

Lesson One ~ The Word of God

“What is the Role of the Bible in My Life?”



What separates Christianity from any “religion” in the world is its claim to an absolute, written authority from God. Having the Word of God is essential to a Christian’s growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. The standards by which a Christian is to govern his/her life in every detail are found in the pages of the Word of God.

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint the new Christian with the basics of the Bible and how it relates to his/her everyday life, so he/she can begin to understand how its principles are to guide every facet of his/her walk with Jesus Christ.

I. Introduction to the Bible

It is universally accepted that there are two fundamental sources of human knowledge: reason and experience. Both are essential to the understanding of the world around us. Yet, reason and experience do not answer the most profound and important questions of life. Where did I come from? What is the purpose for my existence? Where am I going, if anywhere, after death? Is there a source that answers these, the three most important questions of life?

There is a third source of knowledge called revelation. This revelation is found primarily in the Word of God, commonly called the Bible. The Bible teaches us that God has revealed Himself and His commandments in the Holy Scriptures. In these Scriptures we have direct access to an infinite and personal Being who created all things for His pleasure, who is omnipotent (all powerful), omniscient (all knowing), omnipresent (all present), and immutable (unchanging).

The Bible describes two forms of revelation usually called general and special. According to verses in *Psalms* 19:1-6 and *Romans* 1:20, God has revealed Himself to us through His creation. This general revelation is available to us all. The Bible teaches also that God has implanted the knowledge of His existence in every human heart (*Romans* 1:18 and *II Thessalonians* 1:10).

Introduction to the Bible (continued)

God's special revelation involves a more direct communication with man including dreams, visions, angels, the person of Christ Himself and the Bible, God's written revelation. The Bible presents God's plan of redemption for mankind. All have sinned and all must be redeemed. God's will for man as he relates to God's plan for history is the theme and focal point of the Scriptures.

God chose to reveal Himself in a progressive way. As time passed, more and more was revealed and recorded about God, His will and His ways. At the completion of The New Testament, God's written revelation was complete.

Scriptures are unique in several ways:

- 1)** It is unique in its production. A book written by approximately forty authors over a 1600 year period of time making one complete integrated unit (*II Peter 1:19-21*).
- 2)** It is unique in its preservation. God not only inspired the Scriptures, but He promised to preserve them (*Psalms 12:6-7*).
- 3)** It is unique in its proclamations. Over 25% of the Bible was prophetic in nature when written. It touches the subjects of heaven and hell; eternal salvation and damnation; eternity past to eternity future. Yet, it cuts to the heart of all of the major issues of life (*II Timothy 3:16, 17*).
- 4)** It is unique in its product. No other book has so profoundly influenced the course of history and the lives of men. "The Word of God is quick (alive) and powerful..." (*Hebrews 4:12; I Peter 1:22,23*).

The Bible is a book which is composed of sixty-six books written by more than forty authors over a period of more than 2,000 years. It is totally accurate in its recording of history and prophecy fitting together as though one man wrote it without one contradiction. The middle verse of the Bible is *Psalms 118:8*; the middle words are "The Lord."

II. The Inspiration of the Bible

- The author of the Bible is The Holy Spirit of God.
- The Bible is the source book of our knowledge of God. It is the textbook of divine truth the guidebook to everlasting life.
- The word “Bible” is derived from the Greek word “biblos” meaning “a book.”
- The Bible is a library of sixty-six books divided into two main sections called The Old Testament containing thirty-nine books, and The New Testament containing twenty-seven books.
- “All scripture is given by inspiration...” (*II Timothy 3:16*). What does it mean “by inspiration”? *II Peter 1:21* says, “...holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” The Holy Ghost was miraculously present preserving the accuracy of the transcription of God’s Word in a man’s mouth to what we call the “original manuscripts.” God moved men to say (inspiration) and record (preservation) the very words He chose.
- We accept the Scriptures as the infallible Word of God completely inspired, undoubtedly preserved. *Hebrews 1:1; Jeremiah 1:9; 45:1; II Samuel 23:2; Ezekiel 2:2.*
- *Psalms 12:6, 7*, “The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.”

III. What Does the Bible Say About Itself?

Psalms 119 is well known for its thorough treatment of the Bible itself. Undoubtedly, there is no other passage of Scripture that deals with the subject of the Scriptures in such detail.

Psalms 119 is the longest Psalm containing 176 verses. All but three verses specifically mention the Scriptures (*verses 84, 90, 132*). The number eight is stamped all over this Psalm. Each of its twenty-two sections corresponding to the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet contains eight verses. In the Hebrew text, every verse in each section began with the particular letter of the alphabet that it represented. The psalm uses eight different words to refer to the Scriptures, each numerous times;

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1) the law of the Lord | 5) statutes |
| 2) testimonies | 6) commandments |
| 3) ways | 7) judgments |
| 4) precepts | 8) word |

What Does the Bible Say About Itself (continued)

A. Psalm 199 teaches us that the Bible is eight things **to** the believer:

- 1) water for cleansing (v. 9)
- 2) wealth & treasure (vs. 14, 72, 127, 162)
- 3) a companion and friend (v. 24)
- 4) a song to sing (v. 54)
- 5) honey (v. 103)
- 6) a lamp (vs. 105, 130)
- 7) great spoil (v. 162)
- 8) an heritage (v. 111)

B. Psalm 199 teaches us that the Bible is eight things **for** the believer:

- 1) blesses (vs. 1, 2)
- 2) gives life (vs. 25, 37, 40, 50, 88, 93)
- 3) gives strength (v. 28)
- 4) gives liberty (v. 45)
- 5) imparts wisdom (vs. 66, 97-104)
- 6) creates friends (v. 63)
- 7) gives comfort (vs. 76, 92)
- 8) gives direction (v. 133)

What Does the Bible Say About Itself (continued)

C. Psalm 199 teaches us that the Bible **charges** the believer with eight responsibilities concerning the scriptures:

- 1) love them (vs. 97, 159)
- 2) prize them (vs. 72, 128)
- 3) study them (vs. 7, 12, 18, 26, 27)
- 4) memorize them (v. 11)
- 5) meditate on them (vs. 15, 23, 48, 78, 148)
- 6) trust them (v. 42)
- 7) obey them (vs. 1-8)
- 8) declare them (vs. 13, 26)

IV. The Scriptures have been inspired and preserved by God that we might have an infallible guide that will bring us to salvation and daily sanctification. For what purpose? That while we are here on this earth we might fulfill God's objectives of giving glory to Him while we carry out His will on earth found in what is called our Great Commission (*Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19, 20*).

