List the 3 names or titles used of Satan in this passage:
_____ , _____ , _____ .
 2. How many times did Satan tempt the Lord? _____
 3. How did the Lord Jesus answer the Devil? “It is _____ .”
(i.e. He used the Bible.)

THE ORIGIN OF SATAN

Look up and read *Ezekiel 28:11-19*. Primarily, this is a prophecy against the King of Tyre (probably Ethbaal II). The first 10 verses in the chapter were historically fulfilled by Nebuchadnezzar’s invasion and 13-year siege of Tyre (598-585 B.C.).

Yet in this prophecy, we see another personage: the one behind the wicked king of Tyre — SATAN. (This is known as a “double prophecy”—it has a near and far fulfillment.)

- A . Is Satan an eternal or created being? _____
- Upon what verses would you base your answer? _____
- B. What was Satan originally? The A _____ C _____.
(See: *verse 14*)
- C. According to *verse 15*, what change took place which dramatically altered Satan's original status? _____
-

THE SIN OF SATAN

- A. Look up and read *Isaiah 14:12-17*. According to *Ezekiel 28:17*, this indescribably beautiful, intelligent, powerful, celestial being sinned through PRIDE. The account is enlarged upon in *Isaiah 14*.
- B. Underscore the five "**I will's**" of *Isaiah 14:13,14* in your Bible.
1. What was Satan's original name? _____
 2. What was Satan's last "I will"? _____
 3. According to *verse 15*, where is Satan's final destiny? _____
-

WHERE IS SATAN NOW?

- A. According to *Ephesians 2:2*, Satan is the "prince of the power of the _____. "
- B. According to *Revelation 12:10*, Satan can appear before _____ to accuse believers.
- C. According to *I Peter 5:8* and *Job 1:7*, Satan is also walking the _____.

From these Scriptures, we learn that Satan is alive and active in many areas. Read *Matthew 25:41* and *Revelation 20:10*, where we learn that Satan will end up in the Lake of Fire! But he is not there yet! (By the way, when he is cast into Hell, he will **not** be the 'king of hell' — he'll be tormented forever!)

SATAN'S WORKINGS AMONG THE UNSAVED

- A. Look up: *Matthew 13:38; John 8:44; Acts 13:10; and I John 3:10*. According to these Scriptures, what does God call those who are lost?
-

- B. Look up: *II Corinthians 4:4*. What is Satan's major work among the lost?
-

SATAN'S WORKINGS AMONG REAL CHRISTIANS

Look up: *I John 4:4b*.

Who is the One "that is in you"? _____

Who is the one "that is in the world"? _____

Who is the greatest? _____

It is essential for you to know this fact because Satan is a powerful being. The Bible teaches that he works with a whole kingdom of darkness, made up of angels that sinned with him at the beginning. The Bible refers to these as "devils" (demons) and evil spirits. See: *Jude 6*; *Matthew 12:26*; *Ephesians 6:12* .

- A. Satan can still _____ me — *I Thessalonians 3:5*.
- B. Satan does A _____ me — *Revelation 12:9,10*.
(When he does, my Advocate is _____ the Righteous. *I John 2:1*).
- C. Satan will try to H _____ me in my service for the Lord — *I Thessalonians 2:18*.
- D. He will attempt to get Baptists to depart from the _____ — *I Timothy 4:1*.
- E. Sometimes, God will permit Satan to afflict Christians physically — but always for His glorious purpose. See: *Job 1:12; 2:4-7*, and *II Corinthians 12:7-10*.

HOW DO I DEAL WITH THE DEVIL?

If we left this lesson here, many Christians would become very discouraged. Praise God, He has made provision for us to overcome Satan and his works.

(More on this subject will be covered in Study #22 — Victory.)

Step 1: Remember Satan is a defeated foe.

Look up: *Hebrews 2:14* and *John 16:11*. When Jesus died on the cross, He broke the power of the Devil. Satan is on "borrowed time."

Someone said: “When the Devil reminds you of your past—remind him of his future!”

Step 2: Remember — you are on the winning side.

Write out: *I John 4:4*. Modify this verse by using your name in place of the personal pronouns “ye” and “you.”

Step 3: Remember to put on the whole armor of God.

Look up: *Ephesians 6:10-18*. This is a spiritual armor designed by God just for you. If you wear it, Satan cannot hurt you. List the parts of this “suit of armor”:

- a. Undergarment = _____
- b. Breastplate = _____
- c. Shoes = _____
- d. Shield = _____
- e. Helmet = _____
- f. Sword of Spirit = _____

Step 4: Remember — don't give the Devil an inch.

Look up: *Ephesians 4:27*. Here we are instructed to give _____ to the Devil.

Step 5: Remember to be always on the alert.

Look up: *II Corinthians 2:11*. Write out *I Peter 5:8*.

Step 6: Remember — never retreat, always RESIST.

Look up: *James 4:7*. What happens when you stand up to the Devil?

Look up: *I Peter 5:9*. We are to resist the Devil steadfastly _____
_____.

Look up: *Matthew 4:4, 7, 10* . What weapon did the Lord Jesus use to resist the Devil?

Look up: *Matthew 16:23*. What might we say to Satan as we quote Scripture at him?

“GET THEE _____ ME, _____ .”

A FINAL WARNING AS TO THE CHARACTER AND WORKS OF SATAN

Don't be fooled into thinking the Devil always appears in the form of ugliness, hideousness, vileness, and overt wickedness.

Yes, he is the instigator of sin, the destroyer of lives, the wrecker of homes, the great deceiver, the liar, the Wicked One — but most times he comes across as “nice,” “harmless,” and even “benevolent.”

Notice Satan's ambition in *Isaiah 14:14* — “*I will be LIKE the Most High.*” This teaches us that Satan imitates God. Everything good that God is and has done, the Devil imitates with a counterfeit “look-a-like.”

Satan has:

- A. Another J _____ — *II Corinthians 11:4*. See: *I John 2:18; Matthew 24:5*.
- B. Another S _____ — *II Corinthians 11:4*. See: *I John 4:1-3*.
- C. Another G _____ — *II Corinthians 11:4*. See: *Galatians 1:9*.
- D. Other M _____ — *II Corinthians 11:13-15*.
- E. Another W _____ of _____ (Bible) — *II Corinthians 2:17*.

In addition, Satan has a counterfeit **ministry** — similar to the Gospel. See: *Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*.

Here, true Gospel preaching results in W_____ ; Satan sows T_____ .

Satan can work **miracles** too. See: *Acts 8:9-11* and *Revelation 13:13*. (Revelation 13 refers to the yet-future period known as Daniel's 70TH Week, when Satan will rule the world through the person known as the Antichrist.) See further: *II Thessalonians 2:9*. Just because someone claims to do apparent religious miracles, don't immediately conclude he is from God.

Satan also has a counterfeit **“church.”**

Notice in *II Corinthians 11:2*, God likens the Church at Corinth to a “chaste virgin,” and *Ephesians 5:25-27* each true New Testament (Baptist) church is called the “Bride of Christ.”

But in *Revelation 17* we read of another religious organization that God calls the “great whore” (*verse 1*) and the “mother of harlots” (*verse 5*). A study of this chapter shows this ‘church’ to be made up of the mass of apostate Christendom, full of man-made systems, unsaved people, great wealth, etc.

HOW CAN WE PICK THE DIFFERENCE ????

Answer: Isaiah 8:20.

READING ASSIGNMENT:

Read through: Genesis Chapter 3.

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *I Peter 5:8.*

F Family (The Christian Home)

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

The Bible teaches that God has **two** institutions — the *HOME* and the *CHURCH*. Nothing should be more important to a Christian than these two places, for they are **sacred**.

Contrary to what many think, the Home and the Church are **COMPLEMENTARY**. The greatest home is one built around a church — and the greatest church is one made up of families who attend faithfully and serve the Lord.

It is little wonder, then, that Satan's arena of diabolic activity is in our homes and in the churches. This is truly an age when many "homes are on the rocks — instead of on THE Rock," and when numerous so-called "churches" are departing from the Word of God.

The Bible is a very practical Book and has much to say about the Home. God has a definite blueprint for your family, your home. Space will not permit an exhaustive study, so this lesson will be concerned with establishing some godly principles for you to follow.

THE FIRST HOME

Open your Bible to *Genesis 2:15-25*, and read this passage carefully.

A. What did God say was not good for man?

B. How was the first woman made?

C. In this passage, God says the woman is to be an H_____ M_____ for the man. (*This means that the woman complements and completes the man.*)

D. In marriage, what are the couple to **leave**? _____

E. In marriage, what do the couple **become**? _____

F. Look up: Matthew 19:4-6. What did the Lord Jesus Christ say concerning the permanency of the marriage relationship? _____

G. Look up: Romans 7:1-3. According to God's plan for marriage, the bond of marriage was to be broken only by _____. _____

H. Look up: Hebrews 13:4a. What two things does God say are honorable?

1. M _____ .
2. The bed U _____ (i.e., *premarital chastity*).

THE HUSBAND'S DUTY TO HIS WIFE

A. *Genesis 2:24* . To _____ unto his wife.

B. *Ephesians 5:25*. To _____ his wife.

C. A husband's love for his wife is to be the same as:

1. _____ 's for the _____. *Ephesians 5:25*
2. For their own _____. *Ephesians 5:28*

D. To P _____ for his wife. *I Timothy 5:8*

E. *I Peter 3:7*. To give H _____ to his wife.

F. *I Corinthians 7:3*. To render due B _____ to his wife. (Do not use her as an object for personal pleasure.)

G. *I Corinthians 7:5*. To D _____ not his wife. (This is referring to the physical intimacy of marriage.)

H. *Ephesians 5:23*. The husband is to be the _____ of the wife, and the home.
(This has nothing to do with being a "dictator," but means he is to be in the place of leadership.)

THE WIFE'S DUTY TO HER HUSBAND

A. *Ephesians 5:22*. To _____ to her husband in his exercise of leadership in the home.

B. *Ephesians 5:33*. To _____ her husband. (Never criticize your husband in the presence of others.)

C. *I Timothy 5:14*. To G _____ the household.

Note: The Bible does not teach it is absolutely wrong for a woman to get a paying job, especially in a time of need, but her **first** priority is to be a homemaker. When a job causes a wife to neglect her husband, and a mother to give second best to the children — she ought to quit her job and trust the Lord! God never intended for children to be left in the care of others while their mother worked.

D. If your husband is not a Christian, follow the teaching of *I Peter 3:1*. The word “conversation” means a “godly manner of life.”

Note: Never set out to disobey your unsaved husband, even if it means having to miss coming to a church meeting. Pray hard, and let God deal with him! **Never** push the Bible “down his throat.” Instead, seek to be a “living Gospel” to him by following the Scriptural pattern above. Earnestly pray for your husband and love him. Ask the Lord to open opportunities for you to witness to him or invite him to the church meetings.

E. *I Corinthians 7:4,5*. To D _____ not her husband.

Note: The physical union of marriage is intended for the intimate pleasure of both husband **and** wife. **Never** use this part of your marriage as a “bargaining chip” with your husband. A man and his wife must work together in this area to achieve both understanding **and** harmony.

PARENTS' DUTY TO THEIR CHILDREN

A. *Psalm 127:3*. Children are the Lord's H _____.

B. *Proverbs 22:6*. Parents(not school, not TV) are responsible to _____ up their children.

☞ *Ephesians 6:4b*. Fathers are responsible to bring their children up in the _____ and _____ of the Lord. (The word “nurture” means “discipline.”)

- **Children require discipline and should be taught obedience in the home. This will take real character on the part of the parents.**

1. Children should be taught to **OBEY** without question; and when necessary, without waiting for an explanation.

2. Obedience must be instant and without argument.
 3. For character building, parents should allow no exceptions to this rule.
- **Children should be taught to work. In their first year they can be taught to pick up clothes and toys.**
 - **Children should be taught regular habits for happiness and usefulness.**
 1. They should go to bed at regular times without complaint.
 2. They should have good habits of personal hygiene.
 3. They should be trained to be orderly and neat. Parents have to set the example!!
 4. Any television watching should be very carefully controlled and limited. Children should *never* be permitted to watch television apart from parental presence! If you have a TV, you must have a policy of zero-tolerance for filth, profanity, violence, false doctrine, etc.
 - **Children need to be taught the art of living peaceably with others at home.**
 1. No fighting should be allowed.
 2. They should respect the possessions of other family members (including their parents) and not take what is not their own.
 3. They should be taught to share their property.
 4. They should be taught to forgive and to genuinely ask for forgiveness.
 - **Children should be taught the right use of money.**
 1. When old enough, they should earn some money of their own (but not for doing things they ought to be doing anyway, such as making their beds or cleaning up their rooms).
 2. They should be taught to tithe and give to the Lord.
 3. They should be taught how to spend wisely.
 4. They should be taught to save.
 - **Children need, and should have, time with their parents.**
 1. They should have “special” times with each parent, and special times with the entire family together.
 2. Parents should lead their children in such a way that in time they can win that one to Christ.

All of the above spell *TIME* and *WORK*. That's what it takes!! Many modern-day parents are too lazy (selfish) to give the time and put in the consistent effort to raise godly children — they want instant results, or to let others do it for them.

Determine here and now that you will follow God's pattern, and dedicate yourself to its consistent application while you have children in the home.

C. SEE YOUR CHILDREN AS THEY REALLY ARE IN GOD'S SIGHT.

Look up *Proverbs 22:15a* and *Psalm 58:3*. We are all born with a "sin nature."

D. GOD'S PROVISION FOR CORRECTION OF CHILDREN:

1. *Proverbs 13:1*. Father's _____.
2. *Proverbs 22:15b*. The _____.

Much of today's humanistic philosophy says it is wrong to spank children, but the Bible says it is necessary and right — **provided** . . .

- a. The rod is applied to the right place. Never strike your child across the face, chest, back, etc. Apply the "board of education to the seat of learning!"
- b. The rod is applied in love. *Proverbs 13:24b*. Never spank your children in anger or to take out your frustrations. Send your disobedient child to his or her room and wait for a few minutes to think things through.
- c. The rod is applied early in life — "...while there is yet hope..." *Proverbs 19:18*.
- d. The rod is applied effectively — *Proverbs 19:18*. Children will cry with a proper spanking. They will also do their best to make you feel like an ogre — don't spare it!
- e. The rod is applied consistently. Don't spank for wrongs the child didn't know about. Don't spank for last week's wrongs. DON'T EVER **NOT SPANK WHEN YOU SAID YOU WOULD!**
- f. There is a time of loving and prayer soon after the rod has been applied. **Never** apologize for spanking, but assure the child of your love and pray together afterwards. *Proverbs 13:24a*

CHILDREN'S DUTIES TO THEIR PARENTS

- A. *Exodus 20:12*. H _____ thy father and thy mother.
- B. *Proverbs 13:1*. Listen to your parents' I _____.
- C. *Ephesians 6:1*. O _____ your parents.

FAMILY LIFE — GOD'S HEAVEN ON EARTH

“In the house of the righteous is much treasure.” — Proverbs 15:6

- A. Look up: *Ephesians 4:31,32.* List the **six** things that need to be put out of your family and home:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

. . . and the **three** things you need to have there:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- B. Look up: *Deuteronomy 6:5-7.* What is it that should be a constant part of your home?

- C. Look up: *Joshua 24:15f.* What was Joshua's motto for his home?

ESTABLISHING A FAMILY ALTAR

One of the greatest blessings you can enjoy in your home is to have what is sometimes called a “family altar.”

A family altar is a definite time, place, and event in the life of your home where the whole family meets around the Word of God — to read, to pray, to sing, to talk.

In our fast-moving society, it will be one of the most difficult things for you to do — but one of the best.

- A. The Responsibility For The Family Altar.

This responsibility rests upon the _____.

(See: *Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21, I Peter 3:7, I Corinthians 14:35.*)

- B. How To Establish Your Family Altar.

1. Decide upon the most suitable time for **your** home. If appropriate, call a family conference to make this decision.

2. Make a definite commitment to the Lord to the establishment of your family altar. Plan to stick to it.
3. Work out a plan of Bible reading and devotional material. This will vary depending upon the age of any children. Talk to your pastor if help is needed in selecting some good material.
4. Do it!! Right away!! Then be ready to resist the Devil as he throws his fiery darts of opposition.

C. Suggestions For A Good Family Altar.

1. Always read a portion of Scripture. The Book of *Proverbs* is excellent for the family.
2. Have a hymn or chorus“of the month.” Learn it as a family.
3. Use “prayer cards” for a family prayer time. Make these up yourself; and include your pastor(s), evangelists (missionaries), church members, relatives, and the unsaved.
4. Be brief. Don’t attempt to make it a “church service!” It is far better to be brief and consistent than drawn out and haphazard.
5. Involve the entire family. What you do will obviously vary with ‘age and stage.’
6. Use some variety. Reading through a good Christian biography is one helpful adjunct.
7. Keep it informal, Biblical, and open for suggestion and improvement.
8. If you miss, don’t always try to “catch up” — but be sure to *always* go on!

Warning: Be careful that the atmosphere of your home is not different at family altar time. That is hypocrisy and will harm your children greatly.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Christian homes and marriages are NOT exempt from pressures and troubles. There may be times when serious problems arise. Always feel that you can confidently (and confidentially) speak to your pastor about such matters. He believes the Bible has the answer, and is more than willing to counsel with you. But, be willing to accept Bible answers and principles over worldly “solutions!”

READING ASSIGNMENT:

Read: *Proverbs Chapters 10 through 15.*

MEMORIZATION:

Try to memorize: *Joshua 24:15*

G God

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

The Bible does not present any argument for the existence of God; it takes the *FACT* of God for granted. God is the infinite and perfect Spirit in Whom all things have their source, support, and end.

The Word of God reveals God to us. Because God is infinitely beyond our human comprehension, the Bible often “couches” God in human language.

WHO MADE GOD?

Answer: No one! God is eternal. The fact that we cannot grasp this does not make it not so. (We may not understand how electricity makes the lights work — but why sit around in the dark until we figure it out!!)

Look up: *Hebrews 11:6*. Those that come to God must _____ that He ____.

HOW DO WE KNOW THERE IS A GOD?

A number of reasons are given in the Bible to show how we can know there is a God.

A. The Fact Of Universal Belief Proves There Is A God.

Man has a “religious nature” which is unique to man. All men in all ages and in all civilizations have manifested a belief in some higher Being. Most times this belief is perverted — but it demonstrates that there is some higher being.

Look up: *Romans 2:14,15*. These verses teach that even those who have never heard of the Lord have His law written in their _____.

B. The Fact That Everything Must Have A Cause Proves There Is A God.

Man is an intelligent being; therefore his Cause must also be intelligent. Man has personality; thus his Cause could not be impersonal.

C. The Fact Of Intricate Design In The Universe Proves There Is A God.

A watch not only requires a watchmaker, but also a designer and a purpose.

Look up: *Psalm 139:14*. How does the human body prove there is a God?

D. The Whole Of Creation Proves There Is A God.

Look up: *Psalm 19:1.*

What do the heavens declare? _____

Look up: *Romans 1:20.* What two invisible things about God are seen and understood through creation?

His E _____ P _____ and G _____ .

E. The Events Of History Prove There Is A God.

Many times God has intervened in human history, and His hand is often seen in the rise and fall of nations. See: *Psalm 75:6,7.*

F. The Bible Says There Is A God.

If there is a God, it is most reasonable to expect Him to reveal Himself to man. This He has done — first through creation, but in detail through His Word. Look up *Genesis 1:1.* The Bible begins with God — not philosophical arguments for His existence.

HOW MANY GODS ARE THERE?

A. Look up: Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5; and I Timothy 2:5.

There is only _____ God.

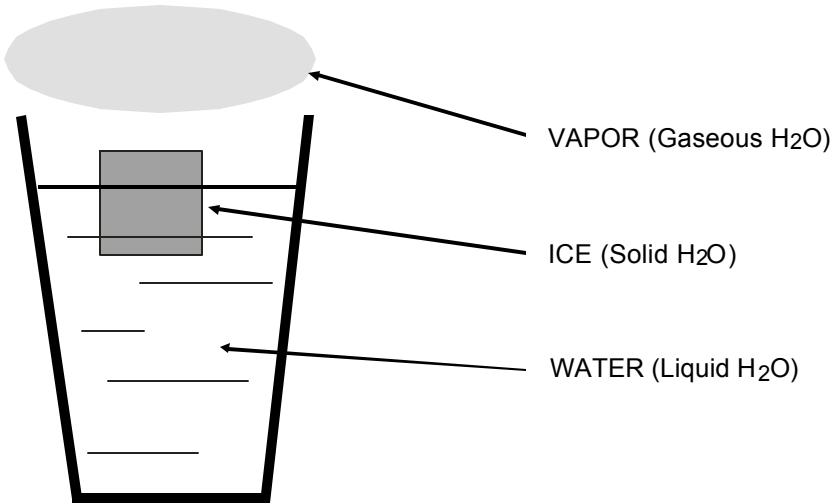
B. Look up: Matthew 28:19 and I John 5:7.

This One God eternally, equally, and essentially exists as _____ Persons:

- The F _____ ,
- The S _____ ,
- The H _____ G _____ .

This is known as the doctrine of the *TRINITY* — the Bible teaches there is **one** God, but **three** Persons in the Godhead.

While we cannot comprehend this, we can explain it somewhat by using an illustration of a *glass of iced water*:



As can be seen, there is but *ONE* essence (H_2O) existing in *THREE* distinct phases. Each phase may exist separately, or with another, or all together.

WHAT IS GOD?

There are four statements in the Bible telling us what God **IS**.

- A. God Is _____ . *John 4:24* (Divine Essence).
- B. God Is _____. *I John 4:8* (Divine Compassion).
- C. God Is _____. *I John 1:5* (Divine Holiness).
- D. God Is A _____ . *Hebrews 12:29* (Divine Righteousness).
- E. The Bible Also Teaches That God Is A Person (i.e., He has personality).
 - 1. *John 3:16*. God L ____ S.
 - 2. *Proverbs 6:16*. God H ____ S.
 - 3. *Genesis 6:6*. God G ____ S.
 - 4. *Deuteronomy 6:15*. God is J ____ S.
 - 5. *I Kings 11:9*. God can be A ____ Y.
 - 6. *I Peter 5:7*. God C ____ S.

All these are the characteristics of personality. (There are some who think God is just an impersonal “Force” or that He is in all of “Nature.”)

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

If we look at the Creation of God, we would know Him to be Mighty, Glorious, and Majestic, but it is through the *Bible* that God reveals Himself completely.

No man will ever be able to comprehend the essence of God (what He is). It is only through His **attributes** that God makes Himself known to finite man.

A. God Is All Knowing (Omniscient).

1. Read: *Psalm 139:1-4*. List five things God knows about you.

2. Read: *I John 3:20*. What does this verse say God knows? _____
_____.

B. God Is All Powerful (Omnipotent).

1. Read: *Job 42:2*. What can God do? _____.
2. Read: *Matthew 19:26*. What are all things with God?

_____.

C. God Is Everywhere (Omnipresent).

Read: *Psalm 139:7-17*.

What is your conclusion regarding the question, “Where is God?”

D. God Is Eternal.

1. Look up: *Exodus 3:14*. What is the Name of God? “_____.”

Notice this does not say “I Was,” or “I Will Be,” — both of which would imply either a beginning or an ending.

2. Look up: *Psalm 90:2*. This verse tells us that God extends from —

_____ to _____.

E. God Is Unchanging (Immutable).

Read: *Malachi 3:6*.

What does this verse say that God does NOT do? _____.

F. God Is Holy.

Look up: *Psalm 99:9.* Why should we exalt the Lord and worship Him?

G. God Is Love.

Look up: *Romans 5:8.* How did God commend (prove) His love toward you and me?

H. God Is Gracious.

1. “Grace” means “undeserved favor.”

G od’s

R iches

A t

C hrist’s

E xpense

2. We are S _____ by Grace. *Ephesians 2:8*

3. We are *TAUGHT* by Grace. *Titus 2:11,12*

4. We are *KEPT* by Grace. *II Corinthians 12:9*

I. God Is Truth.

1. Look up: *Titus 1:2.* What is it that God cannot do? _____.

2. Look up: *Isaiah 40:8.* What is it about God that will stand forever?

WHAT IS GOD CALLED?

There are three primary Hebrew words used to designate “God” in the Old Testament.

- A. “Elohim” — which is translated “God” in our English Bible. (The Greek equivalent in the New Testament is “theos.”) This speaks of God’s greatness.
- B. “Adonai” — which is translated “Lord” in our English Bible. This means that God is the Master.

C. Jehovah — which is translated “*LORD*” in our English Bible.

(To distinguish “Jehovah” from “Adonai,” the translators of the Authorized, King James Bible had the name printed in capital letters. In some compound names, [e.g. “Lord GOD”] the Hebrew word Jehovah is translated “GOD.” It, too, is printed in uppercase letters.)

The meaning of “Jehovah” was given in *Exodus 3:13,14*: “*I AM THAT I AM*” — “The Self-Existent One Who Reveals Himself.”

The name “Jesus” is the Greek form of the Hebrew “Joshua,” and literally means “Jehovah-Saviour.”

The New Testament clearly teaches that Jesus *IS* Jehovah. Write out *John 8:58*.

