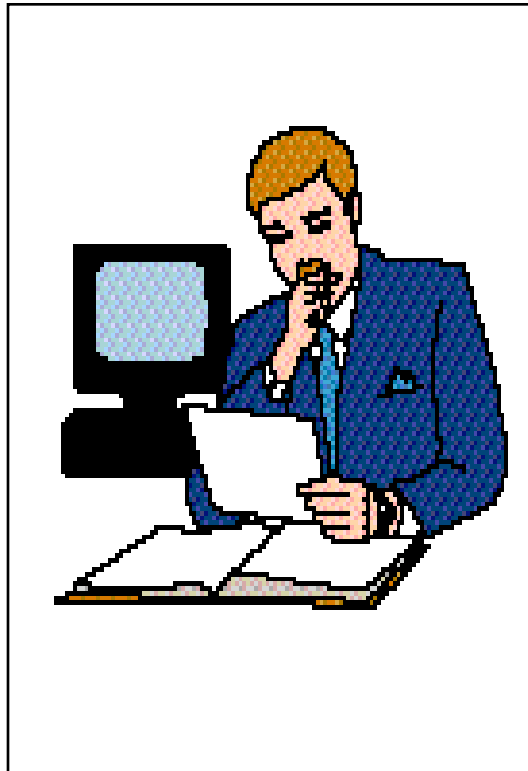


# **CORRESPONDENCE** **BIBLE COURSES**

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## **WORKBOOK AND STUDY GUIDE**

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**AN INTRODUCTION & 13 LESSONS**

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**FOUNDATION PUBLICATIONS**

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## **A Brief Bible Study**



Dear

Thank you so much for studying the Bible (God's Word) with us. This is a very serious matter and we delight in being of service to you.

Included you will find the Introductory lesson. Use your Bible and complete the lesson. Mail it back to us and we will grade it for you and return it to you along with the next lesson. This course is based on the New American Standard Version but you can use any version you choose. It is just easier to follow the questions with the New American Standard Version.

If you have questions regarding any Bible matter, please feel free to write them down and we will furnish you a Bible answer including Book, Chapter and Verse.

This series contains only 13 lessons in all.

God's Word, The Bible, will be the standard of Judgment for every person who has ever lived on Earth (John 12:48 and Romans 2:16).

May God bless you in this study of His word.

Thank you sincerely,

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## **GOD AND THE BIBLE** (An Introductory Lesson)

God is revealed in the BIBLE. The Bible reveals that it was GOD that made the world (Genesis 1:1). Man may KNOW that a HIGHER POWER made the world but without REVELATION, man CANNOT know WHO or WHAT that POWER is. "The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands" (Psalms 19:1). Truly when man learns from the Bible that GOD is that POWER, "When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained" (Psalms 8:3). These Psalms were written to tell us WHO we should glorify in these things. We do not worship the host of heaven; we worship the GOD who made them. Since the Bible reveals GOD and His WILL, man is without excuse, "Because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them" (Romans 1:19). GOD (Deity), in three persons, is revealed in the Bible - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit - Matthew 28:19-20.

The BIBLE not only REVEALS God but also reveals His WILL for man. The NECESSITY of Revelation from God may be seen from the following: "For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:11). Thus it is in the BIBLE that we learn that God made man (Genesis 1:2; 2:7). It is the BIBLE that teaches us about GOD (John 1:18). And it is ONLY from the BIBLE that we learn God's will for man (Romans 1:16; 2 Timothy 2:15-17; 2 Peter 1:1-4).

### **FILL IN THE BLANKS**

In the beginning God \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Genesis 1:1)

And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the \_\_\_\_\_ was moving over the surface of the waters.  
(Genesis 1:2)

And God said, "Let there be \_\_\_\_\_"; and there was \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Genesis 1:3)

And God \_\_\_\_\_ in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Genesis 1:27)

Then the Lord God called to the \_\_\_\_\_, and said to him, "Where are \_\_\_\_\_?"  
(Genesis 3:9)

"I will cry to God \_\_\_\_\_, to God who accomplishes \_\_\_\_\_ for me."  
(Psalms 57:2)

"For such is God, \_\_\_\_\_ forever and ever; He will \_\_\_\_\_ until death."  
(Psalms 48:14)

For this is the love of God, that we keep His \_\_\_\_\_; and His \_\_\_\_\_ are not burdensome.  
(1 John 5:3)

## WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

To properly answer this question, we do not need to approach the Bible with some mysterious or hidden power. Let us use our God-given intelligence and have a sincere desire to learn the truths laid down in this great "BOOK OF BOOKS".

The word "BIBLE" comes from the Greek word "biblia" and means "the book". Actually, it is 66 books written down by some 40 penmen, containing books of law, history, poetry and prophecy.

### 1. WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?

- A. As to the copying, translating, printing and so forth, we know this was done by man. What we are interested in is it's contents: Who is the AUTHOR and WHO delivered it to man?

#### B. DID GOOD MEN WRITE IT?

If by good men, we know they had to be honest, truthful, sincere and not misrepresent the things they wrote about. Yet, those who penned the Bible do not claim to be the authors. Galatians 1:1, 11-12.

CONCLUSION: If they were the authors of the contents of the Bible, then they could not have been good men but deceivers! Therefore: \_\_\_\_\_ MEN \_\_\_\_\_ WRITE THE BIBLE.

#### C. DID EVIL MEN WRITE IT?

Evil men seek justification for their conduct; yet no book ever written so completely defines every evil thought and act or pronounces more vivid condemnation on evil. Matthew 23:33; Revelation 20:12-15

Evil men would not create a heaven they could not enter or a hell they could not escape!

CONCLUSION: \_\_\_\_\_ MEN \_\_\_\_\_ WRITE THE BIBLE.

#### D. WHO DID WRITE THE BIBLE?

There is only one possibility: From all external and internal evidence: GOD produced it! Over 4,000 times in the Old Testament alone, this statement (or its equivalent) is made: "And God said", "and the Lord said".

The Bible is God's Word, delivered to man; spoken or written down by man, BUT the WORD came from GOD. The Word was miraculously placed in the heart (mind) of man (that was by revelation), then man was moved to speak or write that Word (that was inspiration). 2 Peter 1:16-21; 1 Corinthians 2:11-13

When prophets of old spoke in minute detail of things of the future, and those things did happen in exact fulfillment, people who saw and heard could know of a surety that the prophet was not guessing, but his words came from God. Deuteronomy 18:21-22

“And so we have the prophetic word made more sure.” When the inspired men of the New Testament reached back hundreds of years to an ancient prophecy and say: “But this is what was spoken of \_\_\_\_\_ the prophet \_\_\_\_\_” (Acts 2:16) and couple that with the power of wonders and miracles (Hebrews 2:3-4), we can know that the Word is of God. John 20:30-31; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13

## 2. THUS THE BIBLE BECOMES IT'S OWN INTERPRETER!

A. The same power that first gave a prophecy or any other message, can later deliver the message that explains the fulfillment. The BIBLE we now have is the record in our language of the message that God originally delivered to man. It is indeed, THE WORD OF GOD!

B. It is God's WILL revealed to man to understand: “So then do not be \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:17), and it is to be OBEYED!

“Not everyone who says to Me, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ will enter the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_; but he who \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of My \_\_\_\_\_ who is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21, also read Psalms 119:104).

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## **THE WORD OF GOD**

### **(Lesson 1)**

In this day of infidelity and skepticism there is no lesson more important than this lesson on the Word of God. Lesson 1 is designed to teach the truth on the inspiration of the Bible. There are those who deny the Bible in its entirety. These men are called infidels. There are those who deny the verbal inspiration of the Bible when it contradicts their denominational creeds. The claim that the Living Oracles make for themselves is that the Word of God is perfect converting the soul (Psalms 19:7). Jude declares that the faith has been once delivered to the saints (Jude 3) and Peter adds to this testimony when he declares that God has given us ALL THINGS that pertain to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him that called us to glory and virtue (2 Peter 1:3-4). One of the last warnings of God to His people is that they neither add to nor take from the Sacred Oracles (Revelation 22:18-19).

The conclusion to this is the Bible and the Bible alone is the only creed for the church and to follow it and it alone is its only hope. This is why churches of Christ dare not have any creed but Christ, nor any book save the Bible.

### **FILL IN THE BLANKS**

Use your Bible to fill in the following blanks. All Bible texts and quotations are taken from the New American Standard Version (translation) of the Scriptures.

1. "And God \_\_\_\_\_, 'Let there be light'; and there was light."  
(Genesis 1:3) [This is the first use of the Word of God mentioned in the Bible.]
2. "By the word of the Lord the \_\_\_\_\_ were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host." (Psalms 33:6)
3. "By faith we understand that the \_\_\_\_\_ were prepared by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible."  
(Hebrews 11:3)
4. "For the word of God is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."  
(Hebrews 4:12)
5. "The unfolding of Thy words gives \_\_\_\_\_; it gives \_\_\_\_\_ to the simple."  
(Psalms 119:130)
6. What is the Word of God?

- Jeremiah 23:29 -- "Is not My word like \_\_\_\_\_?" declares the Lord, "and like a \_\_\_\_\_ which shatters a rock?"
- John 6:63 -- "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."
- Luke 8:11 -- "Now the parable is this: the \_\_\_\_\_ is the word of God."
- Ephesians 6:17 -- "And take the helmet of salvation, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, which is the word of God."
- Psalms 119:105 -- "Thy word is a \_\_\_\_\_ to my feet, and a \_\_\_\_\_ to my path."

7. Things that the Word of God does for us according to the following Scriptures:

- John 17:17 -- "\_\_\_\_\_ them in the truth; Thy word is truth."
- James 1:21 -- "Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to \_\_\_\_\_ your souls."  
[Salvation of the soul is impossible unless we *receive* with meekness the engrafted word. This shows the necessity of *obedience* to the Word of God.]
- Psalms 19:7 -- The law of the Lord is perfect, \_\_\_\_\_ the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making \_\_\_\_\_ the simple."  
[If the law of the Lord is perfect to convert the soul then creeds, manuals, disciplines and confessions of faith are not necessary.]
- Acts 11:14 -- "And he shall speak words to you by which you will be \_\_\_\_\_, you and all your household."

8. How are we made clean? (John 15:3) \_\_\_\_\_  
Without obedience to the Word of God we cannot be made clean in the sight of God.

9. Men are born again when they obey the commandments of the incorruptible \_\_\_\_\_ which is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (1 Peter 1:23). The new birth cannot be accomplished according to the inspired Peter until the incorruptible seed or the Word of God is planted in the heart and *obeyed*. How foreign to God's Word is the teaching that a man can be born again by some mysterious force acting on his heart before he has obeyed the dictates of God as expressed in His Word.

10. Our attitude toward the Word of God is one of not being a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Word but an \_\_\_\_\_. (James 1:25)

11. By what will we be judged? (John 12:48) \_\_\_\_\_

12. What will happen to those who take away from the Word of God? (Revelation 22:19)  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. Every preacher is charged to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Timothy 4:2). Human opinions, decrees of popes or councils are not part of the true gospel preacher's message. He is to preach the Word *only*.

14. What is God's power to save? (Romans 1:16) \_\_\_\_\_

15. Do we know anything about God, Christ, heaven, hell, the church and how to be saved except what we learn from the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

At the completion of this lesson the student can readily see the following facts:

- That all human creeds are in rebellion to the Word of God.
- No man can be saved without *complete obedience* to the Word of God.
- When the book of Revelation was completed, the Word of God was settled and sealed by the blood of Christ and it cannot be added to nor taken from. This would forever destroy the claims of those who claimed to have received present day revelations that are appealed to as being authority in addition to the Bible. Those who have dug up tablets of gold, journeyed to heaven or had mysterious talks with God must be counted as false prophets.
- We should all have the utmost respect to the utterances of God and His Word must be the final authority in all matters religious.



# RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

OLD TESTAMENT

**PROMISES MADE (GENESIS 3:15 & 12:3)**

NEW TESTAMENT

**FULFILLED (GALATIANS 3:16)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. KINGDOM TO BE ESTABLISHED (DANIEL 2:44) ..... | MATTHEW 3:1-2, 10:7; 16:18-19,<br>MARK 9:1, ACTS 1:8 - ACTS 2:47,<br>COLOSSIANS 1:13 |
| 2. LORD'S HOUSE TO BE BUILT (ISAIAH 2:2-3) ..... | HEBREWS 3:6, 1 TIMOTHY 3:15  |
| WILL BE IN "LAST DAYS" .....                     | ACTS 2:16-17, HEBREWS 1:1-2  |
| WILL BEGIN IN JERUSALEM .....                    | LUKE 24:46-47, ACTS 1:4-8  |
| ALL NATIONS ADMITTED .....                       | ACTS 2:39, ROMANS 1:16   |
| 3. CHRIST WILL BE KING (JEREMIAH 23:5-6) .....   | MATTHEW 28:18, ACTS 2:29-33  |
| 4. NEW COVENANT BINDING (JEREMIAH 31:31) .....   | MATTHEW 16:18-19, ACTS 2:36-38   |
| 5. HOLY SPIRIT TO BE GIVEN (JOEL 2:28) .....     | HEBREWS 9:15-17, HEBREWS 8:8<br>ACTS 2:16-21   |

**ALL PROMISES MADE ARE FULFILLED IN ACTS 2**  
**(ACTS 2 GIVES THE ACCOUNT OF EVENTS OF ONLY ONE DAY - PENTECOST)**

Every Scripture speaking of the Kingdom BEFORE Acts 2 speaks of it as being in the FUTURE!!  
Isaiah 2:2-4 Micah 4:1-2; Daniel 2:44;  
Matthew 3:1-2; Matthew 16:18; Mark 9:1; Matthew 6:9-10; Acts 1:6



**PENTECOST**  
**ACTS 2**

Every Scripture speaking of the Kingdom AFTER Acts 2 speaks of it as being IN EXISTENCE!!

Acts 2:47; Colossians 1:13-14;  
Revelation 1:4



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## **OLD & NEW TESTAMENTS**

### **(Lesson 2)**

Essential to an understanding of God's Word is a knowledge of the difference between the Old and New Covenants. All of the Bible is true, but only the New Testament or New Covenant of Jesus Christ NOW applies to us in this dispensation or age. In 2 Peter 1:12, we are told we need to, "...be established in the PRESENT TRUTH." There is such a thing then, as PAST truth and PRESENT truth. God told Noah to build an Ark (Genesis 6). This is not PRESENT truth because God has not commanded us to build an Ark. In Hebrews 8:8, God said, "...I will make a NEW COVENANT...." That NEW Covenant is the PRESENT truth in which we must be established.

#### **FILL IN THE BLANKS**

1. "For if that first \_\_\_\_\_ had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a \_\_\_\_\_."  
(Hebrews 8:7) [The Covenant of Jesus Christ, the New Testament, is FAULTLESS; therefore we return to an inferior covenant if we go back to the Law of Moses for our guidance in this present dispensation. Please see Hebrews 10:9-10]
2. "For finding fault with them, He says, 'Behold, days are coming,' says the Lord, 'When I will effect a \_\_\_\_\_'"  
(Hebrews 8:8)
3. The Old Covenant was founded upon the blood of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Hebrews 9:11-14)
4. The New Covenant was founded upon the blood of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Hebrews 9:14)
5. Jesus Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the New Covenant (Hebrews 9:15). Christ is the ONLY one we have or need to serve in this Office!
6. "For it is \_\_\_\_\_ for the blood of bulls and goats to \_\_\_\_\_ sins."  
(Hebrews 10:4)
7. Christ sealed the New Testament with His \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 9:14-23). Thus sealed the New Testament is our Authority rather than the Old Testament!
8. Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.  
(Hebrews 12:2)

9. The Bible teaches that Christ becomes the \_\_\_\_\_ of eternal salvation to all of them that \_\_\_\_\_ Him (Hebrews 5:9).
10. The New Testament teaches that under the New Covenant, children of God are betrothed to Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2). Romans 7:4 states that even the Jews had to become \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ before they could be married to another. In the same passage Paul shows that no one could belong to Christ until Christ was \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead. This clearly explains that people must be presented to Christ as a chaste virgin (free from the bondage of sin, having been forgiven of sins when obeying Christ and becoming a Christian), AFTER Christ was raised from the dead. BEFORE the resurrection of Christ, people lived and died under the OLD COVENANT. AFTER the resurrection, men and women were made CHRISTIANS according to the laws of the NEW COVENANT.

Please read Exodus 34:27-35 and 2 Corinthians 3:6-18. These verses show that the Authority of the Old Law was abolished IN CHRIST: that is, the Authority of the OLD Testament YIELDED to the Authority of Christ in the NEW Testament.

Now, please read Colossians 2:14-17. In the blanks, list FIVE THINGS Paul used to illustrate that the Old Law was nailed to the cross -- thing which were in effect under the Old Law, but ARE NOT in effect under the New Covenant (Testament):

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) \_\_\_\_\_

## PURPOSES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. To teach us Moral lessons:

1 Corinthians 10:6 -- "Now these things happened as \_\_\_\_\_ for us, that we should not crave \_\_\_\_\_, as they also craved."

1 Corinthians 10:11 -- "Now these things happened to them as an \_\_\_\_\_, and they were written for our \_\_\_\_\_, upon whom the ends of the ages have come."

2. To teach principles upon which God dealt with man - when man OBEYED, he was blessed; when man disobeyed, he was punished:

Romans 15:4 -- "For whatever was \_\_\_\_\_ in earlier times was written for our \_\_\_\_\_, that through \_\_\_\_\_ and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have \_\_\_\_\_."

3. To prove, by prophecy, that Christ is the Son of God - 2 Peter 1:19 -- "And so we have the \_\_\_\_\_ word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts."  
(Jesus is the Morning Star - Revelation 22:16).

4. To prove the New Testament by types, or shadows - Hebrews 10:1 -- "For the Law, since it has only a \_\_\_\_\_ of the good things to come and not the very \_\_\_\_\_ of things, can never by the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near.

Read Galatians 5:1-4 -- "It was for \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ set you free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be \_\_\_\_\_ again to a yoke of \_\_\_\_\_. Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, \_\_\_\_\_ will be of no benefit to you. And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under \_\_\_\_\_ to keep the \_\_\_\_\_ Law. You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_; you have fallen from \_\_\_\_\_."

**TRUE OR FALSE (CIRCLE ONE)**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. While the Old Testament IS preserved for our good, IT IS NOT the FAITH of Jesus Christ, once delivered to the saints. (Jude 3) |
| T | F | 2. The doctrine (teaching) and practice of Christ is found in the New Testament ONLY. (Hebrews 1:1-2; John 12:48)                 |
| T | F | 3. In our dispensation, we are to be subject to Moses and the Old Testament. (1 Corinthians 9:21; Acts 7:37)                      |
| T | F | 4. It is Scriptural to go outside the New Testament for Authority. (2 John 9)   |

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## **THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST**

### (Lesson 3)

With deep respect for the WORD of GOD, and understanding the difference between the Old and New Testaments, we turn now to an important principle -- "AUTHORITY" --. The need for Authority is seen in every realm; Home, Schools, Government, Military; the spiritual realm certainly is no exception. To whom should we look for this Authority? "...All power (authority) is given Me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18). Is it God's desire that Christ be heard in all religious matters!

#### **FILL IN THE BLANKS**

1. "And behold, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ appeared to them, talking with Him."  
(Matthew 17:3)
2. "And Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make \_\_\_\_\_ tabernacles here, one for \_\_\_\_\_, and one for \_\_\_\_\_, and one for \_\_\_\_\_."  
(Matthew 17:4)
3. While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved \_\_\_\_\_, with whom I am well-pleased; \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_!"  
(Matthew 17:5) Peter showed by his statement that he considered Moses, who represented the Old Testament Law, and Elijah, who represented the Old Testament Prophets, as being equally authoritative with Jesus Christ, but God corrected the FALSE idea.
4. one \_\_\_\_\_, one faith, one baptism  
(Ephesians 4:5) Thus Christ is the only ruler (Lord) or Sovereign, with all authority in spiritual matters (1 Timothy 6:15-16).

#### **TRUE OR FALSE** (Circle One after reading John 12:49-50)

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 1. Everything Jesus said originated with Himself.                                  |
| T | F | 2. God the Father gave the word which Jesus should say and which He should speak.  |
| T | F | 3. Jesus said, "...even as the Father allows Me to change His Word, so I speak..." |

#### **THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST REVEALED THROUGH THE APOSTLES**

1. "Jesus therefore said to them again, "Peace be with you; \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ has sent Me, I also \_\_\_\_\_ you."  
(John 20:21)

2. "Truly I say to you, whatever \_\_\_\_\_ shall \_\_\_\_\_ on earth shall be \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven; and whatever you \_\_\_\_\_ on earth shall be \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven."  
(Matthew 18:18)
3. "But when He, the \_\_\_\_\_ of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."  
(John 16:13)
4. "Pilate therefore said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the \_\_\_\_\_ hears My \_\_\_\_\_."  
(John 18:37)

#### **MULTIPLE CHOICE (UNDERLINE THE CORRECT ANSWER)**

1. The New Testament was revealed (a) through Moses, (b) through a church council, (c) through the apostles. (1 Corinthians 2:12-13)
2. Our authority in religion is (a) the Word of God, (b) creeds of men, (c) each person's own opinions and desires. (John 8:31-32)
3. We are to hear (a) the traditions of men, (b) Christ, (c) our parent's religion. (Matthew 15:9; 17:13-14; 10:37)
4. When there is a conflict, we must accept (a) the opinion of the majority of people, (b) that which seems good to us, (c) that which God has revealed through Christ. (Exodus 23:2; Matthew 7:13-14; Proverbs 14:12; Hebrews 1:1-2)

#### **IN THE NAME (BY THE AUTHORITY) OF CHRIST**

1. "And whatever you \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, do \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."  
(Colossians 3:17)
2. "and that \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ should be proclaimed in His \_\_\_\_\_ to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."  
(Luke 24:47)
3. "And Peter said to them, ' \_\_\_\_\_, and let each of you be \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"  
(Acts 2:38)
4. "And there is \_\_\_\_\_ in no one else; for there is no other \_\_\_\_\_ under heaven that has been given among \_\_\_\_\_, by which we must be \_\_\_\_\_."  
(Acts 4:12)
5. "fixing our eyes on \_\_\_\_\_, the author and perfecter of \_\_\_\_\_, who for the joy set before Him \_\_\_\_\_ the cross, despising the \_\_\_\_\_, and has sat down at the \_\_\_\_\_ hand of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God."  
(Hebrews 12:2)
6. "Anyone who \_\_\_\_\_ and does not \_\_\_\_\_ in the teaching of \_\_\_\_\_, does not have God; the one who \_\_\_\_\_ in the teaching, he has both the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_."  
(2 John 9)

## CONSIDER THE COMING JUDGMENT

1. "Because He has fixed a day in which He will \_\_\_\_\_ the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."  
(Acts 17:31)
2. "For \_\_\_\_\_ must \_\_\_\_\_ appear before the \_\_\_\_\_ seat of \_\_\_\_\_, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."  
(2 Corinthians 5:10)
3. "For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every \_\_\_\_\_ shall \_\_\_\_\_ to Me, and every \_\_\_\_\_ shall give praise to \_\_\_\_\_.'"  
(Romans 14:11)
4. Should we respect His Authority NOW? (Answer Yes or No) \_\_\_\_\_

## THERE IS AN URGENCY ABOUT THE MATTER

1. Does Christ have ABSOLUTE Authority? (Matthew 28:18) - Check Yes ( ☐ ) No ( ☐ )
2. "\_\_\_\_\_ said, 'The Lord God shall raise up for you a \_\_\_\_\_ like me from your brethren; to \_\_\_\_\_ you shall \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. He says to you. And it shall be that every soul that does not \_\_\_\_\_ that prophet shall be utterly \_\_\_\_\_ from among the people.'"  
(Acts 3:22-23)
3. It is imperative that we HEAR and OBEY Christ, and that we TEACH and PRACTICE ONLY that which can be found in His WORD. 1 Peter 4:11 -- "Whoever \_\_\_\_\_, let him \_\_\_\_\_, as it were, the \_\_\_\_\_ of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."
4. Is it safe to accept as truth and religious doctrine which differs from the New Testament? Check Yes ( ☐ ) No ( ☐ ). If Yes, explain below:
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We hope you are profiting from this study! Lesson 4 will be "The establishment of the Church."

