

RECONCILIATION WITH GOD

LESSON 1

Begin by reading the following two Bible references: **Romans 6:23 & Ephesians 2:8-9**

In this lesson we will establish some fundamental truths about salvation. Salvation is the teaching of the Bible about how mankind can be reconciled to God.

In the following lesson we will be looking at three important truths we find in **Romans 6:23**:

The Sinfulness of Man

"...the wages of sin is death..."

The Saviour of Man

"...eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

The Salvation of Man

"...the gift of God is eternal life..."

The Word of God places people in one of two categories. There is no in-between stage, you are either on one side or the other.

You Are Saved	You Are Lost
You are Spiritually Alive	You are Spiritually Dead
You are Reconciled to God	You are the Enemy of God
You are Justified	You are Condemned
You are Free from Sin	You are a Slave to Sin

To become a born again Christian one must be moved from one condition to the other. Our Lord Jesus Christ puts it this way in **John 5:24**,

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

To be a Christian means that you have "passed from _____¹ unto _____²." Many confuse salvation with sanctification. Becoming a Christian is not a process that takes place over an unknown period of time; it is rather a positional change. Every man is either under condemnation or he is not condemned. **Read what Christ said in John 3:18.**

If you take Jesus Christ at His word, what does **John 3:18** mean? (Share with your counsellor)

PART 1: THE SINFULNESS OF MAN

Romans 6:23 declares that “the wages of sin is _____³.”

We must first recognize the sin in our lives. The Bible is clear on this subject of sin. Read **Romans 3:23** and fill in the blank.

“For _____⁴ have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

What is sin according to the Bible?

Sin is anything that is offensive or contrary to God’s holy laws. The word ‘sin’ means *“to miss the mark, to deviate from God’s standard of righteousness and holiness.”*

Read **Romans 3:10-11** and fill in the blank.

“As it is written, There is _____⁵ righteous, no, not one: There is _____⁶ that understandeth, there is _____⁷ that seeketh after God.”

What is sin according to **1 John 3:4**? _____⁸

What is sin according to **James 4:17**? _____⁹

What is sin according to **Proverbs 24:9**? _____¹⁰

What is sin according to **Romans 14:23**? _____¹¹

What is righteousness according to the Bible?

To be ‘righteous’ means *“to be innocent, to be holy, to be perfect.”*

God’s Word tells us that there is “none righteous.” There is not one person in the world that can fulfill God’s standard of righteousness.

Our world does not like to talk about sin, much less admit a sinful nature within every man. The world speaks of sicknesses and deficiencies instead of calling sin by its rightful name, SIN.

Where does sin come from?

The Word of God teaches us that all men are born in sin. The natural behavior of every child that is born is one of sin.

Read **Romans 5:12** and fill in the blanks,

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon _____¹² men, for that _____¹³ have sinned:"

Human nature from the beginning has always been manifested by a propensity to excuse sin.

Adam excused his rebellion by blaming his wife Eve. (**Genesis 3:12**)

Eve excused her rebellion by blaming the serpent. (**Genesis 3:13**)

Saul excused his disobedience by blaming the people. (**1 Samuel 15:21**)

David excused his adultery by offering sacrifices to God. (**Psalms 51:16**)

In an effort to stamp out God, philosophers have attempted to change the Biblical teaching of sin and the depravity in every man.

The Philosophers Who Have Distorted the Biblical View of Sin

Sigmund Freud

Sigmund Freud's corrupt thinking claimed mankind to be equal to the animals. He erroneously taught that 'man exists to do as he pleases.'

B.F. Skinner

B.F. Skinner has been called the Pioneer of human behavior. He believed and propagated the 'Blank Slate' theory. This theory declared that man enters this world at birth in a neutral state. He propagated the idea that man at birth was neither good nor bad.

Philip E. Johnson

Philip Johnson had a fundamental misunderstanding about human nature when he said, "Materialism sets us free from sin by proving that there is no such thing as sin. There's just antisocial behavior, which we can control with measures like laws and educational programs."

Such men in their ignorance have done great harm to our society. **Man cannot be helped unless he understands the truth about what sin is and his sinful condition before a holy God.** These men have encouraged men to be held in bondage to sin.

The Philosophies that Have Caused an Indifference to Sin

The Evolutionist Theory

Many will claim that sin is not sin, but simply the natural outgrowth of the evolving of man. They believe that we are going through the evolution process and that 'sin' is simply 'good' in the making.

The Christian Science Theory

This theory teaches that 'sin' is a figment of man's imagination. It asserts that sin, sickness, and death are not real because these things do not come from God. It contends that evil is an illusion and death is a failure of the imagination.

The Disease Theory

This theory promotes sin to be nothing more than an incurable disease. What Bible believers call 'sin' is rather an illness of the blood, and as a result man cannot be held accountable for it. They regard 'sin' as some medical problem and not a behavioral choice.

The Demonic Theory

This theory is adopted in many religious circles such as the Charismatic movement that will often blame sin on demons. For example, if a man has a problem with lust, then they must cast the demon of lust out. However, **James 1:14** teaches that *"every man...is drawn away of his own lust and enticed."*

The Accidental Theory

This theory is often seen in someone excusing their behavior by saying, "I didn't mean to do that."

What does Scripture declare?

Reading the following Scriptural reference and fill in the blanks:

Romans 3:10, 23 teaches us that all have _____.¹⁴

Romans 3:19 teaches us that all are _____¹⁵ before God.

Jeremiah 17:9 teaches us that the heart is _____¹⁶ and _____¹⁷ wicked.

What is the spiritual condition of man?

There is no need for Christ until man has been thoroughly convinced of his sinful condition. The Bible has much to say about the condition of man before he is redeemed.

Reading the following Scriptures and fill in the blank:

Luke 19:10 teaches that man is _____.¹⁸

John 3:18 teaches that man is _____¹⁹ already.

John 3:36 teaches that man has the _____²⁰ of God abiding on Him.

Romans 6:17 teaches man is a _____²¹ of Sin.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 teaches that man is _____.²²

Ephesians 2:1 teaches that man is _____²³ in trespasses and sins.

Ephesians 2:3 teaches that man is a _____²⁴ of wrath.

Ephesians 4:18 teaches that man is _____²⁵ from the Life of God.

Man is not evolving and getting better and better. In truth, man has a sinful nature with an appetite for that which is evil.

According to **James 1:14**, where does lust come from? _____²⁶

We are given a summary of all that is in the world in **1 John 2:16**, *"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."* This speaks of the natural inclinations of man.

The **Lust of the** _____²⁷ - A Desire to **Do Something** – against God

The **Lust of the** _____²⁸ - A Desire to **Have Something** – against God

The **Pride of** _____²⁹ - A Desire to **Be Someone** – against God

There is a raging beast (called the flesh) inside of every man that is constantly desiring to satisfy its cravings.

Assignment: Write out the verses listed for the next study

We are easily blinded by lust according to John 3:19:

We are easily corrupted by sin according to 1 Corinthians 5:6:

We are easily invited to lust according to Matthew 7:13-14:

We are easily bound by lust according to Proverbs 5:22:

We are easily consumed by lust according to James 3:5, 6; James 1:14-15:

What are the consequences of sin?

What place is named in **Revelation 20:13**? _____³⁰

The word death means more than just our physical departure from this world. When the Bible tells us that *“the wages of sin is death,”* it speaks of our existence beyond the grave. This brings us to the sobering subject of Hell.

The clearest passage in the Bible on the subject of Hell is found in **Luke 16:19-31**. This record is not a parable as it is often claimed to be.

Many religious leaders have done away with the 'doctrine of Hell.' They often will dismiss the idea of Hell by saying something like this, "I just don't believe that a loving God would send people to Hell." Furthermore

Your Bible teacher will give you the outline for this section:

First, The Word of God _____³¹ there is a hell.
Matthew 5:29, 30; Matthew 10:28

Second, The Holiness of God _____³² there be a hell.
Psalm 7:11; Psalm 9:17

Third, The Love of God _____³³ sinners from hell.
John 3:16

This is the reason that we are passionate about declaring the Gospel of Christ. Those who are not born again will spend an eternity in hell.

C.H. Spurgeon said, "Warn the boatman before he enters the current – then if he's swept down the rapids he destroys himself. Warn the man before he drinks the cup of poison; tell him it's deadly – then if he drinks it, his death lies at his door."

The Punishment Determined

Matthew 12:36 teaches that man will give an account for _____³⁴ idle word in the day of judgment.

Hebrews 9:27 teaches that death will be followed by the _____.³⁵

Luke 13:2-3 teaches that he who does not repent will likewise _____.³⁶

The Punishment Described

Hell is a real and literal place. Our Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed it Himself in **Matthew 25:41**,

"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"

Hell is a Place of Fire

Matthew 5:22 and 18:9 describes it as a place of hell _____.³⁷

Mark 9:43, 45 describes hell as a place where the _____³⁸ is not quenched.

Matthew 18:8 and 25:41 describes hell as a place of everlasting _____.³⁹

Matthew 13:42, 50 describes hell as a furnace of _____.⁴⁰

Luke 16:24 describes hell as a place where men are tormented in this _____.⁴¹

Revelation 19:20 and 20:10 describe hell as a place of burning _____⁴² and brimstone.

Hell is a Place of Darkness

2 Peter 2:1, 4, 17 describes hell as chains of _____.⁴³

Jude 13 describes hell as a place of _____⁴⁴ and _____.⁴⁵

Matthew 8:12 describes hell as a place in outer _____.⁴⁶

Hell is a Place of Torment

Luke 16:23, 25, 28 describes hell as a place of _____.⁴⁷

This truth is fundamental to a proper understanding of the gift of God. There is no gift needed unless man recognizes his need as a sinner. There is no gift needed unless man recognizes that he deserves eternal punishment in a place called Hell.

We have expounded upon this Scriptural truth that *"the wages of sin is death."* A greater degree of emphasis upon sin will encourage the lost sinner to a greater awareness of his need for a Saviour.

There is no **Christ** needed where **sin is not mentioned!**

There is no **forgiveness** needed where **sin is not admitted!**

There is no **grace** needed where **Hell is not deserved!**

Review Questions:

Who possesses a sinful nature?

What is sin?

Is anyone righteous according to God's Word?

What is declared to be deceitful and desperately wicked?

What is the present condition of every man without Christ?

Who will stand in judgment after death?

What are some expressions that are used in God's Word to speak of the eternal punishment?

What have you learned from this lesson?

Answer Key:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Death | 27. Flesh |
| 2. Life | 28. Eyes |
| 3. Death | 29. Life |
| 4. All | 30. Hell |
| 5. None | 31. Declares |
| 6. None | 32. Demands |
| 7. None | 33. Delivers |
| 8. The transgression of the law | 34. Every |
| 9. The omission of doing good | 35. Judgment |
| 10. The corrupt thoughts | 36. Perish |
| 11. The departure from faith | 37. Fire |
| 12. All | 38. Fire |
| 13. All | 39. Fire |
| 14. Sinned | 40. Fire |
| 15. Guilty | 41. Flame |
| 16. Deceitful | 42. Fire |
| 17. Desperately | 43. Darkness |
| 18. Lost | 44. Darkness |
| 19. Condemned | 45. Blackness |
| 20. Wrath | 46. Darkness |
| 21. Servant | 47. Torment |
| 22. Blinded | |
| 23. Dead | |
| 24. Child | |
| 25. Alienated | |
| 26. Within Me | |

For the correct review questions please consult with Bible teacher.

PART 2: THE SAVIOUR OF MAN

"...eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." – Romans 6:23

According to **1 Timothy 3:16**, Who was manifest in the flesh? _____.¹

As we continue in our study of "the gift of God," we consider the second truth found in **Romans 6:23**. We first took a look at 'The Sinner,' and now we come to 'The Saviour.' We began with the sinner because we understand that there is no need for a Saviour if there is no sinner.

The name of Jesus Christ has been a point of contention for many centuries. There are many opinions about who Jesus Christ was, and about who Jesus Christ claimed to be. This may be a contentious subject in our world, but the Scriptures are clear as to who Jesus Christ is.

Jesus Christ Is the Sovereign over the Sinner

Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh. The Word of God declares Christ to be both 'Son of man' (*Matthew 9:6*) and 'Son of God' (*John 3:18*). He was 100% the perfect man and 100% the perfect God.

The Old Testament Declared that Messiah was God

The Old Testament prophets testified of the birth of Messiah. They prophesied the **place** of His birth, the **time** of His birth, and the **circumstances** of His birth.

Isaiah 7:14 teaches that the name of the Messiah would be _____.²

The record of **Matthew 1:23** tells us that the interpretation of the name 'Immanuel' means, '_____'³ with us.'

Isaiah 9:6 teaches us that one of the titles ascribed to Messiah would be 'The mighty _____'.⁴

Jeremiah 23:5-6 teaches that another title for Jesus Christ is, 'The _____'⁵ our Righteousness.'

The Gospel according to John Declared that Messiah was God

A study through the book of John gives the Bible student certainty that Jesus Christ is God.

John 1:1 teaches that Jesus Christ (The Word) was _____.⁶

John 1:14 teaches that Jesus Christ (The Word) was made _____.⁷

In **John 5:18**, Jesus Christ made Himself _____⁸ with God.

In **John 10:30**, Jesus Christ declared Himself and His Father to be _____.⁹ Read John 10:31-33. How did the Jews interpret the claim of Christ? _____.¹⁰

In **John 14:9** Jesus Christ told Philip that he who has seen Him has seen the _____.¹¹

In **John 20:28** Thomas called Jesus Christ 'My Lord and my _____.'¹²

The New Testament Epistles Declared that Messiah was God

Read **Colossians 1:12-17** and fill in the blanks.

Jesus Christ is the _____¹³ of the invisible _____.¹⁴ (verse 15)

By Jesus Christ were all things _____.¹⁵ (verse 16)

All things were created _____¹⁶ Him, and _____¹⁷ Him. (verse 16)

Philippians 2:6 teaches us that Jesus Christ thought it not robbery to be _____¹⁸ with God.

What does God say unto the Son according to **Hebrews 1:8**? 'Thy throne, O _____,¹⁹ is for ever and ever.'

According to **1 John 3:16**, Who laid down His life for us? _____.²⁰

According to **1 Timothy 3:16**, Who was manifest in the flesh? _____.²¹

Jesus Christ Is the Sacrifice for the Sinner

Our Lord Jesus Christ often reminded the disciples what He came to do above all else. The emphasis of the Gospel Records is stated as follows:

"he must go and suffer" **Matthew 16:14-15, 21**

Christ came that He might be the Sacrifice for Sinners.

"his hour was come" **John 13:1**

Christ died as the Sacrifice for the Sinners.

"all things must be fulfilled which were written" **Luke 24:44-47**

Christ showed that His Sacrifice was according to Scripture.

The great announcement from John the Baptist sums up the work of our blessed Saviour. As John saw Jesus coming unto him, he said, *"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the _____²² of the world."* (**John 1:29**)

The Word of God declares that Christ offered Himself up for the sinner. Consider the following verses that speak of our Lord's Sacrifice:

Hebrews 2:9 teaches that Jesus Christ _____²³ death for every _____.²⁴

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 teaches that God made Jesus Christ to be _____²⁵ for us, who knew no sin.

According to **Galatians 3:13**, Jesus Christ was made a _____²⁶ for us, that He might redeem us from the _____²⁷ of the law.

Read **Romans 5:6-9** and fill in the blanks:

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the _____.²⁸ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet _____,²⁹ Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

The standard for reconciliation to a holy God is righteousness. No man has ever met such a standard of righteousness apart from Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 4:15 teaches that Jesus Christ was without _____.³⁰

2 Corinthians 5:21 teaches us that Jesus Christ knew no _____.³¹

1 Peter 2:21-22 teaches that Jesus Christ did no _____.³²

Jesus Christ Is the Sufficiency for the Sinner

We conclude that Jesus Christ is completely sufficient to satisfy the demands of a just God. There is a false idea being propagated that one must live a life of righteousness to receive eternal life. Such an idea is contrary to Scripture.

Defining Biblical Terms:

Jesus is the **Atonement** – the reconciliation between God and the sinner through Christ's suffering for our sin.

Jesus Christ is our **Redemption** – our ransom and deliverance from the bondage of sin through His blood. (Redemption involves buying back, a payment)

Jesus Christ is our **Propitiation** – the satisfaction of God's wrath against sin in our stead.

Through Jesus Christ we have **Remission** – pardon/forgiveness from deserved punishment.

Through Jesus Christ we receive **Justification** – declaration of innocence: God pardons the sinner and declares him as righteous.

The Christian does not live a righteous life because he desires to go to heaven one day. The Christian lives a righteous life because he has been set free from sin and death.

Paul makes it clear in **Galatians 2:21**, *"I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."* Righteousness does not come by the law; it comes by the death of Christ.

Consider the truth regarding those who are in Christ Jesus. Those who are in Christ are those who have come to Christ by faith. (*Romans 4:5*)

Read **Romans 8:1-4** and fill in the blanks:

There is therefore now no _____³³ to them which are in Christ Jesus. (*verse 1*)

The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of _____³⁴ and _____.³⁵ (*verse 2*)

Can the righteousness of the law be fulfilled in us apart from Jesus Christ? (*verses 3-4*)

36

How is the righteousness of the law fulfilled in us? (verses 3-4)

37

According to **Romans 5:18** the free gift came upon all men unto justification by the _____³⁸ of Jesus Christ.

According to **1 John 2:2, 4:10, and Romans 3:25**, Jesus Christ is declared to be the _____³⁹ for our sins.

The demands of a Holy God were met in Christ Jesus. Our Saviour was the sufficient sacrifice for the sin of the world. No other sacrifice or service is needed for eternal life. This truth is summed up in **1 John 5:11-13**.

God's gift of eternal life is linked to the possession of whom? _____⁴⁰.

Conclusion about Jesus Christ:

Jesus Christ is God, Who stands over the world as **Sovereign**. As God, Jesus Christ became a man that He might be the **Sacrifice** for the sin of the world. And, as the **Sacrifice**, Jesus Christ is completely **Sufficient** to reconcile us to God.

Jesus Christ did for us what the law could not do for us!

"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us..." Romans 8:3-4

Review Questions:

Who is Jesus Christ? _____

Did the Old Testament prophets prophesy that Messiah would be God?

What does the name 'Immanuel' mean? _____

Was Jesus Christ a sinner as we are? _____

What did Jesus Christ become for us? _____

Does righteousness come by obedience to the law? _____

Will a born-again Christian ever come into condemnation? _____

What did John the Baptist proclaim when he saw Jesus Christ for the first time?

Does the Bible affirm the deity of Jesus Christ? If so, where?

Explain in your own words why Jesus Christ came to earth:

Answer Key:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1. God | 23. Tasted |
| 2. Immanuel | 24. Man |
| 3. God | 25. Sin |
| 4. God | 26. Curse |
| 5. Lord | 27. Curse |
| 6. God | 28. Ungodly |
| 7. Flesh | 29. Sinners |
| 8. Equal | 30. Sin |
| 9. One | 31. Sin |
| 10. Blaspheme | 32. Sin |
| 11. Father | 33. Condemnation |
| 12. God | 34. Sin |
| 13. Image | 35. Death |
| 14. God | 36. No |
| 15. Created | 37. By being in Christ |
| 16. By | 38. Righteousness |
| 17. For | 39. Propitiation |
| 18. Equal | 40. Christ |
| 19. God | |
| 20. God | |
| 21. God | |
| 22. Sin | |

For the correct review questions please
consult with Bible teacher.

PART 3: THE SALVATION OF MAN

“The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” – Romans 6:23

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” – Ephesians 2:8-9

We have understood in the previous two lessons that all men are sinners, and that Christ came to be the Saviour of the world. It is important to understand that all have sinned against a Holy God. It is also vital to understand that Jesus Christ was the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world. With these two Scriptural truths in mind we ask ourselves the following questions: How is a person saved? How can a person be reconciled to God?

We find that question asked in **Acts 16:30-32**.

