

Bible Basics for the New Believer



*But grow in grace,
and in the knowledge
of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...
2 Peter 3:18*

Bible Basics For The New Believer

INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, God has given every individual a chance to accept His eternal plan of salvation. Sadly, many people have rejected it and so will suffer forever.

Thus, accepting Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour is the most significant decision you could ever make during your lifetime. Instead of being destined for hell, you will now spend eternity with the Lord Jesus Christ. No longer living life in vain, now you have a reason to live life with eternal results. The emptiness inside has been filled by Him.

The devil also knows of your new life in Jesus Christ. His desire for you to reject God's salvation is no longer in effect. However, he will now exert every effort to keep you from growing close to God and fulfilling God's plan for your life.

This discipleship program is designed to help those who are beginning a new life in Jesus Christ as well as enhance those who desire more for Him. It will help you understand what your relationship to God is, how to communicate with Him, how to apply basic Bible principles to your life, and how your life can be an influential witness and testimony of God's grace.

Whether you just got saved or have been a Christian for years, understanding these basic Bible truths will help establish a solid foundation in your life whereby you can learn to enjoy a victorious life in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our sincere prayer for you is that these lessons might help you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. II Peter 3:18

LESSON #1 – SALVATION

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

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

I. There are only two spiritual families in the world.

A. The Devil's Family

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

B. God's Family

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

II. Being in God's family separates you from the devil's family.

A. Your body is now the temple of the Holy Ghost. God's Holy Spirit lives inside you. I Corinthians 6:19-20

B. II Corinthians 6:14-18 commands the believer to maintain a difference between himself and the unsaved.

C. The new life is perfectly summarized for you in II Corinthians 5:17-18, *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ...”*

III. Your Heavenly Father cares for you as your earthly father would.

He loves, protects, provides, guides and teaches, helps, encourages, disciplines, feeds, and has a plan for you.

IV. You did not lose your physical nature at the time of your spiritual birth.

A. That is obvious; you are still alive!

B. You now have two natures.

1. Old Nature - physical, sinful, in Adam's image.
2. New Nature - spiritual, perfect, in God's image.

C. Both natures are present constantly. The one that will control you is the one you feed the most.

1. Colossians 3:5-10
2. II Corinthians 4:14-18

V. Common Questions.

A. Will I sin after I am saved? Yes, you still have your old nature. Romans 7:25

B. How does my sin affect my relationship with my Father? God does not kick you out of His family when you sin. He disciplines you as a son. Hebrews 12:5-11

C. What should I do when I sin? Confess it and trust that the blood of Jesus Christ will cleanse you from all unrighteousness. Then do all that you can to avoid giving in to that temptation when it comes again. I John 1:6-10; Proverbs 28:13

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT SALVATION.
LESSON # 1

1. Who are the spiritual fathers mentioned in John 8:38? Give a scripture reference to support both your answers.
 - A.
 - B.
2. How does an individual enter into the devil's family?
3. How does an individual enter into God's family?
4. Why are people sentenced to die after their physical or first birth?
5. List three verses that promise you eternal life.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
6. List two reasons why a Christian in God's family is different than a non-Christian in the devil's family.
 - A.
 - B.
7. Your new relationship with God can be seen through the earthly father & child relationship. Using these 9 references to show that relationship, list 10 things God does for you as His child.
 - A. I Peter 5:7
 - B. Deuteronomy 32:37-39
 - C. Philippians 4:19
 - D. John 14:26
 - E. Psalm 46:1
 - F. Philippians 4:13
 - G. Hebrews 12:5-11
 - H. Psalm 28:9
 - I. Romans 8:28-29

8. Briefly explain the two natures you now possess.

A.

B.

9. What would be the reason for one nature to overpower the other nature?

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

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

12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key Memory Verses: Memorize at LEAST ONE of these verses
Romans 5:12; John 3:3; I John 1:9

NOTE: Can you see that some churches wrongly teach that:

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

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



Study To Show Thyself Approved

II Timothy 2:15

Take time to read any and all Scripture passages in each lesson. The doctrine that you are learning is Bible based and taken straight from the Bible ...
GOD'S Holy Word.

LESSON #2 – ETERNAL SECURITY
“Now That I Am Saved, Can I Ever Lose My Salvation?”

Once an individual has settled the question of salvation as the Bible declares it - by grace through faith in Jesus Christ - it is imperative that he understands how that decision has affected his entire life.

In lesson one, we learned that there are only two spiritual families on this earth – God’s and the devil’s. We learned that we were born into the Lord’s family when we received Jesus Christ as our Saviour (John 1:12-13). In this lesson we will discuss the state of the new believer in God’s family, and from Biblical facts we will settle the question of the eternal security of the Christian.

I. The testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself on this subject.

- A. Jesus Christ promises that, “...*him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*” (John 6:37) God will not cast you out of His family under any circumstances.
- B. John 10:27-29 makes it clear that no man can cause you to lose your salvation because God your Father is greater than all men; therefore, no man is able to pluck you out of His hand.

II. Can I do something to lose my salvation?

- A. Salvation is by grace through faith and not by works. It is a GIFT from God. No man can lose his salvation of his own doing because no man has earned his salvation of his own doing. Ephesians 2:8-9
- B. Galatians 3:10 and James 2:10 tell us if we had to do anything to earn or keep salvation, we would lose it easily. Yet, II Timothy 1:12 assures us it is Jesus Christ who keeps us — not ourselves.
- C. Galatians 2:21 states clearly that if we could become righteous by anything we do then Jesus Christ’s death was a waste.

III. Is there anything else that can cause me to lose my salvation?

NO! Romans 8:38-39 says, “*for I am persuaded that neither.*”

- A. “*Death*” - you cannot lose it when you die.
- B. “*Life*” - you cannot lose it while you are alive.
- C. “*Angels*” - they cannot take it from you.
- D. “*Principalities*” - the government cannot take it from you.
- E. “*Powers*” - the devil cannot cause you to lose it.
- F. “*Things present*” - nothing happening right now can take it away.
- G. “*Things to come*” - nothing in the future can make you lose it.
- H. “*Height*” - nothing above you.
- I. “*Depth*” - nothing below you.
- J. “*NOR ANY OTHER CREATURE, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

IV. Why is this?

- A. Because your relationship with God is now a father/son relationship by birth. John 1:12-13. No matter what I may do I am my parent’s child!
- B. When you were born physically, there was a record made of your birth called a birth certificate. When you were born again a record was made in heaven. I John 5:11-13
- C. Your birth certificate was marked with a seal. Your spiritual birth is sealed by the Holy Spirit of God. Ephesians 1:13; 4:30
- D. You will be your father’s son for eternity because you were born of his seed. You could leave the country, disown each other, change your name and never see him, hear from him or even think about him for the rest of your life, but you will never change the fact that he is your father. You can die, but you can never be unborn. Your birth is fixed forever both physically and spiritually, and even God Himself will not change that fact.

V. Common Questions

- A. How can I know for sure that I am saved? The Epistle of I John is written for this purpose. I John 5:13 says, “*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life...*” As a new Christian, I John should be a primary focal point to help you grow and to settle this issue.
- B. What if I do not feel saved?
 - 1. Your salvation is not based on feelings. It is based upon the truth of the Word of God.
 - a. I John 3:20 says, “*For if our heart condemn us (we think or feel unsaved), God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.*” God knows if you are saved even if you do not know.

b. Titus 1:2 says *"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began:"*

2. JUST BELIEVE WHAT GOD HAS SAID. I John 2:25

C. Why might I doubt my salvation?

1. Many people have a natural weakness in the areas of fear and doubt. It is natural then that this would have an affect in the area of eternal security. It is necessary for people in this group to work on these areas and to have victory through faith in the Word of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Many people experience doubts concerning their salvation because of unconfessed sin in their life. Sin affects our fellowship with God, but it does not affect our relationship with God. When we keep unconfessed sin in our life, we no longer feel God's presence in our life, and it is easy to misconstrue this as having lost our salvation. God is still our Father, but He is displeased with our sin. Revelation 3:19 says that God chastens His children who continue in sin but they are still His children. We must keep our sin confessed to God and our heart right before Him to ensure having His peace in our heart concerning salvation.

D. Is salvation a license to sin? ABSOLUTELY NOT! Being secure in our salvation does not mean that we can sin if we want to. The Apostle Paul answers this in Romans 6:1-2 *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"* Remember, when we are saved we receive a new nature (II Corinthians 5:17). It should not be our desire to sin but to serve the Lord with purity of heart.

E. Can I give my salvation back? Is there an amount of sin I can do to disqualify my salvation? The answer to both of these is ... No! Our relationship with Christ is a "covenant relationship." It cannot be broken; it is a binding relationship. If we say we can lose our salvation by the acts of sin then we as men set that standard and WE become the keepers of salvation. That alone is GOD'S domain.

The truth of the matter is ... those who say they LOST their salvation, most likely were NEVER SAVED in the first place! We are saved by the work of Christ and KEPT until the day of redemption by the sealing of the Holy Ghost. A seal that can be opened by NO ONE ... but God Himself.

If we are saved by God and kept by God, then we are the property of God. God's not going to ... "Lose us," and we won't WANT to be lost from His keeping.... that's just common sense.

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY. LESSON #2

1. What is the promise we can claim in John 6:37?

2. From John 10:27-29, you should understand that no man can cause you to lose your salvation. Why is this?

3. We cannot do anything that would cause us to lose our salvation. What can we learn from the following verses to support this?

A. Ephesians 2:8-9

B. II Timothy 1:12

C. Galatians 2:21

4. Is there anything at all that can separate us from the love of God?

5. Is there anything we can do to dissolve our relationship as a child of God?

6. Briefly explain why your spiritual birth is like your physical birth.
- A.
 - B.
 - C.
7. What Scripture reference promises that you can know that you have eternal life?
8. What do the following verses teach concerning the promise of eternal life?
- A. I John 3:20
 - B. Titus 1:2
 - C. I John 2:25
9. List two reasons why one might doubt their salvation.
- A.
 - B.
10. Why is salvation not a license to sin?
11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key Memory Verses: Memorize at LEAST ONE of these verses.
Ephesians 2:8-9; I John 2:25; I John 5:13

NOTE: Can you see that some churches wrongly teach that:

- 1. We must work to keep our salvation.
- 2. If we sin after we are born again we can lose our salvation.
- 3. God punished His children according to His own whim and pleasure.