READING ASSIGNMENT:

Read: *Psalms 19; 139; and 147.*

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory *Hebrews 11:6*.

H The Holy Spirit

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

There is a whole lot of confusion about the Holy Spirit. Many cults **deny** He is a Person and He is God, saying the Holy Spirit is just a “force” or an “influence.” On the other hand, the Charismatic Movement, which has absolutely swept today’s religious world, places extreme emphasis on the Holy Spirit — teaching such things as “ecstatic utterances,” “healings,” and “exorcism.”

As with all these studies, our aim is to look beyond what men say and see what the Bible teaches.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- A. Look up: *Acts 5:3,4.*

In *verse 3* Ananias is said to have lied to the _____, and in *verse 4* he is said to have lied to _____. .

The conclusion we can draw from this passage is:

- B. Look up: *I John 5:7.*

This verse tells us the Holy Ghost is one with the _____ and the _____ (Son, Jesus Christ).

- C. Look up: *Matthew 28:19.* Notice the word “Name” is singular, which again shows the Holy Spirit *to be God, the third Person of the Holy Trinity.*

- D. Look up: *John 14:16,17,26* and *John 16:7,8,13,14.*

How many personal pronouns (“He,” “Him,” “Himself”) which apply to the Holy Spirit are there in these verses? _____

From this, would you say the Spirit of God is a Person — or an impersonal “force?” _____

- E. Look up: Acts 5:3, Acts 7:51, and Ephesians 4:30. List three ways in which the Holy Spirit may be affected as a Person.

He may be _____, _____, and _____

WHAT HAS THE HOLY SPIRIT DONE IN TIMES PAST?

- A. Look up: Genesis 1:2; Genesis 2:7; and Job 33:4.

The Holy Spirit was active in _____.

- B. Look up: II Peter 1:21.

The Holy Spirit is the Author of _____.

- C. Look up: Luke 1:35.

What miracle was the Holy Spirit a part of? _____

- D. Look up: Romans 1:4 and Romans 8:11.

What other miracle was the Holy Spirit of God responsible for?

WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TODAY?

- A. Look up: *John 15:26*. The Holy Spirit testifies of _____.

- B. Read: *John 16:8-11*. [The word “reprove” means to “convict.”] Of what three things does the Holy Spirit convict men?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

- C. Look up: Titus 3:5, John 3:5, and John 6:63. When we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, it is the Holy Spirit Who does the work of “regeneration” (i.e., “born again”).

[The word “quicken” means to “make alive.”]

WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO WHEN WE ARE SAVED?

- A. He Comes To D _____ IN the Believer — *Romans 8:9*.
- B. It is in the Person of the Holy Spirit that the Lord Jesus Christ lives within the heart of every believer — *John 14:23*.
- C. Our fleshly body Is the _____ of the Holy Ghost. This means it is a “dwelling place for God” — *I Corinthians 6:19*.
- D. Every Christian Is S _____ with the Holy Spirit — *Ephesians 1:13* and 4:30. He is our guarantee of eternal security.
- E. Look up: *John 16:7*. The Spirit Is Our _____.
- F. The Holy Spirit makes _____ for us. That is, He prays on our behalf — *Romans 8:26,27*.

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE HOLY SPIRIT AND ME?

- A. He Is Always Dwelling _____ — *II Timothy 1:14*.
- B. He Enables us to K _____ the things of God’s Word, for He is our T _____ E R — *I Corinthians 2:12-14*.
- C. A Christian can G _____ the Holy Spirit — *Ephesians 4:30*.
Read: *Ephesians 4:31,32*, and list the six sins which will do this, and three attitudes which will prevent it.

Sins Which Grieve

(*I John 1:9*)

Godly Attitudes

- D. A Christian Can Q _____ the Holy Spirit — *I Thessalonians 5:19*.

This means to “throw cold water” on His work within us — to stifle what He wants to do in and through us.

E. The Holy Spirit is our P _____ to witness and serve God. *Acts 1:8*

F. In *Ephesians 5:18*, I am COMMANDED to be _____ with the Spirit.

The negative command “*Be not drunk with wine*” explains what the Bible means by being filled with the Spirit. I am to be under the influence and control of the Spirit.

G. The Work of the Holy Spirit in me is to produce the _____ of the Spirit — *Galatians 5:22,23* This fruit is what God expects to see come forth in your life.

List the nine-fold “fruit of the Spirit”:

The “secret” to allowing the Spirit to do this work in your life unhindered is found in *John 15:4-8*:

A _____ in Christ, and let His W _____ abide in me.

H. The Holy Spirit gives Spiritual G _____ to believers — *I Corinthians 12:4-11*.

1. Every Christian has at least one spiritual gift (*verses 7 and 11*).
2. These spiritual gifts are NOT for personal use, but for the benefit (edification) of your Church. *I Corinthians 14:12*
3. Some of the spiritual gifts listed here were TEMPORARY, and ceased when the written New Testament was completed. These gifts (tongues, interpretations, miracles, healing, prophecy, knowledge, and discernment) were given as SIGNS to the nation of Israel (*Mark 16:17,18; I Corinthians 1:22; and I Corinthians 14:21,22*), and ceased after A.D.70, when Israel was dispersed among the nations. The Bible said they would vanish when “*that which is perfect* (the completed Word of God) is come” — *I Corinthians 13:8-10*.
4. *Romans 12:6-8* lists PERMANENT spiritual gifts. Every Christian needs to discern what his or her spiritual gift is, then use it in the church to benefit others. Talk to your pastor, who can help you study through the Scriptures and enable you to discern your spiritual gift.

WHAT ABOUT “SPEAKING IN TONGUES” AND “DIVINE HEALERS?”

The Charismatic Movement is a modern phenomenon which had its beginnings in the U.S.A. just before the turn of this century. In the last 50 years, it has snowballed into the most active movement in Christendom. One of the main reasons for this is because of the spiritual deadness of most mainline denominational “churches” — and the apparent “aliveness” of the Charismatics.

Don’t be fooled!! — *II Corinthians 11:13-15*. The test of whether something is right or wrong is NOT “how it feels,” or who’s doing it — but “What saith the Lord?” (*Isaiah 8:20*).

- A. The Bible defines “tongues” as known, understandable foreign languages — *Acts 2:4-11*. The Charismatics do not do this. They come out with babbling gibberish, which at the least is a psychologically-induced, ecstatic aberration which comes about when the conscious mind loses control and the subconscious takes over.
- B. In the Bible, the miraculous gift of being able to speak in an unknown foreign language was a sign to unbelieving Jews — *I Corinthians 1:22; 14:21,22; Isaiah 28:11*. In each recorded case of tongues (only 3) — Jews, and at least one apostle, were present. See: *Acts 2:5; Acts 10:45,46; Acts 19:6*.
- C. The Bible says “*tongues shall cease*,” — *I Corinthians 13:8* — and then goes on to say **when** they would cease, *verse 10*.

Now the Charismatic will argue that “*that which is perfect*” refers to Christ, and that tongues will continue until the Second Coming of Christ. But *Joel 2:28-31* indicates an outpouring of the Holy Spirit with associated gifts after the Rapture!! No, “*That which is perfect*” refers to the Word of God, which replaced the gift of prophecy — *II Peter 1:19-21*

- D. If the gift of tongues were still operative today, which they are not, the Bible would have certain restrictions on their use:
 1. No more than three people to speak in any meeting — *I Corinthians 14:27*
 2. Each tongue speaker to follow after each other — *I Corinthians 14:27*. “...by course...” (i.e., not all at once).
 3. One person to interpret — *I Corinthians 14:27*
 4. If there is no interpreter, then no one should speak in another language — *I Corinthians 14:28*.
 5. The Holy Spirit NEVER takes anybody out of control — *I Corinthians 14:32*. Letting yourself go, rolling your head, raising your hands and

repeating some phrase over and over again until you burst forth with some bubbly, electrifying ecstasy is both unscriptural and dangerous!

6. Women are not to speak in tongues — *I Corinthians 14:34*. The modern-day Charismatic Movement is dominated by women — *II Timothy 3:6*.

In most cases, the Charismatic Movement violates every one of these Spirit-given restraints.

- E. The Charismatic Movement is dangerous because it elevates “experiences” above the Word of God. Remember, the Devil can give you any experience you desire — the Christian must walk by the Word of God — *II Corinthians 5:7* and *Romans 10:17*.
- F. Many Charismatic groups say, or imply, you are not saved unless you have spoken in tongues. They claim to have the “Full” Gospel — but the **real** “Full Gospel” is given in *I Corinthians 15:1,3,4*. Those who add something to this are in fact preaching “another gospel” — *Galatians 1:6-9*.

Remember this glorious FACT — *Colossians 2:10*....

I am C _____ in H ____.

- G. The Charismatic elevates the Holy Spirit above the Son of God. The Spirit *IS* God. He is *EQUAL* with the Father and the Son in *EVERY* way — but He is the “shy” Member of the Godhead. He does not speak about Himself, but always of Christ — *John 15:26* and *John 16:13,14*.
- H. The miraculous gift of healing was a “sign gift” to Israel — *Mark 16:17,18*.
- I. Healings were overshadowed by Gospel preaching and conversions. *Acts 3:7; 4:4; 9:34,35*, and *Acts 9:40,42*. In these examples we see “one healed — many saved.”
- J. Healings were done on unsaved people (who had no faith at the time!), yet Paul, a great Christian, wasn’t healed — *II Corinthians 12:7-9*; Timothy was sickly — *I Timothy 5:23*; and Epaphroditus was sick and almost died — *Philippians 2:25-27*.
- K. Today we are to pray for God’s healing mercies — but not to seek, or expect, miraculous (instantaneous) healings — *James 5:14,15*. Of course, God can do both!

READING ASSIGNMENT:

Read: *Romans Chapter 8*

MEMORIZATION:

Try to memorize: *Ephesians 5:18*

PERSONAL NOTES & QUESTIONS TO ASK

I Immersion (Baptism)

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

The subject of “baptism” is without doubt one of the most confusing and controversial of all Bible teachings. Many types of “churches” have many types of “baptism.” Some *sprinkle*, some *pour*, some *immerse*. Some do it to *infants*, others to *adults* — some even “baptize” on behalf of those *deceased*. Then others tell us it is not an important thing, so they practice *no baptism* at all.

History tells us that **baptism** has been the most divisive issue throughout the present age. Our Baptist forefathers paid dearly for their stand upon the Bible truth of *baptism*. Millions were cruelly put to death just because they refused to have their children “sprinkled,” or dared stand upon the teachings of God’s Word. We do not have to face such persecution today — but we ought to be willing to take the same stand upon the truth of the Bible.

You **can** learn the truth by carefully studying the following Scriptures. Set aside any preconceived notions and see exactly what the Bible teaches. **DON’T COMPROMISE!!**

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

- A. How many kinds of Scriptural baptisms are there? *Ephesians 4:5* _____
- B. What is baptism called in *Colossians 2:12*? B ____ I A L.
- C. According to *Romans 6:4*, we are B _____ in the likeness of Christ’s death by baptism.
- D. *Romans 6:5* tells us that baptism pictures a P _____ I N G.
- E. In your understanding, which action best pictures a burial, or a planting: immersion or sprinkling? _____
- F. In *Matthew 3:6*, where did John the Baptist baptize? _____
What exactly is this? _____
- G. From *John 3:23*, what was John the Baptist’s reason for baptizing at a place called *Ænon*? _____

H. What does your answer to “G” say about the method of baptizing?

I. In *Mark 1:10*, when Jesus was baptized, what did He come up out of?

J. Look up *Acts 8:38,39*. When Philip baptized the Ethiopian, what was the relationship of both men to the water?

K. From your honest study of these verses of Scripture, what do you conclude to be the mode of baptism? (Check one)

- Sprinkling
- Pouring
- Immersion

Having drawn your conclusion, the following information will help reinforce the truth:

1. The Greek word rendered “baptize” in your Bible is “*baptidzo*.” The meaning of “*baptidzo*” is “*dip, plunge, immerse, submerge, overwhelm*.” *ALL* reputable Greek scholars (Catholic, Protestant, and Baptist) agree on this point.
 2. Pope Stephen II declared the practice of “pouring” for baptism was valid in the case of sick candidates in the year 754 A.D. The Roman Catholic Council of Ravenna, 1311 A.D., gave the first “official” sanction of sprinkling. Prior to these times, immersion was the mode. In some Roman Catholic circles, immersion was still practiced in the 18th Century.
-

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

A. According to *Matthew 3:7,8*, what did John the Baptist require from people *BEFORE* he would baptize them?

B. Look up: *John 4:1*. What does the relationship between the words “**made**” and “**baptized**” show concerning who should be baptized?

C. In *Acts 2:41*, what had those who were first baptized done?

D. In *Acts 8:12*, what had the men and women who were baptized first done?

E. In *Acts 8:37*, what was the requirement for the Ethiopian's baptism?

F. Look up: *Acts 10:47*. When does a person receive the Holy Spirit?

(Look back over Study #8.)

G. Look up: *Acts 16:14,15*. What had the Lord done with Lydia before she was baptized?

H. Study *Acts 16:30-34*. What happened to the keeper of the prison and his household *before* they were baptized?

I. List the three steps of the Corinthians given in *Acts 18:8*.

H _____, B _____, and B _____

J. From your honest study of these verses of Scripture, who do you conclude to be the proper candidates for baptism? (Check one)

- Babies
- Believers
- Jews

Having drawn your conclusion, the following information will help reinforce the truth:

1. There is NO evidence of "infant baptism" to be found in the first couple of centuries in church history. The first recorded instance of "infant baptism" was when the Roman Emperor Valens insisted his dying son be "baptized" — in the year 370 A.D.
2. Infant baptism was made "law" by the Catholic Council of Mela in the year 416 A.D. It was from this point that the bloody butchering of Baptists began to be practiced — by other "Christians."

WHAT DOES BAPTISM DO?

Many people believe (and are taught) that baptism is a Sacrament — that is, a "means of God's grace," a channel through which salvation comes.

A. What is the channel of God's saving grace? *Ephesians 2:8* _____

B. What are we NOT saved by? *Ephesians 2:9* _____

C. Our sins are cleansed through the _____ (*Ephesians 5:26; John 17:17*) and by the _____ (*Revelation 1:5; 7:14*). See: *Titus 3:5*.

- D. Read *Luke 23:32,33,39-43*. One thief was saved. Was he ever baptized? _____
- E. From your honest study of these verses of Scripture, what part does baptism play in your salvation? (Check one)
- No part
 - Some part
 - Absolutely essential

WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN?

- A. Look up: *I Corinthians 15:1-4*.
1. What does Paul declare here? The _____ (verse 1).
 2. Where does he ask them to keep it? In _____ (verse 2).
 3. What is the Gospel (Good News)? "Christ _____ for our sins, was _____, and _____." (verses 3,4).
- B. According to *Romans 6:5*, baptism is called the L _____ of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- C. In *I Peter 3:21*, baptism is called the L _____ F _____.
*(Be careful as you read this verse. It does not teach that baptism saves anyone; it is that which baptism **pictures** that saves. Baptism is the answer, response, of a good conscience. We get a good conscience before God when we are saved!)*
- D. From your study and consideration of these verses of Scripture, what would you say baptism is? (Check one)
- A symbol of the Gospel
 - The washing away of sins

WHAT DOES BAPTISM MAKE ME?

We have already seen that baptism plays no part in our salvation. A person is Scripturally baptized *AFTER* salvation, **not** before it.

There are *TWO* things your baptism will "make" you:

- A. Baptism Makes You A Baptist.
- Attending a Baptist church is wonderful, but that doesn't make you a "Baptist." When you are Scripturally baptized, **then** you become a *Baptist in fact*.

Salvation makes us a *CHRISTIAN*. Baptism makes us a *BAPTIST*. (Thus, every *true* Baptist is a Christian — though not every Christian is a Baptist!)

1. The name “Baptist” is a Biblical name.

It is found some 15 times in the New Testament, referring to John the Baptist. According to *Matthew 3:1* John was called a Baptist before he ever baptized anyone. It is a God-given name. (He wasn’t called “John the Catholic” or “John the Presbyterian,” etc.)

2. Christ honored John the Baptist. See: *Matthew 11:11*.

Thus the name “Baptist” is one we can bear unashamedly. [See also Study #11.]

3. All the apostles received Baptist baptism. This was NEVER repudiated— it was in fact a requirement for church office. See: *Acts 1:22*.

The name “Baptist” stands for:

what we BELIEVE — *I Corinthians 15:1-4*
what we ARE — *Romans 6:17,18*
what we DO — *Matthew 28:19,20*

B. Baptism Makes You A Church Member.

Look up: *Acts 2:41,42*. List the order of events.

R _____	(His Word)	= Salvation
B _____		= Baptism
A _____	unto them	= Church membership
C _____	stedfastly	= Christian growth

According to *John 3:3,5* the “new birth” is the ‘doorway’ to eternal life. According to *Acts 2:41* and *I Corinthians 12:13*, baptism (which follows salvation) is the ‘doorway’ into the membership of a church (a body of baptized believers).

When you are baptized, you become a member of our Church. As such, you enjoy the rights and privileges of membership which include:

1. Participation at the Lord’s table for the observance of the Lord’s Supper. [See: Study #12.]
2. Receiving pastoral care and guidance for your spiritual growth and service.
3. Participation in church business meetings.
4. Opportunities to effectively serve the Lord through His Church here.

WHO HAS THE AUTHORITY TO BAPTIZE?

A. There Are Two Facts To Keep In Mind:

1. There is a "Heinz 57" variety of 'baptisms' in the religious world today. (See the introduction to this study.)
2. According to *Ephesians 4:5*, there is only *ONE BAPTISM* — so all cannot be right.

B. The Authority To Baptize Was Given To New Testament Churches.

Just before our Lord ascended back to Heaven, He left "orders" for His work to be continued. These orders are given in *Matthew 28:19,20*, *Mark 16:15*, *Luke 24:46-48*, *John 20:21*, and *Acts 1:8*.

The Lord spoke these words to His disciples. However, if He gave this commission *only* to the disciples then present, it no longer applies — because they are long dead! The Lord Jesus Christ gave the Great Commission to His disciples *INSTITUTIONALLY* — not individually. That is, the command to go, preach, baptize, and teach all nations was given to His *CHURCH*. [Review Study #3.]

Since the command to "baptize" is contained in the Commission, then the authority to baptize has been given to New Testament churches — not to individuals or man-made religious organizations.

The Lord Jesus walked 60 miles (from Galilee, where there was plenty of water — to Judaea) to receive the right baptism from the right authority (John the Baptist). He obviously considered the authority in baptism was important. It is just as important today!

C. There Are Four Requirements For Baptism To Be Scriptural:

- **SAVED CANDIDATES**
- **SUBMERSION IN WATER**
- **SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION**
- **SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY**

All those who are baptized into this Church are baptized on the authority of this Church. Even though the pastor actually performs the act, he does so on behalf of the Church body. This is why:

1. All those desiring baptism are presented before the Church members, and the Church votes to receive them into membership upon their baptism.
2. The Church receives members from other Baptist churches of like faith and order by way of a "Letter of Commendation."

3. The Church does *not* receive into membership those who have been ‘baptized’ into some man-made religion, ‘church’ or denomination. As with our ancient Baptist forebears, we require Scriptural baptism (*sometimes erroneously called “re-baptism”*) in such cases.

WHY SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED ?

Some people do not hold great importance to baptism — seeing it as either unnecessary, or an “optional extra” to being a Christian.

On the other hand, the Word of God places great emphasis upon the ordinance. The “symbol” of Christianity is NOT a cross or a fish — but the beautiful emblem of baptism.

Here are some reasons why you should be baptized:

A. The Lord Jesus Christ Was Baptized — Matthew 3:13-17.

1. He came from G_____ to J_____ (60 miles) to receive baptism (*verse 13*). It was important to Him.
2. Jesus said His baptism “B_____ us” (*verse 15*). That is, “It is fitting.”
3. Jesus used the little word U_____ in *verse 15*, indicating we associate with Him when we follow Him in baptism.
4. God the Father was well P_____ when God the Son was baptized (*verse 17*).

B. Baptism Is A Command From The Lord — Matthew 28:19,20.

As noted previously, the command to baptize was given to the Lord’s churches — thus it follows that those who are won to Christ have a duty to be baptized.

Write out: *John 14:15.* _____

C. Baptism Is The Bible Way.

1. Look up *Acts 2:38*. Here the command is for E_____ of you to be baptized.
2. *Acts 8:12* includes both M____ and W_____ in the act of baptism.

D. All Christians Are Exhorted To Be Faithful In Church Attendance.

We read of this command in *Hebrews 10:25*. Can we properly follow this command and not be a member of a Baptist church, and not be baptized? No!

IF YOU HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED:

Be sure to record the date at the very beginning of all these lessons. Write it, along with the date of your salvation, in your Bible.

IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN BAPTIZED:

1. Write out the question the Ethiopian asked of Philip in the last part of *Acts 8:36*.

2. In your own words, and for your own situation, answer this question.

3. Why not decide now to obey the Lord?

“Having studied the Scriptures concerning the subject of baptism, and realizing this step is required of me by the Lord, I hereby determine by the grace of God that I will present myself for baptism by coming forward during the invitation at the next service of the Church, thus publicly associating myself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and committing myself to active membership in this Church.”

Signed: _____ Date: _____

READING ASSIGNMENT:

Read: *Matthew Chapter 3 and Acts Chapter 8.*

MEMORIZATION:

Try to memorize: *Acts 2:41*.

J Jesus Christ

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

This is the study about the **One** Who is the sum and substance, the center and essence of Bible Christianity.

If we take Buddha from Buddhism, if we take Mohammed from Islam, if we take Smith from Mormonism — we still are left with systems of belief. But, if we take Jesus Christ from Christianity — we have *NOTHING!!*

Christianity is **not** a system of beliefs, but a *PERSON*. We are not saved through rules and rites, but through a *PERSON*.

In this study lesson we want to look at two things concerning Jesus:

1. *WHO HE IS.*
2. *WHAT HE HAS DONE.*

JESUS CHRIST IS THE PERFECT MAN

- A. Look up: *Galatians 4:4.* Jesus was born of a _____.
 - B. Look up: *Luke 2:5.* Mary underwent a normal human pregnancy — she was _____ with child.
 - C. Look up: *Luke 2:40.* Throughout childhood, Jesus G _____ in a normal way. Read: *Luke 2:41-52.*
 - D. To the woman of Samaria, Jesus looked like a typical _____ —*John 4:7-9.*
 - E. Read: *Isaiah 53:2.* This prophetic description of the Lord tells us He had no C _____ or attractive B _____. According to *Matthew 26:48,49* the Lord Jesus was so plain that Judas needed to kiss His cheek to identify Him to the soldiers.
- Incidentally:** The “religious art” portraits of Christ as having blue eyes, long straight golden hair, and fair complexion are far from reality. Our Lord no doubt looked like a very average Jew — olive skin, brown eyes, and short black hair. He did have a beard.
- F. Look up: *John 4:6.* Jesus experienced W _____ N E S S.

- G. Look up: Matthew 8:24. Jesus required S _____ .
- H. Look up: *Matthew 21:18*. Jesus got H _____ .
- I. Look up: *Luke 22:44*. Jesus suffered painful A _____ .
- J. Look up: *Hebrews 4:15*. Jesus was T _____ in all things, just like you and I.
- K. Look up: *II Corinthians 5:21*. Jesus knew _____ sin.
- L. Look up: *John 19:33*. Jesus died a physical D _____ .

JESUS CHRIST IS GOD

- A. Look up: *John 1:14*. Who is “The Word”? _____
- B. Look up: *John 1:1*. The Word _____ God.
- C. Look up: *John 5:18*. Why did the Jews try to kill Jesus? _____
- D. Look up: *John 5:23*. How does this verse relate the Father and the Son?

- E. Look up: *John 10:30*. Jesus said He and the Father were _____ .
- F. Look up: *John 10:31-33*. How did the Jews interpret *John 10:30*? _____
- G. Look up: *John 14:9*. When we see Jesus we see the _____ .
- H. Look up: *John 20:28*. What did Thomas say concerning Jesus?

- Did Jesus rebuke Thomas for saying this? _____
- I. Look up: *Hebrews 1:8*. To whom is the title, “O God” given? The _____ .
- J. Look up: *I John 5:20*. Who is the true God and eternal life? _____
- K. Look up *Titus 1:3* and compare it with *Titus 1:4*. Who is referred to in each verse as “our Saviour”? _____
- What does this mean? _____

- L. Look up and compare: *Genesis 1:1* with *John 1:3*. What is the inescapable conclusion concerning Jesus Christ? _____
-

JESUS CHRIST WAS BORN OF A VIRGIN

From what you have learned above, the Lord Jesus Christ is a man *and* He is God. He is not 50% human and 50% divine, but 100% perfect in His humanity and 100% perfect in His deity.

How can this be?? **The God-Man!**

This is a fact clearly taught in the Word of God although it is one we certainly cannot fully comprehend.

- A. Look up: *1 Timothy 3:16*. This verse says that Jesus is _____ manifested in the F_____.

Remember back to **Study #7** and the Bible teaching of **ONE** God manifested in **THREE** Persons. In studying about the Lord Jesus Christ we must appreciate **ONE** Person with **TWO** natures — a divine nature and a human nature. While we will never understand this truth, we can see it was accomplished in the miracle of the Virgin Birth of Christ.