The immediate response to the question was, *“believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved,”* and afterwards they expounded unto this soldier and to his house *“the word of the Lord.”* As a result, this Roman soldier and all his house believed and were baptized.

The word “believed” means “to have faith, to put your trust in.”

In another passage in Acts, Paul called the elders of the church of Ephesus and reminded them of his first work among them. Read **Acts 20:18-21**.

Paul testified to the Jews and Greeks, *“repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”* Paul sums up the message of the Gospel with repentance & faith.

Who preached repentance?

- John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-2)
- Jesus Christ (Luke 13:3)
- The 12 apostles (Mark 6:7, 12)
- Peter (2 Peter 3:9)
- Paul (Acts 20:21)

The Command of God

The message of salvation is an appeal to all men. Some would have us believe that Christ only died for certain people. Such a thought is contrary to the Word of God.

God's Work for Man

Consider the following passages of Scripture:

In **Acts 17:30-34** we see that God commandeth _____¹ men _____² _____³ to repent.

In **2 Peter 3:9** we find that the Lord is not willing that _____⁴ should perish, but that _____⁵ should come to repentance.

John 3:16 teaches us that God so loved the _____⁶. And **John 3:17** teaches us that God sent His Son that the _____⁷ through him might be saved.

According to **Hebrews 2:9**, we see that Jesus Christ tasted death for _____⁸ man.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 declares that Jesus Christ died for _____⁹.

1 John 2:2 shows us that Jesus Christ is the propitiation for the sins of the _____¹⁰ world.

God's Work in Man

When a man repents of his sin and places his faith in Christ, it is always the result of God's work in the soul of man. The Gospel of John declares Christ to be the light of the world. He is the light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Read **John 1:4-9**.

Every man receives light. However, we understand that man has a responsibility to respond to the light he receives. The reason why many people reject the light is because they love the darkness rather than the light.

Read **John 3:19-21** & **John 12:36, 46**.

The light that man receives demands a response. Man can choose to believe in the light, or he can choose to remain in darkness.

Consider the following Scriptures that speak of God's work in man:

John 16:8-11 tells us that The Holy Spirit reproves the world of _____¹¹, and righteousness, and of judgment.

According to **1 Corinthians 1:18**, the preaching of the cross is the _____¹² of God.

According to **1 Corinthians 2:4-5**, the faith of the believer stands in the _____¹³ of God.

Romans 1:16 declares the gospel of Christ to be the _____¹⁴ of God unto salvation.

The Conversion of Man

The Apostle Paul described his testifying to the Jews and Greeks in Acts 20. This passage helps us understand how a person is converted.

Acts 20:21, *“Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Our Lord Jesus Christ preached this message of repentance and faith.

Mark 1:15, *“And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”*

It is important to understand that repentance and faith are inseparable. A man can feel bad about his sin, but that is not enough to save him. A man may believe in his mind that Jesus died on the cross, but that is not enough to save him.

Repentance toward God: Because **we are sinners condemned** before God.

Faith toward Christ: Because **Christ alone is the sufficient sacrifice** for our sin.

To be saved, a man must repent of sin because he sees himself as exceedingly sinful before a Holy God and responds by placing his faith in Christ Who alone is the sufficient Sacrifice for his sin.

1 Thessalonians 1:9, *“For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols* to serve the living and true God;”*

***Important Note:** Salvation is not turning from idols. Salvation is turning to God from idols. When a man is convicted of sin, he must turn to Christ Who alone can save. Christ declared, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* (John 14:6)

Repentance toward God

The word *"repent"* means *"a change of mind, a reversal, to turn."*

Matthew 9:13 tells us that Christ came to call _____¹⁵ to repentance.

Read the text in **Luke 18:10-14**, and answer the following two questions: Who went home justified? How was he justified?

_____ ^{16 & 17}

Luke 15:7 shows us that joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that _____¹⁸.

The Great Commission (which was given to the church) must have a clear message of repentance. There is no remission of sins without repentance. Read **Luke 24:47**.

Faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ

Faith in Christ and His work on the cross is what delivers the sinful man from God's punishment.

According to **Acts 10:43**, it is by faith that we receive _____¹⁹ of sins.

Romans 5:1 tells us that it is by Faith that we are _____²⁰.

Galatians 3:26 declares that it is by Faith that we are the _____²¹ of God.

1 John 5:13 shows us that it is by Faith that we know we have _____²² life.

According to **Romans 4:3-5** we see that it is Faith that is counted for _____²³.

We must declare plainly that a man cannot be justified before God by good works. It is unmistakable in Scripture that justification before God is only obtained by faith.

In **Romans 3:20** we find that a man cannot be justified by the deeds of the _____²⁴.

According to **Romans 3:28**, a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the _____²⁵.

In **Galatians 2:21**, Paul writes and declares that the sacrifice of Christ would have been vain if righteousness came by the _____²⁶.

Galatians 3:11 shows us that no man is justified by the _____²⁷ in the sight of God.

Ephesians 2:8-9 declares that a man is saved by grace through faith, Not of _____²⁸.

The Creation of God

What takes place when a person is born again?

2 Peter 1:4 shows us that we are partakers of the _____²⁹ nature.

There is an important word used in **1 Peter 3:18, Ephesians 2:1, and John 5:21** that shows we have been _____³⁰ by God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (also, Romans 4:17: 8:11; John 6:63; 1 Corinthians 15:22; 2 Corinthians 3:6)

Colossians 1:13 shows us that we have been _____³¹ into the kingdom of His dear Son.

According to **John 5:24**, the believer is passed from _____³² unto _____³³.

2 Corinthians 5:17 and **Galatians 6:15** tells us we are a new _____³⁴ in Christ

It is important to be aware of common faulty substitutes to true salvation:

Salvation is NOT Universalism.

Universalism teaches that all men will be saved eventually. Everyone is on a different road, but we all end up at the same place.

Such teaching is contrary to the Word of God. Read **Matthew 7:13-14, 21 & Luke 13:2-3, John 14:6, Acts 4:12.**

Salvation is NOT Baptism.

Some erroneously use **Mark 16:16** to teach that a person must be baptized to be saved.

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

Note the second part of this verse says, "he that believeth not shall be damned." It is faith that saves, not baptism.

There are two passages that shed light on this claim:

Paul told the believers at Corinth that Christ did not send him to baptize but to preach the gospel. He thanked the Lord that he baptized none but Crispus, and the household of Stephanas.

Read **1 Corinthians 1:14-17.**

We also find that the indwelling of the Holy Ghost comes before baptism. Often those who teach that baptism saves claim that baptism is necessary to receive the Holy Ghost. The following passage clearly shows the Holy Ghost is received before baptism.

Read **Acts 10:44-48.**

Salvation is NOT Reformation.

Some teach that salvation is a decision to change behavior, to follow a certain set of rules and commands.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee who practiced strict outward conformity to the law, but Christ went on to communicate to him that outward reformation was completely insufficient. He who desires to see the kingdom of God must be born again!

Read John 3:5-7.

Salvation is NOT “Easy-believism.”

This idea is often manifested in a person trying to get someone to repeat a prayer after them. A shallow appeal is presented with these words, “give your life to Christ,” “ask God to take you to heaven,” “Make a commitment to Christ,” “Accept Jesus into your life.” In this easy-believism there is no mention of sin, judgment, or repentance.

Read Acts 20:21, Hebrews 6:1-2, Hebrews 9:27, and Romans 2:3-6.

Do you know that you are a child of God? Do you know for certain that you have been justified in the sight of God? Do you have assurance that you have been reconciled to God?

Let us review what the Bible teaches about how a man can be reconciled to God:

First, a biblical understanding of sin. Our sin condemned us before a Holy God. The punishment for our sin is eternity in hell.

Second, a biblical understanding of Jesus Christ Who is the only Saviour of man. Jesus Christ was our substitute, He died in our place on the cross. Jesus Christ is the sufficient sacrifice for the remission of our sins.

Third, a biblical understanding of how man is saved. The sinner must sincerely repent of his sinfulness and turn to Jesus Christ with faith in His finished work for his sins.

Review Questions:

Paul testified that his message was two-fold, What was that message?

For whom did Christ die? _____

Is anyone to be excluded in the preaching of the Gospel message? _____

What work is God performing in the sinner's heart?

Whom does God call to repentance?

What does the word "repent" mean?

Why is guilt over sin not enough for salvation?

Is a change in behavior enough for salvation?

According to the Bible, can a man be justified by the deeds of the law? _____

According to the Bible, how can a man be justified?

What does the Bible teach happens at the moment of salvation?

Answer Key:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. All | 18. Repents |
| 2. Every | 19. Remission |
| 3. Where | 20. Justified |
| 4. Any | 21. Children |
| 5. All | 22. Eternal |
| 6. World | 23. Righteousness |
| 7. World | 24. Law |
| 8. Every | 25. Law |
| 9. All | 26. Law |
| 10. Whole | 27. Law |
| 11. Sin | 28. Works |
| 12. Power | 29. Divine |
| 13. Power | 30. Quickened |
| 14. Power | 31. Translated |
| 15. Sinners | 32. Death |
| 16. The publican | 33. Life |
| 17. He acknowledged his sinfulness and
asked for God's mercy | 34. Creature |

GOD HAS GIVEN ETERNAL LIFE

LESSON 2

Begin by reading the following Scripture:

1 John 5:11-13; John 10:27-28; 2 Thessalonians 2:15-17

It is important to always use Biblical language when studying and teaching doctrinal truths. The doctrine of *"eternal security"* comes from those two Bible words we find in these verses, "eternal life." We arrive at three wonderful truths concerning the doctrine of "eternal life."

First, Eternal Life is a Present Possession.

1 John 5:11-13, *"...God hath given to us eternal life..."*

We come to understand in those verses (1 John 5:11-13; John 3:16, 5:24, 10:27-28; 2 Thessalonians 2:15-17) that it is God that has given to the believer eternal life. This eternal life is a present possession.

Second, Eternal Life is a Preserved Possession.

John 10:27-28, *"...they shall never perish..."*

We also see that eternal life is preserved through Jesus Christ. The believer will never come into condemnation (John 5:24), he will never perish. This eternal life is a preserved possession.

Third, Eternal Life is a Powerful Possession.

2 Thessalonians 2:15-17, *"...and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work."*

This guaranteed gift from God is a powerful and transformational truth because of what happens within the person who has been justified by faith. This eternal life is a powerful possession.

The born-again Christian has a right to be confident in his salvation, because his salvation is entirely based upon the finished work of Christ as we saw in our first lesson, "The Gift of God."

The doctrine of eternal life doesn't hinder Christian living, it enables or produces true Christian living.

Illustration: Construction of The Golden Gate Bridge

During the first part of the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge, twenty-three men fell to their deaths —no safety devices were set up to protect them. In the second phase of

construction, a large net was installed. Although ten men fell within that time frame, the net kept them from harm. Furthermore, worker productivity increased twenty-five percent. Why? With assurance of security the men were free to wholeheartedly serve the project.

The believer who has obtained eternal redemption will never come into condemnation. Jesus Christ saved us from dead works that we might serve the living God.

Hebrews 9:12-14, *“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”*

The Irrevocable Confidence of the Believer

The Christian will never boast in himself, for he knows that salvation is not obtained by his works. The Christian only boasts in Christ! The confidence of our salvation is not rooted in ourselves, rather, it is rooted in the Person and Work of Christ.

The true believer has an irrevocable confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Galatians 6:14-15, *“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.”*

Romans 3:26-27, *“To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”*

For an individual to say, “I know that I am saved, and I know that I have eternal life, I know that my sins have been forgiven,” is not boasting. It is an unwavering confidence in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ!

The Promises of God

In our study, we consider the promises of God that shed light on the believer’s eternal life in Christ. God cannot lie; His Word is truth.

According to **John 5:24**, he that believeth shall not come into _____¹

According to **John 6:37**, he that comes to Christ will in no wise be _____² out.

John 10:28 declares that he that has been given eternal life shall never _____³.

Read **Romans 8:38-39**. Is there anything that can separate us from the love of God?
_____⁴.

According to **Ephesians 1:13**, he that has believed is _____⁵ with that Holy Spirit of promise.

The Position of the Believer

We must also consider what is said about the believer in Christ. The Christian who has been born-again receives a new position. Paul, writing to the saints in Colosse, says, *“And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.”* (Colossians 1:21)

Read **Romans 8:14-16** and fill in the blanks.

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the _____⁶ of God.

Those who have received the Spirit are the _____⁷ of God.

We must always make a distinction between relationship and fellowship. The Christians who have the indwelling Holy Spirit are called the children of God.

Illustration: A Father & Child

When a child is born, he becomes part of his father’s family. Although sin can change or destroy their fellowship (the affection, communication, trust, and joy which bind their hearts), their relationship remains that of a father and his son.

The Bible teaches in **Hebrews 10:9-10**, that the believer has been sanctified through Jesus Christ _____⁸ for all.

According to **Hebrews 10:14**, the believer has been perfected for _____⁹ by one offering.

Ephesians 2:5-7 teaches us that the believer has been made to sit in _____¹⁰ places in Christ Jesus.

The promises of God and the position of believers are sure and unchangeable. **1 Peter 1:3-5** tells us, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

Our confidence is in the truth that God has given us. **Romans 3:4**, *"...let God be true, but every man a liar..."* If we did nothing to earn salvation, we can do nothing to lose it.

The Inevitable Confirmation of the Believer

Those who are critical of this wonderful doctrine are troubled that a person can say they are saved and yet live as they please. Such a claim is to miss the real issue altogether. They neglect the truth that repentance toward God and faith in Christ always produces evidence.

There has never been, nor will there ever be a true Christian who says, *"Oh, now that I am saved, I can live as I please and sin all I want."* Such a person has never truly been saved. We must always distinguish the professor with the possessor.

It is possible for a man to be a 'professor of salvation' without being a 'possessor of salvation', but it is impossible to be a 'possessor' without being a 'professor.' There is always evidence that accompanies the possessor of saving faith!

Consider the following Bible passage:

Romans 6:1-7, *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin."*

Paul had just explained in Romans chapters four and five, that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Paul answers the question that would follow, *"is this grace a license to sin?"* The answer is an emphatic, *"God forbid."* He goes on to explain that the believer has a new life in Christ. The person that claims that salvation by grace alone is a license to sin has not

understood salvation at all! Paul declares that the person that is dead in Christ has been freed from sin.

The Word of God is clear on this subject:

According to **2 Corinthians 5:17**, the believer who is in Christ is a new _____¹¹.

Illustration: Dirt Floor

A young missionary wife moved to another country with her husband. She looked at the dirty floor in their new house, promptly grabbed a brush and pail, and got down on her hands and knees and began to scrub. She scrubbed and scrubbed and mopped and rinsed, but she could not get the dirt off the floor. One of the locals revealed the reason for her problem by telling her, "The reason you can't get the dirt off the floor is because it's a dirt floor!"

Some people try to live the same way. They endeavor to clean up their life hoping they will be more acceptable to God. But it is only after salvation that the old man becomes a new man in Jesus Christ.

The Possession of the Believer

At his new birth, the believer has been given things that accompany salvation. Consider the following truths:

Romans 5:5 & 1 John 4:13 teaches that the Holy Ghost has been _____¹² unto us. (see also 1 John 3:24)

According to **2 Peter 1:3**, the believer has been given all things that pertain unto _____¹³ and _____¹⁴.

1 John 5:20 teaches that believers have been given _____¹⁵, that he may know Him that is true and be in Him that is true.

2 Timothy 1:7 shows that believers have been given the spirit of _____¹⁶, the spirit of _____¹⁷, and the spirit of a sound mind.

The Proof of the Believer

Good works cannot save a man; good works only reveal that a man has been saved by the grace of God.

Read **Ephesians 2:8-10**. We learn that believers who are saved by grace through faith have been created in Christ Jesus unto good _____¹⁸.

According to **Titus 1:15-16**, unbelievers may profess to know God, but in _____¹⁹ they deny Him.

According to **1 John 2:4**, the person who declares to know Christ with no proof is declared to be a _____²⁰.

1 John 3:10 teaches that those who do righteousness do not become the children of God; they simply _____²¹ that they are the children of God.

John 13:35 declares that we do not become disciples of Christ by loving one another. We prove that we are disciples by our love for one another.

It is always important to understand the language of the Bible. The born-again Christian cannot lose his salvation. As with all believers, his works done in the name of His Lord and Saviour will be tried before the Judgment Seat of Christ (**1 Corinthians 3:11-15**). He will either gain or lose a reward; he shall be saved in both cases.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15, *"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."*

The salvation of the Christian is absolute. Eternal life is his present possession while his reward is a future possession.

The Interpretation Confusion

As we consider the doctrine of eternal life, we must ask ourselves the following question, "Can a person lose the gift of eternal life?"

Many people will claim that certain passages of Scripture teach that a man can lose his salvation. However, those who make those claims never consider the context of those verses. When studying a passage, it is important to always interpret words in light of the immediate context. When the context of a Bible passage is plainly directed to the subject of salvation, there is never a question about the security of the believer.

There are two main passages that are used by those who teach that a Christian can lose his salvation; **James 2:24** and **Hebrews 6:4-9**. We will consider the first reference in our study.

The Proper Interpretation of James 2:24

Many religious teachers who deny the Gospel of the grace of Jesus Christ will often use James 2:24 to “prove” that salvation is not by Christ’s grace alone through faith alone.

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

When a Bible student ignores the context, he fills the Bible with unwarranted contradictions.

IMPORTANT Context of the Book: James is not addressing salvation; he is addressing the Christian life. James calls them, “my brethren” in verse 14. James is contrasting dead faith with true biblical faith, *“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”* He is saying that true faith is made evident by works. Those who live in rebellion and who ignore the Word of God demonstrate that they do not possess true faith; they are deceiving themselves.

IMPORTANT Context of the Bible: James and Paul are addressing two different events in Abraham’s life. Paul, in **Romans 4:1-4**, refers to Abraham’s salvation which occurred early in his life and which is recorded in **Genesis 15:5-6**. James, on the other hand, refers to Abraham’s testing which occurred 20 years later (**James 2:21-24; Genesis 22:1-18**). Abraham was saved by faith without works, but his salvation and his faith were evidenced and demonstrated by his obedience.

IMPORTANT Context of the New Testament: The teaching of James is no different from that of the other apostles. All apostles taught that true faith produces works. **Ephesians 2:8-10** makes it clear, *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”* It is faith alone which connects us with the free salvation

offered in Jesus Christ. This salvation is a gift. Our works have nothing to do with it and cannot add to the completed work of Christ. Works, rather, follow after salvation and is the product of it, being created by God in the believing sinner.

Consider the following passage that clearly separates justification before God by grace, and the conduct that is expected of those who have believed.

Titus 3:4-8, *"But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men."*

Jesus taught His disciples this important truth in **Matthew 5:16**, *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* Faith is how a man is justified before God. Works is the proof to men that a believer has been justified.

Review Questions:

Circle the correct statement:

Eternal life is given by God.

Eternal life is earned by man.

How can a Christian be confident in his salvation?

Will a believer ever come into condemnation? _____

What is our relationship to God the Heavenly Father?

According to **1 Peter 1:3-5**, what expressions are used to speak of the believer's inheritance?

Is salvation by grace through faith a license to sin? _____

What has a believer received from the Lord? *(Page 31)*

When studying a Bible verse, what is always important to consider in our interpretation?

Can a man be justified by works before God?

What do good works reveal?

Answer Key:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Condemnation | 12. Given |
| 2. Cast | 13. Life |
| 3. Perish | 14. Godliness |
| 4. No | 15. Understanding |
| 5. Sealed | 16. Power |
| 6. Sons | 17. Love |
| 7. Children | 18. Works |
| 8. Once | 19. Works |
| 9. Ever | 20. Liar |
| 10. Heavenly | 21. Manifest |
| 11. Creature | |

SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM

LESSON 3

Begin by reading the following Scripture:

Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 28:18-20

The subject of baptism has been one of the most contentious among Biblical teaching. Many unbiblical views are being propagated. We must always identify a true New Testament local church by its doctrine. One of the clear teachings of the Bible that identifies us as a Baptist church is this great doctrine of baptism. We believe in **believer's baptism only, by immersion only**.