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## **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH**

### **(Lesson 4)**

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, "...I will build My church..." In the next verse He said, "...I will give you the keys of the Kingdom..." These are two of the descriptive titles of God's people. The Lord adds saved people to the CHURCH - Acts 2:47 or to the KINGDOM - Colossians 1:13. In this lesson we will be concerned with WHEN and WHERE the promise of Jesus to build His Church was fulfilled. There are THREE reasons why we need to know the TIME and PLACE of the establishment of the Lord's Kingdom or Church.

1. That we may be able to determine if the Church CHRIST built can be found on earth TODAY.
2. That we may know the CONDITIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP in the Church - conditions laid down AT THE TIME of its establishment.
3. That we may properly identify the TRUE CHURCH, and be able to distinguish it from all institutions of modern human origin.

Isaiah 2:2-3 -- "Now it will come about that in the \_\_\_\_\_, the mountain of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. And many peoples will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways, and that we may walk in His paths.' For the \_\_\_\_\_ will go forth from Zion, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_."

From this passage (Isaiah 2:2-3), it is clear the LORD'S HOUSE was to be established in the LAST DAYS in the City of JERUSALEM.

### **TWO QUESTIONS NOW ARISE:**

1. What IS the LORD'S HOUSE? Bible answer: "...how one ought to conduct himself in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, which is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth."  
(1 Timothy 3:15)
2. When ARE the LAST DAYS? Bible answer: "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in \_\_\_\_\_ last \_\_\_\_\_ has spoken to us in His \_\_\_\_\_"  
(Hebrews 1:1-2) [The age or dispensation in which God speaks through Christ is the LAST DAYS; but according to THIS passage, God NOW does that, therefore WE ARE NOW living in "THESE LAST DAYS!" We can even learn when "these last days" BEGAN! Observe:]



On the day of Pentecost, 33 A.D., the apostles were together in Jerusalem when they were inspired by the Holy Spirit to speak the Word of God (Please read Acts 2:1-5). On this occasion, Peter quoted Old Testament Prophecy. Acts 2:16-17 -- "But \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ was spoken of through the prophet Joel: 'And it shall be in the \_\_\_\_\_ days...' [The prophet said it would be in the LAST DAYS; Peter said, "THIS IS WHAT the prophet spoke about, therefore, the LAST DAYS HAD COME at that time.]

A few years later, Peter spoke of that occasion and called it "the BEGINNING" (Please read Acts 11:15). The LAST DAYS had their BEGINNING on the day of Pentecost, 33 A.D., and that is WHEN the LORD'S HOUSE (household) or CHURCH began.

We know the church WAS NOT BUILT before the Day of Pentecost, because....

1. In Matthew 3:1-2, John preached that the \_\_\_\_\_ was at \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In Mark 1:15, Jesus said, ".... the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is at \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In Matthew 6:9-10, Jesus taught His disciples to pray, "...Thy \_\_\_\_\_ come..."
4. In Mark 9:1, Jesus said, "...there are some of \_\_\_\_\_ who are standing \_\_\_\_\_ who shall not taste \_\_\_\_\_ until they \_\_\_\_\_ the kingdom of God after it has \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_."
5. In Luke 23:50-51, Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ for the kingdom of God.

In all these passages, observe that the Kingdom or Church is always spoken of as being in the future. It HAD NOT been established BEFORE Pentecost, 33 A.D.

But, we know that church WAS NOT BUILT after the Day of Pentecost, because...

1. In Acts 2:41, on the day of Pentecost, "...So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ about three thousand souls." [TO WHOM WERE THEY ADDED? Answer, Acts 2:47 -- "...And the \_\_\_\_\_ was adding to their \_\_\_\_\_ day by day those who were being \_\_\_\_\_." These are the same ones referred to as THE CHURCH (See Acts 5:11). So the church WAS IN EXISTENCE in JERUSALEM and to it were added all who met the conditions of membership. Acts 2:38 -- "...\_\_\_\_\_, and let each of you be \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins..." (Compare verse 47)]
2. In Acts 11:15, Peter called the day of Pentecost the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. EVERY TIME the Church or Kingdom is mentioned from Acts 2:47 through the remainder of the New Testament, it is spoken of as an EXISTING INSTITUTION.

QUESTION: If the church was not built BEFORE Pentecost and was not built AFTER Pentecost, WHEN was it built?

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

**TRUE OR FALSE (CIRCLE ONE)**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. The KINGDOM was to come with POWER. (Mark 9:1)                               |
| T | F | 2. The apostles were to receive POWER with the coming of the SPIRIT (Acts 1:8). |
| T | F | 3. The SPIRIT came on the day of PENTECOST in JERUSALEM (Acts 2:1-5).           |

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 4. THEREFORE, the KINGDOM came on the day of PENTECOST in JERUSALEM.         |
| T | F | 5. A church founded in the days of Abraham is the Kingdom of God.            |
| T | F | 6. A church established in 1739 A.D. is the church of the Living God.        |
| T | F | 7. A church which had its beginning in the United States is the true church. |
| T | F | 8. It would be wise to be a member of the church built AFTER Pentecost.      |

# THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

**PENTECOST 33 A.D.**

**PRESENT**

**ELDERS, BISHOPS, & SHEPHERDS - REPENTANCE & WATER BAPTISM**

---

## **APOSTASY FORETOLD**

Acts 20:28-30 -- Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Galatians 1:6-12 -- ...only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ...

2 Thessalonians 2:3-9 -- Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness...displaying himself as being God...

2 Peter 2:1-3 -- ...just as there will also be false teachers among you...

1 John 4:1-6 -- ...because many false prophets have gone out into the world...

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**323 A.D. CATHOLICISM**

**ARCHBISHOPS, CARDINALS, POPES**

**1000 A.D. GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**1521 A.D. LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**1534 A.D. CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

**(EPISCOPAL)**

**1541 A.D. PRESBYTERIAN**

**1607 A.D. BAPTIST**

**1739 A.D. METHODIST**

**1830 A.D. MORMONS**

**1843 A.D. ADVENTISTS**

**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**

**1875 A.D. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE**

**1867-1894 HOLINESS MOVEMENTS**

**1895 A.D. NAZARENE**

**1914 A.D. ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

**120 A.D. HOLY WATER**

**157 A.D. PENANCE**

**200 A.D. SAINTS DAY**

**240 A.D. PRAYING TO SAINTS**

**250 A.D. CLINIC BAPTISM**

**323 A.D. UNION CHURCH/STATE**

**350 A.D. SPRINKLING**

**350 A.D. MASS**

**588 A.D. EXTREME UNCTION**

**593 A.D. PURGATORY**

**800 A.D. TRANSUBSTANTIA**

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## **FAITH** (Lesson 5)

"And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). Since faith is so essential to pleasing God, it is ALL important to determine what the meaning of faith is. There are many kinds of faith described in the Bible, such as, weak faith (Romans 14:1), little faith (Luke 12:48), shipwrecked faith (1 Timothy 1:19), etc. What we are looking for is the kind of faith that will PLEASE GOD - a saving, life-giving faith. "But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31). Our guide is God's Word, the Bible. When we study it, our TRUST and CONFIDENCE grows BECAUSE of the evidence presented therein. Saving faith is not a miraculous gift or an unexplainable FEELING, but is CONVICTION and ASSURANCE based on KNOWLEDGE of FACTS and EVIDENCE. Our minds consider the things God has told us and we accept them because we are confident that they are true. If we stopped here we would have what might be described as an intellectual faith such as is found in John 12:42-43. However, SAVING FAITH is clearly described in the following scriptures.

1. **Romans 10:17** -- "So \_\_\_\_\_ comes from \_\_\_\_\_, and hearing by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ."  
[Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:1, the Holy Spirit SPEAKS. He SPOKE the word of God through the apostles (John 16:13). So our faith is the product of HEARING the word of God, which is the word spoken by the SPIRIT. THIS IS HOW THE SPIRIT PRODUCES FAITH.]
2. **2 Corinthians 5:7** -- "For we walk by \_\_\_\_\_, not by \_\_\_\_\_."
3. **Mark 16:16** -- "He who has \_\_\_\_\_ and has been \_\_\_\_\_ shall be \_\_\_\_\_; but he who has \_\_\_\_\_ shall be \_\_\_\_\_."
4. **James 2:24** -- "You see that a man is \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_, and not by \_\_\_\_\_."
5. **Galatians 5:6** -- "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but \_\_\_\_\_ working through \_\_\_\_\_."

### **FAITH MUST BE DEMONSTRATED BY OBEDIENCE (HEBREWS CHAPTER 11):**

1. Verse 4 -- "BY FAITH Abel \_\_\_\_\_ to God a better sacrifice than Cain."
2. Verse 7 -- "BY FAITH Noah ...\_\_\_\_\_ an ark..."
3. Verse 8 -- "BY FAITH Abraham .... \_\_\_\_\_ by going out to a place...."
4. Verse 17 -- "BY FAITH Abraham ..... \_\_\_\_\_ up Isaac..."

5. Verse 27 -- "BY FAITH he [Moses] \_\_\_\_\_ Egypt..."
6. Verse 29 -- "BY FAITH they [the Israelites] \_\_\_\_\_ through the Red Sea...."
7. Verse 30 -- "BY FAITH the walls of Jericho \_\_\_\_\_ down, after they had been \_\_\_\_\_ for seven days. [ACTIVE FAITH is essential to pleasing God.]

**TRUE OR FALSE (CIRCLE ONE)**

- T      F      1. It is possible to believe, yet not be saved (James 2:19; John 12:42-44).
- T      F      2. Faith is produced by hearing evidence (John 20:31).
- T      F      3. Faith only, without obedience, will save (James 2:24).