1. If Jesus had a human mother **and** a human father, He would be just another man — sinful, needing to be saved, and totally incapable of saving Himself, let alone others.
2. If Jesus had **no** human mother and **no** human father, He would be unapproachable as God — holy, and dwelling in light inaccessible.
3. The Bible teaches Jesus to be the **SON OF MAN** (because Mary was His mother) and the **SON OF GOD**.

- B. Look up: *Isaiah 7:14*. This Old Testament prophecy of Christ said
a _____ would conceive.

- C. Look up: *Matthew 1:18*. When Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb, she was
E _____ (engaged) to Joseph; and they had **not** come
T _____ in marriage.

- D. Look up: *Luke 1:35*. The conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary was the miraculous work of the _____.

The birth of Jesus Christ was indeed supernatural!

THE DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

- A. Look up: *Luke 19:10* and *Matthew 1:21*. Jesus came to _____.
- B. Look up: *Romans 5:8*. Christ died for _____.
- C. Look up: *Isaiah 53:6*. What was laid upon Jesus when He died on the cross?

- D. Look up: *Romans 5:10*. Through the death of Jesus Christ we are _____ to God.

- E. Look up: *Galatians 4:5*. By His shed blood, Jesus is able to R _____ those who trust Him.
- F. Look up: *John 3:16*. For whom was Christ given? The _____.
- G. Look up: *Romans 10:13*. Who can avail themselves of the death of Christ?

- H. Look up: *John 19:30c* and *Hebrews 1:3d; 10:12*. Does anything need to be added to the death of Christ on the cross to complete our salvation?

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

- A. Look up: *John 20:1*. On what day of the week did Jesus rise? The F _____ day, or our _____.
- B. Look up: *Matthew 12:40*. How long was Jesus in the tomb? _____

Note: Simple arithmetic (and much Bible evidence) shows the impossibility of a “Good FRIDAY” crucifixion. Jesus was crucified on a Wednesday and spent 72 hours in the tomb.

- C. Read: *I Corinthians 15:3-8*. List the appearances of the resurrected Lord:

- D. Look up: *Romans 4:25*. Why was Jesus raised from the dead? _____

- E. Look up and carefully study: *1 Peter 1:3,4*. According to this Scripture, because of the resurrection of Christ, each believer has a “lively” _____ for a wonderful inheritance, reserved in _____.
-

THE ASCENSION OF JESUS CHRIST

- A. Look up: *Acts 1:3,9*. When did Jesus return to Heaven? _____

- B. Look up: *Hebrews 10:12*. Where is Jesus at this present time? _____

- C. Look up: *Hebrews 7:25*. Jesus is making _____ for each believer.
- D. Look up: *John 14:2*. Jesus is preparing a _____ for each of us who are saved.
- E. Look up: *1 John 2:1*. When a Christian sins, Jesus is an _____ with the Father.
-

THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST

This subject will be studied in greater detail in Study #18.

- A. Look up: *John 14:3*. Jesus said, “I will _____.”
- B. Look up: *Acts 1:11*. Who promised the return of Christ here? _____
- C. Look up: *Titus 2:13*. The return of Christ is called the B _____
H _____
- D. Carefully study: *1 Thessalonians 4:16,17*. What will happen to believers (living and dead) when Jesus returns? _____
- E. Look up: *1 Corinthians 15:51,52*. When Jesus Christ returns for His people, how quickly will this event transpire? _____

READING ASSIGNMENT:

Read through: *Colossians Chapter 1.*

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *John 1:1.*

K Kinship (Our Baptist Heritage)

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

Outside of the Word of God, one of the greatest areas of spiritual ignorance is that concerning the **history** of New Testament churches over the past 1,975 years.

The Roman Catholic is led to believe his is the *only* ‘Church’ which began with St. Peter and has continued intact down through the centuries. All non-Catholic denominations are therefore called “departed brethren.”

The average Protestant thinks true Christianity disappeared during the “Dark Ages” and was revived after the Protestant Reformation. A lot of Baptists have been hoodwinked into believing they are Protestants and had their beginnings in England in the early part of the 17th Century.

History is to be studied in the light of the Word of God. The Scriptures promise, and history confirms, the existence of true New Testament churches in every period of the last 19 centuries.

THE PERPETUITY OF BAPTIST CHURCHES

By this we mean that in every age there have been true New Testament churches and believers who have remained faithful to the Word of God.

THE LORD PROMISED HIS CHURCHES PERPETUITY.

- A. Read: *Matthew 28:18-20.* This commission was given to His churches [See: Study #3], and is for the churches to fulfill.
 1. In it, the Lord promised to be with them A _____, even unto the end of the world.
 2. If God made such a promise, then we can expect churches to be around until the end of the age to receive the promise.
- B. Read: *Matthew 16:18.* Upon the Rock (Himself) the Lord established His Church, and He said that the gates of Hell would not _____ against it.

- C. Read: *I Corinthians 11:26*. The Lord's Supper is an ordinance given to the Lord's churches. The Lord's Supper is to be *perpetually observed* by churches. This again pre-supposes the existence of New Testament churches at all times to observe the ordinance.
- D. Read: *Ephesians 3:21*. In a special way, God is glorified among His churches. This glory is to continue throughout _____. If true churches disappeared as the apostasy that developed into the Roman Catholic Church took hold, this Scripture would be meaningless.
- E. Much of the New Testament is addressed to Christians in a *CHURCH* setting. If there have been periods of time when churches have not existed, much of the New Testament was or is useless.

THE TRAIL OF BLOOD

There are many excellent books dealing with the subject of Baptist history. If you enjoy history and would like to read more detailed presentations, ask the pastor for a list of recommended texts.

Right now, read through the little booklet entitled, "*The Trail of Blood*" by J. M. Carroll. This is a great primer on some true facts about church history which will bless your heart.

Answer the following questions:

1. List three ways many of our Baptist forebears were dealt with. (page 2)

2. What was possibly the first serious departure from New Testament church order? (page 12)

3. What is the year of the first recorded baptism of a child? _____

4. What happened in the year 251 A.D.? (page 13)

5. In what year did the Dark Ages begin? (page 19)

6. What one doctrine does the Greek Orthodox reject? (page 26)

7. What action was taken by the Council of Toulouse in 1229 A.D.? (page 37)

8. To what century can the name “Anabaptist” be traced? (page 39)

9. What book did John Bunyan write?

10. Why was Mr. Painter whipped? (page 48)

11. According to the chart, from which ‘Church’ did the **Methodist** denomination come?

12. From the book and the chart, fill in the list of names given at various times to our Baptist forefathers.

C _____ (Acts 11:26)

M _____ (*Phrygia*)

D _____ (*Africa*)

N _____ (*Italy*)

P _____ (*Armenia*)

W _____ (*Europe*)

A _____ (*France*)

B _____ (today)

Note: Page numbers may vary between editions of the “Trail of Blood.” The pages referred to above are from the June 1987 book edition.

PERSONAL NOTES & QUESTIONS TO ASK

L The Lord's Supper

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

Here is a subject which requires careful study of the Word of God. Like baptism, the ordinance of the Lord's Supper is generally misunderstood; and the religious world has many substitutes for the real thing.

The only references to the Lord's Supper in the New Testament are the Gospels' accounts in *Matthew 26:17-30*, *Mark 14:12-26*, *Luke 22:7-20*, and in Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians (in which he actually **rebukes** the church there for serious disorders at the Lord's table) — *1 Corinthians 10:14-22* and *11:17-34*.

Prior to completing this study, carefully read each of these passages above. (References often cited from the *Book of Acts* (2:46; 20:7,11) do not refer to the Lord's Supper because they do not mention "the cup" and because in the second instance the breaking of bread was done twice in the same night. They refer to a fellowship-type meal.)

WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER?

A. Notice The Correct Terminology.

There are only *three* Bible terms:

1. C _____ . *I Corinthians 10:16*
2. The L _____ ' _____ T _____ . *I Corinthians 10:21*
3. The L _____ ' _____ S _____ . *I Corinthians 11:20*

The Bible does not mention such man-made ecclesiastical terms as "The Mass," "Holy Communion," and "Eucharist."

B. It is an O _____ of the church. Comparing *I Corinthians 11:2* with *verse 23* (the connecting phrase "...I delivered unto you ...") shows this to be the case.

C. When we partake of the Lord's Supper, we:

1. Do it in R _____ of Christ. *I Corinthians 11:24,25*
2. Do S _____ the Lord's death. *I Corinthians 11:26*

From these Scriptures we conclude the Lord's Supper is a:

- SYMBOL
- SACRAMENT

(Check the correct words.)

- MEMORIAL
- MEANS OF GRACE

- D. Is the observance of the Lord's Supper **commanded**, or is it a **choice**?
See: *I Corinthians 11:24,25.*

It is _____.

WHAT IS THE SYMBOLISM OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?

A. The Elements Of The Supper.

1. Unleavened _____ . *I Corinthians 11:23; Matthew 26:17,26*
2. The F_____ of the V_____. *Matthew 26:29*
I Corinthians uses the term, the _____. *I Corinthians 11:25,26*

Note: Nowhere does the Bible refer to "wine" as part of the Lord's Supper. Alcoholic (fermented) wine is a result of the action of yeast (leaven). Leaven is a symbol of sin — *I Corinthians 5:6,7*. Thus alcoholic wine and leavened bread would be invalid symbols of the spotless Son of God.

B. The Symbolism Of The Bread.

The bread pictures the B_____ B_____ of the Lord Jesus Christ. *I Corinthians 11:24.*

This reminds us of the terrible suffering of our Lord, though not a bone in His body was broken. Read: *Isaiah 52:14; Isaiah 53:4-7; Matthew 27:29-31; John 19:31-37.*

C. The Symbolism Of The Cup.

The cup (grape juice) pictures the S_____ B_____ of the Lord Jesus Christ. *I Corinthians 11:25*

This reminds us that without the shedding of the blood of Christ, there could be no _____ of sin. *Hebrews 9:22* Read: *1 Peter 1:18,19.*

D. The Purpose Of The Lord's Supper.

Like the ordinance of baptism, the Lord's Supper is a picture of Jesus Christ.

- **BAPTISM** is a symbolic picture of our Lord's D _____, B _____, and R _____.
[See: Lesson #9.]
- When we observe the **LORD'S SUPPER** we set forth symbolically the L _____, D _____ until He comes.
(*I Corinthians 11:26.*)

WHO SHOULD OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

- When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper (during a pre-Passover meal), who were present? *Matthew 26:20* _____
(It is evident from *John 13:18-30* that Judas Iscariot left the supper to betray Jesus before the Lord instituted the Lord's Supper.)
- According to *I Corinthians 12:28a*, what did this group of people constitute? The C _____.
- Compare: *Matthew 26:30* with *Hebrews 2:12*. The Lord's Supper was instituted in the C _____.
- Read: *I Corinthians 11:17-21*. Here the Apostle Paul is rebuking the church at Corinth for turning the simple memorial Supper into a drunken orgy-type feast. However, note the following:
verse 17—“ye C _____ T _____.”
verse 18—“ye C _____ T _____ in the C _____.”
verse 20—“ye C _____ T _____ into O _____ P _____.”
- According to *I Corinthians 1:2a*, to whom was this letter initially addressed? “the C _____ of God which is at C _____.”
(*Thus it is to the Lord's churches that the command to keep the ordinances has been given.*)
- Conclusion:** The Lord's Supper is a C _____ ordinance. It is given to the Lord's churches to observe.
What are the 2 requirements for membership in a New Testament Baptist church? [See: Lesson #3.] _____ and _____.

When our Church comes together to observe the Lord's Supper, only members of our Church who are in good standing may properly partake. We do not open the Supper to Christians in general, or even to members of other Baptist churches. Many people find this a hard doctrine (in the light of the current ecumenical climate), but remember, it is the *LORD*'s Supper, not man's, and **He** issues the invitation.

Note: Many 'churches' open the Supper to "*all who love the Lord in sincerity and truth,*" which sounds good but conceivably would allow Christians holding all manner of beliefs to join together. This is contrary to God's Word because *I Corinthians 11:18,19* forbids the observance of the Supper by any church when there are D _____ and H _____ present.

HOW DO WE OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

A. How Often?

The Bible does not prescribe a definite time to observe the Lord's Supper. *I Corinthians 11:26* simply says, "A _____ O _____ A ____."

The pastor decides when the church should come together and a special service is held.

B. According to *I Corinthians 11:28*, the observance of the Supper should be preceded by solemn, personal self-E _____ I O N.

Note: Eating "*unworthily*" means "*in an unworthy manner*" as the context shows (*verse 29*).

Note: The word "*damnation*" means "*severe judgment*" (even physical death) (*verse 30*).

C. When observing the Supper the elements are distributed to the members, then all eat (or drink) together. This is because *I Corinthians 11:33* give the instruction to T _____ one for another.

D. Following the observance of the Lord's Supper, the meeting closes with the singing of an H _____ . *Matthew 26:30*

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC “MASS?”

This study is included here because of the vast amount of confusion regarding the meaning and benefit of the Lord’s Supper.

A. What Are Roman Catholics Taught?

1. That the “mass” is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ Who is really present on the altar. That He is offered to God for the living and the dead by the priest.
2. That upon the words of consecration by the priest, “*Hoc est corpus meum*,” the wafer and the alcoholic wine literally change into the real flesh and blood of Christ. (This is called “*transubstantiation*.”)
3. That observance of the mass is a means of grace (part of “salvation”) whereby the person actually eats the real flesh of Jesus. That it is a mortal sin to not receive “Holy Communion” at Easter.

B. When Did This Teaching Originate?

1. The doctrine of transubstantiation can be traced to the 9th Century writings of Paschasius Radburtus. It was declared a doctrine by Pope Innocent III in 1215 A.D. at the Council of Lateran IV.
2. It is “based” upon a literal interpretation of *Matthew 26:26-28* and *John 6:53-58*.

C. What Does The Bible Have To Say?

1. Eating blood is forbidden by the Law — *Leviticus 17:10*. (cf. *Matthew 5:17*)
2. Idolatry is forbidden — *I John 5:21; Exodus 20:4-5*. (Roman Catholics are taught to worship the “Host.”)
3. Jesus spoke symbolically in *Matthew 26* because He was literally present. “*This is my body*” means “*This represents My body*.”
A literal interpretation of this passage would also require a literal interpretation of, say, *Matthew 16:23*. Oh! Oh! (Roman Catholics are also taught that Peter was the first pope!)
4. Jesus explains *John 6:53-58* by *John 6:63*. This passage refers to a spiritual partaking of Jesus Christ, Who is **metaphorically** the “Living Bread.” *John 6:51*

5. The death of the Lord Jesus Christ was sufficient and once and for all. The continual, repetitious “sacrifice” of Christ by Roman Catholic priests is a denial of the finished work of Christ. See: *John 19:30; Hebrews 10:10-12.*
6. How can a priest (a creature) make Christ (the Creator)? — *John 1:3*

READING ASSIGNMENT:

As given above.

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *I Corinthians 11:26.*

M Missions

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

At the conclusion of His earthly ministry, the Lord Jesus Christ committed His church to the continuance of His work of redemption. To the assembled body of (baptized) believers He said: “As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.” (John 20:21) The Lord’s churches, then, are to duplicate the things done by the Lord — without change! While so many things Jesus did could not be contained in any number of books (John 21:25), there were some works He did consistently throughout His earthly ministry:

Jesus _____ and _____ disciples —John 4:1.

Jesus T _____ and trained His disciples — Matthew 5:1,2.

Jesus built His _____ — Matthew 16:18.

THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR MISSIONS

A. Look up and read the following Scripture passages which record the words of the Lord to His Church (assembly of baptized believers) :

- Matthew 28:16-20
- Mark 16:14-20
- Luke 24:45-49
- John 20:19-23
- Acts 1:8

B. Having read these Scriptures, discover the answers to the following:

1. What is our Church to do? _____

2. What is the extent of our mission field? _____
3. What is the message of our mission work? _____

4. Where do we get our power to engage in mission work? _____

-

THE BIBLICAL PLAN FOR MISSIONS

Look up and read: *Acts 13:1-5*.

- A. When God called two men to be missionaries (evangelists), from whence did He call them?
The _____ that was at Antioch.
- B. How would you describe the kind of men God called to be missionaries? (See also: *Acts 12:25*.) _____
- C. Look up: *I Thessalonians 2:4* and *ITimothy 1:12*. Who calls and equips men to be missionaries? _____
- D. According to *Acts 13:3*, who is to send missionaries? _____

The Bible plan is for evangelists (missionaries) to be financially supported by New Testament Baptist churches, prayed for by New Testament Baptist churches, and sent out by New Testament Baptist churches. (The Word of God knows nothing of "mission boards" and other para-church mission agencies.)

- E. According to *Acts 13:4*, when a church sends out an evangelist, how is that missionary led into his work? _____
- F. According to *Acts 13:5*, what is the missionary to do? _____
- G. According to *Acts 14:23*, missionaries are to establish a _____ from those won to Christ and baptized.

The Word of God knows nothing of "medical missions," "educational missions," "social justice missions," or "agricultural missions," etc.

THE BIBLICAL CHALLENGE FOR MISSIONS

- A. Look up: *John 4:35*. What is every Christian to realize? _____
-

B. Look up: *Matthew 9:37a*. What is there a great need for today?
— — — — — .

C. Look up: *Matthew 9:38b*. What should be our prayer? _____

D. Look up: *Acts 9:6*. What question should we ask the Lord concerning missions?

THE BIBLICAL WAY TO SUPPORT MISSIONS

A. We Are To Give Financially Toward Missions.

In *II Corinthians 8, 9, and 10*, the Bible deals with the subject of giving to the work of the Lord. **Note:**

1. Attitude in giving — *II Corinthians 8:1-5*.
2. Motive in giving — *II Corinthians 9:5-8*.
3. Purpose in giving — *II Corinthians 10:14-16*.

B. We Are To Pray For Missionaries. *Romans 15:31*.

1. Pray for _____.
II Thessalonians 3:2.
2. Pray for _____.
Ephesians 6:19.
3. Pray for _____.
Hebrews 13:18.
4. Pray for _____.
II Thessalonians 3:1.

C. God Blesses A Mission-minded Church.

Read: *Philippians 4:14-19*.

1. Which church helped Paul financially?
The church at — — — — — .
2. What abounded to the heavenly account of this church?
— — — — — .
3. What did God promise to supply for this church?
— — — their — — — .

“A missionary is God’s child in God’s place
doing God’s work in God’s way
by God’s power for God’s glory.”

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT:

Make a list of the missionaries our Church helps support, noting their fields of labor.

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *Mark 16:15*.

N The New Birth

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

There are some precious Bible words we almost hesitate to use these days because they have been abused and misused throughout Christendom. Words like “Christian” and “Bishop” mean different things to different people, even though their Bible meaning has never changed.

Another term lately subjected to such abuse is “**Born Again.**” It has been so cheapened and downgraded by the world that now we must define terms. “*What do you mean that you are born again?*” Today, you are “born again” if you have had some life-changing experience. It is used in popular songs to mean “falling in love.” Hollywood superstars by the dozen profess to be “born again” — yet continue producing their wicked wares. Even Roman Catholics are using the term, “born again.”

Because the Lord Jesus Christ said we could not get to Heaven without being “born again,” it becomes vitally important that we understand the Bible meaning of the term.

WHAT BEING “BORN AGAIN” IS NOT

A. The New Birth Is NOT Baptism.

Those who teach the doctrine of “Baptismal Regeneration/Remission” (which all infant-sprinkling ‘churches’ and some immersing ‘churches’ like the Church of Christ denomination do!) use the following Scriptures as proof texts:

1. *John 3:5* — “...born of water...”

The context of this verse, especially *John 3:6*, shows that being “born of water” refers to the physical birth.

- a. Born of water — “*that which is born of flesh is flesh.*”
- b. Born of the Spirit — “*that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*”

2. *Titus 3:5* — “...washing of regeneration...”

However, *Revelation 1:5* defines this washing — we are washed and cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

3. *I Peter 3:21* — “...baptism doth also now save us...”

A careful reading of this verse shows:

- a. Baptism is a “*figure*” (symbol).
- b. The literal washing of the body does nothing for us spiritually.
- c. Baptism is the *answer* (response) of a good conscience toward God. How do we get a good conscience in the first place?? See: *I Peter 3:14-16*.

It is not the act of baptism which saves us; it is what baptism **pictures** that saves — i.e., the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

B. The New Birth Is NOT Reformation.

How often do people “turn over a new leaf?” Getting rid of a bad habit is always a good thing — but it is *NOT* the new birth.

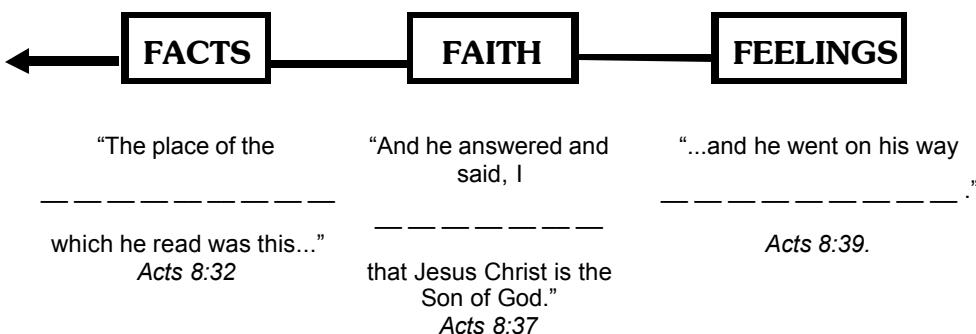
1. Nicodemus had religion and a position of authority — but that wasn’t enough. See: *John 3:1,7*.
2. The rich young ruler kept the commandments (or so he thought) — but that wasn’t enough. See: *Mark 10:17-22*.
3. Saul (later, Paul) had every outward reason to be accepted by God — but that wasn’t enough. See: *Philippians 3:4-8*.

C. The New Birth Is NOT Some Religious Experience.

Many people equate their experience to real salvation.

1. Simon Magnus had an experience — but that wasn’t enough. See: *Acts 8:9,13,18-22*.
2. Jesus warned of shallow, experience-oriented emotionalism. See: *Matthew 13:3,5,18,20,21*.

Note: Emotions are evoked when we are born again, and many people count their salvation as an experience. The important thing to remember is that the experience is **not** what saves — it is something which follows!



WHAT BEING “BORN AGAIN” REALLY IS

A. The New Birth Is The Work Of God.

1. *John 6:63* — “The flesh (ourselves) profiteth _____.”
The Holy Spirit _____ (makes alive).
2. *Ephesians 2:1* — “You hath _____ quickened.”
3. *Ephesians 2:10* — “We are _____ workmanship.”
4. *John 3:5* — “Except a man be born of water **and** of the _____, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

B. The New Birth Is Accomplished Through The Word Of God.

1. *John 15:3* — “Now ye are _____ through the _____.”
2. “For in Christ Jesus I have _____ you through the _____.” — *I Corinthians 4:15*.
3. *I Peter 1:23* — “Born again by the _____ of _____.”

C. The New Birth Is The Imparting Of A New Nature.

1. *II Peter 1:4* — We are made partakers of the _____.
2. We are made a _____ in Christ — *II Corinthians 5:17*.

D. The New Birth Is The ONLY Means Of Entering God’s Family.

See: *John 1:12,13*.

“**Born** . . . not of Blood — i.e. of human lineage (God has no grandchildren!)
nor of the Will of the Flesh — i.e. through works, reformation, etc.
nor of the Will of Man — i.e. through priest, pope, or pastor!

