

# Foundations of Faith



**FOUNDATIONS OF THE FAITH**  
**39 Week Study**

- 1. Why The Bible Was Written**
- 2. The Bible Is Our Authority**
- 3. Rightly Divided**
- 4. Who Is The Founder Of The Church?**
- 5. Where Did The Church Have It's Beginning?**
- 6. The Events On Pentecost**
- 7. How Many Churches Did Christ Build?**
- 8. Scriptural Names**
- 9. Is the Church Of Christ A Denomination?**
- 10. The Bible Is Our Only Creed**
- 11. What Is The Organization Of The Church?**
- 12. Elders**
- 13. Deacons**
- 14. What Must I Do To Be Saved?**
- 15. Faith**
- 16. Repentance**
- 17. Confession**
- 18. Baptism**
- 19. How Did The Early Church Worship?**
- 20. Music In Worship**
- 21. Lord's Supper**
- 22. Prayer**
- 23. Stewardship**
- 24. Preaching**
- 25. Benevolence**
- 26. Evangelism**
- 27. Edification**
- 28. Attendance**
- 29. Salvation Is In The Church**
- 30. Can A Christian Fall From Grace?**
- 31. The Kingdom Is Now**
- 32. Are Infants Born Pure?**
- 33. Have Miraculous Gifts Ceased? Part I**
- 34. Have Miraculous Gifts Ceased? Part II**
- 35. The Church And Worldliness Part I**
- 36. The Church And Worldliness Part II**
- 37. Dangers Of Modern Versions**
- 38. Remain Faithful Unto Death**
- 39. Christ Is Coming For His Church**

**LESSON #1**  
**"WHY THE BIBLE WAS WRITTEN"**

**TEXTS: II Timothy 3:16,17; Ecclesiastes 12:13**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Most people in our country have Bibles in their homes.

- a. Cover may be worn
- b. Pages may shine
- c. Just for show
- d. Used in case all else fails (spare tire)

In many countries there is a lack of Bibles. In the United States there is not a lack of Bibles, but a lack of Bible study.

- a. Hard to understand
- b. Just can't find time
- c. Don't need to understand it

If the world knew what the Bible could do for them, there would be no problem with a lack of Bible study.

**THE QUESTION WE ASK IN THIS FIRST LESSON: WHY DO WE HAVE A BIBLE AND WHY WAS THE BIBLE WRITTEN?**

Psalms 119:18 - (man needs to open his eyes)  
II Peter 1:21

Moses was educated in the wisdom of the Egyptians, was a shepherd and a leader.

|          |                          |
|----------|--------------------------|
| Ezra     | Scribe                   |
| Nehemiah | Cupbearer to the king    |
| David    | Shepherd, war hero, King |
| Solomon  | Wisest man on earth      |
| Ezekiel  | Jewish exile             |
| Daniel   | Statesman                |
| Amos     | Shepherd                 |
| Matthew  | Tax collector            |
| Peter    | Fisherman                |
| John     | Fisherman                |
| Luke     | Doctor                   |
| Paul     | Tentmaker                |

These men were separated by time, distance, culture, and language. Sixty-six books were written by some forty men over sixteen hundred years. The Bible is characterized by complete unity and harmony (II Timothy 3:16).

## **WHY WAS THE BIBLE WRITTEN?**

### **I. TO REVEAL GOD**

- A. His identity John 4:24
- B. His nature John 3:16; I John 4:8
- C. His will for man Ecclesiastes 12:13

### **II. TO GUIDE US**

- A. Man has tried to guide himself down through the years, only to end in misery.

II Timothy 3:17 - we don't need additional revelations.

### **III. THE BIBLE GIVES US THE ANSWERS TO LIFE'S GREATEST QUESTIONS.**

- A. Where did I come from? Genesis 2:7
- B. Why am I here? Ecclesiastes 12:13
- C. Where am I going? Ecclesiastes 12:7

### **IV. THE BIBLE REVEALS TO US SIN AND ITS EFFECT ON MANKIND.**

- A. Isaiah 59:1, 2
- B. Romans 3:23
- C. I John 1:8
- D. Romans 1:18

### **V. THE BIBLE REVEALS TO US GOD'S ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM OF SIN.**

- A. Hebrews II: 6
- B. Romans 10:17
- C. Luke 13:3
- D. Matthew 10:32, 33
- E. Mark 16:16

### **WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT THE BIBLE?**

God in all of His wisdom gave mankind a road map to find his way to heaven.

**LESSON #2**  
**"THE BIBLE IS OUR AUTHORITY"**

**TEXTS: Revelation 22:18,19; Proverbs 30:6; Deuteronomy 4:2**

**INTRODUCTION**

It is man's duty, as well as his privilege, to study the Bible. This obligation is a personal one, as our God is a personal God.

**Acts 10:34**

Our efforts to understand the Bible should be and must be both **HONEST** and **INTELLIGENT**. A lack of intelligent study of the Bible had led many people down the wrong path. A path made by man.

Many people think they can be saved as the thief on the cross.

Many think that instrumental music is right in the worship of God.

Many feel that it does not matter what one believes, so long as he believes in Christ. Many do not know the difference between the Law of Moses and the Gospel of Christ.

We each must let the Bible answer our questions. We must let the Bible speak.

Therefore, our study must be an honest one.

There must be a sincere desire for the truth to find God's will for mankind so that he can be saved. There must be an honest study to find God's position.

- a. Not your own
- b. Not mine
- c. Not the way you were taught
- d. Not our feelings
- e. The Catholics must read the Bible through the eyes of the Pope.
- f. The denominational world through the pages of a creed book.

**WE MUST LET THE BIBLE SPEAK FOR ITSELF.**

**Proverbs 14:12; Proverbs 21:2; Proverbs 28:26; Proverbs 30:6; Deuteronomy 4:2**  
**Revelation 22:18,19.**

Look around you in the denominational world. What do you see?

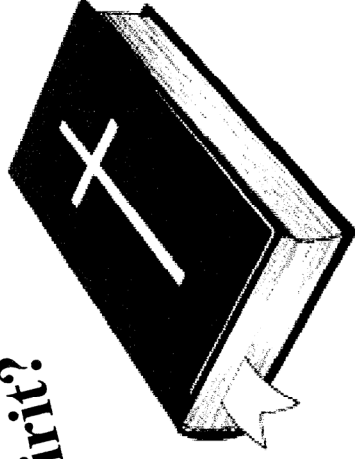
- a. All wearing different names.
- b. Different titles for their leaders.
- c. Own books of faith.
- d. All have different ways of admission to their bodies.
- e. All have different headquarters with governing bodies.
- f. All have their different ways to heaven.

**WE LIVE IN A CONFUSED WORLD. THE BIBLE IS THE ONLY ANSWER.**

# **What Does the Bible Say ...?**

**About the Church?**

**About the Holy Spirit?**



**About Sin?**

*About the Atonement?*

**About God?**

**About Heaven and Hell?**

## **LESSON #3 RIGHTLY DIVIDED**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

**"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15).**

Many today have no conception of the Bible being a book that needs to be rightly divided. If asked to find God's plan for the salvation of man, they would just as soon go to the book of Numbers as the Acts of the Apostles. Many have left the studying of God's Word to a few men and, thus, have never taken the Book to find for themselves the truths that are in it.

The size of the Bible has been a discouragement for many: 1,189 chapters, 31,000 verses, over 750,000 words, which take approximately ninety hours to read in a casual way.

**There are also Topical Divisions of the Bible.**

**(Refer to Chart)**

Another reason that people find the Bible hard to understand is they fail to divide it into time periods, and the way that God dealt with the people of those times, and the Law they were under (Patriarchal, Mosaical, Christian).

**(Refer to Chart)**

Most people know that the Bible is divided into two parts, the Old Testament and the New. Many fail to understand that Christians today are under the New Testament and not under the laws of the Mosaic time period.

We can see from this lesson that it is necessary to "Rightly Divide" God's Word to properly understand it.



# PERIOD DIVISIONS

2 Timothy 2:25

CROSS



- 1. Creation To Sinai  
2. Family Religion  
3. God Spoke Orally  
4. Animal Sacrifice  
    Gen. 4
- 5. Circumcision  
    Gen. 17:10
- 1. Sinai To Cross  
2. National Religion  
    Deut. 5:3; Eph. 2:12  
3. Faulty....Heb. 8:7  
4. Done away..Col.2:14-16  
    2 Cor. 3:7-14
- 6. Animal Sacrifice  
    Sabbath Day  
    Passover Feast  
    Circumcision  
    Thief
- 1. Pentecost To Judgment  
2. Universal...Matt. 28:19  
3. Christ Has All Authority  
    Matt. 28:18
- 4. Must Obey Christ  
    Heb.5:8-9; Acts 3:23
- 5. The Church or Kingdom  
    Acts 2:47; Col. 1:13
- 6. Gospel for All  
    Mark 16:15; Rom. 1:16

# Topical Divisions of THE BIBLE

1600 years in Writing

40 Writers

66 Books

## The Old Testament

## The New Testament

### Law

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

### History

Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
1 & 2 Samuel  
1 & 2 Kings  
1 & 2 Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther

### Poetry

Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Songs of Solomon

### Prophets

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel  
Minor Prophets  
Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

### Biography

Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
John

### History

Acts of The Apostles

### Letters

Romans  
1 & 2 Corinthians  
Galatians  
Ephesians  
Philippians  
Colossians  
1 & 2 Thessalonians  
1 & 2 Timothy  
Titus  
Philemon  
Hebrews  
James  
1 & 2 Peter  
1, 2 & 3 John  
Jude

### Prophecy

Revelation

# FORREST PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Know Your Bible*

## BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

### The Old Testament

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy  
Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
I & 2 Samuel  
1 & 2 Kings  
I & 2 Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther  
Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes

The Song of Solomon  
Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel  
Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

### The New Testament

Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
Acts  
Romans  
I Corinthians  
II Corinthians  
Galatians  
Ephesians  
Philippians  
Colossians  
I Thessalonians  
II Thessalonians  
I Timothy  
II Timothy  
Titus  
Philemon  
Hebrews  
James  
I Peter  
II Peter  
I John  
II John  
III John  
Jude  
Revelation

**LESSON #4**  
**"WHO IS THE FOUNDER OF THE CHURCH?"**

**TEXTS: Matt. 16:18**

**INTRODUCTION:**

We want to forget all we have known about church and churches and study this subject purely on a New Testament basis. If I were ever disturbed about this subject, I would let Jesus be the Teacher and see what He had to say.

We need to ask four simple scriptural questions and give four simple scriptural answers.

- 1. Who built the church?**
- 2. When was it built?**
- 3. How many were built?**
- 4. How does man get into it?**

It is a recognized fact that no building or institution can be stronger than the foundation on which it rests (**Matthew 7:24-27**). No house on a weak foundation can stand for long. The very same can be said for the church.

For the church to be scriptural, it must have a scriptural foundation. Thus, no man can claim membership in the scriptural church unless he is a member of the church founded upon the scriptural foundation in God's Word.

The fact that a religious body exists is proof that someone founded it. In the world today there are many churches different in origin, doctrine and practice.

Each had its beginning and had a builder who was scriptural or unscriptural - the work of man or God.

1. Christ promised to build His church (**Matthew 16:18**). Therefore, it is certain that no church can be scriptural unless Christ founded it. If Henry VII founded a church; John Calvin, John Wesley, Joseph Smith or any other human being, it is not the church that Christ said He would build.

2. Many religionists assume that John the Baptist established the church. This is impossible. In **Matthew 14:10** we read of the execution of John. Two chapters later we read of the promise of Christ to build His church.

3. **Matthew 15:13** This warning is too plain and the penalty is too severe for me to be a member of some church not planted by the Maker of us all.

4. Christ has no connections with denominational churches. He did not establish any of them (if so, proof is upon you). Denominational churches are modern institutions mostly gotten up in the last few hundred years by men such as you and me.

5. The church belongs to Christ (**Acts 20:28**).

Christ is the Builder of His church (**Matthew 16:18**).

Christ is the only Head of the church (**Colossians 1:18, 24**).

The church is the Body of Christ (**Ephesians 1:22, 23**).

6. **Ephesians 4:4-6** - if the Body is the church, how many are there?

When all is said and our study is over, we can look at the world and see hundreds of churches of all kinds.

**When all is said and our study is over, we can look upon the pages of the Bible and see only one church with only one Founder.**

# THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

*And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; (Eph 2:20 )*

**Organization**.....Elders...Acts 14:23; Acts 20:17,28; 1 Peter 5:1-3; 1 Timothy 3:8-13

Deacons...Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8-13

Members...Acts 2:41-47; Romans 12:4-5

**Name ( collectively)**.....Church of God...1 Corinthians 1:2; Acts 20:28

Church of Christ...Romans 16:18; Matt. 16:18

Church of Firstborn...Hebrews 12:23

House of God.....1 Timothy 3:15

**Name (individually)**.....Brethren...Galatians 6:1; 1 Corinthians 15:1-3,22,36

**Worship**.....In Spirit and Truth....John 4:24

Sing...Ephesians 5:19

Pray...1 Thessalonians 5:17

Teach...Acts 20:7

Communion....Acts 20:7

Contribution.....1 Corinthians 16:2

**Rule of Faith**.....Word of God...2 Timothy 3:16-17; Romans 1:16; 2 Peter 1:3

**LESSON #5**  
**"WHERE DID THE CHURCH HAVE IT'S BEGINNING?"**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Any church not founded on Pentecost is not the true church. This is one of the tests by which to determine whether a church is the true church or not.

In looking for the scriptural church, look for these marks:

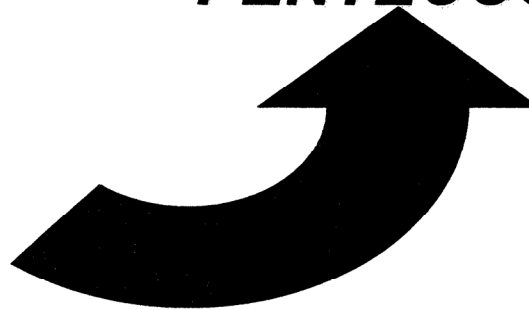
Built by Christ  
Built on Christ  
Built in Jerusalem on Pentecost

Any church that does not bear these marks, is not the church that Jesus said He would build. It may have many good people in it and may teach many good things, but it is not the church of the Bible.

|                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Isaiah 2:2-4</b>    | <b>Latter days</b>         |
| <b>Micah 4:1, 2</b>    | <b>In Jerusalem</b>        |
| <b>Daniel 2:44</b>     | <b>Days of those kings</b> |
| <b>Matthew 3:1, 2</b>  | <b>Is at hand</b>          |
| <b>Mark 1:15</b>       | <b>Is at hand</b>          |
| <b>Matthew 6:9, 10</b> | <b>Pray for its coming</b> |
| <b>Matthew 16:18</b>   | <b>Will build</b>          |
| <b>Mark 9:1</b>        | <b>Come in lifetime</b>    |
| <b>Matthew 18:3</b>    | <b>Not entered</b>         |
| <b>Luke 10:9</b>       | <b>Nigh unto you</b>       |
| <b>Luke 22:18</b>      | <b>Shall come</b>          |

**PENTECOST**

1. 3000 added that day
2. Last days
3. Jerusalem
4. Days of those kings
5. Days of some of the disciples
6. Holy Spirit Came on apostles
7. Saved added to it
8. Citizens; Colossians 1:13-14



**Does the church you belong to begin at Jerusalem on Pentecost, A.D. 33?**

**Acts 1:15**  
**Acts 11:15**

# WHEN & WHERE ESTABLISHED

## THE CHURCH

## IN

## GOD'S

## PLANS

Eph. 3:10-11

Last Days  
Isaiah 2:2-3; Joel 2:28

At Hand  
Matt. 3:2; Luke 10:9

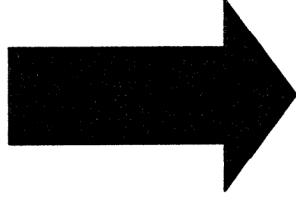
Prayed For It  
Matt. 9:9-10

Will Build  
Matt. 16:18

Come With Power  
Mark 9:1

Shall Come  
Luke 22:18; 19:11

Waited for It  
Mark 15:43; Acts 1:6



A.D. 33

## PENTECOST

IN LAST DAYS

Acts 2:17

AT JERUSALEM

Luke 24:47

3000 ADDED

Acts 2:41

DURING LIFETIME

Mark 9:1

POWER CAME

Acts 1:8; 2:1-4

John In Kingdom

Rev. 1:9

65 A.D. In Existence

1 Tim. 3:15

Col. 1:13

Church Active

Acts 13:1-3

Acts 14:27

Persecuted

Acts 8:1

33 A.D. In Existence

Acts 5:11; 2:47





**LESSON # 6**  
**“THE EVENTS ON PENTECOST”**  
**Acts 2:1-47**

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

19 And I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:  
20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:  
21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.  
22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:  
23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:  
24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.  
25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:  
26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:  
27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.  
28 Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.  
29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.  
30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;  
31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.  
32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.  
33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.  
34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,  
35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.  
36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.  
37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

**LESSON #7**  
**"HOW MANY CHURCHES DID CHRIST BUILD?"**

**TEXTS: Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Colossians 1:18; Romans 16:16**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The religious leaders of Jesus' day asked Him in **Matthew 19:3** if easy divorce for every cause were lawful. He answered them in verse 6, "What God has joined together, let not man put asunder." They replied that Moses had allowed easy divorce and "Everybody's doing it."

