



## WORD ALIVE EQUIPPING SCHOOL



# Laying A Good Foundation Class

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### A Word from Your Pastors:

Have you ever had questions about what Christians believe? Have your friends asked you why you believe the way you do and you haven't been able to answer them? If so, this course is especially for you. Even after you have studied it, you will want to keep it on hand for a quick reference any time a question arises.

This course is about the main teachings of the Bible. We call them the fundamental doctrines. You should study them not only to have answers to questions but because knowing what God says about different things can be a matter of life or death to you and the people you influence.

The Bible verses that you study and memorize will help you grow spiritually. You will find them valuable in your own times of private devotion, as well as in personal evangelism and teaching the Bible to others. And, as the Bible itself says, knowledge of the Word builds faith.

Lastly please see the instructions if you desire to take the course online. May God bless you and keep you. Get ready for this exciting journey in taking this discipleship course.

### Online instructions

You have an option of taking this course online. Please see the following guidelines and instructions:

- We have faith in you that you will let integrity and honesty abound as you take this course.
- This is a seven week course, beginning on the day of November 11, 2012. The lessons must be completed by the end of the seven week course.
- Go to Website: [www.wordaliveministriesinc.org](http://www.wordaliveministriesinc.org)--- Click onto Discipleship Class Tab
- **User name:** discipleship1 and **password:** grace12
- Once the course is completed, you can scan and send back as an attachment to [sandra.charlton@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.charlton@gmail.com)
- To schedule a time and date to go over your work: contact Sandra Charlton at (513) 546-2293 or you can email me at [sandra.charlton@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.charlton@gmail.com).

## FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH

### Chapter 1: The Bible

#### The Bible

The sailors were frightened. There had been a terrible storm and some of their friends had drowned. They were lost and many unanswered questions troubled them. Where were they going? How long would this trip last? Would they ever find their way home? It was 1492 and the captain of these men, Christopher Columbus, could not answer their questions. He had taken them on an uncharted course across the Atlantic Ocean looking for India. Instead, he found an island in the Americas. There he and his sailors found fresh water and their lives were saved.

A similar story would not likely be repeated today. With accurate charts and maps to direct their course, ship captains need not lose their way. Though still on land, many people feel as if they are lost on a storm-tossed ocean. They are asking themselves questions. Where am I going? Am I lost? Will I ever find the right way? God has heard our questions and He has already given us a Book to guide our lives.

Before searching for the answers, let's look together at the great Book. We will see how it was written and how it was given to us.

#### This lesson will help you ...

1. Describe the origin and structure of the Bible.
2. Understand how and why the Bible was given.

#### The Origin and Structure of the Bible

##### **Objective 1: Describe the origin and basic structure of the Bible.**

The Holy Bible, made up of 66 books, is like a small library that God has given us. The first part of the Bible, the Old Testament contains 39 books. The second part, the New Testament contains 27 books. Over a period of 1600 years approximately 40 men were involved in writing these books. The Bible tells us that these men were holy men of God. They were kings and peasants, poets and merchants, military and religious leaders. They were from different back grounds, different cities, and of different interests.

The books of the Bible cover many different subjects, like history, prophecy, and poetry. It has songs and wise sayings called proverbs. It contains stories to interest the young and the old. Yet it all fits together because it has one central theme-the relationship between God and man.

#### To Do

**In each one of these *To Do* sections, the questions or exercises will help you review or apply what you have studied.**

**1) Fill in the missing terms in the following sentences.**

- a) The Bible consists of ..... books  
written by ..... men of different backgrounds.
- b) The Bible was written over a period of .....years.
- c) There are ..... books in the first part called the ..... Testament and ..... books in the second part called the ..... Testament.

**Check your answers with those at the end of this lesson.**

**The Purpose of the Bible –Understand how and why the bible was given**

**Objective 2: Recognize aspects of divine inspiration.**

Perhaps you noticed what may seem to be a contradiction in the first part of this lesson. It says that God gave us the Bible, but it also says that men wrote it. How can this be?

The forty men who wrote the Bible were *divinely inspired*. This means that the Holy Spirit put in the authors' minds the thoughts that God wanted them to write. 2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is inspired by God." This verse also tells why the Bible was given for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and giving instruction.

God has given us instructions for right living because He desires our highest good. He knows that when we do not live according to His principles we hurt ourselves. Our minds, our bodies, and especially our spirits suffer. The best way to avoid hurting ourselves is to follow His Word closely. Through it we get to know Him personally; we understand that His ways are best for us. Like a chart or a guide book, His Word was written for us to turn to for help and strength. How wonderful that we can have His personal instructions to us always at our side!

**To Do**

In the next two exercises, circle the letter in front of the words that best complete the sentence.

- 2) When we say that the Bible is *divinely inspired* we emphasize that**
- a) It tells us about God.  
b) God gave the authors the thoughts they should write.  
c) It contains valuable religious history.

**The Bible**

- 3) The authors wrote on the same theme and did not contradict each other because**
- a) God was the real author and they wrote the thoughts He gave them.  
b) Each one left instructions for the following writers.
- 4) Circle the letter in front of the TRUE reasons why God has given us the Bible.**

- a) He wants our highest good.
- b) He wanted to give instructions for right living.
- c) He wanted us to realize that He is too great for us to know Him.
- d) He wants to establish His relationship with us.

### Check Your Answers

The answers to your study exercises are not given in the usual order. They have been mixed up so that you will not see the answer to your next question ahead of time. Try not to look ahead.

- 1) a. 66; 40
  - b. 1600
  - c. 39 Old, 27 New
- 3) a. God was the real author and they wrote the thoughts He gave them.
- 2) God gave the authors the thoughts they should write.
- 4) a. He wants our highest good.
  - b. He wanted to give instructions for right living.
  - d. He wants to establish His relationship with us and tell us what He is like.

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## FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH

### Chapter 2: God

- **God**
- **His Relationship to Us**
- **Our Relationship to Him**

#### God

People can enjoy or fear a storm, depending on what they have been taught about it. It is also important to know what kind of a storm it is, beneficial or destructive. How can you understand a storm? What is the shape of the wind and rain and lightning? Can you put a storm in a bottle? Of course you can not. A storm is understood when we study its parts: for example, the cold air meeting the hot. We can study its effects. What it does to the land or the sea.

In a way, God can be compared to a storm. Some people fear Him and others love Him, depending on what they have been told and what they do about it. You cannot see God, but you can study what He does. In Chapter 1 we learned that it is the Bible that tells us all about God, about His qualities and how He deals with mankind. In this lesson we will look into the Bible and explore a few of the many things it has to say about God.

#### This lesson will help you...

1. **Name several attributes of God.**
2. **Explain what your attitude toward God should be.**

## His Relationship to Us

### **Objective 1: Name at least five attributes of God**

The Bible says in John 4:24 that God is a Spirit. The dictionary says that a spirit is the vital principle that gives life. Since God is the Creator, this means that He is the supernatural force that gives life to all of His creation. Because He is a Spirit, He cannot be seen unless He chooses to show Himself in some visible form.

He did show Himself through His Son. John 1:14 says, "The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son." (This is Word Alive Ministries, Inc. foundational Scripture. Be sure to memorize it.)

God has revealed Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three Persons which are called the Godhead or Trinity. The three are referred to in many places, one of which is Matthew 28:19: "Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the *Father*, the *Son*, and the *Holy Spirit*."

One good way to learn more about God is by studying His attributes or qualities. God is good, holy, just, all-powerful, all-knowing, and eternal. Let's look at a series of verses that mention these qualities and others as well.

Exodus 34:6 states, "I, the Lord, am a God who is full of compassion and pity, who is not easily angered and who shows great love and faithfulness."

Leviticus 11:44 says: "I am the Lord your God, and you must keep yourselves holy because I am holy."

The fact that He is all-powerful can be seen in Daniel 4:35. It says. "No one can oppose His will or question what he does."

### **God knows everything.**

There is nothing that can be hid from God; everything in all creation is exposed and lies open before His eyes. And it is to Him that we must all give an account of ourselves (Hebrews 4:13).

Revelation 10:6 tells us that God is eternal. An angel "took a vow in the name of God, who lives forever and ever, who created heaven, earth, and the sea, and everything in them."

The few verses that we have read, verses that give a little description of God, help us to realize how great He is. He is powerful and He is strong but He is also merciful and kind. And He wants to have a close relationship with us, His creation.

## To Do

1) Read the Scripture references and fill in the correct words in the following statements.

a) Matthew 6:9-11. God is likened to a loving.....who provides for his.....

b) Isaiah 66:13. God comforts even as a ..... comforts her.....

2) Look up the following Scripture. Write by each one of the references the attribute of God that it suggests to you, such as holy, forgiving, and so on. (Your answers may vary.)

a) 2 Kings 4:42-44 .....

b) Genesis 9:13-17 .....

c) 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 .....

d) Exodus 3:7 .....

e) Psalm 97:10-12 .....

If you want to know more about the attributes of God, you will find an exercise like the one you have just done very helpful. Choose another Psalm and as you read it write down the descriptions of God that are especially meaningful to you. Psalm 103 and Psalm 139 are both filled with beautiful descriptions of God and His care for us.

## Our Relationship to Him

**Objective 2: Recognize that your first responsibility is toward God.**

In Matthew 22:37 Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

There are various ways of showing God that we love Him. Our worship and praise can put our love into words said directly to Him. But we should also show our love.

Now ... listen to what the Lord your God demands of you: Have reverence for the Lord and do all that He commands. Love Him, serve Him with all your heart, and obey all His laws (Deuteronomy 10:12 13).

"But whoever obeys His word is the one whose love for God has really been made perfect" (I John 2:5). If we want to show our love to God, we will follow the instructions He gives us in His Word.

Another way to show our love to God is by giving and sharing with others. I John 3:17-18 says:

If a rich person sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against his brother, how can he claim that he loves God? My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action.

The love that is obedient and sharing will be a satisfying and rewarding love. Jesus says in Luke 10:28 that if we love God above all else we "will live." Some people think that "real living" is wealth, power, and position. But these things in themselves will never satisfy because we were made in God's likeness and for His glory. Our spirits must be satisfied with the spiritual.

Real living is loving God! Jesus said. "Be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things" (Matthew 6:33).

Don't limit yourself to the less important things. Love God with all your heart.

### To Do

**3)** Circle the letter in front of the correct completion for the following statement. Above all else, you should love

- a) Power so that you are in control of your life.
- b) God, and put that love into practice.

**4)** Read the following verses and circle the ones that tell you what your first responsibility toward God is.

- a) Deuteronomy 6:5
- b) Deuteronomy 10:12
- c) Deuteronomy 13:3
- d) Joshua 22:5
- e) Mark 12:30
- f) Jude 21

### Check your answers

**1)** a. Father, children.

b. Mother, children.