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



John 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall **never perish**, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

John 10:29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and **no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.**

John 10:30 I and my Father are one.

LESSON #3 – BAPTISM

“Now That I Am Saved, Where Do I Start?”

Virtually every religious denomination in existence teaches some form of baptism as part of their doctrine, and the diversities in their teachings are wide. This lesson is intended to give the **Bible's** clear and definite teachings on the subject, so the individual understands perfectly what God's intention is regarding baptism.

I. Why does God instruct us to be baptized?

- A. Baptism is the first act of obedience in service to the Lord. Anyone can be baptized; it takes no special talents or effort.
- B. Jesus set the example Himself by submitting to baptism before He began His public ministry. Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22
- C. In Matthew 3:13-15, it is clear that Jesus was baptized in obedience to God's plan. In verse 15 He said, “...*Suffer* (allow) *it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.*” This point of submission and obedience is the single most important thing to realize regarding baptism.
- D. Other Bible characters who submitted to baptism after salvation.
 - 1. The Ethiopian eunuch. Acts 8:36-39
 - 2. The apostle Paul. Acts 9:18
 - 3. The Philippian jailer and his house. Acts 16:25-33

II. What is baptism a picture of?

- A. Several realms of baptism are mentioned in the Bible. In each case physical baptism is a picture of a spiritual truth. The important point to consider is the picture portrayed by baptism.
- B. Romans 6:1-7 (specifically verses 3-4) shows the two purposes of baptism.
 - 1. It pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - 2. It is a public testimony of the new convert's identification with Jesus Christ through the death, burial, and resurrection which is how he was saved. It identifies him with the Lord Jesus Christ.

III. Who should be baptized?

- A. The clearest case of an individual's baptism in the Bible is the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26-39. In verse 36, the eunuch asked, “...*what doth hinder me to be baptized?*” Philip then answered with the condition of baptism in verse 37. “...*If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.*” Then the eunuch's response sealed the matter “...*I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*”
- B. The only requirements for baptism are the requirements for salvation found in Romans 10:9-10.
 - 1. Heart belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.
 - 2. Confession that He is Lord and Saviour.
- C. There are NO cases of baptism in the Bible of anyone but believers.
- D. Some other instances of baptism immediately after salvation include:
 - 1. Acts 8:12
 - 2. Acts 18:8

IV. What is the method of baptism?

- A. The meaning of the Biblical word “baptize” is to:
 - 1. completely immerse
 - 2. dip under
- B. Acts 8:26-39 gives the clearest example. In verses 38-39, BOTH Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch went down into the water and came up out of the water. Why would both need to go INTO the water if Philip sprinkled or poured as a method of baptism?
- C. In Matthew 3:16 Jesus was baptized in the same manner.
- D. As seen previously, baptism is a picture of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. When we BURY someone, we put them completely underground. The Biblical method of baptism is complete immersion. Any other method or “mode” is a man-made method and is not BIBLICAL.

V. How important is it to be baptized?

- A. It is NOT essential for salvation. Ephesians 2:8-9 makes it clear that a man is saved by grace through faith without works, including baptism. The thief on the cross that accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour did not have the opportunity to be baptized, yet Jesus said, “*TODAY thou shalt be with me in paradise.*”
- B. It IS essential for service and spiritual growth. Matthew 28:19-20 (the “Great Commission”) proves it is essential.

Baptism is an integral part of the Great Commission and precedes teaching.

C. Before anyone can be taught to follow Jesus Christ they must be willing to submit to the first act of obedience. If a person refuses to obey the Lord in the first point, he will not obey in future points. Matthew 3:13-15

VI. Common Questions.

A. Where should I be baptized?

1. Baptism is an ordinance given to the local church. Your baptism should be done publicly under the authority of the local church. You are giving a public testimony of your identification with the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Many times a local church does not have the facilities to baptize their converts. Under these circumstances people are baptized in rivers, lakes, or facilities at another church. The actual place of baptism is not as important as the public testimony and the authority of the local church in administering it.

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT BAPTISM. LESSON #3

1. Give the key reason why God instructs the Christian to be baptized.

2. In Matthew 3:13-15, Jesus was baptized to demonstrate His _____ and _____ to God and His plan. Jesus fulfilled this before He began His _____.

3. List three other men who were baptized after salvation in the New Testament.

A.

B.

C.

4. What are the purposes for baptism found in Romans 6:3-4?

A.

B.

5. In Acts 8:36-37, the Ethiopian eunuch had to fulfill two requirements before he could be baptized. What were the two requirements?

A.

B.

6. How do we know that the Ethiopian eunuch and Jesus were not baptized by the sprinkling of water?

A.

B.

7. Baptism by a complete immersion of water is a picture of what?

8. Baptism is essential in order for the Christian to _____ and _____. Also, one must be willing to submit to baptism so they can be _____ to follow Jesus Christ.

9. Is baptism essential for salvation? Give a Scripture reference that explains this.

10. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key Memory Verse: Memorize at LEAST ONE of these verses.
Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:1-7**

NOTE: Can you see that some churches wrongly teach that:

1. Man must be baptized in order to be saved.
2. Baptism by being sprinkled is just as meaningful as immersion.
3. Babies should be baptized into God's family or into "church."

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

LESSON #4 – THE HOLY SPIRIT

“What Are the Functions and Attributes of the Holy Spirit in My Life?”

The day you received the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour the Holy Spirit of God took up residency inside your body. This third person of the Trinity is perhaps the most misunderstood and ignored part of a Christian's relationship with God.

The purpose of this lesson is to give the individual a basic understanding of what the Holy Spirit of God does in his life.

I. Where do I find the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit lives on this earth inside your body if you are saved. He came in at the moment of salvation and took up permanent residency.

- A. I Corinthians 6:19-20 is the definitive passage.
- B. See also: John 14:17; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 2:22

II. What is the function of the Holy Spirit?

- A. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin. John 16:8-9
 - 1. In the unsaved He convicts of sin to bring them to salvation.
 - 2. In the saved He convicts of sin to keep them clean and show them how to live for Jesus Christ.
 - 3. You must understand the difference between conviction & guilt.
 - a. Conviction is God pointing out something that is wrong so that you can make it right. Isaiah 1:18
 - b. Guilt is the devil accusing you of being unworthy to receive God's blessing. Revelation 12:10
- B. The Holy Spirit creates and regenerates.
 - 1. The Holy Spirit is active in Creation. Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4
 - 2. In Jesus Christ, you are a new creature - born again by the Holy Spirit. John 3:3-8
- C. The Holy Spirit seals you once you are saved.
Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30
- D. The Holy Spirit bears witness to you of your salvation.
I John. 4:13; Romans 8:16
- E. The Holy Spirit teaches you the Bible.
John 14:26; 16:13-15; I Corinthians 2:9-10
- F. The Holy Spirit intercedes in prayer for you.
 - 1. Romans 8:26-27
 - 2. Ephesians 2:18
- G. The Holy Spirit comforts you in time of need.
 - 1. John 14:15-18
 - 2. II Corinthians 1:3-4
 - 3. II Timothy 1:7
- H. The Holy Spirit empowers you to serve God.
 - 1. Zechariah 4:6
 - 2. Ephesians 3:16
 - 3. II Corinthians 4:7

III. What is the result of the Holy Spirit in my life?

- A. The Holy Spirit of God produces a set of character qualities as you give your life to Him and walk in His power. This set of character qualities is called the fruit (singular) because ALL of these are produced at the same time by a close relationship with the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23
- B. The fruit of the Spirit consists of the following:
 - 1. Love
 - 2. Joy
 - 3. Peace
 - 4. Long-suffering
 - 5. Gentleness
 - 6. Goodness
 - 7. Faith
 - 8. Meekness
 - 9. Temperance

IV. Common Questions.

- A. What is “being filled with the Spirit,” and how can I accomplish this?
 - 1. Comparing Ephesians 5:18-19 and Colossians 3:16 shows that by getting into the Word of God and letting it dwell in your heart you can produce the same results in your life as being filled with the Spirit. The more you saturate your mind with the Word of God the closer your relationship to the Holy Spirit will be.

2. Simply WALK in the Spirit. Walking is a steady, consistent natural process of growth. Galatians 5:16-18, 25; Romans 8:1
 3. Allow God to control your life. The filling of the Holy Spirit is NOT you getting more of the Holy Spirit. You got all of Him at the time of salvation. It is the Holy Spirit getting more of you.
 4. BE PATIENT AND CONSISTENT! Being controlled by the Holy Spirit does not happen overnight. It is a lifelong process of spiritual growth.
 5. Understand the need for daily attention.
 - a. Confess your sins daily to keep your heart clean with the Lord.
 - b. Ask the Lord to fill you with His Spirit as you cleanse your heart from sin.
- B. What are the “gifts” of the Spirit?
1. A number of specific “gifts” were given by the Holy Spirit to individuals in the church in the intermediary period from Pentecost to the completion of the New Testament. With the emergence of the New Testament the need for these “gifts” diminished. These “gifts” included prophecy, healing, tongues, interpretation of tongues, etc. These gifts are no longer given to individuals in the church today. They ceased because the New Testament replaced them as the substantiation of Jesus Christ and His claims. I Corinthians 12:7-11; I Corinthians 13:3-8
 2. Today, the Spirit gives us any number of “gifts” or special talents to use in our service for Him. It is our responsibility to use these “gifts” or talents for God’s glory in our daily service and ministry for Him. Romans 12:3-8

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT. LESSON #4

1. Where do we find the Holy Spirit? List three Scripture references to support your answer.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
2. At what time does the Holy Spirit come into the believer’s life?
3. Why does the Holy Spirit convict the unsaved of sin?
4. Why does the Holy Spirit convict the Christian of sin?
5. What is the difference between conviction and guilt?