. . . **but of God!!”**

THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF THE NEW BIRTH

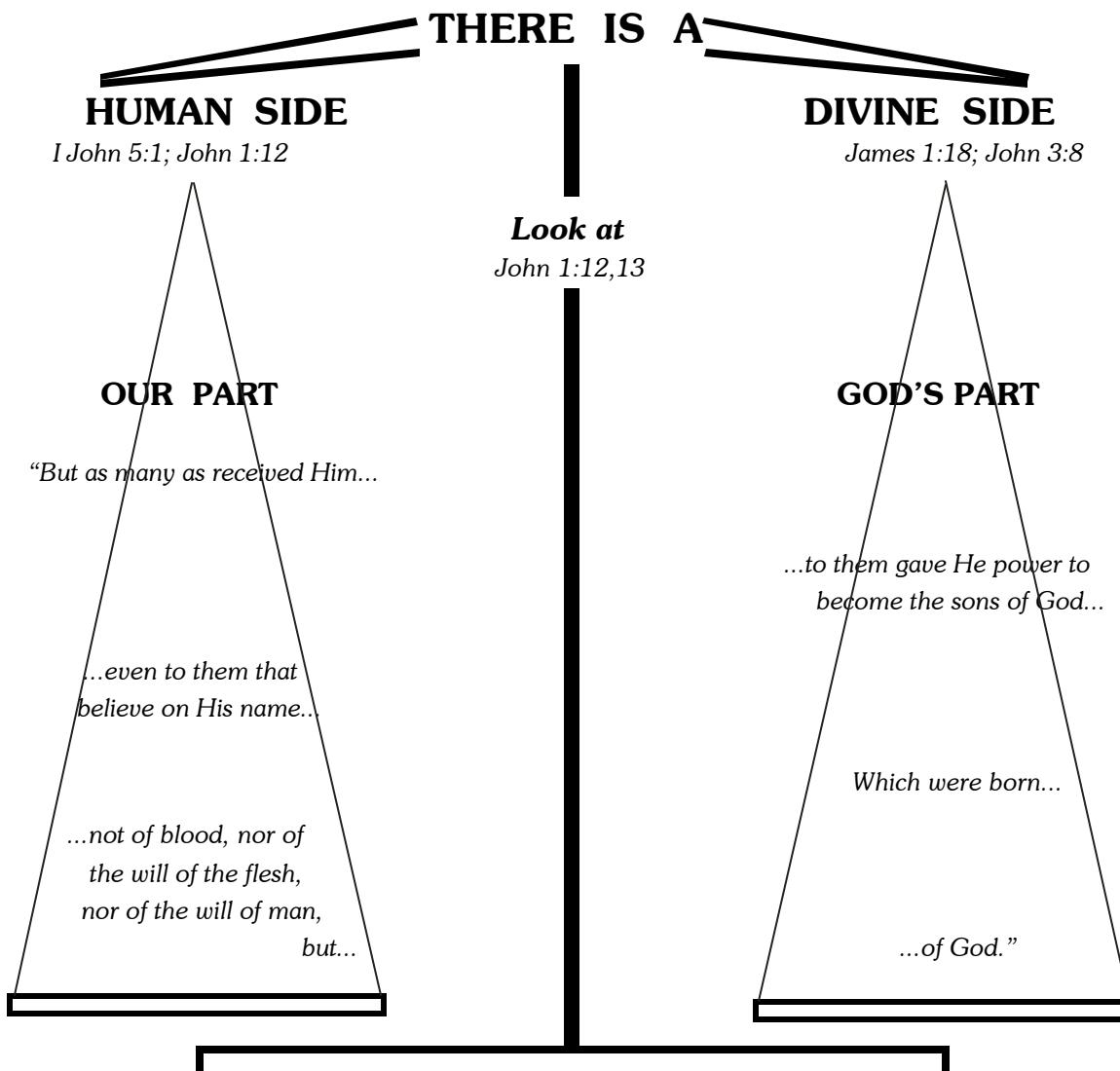
Write out: *John 3:3,7*. _____

HOW A MAN IS “BORN AGAIN?”

As with our physical birth, there are three requirements for a spiritual birth:

- **A WOMB** — the human heart.
- **A SEED** — the Word of God.
- **A CONCEPTION** — the work of the Spirit, creating life.

While this miracle is entirely the work of God, it cannot take place until a man actually **receives** Christ.



READING ASSIGNMENT: Read the Book of *1 Peter*.

MEMORIZATION: Try to memorize: *John 3:3*.

O Obedience

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

In his excellent book, “**Growing Up God’s Way**,”¹ John A. Stormer has these things to say: “’Obey’ is the most important single word in the Bible. Being obedient is the key to receiving all of God’s blessings. To be saved from sin and Hell, a person must obey God’s command . . . Acts 16:31. There are a multitude of other material and spiritual blessings for those who obey God.” [pages 103,4]

This current age is characterized by rebellion. Rebellion and disobedience come directly from man’s sinful nature. See: *II Timothy 3:2* and *Romans 5:19a*. We see rebellion in the home, rebellion in society, rebellion in our churches — all stemming from a basic rebellious attitude toward God. Now, as never before, we need to seriously concern ourselves with this subject of *OBEDIENCE*.

OBEDIENCE DEFINED

Stormer gives the following explanation of obedience:

“Obedience is doing what those in authority request or want. It is the opposite of ‘doing your own thing.’ True obedience involves doing what an authority wants immediately, respectfully, joyfully, and completely. Obedience requires the submission of the will of the individual to those in charge. True obedience ultimately stems from submission to God.” [Ibid: page 103]

GOD’S ATTITUDE REGARDING OBEDIENCE

- A. Look up: *I Samuel 15:22*. What does God say is better than sacrifice?
To _____.
- B. Look up: *Acts 13:22*. How did the Lord describe David, the son of Jesse?
“A _____ after _____ own _____.”
- C. Why did the Lord so describe King David in *Acts 13:22b*?

GOD'S ATTITUDE REGARDING DISOBEDIENCE

- A. Look up: *I Samuel 15:23*. What does God say rebellion is like?
The sin of _____.
- B. What was the penalty required for rebellion in sons under the Mosaic Law? See: *Deuteronomy 21:18-21*.
-

THE SOURCE OF TRUE OBEDIENCE

- A. *John 14:15* — “If ye _____ me, _____ my commandments.”
- B. *John 14:23a* — “If a man _____ me, he will _____ my _____.”
- C. *I John 5:3b* — “His commandments are not _____.”
- D. *I John 4:19* — “We love him, because he _____ us.”
-

PROMISES AND BLESSINGS RELATING TO OBEDIENCE

- A. Look up: *I John 3:22*. What does God promise when we keep His commandments and do those things which are pleasing in His sight?
-
- B. According to *John 15:10*, where does an obedient Christian abide?
-
- C. Look up: *Matthew 6:31-33*. What three things does God promise to take care of for us when we put Him first?
-
- D. According to *John 15:14*, what does obedience make us?
-
- E. What is perfected in our lives when we keep God's Word — *I John 2:5*?
-

F. If we hear the Word of God and yet do nothing about it, what is the result? — *James 1:22* _____

What does *James 4:17* call this? _____

G. According to *Matthew 7:24-27*, to what does the Lord Jesus compare the life of an obedient person?

THE RIGHT ATTITUDE IN OBEDIENCE

It is against human (*sinful*) nature to obey. Obedience comes as a result of training, and attitude is all important here.

A. Obedience ought to be a _____ — *Psalms 40:8*

B. Obedience is to be with the whole _____ and _____ — *Deuteronomy 26:16*.

C. Obedience requires us to be _____ and very
C_____ — *Joshua 1:7*.

D. When obeying the Lord, we need to make _____ and not
D____ Y — *Psalms 119:60*.

E. What should our attitude be when God's Word seems to contradict our own judgment? *Luke 5:4-7* _____

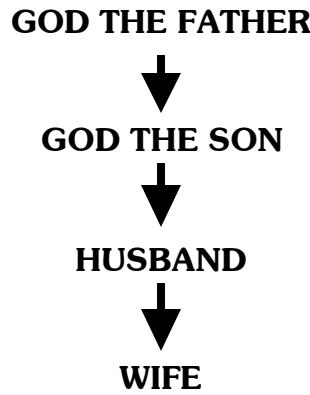
F. According to *Matthew 21:28-31*, are good intentions alone sufficient for obedience? _____

AREAS OF GOD-DIRECTED OBEDIENCE

Every Christian needs to recognize what has been termed “GOD'S CHAIN OF COMMAND.” By this we mean that not every action required of us is commanded directly from Heaven; but that God has placed **others** over us in various segments of life, who will be used by Him to accomplish His perfect will in our lives.

We are to submit to these authorities **as unto the Lord**.

An example of this “chain of command” in relation to marriage is given in *I Corinthians 11:3*:



A wife who truly loves God will never “run” her husband, but lovingly submit to his leadership as unto the Lord.

Note: This has got *nothing* to do with equality or inequality, as the first example below shows.

A. The Lord Jesus Christ Was An Obedient Son.

1. He was obedient to God the Father’s _____ — *John 6:38,39*.
2. He was not in any way unequal with the Father, declaring “*I and my Father are _____*” — *John 10:30*.
3. According to *Philippians 2:5-8*, He was obedient unto _____.
4. As a child, Jesus submitted to His earthly mother and Joseph. See: *Luke 2:51*.

B. Five Areas Of Authority Requiring Christian Obedience.

1. In marriage.

The _____ is to submit to her _____.

Read: *Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18; I Peter 3:1-6*.

2. In the home.

_____ are to obey their _____.

Read: *Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20*.

3. In the workplace.

_____ are to be obedient to their

_____. See: *Ephesians 6:5-7; Colossians 3:22*.

4. In society.

Every citizen is to be _____ to the higher powers.

See: *Romans 13:1-7*

5. In our Church.

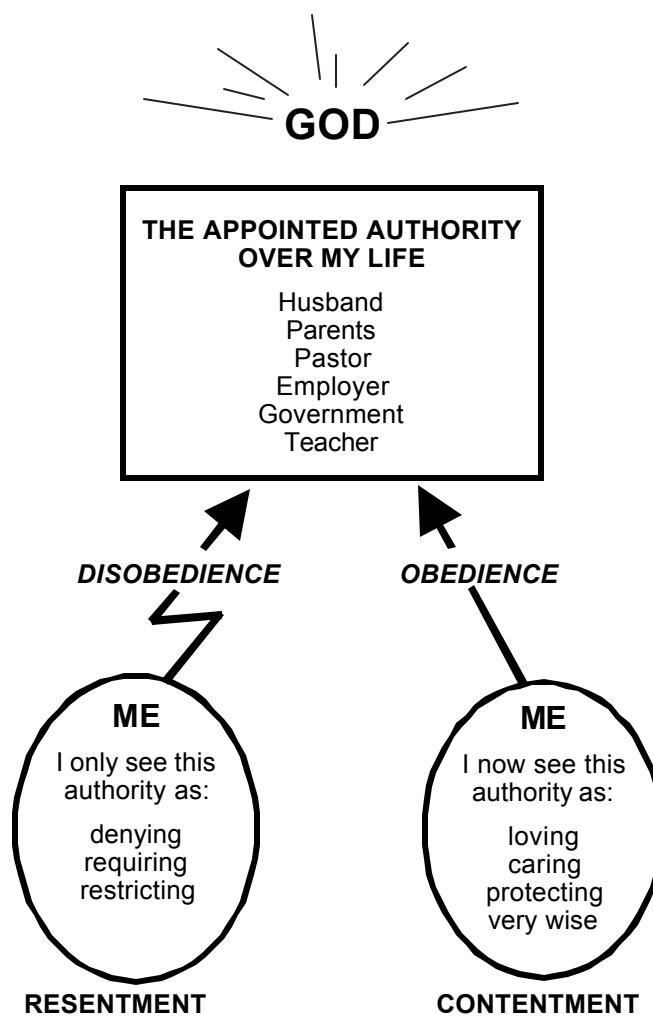
Each member is to _____ to those that have the rule over them (i.e., the pastors) — *Hebrews 13:7,17.*

In each of these areas God expects you to obey those in authority just as you would (and with the same attitude) Him. Yet, it is in each of these areas we find the most rebellion today — bossy, domineering wives (or weak, spineless husbands); rampant, bratty children; militant unions; anarchists; and church members who continually “buck” the pastor.

Let not these things be named in our life — we have already read about God’s opinion of rebellion.

If the one in authority is failing to give leadership or be responsible — God will deal with him. Leave these things to God — don’t try to rectify the situation by usurping the authority. That’s wrong too!

Read *I Peter 3:1-7* and see that a wife CAN win her husband. How?? Not by taking over and running things, but by the ornament of subjection.



READING ASSIGNMENT:

Read: Genesis Chapter 22

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *II Corinthians 10:5*

¹ Stormer, John A. Growing Up God's Way. Florissant, MO: Liberty Bell Press, 1984

(This book is highly recommended — especially to those with young children, or those just commencing family life.)

P Prayer

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

According to *Acts 2:42*, the young Christians, along with the older believers, “continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, AND IN PRAYERS.” These Christians had developed from the very beginning of their new life in Christ some definite habits — including prayer.

Through His Word, the Bible, God speaks to the Christian. In **prayer**, the Christian talks to God. Yet, in this busy, bustling world, both Bible study and prayer are neglected by so many.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Read over the previous study about prayer. [See: Lesson #4 Daily Walk]

- A. The word “pray” means “to _____.”
- B. Give a Scripture reference showing this to be so. _____
- C. According to *I John 5:14*, prayer is asking for _____ according to His will.
- D. Prayer is asking for _____ — *Philippians 4:6*.

WHY SHOULD I PRAY?

The Bible teaches us that prayer is both a *COMMAND* and a *PRIVILEGE*.

A. We Are Commanded To Pray.

1. *Luke 18:1* — Men ought _____ to pray.
2. *Colossians 4:2* — _____ in prayer.
3. *I Thessalonians 5:17* — Pray without _____.
4. *Matthew 7:7* — _____.

B. We Have The Privilege To Pray.

1. *John 16:24* — Prayer brings fullness of _____.
2. *Hebrews 4:16* — We are invited to come _____ to the throne of grace.

HOW DO I PRAY?

In *Luke 11:1*, the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ asked of Him a noble thing when they said, “Lord, teach us to pray.” In response Jesus gave them the **Model Prayer** (commonly mis-named the “Lord’s Prayer”). You can read this in *Luke 11:2-4* and *Matthew 6:9-13*.

Below are some of the “essentials” in praying:

A. What Posture Should I Adopt When Praying?

1. *Mark 11:25* — We may _____ and pray.
2. *I Kings 8:54* — We may _____ and pray.
3. *Acts 16:13* — We may _____ and pray.
4. *Matthew 26:39* — We may fall on our _____ and pray.

From your study of these Scriptures, what do you conclude about the posture we should adopt when we pray? _____

B. To Whom Do I Address My Prayer?

Study: *Matthew 6:9; John 16:23; Acts 12:5; John 15:16*. I am to pray to _____.

C. In Whose Name Do I Pray?

Study: *John 14:14* and *John 16:24*. I am to pray in _____’ Name.
This means “by His authority!”

D. In Whose Power Am I To Pray?

Read: *Ephesians 6:18* and *Jude 20*. I am to pray in (the power of) the _____.

E. The Right Attitudes In Prayer.

Listed below are some key attitudes in praying. Study the Scripture passages given, then jot each reference down next to the “prayer attitude” they teach.

Psalm 62:8; Matthew 6:9; Matthew 6:10b; Luke 11:3; Luke 11:5-8; Luke 18:1-5; Romans 15:30; Philippians 4:6b; I Thessalonians 5:18; Hebrews 4:16; Hebrews 11:6; James 1:5-7; James 5:16d; I Peter 5:7; I John 5:14.

1. Reverence:
2. Boldness:
3. Faith:
4. Thanksgiving:
5. Persistence:
6. Dependence:
7. Earnestness:
8. Confidence:
9. Openness:

WHEN SHOULD I PRAY?

There are two Bible answers to this question:

- A. I Am To Pray _____ — *I Thessalonians 5:17.*

This means that we are to be in the attitude of prayer, ready to pray (“on praying ground”) at all times.

There is **NO TIME** when we cannot pray.

Read also: *Luke 18:1; Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2; Ephesians 6:18.*

- B. I Am To Have Definite, Set Times Of Prayer.

1. Daniel prayed _____ times daily — *Daniel 6:10.*

2. David prayed each _____ — *Psalm 5:3.*

3. The Lord Jesus prayed in the _____ — *Mark 1:35.*

4. The apostles practiced set times of prayer — *Acts 3:1.*

It is vital that you develop a pattern of regular prayer. Always begin the day with prayer. *Proverbs 8:17*

WHERE SHOULD I PRAY?

There are **three** kinds of prayer found in the Word of God. Each of them ought to be part of the Christian's prayer life:

A. Personal, Private Prayer.

Read: *Matthew 6:6*.

1. Jesus calls the place for this kind of praying a C _____, which means we need to be where we can pray without interruption.
2. Jesus assures us God hears and answers our S _____ prayers.

B. Public Prayer.

Read: *Acts 4:24; Acts 12:5,12* and *Ephesians 5:19,20*.

1. This kind of praying is usually done in church meetings and gatherings of believers.
2. In such meetings the public prayer is worded by one person at a time — *I Corinthians 14:23,40*
3. When one leads the congregation in prayer, everyone participates in the prayer by saying *Amen* ("so be it") at its conclusion — *I Corinthians 14:16*.
4. In mixed company, public prayers are offered by men — *I Corinthians 14:34, I Timothy 2:8*.

C. Partnership Prayer.

Read: *Matthew 18:19,20*.

It will be a blessing in your life if you seek out another believer in the Church to become "prayer partners." Ask God to lead you to someone with whom you can spend time in prayer together.

WILL MY PRAYERS ALWAYS BE ANSWERED?

A. There Are Two Conditions For Prayer To Be Answered.

1. *I John 5:14* — "... according _____" How do we know God's will? (See: *John 15:7*) _____
2. *Matthew 21:22* — "... _____"

Why is it necessary to exercise faith when we pray? (See: *Hebrews 11:6; James 1:6*) _____

B. God ALWAYS Answers Real Prayer, But In Three Possible Ways.

- YES — *Psalm 84:11c* — Good things
- NO — *James 4:3* — Harmful things
- WAIT — *Luke 11:8* — How much do you desire it?

WHAT ARE SOME HINDRANCES TO ANSWERED PRAYER?

- A. Unconfessed _____ — *Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 59:1,2.*
- B. S _____ I S H motives — *James 4:3.*
- C. Failure to _____ others — *Mark 11:24,25.*
- D. Poor relationships in M _____ — *I Peter 3:7.*
- E. Failure to L _____ to God's Word — *Proverbs 28:9.*
- F. Lack of compassion — *Proverbs 21:13.*
- G. Stubbornness — *Zechariah 7:8-14.*

How do we get any hindrances removed? See: *I John 1:9.*

WHAT THINGS SHOULD I PRAY FOR?

- A. Look up: Romans 10:1.

1. For whom was Paul concerned? _____
2. What was his prayer for them? _____

- B. Look up: I Timothy 2:1-4.

List three groups of people we are to pray for:

1. _____

2. _____
3. _____
- C. What does the Lord want us to pray for, according to *Matthew 9:37,38*? _____
- D. According to *Ephesians 6:19,20*, what should we pray for those who serve the Lord in the Gospel ministry? _____
- E. *Matthew 5:44* instructs us to pray for whom? _____
- F. According to *I Samuel 12:23*, failure to pray for others is _____. .
- G. Look up the following Scriptures and make a “prayer list” of things we should ask for ourselves.

Matthew 6:11

James 1:5

Matthew 26:41

Psalm 19:14

Psalm 34:4

Psalm 37:5

Psalm 51:2,10

Psalm 119:18

Psalm 119:34

Psalm 119:133

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *John 16:24*.

Q Questions Often Asked

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

This series of Bible studies in the *ABC's Of Christian Growth* program is specifically designed to teach you the basics of the Christian life. But as with most things in life, we never stop learning, and you will most certainly find yourself asking questions like, "What does the Bible say about...?" or "How may I...?"

Answers to many questions will be found in the studies you have already done — or will be doing. It is strongly recommended that you review your past work from time to time, and especially anytime you have a question.

In this particular study, you will find Bible answers to a number of commonly-asked questions which are not covered in this series. This is one study which will no doubt expand as different questions are asked — so don't hesitate to ask your Older Brother (Older Sister) or the pastor about anything you want to know from the Bible!

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE

- A. The Bible is God's **complete** revelation of Himself to man. It does not tell us everything there is to know (*John 21:25*), but everything God *wants* us to know.
- B. **The Bible has the answer**— sometimes it requires diligent and searching study to find it, not because God wants to make things difficult, but because we are sinful, weak, finite, or perhaps just spiritually immature. Read: *Hebrews 5:11-14*.
- C. There are some things we may never really understand, especially when it comes to His workings in our life and those around us. Most believers have a "list" of things they want to ask when they get to Heaven — but they know God already has the answer, and it's the right one.
- D. We are to **avoid** _____ and _____ questions, (*II Timothy 2:23*) along with _____ and old _____ fables (*I Timothy 4:7*).

This really means our questions should pertain to faith, personal growth, godliness, and helpful Bible study. If all you want to do is "nail the preacher" or

“stump” your Older Brother/Older Sister, you will more than likely succeed, but will not be profited or benefit anyone.

- E. Be very careful you do not MAJOR ON THE MINORS and MINOR ON THE MAJORS. One of Satan’s traps is to get a believer to run off on some incidental hobby horse to the neglect of soul-winning, real Bible study, sweet fellowship, faithful Christian living, etc. Read: I Timothy 6:3-5a.
- F. When you discover a Bible answer, put it into practice. Some answers you (your old nature) will not like. Nevertheless, put it into practice. Read: James 1:22.

NOW TO SOME QUESTIONS



WHAT HAPPENS TO INFANTS AND LITTLE CHILDREN IF THEY DIE?

- A. Read: Acts 13:22 and II Samuel 23:1,2. Was King David saved? _____
- B. Read: I Kings 2:10 and Psalm 23:6. Where did David go when he died? _____
- C. Read: II Samuel 12:23. When the child of David and Bathsheba died at just one week old, David said, “I shall _____ him.”

This is Bible proof that little ones are **safe** in Jesus and will go into the presence of the Lord should they die. How sad that so many people have their babies sprinkled shortly after birth because they have been taught to fear dying “unbaptized.”

WHAT IS THE “AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY?”

- A. This is a non-Biblical term used to express the Bible teaching that a child is safe in Jesus until it reaches an age of understanding and moral responsibility. It is the time of life when a child comes to understand right and wrong and is able to make deliberate choices in actions. At this point, a child can and needs to be saved — and a child can understand how to be saved.
- B. While there is no set age for this “age of accountability,” the Bible indicates there **is** such an age for each child.

1. Read: *Deuteronomy 1:39*. Small children are “innocent” when they have no K _____ between _____ & _____.
2. Read: *Ezekiel 12:2*. People are accountable for their actions when they have _____ to _____ and see _____, etc. See also: *Nehemiah 8:2*.
3. Read: *Genesis 8:21*. The imagination of a man’s heart is evil from his _____.
4. Read: *II Chronicles 36:9*. The eight-year-old king Jehoiachin did that which was _____ in the sight of the LORD.
5. Read: *Matthew 19:16-20*. The rich young man was able to understand and keep the Ten Commandments from his _____ on up.

Note: NEVER force or pressure your children into making a profession of Christ. ALWAYS pray for their salvation and guide them along spiritual paths — and be ready to lead them to Christ.

According to *II Timothy 3:15*, young children **can** learn the Scriptures which will one day lead them to salvation.

According to *I Samuel 3:1,7*, young children can even serve the Lord and be faithful. Great training for when they are saved!!

According to *Mark 10:13,14*, Jesus welcomes little children and taught the necessity of “child-like faith” — *verse 15*.

IS ABORTION RIGHT OR WRONG?

The act of terminating unwanted pregnancies is in epidemic stage around the world. The basic issue in this ‘debate’ is whether life exists before birth; that is, in the womb.

- A. Pro-abortionists argue that an embryo is just a mass of cells and tissue — simply a part of the mother’s body. To them, abortion is nothing different than a tonsillectomy.

1. Read: *Psalm 139:13-16*. When did God take a vital interest in David?

2. Read: *Psalm 51:5*. When did David receive his sin nature?

3. Read: *Jeremiah 1:5*. When did the Lord first know Jeremiah?

4. Read: *Luke 1:44*. When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, her baby expressed the emotion of _____ within her womb.
 5. Read: *Genesis 25:22,23*. Here we read of twins squabbling before birth, and the Lord God giving promises concerning unborn children.
- B. The conclusion of Scripture is that life begins at conception.
Medical science supports this fact — an embryo has a separate heartbeat, brain waves, and makes its own red and white cells.
Abortion **is** murder. Abortion **is** wrong!

IS HOMOSEXUALITY A TRAIT OF BIRTH, OR A SINFUL PERVERSION?

“Alternate lifestyles” are being openly promoted in today’s society. As nations increasingly forget God and turn their ears from the Truth, we are seeing behavior which was at one time never tolerated now being flaunted. Homosexuals and lesbians are demanding total acceptability by, and integration into, the community, claiming they were born that way and as such are normal, though different! What does God say?

- A. Look up: *I Kings 14:24; 15:12; 22:46; and II Kings 23:7*. What does the Bible call these so-called “Gays?”
—————
B. This Bible designation of the homosexual comes from the name of the city of
————— — *Genesis 18:20*.
C. What was God’s judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah? (*Genesis 19:24*)
—————
D. Read: *Genesis 19:4,5*. The crowd which gathered outside Lot’s home consisted of both _____ & _____, people from every _____. This indicates that the sodomite corruption had extended to all ages and all stratas of society.
E. What does God call homosexuality? (*Leviticus 18:22*)
An A _____.
F. What punishment did God decree for homosexuality? (*Leviticus 20:13*)
—————

G. Read: Leviticus 18:22-24. What is the effect upon a nation when sodomites are tolerated?

H. Read: 1 Timothy 1:9,10. This passage is the basis for using the Mosaic code as the foundation for righteous government of any society.

I. Read: Romans 1:26,27,32.

1. God calls this behavior “against _____” (verse 26) — that is, unnatural, and therefore not a fact of birth or heredity.
2. God calls this practice “_____ affections” (verse 26) and burning “_____” (verse 27).
3. God’s Word says those who practice this “unseemly” behavior will receive “in _____ that recompense of their error which was meet [fitting]” (verse 27). AIDS is one example of this!
4. God says those who commit such acts are worthy of _____ (verse 32).