History teaches us that baptism has been one of the most divisive issues for the last two thousand years. Millions of Bible believers have been put to death simply for refusing to let their children and infants undergo sprinkling.

Roman Catholics and Protestants alike have persecuted those who held to a biblical view of baptism. It is well-documented that the Roman Catholic Church imprisoned, tortured, and killed many who refused to baptize their infants. Some Protestant denominations at various points in history did likewise.

Felix Manz an Anabaptist

Felix Manz was born in 1498 in Zurich, Switzerland. He was a born-again believer who strongly held to the biblical teaching of baptism. He was labeled by other religious groups as an Anabaptist, which means "re-baptizer," a derogatory term for all who held a Biblical position on the doctrine of baptism.

Felix Manz was an enthusiastic evangelist who preached the gospel message. He refused to abide by the city council's requirement for children to be baptized. In 1524, Manz decided to write a tract refuting the erroneous teachings of Martin Luther on Communion and Baptism. His endeavors were halted by the government. Manz did not agree with Zwingli, Luther or Calvin. Manz submitted a petition to the Zurich city council advocating the biblical teaching of baptism, rejecting infant baptism. He requested to appear before the city council to defend his position. He was labeled a rebel. On March 7, 1526, the Zurich council passed an edict that made adult re-baptism punishable by drowning. Felix Manz refused to submit to that edict by continuing to preach the gospel and baptizing converts. He was arrested. On January 5, 1527, at 3:00pm, he was led from his prison cell to a boat, which took him to a dock. There fastened to a weight with his

hands tied behind his knees, Felix Manz was pushed into Lake Zurich where he drowned for his position on baptism.

What are some different views on Baptism?

- Some sprinkle infants and children
- Some pour water on the head of adults or children
- Some immerse under water
- Some are baptized for the dead
- Some do not practice any form of baptism

May the Word of God always be our guide when it comes to our doctrinal positions. Scripture is clear in its teaching on baptism and must be strongly defended by those who love the Lord and His Word.

According to **Matthew 28:18-20**, baptism is part of the mission of the local church. This doctrine must be understood and properly practiced.

The Definition of Baptism

For a baptism to be Biblical it can only be by immersion. All other forms of baptism are invalid and unbiblical.

The Word Baptism Explained

The Greek word rendered “*baptize*” in the Bible is “*baptidzo*.” This word literally means, “*to dip, to plunge, to immerse, to submerge, to overwhelm.*”

“*Baptidzo*” refers to the complete submerging and burial of a body after death.

Read **Colossians 2:12** & **Romans 6:4**. We find that Baptism is likened to a b_____.¹

The Word Baptism Exemplified

There is only one true kind of baptism practiced in the New Testament. The Bible allows no deviations concerning the mode of baptism!

According to **Ephesians 4:4-6**, How many baptisms are there? _____²

For this baptism in **Acts 8:38**, we see that they went down _____³ the water.

As we read **John 3:22-23**, we see that John was baptizing in Aenon because there was _____⁴ water there.

Matthew 3:16 shows us that after our Lord's baptism, He went _____⁵ of the water.

According to the Word of God, Baptism is defined as a: (circle the correct answer)

Sprinkling / Pouring / Submerging

Immersion is the only mode that fits the biblical meaning of the practice of baptism. Baptism is a picture of the burial of and resurrection with Christ, and only immersion fits this symbolism. Sprinkling and pouring do not. (**Romans 6:4**)

All other baptisms must be rejected by the New Testament local church. To sprinkle a child is NOT baptism.

The Demand of Baptism

The church has been commanded to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A church that does not baptize is failing to do the work of the Lord.

Scriptural Command

The Lord Jesus Christ commissioned the local church to preach the Gospel to all people, baptize the believers, then disciple them.

Matthew 28:19-20, *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."*

Scriptural Candidate

Baptism demands a scriptural candidate. God's Word specifies the criteria which must be met.

In **Acts 2:41**, we find that before they were baptized they gladly _____⁶ His word.

According to **Acts 8:12**, they that were baptized had first _____⁷ the preaching of Philip.

According to **Acts 8:35-38**, What is the one requirement before baptism? If thou _____⁸.

Read **Acts 10:46-48**. Was the Holy Ghost received before or after their baptism? _____⁹.

According to **Acts 16:14-15**, we see that before Lydia was baptized she _____¹⁰ unto the things which were spoken by Paul.

What is the Scriptural order for baptism as found in **Acts 18:8**?

The Corinthians H _____¹¹, B _____¹², and were B _____¹³.

There is no Scriptural evidence for infant baptism. There is one clear requirement before a person is to be baptized: he must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ!

The Description of Baptism

The Misrepresentation of Baptism

Many people believe that baptism is a “*means of God’s grace*,” they teach that it is a channel through which salvation comes.

Ephesians 2:8 teaches us that we are not saved through baptism, we are saved by grace through _____¹⁴.

According to **Revelation 1:5**, we have been washed from our sins in His own _____¹⁵, and not by baptism.

Paul declares in **1 Corinthians 1:17**, that he was not sent to _____¹⁶, but to preach the gospel.

In this verse, we see a clear **separation** between the preaching of the gospel and baptism. Baptism is not part of the Gospel message. Baptism pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, but it is not the Gospel. For a preacher to teach that a person must be baptized in order to have their sins washed away is heresy.

The Meaning of Baptism

According to **Romans 6:4-5**, Baptism is called the _____¹⁷ of his death and resurrection.

In **1 Peter 3:21**, Baptism is called a like _____¹⁸.

What does Biblical baptism communicate?

First, That the believer is taking **the first step of obedience** as a Christian

Acts 2:41, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

Second, That the believer has **understood the Gospel message**.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4, "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you...For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"

Third, That the believer is **identifying with Jesus Christ**.

Romans 6:3-4, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Fourth, That the believer is **not ashamed to make his faith in Christ public**.

Romans 10:11, "For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."

Does the Bible teach that Baptism is necessary for salvation?

There are two passages commonly used by those who promote baptismal regeneration. They are **Mark 16:15-16** and **Acts 2:38**.

Mark 16:15-16, *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be **saved**; but he that believeth not shall be **damned**.”*

The wording of this verse is very precise and important. It is always needful to study the immediate surrounding context of any word and verse. The first part of the verse is often quoted by false teachers, but the second part is always neglected.

Here we are taught that baptism is closely associated with believing, but it is distinct from salvation itself. The sinner is not damned because he doesn't get baptized; he is damned because he doesn't believe.

Acts 2:38, *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”*

The believer does not get baptized in order to be forgiven of his sins; he is baptized because he has been forgiven of his sins. The word “for” is used in the Bible in two ways:

- In order to receive remission of sins.
- Because the believer has received remission of sins.

Those are the only two possibilities. As we compare Scripture with Scripture we come to the right interpretation of this verse.

Three references will shed light on this verse:

First, the gospel and baptism are **distinct** from one another.

1 Corinthians 1:17, *“For Christ sent me not to baptize, **but** to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.”*

Second, The gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4, *"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"*

According to **Romans 1:16**, the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that _____¹⁹.

Review Questions:

Fill in the blank:

Paul was not sent to _____ but to preach the gospel. (1 Corinthians 1:17)

How many baptisms are there? _____

Who is the proper candidate for baptism?

What does the word "baptize" literally mean?

According to the Word of God, Baptism is defined as a: (circle the correct answer)

Sprinkling / Pouring / Submerging

What does Biblical baptism picture?

Is there any evidence for infant baptism in the Bible? _____

Is there any evidence for sprinkling as a form of baptism in the Bible? _____

Does Mark 16:15-16 teach that baptism saves? Explain why.

What is the order of events recorded in Acts 2:41-42:

R_____	the Word	=	Salvation
B_____		=	Baptism
A_____	unto the church	=	Church Membership
C_____	in the doctrine	=	Christian Growth

Answer Key:

1. Burial
2. One
3. Into
4. Much
5. Out
6. Received
7. Believed
8. Believe
9. Before
10. Attended

11. Heard
12. Believed
13. Baptized
14. Faith
15. Blood
16. Baptize
17. Likeness
18. Figure
19. Believeth

ADDED UNTO THE CHURCH

LESSON 4

Begin by reading the following Scriptures:

Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 16:18; 1 Timothy 3:15

God desires for every born-again believer who has been Scripturally baptized to become a member of a local church. This local church must be a Bible-believing, Bible-preaching, Great Commission-fulfilling church.

*God has chosen the institution of the local church to accomplish His work in this world. We find in Scripture the God-appointed steps every person is to take.

The order we find in Scripture is simple according to Acts 2:41-42:

- Salvation – “...they...received his word...”
- Baptism – “...they...were baptized...”
- Church Membership – “...there were added unto them...”
- Discipleship – “...they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine...”

The doctrine of the church is one of the most misunderstood doctrines of the Bible:

- Some see the church as a building (a cathedral, or a place of worship)
- Some think of a church as a denomination (a human organization). They would refer to the ‘Catholic Church,’ the ‘Presbyterian Church,’ the ‘Baptist Church,’ etc....
- Many think of the church as all individuals who have been born again in the entire world. This is also referred to as the ‘invisible/universal’ church.

However, the word translated “church” is very significant because it is never used to describe a denomination. It is not used to describe a national church. Our understanding of the local church is foundational to our Christian life.

The first mention of the word “church” in the Bible is found in **Matthew 16:18**.

According to **Matthew 16:18**, Who founded the New Testament church? _____.¹

Jesus Christ said, “I will build my church.” He did not say, “**You** will build my church.” He did not say, “I will build **your** church.” He clearly said, “I will build **my** church.”

The Lord did not change the meaning of the word church, but He distinguished it from all other assemblies of the day with the personal pronoun “my” church.

In **Ephesians 5:23**, Christ is called the _____² of the church.

According to **Galatians 3:1** and **Galatians 5:7**, how can the church demonstrate that Christ is its Head? _____³

The Old Testament nation of Israel is not to be confused with the New Testament church. The Bible makes a clear distinction between them in **1 Corinthians 10:32**.

What are the three groups named in **1 Corinthians 10:32**? _____⁴

The Identification of the Local Church

Read **Matthew 16:16-18**.

Jesus Christ established the church to carry out the Great Commission in this present age. The word “church” or “churches” is found **115 times** in the New Testament, and is rendered from the Greek word ‘*ekklesia*.’

This word ‘*ekklesia*’ has only one meaning – ‘*a called-out assembly*.’

Definition of the church:

The local church is a group of baptized believers, under the authority of Jesus Christ, who have voluntarily joined themselves together to keep the ordinances and to carry out the Great Commission.

A Biblical Church Must Be Local

The church is a local group of believers who assemble together in one place; it is not a local building.

According to **Acts 14:27**, Who were gathered together upon the return of Paul’s missionary journey? _____⁵

In **1 Corinthians 11:17-20**, we find the believers at the church of Corinth came _____⁶ in the church.

People cannot “*come together*” and yet be all over the world.

Illustration:

An automobile is an “*assembly*” of many and various parts. It is absurd to think of an automobile as being everywhere. There is no such thing as a ‘*universal car*.’

In all but about 15 instances in the Word of God, the word “*church*” or “*churches*” is used in connection with a definite geographical location.

A Biblical Church Must Be Visible

Believers cannot “*come together*” and not be seen! Many like to talk about the “*invisible church*” but all the churches mentioned in the New Testament were visible.

Philippians 1:27 shows us that Paul expected to come and S_____ ⁷ the believers at Philippi.

In **1 Thessalonians 2:17**, we find Paul endeavoring to see the F_____ ⁸ of believers at Thessalonica.

A Biblical Church Must Be Organized

An assembly is not disorderly. The word “*assembly*” implies organization.

Colossians 1:18 teaches us that Jesus Christ is the _____ ⁹ of the body, the church.

The local church is figuratively likened to a body. The human body is an “*assembly*” of many parts; but does a random pile of skin, flesh, organs, bones, etc., constitute a body? NO! They must be put together according to a plan.

In **1 Timothy 3:15**, the church is likened to a house. The house you live in is also an “*assembly*.” Does a dumped pile of bricks, timber, plaster, nails, and so on constitute a house? No! These materials must be put together according to a plan or blueprint. **A true biblical church is organized, and its blueprint is the New Testament.**

The Indispensability of the Local Church

Read **Acts 2:41**. The local church is indispensable for several reasons as revealed in the Word of God.

Acts 1:15 shows us that the early church had a record of the number of _____¹⁰ together.

In **Acts 9:26**, we find Paul assayed (tried) to _____¹¹ himself to the disciples.

It is imperative that every born-again Christian seek to join a local church!

The Local Church Is Indispensable because of Its Role to Saints

The local church exists for the spiritual growth of the believer.

A PLACE OF PREACHING & TEACHING

It was common practice for the first century church to have teaching and preaching in its regular meetings. The local church is to be a place where believers grow spiritually through the teaching and preaching of God's Word.

According to **Acts 2:42**, believers in the church _____¹² stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine.

In **Acts 20:7**, we see that on the first day of the week Paul _____¹³ unto them.

Ephesians 4:11-12 tells us that God gave to the church both P _____¹⁴ and T _____¹⁵.

A church that no longer teaches and preaches the Word of God has ceased to be a New Testament church. There are no substitutes for teaching and preaching. Many churches have ceased to teach and preach the Word of God for fear of being offensive, and in doing so they have ceased to be a church where Christ is the head.

A PLACE OF FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship is a vital part of the life of the church. The local church is a family of people of like precious faith.

Read **Acts 2:42** and **Philippians 1:3-5**. In addition to doctrine, what did the believers continue in? _____¹⁶.

A PLACE OF PROTECTION

The local church is a place that protects and keeps fellow believers accountable. Fellowship in the Lord Jesus Christ is of great benefit to our spiritual health.

Acts 2:42, *“And they continued...in breaking of bread...”*

The expression *“breaking of bread”* refers to the observance of the Lord’s Supper as seen in **1 Corinthians 10:16**.

“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?”

In **1 Corinthians 11:26-28**, we find that the believer is to _____¹⁷ himself when partaking in the Lord’s Supper.

According to **Hebrews 13:17**, those in leadership in the church are said to _____¹⁸ for your souls.

A PLACE OF PRAYER

Acts 2:42, *“And they continued...in prayers.”*

In **Acts 1:14**, we find the believers continuing with one accord in _____.¹⁹

Acts 12:5 shows us that prayer was made without ceasing of the _____²⁰ unto God.

According to **Colossians 4:2**, believers are instructed to _____²¹ in prayer.

The Local Church Is Indispensable because of its Role to Sinners

The local church exists to accomplish the work of the Lord. The Great Commission was given to the local church.

1 Timothy 3:14-16 calls the church is the pillar and ground of the _____.²²

In **Romans 1:14-15**, Paul called himself a _____, ²³ and must therefore be ready to preach the gospel.

In **Acts 13:2** we find The Holy Ghost wanting Barnabas and Saul to be separated for the _____. ²⁴

We read a summary of the work they were called to do in **Acts 14:21-23**.

According to **Acts 14:26**, we see Paul and Barnabas returning to Antioch after the _____ ²⁵ was fulfilled.

The Local Church is Indispensable because of Its Role toward the Saviour

IMPORTANT: The local church exists to bring glory to God.

According to **Ephesians 3:21**, Who is to have the glory in the church? _____. ²⁶

Colossians 1:17-18 teaches us that Jesus Christ is to have the _____ ²⁷ in all things.

The primary objective of the local church is to bring glory to God. Believers must never lose sight of that!

The Importance of the Local Church

What does it mean to be a member of a church?

A worldly idea of church membership has crept into the minds of Christians today. There is a corrupt view of church membership today.

Example:

The world's idea of membership: An individual pays dues to an organization with the expectation of certain benefits and privileges. As a member he feels no obligation to attend every event hosted by the organization but participates in activities which appeal to him and are convenient for him. When there is a vote or an opportunity for his voice to be heard, he may be motivated to show up.

It is sad to see that many Christians treat the local church in the same manner.

The Prerequisites for Biblical Church Membership

SINCERE SALVATION

Romans 3:28, *“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”*

There is only one way for a person to be saved. A man is only justified by faith without the deeds of the law. The membership of the church must only be comprised of born-again believers.

SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM

Acts 2:41, *“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”*

A Scriptural baptism is for **believers only**, by **immersion only**. We have already studied this issue in the previous lesson.

SOUND DOCTRINE

Doctrinal agreement is imperative for the local church. The sole authority for faith and practice must be the Word of God.

Acts 2:42 shows us that they continued stedfastly in the _____²⁸ doctrine.

According to **1 Timothy 3:15**, The church is to be the pillar and ground of the _____.²⁹

Read **2 Timothy 2:1-2**. What was taught by Paul, the _____³⁰ must be committed to faithful men, who will in turn teach others also.

In **2 Timothy 4:1-3**, Paul instructed Timothy to preach the word with all longsuffering and _____.³¹

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Believers have a responsibility one toward another. Those who do not behave in a Biblical way are to be excluded from church membership.

Read **1 Corinthians 5:1-13**.

Verse 2 - A brother with unrepented sin must be taken _____³² from among you.

Verses 6-7 - A brother with unrepented sin must be _____³³ out as old leaven.

Verse 11 - With an unrepentant brother we should not keep _____.³⁴

Verse 13 - A brother with unrepented sin must be put _____³⁵ from among yourselves.

Read Paul's instruction to a local church in **2 Thessalonians 3:6**.

The Pattern of Biblical Church Membership

THE STEADFASTNESS OF THE CHURCH MEMBER

According to **Hebrews 10:25**, we are not to F _____³⁶ the assembling of ourselves.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 calls believers stewards of the mysteries of God and should be found _____.³⁷

THE SERVICE OF THE CHURCH MEMBER

Read **Romans 12:3-6**. What is the believer to exercise within the local church? _____.³⁸

According to **Acts 13:1-2**, we find that our service is described as _____³⁹ to the Lord.

THE SUBMISSION OF THE CHURCH MEMBER

Read **Hebrews 13:17**. What word is used to speak of the believer's submission? _____.⁴⁰

THE STEWARDSHIP OF THE CHURCH MEMBER

According to **1 Corinthians 16:1-2**, When was the collection of the saints held?
_____.

⁴¹

Review Questions:

Write down the definition of the church given in the lesson:

What does the word “church” mean? _____

Jesus Christ said, “_____ will build _____ church.”

What are the Biblical requirements before a person can join a New Testament church?

What did Paul try to do when he came to Jerusalem?

Is it the will of God for every believer to join a New Testament church? YES or NO

Why is the local church indispensable? (List the three reasons given in the lesson.)

How many believers are to serve in the local church? _____

What organization has God chosen to accomplish His work in the world?

What must happen to a member who continues in unrepented sin?

What is required in stewards? _____

Are you a member of a New Testament local church? _____

Answer Key:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Jesus Christ | 22. Truth |
| 2. Head | 23. Debtor |
| 3. By obeying the truth, the Word of God | 24. Work |
| 4. Jews, Gentiles, and the church of God | 25. Work |
| 5. The church | 26. God |
| 6. Together | 27. Preeminence |
| 7. See | 28. Apostles' |
| 8. Face | 29. Truth |
| 9. Head | 30. Same |
| 10. Names | 31. Doctrine |
| 11. Join | 32. Away |
| 12. Continued | 33. Purged |
| 13. Preached | 34. In company |
| 14. Pastors | 35. Away |
| 15. Teachers | 36. Forsake |
| 16. They continued in fellowship | 37. Faithful |
| 17. Examine | 38. God given gifts |
| 18. Watch | 39. Ministry |
| 19. Prayer | 40. Obey |
| 20. Church | 41. Upon the first day of the week (Sunday) |
| 21. Continue | |

CONTINUE IN THE DOCTRINE

LESSON 5

Begin by reading **Acts 2:41-42; 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 2:2; 2 Timothy 3:15-17.**

The word “*doctrine*” simply means “*teaching*.” When we speak of Bible doctrine, we are referring to the teaching of the Scriptures. The word “*scriptures*” simply means “*writings*.”