"Jesus said, "From the beginning it has not been so." This meant that regardless of how men had changed God's plan for marriage, God's will was still the same as it had been from the beginning. It has not changed even today.

The same is true of God's plan for His spiritual family, the Church. From the beginning He joined it together, but through the centuries men have divided it asunder.

**FROM THE "THE" OF MATTHEW 1:1 TO THE "AMEN" OF REVELATION 22:21, WE READ OF ONLY ONE BODY, THE CHURCH.**

To disprove this statement, you must change the very Word of God.

1. **Matthew 16:18** - The word church in this passage is singular.
  - a. Upon this table I will lay my watch. How many watches would there be?
  - b. Suppose I were to say, "Take the watch of your choice." You can't because there is only one.
  
2. There was only one church in the days of the apostles.
  - a. No one ever asked, "Which church are you a member of?"
  - b. Were the apostles members of the same church?
  
3. Paul teaches that there is one Body.
  - a. **Ephesians 4:4; Romans 12:4, 5; I Corinthians 12:20; Ephesians 1:22, 23**  
• **Colossians 1:18**
  
4. "The Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains" (**Isaiah 2:2**).
  - a. **I Timothy 3:15**
  - b. **Ephesians 3:14,15** - God has only one family.
  - c. **Matthew 23:8, 9** - All Christians are brothers and sisters in Christ, and God is our Father.

The oneness of the Church (**John 15:1-7**).

We can look out at the religious world and see **ONE SHEPHERD** with many folds, **ONE VINE** with many different fruits, **ONE FATHER** with many children that are not his, **ONE HEAD**, many bodies.

# HOW MANY CHURCHES DID CHRIST BUILD?

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Mat 16:18)



**ONE FLOCK** .....(John 10:16 ) and they shall hear my voice;

and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

**ONE FAMILY** ..... (Eph 3:15) Of whom the whole family in

heaven and earth is named,

**ONE HOUSE**.....(John 14:2) In my Father's house are many mansions:

if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

**ONE KINGDOM**..... ( Col 1:13 ) Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness,

and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

(Col 1:18) And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

**There is one body.....Eph. 4:4**

**LESSON #8**  
**"SCRIPTURAL NAMES"**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The idea that there is nothing in a name is a prevalent and popular doctrine. Today we have as many names as we do churches. We have seen in other studies that Christ was the founder of one church, as well as the foundation. Also, we find its origin, A.D. 33 in Jerusalem.

The question we ask today: "Is a name important, or does it really matter what name we use?"

1. There is so much in a name that God named Adam and Eve (**Genesis 5:2**).
2. If there is nothing in a name, explain why God changed Abram's name to "Abraham" and Sarai's name to "Sarah" (**Genesis 17:5,15**).
3. If there is no importance attached to a name, then why did God change Jacob's name to "Israel" (**Genesis 32:27, 28**). To say there is nothing in a name is but to reflect upon the wisdom of god and accuse Him of doing foolish and useless acts.
4. Paul condemned human and divisive names by asking a few questions (**I Corinthians 1:13**).
5. A name is meaningful: dogs named Fido, Satan, Rebel, etc. Sons named Bill, Bob, Joey, etc. your wife carries your name. Suppose you called a good American a Judas? Suppose you called a Bulldog fan a Gator?

Are you beginning to see there is something in a name?

What about the church? Let's turn to the Bible for the answer.

1. "My church" - **Matthew 16:18** - Jesus called it His church.
2. "The church" - **Acts 8:1** - The word "church" comes from the Greek word "ekklesia" meaning a group of called-out people. The Lord had but one group and called it the church.
3. "Church of God"                      **1 Corinthians 1:2** - shows ownership
4. "Churches of Christ"                **Romans 16:16** - writer is speaking of various local churches.
5. "The Body of Christ"                **Ephesians 4:12**
6. "The church of the living God"    **1 Timothy 3:15**

Is it not a dishonor to God and Christ to call the Church by another name? (**Acts 20:28**)

As one looks about the religious world, there are hundreds of names that supposedly represent the Church for which Christ died. But a quick glance into the Word of God clearly shows most of these names cannot be found within the context of the Bible and, therefore, are unbiblical and unfounded.

We are asked, "Well, what's in a name anyway?"

There are many who feel that there is nothing in a name. **Acts 4:12**. There is a name above all others.

The story is told of a man arrested for making whiskey. He came before the judge, who was a church going man. The judge asked the man, "What is your name?" "Joshua," the man replied. "Are you the Joshua who made the sun stand still?" "No, sir," the man replied. "I'm the Joshua that made the moonshine."

We need not close our eyes to the fact that names are important and mean much in every field and phase of thinking and activity.

**Names mean something in business (checks).**

**Names are important in identifying objects, persons and places.**

**Names mean something in marriage.**

**Men resent being called certain names.**

**Names mean something in fields of science, music and art.**

Why will men argue that in the field of religion that names mean nothing?

That they mean nothing to God?

**Be sure to always turn to your Bible for the your answer....**

**IS THERE ANYTHING IN A NAME ?**

*Church of God*

**Pentecostal**

**Episcopal**

*Mormon*

**Lutheran**



*Catholic*

**Church**

**Baptist**

**The Bible Has The Only Answer !!**

**Methodist**

*Church of Christ*



**LESSON #9**  
**"IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST A DENOMINATION?"**

**INTRODUCTION:**

On Sunday morning many people will enter a church building with a certain name over the door and go through a certain form, ritual or program that reflects the heart of their faith.

Others of them enter another building a few doors away over which is another name, and they go through a different form, ritual, or program that somewhat reflects the fundamentals of their faith. Still others go elsewhere and do differently. And, so on and on it goes.

Often the father of a family goes to one church, the mother to another, and the children to a third so no favoritism is shown to either parent.

It's got so it's like a child in a candy store. There is just so much to choose from.

How do you decide? How do you choose from 500 or so different groups?

**There are many reasons why people choose one church over another.**

- 1. The most important people belong to that church.**
- 2. That church has 1,000 members.**
- 3. That church is small in number.**
- 4. That church is friendly.**
- 5. That church has a beautiful building.**
- 6. I like the way the preacher talks and combs his hair.**
- 7. It's so close to home.**
- 8. Mother and daddy went there.**

Thousands of people are selecting a church just for these reasons. Finally a selection is made for whatever the reason may be. Most of the time without helps, from the Bible.

When people are asked, "Of what denomination are you?" we get many different answers.

**DENOMINATIONALISM**

- 1. Many bodies or churches.**
- 2. Founded by men.**
- 3. Human heads**
- 4. Human creeds**
- 5. Wear human names**
- 6. Follow men**
- 7. Churches unknown to Bible**
- 8. Preach many gospels**
- 9. Many faiths**
- 10. Many baptisms**

Let's turn to the Bible and ask Paul, Peter, James, John..

## **BIBLE**

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>1. One body or church</b>     | <b>Matthew 16:18; I Corinthians 12:20</b> |
| <b>2. Founded by Christ</b>      | <b>Matthew 16:18</b>                      |
| <b>3. Christ is the Head</b>     | <b>Colossians 1:18</b>                    |
| <b>4. Bible as only creed</b>    | <b>II Timothy 3:16,17</b>                 |
| <b>5. Glorify God in name</b>    | <b>I Peter 4:16 .</b>                     |
| <b>6. Condemned in the Bible</b> | <b>I Corinthians 1:10-13</b>              |
| <b>7. Church is in the Bible</b> | <b>Romans 16:16</b>                       |
| <b>8. Condemned</b>              | <b>Galatians 1:8, 9</b>                   |
| <b>9. One faith</b>              | <b>Ephesians 4:5</b>                      |
| <b>10. One baptism</b>           | <b>Ephesians 4:5</b>                      |

Throughout the Bible religious division or denominationalism has been condemned as sinful. If it were sinful in the first century, it is just as sinful today. Our problem is that you and I were born into a world of denominations.

## **THE DARK AGES OF THE CHURCH**

### **FALLING AWAY PREDICTED**

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Galatians 1:6-9        | Paul witnessed the apostasy             |
| I Timothy 4:1-5        | Holy Spirit predicted apostasy          |
| II Timothy 4:1-5       | People would turn from Truth            |
| II Thessalonians 2:3-5 | Apostasy would come into the church     |
| Acts 20:28             | Apostasy would come into the eldership. |

### **FALLING AWAY CONDEMNED**

|                   |                                       |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Psalms 127:1      | The Lord must build the house         |
| Mark 7:7, 8       | Doctrine of men produces vain worship |
| Matthew 15:13, 14 | Man made churches will be rooted up.  |
| Matthew 7:21      | We must do the Will of                |

# ORIGIN OF DENOMINATIONS

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|                        |                 |      |                  |
|------------------------|-----------------|------|------------------|
| Adventism              | Massachusetts   | 1831 | William Miller   |
| American Baptist       | Providence R.I. | 1639 | Roger Williams   |
| Free well Baptist      | New Durham N.C. | 1780 | Benjamin Randall |
| Mormon Church          | Seneca, N.Y.    | 1830 | Joseph Smith     |
| Methodist Church       | London, England | 1729 | John Wesley      |
| Roman Catholic         | Rome, Italy     | 606  | Boniface III     |
| Seventh- Day Adventism | Massachusetts   | 1846 | Ellen G. White   |
| Presbyterian Church    | Switzerland     | 1535 | John Calvin      |
| Jehovah's Witnesses    | Pennsylvania    | 1874 | Charles Russell  |

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*Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. (1 Cor. 1:10)*

**Let The Bible Speak !!**

**LESSON # 10**  
**“THE BIBLE IS OUR ONLY CREED”**

**LET’S LET THE BIBLE SPEAK!**

(Gal 1:6) I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

(7) Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

(8) But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

**MAN SPEAK’S**

**THE BOOK OF MORMON**

(Mormon 8:12) And whoso receiveth this record, and shall not condemn it because of the imperfections, which are in it, the same shall know of greater things than these. Behold I am Moroni; and were it possible, I would make all things known unto you.

(Mormon 8:17) And if there be faults they be the faults of a man. But behold we know no fault; nevertheless God knoweth all things; therefore, he that condemneth, let him be aware lest he shall be in danger of hell fire.

**LET’S LET THE BIBLE SPEAK!**

(Ezek 18:20) The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

(1 John 3:4) Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

**MAN SPEAK’S**

**THE METHODIST DISEPLINE**

Article VII. - Of Original or Birth Sin

Original sin standeth not in the following of Adam, but it is the corruption of the nature of every man, that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam, whereby man is very gone from original righteousness, and of his own nature inclined to evil, and that continually.

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## **A QUESTION OF CREEDS**

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**But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. (Gal 1:8 )**

**Mormon 8:12 “ And whoso receiveth this record and shall not condemn it because of the imperfections which are in it”**

**Mormon 8:17 “ And if there be faults they be the faults of a man: But behold we know no fault”**

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**Methodist..Article IX.. “Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only Is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort”**

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### **Hiscox Guide to Baptist Churches**

**“Such was the case at Pentecost, and subsequently it was “the saved” who were added to the churches”**

**“Baptism may not be essential to salvation, but it is essential to obedience”**

## **LET'S LET THE BIBLE SPEAK!**

(Acts 26:20) But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

(Luke 13:3) I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

## **MAN SPEAK'S**

### **THE METHODIST DISEPLINE**

#### **Article VIII. – Of Free Will**

The condition of man after the fall of Adam is such that he cannot turn prepare himself, by his own natural strength and works, to faith, and calling upon God; wherefore we have no power to do good work, pleasant and acceptable to God, without the grace of Goy by Christ preventing us, that we may have a good will and working with us, when we have that good will.

## **LET'S LET THE BIBLE SPEAK!**

(James 2:24) Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

## **MAN SPEAK'S**

### **THE METHODIST DISEPLINE**

#### **Article IX. – Of the Justification of Man**

We are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of lour Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by faith, and not for our own works or deservings. Wherefore, that we are justified by faith, only is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.

## **LET'S LET THE BIBLE SPEAK!**

(Acts 2:47 ) Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

### **MAN SPEAK'S**

#### **THE HISCOX GUIDE (for Baptist churches)**

##### Church Membership

“Such was the case at Pentecost, and subsequently it was “the saved” who were added to the churches”

1. “If they, after proper investigation, become satisfied of his readiness for that step, and then, if satisfied, votes that he be received as a member; and then, if satisfied, votes”
2. By Letter- “If satisfied, he is received by a vote of the church, as in the former case- the letter serving as a certificate of character and standing, with permission to unite”
3. By Experience- “They bring no letters, nor are they rebaptized; but give an account of their conversion and Christian life. They then are received by vote on their confession”

## **LET'S LET THE BIBLE SPEAK!**

(John 3:5 ) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

### **MAN SPEAK'S**

#### **THE HISCOX GUIDE (for Baptist churches)**

##### Conditions of Membership

“Both Jesus and his apostles made it care that his kingdom was not of this world, and those who constituted it were such as are born of the Spirit”

## **LET'S LET THE BIBLE SPEAK!**

(1 Pet 3:21) The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

(Acts 22:16) And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

## **MAN SPEAK'S**

### Christian Ordinances

“It possesses no magical power to convert the soul. Regeneration is by the Holy Spirit alone, and should precede baptism”

“It is not a question as to whether he can be saved without baptism, but whether he can be a true disciple, and refuse or neglect thus to obey and confess his Savior.

“What are the scriptural qualifications for citizenship in this spiritual kingdom, for brotherhood in the family of the faithful? These conditions are four: (1) a regenerate heart, (2) a confession of faith, (3) the reception of baptism, and (4) a Christian life.”

“Baptism may not be essential to salvation, but it is essential to obedience”



**LESSON #11**  
**"WHAT IS THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH"**

**TEXTS: Acts 20:28; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9**

The government is one of man's oldest and most important institutions. From the earliest of times, some kind of government has been a vital part of every society. When we think of government we generally mean the government of a small town, county, city, state or nation. But just as important are the governments of a school, social club, baseball team, a Corporation, labor union, a family and, yes, even the church.

I. Matthew 21:23-25

- a. Only two sources of authority, from heaven or man.

II. I Corinthians 14:33

- a. God is not the author of confusion, but of peace.
- b. The confusion in the religious world is not from God.

III. Organization is essential.

- a. The universe is organized to perfection.
- b. Successful businesses stress organization.
- c. The Lord's church has a divine pattern of organization.

