

*A practical guide for the church member  
to promote fellowship, instruction and  
participation in the body of Christ*

**THE HERITAGE BIBLE  
CHURCH  
MEMBER'S  
MANUAL**

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## INTRODUCTION

*The Church Member's Manual* is a manual of important Bible teachings that every Christian should have firmly established in his or her heart. It does not cover everything, but it does cover the basics, the foundations for everything. The truths contained in it are the truths that have guided my life through the years.

I have deliberately titled it *The Church Member's Manual*. I have a strong conviction about Church membership. I believe every Christian should function as a member of a local church body. I am not speaking of a denomination. I mean a local assembly, a local, independent functioning body of Jesus Christ that meets together, evangelizes the lost, baptizes the saved, cares for one another, and takes seriously Jesus' words to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth.

The church is the body of Christ. We are members one of another. This is a *Manual* for Church Members and new believers who take seriously Jesus' Words that we belong to Him and one another.

I filled the *Manual* with Scripture quotations on each subject discussed. The answer of the Bible to a need is THE ANSWER. I have tried to guide you to find the answer to all your needs in Jesus as revealed in the Bible. Since it is basically an outline of Scriptures on basic subjects, you will return to the *Manual* over the years to find help.

I believe the Bible is totally without error in the original writings. I believe every word is inspired. I believe also we have faithful copies today, and that you can trust the total accuracy of the Holy Bible. Read it to be wise. Believe it to be saved. Practice it to be holy.

**(SPECIAL NOTE: The following *Statement of Faith* is my own version for my own church and training. If you wish to use this *Statement of Faith* for your own training, you are hereby authorized to use it and to change the wording anywhere you wish to state something according to your own understanding different from mine. My purpose here is to teach certain teachings simply and pointedly, but not to make some rigid statement that is a test of someone's personal faith. The Bible is the only complete statement of faith, and everyone must be left free under the Holy Spirit and the Lordship of Christ to believe as he is enabled to believe. Thank you. GT)**

## A STATEMENT OF FAITH

The following is not a complete statement of faith, but will give you a clear statement on the major beliefs.

**GOD IN THREE PERSONS** – We believe in the triune God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, three distinct persons in one God.

**THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY is soul winning or witnessing** to everyone about Jesus the Lord. We do many things but the one thing we believe must be first is winning people to faith in Jesus Christ.

**THE SALVATION EXPERIENCE** - We believe that every person old enough to be accountable to God must know when and where he deliberately took Jesus as his Savior. We simply mean that he must remember a definite experience when he or she actually received Jesus.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT** - We believe that every person who genuinely receives Jesus as his Savior and Lord is born of the Holy Spirit in the same experience. We believe it is totally impossible to become a Christian without being born of the Holy Spirit.

Genuine believers need to be filled with the Holy Spirit or baptized in the Holy Spirit's power after salvation.

**THE LORD JESUS** - We believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, both God and Man merged in one Person, that He is the only Savior, and that we are saved by His life, death and resurrection.

**THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT** - We believe that the Holy Spirit gives the same gifts today as recorded in the New Covenant.

**HEALING** - We lay hands on and anoint the sick with oil and by faith lay hold of God's miraculous healing power.

**TONGUES** - We forbid not to speak in tongues. We emphasize the gift of prophecy according to the instruction of Paul. We regulate tongues according to his instructions.

**THE BIBLE** - We believe the Bible is the Word of God and that it is absolutely accurate in every detail.

**BAPTISM AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP** - WE believe that every person who receives Jesus as Lord should be baptized by immersion in water into the fellowship of a local body of believers, but this is not necessary to salvation. It is an open confession of faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and that we have taken Him to be our clothing before God.

**SALVATION** - We believe that each person is saved completely by grace through faith. Jesus accomplished our total salvation on the cross. Our good works are nothing but filthy rags as far as salvation is concerned. In a deliberate decision of faith we trust Him, and He saves us totally by His grace. We can claim no credit for our salvation.

**ETERNAL SALVATION** - We believe that each believer receives everlasting life, and can never be lost under any circumstances. We do not believe the Lord will lose you. We do not believe you can lose yourself. We believe a saved person cannot deny His Lord, neither can His Lord deny him.

**BAPTISM AFTER SALVATION** - We believe baptism is an outward clothing of righteousness, and must be done after you are actually born from above. If a church member realizes he has not actually been saved, and receives Jesus, he should then be baptized. His baptism while he was unsaved is invalid. Baptism can be genuine only after a true salvation experience. Baptism does not save a person, but is an act of obedience to the Lord Jesus.

**EVERY MEMBER** - We believe it is every Christian's business to win other people to Jesus. We believe that every new member should go to work to bring every possible person to Jesus Christ. Every member must give himself, his money, his time, his energy, his capabilities, and everything he has to promote the church's program to reach the lost for Christ.

**THE PASTOR** - We believe the pastor is the God called shepherd for our church. We believe he is God's prophet to give us God's Word. We believe he is God's man to lead our church in our all out program to reach people for Christ. We believe that as long as he is faithful to God's Word we are to give him our honest loyalty and enthusiastic support.

**THE ASSISTANT MINISTERS AND DEACONS** - The deacons are God's servants to assist the pastor.

**LOVE** - We believe the one outstanding characteristic of the pastor, the staff, the deacons, the workers, and all members is love. We are a "fellowship of love." We love God. We love one another. In spite of all our faults we love one another. By this all men shall know that we are Jesus' disciples - that we love one another.

**THE SEPARATED LIFE** - We believe that to follow Jesus means to forsake the ways of the ungodly world. Our lifestyle must be in harmony with our Lord's teachings. Our walk, our talk, our dress, our social life, our finances, our homes, our habits must not be questionable, but honor Jesus.

**AUTHORITY AND OBEDIENCE** - We believe that every person is to obey the human authority over him or her. Children are to obey parents. Wives to obey husbands. Employee to obey employer. Everyone to obey the government, and all of these are valid where they do not conflict with the Bible. Each believer is to obey the supervisor over him in the Lord's work. Church members are to obey the pastor in things pertaining to the church life. A believer is to disobey the human authority over him if his human authority is in direct conflict with Scripture, but he must always humbly respect the human authority regardless.

**MAN AND WOMAN** - We believe that men should be men and gentlemen, and women should be women and ladies. Children should be taught this from childhood. The man should be the leader, but the woman must be given her Christian freedom to follow the Holy Spirit and the privilege of showing initiative.

**THE LORD'S RETURN** - We believe in the Pre-millennial return of Christ - that is, that the true church will soon be raptured out, the world will be engulfed in the great tribulation, the Lord will return to reign on earth for 1,000 years, raise and judge the wicked at the great white throne, the wicked consigned to a burning hell forever, and the saved to reign in the new earth with the Lord forever.

LESSON 1

## WELCOME TO “A FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE”

God loves you. We love you. We believe that with God's help you will love us.

Christ loved us while we were yet sinners, Romans 5:8. Even after Christ has saved us from eternal condemnation we still have our shortcomings and failures. But in spite of our sins God still loves us and continues patiently to help us overcome our sins.

This is the kind of fellowship we have at our church, and we want you to help us make our church an even greater fellowship of love. We are not interested in criticizing you for your sins. We want to help you to overcome your sins and live for Jesus.

### YOUR DECISION

When you personally took Jesus Christ into your heart you did the most important and the most wonderful thing you have ever done.

We want to do everything we possibly can to help you to:  
Know that you are saved.  
Share the salvation of Christ with others.  
Grow and enjoy the abundant life in Christ.

To help you do this we request you to do the following things in becoming a member of the church:

- (1) Write an account of your salvation experience.
- (2) Find someone else and begin to courteously witness to him or her about Christ.
- (3) Give a short testimony of your salvation experience at baptism.
- (4) Attend the eight-week *Church Member's Manual*.

In *The Church Member's Manual* you will be introduced to every phase of our church life, as well as the Bible, prayer, and how to win others to Christ.

## MY SALVATION TESTIMONY

(Write out your salvation experience: What happened that the Holy Spirit used to bring you under conviction that you were a sinner and needed to be saved, when and where you were when you had your salvation experience, who led you to the Lord, what went through your mind, and how you came to personally trust Jesus as your Savior. Just tell your own personal story. Use the space below.)

## REQUIREMENTS FOR BAPTISM

You must know when and where you actually accepted Christ into your heart to save you.

The New Covenant requires “believer’s baptism” that is, that you have already genuinely believed into Christ in your heart before you are baptized. To “believe” into Christ means more than just believing with the mind that Jesus Christ is the Savior. “Believe” in the Bible means that you believe Him enough that you actually give Him your soul and life in a definite decision and experience.

**You must have done these three things in that experience:**

**(1) You must UNDERSTAND WITH YOUR MIND that you are a sinner and that Jesus Christ died and rose again to save you.**

**(2) You must DESIRE WITH YOUR FEELINGS to be saved from your sin more than you desire anything.**

**(3) You must DECIDE WITH YOUR WILL, saying, I WILL GIVE MYSELF TO JESUS CHRIST.**

If you have done these three things as sincerely as you know how, then according to God’s Word you have had a salvation experience, Romans 10:9. Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit you have confessed Jesus as Lord, and have believed in your heart that God raised Him from the dead. This is the kind of experience that qualifies you for baptism.

To insure that you have actually had this definite experience of salvation we insist on the following procedure:

### **1. WRITE YOUR SALVATION EXPERIENCE**

- In clear enough language that we are assured that you do understand what it actually means to be saved by Jesus Christ.

We ask you to do this to help you know for sure that you have eternal life in your heart. There is nothing more haunting and devastating than doubt. We do not want you to be plagued with doubt. We want you to know that you are saved, and the Bible teaches that you can and should know.

Using the testimony sheet write an account of your salvation experience immediately, and bring it with you to the pastor. If you are unable to write your salvation experience because of a physical or educational handicap someone will help you.

## **2. BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO PRAYERFULLY TRY TO WIN SOMEONE ELSE TO CHRIST.**

One of your very first holy desires after you are saved is that you wish everybody in the world would be saved also. This is a God given proof that you are genuinely saved.

If you cultivate this wonderful desire immediately you will become a soul winner for Jesus. If you neglect it, it will die, and you will never know the thrilling joys a Christian should know of sharing Christ with others. You may want to wait until you have a lot of training. Don't do it. Your desire will die. All Jesus asks you to do is give witness to what He has done for you. Now is the time to tell it to someone, while the experience is new in your heart.

This very moment before you do anything else, before you finish reading these instructions, write the name of a lost friend on the testimony sheet, and ask God to save him or her, right now!

Helping win someone else to Jesus is one of the greatest ways of growing in assurance and stability. Each time you win or help win someone you re-live your own salvation experience. Each time it happens you understand better what Christ has done for you. Every time you see another person saved you become more firm and powerful in your own assurance.

I have noticed that quite often the ones who have just been saved are the ones who bring others to Christ. Their lost friends often will come with them to see them baptized and they get saved too. Sometimes they get saved, and are baptized with you. Bring every friend you can.

Be sure to bring the written account of your salvation experience. Also, bring your Bible and these instruction sheets with you to class.

If because of work schedule or any other legitimate reason you cannot attend the classes, please let your pastor know promptly.

### **3. GIVE YOUR TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CHURCH WHEN YOU ENTER THE WATER TO BE BAPTIZED.**

We have found this to be one of the most rewarding practices we have ever initiated. Those being baptized experience a glorious thrill at being able to express in testimony their salvation experience and their love for Jesus at such a meaningful moment. And our church people really appreciate the testimonies, for we feel that if a person can testify to a definite experience with Christ it is a strong indication that those being baptized have actually been saved.

Your testimony from the baptistery will of necessity have to be short and to the point. Simply give a few short statements covering these three points:

- (1) How you came to feel your need to take Jesus.
- (2) How you actually made the decision to take Christ.
- (3) What Christ means to you now.

You will discover that those few words of testimony you give at that wonderful moment of baptism will become more precious in your memory as the years go by.

Be sure and invite friends and relatives to your baptism. This is a great way to introduce unsaved family and friends to the Gospel.

### **4. ATTEND THE CHURCH MEMBER'S MANUAL.**

You may begin this course at any class session. Each lesson is complete within itself so that you can begin at any lesson and continue until you complete all eight lessons.

***GOD BLESS YOU AS YOU CARRY WITH YOU THIS "FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE" EVERYWHERE YOU GO. LET OTHERS KNOW WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT.***

Your pastor,

## WHAT YOU SHOULD BEGIN TO DO IMMEDIATELY

### Acts 2: 41-47?

In Acts 2 is recorded the first great ingathering of members into the Christian church. Following their example here are things you should begin to do immediately:

1. Be baptized into a local church, Acts 2:41.
2. Continue in regular Bible study, Acts 2:42.
3. Continue in constant fellowship with other Christians, Acts 2:42,46.
4. Meet regularly with the church and observe the Lord's Supper, Acts 2.42, 46.
5. Continue in regular prayer - in church services, in the family and privately, Acts 2:42.
6. Give of your possessions and abilities to promote the Lord's work, Acts 2:44- 45.
7. Always do everything you can to bring others to Jesus Christ, Acts 2:47.

Open your Bible and number these seven things in Acts 2:41-47:

1. In verse 41 underline baptized and mark it number (1) and write "baptism."
2. In verse 42 underline teachings of the apostles (or apostles' doctrine) and number it (2) and write "Bible study."
3. In verse 42 underline partnership (or fellowship) and mark it (3) and write "church fellowship."
4. In verse 42 underline breaking of bread, mark it (4) and write "Lord's Supper."
5. In verse 42 underline prayers, mark it (5) and write "prayer life."
6. In verse 45 underline the entire verse, mark it (6) and write "giving."
7. In verse 47 underline Lord added to the church daily those being saved, and mark it (7) and write "soul winning or witnessing."

## LESSON 2

# KNOW THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

### *OUTLINE*

#### **1. The Doctrine of God**

- (1) There is only one God.**
- (2) He has revealed Himself in three persons.**

#### **2. The Doctrine of sin**

- (1) Sin originated not by creation, but by choice.**
- (2) Sin entered the human race by choice.**

#### **3. The Doctrine of the Incarnation**

- (1) The Son of God was eternally with the Father.**
- (2) Jesus Christ was born of the virgin Mary, without an earthly father.**
- (3) Jesus Christ lived a full human life.**
- (4) Jesus Christ died as the perfect human sacrifice for our sins.**
- (5) Jesus Christ rose bodily from the grave on the first day of the week.**
- (6) Jesus Christ, the God-Man, is presently enthroned at the right hand of the Father.**
- (7) Jesus Christ, as the glorified Son of Man will come again to reign.**

The doctrine of salvation involves every doctrine in the Bible, because the theme of the Bible from beginning to end is salvation. The Bible records what God has done to reveal Himself to save lost mankind.

Therefore the first doctrine to be studied is:

### **1. THE DOCTRINE OF GOD**

#### **(1) There is only one true God.**

**First God ....**, Genesis 1:1, is the very first phrase in the Bible. This opening statement affirms that there is only one God who is the creator and sustainer of the universe.

Moses declared that there is only one true God.

Deut 6:4-9

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

(KJV)

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9 HB**

4 Hear attentively, Oh Israel; Jehovah, our God, is one Jehovah,

5 And you shall love Jehovah, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

6 And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in your heart,

7 And you shall point them out diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up.

8 And you shall bind them for a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as bands between your eyes.

9 And you shall engrave them upon the posts of your house, and on your gates.

God Himself spoke to Isaiah saying that there is only one God.

Isa 45:21-22

21 Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.

22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. (KJV)

**Isaiah 45:21-22 HB**

21 Cause it to stand out boldly, and bring them near; also, let them take counsel together. Who has caused this to be attentively heard from ancient time? From

that time *who* caused it to stand out boldly? *Was it* not I, Jehovah? And there exists no other God besides me, God of righteousness and Savior; there exists none besides me.

22 Face about to me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth, because *I am* God, and there exists none else.

Jesus Christ Himself in answering Satan's temptation declared that there is but one God.

Matt 4:10

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. (KJV)

**Matthew 4:10 HB**

**Then Jesus says to him, Go away, Satan, because it has been written, You shall prostrate yourself to the Lord your God, and to him only you will officially minister.**

Saint Paul declared that although men believe that there are many gods, there is only one God.

1 Cor 8:5-6

5 For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)

6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. (KJV)

**1 Corinthians 8:5-6 HB**

**5 Because also even as there are those called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, as there are many gods, and many lords,**

**6 But to us, *there is* one God, the Father, out of whom *are* all things, and we into him, and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom *are* all things, and we through him.**

We do not have two gods, nor three gods, nor many gods. We have one God Who is the One and only true God.

## **(2) He has revealed Himself in three Persons.**

This is a great mystery. No one has ever fully explained the Trinity, the three Persons in one God, but it is taught clearly both in the Old and New Covenants.

In the very beginning of the earth God said, **Let us make man in our image,**

Gen 1:26. This is a definite reference to the Trinity, the three Persons in one God.

Throughout the Old Covenant there are constant references to the Holy Spirit. Also the coming of Christ into the world is the recurring theme of the Old Covenant. The Father is speaking to the Son in

Ps 110:1

The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. (KJV)

**Psalm 110:1 HB**

**Jehovah said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I place those hating you as the footstool of your feet.**

Read Matthew 22:44, Mark 12:36, Acts 2:34, 1 Corinthians 15:25, and Hebrews 1:13. Proverbs 30:1-4 refers to God and the Son of God.

Prov 30:1-4

1 The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy: the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,

2 Surely I am more brutish than any man, and have not the understanding of a man.

3 I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy.

4 Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?  
(KJV)

**Proverbs 30:1-4 HB**

**1 The words of Agur, the son of Jakeh; The Burden; An Oracle of the mighty man to Ithiel, to Ithiel and Ucal:**

**2 Surely I *am more* brutish than any man, and the understanding of a man *is* not mine.**

**3 And I was not taught wisdom, and I did not know knowledge of the holy.**

**4 Who has ascended up into the heavens, and descended? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has raised all the ends of the earth? What *is* his name, and what *is* his son's name, if you know?**

The two places where the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are mentioned in one verse are at Jesus' baptism, and at His giving the. great commission:

Matt 3:16-17

16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. (KJV)

**Matthew 3:16-17 HB**

**16 And Jesus, being baptized, immediately went up from the water, and behold, heaven was opened up to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and coming upon him;**

**17 And behold a voice out of heaven, saying, This is my Son, the beloved, in whom I am well pleased.**

**Matthew 28:18-20,**

**18 And coming near, Jesus talked with them, saying, All authority was given to me in heaven and upon earth.**

**19 Having gone therefore, disciple all the races, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,**

**20 Teaching them to keep all things whatever I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you all the days, to the entire completion of the age. Amen.**

You must understand that these three names are not simply different names for the same person. NO. God is three separate Persons, but One God. Some have tried to illustrate the Trinity as being like a man who is a son, a husband, and a father; one person with three different roles. This is not at all true of God. **Let us make man in our image**, refers to three different Persons, not one. The Father is not the Son. The Father is not the Holy Spirit. The Son is not the Father. The Son is not the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not the Father. The Holy Spirit is not the Son. The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. One God. Three Persons.