**2)** You may use your own words, but your answers will be something like these:

- a. All-powerful.
- b. Merciful.
- c. Forgiving.
- d. All-knowing or all-seeing.
- e. Holy.

**3)** b. God and put that love into practice.

4) You should have circled all the letters because every verse tells you that your first responsibility toward God is to love Him.

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## FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH

### Chapter 3: Man

- Man
- Man's Condition at Creation
- Man's Condition Now

#### Man

There is a children's story about a famous wood carver who one day carved the figure of a little boy. It was a beautiful carving and the man called it Pinocchio. He was proud of his work but there was no way the carving could love him in return. What would have happened if the carver had put a little talking-machine inside the wooden boy? Maybe he could have made the little figure move and say, "I love you." Would that have satisfied the carver? Would he have been thrilled and said, "Now I know my carving loves me?" No, because that would not be an expression of love. It would be only a mechanical phrase with no real feeling.

The story says that somehow the wooden boy came alive. He had a mind of his own and when he would say, "I love you," it *did* thrill the carver. Why? Because the wooden boy wasn't forced to say it- he said it with love. We know the story is just a fable, but it gives us a little picture of how God felt when He made man. He made Him beautifully and, most important, with the power to make his own choices.

God made man, but not carved from a block of wood. How did He make him? What qualities did He put in man? In the last lesson we studied some of the qualities of God and our attitude toward Him. Now let's look at how God made man and the responsibility He gave him.

**This lesson will help you...**

1. State how and why God made man.
2. Understand the cause of man's sinful condition.

#### Man's Condition At Creation

**Objective 1: State how man was made and identify a reason for him being created.**

God created a beautiful world with trees, flowers, and animals. The Bible says that God was pleased with what He saw, but it wasn't complete. There were no people to enjoy and share that beauty.

Genesis 1:26-27 tells us:



Then God said, 'And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all the animals, domestic and wild, large and small.' So God created human beings, making them like Himself.

Man was different from the animals already created because he was made in God's likeness. He was a glorious creation, perfect in body, soul, and spirit. Further details of the story are given in Genesis 2 where it tells how God formed man out of the soil of the ground. Then He breathed life-giving breath into man's nostrils and man began to live.

With life came responsibility. Man could make his own decisions. He could glorify God in his everyday living. Isaiah 43:7 gives us God's words, "They are my own people, and I created them to bring me glory." The Bible says that in the cool of the evening God would walk and talk with man in the beautiful garden where they lived. God loved those first people, Adam and Eve, and wanted their perfect fellowship to continue forever. But He knew it could not be perfect if it were forced, if Adam and Eve had no choice but to fellowship with Him.

Because God has the freedom to choose and He made man like Himself, He gave man the freedom to decide whether that fellowship should continue as it had, unbroken and beautiful. Perhaps Adam and Eve wanted to keep it that way, but they wanted some other things too. One day they would come to a place of having to decide what they wanted most of all.

## To Do

1) Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

- a) Man was made for God's glory.
- b) God created man out of nothing.
- c) God's breath made man a living soul.
- d) Man was created perfect in body, soul, and spirit.
- e) Man was created with a freedom to choose.

2) Memorize Revelation 4:11. After you have memorized it, fill in the blanks below.

Our ..... and ..... ! You are ..... to receive....., and..... for you..... all things, and by your will they were given ..... and,.....

3) Choose the correct completion for the following statement. Man was made to be

- a) oppressed and overworked.
- b) forced into service to God.
- c) a glory to God.

**Objective 2: Recognize the condition of man as a result of man's fall.**

What a joy the heart of God must have felt having communion with His creation. Then Adam and Eve chose to break that precious fellowship with God.

That is how man fell from his perfect state. He made the wrong choice and became sinful. Romans 5:19 says, "All people were made sinners as the result of the disobedience of one man."

The justice of God could not ignore sin. God cannot lie and go against His word. He had said that disobedience would cause man to become mortal. Adam and Eve had to leave that paradise garden of Eden and be separated from the presence of God.

Man's condition today is still sinful. Romans 3:23 says, "Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence." Man has never lost the ability to choose. Wrong choices still keep people away from God.

**To Do**

For these exercises, choose the answer that best completes each sentence. Circle the letter in front of your choice.

**4)** Zephaniah 3:17 says that when you are in communion with the Lord He

- a) feels it is the least that you can do.
- b) sings and is joyful over you.
- c) knows man will soon disobey Him again.
- d) will give you new life.

**5)** Job 8:3 says "God never twists justice; He never fails to do what is right." Because of this God had to be true to His character and

- a) man lost the ability to choose right or wrong.
- b) carry out His word by punishing sin.
- c) Adam and Eve had to leave the garden of Eden.
- d) decided Adam and Eve hadn't really understood His instructions.

**6)** Man's condition now is one of

- a) separation from God.
- b) a sinful nature.
- c) no responsibility for his sins.

**Check Your Answers**

- 1)** a. Man was made for God's glory.
- b. God's breath made man a living soul.

- d. Man was created perfect in body, soul, and spirit.  
 e. Man was created with a freedom to choose.
- 2) Lord, God, worthy, glory, honor, power, created, existence, life.
- 3) c. a glory to God.
- 4) b. sings and is joyful over you.  
 d. will give you new life.
- 5) b. carry out His word by punishing sin.  
 c. Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden of Eden.
6. a. separation from God.  
 b. a sinful nature.

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## FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH

### Chapter 4: Sin

- Sin
- The Definition of Sin
- The Origin of Sin
- The Solution For Sin

### Sin

Let's imagine a friend has given you a palace full of beautiful things. It is yours to enjoy. The only request he makes is, "Please don't jump from the tower because you will die."

Then an enemy comes to your palace. He says, "Who told you not to jump? Go ahead. You'll feel wonderful! You will know how it feels to fly. You will be able to see your palace from a different view. Don't worry about what happens when you hit bottom; just think about all the new things you'll learn on the way down."

Would you run to the top of your tower and jump? Of course not, it would be stupid to trust your enemy and do as he says.

Adam and Eve had a similar experience. God put them in a beautiful garden and made them masters over everything. He gave them permission to eat of every tree but one. Along came the enemy, Satan, who told them to eat the fruit of the tree anyway-that it wouldn't hurt them. They trusted his word instead of God's. How foolish!

As we studied in the previous lesson, man was made perfect but through disobedience sin entered his life. How would we define sin? Did Adam bring it into the world? What is the punishment for sin? Is there any escape? The Bible verses in this lesson will *give* us the answers.

**This lesson will help you ...**

1. Describe the nature and consequences of sin.
2. Appreciate the work of Christ in removing man's sin.

## Definition of Sin

### Objective 1: Recognize descriptions of sin.

Sin is disobeying God's laws. It is saying to God, "I am more important than You. I don't take Your Word as my final authority." Sin is rebellion.

"No one has a right to limit me," you might say. "I'll do what I please." The limits God has set for us were made for one reason, our *highest good*. For instance, God knows that bitterness and hate can cause severe headaches; a desire for revenge can cause ulcers. These attitudes hurt other people too. God showed His love for us by setting certain limits, or laws, as protection. For us to go outside these limits is to sin. First John 3:4 says, "Whoever sins is guilty of breaking God's law, because sin is a breaking of the law."

"Is it all right then to do anything that doesn't hurt me or others?" No, everything is lawful ONLY if it is inside the limits that God has set. We might think that something doesn't hurt us or others and be mistaken in our belief. For example, there were parents who thought they shouldn't obey God's law of correcting their children because that would frustrate or confuse them. Now a recent magazine article informs us, "It's time to discipline our children." Man's opinions change. For a while he thinks one thing won't hurt us and later he says it will. The only safe conduct for us is obedience to the laws that God has set, whether we understand the reason for them or not.

### To Do

For these exercises, choose the answer that best completes each sentence. Circle the letter in front of your choice.

#### 1) Sin is

- a) whatever you feel is wrong.
- b) whatever others tell you is wrong.
- c) being discovered doing something wrong.
- d) rebellion and disobedience to God's laws.

#### 2) God set limits to man's conduct because He

- a) wanted to frustrate Adam and Eve.
- b) doesn't want man to enjoy himself or be free.
- c) loves man and wants the best for him.

#### 3) To step outside the limits God has set is

- a) all right if no one gets hurt.
- b) permissible as long as we are not discovered.
- c) sometimes necessary to get us out of trouble.
- d) never to be done.

## The Origin of Sin

### ***Objective 2: Identify statements showing how sin entered the world.***

Satan tempted man to sin, and man yielded to that temptation. First John 3:8 says, "Whoever continues to sin belongs to the Devil, because the Devil has sinned from the very beginning." It was Satan that brought sin into the world, but this does not free man from blame. Man is responsible too. Adam did not have to yield to temptation from Satan. We know that temptations do not come from God. James 1:13-14 tells us: If a person is tempted by such trials, he must not say, "This temptation comes from God." For God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself tempts no one. It is not sin to be tempted. Even Jesus was tempted by the devil. But it is sin to yield. How different the world would be if Adam had not yielded.

What happened to man when he sinned? God said that if he disobeyed he would die. He didn't die immediately as we know death, but he immediately became mortal. Death began to work in his body, soul, and spirit.

Sin came into the world through one man, and his sin brought death with it. As a result, death has spread to the whole human race because everyone has sinned (Romans 5:12). Yes, all people are sinners. "Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence" (Romans 3:23).

The penalty for sin today is the same penalty that was given to Adam and Eve-death. Romans 5:12 expresses it this way: "Death has spread to the whole human race." In Romans 6:23 we read: "For sin pays its wage, death." No, the sinner doesn't physically die the moment he commits sin. Sometimes it even looks as though he prospers. But death is working there nevertheless, and eventually he will not only die physically but spiritually also. Spiritual death means eternal separation from God.

### **To Do**

For these exercises, choose the answers that complete each sentence. Circle the letter in front of your choice.

**4) Sin entered the world**

- a) through Satan who sinned from the beginning.
- b) because Adam yielded to Satan's temptation.
- c) when Adam deliberately disobeyed God.

**5) Since sin entered the world**

- a) Satan no longer has to tempt anyone.
- b) everyone is a sinner and can be tempted.
- c) there is both physical and spiritual death.

**The Solution For Sin**

**Objective 3: Explain how a sinner can escape the penalty of sin.**

Do you remember the story that I told you at the beginning of this lesson? The person who jumps from the palace tower will surely die. But what if a friend was near and stretched out a strong net just below the window? If the one who jumped caught the net, his life could be saved.

God has given us a way to escape the punishment of sin which is spiritual death and everlasting separation from Him. The way is through accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior. In a future lesson we will learn the verses that tell us how to reach out and be saved. For now, it would be good to memorize two verses that show us how to escape the punishment of sin.

God has shown us how much he loves us-it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us! (Romans 5:8).