**MULTIPLE CHOICE (UNDERLINE THE CORRECT ANSWER)**

1. Our faith must rest upon (a) the creeds of denominationalism, (b) the proclamation of men, (c) our feelings, (d) the word of God alone (Romans 10:17).
2. The church which stands for truth (1 Timothy 3:16) is guided in teaching and practice by (a) traditions of the past, (b) the oracles [utterances] of God, (c) a set of laws written by men, (d) the wishes and likes of the majority of members (Matthew 15:3, 9; 1 Peter 4:11).
3. When God's word tells us to hear Jesus (Matthew 17:5), believe in Him as the Messiah (John 8:24), repent of sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30), confess Jesus as God's Son (Matthew 10:32; Acts 8:37), and be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38), we are to (a) make a choice as to whether this suits us or not, (b) obey with assurance and conviction (faith) that this is the only way to be saved, (c) reject this if it is different from what we have previously been taught, (d) decide we can't understand it and that it does not matter what one believes.

**4. IT TAKES ALL OF GOD'S PLAN FOR US TO BE SAVED**

Some say we are saved by faith only, some say by grace only, some say by baptism only, etc. But the Bible TEACHES we are saved by EVERYTHING which God included in the plan of salvation. Fill in the following blanks and see that if ANY ONE of these things is left out, we cannot be saved; nor can we be saved by ANY ONE ALONE:

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. _____ is our Savior                             | 1 Timothy 4:10       |
| 2. _____ saves us                                  | Matthew 1:21         |
| 3. Justified by His _____                          | Romans 5:9           |
| 4. Saved by the _____                              | 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 |
| 5. Saved by _____                                  | Ephesians 2:5        |
| 6. Justified by _____                              | Romans 5:1           |
| 7. Justified by _____ (Of obedience, not of merit) | James 2:24           |
| 8. Saved by _____                                  | Romans 8:24          |
| 9. Saved by _____                                  | 1 Peter 3:21         |
| 10. We save _____ in obedience                     | Acts 2:40            |

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## **REPENTANCE**

**(Lesson 6)**

The meaning of repentance is clearly illustrated for us in Matthew 21:28-32. The first son, when told to go work in his father's vineyard said, "I will not; but afterward he repented, and went." The second son said, "I go, sir; and went not." From this we see that repentance is a change of the will that leads to a change in action. It is with our mind that we understand the things we see and hear. We think and reason with our mind, and we have emotions such as love and hate. We also have the ability to determine our course of action as shown by the preceding scripture. This is the use of the will. In repentance, there MUST be a COMPLETE change from doing our OWN will to doing GOD'S will. IF our will is changed, our life will be also changed. This is called "conversion" and is what Peter meant in Acts 3:19 -- "Repent therefore and \_\_\_\_\_, that your \_\_\_\_\_ may be \_\_\_\_\_ away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." True repentance then, must result in conversion in order for our sins to be wiped away.

1. Romans 2:4 -- "Or do you think lightly of the \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_ and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ leads you to \_\_\_\_\_."
2. 2 Peter 3:9 -- "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ but for \_\_\_\_\_ to come to \_\_\_\_\_."
3. Acts 17:30 -- "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is \_\_\_\_\_ declaring to men that \_\_\_\_\_ should \_\_\_\_\_."
4. Luke 24:46-47 -- "and He said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the \_\_\_\_\_ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; and that \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ should be proclaimed in His \_\_\_\_\_ to all the nations, beginning from \_\_\_\_\_...'"
5. Acts 2:37-38 -- "Now when they \_\_\_\_\_ this, they were pierced to the \_\_\_\_\_, and said to \_\_\_\_\_ and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, \_\_\_\_\_ shall we \_\_\_\_\_?' And \_\_\_\_\_ said to them, '\_\_\_\_\_, and let \_\_\_\_\_ of you be \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of Jesus Christ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"
6. Luke 15:7 -- "...there will be more \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven over one sinner who \_\_\_\_\_..."

### **CORRECTING FALSE CONCEPTIONS**

1. Error: Salvation comes the instant a person repents.

Truth: The fact that we have stopped sinning does not mean that we are saved. Saul of Tarsus was in a state of PENITENCE when Ananias said to him in Acts 22:16 -- "...Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name."

2. Error: Repentance is a mysterious experience; not something we must DO.

Truth: Repentance is a command (Acts 17:30). If it were a mysterious experience, it **COULD NOT BE COMMANDED**. No mysterious action is recorded when Peter commanded in Acts 2:38 -- "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins..."

3. Error: Repentance is not necessary for salvation.

Truth: Repentance is TO life (Acts 11:18). In Acts 17:30, God **COMMANDS** all men everywhere to \_\_\_\_\_. Can one be saved who lives in disobedience to the command of God? Yes ( ) No ( ) (check one)

**MULTIPLE CHOICE (UNDERLINE THE CORRECT ANSWER)**

1. Luke 15:11-32 - When the prodigal son repented he (a) was sorry for what he had done but did not turn from sin, (b) recognized his guilt and turned away from sin, (c) decided that the way of sin is the easier life, (d) confessed his guilt to his father but did not turn wholeheartedly from evil.
2. Repentance (a) is required only of those who are grossly immoral, (b) is not necessary for the rich, (c) is commanded of every person who is accountable, (d) is advisable, but not essential. [If you are not sure of the answer, see Acts 17:30]

**TRUE OR FALSE (CIRCLE ONE)**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 1. Repentance means, a change of the will, leading to a change of action. (Matthew 21:28-32)                   |
| T | F | 2. It was Socrates who commanded all men to repent.  |
| T | F | 3. Repentance is the SAME as godly sorrow. (Study 2 Corinthians 7:10)  |
| T | F | 4. One must repent in order to go to heaven. (Acts 17:30)  |
| T | F | 5. If one truly repents, he will resolve to turn from all sins. (Luke 9:62)                                    |
| T | F | 6. The scriptural order in Acts 2:38 is baptism first, then repentance.  |
| T | F | 7. One could obey Acts 2:38 by being baptized at the age of 21 DAYS and then repenting at the age of 21 YEARS. |
| T | F | 8. Every sinner would be wise to repent TODAY. (See James 4:14)  |

**SOMEONE SAID IT:**

"REPENTANCE IS THE HARDEST COMMAND TO OBEY." Do you agree? Yes ( ) No ( ) In the space below, please write the reason for your answer.

You are almost halfway through the course! Tell others! Lesson #7 will be "CONFESSION".

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## **CONFESSION**

(Lesson 7)

When Jesus confessed that He was the Christ, He lost His life (Matthew 26:63-68; 27:11-12; 27:22-35). When Stephen confessed Jesus as the Christ, he lost his life (Acts 7:51-60). Even though the world may react with hatred, persecution and ridicule; the disciples of the Master must take their stand BEFORE MEN/WOMEN because CONFESSING that Christ is the SON of God cannot be done in secret. The Son of God requires through His Gospel the confession of His Deity before others. He said in Matthew 10:32; "Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven."

In 1 Timothy 6:12, Paul said Timothy had, "...made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses." The New King James Version of the Bible renders it, "...and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses." When Philip preached to the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:35, the eunuch who was ready to obey the gospel, asked in verse 36, "...What prevents me from being baptized?" Verse 37 records and tells us, "And Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD.'" This is the good confession required of believers.

### 1. GOD made the CONFESSION:

Matthew 3:17 -- and behold, a \_\_\_\_\_ out of the \_\_\_\_\_, saying, "This is My beloved \_\_\_\_\_, in whom I am well-pleased."

Matthew 17:5 -- While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold, a \_\_\_\_\_ out of the \_\_\_\_\_, saying, "This is My beloved \_\_\_\_\_, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

### 2. JESUS made the CONFESSION:

Matthew 26:63-64 -- But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, "I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether \_\_\_\_\_ are the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_." Jesus said to him, "\_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_ yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming in the clouds of heaven." [This was the Hebrew language way of saying, "What you said is true."]

### 3. PETER made the CONFESSION:

Matthew 16:15-16 -- He said to them, "But \_\_\_\_\_ do you say that I \_\_\_\_\_?" And Simon Peter answered and said, "\_\_\_\_\_ art the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the living \_\_\_\_\_."

### 4. The EUNUCH made the CONFESSION:

Acts 8:37 -- "And Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.'"



5. SOME did NOT make the CONFESSION:

John 12:42-43 -- Nevertheless many even of the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, but because of the Pharisees they were not \_\_\_\_\_ Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of men rather than the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

6. To refuse to confess Christ, is in fact, to deny Him. If we wish to be saved, then WE MUST MAKE THE GOOD CONFESSION (Matthew 10:32). If we deny Christ by failing to confess Him, then Jesus says in the next verse, Matthew 10:33 -- "But whoever shall \_\_\_\_\_ Me before \_\_\_\_\_, I will also \_\_\_\_\_ him before My Father who is in heaven."

**MULTIPLE CHOICE (UNDERLINE THE CORRECT ANSWER)**

1. According to the Lord's statement in Matthew 10:32, the CONFESSION (a) must be a secret thing between each individual and God, (b) is to be a confession of one's sins, (c) must be known by those about us.
2. When Jesus was asked if He is God's Son (Mark 14:61-62), He (a) said I am, (b) asked for a private conference with the high priest, (c) said I am not.
3. Some are afraid to confess Christ today (compare John 12:42-43 and Matthew 10:32-33). If they do not take an open stand for Jesus, they (a) will be saved anyway, (b) will be denied before the Father in heaven, (c) will be overlooked.

**TRUE OR FALSE (CIRCLE ONE)**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 1. A pattern for confession is given us by the Holy Spirit in Acts 8:36-37.  |
| T | F | 2. All people will be saved on the Judgment Day. Matthew 10:33; Matthew 25:45-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10                     |
| T | F | 3. Confession of Christ must be made before baptism. Acts 8:36-38  |
| T | F | 4. One can be a Christian while being afraid or ashamed to let others know who he is and what he stands for. 1 Peter 4:15-16 |
| T | F | 5. A confession of Christ is to the glory of the devil. Philippians 2:10-11  |
| T | F | 6. If we do not confess Christ NOW, we WILL some day. Romans 14:10-12  |
| T | F | 7. We can confess Christ and reject some of His commands. John 12:48   |
| T | F | 8. Confession of Christ is the expression of a person's belief that Jesus is THE Son (not a son) of God. John 11:27          |
| T | F | 9. Each one must confess that he believes a human creed book.  |
| T | F | 10. We may substitute a human confession for the Divine Confession.  |

**COMPARING CONFESSIONS**

In making a careful study of the passages given in this lesson, we have found that confession is necessary for salvation and that it comes before baptism.

QUESTION: Must one confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, before salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

BIBLE ANSWER: Romans 10:10 -- "for with the heart man believes, \_\_\_\_\_ in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, \_\_\_\_\_ in salvation." Belief and confession in this verse are both toward or in the direction of salvation. Some teach that the only confession to be made is made AFTER one is Saved, and that this confession to be made is that one HAS BEEN Saved. Compare the two confessions below and place a checkmark before the one which must be made before baptism and salvation. Read Acts 8:36-39.

( ) 1. "I believe that God for Christ's sake has pardoned my sins."

( ) 2. "I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."

QUESTIONS: Which confession did the Eunuch make? 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Which confession would you make? 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Did the Eunuch in Acts 8:36-39 rejoice BEFORE his confession? Yes ( ) No ( )

The next lesson, #8, will discuss the subject of BAPTISM

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## **BAPTISM**

(Lesson 8)

In previous lessons, we have studied the subjects of faith, repentance and confession and their part in God's plan of salvation. Now we continue in the course of that plan with the subject of baptism. Let us turn from all private opinions and human doctrines about baptism and approach the subject with an open mind, letting the Bible guide us into God's truth. Study these facts:

1. Baptism is a vital part of the teaching of Christ and is to be performed in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Matthew 28:18-20 -- And \_\_\_\_\_ came up and spoke to them, saying, "\_\_\_\_\_ authority has been given to Me in \_\_\_\_\_ and on \_\_\_\_\_. "Go therefore and make \_\_\_\_\_ of all the nations, \_\_\_\_\_ them in the name of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_, teaching them to \_\_\_\_\_ all that I \_\_\_\_\_ you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

2. Jesus taught that baptism is a part of the plan of salvation:

Mark 16:15-16 -- And He said to them, "\_\_\_\_\_ into all the \_\_\_\_\_ and preach the \_\_\_\_\_ to all \_\_\_\_\_. He who has believed and has been \_\_\_\_\_ shall be \_\_\_\_\_; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."