Thus we believe in one true God who created and sustains all things, and who has revealed Himself in three glorious Persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. There is no point in our taxing our brains to try to understand this. Simply believe Him the best you can, and leave the rest to God.

## 2. THE DOCTRINE OF SIN

### **(1) Sin originated not by creation, but by choice.**

Everything that God created was good. Since God created all things and all beings how did sin originate? Sin originated by free choice.

God is eternal - without beginning and without end. Prior to the creation of the universe God had already created heavenly messengers we call angels. God's angels served Him by free choice.

Lucifer, a great angel who led the other angels in worship of God, chose wrongly and sought to transfer the worship due God to himself. In his heart Lucifer said, "I will be God." Other angels followed Lucifer's evil choice. Lucifer by choice originated sin, and became Satan, the father of all sin, and other angels who followed him became evil angels, or evil spirits, also called demons.

Thus God did not create sin. He gave angels free choice, and Lucifer originated sin [see Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19].

### **(2) Sin entered the human race by choice.**

God created man good [Genesis 1:31]. Satan who had already rebelled and fallen came and tempted man in the Garden of Eden. Man chose to yield to Satan's temptation, and became a sinner in need of salvation [Genesis 3].

Sin basically is an attempt to be independent of God. God gave Adam in the Garden many wonderful fruit trees. One only was forbidden. In forbidding that one tree God was saying to Adam, "You cannot experiment with good and evil and decide for yourself what is good and what is evil. You must be dependent upon Me. You must accept My Word."

By taking of the forbidden fruit Adam and Eve were saying to God, "We are not dependent upon You. We will decide for ourselves. We do not need You. We will run our lives to suit ourselves."

By asserting his independence man cut himself off from God and life. That is why God gave His Son - to make sacrifice for sin and make it possible for man to again have the life of God flowing through him.

Each one of us has inherited Adam's sinful nature, but Jesus has made sacrifice for Adam's sin. If a baby dies before he is old enough to choose for himself the blood

of Jesus automatically takes care of the innocent baby.

If a person lives to be old enough to chose for himself [ages 8, 9,10 or 11 as children are different] then he must choose Jesus as the way out of sin into life.

**All have sinned and lack of the glory of God**, Romans 3:23. This means that each one of us old enough to choose has chosen wrongly. Like Adam, we have sinned. We therefore must personally choose Jesus as Savior, as we personally chose to sin.

This brings us to God's plan to save us from sin.

### **3. THE DOCTRINE OF THE INCARNATION**

**Incarnation** means to come in the flesh, in a physical body. The doctrine of the incarnation is the teaching that the Son of God came in the flesh to give Himself a sacrifice for our sin.

#### **(1) The Son of God was eternally with the Father, without beginning and without end.**

The Son of God is not a created being with a beginning. He is God of very God, co-eternal with the Father.

Saint Paul states,  
Col 1:16-17

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. (KJV)

#### **Colossians 1:16-17 HB**

**16 Because in him were all things created, the ones in heaven, and the ones upon earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones, or lordships, or head rulers, or authorities, the all has been created through him, and for him,**

**17 And he is before all things, and in him all things stand together.**

Jesus Christ Himself prays,

John 17:5

And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.(KJV)

**John 17:5 HB**

**And now, Father, you glorify me alongside of yourself with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.**

The Son of God, without beginning, was with the Father eternally before He came to earth in flesh.

**(2) Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary, without any earthly father.**

The Son of God became true man so that He might die in our place. Before Mary had sexual relationship with a man the Holy Spirit came upon her and caused conception [Matthew 1:18]. Mary gave Jesus His human nature. The Son of God entered into that body and nature and was born as an infant. He therefore became the God-man. He was perfect God, and He became perfect man, so as to be our Savior.

**(3) Jesus Christ lived a full, human life.**

The four Gospels relate that He grew up under obedience to His mother and guardian-father as a normal child. When grown He was tempted in all points like we are yet without sin [Hebrews 4:15]. In His ministry He grew tired, was hungry, was misunderstood, persecuted, experienced the loss of friends, and underwent all the harassments of life that any of us have ever undergone.

The letter to the Hebrews states,

Heb 2:16-18

16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted. (KJV)

**Hebrews 2:16-18 HB**

16 **Because indeed he absolutely did not take hold of *heavenly* messengers, but he took hold of the seed of Abraham.**

17 **Therefore he was obligated by all means to become like the brothers, that he might be a merciful and faithful head priest in the things toward God, to be merciful toward the sins of the people,**

18 Because in that he himself experienced being tempted, he is able to run to help those being tempted.

**(4) Jesus Christ died as the perfect human sacrifice for our sins.**

Jesus took a human body that He might die for our sins. He came into the world to die.

When John the Baptist announced Jesus, he declared,

John 1:29

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. (KJV)

**John 1:29 HB**

**Behold the Lamb of God, the one lifting away the sin of the world.**

Lambs were for sacrifice, and John recognized that Jesus came to be that real and ultimate sacrifice.

St. Paul explains,

Heb 9:26

For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. (KJV)

**Hebrews 9:26 HB**

**Since he would have had to experience *this* many times from *the* foundation of *the* world, but now one single time in the entire completion of the age he has appeared to put away sin through the sacrifice of himself**

2 Cor 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (KJV)

**2 Corinthians 5:21 HB**

**Because he made the one not knowing sin, sin for us, so that we might become *the* righteousness of God in him.**

**(5) Jesus Christ arose bodily, physically, literally from the grave on the first day of the week.**

His body was the same physical body they placed in the tomb, but it was now glorified.

Before He died His body was a perfect human body with flesh, blood, and bone but subject to death. In it His human spirit was subject to the body, and under the limitations of the body, He, at times, groaned in spirit.

After He arose His body was glorified. His body was then only flesh and bone, no blood, and His body became subject to His spirit [Luke 24:39]. After His resurrection whatever His spirit willed His body responded accordingly.

Although He could still eat He never again groaned in spirit. Now His body was glorified and in perfect responsiveness to His spirit.

1 Cor 15:21

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.  
(KJV)

**1 Corinthians 15:21 HB**

**Because since through man *is* death, through man *is the* resurrection of the dead.**

Jesus Christ rose from the dead the perfect man, the God-Man.

**(6) Jesus Christ, the God-Man, is presently enthroned at the right hand of the Father.**

The apostles preached unequivocally that the same man, Jesus Christ, whom the people crucified, was the same man that God raised and exalted to the throne of power.

Acts 2:32-33

32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. (KJV)

**Acts 2:32-33 HB**

**32 This Jesus God has raised up, of whom we all are witnesses.**

**33 Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having taken alongside of the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he poured out this, which you now see and hear,**

It is this same Jesus. He retains His glorified manhood in His present enthronement.

When Stephen was stoned as the first Christian martyr he testified that he saw the Son of Man standing out from the right hand of God [Acts 7:56].

Paul in that great eighth chapter of Romans encourages us with the same thought. When Satan accuses us, when men accuse us, yes, even when we know it is so, and accuse ourselves, look to the man who understands and who will take our case and win it.

Paul writes,

Rom 8:32-39

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (KJV)

**Romans 8:32-39 HB**

**32 He who absolutely did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how will he absolutely not with him also grace us with all things?**

**33 Who will bring any charge against God's chosen? God is the one who justifies.**

**34 Who is he who condemns? Christ is the one who died, and more, is risen again, who is also in the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.**

**35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?**

**36 As it has been written, For your sake we are killed the whole day; we are calculated as sheep for the slaughter. Psa 44:22**

**37 On the contrary, in all these things we are more than conquerors through**

him who loved us,

38 Because I am convinced, that absolutely not death, absolutely not life, absolutely not *supernatural* messengers, absolutely not head rulers, absolutely not powers, absolutely not things present, absolutely not things to come,

39 Absolutely not height, absolutely not depth, absolutely not any other creature, will have the power to separate us from the love of God which *is* in Christ Jesus our Lord.

It is the glorified man, Jesus Christ, who is our Mediator. His present ministry of intercession at the Father's right hand makes the way open to God.

### **(7) Jesus Christ as the glorified Son of Man will come again to reign.**

When Jesus ascended from the disciples, the angel who stood by was very emphatic in stating that this same Jesus would return.

Acts 1:10-11

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. (KJV)

**Acts 1:10-11 HB**

10 And while they were gazing intently into heaven as he was going up, also behold, two men stood beside them in white clothing;

11 Who also said, Men, Galileans, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This Jesus, the one being taken up from you into heaven, will so come in the same manner you have looked with special interest at him going into heaven.

Paul specifically called the coming Christ **man** in his message on Mars Hill.

Acts 17:31

Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. (KJV)

**Acts 17:31 HB**

Because he has caused a day to stand, in which he is about to judge the inhabited earth in righteousness in a man whom he has marked out, having held faith near to

**all men, having raised him out of the dead.**

The doctrine of the incarnation is that God became man to save us. In becoming complete and perfect man through the virgin birth He offered Himself as the perfect human sacrifice. He rose from the dead as the victorious man over death. He presently is our Mediator, the perfect Man who has satisfied all of God's just demands, and He will return as the glorious Man who will yet make man victorious and cause us to reach glorious and eternal fulfillment.

There is absolutely no doctrine in all of the Word of God more important than the doctrine of the incarnation. It is the very heart of the Gospel.

No one is more emphatic in this than the apostle John. He informs us that by testing a disciple on this one doctrine you can determine if he is following the Holy Spirit or is has an evil spirit.

I Jn 4:2-3

2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. (KJV)

**1 John 4:2-3 HB**

**2 In this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit who confesses, Jesus Christ has come in flesh is of God,**

**3 And every spirit who does not confess, Jesus Christ has come in flesh, is absolutely not of God, and this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you heard that he is coming, and now already is in the world.**

Never let anyone take from you the precious doctrine of the incarnation, because on this doctrine depends the salvation of our eternal souls.

## LESSON 3

# KNOW THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF SALVATION [CONT'D]

### *OUTLINE*

1. **The doctrine of the cross**
  - (1) **The cross was no accident; it was God's plan.**
  - (2) **The cross is all sufficient for our salvation.**
  
2. **The Gospel**
  
3. **The doctrine of faith**
  - (1) **Faith is the conscious, deliberate, definite giving of yourself into the saving care of Jesus Christ.**
  - (2) **We are saved by faith, not by works.**
  - (3) **Faith that saves produces good works.**
  
4. **The doctrine of the new birth.**
  - (1) **The new birth is completely the work of God.**
  - (2) **The new birth makes a person a new creation.**
  
5. **The doctrine of eternal security**
  - (1) **We are eternally saved because a birth is irreversible.**
  - (2) **We are eternally saved because Jesus personally guarantees our security.**

The Son of God came in the flesh to die for our sins. Therefore at the very center of the incarnation is...

## 1. THE DOCTRINE OF THE CROSS

### **(1) The cross was no accident; it was God's plan.**

Some so called religious leaders have taught that Jesus did not come to die for our sins, but only to show us how to live. They believe that Jesus never intended His death to save anyone.

Many of these same false teachers claim that the disciples invented the story of the resurrection since they were so disappointed over the outcome of Jesus' life. They also claim that the apostles, especially Paul, invented the idea that Christ died as a sacrifice for our sins.

Our answer is that we simply believe the Bible is the Word of God, and we have never had reason to doubt it. Therefore our answer is that the Holy Scriptures teach that Jesus' death on the cross in our place is the only way of salvation.

Matthew states that after Peter's confession at Caesarea Philippi Jesus began to declare plainly that He must die.

Matt 16:21

From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. (KJV)

**Matthew 16:21 HB**

**From then Jesus began to show to his disciples how that he must go away into Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders, and head priests, and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.**

Peter could not accept the fact that Jesus came to die for our sins so Peter began to rebuke the Lord, saying,

Matt 16:22-23

22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. (KJV)

**Matthew 16:22-23 HB**

**22 And Peter taking him to himself, began to restrain him, saying, Mercy to you, Lord, this will absolutely not be to you.**

**23 And he turning about, said to Peter, Go away behind me, Satan; you are an offense to me, because you absolutely are not exercising your mind on the things of God, but those of men.**

Here it is clearly evident that if anyone tries to take the cross out of the purpose for which Christ came, that person is following Satan rather than God.

Jesus Christ Himself declared,

John 15:15-16

15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth; but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. (KJV)

**John 10:15-16 HB**

**15 Just as the Father knows me, I also know the Father, and I lay down my soul for the sheep.**

**16 And other sheep I have, which are absolutely not out of this fold; them also it is necessary for me to bring, and they will hear my voice, and they will become one flock, and one shepherd.**

Peter boldly declared at Pentecost that Jesus was delivered unto death **by the determined will and foreknowledge of God** [Acts 2:23], and Peter writes in his first letter that we are redeemed with the precious blood of Christ.

1 Pet 1:19-20

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, (KJV)

**1 Peter 1:19-20 HB**

**19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb unblemished and unspotted,**

**20 Who truly was foreknown before the foundation of the world, and was manifest in these last times because of you,**

There are many other Scriptures just as clear and pointed as these. Jesus Christ came into the world for one primary purpose - to die for our sins. It was no accident. The cross was God's plan.

## **(2) The cross is all sufficient for our salvation.**

Jesus' sacrifice made complete satisfaction for our sins. There is nothing left for

the sinner to do but to take by faith the finished work of Jesus Christ.

When Jesus cried on the cross, **It is finished** [John 19:30], He meant just that. All that was necessary to provide forgiveness for our sins was finished, completed, made perfect.

All that any man must know to be saved is believe that he is a sinner and confess with his mouth and believe with his heart that Jesus Christ died for our sins.

About his ministry in Corinth Paul declared,

1 Cor 2:2

For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. (KJV)

**1 Corinthians 2:2 HB**

**Because I judged not to see anything among you, except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.**

He goes on to explain that what he did was to preach the cross so clearly and simply as the only way of salvation that they would trust nothing else for salvation.

Paul is very explicit that the cross is all sufficient for our salvation. He declares that water baptism is not a part of the gospel, and does not help save a man.

1 Cor 1:17-18

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.

18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. (KJV)

**1 Corinthians 1:17-18 HB**

**17 Because Christ absolutely did not set me apart and send me to baptize, but to announce the good news, absolutely not in wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made empty,**

**18 Because the word of the cross to those being destroyed truly is foolishness, and to those of us being saved it is the power of God,**

The Lord will permit nothing to take from the unique glory of the cross. You either trust the cross of Christ as the only way of salvation, or you do not trust the cross at all. If any soul tries to trust the cross of Christ AND baptism, or good works, or anything else to help save his soul, the cross will not be effective to save him. You

must trust the cross of Christ exclusively and totally or not at all.

When the Bible speaks of the cross it refers to Jesus' giving His life blood as a sacrifice for our sins.

Heb 9:12-13

12 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.

13 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: (KJV)

**Hebrews 9:12-14 HB**

**12 And absolutely not through the blood of goats and calves, but through his own blood he entered on one single occasion into the sanctuary, having found eternal redemption.**

**13 Because if the blood of bulls and of goats, and sprinkling ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those having been made common to the cleanness of the flesh,**

**14 How much more will the blood of Christ, who through *the* eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works for ministering to *the* living God?**

We see therefore from the Holy Scripture that Jesus' death on the cross was the plan of God from before the foundation of the world, and that His death on the cross is the one unique and complete sacrifice for sin.

At this point we wish to define

## **2. THE GOSPEL**

The word "gospel" means "good tidings" or "good news," and it is the "good news" that Jesus has died, and is risen, and that by faith in Him any sinner can be saved.

You should distinguish between the gospel and the whole counsel of God. The gospel is primarily the death and resurrection of Christ. The whole counsel of God is all that God has spoken on all subjects from Genesis to Revelation.

Paul defines the gospel in

1 Cor 7:1-8

1 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let

every woman have her own husband.

3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

5 Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

6 But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment.

7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.

8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. (KJV)

**1 Corinthians, 15:1-8 HB**

1 **And I make known to you, brothers, the good news which I announced to you, which also you took to yourselves, and in which you stand,**

2 **Through which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word I announced to you, unless you believed in vain,**

3 **Because I gave over to you first of all what I also took to myself, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,**

4 **And that he was buried, and was raised the third day according to the Scriptures,**

5 **And that he was gazed at by Cephas, then of the twelve.**

6 **After that, he was gazed at by above five hundred brothers on one single occasion, of whom the majority remain until now, but some have fallen asleep.**

7 **After that, he was gazed at by James, then by all the apostles.**

8 **And last of all he was gazed at by me also, as one of an untimely birth.**

This is the gospel, the glorious good news that Christ died for our sins, that He rose, and is ever alive to save and keep forever all who trust Him.

Paul in delivering his farewell message to the church at Ephesus said, **Because I have absolutely not held back from declaring to you the whole will of God, Acts 20:27.** He had taught them the Word of God on all subjects, not just the gospel, but on all areas of life here and the life to come.

The whole counsel or will of God is all that God has to say on all subjects. The Gospel is the good news that Christ died and rose again to save us.

### 3. THE DOCTRINE OF FAITH

We are saved by faith in the finished work of Christ, not by works of righteousness which we have done.

#### **(1) Faith is the conscious, deliberate, definite giving of yourself into the saving care of Jesus Christ.**

Faith in the Bible is not mere intellectual assent. There are millions of people who give intellectual assent to the fact that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, but they have never believed Him with the heart.

True saving faith is the kind of faith that believes Jesus Christ enough to give yourself to Him forever.

Mere intellectual assent is not enough to save you.

James 2:19

Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. (KJV)

#### **James 2:19 HB**

**You believe that there is one God; you do beautifully well; the demons also believe, and tremble.**

To believe is to turn to the Lord. Believers who were scattered because of the persecutions which arose over Stephen came to Antioch, and preached to the Greeks.

Acts 11:21

And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord. (KJV)

#### **Acts 11:21 HB**

**And the hand of the Lord was with them; also a great number believed, and turned to the Lord.**

They gave themselves completely to Jesus, and the whole direction of their lives was changed. That is saving faith.

At Philippi the jailer asked how to be saved.

Acts 16:30-31

30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. (KJV)

**Acts 16:30-31 HB**

**30 And having led them outside, said, Lords, what must I do that I may be saved?**

**31 And they said, Believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, and your house.**

They were saying, "Throw yourself completely upon the mercy of Christ; give yourself to Him; trust Him and Him only and He will save you." This is faith.

Faith is conscious, deliberate giving of yourself to Jesus Christ. This is why we do not baptize infants. Infants cannot consciously and deliberately believe Christ for salvation. All the accounts of individuals in the Bible who were baptized are accounts of persons who personally received Christ on the basis of conscious and reasonable understanding of the gospel. The New Covenant gives no account of any infant being baptized, nor anyone else until he professed that he had consciously and deliberately trusted Christ in his heart.

## **(2) We are saved by faith, not by works.**

Man can do nothing to save himself except to believe upon Christ. And for you to believe, God has to give you faith. Even the faith by which you are saved is a gift of God. The greatest verse in all of the Bible makes only one requirement of man - believe:

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (KJV)

**John 3:16,**

**Because God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes into him will not be destroyed, but have everlasting life,**

And in the very same chapter the Word of God states that just one thing deter-

mines whether a man is saved or lost forever – faith.