Conviction:

Guilt:
6. List seven other ways that the Holy Spirit works in the life of the Christian.
 - A.
 - B.

- C.
- D.
- E.
- F.
- G.

7. What is the result of the Holy Spirit in your life?

8. Galatians 5:22-23 lists for us the _____ of the _____. These qualities are produced in the Christian by a _____ with the _____.

9. Being “filled with the Spirit,” is accomplished by getting into the _____ of _____ and letting it dwell in your _____. The more you _____ your mind with the Word, the closer your relationship with the _____.

10. True or False

- ____ A. I must get more of God’s Holy Spirit each day.
- ____ B. Being controlled by the Holy Spirit is a life-long process of spiritual growth.
- ____ C. Romans 8:1 teaches that you must walk after the flesh.
- ____ D. John 16:13 shows us that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth.
- ____ E. Romans 8:26-27 shows that the Spirit intercedes for us in our prayers.
- ____ F. Gifts such as tongues should be sought after for our use today.
- ____ G. Every Christian has “gifts” or talents given of the Lord to use.

11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key Memory Verses: Memorize at LEAST ONE of these verses.
1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 5:22-23; Galatians 5:16

NOTE: Can you see that some churches wrongly teach that:

1. A Christian does not get all the Holy Spirit at salvation.
2. The Holy Spirit can leave you if you sin.
3. A Christian must receive an early New Testament gift such as “healing” or “tongues” in order to be saved or filled with the Spirit.

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



Being “Filled With The Spirit”
 is THE HOLY SPIRIT getting more of US
 NOT
 US getting more of the Holy Spirit

LESSON #5 – GOD’S HOLY WORD
“What is the Significance of the Bible in my Life?”

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

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint the new Christian with the basics of the Bible and how It relates to his everyday life. This allows the believer to begin to understand how Its principles are to guide every facet of his walk with Jesus Christ.

I. The Word of God is active in salvation.

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

II. Since you are saved by the Word of God, it must be your absolute infallible guide to tell you how to live. To illustrate:

- A. Every major purchase (car, appliance, etc.) is accompanied by an owner’s manual which tells you how to operate it. If you do not go by the book it will not work.
- B. The Bible is God’s “owner’s manual” for your life. God would not save you and call you to service without clear, exact directions but you must “go by the Book.”

III. What is the purpose of the Word of God for a Christian?

- A. The Word of God equips you for service. *“That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”* II Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 6:10-18
- B. The Word of God sustains you. This is illustrated in the Bible as “spiritual food.” See Job 23:12 and Jeremiah 15:16. It is a complete and balanced diet.
 - 1. Milk --I Peter 2:2
 - 2. Honey --Psalm 119:103; Proverbs 16:24
 - 3. Apples --Proverbs 7:2; 25:11
 - 4. Bread --Luke 4:4
 - 5. Water --Isaiah 55:10-11; Ephesians 5:26
 - 6. Meat --Hebrews 5:12-14; I Corinthians 3:1-2
 - 7. Vegetables --Psalm 78:24
- C. The Word of God keeps you clean so that you can please God.
Psalm 119:9-11; John 15:3

IV. Is the Bible completely reliable?

- A. It is more sure than the audible voice of God. This is a very critical point. It must be understood that all “experiences” are to be judged by an infallible standard which is greater than any experience. Peter said the Word of God was MORE SURE than the physical appearance and audible voice of God.
 - 1. Compare II Peter 1:16-21 with Matthew 17:1-9.
 - 2. II Timothy 3:16
 - 3. This is why the “gifts of the Spirit” are no longer in effect today as they were in the book of Acts. See Lesson 4 “Gifts of the Spirit.”
- B. The universe was created by the spoken Word of God.
Hebrews 11:3; Psalm 33:6; Genesis 1:3

V. How do I learn the Bible?

- A. The Holy Spirit of God will lead and guide you into all truth. God may use other instruments to aid in teaching (books,

tapes, preachers, etc.), but the truth is ultimately revealed by the Holy Spirit.

1. John 14:26
2. John 16:13-15

B. The Bible is learned by comparing Scripture with Scripture, relying on God's Spirit to teach you and not your own natural intellect. "...*the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God:...*"

I Corinthians 2:9-16

VI. A brief history of the Bible.

- A. A total of 66 books
- B. Written by more than 40 authors
- C. Written over a time span of about 1600 years
- D. Totally accurate in all areas that It covers
- E. Not one contradiction
- F. Fits together perfectly as if written by one man
- G. THE MIDDLE OF THE BIBLE is Psalm 118:8, "*It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.*" The Lord is the center of the Bible.

VII. Read these famous quotations concerning the Bible.

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

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

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

VIII. Common Questions.

- A. Where should I start reading?

As a young Christian, focus on the primary places which dwell with your new relationship with your Heavenly Father. The Gospel of John, the Epistle of I John, and Psalm 119 are excellent places to start.

1. The Gospel of John is written that you might believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. John 20:31
2. The Epistle of I John is written that you might have complete assurance of salvation. I John 5:13
3. Psalm 119 is the greatest chapter in the Bible on a man's love for the Word of God.

- B. What if I find something I do not understand?

1. Do not get upset about it God will reveal it to you in time when you are ready. John 16:12
2. Be sure that you live what you do understand. God will not give you more than you are capable of handling. As you put into practice the things you are learning, God will entrust you with more.

- C. Which translation should I use?

The King James Version of the Bible is the perfectly preserved Word of God in the English language. Historically, it is the Bible that God has used to work in the hearts of men. It is the only English translation that is free of the textual problems and omissions found in the other English translations. It is the only translation with a direct textual line having been translated from the Majority Text. The KJV Bible is the perfect Word of God.

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD. LESSON #5

1. The Word of God is active in our salvation. Briefly explain how the following verses apply to this.

A. I Peter 1:23

B. Romans 10:17

C. James 1:21

2. What are the four key elements of the Gospel according to I Corinthians 15:1-4?

A.

B.

C.

D.

3. What are the major purposes of the Word of God in the Christian's life?

A.

B.

C.

4. From II Timothy 3:16-17, we understand that all Scripture is profitable for the following:

A.

B.

C.

D.

5. The Bible is likened to God's "owner's manual" for your life. Briefly explain why this is.

6. Your physical body needs food in order to function properly. Your spiritual body needs food also. Give two Scripture references that show this.

A.

B.

7. According to II Peter 1:17-19 what is that "More sure word of prophecy" that we have to guide us today?

8. According to Genesis 1 and 2, man's theory of evolution is a lie. What do we learn from the following verses regarding this subject?

A. Hebrews 11:3

B. Psalm 33:6

9. We learned from lesson #4 that the _____ guides into all truth. The Bible is also learned by comparing _____ with _____ and depending on God's Spirit to teach you.

10. According to I Corinthians 2:9-16, why cannot unsaved people properly understand what the Bible teaches?

11. The middle of the Bible is _____. It is no coincidence that the middle two words of this verse are “_____”.

12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

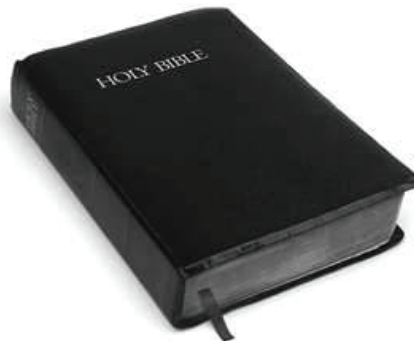
**Key Memory Verses: Memorize at LEAST ONE of these verses.
II Peter 1:21; Psalm 119:9; II Timothy 3:16-17**

NOTE: Can you see that some churches wrongly teach that:

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

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

**Sin Will Keep You
From This Book
or
This Book Will Keep
You From Sin**



LESSON #6 – EFFECTIVE PRAYER

“How Important is Prayer in My Life?”

Someone once said that a Christian is only as strong as his prayer life. There is a great deal of truth in this statement because prayer is simply your direct communication to God. When you read the Bible, God speaks to you; when you pray, you speak to God. Your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ cannot grow without proper communication.

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint the individual with the basics of a proper prayer life so that these lines of communication can be open and effective in his life.

I. What is the purpose of prayer?

A. It is NOT to move God for you or to change His mind; it is for you to be conformed to His will.

B. A proper prayer life results in a peace of heart and mind.

Philippians 4:6-7

C. It is to draw you closer to God so that He can prove His sufficiency for your every need.

1. God is active in every detail of your life, and He knows exactly what you need even before you ask Him. Matthew 6:8

2. God allows needs to come into your life so that He can draw you to meet with Him. Psalm 50:15

3. The most dangerous time in your life is when every single need is met and you have need of nothing - including God. Revelation 3:16-17

4. God uses your needs to draw you to a place where He can bless you and reveal to you that your real need is simply the Lord Jesus Christ and His grace. The classic example of this tremendously important principle is Paul's thorn in the flesh. II Corinthians 12:7-10

5. This is why it is absolutely essential to give thanks for everything, including the needs and difficult times in life. I Thessalonians 5:18

6. That is also why it is essential to develop a consistent prayer attitude where your first reaction in a difficult moment is to go to God in prayer. I Thessalonians 5:17

II. How do I pray?

A. Romans 8:26-27 makes it clear that we do not always know how to pray or what to pray for. That is why the Spirit, who lives inside you, intercedes for you in prayer.