If we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing (1 John 1:9).

**To Do**

**6) Read 1 John 4:9-10 and fill in the blanks below.**

And God showed His love for us by.....His ..... into the world, so that we might have ..... through ..... This is what love is: it is not that we.....God, but that He.....us and sent ..... to be the means by which our.....are.....

**7) Write a short completion for the following statement. A sinner can escape the penalty of sin only by .....**

**Check Your Answers**

- 1) d. rebellion and disobedience to God's laws.
- 2) c. loves man and wants the best for him.
- 3) d. never to be done.
- 4) a. through Satan who sinned from the beginning.  
 b. because Adam yielded to Satan's temptation.  
 c. when Adam deliberately disobeyed God.

- 5) b. everyone is a sinner and can be tempted.  
c. there is both physical and spiritual death.
- 6) sending, only Son, *life*, *Him*, have loved, loved, His Son, sins, forgiven.
- 7) accepting Jesus Christ as His Savior.

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## FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH

### Chapter 5: Jesus Christ

- **Jesus Christ**
- **His Person**
- **His Purpose**
- **His Return**

#### Jesus Christ

"Yes, of course I believe in Jesus Christ," said my new friend. "He was a great prophet, a man sent from God who gave us many teachings that we should follow."

"That's wonderful." I replied, "but it's not enough. You must not only believe that He was a great prophet, but that He is God. You must know Him as divine, as a Savior."

This was difficult for my friend to accept. He had learned some things about Jesus but had never established communion with Him through reading His Word or through prayer. It was hard for him to believe that all men are sinners (as we studied in Lesson 4), or that there is an escape from sin.

He asked me many questions that day. Who is Jesus? How can He be human and divine at the same time? If He died, why do Christians say He is living? What is He doing now?

The best answers that I could find were in the Bible, the Word of God. In this lesson we will look at those same questions and find the answers that my friend wanted to know.

#### This lesson will help you ...

1. **Explain who Jesus is.**
2. **Understand the purpose of His first coming and His future return.**

#### His Person

##### **Objective 1: Recognize biblical descriptions of Jesus.**

Jesus Christ is the visible manifestation of God to man. He chose to become like men so that we would be able to understand Him better and learn His plan of salvation for us. This choosing to become like a man, meant that Jesus would have two natures in One Person, both human and divine.

Romans 1:3-4 says:

It is about his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: as to his humanity, he was born a descendant of David; as to his divine holiness, he was shown with great power to be the Son of God by being raised from death.

To have a human nature, Jesus was born of a virgin named Mary. The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make Him a king, as His ancestor David was, and He will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!" (Luke 1:30-33).

The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son (John 1:14).

Who is this Father mentioned in John 1:14? God is the Father of Jesus. Second Peter 1:17 tells us, He was given honor and glory by God the Father, when the voice came to Him from the Supreme Glory, saying, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am well pleased!"

The name "Jesus Christ" also tells us of His divinity. When the angel said that the baby's name would be Jesus, it was for a very special reason. Jesus means *Savior*. Matthew 1:21 says, "She will have a son, and you will name Him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins."

The name *Christ* has a special meaning too. It means "the anointed one" or "the Messiah." Many years ago when a man was chosen to be king, oil was poured over his head as part of the ceremony. This pouring on of oil was called "anointing." To call the Lord "Christ" or "the anointed one" meant that He was royalty. Messiah was the name the Jews gave to the king and deliverer for whom they waited. Simon Peter recognized Him as king and said, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16).

## To Do

1) The sentences on the right are descriptive of Jesus. Read the Scriptures on the left. Then place the number of the description in front of each verse.

- a) Philippians 2:7
- b) John 10:17
- c) Philippians 2:6
- d) Galatians 4:4
- e) Acts 4:12

- 1) God is His Father.
- 2) He was born of a woman.
- 3) He is the Savior.
- 4) He became like us.
- 5) He is divine and has the nature of God.



## His Purpose

**Objective 2: Identify statements showing why Jesus died on the cross and what He is doing today.**

Jesus came into the world to save man from sin. Luke 19:10 says, "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." There was only one way He could save us by giving His life. "The Son of man ... did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life to redeem many people" (Mark 10:45). *Redeem* means to set free, rescue, save, or deliver. This is a wonderful promise to all mankind. But why did Jesus have to die to redeem us? If we remember the story of Adam and Eve, we will recall that God had told them that sin is followed by death. God cannot go against His own judgment against sin. If there is sin, someone has to die. So Jesus Christ came to die in the sinner's place. No one else could do it because He was the only one who could conquer death.

Yet it was not easy even for our Lord. He who had been sitting on His throne with angels to carry out every command who created heavens and earth and man, became a servant. He permitted His creation to hurt Him, despise Him, and crucify Him on the cross of Calvary that they might be saved. In I Peter 1:18-19 we read:

You know what was paid to set you free ... It was not something that can be destroyed, such as silver or gold; it was the costly sacrifice of Christ, who was like a lamb without defect or flaw.

Are all men now saved since Jesus died for them? No, God never took away the privilege of choice. Each man still has to make his own decision. He has to accept Jesus as his personal Savior. Jesus said to His followers:

Go throughout the whole world and preach the gospel to all mankind. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned (Mark 16:15-16).

For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its savior. Whoever believes in the Son is not judged; but whoever does not believe has already been judged, because he has not believed in God's only Son (John 3:16-18).

Jesus died for us. There would have been no hope of salvation for man, however, if He had remained in the grave.

Many religions have built shrines at the tombs of their leaders. Inside are the revered bones of their dead. But the tomb of Jesus is empty because of the miracle that took place three days after His crucifixion. Jesus rose from the dead and was seen many times after his resurrection.

That He was buried and that he was raised to life three days later, as written in the Scriptures; that He appeared to Peter and then to all twelve apostles. Then He appeared to more than five hundred of

His followers at once, most of whom are still alive, although some have died. Then He appeared to James, and afterward to all the apostles (I Corinthians 15:4-7).

Jesus' resurrection is evidence that points to His being the Son of God. Romans 1:4 says, "He (Jesus Christ) was shown with great power to be the Son of God by being raised from death."

After he showed Himself to many people and spoke words of encouragement to them, He ascended into heaven. This, also, was no secret because He ascended while His disciples were watching. Then He led them out of the city as far as Bethany, where He raised His hands and blessed them. As He was blessing them, He departed from them and was taken up into heaven (Luke 24:50-51). What is Jesus doing now? When He ascended He took His rightful place at the right hand of His Father. He talks to His Father about our needs. Let's look at three verses that tell what He is doing now.

"We have such a High Priest, who sits at the right of the throne of the Divine Majesty in heaven" (Hebrews 8:1).

"If anyone does sin, we have someone who pleads with the Father on our behalf-Jesus Christ, the righteous one" (I John 2:1).

"And so He is able, now and always, to save those who come to God through Him, because He lives forever to plead with God for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

How wonderful that the costly price has been paid for our redemption! After dying on the cross, rising from the grave, and ascending to be with His Father, He does not forget us. He is interested in us every day and wants to help us whenever we will allow Him to do so.

## To Do

**2)** Circle the letter in front of each TRUE completion for the following statement. Jesus Christ died on the cross to...

- a) redeem us.
- b) take our place in the death we deserve.
- c) provide salvation for everyone who believes in Him as Savior.
- d) to give us eternal life.

**3)** Read Luke 24:46-47. Verse 46 tells us of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Verse 47 tells us why He had to die and rise again.

What is the reason that verse 47 gives.....

**4)** Circle the letter in front of the correct answer for the following question. According to the Scripture, what is Jesus doing now? He is

- a) concerning Himself with other creations.
- b) pleading with the Father about our needs.
- c) deciding who will have eternal life and who will not.

**His Return**

**Objective 3: State at least five events that will take place at the time of Jesus' return.**

Jesus Christ will come back to earth again. No one knows the exact time of His Second Coming but many today feel it is near. While there is a lack of clarity on just when He will return, the great hope of Christians is that He would "come quickly." The Greek word often used in the New Testament for "come quickly" is "maranatha."

Believers look forward to Jesus' Second Coming because it will be a time when we will be with Him and receive our eternal rewards. Acts 1:11 says, "This Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw Him go to heaven:" 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 also states:

There will be the shout of command, the archangel's voice, the sound of God's trumpet, and the Lord Himself will come down from heaven. Those who have died believing in Christ will rise to life first; then we who are living at that time will be gathered up along with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord.

We will learn more about Jesus' Second Coming and other future events when we study lesson 10.

**To Do**

**5) Circle the letter in front of the following statements that are TRUE.**

- a) Jesus will come back to earth again.
- b) Some people know when the Second Coming will occur.
- c) Before Jesus returns, everyone alive must be a Christian.
- d) All those who believe Christ will go to meet Him in the air.

**6) Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 again. State at least five things that will happen as Jesus gets ready to return.**

- a) .....
- b) .....
- c) .....
- d) .....
- e).....

**Check Your Answers**

- 1) a. 4 - He became like us.
  - b. 1 - God is His Father.
  - c. 5 - He is divine and has the nature of God.
  - d. 2 - He was born of a woman.
  - e. 3 - He is the Savior.
- 2) You should circle all the completions. They all are **TRUE**.
- 3) That in His name the message of redemption and forgiveness of sins must be preached to all nations.
- 4) b. pleading with the Father about our needs.
- 5) a. Jesus will come back to earth again.
  - d. All those who believe in Christ will go to meet Him in the air.
- 6) You could write any five of the following:
  - a. a shout of command.
  - b. sound of God's trumpet.
  - c. Lord comes down.
  - d. dead in Christ shall rise.
  - e. living believers shall rise.
  - f. we'll meet the Lord in the air.
  - g. be eternally with the Lord.

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## FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH

### Chapter 6: Salvation

- **Salvation**
- **Definition of Salvation**
- **Initiation Into Salvation**
- **Results of Salvation**

### Salvation

I was sitting in her little house when 95 year old Amelia told me how she came to accept Jesus as her Savior many years before she had stood at the doorway of a church in Latin America. She was afraid to enter, but listened intently as the preacher said, "Jesus is your Savior. He will save you from your sins. When you are in need, call on Jesus." That day she walked back up the hill and when she entered her room she heard a rustle. Suddenly, before she could run, a large boa constrictor snake wrapped itself around her. She could see the large head in front of her face as it began to squeeze. She remembered the preacher's words and in desperation she cried out, "Jesus, save me! Jesus, save me!" The snake loosened its coils, fell from her and slithered out of the room.

Needless to say, that day Amelia not only thanked the Lord Jesus for saving her physically, but asked Him to save her spiritually as well.

The same Lord Jesus that saved Amelia can save you. Let's study about this precious salvation and what you can do to obtain it.

**This lesson will help you ...**

1. Describe what salvation means.
2. Apply the principles of salvation to your life.
3. Evaluate your life in the light of the expected results of salvation.