The teachings of Scripture fall into four major categories according to II Timothy 3:16:

- 1) doctrine – what is right
- 2) reproof – what is not right
- 3) correction – how to get right
- 4) instruction in righteousness – how to stay right

“...that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (3:17).

V. The Word of God is Active in Salvation.

- A.** I Peter 1:23 says a man is born again “by the word of God.” The Word of God is the agent which brings about the new birth.
- B.** *Ephesians 2:8-9* says, “For by grace are ye saved through faith...” and *Romans 10:17* says, “So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.”
- C.** *James 1:21* says the Word of God is, “...able to save your souls.”
- D.** Paul’s summary of the gospel contains four parts in I Corinthians 15:1-4:
 - 1)** Jesus Christ died for our sins.
 - 2)** Was buried.
 - 3)** Rose from the dead.
 - 4)** According to the Scriptures.
- E.** You must believe what the Bible says about sin, your condition, and God’s plan of salvation in order to be saved.

VI. Read This Famous Quote Concerning the Bible:

“The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.”

“Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s charter.”

“Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.”

“Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given to you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its holy contents.”

~ Author Unknown ~

Synopsis of the Bible: Old Testament

In **Genesis** the world was made by God's creative hand;
In **Exodus** the Hebrews marched to gain the promised land;
Leviticus contains the Law, holy and just and good;
Numbers records the tribes enrolled – all sons of Abraham's blood.
Moses in **Deuteronomy** records God's mighty deeds.
Brave **Joshua** into Canaan's land the host of Israel leads.
In **Judges** their rebellion oft provoked the Lord to smite,
But **Ruth** records the faith of one well-pleasing in His sight.
In **First** and **Second Samuel** of Jesse's son we read:
Ten tribes in **First** and **Second Kings** revolted from his seed.
Next, **First** and **Second Chronicles** see Judah captive made,
But **Ezra** heads a remnant back by princely Cyrus' aid.
The city walls of Zion **Nehemiah** builds again;
While **Esther** saves her people from plots of wicked men.
In **Job** we read how faith will live beneath affliction's rod,
And in the **Psalms** are precious songs to every child of God.
The **Proverbs**, like a goodly string of choicest pearls, appear.
Ecclesiastes teaches man how vain are all things here.
The mystic **Song of Solomon** exalts sweet Sharon's Rose:
Whilst Christ the Saviour and the King the 'rapt **Isaiah**' shows.
The warning **Jeremiah** apostate Israel scorns;
His plaintive **Lamentations** their awful downfall mourns.
Ezekiel tells in wondrous words of dazzling mysteries;
And kings and empires yet to come, **Daniel** in vision sees.
Of Judgment and of mercy **Hosea** loves to tell;

Synopsis of the Bible: Old Testament – (continued)

Joel describes the blessed days when God with men will dwell.

Among Tekoa's herdsman **Amos** received his call,

And **Obadiah** prophesies of Edom's final fall.

Jonah enshrines a wondrous type of Christ our risen Lord;

Micah pronounces Judah lost – lost, but again restored.

Nahum declared on Nineveh just judgement shall be poured.

A view of Chaldea's coming doom **Habakkuk's** visions give;

Next **Zephaniah** warns the Jews to turn, repent and live.

Haggai wrote to those who saw the temple built again,

And **Zechariah** prophesied of Christ's triumphant reign.

Malachi was the last who touched the high prophetic chord

whose final notes sublimely show the coming of the Lord.

Synopsis of the Bible: New Testament

Matthew and **Mark**, and **Luke** and **John** the holy Gospels wrote,

Describing how the Saviour died – His life and what He taught.

Acts proves how God the Apostles owned with signs in every place.

St. Paul in **Romans** teaches us how man is saved by grace.

Th' Apostle in **Corinthians** instructs, exhorts, reproves;

Galatians shows that faith in Christ alone, the Father loves.

Ephesians and **Philippians** tell what Christians ought to be.

Colossians bids us live to God and for eternity,

In **Thessalonians** we are taught the Lord will come from heaven.

In **Timothy** and **Titus** a bishop's rule is given.

Philemon marks a Christian's love which only Christians know.

Synopsis of the Bible: New Testament – (continued)

Hebrews reveals the Gospel as prefigured by the Law.

St. **James** insists that without works faith is but vain and dead:

And **Peter** points the narrow way in which the saints are led.

St. **John** in his epistles on love delights to dwell,

And **Jude** gives awful warning of judgment, wrath and hell.

The **Revelation** prophesies of that tremendous day

when Christ, and Christ alone, shall be the trembling sinner's stay.

Questions & Answers

Lesson 1 – The Word of God

- 1.** Reason and experience do not answer the three most important questions in life. What are they?
 - A.**
 - B.**
 - C.**
- 2.** There is a third source of human knowledge other than reason and experience. What is it?

Answer:

- 3.** Explain the difference between general and special revelation.

- 4.** The Scriptures are unique in at least four special ways:

- A. 1**
- B. 2**
- C. 3**
- D. 4**

- 5.** Describe the process of inspiration and preservation.

- 6.** *Psalm 119* extensively deals with the subject of the Bible. The Psalm uses eight words synonymously when referring to the Scriptures. Why do you suppose these eight words are used? (The answer to this question is not addressed in the lesson. It is for you to think.)

- 7.** The teachings of the Scripture fall into four major categories according to *II Timothy 3:16*. List them and explain.

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

- 8.** Explain in your own words to your disciple how the Word of God is active in salvation.

- 9.** List five basic principles of Bible Study.

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4
- E. 5

- 10.** Explain the meaning of *II Peter 1:19-21* to your discipler.

Key Memory Verses:

II Timothy 3:15-17; II Peter 1:20, 21; Psalm 12:6, 7; 119:9

Note: Three popular attitudes about the Bible are:

- 1.** The Bible is just another religious book written by men.
- 2.** The Bible can only be understood by the “clergy” or by years of formal education.
- 3.** In order to understand the true meanings of Scripture, you must study Greek and Hebrew.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these attitudes are wrong, and why.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

Lesson Two ~ Salvation

“What Happened When I Got Saved and What is My New Relationship to God?”

Your decision to trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior is the greatest decision you could ever make. However, it is very unlikely that you understand the true significance of what has happened in your life. The purpose of this lesson is to explain briefly what took place and how your decision has affected your basic relationship to God.