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. (KJV)

**John 3:36 HB**

**The one believing into the Son has everlasting life, and the one being unconvinced of the Son will absolutely not gaze upon life, but the wrath of God stays upon him.**

A man believes into Christ, and he is saved forever. He does not believe, and he is condemned forever.

Verses in the Bible stating that faith is the one and only thing a man can do to be saved are too many to quote here. Let me give you these two verses from Saint Paul.

Gal 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. (KJV)

**Galatians 2:16,**

**Having seen that a man is absolutely not justified out of law works, but through Jesus Christ's faith, we also have believed into Jesus Christ, so that we may be justified out of Christ's faith, and absolutely not out of law works, because out of law works absolutely no flesh will be justified.**

Eph 2:8-10

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (KJV)

**Ephesians 2:8-10 HB**

**8 Because by grace you are saved, through faith, and that absolutely not out of yourselves; it is the gift of God,**

**9 Absolutely not out of works, so that no one should boast,**

**10 Because we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus upon inherent good works, which God has prepared beforehand so that we should walk in them.**

To those who will let the Bible speak for itself, the Bible clearly teaches that man is saved by conscious, deliberate trust in the finished work of Christ.

### **(3) Faith that saves produces good works.**

The relationship of faith, salvation, and good works is a doctrine that many professing Christians have never understood correctly.

Saint Paul experienced a constant battle in instructing new converts in the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith. For right behind him came false teachers who taught that a person is saved and kept saved by good works and outward ceremonial deeds.

In our day most of the major denominations are very mixed up on the doctrine of works. Most of them teach that good works help save you, and help keep you saved. They teach that really you cannot know for sure whether you will be lost or saved until after death when your good deeds are counted and evaluated.

This is the kind of doctrine that Paul vehemently attacks, and pronounces that whoever, even an angel from heaven, that preaches the doctrine of salvation by works is accursed and condemned forever, Gal 1:8-9.

The New Covenant clearly teaches that the person who genuinely believes in Jesus Christ will do good works - not to help save him, but because he is already saved.

A peach tree does not produce peaches to become a peach tree. It produces peaches because it is a peach tree. A Christian does not produce good works to become a Christian. He produces good works because he is a Christian.

You may take a thorn bush and tie peaches on all of its limbs, but it will still be a thorn bush. It will never produce peaches. Likewise you may take a sinner and tie good works all over him, but it will never save him. He will really never produce any works that please God.

But the person who has believed Christ in his heart has had his character, his nature changed. He will now produce good works because he is now that kind. He is a believer, a Christian, a child of God with a nature that bears new fruit.

In that same great passage where Paul declares that we are saved by grace through faith, and not of works, he continues by saying,

**Because we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus upon inherent good works, which God has prepared beforehand so that we should walk in them, Eph 2:10.**

Saint James insists that faith must be accompanied by good works. Some have thought that James and Paul contradict one another. Not at all.

Paul began with sinners and emphasized saved by faith, and faith alone, because we are helpless to do anything for salvation but simply trust Christ with all of our heart. He adds that if we have genuinely believed we will do good works.

James begins with professing Christians, and insists that we examine our faith to discover if it is genuine faith or only intellectual assent. James insists that if you believe only with the intellect, your faith never produces any good works, and your faith is vain, empty, and meaningless.

Paul and James agree completely. They start with different situations, their emphasis are different, but they say the same thing. We are saved by faith - a genuine giving of our sinful selves to Christ. Once we have believed, our character is changed so that we produce good works for Christ.

## **4. THE DOCTRINE OF THE NEW BIRTH**

In our discussion of faith and works we have implied the doctrine of the new birth. For a sinner to become a child of God a radical and miraculous change must take place far beyond anything man is able to accomplish. This is the new birth.

### **(1) The new birth is completely the work of God.**

Man's religious activity is no substitute for, and no guarantee of, the new birth. All the references in the Bible to Nicodemus indicate that he was a very devoted man. He was very active and religiously devoted. He was conscientious and reliable. He was moral, honest, and fair. He was also very kind and compassionate. Yet Jesus told him that he must be born from above. Even with all of his religious and moral activity he still could not give himself the new birth.

The Holy Spirit is the personal agency who brings about the miraculous new birth. Jesus said,

John 3:1-10

- 1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:
- 2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that

thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

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

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? (KJV)

**John 3:1-10 HB**

**1 There was a man of the Pharisees, his name, Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews;**

**2 He came to Jesus by night, and said to him, Rabbi, we see that you have come a teacher from God, because absolutely no one has power to do these signs that you do unless God is with him.**

**3 Jesus answered, and said to him, Amen, amen, I say to you, Unless one is begotten from above, he absolutely does not have power to see the kingdom of God.**

**4 Nicodemus says to him, How does a man have power to be begotten being old? He does not have power to enter into his mother's womb a second time, and be begotten?**

**5 Jesus answered, Amen, amen, I say to you, Unless one is born of water, even of the Spirit, he absolutely does not have power to enter into the kingdom of God.**

**6 The one begotten of the flesh is flesh, and the one begotten of the Spirit is spirit.**

**7 Do not wonder that I said to you, It is binding upon you to be born from above.**

**8 The Spirit breathes hard where he wills, and you hear his sound, but you absolutely do not see from where he comes, and to where he goes away; so is every one who is begotten of the Spirit.**

**9 Nicodemus answered, and said to him, How do these things have power to be?**

**10 Jesus answered, and said to him, You are the teacher of Israel, and you absolutely do not know these things?**

Please read these two notes from *The Heritage Bible*.

**3:3 from above, *anochen*.** *Anochen* occurs 13 times in the New Covenant. Mat 27:51; Mrk 15:38; Luk 1:3; Joh 3:3, 7, 31; 19:11, 23; Act 26:5; Gal 4:9; Jas 1:17; 3:15, 17. In only one place **from the first** would fit, Luk 1:3. However all the other places demand the words from above, such as Jas 1:17, **Every inherently good gift and every perfect act of giving is from above, coming down from the Father....** So it is very clear that **from above** is its meaning, and we have translated *anochen* **from above** in all places including Luke 1:3.

**3:8 Spirit, *pneuma*.** There are 395 occurrences of *pneuma* in the New Covenant. Absolutely not one single occurrence is translated wind in KJV except this one in John 3:8. There is no evidence that *pneuma* is wind anywhere in the New Covenant. The word for wind is *anemos*, Mtt 11:7; 14:24, 30, etc. This is the only place where *pneuma* occurs that wind even remotely makes sense, but Spirit makes better sense, and thus agrees with all the other places where *pneuma* occurs.

Those who argue in favor of the doctrine that water baptism brings about spiritual birth use this Scripture, emphasizing “water and spirit.” This doctrine is called “baptismal regeneration” that a person is regenerated, born again, by means of water baptism.

This verse does not teach, and indeed, no verse in the Bible teaches, baptismal regeneration.

Here is a brief explanation of what Jesus was saying to Nicodemus:

In the first place, if Jesus had meant water baptism, Nicodemus would have had no difficulty understanding this, for all were familiar with John’s baptism.

Secondly, when Jesus continued in His words to Nicodemus, with reference to salvation He narrowed it to one phrase, **The one begotten of the flesh is flesh, and the one begotten of the Spirit is spirit.** [John 3:6] If water baptism were necessary he would not have limited His words simply to a spiritual birth. Therefore, **the one begotten of the Spirit is spirit** speaks of a spiritual transaction.

Thirdly, Jesus was talking to an Old Covenant scholar who knew that there are many Old Covenant verses in which water is a symbol of the Holy Spirit [see especially Ezekiel 36:25-27]. Nicodemus knew very well that when Jesus mentioned water He was referring to the Old Covenant promise of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Fourthly, in the Gospel of John Jesus uses the word **water** many times with the

meaning of Holy Spirit, or referring to the everlasting life that flows in the heart as a result of a personal experience with the Holy Spirit of God.

John 7:37-39, Jesus said **water**, and then John specifically says that He meant **the Holy Spirit**.

John 7:37-39

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) (KJV)

**John 7:37-39 HB**

**37 And in the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood, and cried out, saying, If any one thirsts, let him come to me, and drink.**

**38 The one believing into me, as the Scripture said, out of his belly will flow rivers of living water.**

Exo 17:6; Num 20:11; Deu 8:15; Psa 114:8; Isa 44:3; 55:1; 58:11; Joel 3:18; Zec 14:8; Ezk 48:1-12.

**39 And he said this about the Spirit, whom those believing into him were about to take, because the Holy Spirit was absolutely not yet *given*, because that Jesus was not yet glorified.**

In John 3:5, the Greek word for “and” is “Kai,” and means “even” in some places. Jesus was saying to Nicodemus, “Unless you are born of that water promised in the Holy Scriptures, even the Holy Spirit, you cannot enter the Kingdom of God.” The new birth is not brought about by water baptism, but is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Peter states that we, **Having been begotten, absolutely not of decaying seed, but of undecaying, through the living word of God, and remaining forever, 1 Peter 1:23.** The Word of God is the divine message that the Holy Spirit uses to bring a human spirit to new birth and life.

Paul declares that God has ordained by **the foolishness of preaching to save them who believe** [1 Corinthians 1:21]. When Spirit filled disciples give out the Word of God to lost sinners, the Holy Spirit takes it, and by it gives humans the new birth.

The message, the drawing power, the giving of spiritual birth - all are the work

of God. Man can do nothing but voluntarily take the new birth by choice. And it is God who by His grace gives the sinner the necessary power to choose salvation, for man has no desire to be born from above without the working of the grace of God. The new birth is completely the work of God.

## **(2) The new birth makes a person a new creation.**

Paul declares,

2 Cor 5:17-18

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; (KJV)

### **2 Corinthians 5:17-18 HB**

**17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**

**18 And all things are out of God, the one having reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ, and having given to us the ministry of reconciliation,**

In the new birth the believer becomes a child of God with a new nature. The old sinful nature is not eradicated. The child of God still has his old sinful nature to battle in his soul, but now he has a new nature in his spirit, a holy and godly nature to help him overcome the old sinful desires.

John is very plain spoken, and says,

I Jn 3:9

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. (KJV)

### **1 John 3:9 HB**

**Everyone having been begotten of God absolutely does not do sin, because his seed stays in him, and he absolutely does not have power to sin, because he is begotten of God.**

His seed, his godly nature given to him in the new birth, remains in his human spirit and his human spirit is born of God.

This does not mean that a Christian will not sin with his soul or body. He will occasionally slip and fall into sin, but his spirit is now born of God with a new nature,

and motivates him to live for God.

## 5. THE DOCTRINE OF ETERNAL SECURITY

The doctrine of the eternal security of the believer is one of the most precious of all doctrines found in the Bible. According to the Word of God we who are born from above are saved forever. We can never be lost. No persons, no circumstances, no actions, absolutely nothing can ever cause us to be lost after we are saved.

### **(1) We are eternally saved because a birth is irreversible.**

This is true physically and spiritually. God has given man and woman the power to bring human spirits, souls, and bodies into existence in our own image. Once my wife and I have given, spirit, soul, and body to an infant, that person has become a human being and will never cease to exist. That person may suffer all kinds of hardships and eventually die, but forever and ever he will continue to be a human being, a person made in image of God. Prior to his conception and birth he did not exist. After being brought into existence he will always exist. His birth can never be reversed. Births are permanent.

He or she will never cease to be a human, and become a cat, or a dog, or some other animal, bird, fish, reptile, or insect. Once you are born a human you are always a human. Nothing in the universe that change that. That is an eternal law of God.

The Bible teaches that the spiritual birth likewise cannot be reversed. Once a person is born of God, he can never be un-born. He is always a child of God. John declares that **his seed remains in him**, 1 John 3:9. His divine nature received in the new birth remains forever. It can never be destroyed.

### **(2) We are eternally saved because Jesus personally guarantees our security.**

The promises of Jesus that He will keep us forever are so many that the references alone would fill pages. I mention only a few.

The greatest gospel verse in the whole Bible promises everlasting life:

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (KJV)

**John 3:16 HB**

**Because God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes into him will not be destroyed, but have everlasting life,**

If in all of history, just one person were ever lost after he was saved it would make God's Word a lie. Jesus promises **everlasting life**. If you could lose it, it would not be everlasting life. It would be temporary life. The fact that it could be lost would automatically make it temporary and conditional, and not everlasting. Jesus promises **everlasting life**.

Volumes could be written on the glorious doctrine of the security of the believer. Since space is naturally limited please read and claim these promises from the Word of God on eternal security.

John 4:14

14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. (KJV)

**John 4:14 HB**

**And whoever drinks out of the water which I will give him will absolutely not ever thirst forever, but the water which I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.**

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. (KJV)

**John 5:24 HB**

**Amen, amen, I say to you that, The one hearing my word, and believing the one who sent me, has everlasting life, and absolutely does not come into condemnation, but has changed places out of death into life.**

John 6:35-40

35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

36 But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.  
37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.  
38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.  
39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.  
40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. (KJV)

**John 6:35-40 HB**

35 And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; the one coming to me will absolutely not hunger, and the one believing into me will absolutely at no time thirst.  
36 But I said to you, That you have both seen me, and absolutely did not believe.  
37 All whom the Father gives me will come to me, and the one coming to me I will absolutely not throw out,  
38 Because I descended out of heaven so that I may absolutely not do my will, but the will of the one sending me.  
39 And this is the will of the Father who sent me, that all the ones he has given me, I shall not let any out of them be destroyed, but shall raise him up in the last day.  
40 And this is the will of the one sending me, that everyone looking upon the Son, and believing into him, will have everlasting life, and I will raise him up in the last day.

John 10:28-30

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.  
29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.  
30 I and my Father are one. (KJV)

**John 10:28-30 HB**

28 And I give to them eternal life, and they will absolutely in no way be destroyed forever, and absolutely not any will seize them out of my hand.  
29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and absolutely not any has power to seize them out of my Father's hand.  
30 I and my Father are one.

Rom 8:35-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (KJV)

**Romans 8:35-39 HB**

**35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?**

**36 As it has been written, For your sake we are killed the whole day; we are calculated as sheep for the slaughter. Psa 44:22**

**37 On the contrary, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us,**

**38 Because I am convinced, that absolutely not death, absolutely not life, absolutely not *supernatural* messengers, absolutely not head rulers, absolutely not powers, absolutely not things present, absolutely not things to come,**

**39 Absolutely not height, absolutely not depth, absolutely not any other creature, will have the power to separate us from the love of God which *is* in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Heb 9:12

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. (KJV)

**Hebrews 9:12 HB**

**And absolutely not through the blood of goats and calves, but through his own blood he entered on one single occasion into the sanctuary, having found eternal redemption.**

I Jn 5:11-13

11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. (KJV)

**1 John 5:11-13 HB**

**11 And this is the witness, that God gave us everlasting life, and this life is in his Son.**

**12 The one having the Son has the life, and the one not having the Son of God absolutely does not have the life.**

**13 These things I wrote to you, those believing into the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have everlasting life, and that you may believe into the name of the Son of God.**

In these two short Lessons on “Know the Doctrine of Salvation” we have given you the heart of Christian doctrine. The word “doctrine” means “teaching.” “The doctrine of God” is what we teach about God. “The doctrine of salvation” is what we teach about salvation. “The doctrine of Jesus Christ” is what we teach about Jesus Christ.

What a person does not teach also reveals his doctrine. For example, if he does not teach “the doctrine of eternal security of the believer,” by default he is teaching “the doctrine of falling from grace” and “salvation by works.”

There is no middle ground on this doctrine, nor on any other. As a believer you must know and practice doctrine as revealed in the Word of God.

## LESSON 4

# BE A LIVING PART OF THE CHURCH

### *OUTLINE*

- 1. Christ Himself began the church.**
- 2. The Holy Spirit constitutes the church a spiritual body.**
- 3. Every person genuinely born of the Holy Spirit should be baptized into a local church.**
- 4. Every baptized believer should partake of the Lord's Supper.**
- 5. Give proper respect and response to God's ordained leaders in the church.**
- 6. Every genuine church member is a priest before God and a minister to the world.**
- 8. Support the ministry of the church with your money, time, and abilities.**

It would be impossible for me to emphasize too much to you the importance of the church in your Christian life. In the New Covenant all Christians became a living, vibrant part of a fellowship of believers who were very much attached to one another. Christ has so designed it that you receive the greatest blessing and do the most for Christ as you actively join hands with others who have received Christ.

Determine right now that with God's help you will always be an active part of a Christ honoring, Bible believing, New Covenant type church.

## **1. CHRIST HIMSELF BEGAN THE CHURCH**

The church is not a man-made institution. Christ Himself began and builds the church. Evil men have entered in, as Jesus foretold, and have corrupted many churches

and church groups. But there is still in the world the true church, and there are many local churches which are very genuine bodies of Christ.

Jesus said, **...I will build my church** ( Matthew 16:18). The true Christian Church of all times and all ages belongs to Jesus Christ. He will never forsake the true church. He will never give up the church. It is His, and men nor demons can tear the church from His powerful saving hands.

He will in all ages continue to build His church. Since Jesus Christ founded the church there has never been a time but there were genuine Christian churches preaching the pure gospel of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ.

He has built His church. He will continue throughout this age to build His church. The true church will suffer opposition, reproach, and persecution, but it will never be destroyed from the face of the earth. Jesus began the church. He guarantees that it will continue.

What about those churches that become corrupt and pervert the gospel, as even today there are many? The answer is found in Jesus' message to the churches in Revelation 2-3.

The church at Ephesus had begun to lose their **first love**, their love for Jesus Christ as the preeminent One. Jesus warns:

Rev 2:5

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. (KJV)

**Revelation 2:5 HB**

**Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent, and do the first works, and if not, I am coming to you quickly, and will move your lampstand out of its place unless you repent.**

Jesus did not say that He would destroy their organization, but that He would remove the lampstand, the light and presence of God. They would continue on as a church in name, but they would continue in the dark, without the light of the presence and power of God. How tragic that so many churches today are continuing in this spiritual darkness.

But, be sure to always remember that there are many churches that are faithful to Jesus Christ. Never lose faith in the church.

## 2. THE HOLY SPIRIT CONSTITUTES THE CHURCH A SPIRITUAL BODY.

Jesus Christ began the church with the apostles and a few other believers. The apostles received the Holy Spirit right after Jesus' resurrection [John 20:22] . The church with all its members was then constituted a living, vibrant powerful body on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out in fullness upon all believers.

In this age, the church age, every believer is spiritually joined to Christ and one another by being born of the Holy Spirit.

Peter, quoting the Prophecy of Joel, said, **And it will be in the last days, says God, I will pour out from my Spirit upon all flesh,** (Acts 2:17). In the Old Covenant age only the priests, prophets, kings, and a few other special people received the Holy Spirit. In the church age every believer, youth or adult, receives the Holy Spirit, and is joined to Christ and His church. We all have received the same Holy Spirit, therefore spiritually we are joined to one another.

Paul declares that Christ is the Head of the Church, and that the Holy Spirit has made us the body of the church. He compares the church to the human body.

**He writes,**

1 Cor 12:12-14, 24-27

12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

14 For the body is not one member, but many.

.....

24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:

25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. (KJV)

**1 Corinthians 12:12 - 14, 24 – 27 HB**

12 Because as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ,

13 Because we all were baptized in one Spirit into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether servant or free, and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

14 Also because the body is absolutely not one member, but many.

.....