IV. The Lord is the head of the Church.

- a. By right of purchase - **Acts 20:28**.
- b. By right of appointment - **Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22, 23**.

V. The Lord has not delegated other authority outside the framework of the local Congregation, but called each congregation to be ruled by elders and served by deacons.

- a. The immediate oversight of the local congregation is in the hands of men called **Bishops (I Timothy 3:1), Elders (Acts 20:17), Pastors (Ephesians 4:11), Presbyters (I Timothy 4:14), and Overseers (Acts 20:28)**.

- b. Understanding these names will give us much help in understanding the work and qualifications of elders. They assume oversight by qualification and appointment.

VI. Deacons are, as their name indicates, servants; but all Christians are servants (**Romans 12:1**). Deacons are to be special servants under, as is the entire congregation, the oversight of the elders.

- a. **Acts 6**
- b. There is no special area that they must serve, but in any capacity appointed by the elders.

VII. A church can exist without elders and deacons but this should be temporary, until men meet the qualifications set forth for Lord.

# New Testament Pattern Of Church Government

Chart Lesson 11

Christ is the Head  
Col. 1:18

Elder  
Elder  
Elder

Elder  
*Elder*

Elder  
Elder  
*Elder*  
Elder

Elder  
*Elder*  
Elder

Elder  
*Elder*  
Elder  
Elder

Elder  
*Elder*

(Acts 20:29 ) For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.  
(Acts 20:30 ) Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

**LESSON #12**  
**THE ELDERSHIP**  
**QUALIFICATION OF ELDERS**

**TEXTS: I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:2, 3**

**INTRODUCTION:**

In the New Testament times it was God's plan that every church should have a plurality of elders to direct and oversee its members. Hence, we should try to meet God's requirements in doing His work. Without elders a church may be compared to a flock of sheep without a shepherd, or to a flock of wild geese without a leader. Every man who has any leadership ability should begin early in life to develop those fine qualities, which are required in a man to be an elder in the Lord's Church.

In our lesson today let us study the elders in the church, their qualifications, duties, and our duties to them.

Qualification defined: Any endowment or acquirement, which fits a person for a place, office or employment.

A condition that must be complied with for the attainment, of a status...such as the qualifications for citizenship.

In order to be an elder, one must willingly accept the work (**I Peter 5:2**). Men should not have to be begged to accept the office of the eldership.

It is not an uncommon sight to see people gathered around trying to get a man to accept a place in the eldership. One should accept it willingly and do the work with the same spirit.

**1. BLAMELESS**

- a. One against whom an evil charge cannot be sustained.
- b. Does not mean perfection (**Romans 3:23; I John 1:8-10**).

**2. THE HUSBAND OF ONE WIFE**

- a. A bishop must not have more than one living wife.
- b. He must have one wife.

**3. VIGILANT**

- a. Keen, courageous, wary watchfulness in sense of right.
- b. Concerning selves and members.

**4. SOBER**

- a. Not affected by passion or prejudice; well balanced.
- b. Not go off half-cocked.
- c. Use good common sense.

**5. OF GOOD BEHAVIOR**

- a. A well ordered life.
- b. Good manners, courteous, polite, orderly, modest.
- c. Not rude with no regard for feelings of others, or unwilling to be agreeable.

**6. GIVEN TO HOSPITALITY**

- a. Kindness, generosity to strangers, or guests at home or at the services.

**7. APT TO TEACH**

- a. Teach means to impart knowledge.
- b. They are to feed the flock.

**8. NOT GIVEN TO WINE**

- a. Not to indulge in the use of strong drink.
- b. Allow nothing to unbalance mind and body.

**9. NO STRIKER**

- a. Not quarrelsome

**10. NOT GREEDY OF FILTHY LUCRE**

- a. Not seeking gain through base, or dishonorable means.
- b. Not illegitimate business.

**11. PATIENT**

- a. Fair, mild, gentle.

**12. NOT A BRAWLER**

- a. Not a wrangler, but quiet and peaceable.
- b. Not a loud, noisy quarreler, one who disagrees, displaying great emotion.

**13. NOT COVETOUS**

- a. No lover of money.
- b. To have a desire for, long for.

**14. RULE WELL HIS OWN HOUSE**

- a. House refers to whole family.
- b. Submit to one's control.
- c. Head of the house.

**15. NOT A NOVICE**

- a. A new convert
- b. One incapable of responsibility.

**16. OF GOOD REPORT FROM WITHOUT**

## **DUTIES OF ELDERS**

The word bishop means overseer, one who plans and directs the work of the church. The word pastor has about the same meaning as the word shepherd. Both of these terms are used as they apply to the care and oversight of the members of the church.

This brings us to the next part of our lesson what are the duties of the elders?

1. The eldership is a work and not merely an official position, yet carries authority  
**(Romans 12:4,5; I Timothy 3:1).**

The elder in God's Church was never meant to be a law-giver in the absence of the revealed law of God.

Elders are to rule the church, according to the Will of God. The magnitude of their responsibility is expressed in **Hebrews 13:17**.

They that rule well are of double honor **(I Timothy 5:15)**.

## **2. SELF-DISCIPLINE**

a. Acts 20:28

b. Examine selves and see if their lives conform to the requirements of elders and Christians. Example.

## **3. WATCH - CARE OVER THE CONGREGATION**

a. Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2, 3

b. Lead, know, protect, feed, the sheep.

## **4. TEACH THE WORD OF GOD.**

## **5. EXHORT AND CONVINC THE GAINSAYERS.**

a. Titus 1:9

b. Those who tear down instead of built up.

## **DUTIES OF MEMBERS**

Let's now turn the picture around and view it from a different angle by considering the duty of the members to the elders **(I Thessalonians 5:12,13)**.

1. **MUST OBEY THEM (Hebrews 13:17).**

2. **NOT REBUKE (I Timothy 5:1). a. One advanced in years.**

3. **RECEIVE NOT AN ACCUSATION (1 Timothy 5:19).**

Members should recognize the responsibility of the elders to watch in behalf of their souls, and they should cooperate as the elders seek to feed them, to tend them, or to help them with spiritual problems.

**LESSON #13**  
**QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS**

**TEXT: I Timothy 3:8-13**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The word "deacon" is from the Greek word DIAKONOS, and means a waiter, attendant, servant or minister.

Deacons are, as their name indicates, servants; but in that all Christians are servants. (**Romans 12:1**). Deacons are to be special servants under, as is the entire congregation, the oversight of the elders. There is no special area that they must serve in the physical part of the church's work, but they can serve in any capacity appointed by the elders, including preaching and teaching.

In **Acts 6:1-6** we find that seven men were appointed to look after the Grecian widows. It is not known that these men were formerly recognized as deacons and yet the work must have been similar to that to be done by deacons since the same Greek work is used with reference to their work. These men were selected by the congregation and then appointed by the apostles. The performance of the work for which they were selected constituted the full measure of special responsibility.

Those who are selected to do this work must have the following qualifications:

**1. MUST BE GRAVE**

- a. Of good character
- b. Must be an individual who will take his responsibilities seriously, Not lightly.

**2. NOT DOUBLE-TONGUED**

- a. Saying one thing with one person, another with another, with intent to deceive
- b. Not talking to suit present company. c. Have convictions, stand by them.

**3. NOT GIVEN TO MUCH WINE**

- a. Forbids its use socially, or for anything other than medicinal purposes.
- b. Cannot be determined that the wine Paul suggested to Timothy was the intoxicating kind (I Timothy 5:23).

**4. NOT GREEDY OF FILTHY LUCRE**

- a. Greedy of base gains.
- b. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. c. Seek after money by dishonorable means.

**5. HOLDING THE MYSTERY OF THE FAITH IN A PURE CONSCIENCE**

- a. Means to hold fast, to hold on to, to adhere to, a belief or position,
- b. Not wishy-washy concerning the faith.

**6. BE PROVED**

- a. Tested as to ability, life, conduct, sincerity, steadfastness.
- b. Active in the work of the church.

**7. BLAMELESS**

- a. Live so that no evil charge can be sustained.

**8. WIVES BE GRAVE, NOT SLANDERERS, SOBER, FAITHFUL**

- a. Sound in life and in faith; not tale-bearers; serious mind; in the Lord's work.

**9. HUSBANDS OF ONE WIFE**

- a. Must have one.

**10. RULE THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR HOUSES WELL.**

- a. House refers to the whole family.
- b. Children in subjection (Ephesians 6:4).
- c. Ideal family relationships help to qualify a man for service in the household of faith.

**I Timothy 3:13 - 'For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.'**

## **THE WORK OF DEACONS**

The work of deacons is not given in detail in the New Testament, but is generally understood they are to look after the physical needs of the church.

Any work that needs to be done in the congregation, which the elders can delegate to the deacons and which is within the range of their qualifications, would be a work for deacons.

What are the needs of the church, which can be met by men with these qualifications?

**Benevolence**  
**Buildings-Grounds**  
**Communication**  
**Education**  
**Evangelism**  
**Financial Matters**  
**Worship**  
**Youth**

One of the characteristics that every Christian should cultivate, is that of participation in some phase of the work of the church. Christianity must embody the principle of service, for our Lord came to minister unto man (**Matthew 20:28**). The deacon is a servant, but so are we all.



**LESSON #14**  
**WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?**

**INTRODUCTION:** No more important question than this can occupy the mind of man.

- A. The worth of the soul of man exceeds the worth of all the world (**Matthew 16:26**).
1. Many have tried to gain the world and all have failed. But if one could gain the world his soul would be worth more than all the lands and wealth accumulated. It is eternal.
  2. If all the world is gained and the soul lost, what has one gained? An old song, "What if today God should call you away; what would you give in exchange for your soul?"
- B. The importance of this question is evident from the number of times it occurs in the book of Acts.
1. **On Pentecost - Acts 2:37**
  2. **By Paul on the road to Damascus - Acts 9:6.**
  3. **By the jailer in Philippi - Acts 16:30**
- C. In this study we shall consider the teaching of the Bible on this question. Let us remember the BIBLE ONLY has the answer.

**WHAT:** This word suggests that there is something required of man in being saved.

**MUST:** This word indicates it is not a matter of option, but a requirement.

**I:** It is not what God, Christ or the Holy Spirit must do but I - an individual responsibility.

**DO:** The word suggests activity on the part of the man being saved,

**TO BE-SAVED:-** This phrase denotes the purpose of complying with the conditions.

There could be no plainer, wiser and surer way to answer the question than turn to the Bible and read the question and the answer given.

**Mark 10:17** - This question was first asked by the rich young man who came to Jesus.

This question has been recorded three times in **Acts 2, Acts 16, Acts 22.**

The people on Pentecost did believe. They were told to repent and be baptized

Saul was a believing, penitent man. He was told to be baptized and wash away his sins.

The jailer was an unbeliever. He was told to believe. He did and repented and was baptized

When the question is asked today you must give the same answer given 2000 years ago - no more and no less.

**HEAR: Romans 10:17; Acts 18:8**

**BELIEVE: John 3:16; Hebrews 11:6 REPENT: Acts 17:30; Luke 13:3**

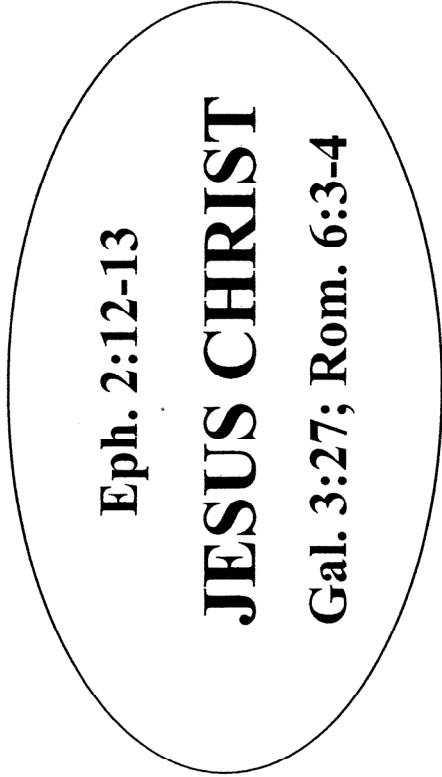
**CONFESS: Romans 10:10; Acts 8:37; Matthew 10:32**

**BAPTIZED: Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21; Galatians, 3:27;  
Acts 22:16, Mark 16:16, John 3:5; Acts 8:38**

**HAVE YOU MET THESE CONDITIONS?**

# WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED ?

Are you willing to let the Bible decide?



**I. Have you done these things?**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ John 6:45
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ John 8:34
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 17:30
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 10:10
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_ Matt. 28:18

**At this point of baptism**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 2:36-38
- \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 22:16
- \_\_\_\_\_ I Peter 3:21
- \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 2:47

**II. Are You In Christ?**

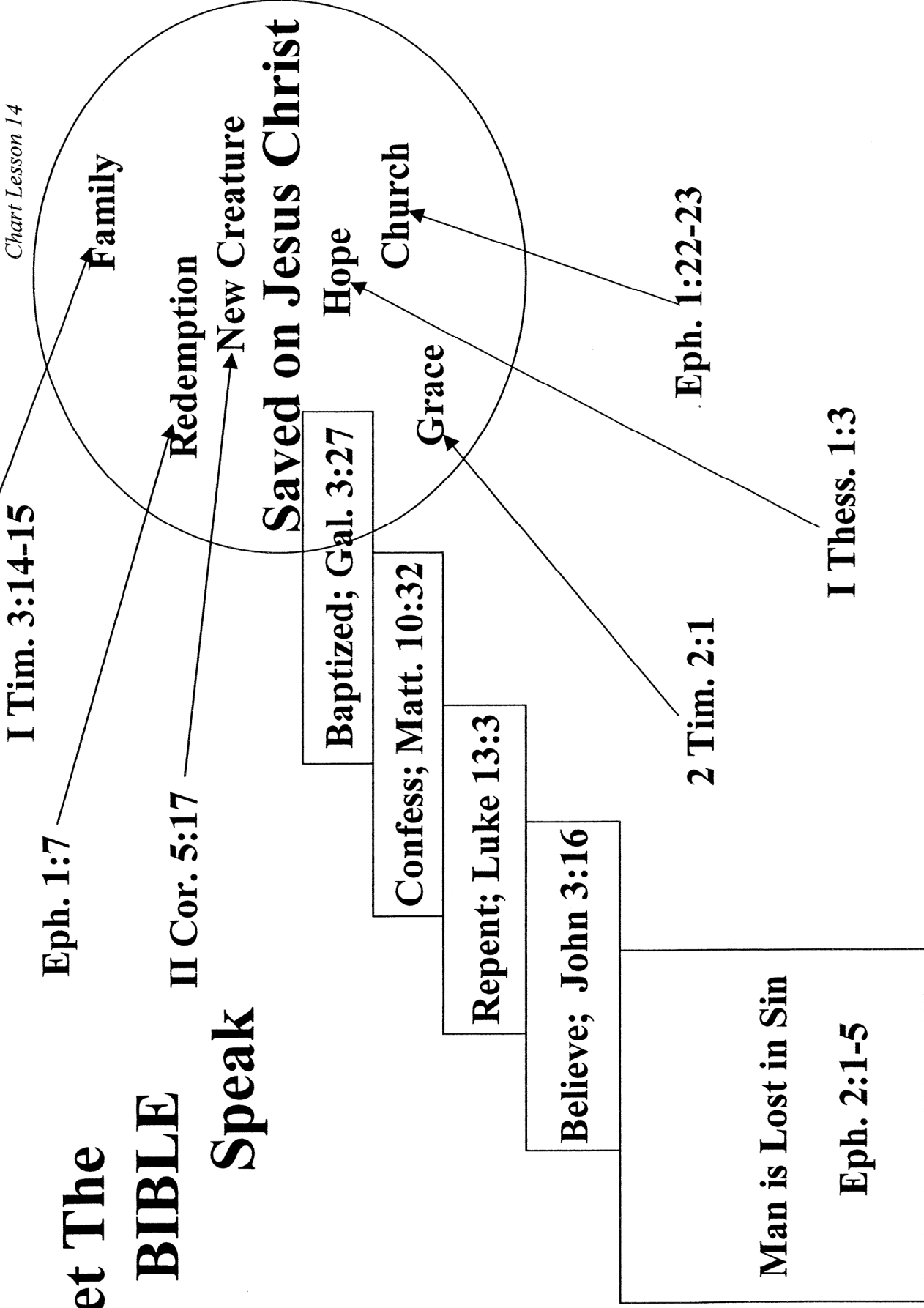
- II Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 1:14;
- II Timothy 2:10; I John 5:11; Ephesians 1:3

**III. Are You in the Body?**

- 1. How many Bodies are in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 12:5
- 2. What is the Body? \_\_\_\_\_ Colossians 1:18
- 3. How do we enter the one Body? \_\_\_\_\_ I Corinthians 12:13
- 4. What are we then? \_\_\_\_\_ I Corinthians 12:27

Or, in other words, the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ

# Let The BIBLE Speak



## LESSON #15

### FAITH

Texts: **James 2:14-23; Ephesians, 2:8; Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16**

#### INTRODUCTION:

Let us begin this very important lesson by first of all asking 3 questions and then go to the Bible to find our answers.