I. There are only Two Spiritual Families in the World.

A. The devil’s family.

- 1) *John 8:44* speaks of a group of people who are of their “*father the devil.*”
-- See also *John 8:38*
- 2) You enter this family by birth through your physical father, who is ultimately a descendant of Adam. *Genesis 5:3* shows that the descendants of Adam are born in Adam’s image and likeness which is that of a fallen sinner.
- 3) You inherited your sin nature from your father Adam *Romans 5:12* states, “*Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*”
- 4) *Romans 5:12* also states that as a result of your sin you were sentenced to die.
 - a) ***Romans 6:23:*** “*The wages of sin is death...*”
 - b) ***1 Corinthians 15:22:*** “*... in Adam all die...*”

There are only Two Spiritual Families in the World (continued)**B.** God's family:

- 1) *John 1:12-13* says, "But as many as received him (that is your decision to trust Jesus Christ as your Savior), to them gave he power to become the sons of God (your entrance into God's family), even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man (it is not a physical birth), but of God" (It is a spiritual birth.)
- 2) You also enter God's family by birth, but it is a spiritual birth by your heavenly Father. *John 3:3* states, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
- 3) This new birth puts you into God's family in exactly the same way your physical birth puts you into your father's family. You are now a son of God by birth.
- 4) As a result of your new birth, you have inherited God's divine nature, and you now have eternal life.
 - a) *John 6:47*: "He that believeth on me hath (present time) everlasting life."
 - b) *John 3:36*: "He that believeth on the Son hath (present time) everlasting life."
 - c) *I John 5:12*: "He that hath the Son hath (present time) life..."

II. Being in God's Family Separates You from the Devil's Family.

- 1) Your body is now the temple of the Holy Ghost. God's Holy Spirit lives inside you. *I Corinthians 6:19*
- 2) *II Corinthians 6:14-18* commands the believer to maintain a difference between himself and the unsaved.
- 3) The new life is perfectly summarized for you in *II Corinthians 5:17-18*, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ..."

III. What is My Relationship With God Now?

- A.** He is your heavenly Father and you are his child. *1 John 2:1* says, “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”
- B.** Now that you are saved, God no longer deals with you as a sinner. He deals with you as a son.
- C.** That relationship is pictured by the earthly relationship between a father and his son.
- 1) A good father loves and cares for his son, *1 Peter 5:7*
 - 2) A good father protects his son. *Matthew 18: 6*
 - 3) A good father provides for his son. *Phil. 4:19*
 - 4) A good father guides and teaches his son. *John 14:26*
 - 5) A good father helps his son. *Psalms 46:1*
 - 6) A good father encourages his son. *Phil. 4:13*
 - 7) A good father disciplines his son. *Hebrews 12:5-11*
 - 8) A good father feeds his son. *Matthew 1:4*
 - 9) A good father has a plan for his son. *Romans 8:28-29*
- D.** A good father will *never* do anything to purposely hurt his son. He will only do those things which will help him grow and mature into the young man he wants him to be. Your heavenly Father operates in the same way, only His ways are perfect. Unlike earthly fathers who sometimes err, God never makes a mistake in His dealings with His sons.

Matthew 7:11: “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”

IV. You Did Not Lose Your Physical Nature at the Time of Your Spiritual Birth.

- A.** That is obvious because you are still alive!
- B.** You now have two natures.
 - 1) Old Nature –physical, sinful, in Adam’s image.
 - 2) New Nature –spiritual, perfect, in God’s image.
- C.** Both natures are present constantly. The one that will control you is the one that you feed most.
 - 1) *Colossians 1:5-10*
 - 2) *II Corinthians 4:14-18*

V. Basic Questions

- A.** Will I sin after I am saved?

Yes, you still have your old sin nature. *Romans 7:25*

- B.** How does my sin affect my relationship with my Father?

God does not kick me out of His family. When you sin, He disciplines you as a son.

Hebrews 12:5-11

- C.** What should I do when I sin?

Confess it and trust the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse you.

- D.** *1 John 1:6-10; Proverbs 28:13*

Questions & Answers

Lesson 2 – Salvation

1. Who are the two spiritual fathers mentioned in *John 8:38*? Give a scripture reference to support both answers.
 - A.
 - B.
2. How did an individual enter the devil's family?

3. How does an individual enter into God's family?

4. Why are people sentenced to die after their physical or first birth?

5. List three verses that promise you eternal life.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
6. List two reasons why a Christian in God's family is different than a non-Christian in the devil's family?
 - A.
 - B.
7. God now deals with you as His _____ rather than a _____.

8. Your new relationship with God can be seen through the earthly father and child relationship. List nine ways God deals with you as His child.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

G.

H.

I.

9. Briefly explain the two natures you now possess.

A.

B.

10. What would be the reason of one nature to overpower the other nature?

11. When a Christian chooses to continue in a particular sin, what can he expect from God?

12. According to *1 John 1:9*, when we confess our sins to God, then He will _____ us and _____ us from all unrighteousness.

13. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key Memory Verses:

Romans 5:12; John 3:3; I John 1:9

NOTE: In many churches today, some popular teachings are:

- 1.** All mankind is part of one, large family of God.
- 2.** All mankind must earn their way to heaven.
- 3.** All mankind can get to heaven through any way they choose.
- 4.** If there is such a thing as sin, it must be confessed to another man or a church leader.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

Lesson Three ~ Assurance

“Why Do I Doubt?”

Many new Christians are stunned because shortly after they are saved, doubts about their decision for Christ arise in their minds. Let me assure you that doubts are common to all. There is an enemy who will put all the doubts into your mind that he possibly can. His name is Satan.

Your next question is, “Why do I have these doubts?” Actually, doubts are good for you because they cause you to get into the Word of God in order to find assurance of your salvation. Your salvation is a fact guaranteed by God’s Word.

I. On The Question of Doubts

Answering the following questions will help you to know for sure you are saved.

- 1)** According to *1 Peter 5:8*, what does Satan want to do to you as a Christian?

- 2)** What animal is Satan compared to in *1 Peter 5:8*?

- 3)** Remember, Satan is your adversary (opponent), and you must fight the doubts he puts into your mind. How do you fight Satan according to

1 Peter 5:9?

On the Question of Doubts (continued)

- 4) To resist Satan, we must put on the armor of God. Below, list the armor that God gives us in *Ephesians 6:10-18*.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

- 5) To resist Satan, you must learn to rid yourself of the doubts Satan puts in your mind. Refuse to dwell on these doubts. How can we do this

(*II Corinthians 10:4-5*)?

