

Bible Doctrines

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An Outline of Bible Doctrines

Doctrines may be taught as they correlate with a particular lesson. The overview chart for each unit lists the doctrines related to the material in the unit. The preview for each subunit identifies specific doctrines by lesson. In presenting the Bible account in these lessons, you may wish to read the Scripture references given to discuss with students the specific aspect of the doctrine emphasized. You may use the outline on these pages for personal reference or to further develop ideas with the students. (Note: Not all doctrines receive equal emphasis in the curriculum.)

The Doctrine of the Bible (Bibliology)

I. Inspiration

A. Definition

Inspiration is the supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit on the writers of the Bible so that what they wrote was exactly what God wanted written.

B. The fact of inspiration

1. The Bible claims to be the Word of God.

a. The Bible writers use the phrase “thus saith the Lord” hundreds of times (e.g., Exod. 5:1; Josh. 24:2; 2 Sam. 7:5; Isa. 7:7).

b. The apostle Peter said that the Holy Spirit led the Old Testament writers to write what they wrote (2 Pet. 1:20–21).

c. The apostle Paul stated that all Scripture is inspired by God (2 Tim. 3:16).

2. The Holy Spirit shows believers that the Bible is God’s Word.

a. The things of God are discerned through the Spirit and not through natural ability (1 Cor. 2:14).

b. Those who belong to Christ recognize His words when they read them (John 10:27).

3. The Bible is self-attesting.

a. Since the Bible is the Word of God, its own testimony regarding its origin is the most powerful testimony. There is no evidence or testimony greater than that.

b. Other evidence for the Bible’s inspiration is helpful but not as convincing as the Bible’s testimony concerning itself.

(1) The Bible is historically accurate.

(2) Many of the Bible prophecies have already come true.

(3) The Bible unfolds a unified message even though it was written by many authors over many centuries.

(4) The Bible has influenced human history more than any other book.

(5) The Bible has changed millions of lives.

C. Results of inspiration

1. Inerrancy

Because the Bible writers wrote what God wanted written, the Bible—in its original writings—is completely without error (2 Sam. 7:28; Ps. 12:6; John 17:17; Heb. 6:18).

2. Authority

Since the Bible is the Word of God, it has the same authority that God Himself possesses. To doubt the Bible is to doubt God; to disobey the Bible is to disobey God (Luke 24:25; John 15:20; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Pet. 3:2).

3. Sufficiency

As the Word of our loving, all-knowing, and holy God, the Bible is sufficient to lead believers to godliness. We have no need of another word from heaven (Ps. 119:11, 50, 66, 89, 130; 2 Tim. 3:16–17; Rev. 22:18–19).

II. Canonicity

A. Definition

Canon refers to the books of the Bible that Christians have recognized as Scripture.

B. Criteria for canonicity

1. Inspiration

a. Inspiration is the most important criterion for canonicity. Only words breathed out by God qualify to be included in the canon (2 Tim. 3:16).

b. Not every inspired prophecy was canonical. Scripture reveals that God breathed out some words that were not recorded or preserved (2 Cor. 12:4; Rev. 10:4).

2. Orthodoxy
No book that contradicts other Scripture can be part of the canon (Isa. 8:20).
3. Antiquity
 - a. God gave revelation to explain His redemptive acts and to guide His people.
 - b. The apostles and prophets were the ones to whom God entrusted the revelation concerning Christ and the founding of the church (John 16:12–15; Eph. 2:20). Therefore, no book subsequent to the generation of the apostles is considered canonical (Heb. 1:1–2; Jude 1:3).
- C. Evidences of canonicity
 1. The New Testament recognizes the Old Testament books as canonical (Matt. 21:42; John 10:35–36; Acts 15:14–18; 17:11; 2 Tim. 3:16–17; 1 Pet. 1:23–25).
 2. Certain New Testament books recognize other New Testament books as canonical (cf. 1 Tim. 5:18; Luke 10:7; 2 Pet. 3:15–16).
 3. The Bible's self-attestation has led orthodox Christians to recognize the same books as canonical.
- D. Reasons for rejecting the apocrypha and pseudepigraphal books
 1. Apocrypha (a group of Jewish books written during the intertestamental period)
 - a. The Jews of that day did not recognize them as Scripture.
 - b. Christ did not recognize the Apocryphal books as authoritative. Jesus spoke of the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms as Scripture (Luke 24:44). These three labels stood for the thirty-nine books of our Old Testament. Jesus also indicated that the canon began with Genesis and ended with 2 Chronicles. In the first century, 2 Chronicles was the thirty-ninth book in the Jewish canon (Luke 11:51).
 - c. The writers of the New Testament often quoted from the Old Testament but never from the Apocrypha. This implies they did not recognize the Apocrypha as Scripture.
 - d. The Apocrypha contains both factual errors (Judith 1:1) and doctrines contrary to the Old and New Testaments (Sirach 3:30).

2. Pseudepigrapha
 - a. The pseudepigraphal books (such as the Gospel of Thomas or the Gospel of Judas) falsely claim to be written by apostles or other prominent early Christians even though they were actually written long after these men were dead.
 - b. The pseudepigraphal books contain teaching that contradicts the Old Testament Scripture recognized by Jesus and the New Testament Scripture produced by His apostles and prophets.

The Doctrine of God (Theology)

- I. Existence of God
 - A. God testifies to His existence in the Bible (Gen. 1:1).
 - B. God testifies to His existence in the created order (Rom. 1:20).
- II. Attributes of God
 - A. Spirituality
God is a spirit being. He does not have a body. For this reason He is free of all the limitations that hinder physical beings. He is also completely self-sufficient. There is nothing in the world that God needs (John 4:24; Acts 17:24–25; 1 Tim. 1:17).
 - B. Infinity
God is infinite, or unlimited. The Bible emphasizes that God is not limited in His relationship to space, knowledge, power, or time.
 1. Omnipresence
God is independent of space. God's entire being is present in every place (Ps. 139:7–10).
 2. Omniscience
God is infinite in His knowledge. He knows everything that has happened, is happening, and ever will happen. He also knows what may happen but never does happen (1 Sam. 23:12; Ps. 147:5; Isa. 46:9–10; Heb. 4:13).
 3. Omnipotence
God is all powerful. He is able to do whatever His perfect will has determined to do (Gen. 18:14; Ps. 115:3; Matt. 19:26).
 4. Eternality
God is not limited by time. He has never had a beginning, and He will never cease to exist (Deut. 33:27; Ps. 90:2; 102:26–27).

- C. Immutability
God is unchangeable in His attributes and His purposes. He will never cease to be what He is. (Ps. 33:11; Mal. 3:6; James 1:17).
- D. Holiness
God is separate from His creation. He is the most glorious being in the universe, infinitely exalted above all that He has made. God is also separate from all sin and evil in this world. God is both glorious and pure (Lev. 22:32; Isa. 6:1–5; 40:25; Hab. 1:13; 1 John 1:5).
- E. Truthfulness
God is completely reliable. He cannot lie, and He will keep all His promises (Num. 23:19; Jer. 10:9–10; Titus 1:2).
- F. Justice
God is righteous. He perfectly lives the moral standard that His character establishes for the world. He always does what justice demands. He also holds His creatures accountable to do what justice demands. When His creatures fail to meet their obligations, He punishes them (Exod. 34:6–7; Deut. 32:4; Rom. 2:6–8).
- G. Love
God is a loving God. He is patient with sinners. He is kind and merciful to all. And He is gracious—He shows favor even to those who deserve punishment. In a fallen world, God’s love seems to conflict with His justice. However, because Jesus Christ died in the sinner’s place, there is no conflict between God’s justice and His love (Exod. 34:6; Ps. 86:5; Acts 14:17; Rom. 3:24–26; Eph. 2:7–9; 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 John 4:8).