3. Acts 2:38 -- And Peter said to them, "\_\_\_\_\_, and let each of you be \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of Jesus Christ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

4. Acts 8:12 -- But when they \_\_\_\_\_ Philip preaching the good news about the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ, they were being \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ alike.

5. Acts 22:16 -- And now why do you \_\_\_\_\_? Arise, and be \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ away your \_\_\_\_\_, calling on His name.

6. John 3:5 -- Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, \_\_\_\_\_ one is \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_, he \_\_\_\_\_ enter the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

7. Acts 18:8 -- And Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they \_\_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_\_ and being \_\_\_\_\_.

8. 1 Corinthians 12:13 -- For by \_\_\_\_\_ we were all \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_, whether Jews or Greeks, whether \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<u>WHAT BAPTISM REQUIRES</u>	<u>WHAT BAPTISM IS FOR</u>
_____ . . . . . Acts 10:47	To be _____ . . . . . Mark 16:16
_____ . . . . . John 3:23	Remission of _____ . . . . . Acts 2:38
Coming to _____ Acts 8:36	Causes one to _____ . . . . . Acts 8:39
Going _____ into water . . . . . Acts 8:38	Wash _____ sins . . . . . Acts 22:16
_____ with Him . . . . . Romans 6:4	Into _____ . . . . . Galatians 3:27
_____ of water . . . . . Ephesians 5:26	Brings newness of _____ . . . . . Romans 6:4
_____ with Him . . . . . Romans 6:5	_____ us . . . . . 1 Peter 3:21
Coming up _____ of water . . . . . Acts 8:39	

**TRUE OR FALSE (CIRCLE ONE)**

- T     F     1. We can select ANY ONE command - faith, repentance, confession, or baptism - and be saved by it ALONE. Matthew 28:18-20; 1 John 2:3-5
- T     F     2. Baptism is a command given by man. Acts 10:48
- T     F     3. Christ made baptism a part of the great commission. Matthew 28:19
- T     F     4. Belief comes before baptism. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:36-49
- T     F     5. Baptism comes before salvation. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 22:16
- T     F     6. Baptism is an act of faith putting one into Christ. Galatians 3:26-27
- T     F     7. New Testament baptism can be performed by sprinkling. Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12
- T     F     8. Baptism is essential to salvation. 1 Peter 3:21

**MULTIPLE CHOICE (UNDERLINE THE CORRECT ANSWER)**

- In Mark 16:16, the Son of God said, (a) "He that believes is saved", (b) "He that believes AND is baptized shall be saved", (c) "He who is baptized shall be saved."
- After reading Romans 6:3-4 and Colossians 2:12, we must conclude (a) that baptism is a burial and a resurrection, (b) baptism can be sprinkling, (c) it makes no difference.
- According to Ephesians 4:5 (a) there are three baptisms, (b) baptism is non-essential, (c) there is one baptism.
- The popular opinion is that baptism has nothing to do with our salvation. According to God's Word in 1 Peter 3:21, (a) baptism does not save, (b) baptism does now save us.
- When one believes, repents, confesses Christ and is baptized, he (a) is saved by his own wisdom, (b) is saved by water only, (c) is saved by FAITH working by love, God's plan (Galatians 5:6).

Faith in Christ as the author of eternal salvation leads one to obey Him (Hebrews 5:8-9). If we respect Him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, we do not question His commandments, but obey them (Luke 6:46).

# THE ONE BAPTISM

EPHESIANS 4:5

## What is the "ONE BAPTISM"?

1. NOT BAPTISM OF JOHN ACTS 19:4
2. NOT HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM ACTS 1:1-8
3. NOT BAPTISM OF FIRE MATTHEW 3:10-12  
BAPTISM OF MATTHEW 28:18-20

## WHO Should Be Baptized?

1. INFANTS? 2. SAVED FOLK?
3. PENITENT BELIEVERS? MARK 16:16

## What is the "MODE" of Baptism?

### Requires:

1. WATER (ACTS 8:36) YES
2. MUCH WATER (JOHN 3:23) YES
3. INTO-OUT OF (ACTS 8:38) YES
4. BURIAL (ROMANS 6:3-4) YES
5. NEW BIRTH (JOHN 3:5) YES
6. A PLANTING (ROMANS 6:5) YES

### Immersion? Sprinkling?

- YES  
NO!  
NO!  
NO!  
NO!  
NO!

## How BAPTISM Appears in the New Testament Arrangement

1. BELIEF -- BAPTISM -- SALVATION. MARK 16:16
2. REPENTANCE -- BAPTISM -- REMISSION. ACTS 2:38
3. ARISING -- BAPTISM -- WASHING AWAY SINS. ACTS 22:16
4. DEATH -- BURIAL IN BAPTISM -- ARISE IN NEWNESS OF LIFE. ROM. 6:3-4
5. BELIEVE -- BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST -- PUT ON CHRIST. GALATIANS 3:27
6. RECEIVE WORD -- WASHING IN WATER -- CLEANSED. EPHESIANS 5:26
7. MERCY -- WASHING OF REGENERATION -- SALVATION. TITUS 3:5

**Baptized INTO the Name = Salvation Is IN the Name. Acts 4:12; 19:5**

**Baptized INTO Christ = Redemption Is IN Christ. Ephesians 1:7**

**Baptized INTO Death of Christ = INTO His Efficacious Blood. John 19:34**

**SALVATION**

**THEREFORE: "BAPTIZED INTO" —**

**REDEMPTION**

**EFFICACY OF CHRIST'S BLOOD**

# SALVATION FROM SIN

WHAT IS SIN? 1 JOHN 3:4, JAMES 4:17 ALL HAVE SINNED. ROMANS 3:23, 1 JOHN 1:8

NOT ENOUGH TO BE...

**IN A WAY**

PROVERBS 16:25;  
JEREMIAH 10:23;  
MATTHEW 7:13-14

**RELIGIOUS**

GALATIANS 1:13-14; ACTS 8:26-39

**HONEST**

ACTS 23:1; ACTS 22:16

**MORALLY GOOD**

ACTS 10:1-6, 48

**BELIEVER**

JAMES 2:19-26

**ALMOST PERSUADED**

ACTS 26:27-29

“HEAR YE HIM”

MATTHEW 17:5

**BELIEVE**

MARK 16:16; JOHN 8:24

**REPENT**

ACTS 2:38; LUKE 13:3

**CONFESS**

MATTHEW 10:32-33; ACTS 8:37

**BAPTIZED**

MARK 16:16; ACTS 2:38

**WHO?**

MATTHEW 28:19; ROMANS 6:3-4  
ACTS 8:12

**HOW?**

**THUS ADDED**

ACTS 2:41-47

**REDEEMED**

ACTS 20:28; COLOSSIANS 1:13-14

ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS  
IN CHRIST EPHESIANS 1:3

**BLESSED ARE DEAD**

REVELATION 14:13

**ETERNAL LIFE**

1 JOHN 5:11

**SALVATION**

2 TIMOTHY 2:10

**NO CONDEMNATION**

ROMANS 8:1

**NEW CREATURE**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Baptized Into Gal. 3:27

Confess Unto. Rom. 10:10

Repent Unto. Acts 11:18

Believe Unto. Rom. 10:10

Hebrews 5:8-9, Rom. 2:8-9



# **AFTER CONVERSION**

**ACTS 2:38**

**ACTS 22:16**

**SAVED FROM PAST SINS**

**1 TIMOTHY 4:16**

**REVELATION 2:10**

**SAVED ETERNALLY**

## **THINGS TO REMEMBER**

**GOD WANTS YOU TO...**

**NEW CREATURE**

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:17; ROMANS 6:4**

**BABES IN CHRIST**

**1 PETER 2:2; 1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-2**

**CRITICAL PERIOD**

**MATTHEW 4:1-11; 1 CORINTHIANS 10:11-13**

**POSSIBILITY OF FALLING**

**JOHN 8:31; 1 JOHN 2:1-2; ACTS 8:17-24**

**REPRESENTATIVE**

**2 CORINTHIANS 3:2; 1 TIMOTHY 4:12**

**CHRIST YOUR EXAMPLE**

**HEBREWS 12:1-2; 1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-7**

**LOVE HIM FIRST**

**MATTHEW 22:37; MATTHEW 10:37**

**STUDY**

**2 TIMOTHY 2:15; ACTS 17:11**

**PRAY**

**PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7; 1 TIMOTHY 2:8**

**ASSEMBLE**

**HEBREWS 10:25-27; MATTHEW 18:20**

**GIVE**

**1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-2; 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7**

**HELP SAVE OTHERS**

**MATTHEW 28:19-20; JOHN 15:1-6 & 16**

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## **THE BODY OF CHRIST**

(Lesson 9)

The purpose of this lesson is to aid the student in being able to identify the church, which is the body of Christ. In the maze of conflicting creeds, contradictory doctrines, and human denominations, may find themselves bewildered in searching for the true church. Yet, the cardinal principle in regard to the search is simply this: FIND IT IN GOD'S WORD! The ONLY place the truth-seeker can find the church of the New Testament is IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. The trouble today is that most people are not seeking the church where it can be found.

The pattern for the church in organization, doctrine, and worship is in the New Testament of Jesus Christ. Here we find the Divine blueprint for the "church of Christ." The church of the New Testament was not a denomination in the first century, that is, it was not something that was split off of the true church of Christ, as found on the pages of the New Covenant (Testament), and it is not a human denomination in the present century. If we speak where the Bible speaks, and are silent where the Bible is silent, and the follow the guidelines of the teaching found in the New Testament, we will have the church as the Lord Jesus designed and built it. The Gospel of Christ produces Christians and the body of Christ. The Bible plus the opinions and creeds of men produces a denominationalist and human denominational bodies. Consider what the New Testament of Christ teaches with reference to the body of Christ.

### **THE CHURCH IS CALLED THE BODY OF CHRIST:**

1. Ephesians 1:22-23 -- [Begin reading with verse 17 and see that this is telling us what God did for Christ] -- "And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as \_\_\_\_\_ over all things to the \_\_\_\_\_, which is His \_\_\_\_\_, the fulness of Him who fills all in all."
2. Colossians 1:18 -- "He is also head of the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything."
3. 1 Corinthians 12:12 -- "For even as the \_\_\_\_\_ is one and yet has many \_\_\_\_\_, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are \_\_\_\_\_, so also is Christ."
4. 1 Corinthians 12:25 -- "that there should be no \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_, but that the \_\_\_\_\_ should have the same care for \_\_\_\_\_."
5. Colossians 1:24 -- "Now I rejoice in my \_\_\_\_\_ for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His \_\_\_\_\_ (which is the \_\_\_\_\_) in filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions."



### **CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF HIS SPIRITUAL BODY, THE CHURCH:**

1. His dominion over the church is COMPLETE - ABSOLUTE. Ephesians 1:22-23 -- "And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as \_\_\_\_\_ over all things to the \_\_\_\_\_, which is His \_\_\_\_\_, the fulness of Him who fills all in all."
2. Ephesians 5:23-24 -- "For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, He Himself being the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_. But as the \_\_\_\_\_ is subject to \_\_\_\_\_, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything."
3. Colossians 1:18 -- "He is also \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything."