II. How Saved Am I?

- 1) What kind of life did you receive when you accepted Christ (*John 3:16*)?

- 2) At the moment of salvation, you became one of God's sheep. Can anyone take you away from God (*John 10:28-29*)? _____

- 3) List the things that cannot separate you from the love of Christ

(*Romans 8:38-39*). _____

- 4) What protects you according to *I Peter 1:5*? _____

- 5) Your salvation does not depend upon feelings. Feelings change, but God and His Word never change. Salvation is a fact not a feeling. *II Timothy 1:12* says that God is able to keep you. Leave the keeping of your salvation up to God, not up to how you feel.

III. HOW CAN I KNOW FOR SURE I'M SAVED?

- 1) How can you be sure that you know God (*1 John 2:3-5*)?

- 2) You know you are saved because you love to be with God's people. The reason you feel that way is because you are now a part of God's family. What does *1 John 3:14* teach us?

- 3) When you were saved, the Spirit of God miraculously entered to live inside you. When you accepted Christ, you accepted His Spirit. What does *1 John 3:24* tell you about knowing that Christ lives within you?

- 4) According to *1 John 5:13*, God has written the Word of God so that you would know what?

- 5) Take a few moments and in this space record how you were saved. If you remember that exact date, include it. Every time Satan brings doubts in your mind, re-read what you have written.

Key Memory Verses:

I John 5:11-13; Ephesians 2:8-9; I John 2:25

Note: In many churches today, some popular teachings are:

- 4.** We must work to keep our salvation.
- 5.** If we sin after we are born again, we can lose our salvation.
- 6.** God punishes his children according to His own whim and pleasure.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these attitudes are wrong, and why.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

Lesson Four ~ Baptism

After salvation God gives us a wonderful command. That command is to follow Christ in baptism.

Baptism is the first step of obedience for the new believer in Christ. I have never known any Christian to grow in Christ or to be blessed by God who did not obey God in believer's baptism.

As you answer the following questions, ask God to teach you through His Word the importance of baptism.

I. The Motive for Baptism

A. Obedience

- 1) Your first motive for baptism should be obedience. In *Matthew 28:18-20*, God commands us to "go" and do three things. List them below:

- _____
- _____
- _____

B. Love

- 2) If you love the Lord, you will want to do what He says. Write out *John 14:15* below:

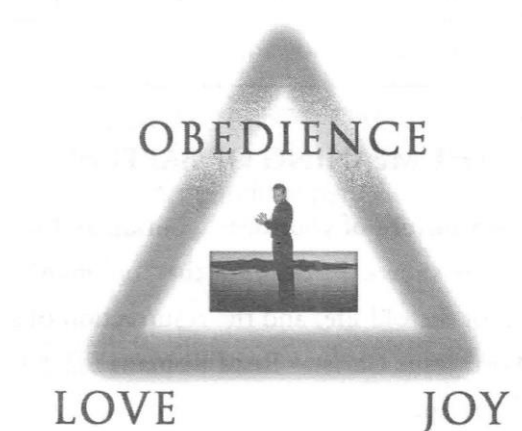
****Baptism proves your love for God.*

The Motive for Baptism (continued)**C. Joy**

- 3) Read the story in *Acts 8:26-40* of the Ethiopian eunuch's salvation and baptism. You will see in this event how baptism brought rejoicing to his heart. Now answer the question below.

- What one thing was necessary before the eunuch could be baptized (v. 37)? _____
- Salvation must come before baptism. After the eunuch was baptized, he "went on his way _____" (v. 39).

The threefold motive for baptism:

**II. Baptism Can Only Be Performed in One Way.**

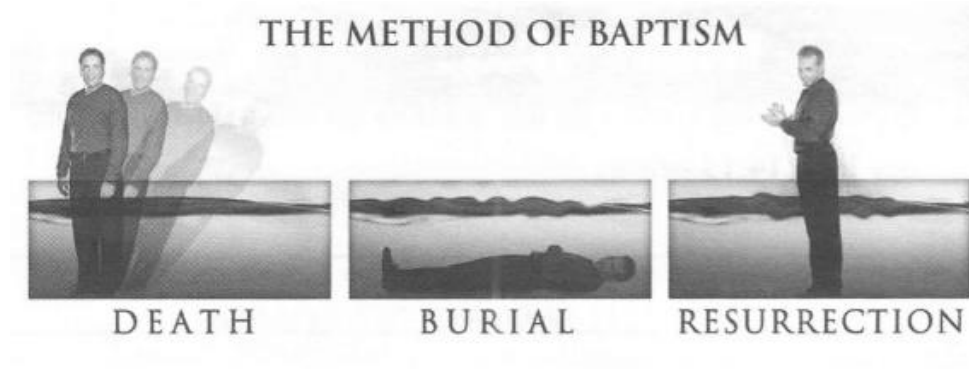
- A.** In the Bible, no one has ever baptized except by immersion of the body under water. The word *baptism* literally means "to dip, to plunge, to submerge, or to immerse." Nowhere in the Bible is sprinkling of babies or adults taught.

- 1) Where was Jesus baptized (*Matthew 1:13*)?

- 2) Read *Matthew 3:16*. Christ could not have come up out of the water until first He was under it.
- 3) *John 3:23* says they were baptizing in Aenon, because there was how much water there? _____
- 4) According to *Acts 8:38*, how did Phillip and the eunuch get into the water?

III. The Meaning of Baptism

Baptism is a picture of your death, burial and resurrection with Christ. Baptism shows the death of the “old man” before you were saved, burial of the old life, and the resurrection of a new life to be lived for the Lord Jesus Christ. Read *Romans 6:3-5* to learn what God says about baptism.



Key Memory Verses:

Matthew 28:19; Matthew 3:12-17; Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:1-7

Note: There is much false teaching among religious groups concerning baptism. The Christian should be aware of some of them.

- 7.** Man must be baptized in order to be saved.
- 8.** Baptism by being sprinkled is just as meaningful as immersion.
- 9.** Babies should be baptized into God's family, or into "the church."

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these attitudes are wrong, and why.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

Lesson Five – The Church

The Importance of Active Membership in a Bible Believing Church

God has established three major institutions on this earth: the family, civil government, and the local church. It is the local church which has been commissioned by God to carry out his purposes in reaching the lost and perfecting the saved. Therefore, God's plan for a Christian will always be fulfilled best when connected with the local church. The Bible teaches that every Christian should belong to a local independent church.