24 And our well respected *members* have absolutely no need, but God tempered the body together, giving more abundant honor to those lacking,

25 So that there would be no split in the body, but that the members would have the same care for one another.

26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer together. If one member is glorified, all the members rejoice with *it*.

27 And you are a body of Christ, and members with a share.

When my little finger is hit or cut, immediately my entire body rushes to its aid and protection, because the whole body is hurt. So it should be in the church. When one member is wounded we should rush to his rescue for his being hurt hurts us all. The Holy Spirit constitutes us a spiritual body, members one of another.

### **3. EVERY PERSON GENUINELY BORN OF THE HOLY SPIRIT SHOULD BE BAPTIZED INTO A LOCAL CHURCH.**

If you know that you have repented of your sins, and have taken Jesus Christ into your heart in a definite, conscious, personal experience, you should be baptized in water into a local church.

I would not let just any pastor or church baptize me, because in different churches baptism means different things. In the New Covenant only those who actually repented and accepted Christ honestly and sincerely were baptized.

This is why we do not baptize infants. Infants cannot repent and accept Christ for themselves. Infants are taken care of by Jesus' death on the cross.

In the New Covenant only those who had already believed in their hearts were baptized. Therefore baptism was not designed to save anyone, but was the first act of obedience of a person already saved.

Some denominations teach that baptism is a means to help save you. To many, baptism is a sacrament that bestows saving grace upon the sinner. In the New Covenant baptism is a symbolic act that pictures the salvation experience that has already

taken place.

We teach that you are saved by simple faith in Jesus Christ, and that baptism does not save you. Therefore you do not have to be baptized to be saved. You are saved for one simple reason - you trusted Jesus Christ alone as the one eternal Savior.

Once you are saved you should be baptized into a local church that preaches salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

You should be baptized by immersion in water. Baptism is a pictorial act, and not a saving act. If the primary significance of baptism is what it pictures, rather than what it sacramentally bestows, then how it is performed is extremely important.

Baptism pictures three things:

- (1) The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus for us.**
- (2) The death, burial and resurrection of yourself on the inside.**
- (3) The death, burial, and resurrection of our bodies.**

Remember the method of baptizing is extremely important because of what it "says." The word "baptize" is not an English word. It is a Greek word that in the King James English Bible was not translated because the word directly contradicted the teaching of the established church of England at the time.

The word "Baptize" in Greek means to "immerse," "dip," "plunge under." Since this was not the practice of the established church in 1611 they decided they would not translate the word, but retain it in its Greek form, and let everyone interpret it as they wished.

All of the Greek Scholars I have ever consulted agree that the word "baptize" means "to immerse," and even many church theologians who argue that sprinkling and pouring are acceptable agree that immersion was the method of Jesus and the early church.

Here are a few of the Scriptures that teach immersion as the proper form of baptism, and that those who accepted Christ were immediately baptized:

Mark 1:9-10

9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and

the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

(KJV)

**Mark 1:9-10 HB**

**9 And it was in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in Jordan.**

**10 And immediately coming up from the water, he saw the heavens split, and the Spirit as a dove descending upon him;**

Acts 8:38-39

38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. (KJV)

**Acts 8:38-39 HB**

**38 And he called for the chariot to stand still, and they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.**

**39 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip to himself, and the eunuch absolutely did not see him any more, because he went on his way rejoicing.**

Rom 6:4-5

4 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.

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: (KJV)

**Romans 6:4-5 HB**

**4 Therefore we were buried with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised up out of the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also may walk in newness of life,**

**5 Because if we have become planted together in the likeness of his death, in the opposite way we also shall be in *the likeness of his resurrection,***

Acts 8:12

But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. (KJV)

**Acts 8:12 HB**

**12 And when they believed Philip announcing the good news about the things**

of the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 9:18 (Paul)

And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. (KJV)

**Acts 9:18, (Paul) HB**

**And immediately there fell off from his eyes something like scales, and he looked up instantly, and standing up, was baptized.**

Acts 10:47-48

47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. (KJV)

**Acts 10:47-48 HB**

**47 Does anyone have power to forbid the water for these to be baptized, who have taken the Holy Spirit just as also we!**

**48 And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they requested him to stay over for some days.**

There are others. This will suffice to show that every person who receives Jesus Christ should be baptized immediately into a local group of believers, and that by immersion.

#### **4. EVERY BAPTIZED BELIEVER SHOULD PARTAKE REGULARLY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.**

The first few chapters of Acts points up clearly that only those who had accepted Christ and were baptized were permitted to take the Lord's Supper. And Paul in giving instructions on observance of the Lord's Supper speaks only to baptized Christians actively participating in the church life. Therefore in order to partake of the Lord's Supper you must be born from above and then baptized. If someone is saved, and is awaiting baptism because the pastor has not yet arranged for baptism, I do not prevent them from taking the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's supper is a memorial supper in which each baptized believer takes and eats a piece of broken unleavened bread in memory of Christ's broken body, and in which he takes table wine or grape juice and drinks it in memory of Christ's shed blood.

In the first few chapters of Acts the Lord's supper at times was observed at the end of the fellowship meal or love feast.

At Corinth, Paul found this custom abused and gave specific instructions to separate the Lord's Supper from the love feast. Therefore the Lord's supper should be a separate and distinct act of worship in which the central devotional act is the taking of the bread and wine in memory of the death of Jesus Christ for our sins.

The Old Covenant Passover observing the deliverance of Israel from Egypt by the sprinkling of the blood on the doors of the Hebrew homes was observed by Jesus, then the Passover was replaced by the Lord's Supper celebrating Christ's accomplishment of eternal life through His shed blood.

Matt 26:26-28

26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. (KJV)

**Matthew 26: 26-28 HB**

26 **And they eating, Jesus taking the bread, and blessing, broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.**

27 **And taking the cup and giving thanks, he gave *it* to them, saying, Drink of it, all *of you*;**

28 **Because this is my blood of the New Covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.**

There are no instructions in the New Covenant as to how often the Lord's Supper should be observed.

Paul gives very pointed comments and instructions in I Corinthians 11:20-34. Please remember the following points in preparing yourself to observe the Lord's Supper:

- (1) **It is not a feast or party of satisfying the physical appetite (20-22).**
- (2) **Jesus Christ instituted the Lord's Supper and gave specific command that we observe it (23-25).**

**(3) The Lord's Supper is not a saving act but a memorial act - this do in remembrance of me (23-25).**

**(4) Taking the bread and the wine into our bodies symbolizes that we have accepted His sacrifice into our souls to take away our sins and our sicknesses (23-25).**

**(5) When the church observes the Lord's Supper is not as important as why - it must be in remembrance of Christ (25).**

**(6) Our observance of the Lord's Supper points to the fact that He who died is now alive and coming to earth again (26).**

**(7) If we take the Lord's Supper with a wrong understanding of it and wrong motivations for doing it we are guilty of abusing the body and blood of Jesus (27).**

Many have misunderstood verse 27. They say, "I just don't feel I'm worthy of taking the Lord's Supper, therefore I just don't take it when it is passed."

No one is worthy. It does not say if you are "unworthy." It says if you take it "unworthily," in an unworthy manner, with the wrong understanding, without proper preparation, without the right motivation.

The following point will help clarify what is meant by taking it worthily.

**(8) You must examine your heart, confess your sins, and claim the blood of Jesus as the only righteousness you have (28).**

**(9) You must specifically understand that Jesus' death and His death alone is the only way of salvation (this is what is meant by "discerning the Lord's body, "understanding the all important significance of His body on the cross) (29).**

**(10) There are those who are sick and some who have died because they did not "discern the Lord's body." They did not understand that He bore our sins and our sicknesses on the cross. Understand what Jesus did for you on the cross and be healed.**

There is no magic in the Lord's supper. You deal with your sins directly between your own heart and God by faith in the blood of Jesus. If you cannot grasp the idea of dealing honestly and sincerely in your own heart with Jesus Christ no amount of "magic ceremonies" is going to take care of you. The ones who are condemned are

those who refuse to believe that Jesus' death is all sufficient sacrifice for their sins. The Lord's Supper is a memorial ceremony in which you remember what Jesus has done for you in His death.

**(11) If we will discipline ourselves it will prevent the Lord's having to discipline us more severely (31-32).**

As with all Christian duties, you should be very conscientious in attending and taking the Lord's Supper. And be sure that always you take it with specific preparation, the proper understanding and the right attitude.

## **5. GIVE PROPER RESPECT AND RESPONSE TO GOD'S ORDAINED LEADERS IN THE CHURCH.**

In the New Covenant the ordained officers of a local church are the pastor and assistant ministers, whom we have come to call deacons. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors (who are also teachers) are listed as church leaders in Ephesians 4:11. Apostles, prophets and evangelists according to Acts and early church history were primarily traveling leaders who rendered spiritual help to local churches temporarily and then moved on to other areas and churches.

Pastors and assistants (See Note in *The Heritage Bible* on 2 Cor 3:6 and 1 Tim 3:8) were ordained to serve continuously in a specific local congregation. At Lystra Paul was stoned and left for dead. Faithful believers nursed him over-night, and sent him away with Barnabus to Derbe. After that, they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch "confirming the souls of the disciples."

Then Luke states,

Acts 14:23

And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed. (KJV)

**Acts 14:23,**

**And having hand-picked for them elders in every church, praying with fastings, they placed them alongside of the Lord, into whom they believed.**

Elders - which according to I Timothy are pastors and assistant ministers, were ordained in each local church, and were made responsible for the spiritual leadership of the congregation.

The first occasion on which additional leaders were ordained in the early church is found in Acts 6:1-8. These seven men were not called ministers. But based on the rest of the New Covenant it is generally accepted that these were the first assistant ministers.

The procedure set forth in these verses for selection and election of men to office in the church should be followed by churches today if we are to call ourselves a New Covenant church:

**(1) The offices were created and the men were selected because there was a specific need.** No office should be created or kept unless there is an actual need to be met by the person in that office. We do not organize for the sake of organization. We organize to meet needs.

Widows were being neglected. Therefore they enlisted men to meet the need.

Too many people want the honor of an office in the church without doing the work that goes with it. I could not possibly remember the number of times people have gotten stirred by a sermon and volunteered to do something in the church. I have asked them what they would like to do and they have answered that they were willing to do whatever we needed done. I have then given them a list of shut-in's who were being neglected. Quite often there was an immediate and noticeable decline in their enthusiasm for the job, and hardly ever were the shut-in's on the list visited.

What they wanted was a position which carried with it some prestige in the church. They were unwilling to actually work to meet a need if no one could see what they were doing. Offices should be created on the basis of need.

**(2) The pastor and present church leaders should take the initiative in seeing the need and leading the church to enlist the workers.**

**(3) The selection of church officers is the responsibility of the pastor.**

**(4) The elected church officers must work harmoniously with the pastor as the leading overseer.**

**(5) They are primarily pastor-assistants to help more efficiently spread the Word of God.**

**(6) Those elected must be men and women who meet high spiritual qualifications: Honest report, full of the Holy Spirit, and wisdom, full of faith and power.**

Throughout the New Covenant God ordained leaders are respected, honored,

and followed by the believers. They are not dictators, and the power invested in them is persuasive spiritual power. They cannot force anyone. Their leadership is based upon their God-given powers to persuade and lead by love and logic.

It is common practice in churches, where the church is financially able, to pay the pastor sufficiently for him to meet his obligations and devote full time to the ministry.

This is an agreement with the New Covenant where much is said about paying the salary of the full time preachers.

1 Cor 9:7-14

7 Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?

8 Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also?

9 For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?

10 Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.

11 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

12 If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

13 Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the (KJV)

**1 Corinthians 9:7-14 HB**

**7 Who serves as a soldier any time at his own expenses? Who plants a vineyard, and absolutely does not eat of its fruit? Or who shepherds a flock, and absolutely does not eat of the milk of the flock?**

**8 I do not say these things as a man, or, does the law absolutely not also say these things?**

**9 Because in the law of Moses it has been written, You shall not muzzle an ox treading out grain. Is it not that God cares for oxen, Deu 25:4**

**10 Or at all events, does he say *it* because of us? Because of us it was written, that the one plowing should plow in hope, and the one treading out grain in hope**

should share upon *his* hope.

11 If we have sown to you spiritual things, is it something great if we shall harvest your fleshly things?

12 If others are partakers of this authority over you, should we absolutely not more so? But we have absolutely not used this authority, but cover over all things in silence lest we give any hindrance to the good news of Christ.

13 Do you absolutely not see that the ones working in temple things eat out of the things of the temple? And those officially attending upon the altar share jointly in the altar?

14 In this way also the Lord has ordered that the ones proclaiming the good news should live out of the good news.

**9:13** Throughout this entire passage from verse 1 forward Paul is teaching that the apostles, pastors, evangelists, and other ministers are to be financially supported by tithes and offerings exactly as taught in the Law of Moses. He insists that he personally not partake of this right, because he boasts in financially supporting himself by his own labor, but he insists that under normal circumstances the minister is to be supported by tithes and offerings just as God ordained in the Law. See Gen 14:20; 28:20-22; Exo 22:26-29; Lev 5:13; 6:16-18; 7:30-36; 27:30-32; Num 18; Deu 12; 14; 26; 2 Chr 31; Neh 10; 13; Mal 3:8-10. Acts 18:1-3; 1 Cor 4:12; Eph 4:28. 1 Ths 1:9; 2 Ths 3:6-12. 1 Tim 5:17-18. 2 Tim 2:6,

The pastor who ministers to the spiritual needs of a congregation should be taken care of materially by that same congregation. A large degree of respect and honor are due to true ministers of the gospel. Paul writes

Heb 13:17

17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. (KJV)

**Hebrews 13:17 HB**

**Be convinced by those governing you, and submit, because they keep awake for your souls, as giving back the word, that they may do it with joy, and not sighing under pressure, because that is unprofitable for you.**

Just as the congregation is obligated to respect and follow the pastor, so the pastor will be held accountable to God for how he treats the congregation.

Peter writes

1 Pet 5:1-4

1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a wit-

ness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. (KJV)

**1 Peter 5:1-4 HB**

**1 I call on the elders among you, who *am* also a fellow-elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a sharer of the glory about to be revealed,**

**2 Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not by compulsion, but voluntarily, not for shameful gain, but of a ready passion;**

**3 And not as oppressing the allotments, but becoming examples to the flock.**

**4 And at *the* appearing of the Head Shepherd, you will be provided an unfading crown of glory.**

There is nothing more wonderful than a pastor, assistant ministers, and congregation working harmoniously together for Jesus Christ, with great love and respect for one another.

You who are just coming into our church may rest assured that your pastor, your assistant ministers, and your church love you and love one another.

## **6. THE LOCAL CHURCH FUNCTIONS UNDER THE HEADSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST.**

In this section we shall describe to you the way in which the church is governed.

(1) Our Church is a local independent congregation that governs itself under the headship of Jesus Christ according to the way we believe the Holy Spirit leads us.

The churches in the Bible were local churches. There is no reference in the New Covenant to "the Christian Church" as a world wide organization in the sense commonly used today - as the Catholic Church, the Methodist Church, the Episcopal Church.

There are two ways in which the word "church" is used in the New Covenant other than the local church. The word "church" is used in the abstract, when Jesus stated in Matthew 16:18, **I will build my church, and the gates of hell will absolutely not prevail against it.**

The meaning is that the church as an institution will never be overcome by Satan. Different groups, denominations, churches may be destroyed, but the true church as an institution will continue in various local congregations on earth, and of course the church already in heaven have already prevailed.

The other non-local reference to the church is the sense used by Paul in Ephesians where the idea is that the "church" includes all saints, Jew and other ethnic believers, both on earth and in heaven (Eph. 2:19-22).

But the vast majority of all references are to the local congregation

**And the Lord added to the church daily those being saved.** (Acts 2:47).

**And having hand-picked for them elders in every church...** (Acts 14:23).

**And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.** (Acts 15:41).

Rom 16:3-5

3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:

4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ. (KJV)

**Romans 16:3-5 HB**

3 **Embrace Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus,**

4 **Who for my soul laid down their own necks, to whom absolutely not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the races.**

5 **Also embrace the church of their house.**

The churches of Christ embrace you. **(Romans 16:16).**

**To the church of God being in Corinth,** (I Corinthians 1:2).

**...to the churches of Galatia** (Galatians 1:2).

**Embrace the brothers in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church at his house.** (Colossians 4:15).

There are many other such references.

Therefore in agreement with the New Covenant our Church is a local independent congregation, self-governing, under the headship of Jesus Christ.

The pastor, staff, deacons and committees try always prayerfully to know God's will. The pastor is the leader of the church, and the assistants and congregation should follow him. Almost always all recommendations thoroughly thought out and prayerfully recommended are accepted by the church.

Any member is free to discuss proposals and recommend actions to the pastor, staff, deacons, any committee and the entire church.

We are all brothers and sisters in Christ, and no one can dominate and dictate to others. In agreement with this we do everything possible to work in harmony under the leadership of our pastor and church elected leaders.

## **7. EVERY GENUINE CHURCH MEMBER IS A PRIEST BEFORE GOD AND A MINISTER TO THE WORLD.**

What we mean by "the priesthood of the believer" is that every believer has direct access to God through Jesus Christ without the aid of any man made priesthood. We do not mean that any believer is a priest in the sense that he makes sacrifices for another's sins, nor that he serves as a "go-between" for any other person before God.

**[1] Jesus Christ is our one and only High Priest  
[Hebrews 4:14; I Timothy 2:5].**

**[2] Jesus Christ fulfilled all things pertaining to the priesthood,  
and therefore cancelled the need for a continuing earthly priesthood.**

Heb 10:11-12

11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; (KJV)

**Hebrews 10:11-12 HB**

**11 Also truly every priest stands daily officially ministering and offering many times the same sacrifices, which absolutely never have power to take away sins,**

**12 And he, after having offered one sacrifice for sins, sat down forever in the right side of God,**

The entirety of the book of Hebrews was written to show that Jesus completely fulfilled all that the Old Covenant sacrificial system symbolized, and the priesthood and sacrificial system of the Law was no longer needed since it had served its purpose.

[3] Every believer is urged to boldly come directly to God through Christ. Nowhere in the entire New Covenant does any Scripture teach that we must have the aid of an earthly priesthood in approaching God.

Heb 4:15-16

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (KJV)

**Hebrews 4:15-16 HB**

**15 Because we absolutely do not have a head priest who does not have power to feel our weaknesses with us, but was tempted in all respects according to *our* likeness, apart from sin,**

**16 Let us come therefore with outspokenness to the throne of grace, that we may take mercy, and find grace for well-timed help.**

[4] As a church we are a holy and royal priesthood to offer up the sacrifice of praise to God.

1 Pet 2:5-9

5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

.....

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: (KJV)

**1 Peter 2:5, 9 HB**

**5 And as living stones you are being built a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

.....

**9 And you are a chosen generation, a kingly priesthood, a holy race, a pur-**

chased people, that you should announce the manliness of the one having called you out of darkness into his marvelous light; Note Php 4:8

## **8. SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH WITH YOUR TITHES, YOUR OFFERINGS, YOUR TIME, AND YOUR ABILITIES.**

Christian stewardship involves not only your money, but your time, and your ability to do things.