##### 1. **What is faith? Hebrews 11:1**

The "assurance of things hoped for" means the assurance that they do exist. I have never seen Mexico City, nor Paris but I have the assurance they are in existence.

##### 2. **How important is faith? Hebrews 11:6**

The absolute necessity of faith is emphasized from **Genesis to Revelation**. It is indispensable to man's salvation.

##### 3. **How do we get this faith? Romans 10:17**

Many people feel that faith comes as a result of some miraculous operation upon the heart.

For a person to say that they have faith is not necessarily saying much. According to the Bible, there is a strong faith and a weak faith. There are those who are said to have a little faith, others great faith.

We are told in **James 2:19** that even the devils believe and tremble. **Mark 1:22, 24**.

This is faith apart from works and is precisely the type of faith, which the entire denominational world insists is sufficient to salvation.

(The book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 1980, page 57) - "Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only, is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort."

#### **What does the Bible say?**

**James 2:24; John 12:42, 43.**

Man is saved by faith: "**Believe on the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved.**" But when is man saved by faith? The moment he believes? Or when faith obeys? The Bible will, as always, give us the answers to these questions.

1. The walls of Jericho fell by faith. **Joshua 6:1-5**
2. By faith Noah and his house were saved. **Genesis 6**
3. The Israelites were healed by faith. **Numbers 21:4-9**
4. Naaman healed because of his faith. **2 Kings 5**

#### **NOT FAITH ONLY!!!!**

In no place does the Bible promise salvation on grace alone. If grace alone saves, then all Mankind would be saved with no need of a Savior.

## IS MAN JUSTIFIED BY FAITH AND WORKS?

### 1. Based on his works, what is man's condition?

None \_\_\_\_\_ good. **Romans 3:12**  
\_\_\_\_\_ have sinned. **Romans 3:23**

### 2. How then can man be saved?

By \_\_\_\_\_ are you saved through \_\_\_\_\_. **Ephesians 2:8**  
Not of \_\_\_\_\_ lest any man should boast. **Ephesians 2:8**

### 3. Whose work had production salvation?

Jesus shed His blood for the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins. **Matthew 26:28**  
Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for our sins. **I Corinthians 15:3**  
Christ was once offered to \_\_\_\_\_ the sins of many. **Hebrews 9:28**

### 4. What are we to do to receive the blessings produced of God?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. **Hebrews 11:6**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Hebrews 11:7** \_\_\_\_\_ **James 2:21**  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ **Hebrews 11:30**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Hebrews 11:31** \_\_\_\_\_. **James 2:25**

### 5. What must man do to receive the following blessings?

Eternal life \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. **John 3:16; Romans 2-6, 7**  
Remission \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. **Acts 10:43; Romans 6-17, 18**  
Purification \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. **Acts 15:9; 1 Peter 1:22**  
Salvation \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. **Acts 16:31; Hebrews 5:9**  
Justification \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. **Romans 5:1; James 2:24**

### 6. By what will we be condemned or justified?

He that \_\_\_\_\_ shall be condemned. **Mark 16:16**  
We will be judged by our \_\_\_\_\_. **I Peter 1:17; Revelation 20:12, 13**

God desires that we strive for perfection and has given us a perfect guide to follow. We all fall far short of perfection. The great consolation is found in the statement, **“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10b).**

When we have done the best we can, being governed by the Word of God, the faithful have the assurance that there is a home in heaven.

A final warning: There is a great deal of difference between faith and opinion. Be sure that your life is governed by the New Testament and not by religious opinions.

## **LESSON #16 REPENTANCE**

**TEXTS: Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30; 11 Corinthians 7:9-10.**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

J. W. McGarvey said that if God were giving special miraculous gifts today, he would not ask for the gift of healing or prophecy or tongues. Rather, he said, he would ask for the power above everything else to cause men to **REPENT!!**

Repentance has been called the hardest command that we have. Christ had difficulty getting people to repent. **Matthew 11:20-24 & John 6:66**

It is not hard to get a man to believe. It is not hard to get man to confess.  
It is not really hard to get someone that believes to be baptized.

Repentance is the most difficult command in the Bible because it strikes at the very root of our troubles - **PRIDE**. It is hard for a man to say I have been wrong I've sinned.

The Gospel cannot be preached today without repentance (**Luke 24:46-48**).

The prophets preached repentance (**Ezekiel 14:6**).

John the Baptizer preached repentance (**Matthew 3:2**).

Jesus preached repentance (**Matthew 4:17**).

The twelve preached repentance (**Mark 6:12**).

Repentance was preached at the first Gospel sermon, and in the last book of the Bible John repeatedly exhorted the seven churches of Asia to repent.

Repentance in all its forms appears 106 times in the Bible, so we can see it has been God's constant call to man. The Lord came to call the sinners to repentance (**Luke 5:32**), and we are all sinners (**Romans 3:23**).

## REPENTANCE IS NOT

1. Repentance is not just a promise to quit sin, and forget that promise a day later.
2. Repentance is not just the covering up of sin. **Numbers 32.-23; Proverbs 28:13**
3. Repentance is not just being sorrowful. A criminal may be very sorrowful that he got caught not sorrowful for the crime.
4. Repentance is not really confessing that one is a sinner. It is hard to get a man to say "I have sinned" and when it is said it is not repentance.

The Jews on the day of Pentecost knew they had sinned and admitted it. Still Peter tells them to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins.

5. Repentance is not just breaking off from sin. The drunkard may stop his drinking and that's good, but what if he continues to curse. If we find holes in our fishing net, what good does it do to repair just one.
6. Repentance is not just going forward at the invitation. We think just because we take a few steps down an aisle all things are good. How disappointing it is to see one respond at the morning service and miss the night service.

## WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

Repentance is the making up of one's mind to cease doing evil and to do good, to stop serving Satan and to begin serving God, to do an about face.

1. Marshall Keeble put it this way: A little dog was snapping at his heels, he tapped him on the head with his cane and the dog repented. He went the other way.

We can believe that Christ is the Son of God.

We can confess the name of Christ a 100 times.

We can be baptized for the forgiveness of sin every day for a year,

But Jesus still said,

**"I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).**

Repentance is something we have to do this side of the grave.

God is longsuffering so that we might repent (**2 Peter 3:8. 9**).

## LESSON #17 CONFESSION

TEXTS: **Matthew 10:32, 33; Matthew 16:13-19; Romans 10:9, 10**

INTRODUCTION:

I. Confession is necessary in order to be saved (**Matthew 10:32**).

II. Confession of Christ is more than saying, "**I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**"

Then what is meant when a penitent believer confesses his faith in Christ? It means that he realizes that as a lost sinner separated by his sins from God, there is no other hope and no other name through which there is salvation but Jesus Christ's. He acknowledges that he believes Christ died for his sins in accordance with God's plan revealed in the Scriptures - a death of shame. He confesses his faith in the great truth that death could not 'keep its prey', that Christ arose victorious over the grave to ascend on High. He acknowledges Jesus of Nazareth as the Risen and Glorified Lord and Christ over his own life. He acknowledges his absolute trust in Him as Savior, Redeemer, Prophet, Priest and King, and his willingness to follow Him wherever He may lead. "Here I am, you take me, I'm yours."

III. We receive encouragement by the confession that others made during the 3 years of Jesus ministry.

a. **John the Baptist - John 1:29**

b. **Peter -Matthew 16:16**

c. **Nicodemus -John 3:1**

We get our cue as to how important **our** confession is by observing two extraordinary confessions.

a. **God confessed His Son at His baptism (Matthew 3:16, 17).**

b. **Again on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:5).**

Many need to make the first confession as the eunuch did (**Acts 8:36-38**).

The great tragedy is that many who had the opportunity to confess Him did not (**John 12:42, 43**).

Why not?

a. Too interested in the big things of life.

b. Too much wealth.

c. Preoccupied with the marvels of the universe rather than the "Marvelous" one.

The facts surrounding the life and death of Jesus and His claims in regard to that life and death are such that they tend great credibility to His claim to be the Son of God. From the beginning, Jesus' true disciples have confessed Him. This was the means whereby their allegiance was established and their faith in His divinity made known. In expressing their faith, His early followers put into words the only acceptable creed of the church. '**I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God**' (**Acts 8:37**).



## LESSON #18 BAPTISM

TEXTS: **Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15, 16; John 3:3-5; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Romans 6:3-7; 1 Peter 3:21**

### INTRODUCTION:

Dear Abby

Please explain just what people mean when they say that they are "Born Again? "

Signed: B.H.

Dear B. H.,

They mean that they have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, and have put their faith and trust in Him.

Signed: Abby

People of all faiths are claiming to be "born again" because they think, feel, hear or have a dream concerning a certain sensation and, as a result, think they are saved. (Put your hand on the TV or radio; I found it; accepted Christ on a hospital bed; sitting in car talking to preacher's son.)

Baptism is one of the most misunderstood doctrines of the Christian faith. God is not responsible, the teaching is clear. Volumes have been written, but after all have been said, God's Word still reads '**He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.**'

Hugh F. Pyle in his book The Truth About The Church of Christ, chapter 4 entitled "Please Drown Me In The Baptistry!" writes the following, "The pet heresy of the Church of Christ is the doctrine of baptismal regeneration. They take the entire scope of God's glorious word and try to bring it all under the shelter of about 5 dripping wet verses which (taken out of context) they declare teach that our sins are washed away in the baptistry of the Church of Christ!"

"According to the Church of Christ doctrines, all of the great heroes of the faith in **Hebrews chapter 11** were lost because they were never baptized after Pentecost."

**Let's let the Bible show us the answer to Abby's question and also put Mr. Pyle in his place.**

**I. Bible Subject**

- A. The New Testament uses the original Greek word 115 times. (Baptist, Baptism, Baptizing, etc.)
- B. Old Testament division of King James does not use the New Testament form at any time.

**II. Meaning of the word**

- A. "Baptizo" to dip, plunge, cover or immerse.

**III. Kinds of baptism**

- A. Moses -- I **Corinthians** 10:2
- B. Fire and Holy Spirit -- **Matthew** 3:11 C. John's -- **Matthew** 3:6
- D. Christ's. This is the one baptism of **Ephesians** 4:5, and the basis of this lesson.

**DISCUSSION:**

Why be baptized? About as many reasons as there are faiths.

Baptists: "Not essential to salvation; but it is essential to obedience". Hiscox Guide, page 87

Jehovah's Witness: Must be baptized to show dedication. It is expected of Christians.

Methodist: Baptism, a sign to mark the difference between a Christian and a non-Christian.

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

### 1. Baptism is a command.

- a. The Great Commission - **Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16**
- b. Cornelius' household - **Acts 10:48**

### 2. Who should be baptized?

- a. **Matthew 28:19** - taught persons
- b. **Mark 16:16** - believing persons
- c. **Acts 2:38** - penitent persons
- d. **Acts 8:37** - persons who have confessed Christ.

NOTE: Those that baptize completely reverse the order.

### 3. Some things accomplished in baptism.

- a. It is part of the new birth - **John 3:3-5; I Corinthians 5:17**
- b. It is for the remission of sins - **Acts 2:38.**
- c. It is for the washing away of sins - **Acts 22:16.**
- d. It is to imitate the death, burial and resurrection of Christ - **Romans 6:3-5.**
- e. It enables one to put on Christ - **Galatians 3:26, 27.**
- f. It enables one to be saved - **I Peter 3:20, 21.**
- g. It enables one to enter the Body, which is the church - **I Corinthians 12:13.**

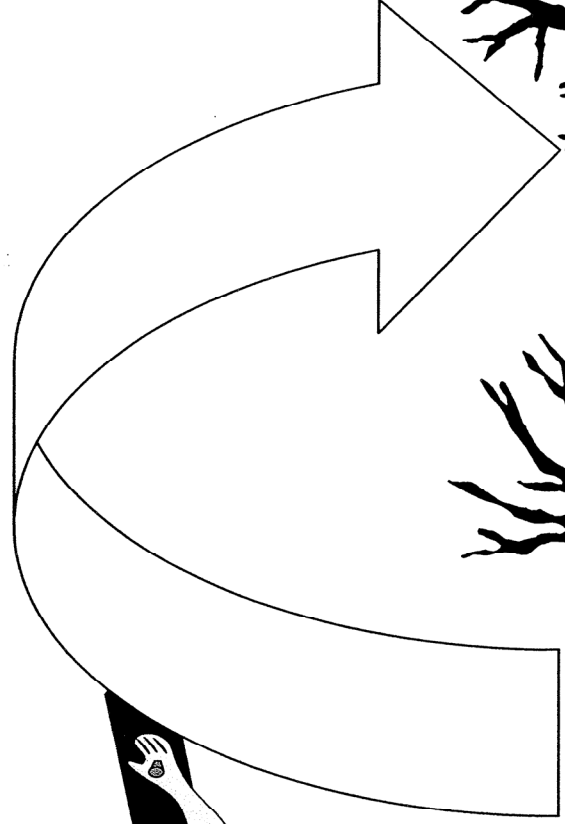
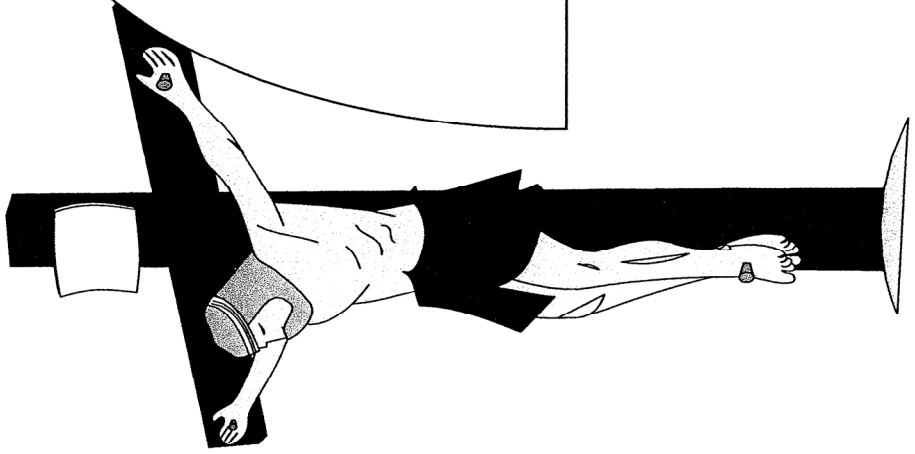
### 4. Every example of conversion in the book of Acts mentions baptism

- a. Pentecost - **Acts 2.**
- b. Samaritans - **Acts 8**
- c. Saul - **Acts 9**
- d. Cornelius - **Acts 10**
- e. Lydia - **Acts 16**
- f. Jailer - **Acts 16**
- g. Corinthians - **Acts 16**

### 5. (CHART )

**DEATH BECAUSE OF SIN**

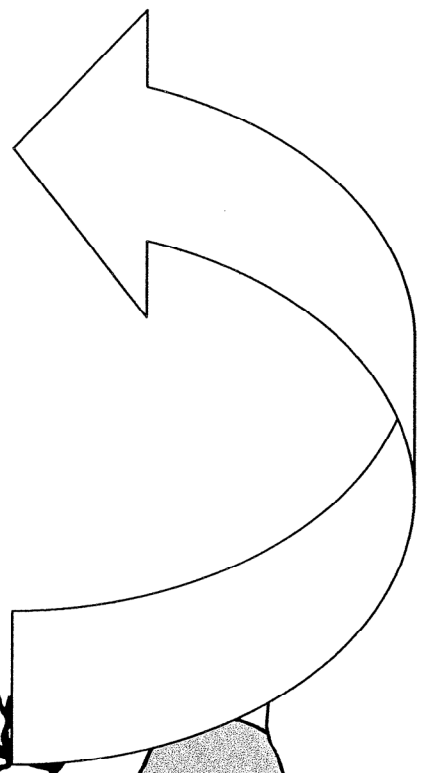
**ROMANS 6:3-5**



**BURIAL**



**RESURRECTION**



## LESSON #19 WORSHIP

**TEXT: John 4:19-26**

### INTRODUCTION:

On a Sunday morning many people will enter a church building with a certain name over the door, go through a certain form, ritual, or program in worship to God.