According to **2 Timothy 3:15**, Paul called God’s Word the “Holy Scriptures.” We understand that the Bible must be separated from all other writings for they are holy writings. There is no other book like the Bible.

The Bible was written by men chosen of God. They wrote the words that God gave them. This is called “*divine inspiration*.” Over a period of 1,500 years, God used more than forty different men from a variety of backgrounds to record His words. God used human writers who did not know each other to pen His words; yet, the Bible is in complete agreement with itself and has been proven to be one hundred percent true historically and prophetically. In contrast, the “sacred writings” of all other man-made religions are filled with internal contradictions as well as falsehoods (historic, scientific, geographic, prophetic, etc.).

2 Peter 1:20-21, “*Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*

We consider two simple truths found in these **2 Peter 1:20-21**:

First, the prophecy of the scripture came not by the _____ ¹ of man.

Second, holy men of God spake as they were _____ ² by the Holy Ghost.

Answer the following questions based upon these two verses:

Is man the author of the Bible?

_____ 3

Who was directly involved in the scriptural revelation?

_____ 4

Our doctrine comes solely from a divine source which we call the 'holy scriptures,' therefore, it is of utmost importance to never elevate other writings to the level of God's Word.

Is Bible doctrine important?

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ said something that should command our attention in **John 8:31-32**,

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Jesus did not say, "if you hear my words" or "if you have my words, then are ye my disciples indeed." Christ said, "if ye continue in my words."

According to **Acts 2:42**, The first century church purposefully continued in the apostles' _____.⁵

In **1 Timothy 4:16**, Paul instructed Timothy to _____⁶ in the doctrine.

There is a neglect of biblical doctrine in churches across our land.

Pat Boone made a statement on **August 17, 2001**. Mr. Boone is a charismatic singer who typifies the attitude toward doctrine that is common among ecumenical Christians.

"Doctrine divides, experience unites. We don't all have our doctrine all completely correct, but God doesn't judge us on our understanding of doctrine."

The **Ecumenical movement** seeks to unify all churches into one group, by calling for a putting aside of doctrinal differences for the purpose of being unified. **The Central Maryland Ecumenical Council** Mission Statement reads as follows:

"The Central Maryland Ecumenical Council is a community of Christian organizations in the Greater Baltimore Region. Our Mission is to advocate for environmental, racial, social, and economic justice using non-violent organizing principles in building the Beloved Community."

It is sad to see no reference to God and His Word! Many so called "Christian" groups and churches have completely given themselves over to such topics and have forsaken Bible doctrine.

A survey conducted by **Dennis Hollinger** in **2009** asked this question: **Is Jesus really the only way to God?**

“Last year, the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life published a major study on religious affiliation, beliefs and practices in the United States. One of the significant findings was that **70% of all Americans** believe that many religions can lead to eternal life, including **65% of all self-identifying Christians**. Perhaps the most surprising was **that 56% of all Evangelical Christians** believe that there are many paths, other than faith in Christ, to God and eternal life.”

The simple doctrine of salvation is not being taught in most churches today. This should be alarming to us! Bible doctrine must not be ignored, it must be contended for!

Jude 3, *“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”*

The Priority of Knowing Doctrine

The New Testament has a clear and strong emphasis on doctrine. A true New Testament church is always identified by its doctrine.

The validity of a church is **not measured by its size**, but by **its likeness to Jesus Christ**. We identify a true church **not by its popularity**, but by **its doctrinal purity**.

The Emphasis in Scripture

The two Greek words translated “doctrine” in the King James Bible are *didasklia* and *didache*. Those words are also translated “teacheth” and “learning.”

A teacher is one who **communicates doctrine**.

Romans 12:7, *“Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching.”*

The scriptures were written as our **source for doctrine**.

Romans 15:4, *“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”*

These two words are used more than 140 times in the New Testament. The word “*doctrine*” and its companion terms are used 59 times in **First and Second Timothy** alone.

The expression “*the truth*” is used 10 times in Second & Third John alone. Truth is never abstract. There is only one true interpretation in a passage of Scripture. **There are many applications, but only one interpretation.**

3 John 4, “*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*”

The Expressions of Scripture

There are several Bible words that refer to doctrine. We can also speak of doctrine as the body of truth we contend for.

In **1 Timothy 1:3-4** we are charged to teach no _____⁷ doctrine.

According to **Jude 3**, we are to earnestly _____⁸ for the faith which was _____⁹ delivered.

According to **Titus 1:13**, False doctrine must be rebuked that the believer may be _____¹⁰ in the faith. We are not to turn from the _____¹¹.

1 Timothy 6:3 teaches us that we are to consent to wholesome _____¹².

2 Timothy 1:13 instructs us to hold fast the form of _____¹³ words.

The Exhortation to Saints

Acts 17:11 shows us that we are to receive the _____¹⁴ with readiness of mind, and we are to _____¹⁵ the scriptures.

According to **2 Timothy 2:2**, we must be faithful both to learn and to teach _____¹⁶ also.

The Purpose of Knowing Doctrine

To deny or neglect doctrine is to deny and neglect the Lord. A love for God must never be separated from a love for doctrine.

Consider what Jesus Himself said in **Luke 6:46**,

“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”

It is impossible to be spiritual without being scriptural. It is interesting to consider that today's churches have become worldly as they have forsaken doctrinal purity. Today's churches that claim to give a spiritual experience with the absence of scripture have provided nothing more than an emotional experience far removed from biblical Christianity.

Why do we need to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered?

To Preserve True Biblical Christianity

True Biblical Christianity cannot be preserved in a local church unless doctrine is faithfully taught by its leadership, studied by its membership, and passed on to its future generations.

In **Matthew 28:19-20**, Jesus Christ commanded to teach new believers to observe _____¹⁷ things whatsoever Christ commanded.

In **Acts 2:42** the early church continued _____¹⁸ in the apostles' doctrine.

According to **2 Timothy 2:2**, The things that Timothy heard of Paul, the same Timothy was to commit to faithful men, who in turn would be able to teach _____¹⁹ also.

To Propagate True Biblical Christianity

Bible doctrine must be propagated in our community and around the world. When people think of First State Baptist members, they ought to identify us and say, *“These are the people that know what the Bible teaches.”*

As we read **Acts 4:19-20** we find that Peter and John could not help but speak the things which they had seen and _____.²⁰

According to **Acts 5:28**, Jerusalem was _____²¹ with the doctrine of the apostles.

To Prevent False Doctrine from Entering the Church

There is a constant attack upon biblical doctrine. The church must never dismiss doctrine as irrelevant. If a church considers doctrine to be irrelevant, then that church has become irrelevant.

In **Jude 3-4** We are exhorted to earnestly _____²² for the faith once delivered.

According to **Romans 16:17-18**, We are to _____²³ them which cause divisions contrary to the doctrine learned.

Read **2 Timothy 3:1-17**, and answer the following questions:

What did Timothy fully know from Paul according to verse 10?

_____ ²⁴

Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, _____,²⁵ and being _____.²⁶

What is Paul's remedy for the deception of these seducers according to verse 14?

_____ ²⁷

What has been given to us that we may continue in the doctrine received as mentioned in verse 16?

_____ ²⁸

The Product of Knowing Doctrine

There is never a negative effect upon those who know and understand biblical doctrine. An attitude of self-righteousness and pride is never the true outcome of doctrinal understanding.

Our theology must always dictate our conduct. What we know to be true about God and His Word is vitally important because it affects every area of our lives. We can know what a person believes about God by looking at his behavior.

1 Peter 1:15-16, *"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."*

What is written in God's Word is always the forerunner of our conduct!

Do you believe that God is a holy God? Then, how are you living your life? Is your life a testimony of what you say you believe about God?

Our Source for Personal Growth

According to **1 Peter 2:2**, How can the believer grow? _____²⁹

In **2 Peter 3:18** the believer is instructed to grow in grace, and in the _____³⁰ of Jesus Christ.

Our Source of Power over Satan & Temptation

In Psalm 119:105 the Word of God is likened unto a _____³¹ and a _____³².

The Bible has the power to change the lives of those who read and apply its truths. The most powerful external evidence of the Bible's claim to be the Word of God is the testimony of changed lives.

Hebrews 4:12, *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

Our Source for Practical Living

According to **Romans 12:1-2**, the _____³³ of God is the basis for the believer presenting his body a living sacrifice.

Ephesians 4:1-3 shows us that the believer is to _____³⁴ worthy of the vocation wherewith he is called.

When we read the Bible, we must receive it as it is in truth the Word of God, and not as we want it to be. The opinions of men are constantly changing, but God never changes.

Review Questions:

What are the expressions in the Bible that refer to our body of doctrine:

What does the word “doctrine” mean? _____

According to **2 Timothy 3:15**, what separates the Bible from all other writings?

Fill in the blanks: We are commanded to earnestly _____ for the faith which was _____ delivered unto the saints.

What is more important in identifying a church? (Circle one)

Its size and influence

Its doctrinal purity

Does every believer have an individual responsibility to know biblical doctrine? _____

Explain why doctrine is so important as seen in this lesson?

Does Bible doctrine produce anything in our lives? If yes, what does it produce?

What comes first, doctrine or practice? _____

Why must doctrine always come first?

Answer Key:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Will | 19. Others |
| 2. Moved | 20. Heard |
| 3. No | 21. Filled |
| 4. The Holy Spirit | 22. Contend |
| 5. Doctrine | 23. Mark |
| 6. Continue | 24. His doctrine |
| 7. Other | 25. Deceiving |
| 8. Contend | 26. Deceived |
| 9. Once | 27. Continue in the doctrine learned |
| 10. Sound | 28. The Holy Scriptures |
| 11. Truth | 29. Taking in God's Word/Consuming the
God's Word |
| 12. Words | 30. Knowledge |
| 13. Sound | 31. Lamp |
| 14. Scriptures | 32. Light |
| 15. Search | 33. Mercies |
| 16. Others | 34. Walk |
| 17. All | |
| 18. Steadfastly | |

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES: PART 1

LESSON 6

Begin by reading **2 Timothy 3:13-16** and **2 Peter 1:16-21**.

Paul referred to God's Word as the '*holy scriptures*.' All doctrine must find its basis in the Holy Scriptures. The doctrine of the Bible, which we call '*bibliology*,' is the foundation upon which all other doctrine stands. If we are not certain about the doctrine of the Bible than we cannot be certain about any other doctrine!

If we don't know for certain that we have the very words of God, then everything else we find in the Bible is uncertain. If we remove the divine authority from the Bible, man ultimately becomes the authority over God.

The Bible is the book God has given to reveal Himself to mankind. It answers all of life's important questions, such as who is God? Where did man come from? What is the purpose of life? Why is the world filled with suffering? Why does man die? What happens after death? How can man get into a right relationship with God? Who is Jesus? Why did He die? What will happen in the future?

We must follow the admonition of our Lord Jesus Christ when he said, "*Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*" (**John 5:39**)

We must be fully aware that the Word of God has continually been under attack. The assault on the Word of God began in the Garden of Eden and the battle is still raging today.

The Satanic Assault

In **Genesis 3**, we find Satan's assault on the very words of God. Satan questioned, subtracted from, added to, softened, denied, blasphemed, ignored, and disobeyed the words of God.

Such an assault upon God's words brought great harm to humanity. Satan's attack upon God's words was an attack upon the character of God.

The Roman Catholic Assault (400 AD)

The Roman Catholic institution began to add strange traditions to the Word of God such as infant baptism, prayer to Mary, the papacy, etc. They also added other books to the Bible such as the apocrypha. They promoted a weak translation of the Bible in the Catholic vulgate.

Furthermore, they worked mercilessly to keep the Bible out of the hands of the common people. They went as far as killing Bible translators such as William Tyndale. Tyndale rejected the Roman Catholic view that the Scriptures could only be read and interpreted by the clergy and famously said in defiance to the Pope, *"I defy the Pope and all his laws. If God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that drives the plough to know more of the Scripture, than he does."*

The Modernistic Assault (became popular in 1800s)

Modernism or theological rationalism began in the 1800s in Germany and quickly spread to England and America. It applied the theory of evolution to the Bible. Though modernism has taken many forms, at its heart, modernism claims that the Bible is not God's revelation to man but is merely the record of man's search for God. The miracles of the Bible were considered myths. The first five books of the Bible were especially attacked.

Example of Commentary by Charles Kraft, *Genesis: Beginnings of the Biblical Drama*, published by the Methodist Church:

"Clearly, then, the Book of Genesis is a remarkable combination of ancient folklore, tradition, custom, myth." (pp. 11, 12)

"The first chapter of Genesis was not written primarily to explain how God created the universe." (p. 37)

The Evangelical Assault (Beginning in 1940s)

New Evangelicalism broke down the wall of separation between Bible believers and unbelieving modernists. This movement rejects separation and is reluctant to contend for the faith. It demands a positive Christianity.

The hallmark of New Evangelicalism is broad appeal: soft, cautious, hesitant, tolerant, pragmatic, accommodating, flexible, non-controversial, non-offensive, non-dogmatic. While the battle between truth and error rages, New Evangelicalism sits on the sideline as neutral.

The world is in rebellion against God, and Satan seeks to mislead people away from the revelation of God. Believers must have the answers that will enable them to stand against persistent attacks on the Bible. Christians are to know **what** they believe, and **why** they believe it.

The Revelation of Scripture

God has revealed Himself to mankind. The Bible is God's Revelation of Himself to mankind. God has revealed Himself in a General way and in a Specific way. We will look at three witnesses that testify of God's revelation of Himself to man.

Hebrews 1:1-3 declares that God has spoken unto _____¹ by His Son.

God has spoken because He desires to make Himself known. Man's greatest knowledge is his knowledge of God. The proper knowledge of God gives us the right perspective about everything else.

Internal Revelation

God has revealed Himself to every man inwardly. God's existence and God's law bear witness within every man's conscience.

According to **Romans 1:18-19** that which may be known of God is _____² in them.

Romans 1:28 teaches us that they did not like to retain God in their _____.³

Romans 2:14, 15 shows us that the Gentiles who did not have the written law did indeed have the law written in their _____.⁴ Their _____⁵ also bearing witness.

According to **John 8:9**, men are _____⁶ by their own conscience.

The word "*conscience*" means "*with knowledge*." 'Con' means 'with,' and 'science' means 'knowledge.' There is enough knowledge of God in every man to condemn him, but not enough knowledge of God to save him.

External Revelation

The external revelation is clear in creation! Creation is the testimony of the power and authority of God. God has left Himself a witness in what is observable in this earth and the universe.

According to **Romans 1:20**, the unseen world and the Godhead are clearly seen being understood by the things that are _____.⁷

Psalm 19:1 teaches us that the _____⁸ declare the glory of God.

Isaac Newton, who discovered the law of gravity, said, *"This most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being. Atheism is so senseless. When I look at the solar system, I see the earth at the right distance from the sun to receive the proper amounts of heat and light. This did not happen by chance."*

Personal Revelation

Internal and external revelation is enough knowledge of God to condemn someone, but it is not enough knowledge of God to save someone. God has given mankind a specific written record of Himself. We refer to this record as Special Revelation or Personal Revelation. The Bible is not a record of man's search for God; the Bible is a record of God's search for man.

In **2 Peter 1:21** we see that holy men spake as they were _____⁹ by the Holy Ghost.

According to **1 Peter 1:10-11**, the prophets had to _____¹⁰ diligently that which the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify.

The Inspiration of Scripture

How did God give us His Personal Revelation of Himself? Through inspiration! Thousands of times in the Scriptures we are confronted with the unmistakable claim that God is the author.

The Meaning of Inspiration

2 Timothy 3:16 teaches that *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God..."*

The word *"inspiration"* as used in **2 Timothy 3:16** is translated from a compound Greek word which means *"God-breathed."*

According to **Psalm 68:11**, Who gave the word? _____¹¹

Galatians 1:11-12 declares that the gospel was received by the _____¹² of Jesus Christ.

Inspiration Definition 1: The inspiration of the scriptures is that miracle by which the Holy Spirit guided the writers of scripture to record the Words of God without error, without omission, and without exaggeration.

Inspiration Definition 2: Inspiration is the breath of God expressing itself through a chosen instrument, a human penmen.

Read **2 Peter 1:16-21** and make special note of the following words, *"...And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy...For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."*

The Apostle Peter described inspiration as superior to eyewitness accounts because it is not influenced by fallible man. There is no doubt that God breathed out His words to mankind through the Holy Spirit.

In **Matthew 5:17-18** Jesus Christ said, *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."*

The 'jot' is the smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The 'tittle' is the small appendage that differentiates between two similar-looking letters in the Hebrew alphabet.

In **Matthew 4:4**, Jesus said that man is to live by _____¹³ word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

According to **Proverbs 30:5**, How many words of God are declared to be pure?
_____.¹⁴

Charles H. Spurgeon said, *"The Bible is the writing of the living God: each letter was penned with an Almighty finger; each word in it dropped from the everlasting lips; each sentence was dictated by the Holy Spirit."*

The Manifestation of Inspiration

According to **Jeremiah 1:7-9**, the Lord _____¹⁵ His words in the mouth of Jeremiah.

Read **Matthew 2:15** and **Matthew 1:22** and answer the following question:

Who had spoken? _____.¹⁶

By whom did He speak? _____.¹⁷

Mark 12:36 shows us that the words that came from David were said by the _____¹⁸.

According to **Luke 1:70**, The Lord spake by the _____¹⁹ of His holy prophets.

Acts 3:21 teaches that God hath spoken by the _____²⁰ of all His holy prophets.

The Validation of Scripture

Many books today claim to be the words of God. Many philosophers and scholars have written books in order to discredit the Bible. We must consider the volume of reliable witnesses that have presented themselves to the world.

According to **1 Peter 1:23**, The word of God _____²¹ and _____²² for ever.

Hebrews 4:12 tells us that the word of God is _____,²³ and _____,²⁴ and _____²⁵ than any two-edged sword.

The Testimony of Its Claim

The words *“Thus saith the Lord”* and similar phrases are found over 3,800 times in the Old Testament.

According to **Ezra 1:1**, The Word of the Lord came by the _____²⁶ of Jeremiah.

According to **2 Samuel 23:1-2**, Whose word was speaking by David’s tongue?
_____²⁷.

According to **2 Timothy 3:16**, How much of the Scripture was given by inspiration of God?
_____²⁸.

In **2 Peter 1:20-21** we see that the prophecy of the Scripture came by holy men who spake as they were _____²⁹ by the Holy Ghost.

The Testimony of Its Unity

In **Luke 24:27** Jesus Christ expounded unto them in _____³⁰ the scriptures.

In **Luke 24:44** Jesus Christ spoke unto the disciples that _____³¹ things must be fulfilled according to the record of the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms.

The Bible is made up of **66 books**. Those 66 books were penned by at least **40 different penmen** who came from **various backgrounds** and **cultures** and lived in **different periods of history**. The Bible was written over a **period of approximately 1,500 years**. The Bible does not have one contradiction.

The 66 books give us the complete and perfect revelation of God to mankind. Just as a puzzle comes together with every piece in its place, so the Word of God comes together with every book in its place. Take one book out, and you are missing the complete revelation of God. Every book of the Bible is for our benefit; not one part must be neglected.

2 Timothy 3:16, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"*

The Testimony of Its Fulfilled Prophecy

This truth separates the Bible from all other books ever written. The Bible accurately foretells specific events – in detail – many years, sometimes centuries, before they occur.

In approximately 700 BC the prophet Micah named the tiny village of Bethlehem as the birthplace of Israel's Messiah, *"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."* (**Micah 5:2**).