J. Study: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

1. Verse 9 refers to sodomites as “E _____” and “A _____ of themselves with mankind.”
2. Verse 11 says: “And such _____ some of you...” (i.e. members of the church at Corinth.) This clearly teaches that sodomites can be saved. Notice the *past* tense, however.
3. How is a homosexual saved? The same way you were saved — through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!
Verse 11 goes on to say: “...but ye are _____, but ye are _____, but ye are _____ in the name of the Lord Jesus and _____ the _____ of our God.” Note the present tense.

Clearly, homosexuality is a perverted sexual practice and one which the Bible strongly condemns. It is destructive to any nation which tolerates it (let alone promotes it) — *Proverbs 14:34* — and eternally damning to anyone who practices it. Christ is the only hope for the Sodomite!

DOES GOD PREDESTINATE PEOPLE TO SALVATION?

There is a very popular long-time theory in religious circles which holds salvation to be a matter of predestination. That is, you are saved because God predestined you to be saved. The logical (and often-stated) corollary is: "If some are predestined to Heaven, the rest are predestined to Hell." This teaching, which began with Augustine (354-430 A.D.) and was systematized by the Protestant reformer John Calvin (1509-1564 A.D.), is usually called "Calvinism." It affirms that we have no choice in the matter of salvation; it was all settled long before the world was created.

- A. Calvinism teaches you are predestinated to receive Christ.
- B. The Bible says the moment you *receive* Christ — **as a Christian** — you have a great (pre-determined) destiny.
 1. According to *Romans 8:29*, the believer is predestined to be:
_____ to the _____ of Christ.
 2. According to *Ephesians 1:5*, the believer is predestined to the:
_____ of children; i.e., we become the sons (and daughters) of God.
 3. According to *Ephesians 1:11*, the pre-determined destiny of each believer is called an I _____.

Note: The moment Charles Philip Arthur George Windsor was born into this world — he was predestined to become the King of England. No one would say he was predestined to be born!

IS HELL A REAL PLACE?

The doctrine of Hell and everlasting punishment is an unpopular subject today; and most cultured 'churches' along with the cults, reject it.

- A. Read: *Luke 16:19-31*.
 1. Is this ever referred to as a parable? _____
 2. Was the rich man conscious in Hell? _____
 3. Could the rich man ever leave Hell? _____
- B. Read: *Matthew 25:41*.

1. Hell was prepared for _____.
 2. Some say Hell means “annihilation.”
Matthew 25:46 calls it _____ (unending)
_____.
- C. Read: *Revelation 20:11-15.*
1. The eternal region of the lost is called the _____ of _____
 2. Who are to be cast into this awful place? _____
- D. Read: *Matthew 5:22; 10:28; 13:40-42,49,50; 23:33; Mark 9:43-49.*
Who spoke these words? _____

WHAT DID JESUS LOOK LIKE?

Nobody knows! The religious artists centuries later portrayed Him as a pale-faced, long-haired, effeminate ‘hippy’; this is nothing but wild imagination.

- A. Read: *Isaiah 53:2.* This prophecy of Christ says He would have no _____ nor _____ and no _____ that we should desire Him. He was not an “adonis”—there was nothing physically attractive about Him.
- B. Read: *Matthew 26:48.* He did not stand out from the crowd. See also: *John 8:59* and *Luke 24:15-18.*
- C. Read: *I Corinthians 11:14.* Did Jesus have long hair? _____
- D. It is certain Jesus looked like an average Jew. Olive complexion, short, dark hair, and a beard — *Isaiah 50:6* — are more probable descriptions.

The fact that no Biblical description is given of our Saviour is no doubt meant to prevent idolatrous worship of images and pictures. See: *Romans 1:23* and *I John 5:21.*

SHOULD CHRISTIANS OBSERVE CHRISTMAS?

The Christmas season has become a time of revelry and fleshly indulgence, and no Christian ought to join in such things — *Galatians 5:19-21; I Corinthians 5:11.*

Christmas is also a time given over to many religious customs and ideas which have absolutely **nothing** to do with the Word of God. Thus this is another area of danger for a Bible-believing Christian — *Colossians 2:8.*

In our Church we encourage God's people to use this season for evangelism. According to *John 3:16* the central message of the birth of Jesus Christ is "God seeking the salvation of man," so there are two things we strongly suggest:

- A. Use the opportunities that arise in visiting with family and friends to share with them the greatest of all Gifts. At least place a Gospel tract with every gift or card given.
- B. Give sacrificially to missions at this time. If you feel at liberty to give gifts, why not take up the challenge of giving to the Lord at least as much as you spend on others?

When you think about Christmas, keep in mind the following Bible facts:

1. Jesus was NOT born on December 25. This was in the middle of winter, and shepherds would not have their sheep out in the snow!
2. There were NOT three wise men! Three men riding on camels over such a long distance through inhospitable country infested with thieves and wild animals would have been fools!! The Bible says there was a *company* of Magi — they brought three kinds of gifts.
3. The wise men did NOT meet with the shepherds in the stable.
 - a. According to *Matthew 2:11* they came to a H _____ and saw Jesus as a Y _____ C _____.
 - b. *Matthew 2:16* indicates the young child was almost _____ years old at this time.
4. Involving our children in the myth of Santa Claus is not wise. We are in fact telling them a lie! Moreover, the Santa Claus (named after the Roman Catholic cardinal 'Saint Nicholas') most often portrayed is a substitute for our Heavenly Father.

SHOULD CHRISTIANS OBSERVE EASTER?

Easter is the most solemn religious observance in Christendom. The question is, does the Lord want us to set aside **one** time each year to remember His death and resurrection?

- A. According to *John 20:1*, Jesus rose from the dead on the _____ day of the week.
- B. According to *Acts 20:7* and *I Corinthians 16:2*, churches began meeting on the _____ day of the week.

Thus we remember our Lord's resurrection *every* Sunday!

- C. We remember these events when we meet to observe the _____ — *1 Corinthians 11:24-26.*
- D. We remember these events when we witness Scriptural _____ — *Romans 6:4.*

Please keep in mind that the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified on a WEDNESDAY, and He rose from the dead on a SUNDAY. See: *Matthew 12:40.* (This is the reason we do not observe "Good Friday.")

HOW CAN I KNOW GOD'S PARTICULAR WILL FOR MY LIFE?

- A. Every believer ought to pray, "L_____, _____" — *Acts 9:6.*
- B. The Lord reveals His will for our lives through the following means:
 1. The BIBLE — *Psalm 119:105.*
God will NEVER, EVER lead you contrary to His Word.
 2. The HOLY _____ — *Acts 8:29; 16:7; John 16:13.*
This comes through a firm witness in our hearts, and will always be in consonance with the Word of God.
 3. The C_____ of others — *Proverbs 11:14.* (Such counsel must be judged against the Word of God.)
 - a. Your Parents — *Ephesians 6:1; Proverbs 3:1-4; 4:1-4; 13:1.* The insight, wisdom, and advice of parents should always be sought and considered.
 - b. Your Pastors — *Hebrews 13:17.* Always feel free to talk to your pastor about anything.
 - c. Your Church — *Acts 15:25,28a.* In areas of major decision-making, especially involving Christian service, the advice of your church should be sought.
 4. The PROVIDENTIAL LEADINGS of God — that is, through circumstances. See: *Psalm 27:11.*

When these four things all harmonize and point in the same direction, we may be certain of God's guidance.

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO REACH A STAGE OF “SINLESS PERFECTION?”

- A. According to *Galatians 5:17*, each believer experiences an inward battle between the _____ and the _____.
- B. According to *I John 1:8-2:1*, anyone who says they no longer sin has _____.
- C. One of the most victorious Christians of all time (the apostle Paul) said that within his old nature (the flesh) dwelleth _____ — *Romans 7:15-21*.
- D. The only time a Christian will be sinless and perfect is when delivered from the “_____ of this death” — *Romans 7:24*.
- E. Nevertheless, according to *Titus 2:12* and *I John 3:3*, what kind of life should a Christian strive to lead by God’s grace? _____

WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT MY WORRIES?

- A. According to *Psalm 127:2* it is V _____ to worry.
- B. According to *Romans 8:28* God works through A _____ T _____ for our good.
- C. Worry is a lack of faith or trust in a Great God. Lack of faith is UNBELIEF! According to *Romans 14:23* and *Hebrews 3:12*, unbelief is S _____.
- D. What are we to cast upon the Lord? — *IPeter 5:7* _____
- E. We are to be careful (“full of care,” anxious) for _____, but to bring everything to the Lord in _____ — *Philippians 4:6,7*.
When we do this, God gives us the _____ of God which passeth all _____.
- F. Read: *Matthew 6:25-34*.

WHY DO I SOMETIMES GO THROUGH TRIALS?

All believers will pass through various trials in their life on earth. Some trials come from Satan, some from other people, some from our own doing, some from life in general, and some from the Lord.

- A. According to *IPeter 4:12*, we are not to think such things S _____.
- B. According to *I Peter 1:7*, trials are P _____ events in our lives because they purify our faith in God.
- C. According to *James 1:2,3*, trials help us to be P _____.
- D. Study *I Corinthians 10:13* and *II Peter 2:9*. In your own words explain the promise God gives you when trials and temptations (testings) come.

- E. Read: *Hebrews 13:5,6*. Why can we fear not what men may do to us?

- F. According to *II Timothy 3:12*, what is one reason we may suffer the trial of persecution or ridicule? _____

- G. What did the apostles feel when they were persecuted? — *Acts 5:41*. _____

- H. According to *John 15:18-22*, the S _____ is not greater than his _____.

- I. What does Jesus give to the Christian that the world cannot know, understand, or have? — *John 14:27; John 16:33*.

- J. What are we to do in times of trouble? — *IPeter 5:7*.

QUESTIONS I WISH TO ASK

R The Return Of Jesus Christ

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

One of the most interesting areas of Bible study deals with the subject of Bible **PROPHECY** and “things to come.”

It is such a large subject and so detailed that this particular study can only be of an introductory nature. As you grow in your Christian life, you will learn many things from the Bible about the future. The aim of this lesson is to give you a basic framework to build on.

The Return of our Lord Jesus Christ is one of the fundamental teachings of the Word of God. For every believer, the coming of Christ is referred to in *Titus 2:13* as the B _____ H _____.

THE PROMISE OF CHRIST'S COMING

A. Read: *John 14: 1-4.* Jesus said to His disciples in *verse 3:*

“I W _____ C _____ A _____.”

B. Read: *Acts 1:11.* The two angels said to the disciples:

“This _____ Jesus...shall so _____ in _____ manner...”

C. Read: *Hebrews 9:28.* This promise states that Christ shall appear the

“S _____ T _____.”

D. Read: *I John 2:28* and *I John 3:2.* Both these verses declare:

“He (Christ) S _____ appear.”

E. The last promise of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Bible is:

“Behold _____ Q _____” — *Revelation 22:12.*

THE FIRST COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

The first coming of Jesus Christ to earth (sometimes called the “first advent”) is now a fact of history. Yet, **before** His coming into the world — first as a babe in Bethlehem,

then as the crucified, buried, and risen again Saviour — all of these wonderful events were themselves Bible prophecies.

There were hundreds of Old Testament prophecies relating to the First Coming of Jesus, each one was fulfilled exactly to the letter! There are *EVEN MORE* prophecies relating to His Second Coming, and they will also be fulfilled literally.

Below are some of the major prophecies concerning the First Coming of Christ — and their actual historical fulfillment. Read these, then write out what the prophecy was.

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

<i>Isaiah 7:14</i>	_____	<i>Matthew 1:23</i>
<i>Genesis 49:10</i>	_____	<i>Hebrews 7:14</i>
<i>Micah 5:2</i>	_____	<i>Luke 2:11,15</i>
<i>Zechariah 9:9</i>	_____	<i>Matthew 21:4,5</i>
<i>Psalm 41:9</i>	_____	<i>John 13:18</i>
<i>Zechariah 11:12,13</i>	_____	<i>Matthew 26:15;</i> <i>Matthew 27:9,10</i>
<i>Psalm 22:16</i>	_____	<i>John 19:36,37;</i> <i>John 20:20,25</i>
<i>Psalm 69:21</i>	_____	<i>Matthew 27:34</i>
<i>Psalm 22:1</i>	_____	<i>Matthew 27:46</i>
<i>Isaiah 53:9</i>	_____	<i>Matthew 27:57-60</i>
<i>Psalm 16:8-11</i>	_____	<i>Acts 2:27</i>
<i>Psalm 22:18</i>	_____	<i>Matthew 27:35</i>

THE SECOND COMING OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS IN TWO STAGES

In a sense, the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ was in **two** stages:

CRADLE 30 years CROSS

The coming of Jesus as a babe to Bethlehem was a *private* event, unnoticed by the world at large. Relatively few got to share the joy of the moment — primarily those who were looking and waiting for his coming. (See: *Luke 2:25, 36-38; Matthew 2:1,2*)

But when our Lord hung upon Calvary's cross, it was a *public* display—in view of all.

So too, the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ will be in **TWO** distinct stages. We use two words to distinguish these phases:

RAPTURE 7 years REVELATION



Christ coming
FOR
His saints



Christ coming
WITH
His saints

THE RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS

This is the next event on God's prophetic calendar.

- A. The term "rapture" is not found in the Bible, but its meaning — "**caught up**" — most certainly is.
- B. Read the following key Scriptures about the Rapture....

- I Thessalonians 4:13-18*
- I Corinthians 15:51,52*
- Philippians 3:20,21*

....then answer the following as either *TRUE* (T) or *FALSE* (F):

	T	F
1. The Rapture is an instantaneous event.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The Rapture concerns only deceased Christians, that is, only those who "sleep" in Christ.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. At the Rapture, the Lord sends His angels to gather the saints and bring them to Heaven.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. At the Rapture, believers (saints) will be caught up into the air to meet Christ.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. At the Rapture, all Christians, living and dead, will receive a glorified resurrection body.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. According to <i>Matthew 24:42</i> , the Rapture will be announced to give us time to get ready.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. According to *II Peter 3:3-9*, the only reason the Rapture has not yet taken place is that the Lord wants to save sinners.

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

This is the **second phase** of the return of Jesus Christ.

- A. Read: *Revelation 19:11-16*. Here the Lord Jesus is called:

1. F _____ and T _____ — *verse 11*.
2. The W _____ of G _____ — *verse 13*.
3. The K _____ of K _____ & _____ of _____.

- B. According to *Revelation 19:14* and *Jude 14,15*, the Lord Jesus Christ will return with: _____.

- C. Read: *Zechariah 14:1-4*.

When Jesus Christ returns, He will set his feet down on the M _____ of O _____.

- D. Read: *II Thessalonians 1:7-10*.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ will be a time of V _____ and D _____ from the Lord.

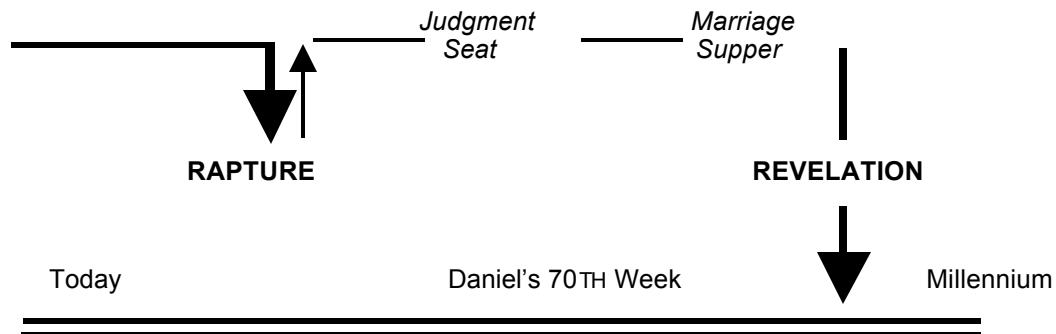
BETWEEN THE RAPTURE AND THE REVELATION

- A. The Old Testament prophecy of Daniel reveals there will be a seven-year period between the two phases of the Second Coming of Christ.

1. *Daniel 9:24* speaks of a time period of 70 weeks.
2. *Daniel 9:25* shows that these “weeks” are in fact “heptads” or seven-year periods.

From the going forth of the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem to Messiah (Christ) being “cut off” would be 69 weeks. From 445 B.C. to 30 A.D. equals 69×7 , or 483 Jewish years, or 475 sidereal (solar) years. This part has been fulfilled.

3. *Daniel 9:27* speaks of the 70TH week yet to begin. The present 'Day of Grace' stopped God's prophetic clock at the end of the 69TH week when Messiah was cut off, i.e., crucified.
 4. The final seven years of Daniel's prophecy will begin with the Rapture. Christians will be caught up and will not be involved in any of the events which will transpire on the earth during this period.
- B. The following diagram shows the main events that will occur during this time period:



THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

This event takes place in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ after the Rapture.

- A. According to *Romans 14:10*, who will take part in this Judgment? _____
- B. According to *Romans 14:12*, what will we do in this Judgment? _____
- C. According to *II Corinthians 5:10*, what aspect of our lives will come under scrutiny at this Judgment? _____
- D. Read carefully *I Corinthians 3:9-15*.
 1. In *verse 9*, the church at Corinth is called God's _____, the foundation of which is _____ — *verse 11*.
 2. The Lord is interested in how we _____ upon this foundation — *verse 12*.

3. According to *verse 12*, these works are likened to:

_____, _____, Precious _____;
_____, _____, _____.

4. The fire of this judgment will try the W _____ of the Christian.

5. According to *verse 15*, can a Christian who has never acceptably served the Lord now be lost and cast into Hell?

6. According to *verse 14*, what will the Christian who has acceptably served the Lord receive?

- E. The Bible speaks of these rewards as “**crowns**.” There are five crowns we can receive as a reward for our life as a Christian:

1. The Crown of _____ — *I Thessalonians 2:19*. This is the **soul winner's** crown!
2. The Crown of _____ — *James 1:12*. This is the **faithful Christian's** crown.
3. The Crown of _____ — *II Timothy 4:8*. This is the crown for those who **live** and **look** for the Lord's return.
4. The I _____ Crown — *I Corinthians 9:25*. This is the crown for the **victorious Christian**.
5. The Crown of _____ — *I Peter 5:4* This crown is for the **faithful pastor**.

THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB

- A. According to *Ephesians 5:22-32*, the relationship between the Lord Jesus Christ and His churches is likened to that between:

H _____ and W _____.

- B. According to *II Corinthians 11:2*, the church at Corinth was:

E _____ (engaged) to one Husband — Christ.

- C. From *John 3:29* and *Revelation 22:17*, one of the metaphors used of true New Testament churches is “*The B _____ of Christ*.”

- D. The union of Bride and Bridegroom occurs at the Rapture and the wedding celebration is called in *Revelation 19:7-9* the:

M _____ — _____ of the _____.

DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK

While the Judgment Seat of Christ and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb are taking place in Heaven, an entirely different scene will unfold on earth.

- A. The Book of The Revelation gives the details of the events of this seven-year period prophesied by Daniel — Chapters 6 through 18 in particular.

It is a horrifying prophecy of coming war, rebellion, catastrophe, and desolation. It is called by several names, including:

1. The Day of the LORD — *Isaiah 2:12-22*
2. Tribulation — *Deuteronomy 4:30; Revelation 7:14*
3. The Great Day of Wrath — *Revelation 6:17*

- B. Christians will **not** pass through any of this period. How do we know this?

1. According to *Jeremiah 30:7*, it will be a time of _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____; i.e., it has specifically to do with the Jews and the Nation of Israel. (See also: *Daniel 9:24* — “thy people,” “thy holy city.”)

2. The Lord’s promise to His faithful church at Philadelphia was that He would _____ them from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world — *Revelation 3:10*.

3. Our salvation through Jesus Christ assures us that we are not _____ unto wrath — *I Thessalonians 5:9*.

4. According to *Luke 21:34-36*, Christians are to be ready at all times, for the Rapture is (and always has been) imminent — i.e. it could happen at any time.

- C. According to *II Thessalonians 2:3,8* there will be the revealing of the M _____ of S ____ at the commencement of this seven-year period.

This person is most commonly referred to as The Antichrist. He is the Devil incarnate. See: *I John 2:18*.

- D. According to *Revelation 12:9,12*, _____ will be cast down to the earth at the mid-point of this period.

- E. According to *Daniel 12:1*, then will come a time “... such as _____ W ____ since there was a nation.”

- F. Read: Matthew 24:15-24. According to *verse 21*, this awful time is called the G _____ T _____.

- G. According to *Matthew 24:29,30*, the Second Coming of Christ to the earth occurs at the.....

- BEGINNING
 END
 MID-WAY POINT

(Check the correct answer)

..... of the Great Tribulation.

THE MILLENNIUM

- A. Following the return of Christ in glory, He will judge the N _____ —
Matthew 25:31,32
- B. According to *Joel 3:12-16*, this great judgment will take place in the Valley of _____.
- C. According to *Revelation 20:2,3*, Satan will be bound for _____ years.
- D. According to *Revelation 20:4*, Christ will reign on the earth for _____ years.
- E. According to *Isaiah 2:4*, the Millennium will be a time of:

- F. According to *Isaiah 11:1-10*, the Millennium will be a time of _____

- G. According to *Zechariah 14:16*, the Millennium will be a time of:

For further studies in these areas, please ask the pastor for information. There are many books available today, but not all can be fully recommended.

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *Titus 2:11-13.*

S Separation

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

The issue of “separation” is one of the distinguishing features of fundamental Baptists. It is a subject which has to do with the way we live, the way we conduct ourselves as a Church — and, yes, **standards!**

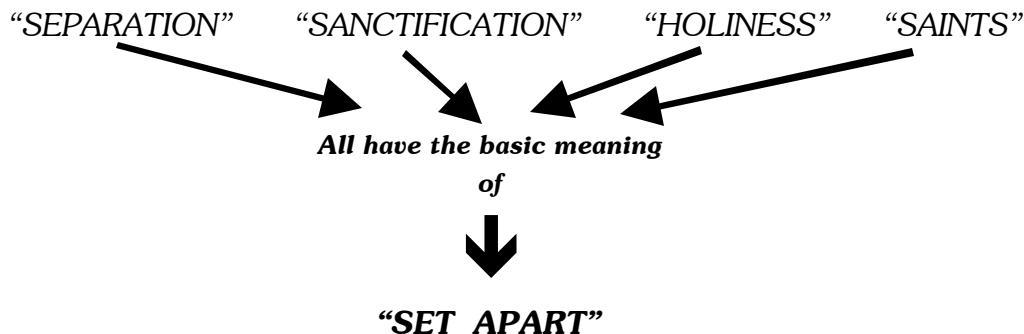
Such a study could quite easily become just a list of “taboos” — but that is only part of what the Lord intends. As you enter into this study of the Bible, it is important for you to grasp the principles involved as well as the practices outlined.

We are living in a world of rapidly declining moral and spiritual standards. This decay is seriously affecting Christians and churches to the point that it is often difficult to tell Christians and non-Christians apart.

EXACTLY WHAT IS MEANT BY “SEPARATION?”

There are three things for you to understand:

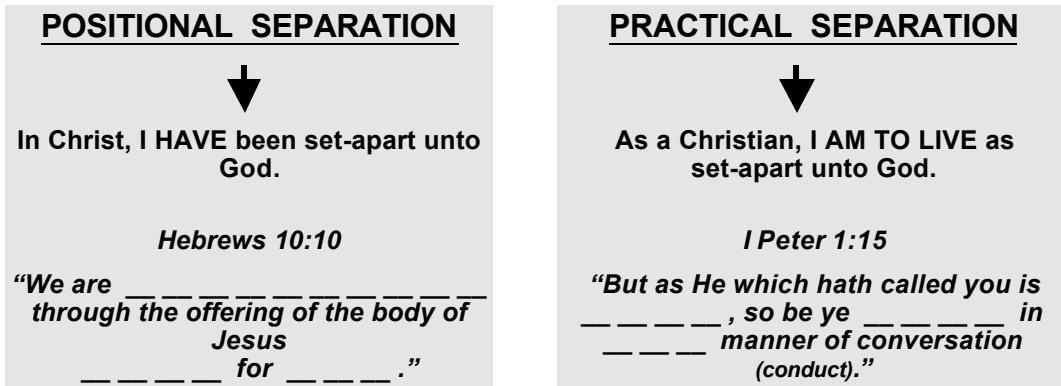
A. THERE ARE FOUR BIBLE WORDS HAVING THE SAME MEANING:



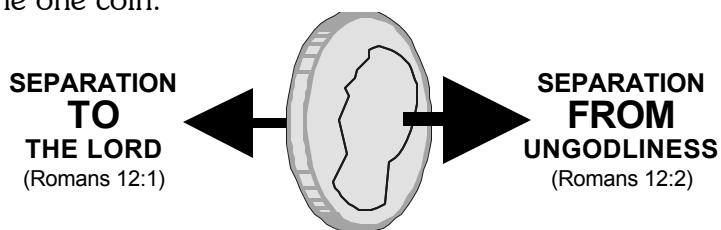
1. When we say that God is holy, that means He is “set apart” from all His creation in righteousness.
2. When we say the Bible is holy, we mean it is “set apart” from all other books.
3. When we are taught to sanctify the Lord in our hearts, this means we are to set God apart from idols.

— Remember this definition —

B. THERE ARE TWO ASPECTS TO SEPARATION IN YOUR LIFE:



C. THERE ARE TWO IMPORTANT FEATURES TO SEPARATION — two sides of the one coin:



WHAT IS THE BASIS OF PRACTICAL SEPARATION?