III. Tri-unity of God

The doctrine of the Trinity is the biblical teaching that although God is singular in His essence, He exists in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Bible teaches this in the following ways.

- A. There is only one God (Deut. 4:35; 6:4; Isa. 45:5; James 2:19).
- B. Three persons are identified as God.
 - 1. The Father is God (John 6:27; 1 Cor. 8:6).
 - 2. The Son is God.
 - a. The Son is called God (Isa. 9:6; John 1:1; 20:28; Heb. 1:8).
 - b. The Son is worshiped as God (Ps. 2:10–12; Matt. 8:2; John 5:21–23; Phil. 2:9–10; Heb. 1:6; Rev. 5:8–14).

- c. The Son does the works that are unique to God (John 1:1–3; Col. 1:16–17; Heb. 1:3, 10; John 5:22, 25).
- 3. The Holy Spirit is God.
 - a. *Spirit* is used interchangeably with *God* (John 14:16–17, 23; Acts 5:3–4).
 - b. The Spirit has a status exalted above that of any created thing (Matt. 12:30–31; 28:19).
 - c. The Spirit has divine attributes (1 Cor. 2:11–16; Heb. 9:14) and does divine works (Gen. 1:2; John 3:8; 16:8; Rom. 8:14).

C. These three persons are distinct.

- 1. Jesus taught that He was distinct from the Father (John 5:31–40).
- 2. Jesus spoke of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit as distinct persons (Matt. 28:19).

D. The doctrine of the Trinity is a mystery.

God’s being and character are so great that we can never understand Him fully. Accepting that He is ultimately unknowable is essential to knowing Him truly.

IV. Works of God

A. Creation

- 1. Biblical evidence
 - a. God created the world out of nothing (Gen. 1:1–26; Ps. 33:6–9; John 1:3; Heb. 11:3).
 - b. God created everything for His own glory (Rom. 11:36).
 - c. God created everything in six days (Gen. 1; Exod. 20:11).
 - d. God created the world good (Gen. 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31).
- 2. Implications
 - a. God owns everything because He made everything out of nothing.
 - b. Everything exists to declare the glory of God.
 - c. Evolutionary theory should be rejected because it contradicts biblical teaching.
 - d. God’s creation brought Him pleasure, and He still values what He has made.

- B. Providence
Providence is the work of God by which He continually preserves His world and governs it for the fulfillment of His plan.
1. Preserving
 - a. God preserves His world by continuously holding it together (Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3).
 - b. God preserves His world by constantly caring for His creatures (Pss. 104:10–13; 145:15).
 2. Governing
 - a. God's governing work extends over every part of His world, including nature, the nations of the earth, and even the choices of individuals (Ps. 135:6–7; Dan. 4:17, 34; Acts 4:28; Eph. 1:11).
 - b. The purpose of God's governing work is to establish His kingdom on earth so that He may receive glory forever (1 Cor. 15:28).

2. Although humans are part of God's creation, they stand above the created order as the representatives of God.
 3. Humans declare God's glory by exercising good and wise dominion over the earth.
- II. Fallen state of man
- A. Man's temptation and sin
1. God's prohibition (Gen. 2:16–17)
 - a. God told Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 - b. God promised that if they did eat from this tree, they would die.
 2. The serpent's temptation (Gen. 3:1–6)
 - a. Satan, the enemy of God, presented himself as a serpent (cf. Rev. 12:9).
 - b. Satan cast doubt on the goodness of God's character (Gen. 3:1).
 - c. Satan directly denied God's word (Gen. 3:4).
 - d. Satan appealed to the God-given desire to be like God (cf. Gen. 2:9; 3:5–6).
 - e. Satan told a half-truth regarding the consequences of disobeying God (Gen. 3:5).

3. Man's first sin (Gen. 3:6)
 - a. Eve ate from the forbidden tree when she decided to trust Satan's word instead of God's word (cf. Gen. 2:17; 3:4, 6).
 - b. Adam ate from the tree when Eve offered him the fruit (Gen. 3:6).
- B. Results of man's sin
1. The image of God in man was marred (Gen. 3:12–13).
 - a. The affections became depraved (Gen. 3:12; Rom. 1:23–32).
 - b. The mind was darkened (1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 4:17–18).
 - c. The will was debilitated (Jer. 13:23; Rom. 3:10–12).
 2. The work of dominion was frustrated (cf. Gen. 3:16–19).
 - a. The physical world resists human attempts at dominion (Gen. 3:16–19; Rom. 8:22).
 - b. Human relationships are characterized by selfishness and strife (Gen. 3:16).
 - c. Humans are cursed to die (Gen. 3:19).

The Doctrine of Man (Anthropology)

- I. Original state of man
- A. God created man in His own image (Gen. 1:26–27).
1. God made humans to be like Himself in many ways. These include spiritual nature, moral sensitivity, reasoning capacity, and the ability to interact with other persons.
 2. God made humans to be His great masterpiece. The rest of creation is remarkable in its beauty, complexity, and grandeur. However, only humans are said to be made in God's own image.
 3. God made humans to love and serve Him. Because humans are made in God's image, they need to have a relationship with God in order to find fulfillment.
- B. God created man good (Gen. 1:31).
1. Originally humans were morally perfect. They loved God entirely and loved each other as much as self (cf. Mark 12:30–31).
 2. Originally humans were free of pain, sorrow, and death.
- C. God created man with the responsibility to exercise dominion (Gen. 1:26, 28).
1. Man is able to manage God's world under God's authority because he was made in God's image.

3. The first sin damaged the entire human race (Rom. 5:12, 19).
 - a. All humans are sinful in nature, have lost fellowship with God, and commit sinful deeds.
 - b. All humans naturally serve Satan's purposes.
 - c. All humans suffer death and deserve eternal judgment.
4. God promised to deliver His people (Gen. 3:15).
 - a. Salvation from death and rescue from Satan's bondage are possible only through Christ's death and resurrection.
 - b. God cursed Satan to experience humiliation and defeat.
 - c. God promised that His people would triumph over evil.
 - (1) God predicted that throughout history Satan and his followers ("the seed of the serpent") would be the enemies of God's people ("the seed of the woman").
 - (2) God predicted that in the end His people would have dominion over Satan and his followers.

The Doctrine of Christ (Christology)

I. Person of Christ

- A. Jesus Christ is God.
See *The Doctrine of God*, III. B. 2.
- B. Jesus Christ is human.
 1. Jesus had a human conception and birth (Matt. 1:18, 20, 24; Luke 1:30–35; Gal. 4:4).
 2. Jesus grew and developed physically, mentally, and spiritually (Luke 2:52).
 3. Jesus experienced hunger (Matt. 4:2), thirst (John 19:28), and fatigue (John 4:6).
 4. Paul compares and contrasts Jesus with Adam, the first man (1 Cor. 15:21–22).
 5. Jesus depended on God's Spirit and His Word, as all humans should (Matt. 4:1–11; 26:39; Mark 1:35).
 6. Jesus had to be human in order to be the sacrificial substitute for humans (Heb. 2:16–17).
 7. The salvation of humans leads to their becoming like Jesus (2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29).