A steward is one who manages the possessions of another. We are God's possession, therefore we are responsible to Him for the way we manage ourselves and everything about us.

**[1] Tithing of our material possessions, giving ten percent of our increase, to God's work, is a teaching that is basic throughout the Bible [Malachi 3:10-12; 1 Corinthians 9:1-14] .**

Giving ten percent to the man of God is so old, there is no specific record of its beginning. The Bible simply states that Abraham paid tithes to the priest, Melchizedek [Genesis 14:20), as though it was a common practice needing no explanation.

The Law of Moses declares that the tithe is the Lord's [Leviticus 27:30), and must be given to God's ministers and God's representatives.

Jesus placed His approval upon tithing during His earthly ministry [Matthew 23:23), and the early church is reported as going beyond the tithe constantly, sometimes even giving all [Acts 2:45, 4:34-35].

Every believer who brings the tithe as the basis of his giving to the ministry is very happy about it, and bears witness that he believes God has given specific blessings as the result.

**[2] The New Covenant emphasizes that we should give all that we can since Jesus Christ gave His all for us.** Peter urges us to obey God completely with everything.

1 Pet 1:17-20

17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth accord-

ing to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, (KJV)

**1 Peter 1:17-20 HB**

17 **And if you call on Father, the one judging everyone's work without taking faces, conduct yourself around your time of foreign residency in fear,**

18 **Seeing that you were absolutely not redeemed with decaying things, silver or gold, out of your empty behavior received by tradition from your fathers,**

19 **But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb unblemished and unspotted,**

20 **Who truly was foreknown before the foundation of the world, and was manifest in these last times because of you,**

**[3] We are to give in proportion to the way God has prospered us with material possessions.** Paul lays down this principle.

**[ 4] Christian giving involves more than your money.** Paul describes the tremendous spirit of giving that prevailed in the churches of Macedonia. They gave beyond what anyone could expect considering what they had. But not only their money.

2 Cor 8:5-8

5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

6 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

7 Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love. (KJV)

**2 Corinthians 8:5-8 HB**

5 **Therefore I govern as necessary to call on the brothers, that they would go before to you, and prepare thoroughly your blessing which you promised beforehand, for this to be ready, in this way as a blessing, and not as covetousness.**

6 **And this: the one sowing sparingly, will also reap sparingly, and the one sowing with a view to a blessing will also reap with a view to a blessing.**

7 **Everyone according as he chooses for himself in his heart, not out of sadness, or out of necessity, because God loves a hilarious giver.**

**8 And God has the power to cause all grace to super-abound to you, that in all things, always, having all self-sufficiency, you may super-abound to every inherent good work;**

We ask you to serve not only with your money, but with your time and abilities. We like to know the type of work you do, and if you are interested in giving work at the church in the area of your employment or skills. Please volunteer your services. Most likely you would be used immediately.

Review these important statements:

**[1] An infant cannot believe, and is therefore made safe by the blood of Jesus that was shed for all.**

**[2] When a person is old enough to believe for himself he must personally repent and believe upon Jesus Christ for himself. .**

**[3] Salvation occurs in the heart between the believer and Christ and occurs whenever the person deliberately trusts Jesus Christ as the one and only way of salvation.**

**[4] Once a person has believed into Jesus Christ he possesses everlasting life and can never be lost.**

**[5] Those who have believed and therefore have experienced personal salvation by the grace of God should confess Christ publicly by being baptized into a local church.**

**[6] Baptism must be by immersion since it does not save, but pictures the burial and resurrection of Jesus and the believer.**

**[7] Once you are saved and baptized, you should begin to tithe, attend regularly, and help in the church work.**

## LESSON 5

# PRACTICE THE SPIRIT FILLED LIFE

### *OUTLINE*

1. Know the Holy Spirit as a person, not just an influence.
2. Understand that it is the Holy Spirit who brings people to Christ and gives them the new birth.
3. Understand the three movements of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.
  - (1) The first is the new birth.
  - (2) The second is the baptism or infilling of the Holy Spirit.
  - (3) The third is the continued communion with the Holy Spirit.
4. Appropriate the fullness (baptism) of the Holy Spirit by faith and live continuously in His fullness.
5. Keep your life in proper balance by placing first in your life what the Holy Spirit places first.
  - (1) The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ.
  - (2) The power of the Holy Spirit is given to you to tell others about Christ.
  - (3) The Holy Spirit bestows certain gifts upon different members for the benefit of the whole church.
6. Cultivate the fruit of the Spirit.

You will never know the full blessings of the Christian life until you understand the person and work of the Holy Spirit, for it is He who makes Jesus personal and real in your life.

## **1. KNOW THE HOLY SPIRIT AS A PERSON, NOT JUST AN INFLUENCE.**

We have one God who has revealed Himself in three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Just as surely as Jesus Christ is a person, the Holy Spirit is a person.

This is a great mystery. There is no explanation of the Trinity that will satisfy our limited minds. But according to God's Holy Word there is only one God, yet the three persons are definite and distinct.

Do not refer to the Holy spirit as "it." You would not refer to the Father as "it," nor to the Son as "it."

Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit with the pronouns of "He" and "Him" indicating that He is talking of a distinct person.

John 14:26

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (KJV)

**John 14:26 HB**

**And the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and cause you to remember all things which I said to you.**

The King James translators are somewhat to blame for thinking of the Holy Spirit as "it," for they have translated Romans 8:14 as follows "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."

You will find that later translations have corrected this and read "The Spirit himself bears witness ...."

The Holy Spirit is a Person, and you, and I must deal with Him as an intelligent loving person, not a vague religious influence.

## **2. UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO BRINGS PEOPLE TO CHRIST AND GIVES THEM THE NEW BIRTH.**

People do not come to Christ for salvation of their own desire; they are drawn to Christ by the urging of the Holy Spirit. This is what we call "conviction."

Jesus told the disciples that it was necessary for Him to go away, but that he would send them another comforter, another of the same kind as Himself.

John 16:7-8

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: (KJV)

**John 16:7-8 HB**

7 **But I say to you the truth; it is advantageous to you that I go away, because if I do not go away, the Comforter will absolutely not come to you; and if I go, I will send him to you.**

8 **And coming he will convict the world concerning sin, and concerning righteousness, and concerning judgment.**

The Holy Spirit uses the witness of the disciples and brings into the unsaved man's heart a deep consciousness of his sin, his need for Christ, and that he will face judgment unless he accepts Jesus Christ's righteousness to cover his sin.

Once the lost man yields to the conviction of the Holy Spirit, and accepts Jesus Christ as his Savior, the Holy Spirit in that moment gives him the new birth. The Holy Spirit in that experience makes Jesus Christ personal and real. It is the Holy Spirit who makes it possible for you to experience Christ firsthand.

We have already discussed the new birth at length in Lesson 3, so we shall not deal with the work of the Holy Spirit in the new birth in this chapter.

### **3. UNDERSTAND THE THREE MOVEMENTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER.**

The first two works of the Holy Spirit are definite experiences, and the third is a continuous process. First is the new birth. Second is the baptism of the Holy Spirit, or the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Third is the continuous communion of the Holy Spirit.

**[1] The first work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is the new birth.**

That takes place immediately, in the very second that the person receives the Lord Jesus [John 3:3, 5]. In that moment the Holy Spirit comes in and becomes a

permanent resident. No one can call Jesus Lord, but by the Holy Spirit [1 Cor 12:3]. When you are born of the Holy Spirit, you immediately become a temple of the Holy Spirit [1 Cor 3:16; 6:19].

**[2] The next experience of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is the baptism of the Holy Spirit, or the infilling of the Holy Spirit.**

There has been much controversy surrounding these terms and this experience. God does not want you arguing about these things, and neither do I. I will give you some basic guidelines here that will help you understand and enjoy the fullness of His power in your life.

There is a sense in which you are baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ at your new birth. This happens to every believer. Every believer is baptized [placed] into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit at the salvation experience [1 Cor. 12:13]. But this is not the baptism with power that occurs in the infilling experience.

The New Covenant uses both terms for this experience. The word baptism is used in the Gospels [Mat 3:11] and in Acts [1:5] before the experience actually occurred. When the experience took place on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2:4 the word “filled” is used. In Acts 10:44 and 11:16 it is said that the Holy Spirit **seized upon** them, and in 11:17 Peter states very clearly that he is referring to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. So it is right and proper to use both terms, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the infilling of the Holy Spirit, as well as describing the experience as the Holy Spirit seizing upon you in power.

There are some few in modern times who insist that speaking in tongues is the one main sign that must take place to show you have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is not true, and is not taught by most prominent Charismatics as well as non-Charismatics. Tongues speaking may or may not accompany the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

As to when the baptism of the Holy Spirit takes place, it can take place with the new birth, or some time after, or even years after a person is saved.

[How to appropriate the fullness or the baptism of the Holy Spirit is in the next section.]

**[3] The third movement of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is “communion” with the Holy Spirit [2 Cor 13:14].**

The Greek word, *kononia*, communion, means

Fellowship, partnership, and distribution. You and I are to be in constant fellowship with the Holy Spirit. We are also His partners. That means we share in the responsibilities. We furnish our person. He furnishes the power and the ability. We also are distributors. The Holy Spirit distributes His blessings through us.

You must have constant communion with the Holy Spirit. He is your partner twenty-four hours every day. Consult Him. Share with Him. Obey Him. Count on His help.

#### **4. APPROPRIATE THE FULLNESS, THE BAPTISM, OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BY FAITH AND LIVE CONTINUOUSLY IN HIS FULLNESS.**

Being filled with [baptized in] the Holy Spirit is a definite experience followed by a continuous infilling.

There are those who are saved, but who are not presently filled with the Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes in at conversion, and abides forever, but whether He fills you constantly is dependent upon your daily faith and obedience.

The Holy Spirit does not come and leave the believer. He comes in to dwell permanently.

1 Cor 3:16

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? (KJV)

##### **1 Corinthians 3:16 HB**

**Do you absolutely not see that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God is housed in you?**

**3:16 temple, *naos*.** In the Bible we see God's progressively revealed truth about the temple of God. It was first revealed to Moses as a tent or tabernacle where God met with His people, Exo 25:9. David and Solomon desired to make it a permanent house, which desire God honored with the explanation that David's son, ultimately Jesus, would build a house that would endure forever, 2 Sam 7:2ff, 13. In the Gospels Jesus referred to His own body as the temple of God, Mrk 14:58; John 2:19. Now for this first time in 1 Cor 3:16 we learn that every individual believer is a temple of God.

The Holy Spirit never leaves a Christian. He is always within the believer to convict him when he is wrong, and to encourage and strengthen him when he is right.

But, simply because the Holy Spirit is within the believer does not mean that the believer is filled with the Spirit. The believer by being disobedient can suppress or subdue the Spirit to your will rather than His [1 Thes 5:19]. You can grieve the Spirit - offend, or vex, or sadden Him by un-Christ-like attitudes and deeds.

**As Christians we are commanded to be filled with the Spirit continuously without interruption.** And do not be drunk with wine, in which is unsaved-ness, but be filled in the Spirit, Speaking to yourselves in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your heart to the Lord [Ephesians 5:18-10).

**The early Christians were filled repeatedly. In Acts 2:4 they were baptized or filled with the Spirit. In Acts 4:31 the same disciples were filled again.** And they having bound themselves in prayer, the place where they were assembled together was shaken, and they were all filled by the Holy Spirit, and spoke the word of God with boldness.

Just as you took salvation from Jesus by a definite act of faith, you also take the fullness of the Holy Spirit by a definite act of faith.

Just as we did not deserve salvation, so we do not deserve the fullness of the Spirit. Just as we said, "Lord, I am a sinner. I do not deserve salvation, but you said I should take salvation because you want to give it to me," so we should say, "I do not deserve the fullness of the Spirit, Lord, but you have said that I may have His fullness by simple faith. Therefore, I here and now, in the name of Jesus take the baptism of the Holy Spirit."

In that moment it is done. He gives us power to live for Christ.

## **5. KEEP YOUR LIFE IN PROPER BALANCE BY PLACING FIRST IN YOUR LIFE THAT WHICH THE HOLY SPIRIT PLACES FIRST.**

It is so easy to go off on a tangent in your life, especially with reference to the Holy Spirit. If you will gain an overall knowledge of the Word of God this will help

you to maintain a proper balance in your spiritual life. Let the following principles help guide you, and you will know the joys of a full, overflowing spiritual life.

### [1] The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ.

Jesus said, John 16:13-15

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you. (KJV)

**John 16:13-15,**

**13 But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you into all truth, because he will absolutely not speak from himself, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will announce to you the things to come.**

**14 He will glorify me, because he will take out of mine, and will announce it to you.**

**15 All things which the Father has are mine; because of this I said, that he will take out of mine, and will announce it to you.**

Note these two phrases: **he will absolutely not speak from himself**, and, **whatever he hears he will speak, and he will announce to you the things to come**. Note that the Holy Spirit glorifies Christ by taking from Christ and giving to you. **He will absolutely not speak from himself**, means "He shall not speak from himself as the source, but the Holy Spirit will speak to you only what Christ gives Him to tell you." This is the meaning of the Greek preposition.

The Lord Jesus is your Lord. He bought you with His own blood. You are His. He loves you with all His heart. And He knows where you are in your growth and what you need at this point in your life. So, He, the Lord Jesus, in His loving wisdom decides what of His own riches you need at this time.

He instructs the Holy Spirit to announce these things to you. The Holy Spirit does not tell you what He Himself wishes to tell you. He tells you only what the Lord Jesus gives to Him to tell you.

Note the word **announce**. The word is *evangello*, to announce good news. It is the word evangelize, made of two Greek words *ev*=good, and *angel* = message: good message. As the Lord Jesus wisely sends His wonderful riches in your direction the Holy Spirit announces the good things coming toward you from Christ. He does this to

evoke the exercise of your faith, so you can take Christ's riches and become like Him in your life. By becoming like Jesus you glorify Him. Keep this as the uppermost priority in your life.

Keep your life in balance. If you follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit He will glorify Christ with your testimony and your life.

## **[2] The power of the Holy Spirit is given to you to tell others about Christ.**

Some people would lead you to believe that the Holy Spirit is poured out in power upon you to make you feel good and do something dramatic.

Jesus said,

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. (KJV)

### **Acts 1:8 HB**

**But you will take power, the Holy Spirit coming upon you, and you shall be witnesses to me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and Samaria, and until the last *place* on earth.**

There is one primary purpose that towers above all others for giving the believer the power of the Holy Spirit - it is to give a clear and understandable witness for Jesus Christ to the world. The Holy Spirit does not aid in any activity that causes the message of Christ to be garbled or confusing to the lost world.

## **[3] The Holy Spirit bestows certain gifts upon different members for the benefit of the whole church.**

Most always it is with reference to the gifts of the Holy Spirit that people get their spiritual lives out of balance.

Special gifts are given to different members, but always the purpose is for the profit of the entire congregation.

In the twelfth chapter of I Corinthians Paul is dealing with a divided and confused church where everyone is reveling in his spiritual pride and self righteousness. Each one is saying that his spiritual gift is more important than the other's. One says,

"I have the gift of tongues. If you do not have the gift of tongues you are not filled with the Spirit." Another says, "I have the gift of healing. If you do not have the gift of healing you are not filled with the Spirit."

By acting in this manner they had divided the church into several factions, and had caused such un-Christian like attitudes that Paul disgustedly declared, **I thank God that I baptized absolutely not one of you, except Crispus and Gaius** [I Cor 1:14).

So I interpret Paul to mean, "Consult the Lord and concentrate on receiving and exercising these gifts "best for you."

## 6. CULTIVATE THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.

Fruit is something that grows as a normal expression of nature. If a tree is a peach tree the normal expression is peaches. If it is a fig tree, it produces figs. If a person is a Christian, if he is born of the Holy Spirit, the normal result is the fruit of the Spirit, LOVE.

For a tree to bear beautiful luscious fruit it must be cultivated. I have seen peach trees with sickly fruit, because they were uncultivated.

Many Christians do not bear the glorious fruit of love as they should because they do not cultivate their lives properly. The Holy Spirit provides the nature, the character, the life giving power for fruit bearing, but you and I determine if it is a sickly or healthy fruit by the way we cultivate our lives.

In Galatians 5:22-23 the fruit of the Spirit is given. You will note that fruit is singular and the verb is singular. The fruit of the Spirit is one big luscious fruit - LOVE.

**It can be described as one big cluster of grapes. The entire cluster is LOVE. The individual grapes on the cluster are joy, peace, perseverance, moral excellence, inherent goodness, faith, meekness, self-control.**

Cultivate LOVE as THE grand and glorious fruit of the Spirit.

In conclusion, remember the title of this Lesson. PRACTICE THE SPIRIT FILLED LIFE. You can know all about the Spirit-filled life intellectually, and still be a carnal miserable Christian. We have to PRACTICE the Spirit-filled life.

## LESSON 6

# LIVE THE CHRIST-LIFE AT HOME

### *OUTLINE*

**Introduction:** Cultivate the right ideas about sex.

1. God created us male and female.
2. God made sex beautiful.
3. God placed marriage and sex together.
4. God has given us power to make spirits, souls, and bodies in our own image.
5. God purposes that marriage last a lifetime.
6. What to do
  - (1) before marriage.
  - (2) after marriage.
7. The biblical definition of love

There are only two institutions that God personally began. They are the home and the church. God personally created Adam and Eve, and then performed their marriage ceremony. Jesus Christ who is God in the flesh when He was upon earth personally began the church.

God therefore gave these two institutions His most personal attention. I conclude, therefore that they are the two most important institutions on earth, and should, therefore, command our greatest possible personal attention.

Some people concentrate all of their attention and energy upon their home and its material and social success. This brings upon them failure with God and eternal condemnation. There are a few who concentrate all of their time and energy upon the

church to the neglect of their home. This does not please God and sooner or later will cause severe damage to the home and the church, and no doubt will bring God's severe discipline.

There are those who are regular hypocrites, who piously work in the church giving the appearance of godliness while at home they live selfishly and devilishly toward their family. God shall judge such wickedness, as the Bible says, **and all liars, will have their allotment in the lake burning with fire and flashing sulfur** [Revelation 21:8].

Our appeal in this Lesson is that you have Christ in your heart, and that you live the Christ-life at home, keeping home and church in proper balance for the Glory of God.

## **Introduction: CULTIVATE THE RIGHT IDEAS ABOUT SEX.**

I suppose there is nothing in the world about which there are more perverted and twisted ideas than there are about sex. Ideas range all the way from the idea that sex is nothing but animal impulse and that it should be taken and enjoyed promiscuously without the obligation of marriage, to the other extreme that sex is dirty and should never be referred to without blushing and shame.

Therefore let us turn to the Bible and gain the wholesome attitude that the Word of God reflects.

### **1. GOD CREATED US MALE AND FEMALE.**

Genesis 1 summarizes the creation including man and simply states, **And God created the man in his image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.** [Genesis 1:27].

In Genesis 2, the Bible gives greater details. The Lord created man out of the dust of the earth, breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. At first God created man. He was a complete, whole man, with the seed of the entire human race within him.