Consider a small portion of prophecies fulfilled by Jesus Christ:

- His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14) – (Luke 1:26-35; Matthew 1:18-25)
- His birthplace in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) – (Matthew 2:1-6; Luke 2:4-7)
- His forerunner John the Baptist (Isaiah 40:3) – (Matthew 3:1-3)
- His triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Zechariah 9:9-10) – (Mark 11:7-11; John 12:12-16)
- His side is pierced (Zechariah 12:10) – (John 19:34, 37; Mark 15:33; Luke 23:44-45)
- His cry from the cross "My God, my God..." (Psalm 22:1) – (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34)
- Darkness at His crucifixion (Psalm 22:2) – (Matthew 27:45; Mark 15:33; Luke 23:44-45)
- His hands and feet are pierced (Psalm 22:16) – (John 20:24-28)
- They part His garments among them and cast lots upon His vesture (Psalm 22:18) – (Matthew 27:35; Luke 23:34; John 19:23-24)
- His betrayal by a friend (Psalm 41:9) – (Matthew 26:21-25; Mark 14:18-21; Luke 22:3-6; John 6:71)

- He is given vinegar to drink (Psalm 69:21) – (Matthew 27:34, 48; Mark 15:16; Luke 23:36; John 19:28-30)
- His resurrection (Psalm 16:10; Hosea 6:2) – (Matthew 28:5-7; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-9)
- His ascension (Psalm 110:1; 24:3-10) – (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50-51; Acts 1:8-11)

The Testimony of History

Isaiah 40:8, *“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”*

The Roman Emperor Diocletian made a decree in 303 AD that every Bible should be destroyed. He had been told that if he could destroy the Bible, he would destroy Christianity because Christians were people of the Book. Feeling he had succeeded, Diocletian raised a column with the inscription in Latin, *“The name of Christian is extinguished.”* Yet not even 10 years later under the reign of Constantine the symbol was replaced by a cross.

Fourteen hundred years after Constantine, the French atheist Voltaire boasted by saying, *“One hundred years from my day there will not be a Bible in the earth except one that is looked upon by an antiquarian curiosity seeker.”* Twenty years after the death of Voltaire, the Geneva Bible Society purchased his house for the printing of Bibles. It later became the Parisian headquarters for the British and Foreign Bible Society, which stored and distributed Bibles throughout Europe.

Atheist Robert Ingersoll once boasted, *“Within fifteen years I’ll have the Bible lodged in a morgue.”* However, within fifteen years of his statement, Robert Ingersoll was lodged within a morgue, and the Bible still lives!

The Testimony of Archaeology

Archeology has unearthed artifacts and documents which confirm the accuracy of the name, time, and place of reign of over forty different kings in the Bible. The Code of Hammurabi proved that writing was highly developed several hundred years before Moses, overruling critics who insist that Moses could not have written the Pentateuch.

Those who have accepted the premise that the Bible is historically accurate have made some amazing discoveries. Over 5,000 places have been unearthed based on the record in God’s Word.

Nelson Glueck, a renowned Jewish archaeologist stated, *“No archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference.”*

Dr. William Albright (1891-1971), the greatest archaeologist of his generation, said this about the Bible: *"There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of the Old Testament."*

The Testimony of Science

Many scientific facts recorded in the Bible were verified centuries later by man as a result of technological advancement. Only an all-knowing God who created the heaven and the earth and the scientific principles by which they operate could have authored the Bible!

Below are a few of the scientific facts found in the Bible:

Moisture in the atmosphere goes through cycles of evaporation and condensation

Psalm 135:7, *"He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings for the rain; he bringeth the wind out of his treasures."*

Job 36:27-28 *For he maketh small the drops of water: they pour down rain according to the vapour thereof: Which the clouds do drop and distil upon man abundantly.*

The earth is spherical

Isaiah 40:22, *"It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth..."*

The earth rotates upon its axis

Job 38:12-14, *"Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place; That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it? It is turned as clay to the seal; and they stand as a garment."*

The earth is suspended in space

Job 26:7, *"He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing."*

Tides vary in the late evening and early morning hours

Job 26:10, *"He hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end."*

The stars cannot be numbered

Jeremiah 33:22, *"As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me."*

The atmosphere has weight

Job 28:25, *"To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measures."*

There are currents in the seas and oceans

Psalm 8:8, *"The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas."*

The blood sustains life

Leviticus 17:11, *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood..."*

This fact was not understood until very recent times. In the nineteenth century, doctors were using "blood-letting" as a healing method. George Washington, our first president, died a victim of this practice. Modern medicine has learned what the Bible has taught all along.

The Testimony of Changed Lives

Self-righteous Saul, an enemy of Christ and His church, was changed into the apostle Paul, who became the greatest missionary in history apart from Christ.

1 Timothy 1:12-15, *"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."*

John Newton was a profane man who lived a wicked life. After the Lord changed his life, he wrote *"Amazing Grace,"* and also became a preacher.

George Müller at the age 16 was already a drunkard, gambler, and thief. When he was 20 years of age, he trusted Christ and his life was changed!

In 1876, while travelling together on a train, atheists **Robert Ingersoll** and **General Lew Wallace** decided that Wallace should write a book dispelling the deity of Jesus and disproving the authenticity of the Bible. Wallace agreed, and immediately began to immerse himself in the life of Christ. As he poured over the pages of the Bible, he found "a conviction amounting to absolute belief in God and the divinity of Christ." Through his study, he concluded the Bible and Christ to be true, and became himself a devout

Christian. General Wallace never wrote his book against the Bible. He wrote instead the classic Christian novel *Ben Hur: The Tale of the Christ*.

The Bible is still having a profound effect in the lives of people around the world.

In conclusion we will consider the two divisions of the Bible—the Old Testament and the New Testament. The word “*Testament*” means covenant or agreement.

The Old Testament can be divided into the following major sections:

Law - Genesis to Deuteronomy

We learn God’s creation of heaven and earth, the fall of man, the worldwide flood, the Tower of Babel, the multiplication of languages, the call of Abraham, the beginning of the Jewish nation, Israel’s bondage in and exodus from Egypt, and the giving of the law.

History - Joshua to Esther

We learn the history of Israel, the Jewish nation, from the conquering of the Promised Land to the Babylonian Captivity.

Poetic Books - Job to the Song of Solomon

We learn the proper worship of God. We are given answers to important questions such as the purpose of suffering and the vanity of earthly existence apart from God.

Prophets - Isaiah to Malachi

We learn the prophecies concerning Israel, mankind as a whole, and Jesus Christ.

The New Testament can be divided into the following major sections:

The Gospels - Matthew to John

The four books of the Gospel record the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. They also contain prophecies of His second coming.

The Acts of the Apostles - Acts

The book of Acts contains the history of the first century churches and the spread of the Gospel message by those churches.

Paul’s Epistles - Romans to Philemon

These letters were penned by the apostle Paul to instruct various churches and individuals in Christian doctrine and practice.

The General Epistles - Hebrews to Jude

These are called the “*general epistles*” because they were not written to individual churches but to Christians in general. They were written by Paul, James, Peter, Jude, and John.

Prophecy - Revelation

This book contains prophecies about the end of the age.

Review Questions:

Who was first to attack the Word of God?

How has God revealed Himself to every man internally?

How has God revealed Himself to every man externally?

How has God revealed Himself personally?

What does the word “inspiration” literally mean? _____

Write out one definition for inspiration as given in the lesson:

How much of the Scripture was given by inspiration? _____

Describe how God was able to speak to man in Old Testament prophecies?

Please list some compelling testimonies listed in the lesson that validate the Bible:

Circle the correct answer:

Science has been catching up to the Bible

The Bible needs to catch up with science

Answer Key:

1. Us
2. Manifest
3. Knowledge
4. Hearts
5. Conscience
6. Convicted
7. Made
8. Heavens
9. Moved
10. Search
11. The Lord
12. Revelation
13. Every
14. Every Word
15. Put
16. The Lord

17. The Prophets
18. Holy Ghost
19. Mouth
20. Mouth
21. Liveth
22. Abideth
23. Quick
24. Powerful
25. Sharper
26. Mouth
27. The Spirit of the Lord
28. All
29. Moved
30. All
31. All

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

PART 2

Begin by reading **1 Peter 1:23-25, Matthew 4:4, and 2 Timothy 3:14-17.**

In the continuation of our study of the Holy Scriptures we are brought to the subjects of Bible Preservation and Bible Translation. Our understanding on both subjects is vitally important. Let us consider a few questions that need to be answered:

- Has God preserved His words?
- Do we have the words of God today?
- What English Bible should we use?

If we are not certain about the Word of God then we cannot possibly be certain about any other doctrine in the Word of God. To be uncertain about the Word of God is to be uncertain about your salvation. Many scholars will discount the preservation of God's Word and in doing so they are contradicting Jesus Christ. Those who attack the Word of God are attacking the character of God.

Jesus said in **Matthew 4:4**, "... *Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every word** that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*"

How can a man or woman live by every word of God that proceeds out of His mouth unless God has preserved His words? Christ was telling Satan that the Old Testament has been preserved. He quoted from the book of Deuteronomy. The Old Testament had been preserved right down until His day and man should live by those words. It would have been approximately 1,500 years from Moses until Christ's day. He kept, guarded, and preserved "every word."

The Greek verb for "*it is written*," is expressed in the **perfect tense**. It is something that has been written down in the **past**. The words are preserved to the **present** and will be preserved on into the **future**.

The goal of this lesson is to strengthen your confidence in the Word of God!

The Preservation of Scripture

The word "*preservation*" describes the act of keeping or saving from injury or destruction; to defend from evil; to save from decay; to keep in a sound state; to keep and defend from corruption.

Our Lord's words shall _____¹ pass away.

Matthew 24:35, *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."*

Mark 13:31, *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."*

Luke 21:33, *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."*

The Greek word for "not" in each of these phrases "shall not pass away" is 'οὐ μή' or 'oo may.' This word is the strongest negative in the Greek language. It means, "never, never, never."

Furthermore in **Matthew 5:17-18** Christ said, *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."*

The "jot" is the smallest Hebrew letter, *yodh* י. It looks like our "comma." The "tittle," is the smallest vowel in Hebrew. It is only a dot. The "jot" and the "tittle" shall not pass away "till all be fulfilled."

The Source of Preservation

According to **Psalm 12:6-7**, the words of the Lord are _____² words.

The word "*them*" in **verse 7** refers back to "*the words of the Lord*." God has promised to preserve His pure words. This promise extends from "*this generation for ever*."

According to **Psalm 12:6-7**, Who promised to preserve? _____³

According to **Psalm 12:6-7**, What would be preserved? _____⁴

According to **Psalm 12:6-7**, How long will the words be preserved? _____⁵

There is no point in talking about **inspiration** without **preservation**. Bible inspiration without Bible preservation is a worthless doctrine. Without the preservation of God's Word not one person can say that they have the inspired Word of God.

The Support of Preservation

There is not one hint in the Bible that the writers were uncertain about the validity of the Scriptural revelation.

There is an unwavering confidence upon "*Thus saith the Lord*," in the Bible. If we do not have the words of God today, we cannot be certain about what the Bible teaches.

The Psalmist Affirmed Preservation

Psalm 119:89 teaches us that God's Word is _____⁶ in heaven.

Psalm 119:152 shows us that God's testimonies have been f_____⁷ for ever.

In **Psalm 119:160** we find that everyone of God's righteous judgments _____⁸ for ever.

The Word of God was settled in the eternal plan of God. When God gave the Scriptures, He intended to guard and preserve them; they are "*founded forever*." God's people have always had a confidence in the divine preservation of Scripture, "*I have known of old*." This was true historically until the rise of the modern biblical criticism.

The Prophets Affirmed Preservation

According to **Isaiah 40:8**, the word of our God shall stand _____.⁹

Flowers are intricate and beautiful, but they soon fade away. Not so with the Word of God. While it is more intricate and beautiful than any flower, it does not wither or fade; it stands forever.

The Lord Jesus Christ Affirmed Preservation

When Jesus Christ came on the scene in history, He did not have the original written record of God's words. He had perfect copies of the original writings.

Matthew 5:17, 18, "*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*"

Jesus Christ based His ministry upon the Old Testament. If God did not perfectly preserve His Word, how could Christ expound on something that is imperfect?

In **Luke 24:27** Christ expounded unto them in _____¹⁰ the scriptures.

In **Luke 24:32** we see Christ opened to them the _____.¹¹

According to **Luke 24:44-45**, What was fulfilled? That which was w _____¹²
in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms.

Jesus had absolute confidence in the preservation of God's inspired words. Jesus made constant reference to the Scriptures, "*As it is written...*"

The Apostles Affirmed Preservation

According to **2 Timothy 3:15**, It is evident that from a child Timothy had known the _____¹³ scriptures.

The copies of God's Word were called "*holy*." The word "*holy*" means "*without blemish, pure, without error*." Paul understood the doctrine of preservation.

Read **1 Peter 1:23-25** and fill in the blanks.

The word of God _____¹⁴ and _____¹⁵ for ever. (v. 23)

The word of God _____¹⁶ for ever. (v. 25)

The word "*incorruptible*" means "*undecaying, immortal, cannot be corrupted*." God's Word cannot be corrupted, or decayed like our bodies. When we die and are put into the earth, our bodies see corruption. They are decayed and become dust, but the Word of God is incorruptible.

The Translation of Scripture

There are a great number of theologians, philosophers, teachers, and even preachers who have spent a considerable amount of time attacking and criticizing those Bible believers who have chosen to use the King James Bible.

Example of these attacks:

Dr. Robert Joyner called King James Bible loyalists, "*heretics*."

Dr. James White warned about King James Bible proponents as "*undercutting the very foundations of the faith itself*."

W. Edward Glenny made this claim in an article that appeared in the Bible Version Debate: The Perspective of Central Baptist Theological Seminary (1997). The article was titled, "*The Preservation of Scripture*."

“The doctrine of the preservation of Scripture was first included in a church creed in 1647. As we have argued above it is not a doctrine that is explicitly taught in Scripture...not only does no verse in Scripture explain how God will preserve His Word, but there is no statement in Scripture from which one can establish the doctrine of the preservation of the text of Scripture...It is also obvious from the evidence of history that God has not miraculously and perfectly preserved His word in any one manuscript or group of manuscripts, or in all the manuscripts.” (The Bible Version Debate, pp. 93, 95)

The issue of the Bible is deeper than a simple, “We need a Bible that is easier to understand.” There are three things that separate the King James Bible from all other English versions.

First, The Text Underlying the Translation

Paul warned the church at Thessalonica because they were receiving letters from someone pretending to be Paul. Those other letters that Paul did not send were counterfeits. There are many counterfeit Bibles that seem to be the words of God but indeed are not.

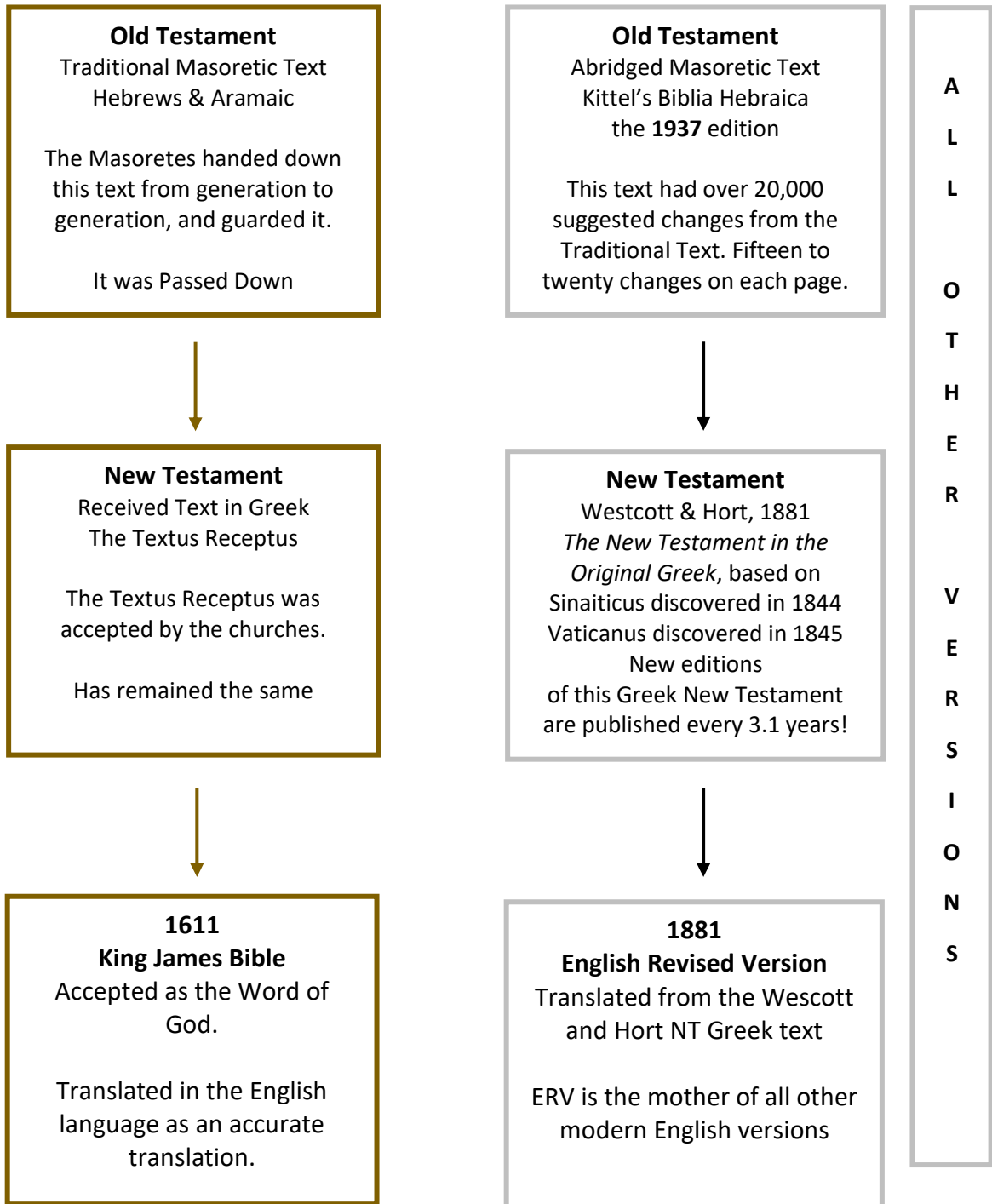
2 Thessalonians 2:1-2, *“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.”*

The topic of the underlying TEXTS used for Bible translation is of utmost importance in our understanding of the English Bible.

*Refer to the chart on **page 84**.

Constantine Von Tischendorf discovered two different New Testament manuscripts. The Sinaiticus was said to have been recovered from a wastebasket in St. Catherine’s Monastery near Mt. Sinai in 1844. Another manuscript (the Vaticanus) was discovered in the Vatican library in 1845. Those two texts are used as underlying texts for the modern versions.