## Definition of Salvation

**Objective 1: Recognize the biblical definition of salvation.**

One day a young man from a university said to me, "There are many roads to salvation and heaven. Sincerity is the key to reaching heaven. You may believe whatever you wish as long as you are sincere." Was he right? Is being sincere enough? Or can a person be sincerely mistaken?

The Bible is very clear in saying that freedom from sin comes only through Jesus Christ. Revelation 1:5 says, "He [Jesus Christ] loves us, and by His death He has freed us from our sins." Acts 4:12 states: "Salvation is to be found through Him [Christ] alone; in all the world there is no one else whom God has given who can save us." So, in defining *salvation* we can say that it is pardon from sin, but we must add "through the death of Jesus Christ."

Who needs this salvation? As we previously studied, everyone has sinned and been sentenced to eternal death or separation from God. Ezekiel 18:4 says, "The person who sins is the one who will die." And in Romans 3:23 we read, "Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence." All mankind is in need of forgiveness of sin and pardon through Jesus Christ.

## To Do

- 1) Circle the letter in front of the verses that tell us that salvation comes through Jesus Christ.
  - a) Luke 19:10
  - b) Romans 5:8
  - c) Romans 1:16
  - d) Galatians 1:4
- 2) Choose the answer that best completes this sentence. Salvation means
  - a) being sincere in whatever we believe.
  - b) freedom from sin through Jesus Christ.
- 3) Circle the letter in front of the following statements which are TRUE.

- a) Only those who harm others need salvation.
- b) There are many roads to God and heaven.
- c) Good men will be saved.

## Initiation Into Salvation

### ***Objective 2: Identify statements showing the basis for salvation.***

A few years after the resurrection of Jesus, the writer of Acts tells the story of a jailer who was very frightened because there had been an earthquake and he thought some of his prisoners were escaping. Two of them, Paul and Silas, were followers of Christ.

Paul and Silas quickly assured the jailer that no prisoners were getting away. Then the jailer, seeing that God had worked a miracle, asked how he could be saved. The answer the believers gave him was very simple. It is found in Acts 16:31, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." So the first step that must be taken to enter salvation is to believe in the Lord Jesus.

In what way must we believe? Again the Bible has the answer. It says that we must accept Him as our Lord and Savior, and depend on Him to take us to heaven.

These have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life (John 20:31). When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior we must also turn from sin. We must repent and ask God, for Jesus' sake, to forgive us and make us clean. If we ask Him to do this, we must also trust that He does forgive and cleanse us. Remember I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing." This acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior is done simply by talking to Him as you would to a friend. If you have never taken this step, just tell God that you want to accept the forgiveness He offers. Perhaps you could say in your own words something like:

"Dear Father,

I recognize that I am a sinner.

I'm sorry for my sin and ask your forgiveness. Cleanse me and keep me from all wrongdoing. I accept the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus who died for me.

I take Him now as my Lord and Savior. Thank you. Amen."

Once you have sincerely prayed this, you can trust that your sins are forgiven! You can praise and thank God that you belong to Him, that you are His child.

### **To Do**

For these exercises, choose the answer that best completes each sentence. Circle the letter in front of your choice.

- 4) Read Romans 1:16. It says that salvation is for everyone that
- a) lives according to the rules.
  - b) believes.
  - c) is wealthy.
- 5) According to Acts 16:31 and John 20:31, belief for salvation must be in the
- a) Lord Jesus.
  - b) disciples who were saints.
  - c) traditions of your church.

## Results of Salvation

### ***Objective 3: Recognize five results of salvation.***

What happens to you when you accept salvation? A definite spiritual change, a transformation, takes place. Sometimes this is called a *change of heart*. Second Corinthians 7:10 says, "For the sadness that is used by God brings a change of heart that leads to salvation." Second Corinthians 5:17 tells us, "When anyone is joined to Christ, he is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come." This change can be seen in several ways. Sometimes a person's attitude toward life changes from sad to happy, or perhaps he now loves someone he couldn't love before.

There can also be physical transformations. Those who have been bound by habits such as alcoholism can be set free. The Lord is powerful to make any changes necessary in the person who now believes on Him.

To accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior also means to be born into the family of God. This is what Jesus meant when He said in John 3:3 that we should be "born again."

John 1:12-13 says:

Some, however, did receive Him and believed in Him; so He gave them the right to become God's children. They did not become God's children by natural means, that is, by being born as the children of a human father; God himself was their Father.

The Bible also speaks of *adoption* which brings out a similar relationship. By adoption we are received into God's family. God makes us His children, giving us all the rights of inheritance that belong to the sons of God.

God's Spirit joins himself to our spirits to declare that we are God's children. Since we are His children, we will possess the blessings He keeps for his people, and we will also possess with Christ

what God has kept for him; for if we share in Christ's suffering we will also share His glory (Romans 8:16-17).

Being in the family of God is special. This is why you will hear Christians call each other "brother" or "sister." This is a way of saying, "We belong to the same family."

Can we be sure of our salvation? One day a young woman asked for prayer. She told me that when she accepted Christ as her Savior she had felt so wonderful, so full of joy. Now she didn't feel that way and wanted to know why she had "lost her salvation." We know that we are not saved by feeling, but by taking God at His Word. If we have met the conditions that the Bible gives us for salvation, we must believe we are saved no matter what we feel. The Holy Spirit can speak this assurance to our hearts also. We can find reassurance from our brothers and sisters in Christ. Too, like my friend did the day she came to me. "We know that we have left death and come over into life: we know it because we love our brothers" (I John 3:14). Perhaps you have heard Christians use the words *justification* and *sanctification*. What do these mean? Justification is being free from sin, made righteous. It is a result of salvation. God forgives our sin, takes away all guilt, and says that we are now righteous--just as if we had never done anything wrong. Romans 5:1 tells us, "Now that we have been put right with God through faith. We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Being put right with God is justification.

Sanctification means being made holy, that is, clean from sin and dedicated to God. May the God who gives us peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being--spirit, soul, and body free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (I Thessalonians 5:23). God wants all Christians to be sanctified, made holy. "God wants you to be holy and completely free from sexual immorality" (1 Thessalonians 4:3). "Try to be at peace with everyone, and try to live a holy life, because no one will see the Lord without it" (Hebrews 12:14). There is another point that should be touched upon while talking of the results of Jesus' death on the cross. This is divine healing. Divine healing was included in the benefits Jesus bought for us on Calvary.

People brought to Jesus many who had demons in them. Jesus drove out the evil spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. He did this to make come true what the prophet Isaiah had said, "He Himself took our sickness and carried away our diseases" (Matthew 8:16-17).

"We are healed by the punishment He suffered, made whole by the blows He received" (Isaiah 53:5). Divine healing is the supernatural power of God bringing health to the human body. James 5:14-15 tells us how we can claim this healing: Is there anyone who is sick? He should send for the church elders, who will pray for him and rub olive oil on him in the name of the Lord. This prayer made in



faith will heal the sick person; the Lord will restore him to health, and the sins he has committed will be forgiven.

### To Do

**6)** Circle the letters in front of the correct answers to this question. Which of the following are results of salvation?

- a) Transformation
- b) Adoption or "being born again"
- c) Justification
- d) Sanctification
- e) Access to divine healing

**7)** Read the words in the left column. Write in front of each the number of the definition in the right column that matches it.

- a. Transformation
- b. Sanctification
- c. Justification
- d. Divine healing
- e. Adoption

- 1) Being made holy
- 2) Health by supernatural means
- 3) A complete change
- 4) Becoming part of God's family
- 5) Being made righteous

### Check Your Answers

**1)** You should circle all the letters because each of the references tells us that salvation comes through Jesus Christ.

**2)** b. freedom from sin through Jesus Christ.

**3)** You should NOT circle any of the choices. NONE of them are true.

**4)** b. believes

**5)** a. Lord Jesus.

**6)** You should circle all the letters because they are all results of salvation.

- 7) a. 3) A complete change.
- b. 1) Being made holy.
- c. 5) Being made righteous.
- d . 2) Health by supernatural means.
- e . 4) Becoming part of God's family.

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**FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH**

**Chapter 7: The Holy Spirit**

- **The Holy Spirit**
- **The Person Of The Holy Spirit**
- **The Work Of The Holy Spirit**

**Holy Spirit**

The disciples knew that Jesus was going away. He had told them so. At first it didn't sound like good news and their hearts were troubled. They loved Jesus; they had walked three years with Jesus. How could they live without Him?

Jesus read their hearts and He assured them that it was best for them that He return to His Father in heaven. His Father would send the Holy Spirit (part of the Trinity we read about in Lesson 2) and they would never be left alone.

God's Spirit wouldn't be felt in just one country, or minister to just one race of people, but over the whole earth. On the Day of Pentecost, Peter spoke to the crowd representing at least 15 different language groups. Acts 2:16-17 tells us what he said: "This is what the prophet Joel spoke about: This is what I will do in the last days. God says: I will pour out my Spirit on everyone."

In Lesson 6 we studied about salvation. Did you know that we are brought to salvation through the work of the Holy Spirit? Let's study about the Holy Spirit and His work in us.

**This lesson will help you ...**

- 1. Describe the person of the Holy Spirit.**
- 2. Explain the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation.**
- 3. Understand the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.**

**The Person Of The Holy Spirit**

**Objective 1: Describe who the Holy Spirit is and state at least five of His qualities.**

The Holy Spirit is God. He is the third Person in the Godhead, called the *Holy Trinity*. Like the Father and the Son, He also has other names. Some are the *Holy Ghost*, the *Spirit of God*, the *Spirit of*

*Truth, the Comforter.* Matthew 28:19 mentions all three Persons. "Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit is like God the Father. He is eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing, and everywhere. He works together with the Father and the Son and was with them at Creation. Let's look at some verses that tell us about the Holy Spirit.

"Through the eternal Spirit he offered himself as a perfect sacrifice to God" (Hebrews 9:14).

"The Spirit searches everything, even the hidden depths of God's purposes" (1 Corinthians 2:10).

"God's spirit made me and gave me life" (Job 33:4).

The Holy Spirit moved on prophets and priests in Old Testament times. He helped men and women to serve God. Of Joseph who was sold as a slave into Egypt it was said, "We will never find a better man than Joseph, a man who has God's spirit in him" (Genesis 41:38).

**To Do**

1. The Holy Spirit is the ..... Person of the ..... He works together with the ..... and the ..... and has been on earth since.....

2. Read the following Scriptures. By each write the quality or characteristic of the Holy Spirit that the verse mentions.

- a) Romans 15:13 .....
- b) Hebrews 10:15 .....
- c) I Peter 4:14 .....
- d) I John 5:6.....
- e) John 14:26 .....