- C. The union of Jesus Christ's two natures is a mystery.
In the incarnation Jesus took on a human nature so that He is one person with a fully divine nature and a fully human nature. He is not a divine spirit in a human body. He is not a divine person and a human person. He is not a mixture of a divine nature and a human nature into a third, blended nature. Jesus is one person with a divine nature and a human nature.

II. Work of Christ

- A. Jesus Christ fulfills His work through His three offices.
 1. Jesus Christ is the perfect Prophet.
 - a. Christ declared the gospel to the Jewish people (Mark 1:14–15, 38).
 - b. Christ declared God's word to the nations (Isa. 42:1–4; 49:6; 50:4; Matt. 12:18–20; Heb. 1:2).
 - c. Jesus is the prophet Who is greater than Moses (Deut. 18:15–19; Acts 3:19–26; Heb. 1:2; Rev. 1:1).
 - d. Jesus is the Word of God the Father (John 1:1–18).
 2. Jesus Christ is the sinless Priest.
 - a. Christ offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sinners (Isa. 53:10–11; Acts 8:32–35; 1 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 3:25; Heb. 2:17; 7:26–27; Rev. 5:6).
 - b. As a better priest of a better covenant, Christ fulfills and surpasses the priesthood of the Mosaic law (Heb. 7:18–19; 8:1–6).
 - c. Christ intercedes for His people (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25).
 3. Jesus Christ is the eternal King.
 - a. Christ has complete authority and ability to exercise good and wise dominion over all things (Gen. 49:8–12; Matt. 28:18–20; Luke 1:26–33; Heb. 2:5–9; Rev. 1:5).
 - b. Christ will restore humans to the work of exercising dominion over the earth (Rev. 5:9–10; 22:5).
- B. Jesus Christ fulfills His work in two stages.
 1. Jesus Christ humbled Himself by submitting to His Father's will (Phil. 2:5–8).

- a. Active obedience
Jesus Christ became a man and perfectly obeyed all of God's law. Therefore, He earned eternal life for Himself as a man (Lev. 18:5; Matt. 3:15; Rom. 8:3; Gal. 4:4).
- b. Passive obedience
Instead of claiming eternal life for Himself, Jesus Christ obeyed God the Father and died on the cross, receiving God's wrath so that sinners may receive the eternal life He had earned (Rom. 3:25; 5:19; Phil. 2:8; Col. 2:13–14).
2. God the Father has exalted Jesus Christ for His complete obedience (Phil. 2:9–11).
 - a. Resurrection
God the Father raised Jesus Christ from the dead, giving Him and His people victory over the power of sin and death. (Acts 2:24; 1 Cor. 6:14; 15:54–56; Rev. 1:18).
 - b. Enthronement
God the Father has made Jesus Christ the King over all creation in fulfillment of His promises to David (2 Sam. 7:12–16, 18–19; Ps. 2:7–12; Acts 2:22–36).
2. The Holy Spirit empowered Israel's leaders for political and military service (Num. 11:16–29; Deut. 34:9; Judg. 6:34; 11:29; 13:25; 1 Sam. 16:13; Ps. 51:11) and for the construction of the tabernacle and the temple (Exod. 28:3; 31:1–11; 1 Chron. 28:12; Hag. 2:5; Zech. 4:6).
3. The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus for His ministry on earth (Matt. 4:1; 12:28; Mark 1:10; Luke 4:18–21).
4. The Holy Spirit endows the members of the church with spiritual gifts so that they are able to fulfill their ministry to others (John 7:39; Acts 2:16–18; Rom. 12:3–8; 1 Cor. 12:1–31; Eph. 4:4–14; 1 Pet. 4:10–11).
- C. Salvation of sinners
The Spirit of God gives new life to the sinner and makes him part of the church, the body of Christ.
 1. The Holy Spirit is involved in regeneration (Ezek. 36:25–27; John 3:5–8).
 2. The presence of the Spirit in a person's life evidences the person's salvation (Rom. 8:16).
- D. Sanctification of believers
 1. In the New Covenant, God promised to put His Spirit within His people in order to solve their sin problem (Ezek. 36:25–27).
 2. The indwelling Spirit enables Christians to live as children of God rather than as slaves to their flesh (Gal. 5:16–26; Rom. 8:9–17).

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)

- I. Person of the Holy Spirit
 - A. The Holy Spirit is God.
See The Doctrine of God, III. B. 3.
 - B. The Holy Spirit is a person.
The Spirit is not a force. He possesses the characteristics of a person (Isa. 11:2; John 14:26; 15:26; Rom. 15:30; 1 Cor. 12:11; Eph. 4:30).
- II. Work of the Holy Spirit
 - A. Creation and preservation
The Holy Spirit was involved in creating the world (Gen. 1:2; Job 26:13; 33:4; Pss. 33:6; 104:30) and continues to be involved in preserving the creation (Gen. 6:3; Job 34:14–15; Ps. 104:29–30).
 - B. Empowerment for service
The Holy Spirit is the member of the Trinity who empowers people for service to God.
 1. The Holy Spirit enabled people to prophesy (Num. 11:25; 24:2; 1 Sam. 10:6, 10; 19:20; 2 Sam. 23:2; Neh. 9:20, 30). He is responsible for the inspiration of Scripture (1 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21).

The Doctrine of Salvation (Soteriology)

- I. Election
 - A. Definition
Election is God's gracious choice to favor some people with the salvation that Jesus Christ purchased (Eph. 1:3–5; Acts 13:48; 2 Thess. 2:13).
 - B. Timing
God chose His people before He created the world (Eph. 1:4; 2 Thess. 2:13).
 - C. Certainty
The people God has chosen will not fail to receive His salvation. God does not change His mind, so His elect will remain His elect for all eternity (John 6:37; 15:16; Rom. 8:29–30; 9:15–16; 11:29).

- II. Divine calling
- A. God's command to repent
God commands all people everywhere to repent and trust Christ for salvation (Acts 17:30).
 - B. God's displeasure
God does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezek. 18:23, 32; 33:11; 2 Pet. 3:9).
 - C. God's command to preach
God commands His people to present the gospel to everyone (Matt. 28:18–20).
- III. Conversion
- The doctrine of salvation primarily concerns what God does for the sinner. The doctrine of conversion concerns how the sinner is to receive the gospel message. There are two aspects to conversion.
- A. Repentance
 1. Repentance is the sinner's change of mind regarding sin. It involves godly sorrow for sin and a turning away from it (2 Chron. 7:14; Ezek. 33:11; Matt. 3:8; 2 Cor. 7:9–10; Heb. 12:17).
 2. Repentance is a gift from God to the sinner (Acts 11:18; 2 Tim. 2:25).
 3. Repentance is necessary for conversion. Without repentance, there is no salvation (Matt. 4:17; Luke 24:46–47; Acts 17:30).
 - B. Faith
 1. Genuine faith is more than mere mental assent to the facts of the gospel. The true believer trusts in Jesus' death and resurrection to save him from sin (John 1:12; 2:23–25; Acts 10:43; Rom. 4:5; 1 John 5:13).
 2. Repentance and faith are inseparable. Turning away from sin and trusting in God for pardon are two aspects of one action (Isa. 55:6–7; Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21; Heb. 6:1).
- IV. Regeneration
- A. Definition
Regenerated literally means "born again." Regeneration is God's work of changing the nature of the sinner so that he loves what is good and hates what is evil (Ezek. 11:19–20; John 3:3–8, 19–21).
 - B. Need for regeneration
Because of the Fall, humans love sin and hate God. They do not want to commune with God, and they are not able to obey Him. If sinners are to experience God's salvation, they must receive a new heart (Rom. 3:9–20; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 2:1–3).
- V. Justification
- A. Definition
Justification is God's work of declaring the believing sinner righteous because of what Christ has done (Rom. 3:24–25).
 - B. Need for justification
God is just. He punishes the guilty and rewards the innocent. But all humans are guilty before God. God cannot forgive sinners unless their standing before Him is changed (Gen. 18:25; Prov. 17:15; Rom. 3:19–20).
 - C. Basis of justification
God pronounces the believing sinner righteous based on Christ's work. In particular, God gives the believer the righteousness of Christ. God, therefore, considers the believer to be as righteous as Jesus Christ (Matt. 3:15; Rom. 3:21–25; 5:17–19; Gal. 4:4).
 - D. Condition for justification
There is only one condition for experiencing justification. The sinner must believe the gospel. Although many have claimed that justification is by faith *and* works, the Bible clearly teaches that faith alone is the condition for justification (John 3:18; Rom. 3:28; 4:4–5; Gal. 2:16).
 - E. Results of justification
Because of justification the believer is completely forgiven. God is no longer angry with him because He considers him to be righteous (Rom. 4:6–8; 8:1, 33–34). Also, because of justification God remains just even though He forgives the guilty and saves them from sin (Rom. 3:26, 31).
- VI. Sanctification
- A. Definition
Sanctification is God's ongoing work of making the believer more like Himself. In justification, God declares the sinner righteous. In sanctification, He enables the believer to live righteously (Rom. 6:17–19; 8:1–5).