God placed him in the Garden. Then God brought all the animals before Adam, but in no way was there any attraction for him to co-habit with an animal. Adam had spirit - the image of God within him. He had mind, emotions, and will like God.

Therefore, sexual union must be with a person like him based upon intelligence, feeling, and choice. There is a strong spiritual dimension to sex.

God then caused Adam to sleep, and took woman from his side. He took one part of Adam and made her female, and took Adam and made him male. Therefore, Adam and Eve were two halves of the whole man that God originally made. Each person is an individual and complete in that sense, but in another sense is made complete when joined to a spouse.

After God made them male and female He pronounced everything He had made **good** [Genesis 1:31]. Therefore, the very first attitude which must be established in the mind is that sex is good, wholesome, holy, enjoyable, to be desired, and that which God has ordained.

You will note that sexual relations and child bearing were commanded by God before sin entered. Apparently the reason that children were not born before Adam and Eve fell into sin is because they yielded to Satan before there was time for a child to be conceived. Pain in childbirth is the consequence of sin, but not childbirth itself. God created man and woman to be made whole by sexual union.

## **2. GOD MADE SEX BEAUTIFUL.**

The Bible knows nothing of the “hush-hush,” blushing-when-sex-is-mentioned attitude that has at times been promoted by “Christians.” The Bible accepts sex as a normal part of life as eating and working, and speaks of it pointedly.

Sexual union is the greatest and most intimate knowledge that man and woman can have of one another. The word for sexual union in Hebrew is **to know**. And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bore Cain ....” [Genesis 4:1].

Unless a husband and wife can develop a successful and lovely sex life they will never know each other intimately, and their marriage is in constant danger of breaking up.

In order to realize the matter of fact references to sexual relations, pregnancies, etc., and at other times the beautiful descriptions of love making in the Bible you should make a study of the Bible on this subject. With many married couples, probably over half, their sexual relations is a matter of constant frustration and irritation. Ninety percent or more of the problem results from an unbiblical attitude toward sex.

Read the beautiful intimacies of love as expressed in the Song of Solomon,

chapter 7.

Song 7:1-13

1 How beautiful are thy feet with shoes, O prince's daughter! the joints of thy thighs are like jewels, the work of the hands of a cunning workman.

2 Thy navel is like a round goblet, which wanteth not liquor: thy belly is like an heap of wheat set about with lilies.

3 Thy two breasts are like two young roes that are twins.

4 Thy neck is as a tower of ivory; thine eyes like the fishpools in Heshbon, by the gate of Bathrabbim: thy nose is as the tower of Lebanon which looketh toward Damascus.

5 Thine head upon thee is like Carmel, and the hair of thine head like purple; the king is held in the galleries.

6 How fair and how pleasant art thou, O love, for delights!

7 This thy stature is like to a palm tree, and thy breasts to clusters of grapes.

8 I said, I will go up to the palm tree, I will take hold of the boughs thereof: now also thy breasts shall be as clusters of the vine, and the smell of thy nose like apples;

9 And the roof of thy mouth like the best wine for my beloved, that goeth down sweetly, causing the lips of those that are asleep to speak.

10 I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me.

11 Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the field; let us lodge in the villages.

12 Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give thee my loves.

13 The mandrakes give a smell, and at our gates are all manner of pleasant fruits, new and old, which I have laid up for thee, O my beloved. (KJV)

Here is *The Heritage Bible* translation:

**Song of Solomon 7:1-13,**

The Groom speaks.

**1 How beautiful are your strokes with sandals, Oh daughter of *the* generous! The joints of your thighs are like knobs of a necklace, the work of the hands of a skilled workman.**

**2 Your navel is like a round cup, not lacking mixed wine; your belly *is like* an heap of wheat set about with lilies.**

**3 Your two breasts are like two fawns, twin gazelles.**

**4 Your neck *is* as a tower of ivory; your eyes *like* the reservoirs in Heshbon, by the gate of Bathrabbim; your nose *is* as the tower of Lebanon leaning out to peer, facing Damascus.**

**5 Your head upon you *is* like Carmel, and the hair of your head like purple;**

the king is held in the curls.

6 How beautiful and how pleasant you are, Oh love, for feminine luxury!

7 This your height is like a palm tree, and your breasts *like* clusters of grapes.

8 I said, I will ascend the palm tree, I will take hold of its branches; and also your breasts shall be as clusters of grapes of the vine, and the smell of your nose like apples;

9 And the taste of your mouth *is* like the best wine, walking to my beloved in uprightness, causing the lips to glide smoothly as those who sleep.

The Bride speaks.

10 I *am* my beloved's, and his desire *is* toward me.

11 Walk, my beloved, let us go out into the field; let us lodge in the villages.

12 Let us start early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine buds, *if* the tender blossoms have opened, the blossoms of the pomegranates; there I will give my loves to you.

13 The mandrakes give a smell, and at our gates *are* every eminent *fruit*, new and old, which I have hid for you, Oh my beloved.

### 3. GOD PLACED MARRIAGE AND SEX TOGETHER.

In other words God forbids sexual relations outside of marriage, and commands that it be enjoyed freely within marriage.

**You shall not commit adultery** [Exodus 20:14]. This command forbids promiscuous sex relations by youth and adults, by the unmarried and the married.

**You shall not covet thy neighbor's wife** forbids not only promiscuous sexual relations but also condemns the lust of the heart whether fulfilled or not.

Nudeness other than between husband and wife is forbidden as shameful [Exodus 20:26] because it leads to the sin of adultery in the mind if not in the body.

The Bible teaches that a woman should wear clothing that beautifies her, but she is to refrain from sexually provocative dress [Proverbs 7:10; 31:22; 1 Peter 3:1-4].

But even after a woman does her very best to dress as a Christian, men with evil minds will still lust and commit adultery in their own hearts [Matthew 5:28].

**Prostitutes, both male and female, are unequivocally condemned throughout the Bible. Paul states, Marriage is highly valued in all, and the bed undefiled, but fornicators and adulterers God will judge [Hebrews 13:4].**

Proverbs 5:3-14 warns the young man to avoid the prostitute, and then verses 15-21 command the young man to find the satisfaction for all his sexual needs in his wife. It reads,

Prov 5:15-21

15 Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.

16 Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets.

17 Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee.

18 Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.

19 Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.

20 And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?

21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings. (KJV)

**Proverbs 5:15-21 HB**

**15 Drink waters out of your own cistern, and running waters out of your own well.**

**16 Let your fountains be dispersed abroad, rivers of waters in the streets.**

**17 Let them be only your own, and not a strangers' with you.**

**18 Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth.**

**19 Let her be as the loving doe and graceful ibex; let her breasts satisfy your appetite at all times; stray with her love always.**

**20 And my son, why will you stray with an adulterous woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?**

**21 Because the ways of man *are* in front of the eyes of Jehovah, and he equals out all his paths.**

**Proverbs 18:22 states,** He who finds a wife finds good, and obtains the delight of Jehovah., **and 19:14 declares,** House and wealth *are* the inheritance of fathers, and an intelligently successful wife is from Jehovah.

Paul very pointedly commands that husbands and wives are to satisfy each other's sexual needs.

1 Cor 7:2-5

2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also

the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

5 Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency. (KJV)

**1 Corinthians 7:2-5 HB**

**2 But because of fornication, let each have his own wife, and let each have her own husband.**

**3 Let the husband give over to the wife the kindness owed *her*, and similarly also the wife to the husband.**

**4 The wife absolutely does not have authority over her own body, but the husband, and similarly also the husband absolutely does not have authority over his own body, but the wife.**

**5 Do not defraud one another, except possibly by spoken agreement for a time, that you may be unoccupied for fasting and for prayer, and come together again, that Satan may not tempt you through your lack of self control.**

All kinds of sexual perversion are condemned as being the violation of the person as a person made in the image of God. Homosexual and lesbian acts are condemned as being among the most vile and repulsive sins. The Bible describes this sin as being committed in most cases by people who have become **reprobate**, that is, as having rejected God with finality.

**In Deuteronomy 23:18 Moses commanded,** You shall not bring the gift for prostitution or the wages of a dog into the house of Jehovah, your God, for any vow, because even both these are an abomination to Jehovah, your God. The wages of a dog **refers to the money paid to a male homosexual prostitute, a Sodomite. This is the sin that caused God to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah by fire. Paul describes them in Romans 1 as being among the most gross pagans. He writes,**

Rom 1:21-32

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. (KJV)

**Romans 1:21-32 HB**

21 On this very account, having known God, they absolutely did not glorify *him* as God, nor were thankful, but became empty in their reasonings, and their heart's not *being able* to put it together was darkened.

22 Professing to be wise, they became stupid,

23 And changed the glory of the undecaying God in a likeness made like decaying man, and to birds, and four footed animals, and creeping things.

24 Therefore God gave them over to uncleanness in the longings of their own hearts, for their bodies to be rendered infamous in themselves,

25 Who exchanged the truth of God in a lie, and worshipped and officially ministered to the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 Because of this, God gave them over to dishonorable passions, because also their females exchanged the physical use into that which is against *the* physical,

27 And similarly also the males, forsaking the physical use of the female, inflamed in their mental excitement toward one another, men in men working indecency, and taking in themselves in full the pay necessitated by their going astray. See Note Lev 18:22

28 And just as they absolutely did not test to have God in full knowledge, God gave them over to a disapproved mind, to do the things not appropriate,

29 Having been filled with all unrighteousness, sexual promiscuity, depravity, covetousness, malice, full of envy, murder, quarrels, baited entrapment, bad character, whisperers,

30 Slanderers, God-haters, insolent, those appearing higher, braggarts, devisors of worthless things, disobedient to parents,

31 Unable to put it together, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, unwilling to agree, unmerciful,

**32 Who recognizing the righteous deeds of God, that those practicing such things are worthy of death, absolutely not only do the same, but think well of the ones practicing them.**

I am not saying that a homosexual or a lesbian cannot be saved. They can be, but many have gone so far that there is no turning back.

Avoid pornography, because Jesus clearly condemns the lust of the eyes.

#### **4. GOD HAS GIVEN US THE POWER TO MAKE SPIRITS, SOULS, AND BODIES IN OUR OWN IMAGE.**

I had completed college and seminary, had been pastor fifteen years, had been married fourteen years, and my wife and I had given birth to three children before this great truth dawned upon me.

It was at the birth of our fourth child, Kimberly {our third child died at birth in Costa Rica} that this great Biblical truth filled my soul - that we as human beings created in the image of God have the power to beget children in our own image.

There are three theories about the origin of the soul given by A. H. Strong in his Systematic Theology. They are:

**One, the theory of pre-existence.** This view was held by Plato, Philo, and Origen (a Christian writer) and argues that souls were in existence with God before conception and birth. The Jewish Talmudists “regarded all souls as created at once in the beginning, and as kept like grains of corn in God’s granary, until the time should come for joining each to its appointed body.”

In various forms this theory was believed by Immanuel Kant, Wordsworth, Tennyson, Robert Browning and others.

**Second, the creation theory.** “This view was held by Aristotle, Jerome, and Plagius, and in modern times has been advocated by most of the Roman Catholic and Reformed theologians. It regards the soul of each human being as immediately created by God, and joined to the body either at conception, at birth, or at some time between these two.”

In this theory as in the theory of pre-existence the human parents originate the body only. They do not generate the soul. According to them the soul and spirit come directly from God without coming through the parents.

**Third, that the parents originate the spirit, soul, and body of the baby.** This belief is that the human race was immediately created in Adam, and, as respects spirit, soul, and body, was propagated from him by natural generation, all souls since Adam being only mediately created by God, as the upholder of the laws of propagation which were originally established by him. This view was held by Tertullian and Augustine.

The third theory, that mother and father originate the spirit, soul, and body of the infant, is the correct belief according to the Bible.

Gen 5:1-3

1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;

2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.

3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth: (KJV)

**Genesis 5:1-3 HB**

**1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, he made him in the likeness of God;**

**2 He created them male and female, and knelt down with goodness to them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.**

**3 And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his likeness, in his image, and called his name Seth;**

When the doctor came to me in the waiting room on October 3, 1964, and announced to me that my wife had given birth to a lovely baby girl that all was well, for some reason this great truth suddenly dawned upon me. Immediately I felt a kinship to God that I had never before felt. Suddenly I realized that as God had created Adam after His own image, He had given me power to bring into existence a spirit and soul in my image.

The spiritual significance of the genealogical table given in Luke suddenly came alive:

Luke 3:23, 37-38

23 And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,

.....

37 Which was the son of Mathusala, which was the son of Enoch, which was the son of Jared, which was the son of Maleleel, which was the son of Cainan,

38 Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God. (KJV)

**Luke 3:23, 37-38 HB**

23 And Jesus himself was beginning *to be* about thirty years, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph, who *was* of Heli,

.....

37 Who *was* of Mathuselah, who *was* of Enoch, who *was* of Jared, who *was* of Mahalalel, who *was* of Cainan,

38 Who *was* of Enos, who *was* of Seth, who *was* of Adam, who *was* of God.

Here I was a descendant of Almighty God, and as a descendant of deity I had given birth to a person who also was a descendant of the same great line. Suddenly I felt more noble, pure, godly, more powerful. In the ecstasy of those moments I transcended time and space, realizing that I belonged to a race that is eternal and divine.

I know nothing that will transform your idea of sex, your attitude toward your spouse, your feeling toward pregnancy, and your appreciation of your children more than this great Biblical doctrine of the origin of the soul.

When her first child was born Eve exclaimed, **I have erected a man by help from Jehovah (Gen 4:1)**, that is by means of God's help I have given origin to a man. Oh, that all husbands and wives would gain the proper appreciation for this God-given power.

Gen 12:5

And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. (KJV)

**Gen 12:5 HB**

And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their property that they had laid up, and the souls whom they had made in Haran; and they went out to walk into the land of Canaan; and they came into the land of Canaan.

## **5. GOD PURPOSES THAT MARRIAGE LAST A LIFETIME.**

Marriage is based upon the physical union of bodies. This is meant in no way to deny that God leads in the selecting of a spouse, nor that we are not to be in love and joined in spirit and soul. But it is to state positively that marriage is the joining of bodies, of flesh, and that once this is consummated it is to be a lifetime union.

Gen 2:22-24

22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. (KJV)

**Genesis 2:22-24 HB**

**21 And Jehovah God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh underneath;**

**22 And Jehovah God built the rib, which he had taken from the man, into a woman, and brought her in to the man.**

**23 And the man said, This stroke is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh; she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of Man.**

The reason that I emphasize this is because I have seen people trying to justify their divorce and remarriage by clinging to an overly romantic and unrealistic idea of marriage. They have argued that since they were “not meant for each other” that God never recognized their marriage. Since they now have found “the right one” God will ignore the previous marriage as having never existed.

If we will let God He will lead us in the selection of a spouse, but once we are married whether to “the right one” or not, in God’s sight we are married. Marriage before God is the physical union of two persons, and God’s purpose is that once we consummate this union that it be the one and only union until death alone parts us.

Legal provision for divorce is a necessity, not because it is right, but because of the hardness of people’s hearts.

Mark 10:2-9

2 And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him.

3 And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you?

4 And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away.

5 And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept.

6 But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.

7 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;

8 And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.

9 What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. (KJV)

**Mark 10:2-9 HB**

2 **And the Pharisees coming near, asked him, Is it lawful for a man to set his wife free? Tempting him.**

3 **And he answering said to them, What did Moses command you?**

4 **And they said, Moses allowed *them* to write a scroll of divorce, and to set her free. Deu 24:1**

5 **And Jesus answering said to them, He wrote you this commandment on account of your hard-heartedness,**

6 **But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. Gen 1:27.**

7 **On this account a man shall leave behind his father and mother, and be glued to his wife; Gen 2:24**

8 **And they two will become into one flesh, so that absolutely no longer they are two, but one flesh.**

9 **What therefore God has yoked together, do not let man separate.**

Here it is plainly stated that God joins husband and wife together on the basis that one is male and the other is female. Once God has joined them, no man is to separate them. They are not to separate themselves, and no third person is to enter in to violate this union between the two.

The entering in of a third person to violate this union is the only basis upon which Jesus conceded that divorce is permitted. He says,

**Matthew 5:32,**

**And I say to you, That whoever sets free his wife without *the* word of sexual promiscuity makes her commit adultery, and whoever shall marry the one set free commits adultery.**

Sexual promiscuity here means sexual relations with someone other than your spouse. A third person enters to break the union that exists between husband and wife. Since the union is broken, it is considered that the marriage is violated, and therefore divorce is the logical result.

However, I must add that even in this the only concession Jesus made to divorce, divorce is not commanded. Many who have found themselves in so grave a sin as this have discovered that forgiveness and reaffirmation of their love and loyalty to one another can still result in a happy marriage. Paul gives some specific instructions to believers on marriage. The background for these instructions is that when the gospel came to them as grown married people some who accepted Christ found themselves married to husbands or wives who would not accept Christ, but continued in the immoral practices of paganism.

Therefore he gives this advice:

- [a] The first rule to follow is that you should not divorce.**
- [b] If you do divorce you are to remain unmarried or return to your spouse.**
- [c] One person being a Christian and his or her spouse not being a Christian is not grounds for divorce.**
- [d] However it is better to separate and remain unmarried than to live in a constant atmosphere of antagonism.**
- [e] If a person's spouse dies he or she is free to marry "only in the Lord." This means that marriage would be permitted only under the following circumstances.**

**One, you must marry a believer.**

**Two, you must marry someone who has not been married, or whose spouse has died.**

All of these instructions are found in I Corinthians 7.

If you wish your marriage to last a lifetime here are some basic Biblical principles that if practiced will guarantee your success.

## **6. WHAT TO DO**

### **(1) Before marriage:**

\* Pray regularly as a teenager and as a young adult that God will lead you to the right life partner.

\* Let yourself become serious only with someone who is born again and who is regular in church attendance in a church whose belief is similar to yours.

\* Practice in courtship a life of moral restraint so that you do not have additional complications to overcome. Keep your virginity.

\* Make Christ and His church the center of your lives before and after marriage. This is absolutely the greatest insurance against home break-up that is available.

\* Counsel with your pastor before marriage.

## (2) After marriage:

\* Begin immediately to read the Bible and pray together daily. Be conscientious in praying before meals and before retiring at night.

\* Do not drop out of church while you are getting established in the world. Young married couples have a tendency to make week end trips, work on week ends, sleep in, etc. If you start the habit of staying out of church, as the years go by it becomes more difficult to start attending church again.

\* Accept and practice the biblical philosophy of the relationship of husband and wife. I have never known a truly happy home except where the husband is the leader of the home. The Bible teaches that the husband must **love his wife even as himself, and the wife reverence her husband**, Eph 5:33.

Eph 5:21-33

21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. (KJV)

**Ephesians 5:21-33 HB**

- 21 Arranging yourselves under one another in the fear of God.
- 22 Wives, subordinate yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord,
- 23 Because the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ *is* head of the church, and he is Savior of the body.
- 24 But as the church is arranged under Christ, so also *are* the wives *to be* to their own husbands in everything.
- 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself over for it,
- 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it by the washing of water in the spoken word,
- 27 That he might stand it alongside of himself the glorious church, not having a blemish, or a wrinkle, or any such things, but that it be holy and unblemished.
- 28 In this way husbands are under obligation to love their wives as their own bodies; the one loving his wife loves himself,
- 29 Because absolutely no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourished and cherished it, even as the Lord the church,
- 30 Because we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.
- 31 Because of this the man shall leave his father and mother behind, and shall be glued to his wife, and they two will be one flesh.
- 32 This is the great mystery, and I speak as to Christ, and as to the church.
- 33 And further, you, one by one, each of you, in this way love his wife even as himself, and the wife *likewise*, in order that she reverence her husband.