A. THE BASIS OF GOD'S NATURE:

I Peter 1:16 — "Be ye _____; for I am _____."

B. THE BASIS OF REDEMPTION:

Read: *I Corinthians 6:19,20.* Complete the following:

1. "Ye are not _____."
2. "Ye are _____ with a _____."
3. "Therefore _____ God in your _____ and in your _____ which are _____."

C. THE BASIS OF REGENERATION:

Look up: *II Corinthians 5:17.*

1. Christians are described as being a _____ creature.
2. Old things (*ways, etc.*) have _____.

D. THE BASIS OF GOD'S WORD.

Scriptures such as *II Corinthians 6:17* plainly command us to “come out from among them and be ye _____.”

SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD

- According to *John 15:19*, the believer is *IN* the world, but ought not to be _____ the world — because the Lord has chosen us _____ the world.
(Practical separation does **not** mean we are to enter into a *cloistered* life — or have nothing to do with anyone who is not saved.)
- According to *I John 2:15*, the believer is to “_____ the world, neither the _____ that are _____ the world.”
- When the Bible speaks of “the world” in this sense, it does **NOT** mean the creation of God, His material provisions, etc. It refers to the “world system,” which is the dominion of Satan.

I John 2:16 defines the world (in its bad sense) as:

1. The _____ of the _____.
 2. The _____ of the _____.
 3. The _____ of _____.
- I John 2:17* teaches that doing the _____ of God is the most important and most enduring thing we can do.
 - According to *James 4:4*, worldliness is spiritual A _____.
 - Romans 12:2* instructs us to be “not _____ to this world.”
 - James 1:27* defines pure religion (in part) as the Christian keeping himself _____ from the world.
 - A worldly Christian is one given over to pleasing the “flesh,” the old sinful nature. The works of the flesh are listed in *Galatians 5:19-21*. Make a note of them below:

SOME AREAS OF PERSONAL SEPARATION

A. THE THINGS I WILL ALLOW MY EYES TO SEE.

1. *Psalm 101:3* — “I will set _____ before mine eyes.”
 2. *Job 31:1,7*. Here we learn that Job made a C _____ with his eyes never to look upon evil.

This area of personal separation will make a difference in your life in the area of:

- **Attending Movies:**

Almost all Hollywood-style movies — even some rated “G” — spew out violence, adultery, drunkenness, witchcraft, and ungodly living. Christians ought not support this industry.

- **Watching Television:**

If you feel at liberty to own a TV set, the most important control is the “OFF” switch. The garbage that can be brought into your home, the laziness it promotes, and the influence it exerts over young minds requires real wisdom and firm control. Believers will be better off without one.

- **Books & Magazines:**

Filthy and pornographic publications should never be in the possession of a Christian. Don't pay any attention to women's magazines with their horoscopes, fashions, and "romance."

B. THE PLACES I WILL ALLOW MYSELF TO GO.

We are taught that the Lord Jesus may come at any moment, and that we should never be ashamed to meet him. (*I John 2:28*) There are many places where Christians ought not go — the dance hall, the liquor outlets, the gambling establishments, etc. [The Scriptural reasons why will be covered in Study #24.]

C. THE THINGS I WEAR.

The area of fashion is a difficult one for the Christian. This is because fashions go through cycles of extremes — from weird to conservative, from short-short to

ankle length, from modest to provocative, etc. The Bible does, however, give instruction in this area:

1. The fashion of the world “ _____ ” — *I Corinthians 7:31.*
2. The standard for Christian women is _____ apparel — *I Timothy 2:9.*
3. Bare thighs (as with mini-skirts and shorts) is equated with nakedness, according to *Isaiah 47:2,3.*
4. Short hair on women is a _____, according to *I Corinthians 11:6.* This passage goes on to explain that a woman's long hair is a token of her subjection to her husband and to God — *verse 15.*
5. Likewise, long hair on men is improper — *I Corinthians 11:14.*
6. **What about pants and slacks on women?**

Current western fashion dictates that women get around in pants as an acceptable means of dress. This is unwise for the following reasons:

- a. The Bible teaches that from the beginning God intended men and women to be distinctly separate. This is the basis of *Deuteronomy 22:5* in which the Lord forbids “unisex.” Women should dress like ladies; men should dress like men.
- b. God made men and women sexually different, but mutually attractive. Men are enticed by the sight of a woman's body (hence the use of scantily-clad females in advertising). When a woman wears pants (or any tight-fitting or low-cut clothing), the shape of her body is accentuated and thus provocative to a man. See: *Matthew 5:28* and *I Thessalonians 4:4-7.*
- c. The argument is often raised: “Slack-suits are women's clothing,” which may be correct from a world-fashion point of view. However, practice shows that when Christian women wear slacks, their teens want to wear tight jeans — it's hard to point out the differences.

D. THE THINGS I SAY.

1. *Ephesians 4:29* teaches against _____ speech.
2. *Ephesians 5:19* teaches us that a Christian's conversation ought to be Christ centered.
3. *Colossians 4:6* says our speech should always be with _____.

Note: *Every language has a list of curse words. Christians should not use them! Never be heard using the precious Name of the Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:9) or God in careless speech.*

Euphemisms (words used in place of curse words, such as "Geez," "By Jove," "Gosh," etc.) should be avoided also.

E. THE PEOPLE I ASSOCIATE WITH.

1. According to *Psalm 1:1*, a man is blessed when he walketh _____ in the _____ of the U _____. _____.
 2. According to *I Corinthians 5:11*, we are not to keep _____ with Christians who are worldly and backslidden (or under discipline).
- Note:** The Bible is not advocating the complete ostracizing of our wayward brethren.
3. According to *Proverbs 22:24*, we should steer clear of the _____ man.
 4. Read: *Proverbs 9:6; 13:20; 14:7; 23:9.* We should avoid close associations with _____. (Why? See: *Psalm 14:1; Proverbs 1:7; 12:15; 14:9.*)
 5. We should never stop to listen to a _____ -bearer. (*Proverbs 16:27,28; 18:8; 20:19; 26:20-22; II Thessalonians 3:11; I Timothy 5:13*) The best way to handle a gossip is to say something like: "Just a moment. Let's both go to the person you are talking about, and we'll hear what you have to say together!"

SEPARATION IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIPS

- A. *II Corinthians 6:14* warns the Christian against being unequally _____ together with _____.
- B. The greatest application of this principle is in the area of marriage. It is both wrong and dangerous for a young person who is a Christian to date an unsaved person. It is a sin for a Christian to marry a non-Christian.

Young Person — If you are planning to get married, first pray and ask God to give you the partner of His choice; then look for God's answer from your parents and in your own church (or other Baptist churches of like faith and order).

SEPARATION IN RELIGIOUS MATTERS

We are living in an ecumenical age where all religions and branches of Christendom are coming together in religious unity.

When Bible-believing Baptists refuse to have any part with the World Council of Churches, or fellowship with non-Baptist religious groups, or even work together with

other Baptists, they are often called “narrow-minded,” “unloving,” “breakaways,” and “extremists,” etc.

- A. The Bible says in *Ephesians 5:11* we are to have:

_____ with the _____ works of darkness.

- B. *Amos 3:3* asks, “Can two walk together except they be _____?”
- C. *II John 9,10* states that we are to have nothing to do with those who abide not in the doctrine of _____.
- D. According to *Romans 16:17*, we are to _____ those which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the _____ which we have learned, and _____ them.

THREE EXCUSES CHRISTIANS OFTEN USE FOR NOT LIVING SEPARATED LIVES

A. OTHER CHRISTIANS DON'T HAVE YOUR STANDARDS.

It is true that many Christians see nothing wrong with rock music, worldly fashions, questionable amusements, etc. — but that doesn't make them right. We need to study the Bible and form Bible-based convictions; then live by them.

Read: *James 4:17*.

B. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO WIN SOULS, AND TO DO THIS I HAVE TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE LOST.

No! You need to be acceptable to your Lord. It is NEVER right to do wrong in order to accomplish a right!

I Thessalonians 5:22 says, “ _____ from _____ _____ of evil.

C. I HAVE LIBERTY IN CHRIST.

1. True, but liberty is *NOT* license. Liberty is the freedom to do *RIGHT* — never the freedom to do anything!
2. We are not to use our liberty as an occasion to the _____ — *Galatians 5:13*.
3. Our liberty is not to be used as an excuse for enslaving habits.

I Corinthians 6:12 says we ought not be brought under the _____ of any.

4. Our liberty is restricted to the things that E _____ — *I Corinthians 10:23.*
5. Liberty is not an excuse for hiding sin. It is not to be a _____ of _____ — *I Peter 2:16.*
6. Our Christian liberty must never be a _____ to a weaker Christian — *I Corinthians 8:9.*

PRINCIPLES FOR LIVING A SEPARATED LIFE

There are many particular activities not named specifically in the Bible — such as smoking, drugs, mixed swimming, etc. Here are some principles or guidelines you can use when faced with a questionable practice:

A. IS IT SCRIPTURAL?

Does the Word of God have anything directly to say on the matter? Read: *Psalm 119:15,105.*

B. CAN I DO THIS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD?

Write out *Colossians 3:17.* _____

C. WILL OTHERS BE HINDERED IN THEIR SALVATION OR SPIRITUAL GROWTH BY WHAT I DO?

Read: *Romans 14:21.*

D. DO I HAVE SOME DOUBTS ABOUT IT?

An old saying: “When in doubt — don’t!”

Romans 14:22,23 defines doubt is a lack of faith, which is _____. .

E. WOULD WHAT I WANT TO DO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE LORD?

Read: *Ephesians 5:10.*

Always ask the questions: **“Can I take the Lord Jesus there?” “Would He join in with me?” “Would He do it?”** This will solve most of your problems.

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *I Thessalonians 5:22.*

T Tithing and Stewardship

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

This lesson goes right to the heart of your relationship with God. Many Christians are “found out” here because their lives are motivated by *SELF* rather than the *SPIRIT* of God.

Salvation is a free gift from God! Eternal security is a sure promise of God! In other words, we *DO NOTHING* to get saved or remain saved. Praise God for this!

When we are born again, we are adopted into the family of God. We are His children, and He is our Heavenly Father. In any family the children have responsibilities, and in this study you are going to learn about **your** own responsibilities as a member of God’s family.

PRINCIPLES OF STEWARDSHIP

Before you progress into this lesson, it is absolutely vital that you see and understand these principles:

- A. Read: *Psalm 24:1.* “The earth is the _____.”
Read: *Haggai 2:8.* “The _____ is mine, and the _____.”
Read: *Exodus 19:5.* “...for all the _____ is _____.”

PRINCIPLE #1: EVERYTHING BELONGS TO _____

- B. Read: *Genesis:39:1-6.*
1. Who was the master in this story? _____
 2. Who was the servant in this story? _____
 3. According to *verse 4*, what was Joseph made? _____
 4. According to *verse 4*, what was put into Joseph’s hand? _____

**PRINCIPLE #2: STEWARDSHIP IS THE MANAGEMENT
OF THE AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER.**

C. Read: *Matthew 25:14,15.*

To whom did the Lord entrust His wealth? _____

PRINCIPLE #3: _____ CHRISTIAN IS A STEWARD.

D. Read: *I Corinthians 4:2.*

**PRINCIPLE #4 : IT IS REQUIRED OF STEWARDS THAT
THEY BE _____.**

AREAS OF STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is often misunderstood — many think it relates only to **MONEY**. Money is **part** of God's plan for stewardship, and it is important enough to be considered in some detail later, but it is only part of God's overall plan for you.

Before looking at some of the areas requiring our stewardship, write out the four principles you have just studied:

#1:

#2:

#3:

#4:

Every good thing we have is called a _____ which comes from God —*James 1:17*. As stewards, you and I are responsible to God in the use of such things. Below are some of the more obvious areas over which we have been made stewards:

A. Stewardship Of TIME.

1. According to *Ephesians 5:16*, we are to _____ the time. This means to make every minute count for God.

2. According to *James 4:14*, our lifetime on this earth is compared to a V _____ (in the light of eternity).
3. From reading *Romans 13:11,12*, what kind of Christian do you think the Lord wants you to be? _____
4. According to *II Timothy 2:4a*, what is one of the greatest stumblingblocks for Christians in the management of God-given time? _____
5. According to *Hebrews 10:25*, what is one area in which we are to give back to God the time He gives to us? _____
6. How much time do you really give to God??

Consider the opportunities presented in our Church:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunday School	1 hour
<input type="checkbox"/>	Morning Preaching	1 hour
<input type="checkbox"/>	Training Hour	1 hour
<input type="checkbox"/>	Evening Preaching	1½ hours
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mid-week Prayer	1½ hours
<input type="checkbox"/>	Visitation	2 hour

TOTAL : 8 hours minimum

(8 hours per week is less than 5% of the total time God gives us. It is about 7% of our total hours awake, and if we have a 40-hour-a-week job, it is about 10% of our “available” time.)

B. Stewardship Of Our TALENTS.

Read *Matthew 25:14-30*. This is a parable the Lord Jesus told to teach us about stewardship.

1. What did the Lord give to His servants? T _____.
(*In Bible days this was an expensive coin, but today it refers to natural God-given abilities.*)
2. Did every servant receive a talent? _____
3. Did every servant receive the same number of talents? _____
4. What was the basis of the Lord’s dispensing of responsibility to His servants? See: *verse 15*.
“...each man according to his several _____.”
5. According to *verse 19*, what did the Lord do when He came back? _____

6. What did the Lord say to those who had been good stewards? _____

7. Answer the following questions as either TRUE (T) or FALSE (F):

T	F
a. I have been given at least one talent.	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. I am to use my talent(s) for Christ.	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. I will not have to give an account to the Lord for my talents.	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. If I don't use it, I'll lose it.	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. My major concern should be to see how many talents I have been given.	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Many Christians throw up their hands and say, "*I CAN'T do anything for the Lord in my Church!*" What does *Philippians 4:13* have to say about such an attitude? _____

9. Read: *I Corinthians 12:12-27*. This passage likens our Church to a "body," calling it the "**Body of Christ**." Each individual member is like a part of the human body.

- a. We cannot all be the same thing (*verse 19*).
- b. God has put you into this church for a definite function (*verse 18*).
- c. Every member of our Church is N_____ (*verse 22*).

C. Stewardship Of Our TESTIMONY.

1. According to *Philippians 2:15e*, we are to "shine as _____ in the world."
2. According to *Matthew 5:14-16*, good stewardship involves _____
3. According to *1 Peter 3:15*, we are to "be _____ always to give an _____ to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you..."

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE

The same principles of stewardship which apply to our time, talents, and testimony are given for the management of our MONEY.

ALL the money you have and receive IS FROM GOD, and IS GOD'S.

Look up: *Deuteronomy 8:18*. Even though we may earn our money through the labor we put forth, this verse tells us it is the _____ thy ____ Who gives us power (ability) to get it.

The stewardship of God's money is usually referred to in the Bible as:

TITHES and OFFERINGS

The following Scriptures will teach you what the Bible says concerning tithes and offerings:

A. Look up and compare *Genesis 14:20* with *Hebrews 7:2*. What is a tithe? _____

B. What would be a tithe from \$200.00 ? _____

C. Is the practice of tithing for New Testament Christians?

1. Some people (usually those who do not want to tithe) say tithing was an Old Testament practice for Jews only. It was given under the Law; and the Christian is not under the Law, but under Grace — *Romans 6:14b*. However, look at the following Scriptures:

A _____ Commenced it — *Genesis 14:18-20*

J _____ Continued it — *Genesis 28:20-22*

M _____ Confirmed it — *Leviticus 27:30*

M _____ Commanded it — *Malachi 3:10*

J _____ Commended it — *Matthew 23:23*

G _____ Commissioned (ordained) it — *1 Corinthians 9:14*

P _____ Conformed it — *1 Corinthians 16:2*

2. A study of these Scriptures shows that tithing is a **SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLE**. Abraham and Jacob tithed 500 years *BEFORE* the Law was instituted. Moses, Malachi, and Jesus spoke of tithing *UNDER* the period of the Law. The Apostle Paul explained tithing *AFTER* the Law.

Christians ought to tithe!

D. How should Christians practice tithing?

1. Look up: *II Corinthians 5:14*. Under the Law tithing was commanded. Under Grace, we do not tithe legalistically, but because we love the Lord. "For the _____ of Christ _____ us..."
2. Do you think God would ask less love, less faith, and less cheerful giving from a New Testament Christian than from a Jew under the Law? Tithing, for the Christian, is not a matter of bondage.

E. Where should a Christian place his or her tithe?

1. According to *Malachi 3:10*, the tithes were to be brought into the _____. For the Old Testament Jews, this storehouse was the treasury of the Temple at Jerusalem.
2. According to *Acts 4:35,37* and *Acts 5:2*, the Christians brought their tithes and offerings to the A _____ ' F _____ .
3. According to *I Corinthians 16:2*, we are to lay up in S _____ our giving. Subsequent verses show this storehouse was the church at Corinth, to whom the epistle was initially addressed.
4. Today the storehouse for your tithe is your CHURCH. It is not God's plan for you to give your tithe wherever you decide.

F. Why are we to place our tithe into our Church?

1. *Malachi 3:10* — "...that there may be _____ in my _____. The tithes and offerings were used for the temple and the temple ministry (i.e., the priests, etc.).
2. Read: *I Corinthians 9:13,14*. Verse 13 relates to the Old Testament practice, and verse 14 carries this principle over to New Testament churches. Your tithes and offerings are for the support, upkeep, and ministry of your church. Tithes should **never** be designated — they are to be left free for use as the church body decides.

G. What does God call us if we refuse to tithe?

Malachi 3:8. _____

H. What Is The Promise God Gives To Those Who Faithfully Tithe? *Malachi 3:10b*

I. Whose Is The Tithe?

Leviticus 27:30. The _____, .

Ten percent of your gross income IS NOT YOURS — it belongs to God.

J. How Can I Please My Lord When Tithing?

1. *Matthew 6:33* — Give the Lord _____ place in everything.

2. *Proverbs 3:9* — Honor the Lord with my _____ -fruits.

(This means to set aside the tithe first — before all other bills and expenses are paid. If you leave the tithe until last, God usually misses out.)

3. *I Corinthians 16:2* — Bring the tithe on the _____ day.

WHAT ABOUT AN “OFFERING”?



Many people would feel they have done God a great favor just by tithing! But we do not GIVE the tithe — it's not ours to give. Only after we have faithfully tithed can we give an offering unto the Lord.

I. *Malachi 3:8* speaks of “tithes AND _____.”

II. Tithing requires an obedient heart, but giving requires a:

_____ heart — *Exodus 35:5*.

III. Study: Ezra 1:4; 3:5; 7:16; 8:28.

The Bible refers to offerings as _____ - _____ offerings.

IV. According to *II Corinthians 8:5*, the people in the churches of Macedonia first _____ to the Lord.

V. According to *II Corinthians 9:7*, what kind of giver does God love? _____

VI. If we tithe and also give an offering, will the Lord allow us to suffer and go without the necessities of life? (*II Corinthians 9:8*) _____

Having studied the Word of God concerning the subject of Tithes and Offerings, and realizing it is God's perfect will for me to obey Him by tithing systematically on my income, I now resolve to make tithing a practice in my life — and to give an offering to the Lord as He speaks to my heart.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *Luke 6:38*.

U Unity

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

We hear a lot of talk about *UNITY* today.

On the world's political scene we have in place the *UNITED NATIONS* organization. Many of the world's leaders are advocating and actively promoting a "*ONE WORLD*" global system — involving the monetary system, the judicial system, and even a common language.

More significantly there is the present-day **Ecumenical Movement** with its goal of uniting Christendom (professing Christians and 'churches') under the banner of a *ONE-WORLD RELIGION*.

Because there is so much talk about Christian unity these days, and because our Church is **not** involved at all in the ecumenical movement, the purpose of this study is to teach you what the **BIBLE** has to say about unity — the true and the false.

MAN'S FIRST ATTEMPT AT "UNITY"

Turn in your Bible to *Genesis 11*. Here you will read about events which took place soon after the great world-wide flood of Noah's day — around 2,300 B.C.

- A. According to *Genesis 9:1*, God's command to Noah and his sons was to replenish the _____.
- B. According to *Genesis 11:2*, instead of obeying God, the descendants of Noah remained in one place called the Plain of _____.
- C. According to *Genesis 11:1*, the earth was of ONE _____ and of ONE _____. (i.e., they were all talking about one thing — unity!). See: *Genesis 11:4f*.
- D. According to *Genesis 11:4*, the inhabitants of the world decided to build two things.
 1. A _____ : an attempt to bring about *political* unity.
 2. A _____ : an attempt to achieve *religious* unity.

Archæologists have identified the Tower of Babel as a “ziggurat” — a tower used for pagan religious purposes.

E. According to *Genesis 11:5-8*, would you say the Lord God was pleased with man’s attempt to bring about a “one-world” situation? _____

F. What was the name given to this attempt? (*Genesis 11:9*.) _____.

MAN’S FINAL ATTEMPT AT “UNITY”

In the last book of the Bible — the Book of *The Revelation* — Chapters 6 through 19 cover future events which will take place upon the earth after the Rapture, and over the seven-year period of Tribulation known as Daniel’s 70TH Week.

Without going into a detailed study of Bible prophecy, it becomes apparent that in these godless days there will arise some form of unity.

A. According to *Revelation 13:7*, the “Beast” (the Antichrist) will exercise political power over ALL kindreds and tongues and _____.

B. According to *Revelation 14:8*, the center of this political unity is called _____.

C. According to *Revelation 17:1*, the great “one-world” religious system of the last days is referred to as the _____.

(We identify this as a religious system because of *Revelation 2:20-22* and because by way of contrast the Lord’s true churches are likened to “pure, chaste virgins,” *II Corinthians 11:2*; *Ephesians 5:25-27*; *Revelation 19:7,8*.)

D. God identifies this one-world “church of the Antichrist” as M _____, B _____ — *Revelation 17:5*.

E. According to *Revelation 17:15*, this religious system sits upon “peoples, and multitudes, and _____, and tongues.” It is truly world-wide.

F. According to *Revelation 18:2-8*, what is the end of this final, Satan-inspired attempt at UNITY? _____

TRUE UNITY Versus FALSE UNITY.

- A. Turn in your Bible to *Ephesians 4*. This is the “**Unity Chapter**” of the Word of God and deals with true unity as opposed to the false unity proposed by Satan.

- B. We hear so much in religious circles today about the need for a “spirit of unity.” In marked contrast, *Ephesians 4:3* commands us to keep the “_____.”

Before we look at this chapter in some detail, let's re-establish some Bible principles of separation which relate to unity.

1. Amos 3:3 — “Can two walk together except they be _____?”
 2. Ephesians 5:11 — “Have _____ with the unfruitful works of darkness.”
 3. II Corinthians 6:14 — “Be ye not _____ yoked together with unbelievers.”

- C. Many 'churches' and religious groups are affiliated, or in some other way associated with the **World Council of Churches** (W.C.C.), the **National Council of Churches** (N.C.C.), other inter-faith groups, and/or local city-wide unity groups.

The chart below contrasts the differences between true Bible-based unity and these unscriptural associations:

TRUE UNITY	vs	FALSE UNITY
<p>ONE _____</p> <p><i>(Ephesians 4:4)</i></p> <p>According to <i>Colossians 1:18a</i>, this “body” is a New Testament</p> <p>_____</p> <p>There is only ONE kind of Church — the New Testament kind!!</p>	vs	<p>The ecumenical movement embraces all major Protestant denominations and Eastern Orthodox groups, and engage in active dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church and most other major world (“non-Christian”) religions.</p> <p>Many Baptists have fallen for the unscriptural “mystical (mythical) invisible, universal, body of Christ ‘Church’” concept which teaches there are up to <i>three</i> ‘Churches’!</p>

<p>ONE _____ <i>(Ephesians 4:4)</i></p> <p>This refers to the _____ _____ <i>I Thessalonians</i> 4:8, Who is also referred to as the _____ of _____ in <i>John 16:13</i> and <i>I John 4:6</i>. He will never mix together truth and error.</p>	<p>VS</p> <p>Departure from the Word of God is giving heed to seducing _____ <i>I Timothy 4:1</i>. Babylon will be the hold of every foul _____ <i>Revelation</i> 18:2.</p> <p>Believe not _____ _____ <i>I John 4:1</i>.</p> <p>The great “ecumenical spirit” of today is the Charismatic Movement!</p>
<p>ONE _____ <i>(Ephesians 4:4)</i></p> <p>The one hope (for the believer and this world) is the glorious _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ. (<i>Titus</i> 2:13)</p>	<p>VS</p> <p>The World Council of Churches espouses its “mission” of the social Gospel. It seeks to bring about the utopian dream-society through liberation theology and Marxist revolution.</p> <p>The W.C.C. seeks to fulfill <i>Revelation 21:1</i> through its own agency.</p>
<p>ONE _____ <i>(Ephesians 4:5)</i></p> <p><i>This refers to</i> _____ _____ according to <i>Philippians 2:11</i></p>	<p>VS</p> <p>The Church of Rome seeks to unite all Christendom under the lordship of the Pope!</p>
<p>ONE _____ <i>(Ephesians 4:5)</i></p> <p><i>Jude 3</i> tells us this faith was once _____ _____ unto the saints. It is the complete body of doctrine taught in the Word of God.</p>	<p>VS</p> <p>The official “Statement of Faith” of the World Council of Churches is short and very general — it has to be, in order to accommodate such a wide spectrum of beliefs held by the various denominational constituents.</p> <p>Because this organization rejects the Bible as its absolute final authority in all matters of faith, we can understand why this is the case.</p>

ONE

(Ephesians 4:5)

According to *Matthew 28:19*, this is the immersion of a believer in water to set forth symbolically the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ — an ordinance given to the Lord's churches to keep.