B. Process of sanctification

1. Ongoing

Unlike justification and regeneration—which happen in a moment—God’s work of sanctification is a process. From regeneration until death, the believer becomes less given to sin and more given to obeying God and delighting in Him (2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 1:6).

2. Cooperative

Sanctification is a cooperative work. The Holy Spirit (through the Bible and other means) directs, encourages, and empowers the believer to grow spiritually. But the believer also has responsibility. He must submit to the leading of the Spirit and follow His direction (John 17:17; Rom. 6:1–12; 8:1–17; Gal. 5:16–26; 1 Thess. 4:1–3; Phil. 2:12–13; 1 Pet. 1:15).

C. Goal of sanctification

The purpose of sanctification is to make the believer like Jesus Christ, who in His humanity, empowered by the Holy Spirit, was the perfect image-bearer of God (Rom. 8:28–29; Col. 3:10; Heb. 1:2–3). The process of sanctification is not complete in this life. Only when the believer leaves this life and is united with his Savior is he fully sanctified (Heb. 12:23; 1 John 1:8; 3:2).

VII. Glorification

A. Definition

Glorification is God’s exaltation of the believer to be freed from all the effects of sin and restored completely to the work of exercising dominion over the earth (Rom. 8:18–30; Eph. 1:13–14; 1 Pet. 1:3–5).

B. Timing

God will glorify all believers at the Second Coming of Christ (1 Cor. 15:12–23; 1 Pet. 1:13; 1 John 3:2).

C. Aspects of glorification

1. Moral perfection

Believers who are still alive at the Second Coming will be completely delivered from all aspects of sin (1 Cor. 15:55–57; Titus 2:11–14; 1 Pet. 1:13; 1 John 3:2).

2. Resurrection

Dead believers will be resurrected, and living believers will be given new bodies. These bodies will be free from pain, sorrow, and death (1 Cor. 15:42–45; Rom. 8:18, 23).

3. Renewal of all creation

God will fully restore man’s dominion over the created order. Creation will be redeemed to its original glory and goodness (Heb. 2:5–9; Rev. 21:4; 22:5).

The Doctrine of the Church (Ecclesiology)

I. Definition of the church

The church is the assembly of believers who are brought together through the baptism of the Holy Spirit to serve as the body of Christ and the present manifestation of His kingdom (Matt. 16:18–19; Acts 2:41–47; 1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 1:13).

II. Origin of the church

It is reasonable to conclude that the church began at Pentecost.

A. Subsequent to the ministry of Christ

Jesus prophesied that the church was a coming entity that He would found through His apostles and prophets (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:20).

B. Founded by the gift of the Holy Spirit

The church is the New Covenant community formed through the promised indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

1. The church is a new entity, established by the New Covenant, and it includes both Jews and Gentiles (Eph. 2:14–16).

2. Whereas Israel worshiped at a temple, the church is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16; Eph. 2:22).

3. The Spirit’s indwelling of believers forms the people of God into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13).

C. Day of Pentecost

Jesus Christ poured out His Spirit on His followers on the day of Pentecost. Until that time His followers were commanded to wait for the Spirit’s coming (Acts 1:4–5; 2:1–42).

III. Manifestations of the church

A. Visible and invisible

1. Visible church

The visible church consists of local churches, comprising those who profess faith in Christ. Not all in the visible church are truly regenerated (1 Cor 1:2; cf. Acts 20:29–30; Rev. 2–3).

2. Invisible church

The invisible church consists of all who are truly regenerated by the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 1:13).

- B. Local and universal
 - 1. Local church
Paul refers to a church that meets in a house (Rom. 16:5).
 - 2. Regional church
One can refer to the church of Judea, Galilee, and Samaria (Acts 9:31), though the church of that region is made up of many smaller assemblies.
 - 3. Universal church
Paul sometimes speaks of the church as a single community (Eph. 4:4; 5:25).
- IV. Government of the church
 - A. Head
Jesus Christ is the head of the church. Therefore, all church leadership is subject to His authority (Eph 1:22; 4:15; 5:23; Col. 1:18; 2:10, 19). Practically, this means that His Word (the Bible) is the standard by which the church is governed.
 - B. Pastors
 - 1. *Overseer (bishop)*, *elder*, and *pastor* are different titles for the same office (Acts 20:17, 28).
 - 2. The elders are to oversee and shepherd the people entrusted to their care (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 3:1; Titus 1:7; 1 Pet. 5:2). The elders have the responsibility of preaching the Bible and praying for God's church (Acts 6:4).
 - 3. An elder is to be a man who is gifted in teaching and whose character is above reproach (1 Tim. 3:1–7).
 - C. Deacons
 - 1. The deacons were chosen to focus on meeting material needs of church members (Acts 6:1–6).
 - 2. The deacons are designated to free the elders to focus on preaching the Word and prayer (Acts 6:1–6).
 - 3. Deacons must meet certain qualifications (1 Tim. 3:8–13).
 - D. Congregation
 - 1. The entire congregation should be involved in choosing its leadership (Acts 1:13–26; 6:1–6).
 - 2. The congregation is to decide who will extend the influence of the church in missionary endeavors (Acts 13:1–3).
 - 3. The entire congregation is to be involved in the work of church discipline (Matt 18:15–17; 1 Cor. 1:2; 5:4–5).
- V. Work of the church
 - A. Ministry of the Word
Central to the church's mission is the reading of Scripture and the preaching of the Word (Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 4:2). Through the reading and exposition of Scripture, the church is built up and the lost are evangelized (Eph. 5:12; Rom. 10:14).
 - B. Administration of the ordinances
Ordinances are actions of obedience, commanded and explained in Scripture and practiced by the New Testament church. Believers carry out the ordinances, not to obtain grace, but rather to testify that they have already received grace.
 - 1. Baptism
Baptism is the ordinance that symbolizes our union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, which is accomplished through the baptism of the Holy Spirit which brings people into the body of Christ (Rom. 6:3–4; Col. 2:12; 1 Cor. 12:13).
 - 2. Lord's Supper
The Lord's Supper is the ordinance by which believers are to remember that Christ instituted the New Covenant through His sacrifice on the cross for them as they anticipate his Second Coming (1 Cor. 11:23–26).
 - C. Fellowship
In the church, believers are to encourage, edify, and help one another. This work is an essential part of Christians showing the love of Christ (Acts 2:42; John 13:35; Eph. 4:15–16).
 - D. Prayer
Prayer is an essential part of the church's activity, both corporately and individually (Acts 2:42).
 - 1. Praise honors God by ascribing to Him the glory He deserves.
 - 2. Intercession honors God by demonstrating the church's dependence on Him for all that it does. Intercession is also a key way for the church to love and help the members of the body.
 - 3. Confession of sin is a means for the church to progress in sanctification.