Others of them will enter another building a few doors away, over which is another name, and they go through a different form or ritual.

Still others go elsewhere and so on and on it goes ...

Then there is the group that meets under another name on Saturday

Each time we open our Bibles the words of Jesus in **John 4:24** are still there, '**God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.**'

When should we worship God? How should we worship Him? Does it really matter? good questions that need answers.

Let's go to the Bible and find our answer.

All very

We all worship something or someone. The word "worship" is defined in W. E. Vine's Dictionary. of New Testament Words as "to make obeisance, do reverence to. It is an act of homage or reverence."

### I. THE LORD'S DAY (Revelation 1:10)

#### A. What day is it?

##### 1. The Sabbath? No!

a. The Sabbath was given to the Jews because of deliverance from Egypt (**Deuteronomy 5:15; Exodus 20:8; Exodus 34:21; Exodus 35:3**).

b. God said it would cease (**Hosea 2:11**).

c. Paul said it did cease with the crucifixion of Christ, with the Law nailed to the Cross (**Colossians 2:13-17**).

B. The first day of the week is the Lord's Day.

1. The day of the resurrection (**John 20:1**).
2. Jesus met with His disciples on this day (**John 20:19-26**).
3. Church established on that day (**Acts 2:1-4**). Pentecost always came on the first day of the week (**Leviticus 23:5**).
4. Churches worshipped on the first day (**Acts 20:7**), laid by in common (**I Corinthians 16:1, 2**).

## **II. FIVE KINDS OF WORSHIP MENTIONED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

- A. Vain..... (**Matthew 15:9**)
- B. Ignorant .....(**Acts 17-.23**)
- C. Will .....(**Colossians 2:23**)
- D. Mock..... (**Mark 15:19, 20**)
- E. True .....(**John 4:24**)

## **III. THE SPIRIT OF WORSHIP (John 4:24)**

The spirit signifies a heart worship rather than a mechanical formality.

- A. Worship with grace in your hearts (**Colossians 3:16**).
- B. Making melody with your hearts (**Ephesians 5:19**).
- C. Praying with spirit and understanding (**I Corinthians 14:15**).
- D. Our hearts must be in our worship (**Matthew 15:7**).

## **IV. THE TRUTH OF WORSHIP (John 4:24)**

- A. Lord's Supper - **Acts 20:7**
- B. Singing - **Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19**
- C. Prayer - **Acts 2:42; 1 Timothy 2:1, 8**
- D. Giving - **I Corinthians 16:1**
- E. Preaching - **Acts 20:7**

A corruption of this plan of worship by changing the day, spirit, or item of worship furnished by Scriptures, means the destruction of the identity of the Church as God would have it.

**V. THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY IN THIS WORSHIP (Acts 2:47).**

A. Christians admonished not to neglect assembly of saints (Hebrews 10:25).

**VI. DOES IT REALLY MATTER?**

A. **Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:5; Revelation 22:18,19**

B. **John 8:31, 32** - You can know the truth.

It is attainable and it is actual.

C. **THIS IS THE KIND OF WORSHIP GOD DESIRES!**

## LESSON #20

### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN'WORSHIP

**TEXTS: Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; James 5:13**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

All religious organizations are agreed that music has a place in the New Testament worship, but not all agree as to whether it should be vocal or instrumental, or vocal accompanied by an instrument.

Upon visiting the services of the Church of Christ for the first time, many express surprise that we don't use an instrument of music.

One of the most often asked questions while studying in homes is, "Why doesn't the Church of Christ have a piano or organ?"

Many members of the church don't know why the instrument is not used. Does it really matter?

Let's go to the Bible and let it answer our questions.

You will recall we studied in our last lesson five kinds of worship, also to speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent.

In other lessons we have studied examples of obedience and disobedience, and it does make a difference. Remember Nadab and Abihu, Jericho, Naaman the Leper, Noah's ark, etc.

Let's open our Bibles and read the record of music mentioned in the New Testament.

**Matthew 26:30 " And when they had sung. a hymn, they went out unto the mount of Olives."**

**Acts 16:25 "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns unto God, and the prisoners were listening to them."**

**Romans 15:9 "Therefore will I give praise unto thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name."**

**I Corinthians 14:15 "I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also; I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."**

**Ephesians 5:19 "Speaking one to another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord."**



## DISCUSSION:

### PRO:

"The Old Testament contains examples of the use of instruments in worship, such as Psalms 33:2."

### CON:

1. If we bind the instrument, then it must bind the instrument with ten strings - no more or less.
2. We must keep the whole law not one item (James 2:10), therefore, there must be the burning of incense, etc.
3. Since we are dead to the law (Romans 7:1-4), we cannot make it binding upon us.
4. 'Woe to them that invent to themselves instruments of music, like David' (Amos 5:23; 6:1).

### PRO:

"The Bible doesn't say not to have instruments in New Testament worship."

### CON:

1. The Bible doesn't say not to use corn bread and buttermilk in the Lord's Supper.
2. When the Bible gives a "how to" it needs not to give a "how not to." This is why Noah used gopher wood and not oak.
3. Paul tells us "how to" make melody (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16), this is to be by singing.

### PRO:

"There are instruments in heaven, therefore, alright to have them in church."

### CON:

1. The terms are "as" and "like." Revelation does not say there are instruments in heaven.
2. Infants will be in heaven, but they are not church members.

### PRO:

"The Greek work 'Psalo' means to pluck an instrument in Ephesians 5:19."

### CON:

1. Paul says the making of melody "or the plucking an instrument" is in the heart.
2. The instrument played has to be one that can be plucked, therefore, couldn't be a piano or organ.
3. Everyone must have an instrument, therefore, the heart.

### PRO:

"I don't see anything wrong with it. Besides, I like it."

### CON:

1. This is the only argument for instrumental music in worship when the facts are known.
2. These examples should be sufficient warnings to us.

**Chamber's Encyclopedia**

"The organ is said to have been first introduced into church music by Pope Vitalian I, in 666."

**Martin Luther (founder of Lutheran church)**

"The organ in the worship of God is an ensign of Baal."

**John Calvin (founder of Presbyterianism)**

"Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting of lamps, and the restoration of other shadows of the law."

**John Wesley (founder of Methodism)**

"I have no objections to instruments of music in our chapels, provided they are neither HEARD nor SEEN."

**Adam Clarke (Methodist, and one of the world's greatest Bible commentators)** "I am an old man and an old minister, and I here declare that I have never known instrumental music to be productive of any good in the worship of God, and have reason to believe it has been productive of much evil. Music as a science I admire and esteem, but instruments of music in the house of God I abominate and abhor. This is the abuse of music, and I here register my protest against all such corruptions in the worship of the Infinite Spirit who requires His followers to worship Him in spirit and in truth."

**Charles Spurgeon (greatest preacher the Baptist church ever produced, and for 20 years preached to 10,000 persons every Sunday in the Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle, London, England)**

When asked why he did not use the organ in worship, he quoted I Corinthians 14:15 and added "I would as soon pray to God with machinery as to sing to God with machinery."

**3. Alexander Campbell (a Restoration Movement leader and one of the greatest scholars of all time)**

"...that all persons who have no spiritual discernment, taste, or relish for their spiritual meditations, consolations, and sympathies of renewed hearts, should call for such aid, is but natural. Pure water from the flinty rock has no attractions for mere toper or winebibber. A little alcohol, or genuine Cognac brandy, or good old Madeira, is essential to the beverage to make it truly refreshing. So to those who have no real devotion or spirituality in them, and whose animal nature flags under the oppression of church service, I think ... that instrumental music would not only be a desideratum, but an essential prerequisite to fire up their souls to even animal devotion. But I presume, to all spiritual-minded Christians, such aids would be as a cowbell in a concert."

11. But still there are efforts to justify instrumental music in worship.

**Colossians 3:16** "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto God."

**James 5:13** "Is any among you suffering? let him sing praise. Is any cheerful? let him sing thy praise."

**Hebrews 13:15** "Through him then let us offer up a sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of lips which make confession to his name."

**Hebrews 2:12** "I will declare my name unto my brethren, in the midst of the congregation will I sing thy praise."

**Revelation 5:8, 9** "And when he had taken the book, the four living creatures and the four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints, a they sing a new song,"

**Revelation 14:2, 3** reads: "And I heard a voice from heaven as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder; and the voice which I heard was as the voice of harpers harping with their harps; and they sing as it were a new song before the throne."

**Revelation 15:2, 3** reads: "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire; and them that came off victorious from the beast, and from his image, and from the number of his name, standing by the sea of glass, having harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb."

These Scriptures teach that the type of music used by the Church in the Bible was vocal, singing.

The melody was made in the heart of man, not on an instrument made by man. The Bible is silent on instrumental music in the worship of the Church. If used by people of God today, it is used without any authority in the Church that Christ built.

1. Various religious leaders have written and spoken of music in the Church. Many church historians acknowledge that the instrument did not enter "Christian Worship" until centuries after the beginning of the Lord's Church.

**Justin Martyr (139 A.D.)**

"The use of singing with instrumental music was not received in the Christian churches, as it was among the Jews in their infant state, but only the use of plain song."

**Lyman Coleman (Presbyterian historian)** "Such musical accompaniments were gradually introduced; but they can hardly be assigned to a period earlier than the fifth and sixth centuries. Organs were unknown in the church until the eighth or ninth century. Previous to this they had their place in the theatre rather than in the church. They were never regarded with favor in the Eastern church, and were vehemently opposed in many places in the west."

- a. Naaman, II Kings 5:11
- b. 'There is a way which seemeth right" (Proverbs 14:12).
- c. 'In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men' (Matthew 15:9).

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Worship is to be to the glory of God and must be that which pleases Him. We cannot know what pleases Him except what the Bible commands.

The Bible commands:

- 1. Speak in song (Ephesians 5:19)
- 2. Teach (Colossians 3:16)
- 3. Sing with spirit and understanding (I Corinthians 14:15)
- 4. Praise God (Hebrews 2:12)
- 5. Make melody in heart (Ephesians 5-19)

The Voice can, the Instrument cannot obey these commands...

May Our interest be in pleasing God rather than ourselves.

## LESSON #21

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

**TEXTS: Matthew 26:26-29; Luke 22-.7-20; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-30**

#### INTRODUCTION:

It was a most solemn occasion when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. His earthly ministry was nearing its end. The agony of Gethsemane, His betrayal by Judas, His trial and crucifixion were all to be experienced within the next 24 hours. The weight of the world's sins lay heavy upon His heart. The shadows of the cross grew deeper and darker.

To prepare Himself for the dreadful ordeal ahead, Jesus gathered the 12 apostles about Him in the upper room to eat the Passover. When about to shed His own blood for the sins of the world, Jesus desired to establish an institution which would forever keep the memory of His sacrificial death alive. So He instituted the Lord's Supper.

There seems to be an inseparable connection between the Passover and the Lord's Supper.

A. To get the most possible good out of their connection, it is expedient that we go back and consider briefly the institution of the Passover and its history to the time of the institution of the Lord's Supper.

1. God had sent nine plagues upon Pharaoh of Egypt, and had now threatened him and his people with the tenth plague - that of destroying the firstborn among the children and animals of Egypt (Exodus 3-12).

2. About 1500 years after the Passover was instituted we find Jesus with His disciples in an upper room in Jerusalem observing the Passover (Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14-.22-26; Luke 22:19, 20).

#### 1. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?

A. It is a memorial service (Luke 22:19).

1. Memorials are natural and universal
2. Tombstone
3. Independence Day

B. It is a proclamation (I Corinthians 11:26).

1. Not everyone can be an oral proclaimer of the Gospel, but every man, woman, boy or girl in the church can preach a sermon in the act of observing the Lord's Supper.
2. Proclamation of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, and of His second coming.

## **II. WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?**

### **A. Bread**

1. This was 'unleavened bread' (Exodus 12:15; 13:6, 7). Jesus said, 'This is my body.' Surely we cannot think of any element that would better picture to us the Son of God on the cross than pale, lifeless, unleavened bread. Bread is grain that has been harvested, crushed and baked. The life has been taken from it.

### **B. The cup**

1. Jesus gave us a clear definition of the cup when He called it 'the fruit of the vine' and says, 'This is my blood.' Inasmuch as Christ is the vine and His disciples are the branches, certainly we cannot think of any other element that would better picture to us the blood of Christ - for the fruit of the vine is the lifeblood of the vine.

## **III. SHOULD THERE BE ANY FREQUENCY AND REGULARITY IN OBSERVING THE LORD'S SUPPER?**

A. It is agreed that no man has the authority to regulate and control another's worship.

B. Has God, in exercising His authority, taught one group to observe it annually, another semiannually, another quarterly, another monthly and another weekly?

C. Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:20; 1 Corinthians 16:2

D. No where does the New Testament teach any other day or time than on the first day of the week.

## **WILL THE FREQUENCY OF COMMUNING EVERY WEEK DESTROY ITS MEANING?**

### **CONCLUSION:**

A. The Lord's Supper is the binding of the past, present, and future in the heart of the Christian.

1. Remove the heart, and you have no place to honor Christ.

2. Remove the past, and you have no sacrifice for sins.

3. Remove the present, and you have no purpose in living.

4. Remove the future, and you have no hope of glory.

5. Remove the Lord's Supper, and you have removed all. This is why it is so important to us.

## **LESSON #22**

### **PRAYER**

**TEXTS: Matthew 6:5-15; John 15:7; 16:23, 24; Colossians 4:2-4; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 1:5, 6; 5:13-18**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. Prayer is indeed a basic Bible subject. It is used in its various forms, over 520 times from Genesis to Revelation.
2. Prayer is vital to the greatest man; to the smallest child.
  - A. Christ was a man of prayer. (John 17)
  - B. The child Samuel talked with God.
3. Four parts of prayer: Commanded, Communion, Conditional, Comforting.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

##### **I. PRAYER IS COMMANDED.**

- A. Prayer is not a command of the old covenant even though God's devoted servants prayed to Him.
- B. Prayer is a New Testament command.
  1. The model given (Matthew 6:5-15).
    - a. Directed to the Father.
    - b. For the church, 'thy kingdom come.'
    - c. For the Father's will, not ours, to be done.
    - d. For our physical needs.
    - e. For forgiveness
    - f. For guidance
  2. In Christ's name (Colossians 3:17).
  3. Without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17).