### **CHRISTIANS ARE MEMBERS OF THE BODY (CHURCH) OF CHRIST:**

1. Acts 2:47 -- "praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the \_\_\_\_\_ was adding to their \_\_\_\_\_ day by day those who were being \_\_\_\_\_."
2. Romans 12:5 -- "So \_\_\_\_\_, who are \_\_\_\_\_, are one \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ, and individually members one of another."
3. Ephesians 5:23 -- "For the \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, as \_\_\_\_\_ also is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, He Himself being the Savior of the body."

### **THE BIBLE TEACHES THERE IS ONE BODY:**

1. Romans 12:4-5 -- [Compare the physical body of man to the spiritual body of Christ] -- "For just as we have \_\_\_\_\_ members in \_\_\_\_\_ and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are \_\_\_\_\_, are \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ, and individually members one of another."
2. 1 Corinthians 12:20 -- "But now there are many members, but \_\_\_\_\_."
3. Ephesians 2:16 -- "And might \_\_\_\_\_ them both in \_\_\_\_\_ to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity."
4. Ephesians 4:4 -- "There is \_\_\_\_\_ and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling,..."

### **MULTIPLE CHOICE (UNDERLINE THE CORRECT ANSWER)**

1. The important consideration in searching for the church of the New Testament is to (a) study the New Testament, (b) look for the church with the largest membership, (c) accept your parent's religion without question.
2. The complete and exact pattern for the church (body) of Christ is (a) found in the creed books of men, (b) of little consequences since we can build the church to suit ourselves, (c) in the word of God and must be followed precisely.
3. The body (church) of the Lord is made up of (a) all saved people in the world, (b) rich people only, (d) Buddhists, Hindus and Moslems (Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47).
4. According to Ephesians 2:16, a person (a) will go to heaven regardless of whether he is a Christian or not, (b) can be reconciled to God in a man-made denomination, (c) must be in the one Body to be reconciled to God.

**TRUE OR FALSE (CIRCLE ONE)**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. If we follow the Divine Blueprint (pattern), we will be in a human denomination.   |
| T | F | 2. The one body of 1 Corinthians 12:20 is made up of members who are the different religious denominations.   |
| T | F | 3. The one body of 1 Corinthians 12:20 is made up of members who are the individual Christians in the church (see 1 Corinthians 12:27).   |
| T | F | 4. What the Head (Christ) of the church authorized, the body (church) can do.   |
| T | F | 5. What the Head does not authorize, the body cannot do with His approval.  |
| T | F | 6. We can have peace with God in the "church of our choice" (Colossians 3:15).  |
| T | F | 7. Since the church is the FULLNESS of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23), and all spiritual blessings are in Christ (Ephesians 1:3), then one must be in the one church in order to be SAVED (have spiritual blessings). |

HOW POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE IS GOD'S TRUTH WHEN WE CAST ASIDE THE OPINIONS, CREEDS AND TRADITIONS OF MEN, AND TAKE THE TEACHINGS OF GOD AS THESE ARE CLEARLY REVEALED IN THE BIBLE.

# THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

**FOUNDER - CHRIST**  
MATTHEW 16:18

**WHERE - JERUSALEM**  
ISAIAH 2:3; ACTS 2:5,47

**WHEN - AD33**  
ACTS 2

**HEAD - CHRIST**  
EPHESIANS 1:22

## ORGANIZATION

PHILIPPIANS 1:1

ELDERS	TITUS 1:5-7; 1 PETER 5:1-3; ACTS 20:28; 1 TIM. 3:1-7
DEACONS	ACTS 6:1-6; 1 TIMOTHY 3:8-13
MEMBERS	ACTS 2:41-47; COLOSSIANS 1:13; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:2

## NAME

EPHESIANS 3:15

CHURCH OF GOD	1 CORINTHIANS 1:2; ACTS 20:28
THE BODY OF CHRIST	COLOSSIANS 1:18; EPHESIANS 1:22-23
CHURCHES OF CHRIST	MATTHEW 16:18; ROMANS 16:16
BRIDE OF CHRIST	ROMANS 7:4; REVELATION 21:9

## NAME

EPHESIANS 3:15

DISCIPLES	JOHN 15:8; ACTS 11:26
SAINTS	ROMANS 1:7; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:2; PHILIPPIANS 1:1
BRETHREN	LUKE 8:21; GALATIANS 6:1
CHILDREN	GALATIANS 3:26; 1 JOHN 2:1
CHRISTIANS	ACTS 11:26; 26:28; 1 PETER 4:16

## CREED

JESUS CHRIST      MATTHEW 16:16-18; 10:32-33; ACTS 8:37

## RULE OF FAITH

WORD OF GOD      MATT. 28:18-20; 2 TIM. 3:16-17; 2 PETER 1:3; JAMES 1:21

## & PRACTICE WORSHIP

SING	COL. 3:16; EPH. 5:19; 1 COR. 14:15; HEBREWS 2:12
PRAY	1 THESSALONIANS 5:17
TEACH	ACTS 5:42
COMMUNION	ACTS 20:7; 2 CORINTHIANS 11:23
CONTRIBUTION	1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-2

## MISSION

SAVE SOULS      MATT. 5:13-16; JOHN 15:8,16; 1 TIM. 4:16; 2 TIM. 2:2

## WARNING

BE FAITHFUL      MATT. 15:9,13; GAL. 1:6-8; 2 JOHN 9; REV. 22:18-19

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## **ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH**

### **(Lesson 10)**

In the New Testament, Christ has provided the complete and unchangeable pattern for the organization of the church. If man presumes to change this pattern, he violates the authority of Christ and declares his lack of faith in the Word of God. God would not permit Moses to change even ONE MEASUREMENT of the Tabernacle. The writer of the Hebrew letter demands this same principle today. He recorded in Hebrews 8:5, "Who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, 'See,' He says, 'that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.'"

Man's thoughts are not always like God's thoughts (read Isaiah 55:8-9). Being dissatisfied with the simple organization as given in the New Testament, men have devised many different kinds of church governments. If men cannot improve on the TEACHING OF CHRIST, by what principle can they improve on HIS PLAN for the ORGANIZATION of the CHURCH? (The same principle is seen in God's instruction to Noah in the making of the ARK. A specific type of wood was ordered; also the length, width, and height were ordered. The occupants of the ARK were also specified and Genesis 6:22 states: "Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did." (Noah followed the PATTERN that God gave him in building the Ark.)

In this lesson, we want to study what God has revealed upon the subject of the Organization of the church, and see FOUR GREAT FACTS:

**FACT NUMBER ONE:** In the New Testament, the church in each community was complete in itself, with bishops (overseers), deacons (servants), and members (saints).

- A. Philippians 1:1 [Paul addressed this letter] -- "...to all the \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."
- B. Bishops (overseers) are also called \_\_\_\_\_. (Look closely at Titus 1:5-7)
- C. There was a PLURALITY of bishops or elders in every church. Acts 14:23 -- "And when they had appointed \_\_\_\_\_ for them in \_\_\_\_\_ church,..."
- D. Another word for "elder" and/or "bishop" is "PASTOR". (In the Lord's church, preachers are not called "Pastors" because they are not usually elders.) A bishop is one who oversees; A pastor is one who feeds and watches for the flock; an elder is one who reflects age, maturity in the faith, and experience in family matters as well as church matters. All three terms: bishops, pastors, elders are equally used to designate these same men.
  - 1. Acts 20:17 -- [Paul sent to Ephesus] -- "...and called to him the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_." In verse 28, he said to THEM, "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the \_\_\_\_\_, among which the Holy Spirit has made you \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of God..."

2. The obligation of saints (Christians) to elders: Hebrews 13:17 -- "Obey your \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ to them; for they keep \_\_\_\_\_ over your \_\_\_\_\_ ...."

E. The qualifications for elders (bishops, pastors) are given in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. In 1 Tim. 3:1-7, beginning with "...aspires to the office...", count the qualifications Paul gives through "...have a good reputation with those outside the church." How many are there?  
\_\_\_\_\_

F. The qualifications for deacons are given in 1 Timothy 3. Which verses? \_\_\_\_\_

**FACT NUMBER TWO:** Every church had complete autonomy and was free from all other churches and from ecclesiastical organization for authority. In other words, every church was independent of any denominational headquarters and was responsible only to the Lord.

A. 1 Peter 5:1-2 -- "Therefore, I exhort the \_\_\_\_\_ among you, as your fellow elder ... \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ among you, \_\_\_\_\_ ..."  
(This circumscribes or LIMITS the work of the elders TO THE CHURCH where they are members). There is no passage in the Scriptures which authorized elders of one church to do the work of another church, or to function for it in any capacity as elders. If you know of such a PASSAGE, please write down the reference: \_\_\_\_\_

B. In evangelism, each church did it's own work. 1 Thessalonians 1:8 -- "For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from \_\_\_\_\_..."

C. In benevolence, each church did it's own work (Please read Acts 6:1-7)

D. When one church had more needy members than it could provide for, other churches sent a contribution. In doing so, each one did it's own work of selecting it's own messengers, and sending it's contributions directly to THE NEED, not THROUGH a "SPONSORING CHURCH" or a human institution. Please read 1 Corinthians 16:1-4.

**FACT NUMBER THREE:** God has no organization, OTHER THAN THE CHURCH, to do His work.

This is simply saying there is no passage which authorized church support of an organization OUTSIDE the church, such as a missionary society, benevolent society, college, hospital, etc. Again, if you know of such a passage, please give the reference:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**FACT NUMBER FOUR:** If we want to be members of the TRUE church and have the hope of heaven, we must make a complete return to the PATTERN of organization that God has revealed in His Word. Read again John 12:48.

Answer the following using the scriptures you have just read or the ones given at the end of each statement.

**TRUE OR FALSE (CIRCLE ONE)**

T      F      1. A number of churches are to be under the control of one bishop. Acts 14:23

T      F      2. Each church is overseen by a board of deacons. Philippians 1:1

T      F      3. Each church has one pastor, and he is the preacher. Acts 20:17-18; Ephesians 4:11-12

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 4. An elder is to be the husband of one wife. 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6                             |
| T | F | 5. A deacon must have his children in subjection. 1 Timothy 3:12                                   |
| T | F | 6. Elders of one church may receive funds from and do work for other churches.                     |
| T | F | 7. Auxiliary organizations to do the work of the church are scriptural.                            |
| T | F | 8. If we are to be saved, we must accept the PATTERN the Bible gives for organization. Hebrews 8:5 |

Lesson #11 will be "THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH"

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## **THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH** (Lesson 11)

Man is sure to worship the object of his devotion, even if it be an idol. Since the church is composed of God's family of saved people (1 Timothy 3:15; Acts 2:47), it is made up of people who have the true God as the object of their devotion. In Matthew 4:10, Jesus said, "...You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only." It is vitally important then, that we know HOW to worship God.

In the midst of all the religious division, it is easy to shrug off the differences and say we think God may be worshipped acceptably in various ways, but remember we are to be guided by what GOD SAID, not by what WE THINK. "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Proverbs 14:12; Jeremiah 10:23). In John 4:24, Jesus said we MUST worship God IN SPIRIT (with a sincere heart) and IN TRUTH (according to the teachings of His Word, which is truth - John 17:17). WHAT DOES HIS WORD TEACH US concerning worship? THIS IS THE IMPORTANT QUESTION!