**The Work Of The Holy Spirit**

**Objective 2: Identify six functions of the Holy Spirit mentioned in the Bible.**

The Holy Spirit plays an essential part in our salvation. He shows us how wrong our sins are and helps us accept Jesus as our Savior. He changes our lives.

And when He comes [the Holy Spirit], He will prove to the people of the world that they are wrong about sin and about what is right and about God's judgment (John 16:8).

"I am telling you the truth," replied Jesus, "that no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. A person is born physically of human parents, but He is born spiritually of the Spirit" (John 3:5-6).

The Holy Spirit dwells in every believer. He enters the heart when conversion takes place. "To show you that you are His sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who cries out, 'Father, my Father' " (Galatians 4:6). Romans 8:9 says further, "Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him." If we belong to the family of God, His Spirit

dwells within us.

For the Spirit that God has given you does not make you slaves and cause you to be afraid; instead, the Spirit makes you God's children, and by the Spirit's power we cry out to God, "Father! My Father!" (Romans 8:15-16).

We have talked about the *indwelling* of the *Holy Spirit* and we may also have the *infilling* of the *Holy Spirit* which occurs after conversion. It is sometimes called the *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*. Not every believer is baptized in the Holy Spirit, but it is an experience God wants all His children to have.

He [Jesus] has been raised to the right side of God, His Father, and has received from Him the Holy Spirit, as He had promised. What you now see and hear is His gift that He has poured out on us (Acts 2:33).

Peter said unto them, "Each one of you must turn away from his sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven; and you will receive God's gift, the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

The Holy Spirit is our Comforter, our Helper. He teaches, gives us love and fellowship, and guides us into truth. He has fruit for us, like joy, peace, patience, humility and self-control (Galatians 5:22) and spiritual gifts with which to minister unto the Lord and to our fellowman (I Corinthians 12:4-7).

## To Do

**3) Circle the letter in front of the following statements that are TRUE.**

- a) The Holy Spirit is present in every believer.
- b) The Holy Spirit guides us toward salvation.
- c) Conversion and baptism in the Holy Spirit are the same.
- d) The Holy Spirit declares us children of God.

**4) Read the Scripture references on the left. Write in front of each the number of the work of the Spirit listed on the right that is mentioned in the reference.**

- a) Isaiah 11:2
- b) Ezekiel 36:27
- c) Joel 2:28
- d) Luke 12:12
- e) Micah 3:8
- f) John 16:1

- 1) Gives power
- 2) Teaches
- 3) Reveals the truth
- 4) Gives wisdom, knowledge, and skill

- 5) Gives prophecies, dreams, and visions  
 6) Causes you to keep God's laws

### Check Your Answers

- 1) a. third  
 b. Trinity  
 c. Father  
 d. Son  
 e. creation
- 2) a. Power  
 b. Witness  
 c. Glorious  
 d. Truth  
 e. Helper
- 3) a. True  
 b. True  
 c. False  
 d. True
- 4) a. 4 - Gives wisdom, knowledge, and skill.  
 b. 6 - Causes you to keep God's laws.  
 c. 5 - Gives prophecies, dreams, and visions.  
 d. 2 - Teaches.  
 e. 1-Gives power.  
 f. 3-Reveals the truth.

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## FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH

### Chapter 8: The Church

- **The Church**
- **Its Names**
- **Its Ordinances**
- **Its Mission**
- **Its Future**

### The Church

There are beautiful buildings and cathedrals, humble adobe missions and huts that have on them the name "Church." They have steeples and crosses, bells and towers that have their own way of announcing to passers-by, "This is a church." These man-made structures are churches in one sense of the word, but *the church* spoken of in the New Testament is

something more.

The church in its larger sense is made up of all believers. It is called the body of Christ. God dwells among these believers by His Spirit. In Lesson 7 we studied about the Holy Spirit and some of His functions. One of the functions we did not mention is that He unites the church. Ephesians 4:3 says. "Do your best to preserve the unity which the Spirit gives by means of the peace that binds you together."

In this lesson we will study what the church is, what it should be doing, and what is going to happen to it. Again, it is the Bible that will give us the right answers.

**This lesson will help you ...**

1. **Describe Christ's church.**
2. **Be committed to the mission given the church.**
3. **Explain future functions of the church.**

### Its Names

**Objective 1: List several names for the church.**

When you hear the words *body*, *building*, *bride*, *family*, do they suggest something in common? All relate to people and in biblical language these words refer to a specific group of people-- those who make up God's family.

The church is compared to a *body* of which Christ is the head. Colossians 1:18 says, "He is the head of His body, the church: He is the source of the body's life." God put all things under Christ's feet and gave him to the church as supreme Lord over all things. The church is Christ's body, the completion of Him who himself completes all things everywhere (Ephesians 1:22-23). "All of you are Christ's body, and each one a part of it" (1Corinthians 12:27). The Bible also likens the church to a *building*, a temple dedicated to the Lord. You, too, are built upon the foundation laid by the apostles and prophets, the cornerstone being Christ Jesus himself. He is the one who holds the whole building together and makes it grow into a sacred temple dedicated to the Lord.

In union with Him you too are being built together with all the others into a place where God lives through His Spirit (Ephesians 2:20-22). Another name given to the church is the *bride of Christ*. The Bible calls Jesus the *Lamb* and states that the church is the bride that will be married to Him. Revelation 21:9 says, "Come, and I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." "For the time has come for the wedding of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself for it" (Revelation 19:7). Christ is compared to the husband and the church to the wife in Ephesians 5:25. "Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave his life for it."

As you read the Bible you will find other comparisons. The important thing to remember is that the church is made up of all those who are truly born-again followers of Christ. It's a growing group, "praising God, and enjoying the good will of all the people. And every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).

### To Do

1. Read the references listed below and write beside each the title it gives to the church.

- a) Psalm 149:1 .....
- b) I Peter 5:2 .....
- c) Psalm 89:7 .....
- d) Ephesians 2:19.....

## Its Ordinances

### **Objective 2: Name the two ordinances of the church.**

Now that we know who the church is, it is important to understand its ordinances. An ordinance is a rule made by an authority. The ordinances of the church are water baptism and communion, which we also call the Lord's Supper.

Jesus Himself instituted these two ordinances. His final command to all his disciples **was**, "Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Water baptism has a special significance:

For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ through your faith in the active power of God, who raised him from death (Colossians 2:12).

As a believer you will want to be water baptized as a testimony of your new life in Christ. You will also want to take part in communion.

Communion, the Lord's Supper, or the Last Supper, was the last meeting Jesus had with the 12 disciples before He was arrested by the Roman soldiers. We take communion to commemorate Jesus' death. "This means that every time you eat and drink from this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (I Corinthians 11:26).

For I received from the Lord the teaching that I had passed on to you: that the Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took the bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in memory of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup and said, "This is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it, do so

in memory of me" (1 Corinthians 11:23-25).

### To Do

2) What are the two ordinances of the church as given by Jesus?

.....

3) Choose the answer that best completes this sentence. According to Matthew 28:19, the ordinance of water baptism is for

- a) anyone born into a Christian family.
- b) those who have believed and are following Christ.
- c) joining a church.

4) Circle the letter in front of each statement that completes the sentence correctly. Holy Communion is

- a) an ordinance of the church.
- b) eating the body and blood of Christ.
- c) remembering the sacrifice of Jesus.
- d) for every believer.

## Its Mission

**Objective 3: Identify the mission of the church.**

The mission of the church is to preach the gospel to all mankind. Jesus Himself gave this commission before He went back to His Father. Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "This is what is written: the Messiah must suffer and must rise from death three days later, and in his name the message about repentance and the forgiveness of sins must be preached to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem" (Luke 24:45-47).

### To Do

5) Circle the letter in front of each statement that completes the sentence correctly. The mission of the church is to

- a) tell of Jesus' suffering and death.
- b) preach repentance and forgiveness of sin.
- c) tell of Jesus in every nation.

## Its Future



**Objective 4: Select Statements describing the future of the church.**

Christ loved the church and gave His life for it. For what purpose?

He did this to dedicate the church to God by His word, after making it clean by washing it in water, in order to present the church to Himself in all its beauty--pure and faultless, without spot or wrinkle or any other imperfection. (Ephesians 5:26-27).

The church will be praising God both in heaven and on earth where they will reign with Christ. You have made them a kingdom of priests to serve our God, and they shall rule on earth ... And I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, in the world below, and in the sea--all living beings in the universe--and they were singing: "To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, be praise and honor, glory and might, forever and ever!" (Revelation 5:10, 13).

**To Do**

**6) Circle the letter in front of the following statements that are TRUE.**

- a) There will be nothing to do throughout eternity.
- b) The church will be with Christ forever.
- c) The church will serve God as priests and rulers on earth.

**Check Your Answers**

- 1) a. Assembly of His faithful people.
  - b. Flock.
  - c. Holy ones.
  - d. Fellow-citizens, God's people, family of God.
- 2) Water baptism and communion (or the Lord's Supper).
- 3) b. those who have believed and are following Christ.
- 4) You should have circled a), c), and d). *Answer b)* is not correct because we do not actually eat the body and drink the blood of Jesus. Bread and wine are symbols of His body and blood.
- 5. You should have circled all of the letters because all are correct.
- 6. b. True.
  - c. True.

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**FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH**

**Chapter 9: The Spirit World**

- **The Spirit World**
- **Satan And Evil Spirits**

- **Angels**

## The Spirit World

"The spirit who is in you is more powerful than the spirit in those who belong to the world" (1 John 4:4).

Marina was a teenager when she became a spiritist medium. When I met her, she was 25 and already bound by Satan and evil spirits. The first three weeks of those months that several other believers and I lived with Marina and her husband, were at times of terrible spiritual battle.

Every evening we laid hands on Marina, praying for her deliverance. The evil spirits tried to kill her and also to harm us, but they couldn't. We resisted the Satanic forces and pleaded the protection of the blood of Jesus. Slowly the evil spirits left. The power of God was greater and soon Marina was completely free! She could tell everyone, "Greater is God that is in me, than Satan or any evil spirit in the world!"

Marina became a member of God's family, part of the church that we have just studied about. Only God controlled her and only the Holy Spirit lived in her.

Perhaps you too have seen the power of Satan working. But you don't have to be afraid. The power of God is greater! In this lesson we will learn about the forces of the spirit world and the protection that we as believers have in Christ.

### This lesson will help you ...

1. **Explain who Satan is and what is his destiny.**
2. **Know the difference between good and bad angels.**
3. **Be aware of the benefit good angels are to believers.**

## Satan And Evil Spirits

**Objective 1:** State who Satan is and what is his destiny and that of his evil spirits.

Satan is a wicked angel who was cast out of heaven because he wanted to exalt himself above God. Isaiah 14:14-15 says:

You said you would climb to the tops of the clouds and be like the Almighty. But instead, you have been brought down to the deepest part of the world of the dead.