B. These are some basic guidelines.

1. Pray always - develop a lifestyle of prayer. I Thessalonians 5:17

2. Do not repeat the same words over and over. Matthew 6:7

3. Talk to the Lord as a friend. He is your friend!

a. John 15:13-14 b. Exodus 33:11 c. Proverbs 18:24

4. Realize that you have DIRECT access to God personally. You do not need to go through any man to talk to God. I Timothy 2:5; Ephesians 2:18

C. Be sure to keep your basic relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ proper.

D. There are some things in your life which will hinder your prayers.

1. Unconfessed sin. - Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 66:18

2. Unforgiving spirit. - Matthew 6:14-15

3. Bitterness toward your mate (as well as others).- I Peter 3:7

4. Not asking for the needs and desires of your heart. James 4:2

5. Asking with wrong or selfish motives. - James 4:3; Proverbs 21:13

6. Insensitivity to the Word of God. - Proverbs 28:9

III. There are four basic types of prayer. I Timothy 2:1

A. Supplication - specific requests. Philippians 4:6 says to “... let your requests be made known unto God.” Too many prayers are wasted because they are so general. For example:

“God, please give me a blessing.”

God would undoubtedly reply:

“Which one? How do you want me to bless you?”

B. Prayers - This is the summation or term used for all communication with God.

C. Intercessions - prayers for others. This is important to keep your motives pure and your eyes off of yourself.

D. Giving of thanks - Psalm 100:4 makes it clear that we enter the presence of God through thanksgiving and praise.

IV. Keep track of your prayer request.

A. Making a list will help you remember what to pray for.

B. Keeping a list of answered prayers is tremendously important to reinforce our faith in God's ability to answer prayers.

V. Common questions.

A. Does God answer all of my prayers?

Yes, but not always the way you may want or at the time you want. As you learned in Lesson #1, God is your Heavenly Father and all His ways are perfect. There will be times when in His infinite wisdom the best answer to prayer will be “NO” or “NOT YET.” In those times, simply trust Him.

B. How important is it to pray for others?

1. Paul prayed for others continually (Romans 1:9) and requested prayer on many occasions. Hebrews 13:18; II Thessalonians 3:1

2. I Samuel 12:23 says it's a sin against God not to pray for others.

3. The English preacher George Mueller is an excellent example of an effectual prayer warrior. He prayed for the salvation of several people for sixty years. When he died some of these people were still unsaved. However, some were saved at his funeral, and many were saved within the next year.

4. Be faithful. The full results of your prayer will never be completely known until you get to heaven.

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT PRAYER. LESSON #6

1. What is something prayer does not accomplish?

2. What is the result of a good prayer life?

3. Prayer keeps you close to God so He can prove His sufficiency for your every need. What do the following verses teach us about God and our needs?

A. Matthew 6:8

B. Psalm 50:15

4. Give the most dangerous situation for the Christian?

5. According to I Thessalonians 5:18 we are to give thanks for everything. This includes the _____ and _____ of our lives.

6. What should be our first reaction in a tough situation?

7. There are some primary principles concerning prayer. Briefly explain them from the following verses:

A. I Thessalonians 5:17

B. Matthew 6:7

C. Exodus 33:11

8. List the attitudes that will interfere with your prayer life.

A.

- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.
- F.

9. What are two ways that help you keep your prayer requests in order?

- A.
- B.

10. God answers your prayers but not always the way you expect. His answer will sometimes be _____ or _____.

11. Man is instructed not to pray to idols or to other men.
Explain I Timothy 2:5 in light of this truth.

12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key Memory Verses: Memorize at LEAST ONE of these verses.
I Timothy 2:5; Psalm 66:18; I Thessalonians 5:18

NOTE: Can you see that some churches wrongly teach that:

1. Man should pray to idols, saints, or other men.
2. If you pray long enough or hard enough, God will change His mind and do what you want.
3. The best prayers are those that have been written by others and are just “said” by you.
4. Prayer must be at a set time in a set format.

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

What changes can you see developing in your life since starting these lessons?

God speaks to US through His Word.
We speak to God ... in PRAYER



LESSON #7 - THE WILL OF GOD

“How Do I Find God’s Will For My Life?”

A famous preacher once said that a successful man is a man who finds out what God wants him to accomplish with his life and then fulfills it. That is a very profound statement. The true measure of a man’s success is not his social status or bank account or his influence and fame. It is simply doing what God wants him to do.

The purpose of this lesson is to give the individual a clear understanding of what the will of God is as revealed in the Bible, so that he can begin to accomplish those things God would have him to accomplish.

I. What the will of God is NOT:

- A. The will of God is not physical but spiritual. It is never connected with a set of rules, a geographical location, or a specific ministry.
- B. The will of God is not to be confused with the plan of God for your life. God has a specific plan for your life individually, and only God can give you all the details regarding it because it is HIS plan for you.

II. There are two aspects to the will of God: His permissive will and His directive will.

- A. The permissive will of God.
 - 1. It must be clearly understood that God allows things to happen, that He does not approve of in order to accomplish some larger purpose. Examples are abundant both in and out of Scripture.
 - a. Paul’s trip to Jerusalem - Acts 21:4-14. God warned him three times not to go, to teach him obedience and to get him to Rome.
 - b. Hitler - God certainly did not approve of him murdering 6 million of His chosen people but allowed it as the beginning of the restoration of the Jews and to return them to their homeland.
 - c. I Peter 3:15-18 - God allows suffering in the lives of His children to perfect them although He would clearly prefer that they not have to suffer.
 - 2. Man has a free will. God will not force anyone to do anything. God offers salvation and lays down the principles for a godly life.

However, if a man exercises the free will God has given him and rejects it, God permits that man’s free will to be exercised and man suffers the consequences.

B. The directive will of God.

- 1. There are certain things God specifically wills.
 - a. II Peter 3:9 - God is not willing that any should perish. ALL unsaved people are out of the will of God regardless of what else they may do.
 - b. I Thessalonians 5:18 - We are to give thanks for everything.
 - c. I Peter 2:13-15 - We are to submit to every ordinance of man. However, this must be balanced by the next point.
 - d. Romans 12:1-2 - We are not to be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. (Submission to the ordinances of man is to maintain a proper testimony to win them while at the same time your life is to be transformed to live by a higher standard to please God.)
 - e. I Thessalonians 4:3-7 - God desires our sanctification.
 - f. Ephesians 6:5-8 - Our service is to be from the heart with pure motives as if we were serving Jesus Christ.
 - g. Ephesians 5:15-17 - We are to redeem the time. Quit wasting time! Make use of the small amount God has given you.
- 2. Summarizing God’s will for your life. The will of God is the same for every person on earth - to be conformed to the image of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - a. Romans 8:28-29
 - b. John 17:20-23
 - c. Ephesians 4:13-15

III . Where can I find the plan of God for my life?

You will never find the will of God or the plan of God outside of the Word of God. You find God’s will and plan by renewing your mind. (Romans 12:1-2) You renew your mind by letting “...*this mind be in you, which is also in Christ Jesus.*” (Philippians 2:5) You must replace carnal thoughts with God’s thoughts by immersing yourself in the Word of God. (II Corinthians 10:5)

IV. How does God reveal His plan for my life?

- A. You must be in conformity to the will of God before He will reveal His plan to you. Your priority should be to fulfil the general will of God in your daily life and then trust Him to guide you in the detailed plan.

B. God is definitely more interested in your being the type of person He wants you to be than in your doing for Him all the “mighty works.” Be what He wants you to be, and He will show you what to do.

V. Common Questions.

Why doesn't God reveal His plan for me now?

1. It would overwhelm you before you got started.
2. You may not be equipped to handle it yet.
3. You may not be the type of person God wants you to be yet.
4. God will reveal what you can handle when you can handle it.
5. This is illustrated by the old question asked of children, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” If all the five year olds in America were surveyed on this question then forced to stick with their answer in twenty, years there would be nothing but firemen, policemen, and nurses. As time goes on and you grow spiritually your interests, talents, and desires will grow and change. Be patient and wait on God while fulfilling His specific will for your life.

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WILL OF GOD. LESSON #7

1. List four things that the will of God is NOT.

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

2. God also has a specific _____ for your life, and only He can reveal the _____.

3. Briefly explain the permissive will of God.

4. According to I Peter 5:10, God allows Christians to go through suffering so that they might be more:

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

5. God has given all men a free will; therefore, He will not force man to do anything. But when God offers an individual salvation or direction and this is rejected, what is the result?

6. God has a direct will for man. List seven things that God specifically wills for us.

- A.
- B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

G.

7. Summarize God's will for a Christian's life. Give Scripture references to support your answer.

8. Where do you find God's will and plan for your life?

9. Before God can reveal His plan for your life, what must take place?

10. Briefly explain the difference between the will of God and the plan of God.

11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key Memory Verses: Memorize at LEAST ONE of these verses.

Romans 12:1-2; I Peter 3:17; II Peter 3:9

NOTE: Can you see that some churches wrongly teach that:

1. The will of God is different for every individual.
2. The will of God has to do with specific physical matters.
3. God has predetermined what will happen (fate), and man's free will has no bearing on the matter.

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



*God's Will is:
letting Go (of our will)
and letting God (direct us)*

LESSON #8 – THE LOCAL CHURCH

“What is the Purpose of My Involvement in a Local Church?”

God has established three major institutions on this earth: the family, civil government, and the local church. It is the local church which has been commissioned by God to carry out His purposes in reaching the lost and perfecting the saved. Therefore, God’s plan for a Christian will always be fulfilled best when connected with the local church. The purpose of this lesson is to impress upon the individual the central role which the church should play in his everyday life.