##### **II. PRAYER IS COMMUNION.**

- A. It is our opportunity to talk to God.
- B. It is not available to the sinner (John 9:31).
- C. It is a constant relationship (I Thessalonians 5:17).

### **III. PRAYER IS CONDITIONAL.**

- A. Paul links effective prayer with work (watchfulness) (Colossians 4:2-4).
- B. Forgiveness is based upon our willingness to forgive (Matthew 6:15).
- C. Prayer is not a substitute for work.
  - 1. We need to put our prayers in food baskets and not just on our lips. "He prayeth best who loveth best" (Coleridge).
  - 2. Those in "far and more difficult places" would be nearer and more fruitful if we shared with them more of our material gain.
- D. God is not "a cosmic bell boy" to be called upon only when we need Him. We must abide, i.e., permanently dwell in Him (John 15:7; 16:23, 24).

### **IV. PRAYER IS COMFORTING.**

- A. In the hour of sorrow (Acts 20:36-38).
- B. In the hour of pain and sickness (James 5:13-18).
- C. In the hour of decision (James 1:5, 6).
- D. In the hour of accomplishment and victory (I Kings 8:22).

### **CONCLUSION:**

- 1. Prayer is not a few well chosen words, but a well ordered life directed to and by God.
- 2. No one can have a full and rich life without prayer. Why be without this power?



## LESSON #23

### STEWARDSHIP

**TEXTS: Matthew 25:14-30; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 11 Corinthians 8**

#### INTRODUCTION:

There is hardly a subject that is so misunderstood and so badly neglected, or a subject that so many preachers neglect to teach, or a subject that so many members remember when he did preach on it.

Our lesson this week will be on STEWARDSHIP. The first thing that pops into our minds is **MONEY**, but I hope we will learn that STEWARDSHIP means much more than dollar bills.

Mr. Webster says that a steward "is one who manages the domestic concerns of a family or institution." Stewardship "implies making an increase for the owner or use as he authorizes."

In the beginning the Lord took man and put him in the Garden to dress and keep it (Genesis 2:15).

The very first man was a steward. You and I are stewards of God's world. God bestows life upon us. Whether it be long or not, it all comes to us by His good grace. He has given us His very own creation. He has given us certain abilities and skills, talents and time in which to use all these things.

I Corinthians 10:26, 'The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof.'

Deuteronomy 10:14, "Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's...'

Psalms 50:10, 11, "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains; and the wild beasts of the field are mine.'

Haggai 2:8, 'The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.'

Ezekiel 18:4, "Behold, all souls are mine."

I Chronicles 29:11-14

In the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) these men were stewards of the master's goods

Mark 10:17-22 - rich young ruler

I Timothy 6:10

John 12:3-6 - Judas ;

We too, just like Judas, are stewards in charge of the Master's bag. The question: are we stealing from it?

Acts 5 - Ananias and Sapphira

Mark 12:41-44 - widow

I Corinthians 16:1-4

**I. Five questions regarding the collection are answered in verse two, HOW? WHY? WHEN? WHO? WHAT?**

1. WHEN - upon the first day of the week.
2. WHO - each one of you. Every Christian should have the opportunity of making his contribution, so as each may share in the service of the Master.
3. WHAT - lay by in store a part of that which you have been blessed with.
4. HOW - As he may prosper. To prosper literally means to gain or receive something. One gives as he has gained or received.
5. WHY - That no collections be made when I come.

The object here is that the collection may be ready when Paul comes, and there will be nothing to do but lift it up and put it to work in helping the suffering of the saints in Judea, or wherever it would be used.

II Corinthians 8:1-5 - first gave themselves

II Corinthians 9:6-9 - give bountifully

II Corinthians 9:13-15 - proves your love.

'What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?' (Psalms 116:12)

Old Testament examples:

Genesis 14:20

Genesis 28:20-22

Leviticus 27:30-33

Numbers 18:21, 24

Deuteronomy 14:22-29

Tithe is not binding today. In the New Testament we as Christians are told to give out of our (deei) love for God.

## LESSON #24 PREACHING

**TEXTS: Mark 6:12; Luke 24:47; Acts 20:7; Galatians 1:8**

### INTRODUCTION:

*“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”  
(Romans 10:13-15).*

### I. WHY PREACH?

1. Mark 16:15
  - a. What is the Gospel? I Corinthians 15:1-4
  - b. Romans 1:16
2. “Preach the word” (II Timothy 4-2-4).
  - a. John 17:17
  - b. John 8:32

There are thousands of sermons preached each first day of the week. With each sermon there should be a purpose in mind.

### II. THE PURPOSE OF PREACHING

1. To discuss and explain the scriptures.
  - a. Acts 7
  - b. Acts 8:35
2. To present Christ as our only hope,
  - a. II Corinthians 4:5
  - b. Acts 8:35
3. To tell men how to be saved.
  - a. Acts 2:37, 38
4. To help Christians grow.
  - a. Acts 2:42

### III. NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES OF PREACHING.

1. Paul spoke "boldly" (Acts 19:8, 9).
2. Paul "disputed" (Acts 17:16,17).
3. Christ "called names" (Matthew 23:13)
4. Christ "stirred them up" (Luke 23:4, 5).

#### **IV. SOME BOLD STATEMENTS MADE IN NEW TESTAMENT PREACHING**

1. II John 9-11; II Peter 2:1; II Peter 3:16,17; 1 John 2:4; Acts 7:51; Acts 2:36.

#### **V. REACTIONS TO THE PREACHED WORD.**

1. Acts 7:54-60 - stoned Stephen
2. Acts 17:32 – mocked
3. Acts 26:28 - almost
4. Acts 13:44-46 - spoke against
5. Matthew 19:22 - went away
6. Acts 17:11,12 - investigated
7. Acts 24:25 - feared and procrastinated
8. Acts 10:33 - hear all
9. Acts 2:37 - what must we do?

Preachers must give diligence in studying God's Word in order that they can effectively proclaim it (11 Timothy 2:15).

Proof-texts must be used to support their preaching. I Peter 3:15 (show me)

Preachers must always preach the 'truth in love' (Ephesians 4:15).

Preachers must always "contend for the faith" (Jude 3).

#### **CONCLUSION:**

**Every part of worship is important and you should be an active participant. Bring your Bible. There will often be opportunities to look up the Scriptures being discussed. This is important not only for your own personal profit, but also will influence others.**

## LESSON #25

### BENEVOLENCE

**TEXTS: MATTHEW 25:31-46; Galatians 6:9, 10; James 1:27**

#### INTRODUCTION:

A little boy living in the slums of a large city was given a Bible. He studied diligently and, eventually, became a Christian. He was happy in his new found relationship with God, although he continued in poverty.

He told friends of God's love. Someone thoughtlessly tested his simple faith in God by asking, "If God loves you, why doesn't He take better care of you? Why doesn't He tell someone to send you warm shoes and some coal and better food?"

The little fellow thought for a moment. Then, with tears starting in his eyes, he said, "I guess He does tell& somebody, but somebody forgets!"

- I. Benevolence in this study has reference to supplying the physical needs of others.
- II. The word occurs only once in the King James (I Corinthians 7:3), and is used in reference to marriage. The use of the word today has reference to doing good toward others.
- III. Benevolence requires only need and opportunity.
  - A. Does this one need my help or would I be interfering?
  - B. What is the best way I can help?

#### DISCUSSION:

- I. What determines need? Only when some one expresses such?
  - A. Many people had rather starve than ask for help. Here the "golden rule" applies.
  - B. Many wisely make known their needs because these needs would not otherwise be known.
  - C. All men, especially Christians, are to be recipients of our doing good.
  - D. What ever you need others need.
- II. Both the church and individual must feel a responsibility toward those who are in need.
  - A. The first emphasis is upon the individual. If you do all your benevolent work through the church, you are doing precious little. (Take the total amount given and divide by 275 and you have your share).
    1. The church is not to be burdened with certain cases.
      - a. Widows under 60 years of age (I Timothy 5:9).
      - b. Widows who have children who can take care of them (I Timothy 5:16).
    2. The church's responsibility toward the needs is not excused because of individual failure.

- B. Many cases of those who are in need could be handled unobtrusively if one can do without the praises of men.
- C. Individual relief really involves one.

### III. The church has a great responsibility toward the physical needs of others.

- A. This was one of the basic qualities of the early disciples.
  - 1. Sold what they had and gave to everyone who had need.
  - 2. The word "fellowship" (Acts 2:42) involves benevolence.
- B. The second problem confronting the infant church was the care of widows (Acts 6),
  - 1. The problem was recognized.
  - 2. The problem was dealt with.
  - 3. The problem was solved.
- C. The Bible does not give the pattern for the care of the needy except for Christians to recognize the problem and then deal with it in a decent and orderly manner.
  - 1... If children come from a broken home, how best should they be cared for? (Remembering that anything you do for them will be a substitute for their natural home.)
  - 2. What should be done for the needy in the community?
- D. People who know very much about the church of Christ have known more about what it stands against than what it stands for.
  - 1. The judgment scene in Matthew 25:31ff is based upon benevolence.
  - 2. We are sheep, or a goat - benevolence, or the lack of it, makes it that simple.

### IV. A generous benevolent program does two essential things.

- A. It brings the giver a greater blessing (Acts 20:35).
- B. It can lead also to the beneficiary's salvation. (it is impossible to teach someone the gospel when they are starving (Galatians 6:10).

### **CONCLUSION:**

- 1. The religion of our Lord is not complex (James 1:27).
  - A. Keeping one self pure.
  - B. Helping those who are in need (Luke 10:25-37).

## LESSON #26

### "EVANGELISM"

**TEXTS: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,16; Acts 10:34; Acts 1:8, 9**

#### INTRODUCTION:

These and other passages make it very clear that Christ's concern is for every Christian to take the Gospel to every creature in the world. Every day 165,000 people die and 343,000 are born, making a net increase of 178,000 souls every 24 hours who need the Gospel.

This picture is not an encouraging one. The future does not have to be so; but, unless we do much more than we have in the past, it will be. We must arise to the challenge before us. The challenge is for a commitment for each of us to begin teaching Christ, a commitment for each of us to lead just one soul to Christ a year. What a difference it would make!

(Which would you prefer, a salary of \$1,000,000 per month or a penny the first day doubled the second day and each day doubled until the end of the month?)

#### I. PERSONAL TEACHING

A. There are commands that make personal evangelism a "must". God's people "must" be concerned for others.

1. The watchman of Ezekiel 3:17-21.

2. Contrasted with Cain's, 'Am I my brother's keeper?'

B. What would we want done for us if we were lost? Matthew 7:12

C. Fruit bearing is producing more Christians. John 15:1-8

D. Those who follow Christ must become fishers of men. Mark 1:16-18

E. Examples:

John 4          Jesus and the Samaritan.

Luke 19        Jesus and Zacchaeus

John 1:40-42   Andrew

Acts 18:24-26   Aquila and Priscilla

Acts 5:42      House to house

## **II. MISSION WORK**

A. The church must see the need for mission work.

1. Every second, 4 people die, unprepared to meet the Lord
2. The Gospel is all that will save. Romans 1: 16

B. Jesus teaches us to look unto the fields that "are white unto the harvest." (John 4:35)

C. The church must plan its work. Successful businesses do. The whole world is the market place and the Gospel is the produce.

How does Forrest Park carry out the command of teaching the Gospel throughout the world?

1. Valdosta
2. Georgia
3. Latin America

### **CONCLUSION:**

Are you doing your part? Remember, if we don't carry the Gospel, no one will. God has a plan, are you apart of that plan?



**LESSON #27**  
**"EDIFICATION"**

**TEXTS: Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Ephesians 4:11-16**

**INTRODUCTION**

Edification comes from the Greek word "OIKODO'NIE" which means (a) the act of building; (b) the promotion of spiritual growth. What does the Bible mean when it says in Acts 2:42 they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship?

The church is God's edifying institution.

**A PREACHER'S DREAM**

**A minister dreamed that he was the preacher of a congregation and there were 200 members of the group. At each service there was 200 present. Not only was the attendance consistent, but also the contribution usually ran about 25% over the budget. The singing was inspirational and the communion service was impressive. The elders spent a great deal of time praising the preacher. The preacher had a lot of nice things to say about the elders. The preacher was always asked to speak at lectureships on "How To Have All The Members Present At Every Service."**

**Each member was free the rest of the week and they were busy people. They took part in community activities, P.T.A., clubs, socials, etc. They never saw one another except at the church services. Time went on and they all died.**

**In the judgment, the Lord gathered the congregation together and asked, "What did you do to prove you loved one another?" They hung their heads and went away sorrowfully.**

**I Corinthians 12:12-27; Romans 14:7**

We are the Lord's. There can be no healthy Christian life in isolation. There can be no "you go your way, I'll go mine."

We have responsibilities to God, Christ, the Church and to each other. When one person weeps, we all weep; when one rejoices, we must all rejoice." It is a spiritual partnership that links all together who has been baptized into Christ into a great fellowship or brotherhood.

**I Corinthians 3:9; Ephesians 4-11-16**

Living for others is the greatest secret of happiness. Many are nervous wrecks because they think of themselves all the time.

### **WHAT ARE SOME OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD OTHER CHRISTIANS?**

- 1. I must by love serve others. Galatians 5:13**
- 2. I must practice the Golden Rule. Matthew 7:12**
- 3. I must worship with other members. Hebrews 10:25**
- 4. I must learn to work with others. I Corinthians 3:5-8**
- 5. I must learn to exhort and encourage. Hebrews 13:3**
- 6. I must strive to be a good example. I Timothy 4:12**
- 7. I must seek to make the church a happy place of love and harmony in which others can be Christians and more easily go to heaven. Acts 20:32**

All of these things and many more can only help to build up the whole church and each soul in it.

### **AVENUES OF EDIFICATION**

- 1. Pulpit**
- 2. Classroom**
- 3. Individual efforts**

## LESSON #28

### "ATTENDANCE"

**TEXTS: Acts 4:31; Acts 11:26; Hebrews 10:25; Acts 20:7; Acts 14:27; 1 Corinthians 5:4; Acts 12:12; 1 Corinthians 14:23, 26**

#### INTRODUCTION

God has always been concerned with the assembling of His people together for worship and fellowship. In every age He has commanded it. It is not only Right to assemble, it is a sin to fail to do so.

Worship on the first day of the week is commanded, but the place, the hour, the order of worship and many other details necessary to the worship are not specified. In order for a congregation to assemble, these decisions must be agreed upon.

God knew that we would need these assemblies. God intends that **WORSHIP** give to us indirect benefits of increasing our knowledge, developing our character, and stimulating our zeal.

#### REASONS FOR ATTENDING REGULARLY

1. We show our love for the Lord. John 14:15
2. We grow into mature Christians by desiring the sincere milk of the Word.
3. Faithful attendance protects us against apostasy.
4. Fellowship of other Christians.
5. Lord's Supper
6. When we attend all the services of the church, we are submitting ourselves to the elders who have the rule over us and are to feed us. When the spiritual meal is prepared and we don't come to receive it,  
**HOW CAN WE GROW?**
7. When Christians move into a new community they should immediately locate the Church and identify themselves with it. It is each Christian's duty to work and serve under the oversight of the elders of a local congregation.

#### WHEN YOU WILLFULLY MISS A CHURCH SERVICE!!!

1. You signify that God and Christ are not first in your life. Matthew 6:33
2. You indicate that you do not put a premium upon Christian fellowship with your brethren.
3. You disappoint God, Christ, the elders and other brethren.
4. You set a bad example.
5. You deprive yourself of needed knowledge.
6. You manifest a spirit of indifference.
7. You place the security of your own soul in jeopardy and carelessly neglect the spiritual things that guard against the road that leads to apostasy.

## Why would anyone willfully miss the services? A LETTER TO GOD

Dear God,

I am sorry you made Sunday when you did. You see, it is like this, we could attend more regularly if Your day came some other time. You have chosen a day that comes at the end of a hard week, and we are tired out. Not only that, but it is the day following Saturday night. Saturday evening, You know, is one time we should enjoy ourselves, so we go to a movie or a party; and often it is after midnight when we reach home.