Discipline your children with firmness, love, and honesty. Parents represent the Lord to their children, and most always the concept that children have of God is the concept they hold of their parents.

Be lovingly consistent. If there is one thing a parent should remember in dealing with children it is this - be lovingly consistent. This is what the Bible means when it says,

Eph 6:4

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (KJV)

**Eph 6:4 HB**

**And the fathers, do not enrage your children, but nourish them in child training and warning of the Lord.**

Learn how to logically cultivate love. Love is not simply a romantic emotion.

Love is an act of the will. If you by your will determine that you will do everything in your power to logically care for the needs of your spouse and children, and follow through on that decision, that is love. Love is an attitude that you develop and grow. It is logical and sensible. It is simply the giving of yourself to care for and make another happy. Use common sense, and through the years learn how to love one another. Your marriage will last a lifetime.

## **7. THE BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF LOVE**

The Greek word *AGAPE* means:

**[1] To have good will toward persons because of their intrinsic worth. Toward God because He is God and the giver and sustainer of our being. Towards humans because they are created in His image, and loved by God.**

**[2] To love irrespective of the person's merit.**

**[3] You have a strong desire that the person loved receives the very best that God has.**

**[4] You take pleasure in the person, not necessarily in what he does.**

**[5] You refuse to abandon the one loved {until there is no possibility of help}.**

**[6] You will undergo whatever suffering is necessary to deliver the one loved.**

**This is the kind of love husbands and wives must have for the Lord and one another,**

## Lesson 7

# BE AN EFFECTIVE WITNESS AND SOUL WINNER

### *OUTLINE*

1. **Accept the fact that you are called to be a witness.**
  - (1) Christ calls every believer to give his life for Christ and the gospel.
  - (2) The believers of the early church witnessed wherever they went.
2. **Be firmly convinced that the one primary objective of the church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ.**
3. **Memorize the Roman outline of the plan of salvation.**

### **THE ROMAN PLAN**

1. **1 AM A SINNER. Romans 3:23**
    - (1) A sinner by nature
    - (2) A sinner by choice
  2. **THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH. Romans 6:23**
    - (1) Spiritual death
    - (2) Physical death
    - (3) Eternal death
  3. **CHRIST DIED FOR MY SINS. Romans 5:8**
    - (1) Christ was sinless
    - (2) Christ died for sinners
    - (3) While we were still sinners
  4. **1 AM SAVED WHEN I BELIEVE WITH MY WHOLE HEART. Romans 10:9-10**
    - (1) With my mind
    - (2) With my emotions
    - (3) With my will
- You can be saved now. Will you ask Him to save you? Romans 10:13.**

The salvation of your soul and the development of your entire personality in the likeness of Jesus Christ is the one primary purpose of our church.

This statement we mean with all our heart, but in order for this statement to be actually true at least a majority of our members must put this purpose into practice. As a new member you must in turn help us share salvation and Christian development with others.

## **1. ACCEPT THE FACT THAT YOU ARE CALLED TO BE A WITNESS.**

Entirely too often we have concluded that only those who are well trained and highly skilled should try to witness to others. The Bible does not teach this. Of course, a person should obtain all of the training he possibly can, but he must begin to witness immediately after he is saved.

A witness is someone who tells what he has actually experienced himself. That is all that is required of a witness. A Christian witness simply tells what Christ has done for him. Therefore if Christ has saved you, you have a first hand experience to give. So, the first thing a saved person should do is tell someone else about his personal salvation experience with Jesus Christ.

I shall mention only two Scriptures here to show that all Christians are called to witness:

### **(1) Christ states that He calls every believer to give his life for Christ and the spread of the Gospel. He states:**

Mark 8:34-38

34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. (KJV)

**Mark 8:34-38 HB**

**34** And calling the crowd near with his disciples, he said to them, **Whoever wills to come after me, let him utterly deny himself, and lift up his cross, and follow me.**

**35** Because whoever wills to save his soul will destroy it, and whoever will destroy his soul on account of me and the gospel's, he will save it.

**36** Because what shall it benefit a man, if he gains the whole world, and experience *the* loss of his soul?

**37** Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

**38** Because whoever will be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy *heavenly* messengers.

Note that this Scripture is directed to everyone who becomes a follower of Jesus Christ. Note also that every believer must give up his own way of life and give himself to Christ and the God. And note finally that if he is ashamed to witness for Christ here, he will not be claimed as belonging to Jesus Christ in the judgment. This makes it very clear that every disciple is a witness for Jesus or he is not a disciple.

**(2) The believers in the early church witnessed wherever they went.**

We read in Acts 8, that after the death of Stephen, church members were scattered, leaving Jerusalem to avoid death and everywhere they went they witnessed to others.

Acts 8:2-4

2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. (KJV)

**Acts 8:2-4 HB**

**2** And devout men together carried Stephen *to his burial*, and made a great mourning over him.

**3** And Saul ravaged the church, entering house by house, dragging both men and women, he gave them over to prison.

**4** Therefore indeed, being scattered they came through announcing the good news of the word.

Please note that the church members were the ones who were scattered. The apostles remained in Jerusalem according to verse 1. And especially note that as they traveled from place to place they witnessed to others about salvation in Christ. This was the natural result of their having been saved. A genuine believer has a strong desire to witness to others. He must cultivate and develop that Christian desire.

## **2. BE FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT THE ONE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE CHURCH IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES FOR JESUS CHRIST.**

The Word of God is very clear that the one primary purpose of the church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ. When Jesus Christ gave the Great Commission He spelled out clearly that the one primary purpose of the church which takes preeminence over all other purposes is to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

Matt 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (KJV)

**Matthew 28:18-20 HB**

**18 And coming near, Jesus talked with them, saying, All authority was given to me in heaven and upon earth.**

**19 Having gone therefore, disciple all the races, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,**

**20 Teaching them to keep all things whatever I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you all the days, to the entire completion of the age. Amen.**

Mark 16:15

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. (KJV)

**Mark 16:15 HB**

**And he said to them, Going into all the world, proclaim the good news to all the creation.**

Words of Jesus given in Luke in the same place as the Great Commission read,

Luke 24:46-48

46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And ye are witnesses of these things. (KJV)

**Luke 24:46-48 HB**

**46 And said to them, Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer, and to rise out of *the* dead the third day;**

**47 And *that* repentance and forgiveness of sins be proclaimed upon his name to all races, beginning from Jerusalem.**

**48 And you are witnesses of these things.**

The Great Commission is not found in exact form in John but he states that the purpose of his written Gospel is that you may believe and have eternal life.

John 20:31

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

**John 20:31 HB**

**And these have been written, so that you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.**

And the very last words Jesus spoke to His disciples before ascending to glory are,

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. (KJV)

**Acts 1:8 HB**

**But you will take power, the Holy Spirit coming upon you, and you shall be witnesses to me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and Samaria, and until the last *place* on earth.**

Note this summary of the statements made by Jesus in the Great Commission and in His final words:

Teach all races.

Publish openly the good news to all creation.

Preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name to all races.

The Gospel is written that people may believe Christ and have eternal life.

Ye shall be witnesses unto me unto the last place on earth.

If we take the Word of God seriously we must agree that there is one all-encompassing purpose of the church which must saturate everything we do - it is to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

Feeding the hungry, clothing the poor, crusading for more humane and just laws, and all else, all of which is involved in the work of the church, must be born along with the one primary purpose - **that whoever believes into him will not be destroyed, but have everlasting life** [John 3:16]. Any objective short of this is unworthy of the church of Jesus Christ.

### **3. MEMORIZE THE ROMAN OUTLINE OF THE PLAN OF SALVATION.**

As you become skilled in talking with people about their souls you will use many different Scriptures. You will learn how to use different parts of the Bible to meet different ideas and needs.

But for right now you need to memorize a basic outline of the plan of salvation. The verses I use most of the time are the verses I will outline in Romans. They are the easiest to find. You stay in one book, and they are close together.

Please, right now, take a positive attitude about memorizing this outline, these Scriptures, and the ideas involved. Too many of us have told ourselves that we cannot learn, that we cannot memorize, so long, that we are beginning to believe we cannot when we actually can.

Simply read over this with the idea of becoming familiar with it. Then look it over carefully and analyze it a bit. Then go on to something else. Later without pressuring yourself, see how much you can remember. You will be surprised, and you have gone over it only once.

Next, study it again with the idea of memorizing the outline. The next time concentrate on memorizing the Scriptures. Take it in steps over a period of days, and before long you will have it thoroughly learned.

From time to time say it to an imaginary person. Then try telling just part of it, or the parts you remember the easiest to someone. Before long you can give it easier than you can give your name and address.

## **The Plan of Salvation**

### **THE ROMAN PLAN**

#### **1. 1 AM A SINNER. Romans 3:23**

- (1) A sinner by nature
- (2) A sinner by choice

#### **2. THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH. Romans 6:23**

- (1) Spiritual death
- (2) Physical death
- (3) Eternal death

#### **3. CHRIST DIED FOR MY SINS. Romans 5:8**

- (1) Christ was sinless
- (2) Christ died for sinners
- (3) While we were still sinners

#### **4. 1 AM SAVED WHEN I BELIEVE WITH MY WHOLE HEART. Romans 10:9-10**

- (1) With my mind
- (2) With my emotions
- (3) With my will

**You can be saved now. Will you ask Him to save you? Romans 10:13.**

Before anyone can be saved there must be a definite consciousness of sin. Every man is a sinner in two ways — by nature, and by choice [Romans 3:23] .

Sin is our way instead of God's way. If we follow our way instead of God's way the pay check is death [Romans 6:23] .

First, physical death is the separation of the spirit from the body. Spiritual death is separation from God in our hearts here and now. When we become old enough to know right from wrong, and choose wrong, we become spiritually dead to God, separated from God.

If we persist in spiritual separation from God until we die physically, the result is eternal separation from God in the lake of fire.

So the wages of sin is death — Spiritual death, physical death, and eternal death.

Christ died to save us from our sins [Romans 5:8]. Christ could die for us because He was sinless. I cannot die for your sins, because I have sins of my own that need putting away. It is the same with you, but Christ was without sin, and thus could die for our sins.

Christ died for sinners. He did not die for good people. There are none, no, not one.

Christ died while we were yet sinners. The lost person cannot hope to get rid of his sins and then come to Christ. If he could, what need of Christ would he have? He must come, sins and all, while he is yet sinner, and let Christ take them away.

Christ was sinless. He died for sinners. He died while we were yet sinners.

Let us now review the three main points up to now:

[1] **“I am a sinner.”**

[2] **“The wages of sin is death.”**

[3] **“Christ died for our sins.”**

Having given the basic things a person must know to be saved we come now to see exactly “how” to be saved.

In order to be saved you must confess Christ with your mouth, and believe Him with the whole heart [Romans 10:9-10].

Millions of people confess with the mouth that they believe Christ is the Son of God, but many of them have never believed with the whole heart.

“Do you accept the fact that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?” “Yes,” they probably will answer, and this is fine and necessary, but it is only the starting point to being saved. Next you must believe with the whole heart.

What is your heart? Your heart is “you on the inside.” To believe with the whole heart means to believe with the whole person.

There is an age-old division of the heart that for all practical purposes is sufficient for explaining the “how” of being saved.

Your heart has three divisions:

- [1] **your mind**
- [2] **your emotions, and**
- [3] **your will.**

In order to be saved you must believe with all three.

**First, you must believe with your mind.** You cannot be saved unless you have at least this much information: I am a sinner in need of salvation; Jesus Christ died and rose again to save me. You do not have to understand anything else. But you must know at least that much, and accept that information with your mind. That is believing with one-third of your heart.

**Secondly, you must believe with your emotions.** To believe with your emotions, means, that having mentally accepted the gospel facts, you now begin to feel concern for your soul's salvation. No man has ever been saved who did not at some specific time become concerned and interested in his soul's eternal welfare.

But you have known many who believed with the mind, but were never saved. They believed with only one-third of the heart. I have known those who knowing the facts, were under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, and became concerned and disturbed about their soul's salvation, but were never saved. They believed with only two-thirds of the heart. You must believe with the will. That is, having received the information and accepted the facts that you are a Sinner, and that Jesus died and rose to save you, and being concerned for your soul's salvation, you then say with your will, “I will now trust Jesus Christ to save me.”

Romans 10:13 indicates a need to “**call upon the name of the Lord.**” In order to be saved, a specific prayer for salvation must go up from the sinner's heart to God. “God save me.” “I trust Jesus Christ.” “I give you my soul and life.” You must pray some such prayer.

This is the act of the will, and it is believing with the whole heart.

**Let me illustrate. Let us suppose that you suddenly inherited \$10,000.** Let us also suppose that you have never made a deposit of money in a bank, and you are carrying the \$10,000.00 in your pocket. As a close friend I come to you and say, "I am extremely concerned about you carrying that money in your pocket. There are people who would kill you for less money than that, or you could lose it, or any number of things could happen to it." You answer, "Yes, I know, but I do not know what to do." And I say, "You have heard of the service the bank offers?" "Well, yes," you reply, "but I have never personally trusted them with my money."

Then I explain, "It is very simple. You simply hand your money to the cashier. You sign a signature card so they will know your signature. They give you a receipt, and your money is safe."

So at my urging you go to the bank, talk with the cashier. But you have never done this before, and you are not sure. You tell the cashier that you will think it over, and see him later. You walk out of the bank, and down the street. Several blocks away someone sees you coming who knows you have been carrying the money. He steps behind a building, and when you go by he clubs you over the head, and takes your money.

Now, I want to ask you a simple question. Did knowing that the bank could keep your money, and did being concerned over your money keep you from losing it? No. Why? Because you never made the deposit. It can be the same way with your soul. You can know that Jesus is the Savior, that He can save you, and you can be concerned about your soul to the point of tears. But until you actually deposit your soul with Jesus Christ you are in grave danger.

Now, look at it the other way. You go to the bank. You make the deposit. You walk out the door. Down the street someone clubs you down. But he cannot get your money. Where is it? It is in the bank. You are wounded, but your money is safe.

The same principle applies to salvation. You deposit your soul in the hands of God. You go on your way. Satan attacks you, and wounds you. But he cannot get your soul. Who has it? God does. You get up, and ask God to forgive you for letting Satan knock you down. You thank him for keeping you saved, and do everything you can to show Him you are grateful. It is as simple as that.

Will you now pray this prayer, and deposit your soul in God's hands?

[If you have not already done so, pray this prayer and make the deposit:]

### **The Sinner's Prayer**

God forgive me of my sins.

I believe Jesus died and rose again for me.

I TAKE Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

I receive eternal life.

I receive Your Holy Spirit.

I give You my life. From this day forward my life is Yours.

Thank You, Father, for saving me. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Signed

Date

## LESSON 8

# LOOK FORWARD TO THE RETURN OF JESUS

### *OUTLINE*

**Introduction: Promises in the Bible that He will return:**

**Mat 24:30. John 14:3. Acts 1:10-11/ I Thes 4:16-18. James 5:8. 2 Pet 3:3-10.  
1 John 3:2. Jude 14-15. Rev 22:20.**

**1. Maintain an attitude of readiness for His return.**

**2. Be informed on what the Bible teaches about His return.**

- (1) The rapture, 1 The 4:13-18
- (2) The judgment seat of Christ, 2 Cor 5:10
- (3) The Anti-Christ, 2 The 2:3-10
- (4) The Great Tribulation, Mat 24:21-22
- (5) The Marriage Supper of the Lamb, Rev 19:6-9
- (6) Armageddon, Rev 16:13-16
- (7) The Revelation, Rev 19:11-21
- (8) The millennium, Rev 20
- (9) The great white throne judgment, Rev 20:10-15
- (10) The new heaven and the new earth, Rev 21-22

**3. Do everything you can to help prepare as many people as possible before His return.**

The hope of Jesus Christ's return to earth in power and glory is the hope that saturates the Bible and fills the believer's heart with courage.

### **[1] Jesus Himself promised to return:**

Matt 24:30

And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (KJV)

**Mat 24:30 HB**

**And then the sign of the Son of Man will be manifested in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will beat their breast in grief, and they will gaze at the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and much glory.**

Acts 14:3

Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands. (KJV)

**John 14:3 HB**

**And if I go, and prepare a place for you, I am coming again, and will take you to myself, so that where I am, you may be also.**

## **[2] The Angels promised that He would visibly and bodily return.**

Acts 1:10-11

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. (KJV)

**Acts 1:10-11 HB**

**10 And while they were gazing intently into heaven as he was going up, also behold, two men stood beside them in white clothing;**

**11 Who also said, Men, Galileans, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This Jesus, the one being taken up from you into heaven, will so come in the same manner you have looked with special interest at him going into heaven.**

## **[3] Paul prophesied that Christ will return.**

1Thes 4:16-18

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words. (KJV)

**1 Thes 4:16-18 HB**

**15 Because the Lord himself, in a shout, in a voice of *the* chief heavenly messenger, and in a trumpet of God, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will stand up first;**

**17 Then we, the ones living, the ones left all around, at the same time will be taken to himself with them, in clouds, to a meeting of the Lord in *the* air, and in this way forever we shall be with the Lord.**

**18 Therefore comfort one another in these words.**

#### [4] James promises that Christ will return soon.

James 5:8

Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. (KJV)

**James 5:8,**

**Also be patient; steadfastly set your hearts, because the coming of the Lord to be at our side draws near.**

#### [5] Peter urges us to look for His return regardless of the scoffing of the world.

2 Pet 3:3-10

3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. (KJV)

**2 Peter 3:3-10 HB**

**3 Knowing this first, that there will come upon the last days scoffers, traveling *about* according to their own passions,**

**4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming to be at our side, because since the fathers fell asleep all things remain as from the beginning of the creation?**

**5 Because this is hidden from them by their willing *it so*, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing together out of the water and through the water,**

6 Through which the world *that* then was, being deluged with water, was destroyed,

7 And the present heavens and the earth having been treasured up by the same word, are being kept for fire for *the* day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

8 And do not let this one thing be hidden from you, beloved, that one day with the Lord *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord will absolutely not delay the promise, as some govern *it to be* delay, but is patient to us, not willing *for* any to be destroyed, but that all may have space for repentance.

10 And *the* day of *the* Lord will arrive as a thief in *the* night, in which the heavens will pass away with a crash, and the elements being set on fire will be loosed, the earth also and the works in it will be burned down.

### **[6] John promises that at His coming we shall be made like Him.**

I Jn 3:2

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. (KJV)

#### **1 John 3:2 HB**

Beloved, now we are the children of God, and it absolutely does not yet appear what we shall be, but we see that, when he appears, we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

### **[7] Jude records the prophecy of Enoch that promises His return.**

Jude 1:14-15

14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. (KJV)

#### **Jude 1:14-15 HB**

14 And Enoch also, seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord came in myriads of his holy ones,

15 To do judgment against all, and to convict all the ungodly of them of all their ungodly works in which they have been ungodly, and concerning all their hard things which ungodly sinners spoke against him.