I. What is the local church?

- A. It is NOT a building.
 - 1. We worship God in spirit and truth. John 4:24
 - 2. Our bodies are the temple of God. I Corinthians 6:19
- B. It is NOT a denominational group of congregations.
- C. A local church is a body of men and women who have been saved and called by God to serve in a specific area. The church is the body of Christ.
 - 1. In I Corinthians 12:27 Paul said to the saved members of the local church in Corinth, “...ye are the body of Christ.”
 - 2. Paul compares the church to the human body. I Corinthians 12:14-27
 - a. Each member has a different function. vs. 14-20
 - b. No member can function alone. vs. 21
 - c. Each member’s contribution is important. vs. 22-24
 - d. A properly functioning body operates as a single unit. vs. 25-27

II. What is the function of the local church? The function of the local church is two-fold.

- A. The local church is to fulfill the Great Commission.
Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47
 - 1. The local church should be a soulwinning church.
 - a. Proverbs 11:30 b. Matthew 4:19 c. Jude 23
 - 2. The local church should minister to the needs of people.
 - a. James 2:15-16 b. James 1:27
- B. The local church is to edify (build up, teach, strengthen) the saints. Ephesians 4:11-16; Acts 2:41-47
 - 1. A place for saved people to worship the Lord.
 - a. Acts 2:47 b. Luke 24:53
 - 2. A place for saved people to fellowship with other saved people.
 - a. Acts 2:42 b. I John 1:7
 - 3. A place for saved people to be taught from the Word of God.
 - a. Acts 2:42 b. Ephesians 4:12-15
 - 4. A place for saved people to observe the two ordinances that were given to the local church: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.
 - a. Acts 2:41-42 b. Matthew 28:19 c. I Corinthians 11:23-30

III. How do I function in the church body?

- A. During your Christian life you should grow through three broad general stages.
 - 1. Observe and Learn - Your first priority should be to submit to the teaching of the Word of God to learn to be the man or woman God wants you to be. Matthew 11:28-30
 - 2. Participate - In time you will naturally grow to the point where you can begin to serve and take on some of the basic functions through the already established ministries of your church. Matthew 4:19; James 1:22-25
 - 3. Lead - As your growth continues you should reach the point where you can begin to minister to others in the same way you have been ministered to. II Timothy 2:2
- B. These three stages can be roughly compared to the stages of physical growth: childhood, adolescence and adulthood. I John 2:12-14
- C. BE PATIENT! This process takes time. Just be sure to remain established in the institution of the local church.

IV. Common questions.

- A. How do I find the particular local church that God wants me to serve through?
 - 1. Pray and ask God to show you which church to associate with. James 1:5
 - 2. Observe the qualities of a particular church and compare them with Biblical requirements of a proper church.
 - a. Does the church have its doctrine based on the Word of God? Titus 1:9; 2:1
 - b. Does the church perform the necessary church functions? (See - II. A and B).

- c. Does the church practice Biblical separation from the world? John 15:19; I John 2:15
 - d. Does the church practice Biblical separation from other “churches” or “outreaches” that are false in doctrine and practice? II Thessalonians 3:6; I Timothy 6:3-5
- B. How often should I go to church? The believer that truly loves the Lord and desires to serve Him will be at all the church services that he possibly can. The Word of God expects this. Hebrews 10:25; Luke 24:53

**ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LOCAL CHURCH.
LESSON #8**

1. What are the three institutions that God has established on earth?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
2. List some things that a church is NOT.
3. Define the term “local church”.
4. In I Corinthians 12:14-27 Paul teaches that in many ways the local church body is similar to the _____

List five parts of the body that are mentioned in this passage of Scripture.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
5. List four basic similarities between the church body and the human body.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
6. List the two functions of the local church.
 - A.
 - B.
7. List two ways the local church fulfills the Great Commission.
 - A.
 - B.

8. List four ways the local church edifies (builds up) the saints.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
9. There is an order for you to follow in participating in the church body. List the three general stages connected to spiritual growth.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
10. How do these three stages of spiritual growth match up with the three stages of physical growth found in I John 2:12-14?
 - A. _____ to _____
 - B. _____ to _____
 - C. _____ to _____
11. The Christian should be _____ because growing spiritually is a process which can only be properly accomplished within the established _____ of the _____.
12. What 4 qualities should a church demonstrate before you consider joining its membership?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
13. How often should you go to church? Scripture reference.
14. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key Memory Verse: Memorize at LEAST ONE of these verses.
Ephesians 4:11-12; I Corinthians 12:27; II Timothy 2:2;
Matthew 28:19-20

NOTE: Can you see that some churches wrongly teach that:

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

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



Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; Hebrews 10:25

LESSON # 9 - OTHER CHRISTIANS

“What is My Relationship to Other Christians?”

As we learned in lesson one when you got saved you moved from the devil's family to God's family. Spiritually you now have a new family with many brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

We saw how the church is likened to a body in the previous lesson, and in this lesson we will study the special relationship which you now have with your spiritual family. This lesson is designed to give the individual a clear understanding of how the body of Christ operates as a family unit.

I. How am I related to other Christians?

A. They are your brothers (sisters) in Jesus Christ. Be sure to understand only those in Jesus Christ (saved people) are your brothers regardless of any other factors. Likewise those NOT in Jesus Christ (unsaved people) are not your brothers spiritually regardless of any other factors.

Romans 8:29; I John 3:1-3; Romans 9:8; Hebrews 2:9-12

B. They are your fellow laborers in service for Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 3:5-10

II. What are my responsibilities toward other Christians?

A. We are to pray for each other. Almost every one of Paul's letter opens with a prayer for those to whom he is writing.

I Thessalonians 1:2-3; II Timothy 1:3

B. We are to minister to each other.

1. Physically - Galatians 6:10; Romans 12:13

2. Spiritually - Galatians 6:1-2; Romans 15:1-2; Hebrews 13:3

C. We are to encourage and edify one another. I Thessalonians 5:11

D. We are to serve one another. Philippians 2:3-4; Matthew 20:25-28

III. What should be my attitude toward other Christians?

A. It should primarily be to love them. I John 3:14-16; I Peter 4:8

B. Be patient with them. Romans 15:5-7

C. Be sensitive to their needs. I John 3:17-18; James 2:15-16

D. Be forgiving of each other. Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13

IV. What is “fellowship”?

A. “Fellowship” is a term commonly used by Christians generally referring to getting together for activities or times of sharing common interests. However, this is only a small part of it. It is true that to fellowship is to share things, but true Biblical fellowship goes FAR BEYOND just a meal or an activity. It is the sharing of life through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ with another believer.

B. The essential elements of true Biblical fellowship are not physical matters such as social status, friendship, common interest, etc. but are spiritual requirements of personal character toward each other.

1. Humility - Philippians 2:3-8

2. Honesty - Ephesians 4:25; II Corinthians 4:2

3. Love - John 13:35; Galatians 5:13-15

4. Hospitality - Titus 1:8; Acts 2:42, 46-47

C. The areas of true fellowship include the following:

1. Prayer - II Corinthians 1:11

2. Faith - Romans 1:12

3. Ministry - II Corinthians 8:4; Galatians 2:9

4. Suffering - Philippians 3:10; I Peter 4:13, 5:1

D. True Biblical fellowship is based on the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. You MUST LEARN to have fellowship with Him personally before your fellowship with other believers will be proper. I John 1:3-7

V. Common Questions.

A. What if another Christian offends me?

Unfortunately, this will probably happen to you if you spend any time with your brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. There will be times of offense, hurt, and disagreement within the body of Christ just as in your physical family. If and when this happens, if it is serious enough the Bible gives a definite progression of principles to deal with the matter. How should you

respond in such a case?

1. Take the offence directly to the other party first privately and try to settle it between yourselves. Matthew 18:15
2. If the matter is not resolved privately take it to a leader in your church to attempt to mediate the situation. Matthew 18:16; I Corinthians 6:1-5
3. Do NOT go to the unsaved to settle a problem within the body of Christ. I Corinthians 6:6
4. If this matter still cannot be resolved:
 - a. Personally accept the wrong. I Corinthians 6:7-8
 - b. Commit the situation to the Lord Jesus Christ. I Peter 2:19-23
 - c. Forgive your brother. Colossians 3:13
 - d. Pray for your brother. Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:14

**ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT OTHER CHRISTIANS.
LESSON #9**

1. List the two primary aspects of your relationship with other Christians
 - A.
 - B.
2. List four responsibilities you have toward other Christians and give a Scripture reference that best defines each point.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
3. What does the word “fellowship” mean?
4. List four attitudes you should have toward other Christians and give a Scripture reference that best defines each point.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
5. The essential elements of true Biblical fellowship are not _____ matters but pertain to _____ requirements of personal _____.
6. List four character qualities needed in the Christian’s life in order to participate in true fellowship with other believers.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.

7. List four areas of true fellowship and give a Scripture reference for each.

A.

B.

C.

D.

8. True or False:

_____ A. True Biblical fellowship is based in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

_____ B. True Biblical fellowship is possible with an unsaved person.

_____ C. We must have fellowship with Christ before we can have true fellowship with other Christians.

9. In the event another Christian offends you, list three principles which should govern your actions in attempting to resolve the matter.

A.

B.

C.

10. In the event your brother refuses to help resolve a problem, what should you do?

11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key Memory Verses: Memorize at LEAST ONE of these verses.
Ephesians 4:32; I John 3:14-15; I John 1:7

NOTE: Can you see that some churches wrongly teach that:

1. Our fellowship with other Christians can be complete without developing our fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. "Fellowship" must be centered around a meal or activity.

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

Write the 3 most important things you've learned THUS far in these lessons?

A.

B.

C.



GOOD friends will elevate you to a higher plane for Christ and tell you what you NEED to hear not what you WANT to hear! GOOD fellowship is time spent in growing with others in Christ.

LESSON #10 - GIVING
*“What is the Meaning of Giving &
What are my Responsibilities in this Area?”*

Giving is an extremely important subject in Christianity today largely due to the immensity of work needing to be done by the local church in accomplishing the Great Commission and edifying believers. Before you can understand God's principles in giving, you must understand that it includes far more than just your money or resources.

This lesson will deal with the Christian's responsibilities in stewardship of his life as well as his resources. It will also show that God's principles in giving are to help the believer and not because God needs our money.

I. We must be as willing to give of ourselves as we are to give of our money.

A. God bought you with a price (His blood); you belong to Him.

I Corinthians 6:19-20

B. God commands you to present your body as a living sacrifice, not just your pocketbook. Romans 12:1

C. A willing mind and heart with a life committed to service to God is just as important as financial giving in receiving the blessing of God.