The Doctrine of the End Times (Eschatology)

I. Second Coming of Christ

A. Rapture

1. At the Rapture the dead in Christ will rise first, and those who are still alive will be caught up with them to meet Christ in the air (1 Thess. 4:13–18).
2. The Rapture will occur before the Tribulation.
 - a. Christ has promised to keep His church from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world (Rev. 3:10).
 - b. Christ has promised that He will come suddenly and unexpectedly (Matt. 24:36–39, 42–44; 25:13; Luke 12:40; 1 Thess. 5:2).

B. Tribulation

1. The Tribulation will be a seven-year period of God's judgment on the world (Dan. 9:24–27; 12:11–12; Rev. 11:2–3; 12:14).
2. During this time Satan will exercise extensive control over the earth through the Antichrist and False Prophet (2 Thess. 2:3–4; Rev. 13; 17–18).
3. The Tribulation will be a time of great persecution against God's people (Rev. 11:7–8; 13:17).
4. The Tribulation will be a time of fruitful evangelism (Rev. 7:4, 9).

C. Christ's return to earth

1. When Christ returns, the kingdoms of this earth will become the kingdom of God (Rev. 11:15).
2. Christ will conquer His enemies, bind Satan for one thousand years, and fully establish His rule on earth (Rev. 19:11–20:3).

II. Millennium

God will restore the earth to a condition that fore-shadows the full restoration of the new creation. The earth will be an abundantly fruitful place in which drought and disaster are confined to specific judgments (Isa. 65–66; Zech. 14; Rev. 20).

A. Long life

Death will become a rare event, and long life will be considered normal. Anyone who dies at the age of one hundred will be considered a child (Isa. 65:20).

B. Reigning with Christ

God's people will reign with Christ over the earth for one thousand years (Rev. 20:4–6).

C. Final judgment

1. At the end of the Millennium, Christ will defeat Satan's final rebellion against His rule (Rev. 20:7–10).
2. The unsaved dead will be raised from Hades to stand with the unsaved living to be judged by Christ at the Great White Throne (Rev. 20:11–15).

III. Eternal State

A. Lake of fire

The lake of fire/Gehenna (often translated *hell*) is a place of torment that God has prepared for the Devil, his angels, and all those who do not repent of their sin (Matt. 25:41; Mark 9:43–48; Rev. 21:8).

1. Punishment of the wicked is eternal (Isa. 66:24; Matt. 25:41; Mark 9:43–48; Rev. 14:11; 20:10).
2. Punishment of the wicked is a conscious reality to them (Rev. 14:11).
3. Punishment of the wicked is just (Isa. 66:24; Rev. 19:1–3).

B. New heavens and the new earth

1. The Old Testament predicted the coming of the Messiah, who will rule over the earth from Zion. This new earth will be an abundantly fruitful place in which sin and its effects do not exist (Pss. 2:6; 14:7; 53:6; 110:2; Isa. 2:1–4; 11–12; 65:17–19; Jer. 31:1–12; Joel 3:17–18).
2. The future hope of an earthly kingdom ruled by the Messiah remained the expectation of the disciples. Though Christ told them they could not know the time of the visible arrival of the kingdom, He did not deny their understanding of its nature (Acts 1:6–8). The New Testament also speaks of resurrected believers ruling with Christ (2 Tim 2:12; Rom 5:17; Rom 4:13; 1 Cor. 6:2–3).
3. The New Testament promises new heavens and a new earth (2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1). Romans 8:18–25 teaches that the creation is awaiting redemption also. When our bodies are redeemed, the creation will itself be set free from its corruption. Also, the meek will inherit the earth (Matt. 5:5), and Abraham will be heir of the world (Rom. 4:13).

Bible Truths for Christian Growth

The Bible Teaches Us About . . .

God	(numbers 1–15)
God's Creation	(numbers 16–31)
Sin	(numbers 32–42)
Angels and Satan	(numbers 43–51)
Christ's Work	(numbers 52–84)
Christ's Resurrection	(numbers 85–89)
God's Commandments	(numbers 90–120)
Church Ordinances	(numbers 121–32)
Prayer	(numbers 133–50)
The Future	(numbers 151–64)

Bible Truths for Christian Growth

Bible Truths for Christian Growth are short questions and answers designed to highlight truths from the Word of God, thereby enhancing memorization for the purpose of practical Christian living for the glory of God. The 164 questions and answers have been organized by topic into ten groups. Each group contains from five to thirty-three questions and answers.

The sixth-grade curriculum utilizes all of these questions. Below is a table that shows how the number of question and answer sets used increases with each grade.

Grade Level	BTCG Questions
1	1–75
2	76–89
3	90–108
4	109–127
5	128–146
6	147–164

The selected questions that each grade studies are included in the Student Worktext for that grade. Each grade's Teacher's Edition and Teacher's Toolkit CD both contain the full set of Bible truths. Teachers may choose to present all the questions and answers or only some of them.

When introducing a question, explain the meaning of unfamiliar words, relate the question to the Bible lessons when appropriate, and apply the truth to the students' lives. The verse references are the basis for the answers and are to help you explain the particular Bible truth. To practice the Bible Truths for Christian Growth, repeat each question and answer several times before expecting the students to begin saying it with you. After the students become familiar with the questions and answers, a variety of games can be played for review. Learning these great scriptural truths can be a vital teaching tool resulting in lifelong changes. Bible Truths for Christian Growth are offered as an optional part of this curriculum.

The Bible Teaches Us About God

(15 questions; numbers 1–15)

- 1. Who is God?** *God is the eternal and holy creator and keeper of the universe and the Savior of mankind (Gen. 1:1; Ps. 90:2; Heb. 1:3; John 3:16).*
- 2. What is God like?** *God is infinite, loving, and unchangeable (Ps. 139:7–10; 1 John 4:8; James 1:17).*
- 3. Where is God?** *God is everywhere (Ps. 139:7–12; Prov. 15:3).*
- 4. Can you see God?** *No, I cannot see God, but He always sees me (Jer. 23:23–24; John 1:18; 1 Tim. 6:16).*
- 5. Why can we not see God?** *We cannot see God because He is a spirit and does not have a body (John 4:24).*
- 6. Does God know all things?** *Yes, God knows all things (Job 34:21; Ps. 147:5; Heb. 4:13).*
- 7. Can God do all things?** *Yes, God can do all His holy will (Matt. 19:26; Ps. 135:6).*
- 8. Does God ever do evil?** *No, God is always righteous (Deut. 32:4; James 1:13).*
- 9. Is there more than one God?** *No, there is only one God (Isa. 44:6; 45:6, 22; 1 Tim. 2:5).*
- 10. In how many persons does this one God exist?** *God exists in three persons (Matt. 3:16–17; 2 Cor. 13:14).*
- 11. Who are the three persons of God?** *The three persons of God are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19).*
- 12. Who made God?** *Nobody made God (Ps. 90:2).*
- 13. Has God ever had a beginning?** *No, God has always existed (Ps. 93:2; Rev. 4:8).*
- 14. Will God ever die?** *No, God lives forever (Deut. 33:27).*
- 15. What is God's attitude toward us?** *God loves us even though we are sinners (Jer. 31:3; John 3:16; Rom. 5:8).*