It is almost impossible to get up on Sunday morning. You have chosen the very day we want to sleep late, and it makes it mighty hard to get the children off to Sunday School, especially when they have it so early. Then there are dishes to wash, and we always have some things we have to wash out. I mean no disrespect, dear God, but You must realize You have picked out the wrong day and the very day on which we have the biggest dinner. Not only that, but the church has fixed the hour of worship at the very time we must be preparing dinner. Then, too, You must think of Henry. He is cooped up in that office all week, and on Sunday morning is the only time he has to tinker with the car and mow the lawn. When he gets into his old clothes and his hands are greasy, you expect him to be able to get to church.

I am telling You these things, dear God, because I want You to get our viewpoint. It is not our fault that we are not able to get to church on Sunday morning. We would like to go, and we know we should go and need to go. But it must be clear to You that the real reason we cannot go is because You have chosen the wrong day ...

## A LETTER FROM PREACHER JONES

"Attendance at church last Sunday was mighty poor. I don't guess I should complain because I had a bunch of sick members and when you add to that all my shut-ins, we don't have a lot of pew fillers. So I went ahead and preached to what I had. Only one thing was the echo in the near empty church building hurt my ears. My madam said I needed to get out and ride a while and let the fresh air clear my head. It made me feel right good inside. What I saw made me rejoice! I saw 'miracle' after 'miracle.'

"Old brother Smith, who had been deathly ill that very morning had recovered and was riding down the highway with his fishing pole. Nothing but a miracle could have rescued him from the jaws of death in such a short time.

"Now there was Rufe's brother. Rufe told me Sunday morning that his brother's back was in such a bad shape that they were afraid an operation would be necessary. Well, we remembered him in our prayers, and low and behold, at 2-00 there he stood at the driving range hitting golf balls; if that wasn't quick recovery, I don't know what is.

"All told, about twenty sick folks had aroused and were taking nourishment in one form or another. But, what really made me happy was to see many of my shut-ins out riding and enjoying the world. Brother Smith's dad, who doesn't attend church because he can't stand crowds, was headed for the drag races. Sister Nell's mama, who was too weak to get out of the house, was in town shopping. Ellie Jones' sister, who can't come on account of her kidneys, stood in line two hours to get into the show. It was about "The 14iracle Worker." I thought it was right appropriate, seeing how a 'miracle' had happened to her.

"Yes sir, it thrilled my heart to see what I saw. I ought to have a packed house next Sunday with all my sick folks being healed and my shut-ins set free. I just hope they don't overdo themselves before next Sunday and have a relapse. I gotta go now and play with my smallest child. He is going to be the farmer and I'm going to be the goat. Tin cans will be easy to eat after what I've swallowed."

### **WHY GO TO EVERY SERVICE**

1. To prove my gratitude and love.
2. I am made stronger.
3. Christ said He would be there. Matthew 18:20
4. God wants the church to grow.
5. To set a good example.
6. To abound in the work of the Lord.
7. I love being with my family.

**LESSON #29**  
**“SALVATION IS IN THE CHURCH”**

**TEXTS: Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18; Galatians 3:27**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Many preachers in the denominational world teach that you do not have to be a member of a church in order to be a Christian, or even be saved.

Many teach that you can have a relationship with God and Christ, without the Church.

Man's response to the concept of the church varies. Some say it has no significance. Others believe it is imperative, yet they believe one is as good as another.

God has revealed His Will concerning the Church in the Scriptures.

**LET'S LET THE BIBLE SPEAK?**

We will prove that a relationship with God and Christ, without the church is impossible.

We will prove that membership in Christ's Church is essential to salvation.

We will show that Paul wrote that Christ would save the Church and that Christ would present the Church to Himself, and the Lord Himself added the saved to it.

**GENESIS CHAPTER 6**  
**(chart)**

# THE ARK and THE CHURCH

Gen. 6:13-22

BUILDER "NOAH"

ONE MATERIAL  
ARK

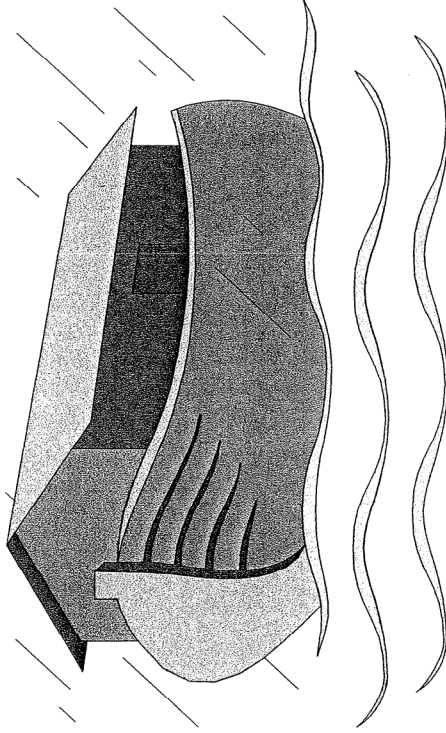
Gopher Wood

ONE HOPE

Life In New World

SAVED IN

Food etc.



ONE BUILDING  
Ark

ONE FAMILY  
Eight

ONE NAME  
Noah

ONE ENTRANCE  
Door

ONE LIGHT  
Window

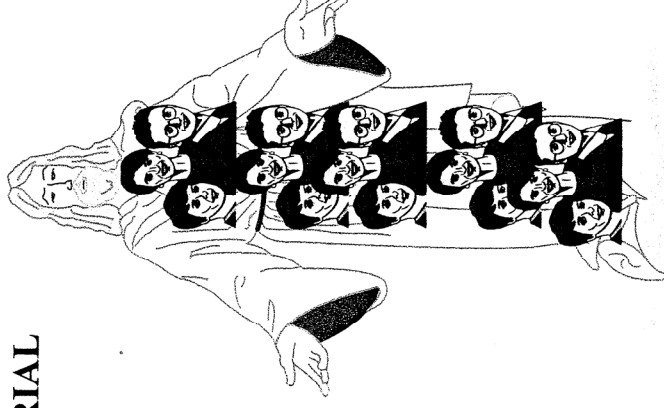
DESTRUCTION  
All Outside

Matt. 16:18

BUILDER "CHRIST"

ONE MATERIAL  
Lively Stones  
I Pet. 2:5

ONE NAME  
Christ's  
Acts 11:26



ONE BUILDING  
Church Eph 3:10

ONE FAMILY  
Church Eph. 3:15

ONE ENTRANCE  
Christ John 10:9

ONE LIGHT  
Bible Psa. 119:105

SAVED IN CHRIST  
Eph. 1:3; Eph. 4:4

DESTRUCTION  
All Outside 2 Thess.1:7-9

**Lesson #30**  
**“CAN A CHRISTIAN FALL FROM GRACE?”**

**TEXTS: Galatians 5:4; I Timothy 3:6; Luke 8:13; John 8:31**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The teaching that a child of God Cannot falls from God’s grave and be lost is not a new one by any means. It was first preached in the Garden back in Genesis 3.

God said of the forbidden fruit, “neither shall ye touch it, yest ye die.”

It was then the devil began his teaching of a false doctrine. “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely sir.”

This false teaching and its false hope has gone on for years.

But, yet, what does the Bible say? Can a child of God so sin as to be eternally lost?

The Old Testament is serve as an example as to how God dealt with His people under the Law. (Rom 15:4 ) For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

The principle upon which God deals with His children makes apostasy a possibility. Ezekiel 18:26-28; Ezekiel 33:18-20

**ONE WHO HAS BEEN JUSTIFIED BY FAITH CAN GIVE UP THAT FAITH AN LOSE HIS PROMISE.**

1. To be severed from Christ is to be Lost. (John 15:5)
2. We cannot be saved except by grace through faith. (Ephesians 2:8)
3. Christians may fall from this grace (Galatians 5:4)

The Prodigal Son. (Luke 15:11-24

The Parable of the Sower. (Luke 8:4-15

**(CHART)**

But still there are efforts to justify the teaching of “Once saved always saved.”

- a. John 3:16    b. Acts 16:31    c. Ephesians 2: 8,9    d. Romans 8: 38,39

The bible teaches that “the just shall live by faith” and as long as we live by faith, that is with our faith in God, our trust and our confidence in Him and not in the flesh, as long as we’re obedient to the principles of that faith “which was once delivered unto the saints, Jude 3, then God’s grace is manifest to us.

**WE CAN, AS GOD’S CHILDREN, LIVE WITH ASSURANCE OF BEING SAVED ETERNALLY.**



**Lesson #31**  
**“ THE KINGDOM IS NOW”**

**TEXTS: Mark 9:1; Colossians 1:13; I Corinthians 15:25,26**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The future kingdom theory, together with the literal reign of Christ upon the earth for a literal thousands years, has disturbed many people.

It is called premillennialism: the theory that at the second coming of Christ man’s earthly state will not be terminated but that a new age or dispensation of one thousand years will begin, during which time Christ will reign over His kingdom.

***I. IT CANNOT BE TRUE BECAUSE THE KINGDOM HAS ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED.***

a. You recall that Jesus said in (Mark 9:1) the kingdom was to come with power. You recall further that this power was to come upon the apostles in Jerusalem. (Luke 24:49)

This power did come on the apostles in Jerusalem on the Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ. (Acts 2:1-4)

Peter had been given the keys to the kingdom (Matthew 16:19) thus Peter had been given the authority to open the door of the kingdom or preach the terms of admission into it.

This truth is reinforced by Paul’s declaration that there is just one body ( Eph.4:4) and that he earlier identified that the body as the church (Eph.1:22,23).

Paul and the members of the church at Colossae were in the kingdom (Col.1:13) and so were John and those who received the Revelation letter ( Rev. 1:9).

We might also note that among those with John in the Kingdom were members of the seven different congregations of the church. Indeed there is one body, the church.

That church is the kingdom that Jesus promised to build and it came into being nearly 2,000 years ago in Acts 2 in the last days. It, therefore, is and cannot be some future event.

2 Peter 3: 9-11

There will be no earth.

2 Thessalonians 4:13,14

There will be no righteous.

## **FULFILLMENT OF THE DIVINE KINGDOM**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Luke 1:30-32           | Gabriel heralded the conception of the King.                               |
| Matthew 2: 1,2         | Wise men anticipated the birth of a King.                                  |
| Matthew 3:1,2          | John announced that the kingdom was at hand.                               |
| Matthew 4:17,23        | Jesus preached that the kingdom was at hand.                               |
| Matthew 10:5-7         | The apostles preached that the kingdom was at hand.                        |
| Luke 10:11             | They announced the nearness of the kingdom.                                |
| Mark 9:1               | The kingdom was to come during the lifetime of Jesus hearers.              |
| John 18:36             | The kingdom was not to be of this world.                                   |
| Acts 1:8               | The kingdom was to come with power within a few days.                      |
| Acts 2                 | The kingdom came on Pentecost with power.                                  |
| Acts 2:29-36           | Jesus was declared to be both Lord and Christ.                             |
| 1 Timothy 6:15         | Jesus declared to be the only Potentate, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. |
| 2 Thessalonians 1:5    | The Thessalonians were suffering for the kingdom.                          |
| Colossians 1:13        | The Colossians had been translated into the kingdom.                       |
| Hebrews 12:28          | The Hebrew Christians had received a kingdom.                              |
| Revelation 1:8         | John and the seven churches were in the kingdom.                           |
| 1 Corinthians 15:25,26 | Christ is now reigning in His kingdom.                                     |

(Luke 2:49 ) And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

(John 17:4) I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

**Lesson # 32**  
**“ARE INFANTS BORN PURE?”**

**TEXTS: Isaiah 59:1,2; Ezekiel 18: 14-21; 1 John 3:4; Rom. 4:15**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Let's begin this lesson reading from a book called *The Way of Salvation In The Lutheran Church*, page 27. “ The Lutheran Church, then teaches and confesses nothing but the pure truth of God's word when in the Augsburg Confession, Article II”

She says: “Also they, that after Adam's fall, all men, begotten after the common course of nature, are born with sin!”

“How long will it be before that helpless and seemingly innocent babe, that slumbers on its mother's breast, shows symptoms of anger, jealousy, stubbornness and disobedience? Let that child alone, and without a teacher, it will learn to lie, deceive, steal, curse and give pain to others.”

*The Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church, page 68, Article VII:

“Original sin standeth not in the following of Adam, but it is the corruption of the nature of every man, that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam, whereby man is very far gone from the original righteousness, and of his own nature inclined to evil, and that continually.”

*Wesley's Works*, Miscellaneous, Volume 2, page 16:

“Infants need to be washed from original sin; therefore they are proper subjects of baptism.”

**1. PROOF-TEXTS:**

|                |                                       |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Psalms 51:5    | “In sin did my mother conceive me”    |
| Psalms 53:3    | “There is no one that does good”      |
| Psalms 58:3    | “ Wicked are estranged from the womb” |
| Matt. 19:13-15 | “ Christ blesses little children”     |
| Romans 5:19    | “Many were made sinners”              |
| I Cor. 15:22   | “In Adam all die”                     |
| Eph. 2:3       | “By nature the children of wrath”     |

**2. PROBLEMS WITH SUPPOSED PROOF-TEXTS.**

|                |                                    |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Psalms 51:5    | The sin was the mother's           |
| Psalms 53:3    | They have gone astray              |
| Psalms 58:3    | Infants cannot speak lies          |
| Matt. 19:13-15 | We must become depraved            |
| Romans 5:19    | They were also made righteous      |
| I Cor. 15:22   | In Christ all are made alive       |
| Eph. 2:3       | Pure nature can be transmitted too |

## ARE INFANTS BORN SINNERS AND LOST?

### Chart Lesson 32

#### I. HOW DID SIN COME INTO THE WORLD?

1. If Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil they would  
\_\_\_ Die \_\_\_\_\_. Gen. 2:17

2. Through one (Adam) \_\_\_ Sin \_\_\_\_ came into the world. Romans 5:12

Through sin came \_\_\_ Death \_\_\_\_\_. Romans. 5:12; 6:23 \_\_\_ ALL \_\_\_\_\_

#### II. MORALTY WHAT DID MAN GAIN THROUGH EATING OF THE TREE?

1. Their eyes were \_\_\_\_\_ Open \_\_\_\_\_. Gen. 3:7

2. They came to Know \_\_\_ Good \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ Evil \_\_\_\_\_. Gen. 3:22

#### III. DO INFANTS DIFFER MORALLY FROM ADAM AND EVE BEFORE THEY ATE?

1. Children have \_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ knowledge of good and evil. Deut. 1:39; Isa. 7:16

2. If one is \_\_\_ Blind \_\_\_\_\_ he has no sin. John 9:41

3. He that knows to do good and does not do it to him it is \_\_\_ Sin \_\_\_\_\_ James 4:17

4. A child does not bear the \_\_\_\_\_ Iniquity \_\_\_\_\_ of the father. Eze. 18:20

#### IV. WHAT IS THE CONDITION OF CHILDREN IN GOD'S EYES?

1. Through sin one is \_\_\_\_\_ Separated \_\_\_\_\_ from God. Isa. 59:1,2

2. The angels of children behold the \_\_\_ Face \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Matt. 18:10

3. One must become like \_\_\_\_\_ Little \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_. Matt. 18:3

4. The kingdom has those like \_\_\_\_\_ Little \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_. Matt. 19:4

#### V. WHAT DOES ONE DO WITH OR FROM THE HEART IN CONVERSION?

\_\_\_ Believe \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 8:12,15 \_\_\_ Understand \_\_\_\_\_ Matt. 13:15

\_\_\_ Believeth \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 10:10 \_\_\_ Obeyed \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 6: 17,18

#### VI. THOSE WHO WERE BAPTIZED:

\_\_\_ Gladly Received \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 2:41 \_\_\_ Men-Women \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 8:12

\_\_\_ Believed \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 8:12 \_\_\_ Hearing;Believed; Baptized \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 18:8

**LESSONS # 33 & 34**  
**“HAVE MIRACULOUS GIFTS CEASED?”**

**TEXTS: Mark 16:16-20; I Corinthians 12:7-10; Acts 2:1-4; I Corinthians 14:27,28**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Perhaps more attention has been given to the subject of Miraculous Divine Healing in the past few years than in any period of history since the days of the apostles.