II Corinthians 8:3-5, 12

D. You must realize that true giving begins with your life yet includes your resources. If God has control of your life, He will have control of your resources.

II. What is the reason for my giving?

A. Giving proves the sincerity of your love for Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 8:8

B. Giving develops an attitude of grace for others works. It takes no special talents or abilities to give only grace. II Corinthians 8:6-7; 9:8

C. Giving is an investment in eternal riches and gets your eyes off of earthly riches which will fade away. Philippians 4:17; Matthew 6:19-21

D. The person who benefits most from your giving is YOU.

III. Where am I to give?

A. Your primary responsibility is to your local church. All giving in the New Testament is done within the context of the local church.

I Corinthians 16:1-3

B. Obviously, anyone is free to give to causes outside the local church and God may even use and bless it. However, it is the local church which is central in God's plan. Any giving outside of it should never be done at the expense of what God would have you do in your church. This is equally true of time and service as well as money.

IV. What does my money go for?

A. The support of the leaders of the church.

1. I Corinthians 9:13-14 2. Galatians 6:6 3. I Timothy 5:17-18

B. Other works of God supported through your church. Philippians 4:15-16

C. Support of those within the church body who are UNABLE to support themselves and who are FAITHFUL to church. Acts 6:1; I Timothy 5:9-10,16

D. To meet general needs as determined by the leadership of your church.

1. II Corinthians 8:4 2. Acts 11:27-30

V. How much am I supposed to give?

A. Understand that all giving is to be done willingly and cheerfully

(II Corinthians 9:7), and giving benefits the giver as well as the one given to.

B. Biblical terms for giving.

1. "Tithe"

a. First seen before the law with Abraham. Genesis 14:20

b. Continued with Jacob. Genesis 28:22

c. Continued with the institution of the law. Leviticus 27:30; Numbers 18:21

1. Carried on in time of the kings. II Chronicles 3:15

2. Carried on in the time of Nehemiah.

Nehemiah 10:38; 12:44

3. Carried on through the prophets. Malachi 3:10
- d. The principle continued in a broad discussion by Paul to the Corinthians. In I Corinthians 9:7-9 God established early in creation that He designates certain things to Himself (Genesis 2:17). With Abraham it is designated by God as a tenth (tithe) of his earnings. In the law the Lord designated His part (tithe) to go to the Levites and the temple. In the New Testament He designates His part (tithe) to go to the local church. It is our responsibility to give one tenth or tithe of all our income to our local church.
2. "Offering" — New Testament principles. II Corinthians 9:7
 - a. "*As a man purposeth in his heart.*" Give as the Lord gives you ability to give, the more you get the more you should WANT to give.
 - b. "*Not grudgingly.*" Not with a heart of regret or thought of oppression
 - c. "*Or of necessity.*" Give as an act of love & obedience not drudgery.
 - d. **"FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER."**

In addition to the tithe you have the opportunity to give an offering to any area of ministry in the local church that the Lord directs.

C. General principles in giving.

1. Give as God has prospered you. Do not worry about out giving everyone; just give according to the amount that God has blessed you.

1. I Corinthians 16:2 2. II Corinthians 8:12

2. Give beyond your power to give. The grace of giving is maximized in your life when you must sacrifice in order to give.

1. II Corinthians 8:3 2. II Samuel 24:24

3. Remember at all times the law of sowing and reaping.

1. II Corinthians 9:6 2. Galatians 6:7-9

In addition to the tithe we should exercise these principles in all areas of giving.

VI. Common questions.

- A. How can I be sure that I am giving to the right things and that my money (and time) is being used as God would have it?
 1. Build your giving (time, service, and money) around the local church. It is God's ordained institution for this age.
 2. In most churches the pastor and a group of men are entrusted with the responsibility of handling the financial matters of the body. If you have prayerfully sought God's leadership in choosing, a local church and you have followed the principles in His Word in doing so, then you ought to trust the leaders of the church to handle this matter properly. If you have good reason to believe that the church's resources are not being used Scripturally, then speak to the individuals with that responsibility. If the matter is not answered to your satisfaction, then perhaps you should consider praying about seeking another church. II Corinthians 8:20-21

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT GIVING. LESSON # 10

1. As you consider giving money to the Lord's work you must also consider giving of yourself to the Lord. List three reasons for this.

A.

B.

C.

2. If God has control of your _____, He will have control of your _____.

3. List four reasons for giving your resources.

A.

B.

C.

D.

4. The Christian should give of his time, service, and resources first to the local church. Briefly explain why this is true.

5. List four areas in which money is to be used by the local church. Give a verse that best defines each point.

A.

B.

C.

D.

6. List four areas where tithing is instructed in the Bible.

A.

B.

C.

D.

7. How much of a person's earnings does Scripture indicate should be given "off the top"?

8. Give four New Testament principles in the area of giving an offering from II Corinthians 9:7.

A.

B.

C.

D.

9. After the tithe, does Scripture have a set requirement for the giving of money?

10. Give three general principles in the area of giving.

A.

B.

C.

11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key Memory Verses: Memorize at LEAST ONE of these verses.
II Corinthians 9:7; Matthew 6:21; II Corinthians 8:9**

NOTE: Can you see that some churches wrongly teach that:

1. Christians do not have to tithe in these New Testament times.
2. Christians do not have to give their tithe to the local church.
3. Tithing is the most that God could require from any Christian.

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

\$ Give God What's RIGHT \$
NotWhat's LEFT

LESSON #11 - MONEY AND POSSESSIONS IN GENERAL

“What Should Be My Attitude Toward Money and Possessions?”

One of the greatest temptations we face as Christians today is the tremendous amount of materialism in our culture. We are geared to think that success is measured by the abundance of our material wealth when in reality a man's success is measured by fulfilling God's plan for his life as we saw in a previous lesson.

The Bible has a great deal to say about our attitudes toward physical possessions. The object of this lesson is to determine how God would have us deal with this matter in light of Biblical principles.

I. You do NOT have to be poor to please God!

- A. This is very important to understand. Spirituality is NOT measured by either the abundance OR lack of material goods. Nowhere in the Bible does God specifically condemn anyone for having money. Instead He deals with their attitude.
- B. The Bible does NOT say that money is the root of all evil. It says “the LOVE of money is the root of all evil.” I Timothy 6:10
- C. Many godly Bible characters were wealthy.
 - 1. Solomon was the wealthiest man in history, yet observe his conclusion of this matter. Ecclesiastes 12:13-1
 - 2. Job was the wealthiest man of his day (Job 1:3), yet when his wealth was gone observe his attitude. Job 1:20-21
 - 3. Even the Lord Jesus Christ was accompanied by a group of wealthy women who provided for Him materially. Luke 8:1-3; John 12:3

II. At what point does money interfere with my relationship with God?

- A. When you trust in money rather than trusting in God.
 - 1. Mark 10:23-27
 - 2. Proverbs 11:4
- B. When your affections are set on your earthly possessions instead of your heavenly possessions.
 - 1. Matthew 6:19-21
 - 2. Colossians 3:1-4
- C. When you think that your own spirituality, another man's spirituality, or God's blessings can be measured by material possessions.
 - 1. Luke 12:15
 - 2. I Samuel 16:7
- D. When your objective in life becomes to earn as much money as possible.
 - 1. Proverbs 23:4
 - 2. Ecclesiastes 5:10-12
- E. When you think that you provide for your own needs instead of God providing for them. 1. Philippians 4:19 2. Deuteronomy 8:10-18

III. What are the proper attitudes I should develop toward physical possessions?

- A. First and foremost, BE CONTENT with what you have. Understand to be content is not to grudgingly resign yourself to accept your state but to rest satisfied in God's provision. Realize that whatever you have been given is a blessing.
 - 1. We are to be content with our possessions. Hebrews 13:5; I Timothy 6:8
 - 2. We are to be content in whatever state we find ourselves. Philippians 4:11 — Note that Paul wrote these words while in jail!!
- B. Realize that there are many things which are more important than money. Money cannot buy:
 - 1. Wisdom. - Proverbs 16:16
 - 2. A righteous life. - Proverbs 28:6
 - 3. A good night's sleep. - Ecclesiastes 5:12
 - 4. God's Word. - Psalm 119:14
 - 5. Good health. - Luke 8:43
 - 6. Quietness and peace. - Ecclesiastes 4:6
- C. If and when God blesses you physically, do not forget Him.
 - 1. Deuteronomy 6:10-12
 - 2. Proverbs 30:7-9
 - 3. Revelation 3:17
- D. Realize that if God takes all your wealth away it should not affect your relationship with Him. Job 1:20-21
- E. Do not be envious of someone else's wealth. Psalm 49:16-17; Exodus 20:17
- F. Stay away from “get rich quick” schemes. Proverbs 20:21; 28:20, 22
- G. Finally, realize that our culture through the media and advertising has a tremendous, negative influence on you. Guard yourself. Make sure your major desires are spiritual and not physical.

IV. You must strike a proper balance in your attitude toward money and possessions.

- A. Proverbs 11:1 says “a false balance is abomination to the Lord...”

1. The same Bible that says not to worry about your physical provisions in Matthew 6:25-34 also says that if a man does not provide for his family he is worse than an infidel in I Timothy 5:8.
 2. The same Bible that says “...*the love of money is the root of all evil...*” also says “... *the labourer is worthy of his reward.*” I Timothy 5:17-18
- B. These are not contradictory statements but balancing principles to show how to handle physical possessions.