The Bible Teaches Us About God's Creation

(16 questions; numbers 16–31)

- 16. Who made you?** *God made me (Gen. 1:27; Job 33:4).*
- 17. What else did God make?** *God made all things (Gen. 1:1–31; John 1:3).*
- 18. Why did God make you and all things?** *God made me and all things for His own glory (Isa. 6:3; Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 6:20; 10:31).*
- 19. Why ought you to glorify God?** *I ought to glorify God because He made me and takes care of me (Pss. 104:14–23; 146:5–10; Rev. 4:11).*
- 20. How can you glorify God?** *I can glorify God by loving Him and doing what He commands (Mic. 6:8; John 15:8; 1 John 5:3).*

21. **How can you learn to love God and obey Him?** *God Himself and the Bible teach me how to love and obey Him (Josh. 1:8; Ps. 119:10–11; Rom. 5:5; 1 Thess. 4:8–9).*
22. **Who wrote the Bible?** *Holy men who were taught by the Holy Spirit wrote the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21).*
23. **What does the Bible reveal?** *The Bible reveals who God is and how He is redeeming His fallen world through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Gen. 3:15; Mark 1:15; 1 Cor. 15:1–4; Rev. 21:1–4).*
24. **For what purpose does God redeem His creation?** *God redeems His creation so that all who believe in Him will live with Him forever in the kingdom of God (Rev. 21:1–4).*
25. **Who were our first parents?** *Adam and Eve were our first parents (Gen. 2:7, 18–22; 3:20).*
26. **What were our first parents made of?** *God made Adam out of the dust of the ground and formed Eve from Adam's body (Gen. 2:7, 21–22).*
27. **What did God make Adam and Eve to be like?** *God made them in His own image (Gen. 1:26–27).*
28. **What does it mean for humans to be in the image of God?** *God made us eternal beings that are able to reason, to have fellowship with Him, and to understand what is right and wrong (Rev. 4:11; 22:5; Isa. 1:18; Ps. 27:8; Prov. 28:5).*
29. **Why did God make Adam and Eve?** *God made them to populate the earth and have dominion over it (Gen. 1:26–28).*
30. **What does it mean for humans to have dominion over the earth?** *We are to manage every part of our lives for the benefit of others and for the glory of God.*
31. **When God made Adam and Eve, what condition were they in?** *God made them sinless and happy (Gen. 1:27–31).*

The Bible Teaches Us About Sin

(11 questions; numbers 32–42)

32. **Did Adam and Eve remain in their sinless and happy condition?** *No, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God (Gen. 3:6).*
33. **What is sin?** *Sin is transgressing (or breaking) the law of God (1 John 3:4).*
34. **What was the sin of our first parents?** *Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the fruit that God told them not to eat (Gen. 2:17; 3:6).*
35. **What led to the first sin?** *Eve believed a lie instead of God's word (Gen. 2:16–17; 3:1–6).*
36. **Who tempted Adam and Eve to sin?** *Satan tempted Eve, and she tempted Adam (Gen. 3:1–6).*
37. **What happened to our first parents when they sinned?** *They became sinful and miserable, deserving to be punished by God (Gen. 3:8–24).*
38. **How did God punish Adam and Eve's disobedience?** *Adam's punishment was death and separation from God (Gen. 2:17; 3:17–24).*

39. **What effect did Adam's sin have on all mankind?** *Because of Adam's sin, every person is born with a sinful nature that wants to do evil and has no fellowship with God (Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12).*
40. **How do we disobey God's law?** *We disobey God's law by not doing what God commands or by doing what God forbids (Matt. 15:3–6).*
41. **What does every sin deserve?** *Every sin deserves to be punished by God (Ps. 89:30–32; Gal. 3:10).*
42. **What is God's final judgment on unbelievers?** *All people who do not trust in Christ for salvation deserve the punishment of the lake of fire forever (Rev. 20:14–15; 21:8).*

The Bible Teaches Us About Angels and Satan

(9 questions; numbers 43–51)

43. **Did God create anyone before He created Adam?** *Yes, God created angels before He created Adam (Job 38:4–7).*
44. **Are all angels good?** *No, some angels are holy, but others are evil (Matt. 25:31; Rev. 12:9).*
45. **What do the good angels do?** *The good angels serve God (Heb. 1:14).*
46. **Who is Satan?** *Satan is an evil spirit who is the enemy of God and all Christians (John 8:44; 1 Pet. 5:8).*
47. **Was Satan ever good?** *Yes, Satan was once one of God's greatest angels (Ezek. 28:12–14).*
48. **Why is Satan not one of God's angels today?** *Satan became proud, sinned, and tried to fight against God, so God cast him out of heaven (Ezek. 28:15–16; Rev. 12:3–4, 7–9).*
49. **Who is stronger, God or Satan?** *God is stronger (1 John 3:8; 4:4).*
50. **Does Satan want God's will to be done?** *No, Satan always wants people to disobey God (1 Chron. 21:1; Eph. 6:11–12, 16).*
51. **What does Satan do?** *Satan causes us to doubt God's Word, tempts us to sin, and destroys lives (Gen. 3:1, 4; Matt. 4:3, 9; John 10:10).*

The Bible Teaches Us About the Work of Christ

(33 questions; numbers 52–84)

52. **Who can save us?** *The Lord Jesus Christ is the only Savior (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).*
53. **What does God require before a person can go to heaven?** *God requires that a person be born again to go to heaven (John 3:3, 16; Acts 4:12).*
54. **What is another word for being born again?** *Regeneration is another word for being born again (Ezek. 36:26–27; Titus 3:5–6).*