VS

The variety of so-called "baptisms" practiced among the member denominations of the ecumenical community is staggering, and presents a real difficulty for the movement in achieving unity.

They practice sprinkling, pouring, immersion, and no baptism — on infants, adults, believers, unbelievers, and the dead — for salvation, with salvation, and after salvation!!

Many 'Baptists' are failing to hold the line by accepting unscripturally baptized people into membership.

ONE

(Ephesians 4:6)

This is the Lord God Almighty of the Bible, Who manifests Himself as three Persons — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

See: *Deuteronomy 6:4; I John 5:7*

VS

A whole lot of people involved in this ecumenical unity believe in a DIFFERENT GOD than the God of the Bible.

There are even Atheists within the ecumenical system — those who actually deny the reality of God. There are Unitarians — those who deny that Jesus is God. There are Universalists — those who believe God is the Father of all men (saved and unsaved), and that all will be saved anyway.

Don't be fooled by their religious talk and terminology.

Someone said, "There is a difference between church union and church unity. You can tie a dog's tail and a cat's tail together, then toss them over a clothes line. You may have union, but you certainly won't have unity."

- **Spurgeon said: "Unity at the expense of Truth is treason."**
- **Criswell said: "Ecumenicity is another name for Death to our Baptist faith."**

THE UNITY WE NEED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT

- A. Those involved in the ecumenical movement will often quote *John 17:21* as a “proof text” that such a movement is of God. (This particular chapter in John is the **real** Lord’s prayer.)

1. Do you think God would have answered this prayer of His Son — or is it up to man to answer it? _____
2. Read carefully: *John 17:21-23* and check the real desire of the Lord’s prayer.
 - Union of all Christians, no matter what their beliefs or denomination.
 - Unity between members within each particular church.

3. To whom was the Epistle of *I Corinthians* initially addressed?
(See: *I Corinthians 1:2*.)

The _____ at Corinth.

4. What was a real problem in this church? — *I Corinthians 11:18*.

D _____.

5. God’s will for the church at Corinth (and every other New Testament Baptist church) is that there be:

NO _____ in the body. — *I Corinthians 12:25*.

6. Look up the word “schism” in a dictionary. Write down the definition.
-

7. What is the Lord’s desire concerning all the members within our church?
(See: *Ephesians 4:13*.)

That we **all** come in the _____ of the _____.

B. Real Church Unity.

1. It is significant to note that both *Ephesians 4:16* and *I Corinthians 12:12-27* liken our church to a human body, calling it the “Body of Christ.”
2. *Ephesians 4:16* sees the **goal** of our church to have every member working together just as a fit athlete has every joint and muscle toned to perfection.

3. *I Corinthians 12:26* sees the **danger** of our Church having suffering members — thus causing the work of the Lord to be “hamstrung.”
4. True church unity is not having a group of “cloned” Christians — all thinking the same, doing the same, liking the same things, etc. — it means having a spiritually fit body with **EVERY** member (yes, you too!) matured, ministering, and multiplying.

C. The AID To Church Unity.

According to *Ephesians 4:11,12*, the Lord gives to the churches *apostles* and *prophets* (ministries which ceased with the completion of the Word of God) and

E _____ (church-planters, missionaries)

P _____ and T _____

D. The ATTITUDE For Church Unity.

List the godly attitudes needed in all members of our Church — *Ephesians 4:2,32*:

READING ASSIGNMENT:

Read: *John Chapter 17.*

MEMORIZATION:

Try and commit to memory: *Psalm 133:1.*

PERSONAL NOTES & QUESTIONS TO ASK

V Victory

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

The greatest single need in the lives of the majority of Christians is that of VICTORY! Not simply a victory here and there, but the experiencing of consistent, daily, victorious living. Sadly, so many believers are living defeated lives.

You have been saved for some time now. You have been working through these lessons for many weeks. Ask yourself this question — “*Am I living victoriously?*” Please be honest with yourself before God.

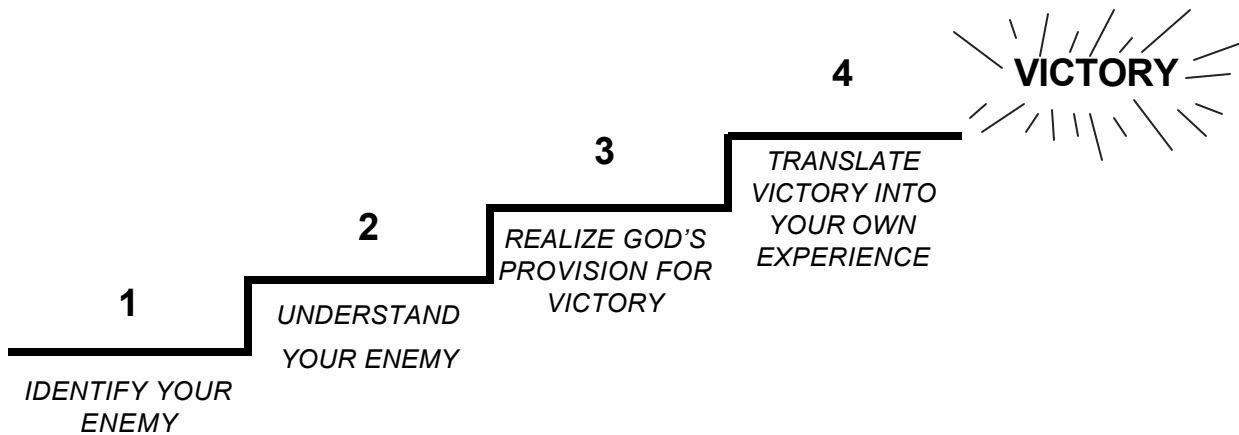
If you are defeated, or if your life consists of a roller coaster path of spiritual “ups and downs,” this lesson will be of immense value to you. But studying it will not be enough — it *must* be **applied!**

DOES GOD WANT HIS CHILDREN TO HAVE VICTORY?

- A. From *John 10:10b* I see the Lord wants me to have an A _____ life.
- B. From *Psalm 16:11* I see the Lord intends me to experience F _____ of J ____.
- C. According to *John 8:31,32*, I see the Lord intends the truth (His Word) not only to *make* me His disciple (salvation), but also to M ____ me F _____.
This freedom from sin does not mean the absence of sin — but as *Romans 6:14* says, freedom from the power of sin.
- D. Does God want me to experience a life of victory? _____

STEPS TO VICTORY IN YOUR LIFE

- A. To enable you to enjoy the victorious life the following steps, shown on the diagram below, need to be understood:



- B. The Bible teaches there are *THREE* enemies you will face as a child of God — each seeking to rob you of the joy of the Lord.

These three enemies are the:

💣 **WORLD** 💣 **FLESH** 💣 **DEVIL**

We will now take each one of these enemies and apply the four steps to victory.

HOW TO HAVE VICTORY OVER THE “WORLD”

A. IDENTIFY YOUR ENEMY.

When the Bible speaks of the “world” in the context of opposition to you, it is **not** referring to God’s creation — but to the “*world system*” which is organized on selfish principles, improper motives, ungodly standards, and is opposed to the things of God.

1. Jesus said His _____ is not of this _____ — *John 18:36*.
2. Jesus said the world system would _____ the Christian as it did Him — *John 15:18*.
3. Jesus also said the believer is not _____ the _____ — *John 15:19*.

This does not mean we are to shut ourselves away from any worldly contact. We are *IN* the world, but not *OF* the world.

4. According to *James 4:4*, for a Christian to be worldly only brings _____ with God.
5. In the light of these Scriptures, do you think there is any common ground between God and the world upon which the believer may stand?
_____ *See: Matthew 6:24.*

6. According to *II Timothy 4:10*, what happens to a Christian when he or she is defeated by the world? _____

B. UNDERSTAND YOUR ENEMY.

1. How does the “world” attack the Christian? Answer: It *ENTICES* the Christian away from the Lord.
2. Look up *I John 2:15-17*. According to *verse 16*, what are three ways the world will attempt to entice you?
 - a. The _____ of the _____.
 - b. The _____ of the _____.
 - c. The _____ of _____.
3. According to *verse 15*, what is it the “world” seeks to gain from you? My _____.

C. REALIZE GOD’S PROVISION FOR VICTORY.

1. Look up *John 16:33*. What did Jesus say to His disciples?
“Be of _____, I have _____ the world.”
2. The Lord Jesus Christ said He has won the victory for you!

D. TRANSLATE CHRIST’S VICTORY INTO YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE.

It’s all very well to see that the Lord Jesus won the victory over the world, but you and I need to appropriate this victory into our own lives so that we too can be overcomers.

Here’s how:

1. Acknowledge you are on the victory side.
 - a. *I John 5:5* — Who is He that overcometh the world?
_____ that Jesus is the _____.
 - b. Are you a believer on the Lord Jesus Christ? _____
2. Claim your victory by FAITH.
 - a. *I John 5:4* — “...and this is the victory that overcometh the _____, even our _____.”
 - b. What is faith? Faith is simply believing what God says in His Word and acting upon it — total reliance upon God.

3. Do the will of God always.

“The world _____ away: but he that doeth the _____ of _____ abideth _____” —*I John 2:17.*

4. Set your affections on heavenly things.

If you think about worldly things, wrong things, etc., you will be easily enticed.

- a. *Colossians 3:1* — “Seek those things which are _____.”
- b. *Colossians 3:2* — “Set your _____ on things above.”
- c. *Matthew 6:21* — “For where your _____ is, there will your _____ be also.”

HOW TO HAVE VICTORY OVER THE “FLESH”

A. IDENTIFY YOUR ENEMY.

1. When the Bible speaks of the “flesh” in the context of opposition to you, it is **not** referring to your literal body — but to the old sin nature, the “*old man*,” the corrupt Adamic nature which belongs to all men.
 - a. According to *II Peter 1:4b*, when you were saved, you were made a _____ of the _____ nature. However, the old sin nature was *NOT* removed.
 - b. In the flesh (your old nature) dwelleth _____ — *Romans 7:18.*
2. As a Christian, you have **TWO NATURES** — the **flesh** and the **spirit** — the **old** and the **new** — the **sinful** and the **divine**.

B. UNDERSTAND YOUR ENEMY.

How does the “flesh” attack the Christian? Answer: It produces **CONFLICT** and inner turmoil. It cooperates with the world and the Devil.

1. According to *Romans 7:21*, what did the Apostle Paul discover? _____
2. How does *Galatians 5:17* describe this conflict? _____
3. According to *Romans 7:23*, where does this conflict take place?
In the **M _____**.

C. REALIZE GOD'S PROVISION FOR YOUR VICTORY.

1. What was Paul's question in *Romans 7:24*?

“Who shall _____ me... ?”

2. Write out the answer to Paul's question in *Romans 7:25a*. “I _____ Lord.”

The Lord Jesus Christ has won the victory for you.

D. TRANSLATE CHRIST'S VICTORY INTO YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE.

1. *Galatians 5:16* — “_____ in the _____.”

2. *II Corinthians 5:7* — “For we walk by _____.”

These Scriptures show the importance of walking constantly with the Lord in His Word.

3. *Romans 13:14* — “But _____ the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not _____ for the _____ to fulfill the lusts thereof.”

This verse teaches you to **“blockade the flesh”** — don't feed it.

4. Recognize your position in Christ.

a. My old nature (flesh) has been C _____ — *Galatians 5:24*.

b. *Galatians 2:20* — “I am _____ with Christ...”

c. *Romans 6:6* — My old man is _____ with Christ.

This is a **fact**. Your old Adamic nature was dealt a death blow when it was crucified with Christ — but crucifixion is a slow and painful death, and what you experience in the inner conflict is a doomed enemy still trying to raise its ugly head and control your life.

5. Reckon this fact into reality each day of your life. Write out *Romans 6:11*.

6. According to *I Peter 2:11*, you are to _____ from fleshly lusts.

HOW TO HAVE VICTORY OVER THE “DEVIL”

A. IDENTIFY YOUR ENEMY.

1. Before going on, review Study #5 which deals in more detail with Satan.
2. According to *I Peter 5:8*, the Devil is your _____.

B. UNDERSTAND YOUR ENEMY.

How does Satan attack the Christian? Answer: He uses a number of *DEVICES* to attack us. See: *II Corinthians 2:11*.

1. He uses T _____ TATION — *I Thessalonians 3:5*. Satan is a master at using the world to entice you.
2. He uses W _____ — *Ephesians 6:11b*. This means ‘crafty deception.’
3. He uses P _____ — *ITimothy 3:6*. Satan will appeal to the flesh.
4. He uses discouragement. See: *Deuteronomy 1:21,28*.
5. He uses F _____ — of opposition — *Ephesians 6:16*.

C. REALIZE GOD’S PROVISION FOR YOUR VICTORY.

1. What was the reason the Lord Jesus Christ came? *I John 3:8b* _____

2. How did the Lord Jesus defeat Satan? *Hebrews 2:14*.

D. TRANSLATE CHRIST’S VICTORY INTO YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE.

1. Remember you are on the winning side — *I John 4:4*. “Greater is he that is _____, than he that is in the _____.”
2. According to *I John 2:14*, we overcome the Wicked One when the _____ of _____ abides in us.
3. You are to put on the _____ — of God — *Ephesians 6:13*.
4. List the *DEFENSIVE* items of this spiritual armor as listed in *Ephesians 6:14-18*.

5. What is the part of this armor of God that is *OFFENSIVE*; i.e., with which we may fight? _____
6. According to *James 4:7*, we are to _____ Satan.
7. According to *Ephesians 4:27*, we are to give *NO* _____ to the Devil.

THE PROMISE OF VICTORY

- A. *Romans 8:37* — “In _____ these things we are **more** than _____.”
- B. *I Corinthians 15:57* — “But thanks be to God which _____ us the _____.”
- C. *II Corinthians 2:14* — “Now thanks be unto God, which _____ causeth us to _____.”
- D. *Philippians 4:13* — “I _____ do _____ things...”

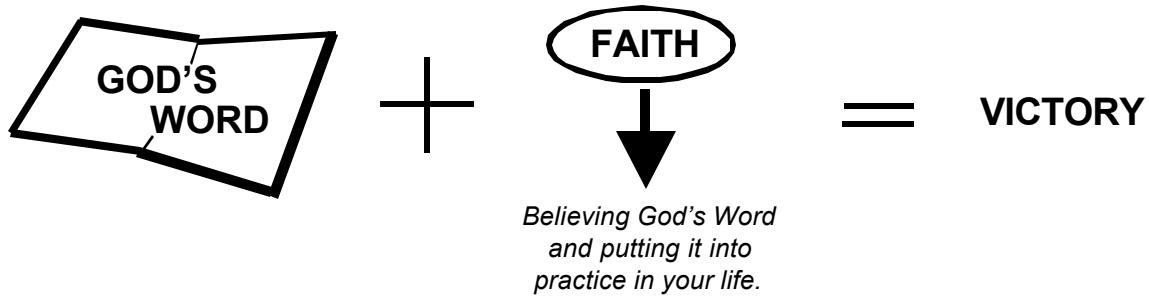
THE PERSON OF VICTORY

- A. *Romans 8:37* — “...through _____ that loved us.”
- B. *I Corinthians 15:57* — “...through our _____.”
- C. *II Corinthians 2:14* — “...in _____.”
- D. *Philippians 4:13* — “...through _____ which _____ me.”

THE PATH OF VICTORY

Did you notice??

As you studied the *Steps to Victory* over the **World**, the **Flesh**, and the **Devil**, there was a common theme in translating victory into your own experience:



A. According to *Psalm 119:9,11*, what will hiding God's Word in your heart do for you? _____

B. According to *Matthew 26:41*, what two things should we do to avoid falling into temptation?
_____ and _____

MEMORIZATION:

Try and commit to memory: *I Corinthians 10:13*.

W Witnessing

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

Without any doubt, the greatest and most notable difference between apostolic New Testament Christianity and present-day New Testament Christianity is **witnessing!** The early churches were **most** noted for their witnessing of Christ — many 20TH Century churches are characterized by their **lack** of witness.

In this lesson you will learn that it is God's will for you to witness and be a soul winner for Him. You will also learn **how** to be a soul winner; that is, how to lead someone to Christ.

All the other lessons you have studied and learned through this series will have been greatly diminished in value if your life does not bear fruit.

WHAT DOES “WITNESSING” MEAN?

- A. A witness in a courtroom trial is expected to tell what he knows, what he has seen, or what he has heard. He cannot tell what others have said — he must relate his own personal experience in his own words.

Witnessing for the Lord Jesus Christ is the same. It is **YOU** telling in **YOUR** own words what happened to **YOU**.

- B. Read the story of how Jesus healed the blind man in *John 9:1-38*.

1. When questioned by others, do you think this man was able to give a detailed explanation of what had happened? _____

2. What was this man able to say? See: *John 9:25b*. “One thing I know, _____.”

- C. Read the story of how Jesus won a woman to Himself in *John 4:5-30*. What was the first thing this woman did when she realized she had actually met Christ? (*verses 28-30*) _____

ARE “WITNESSING” AND “SOUL WINNING” THE SAME THING?

- A. You will often hear these two words used — they are both Bible words.
 - 1. WITNESSING = relating your own personal experience of salvation.
 - 2. SOUL WINNING = using your witness and the Word of God to bring others to salvation.

- B. You cannot separate witnessing and soul winning.
 - 1. *John 15:8* — “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye _____
_____. _____ .”
 - 2. *Proverbs 11:30* — “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that
_____ is _____ .”

WHY SHOULD YOU BE A WITNESS AND A SOUL WINNER?

Here are nine Bible reasons why YOU should endeavor to tell others of Christ and seek to win them for Him .

You ought to win souls because:

A. IT IS A COMMAND.

Look up: *Acts 1:8.* “...and ye _____ be witnesses...”

B. IT IS A DUTY.

Look up: *Matthew 4:19.* “F _____ Me, and I will make you
_____ of _____. ”

C. IT IS A DEBT.

Look up: *Romans 1:14.*

- 1. Paul said, “I am _____ ...”
- 2. The gift of salvation is free, but a **moral debt** exists for us to tell others.

D. IT IS A RESPONSIBILITY.

Look up: *Ezekiel 3:17,18.*

- 1. In a real sense, God has made you a W _____ .

2. The duty of a watchman is to W _____ those in danger.
3. When we fail to tell others of Christ:
 - a. The wicked man shall die in his _____.
 - b. God will require his _____ at your hand.

E. IT IS A CALLING.

Look up: *II Corinthians 5:20.*

1. Each believer is called an _____ for _____.
2. This is a very important position to be entrusted with.

F. THERE IS A NEED.

Look up: *Mark 8:36.* Why is soul winning so important? _____

G. THERE IS A RECKONING.

Read: *II Corinthians 5:10,11a.*

1. One day you will stand before your Lord at the _____ . (This is a judgment of **how** you served the Lord.)
2. What was Paul's motivation for persuading men? _____

H. IT IS CARING.

1. So much of today's caring centers on the physical needs of man. Real, godly caring focuses on the **eternal** needs of a man.
2. Look up: *Psalm 142:4.* This verse expresses a real tragedy — "...no man _____ for my _____."

I. IT BRINGS JOY.

1. Look up: *Acts 8:5,8,35,39.* There is JOY on the part of _____.
2. Look up: *Luke 15:7,10.* There is JOY on the part of _____.
3. Look up: *Psalm 126:5,6.* There is JOY on the part of _____.

IS WITNESSING THE DUTY OF EVERY CHRISTIAN?

- A. Some people have it in their minds that witnessing and soul winning are to be the duty of the pastor, the deacons, the Sunday School teachers, or those with the “gift of gab.”

- B. The Bible clearly shows it is for *EVERY* Christian to be a witness.
 1. *Psalm 107:2* — “Let the _____ of the Lord _____.”

 2. *Acts 8:4* — “Therefore _____ that were scattered abroad everywhere _____ the _____.”

 3. Look in *Acts 8:1*. Did this group of people referred to in *verse 4* include the apostles (pastors)? _____

HOW OFTEN SHOULD YOU WITNESS?

According to *Acts 5:42* and *Acts 20:31*, the apostolic New Testament Christians testified of Jesus Christ _____.

WHAT ARE GOD'S REQUIREMENTS FOR YOU TO BE A WITNESS FOR CHRIST?

A. **GOD REQUIRES YOU TO HAVE A BURDEN FOR SOULS.**

Read: *Esther 8:6; Romans 9:1-3; and Romans 10:1.*

As you read these Scriptures, ask God to burn their message upon your heart. Most Christians don't witness and win souls because they have no real burden.

B. **GOD REQUIRES YOU TO HAVE A LOVE FOR SOULS.**

1. Read: *Jude 21,22; II Corinthians 5:14a; and Psalm 126:5.*

2. It was **love** that sent Jesus Christ into this sin-cursed world to die on the cross (*John 3:16*) — and it is **love** that will motivate you to bring Christ to the lost.

C. GOD REQUIRES YOU TO LIVE A CLEAN, SEPARATED LIFE.

1. Read: *II Timothy 2:21; Jude 23; and Philippians 2:15.*
2. The saying, “Actions speak louder than words” has no greater relevance than in the matter of soul winning.

D. GOD REQUIRES YOU TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

1. Read: *Acts 1:8* and *Ephesians 5:18*.
2. God’s work must be done in God’s way in God’s POWER.

E. GOD REQUIRES YOU TO HAVE PERSEVERANCE.

1. Read: *Matthew 22:1-10; I Corinthians 15:58; and Galatians 6:9.*
2. Our job is not to win everyone, but to TELL everyone — *Acts 13:46*.
3. Not everyone will listen. Not everyone will be saved. But soul winning is one task in which God PROMISES success.
4. *Psalm 126:6* — “...shall D _____ come again...”

FOUR STEPS TO A SOUL WINNING WITNESS

The most common illustration of soul winning found in the Bible is that of a “plant.” See: *Psalm 126:6; Matthew 13:3-9; John 4:35-38; and I Corinthians 3:6-8*. There are several steps to be undertaken before getting a harvest:

STEP #1 — GO

No farmer reaps a harvest apart from a lot of preparation and hard work.

You will **NEVER** win a soul for Christ without this preliminary step!

- *Psalm 126:6* — “He that _____ forth...”
- *Mark 16:15* — “____ ye into all the world and preach...”
- *Acts 5:20* — “____, stand and _____ ...”

This lesson will be useless to you unless you determine in your heart to take this first step in reaching a precious soul.

HOW MAY I “GO?”

- A. Our Church has set times of “visitation” when members go out into the community to do either of two things — knock on doors to invite people to the services (gain prospects), or visit in homes of prospects (to win them).

- B. All visits are conducted on a two-by-two basis — and a young or inexperienced Christian is teamed up with a mature and experienced Christian. You learn as the “silent partner.”
- C. In addition, you need to sit down and make a list of people in your own circle of influence who are lost — relatives, neighbors, friends, work mates, etc. They are all going to spend eternity somewhere. Then begin a plan of action to witness to them and win them to Christ.

STEP #2 — SOW

You may need to go out of your way to help somebody. You may have to invite someone into your home for a meal. You may have to win the confidence and trust of a person first - but before they can be saved, the seed **must** be sown.

- *Psalm 126:6* — “...bearing precious _____”
 - *Luke 8:11* — “...the seed is the _____ of _____. ”
 - *I Peter 1:23-25* — This Scripture says the incorruptible seed is _____
-

It is absolutely imperative that you use the Bible when witnessing and leading a soul to Christ. The salvation of a soul is the work of God (not you); thus you need to use the “**weapon**” of God.

Warning!! You cannot expect fruit if you plant corrupted seed. (Be sure to use only the pure, Authorized, King James Version of the Bible!)

According to *Ephesians 6:17*, the Sword of the Spirit is the

_____ of _____. .

It is unnecessary for you to use logic, philosophy, theology, or salesmanship when it comes to soul winning. **God's Word works!!**

HOW MAY I “SOW?”

- A. Get into the habit of carrying sound Gospel tracts with you — in your pocket, your purse (ladies), your car. Leave a tract with those you meet — shop assistants, garage attendants, friends. Leave a tract in the phone booth, on the restaurant table, in the waiting room. Include a tract with every letter you mail. Many have been saved through the silent witness of a tract.

Note: Always make sure our Church name and a phone number is on the tract.

Note: Be careful not to litter or violate reasonable ordinances by indiscriminate use of tracts.