The bad angels who followed him met a like fate: "God did not spare the angels who sinned,

but threw them into hell" (2 Peter 2:4). Jesus said, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (Luke 10:18).

Satan (sometimes called Lucifer or the devil) tries to turn men and women away from serving the living God. First Peter 5:8 warns us, "Be alert, be on watch! Your enemy, the Devil, roams around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour."

Evil spirits work with Satan to hurt and destroy people. Matthew 8:28-34 tells of two men who were driven insane because they were possessed by evil spirits or demons. But the power of God has always been greater than the power of the devil. Jesus showed that power by casting the demons out of the men.

When evening came people brought to Jesus many who had demons in them. Jesus drove out the evil spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. He did this to make come true what the prophet Isaiah had said, "He himself took our sickness and carried away our diseases" (Matthew 8:16-17).

When Christ comes to set up His kingdom on earth, Satan will be cast into hell.

Then the Devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had already been thrown; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever (Revelation 20:10).

When you are faced by temptations from Satan or are in danger because of evil spirits, you can stand against him. James 4:7 says, "Resist the Devil, and he will run away from you." One way to resist the devil is to say it out loud. You could say something like this: *"I resist the devil. He has no power over me because I am a child of God. I am covered and protected by the blood of Jesus that has overcome Satan and all his evil angels."*

"Our brothers won the victory over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the truth which they proclaimed" (Revelation 12:11).

As we will study in the next section, God sends His angels to be of service to you. You have nothing to fear if you are a child of God!

### To Do

1. For the ..... that God has given us does not make us ..... ; instead..... fills us with ..... and.....

2 Timothy 1:7.

2. Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement about Satan and evil spirits.

- a) Satan is like a roaring lion wanting to hurt Christian believers.
- b) Evil spirits are just imagined by people who don't know better.
- c) Satan and evil spirits are overcome by the blood that Jesus shed on the cross.
- d) If a believer resists the devil, the devil cannot hurt him.

3. Read **Matthew 25:41**. What has been prepared for the devil and his angels?

.....

## Angels

**Objective 2: Identify three functions of angels.**

"What are angels, then? They are spirits who serve God and are sent by him to help those who are to receive salvation" (Hebrews 1:14).

Have you heard about guardian angels? They are real. The Bible says, "His angel guards those who have reverence for the Lord and rescues them from danger" (Psalm 34:7).

Angels have many functions, the first of which is to serve God, their Creator. Angels worship God at all times. Nehemiah 9:6 states, "The heavenly powers bow down and worship you." They do not act on their own, but are under Christ's authority. First Peter 3:22 tells us that Jesus "has gone to heaven and is at the right side of God, ruling over all angels and heavenly authorities and powers."

Angels participated in the giving of the old law (Galatians 3:19) and later sang over the Judean hills, announcing the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:13-14). We have all heard their song, singing their words over every glad Christmas.

They ministered to Jesus while He was here on earth. Luke 4:11 tells us that after His temptation in the wilderness, angels helped him. When Jesus prayed in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, an angel came to strengthen Him. The Bible tells us that angels minister to us as well. Though they aren't often seen, they watch over us--keeping us, and protecting us from danger. We have no way of knowing the accidents and other kinds of trouble that we have been spared because of their ministry in our behalf.

Yet we know they have been sent to help us because the Bible says so. Examples also are given to encourage us to believe. When Daniel was kept in the lions' den, he testified to the king, "God sent his angel to shut the mouths of the lions so that they would not hurt me" (Daniel 6:22).

First Kings 19:5 tells us that an angel brought food to the prophet Elijah when he was so tired he thought he would die. And an angel freed the apostle Peter from prison when he was being persecuted for the gospel's sake (Acts 12:7).

Whether angels are seen or whether they are invisible, we know they are sent to minister to us. How comforting to know they are ready to do whatever God tells them.

As we have already learned, they do not act except under divine authority. Nor do they accept praise. John the Beloved was so overwhelmed with a message given him by an angel that he fell down and began to worship him. But the angel stopped him. "Don't do it!" he said, "I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brothers, all those who hold to the truth that Jesus revealed. Worship God!" (Revelation 19:10).

You must not worship angels, but you can *give* them cause for rejoicing. If you have given your life to Christ, you have already given them joy. Jesus said, "I tell you, the angels of God rejoice over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10). As a child of God, you can count on their continued help. "God will put His angels in charge of you to protect you wherever you go" (Psalm 91:11).

### To Do

4) Read the following verses and beside each one write the function of the angels mentioned in that verse.

- a) Hebrews 1:6 .....
- b) Genesis 24:40 .....
- c) Psalm 91:11 .....

5) Draw a circle around the correct completion to this sentence. Angels

- a) are beings to be worshipped.
- b) can act or speak without God's authority.
- c) are servants of God and help God's children.

### Check Your Answers

1) Spirit, timid, His Spirit, power, love, self-control.

2) a. Satan is like a roaring lion wanting to hurt Christian believers.

c. Satan and evil spirits are overcome by the blood that Jesus shed on the cross.

d. If a believer resists the devil, the devil cannot harm him.

3) Eternal fire.

- 4) a. Worship God.  
 b. Give success.  
 c. Protect.
- 5) c. are servants of God and help God's children.

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## FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH

### Chapter 10: The Future

- **The Future**
- **The Rapture of Believers**
- **The Earthly Rule of Jesus**
- **The Judgment of Unbelievers**

#### The Future

Everyone is interested in the future. Books, both good and bad, have been written about what people think is going to happen. Scientists and government leaders are asked for their ideas about what lies ahead for their nation.

People have always been anxious about the future, consulting tea leaves, horoscopes, crystal balls and other forms of "fortune-telling." One day a lady came running to me, asking if she could read my palm and tell me my future. She was quite surprised when I told her that I had a little book that told me my future--and it told her future too! Then I gave her a copy of the New Testament.

The Bible is the one source of true predictions. Through His Word God gives us all that we need to know. There is no need to "read" tea leaves or tarot cards. In fact, these and other forms of "magic" are forbidden by God.

If you have wondered about your future and about what will happen when Jesus comes again, you will be interested in studying this lesson. We will study about future judgments and the time of the Lord's coming. Even the angels we studied about in the last lesson are interested in knowing when the Lord will return to earth. Let's look into the Bible and see what it says about our future!

#### **This lesson will help *you* ...**

1. Explain when and for whom the Rapture will occur.
2. Define Millennium and the Great White Throne Judgment.
3. Look forward with expectation to an eternity with Christ

## The Rapture of Believers

### ***Objective 1: Describe and identify events surrounding Jesus' return.***

"In lesson 5 we discussed briefly the return of Christ. A common term used to describe one of the events surrounding His return is the word "rapture". It refers to the time when Jesus will meet His Church in the air. No one can tell us when the Rapture will take place because only God the Father knows."

"No one knows, however, when that day and hour will come neither the angels in heaven nor the Son; the Father alone knows" (Matthew 24:36).

But there are signs telling us that the Rapture is drawing near, Jesus said that just before His return there would be an increase in worldliness, wickedness, and violence. False Christs and false prophets would arise; there would be earthquakes, famine, and pestilence. There would be wars and rumors of war. All these signs spoken of in Matthew 24 and Luke 21 are happening in our day.

Not everything, however, is negative. In spite of terrible times many people will seek the Lord and find Him. Joel 2:28-29 tells us about it!

Afterward I will pour out my spirit on everyone: your sons and daughters will proclaim my message; your old men will have dreams, and your young men will see visions. At that time I will pour out my spirit even on servants, both men and women.

Christians look forward to the Rapture with joy. Those who have died will be resurrected and those who are alive will be changed. All will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air.

Listen to this secret truth: we shall not all die, but when the last trumpet sounds, we shall all be changed in an instant, as quickly as the blinking of an eye. For when the trumpet sounds, the dead will be raised, never to die again, and we shall all be changed. For what is mortal must be changed into what is immortal; what will die must be changed into what cannot die (I Corinthians 15:51-53).

After the Rapture Christians will be judged and rewarded according to their faithfulness to Christ. Then they will go to the marriage supper of the Lamb when Christ, the Lamb of God, welcomes the church as His bride.

For all of us must appear before Christ, to be judged by Him. Each one will receive what he deserves, according to everything he has done, good or bad, in his bodily life (2 Corinthians 5:10).

We know that our sins have been covered by the blood of Jesus and we will not have to answer for them. But we will be rewarded according to our faithfulness. When trials come our way it is good to remind ourselves that the Lord sees everything.

Let us rejoice and be glad; let us praise His greatness! For the time has come for the wedding of the Lamb, and His bride has prepared herself for it. She has been given clean shining linen to wear. (The linen is the good deeds of God's people.) Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Happy are those who have been invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And the angel added, "These are the true words of God" (Revelation 19:7-9).

### To Do

1) According to I Thessalonians 4:16-17 which of the following statements are TRUE?

- a) When the trumpet sounds all the dead shall rise.
- b) The Lord will come to earth to judge sinners at this time.
- c) Those who died believing will be raised to life.
- d) All believers, dead and living, will be caught up

to be with the Lord forever.

2) What sign do you see in the world today that encourages you to believe for the soon coming of the Lord?

.....

## The Earthly Rule of Jesus

**Objective 2: Recognize events that define the Christian term "millennium."**

The Lord will return with His people to rule over the earth a thousand years. This period of time has been called the *millennium* (taken from the Latin *mille* meaning a thousand).

The Bible talks of this era as a time of great joy and peace on earth. Jude 14 says, "The Lord will come with many thousands of His holy angels."

Happy and greatly blessed are those who are included in this first raising of the dead. The second death has no power over them: they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and they will rule with him for a thousand years (Revelation 20:6).

Wolves and sheep will live together in peace, and leopards will lie down with young goats.

Calves and lion cubs will feed together, and little children will take care of them (Isaiah 11:6).

### To Do



3) Circle the letter before each statement which completes the sentence correctly. The millennium in the Bible refers to

- a) the Lord's thousand year rule on earth.
- b) a time of peace and happiness.
- c) all believers ruling with Christ on earth.

### The Judgment of Unbelievers

#### ***Objective 3: Define Great White Throne Judgment.***

After Jesus has ruled a thousand years, the wicked dead will be raised to stand before God in Judgment. Then Satan, his angels, and all the wicked will be cast into hell. This judgment is called the Great White Throne Judgment. Several verses from Revelation 20 tells us why it is called by this name.

Then I saw a great white throne and the one who sits on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence and were seen no more. And I saw the dead, great and small alike, standing before the throne. Books were opened, and then another book was opened, the book of the living. The dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. Then the sea gave up its dead. Death and the world of the dead also gave up the dead they held. And all were judged according to what they had done. Then death and the world of the dead were thrown into the lake of fire. (This lake of fire is the second death.) Whoever did not have his name written in the book of the living was thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15).