V. Common questions.

- A. What will God provide for me?
1. God promises to provide your NEEDS. Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:25-34
 2. Those NEEDS will be physical as well as spiritual.
 3. You must discern between NEEDS and WANTS. This is a very difficult thing to do especially in our society. Compare the following verse on needs and wants.
 - a. Needs - James 2:15-16; Hebrews 4:15-16; Mark 2:25
 - b. Wants - Psalm 23:1; Proverbs 13:25; James 1:4; Philippians 4:11

**ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT MONEY & POSSESSIONS
LESSON #11**

1. Does the amount of wealth you have determine whether or not God is pleased with you? Briefly explain.
2. What can we learn about man and money from I Timothy 6:10?
3. Two men in the Bible who were very wealthy had an attitude that was uncommon among others. What was so different about their attitude concerning wealth?
 - A. Solomon
 - B. Job
4. List five wrong attitudes towards money that will interfere with your relationship with God. Give a Scripture verse that helps you best understand each wrong attitude.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
5. What is the most important attitude you should develop toward physical possessions?
6. What does the apostle teach us through the attitude displayed in the following verses?
 - A. Hebrews 13:5
 - B. I Timothy 6:8
 - C. Philippians 4:11

7. List 6 important things that money can't buy and that only God can give you.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

8. List five attitudes you should develop toward money and possessions.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

9. God promises to provide your needs not necessarily your _____. Your needs are both _____ and _____. Give some examples of your needs and wants. Use verses provided in V., Common question C., as well as your own personal studies.

Needs:

Wants:

10. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key Memory Verses: Memorize at LEAST ONE of these verses.
Philippians 4:11; Philippians 4:19; Colossians 3:2**

NOTE: Can you see that some churches wrongly teach that:

1. If you get enough material wealth you will be satisfied.
2. God must be pleased with rich people for Him to have blessed them so much.
3. A rich person must violate God's laws to obtain his wealth.
4. Your worth as a person is measured by your material wealth.

Write any questions you may have below.

Try this!

When you think you NEED something write it down and wait 30 days before you get it. If at the end of 30 days you still NEED it ... get it. If not let it go.

LESSON #12 - DEALING WITH SIN

“How Do I Overcome Sin In My Life?”

A famous preacher once said that when a saved person begins to battle sin in his own life he enters a combat so intense it makes World War II look like a Sunday School picnic. This truth is not evident to a young Christian, but as you grow you will begin to realize the intensity of the struggle.

As we saw briefly in lesson one when you got saved you became two persons. Your old man in Adam's image has a sinful nature, and your new man in Christ Jesus has God's image. This lesson is designed to help you combat the sin nature of the old man.

I. What is sin?

- A. Sin is breaking God's law. I John 3:4
- B. Sin is any unrighteousness. I John 5:17
- C. Sin is anything done apart from faith. Romans 14:23

II. Why do I sin?

- A. You sin because you inherited a sinful nature from Adam.
 - 1. Romans 5:12
 - 2. I Corinthians 15:45-49
- B. You sin because your old nature draws you into sin.
 - 1. James 1:13-14
 - 2. Romans 7:14-25
- C. You sin as a result of temptation in 3 major areas which are outlined in I John 2:15-16. Jesus was also tempted in these 3 areas yet remained sinless.
 - 1. The lust of the flesh – Eve was tempted in this point in Genesis 3:6 when she saw that the tree was “good for food.” Jesus was tempted in this point in Matthew 4:3 when the devil tried to get Him to turn stones into bread.
 - 2. The lust of the eyes – Eve was tempted when she saw the tree was “pleasant to the eyes.” Jesus was tempted when the devil showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and promised to give them to Him in exchange for worship.
 - 3. The pride of life – Eve fell to the temptation “to be desired to make one wise.” Jesus overcame the temptation to cast Himself down to prove the angels would take care of Him.

III. How does God look at my sin?

- A. Your sin was judged by God at Calvary. II Corinthians 5:21
- B. If you continue in sin God will chastise you as a father chastises his son. Hebrews 12:5-11
- C. God will allow you to reap according to what you have sown.
Galatians 6:7-8

IV. What things can I do to overcome sin?

- A. Your sin is your own fault, not anyone else's. You must accept responsibility for your sin. You will never correct anything until you face up to your responsibility. Proverbs 28:13
- B. Do not allow sinful thoughts to control your mind.
II Corinthians 10:5
- C. Do not make provision for the flesh. Romans 13:14
- D. Realize that you are dead to sin in Jesus Christ. Dead men cannot sin. Romans 6:6-13; Colossians 3:1-10
- E. Judge your sin. Agree with God that it is sin. I Corinthians 11:31-32
- F. Confess your sins to God. I John 1:9
- G. Hide God's Word in your heart to battle sin.
 - 1. I Corinthians 10:13 says that God has made a way of escape from temptation.
 - 2. That way of escape is found in Psalm 119:9-11. It is the Word of God.
 - 3. Jesus Christ overcame His temptation by quoting Scripture.
 - 4. The only sure way of overcoming sin in your life is through the power of the Word of God as you hide it in your heart & apply it to your life.
- H. Trust God's promises to cleanse you and to fight your battles for you. II Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 4:15-16
- I. Walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 8:1-8

V. Common Questions.

- A. How do I keep the influence of a sinful world from affecting me?
 - 1. Do not involve yourself with sinful activities. Of course you must “rub shoulders” with unsaved people in order to try to win them but do not get involved with their sin. Ephesians 5:5-12

2. Avoid things that could lure you into sin like improper T.V. viewing, improper music, poor publications, etc. Proverbs 4:14
3. Separate yourself from the ways of the world and follow the Lord Jesus Christ. II Corinthians 6:14-18; James 4:4
4. Realize that “separation” is also a positive thing. Not only are you to be separate from the world, but you are to separate yourself UNTO the Gospel. Romans 1:1

**ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT DEALING WITH SIN.
LESSON #12**

1. List three definitions of sin .
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
2. Why do we have to battle sin?
 - A.
 - B.
3. Briefly explain in your own words what the apostle Paul is communicating to us in Romans 7:14-25.
4. All sin originates from one of three categories. List the three that are seen in I John 2:16.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
5. Match the above categories with the three things that Eve saw in Genesis 3:6.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
6. Match the above categories with the three areas the devil tempted Jesus with in Matthew 4:3-11.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C
7. List three ways that God looks at your sin.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
8. Why must you accept responsibility for your sin?

9. Briefly explain the instruction given to us in the following verses.

A. Romans 13:14

B. I Corinthians 11:31-32

C. I John 1:9

D. II Corinthians 7:1

10. Jesus overcame His temptation by quoting Scripture (Matthew 4:3-11). What do the following verses teach us about this?

A. I Corinthians 10:13

B. Psalms 119:11

11. List three ways to help minimize the influence of a sinful world on your life.

A.

B.

C.

12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key Memory Verses. Memorize at LEAST ONE of these verses.

Psalms 119:11; Hebrews 4:15; Romans 6:11

NOTE: Can you see that some churches wrongly teach that:

1. There are “big sins” and “little sins.”
2. Sometimes you have to sin because someone else forces you to.
3. Our sins can be forgiven by other men if we confess to them.
4. If I sin bad enough I can lose my salvation.

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

1 John 1:9 ***If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***



LESSON #13 - LIBERTY IN CHRIST

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

The New Testament is very clear that we are saved by grace through faith and not by the deeds of the law. However, many people take this as an opportunity to sin thinking they are free to do as they wish.

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

I. When we get saved we are free from the bondage of sin so that we can serve God.

- A. We are free from the bondage of sin. Romans 8:2,21
- B. We are freed so that we can serve God. Romans 6:17-18
- C. Christ is a better master than sin. It is better to serve Christ than it is to serve sin. Matthew 6:24; Matthew 11:28-30.

II. How does my freedom from sin affect me personally?

- A. You are free to make your own choices, but if you choose sin, you should be aware of the consequences.
 - 1. You will not bear fruit. John 15:1-8
 - 2. God will chasten you as His son. Hebrews 12:5-11
 - 3. God will allow you to reap as you have sown. Galatians 6:7
- B. God will get the glory from your life one way or another – either as a vessel of honour or as a vessel of dishonour. The choice is yours. II Timothy 2:20-21

III. How does my freedom from sin affect those around me?

- A. Your life will be a testimony for good or for bad whether you want it to be or not. Romans 14:7
- B. You are to avoid things which could cause a weaker Christian to stumble in his faith. Romans 14:13-15; I Corinthians 8:9-13
- C. You are to avoid things which appear wrong even though they may not be wrong. Romans 14:16; I Thessalonians 5:22
- D. You are to have a good testimony with saved and lost people. Romans 14:18
 - 1. To the saved - Acts 6:1-3; 16:1-2
 - 2. To the lost - Colossians 4:5; I Timothy 3:7
 - 3. The purpose of this is to influence them for good in the Lord. Acts 11:22-24; I Corinthians 9:19-23

IV. Now that we are free from sin we should build up walls of separation to keep us free from the bondage of sin.

- A. We stay free from sin when we follow God's commandments of separation. Psalm 119:45
- B. The key to staying free from sin is to avoid the circumstances in which we do sin. This is why Scripture gives us standards and walls of separation so that we stay free from sin to serve God.
- C. These standards include the areas of where we go, what we do, what we allow ourselves to see, as well as other areas.

V. How do I know where to exercise standards and separation.

There are some “gray areas” in dealing with certain areas of Christian living. What we need to remember is that there are no gray areas with God. It is our responsibility to make sure that what we do is sanctioned by God. In these cases ask yourself the following questions:

- A. Am I being brought under the power of something that should not be controlling my life? I Corinthians 6:12
- B. Am I edifying myself or others? I Corinthians 10:23
- C. Can I ask God to bless it with a clear conscience?
Colossians 3:17; Acts 24:16
- D. If the Lord returned at this moment would I be ashamed?
I Corinthians 1:8; I Thessalonians 5:23
- E. Would it cause a brother to stumble?
Romans 14:13-15; Romans 15:1-2
- F. Would it be cause for an unsaved person to reject the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour? I Corinthians 10:31-33
- G. Does my conscience condemn me for it?
I Peter 3:16; Hebrews 13:18; I Timothy 1:5

VI. Common questions.

A. Are we legalists for having standards or exercising separation?

1. A legalist is someone who adds works to salvation. It has nothing to do with the issue of standards and separation though some would like to think so.
2. We are not legalists or guilty of violating Scripture when we recognize the fact that God has given us standards and walls of separation for Christian living. It is our duty to follow these Scriptural standards.