**[8] And Jesus' very last promise in the Bible is that He will return.**

Rev 22:20

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. (KJV)

**Rev 22:20 HB**

**The one witnessing these things says, Yes, I am coming hastily. Amen. Yes, come, Lord Jesus.**

The Old Covenant also is filled with promises of Christ's coming to reign in glory. But these New Covenant verses are sufficient to show that His return in glory is the ultimate hope of every believer. Jesus Himself and every New Covenant writer gives great prominence to His glorious return.

**1. MAINTAIN AN ATTITUDE OF READINESS FOR HIS RETURN.**

I remember that in a certain message I greatly emphasized the point that I wished that Christ would come at that very moment, even before I finished the message. After the message a lady who claimed to be a Christian said to me, "I wish you wouldn't say things like that. It just frightens me something fierce."

If a person is frightened at the thought of Christ's coming, something is wrong in his heart. He either is not saved, or he is a very disobedient Christian, or he is very ignorant of the Bible.

We should look forward to His return with great anticipation. It should be a very exciting thought. We shall see Him face to face, Him whom we have desired to see for so long. I greatly look forward to His coming.

Jesus numerated some things that will take place in the last days and then said, **And when these things begin to come to be, straighten up, and lift up your heads, on the very account that your redemption draws near.** [Luke 21:28]. His second coming is the glorious climatic fulfillment of all that He has promised.

Read these words of Jesus:

Matt 24:44-51

44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

49 And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (KJV)

**Matthew 24:44-51 HB**

**44 And because of this you be ready, because in that hour you absolutely do not think, the Son of Man comes.**

**45 Who then is a faithful and cautiously thoughtful servant, whom his lord has placed over his service to give them nourishment in the proper time?**

**46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he comes will find so doing.**

**47 Amen I say to you, That he will place him over all his possessions.**

**48 And if that bad servant says in his heart, My lord delays to come,**

**49 And should begin to repeatedly hit his fellow-servants, and to eat and drink with the drunk,**

**50 The lord of that servant arrives in a day in which he absolutely does not watch for *him*, and in a hour that he absolutely does not know,**

These words tell us what we are to be doing until Christ comes - to give them food in due season, that is, give the hungry hearts of people the Word of God. If we occupy ourselves with giving others the Word of God, we are prepared and ready for His return. He will make us ruler over his goods when He comes.

There are many, many verses in the New Covenant that encourage us to be ready for His return. Here are a few:

Heb 9:28

28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. (KJV)

**Hebrews 9:28 HB**

In this way Christ, having been offered one single time to bear *the* sins of many, will be gazed at a second time apart from sin by those fully expecting him for salvation.

Matt 25:13

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. (KJV)

**Matthew 25:13 HB**

Watch therefore, because you absolutely do not see the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man comes,

Luke 21:36

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. (KJV)

**Luke 21:36 HB**

Watch, therefore, in every time, and bind yourself in petition, that you may prevail to escape all these things about to be, and to stand before the Son of Man.

1Thes 3:13

To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints. (KJV)

**1 Thes 3:13 HB**

To cause your hearts to be steadfastly set blameless in holiness in front of our God and Father in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to stand by our side with all his saints.

Rev 1:3, 8

3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

.....

8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. (KJV)

**Rev 1:3, 8**

3 Blessed is the one reading, and those hearing the words of the prophecy, and keeping those things having been written in it, because the time is near.

.....

8 Behold, he comes with the clouds, and every eye will see him, and those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will beat their breasts in grief over him. Yes! Amen!

Luke 21:34-38

34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

37 And in the day time he was teaching in the temple; and at night he went out, and abode in the mount that is called the mount of Olives.

38 And all the people came early in the morning to him in the temple, for to hear him. (KJV)

**Luke 21:34-38 HB**

**And hold yourselves in mind, lest your hearts be weighed down with headaches from overindulgence, and intoxicating drink, and anxiety distractions of *this* present existence, and that day stands upon you suddenly unforeseen,**

**35 Because it will come as a snare upon all those sitting upon the face of the whole earth.**

**36 Watch, therefore, in every time, and bind yourself in petition, that you may prevail to escape all these things about to be, and to stand before the Son of Man.**

1Thes 5:2-6

2For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

4But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

5Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. (KJV)

**1 Thes 5:2-6 HB**

**2 Because you yourselves see exactly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in *the* night,**

**3 Because when they say, Peace and security, then sudden destruction comes upon them, exactly as birth pains upon one having *a child* in her stomach, and they shall absolutely not escape.**

4 And you, brothers, are absolutely not in darkness, that the day should overtake you as a thief.

5 You are all children of light, and children of the day; we are absolutely not of night, and absolutely not of darkness;

6 Therefore do not let us fall asleep, as also the rest, but let us keep awake, and be sober,

## 2. BE INFORMED ON WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT HIS RETURN.

In your Bible study you should study all parts of the Bible, especially the entire New Covenant. Just as in eating food for your body, you should seek a balanced diet of spiritual food for your soul. Therefore, you should study what the Bible teaches about Christ's return along with your study of all other doctrines of the Bible. Anyone who devotes all of his Bible study to what Christ did in His first coming, and neglects to study what He promised to do at His second coming is getting a very unbalanced diet for his soul, and *vice versa*.

In this section I will have space only to outline the major events surrounding Christ's return. Before I give you the outline there is one important point I wish you to firmly establish in your mind.

History will not one day suddenly arrive at the day of doom, and then that be all there is to the end. History toward its close will move through a series of climactic events that one after another will prove the philosophies of the world wrong, and reveal Jesus Christ as the one Lord and only way of salvation. History is not a tale told by an idiot. History when concluded will prove, for the whole world to see, the depraved and sinful nature of man, and the goodness and mercy of God. History has a purpose. Do not ever forget that purpose. It is to show God's glorious salvation.

The following outline is the result of many hours of long and prayerful study. It is the basic Pre-millennial position accepted by most outstanding evangelical scholars. Millennium means "one thousand" and refers to the one thousand years that Christ will visibly rule on the earth at the close of history. "Pre-millennial" means that Christ will return before the millennium.

"A-millennial" means there will be no millennium. There are many today who teach that the many Old Covenant and New Covenant prophecies predicting an age of peace under the Messiah are only figurative references to this age, the age of the gospel. When I read all of the literal and detailed prophecies that Christ fulfilled in

His first coming, in all honesty I cannot for the life of me explain away all of the detailed prophecies concerning His second coming. Unless the Bible so states or it is clearly a figurative or symbolic saying it is best to take the Bible "literally" in the popular sense of that term.

Many great names of the past are associated with pre-millennial doctrine, and many of the great names today.

[1] **THE RAPTURE** - The next event in history toward which we now look is Christ's coming to catch out His church. This we call the RAPTURE, meaning, to be caught up.

When Christ comes for us in the RAPTURE the saved are the only ones who will see Him. The unsaved will not see Him but many of them will realize what has happened.

Paul describes the RAPTURE in  
1Thes 4:13-18

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words. (KJV)

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 HB**

**13 And I will you to absolutely not be ignorant, brothers, concerning those fallen asleep, that you not be sad, even as the rest having no hope,**

**14 Because if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in this way also those having fallen asleep God through Jesus will bring with him,**

**15 Because we say this to you in a word of *the* Lord, that we, those living, those left all around unto the coming of the Lord to be at our side, will absolutely not arrive before those having fallen asleep,**

**16 Because the Lord himself, in a shout, in a voice of *the* chief *heavenly* messenger, and in a trumpet of God, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ**

will stand up first;

17 Then we, the ones living, the ones left all around, at the same time will be taken to himself with them, in clouds, to a meeting of the Lord in *the* air, and in this way forever we shall be with the Lord.

18 Therefore comfort one another in these words.

Note that:

\* Christ will come only into the atmosphere.

“ The saved dead will rise first.

\* The saved living are caught up.

\* The wicked dead and the wicked living are in no way included in this event.

[2] **THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST** - The judgment seat of Christ takes place immediately after the rapture and is the rewarding time for the saved up to then. Paul said,

2 Cor 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. (KJV)

**2 Cor 5:10 HB**

**Because we must all be manifested in front of the judgment seat of Christ, that everyone may be provided the things *done* through the body, for what he has practiced, whether good or bad.**

This takes place in heaven around the throne.

[3] **THE ANTICHRIST** - The Anti-Christ, a man, will take over the rulership of the world immediately after the saved are caught out of the world.

In Daniel he is called the **little horn** [Daniel 7:8]. Paul calls him the **man of sin**, and in Revelation he is **the first beast**.

II Th 2:1-12

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (KJV)

**2 Thes 2:1-12 HB**

**1 And we ask you, brothers, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to be by our side, and our gathering together to him,**

**2 For you not to be soon shaken away in mind, nor be alarmed, neither through a spirit, nor through word, nor through a letter as through us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.**

**3 Do not let even one deceive you in any manner; *it will not come*, except there comes the standing away<sup>3</sup> first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction,**

**4 The one lying outstretched opposite and lifting himself above all that is called God, or objects of worship, so as to sit in the temple of God as God, showing off himself that he is God.**

**5 Do you absolutely not remember that while being with you I told you these things?**

**6 And now you see the one holding down for the one to be revealed in his time,**

**7 Because the mystery of lawlessness even now is supernaturally working, only the one is holding down now until he comes into existence out of the midst.**

**8 And then the Lawless One will be revealed, whom the Lord will cause to depart with the Spirit of his mouth, and will render inoperative with the outshining**

of his coming<sup>8</sup> to be at our side;

9 Whose coming to be at their side is according to the supernatural working of Satan in all power, and signs, and lying wonders,

10 And in all deceit of unrighteousness in those being destroyed, because they absolutely did not receive the love of the truth for them to be saved.

11 And because of this God will send them a supernaturally working delusion for them to believe a lie,

12 That they all may be judged, those not having believed the truth but thought good of unrighteousness.

Note that:

\* There comes first a great standing away, taking a stand away from true faith by professing Christians. [This is already taking place, and no doubt, when the true believers are caught out to heaven the apostasy will be complete, because only false church members will be left.]

\* Then the man who violates all the laws of God is put forward by Satan to rule the world.

\* He will claim to be God.

\* He will sit in the rebuilt temple at Jerusalem.

\* He will perform deceptive miracles.

\* He will be destroyed at the REVELATION of Jesus Christ which comes at the close of the reign of the anti-Christ.

Revelation 13:1-10 is a detailed description of the anti-Christ, called **the beast**.

**[4] THE GREAT TRIBULATION** - The great tribulation is the latter half of the reign of the anti-Christ. He will rule seven years [Daniel 9:24-27], and the last three and one half years are the great tribulation [Revelation 11:3; 12:6, 14]

Dan 12:1

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. (KJV)

**Daniel 12:1,**

**And at that time Michael shall stand up, the great chief ruler who stands for the children of your people, and there shall be a time of distress that has never been since there was a people to that time, and at that time your people shall escape, everyone found written in the book. Mat 24:21, 29; Mrk 13:24.**

Jesus said,

Matt 24:21-22

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. (KJV)

**Mat 24:21-22 HB**

21 **Because then will be great tribulation, such as absolutely has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and absolutely never will be.**

22 **And except those days should be shortened, there would absolutely not be any flesh saved, but because of the chosen those days will be shortened.**

There will be during the great tribulation 144,000 Hebrews converted who will evangelize thousands of all races. Revelation 7, tells about this:

Rev 7:4, 9, 13-15

4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

.....

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

.....

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. (KJV)

**Revelation 7:4,9,13-15 HB**

4 **And I heard the number of those having been sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand having been sealed out of every tribe of *the* children of Israel.**

.....

9 **After these things I saw, and behold, a great multitude, which absolutely no one had power to number, out of every race, and *all* tribes, and peoples, and tongues,**

standing before the face of the throne, and before the face of the Lamb, having been wrapped all around in white robes, and palms in their hands;

.....

13 And one of the elders answered, saying to me, These having been wrapped all around in white robes - who are they, and from where did they come?

14 And I spoke to him, Lord, you see. And he said to me, These are those coming out of the Great Tribulation, and they washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore they are before the face of the throne of God, and officially minister to him day and night in his temple, and the one sitting upon the throne tabernacled upon them.

**[5] THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB-** The marriage supper is a joyous celebration of Christ with His church in heaven just before Christ visibly comes to earth with His saints to reign in glory [See Revelation 19:6-9] .

**[6] ARMAGEDDON -** Armageddon is the final battle of the ungodly world and Anti-Christ against God at the close of the great tribulation. Christ ends the battle of Armageddon when He comes visibly to earth in glory to reign one thousand years.

Rev 16:13-16

13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. (KJV)

**Rev 16:13-16 HB**

13 And I saw *coming* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs,

14 Because they are spirits of demons doing signs, who go out upon the kings of the earth and the entire inhabited earth to gather them together into the war of that great day of God the Almighty.

15 Behold, I am coming as a thief; *blessed is the one staying awake, and keeping his garments, in order not to walk naked, and they see his indecency.*

16 And he gathered them together into the place called in Hebrew Armageddon.

Then Christ comes with His saints from heaven in glory, gathers the living

tribulation saints to safety on Mount Zion in Jerusalem [Revelation 14:1 ], slaughters the wicked and casts the Anti-Christ and the false prophets directly into the lake of fire. This ends the battle of Armageddon.

**[7] THE REVELATION** - The revelation is the visible coming of Christ to earth in glory to conquer the world and reign one thousand years. This is described in Revelation 19:11-21.

- He comes from heaven riding a white horse.
- His appearance is that of regal fire.
- The saints and angels in heaven follow with Him
- He slaughters the wicked, their bodies are consumed by vultures and their souls go to the present abode of the departed wicked.
- The Anti-Christ and the False Prophet are cast directly into the lake of fire.
- The devil is chained for one thousand years.
- The saints who were martyred during the three and one-half years of tribulation are raised to sit on thrones.
- The tribulation saints who were protected enter the one thousand years reign without dying or change of body.

When Christ comes in the REVELATION He will be seen by all.

Matt 24:27

For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. (KJV)

**Mat 24:27 HB**

**Because just as the lightning comes out from the east, and shines as far as the west, in this way will be the coming of the Son of Man to be at our side,**

**[8] THE MILLENNIUM** - The millennium is the one thousand years reign of Christ upon earth immediately following His visible return to earth in glory.

**Rev 20:4,**

**And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them, and I saw the souls of those having been beheaded because of the witness of Jesus, and because of the word of God, and who absolutely had not prostrated themselves to the beast, and absolutely not to his image, and absolutely had not taken the engraving upon their forehead or upon their hands, and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.**

There are many references in the Old Covenant to the millennium, although the exact length of the age of peace is not given.

Isa 11:4-9

4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. (KJV)

**Isaiah 11:4-9 HB**

**4 And he shall judge those dangling in need with righteousness, and set things right with evenness for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and he shall kill the wicked with the Spirit of his lips.**

**5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his girding.**

**6 And the wolf shall lodge with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf, and the young lion, and the stall fed cow together, and a little child shall lead them.**

**7 And the cow and the bear shall be shepherded; their young ones shall lie down together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.**

**8 And the nursing child shall amuse himself upon the den of the asp, and the weaned child shall stretch forth his hand upon the opening of the viper.**

**9 They shall not make good for nothing, and shall not destroy in all my holy mountain, because the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah as the waters cover the sea.**

Some of those born during the millennium only outwardly conform to the rule of Christ but do not ever voluntarily receive the new birth in their hearts. Therefore at the end of the millennium Satan is again loosed and these unsaved people are deceived.

Of all the hellish errors ever believed by the human race it is this - that man basically is good, and with good circumstances of material wealth, education, love, and understanding he is automatically a child of God.

All during the millennium men will be surrounded by the very best of material

and social circumstances. Yet those who do not personally and voluntarily submit themselves to the new birth in Christ will be deceived and rebel against God when Satan is loosed.

Every mouth will be stopped, and the entire human race will admit that they are personally guilty of the blood of Jesus. They can no longer blame circumstances. They will sadly acknowledge that man can be saved, not by better circumstances, but only by the grace of God in Christ.

History truly interpreted is the story of salvation, and when history is complete the story will tell that man can be saved only by the grace of God - by the new birth. History will justify God and salvation by grace, and the millennium is the final step in that proof.

**[9] THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT** - The great white throne judgment is the judgment of the wicked. It takes place at the end of the millennium, just before the new heaven and new earth.

All the saved have already been raised from the dead. This is the first resurrection. None of the wicked dead are raised until the end of the millennium. They are then raised and rewarded according to their wicked deeds. The degree of their punishment in hell, although eternal, will be determined by their life on earth.

Rev 20:10-15

10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. (KJV)

**Rev 20:10-15 HB**

**10 And the devil, the one leading them astray, was thrown into the lake of fire**

and flashing sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and they will be tortured day and night to the ages of the ages.

11 And I saw a great white throne, and the one sitting upon it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled, and absolutely no place was found for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before the face of God, and scrolls were opened, and another scroll was opened, which is the Scroll of Life, and the dead were judged out of those things having been written in the scrolls, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead in it, and death and hell gave up the dead in them, and they were judged everyone according to their works.

14 And death and hell were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And if anyone was absolutely not found having been written in the Scroll of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

[10] **THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH** - The new earth surrounded by a new atmosphere [heaven], will be the eternal dwelling place of the saved. Located hovering over the new earth is the beautiful city of the new Jerusalem. Revelation 21 and 22 describe our glorious and eternal state. Here are some of the more important things to note:

\* Heaven is to be in the wonderful presence of God and enjoy fellowship with His glorious person forever.

\* All the former conditions of pain and death and physical limitations are gone forever.

\* We shall fellowship with all the saints of all the ages.

\* Our place of dwelling - the city, the earth- is a place of indescribable beauty.

\* We shall have all we need for abundant life for ever and ever.

This outline will leave you with many questions. Some you can answer by studying the Bible and constant prayer. Others we will not answer until we meet Jesus in the air. I encourage you to learn these basic Bible teachings about the end of the age. They will enrich your Bible study tremendously.

### **3. DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO HELP PRE-**

## **PARE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE BEFORE HIS RETURN.**

Each one of us is to be a witness, and we are to help prepare as many people as possible for life - here and now and in eternity. Jesus may come today. If He does not come today many souls will die and go out to meet Him just the same.

Remember these pertinent statements:

**\* Once a man dies there is no second chance to be saved, And as it lies outstretched awaiting men one single time to die, and after this the judgment [Hebrews 9:27].**

This does not mean that a man is judged immediately after he dies. It means that once he is dead, nothing can change his destiny. He will face judgment in the same condition in which he dies.

\* Therefore, do your very best in every way to let people see the love of God in your life. Be careful how you meet and pass strangers. You may be the last person to whom he speaks before he dies. How will you feel when later the Lord questions you, since you were the last person to talk with him before his death, or before Christ's return? Be sure the love of God flows freely in your life. Most people in a lifetime come into actual contact with very few people who have the love of God in their lives. Don't fail them when they come into contact with you.

[End of *The Church Member's Manual*]