Those whose names are written in the book of the living are the believers in Christ. They have nothing to fear because they will be with Christ forever. Revelation 21:2-3 tells us what John saw in a vision.

And I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared and ready, like a bride dressed to meet her husband. I heard a loud voice speaking from the throne: 'Now God's home is with mankind! He will live with them, and they shall be his people. God himself will be with them, and he will be their God.'

After the Great White Throne Judgment, God's children will be with Him. He will prepare for them in a new heaven and a new earth.

He will wipe away all tears from their eyes. There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared (Revelation 21:4).

**To Do**

4) He who gives his ..... to all this says,  
 " ..... ! I am ..... soon!" So be it.  
 ....., Lord Jesus!

5) Complete the following sentence. Eternity with God will be

- a) a time of remembering our past sins on earth and repenting of them.
- b) a time of joy and living with God forever.

**Check Your Answers**

1) a. True  
 d. True

2) Your answer. It might be the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, many people turning to the Lord, or the gospel being preached to the ends of the earth.

3) You should have circled all the letters because every answer is correct.

4) testimony, Yes indeed, coming, Come

5) b. a time of joy and living with God forever.

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**FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH****Chapter 11: The Law of God**

- Meaning and Purpose of the Law
- Obedience to the Law

**The Law of God**

- Worship no god but me.
- Do not make for yourselves images of anything.
- Do not use my name for evil purposes.
- Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy.
- Respect your father and your mother.
- Do not commit murder.
- Do not commit adultery.
- Do not steal.
- Do not accuse anyone falsely.
- Do not desire anything another man owns.

In Lesson 10 we studied about what we will do in the future; in this lesson we will study what we

must be doing in the present. God wrote the Ten Commandments on two tables of stone and gave them to the great leader of Israel, Moses, for His people. Even though they are ancient laws, they can be applied today.

**This lesson will help you ...**

- 1. Understanding the meaning of each of the Ten Commandments.**
- 2. Realize why God gave laws.**
- 3. Accept your responsibility in obeying His laws.**

### Meaning and Purpose of the Law

**Objective 1: List the Ten Commandments with their references.**

The Lord said to Moses, 'Cut two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke' (Exodus 34:1).

In Exodus 20 the Ten Commandments that God wrote are written for us. He gave them as laws and guidelines for His children to follow. Let's look at each law individually.

*Worship no god but me.* As we learned in Lesson 2, we are to give God first place in our lives. This commandment is repeated in Matthew 4:10: "Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him!"

*Do not make for yourselves images of anything.*

Our allegiance is to God--we cannot have divided loyalties. Jesus said that no man can serve two masters (Luke 16:13), for he will love one and despise the other. We want to be true to the Lord, loving Him with our whole heart.

*Do not use my name for evil purposes.*

People break the third commandment by cursing and using God's name in vain. We will always give that Name which is above all names a place of love, honor, and respect.

Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed, so that what you say will do good to those who hear you.

(Ephesians 4:29).

Do not swear by heaven, because it is God's throne; nor by earth, because it is the resting place for his feet; nor by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King (Matthew 5:34-35).

*Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy.*

This is the only commandment not repeated in the New Testament. Most Christians do not

observe the Hebrew Sabbath. They keep Sunday instead because it was on the first day of the week that Jesus rose from the dead. Every Lord's Day can remind us of the Resurrection! It is important that we set aside a day for rest and worship, but which day we choose is secondary. Colossians 2:16 says, "So let no one make rules about what you eat or drink or about holy days or the New Moon Festival or the Sabbath."

One person thinks that a certain day is more important than other days, while someone else thinks that all days are the same. Each one should firmly make up his own mind (Romans 14:5).

*Respect your father and your mother.*

Exodus 20:12 gives a special promise to obedient children: "Respect your father and your mother, so that you may live a long time in the land that I am giving you." The New Testament reinforces the commandment.

"Children, it is your Christian duty to obey your parents, for this is the right thing to do" (Ephesians 6:1).

*Do not commit murder.*

The first murderer was Cain who killed his brother Abel. Perhaps Cain thought no one saw what happened, but God did. He said to Cain, "Why have you done this terrible thing? Your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground, like a voice calling for revenge" (Genesis 4:10).

Murder is a sin with chain reactions--it hurts the families and friends of both the murderer and he who was murdered. It is also a grave offense against God who made man in his own image.

*Do not commit adultery.*

Adultery is the sin of breaking the marriage vow by having sexual relations with someone other than the marriage partner. Hebrews 13:4 says, "Marriage is to be honored by all, and husbands and wives must be faithful to each other. God will judge those who are immoral and those who commit adultery."

*Do not steal.*

It is wrong to take anything that doesn't belong to you, even if the person you took it from is rich and doesn't need it.

The man who used to rob must stop robbing and start working, in order to earn an honest living for himself and to be able to help the poor (Ephesians 4:28).

*Do not accuse anyone falsely.*

The ninth commandment includes all lying in word or deed. God does not make a difference between "good" lies and "bad" lies--all false accusations are wrong. Psalm 101:7 says, "No liar

will live in my palace; no hypocrite will remain in my presence."

But cowards, traitors, perverts, murderers, the immoral, those who practice magic, those who worship idols, and all liars--the place for them is the lake burning with fire and sulfur, which is the second death (Revelation 21:8).

*Do not desire anything another man owns.*

To wrongly desire what belongs to another is often called coveting. Luke 12:15 puts it this way: "Watch out and guard yourselves from every kind of greed; because a person's true life is not made up of the things he owns, no matter how rich he may be."

God gave us these laws to teach us right from wrong, to guide us when we make decisions.

What, then was the purpose of the Law? It was added in order to show what wrongdoing is, and it was meant to last until the coming of Abraham's descendant, to whom the promise was made ... So the Law was in charge of us until Christ came, in order that we might then be put right with God through faith (Galatians 3:19, 24).

**To Do**

1) Read Exodus 20. Then write each commandment in brief with its Scripture reference.

- a) One:.....
- b) Two:.....
- c) Three: .....,.....
- e) Five: .....
- f) Six: .....,.....
- g) Seven: .....
- h) Eight: .....
- i) Nine: .....
- j) Ten: .....

2) Read Hebrews 13:5. What commandment or commandments could Paul have had in mind when he wrote that verse?

.....

**Obedience to the Law**

**Objective 2: Identify the responsibility of a believer toward the Law of God.**

The Lord asks that we keep His commandments not only in action, but in attitude as well--an attitude of love, of preferring others above ourselves.

The commandments. "Do not commit adultery; do not murder; do not steal; do not desire what belongs to someone else"--all these, and any others besides, are summed up in the one command, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself" (Romans 13:9).

"For our love for God means that we obey His commands. And His commands are not too hard for us" (1 John 5:3).

We already know that keeping commandments won't save us. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:8-9 confirms it!

For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it.

However, we do obey the Lord because as His children we want above all else to please Him. If we do break one of His commandments, we should immediately ask God to forgive and cleanse us from sins.

I am writing this to you, my children, so that you will not sin; but if anyone sin, we have someone who pleads with the Father on our behalf--Jesus Christ, the righteous one. And Christ himself is the means by which our sins are forgiven, and not our sins only, but the sins of everyone (1 John 2:1-2).

Have you sometimes felt weak and maybe even disobedient? The Lord Jesus can give you the help and strength that you need. Would you like to bow your head and ask for His help right now?

*Heavenly Father, I ask forgiveness for failing to love you as I should. Help me not to sin and disobey you when I know better.*

*Lord, I want to love You and defend Your Name even more than I would love and defend my own family. Give me Your strength, I pray, because I ask in the name of Jesus who gave His life for me.*

*Amen.*

### **To Do**

**3)** Read 1 John 3:15-18. According to these verses which of the following statements are **TRUE**?

- a) The attitude is as important as the action.
- b) He who hates his brother is a murderer.
- c) To love God and your brother is also a commandment.

**4)** Read Romans 8:3-4. Fill in the right completions to the following statements.

- a) God condemned sin in human nature by .....
- b) The demands of the law are fully satisfied in us who live according to .....

**5)** Read John 14:21. According to this verse,

- a) the one who loves God will .....
- b) God in turn promises to .....

---

**Check your answers.**

**1) Compare your answers to the following verses:**

- a. Exodus 20:3.
- b. 20:4-6.
- c. 20:7.
- d. 20:8-11.
- e. 20:12.
- f. 20:13.
- g. 20:14.
- h. 20:15.
- i. 20:16.
- j. 20:17.

**2)** Paul could have been referring to "Worship no God but me" because some people love money above God.

Or he could have referred to "Do not steal" because he says that God will never abandon you, so there is no need to steal.

Or he could have been thinking of "Do not wrongly desire anything another man owns" because he says, "Be satisfied with what you have."

**3)** All of the statements are **TRUE**.

- 4)**
- a. sending His own Son.
  - b. the Spirit and not according to human nature.
- 5.**
- a accept His commandments and obey them.
  - b. love him and reveal Himself to him.

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## FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH

### Chapter 12: Our Relationship to God

- **God's Gifts to Us**
- **Our Gifts to God**

#### Our Relationship to God

We have learned that our main responsibility as Christian believers is to love God. As we studied in Lesson 11, we keep His commandments because we love Him. So, our relationship with God is one of love.

First Corinthians 13 gives us a beautiful description of love. Verses 4-8 tell us that love is

patient and kind, not jealous, conceited, proud, ill-mannered, selfish, or irritable. It does not keep a record of wrongs nor is it happy with evil, but with truth. Love never gives up--it is eternal. This may sound like a very ideal picture of love. But it is this kind of love that every Christian believer should have for God and his fellow-man. It is this unconditional kind of love that God gives to us.

It is no accident that the chapters before and after chapter 13 are about God's gifts to believers. The chapter on love is tied in with the chapters on gifts because love also is a gift. Loving and giving go together because when we love others we want to give them what will please them the most.

**This lesson will help you ...**

- 1. Describe at least three gifts from God for His children.**
- 2. Be committed to giving God the gifts of love of which He is worthy.**

### God's Gift to Us

***Objective 1: Identify several gifts from God for His children.***

The first gift that God gives us when we chose to believe on Him is the gift of salvation.

For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it (Ephesians 2:8-9).

If we are believers, God is our Heavenly Father and we are His children. Matthew 5:16 gives God this precious name. "Your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven? It is wonderful that we can talk to God as we would to a loving father. Jesus taught us to talk to Him that way when He said, "Our Father in heaven: May your holy name be honored" (Matthew 6:9).

Although God is the Creator, He is the Father of only those who have been born into His family.

Here is the clear difference between God's children and the Devil's children: anyone who does not do what is right or does not love his brother is not God's child (1 John 3:10).