### **VAIN & IGNORANT WORSHIP, THOUGH SINCERE, DOES NOT PLEASE GOD:**

1. Concerning VAIN worship, please read Matthew 15:8-9:

- (a) Were the scribes and Pharisees worshipping God? YES ( ) NO ( )
- (b) Did the fact they worshipped God mean He was pleased? YES ( ) NO ( )
- (c) These passages show two things which make worship VAIN (worthless, useless):

- (1) When people praise God, "...but their \_\_\_\_\_ is far away from \_\_\_\_\_."
- (2) When they teach "...as \_\_\_\_\_ the precepts of \_\_\_\_\_."

2. Concerning IGNORANT worship, please read Acts 17:22-23:

- (a) Does it seem the Greeks of Athens worshipped sincerely? YES ( ) NO ( )
- (b) Did sincerity make their worship acceptable to God? YES ( ) NO ( )

### **TO BE TRUE WORSHIPPERS, WE MUST WORSHIP IN TRUTH:**

Read John 4:23-24. God has ordained that certain things be done in the public worship. That which He requires is made plain so man may not fail to follow the Lord's plan. The TRUE WORSHIPPERS today can be identified because their worship is according to, and in keeping with, the teaching of the Scriptures. The New Testament reveals FIVE things in which Christians are to engage in public worship:

1. **TEACHING:**

- (a) Matthew 28:20 -- "\_\_\_\_\_ them to observe \_\_\_\_\_ that I \_\_\_\_\_ you..."

- (b) John 6:45 -- "...and they shall all be \_\_\_\_\_ of God..."  
 (c) Acts 20:7 -- "And on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of the \_\_\_\_\_, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began \_\_\_\_\_ to them..."

**2. PRAYER:**

- (a) Ephesians 6:18 -- "With all \_\_\_\_\_ and petition \_\_\_\_\_ at all times in the Spirit..."  
 (b) 1 Timothy 2:1 -- "First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and \_\_\_\_\_, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all \_\_\_\_\_."

**3. SINGING:**

- (a) Ephesians 5:19 -- "\_\_\_\_\_ to one another in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ and making \_\_\_\_\_ with your \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord."  
 (b) This, and other passages (Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 13:15), authorize SPEAKING, SINGING (vocal music) with the instrument upon which the melody is to be made SPECIFIED as the HEART. This is the only KIND of music Jesus and the apostles authorized, and the only kind the early church used. Mechanical instruments of music were introduced into worship in the Seventh Century by the Catholic Church upon the authority of the Pope. CATHOLICS justify their use by saying "The church authorized it." CHRISTIANS REJECT their use because we must speak as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11), and NO WHERE do the oracles of God authorize their use. Let us respect God's silence upon the matter!

**4. LORD'S SUPPER:**

- (a) Acts 2:42 -- "And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostle's \_\_\_\_\_ and to fellowship, to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and to prayer."  
 (b) 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 -- "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took \_\_\_\_\_; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, 'This is My \_\_\_\_\_, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same manner He took the \_\_\_\_\_ also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My \_\_\_\_\_'..."

**5. CONTRIBUTION:**

- (a) 1 Corinthians 16:2 -- "On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of every \_\_\_\_\_ let each one of you \_\_\_\_\_ and save, as \_\_\_\_\_ may prosper..."  
 (b) 2 Corinthians 9:7 -- "Let each one do just as he has purposed in his \_\_\_\_\_; not \_\_\_\_\_ or under \_\_\_\_\_; for God loves a cheerful \_\_\_\_\_."

**TRUE OR FALSE (CIRCLE ONE)**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. All sincere worshippers will be saved, regardless of how they worship.<br>Matthew 15:9 |
| T | F | 2. Worship must be in truth (according to the truth) as well as in spirit.<br>John 4:24   |
| T | F | 3. According to Acts 20:7, the Lord's Supper may be eaten Thursday night.                 |



- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 4. The church is authorized to take a collection every weekday assembly.<br>1 Corinthians 16:2   |
| T | F | 5. The New Testament authorized singing in worship. Ephesians 5:19   |
| T | F | 6. Playing of instruments is also authorized. (If true, please give the verse:<br>_____ )  |
| T | F | 7. TRUE worship consists of teaching, praying, singing, eating the Lord's<br>Supper weekly, and giving. Those who leave off one are guilty of sin. |
| T | F | 8. I am concerned about God's TRUTH, and worshipping Him ACCORDING<br>to truth. Matthew 7:21   |

Lesson #12 will be "THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN"

# TRUE WORSHIP IS IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

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## GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR WORSHIP:

LET'S TAKE A MOMENT TO LOOK AT THE VARIOUS WAYS IN WHICH GOD HAS ASKED US TO EXPRESS OURSELVES IN WORSHIPPING HIM.

### 1. LORD'S SUPPER:

STUDY MATTHEW 26:17-30 AND 1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-34. IN PARTAKING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, GOD PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO REFLECT UPON THE DEATH OF CHRIST, OUR TREATMENT OF EACH OTHER, THE COVENANT IN HIS BLOOD, AND THE ANTICIPATION OF HIS RETURN.

### 2. PRAYER:

STUDY MATTHEW 6:9-13 AND 1 CORINTHIANS 14:15-16. PRAYER GIVES US AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH GOD, EXPRESSING OUR LOVE AND THANKSGIVING.

### 3. SINGING:

STUDY EPHESIANS 5:19 AND COLOSSIANS 3:16. SINGING NOT ONLY LETS US EXPRESS OURSELVES TO GOD, BUT ALSO TO EACH OTHER.

### 4. TEACHING:

STUDY ACTS 20:7 AND 1 TIMOTHY 4:13. TEACHING ALLOWS US TO EXPRESS OUR FAITH TO OTHERS, BOTH TO BELIEVERS AND ALSO TO NON-BELIEVERS.

### 5. GIVING:

STUDY 1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-3 AND 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8. GIVING IS A MEANS OF RETURNING TO GOD OUT OF OUR ABUNDANT BLESSINGS.

## ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS IN WORSHIP: THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS NEED TO BE IN OUR WORSHIP.

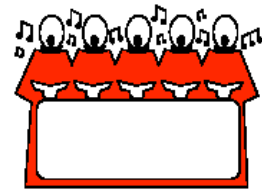
1. LOVE: FOR GOD, FOR EACH OTHER, AND FOR THE LOST.
2. PRAISE: GOD'S CREATIVE WORK, IN NATURE AND IN US.
3. THANKSGIVING: FOR ALL OF GOD'S BLESSINGS IN OUR LIFE.
4. REFLECTION: UPON OUR NEED AND GOD'S PROVISION FOR THAT NEED THROUGH CHRIST.
5. REQUESTS: ASKING GOD FOR COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.
6. CONFESSION: BOTH OUR BELIEF IN JESUS AND OUR SINFULNESS.
7. SACRIFICE: A DENIAL OF SELF IN ORDER TO GIVE OURSELVES TO GOD.



# LET US SING

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## ADDED INFORMATION



The apostle Paul wrote: "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father." (Ephesians 5:18-20)

I am persuaded that our "worship in song," in most congregations, leaves considerable to be desired. I hope the following points will effect some improvement in our singing. Let us consider some of the chief features of our worship in song.

**IT IS PURE:** Our singing must be pure in content, it must emanate from a pure heart, and it should inspire us to continued purity of life. What a contrast between the Pagan worship of Paul's day, and the simple worship of God's children. The heathen ceremonies were filled with intoxication and licentiousness. Instead of indulging in drunkenness, Christians were to be filled with the Spirit, singing and making melody in their hearts to the Lord. How can we keep from being elevated when we sincerely sing; "Purer in heart O God, Help me to be?"

**IT IS SPIRITUAL:** We must remember that God is "spirit" and can only be worshipped with that which is "spiritual." We are to make melody within our hearts. Worship in song must begin in the heart; otherwise the sweetest hymn is nothing more than empty mockery. Blessed is the Christian who has song in his heart!

**IT IS EMOTIONAL:** Religion is based on convictions, and it develops into action, but it must not be barren of emotions. True worship touches our whole nature. Christians ought to cherish the feelings of love and adoration. When you worship in song properly, you should be "stirred" in the "inner man."

**IT IS JOYOUS:** The Christian really has something to sing about! We are living under the dispensation of Christ and we have every reason to echo back the glad tidings of God's love. Our worship is not of gloomy rites and bloody sacrifices, but of praise and thanksgiving as the "fruit of our lips."

**IT IS VOCAL:** True worship in song begins in the heart, but it does not remain hidden there. The deep feelings of our heart should "issue forth" in strong utterance. The sincere Christian is made better when he adequately expresses himself in song. Brethren, of all the items of worship, our thanksgiving and praise in song should be the least reserved. Yet, service after service, many song leaders view a congregation which has only a "half-hearted" interest in praising God. How tragic that we ignore this "beauty of holiness!" I urge you, open your heart and mouth, and "LET US SING!"

-- W. R. Jones

# WORSHIP THROUGH SINGING

## MORE ADDED INFORMATION

1. IN THE BEGINNING OF LESSON 11, WE STUDIED THE OTHER FOUR ACTS OF WORSHIP. DUE TO A LOT OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF THIS ONE "ACT OF WORSHIP" WE WILL COVER IT IN MORE DETAIL.
2. REMEMBER THAT WORSHIP IS DESIGNED TO BRING THE WORSHIPPER INTO CONFORMITY TO THE OBJECT WORSHIPPED. GOD HAS EITHER BY DIRECT COMMAND, OR APOSTOLIC EXAMPLE GIVEN US INSTRUCTION AS TO HOW WE ARE TO WORSHIP HIM.
3. ANYTIME IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO CONSULT THE OLD TESTAMENT FOR PROOF OF ANY AUTHORIZED PRACTICE IN THE CHURCH, YOU CAN BE SURE IT IS NOT AUTHORIZED! MANY USE THE OLD TESTAMENT TO PROVE THE USE OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP, THEREFORE WE CANNOT ACCEPT THE TEACHING.

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST DOES NOT USE A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT IN WORSHIP?

A. Turn to **EPHESIANS 5:19**. Make melody where? On a Banjo, Organ?

B. Now let us read from **COLOSSIANS 3:16**!

C. Now read **1 CORINTHIANS 14:15**!

D. Now turn to **HEBREWS 2:12**.

E. We have now read all that is said in the New Testament regarding "Church Music" except a few symbolic passages in Revelation. Consider with me the following chart. I'm sorry that proper credit cannot be given to the person who devised it. I ran across it somewhere in my studies.

THE LORD COMMANDS	THE VOICE	THE INSTRUMENT
TEACH! COLOSSIANS 3:16	CAN	CANNOT
SPEAK! EPHESIANS 5:19	CAN	CANNOT
UNDERSTAND! 1 COR. 14:15	CAN	CANNOT
PRAISE GOD! HEBREWS 2:12	CAN	CANNOT
MAKE MELODY IN HEART! EPHESIANS 5:19	CAN	CANNOT
ADMONISH! COLOSSIANS 3:16	CAN	CANNOT
SING WITH SPIRIT! 1 COR. 14:15	CAN	CANNOT

Now, please turn to Hebrews 10:24-25. Do you think the Lord is saying we should attend the services of the church: **IS THIS A COMMAND?**

F. Now review the Plan of Salvation and give the Lord's invitation. Matthew 6:24; Matthew 12:30; John 14:21-24

# A BIBLE QUESTION:

## EVEN MORE INFORMATION

### **"WHY DON'T CHURCHES OF CHRIST USE INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC IN THEIR WORSHIP SERVICES?"**

Many people in denominational churches wonder why the churches of Christ do not use instruments of music in their worship services, so we will tell you the reason why we only sing and do not play in our worship to God.