- 55. What is regeneration?** *Regeneration is a change of heart whereby God's desires become the sinner's delight.*
- 56. Who can change a sinner's heart?** *The Holy Spirit can change a sinner's heart (Titus 3:5).*
- 57. How is a heart changed?** *A heart is changed by the Holy Spirit because of the grace of God shown in the work of Christ (Titus 3:4–7).*
- 58. What is grace?** *Grace is God's kindness to us when we deserve punishment (Deut. 7:6–9; Eph. 2:8–9).*
- 59. What was the work of Christ?** *The work of Christ was to keep the law of God perfectly and to suffer the penalty for our sins (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 9:11–14).*
- 60. Can anyone be saved by his own works?** *No one can be saved by his own works (Eph. 2:8–9; Titus 3:4–7).*
- 61. Did Christ ever sin?** *No, Christ was holy, sinless, and undefiled (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:26).*
- 62. How was it possible for the Son of God to suffer?** *Christ, the Son of God, became human so that He could obey and suffer in our place (Phil. 2:7–8; Heb. 2:9).*
- 63. What is meant by the atonement?** *The atonement is Christ's satisfying divine justice by His sufferings and death in the place of sinners (Rom. 5:8–11; 1 Peter 3:18).*
- 64. What do we gain from the work of Christ?** *God regenerates, justifies, and sanctifies those who trust in Christ (1 Cor. 6:11; Titus 3:5–7).*
- 65. What is justification?** *Justification is God's forgiving me and treating me just as if I had never sinned (Rom. 3:24–25; 8:1).*
- 66. Why can God treat me just as if I had never sinned?** *God can treat me just as if I had never sinned because He has given me Christ's righteousness (Matt. 3:15; 2 Cor. 5:19, 21; Gal. 4:4–5).*
- 67. How am I justified?** *I am justified by faith in the work of Christ (Rom. 3:25–28; Gal. 2:16).*
- 68. What is sanctification?** *Sanctification is the process by which God transforms saved people to be like Christ in heart and behavior (1 Cor. 6:19–20; Rom. 12:1–2).*
- 69. What are the two parts of sanctification?** *The two parts of sanctification are dying to sin and living to righteousness (Rom. 6:11, 13; 8:13; Gal. 2:20).*
- 70. For whom did Christ obey and suffer?** *Christ obeyed and suffered for sinners (Rom. 5:8).*
- 71. What kind of death did Christ die?** *Christ died the painful and shameful death of being nailed to a cross (Luke 23:33–38; Phil. 2:8).*
- 72. Who will be saved?** *Whoever repents and trusts the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved (Isa. 55:7; John 3:16).*
- 73. What does it mean to repent?** *To repent is to be sorry for my sin because it displeases God (2 Chron. 7:14; Ps. 38:18; Jer. 44:4).*
- 74. What is saving faith in Christ?** *Saving faith is trusting only in Christ's death and resurrection for salvation (1 Cor. 15:1–4; Rom. 10:13).*
- 75. Can you repent and believe in Christ on your own?** *No, I cannot repent and believe in Christ without the help of God's Holy Spirit (John 3:5–6; 16:8–11).*
- 76. Can children repent and trust Christ for salvation?** *Yes, He welcomes them to come to Him (Mark 10:14).*
- 77. How long has it been since Christ died?** *Christ died nearly two thousand years ago.*
- 78. How were people saved before Christ came?** *People were saved by trusting in the Savior to come (Isa. 43:11; Heb. 11:13).*
- 79. What in the Old Testament pointed forward to the Savior's sacrifice for sin?** *Animals sacrificed on God's altar pointed to the Savior's sacrifice (Lev. 4:32–35; Heb. 9:11–12).*
- 80. What did the sacrifices represent?** *The sacrifices represented Christ, the Lamb of God, who was to die for sinners (John 1:29, 36; Heb. 9:11–14).*
- 81. What are Christ's three offices?** *Christ's offices are that of prophet, priest, and king (Acts 3:22; Heb. 5:5–6; Rev. 19:16).*
- 82. How is Christ the prophet?** *Christ revealed God to us and teaches us the will of God (John 1:18; Luke 4:18; John 15:15; Heb. 1:2).*
- 83. How is Christ the priest?** *Christ offered Himself as the Lamb of God and pleads with God for us (Rom. 3:26; Heb. 7:25–27).*
- 84. How is Christ the king?** *Christ rules over us, defends us, and will establish His kingdom on earth (Isa. 33:22; 1 Cor. 15:25; Rev. 19:16).*

The Bible Teaches Us About the Resurrection

(5 questions; numbers 85–89)

- 85. Did Christ remain in the tomb after His crucifixion?** *No, Christ rose bodily from the tomb on the third day after His death (Matt. 16:21; 28:1–6; 1 Cor. 15).*
- 86. Where is Christ now?** *Christ is in heaven, interceding for us (Acts 1:9; Eph. 1:19–21; Heb. 4:14–16; 7:25).*
- 87. On which day of the week do Christians gather for worship?** *Most Christians worship on Sunday, the first day of the week, which Scripture calls the Lord's Day (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1–2; Rev. 1:10).*
- 88. Why is Sunday called the Lord's Day?** *Sunday is called the Lord's Day because Christ rose from the dead on that day (Matt. 28:1–6; Mark 16:1–6).*
- 89. How should the Lord's Day be spent?** *The Lord's Day should be spent in prayer and praise, in hearing and reading God's Word, and in doing good to other people (Luke 13:10–13; Acts 15:21; 16:13).*

The Bible Teaches Us About God's Commandments

(31 questions; numbers 90–120)

- 90. How many commandments did God give on Mount Sinai?** *God gave ten commandments (Exod. 20:1–17).*
- 91. What are the Ten Commandments sometimes called?** *They are called the Decalogue, which means “ten words.”*
- 92. What do the first four commandments teach?** *The first four commandments teach our duty to God (Exod. 20:1–11; Matt. 22:37–38).*
- 93. What is the usefulness of the law for all people?** *The law teaches us that God is holy, that all people ought to live according to His holiness, and that no one is able to keep the law perfectly (Rom. 3:20; Gal. 3:19, 21–22).*
- 94. What does the law teach us about righteousness?** *The law teaches that Christ and His perfect obedience are needed if anyone is to be considered righteous before God (Rom. 3:28; Gal. 2:16, 21).*
- 95. What is the usefulness of the law for Christians?** *Christians are to use the law to understand God's standard of holy living, which they are to strive toward by the Holy Spirit (Matt. 5:17–48; 22:36–40; Gal. 5:22–25).*
- 96. What is the first commandment?** *The first commandment is “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Exod. 20:3).*
- 97. What does the first commandment teach us?** *The first commandment teaches us to worship only God (Matt. 4:10).*
- 98. What is the second commandment?** *The second commandment is “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth” (Exod. 20:4–6).*
- 99. What does the second commandment teach us?** *The second commandment teaches us to worship God in a proper manner and to avoid idolatry (Exod. 20:23; Deut. 6:13–18; Eph. 5:5; Col. 3:5).*
- 100. What is the third commandment?** *The third commandment is “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain” (Exod. 20:7).*
- 101. What does the third commandment teach us?** *The third commandment teaches us to reverence God's name (Ps. 29:2).*
- 102. What is the fourth commandment?** *The fourth commandment is “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Exod. 20:8–11).*
- 103. What does the fourth commandment teach us?** *The fourth commandment teaches us to set one whole day aside for God (Lev. 19:30; Deut. 5:12).*
- 104. What do the last six commandments teach?** *The last six commandments teach our duty to our fellow man (Exod. 20:12–17; Matt. 22:39).*
- 105. What is the fifth commandment?** *The fifth commandment is “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee” (Exod. 20:12).*
- 106. What does the fifth commandment teach us?** *The fifth commandment teaches us that God blesses those who love, honor, and obey their parents (Rom. 13:1; Eph. 6:1–3).*
- 107. What is the sixth commandment?** *The sixth commandment is “Thou shalt not kill” (Exod. 20:13).*
- 108. What does the sixth commandment teach us?** *The sixth commandment teaches us to avoid anger and injury to others (Gen. 9:6; 1 John 3:15).*
- 109. What is the seventh commandment?** *The seventh commandment is “Thou shalt not commit adultery” (Exod. 20:14).*
- 110. What does the seventh commandment teach us?** *The seventh commandment teaches us to be pure in heart, language, and conduct (Matt. 5:27–30; Eph. 4:29; 5:3–4).*
- 111. What is the eighth commandment?** *The eighth commandment is “Thou shalt not steal” (Exod. 20:15).*
- 112. What does the eighth commandment teach us?** *The eighth commandment teaches us to respect the property of others and to be fair in all of our dealings (Lev. 6:1–5; Prov. 11:1; Rom. 12:11; Eph. 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:10–12).*
- 113. What is the ninth commandment?** *The ninth commandment is “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor” (Exod. 20:16).*
- 114. What does the ninth commandment teach us?** *The ninth commandment teaches us to tell the truth (Prov. 14:5; Zech. 8:16; 1 Pet. 3:16).*
- 115. What is the tenth commandment?** *The tenth commandment is “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's” (Exod. 20:17).*
- 116. What does the tenth commandment teach us?** *The tenth commandment teaches us to be content with what we have (Gal. 5:26; Phil. 4:11; Heb. 13:5).*
- 117. What commandments does God command us to obey first of all?** *God commands us to obey the two great commandments (Matt. 22:37–40).*
- 118. What is the first great commandment?** *The first great commandment says, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind” (Matt. 22:37).*
- 119. What is the second great commandment?** *The second great commandment says, “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself” (Matt. 22:39).*
- 120. Who is your neighbor?** *All people are my neighbors (Luke 10:25–37; Gal. 6:10).*