To be part of the family of God we must accept His Son Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. Then new life begins. "Some ...did receive Him and believed in Him; so He gave them the right to become God's children" (John 1:12).

Every loving father enjoys supplying the needs of His children. Our Heavenly Father supplies all our needs. "And with all His abundant wealth through Christ Jesus, my God will supply all your needs" (Philippians 4:19).



God watches over us as His children. He watches day and night. "He will not let you fall; your protector is always awake" (Psalm 121:3). "The Lord watches over the righteous and listens to their cries" (Psalm 34:15). There are many verses like this in Psalms that tell us of God's care for us.

When our Father tells us in His Word that He will do certain things for us, we call those verses *promises*. Promises are a gift from God. We can receive blessing and have God's promises through prayer and believing His Word. "And I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father's glory will be shown through the Son," are words from Jesus Christ in John 14:13. Christians can also receive blessings from God by helping others. Psalm 41:1 states, "Happy are those who are concerned for the poor; the Lord will help them when they are in trouble." We can receive many gifts from God if we will believe and ask Him for them. This act of believing is called faith. Our faith pleases God and brings not only salvation and other gifts we have mentioned, but also healing and the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

"No one can please God without faith, for whoever comes to God must have faith that God exists and rewards those who seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

That we receive healing through faith is found in James 5:15, "This prayer made in faith will heal the sick person; the Lord will restore him to health, and the sins he has committed will be forgiven." The baptism in the Holy Spirit is also received through faith.

Christ did this in order that the blessing which God promised to Abraham might be given to the Gentiles by means of Christ Jesus, so that through faith we might receive the Spirit promised by God (Galatians 3:14).

The greatest gift, however, is found in Romans 6:23, "God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord."

"Every good gift and every perfect present comes from heaven; it comes down from God, the Creator" (James 1:17).

### **To Do**

1) Read Psalm 91. What words could be used to describe these promises that are a gift from God?

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2) Read the references on the left. Write beside each the number of the promise on the right that is mentioned in the verse.

- |                       |                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Romans 5:17        | 1) Wisdom, knowledge, and happiness |
| b) Ecclesiastes 2:26  | 2) Abilities                        |
| c) Ezekiel 11:19      | 3) Abundant grace                   |
| d) Matthew 11:28      | 4) New heart and new mind           |
| e) I Corinthians 12:6 | 5) Rest                             |

3) Write on the lines below at least three gifts that you have received from God since receiving Jesus as your Savior.

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**Our Gifts to God**

**Objective 2: Recognize at least six gifts that believers can give to God.**

Does it seem strange to give something to God who has everything? In His Word God Himself tells us what we can give Him.

We can give God our worship. Psalm 95:6 says, "Come, let us bow down and worship him; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker." Worship can be given by praying, by thanking God for His blessings, by praising Him and giving to His work. Colossians 3:16 tells us to "sing to God with thanksgiving." We also worship when we give ourselves to God without any holding back.

Because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer. Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God--what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect (Romans 12:1-2).

Giving our money is another way to worship. And when we give, we also receive. God promised in Malachi 3:10:

Bring the full amount of your tithes to the Temple ... Put me to the test and you will see that I will open the windows of heaven and pour out on you in abundance all kinds of good things.

A tithe is ten percent of your income.

As Christians, everything we do can be as to the Lord. Jesus gives an interesting account in Matthew 25 of people who received rewards for giving food and drink to Him and for visiting Him in prison. When they asked when they had ever done that, He replied "I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me!" In other words, our giving becomes a way of life.

Continuous worship does not mean being on our knees continually in prayer. If we will live each day in a manner pleasing to the Lord-He will count it as unending worship. We won't find it difficult at all to "always give thanks for everything to God the Father" (Ephesians 5:20), for He is worthy.

**To Do**

4) What gift that we can give God is mentioned in the following verses?

a) Isaiah 38:20

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b) Habakkuk 2:20

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c) Psalm 103:1

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d) John 4:23

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e) 1Timothy 2:8

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f) Hebrews 10:25

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**FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH**

**Chapter 13: Our Relationship to Others**

- Those Over Us
- Those Around Us
- Those Against Us

**Our Relationship to Others**

It was testimony time in the Monday morning chapel service at the Bible School. A girl named

Olga stood to testify. She and a fellow-student had gone to work in one of the local churches the day before. While they ministered, several drunk men entered the church and began to fight. As the believers fled, one of the men accidentally stabbed his own son who was also drunk. When Olga saw that the young man was injured, she and her friend stopped and began to help him. Their own lives were in danger but they saved the life of an enemy. "Let's pray," she said, "that the young man will live and find Christ as His Savior."

We bowed our heads in prayer, but I wasn't praying only for the young man. I was also thanking God for Olga and her love for others--even her enemies!

Olga had learned what we learned in Lesson 12. One way to show our love to God is by loving and helping others. Let's see what God's Word says about our relationship to others.

**This lesson will help you ...**

- 1. Accept your responsibilities in your relationship to others.**
- 2. Apply love to every relationship.**

## Those Over Us

***Objective 1: Identify whom a believer must honor and obey.***

Everyone at one time or another has had someone in authority over him. Children have parents over them, parents have religious and political leaders over them. Even those leaders have others who tell them what to do. What does the Bible say about our relationship to those who are over us?

Parents should be loved, honored, and obeyed. You will remember this as one of the commandments that we studied in Lesson 11. Ephesians 6:1-2 also tells us, "Children, it is your Christian duty to obey your parents, for this is the right thing to do. Respect your father and mother."

Rulers such as policemen, judges, and governors should also be obeyed. "Everyone must obey state authorities, because no authority exists without God's permission, and the existing authorities have been put there by God" (Romans 13:1).

As believers we have leaders like our pastor, the church board, and Sunday school teachers. They should be respected and obeyed in matters pertaining to their responsibilities.

Obey your leaders and follow their orders. They watch over your souls without resting,

since they must give to God an account of their service. If you obey them, they will do their work gladly; if not, they will do it with sadness, and that would be of no help to you Hebrews 13:17).

Only the authority of God is higher than that of the leaders over us. The only time that obedience is not required is when they would ask us to do something that is expressly against God's commandments or will. This happened to Peter and the other apostles when they were forbidden to preach. Peter knew that God must be obeyed above all else. Acts 5:29 says, "Peter and the other apostles answered, 'We must obey God, not men.'"

## To Do

1) Read the verses below. Write in front of each verse the number of the description it matches.

- a) I Timothy 5:17
- b) Colossians 3:20
- c) 1 Peter 2:13
- d) Proverbs 6:20
- e) Matthew 22:17 21

- 1) Honoring parents
- 2) Honoring civil authorities
- 3) Honoring church leaders

2) Read the list below, then put an X by any one or more that you have trouble respecting or honoring.

Father..... Leaders of the Church.....

Mother ..... Police.....

Pastor.....

If you have put an X beside any of the above, ask the Lord to help you understand why you have problems honoring them and to help you respect and obey them from now on.

## Those Around Us

### **Objective 2: Recognize correct applications of the biblical principle of loving others.**

One day a friend said to me, "If unbelievers treat me badly I can still love them. But, I will not tolerate bad treatment from another Christian. They know better!"

What would have happened to Peter and the other apostles if Jesus had felt that way? They knew better and yet they all failed Him when He was arrested and taken to His trial. Even so, when He arose, He appeared to them and assured them of His love.

We have failed the Lord many times and yet He continues to love us. The Lord asks us to love other Christians as He loves us. "As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34).

Our friends and neighbors should be treated as we would like to be treated. Luke 6:31 says, "Do for others just what you want them to do for you." "Love your neighbor as you love yourself" is found in Romans 13:9.

Our relationship to the unsaved is also one of love. We should show them by the way we act that Christ lives in us.

Matthew 5:16 says, "Your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven."

Let's tell the Lord every day that we want to be more like Him! Then, it's time to put action to our words and begin to be like Him.

### **To Do**

**3)** Think about the following possible situations. According to what we have just studied, which of the situations is RIGHT for believers and which are WRONG? Write "R" before those which are right, and "W" before those which are wrong.

- a) A fellow Christian slanders your name. You are thinking about taking him to court.
- b) Your neighbor says, "Don't ever come back to talk to me about Christ again!" But the next day when he needs help, you go over and help him.
- c) Your pastor preaches something you don't like so you get up and walk out of church to show your displeasure.
- d) A Christian friend falls into sin and instead of exposing him before the church, you go to him privately and help him repent and get right with God.

4) Read 1 John 4:7-21. Accordant to these verses which of the following statements are TRUE?

- a) We love because God first loved us.
- b) Whoever does not love does not know God.
- c) There is fear in love because love might be rejected.
- d) Loving God is enough; there's no need to love a brother if he treats you wrongly.

### Those Against Us

**Objective 3: Compare your own actions to the biblical principle of loving others.**

Remember the story of Olga at the beginning of this lesson? Did Olga love those who wronged her? Instead of asking prayer that the injured man be healed, Olga could have asked that God punish them for their wicked ways.

Would that have been a Christ-like attitude? No. What did Jesus do the night he was arrested and Peter cut off the ear of the high priest's slave? That slave was an enemy of Jesus, but Luke tells us, "But Jesus said, 'Enough of this!' He touched the man's ear and healed him" (Luke 22:51).

We want to be like Jesus who loved his enemies and forgave them. In Matthew 5:44 He said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." And again in Matthew 6:15, "If you do not forgive others, then your Father in heaven will not forgive the wrongs you have done." Love is the greatest Christian virtue. First Corinthians 13:13 tells us, "Meanwhile these three remain: faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of these is love."

Christians should love God first. He will in turn put His love in our hearts so we can love both friends and enemies. "Jesus answered, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind'" (Matthew 22:37).

"And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34). Memorize this verse and repeat it often, remembering that a believer's most important responsibility to God and to his fellowman is love.

### To Do

5) Which of the following statements are TRUE in your life?

- a) The way you treat your family influences them to accept what you say about God.
- b) Your actions make your friends want the same power of God that has changed your life.
- c) You are praying every day that when people see you they will be able to see Jesus, too.
- d) You are praying for friends who are having a hard time loving others.

**Check Your Answers**

- 1) a. 3 -Honoring church leaders.  
b. 1 - Honoring parents.  
c. 2 - Honoring civil authorities.  
d. 1 - Honoring parents.  
e. 2 - Honoring civil authorities.

**2) Your answer.**

- 3) a. Wrong.
- 

- b. Right.  
c. Wrong.  
d. Right.

- 4) a. True.  
b. True.  
c. False.  
d. False.

5) Your answers. If some of the statements are NOT true for you, go over the lesson again, point by point. Examine your actions and ask God to give you strength to live up to HIS standards day by day.

- c) Praise the Lord.  
d) Worship Him.  
e) Pray with lifted hands.  
f) Meeting together and encouraging one another.