The purpose of this lesson is to impress upon the individual the central role which the church plays in his everyday life.

I. The Local Church

A. What is a local New Testament church?

- 1) It is NOT a building, nor a denominational group of congregations
- 2) The Local Church is a body of men and women who have been saved and called by God to serve in a specific area. This assembly of believers was started by the Lord Jesus Christ. (*Matthew 16:18*)
- 3) With what did Christ purchase the church (*Acts 20:28*)?

- 4) ***Ephesians 2:18-22*** tells us that God's church has its foundations way back with the prophets.
- 5) ***Matthew 4:18*** states, "And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers."

The Local Church (continued)

- 6) **Matthew 4:19**, “And He saith unto them, _____, and I will make you fishers of men.”
- 7) This called out assembly is called out of the world of unbelief to unite together with a common profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 8) **Matthew 16:18** says, “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon _____ I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
- 9) “The Church” is the body of Christ, the saved multitudes from every nation. **I Corinthians 12:14-27**
- 10) The Local Church mentioned in **Matthew 16:18** is not yet the spiritual body of Christ but a group of called out individuals.

Who established the church? _____

Two Churches mentioned in the Bible: a local physical group of called out members, and then, after Acts 2, the spiritual body of Christ composed of saved believers called “The Church”.

Ephesians 1:22-23 states, “And hath put all [things] under His feet and gave Him [to be] the head over all [things] to the church. Which is _____, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all.”

II. What is the Function of the Local Church?

- A. The purpose of the church, as found in **Matthew 28:19-20** it to “Go ye therefore and _____ all nations, _____ them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to _____ all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world.”

What is the Function of the Local Church (continued)

- B.** The local church provides a place of fellowship and identification with Christ, and with other believers. Church membership is a testimony of separation and identification. We want to identify with the people, church, work and Spirit of God. The Spirit works through the local New Testament church which the Lord instituted and for which He called leaders.

Acts 5:13-14, "And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. And _____ were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women."

II Corinthians 6:14, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with _____ for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?"

Who is the head of the church as found in *Ephesians 5:23*? _____

Who deserves the head position in the church as found in *Colossians 1:18*? _____

- C.** The Local church also provides an opportunity to be obedient to the Lord Jesus Christ. Church membership is also a picture of your obedience to Christ, and you also go to get closer to God. And it provided the opportunity to serve Christ under the authority that He has chosen.

Hebrews 10:25, 13:7; I Timothy 5:17

How long ago did God plan to build His church (*Ephesians 1:4*)?

_____ -

III. Church Attendance

A. Why is church attendance so important to a Christian?

- 1) Church attendance is a must if you want to grow in Christ and become a mature Christian. Learn to give God your whole Sunday. Giving God the first day of the week is like making Him your **top** priority. God will bless you for your faithfulness.
- 2) One of the most important elements in the life of a new Christian is getting to know and connecting with other believers. And church is the best way to do this as well as learning essential Bible truths through the preaching and teaching. You will also receive instruction and encouragement on how to live a joy-filled Christian life.

Acts 2:41-47

- 3) Your local church offers Sunday School classes or small groups. Find a class or group to attend every week. This is where you will establish strong relationships, ask pressing questions, and study the Bible.
- 4) According to **Jeremiah 1:15**, God has given pastors to the church who will feed you in _____ and _____.
- 5) God has warned us to “...not _____ of ourselves together...” as in **Hebrews 10:25**.

Church Attendance (continued)

B. Your function in the local church body of believers.

- 1)** During your Christian life, you should grow through three broad and general stages.
 - a)** Observe and learn (childhood stage) – Your first priority should be to submit to the teaching of the Word of God to learn to be the man or woman God wants you to be. ***Matthew 11:28-30***
 - b)** Participate (teenage stage) – In time, you will naturally grow to the point where you can begin to serve and take on some basic functions through the already established ministry of your church. ***James 1:22-25***
 - c)** Ministry (adult stage) – As your growth continues, you should reach the point where you can begin to minister to others in the same way that you have been ministered to.

BE PATIENT!! This process takes time. Just be sure to remain faithful to God's establishment institution, the Local Church.

Basic Question:

- 1.** How do I find the particular local church that God wants me to serve through?

Answer:

Pray about it! Ask God to show you which church to associate yourself with.

Questions & Answers

Lesson 5 – The Church

- 1.** What is the most important priority of a local church?

- 2.** What is the local church?

- 3.** Define the term “the Church”

- 4.** List some things that a church is NOT.

- 5.** What are the three institutions God has established on Earth?
 - A.**
 - B.**
 - C.**
- 6.** There is a proper order for you to follow in participating in the church body. List the three general stages connected with spiritual growth.
 - A.**
 - B.**
 - C.**

Key Memory Verses:

Hebrews 10:25; Matthew 28:19-20

NOTE: *Many churches today are not fulfilling God's plan because their primary attitudes are:*

- 1.** In order to really learn the Bible, you need to go to Bible College.
- 2.** The primary purpose of a local church is to be a social or political organization.
- 3.** The local church is primarily for weddings, funerals and religious holidays.
- 4.** Only the “leadership” of the church is charged with any responsibility of meeting people’s spiritual needs.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these attributes are wrong and why.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects of this lesson.

Lesson Six ~ Prayer

“Prayer is a strong wall and fortress of the church; it is a goodly Christian weapon” — Martin Luther

You nourish your spiritual life through prayer. About 30 times in the New Testament the word *ask* is used to describe prayer. When you pray, you soar above mere mortal planes into the presence of God Himself. The ability to pray is within the grasp of every believer. When you are troubled, the door of prayer is always open. When you have a need, God is always there waiting to hear from you and to grant your request according to His will.

Every new disciple of Christ should set his or her heart and mind to learn how to pray. Great and wonderful blessings await you as you tap into the power of prayer.

I. What is Prayer?

A. Many believe that prayer is simply talking to God, but prayer is also asking. Look up the following verses and write down what God promises to those what ask:

- 1) *Matthew 7:7* _____
- 2) *Matthew 7:8* _____
- 3) *Matthew 7:11* _____
- 4) *Matthew 21:22* _____
- 5) *Luke 11:13* _____
- 6) *John 14:14* _____
- 7) *John 16:24* _____

B. Prayer is simply asking God for the things you need which he can supply.

II. How Should I Pray?

When many people think of prayer, they think of a position of the body. They think you must fold your hands and kneel. However, learning to pray has very little to do with the body, but a great deal to do with the attitude it is for your heart to be in a right relationship with God.