1. The New Testament authorizes only singing as the kind of praise to God in the church in this age. Singing is the specified kind of music found in the New Testament. (Compare 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12; ) Thus, no instruments of music are authorized!
2. Christ as head of His body, the church, did not authorize instruments of music to be used in church worship. Thus, to use instruments of music in worship today is to go beyond the doctrines of Christ. (2 John 9-11)
3. His apostles never "bound" their use in the worship, and, they were authorized to "bind on earth" what have been "bound in heaven." (Compare Matthew 16:19; 18:18; John 16:7-14)
4. The Lord's church did not use man-made instruments of music in the worship in the first century. (Compare Acts 2:42, 47; Ephesians 5:18-19)
5. Mechanical instruments of music cannot be used by "faith" as faith comes only by hearing God's word and they are not found in the worship of the church in the New Testament. (Compare Romans 10:17; 2 Corinthians 5:7)
6. Their use violates the law of worship in the New Testament as their use is not according to the "truth" of Christ's law. (Compare John 16:13; 4:23-24; 17:17; James 4:12)
7. The use of instruments of music in worship is unrighteousness since God's commandments are "righteousness" and the Lord has not commanded us to use them in worship in this age. (Compare Psalms 119:172; 1 John 5:17)
8. It is not a good work to use instruments of music in the church worship as "every good work" is found in the inspired scriptures revealed by the Holy Spirit in these "last days." (Compare 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Titus 3:1)
9. Their use is not "expedient" as a thing must first be "lawful" before it can be expedient. (Compare 1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23)
10. We cannot please God by using them in worship today as we can only please Him by "faith" and they are not found in "the faith" once for all time delivered to the saints. (Compare Hebrews 11:6; Jude 3)

Since mechanical instruments of music are NOT of faith in New Testament worship, to use them is to go beyond the "doctrine of Christ" and not to have God (2 John 9-11). Their use today in church worship is after the "doctrines and commandments of men" and make worship with them VAIN, empty, of no avail (Matthew 15:9). Since they are not lawful they do not "edify" the church, but cause good and honest brethren to be offended, stumble and bring division in the church (1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23,32-33; Romans 14:19-23). So, why use them when they divide churches? Why not just "sing" which cannot be wrong? It is the safe way!



1. Romans 6:6 -- "Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our \_\_\_\_\_ of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be \_\_\_\_\_ of sin."
  
2. Romans 6:12 -- "Therefore do not let \_\_\_\_\_ reign in your mortal body that you should \_\_\_\_\_ its lusts."
  
3. Paul says that we are to "\_\_\_\_\_ the old self, which is being \_\_\_\_\_ in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the \_\_\_\_\_ , which in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ has been created in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_" (Ephesians 4:22-24).
  
4. From Colossians 3:12-15, list four (4) of the things that the Apostle Paul says we are to put on: \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ .
  
5. Peter says we are to add to our faith: \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(2 Peter 1:5-7) If we do these things, we shall never \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 10)

6. List the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23): \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ ,
7. Galatians 5:24 -- "Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the \_\_\_\_\_ with is passions and \_\_\_\_\_."
8. 1 Peter 2:11 -- "Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to \_\_\_\_\_ from fleshly \_\_\_\_\_, which wage \_\_\_\_\_ against the \_\_\_\_\_."
9. 1 Thessalonians 5:22 -- "\_\_\_\_\_ from every \_\_\_\_\_ of evil."
10. In Hebrews 10:23-25, we are told to \_\_\_\_\_ the confession of our hope without wavering; not forsaking our own \_\_\_\_\_, as is the habit of some, but \_\_\_\_\_ one another...
11. In Revelation 2:10 -- to whom is the crown of life promised? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What does John say we are not to love in 1 John 2:15-16? \_\_\_\_\_

These are just a few of the many passages that could be studied, but these should help us to get some idea of what is involved in living the life of a Christian. The importance of doing these things is clearly pointed out in the following exercise:

1. 1 Timothy 1:19 -- "Keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered \_\_\_\_\_ in regard to their \_\_\_\_\_."
2. 1 Timothy 4:1 -- "But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_, paying attention to deceitful spirits and \_\_\_\_\_ of demons."
3. 1 Timothy 5:8 -- "But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has \_\_\_\_\_ the faith, and is worse than an \_\_\_\_\_."
4. Galatians 5:4 -- "You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_."
5. 1 Corinthians 10:12 -- "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed \_\_\_\_\_ ."

The teaching of the Scriptures is clear. If the child of God sins, and transgresses God's law and will not repent of the transgression, he will be lost. Paul teaches us in the tenth chapter of 1 Corinthians, that in the days of Israel, 23,000 fell in one day. They fell because they rebelled against God. Here are 23,000 arguments that the child of God can sin and be lost. Paul sounds the warning to us by saying that these serve as examples to us lest we be guilty of the same things (verses 6, 11, and 12).

John says, "If we say that we have not sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). Let us not be deceived into thinking we cannot sin and be lost when the Bible so clearly teaches that we can. Nothing could please the Devil more than for you to believe that you cannot sin so as to be lost.

## WHEN WE FALL

The student with a logical mind will want to know, NOW, WHAT are we to do WHEN, and IF, we transgress God's law? The following passages will reveal God's plan for restoring the erring child of God.

1. James 5:19-20 -- "My brethren, if any among \_\_\_\_\_ strays from the truth, and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a \_\_\_\_\_ from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins."
2. Galatians 6:1 -- "Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, \_\_\_\_\_ such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted."
3. Simon was a child of God (Acts 8:13) for he had done what Christ commanded in Mark 16:16. He sinned when he thought he could buy the power of God with money (Acts 8:18-19). Peter commanded him to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord in order to be forgiven of his sin (Acts 8:22).

NOTE: Do not confuse this to be what God expects one to do in order to be saved who is NOT His child. What RIGHT does one, who is not God's child, have to pray to the Father? Is God his Father IF he is Not God's Child? (1 Peter 3:12)

4. John says that if \_\_\_\_\_ our sins, God is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

From these passages, we can readily see that a child of God who has fallen into sin may be restored into fellowship with God and the church if he will repent of his sin, confess it, and pray for forgiveness of it. It is God's will that we do not sin, but if we DO sin, we have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous... and He is the propitiation (Satisfaction) for our sins (1 John 2:1-2).

The epistles were written to Christians who had already done all that God had commanded them regarding how to become a Christian. They were written to help the members of the church to live holy lives before God.



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street/PO Box \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## **THE HOPE OF THE CHRISTIAN**

### **(Lesson 13)**

Those of us who have accepted the Bible as the Word of God and who have submitted to the authority of Christ by believing in Him, repenting of sins, confessing Him before men, and being baptized for the remission of sins, are now Christians, members of the Lord's church, citizens of the kingdom of God. We have blessings and joys which the world cannot give. One of those blessings is the hope our life is only the beginning of our joy. Indeed, "If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied," so said Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:19. If you are a Christian, may this study be encouraging to you. If you are not a Christian, may it create within you a desire to lay hold of his hope while you have time.

#### **1. THOSE WHO ARE OUT OF CHRIST HAVE NO HOPE:**

- (a) EITHER in life - Ephesians 2:12 -- "Remember that you were at that time \_\_\_\_\_ from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having \_\_\_\_\_ and without God in the \_\_\_\_\_."
- (b) OR in death - 1 Thessalonians 4:13 -- "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not \_\_\_\_\_, as do the rest who have \_\_\_\_\_."

#### **2. THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST HAVE HOPE:**

- (a) BOTH in life - Romans 12:12 -- "Rejoicing \_\_\_\_\_, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer."
- (b) AND in death - Proverbs 14:32 -- "The wicked is thrust down by his wrongdoing, but the \_\_\_\_\_ has a \_\_\_\_\_ when he \_\_\_\_\_."

#### **3. WITHOUT THE GOSPEL THERE IS NO HOPE:**

- (a) Colossians 1:23 -- "If indeed you \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ firmly established and \_\_\_\_\_, and not \_\_\_\_\_ away from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister."

#### **4. WE HAVE A HOPE OF A RESURRECTION:**

- (a) Acts 24:15 -- "having a \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall \_\_\_\_\_ be a \_\_\_\_\_ of both the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_."

#### **5. OUR HOPE TURNS OUR THOUGHTS TOWARD HEAVEN:**

- (a) Colossians 1:5 -- "because of the \_\_\_\_\_ laid up for you in \_\_\_\_\_, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel."

(b) 1 Peter 1:3-4 -- "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be \_\_\_\_\_ again to a \_\_\_\_\_ through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to \_\_\_\_\_ an inheritance which is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and will not \_\_\_\_\_, reserved in \_\_\_\_\_ for you."

**6. THIS HOPE IS FOR THE FAITHFUL ONLY:**

(a) Hebrews 6:11 -- "And we desire that \_\_\_\_\_ one of \_\_\_\_\_ show the same \_\_\_\_\_ so as to realize the \_\_\_\_\_ assurance of \_\_\_\_\_ until the \_\_\_\_\_."

**7. AS THE ONE WHO GIVES US HOPE IS PURE, SO MUST WE BE PURE:**

(a) 1 John 3:3 -- "And everyone \_\_\_\_\_ has this \_\_\_\_\_ fixed on Him \_\_\_\_\_ himself, \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_."

**8. THOSE WHO ARE NOT FAITHFUL, WILL LOSE THEIR HOPE:**

(a) John 15:6 -- "If \_\_\_\_\_ does not \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, he is \_\_\_\_\_ away as a \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ up; and they \_\_\_\_\_ them, and \_\_\_\_\_ them into the \_\_\_\_\_, and they are \_\_\_\_\_."

**9. THOSE WHO HAVE OBEYED, BUT BECOME UNFAITHFUL, NEED TO:**

(a) Acts 8:22 -- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in order to be forgiven.

(b) 1 John 1:9 -- If we \_\_\_\_\_ our sins, God will \_\_\_\_\_ us.

**TRUE OR FALSE (CIRCLE ONE)**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. The Christian is the only one who has hope for eternity. 1 Peter 1:3-4                 |
| T | F | 2. Our hope is for a reign of Christ on earth. Colossians 1:5                             |
| T | F | 3. Every one professing to be a Christian has hope, whether he is pure or not. 1 John 3:3 |
| T | F | 4. One who becomes unfaithful and remains so, will be lost. 1 John 1:9                    |
| T | F | 5. Once unfaithful, there is nothing one can do to be restored. Acts 8:22                 |

We sincerely hope these lessons have been helpful to you and that you are now determined to be a true and faithful servant of God as a member of His church. We have tried to make the lessons simple and plain so that you would not miss the instruction God has given. If you are a Christian, may your life be enriched and may you continue to grow in grace and knowledge. If you are not a Christian, remember that NOW is the only time of which you are assured. (Read seriously James 4:4 and John 9:4).

Being aware that many who study these lessons are not members of the church of the Lord, we wish to make it convenient for you to advise us of any desire on your part in which we may be of assistance. The Word of God, the gospel, is the only power we wish to use; therefore, we have not used pressure and will not do so. However, we would like to know your reaction to God's truth and will appreciate you checking any of the following statements which might apply in your case.

- ( ) I now know the truth and wish to be saved from my past sins and become a member of the true church by being baptized into Christ for the remission of sins.
- ( ) I am satisfied to remain outside of Christ and His body.
- ( ) I desire further instruction and would appreciate having a Bible teacher come into my home for a series of lessons.