*There two difference sources, or underlying texts

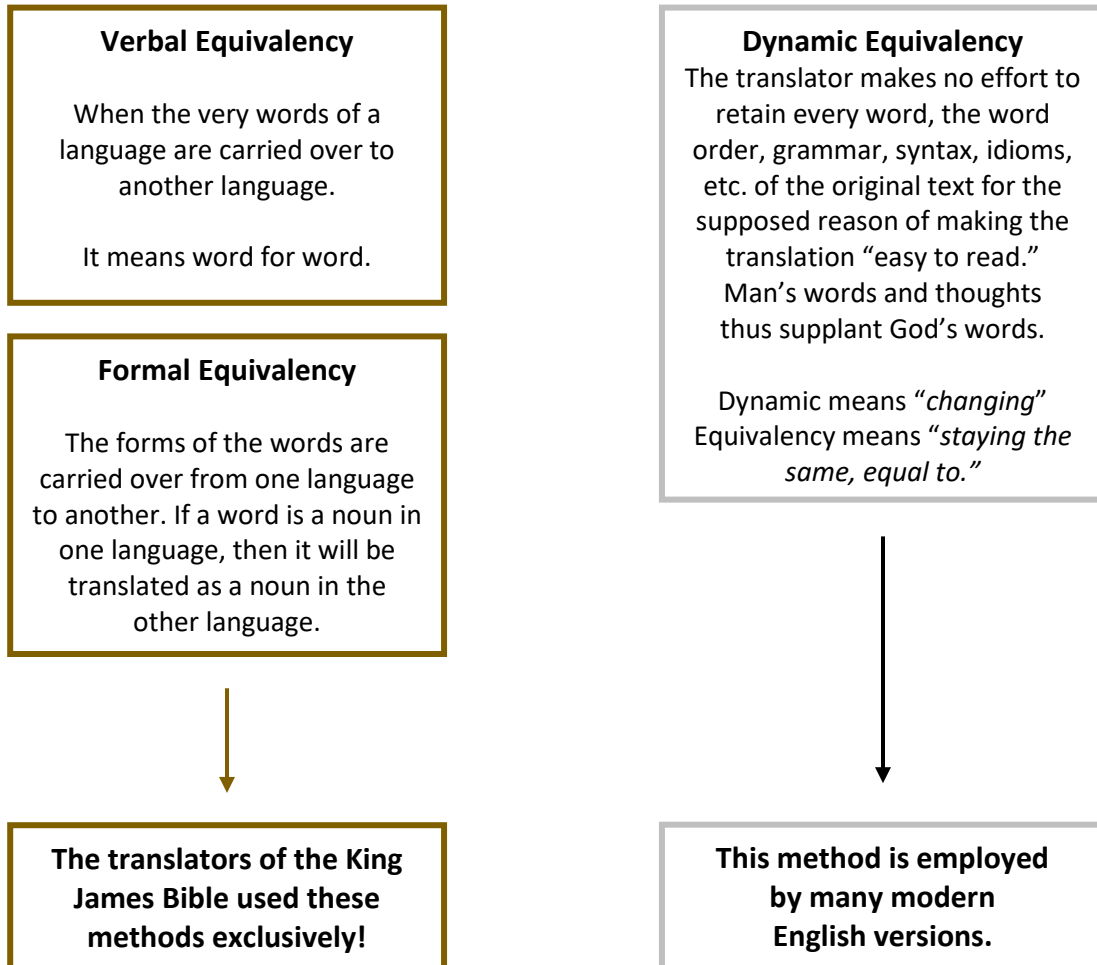


Second, The Translation Method

Proverbs 30:5, 6, *“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”*

The word *“translation”* simply means *“To carry over.”*

There Are Two Ways to Translate



The King James Bible was translated in a remarkable way! The translators were divided into six companies, each with an assigned portion of the Bible. The six companies met in separate locations in the cities of Cambridge, Westminster, and Oxford. The translation began in 1604 and concluded seven years later in 1611. A total of 57 men took part in the translation process. A few died before the translation was completed. Every man translated the books of the Bible assigned to his company individually seven times. Each then reviewed his peer’s work. The completed assignment of each company was then sent

to another company for correction and review. From Genesis to Revelation the Bible was translated, analyzed, and corrected 14 times! No other Bible version has undergone such exacting, careful, and thorough translation process as the King James Bible.

Third, The Theology

We now examine yet a third major difference. To claim that all Bibles say the same thing, just in a different way, is not accurate. We are talking about the inspired Word of God. Many choose their Bibles upon the basis that it is easier to read, which is a gross ignorance of the issue.

The following are example of verses that differ from the King James Bible:

Salvation

KJB - John 3:36, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

ASV - John 3:36, "He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life; but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Trinity

KJB - 1 John 5:7, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."

ESV - 1 John 5:7, "For there are three that testify:"

ASV - 1 John 5:7, "And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is the truth."

Baptism

KJB - Acts 8:37, "And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

NIV - Acts 8:37, "..."

This verse is not found in the NIV or any other modern Bible version!

Christ

KJB - 1 Timothy 3:16, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh..."

ASV - 1 Timothy 3:16, *"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness; He who was manifest in the flesh..."*

The Blood Atonement

KJB - Colossians 1:14, *"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."*

ESV, ASV, RSV, NASV, NIV, CSV

Colossians 1:14, *"In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."*

We see some clear differences between the modern versions and the King James Bible. We must ask ourselves this question, *"Can they all be right?"* No, they cannot! Since God has supernaturally inspired His Word and faithfully preserved His Word, there can only be one correct verse.

If the same verse in two Bible versions say something different, we conclude that they are not saying the same thing!

Consider a brief history of the King James Bible. Quote from "The Westcott & Hort Only Controversy" written by Dr. Phil Stringer (pages 3-6):

God was doing a great work in England in the early 1600's. The preaching of the gospel of Christ out of Matthew's Bible and the Geneva Bible was leading to multitudes of conversions...Puritans were becoming a stronger and stronger force in the Church of England and in English culture.

Yet many were concerned that the final translation work into the English language had not been done. King James was persuaded to authorize a new translation. The King James Bible was printed in 1611. At first there were questions and concerns about this new Bible translation. This was as it should be. No one should accept a Bible translation lightly. By 1640 however, the King James Bible was clearly the Bible of the English people. The Geneva and Matthew's Bible, once greatly used of God, went out of print. There was simply no demand for them anymore.

The Church of England, with its official evangelical doctrinal statement, used the King James Bible exclusively. It was the Bible of the Puritans, both inside and outside the Church of England. In fact the Puritans began to use the distinctive Biblical English of the King James Bible in their day to day speech. The KJB was the Bible of the Protestants, the Congregationalists, and the Quakers. It was clearly the Bible of the Baptists. By 1640 it was

the Bible of the Pilgrims. The KJB was the Bible of evangelicals in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. It became the Bible of the English colonies across the Atlantic Ocean. The only religious group of any size or importance in England that didn't use the King James Bible was the Roman Catholic Church. All non-Catholics could have been referred to as "King James only people." When the Methodist Revival stirred England in the 1700's, it did so with the preaching of the King James Bible. John Wesley, one of the founders of the Methodists, made his own translation of the New Testament. However, it found little acceptance, even among Methodists. Only the KJB was in common use.

When English colonies flourished in Australia and New Zealand, the King James Bible was the common Bible of the settlers. When President George Washington took the first presidential oath of office in the new United States of America, he did so with his hand on a King James Bible. Every American president since, with the exception of Franklin Pierce, has done the same.

Over one hundred fifty English translations were produced between 1611 and 1880. However, they found no audience except in a few cults. Most went out of print quickly. The English speaking, Christian world was truly "King James Only." As hard as it may be for the liberals and secularists to admit, the American public schools were built around the King James Bible. The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States, (not exactly a religious right publication), describes the early public schools this way, "Public schools had a distinctly Protestant flavor, with teachers leading prayers and scripture reading from the King James Bible in their lessons."

The Roman Catholic minorities objected to the King James Bible and so they developed their own school system. With the exception of the Catholics, the United States was clearly King James Only. According to Winston Churchill, ninety million copies of the King James Bible had been printed by the mid-twentieth century. The King James Bible was the Bible of the great modern mission movement of the 1700's and 1800's. The missionaries from England and the United States were saved, called to the mission field, and trained under the preaching of the King James Bible. Many of these missionaries knew little or no Greek and Hebrew. They translated the Bible into 760 languages from the King James Bible. Truly the modern mission movement was a King James only movement.

Review Questions:

What does the word “preservation” mean?

Christ said, that we are to live by _____ word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Is it reasonable to assume that we have every word of God today?

Did Jesus Christ believe that the Word of God had been preserved up to His time on earth?

Did Christ have confidence in the Scriptures? If yes, how was that demonstrated?

Do modern English Bible versions use the same underlying text as the King James Bible?

What is the New Testament underlying Greek text for the King James Bible?

What is the Old Testament underlying Hebrew and Aramaic text for the King James Bible?

What translation methods were used to translate the Bible into the English language?

Are there theological differences seen in the different English versions? _____

Give the three major differences between the King James Bible and all other English versions:

Different Underlying T_____

Different T_____ Method

Different T_____.

Answer Key:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Not | 9. For ever |
| 2. Pure | 10. All |
| 3. The Lord | 11. Scriptures |
| 4. The Words | 12. Written |
| 5. For ever | 13. Holy |
| 6. Settled | 14. Liveth |
| 7. Founded | 15. Abideth |
| 8. Endureth | 16. Endureth |

GROWING IN CHRIST

LESSON 8

Begin lesson by reading the following Scripture - **Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:9; 2 Peter 3:18.**

Every Christian individual must manifest the evidence of spiritual growth. Salvation is not the end; it is rather the beginning. The believer should continually be conforming to the image of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, it is impossible to be spiritual without being scriptural. Spiritual growth cannot be separated from our knowledge and application of the Scriptures.

According to **II Timothy 3:13-17**, we have learned that:

The Holy Scriptures Are **Inspired** – **2 Timothy 3:16**

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God..."

The Holy Scriptures Are **Indispensable** – **2 Timothy 3:16**

"...and is profitable for doctrine...reproof...correction...instruction in righteousness."

The Holy Scriptures Are **Intrinsic** – **2 Timothy 3:17**

"That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

The Holy Scriptures Are **Intact** – **2 Timothy 3:15**

"...from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures..."

Ultimately, the goal of Biblical understanding is to bring about a change in the life of a believer. The Word of God does not bear fruit when it is understood, but after it is applied. The Bible was **NOT** written to satisfy our curiosity; it was written to transform our lives. The ultimate goal of Bible study, then, is not to do something to the Bible, but to allow the Bible to do something to us.

The Prerequisites for Growth in Christ

We will consider five prerequisites for spiritual growth. If we are not growing spiritually, we should examine our lives in light of those prerequisites.

First, A Sure Salvation

An individual cannot understand the Bible without first having been born-again.

In **1 Corinthians 2:12-14** we learn that the natural man receiveth _____¹ the things of the Spirit of God. Furthermore, the things of God are _____² discerned.

It is only given to the spiritual man to know the Word of God. Scriptural understanding can only be gained by Spiritual discernment.

According to **2 Peter 1:2-4**, the believer has been given all things that pertain unto life and _____³ by the power of God. We also learn that the believer has been made a partaker of the _____⁴ nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world.

R.A. Torrey said, "One must understand divine language in which it was written as well – the language of the Holy Spirit. A person who understands the language of the Holy Spirit, but who does not understand a word of Greek or Hebrew, will get more out of the Bible than one who knows all about Greek and Hebrew, but is not born again, and consequently, does not understand the language of the Holy Spirit."

Second, A Sincere Surrender

According to **John 7:16-17**, A man must do His _____⁵, in order to _____⁶ His doctrine.

Truth obeyed always leads to more truth learned. On the other hand, truth disobeyed destroys the capacity for discovering truth. The Bible is not a book that was written to appeal to the intellect of man. The Bible was written to be obeyed.

In **Ephesians 4:22-24**, we see that the believer is to put off the _____⁷ man, and put _____⁸ the new man.

According to **Ephesians 4:25**, we understand that to put off the old man means to put away lying. In contrast, to put on the new man means to speak truth. In the context Paul is dealing with the spiritual growth of the believers.

Third, A Submitted Supplication

In **Psalms 119:18**, the Psalmist prayed for his eyes to be _____⁹. It is when our eyes are opened that we can _____¹⁰ wondrous things out of God's law.

James 1:5 encourages any believer who may lack wisdom, to _____¹¹ of God.

There are always two extremes when it comes to the study of Scripture. Some rely on the **Spirit** to the neglect of the **Scriptures**, while others will rely on their **study** to the neglect of the **Spirit**. The Bible student must be **diligent in study** as much as he is **dependent on the Holy Spirit**. **Diligence** and **dependence** always work together for the glory of God!

Fourth, A Supplied Spirit

We read in **John 16:13** that the Spirit of truth will guide us into all _____¹².

According to **1 Corinthians 2:12-13**, the believer has received the things which the Holy Ghost _____¹³.

In **1 John 2:27**, we find that the anointing received of Him _____¹⁴ in us. The same anointing _____¹⁵ us all things.

Fifth, A Serious Simplicity

Matthew 11:25 teaches us that the Father is revealed unto those who come as _____¹⁶.

According to **Acts 4:13**, the Jewish authorities looked upon Peter and John as _____¹⁷ and _____¹⁸ men. Yet, it is evident that Peter and John had been with Jesus.

If we were to examine the message of Peter on the day of Pentecost, we would find it filled with Scripture! It did not take a lifetime to master an understanding of Scripture. We do a great disservice to the Bible when we try to look beyond its simplicity.

According to **2 Peter 1:20**, we see that no prophecy of the scripture is of any _____¹⁹ interpretation.

In **2 Corinthians 11:3**, we see that our minds can be _____²⁰ from the _____²¹ that is in Christ.

The Product of Growth in Christ

The teaching of the Bible produces growth in Christ. We cannot separate spiritual growth from scriptural knowledge and application.

That the Believer Might Be Fruitful

We read in **John 15:5**, that the branch is to bring forth _____²² fruit.

According to **John 15:7-8**, Who and What must abide in us? _____²³.

In **John 15:16** we find the Lord desiring the believer to bring forth fruit that should _____²⁴.

We learn that God desires for our lives to bring forth lasting, abundant fruit for His glory. In the Beatitudes, Jesus instructs His disciples to be **light** in the world, that men might behold their good works and glorify the Father.

Matthew 5:16, *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*

That the Believer Might Be Faithful

When our Lord Jesus Christ was tempted of the devil in **Matthew 4**, He responded by quoting Scripture, showing us the necessity and power of God’s Word in our lives.

In **2 Timothy 3:14-15**, Timothy was instructed to _____²⁵ in the things learned.

That the Believer Might Be Furnished

The believer who knows the Bible will be completely equipped for the Christian living and service for the Lord.

2 Timothy 3:16 teaches us that the scripture makes the believer perfect, thoroughly _____²⁶ unto all good works.

In **Doctrine** – what we believe and teach, a body of truth we contend for.

In **Reproof** – where we are wrong

In **Correction** – what is right and how to correct the wrong

In **Instruction in Righteousness** – how to go about doing good

That the Believer Might Be Formed

Our supreme goal should be Christlikeness. When the Word of God is preached, it should be preached that the Christian might become like Christ. When the Word of God is personally read and studied, it should be read and studied that the Christian might become like Christ.

Read **Ephesians 4:11-13**. The believer needs the Word of God that he may become more like who? _____²⁷

According to **Romans 8:29**, believers have been predestinated to be _____²⁸ to the image of Christ.

The Practice of Growth in Christ

There are three elements that we will consider in our daily practice. All three of these are necessary for our spiritual growth. **James 1:22-27** instructs us to be “*doers of the word, and not hearers only.*” This section is intended to be a practical guide for the application of Scripture.

The Practice of Reading

Spiritual growth takes place by reading the Word of God. It is difficult to mature in Christ without reading the Word of God.

In **Psalm 1:1-3**, the blessed man _____²⁹ in the law of the Lord.

The Christian must be aware that such a habit is developed and does not come naturally. Do not expect to spend two hours every morning reading the Bible. Begin with a chapter a day, and you will soon find yourself desiring to read more. Always be realistic with your goals. One of the main reasons why people do not read their Bibles is because they have often set unrealistic expectations.

The Practice of Understanding

In **Nehemiah 8:8**, we see that after they read the law of God, they gave the _____³⁰, and caused them to _____³¹.

Read **Acts 8:30-35** and answer the following questions:

Was the eunuch reading the Bible? _____³².

Was the eunuch understanding the Bible? _____³³.

What did the eunuch need? _____³⁴.

According to **Luke 24:44-47**, Christ opened their understanding, that they might _____³⁵ the scriptures.

We have so many tools at our disposal that can help us in our study of the Word of God. On the following pages you will find practical help for studying and understanding the Bible.

INTERNAL HELP

RULE 1: Be Faithful to the Context of Scripture

This is the most important rule that must be applied in order to understand Scripture. Most false doctrine comes from false teachers expounding on a verse without consideration of the context.

Consider the Immediate Context

This is the paragraph which contains the verse or word in question.

Consider the Surrounding Context

This is the text which we find before and after the paragraph at hand. There is often a logical progression that we must give our attention to. By not paying attention to the progression of a book, a student can easily find himself interpreting a verse out of context.

Consider the Book Context

We are here referring to the context of the individual book as a whole. The purpose of the book is sometimes plainly declared in the book itself. We can ask the following questions: Why was the book written? By whom was the book written? To whom was the book written? When was the book written?

Consider the Bible Context

No part of the Bible is disconnected from the whole of the Bible. The Bible has perfect unity.

RULE 2: Be Faithful to Compare Scripture with Scripture

Comparing Scripture with Scripture is essential for developing sound doctrine. If Scripture is interpreted in an isolated fashion, the result will often be a wrong interpretation.

“The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible.”

A.T. Pierson wrote, *“Partial examination will result in partial views of truth which are necessarily imperfect; only careful comparison will show the complete mind of God.”*

RULE 3: Be Faithful to the Clarity of Scripture

Always remember that God gave the Scripture to reveal truth to man, not to hide it or confuse it. The literal and grammatical interpretation must always be sought.

If the literal sense is not followed, no one can be certain of the meaning. The allegorical method makes the interpreter the authority.

Dr. David Copper said, *“When the plain sense of Scripture make common sense, seek no other sense, but take every word at its primary literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context clearly indicate otherwise.”*

EXTERNAL HELP

A Dictionary - the *American Dictionary of the English Language* by Noah Webster, 1828. Modern dictionaries are often inadequate in giving a proper meaning of Bible words.

A Concordance is also a helpful tool such as the *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*. It is a tool to use in understanding the words of the King James Bible, and links the English words to a helpful dictionary of the Hebrew and Greek terms underlying the King James Bible.

The Practice of Applying

Little Scriptural knowledge faithfully **practiced** is always better than **much** Scriptural knowledge only **possessed**.

According to **Psalm 119:105**, God’s Word is a _____³⁶ to my feet, and a _____³⁷ to my path.

According to **Psalm 119:11**, God’s Word must be hid in my heart, so I will not _____³⁸ against God.

According to **Psalm 4:4**, God’s Word will help us to examine our own _____³⁹.

TO HELP ME APPLY

First, Set Time Apart.

Second, Have a Reading Plan.

Third, Use a Notebook to Keep Record.

Fourth, Ask the Lord to Help you Apply the Bible to your life.

The following are examples for us to use as we study the word of God:

- Record Knowledge gained on God’s Promises
- Record Knowledge gained on God’s Precepts

- Record Knowledge gained on God's Person
- Write Down Sins to Confess
- Write Down Sins to Avoid
- Write Down Service for the Lord
- Write Down Verses to Memorize
- Write Down how God has spoken to you

Nothing will be dynamic in our Christian life until we become specific.

Review Questions:

What is the goal of biblical understanding?

Fill in the blank: The Bible was not written to satisfy our _____; it was written to _____ our lives.

What are the five prerequisites for spiritual growth?

A Sure _____.

A Sincere _____.

A Submitted _____.

A Supplied _____.

A Serious _____.

What brings glory to the Father according to John 15:7-8?

Who needs to be formed in the believer? _____

Should the Christian be content with merely reading the Bible? Why?

What is the most important rule to consider if the believer is to properly understand the Bible?

What are two helpful external tools that can be used to study the Bible?

Should the Bible student always look for some hidden secret meaning in his Bible study?

What is the best commentary on the Bible? _____

Answer Key:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Not | 21. Simplicity |
| 2. Spiritually | 22. Much |
| 3. Godliness | 23. Christ and His Word |
| 4. Divine | 24. Remain |
| 5. Will | 25. Continue |
| 6. Know | 26. Furnished |
| 7. Old | 27. Jesus Christ |
| 8. On | 28. Conformed |
| 9. Opened | 29. Meditates |
| 10. Behold | 30. Sense |
| 11. Ask | 31. Understand |
| 12. Truth | 32. Yes |
| 13. Teaches | 33. No |
| 14. Abides | 34. Someone to guide him |
| 15. Teaches | 35. Understand |
| 16. Babes | 36. Lamp |
| 17. Unlearned | 37. Light |
| 18. Ignorant | 38. Sin |
| 19. Private | 39. Hearts |
| 20. Corrupted | |

TEACH US TO PRAY

LESSON 9

Begin lesson by reading the following Scriptures – **Ephesians 6:18; Luke 11:1; Philippians 4:6.**

There are two basic areas of Christian living that will greatly promote spiritual growth. The first one is the reading and studying of the Scriptures, and the second one is the development of a prayer life. Those two areas must never be seen as rituals to perform, but rather as a relationship that must be cultivated.