- B. Invite people to the services of our Church. Don't give up when people at first decline or make excuses. Work on bringing someone with you each Sunday.
- C. Be "soul-conscious." Ask God to help you become aware that everyone you meet is a soul that will spend eternity somewhere. Cultivate the ability to insert some witness into every conversation — share a blessing, a verse, a warning, etc. Don't be pushy or over-bearing, but don't keep silent either.
- D. Learn the **"Romans Road to Heaven."** This is a plan of salvation taken from the Book of *Romans* in the New Testament. There are many other Scriptures you can use (and you will in time), but this is a good starting point. With these **four** Scripture references you can show a person how to be saved.
 - Romans 3:23* — the FACT of sin.
 - Romans 6:23* — the CONSEQUENCES of sin.
 - Romans 5:8* — the REMEDY for sin.
 - Romans 10:9,10,13* — the HOW to be saved

STEP #3 — WATER

There must be water before the seed can come up.

- *Psalm 126:5* — "They that sow in _____ ..."
- *Psalm 126:6* — "He that goeth forth, and _____ ..."
- *Acts 20:31* — "...night and day with _____."

This refers to the need for prayer. When you have sown a seed in the heart of someone, pray for them earnestly and fervently until they are saved.

One of the characteristics of a soul winning Christian is a broken and compassionate heart. Many tears are often shed over a lost loved one.

STEP #4 — REAP

The second greatest joy of the Christian life, after the joy of salvation itself, is the joy of actually leading a precious soul to Christ — to be a kind of "spiritual midwife" and witness the miracle of the new birth. God promises you a harvest.

- *Psalm 126:5* — "...shall _____ in joy."
- *Psalm 126:6* — "...shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his _____ with him."

Have you ever seen a “self-harvesting” plant? No! No crop will ever pick itself. Harvesting requires labor and method.

HOW MAY I “REAP?”

- A. Plan to! It’s amazing how many Christians fail to win those they witness to simply because they don’t expect to. Act in faith — take God at His Word, and expect to reap a harvest.
- B. Make certain (by asking questions) that the one you are dealing with fully understands the plan of salvation. Do not proceed to reap if there is no conviction of sins evident or if there is no real understanding of what Christ has done. Remember, human nature expects to “work” for salvation. Don’t harvest an “unripened crop!” However, if it is **not** time to reap, *ALWAYS* leave the door open.
- C. Explain carefully that salvation is *BELIEVING*, that this means *RECEIVING* (Christ), and that this is done by calling upon the Lord through a simple prayer.
- D. The so-called “sinner’s prayer” has no set format, but needs to include two important elements — *ACKNOWLEDGMENT* of the facts [I am a guilty sinner destined for Hell], and *REPENTANCE* [turning *from* sin] & *FAITH* [receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour].
- E. After you lead a soul to receive the Lord — pray with him, rejoice with him, encourage him to come to church at the next opportunity. Get others to pray for the new “babe” in Christ, and talk to the pastor about getting him into this “ABC’s Of Christian Growth” program.

ASSIGNMENT #1:

The opportunity my Church offers me to engage in visitation is on:

_____ (Day) at _____ (Time) .

ASSIGNMENT #2:

I have set aside copies of our Church brochure for ready use in the following places:

I have obtained the following Gospel tracts to use as a means of sowing the seed:

ASSIGNMENT #3:

List two or three people the Lord would have you pray for and make opportunity to witness to in the next four weeks. (Take time to pray before writing.)

ASSIGNMENT #4:

On a separate sheet, write out your own testimony as though you were telling someone of what Christ has done for you.

A testimony should be divided into three parts:

- Your life before you were saved.
- How you came to be saved, and what you did.
- Your life since you were saved.

I accept that the Bible teaches I am to both witness and seek to win others to Christ. I now dedicate my life to involve myself in this Christian duty, first by seeking to study and memorize the Scriptures, and pray for the lost; then involve myself in the opportunities presented by the Church to train and visit.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

PERSONAL NOTES & QUESTIONS TO ASK

X “X-Rated” For Christians

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

There are some things a Christian ought NOT do.

As this world staggers toward the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, things are going to get **w-o-r-s-e**, not better. According to *II Timothy 3:1*, these last days will be characterized by _____ times. *Matthew 24:12* predicts that _____ shall abound.

Were it not for the clear teachings of the Word of God, it would be easy for the believer to be swept along by the tide of sin. Thank God we have the Bible!

One of the “criticisms” of the Bible is that it is so **NEGATIVE** — full of “*thou shalt not’s*,” etc. The fact is, the Bible **IS** negative in the majority of its teaching — for the simple reason that man has a **POSITIVE** tendency toward sin.

This study will look at some of the current “sociological sins” facing you today. They are widespread and generally acceptable in the community today. That doesn’t make them right — it’s what the Bible says that counts.

— PREPARATION FOR THIS STUDY —

A. Review Lesson #19 — Separation.

1. What are the two aspects of separation?

_____ and _____

2. What is our liberty in Christ restricted to?

B. Review Lesson #22 — Victory.

1. What does the “world” seek from you?

2. According to *Colossians 3:1,2*, where are you to place your affections?

WHY BAPTISTS DON'T DRINK ALCOHOL

- A. Drinking is a real problem in this country — hundreds of lives are lost, thousands of homes are destroyed, and millions of dollars are wasted annually as a direct result of the liquor industry. And yet, for all of that, consuming alcohol is one of the most socially acceptable (and expected!) pastimes in the nation.
- B. The Bible has much to say concerning liquor, and is very clear in its teaching on the subject.
- C. Before studying the Scriptures, it is vital to keep in mind the fact that the word “wine” in the Bible is a generic word which applies to all products derived from grapes — both natural grape juice and man-made alcoholic wine. The context of the passage determines what is meant in each case.
 - 1. *Proverbs 20:1* — “Wine is a _____.”
 - 2. *Proverbs 23:20,21* — Drunkenness leads to P_____.
 - 3. *Isaiah 5:11* — The Bible pronounces _____ upon drunks.
 - 4. *Genesis 9:20-23* — Drinking brings N_____ NESS and shame.
 - 5. *Habakkuk 2:15* — God hates us giving our N_____ a drink.
 - 6. *Proverbs 31:4,5* — Liquor perverts J_____.
(*Proverbs 31:4,5* refers to the practice of “drinking to drown your sorrows” — but drink NEVER removes the sorrows, it only compounds them, as *Proverbs 23:29,30* teaches.)
 - 7. *Isaiah 5:12,14* — Drink is a sure path to H_____.
8. *Isaiah 28:7* — Drink causes us to E_____.
9. *Mark 15:23* — Jesus refused a stupefying drink of _____ as He was being crucified.
- D. The temptation for the Christian is to drink “socially.” To this we answer:
 - 1. Every drunkard began with just one drink.
 - 2. First, man takes the drink — then, drink takes the man.
 - 3. Liquor is deceiving — *Proverbs 20:1* says so!!
- E. Keep in mind that alcoholic beverage is a man-made product. The process of fermentation requires special conditions and human intervention. The exact proportions of sugar, yeast, and water must be present, and a temperature range

of between 10° and 22°C (50°–72°F) maintained — otherwise vinegar will be produced.

- F. Many try to argue for drink by citing the first miracle of the Lord Jesus Christ where He turned the water into wine. But oriental weddings were religious occasions, not festive — and God never contradicts His Word. This wine was **grape juice**.

WHY BAPTISTS DON'T GAMBLE

A popular slogan promoting a lottery says, “*Millions Won Weekly*” — but fails to tell the other side of the story — “*Countless Millions Lost Weekly*” — not to mention ruined lives, broken homes, hungry children, and the accompanying rise in organized crime, prostitution, and theft.

Our country is a nation of gamblers. From raffles, bingo, and lotto, to racing and casinos, many opportunities are presented to the child of God.

What Does The Bible Have To Say On This Matter?

A. Gambling Is An Insult To God.

1. *Philippians 4:19* — God shall supply _____ our _____.
2. *II Corinthians 9:8* — God will see to it that His children will have all _____ in _____ things.

When we gamble we are in effect saying to the Lord, “I do not think you will keep your promise.”

B. Gambling Is Spiritually Dangerous — a sin which has drowned many a man in destruction and perdition (Hell).

I Timothy 6:9 — To those that will (want to above all else) be rich, the danger is that they will experience:

T _____
A S _____
F _____ and H _____ lusts.

C. Gambling Is Basically Selfish. To gamble requires seeking prosperity at the expense of others.

1. *Exodus 20:17* — “Thou shalt not _____.”

No one gambles to lose. The prime motivation for all forms of gambling is to gain what is not owned. That is **covetousness**.

2. *I Timothy 6:10* — This verse does not teach that money is a problem, but rather the _____ of money.
3. *Genesis 3:19* — God intends man to live by the _____ of his face; i.e., to work for a living.

It is a principle of God that there must be:

WORK BEFORE WEALTH
SOWING BEFORE REAPING

Gambling abrogates God's natural law because the gambler seeks to reap what others have sown.

D. Gambling Is Poor Stewardship.

1. Nobody ever really wins by indulging in gambling.
2. According to *I Corinthians 4:2*, God requires each Christian to be _____ over all that has been given to him from God's hand.

E. Gambling Is Often Plain "Superstition" — involving "lucky numbers," "lucky systems," "keeping your fingers crossed," etc.

Read what God has to say about such things in *Isaiah 47:12,13*.

1. *Romans 8:28* — "All things work together for _____ to them that love God..."
2. *IPeter 5:7*— "Casting _____ your _____ upon _____"

One word which needs to disappear from the Christian's vocabulary is "LUCK." Luck plays no part in our Heavenly Father's loving and providential care for His own.

F. Gambling Makes One Insensitive To God's Will.

According to *John 19:23,24*, the Roman soldiers gambled for the clothes of the crucified Lord. They were completely unaware of the event transpiring in their presence. When anyone is consumed with self-interest, they are most insensitive to the things of the Lord.

Resist any temptation to win something. Avoid gambling as an enemy of your soul. Lean wholly upon the Lord for everything good.

WHY BAPTISTS DON'T SMOKE

Smoking (like many other drugs) is addictive. That's why so many Christians have a real problem in this area.

Smoking (and other harmful drugs) should be absent from your life — for three basic reasons:

A. For PHYSICAL reasons.

It is common knowledge that smoking is harmful and even deadly. Unsaved people quit smoking for this reason, but more so should the Christian.

1. *I Corinthians 6:19* — Our physical body is the _____ of the _____. It is sacred, and ought not to be defiled by any known harmful substance.
2. *I Corinthians 9:27* — The Apostle Paul kept his physical body well by keeping “_____” his body (i.e. ‘pinned down,’ a wrestling term) and bringing it into _____.

Remember — it is with your body that you serve the Lord. Harming it only hinders effective service.

B. For EMOTIONAL reasons.

1. Many people take up serious smoking (and drugs) because of underlying emotional causes — insecurity, anxiety, etc. It becomes a deadly crutch. Addiction is a terrible thing.
2. The believer is to be “... C _____ (full of care, anxious) for nothing...,” *Philippians 4:6*, but to learn to trust in the Lord for all things.
3. Experiencing *Philippians 4:7* does away with any need for drugs of addiction.

C. For SPIRITUAL reasons.

1. A smoking Christian is a poor testimony because, rightly or wrongly, the world perceives the Christian to be clean in his habits.
2. One of the great obstacles to winning a soul for Christ is a stale tobacco breath (or any bad breath, for that matter).

WHY BAPTISTS DON'T DANCE

A. Dancing Is A Practice With Strong Sexual Overtones — be it “ballroom” style with its intimate embrace, or the latest body-shaking “gyrations” which flaunt the flesh and lower God-given inhibitions. If dancing has *any* place whatsoever in the life of a Christian, it could only be between husband and wife in the privacy of their marriage relationship.

B. The Bible Associates Dancing With Evil.

1. Read: *Exodus 32:1-29*. Dancing is mentioned here in verse 19. Notice the things associated with the dance:
 - a. Verse 4 — _____.
 - b. Verse 6 — D _____ I N G.
 - c. Verse 25 — N _____ N E S S.
2. Read: *Matthew 14:1-12*. Dancing was the means of getting the adulterous Herod to put John the Baptist to death. Who danced here?

C. Some Point To King David's Dancing Before The Lord, as recorded in *II Samuel 6:12-21* as an allowance for dancing.

It is important to understand some facts relating to this case.

1. David danced alone.
2. David danced out of extreme joy before the Lord.
3. Even so, it seems this kind of dancing led David to uncover himself — *verse 20*.

As innocent as this dance of child-like excitement and praise to the Lord may have been, it was nothing like the kind of dancing seen in today's society.

WHY BAPTISTS DON'T LISTEN TO ROCK AND ROLL “MUSIC”

Many Christians believe the issue of music is simply a matter of personal taste. Some like classical; others prefer jazz; many love “Country & Western”; and a lot go in for rock and roll.

However, this is not the case!

There is much more to rock and roll than meets the ear, as any careful study of the subject will reveal. Rock and roll especially is a downright dangerous music form. Not

only should Christians avoid listening to it, but our young ones must be protected from its Satanic influence.

According to *Ephesians 5:10*, believers are to prove what is _____ to the _____.

A God's Standards For Music.

1. *Ephesians 5:19,20*. The three forms of sacred music listed are:

- a. P _____ = Scripture set to music.
- b. H _____ = songs based upon Scripture.
- c. S _____ S _____ = music which is Christ-exalting, speaking to the spiritual man, not the old nature.

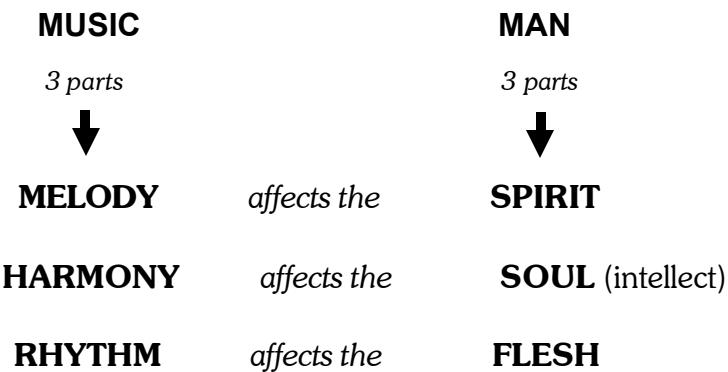
2. *Colossians 3:16*.

Christian songs should T _____ and A _____ I S H one another.

B. Music Profoundly Affects Us.

1. Think of how a stirring march picks us up — how soft organ music makes many people feel “religious” — how a love ballad can make you feel melancholy. Music can give a man courage in battle, or reduce him to tears. Thus we see the importance of music — and, for the Christian the importance of the right kinds of music.

The following diagram will explain the effect of music upon a man.



2. The difference between godly music and rock and roll is that godly music emphasizes the melody and controls the harmony and rhythm — whereas rock and roll is heavy on the beat, with little attention to the melody. In doing so, rock and roll arouses the flesh.

C. Why Rock And Roll Music Is Harmful.

1. Its emphasis is on the **beat**, and the kind of beat (throbbing, pulsating) appeals to the flesh; and in conjunction with everything else about rock and roll, it arouses impure thoughts and actions.
(By the way, putting “Christian” words to a rock beat, as do so-called ‘Christian Rock’ and much of the Contemporary Christian Music (CCM), is just as wrong! Sacred music should move the spirit, not the feet!)
2. The **lyrics** of rock and roll music are usually wicked, perverse, immoral, and just plain ungodly. With so-called “heavy metal” rock, they are occult.
3. Some heavy metal rock recordings contain “back-masking” or subliminal (unheard) sounds which the brain unscrambles. Experts say these messages preach rebellion and occultism.
4. The “**Rock Culture**” is hardly a model for Christians to follow. The majority of “performers” are living immoral lives, associated with drugs, sex, sadism, etc. Many commit suicide.

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *Philippians 4:8.*

Y Your Church Home

Lesson Commenced: _____ Lesson Checked: _____

For this lesson you will need to do the following:

- Review Study #3 — “The Church.”
- Read your copy of the “Church Covenant.”
- Read your copy of the “Church Constitution.”

QUESTIONS RELATING TO YOUR REVIEW OF STUDY #3 — THE CHURCH

A. Write out the Biblical ‘definition’ of a New Testament Baptist church. _____

B. How would you answer the question, “Who is the **head** of this Church?” _____

C. What are the three things you can do to receive many blessings from your Church?

QUESTIONS RELATING TO YOUR READING OF THE CHURCH COVENANT

These questions are based on a written Church Covenant used by many Bible-believing Baptist churches. A copy of such a Covenant is inserted on the last page.

A. Who are the people voluntarily entering into this “Covenant”? _____

B. Paragraph 2 of the Covenant deals with your relationship to _____. .

C. Paragraph 3 of the Covenant deals with your relationship to _____. .

D. Paragraph 4 of the Covenant deals with your relationship to _____. .

- E. What practical steps do you think you can take to make the statements of paragraph 4 a daily reality in your life?

- F. What is your responsibility should you move from your current address to an area far away?

QUESTIONS RELATING TO YOUR READING OF THE CHURCH CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Since Baptist churches are governed only by the Word of God, and the New Testament in particular, the document known as the “Constitution & By-Laws” has been devised primarily for legal purposes, and is a reflection of New Testament principles and practices. Accordingly, there is no standard “Constitution & By-Laws” for Baptist churches, and some of the questions below may not relate completely to the Constitution & By-Laws of this Church.

- A. What limitations are placed on this Church’s joining together with other churches?

- B. Who acts as a signatory on behalf of the Church in legal matters?

- C. What is the age limit for voting on business matters?

- D. What is the duty of the Church Treasurer?

- E. What is the duty of the Church Clerk?

- F. In what ways may a Church business meeting be called?

- G. What are some requirements for all officers and workers?

H. At the date of this study, list the names of those in our Church performing the following tasks:

Presiding Pastor: _____

Other Pastors in associate ministry: _____

Deacons:

Treasurer: _____

Clerk: _____

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *I Corinthians 14:40*

PERSONAL NOTES & QUESTIONS TO ASK

Z Zion (Your Eternal Home)

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

Heaven!! The very word whispers peace to our soul. This old troubled world has nothing for the child of God — it brings no peace, no lasting joy, no fellowship; nothing but sorrow, heartache, disappointments . . . and death.

Ah, but Heaven!!

WHAT IS “HEAVEN?”

A. **We Often Use The Term “Heaven” Loosely.**

The Bible actually refers to **three** heavens:

1. Look up and read: *Genesis 1:8,20; Jeremiah 4:25; and Daniel 4:12.*

In these Scriptures, the Heaven referred to may be called the FIRST HEAVEN. In your own words, what is the First Heaven?

2. Look up: *Genesis 22:17; Nehemiah 9:23; and Psalm 19:1.*

These Scriptures refer to the SECOND HEAVEN. In your own words, what is the Second Heaven?

3. Look up: *I Kings 8:27,30 and II Corinthians 12:2.*

These Scriptures refer to a Heaven which is the ABODE OF GOD. What is this Heaven called?

In this lesson, the Heaven to which we refer is the last of those above — the place where God is.

B. **What Is ZION?**

Zion is another name for Jerusalem. It is also used three ways:

1. *II Samuel 5:7* — the City of _____.

2. *Isaiah 2:2-4* — the Jerusalem of the M _____ (the 1,000-year-reign of Christ on earth).
 3. *Hebrews 12:22* — the H _____ City.
- C. In this lesson, the Zion to which we refer is the last of those above — the New Jerusalem of Heaven.

WHAT DOES DEATH MEAN FOR THE CHRISTIAN?

- A. Look up: *II Corinthians 5:6-8*. These verses teach that:
1. To be at HOME in the BODY is to be _____ from the Lord.
 2. To be ABSENT from the BODY is to be _____ with the Lord.
- B. Look up: *Philippians 1:23,24*. If Paul was to D _____, he would be with C _____.
These Scriptures clearly teach that when a Christian dies his soul is immediately transported into the very presence of Christ (the body returns to the dust, awaiting its resurrection).
- C. Look up: *Revelation 6:9-11*.
Where does this passage teach the souls of slain and departed believers are?
-

- D. Look up: *Luke 16:22*. How was the soul of Lazarus transported to Paradise?
-

Note: These Scriptures give the lie to such common teachings as:

PURGATORY

SOUL SLEEP

REINCARNATION

Should our blessed Lord's return not occur in your lifetime, and you go the way of all men, be assured — you will go home to be with the Lord! Death is but a graduation to Glory! Along with millions of believers gone home before you, the words of *Psalm 23:4* will be a sweet reality:

"Though I walk through the valley of the _____ of _____, I will fear no _____, for _____ art _____ me..."

WILL WE KNOW ONE ANOTHER IN HEAVEN?

The Bible indicates that we **will** indeed recognize each other — our loved ones, friends, etc., throughout the eternal ages.

A. In Heaven We Will All Have Glorified Bodies.

Read: *I Corinthians 15:35-53*. We shall receive our new, glorified body at the Rapture — the moment when our Lord shall come in the air and “catch up” Christians.

B. What Will This Glorified Body Look Like?

The best way to answer that is to consider the Lord Jesus Christ after His resurrection and in His glorified body:

1. *John 20:20* — Was He recognizable? _____
 2. *John 20:27* — Was He touchable? _____
 3. *Acts 1:3* — Was He able to communicate? _____
 4. *John 20:19, Luke 24:31* — Was He physically restricted? _____
 5. *Luke 24:36-43* — Was He able to eat? _____
- C. According to *Philippians 3:21*, what will happen to our body at the moment of the Rapture? _____
- D. Write out: *I John 3:2*.

WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE?

- A. According to *I Corinthians 2:9*, is it possible to adequately describe what Heaven will be like? _____
- B. Read: *II Corinthians 12:2-4*. Evidently the apostle Paul was given a “sneak preview” of Heaven.
Why didn’t Paul give us a detailed description of Heaven? _____
- C. According to *Hebrews 9:24*, the very presence of _____ is in Heaven.
- D. *Revelation 4:2-10* describes God’s T _____ which is located in Heaven.

E. Read: *Hebrews 12:22-24*. List the Seven things to be found in Heaven.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

F. The “centerpiece” of the Eternal Heaven is the Holy City of God, The _____
— *Revelation 21:2*.

WHAT IS THE HEAVENLY JERUSALEM GOING TO BE LIKE?

- A. According to *John 14:2*, it is currently being P _____ E D by the Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. *Hebrews 11:10,16* tells us the Builder of this great City is _____.
- C. If there are 8 furlongs to a mile (5 furlongs in 1 kilometer), then what — according to *Revelation 21:16* — are the dimensions of this City?
 1. Length = _____
 2. Breadth = _____
 3. Height = _____
- D. According to *Revelation 21:21*, the City Has _____ gates, and each gate is one _____.
- E. The same verse (as above) tells us the streets of this City are of _____.
_____.

WHO SHALL INHABIT THE HEAVENLY CITY?

- A. *Revelation 21:24* — The nations of them which are _____.
- B. *Revelation 21:27b* — Those whose names are written in the _____ of _____.

WHAT WILL BE MISSING IN HEAVEN?

The Book of The Revelation Chapters 21 and 22 give us the most detailed description of our future home. (Of course, like any real estate advertisement, you have to actually see it before you can fully appreciate it!)

There are some things which will **not** be found in Heaven:

- A. No more D _____ — 21:4.
- B. No more S _____ — 21:4.
- C. No more C _____ — 21:4.
- D. No more P _____ — 21:4.
- E. No more T _____ — 21:22.
- F. No more S ____ or M ____ — 21:23.
- G. No more N _____ — 21:25 and 22:5.
- H. No more C _____ — 22:3.

WHAT SHALL WE DO IN HEAVEN ?

Don't be led astray by the common notion that we shall be floating around on clouds, dressed in white gowns, flapping a pair of wings, and strumming a harp for all eternity. The Bible teaches **NO SUCH THING!**

A. In Heaven, We Will SING PRAISES To God.

According to *Revelation 5:9*, the redeemed of all ages will sing a N ____ S ____.

B. In Heaven, We Will SERVE GOD Continually.

See: *Revelation 7:15* and *22:3,5*.

C. In Heaven, We Will FELLOWSHIP Continually.

According to *Revelation 3:21*, we will _____ with the Lord Jesus Christ at His
-----.

CAN I HAVE “HEAVEN ON EARTH?”

The happiest, most memorable, most joyful and loving experiences on earth will pale into insignificance when compared with the bliss of Heaven.

Nevertheless, God intends for three things NOW to be a foretaste of Heaven to come:

- Your HOME.
- Your CHURCH.
- Your personal WALK with the Lord.

Each of these should reflect (albeit in an incomplete way) a portent of Heaven.

READING ASSIGNMENT:

Read the last two chapters of the Book of The Revelation.

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *John 14:2*.

A BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Holy Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and upon the profession of our faith having been baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this congregation, most solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant one with another as the Body of Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to give this Church a sacred pre-eminence over all human institutions and organizations; to strive for its advancement, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of its ministry, expenses, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel throughout all nations; and to honor, esteem, and love our pastor, to pray for him fervently and daily, to submit to him in the exercise of his office, to attend constantly upon his ministrations, and to manifest a tender regard for his reputation.

We also engage to maintain secret and family devotions; to bring up our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all gossip, tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from all worldly and harmful indulgences; to oppose all conduct which compromises our Christian testimony and uphold high standards of Christian morality; and to be zealous in our service for the Lord.

We further engage to walk together in Christian charity; to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling, and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the command of our Saviour, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other Baptist church of like faith and order, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.