- 1) You must pray with God's _____ abiding in you (*John 15:7*).
- 2) You must pray in whose name (*John 14:14*)? _____
- 3) What do you need to do when you pray (*Mark 11:24*)?

- 4) How should you come before God's throne (*Hebrews 4:16*)?

- 5) When you bring your requests before God, you are to do it with what kind of attitude (*Philippians 4-6*)? _____
- 6) We should pray directly to whom (*1 Timothy 2:5*)?

How should you pray? You should pray by asking God boldly for the things you need in Jesus' name. You should believe that He will answer your prayer and thank Him for the answer before it comes.

III. Why Should I Pray?

- 1) **Because God commands it.** How often does God say to pray (*1 Thessalonians 5:17*)? _____
- 2) **Because your spiritual life depends on it.** Pray is essential in your fight against whom (*Ephesians 6:11-18*)? _____

IV. Where Should I Pray?

- 1) **God says you are to pray privately and He will reward you openly.** God says you should pray in your _____ (*Matthew 6:6*).
- 2) **Every Christian should have a “prayer closet”** – a special private place to meet alone with God every day and pray. Think of a place and a time you can be alone with God and make an appointment to meet Him on a daily basis.

V. When Should I Pray?

- 1) What times of the day does *Psalms 55:17* say you should pray?
_____, _____, _____
- 2) How often did Daniel pray (*Daniel 6:10*)? _____
- 3) How often does *Luke 18:1* say you should pray? _____

Every Christian should take any available opportunity to pray. You should pray every day alone with God. You should pray with other Christians at church, at meal times, as a family; anytime there is a need for prayer is the time to pray.

VI. Hindrances to Prayer

It is only fair that every Christian should know that certain things will hinder his prayers before God. Look up the following verses and write down what each verse says will stand in the way of getting answers to prayer.

- 1) *Psalms 66:18* _____
- 2) *Mark 11:25-26* _____
- 3) *James 4:3* _____
- 4) *Jeremiah 5:25* _____
- 5) *1 Peter 3:7* _____

VII. Prayer Journal

A great way to keep track of your prayers is to start a Prayer Journal. When you have your daily time with God, write down some of your prayers requests and the date. When the prayer is answered, you can check that prayer request off and write the date that it was answered. This is a fantastic way to monitor your prayer progress. And you will feel great joy when you are able to check a request off on your list. It's like keeping a record of God's blessings on your life. (A sample is below.)

PRAYER JOURNAL

<i>Prayer Request</i>	<i>Date Asked</i>	<i>Date Answered</i>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Key Memory Verses:

Philippians 4:6; I Timothy 2:5; Psalm 66:18; I Thessalonians 5:18

Note: In many churches today, some popular teachings are:

- 10.** Man should pray to idols, saints, or other men.
- 11.** If you pray long enough or hard enough, God will change His mind and do what you want.
- 12.** The best prayers are those which have been written by others and are just “said” by you.
- 13.** Prayer must be a set time in a set format.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these attitudes are wrong, and why.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

Lesson Seven ~ Bible Study

You are now a part of the family of God and you need to grow up into an adult Christian. Spiritual growth can only come as you read and study the Bible. The Bible teaches that as a newborn in Christ you must desire the “milk” of God’s Word. (see *I Peter 2:2*)

The best way to grow in Christ is to begin right now to develop habits that will ensure the joy-filled Christian life. One of those habits is reading the Bible every day. I suggest you do as millions of Christians before you have done: rise a little earlier in the morning than usual and spend a few moments reading a chapter of the Word of God. The gospel of John should be read first, and then you can start at the beginning of the New Testament and read it through. If you would like to read more, please do so. Reading four chapters a day will take you through the entire Bible in one year.

No Christian can grow in Christ without developing the Bible reading habit. However, those who begin to read God’s word are sure to become spiritual Christians they desire to be. Remember every word of the Bible is given by inspiration of God. That means that every word is “God breathed.” (see *II Timothy 3:16*.)

Knowing that the Bible is God’s written Word to us should compel us to read every word, so that we will know God’s plan for our lives. Answering the following questions will help you to understand how important daily Bible reading is for your spiritual growth.

I. Where Did We Get the Bible?

- 1) Before man ever penned the pages of God’s Word here on earth, where was it settled forever (*Psalms 119:89*)?

- 2) When the writers of the Bible put the words of God on paper, who moved them to write (*II Peter 1:21*)?

- 3) Read *Psalms 12:6-7*, The Bible was given to us by God and preserved by God so that we can fully trust every word.
- 4) How long did Jesus say the Bible will last (*Matthew 24:35*)?

II. How Important is Bible Reading?

- 1) According to *II Timothy 2:15*, who should we study our Bible?

- 2) What four things can we learn from the Bible (*II Timothy 3:16*)?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____
- 3) What does the new Christian just learning about God's Word need according to *Hebrews 5:12*?

- 4) Read *Hebrews 5:14*, How do you become mature?

- 5) How does your faith grow (*Romans 10:17*)?

- 6) How can you find success (*Joshua 1:8*)?

III. Seven Results of Studying God's Word

When you study the Bible you will reap immeasurable results. God will bless your life as you learn new things about Him through His Word. Look up the following verses. Each verse names a result of studying God's Word. Write the result next to each verse.

- 1) *Psalms 119:116* _____
- 2) *Psalms 119:105* _____
- 3) *Psalms 119:99* _____
- 4) *Psalms 119:11* _____
- 5) *Hebrews 5:14* _____
- 6) *Acts 20:32* _____
- 7) *Psalms 119:160* _____

IV. Basic Principles of Bible Study

In his book entitled Reality Living, Pastor Jeff Adams lists fourteen basic principles of Bible study:

- 1)** Effective Bible study depends upon a correct heart attitude (*Ezekiel 14:1-5*).
- 2)** All Scripture is to be understood within its proper context (*II Peter 1:20; Isaiah 28:10*).
- 3)** All Scripture is to be rightly divided (*II Timothy 2:15*).
- 4)** The individual words of Scripture are the key to correct understanding (*Proverbs 30:5, 6*).
- 5)** Understanding the Bible is not a matter of private interpretation (*II Peter 1:20*).
- 6)** The Bible must be understood by the normal and literal meaning of the words in the context in which you read them.
- 7)** The Bible must be understood in the light of God's consistency (*I Corinthians 14:40*).
- 8)** Never violate a clear passage of Scripture with one that is more obscure.
- 9)** The invisible things of God are understood by seeing them illustrated in God's creation (*Romans 1:20*).
- 10)** Never base a doctrine on a question or rhetorical or hypothetical statement (*I Corinthians 15:29*).
- 11)** Never base a doctrine on a single verse of Scripture (*II Corinthians 13:1; Isaiah 28:9, 10*).
- 12)** Understanding the Scriptures comes in time through spiritual growth (*I Corinthians 2:11-16*).
- 13)** Always give the Bible the benefit of the doubt – innocent until proven guilty (*Ezekiel 14:1-11; Isaiah 29:9-14*).
- 14)** God teaches us through the use of similitude and pictures (*John 15:5*).