We find that the first century churches were wholeheartedly given to the ministry of prayer. Please note the following summary of the first century church:

Acts 2:41-42, *“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*

There are more than 500 references to prayer in the Bible. Our Lord Jesus Christ placed a great emphasis on praying. Christ not only lived out an exemplary prayer life, but He also taught His disciples to pray.

It is significant to consider that the beginning of Christ’s public ministry was coupled with prayer and the demonstration of the Holy Spirit, and that the first century church advancement was coupled with prayer and the demonstration of the Holy Spirit.

The disciples came to Christ after He had done praying with one request, *“Lord, teach us to pray.”* Through this lesson we will learn some important truths concerning prayer.

Chadwick said, “Though a man shall have all knowledge about prayer, and though he understands all mysteries about prayer, unless he prays, he will never learn to pray.”

The Reason for Prayer

According to **Acts 2:42**, we understand that new believers developed a prayer life early in their Christian life.

We Pray Because We Are Asked

Read **Matthew 6:9**. What would Christ expect His disciples to do after instructing them on prayer when he said “after this manner”? _____¹

According to **Luke 18:1**, men ought _____² to pray, and not faint.

In **Colossians 4:2** we find the believer instructed to _____³ in prayer.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 we see that the believer is to pray without _____⁴.

We Pray Because We Have Access

According to **Romans 5:1-2**, it is by Christ that the believer has _____⁵ to God by faith.

In **Hebrews 4:16** we find that the believer can come boldly unto the _____⁶ of grace.

We Pray Because We Need Answers

John 16:24 teaches us that answered prayers gives believers fullness of _____⁷.

According to **1 John 5:14-15**, the believer has confidence that God _____⁸ his prayer.

The Reverence of Prayer

In our Lord’s instruction to the disciples on the subject of prayer, He clearly instructed them to come to their heavenly Father reverently. **Matthew 6:9**, “*After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*”

The word “hallowed” means “to be made holy, revered, sanctified, set apart, honored, glorified.”

The believer is to desire for God to be made holy in his life. God must clearly be set apart in our lives, He must be glorified, honored, and revered.

In **Hebrews 11:6**, He that comes to God must believe that He _____⁹.

We Consider Our Provider (WE PRAY TO THE FATHER)

Prayers are only to be offered up to God our Father. We are not instructed to pray to anything or anyone else. **Romans 8:14-17** teaches us that since the believer has received

the Spirit of God, he thereby can cry, “*Abba, Father.*” We must come to the Father in prayer reverently, not casually, carelessly.

According to **Matthew 6:9**, the believer is instructed to address his _____¹⁰ in heaven.

In **John 16:23**, the believer is to ask the _____¹¹.

Acts 12:5 shows the church in Jerusalem prayed unto _____¹² for Peter.

The believer comes to his heavenly Father in prayer knowing that God remains unchanging, unwavering, and undisturbed by the affairs of men.

We Consider Our Propitiation (WE PRAY THROUGH THE SON)

Our adoption as children of God had only been made possible through Jesus Christ. **1 Timothy 2:5** tells us, “*...there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*” Every time we come to God in prayer, we should remember that we are not coming to Him based upon our own merit. Access to the Father is solely based upon the merit of Jesus Christ.

According to **John 14:14**, the believer is to ask the Father in the name of _____¹³. Even in **John 15:16**, Christ said, “ask of the Father in _____¹⁴ name.”

Read **John 16:24**. By whose name do we pray to God the Father? _____¹⁵.

We Consider Our Power (WE PRAY IN THE HOLY GHOST)

The Holy Ghost is also involved in our praying. **Romans 8:26 and 27** declares, “*Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*” The Holy Spirit comes alongside the believer to make intercession for us.

Paul explained the Holy Spirit’s involvement in **2 Corinthians 12:8, and 9**, “*For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*” The Holy Ghost is actively working within us and speaking to us as we pray.

In **Ephesians 6:18**, the believer is to pray in the _____¹⁶.

According to **Jude 20**, the believer is to pray in the _____ ¹⁷.

The Rudiments of Prayer

We must ask an important question regarding prayer. How should we be praying? We refer to those things as the “rudiments” of prayer. Rudiment means “the first principles.”

In **Matthew 6:9-13** Jesus Christ gave His disciples a pattern for the content of our prayers, “*After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*” The following is a list of what our prayers should contain:

Our Prayer Should Contain Adoration

The first declaration on this model prayer is adoration as seen in **Matthew 6:9**, “*Hallowed be thy name.*”

We know that in **Psalm 29:2**, The believer is to give the Lord the glory due unto his _____ ¹⁸.

According to **John 17:1**, the believer is to desire for the Father to be G _____ ¹⁹.

Our Prayer Should Contain Submission

Christ moves to demonstrate the submission with which we should come to God. Prayer is not us trying to get God to agree with our decisions. Prayer is our seeking to agree with God’s will.

Matthew 6:10, “*Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*”

Read **Isaiah 6:8**. Was Isaiah submissive in his prayer to the Lord? _____ ²⁰.

Our Prayer Should Contain Supplication to God

The believer has an opportunity to declare his dependence upon God. The most basic things of life are often forgotten in our prayers.

Matthew 6:11, “*Give us this day our daily bread.*”

In **Philippians 4:6**, we find that the believer is to let his _____ ²¹ be made known unto God.

It Should Contain Confession

We have already understood that our prayers will not be heard if we regard sin in our lives.
A life with unconfessed sin, is a life with unheard prayers.

In **Matthew 6:12**, The believer is to seek F_____ ²² from the Lord.

According to **Psalm 38:18**, the believer is to _____ ²³ his iniquity.

1 John 1:9 teaches us to C_____ ²⁴ our sins.

It Should Contain Appreciation

Prayer should not just contain requests, but they should also recognize, praise, appreciate, and give thanks for our God.

Matthew 6:13, *“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”*

According to **Psalm 100:4**, the believer is to enter into God’s presence with
_____ ²⁵.

In **Colossians 4:2** we read that the believer’s prayer must contain _____ ²⁶.

The Restraint against Prayer

Unconfessed Sin Will Hinder Our Prayers.

According to **Psalm 66:18** and **Isaiah 59:1-2**, If we regard _____ ²⁷ in our heart, the Lord will not hear us.

Unforgiveness Toward Others Will Hinder Our Prayers.

According to **Mark 11:24-25**, If we are to receive forgiveness in prayer, then we should first
_____ ²⁸ those we are at odds with.

Unholy Desires Will Hinder Our Prayers.

According to **James 4:3**, the believer is not to ask for something of God in order to satisfy his _____ ²⁹.

Ungodly Relationship With Our Spouses Will Hinder Our Prayer

According to **1 Peter 3:7**, If a husband fails in his duty to his wife, then his prayers will be
_____ ³⁰.

Those Uninterested In The Things Of God Will Be Hindered In Their Prayer.
According to **Proverbs 28:9**, The person that does not regard God's law, his prayer is an _____³¹ to God.

The Reality of Prayer

The Place of Prayer

First, There should be Personal Prayer.

In **Matthew 6:6**, we see that the believer is to pray to his Father which is in _____³².

Second, There should be Public Prayer.

According to **Acts 1:13-14**, believers all continued with one accord in _____³³.

Third, There should be Partnered Prayer

Read **Matthew 18:19**.

The Posture of Prayer

According to **Mark 11:25**, we can pray S _____³⁴.

According to **1 Kings 8:54**, we can pray K _____³⁵.

According to **Acts 16:13**, we can pray S _____³⁶.

According to **Matthew 26:39**, we can pray F _____³⁷ on our
F _____³⁸.

The Plan of Prayer

Paul told the believer in Thessalonica to pray without ceasing in **1 Thessalonians 5:17**.
There is certainly a spirit of prayer that must not be confined to a set place and time. There is never a bad time or place to pray.

According to **Daniel 6:10**, how many times in a day did Daniel pray on his knees?

_____ ³⁹.

During what part of the day did David pray in **Psalms 5:3**? _____ ⁴⁰.

During what part of the day did the psalmist pray in **Psalms 55:17**? _____ ⁴¹.

According to **Mark 1:35**, Jesus Christ prayed in the morning, rising before

_____ ⁴².

Did the apostles observe set times of prayer according to **Acts 3:1**? _____ ⁴³.

Review Questions:

Did all believers in the first century church pray? YES / NO

Why should we pray? (page 103)

Because we have been A_____.

Because we have A_____.

Because we need A_____.

What does it mean to you that you have access to God through Christ?

What does the word “hallowed” mean?

To whom do we pray to? _____

Through whom do we pray? _____

In whom should we pray? _____

What should our praying contain?

A_____

S_____

S_____

C_____

A_____

What things in our lives can keep our prayers from being heard or answered?

Should a Christian ever pray in public? _____

Should a Christian develop a habitual time for prayer? _____

Answer Key:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Pray in the same way, after the same pattern | 22. Forgiveness |
| 2. Always | 23. Declare |
| 3. Continue | 24. Confess |
| 4. Ceasing | 25. Thanksgiving |
| 5. Access | 26. Thanksgiving |
| 6. Throne | 27. Iniquity |
| 7. Joy | 28. Forgive |
| 8. Hears | 29. Lust |
| 9. Is | 30. Hindered |
| 10. Father | 31. Abomination |
| 11. Father | 32. Heaven |
| 12. God | 33. Prayer |
| 13. Jesus Christ | 34. Standing |
| 14. My | 35. Kneeling |
| 15. The Name of Jesus | 36. Sitting |
| 16. Spirit | 37. Falling |
| 17. Holy Ghost | 38. Face |
| 18. Name | 39. Three times |
| 19. Glorified | 40. Morning |
| 20. Yes | 41. Evening, Morning, and Noon |
| 21. Requests | 42. Sunrise |
| | 43. Yes |

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

LESSON 10

Begin lesson by reading the following Scriptures – **Matthew 29:18-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 13:1-2.**

The work of the local church has been summarized as the **Great Commission**. The words “*Great Commission*” are not found in the Bible, but we use the expression to summarize the command of Christ to the local church. This command is mentioned five times in the New Testament in the following passages: **Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:44-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8.**

It is important for every believer to have a biblical understanding of what the local church is to be doing in the world. We have already established in **lesson 4**, that every believer is to join himself/herself to a local New Testament church.

What is our purpose for existing? (Example from First State Baptist Church)

Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and the advancement of the Christian faith, to propagate the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ into our local community, and the uttermost parts of the world, First State Baptist Church of Wilmington, DE was formed in the fourth month, on the second day in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen. We exist first to bring glory to God, to exalt His word, to equip His children for the work of the ministry, and to reach the lost with the blessed hope, “the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.”

The work of the local church is clearly laid out in Scripture. To find a substitute for the work of God is to disobey God.

The Purpose of the Local Church

The purpose of the local church is **to bring glory to God**, and that is primarily accomplished by making God’s redemption known.

Revelation 4:9-11, *“And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”*

As concerning the work of the church, we must always keep at the forefront the glory of God. The foundation of the work of the local church must always remain the glory of God.

God's Regard for Mankind

Jesus Christ constantly related Himself, His message, and His mission to the Old Testament.

"Jesus Christ did not contradict or destroy but modified, enriched, expanded, and in many ways transformed and glorified the Old Testament." – A Biblical Theology of Missions by George Peters

The book of Genesis shows us a God who is sincerely interested in His creation, especially in man. The entire Old Testament refutes the deist concept of a god who created the world, established its laws, set it going, then detached himself from his creation and the affairs of men.

Our God expressed His concern for mankind throughout Scripture not just in **John 3:16**. God purposed to reconcile man to Himself beginning in **Genesis 3**.

According to **Genesis 3:8-9**, Who called out? Who was seeking? _____¹.

God sought Adam first when the latter broke His commandment and hid himself. God's mission is to reconcile sinful man to Himself.

God gave mankind the promise of a Redeemer in **Genesis 3:15**,

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

We learn several truths contained in this promise:

First, Salvation is God-wrought

"And I will..."

God is the source of redemption; He is the originator, the initiator, the procurer.

According to **Acts 2:21-23**, Jesus Christ was delivered by the _____² counsel and foreknowledge of God.

Second, Salvation will destroy the work of Satan

"...it shall bruise thy head..."

God promised to bruise the head of the serpent. The acts of God would be a death blow upon Satan and Satan's work.

According to **Colossians 2:13-15**, Jesus Christ triumphed over P _____³
and P _____⁴.

Third, Salvation will affect mankind

"...I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed;"

The seed of the woman indicates that the impact of redemption would be procured for all mankind.

In **Hebrews 2:9**, we read that Jesus by the grace of God tasted death for _____⁵ man.

Fourth, Salvation will come through one mediator

"...between thy seed and her seed;"

Redemption is to be brought about through the seed of the woman. Isaiah 7:14 later prophesies that this seed would come through a virgin.

1 Timothy 2:5 declares that there is _____⁶ mediator between God and men. This mediator is _____⁷.

Who is the seed specifically referring to in the Old Testament in **Galatians 3:16**? _____⁸.

Fifth, Salvation is procured through the suffering of the Redeemer

"...thou shalt bruise his heel."

Redemption would come at a price. This redemption would not be achieved without suffering.

In **1 Peter 3:18**, we see that Christ suffered once for sins that He might bring us to _____⁹.

God's Representatives among Mankind

The Old Testament Representatives

Beginning with Abraham, God raised up a people to be His representatives on earth. Their purpose was to shew the glory of God by proclaiming His Holy Name.

In Abraham according to **Genesis 12:3**, all families of the earth would be _____¹⁰.

According to **Exodus 19:5-6**, The nation of Israel was to be a kingdom of _____¹¹.

In **Psalms 22:27** we see that all the ends of the world shall remember and _____¹² unto the Lord.

Read **Isaiah 45:22**. Who was to look unto God, and be saved? _____¹³.

The New Testament Representatives

According to **Mark 16:15**, the gospel is to be preached to _____¹⁴ creature.

Romans 1:5-6 teaches us that every believer has been called for obedience among all _____¹⁵.

Read **Galatians 3:8**. Who should be justified through faith? _____¹⁶.

In **1 Peter 2:9**, believers are to shew forth the _____¹⁷ of God.

The Plan for the Local Church

The local church is not to reinvent a plan for world evangelism when it has been clearly stated in the Word of God. The church does not need new tricks, it needs a revival back to the Bible!

There were forty days between the resurrection of Christ and His ascension. During those forty days, **Christ repeated the Great Commission five times**. We learn some important truths within those five references:

The Local Church's Master - Who?

In **John 20:21** we see that the church is sent by the authority of the _____¹⁸.

The mission of the local church does not begin with the need of man. The Great Commission begins with the heart of God. It all begins with God. The believer has been given authority to go, and this authority comes from God Himself.

“There is nothing in the world or the church – except the church’s disobedience – to render the evangelization of the world in this generation an impossibility.” – Robert Speer

The Local Church’s Message - What?

According to Luke 22:46-48, repentance and remission of sins should be preached among _____¹⁹ nations.

The message of the local church is two-fold as mentioned in these verses:

First, We are to preach R _____²⁰. This is a plea with the sinner to change his mind about his sinful condition. This is the declaration that man is a sinner.

Second, We are to preach R _____²¹ of sin. Remission is the act of being pardoned from sin, to receive forgiveness from sin. This is the declaration that Christ offers forgiveness to the sinner.

The Local Church’s Method - How?

Read Matthew 28:18-20.

First, We Accomplish the work by **Obeying** the Command.

The local church must _____²².
Verse 19, “Go ye therefore...”

Second, We Accomplish the work by **Disciple-Making**.

The local church must T _____^(disciple)²³ and B _____²⁴.
Verse 19, “...teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...”

Third, We Accomplish the work by **Teaching** all Things.

The local church must T _____²⁵ them to observe all things commanded of Christ.

Verse 20, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..."

Fourth, We Accomplish the work by **Depending** on the Lord.

We must go in the P _____²⁶ of Christ. Christ promise that He would be with us _____²⁷, even unto the end.

Verse 18, 20, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth...and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

The Local Church's Magnitude - Why?

Read Mark 16:15-16.

He that **believeth** the gospel shall be _____²⁸.

He that **believeth NOT** the gospel shall be _____²⁹.

The mission of the local church is of great magnitude because of the eternal destiny of the souls of men.

The Local Church's Map – Where?

The saints of the first church in Jerusalem were to be W _____³⁰.

Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

We realize through this verse that the mission of the local church shall not stop until all have heard the gospel and come to a saving knowledge of Christ. Please note that this command is to be carried out simultaneously in Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth.

Every local church has its Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth.

"Any church that is not seriously involved in helping fulfill the Great Commission has forfeited its biblical right to exist." – Oswald J. Smith

The People of the Local Church

The Great Commission has been given to the local New Testament church. We also understand that born-again believers make up the local church. It is therefore incumbent upon individual believers to take the work of God seriously.

According to **Philippians 1:27**, believers are to be striving _____³¹ for the faith of the gospel.

The believer within each local church must take God's work seriously. The gospel of Christ must remain the priority of every believer.

"The reason some folks don't believe in missions is that the brand of religion they have isn't worth propagating." – **Unknown**

We Must Be a Surrendered People

The people of the local church must be willing to be used for the glory of God.

In **Romans 12:1-2**, the Bible teaches that the believer is to present his _____³² a living sacrifice.

Read **Isaiah 6:8**. What was Isaiah's response to God's plea? _____³³.

"God isn't looking for people of great faith, but for individuals ready to follow Him." – **Hudson Taylor**

We Must Be a Serving People

In **Acts 13:1-2**, What were Barnabas and Saul doing before they were called?
_____³⁴.

According to **1 Corinthians 4:1-2**, What is the one requirement of stewards?
_____³⁵.

"If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?" – **David Livingstone**

We Must Be a Supplicating People

In **Acts 12:4** we find believers praying for Peter _____³⁶ ceasing.

According to **Acts 13:3-4**, What did the church do before sending out Barnabas and Saul? They _____³⁷ and _____³⁸.

“Prayer is the mighty engine that is to move the missionary work.” – A.B. Simpson

We Must Be a Sacrificial People

In **Philippians 4:13-16** we see the church at Philippi commended because they took care of Paul’s _____³⁹.

According to **2 Corinthians 8:1-4**, the churches of Macedonia were giving despite their deep _____⁴⁰.

“God’s work done God’s way will never lack God’s supply.” Hudson Taylor

We Must Be a Separated People

In **1 Peter 2:11-12** we are taught that God cannot be glorified unless we abstain from fleshly _____⁴¹.

According to **1 Peter 1:14-16**, believers are called to be _____⁴².

“If missions languish, it is because the whole of life of godliness is feeble. The command to go everywhere and preach to everybody is not obeyed until the will is lost by self-surrender in the will of God. Living, praying, giving and going will always be found together.” – Samuel Zwemer

Review Questions:

How many times was the Great Commission mentioned during the forty days after the resurrection of Christ? _____.

What is the purpose for the existence of a local church?

Fill in the blank: The foundation for the _____ of the local church must always remain the _____ of God.

How is God's regard for man displayed in Genesis 3?

Who were God's representatives in the Old Testament? _____

Who are God's representatives in the New Testament? _____

By what authority do we proclaim the gospel message? _____

What is the two-fold message of the local church according to Luke 22:46-48?

What is to be the church's method to accomplish the work of God according to Matthew 28?

The church is to O _____

The church is to M _____ D _____

The church is to T _____ all things

The church is to D _____ on the Lord.