The belief that Christ heals today, miraculously, as He did when He lived upon the earth Overpowers the religious thinking of countless thousands of honest and sincere people. It has been and is a major part of the doctrine of a number of denominations and is considered of most importance by many others. In the past it could be said that only the very poor and many illiterate were attracted to these religious bodies. This can no longer be said. This teaching has become so widespread that many leading denominations in the world have caught on the bandwagon. Many of the very top of the social ladder are adopting this doctrine and are passing it on.

**WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?**

**1. WHAT IS A MIRACLE?**

First of all, a miracle must not be confused with a work of nature. Because the natural and the supernatural are both from God, some people do not distinguish between the miraculous and the natural.

When one knows the difference between how Adam’s wife arrived in the world and how his own wife arrived, he knows the difference between the miraculous and the non-miraculous.

What the Bible means by MIRACLE can be determined by the words used to describe miracles in Acts 2:22. They were mighty works and wonders and signs.

**2. CHRIST WORKED MANY MIRACLES:**

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| a. John 3:1,2     | Nicodemus                |
| b. Matt. 8:28-34  | Demons were cast out     |
| c. Matt. 21:14    | Lame made to walk        |
| d. Matt. 14:13-21 | Thousands were fed       |
| e. Matt. 14:22-33 | Walked on water          |
| f. Matt. 8:27     | Wind and sea obeyed Him. |
| g. John 11:32-45  | Jesus raised the dead    |

**3. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES?**

(John 20:30 ) And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

(John 20:31 ) But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Before the New Testament was written, it was necessary that men believe in Christ on the basis of verbal teaching and the backing up by the signs and wonders. The first preachers of the Gospel were inspired to know what to say and they performed miracles to confirm the word. How else could men have known they were accepting the pure Gospel?

a. Mark 13:11; John 14:26; John 15:26; John 16:13; Luke 24:48.49

The signs that were to accompany the preaching were promised at the time the eleven were commanded to go into all the world and preach the gospel. Mark 16:17-18

For what purpose were the signs to accompany the Word? Mark 16:20

Acts 1:8; Acts 2

The speaking in tongues was only one of the signs that followed them. (only the apostles had the power to confer the gifts of the Spirit. Acts. 8: 5-25

#### **4. WHAT WERE THE GIFTS?**

I Corinthians 12:8-12

If any of the miraculous gifts are available today, all are available. There is no ground on which to say that some are for us today while others have ceased. If one person can speak in tongues, another can raise the dead.

Matt. 9:18-26

News went into all the land.

Matt. 4: 24

News went into all Syria

Luke 4:14

News went through all the surrounding district

Luke 5:15

Great multitudes were gathering to see and hear

***(WHAT ABOUT TODAY WITH; FOXNEWS; ABC; NBC; CBS AND CNN!!)***

#### **V. THE ISSUE IS NOT WHAT GOD IS ABLE TO DO. THE ISSUE IS WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR US TODAY.**

- a. He once made man from the dust of the ground, He still can, if it's His will.
- b. It's not a question of miracles of the past.
- c. It's not a question of the power of God.
- d. It not a question of should we still pray for the sick.
- e. It's not a question of if God still heals today.

# MEASURES OF THE SPIRIT

| <b>BAPTISMAL</b>   | <b>SECONDARY</b>   | <b>INDWELLING</b>                                      |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Apostles &amp; Cornelius</b><br>Acts 2            Acts 10 | <b>Some Disciples</b><br>Acts 8:12-18; 19:6              | <b>All Christians</b><br>Acts 2:38; 5:32; Gal. 4:6     |
| <b>Christ - Administrator</b><br>John 1:33; Matt. 3:11       | <b>Apostles</b><br>Rom. 1:11; Acts 18:18                 | <b>When Baptized</b><br>Acts 2:38,39    Acts 5:32      |
| <b>Not To Save</b><br>Acts 2:1-4; 11:13,14                   | <b>Not To Save</b><br>Acts 8:12-18                       | <b>Dwells In Church</b><br>I Cor. 3:16; Eph. 2:20-22   |
| <b>To Reveal Truth</b><br>John 16:13; 14:26                  | <b>Till N.T. Written</b><br>Eph. 4:11-13                 | <b>Gives No Miracles</b><br>Rom. 8:9; 1:11; John 10:41 |
| <b>To Confirm Truth</b><br>Acts 1:8; Mk. 6:20; 2Cor. 12:12   | <b>Purpose of Gifts</b><br>I Cor. 12:1-10 Not Needed Now | <b>Not Spirit Baptized</b><br>Rom. 8:9 ; Eph. 4:5      |
| <b>CEASED AD 64</b><br>Eph. 4:5                              | <b>CEASED AD 96</b><br>I Cor. 13:8-13                    | <b>CONTINUES</b><br>Acts 2:38; 5:2                     |

**LESSONS # 35 & 36**  
**“THE CHURCH AND WORLDLINESS”**

**TEXTS: 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 John 2:15-17; James 1:27; 2 Corinthians 6:17**

**INTRODCTION:**

There is a story of a county school superintendent who had to fill a vacancy among the school bus drivers.

1. He had three applications.
2. Took them one by one to a sharp curve on a hill and asked, “How close can you get to that edge, while driving the bus, without falling off?”
3. One driver said, “two inches.” The second driver said, “one inch.”
4. The third driver said, “Do you think I’m crazy? I’m not interested in how close I can get to the edge. I’m more interested in how far from it I can get.

One who seeks to stay just as near the world of sin as possible and still follow Christ is playing with his own soul. 1 Corinthians 10:12

We as Christians should be like the third driver and stay as far away from the edge as we possibly can.

Many Christians, who should be the light of the world, are living their lives with one foot in the world and one foot in the church.

A better world begins with a better me. If Christians do not support the truth on moral issues, who will?

In our efforts to support the truth on moral issues, we must constantly remember that the ethical code of Christianity came from God.

All moral questions must be tested by the Bible. John 12:48

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

**1 John 2:15-17**

**James 1:27**

**1 Peter 2:11,12**

**1 Thessalonians 5:22**

**Romans 12:2**

**Romans 12:9**

**Titus 2:11-15**

**Ephesians 5:11**

**The child of God is a new creature.**

**Love not the world.**

**Keep himself unspotted from the world.**

**Abstain from fleshly lusts.**

**Be not conformed to this world.**

**Be not conformed to this world.**

**Abhor that which is evil.**

**Denying ungodliness and worldly lust.**

**Have no fellowship with works of darkness**

**GALATIANS 5:19-22; 1 CORINTHIANS 5:9-11**



## **LET'S LOOK AT A SAMPLING OF THE MANY MORAL ISSUES CHRISTIANS FACE TODAY.**

**1. PROFANITY:** Vulgar language is a great problem in our society. It is a degrading sin against God. Those who swear bring contempt upon God, offend others, and belittle themselves. Ephesians 4:29; Romans 12:14; Matthew 5:34; Exodus 20:7; Exodus 21:17

**2. SOCIAL DRINKING:** One of the greatest problems in the war with alcohol is the failure of all Christians to abstain and to boldly oppose it, in all of its forms and ways. Proverbs 20:1; Proverbs 23:31,32; John 2:1-10; Habakkuk 2:15; Matthew 24:44-51; Matthew 5:13-16.

**3. ABORTION:** Today 4,000 lives will be taken. The victims will die without benefit of trial or counsel. They will be executed in abortion clinics around our county. The Bible makes no distinction between a fetus of two weeks or twenty weeks, but only refers to a child in the mother's womb. The Bible does not distinguish between prenatal and postnatal life. Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41-44; Psalms 139:13-16

**4. DANCING:** Dancing amounts to lasciviousness and is a work of the flesh. (Galatians 5:19-21) Anything that has the tendency to arouse unlawful desires in an individual is lasciviousness. (The word means "wanton acts or manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females.) 2 Corinthians 12:21; "such like" Galatians 5:21

**5. TOBACCO:** Quite frankly when you smoke you are committing suicide. If you begin smoking when you are 18 and smoke 30 years, by the time you are 48 years old your heart will have beat the same as a man 56.5 years old. Psalms 100:3; 1 Corinthians 6:19

**6. INMODEST APPAREL:** God's standard concerning modest apparel applies to both men and women- there is no double standard (1 Timothy 2:9). This means to be well arranged, modest, respectable, honorable 1 Corinthians 10:31.

**7. GAMBLING:** Exhibits desire to take what belongs to another without giving a fair return. The word is covetousness. Thayer defines the coveteous person as one "eager to have more, especially what belongs to another." Ephesians 5:5

**8. MARRIAGE, DIVORCE and REMARRIAGE (Adultery):** Unscriptural marriages are a great problem in society and in the church. Such marriages cannot be continued in with God's approval.

**a. MARRIAGE** was established by God in the very beginning for the happiness and well being of mankind. Genesis 2:23,24

1. This is more than a civil contract.
2. This is a lifetime contract between a man, woman and God. Matthew 19:5,6
3. Marriage makes "we" out of "I".
4. Father and mother take a secondary position.
5. Two minds with but a single thought.
6. Two hearts that beat as one.

For a lifetime contract much prayer and planning must go into it based upon as many mutual qualities as possible such as economic, social, education, and religious background.

**b. DIVORCE** is the cancer of marriage. It cannot take place without sin – often times by both parties. Divorce has been granted for every cause, but Jesus gives only one.

(Mat 19:9 ) And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

**c. REMARRIAGE** following a divorce can only be scriptural on ONE basis, and that is when the divorce is for the grounds of adultery.

1. The guilty party is never free to marry again.
2. The innocent party must not have contributed to the adultery.

Genesis 2:23,24; Matthew 5:31,32; Matthew 19:3-9; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; 1 Corinthians 7:39.

#### **WHAT ARE THE CHOICES BEFORE US?**

1. We can ignore the issues.
2. We could simply surrender.
3. We could stand and fight. ( 1 Timothy 6:12)

## LESSON #37

### "DANGERS OF MODERN VERSIONS"

**TEXTS: Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18, 19**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

To me, one of the major problems confronting the truth, as well as the Lord's Church today, is the so-called "Modern Versions" of the Bible. People now are in a position where they not only can have "the church" of their choice, but also may have the "Bible" of their own choice. For example, you can have one that endorses "faith only" or "original sin": you can have one that endorses the theory of Premillennialism, even one that favors the Roman Catholic Church.

The very first thing that we must understand and remember is that God has spoken. He has said what He meant and meant what He said. God's commandments to us today will never change. The pages of God's Word have been sealed by the blood of His own Son.

We may reject it, we may rebel against it, deny it, or we may alter it. But when we stand in the presence of God in judgment, the words He has spoken will judge us (John 12:48).

Three words we need to know the meaning of:

- 1. PARAPHRASED** - A rewording of the meaning expressed in something spoken or written.
- 2. TRANSLATION** - Implies the rendering from one language into another, written or spoken.
- 3. VERSION** - A particular form or variation of something, as modified in a different art form (the movie version of the novel).

I would advise all Bible students to read modern speech translations and to compare them with such translations as the King James and the American Standard. Use more than one translation in your study.

**Let's compare a few translations and see the contrast.**

|                         |                              |                           |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>LIVING BIBLE</b>     | <b>Psalms 51:5</b>           | <b>Genesis 6:4</b>        |
| <b>THE AMPLIFIED</b>    | <b>Ephesians 5:19</b>        | <b>Galatians 2:16</b>     |
| <b>NIV</b>              | <b>Romans 10:10</b>          | <b>Ephesians 1:13</b>     |
| <b>CATHOLIC</b>         | <b>Matthew 16:18 (notes)</b> | <b>Romans 6:4 (notes)</b> |
| <b>KING JAMES</b>       | <b>Acts 12:4</b>             | <b>Acts 2:27</b>          |
| <b>REVISED STANDARD</b> | <b>Mark 16:16</b>            |                           |

I am not opposed to an honest translation by competent scholars, but I am opposed to paraphrases in which the author weaves his own theology into the text. The unlearned will think they are reading the words of the Holy Spirit and will be led into error. Our world may change, but God's words stays the same.

**(CHART)**

## LESSON #38

### "REMAIN FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH"

**TEXTS: Revelation 2:10**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Noah was faithful in an ungodly world -----Genesis 6:5

Lot remained faithful in an ungodly city ---- Genesis 19

Joseph was faithful in Egypt ----- Genesis 39-49.

Daniel was faithful in a heathen court ----- Daniel 1-2.

Stephen was faithful till death ----- Acts 7.

Christians must be faithful unto death -----Revelation 2:10.

The Christian life, is a life of faithfulness, it does not END with baptism -but the BEGINNING.

#### **I. What is to follow baptism?**

Romans 6:4; Colossians 3:1; 1 Peter 2:2

#### **II. What changes are to take place?**

Ephesians 4:22; Colossians 3:8, 9 (put off) Ephesians 4-.24; Colossians 3:12, 13 (put on)

#### **III. What are some new responsibilities?**

Matthew 16:24: John 13:34 :1 Corinthians 6:19, 20 11 Timothy 2:2 Hebrews 10:25 James 2:17

#### **IV. What if we sin?**

Romans 3:23 1 John 1:8 Acts 8:22

#### **V. What must I do?**

I Corinthians 15:58; Matthew 24:13; Revelation 2.:10

## LESSON #39

### "CHRIST IS COMING FOR HIS CHURCH"

**TEXTS: John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; II Thessalonians 1:7-9**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Thru the centuries, these words (**I WILL COME AGAIN**) have dispelled the darkness of fear, and brought hope to millions. This is one of the most important and exciting subjects in the Bible the second coming of Christ.

In the four accounts of the Gospel, Jesus is quoted as speaking of His second coming more than 30 time), and in the New Testament it is referred to almost 200 times. The apostles and other New Testament writers spoke of Christ's coming so much that some in the early church got the mistaken notion that His coming was to be imminent.

Down through the centuries numerous individuals and religious sects have gotten so "wrought up" about the second coming, they have set dates when it would occur.

1. The forerunner of the Seventh Day Adventist, William Miller, set a date in 1843 that the return would be in 1844.
2. Everything was going as said. The year came, the month, the week, the day, and hour. ALL BUT JESUS CAME.
3. He claimed he made a one-year error in his calculations.
4. The following year, ALL BUT JESUS CAME.

**LET'S GO TO THE BIBLE AND SET FORTH AS CLEARLY AND AS SIMPLY AS POSSIBLE WHAT IS WRITTEN IN RELATION TO THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.**

**(Chart)**

#### **1. WHY IS CHIRST COMING AGAIN?**

**A.** To gather His faithful followers unto Himself, to take them with Him to that eternal home (John 14:1-3).

I Peter 1:4 - place reserved in heaven.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 - gathering together unto Christ.

**B.** The purpose of Christ's coming is actually three-fold:

1. To raise the dead --- all the dead --- righteous and wicked.
2. To hold a final judgment --- when all will give account.
3. To gather all of the redeemed --- of the ages unto Himself.

## **II. WHAT WILL BE THE MANNER OF HIS COMING?**

**A.** Jesus says that conditions will be much the same as in the days of Noah. Matthew 24:37-39

I Thessalonians 4:15

II Thessalonians 1:8

II Peter 3:10

## **III. THE FINAL JUDGMENT**

A. Hebrews 9:27

B. Acts 17:30, 31

C. Acts 24:24, 25

D. Matthew 25:32-46

E. Revelation 20:11-15

## **IV. WHAT LIES BEYOND?**

Heaven or hell --- the choice is ours.