Key Memory Verses:

II Timothy 2:15; I Peter 2:2; Psalm 119:105; II Timothy 3:16

Note: Some popular attitudes about the Bible Study are:

- 14.** Bible studies are for those that are the teachers of theology or “clergy.”
- 15.** Bible studies are pointless because it is too long to read and understand.
- 16.** Why study a book that applied to civilizations that are nothing our current modern civilization.
- 17.** I don’t need to, the preacher tell me all I need to know.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these attitudes are wrong, and why.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

Lesson Eight ~ Giving

God has designed a wonderful plan to finance the spread of the truth of the gospel. In order for that to happen, church must be built, missionaries must be sent to other countries, and many other ministries must be financed to get the gospel to a lost and dying world. The way these needs are met is by the giving of tithes and offering by God's people.

God expects every believer to give one-tenth of his total income to Him. By every Christian giving at least one-tenth, God's financial program can be carried out.

God teaches us that our giving ought to be done on Sunday, the first day of the week. Tithing is the spiritual way of giving to God. Every offering is a free-will offering because no one is forced to give. However, every Christian ought to begin to tithe the very first week he or she is saved. Why shouldn't we give our tithes to the Lord? It is God that gave us our jobs and health to work for the money we earn. It is God that has given us our homes and every material thing that we possess.

When we have learned to tithe, we can begin to give an offering which is any amount over and above our regular tithe. Actually, giving is the way we receive the blessing of the joy-filled Christian life (*Luke 6:38*). God definitely teaches us that the way to receive God's blessings is to give. Every Christian should learn to give, for God wants to bless us greatly, and He does this according to our generosity.

In the following questions, notice the biblical basis for giving our tithes and offerings to God.

- 1) How much did Abraham give to God (*Genesis 14:17-20*)?

- 2) Jacob also gave a certain amount to God, How much was it (*Genesis 28:20-22*)?

- 3) Moses commanded Israel to give how much (*Leviticus 27:30-34*)?

- 4) We give our tithes out of _____ for God (*II Corinthians 8:24*).
- 5) The Corinthian church collected their offering on what day of the week (*I Corinthians 16:1-2*)? _____
- 6) How had Israel robbed God in *Malachi 3:8*?

- 7) What did God do to those who would not tithe in *Malachi 3:8-9*?

- 8) The church is God's New Testament storehouse. What kind of blessing does God promise to those who will tithe (*Malachi 3:10*)? _____
- 9) Write in a few words what you believe *II Corinthians 9:6* means concerning giving?

- 10) What did the church at Macedonia give even before they gave the Lord their tithes and offerings (*2 Corinthians 8:5*)? _____
- 11) Read what God says about giving in *Luke 6:38*.
- 12) One of the greatest privileges God has given you is to be able to give tithes and offerings. Giving is the only way God's work can continue in this world. How does God want you to give to Him (*II Corinthians 9:7*)?

Key Memory Verses:

Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; Psalm 12:6, 7; 119:9

Note: Three popular attitudes about the Bible are:

- 18.** The Bible is just another religious book written by men.
- 19.** The Bible can only be understood by the “clergy” or by years of formal education.
- 20.** In order to understand the true meanings of Scripture, you must study Greek and Hebrew.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these attitudes are wrong, and why.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

Lesson Nine ~ Discipleship/Evangelism

Winning Others to Christ

The thing that will bring the most excitement to a Christian is winning others to Christ. Nothing brings more joy than sharing Christ's love by telling others what Christ has done in your life. I am sure you have unsaved friends and perhaps members of your own family who are not saved. By living a changed life before them and witnessing to them, you can share your joy with them – joy that only comes from the love of Jesus Christ. You can start inviting your friends to attend church with you, where they will hear the gospel.

Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 1:8

The very last command Christ gave to Christians before He went into heaven was to share his message with others. In every single gospel – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – we are told that we have a responsibility to bring others to Christ. In *Acts 1:8*, Christ promised that we would have the power of the Holy Spirit living within us to perform this important task of sharing Christ's message.

There are many reasons for winning others to Christ, not the least of which is the reality of an eternal hell. Yes, there is a heaven for the people of God and a burning hell for those who reject Christ. Certainly it is every Christian's desire to see his friends and relatives in heaven for all eternity.

Begin now to learn the brief gospel outline provided below, and you will surprise even yourself as you begin to share with others the truth about eternal life through Jesus Christ.

I. Brief Gospel Summary

This is a great way to explain God's salvation plan to those who might not understand it. This will help you as you tell others what Jesus Christ has done for you.

1) We are saved by the loving grace of God

- Write out *Ephesians 2:8-9*.

It is absolutely impossible for man to save himself. Therefore he must depend on God's grace; grace is the undeserving favor of God.

2) We are separated from God by our sin

- Write out *Romans 3:23a*,

Every man has sinned and cannot save himself. God will not live in a presence of sin; therefore we must come to God through Christ.

3) There is a penalty for sin

- Write out *Romans 6:23a*,

The payment for sin is eternal death in hell, which is known as the second death.

- Write out *Revelation 20:14-15*,

4) God is loving and merciful

- Write out *Romans 5:8*,

Christ died on the cross for our sins 2,000 years ago because He loved us so much that He wanted to pay our sin debt.

- Write out *Romans 6:23b*,

Now for all who will trust Christ, God offers the free gift of eternal life.

5) We must receive Christ as Savior

- Write out *John 1:12*,

It is not enough to say we believe Jesus Christ is real. We must receive Him as our only Lord and Savior, for only He can save us from our sin.

- Write out *Romans 10:13*,

Will you receive Christ right now by turning from your own sinful way and trusting Him as Savior and Lord? Pray now and ask Him to save you from your sin.