How can believers in the local church be involved in God's work?

They must be S _____

They must be S _____

They must be S _____

They must be S _____

They must be S _____

Answer Key:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. God | 22. Go |
| 2. Determinate | 23. Teach |
| 3. Principalities | 24. Baptize |
| 4. Powers | 25. Teach |
| 5. Every | 26. Power |
| 6. One | 27. Always |
| 7. Christ Jesus | 28. Saved |
| 8. Christ | 29. Damned |
| 9. God | 30. Witnesses |
| 10. Blessed | 31. Together |
| 11. Priests | 32. Body |
| 12. Turn | 33. Here am I, send me |
| 13. All the earth | 34. Ministering unto the Lord |
| 14. All | 35. Faithfulness |
| 15. Nations | 36. Without |
| 16. All nations | 37. Fasted |
| 17. Praise | 38. Prayed |
| 18. Father | 39. Needs |
| 19. All | 40. Poverty |
| 20. Repentance | 41. Lusts |
| 21. Remission | 42. Holy |

THE LORD'S SUPPER

LESSON 11

Begin lesson by reading the following Scriptures – **1 Corinthians 10:15-16; Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

There are two local church ordinances found in the Word of God: baptism, and the Lord's Supper.

What makes these two practices local church ordinances? There are four criteria that help us identify church ordinances:

First, it must be commanded by Christ.

Second, it must be practiced in the book of Acts.

Third, further instruction is given in the Epistles.

Fourth, it must communicate the Gospel message.

When using those criteria, we have two ordinances that qualify: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism guards the church from influence of the world while the Lord's Supper keeps the church pure from within.

Historical Conflict on the Lord's Supper

Queen Mary, a staunch Catholic, ascended the English throne following the death of King Edward VI and ruled from 1553 to 1558. During her five-year reign, she burned at the stake about 300 Christians and exiled 800 more earning the epithet "Bloody Mary." She married Philip II of Spain in order to secure England for the Pope. One of the false doctrines for which many Bible believers were martyred under Queen Mary was "transubstantiation."

Transubstantiation asserts that the bread and the fruit of the vine are transformed into the literal body and blood of Jesus Christ upon consecration by the priest.

The following study is important to help us understand the Biblical meaning of the Lord's Supper which many churches have corrupted.

Understanding the Lord's Supper

It is important to know and use the language of the Bible when it comes to the Lord's Supper and shun terms which corrupt its true meaning.

It is Named

There are words used today associated with the Lord's Supper that are unbiblical in name and practice:

Unbiblical words and practices:

It is called by some the Eucharist, Holy Communion, or the Mass, which defiles the biblical ordinance. For example, the "Mass" means "*dismissal*," signifying that once a person has partaken of the Mass, his sins are dismissed and he is free to live in the world.

There are four Bible names ascribed to the Lord's Supper:

It is called C_____ ¹.

1 Corinthians 10:16, "*The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?*"

It is called the L_____ ² T_____ ³.

1 Corinthians 10:21, "*Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.*"

It is called the L_____ ⁴ S_____ ⁵.

1 Corinthians 11:20, "*When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.*"

It is called the Breaking of B_____ ⁶.

1 Corinthians 10:16, "*The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?*"

Acts 20:7, "*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.*"

It is Defined

The Lord's Supper is a memorial, a way to remember our Lord's blood that was shed for our sins and His body that was broken. It is also a way in which the believer can show the Lord's death until He comes.

According to **1 Corinthians 11:24-25**, It is to be done in R_____ ⁷ of Christ. The word "*remembrance*" tells us that it is a **memorial** and NOT a means of grace.

In **1 Corinthians 11:26**, It does S_____ ⁸ the Lord's death. The word "shew" tells us that it is **symbol** and NOT a sacrament.

It is Commanded

Read **1 Corinthians 11:24-25**. Twice our Lord said T_____ ⁹ D_____ ¹⁰. Is observance of the Lord's Supper a command or a choice? _____ ¹¹.

According to **1 Corinthians 11:2**, we are commanded to keep the _____ ¹² that have been delivered.

According to **1 Corinthians 11:23**, who delivered those ordinances? _____ ¹³.

Communicating the Lord's Supper

It is important to understand the meaning of the Lord's Supper. There are many differing ideas concerning this subject.

The Elements for the Lord's Supper

There are two elements that are to be part of the Lord's Supper:

The First is Unleavened Bread

1 Corinthians 11:23; Matthew 26:17, 26

1 Corinthians 11:24 teaches us that the bread represents the B_____ ¹⁴ which is B_____ ¹⁵ for you.

This reminds us of the suffering of Christ on the cross of Calvary. (**Isaiah 52:14; 53:4-7; Matthew 27:29-31; John 19:31-37**)

The Second is Fruit of the Vine

Matthew 26:29; 1 Corinthians 11:25, 26

According to **1 Corinthians 11:25**, the cup represents the B_____ ¹⁶ that was shed for our sins.

Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin as explained in **Hebrews 9:22** and **1 Peter 1:18, 19**.

Important Note: Nowhere does the Bible refer to “wine” in connection with the Lord’s Supper. Alcoholic (fermented) wine is a result of the action of yeast (leaven). In the Bible, leaven is a symbol of sin as seen in 1 Corinthians 5:6, 7. Therefore, alcoholic wine and leavened bread would be invalid symbols of the spotless Son of God.

The Erroneous teaching of the Lord’s Supper

The Error of Transubstantiation

The word “*Trans*” speaks of a “transformation” taking place. The Roman Catholic Church accepted this idea in 1215 AD. When the priest holds up the bread and the cup, he prays, and then the elements are literally transformed into the physical body and blood of Jesus Christ. You may not see the difference, but it happened right before your eyes.

According to their website *catholic.com*, **Transubstantiation for Beginners**,

“In the previous chapter the apostle wrote, “The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is communion with the body of Christ.” His words are clear. The only possible meaning is that the bread and wine at the consecration become Christ’s actual body and blood. Evidently Paul believed that the words Christ had said at the Last Supper, “This is my Body,” meant that really and physically the bread is his body.”

Paragraph 1376 of the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** states,

“The council of Trent summarizes the Catholic faith by declaring: ‘Because Christ our Redeemer said that it was truly his body that he was offering under the pieces of bread, it has always been the conviction of the Church of God, and this holy Council now declares it again, that by the consecration of the bread and wine there take place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of the blood. This change the holy Catholic Church has fittingly and properly called transubstantiation.’”

The Error of Consubstantiation

Consubstantiation is practiced by the Lutherans and the Anglicans. The prefix “*Con*” means “*with*.” Meaning that the elements are not transformed, but the literal physical presence of Christ is in them. They believe there is saving grace found in taking the Lord’s Supper.

The Error of Covenant Seal

This belief is held by most Presbyterians. This view states that Christ's presence in the bread is not physical but mystical.

Christians, by partaking the Lord's Supper, "receive and apply all the benefits of His blessed death and passion to their souls"; they "(feed) upon Christ by faith for the strengthening of the graces of God's Spirit in (the) soul." (reformation21.org)

The Expression of the Lord's Supper

Luke 22:19 teaches us to do it in _____¹⁷ of Christ.

According to 1 Corinthians 11:26, we do it to _____¹⁸ the Lord's death till he come.

Practicing the Lord's Supper

It is important that our practice be biblical. We consider the following Bible truths to give a practical understanding of this local church Ordinance.

The People Who Participate

The people who are allowed to participate is clearly laid out in Scripture:

Acts 2:41-42, *"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostle's doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."*

First, Salvation – *"...they that gladly received his word..."*

A person must receive the gospel of Christ, be born again, and quickened by the Spirit of God.

Second, Baptism – *"...were baptized..."*

A believer must be Scripturally baptized by immersion upon their profession of faith in Christ under the authority of a local church practicing Biblical doctrine.

Third, Church Membership – *"...there were added unto them..."*

The baptized believer must voluntarily join himself to the membership of a local church. It is God's will for every believer to be part of a local church.

Fourth, Doctrinal Agreement – “...they continued stedfastly in...doctrine...”

The individual must agree with the doctrine of the church, and especially the doctrine of the Lord's Supper. If someone believes that the Lord's Supper imparts some form of grace, then he must not participate.

Fifth, Lord's Supper – “...and in breaking of bread.”

After fulfilling these biblical requirements, an individual can participate in the Lord's Supper. The Bible order is of utmost importance.

In the church at Corinth, it was clear that those who were partaking in the Lord's Supper were members of that local church.

In **1 Corinthians 11:17**, he referred to the time when the local church was come _____¹⁹.

In **1 Corinthians 11:18**, he referred to the time when they come _____²⁰ in the _____²¹.

The Pattern Of Participation

Where are we to partake?

The local church observed it when they came together into _____²² place.

1 Corinthians 11:20, “When ye come together therefore into one place...”

Believers are to observe the Lord's Supper during the habitual gathering of the local church.

When are we to partake?

The Bible does not tell the local churches of a certain number of times to observe the Lord's Supper.

1 Corinthians 11:26 simply tells us “as _____²³ as”. The Bible tells us we are to do it _____²⁴ He comes.

Each local church is individually accountable for the observance of the Lord's Supper. It must never become ritualistic by being practiced too often, and it must never become too rare that we forget our blessed Saviour.

Why are we to partake?

We Are Remembering Christ

According to **1 Corinthians 11:24**, the church is to do it in _____²⁵
of Christ.

Luke 22:19, "And he took, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

We Are Declaring Communion

According to **1 Corinthians 10:16**, the cup is the _____²⁶
of the blood of Christ. The word "*communion*" means "*to be in fellowship with, to be in agreement.*" When we partake on the communion we are declaring that we are in fellowship with Christ. (Nothing between my soul and the Saviour)

How are we to partake?

According to **1 Corinthians 11:27-29**, the individual believer is to _____²⁷
himself. Eating "*unworthily*" means "in an unworthy manner" as the context shows (verse 29).

The word "*damnation*" means "severe judgment," which includes physical death according to **verse 30**.

Our regular participation in communion is an opportunity to examine ourselves, and to restore our fellowship with Christ which has been harmed by our sinfulness.

Review Questions:

What are local church Ordinances to communicate?

What are the two local church Ordinances?

Name the four expressions used in Scripture in reference to the Lord's Supper:

The word "*remembrance*" means that the Lord's Supper is a M_____.

The word "*shew*" means that the Lord's Supper is a S_____.

What are the two elements used for the Lord's Supper?

What does the fruit of the vine represent?

What does the bread represent?

Why must the two elements be unleavened?

What is the Scriptural order for a proper participant?

First, _____

Second, _____

Third, _____

Fourth, _____

Fifth, _____

How is the believer to partake of the Lord's Supper?

Answer Key:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Communion | 15. Broken |
| 2. Lord's | 16. Blood |
| 3. Table | 17. Remembrance |
| 4. Lord's | 18. Shew |
| 5. Supper | 19. Together |
| 6. Bread | 20. Together |
| 7. Remembrance | 21. Church |
| 8. Shew | 22. One |
| 9. This | 23. Often |
| 10. Do | 24. Till |
| 11. Command | 25. Remembrance |
| 12. Ordinances | 26. Communion |
| 13. Christ | 27. Examine |
| 14. Body | |

LIFE & GODLINESS

LESSON 12

Begin lesson by reading the following Scripture – **Romans 6:11-13; 2 Peter 1:3-4; Galatians 5:1.**

The Christian is to be yielded as an instrument of righteousness unto God. The Christian must be deeply concerned about glorifying God with his life.

Read **2 Peter 1:1-4** and answer the following questions:

What has the believer escaped? _____¹

What has the believer been given?

_____²

By whose power have these things been given? _____³

The believer must be careful not to become entangled again with the yoke of bondage. The word “*entangled*” means to be “*held in, ensnared in.*” The word “*bondage*” is a reference to one who is a slave. The believer must not become ensnared again as a slave to sin.

According to **Romans 6:20**, before salvation we were the servants of _____⁴.

Romans 6:22 teaches us that believers who have been made free from sin are become the _____⁵ to God.

In this lesson we concern ourselves with life and godliness. The Christian is to live victoriously in Jesus Christ. There are too many defeated Christians who are missing a wonderful opportunity to live an abundant life.

Victory is not found in the absence of trouble; it is found in the presence of Jesus Christ.

We Must Identify the Enemy

There are three enemies that oppose Christian living and godliness. Each one of the enemies will rob the believer of the joy of the Lord.

Let's Identify the Three Enemies:

- First, the World.
- Second, the Flesh.
- Third, the Devil.

Enemy One – The World

What is the world?

The word “world” speaks of the “world system” which is organized on selfish principles, improper motives, ungodly standards, and is opposed to the things of God.

According to **John 18:36**, Jesus said that His kingdom was not of this _____⁶.

Read **John 15:18**. What is the world's sentiment toward Christ? _____⁷. Whom does the world love? _____⁸.

According to **John 15:19**, Why does the world hate the Christian?
_____⁹.

James 4:4 teaches us that friendship with the world means _____¹⁰ with God.

How does the world oppose the believer?

The world has a strong influence upon our lives. The world entices the Christian away from God. Read **1 John 2:15-17**.

According to **verse 16**, what does the world use to influence the believer?

The lust of the _____¹¹.

The lust of the _____¹².

The _____¹³ of life.

According to **2 Timothy 4:10**, Why did Demas forsake Paul? Because he
_____¹⁴ this present world.

Enemy Two – The Flesh

What is the flesh?

When Bible speaks of the “flesh,” we are referring to the sin nature. Another expression used in Scripture is the “old man,” the corrupt Adamic nature within every man. This flesh only produces wickedness. We must come to an understanding that our flesh is incapable of producing righteousness.

Romans 6:19 teaches us that yielding to the flesh produces _____¹⁵ and _____¹⁶.

Read Romans 7:18. Does anything good come from the flesh (sinful nature)? _____¹⁷.

How does the flesh oppose the believer?

Read James 4:1. What causes the war in our members? _____¹⁸.

According to Galatians 5:16-17, What is contrary the one to the other? _____¹⁹.

The Spirit and the flesh are in constant conflict. The lustful nature is always seeking immediate satisfaction, while the Spirit is seeking lasting satisfaction.

Romans 7:23 teaches us that the law of sin is in our _____²⁰.

Enemy Three – The Devil

Who is the devil?

The devil has several names ascribed to him in the Word of God. He is called:

- Satan
- The Tempter
- The Accuser of the Brethren
- The Prince of this World
- The Father of Lies
- The Wicked One
- The Serpent
- The Dragon
- Lucifer

Read 1 Peter 5:8. To the believer, the devil is called the _____²¹. The devil is actively working to oppose God and His work. He is a relentless adversary!

How does the devil oppose the believer?

According to 1 Thessalonians 3:5, The devil will T _____²² the believer. The devil will often use the world to entice the believer.

Ephesians 6:11 teaches us that the devil uses W _____²³ against the believer. The word “wiles” speaks of “crafty deception.”

In **Ephesians 6:16** we see that the devil uses F _____²⁴ D _____²⁵ against the believer.

According to **1 Timothy 3:6**, the devil uses P _____²⁶ against church leadership.

Now that we have identified these three enemies, we can move on to consider how we are able to have the victory over them.

We Must Claim the Victory

The believer can live in victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil. If we ignore the enemies, then surely, we have already been defeated.

Victory Over the World

According to **John 16:33**, Jesus Christ has already _____²⁷ the world.

In **John 5:5** we find that the believer has already overcome the world by _____²⁸ that Jesus is the Son of God.

Victory Over the World by an Unwavering Faith

Read **1 John 5:4**. What gives the believer victory over the world? _____²⁹.

Faith is a powerful weapon in the Christian soldier’s arsenal. The Bible declares that “*faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*” The believer is to live by faith in his daily walk with the Word of God.

Read **1 John 2:17**. What passes away? _____³⁰.

Victory Over the World by an Undivided Affection

Colossians 3:1-2 teaches us that the believer must set his affection on things _____³¹.

According to **Matthew 6:24**, we can only serve one _____³².

Jesus Christ told His disciples to seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness. The things of the world can often distract the believer into placing his affection on temporal things.

Matthew 6:21, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Victory Over the World by an Uncorrupted Mind

Read **Philippians 4:8**. List the eight things given that should be the focus of the believer’s mind:

_____ 33	_____ 34	_____ 35
_____ 36	_____ 37	_____ 38
_____ 39	_____ 40	

Victory Over the Flesh

The position of the believer in Christ is clear in Scripture: he has been crucified with Christ, that the body of sin might be destroyed. Read **Galatians 2:20**.

According to **Galatians 5:24**, the believer in Christ has crucified the flesh with the _____⁴¹ and _____⁴².

Romans 6:6 teaches us that Christ crucified the old man that the believer should no longer serve _____⁴³.

Victory Over the Flesh by a Spirit-Filled Life

In **Galatians 5:16** we see that the believer will not fulfil the lust of the flesh by _____⁴⁴ in the Spirit.

According to **Romans 13:14**, the believer is to _____⁴⁵ on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Victory Over the Flesh by Refusal to Indulge in Lusts

1 Peter 2:11 teaches us that the believer is to _____⁴⁶ from fleshly lusts.

Victory Over the Devil

What the believer has in Christ is more powerful than what the world has in the devil. Consider **1 John 4:4**.

According to **1 John 3:8**, Christ came that He might _____⁴⁷ the works of the devil.

Victory Over the Devil by the Strength of God

According to **Ephesians 6:13**, we are to put on the W _____⁴⁸
A _____⁴⁹ of _____⁵⁰. The believer cannot stand against the devil in his own strength, he must do it in the power of God.

Victory Over the Devil by Submission to God

James 4:7 teaches us that we are both to S _____⁵¹ to God, and R _____⁵² the devil. Our submission to God and resistance to the devil are inseparable. If we do not submit to God, then we become unable to resist the devil.

Victory Over the Devil by being Steadfast in the Faith

Read **1 Peter 5:8**. The believer can resist the devil by being steadfast in the _____⁵³.

According to **Ephesians 4:26-27**, the believer is to be careful not to give any _____⁵⁴ to the devil.

Review Questions:

According to **2 Peter 1:1-4**, what has the believer been given?

What are the three enemies of Christian living and godliness?

What are the three areas the world uses to influence the believer?

Why did Demas forsake Paul? _____

What is the flesh according to the Bible? It is also called the “old man.”

What does the flesh produce according to **Romans 6:19**?

Who is the believer’s great adversary? _____

According to **1 John 5:4**, what is it that overcomes the world? _____

What stands in opposition to the lust of the flesh according to **Galatians 5:16**?

What must the believer put on in order to withstand against the devil?

How can the believer properly resist the devil? _____

Am I currently living in victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil?

Answer Key:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. The corruption that is in the world. | 27. Overcome. |
| 2. All things that pertain unto life and godliness. Exceeding great and precious promises. | 28. Believing. |
| 3. God and Jesus Christ. | 29. Our faith. |
| 4. Sin. | 30. The world and its lust. |
| 5. Servants. | 31. Above. |
| 6. World. | 32. Master. |
| 7. Hatred. | 33. True. |
| 8. His own. | 34. Honest |
| 9. Because believers are not of the world. | 35. Just. |
| 10. Enmity. | 36. Pure. |
| 11. Flesh. | 37. Lovely. |
| 12. Eyes. | 38. Good report. |
| 13. Pride. | 39. Virtue. |
| 14. Loved. | 40. Praise. |
| 15. Uncleaness. | 41. Affections. |
| 16. Iniquity. | 42. Lusts. |
| 17. No goo thing. | 43. Sin. |
| 18. Our lusts. | 44. Walking. |
| 19. The flesh and the Spirit. | 45. Put. |
| 20. Members. | 46. Abstain. |
| 21. Adversary. | 47. Destroy. |
| 22. Tempt. | 48. Whole. |
| 23. Wiles. | 49. Armour. |
| 24. Fiery. | 50. God. |
| 25. Darts. | 51. Submit. |
| 26. Pride. | 52. Resist. |
| | 53. Faith. |
| | 54. Place. |