The Bible Teaches Us About God's Ordinances

(12 questions; numbers 121–32)

- 121. What is an ordinance?** *An ordinance is a way of remembering Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:3–10; 1 Cor. 11:23–26).*
- 122. How many ordinances are there in the Bible?** *There are two ordinances in the Bible (Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 11:23–26).*
- 123. What are the two ordinances?** *The two ordinances are baptism and the Lord's Supper (Matt. 26:26–28; 28:19).*
- 124. Who appointed these ordinances?** *The Lord Jesus Christ appointed them (Matt. 26:26–28; 28:18–19).*
- 125. Why did Christ appoint these ordinances?** *Christ appointed these ordinances to encourage His disciples to separate from worldliness and to look forward to His return (Acts 2:40–42; 1 Cor. 11:24–31).*
- 126. What element is used in baptism?** *The element used in baptism is water (Matt. 3:6, 11, 14–17).*
- 127. What does baptism mean?** *Baptism is an outward sign of our union with Christ and our decision to follow Him (Rom. 6:3–11; Gal. 3:27).*
- 128. In whose name are we baptized?** *We are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19).*
- 129. What is the Lord's Supper?** *The Lord's Supper is a remembrance of Christ's death for us on the cross and a looking forward to His return (Matt. 26:26–28; 1 Cor. 11:23–26).*
- 130. Who is to partake of the Lord's Supper?** *All those who have trusted Christ as their Savior, are living for Him, and have confessed and forsaken all sin may partake of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:27–31).*
- 131. What are the elements used in the Lord's Supper?** *The elements used in the Lord's Supper are bread and the fruit of the vine (Matt. 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–25).*
- 132. What do the bread and fruit of the vine symbolize?** *The bread symbolizes Christ's body, which was crucified for us, and the cup symbolizes His blood, which was shed for us (Matt. 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–25; Luke 22:17–20).*

The Bible Teaches Us About Prayer

(18 questions; numbers 133–50)

- 133. What is prayer?** *Prayer is talking to God (Ps. 10:17; Phil. 4:6).*
- 134. In whose name should we pray?** *We should pray only in the name of Christ, our intercessor (John 16:23).*
- 135. What does it mean to pray "in Jesus' name"?** *To pray in Jesus' name is to pray for the same kind of things that Jesus our intercessor is praying for and to pray in the same spirit (1 John 5:14).*
- 136. What guide has Christ given us to teach us how to pray?** *Christ has given us the Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6:9–13).*

- 137. How should we pray?** *We should pray after this manner: "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen" (Matt. 6:9–13).*
- 138. How many petitions are there in the Lord's Prayer?** *There are six petitions in the Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6:9–13).*
- 139. What is the first petition?** *The first petition is "Hallowed be thy name" (Matt. 6:9).*
- 140. What do we pray for in the first petition?** *We say that God is holy and that we want to honor Him (Ps. 145:1–13; Rom. 11:36).*
- 141. What is the second petition?** *The second petition is "Thy kingdom come" (Matt. 6:10).*
- 142. What do we pray for in the second petition?** *We pray that Christ will rule over all the earth and that all people will praise God (Ps. 67:1–3; Matt. 28:19–20; Phil. 2:10–11).*
- 143. What is the third petition?** *The third petition is "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10).*
- 144. What do we pray for in the third petition?** *We pray that the will of God will be done in the life of everyone on earth (Ps. 103:22; Rom. 12:2).*
- 145. What is the fourth petition?** *The fourth petition is "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matt. 6:11).*
- 146. What do we pray for in the fourth petition?** *We pray that God will provide everything we need (Prov. 30:8; Phil. 4:19).*
- 147. What is the fifth petition?** *The fifth petition is "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Matt. 6:12).*
- 148. What do we pray for in the fifth petition?** *We pray that God will pardon our sins for Christ's sake and enable us to forgive those who have sinned against us (Ps. 51:1; Matt. 6:14–15).*
- 149. What is the sixth petition?** *The sixth petition is "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" (Matt. 6:13).*
- 150. What do we pray for in the sixth petition?** *We pray that God will keep us from sin when we are tempted (Ps. 51:10, 12; Matt. 26:41).*

The Bible Teaches Us About the Future

(14 questions; numbers 151–64)

- 151. Will Christ come again?** *Yes, Christ has promised to return to take us to be with Him (John 14:1–3; Acts 1:11).*
- 152. When will Christ return?** *No one knows when Christ will return (Matt. 24:42, 50; 25:13).*
- 153. What are the two parts of the Second Coming?** *The Second Coming includes the Rapture and the glorious appearing (1 Cor. 15:51–52; Rev. 19:11–16).*

- 154. What will happen at the Rapture?** *At the Rapture, Christ will resurrect the Christians who have died and change those who are living, giving each of them a body that will never die (1 Cor. 15:51–52; 1 Thess. 4:15–17).*
- 155. What will happen after the Rapture?** *After the Rapture, a seven-year period of judgment will take place on earth, ending with the glorious appearing.*
- 156. What will happen at the glorious appearing?** *Christ will return to earth, remove all the wicked, and establish His millennial kingdom with His people (2 Thess. 1:7–10; Rev. 19:11–16).*
- 157. What is the Millennium?** *The Millennium is a thousand-year period after the Tribulation when Christ rules His kingdom on earth (Rev. 20:1–6).*
- 158. What will happen after the Millennium?** *At the end of the Millennium, Christ will defeat and judge all His enemies and establish the new earth and the new Jerusalem (Rev. 20:7–15; 21:1–4).*
- 159. What happens to people at death?** *The body returns to dust, and the spirit goes to either heaven or hell (Gen. 3:19; Ps. 9:17; Luke 16:22–23; Rom. 6:23).*
- 160. What will happen to the wicked in the day of judgment?** *The wicked will be thrown into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:11–15).*
- 161. What is the lake of fire?** *The lake of fire is a place of eternal fire and endless torment (Matt. 25:41; Mark 9:43; Luke 16:19–26; Rev. 20:10, 13–15).*
- 162. What happens to the righteous when they die?** *The righteous go to heaven when they die (Matt. 5:11–12; 25:46; John 10:28).*
- 163. What is heaven?** *Heaven is a glorious and happy place where the saved live with the Lord, awaiting the resurrection of their bodies (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23).*
- 164. What is the eternal dwelling place of the righteous?** *Our eternal dwelling place with the Lord will be the new earth and the new Jerusalem (John 14:3; Rev. 21:1–3).*