Questions & Answers

Lesson 9 – Discipleship/Evangelism

1. Why should you tell others, according to:
 - a. *Matthew 10:32-33*? _____
 - b. *Mark 16:15*: _____
2. Who gives you the power to be Christ's witness (*Acts 1:8* and *Luke 11:13*)?

3. How do you glorify God (*John 15:8*)?

4. What has God chosen you to do (*John 15:16*)?

5. How can you make heaven rejoice (*Luke 15:7*)?

6. God compares witnessing to what (*Matthew 4:19*)?

7. What does *I Peter 3:15* say you need to be ready to do at all times?

8. You need to convey five main points in order to bring an unbeliever to a greater understanding of Christ.
 - a. We are saved by the loving grace of God (*Ephesians 2:8-9*).
 - b. We are separated from God by our sin (*Romans 3:23*)
 - c. There is a penalty for sin (*Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:14-15*).
 - d. God is loving and merciful (*Romans 5:8*).
 - e. We must receive Christ as Savior (*John 1:12*).
9. What was the main reason Christ came to earth (*Luke 19:10*)?

I TRUST THESE LESSONS HAVE BEEN A SOURCE OF BLESSING TO YOUR NEWFOUND CHRISTIAN LIFE. IF YOU WILL STAY FAITHFUL TO THESE LESSONS, YOU WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR DAILY WALK WITH CHRIST.

Key Memory Verses:

Romans 1:16; 3:10; 3:23; 3:28; Romans 5:8, 9; Romans 10:9, 13

Note: These heresies concerning evangelism should be avoided:

- 21.** God is a God of love and therefore would NOT send anyone to hell.
- 22.** Man can save himself by simply being a good person.
- 23.** Living the gospel without preaching the gospel is sufficient to convince others to trust Christ.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these attitudes are wrong, and why.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

Lesson Ten ~ Liberty in Christ

“Since All My Sins Are Forgiven, Am I Free to Do as I Please?”

The New Testament is very clear that as saved people, we are no longer bound by any law to please God, but we are under His grace. However, many people take this freedom as an opportunity to sin, thinking they are free to do as they wish.

The purpose of this lesson is to help the individual understand just what his liberties in Jesus Christ are, and what lines need to be drawn in his life in relation to his actions as a child of God.

I. Am I Free to Do Whatever I Want?

- A.** Personally, regarding your own life. You are free to make your own choices.

John 8:36; Romans 14:22; Titus 1:15

- B.** You are eternally secure in Jesus Christ. If you have genuinely placed your trust in Him as your Savior, you cannot go to hell. You will go to heaven regardless of what you do and whether you like it or not.

Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9

- C.** You are not bound by any laws.

Romans 8:2; Galatians 3:24-2

II. However---

- A.** The liberty you have in Jesus Christ gives you freedom to do what is right without the constraints of any laws or opposed to giving you license to sin or do whatever you want.

Galatians 5:13

- B.** Your liberty should not be used to feed your sinful flesh.

Romans 6:12-18

- C.** *Your liberty enables you to serve God.*

I Peter 2:16

III. How Does My Freedom Affect Me Personally?

- A.** You are free to make your own choices, but if you choose to sin, you should be aware of the consequences.

- 1.** You will not bear fruit.

John 15:1-8

- 2.** God will chasten you as His son.

Hebrews 12:5-11

- 3.** God will allow you to reap what you have sown.

Galatians 6:7-8

- B.** God will receive the glory from your life one way or another, either as a vessel of honor or a vessel of dishonor. The choice is yours.

II Timothy 2:20-21

IV. How Does My Freedom Affect Those Around Me?

- A.** Your life will be a testimony for good or for bad, whether you want it to be or not.

Romans 14:7

- B.** You are to avoid things which could cause a weaker Christian to stumble in his faith.

Romans 14:13-15; 1 Corinthians 8:9-13

- C.** You are to avoid things which appear wrong even though they may not be wrong.

Romans 14:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22

- D.** You are to have a good testimony toward both saved and lost people.

(Romans 14:18)

- 1.** To the saved.

Acts 6:1-3, 16:1-2

- 2.** To the lost.

Colossians 4:5; 1 Timothy 3:7

- 3.** The purpose of this is to influence them for good in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 11:22-24; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

V. What Are the Bounds of My Liberty?

There are many “gray areas” in dealing with certain things you may or may not want to be involved with. In these cases, ask yourself some questions:

- A.** Am I being brought under the power of something that should not be controlling my life?

I Corinthians 6:12

- B.** Am I edifying myself or others?

I Corinthians 10:23

- C.** Can I ask God to bless it with a clear conscience?

Colossians 3:17; Acts 24:16

- D.** If the Lord returned at this moment, would I be ashamed?

I Corinthians 1:8; I Thessalonians 5:23

- E.** Would it cause a brother to stumble?

Romans 14:13-15; Romans 15:1-2

- F.** Would it be cause for an unsaved person to reject the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior?

I Corinthians 10:31-33

- G.** Does my conscience condemn me for it?

1 Peter 3:16; Hebrews 13:18; 1 Timothy 1:5

VI. Basic Questions

- A.** How do I achieve a balance between my liberties and other people’s needs?

Only through the power of the Holy Spirit as you walk with Him

II Corinthians 3:6, 17; Romans 7:8

Questions & Answers

Lesson 10 – Liberty in Christ

- 1.** As a Christian, are you free to do whatever you please? Briefly explain.

- 2.** The Word of God draws some boundaries on our freedom. Explain those boundaries from each of the following verses:

A. Galatians 5:13

B. Romans 6:18

C. 1 Peter 2:16

- 3.** When you choose to sin, what are the consequences of your choice?

A.

B.

C.

- 4.** God will get the glory from your life, either as a _____
or as a _____.

- 5.** List four ways that your freedom can influence people around you.

A.

B.

C.

D.

- 6.** You are to have a good testimony toward both saved and lost people. What is the reason for this?

- 7.** List seven questions you can consider in setting the bounds of your personal liberty.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

G.

- 8.** What is the role of the Holy Spirit regarding your personal liberty?

- 9.** Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key Memory Verses:

Galatians 5:13; Romans 15:1; I Corinthians 10:31

NOTE: In many churches today, some popular teachings are:

1. There is a “set of rules” a Christian must live by in order to please God.
2. You are free to do whatever you want regardless of how it affects other people.
3. What you do has no real influence on other people.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these Teachings are false, and why.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.