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT LIBERTY IN CHRIST LESSON #13

1. When you get saved from what are you made free? Briefly explain.

2. Who is the better master?

3. When you choose to sin what are the consequences of your choice?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

4. God will get the glory from your life either as a _____ of _____ or as a _____ of _____.

5. List four ways that your freedom from sin can influence people around you.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.

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

7. Why should we have standards or walls of separation in our lives as Christians?

8. List seven questions you can consider when deciding where to exercise standards and separation.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

D.

E.

F.

G.

9. What is a legalist?

10. Why are standards and separation not legalistic?

11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key Memory Verses: Memorize at LEAST ONE of these verses.
Galatians 5:13; Romans 15:1; I Corinthians 10:31**

NOTE: Can you see that some churches wrongly teach that:

1. There are no definite areas in the Christian's life in which God expects standards and separation to be exercised.
2. You are free to do whatever you want regardless of how it affects other people.
3. What you do has no real influence on other people.

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

LESSON #14 - MY JOB AND EMPLOYER

“What Should Be My Attitude toward my Job and My Employer?”

Since the Bible is the final authority in everything you will ever encounter in life, it is no surprise that it has a great deal to say about how you are to conduct yourself at your job. We spend one fourth of our adult life on the job, and it is essential to our growth to learn how the Lord Jesus Christ would have us look at this area of responsibility. If you intend to be an effective servant of God, you must do so with all your life and not just three fourths of it.

This lesson is designed to help you be the type of employee (or employer) that God would have you to be.

I. ALL saved people are called to “full-time Christian service.”

- A. Ephesians 4:1 says your vocation is to serve Jesus Christ.
- B. The Bible is very clear that EVERY saved person is an integral part of the body of Christ and that each member's contribution is important.
 - 1. I Corinthians 12:12-17
 - 2. Ephesians 4:11-16
- C. Your service for God is to be at all times, not just when you go to church. 1. I Peter 3:15 2. II Timothy 4:2

II. The primary purpose of your job is to support your ministry.

- A. Of course your first ministry is to your family. I Timothy 5:8; 3:5
- B. Your second ministry is two-fold.
 - 1. To your church family - Galatians 6:10
 - 2. To reach the lost - II Corinthians 5:20
- C. As we saw in a previous lesson, your resources should be yielded to God's service. Those resources are to be used to glorify God through the above areas.

III. What should be my attitude toward my job?

You should view your job as a ministry opportunity not just as a job.

- A. For most Christians your fellow workers are the greatest exposure you have to unsaved people.
- B. Your life may be the only true witness of the Lord Jesus Christ they ever see.
 - 1. You are a light representing Jesus Christ. Matthew 5:14-16
 - 2. Your life should reflect the Bible. II Corinthians 3:2
- C. You will have much greater influence on those with whom you spend the most time. Although total strangers present an opportunity to witness, those who see a consistent testimony of a Christian's life are much easier to win.

IV. What attitudes should I have toward my superiors and the company for which I work?

- A. Serve as if the Lord Jesus Christ is your employer. Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-24
- B. Respect the authority of their position. Obviously no employer will be correct in every point, and you certainly can disagree with them. However, you are to submit to their leadership using it as an opportunity to show them a testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. Titus 2:9-10
- C. Respect your company's property; it does not belong to you. Leviticus 19:11
- D. Respect your company's time – do eight hours of work for eight hours of pay. II Corinthians 8:21; Colossians 3:22
- E. You are to do the very best you can to help the company succeed and make your employer look good. Romans 12:11; I Corinthians 10:24; Proverbs 10:4, 18:9, 21:25, 22:29 *Example of Joseph Genesis 30-50
- F. Mind your own business and do not allow someone else's laziness to affect you. I Thessalonians 4:11; II Thessalonians 3:10-13

V. The Bible also shows the employer or supervisor how to relate to those under his leadership.

- A. Do I treat my people justly and equally? Do I set standards for them which I refuse to keep myself? Colossians 4:1; Ephesians 6:9
- B. Am I consumed with my own self-interests without considering the needs of those around me? Philippians 2:2-3
- C. Am I trying to be a leader over too many things? Remember to consider the following points whenever a promotion or transfer opportunity presents itself:
 - 1. A great Bible principle is the following: “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much...” (Luke 16:10) Be sure you can handle what you have now.
 - 2. Realize that the more responsibility you have the more potential there is for problems to arise. James 3:1; Ecclesiastes 8:9
 - 3. Realize that the more responsibilities you have the more time and energy is demanded. Be sure your new responsibilities

will not hinder your service for God. II Timothy 2:4

D. Even in a position of leadership you should always maintain the attitude of a servant. Mark 10:42-45

VI. Common questions.

A. What if my job conflicts with spiritual matters?

1. There will always be some conflict of priorities between church activities and your work schedule. You should not quit your job or take off from work because of a few minor conflicts. Remember your job is a ministry opportunity. However, you must not use your job as an excuse to neglect your responsibilities to your church. You **MUST** maintain a balance in this area.

2. When your job responsibilities are contrary to Bible principles then you must draw the line.

- a. Refuse to lie or steal for your employer or to violate other clear commandments of God.
- b. Guard against temptations on the job.
- c. Do not be influenced by sinful activities around you.

B. How do I handle “persecution” on the job?

1. Most “persecution” in our culture is a result of the Christian’s own ignorance or lack of personal commitment to the Lord. If you are being “persecuted” it is for one of two reasons: Your behavior is improper or your proper testimony is an offence to someone. I Peter 3:16-17

2. Expect a certain amount of adversity from the world if you are truly serving Jesus Christ. II Timothy 3:12

3. Learn to commit that adversity to the Lord. I Peter 2:18-23

C. What should I consider when looking for employment?

1. Have you taken it to God in prayer? James 1:5; Philippians 4:6-7

2. Will the new responsibility destroy what God is trying to build in your life? This is a complex question. Do not be afraid to seek wise counsel from another brother in Christ that you respect.

3. If you are being asked to move to another city is there a church there which can continue to provide for your spiritual needs? This is an extremely critical point!

4. In looking for a change of jobs, are you running away from something that you should be facing and trying to correct?

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT MY JOB & EMPLOYER.

LESSON #14

1. Why are all Christians called into “full-time Christian service?”

A.

B.

C.

2. The primary purpose of your job is to support your ministry. List the ministry that you need to support.

A.

B.

1.

2.

3. Why should you view your job as a ministry opportunity?

A.

B.

C.

4. What are the attitudes you should have toward your company supervisor?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
 - F.
5. List some principles that you observe in the life of Joseph which had an impact on his master from Genesis 39:1-6.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
6. As an employer what are some questions you should ask yourself about your attitude toward the people who work for you?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
7. List 4 areas to consider when deciding whether or not to take a promotion.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
8. What should you do when your job schedule does not allow you to be involved in church activities?
9. Jobs at times may contain responsibilities that violate Biblical principles. List three areas in which to be aware.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
10. What should you consider if someone at work gives you a hard time concerning your Christian faith?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

11. When you are looking for a new job what should you consider?

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key Memory Verses: Memorize at LEAST ONE of these verses.
II Timothy 2:4; Mark 10:44-45; Colossians 3:23**

NOTE: Can you see that some churches wrongly teach that:

1. Your job is just a paycheck.
2. Your job status is the most important measure of your success.
3. Your employer must always take a back seat to church activities.

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

***A workman that needeth not
to be ashamed*** 2 Timothy 2:15



Your testimony as a
worker or employer will be
a direct reflection of Christ.

Work hard, be fair and
remember that all you
do and say will lead
others TOO or FROM Christ.

LESSON 15 - THE UNSAVED WORLD
“As a Christian How Do I Relate to the Unsaved World?”

The Bible is very clear that the present world system is contrary to God’s eternal purpose. The Word of God commands His children to be separate from this world yet at the same time to reach lost men and women who live in it for Jesus Christ.

This lesson is designed to show Christians how to live a balanced and consistent life in order to influence people for the Lord Jesus Christ without the world influencing them for evil.

I. You must realize that if you live for Jesus you will encounter opposition from the world.

A. You will be opposed because Jesus Christ was opposed.

John 15:18-21

B. You will be opposed only if you live for Him. If you go along with the world they will not oppose you. II Timothy 3:12

II. From what areas will this opposition come?

A. Your primary opposition will come from those closest to you - friends, family, fellow workers, and acquaintances. Matthew 10:35-36; John 1:11; Mark 6:4.

B. From unsaved people in general. The two spiritual families have NEVER gotten along and never will. Galatians 4:29

C. From society in general. The nature and course of this present world is against God. This opposition is communicated subtly through the media (literature, television, radio, etc.). You must judge those things by the Word of God. I John 2:15-17; James 4:4

D. Of course, the master behind this opposition is Satan.

1. He is your adversary. I Peter 5:8

2. He is currently at work in unsaved people. Ephesians 2:2

III. How can I overcome this opposition?

A. Give a soft answer. Avoid arguments whenever possible.

Proverbs 15:1; Romans 12:18

B. Please God with your life. Proverbs 16:7

C. Have faith in God. I John 5:4-5

D. Love your enemies and help them. Jesus Christ loved His enemies enough to die for them when He did not have to do it. The world cannot understand this type of love, and those who are seeking the truth will be drawn to it. Romans 12:14, 20-21

E. Pray for your enemies and pray with pure motives. Matthew 5:44

F. Keep good company. Associate with people who love God and want to serve Him. Proverbs 13:20; I Corinthians 15:33

G. Immerse yourself in the Word of God. Romans 12:1-2

IV. How should the unsaved world view me as a Christian?

A. They should know that you love God –NOT by your mouth as much as your life. I Corinthians 8:3

B. Your lifestyle should separate you from the world, and your behavior should be peculiar, scripturally, to them. II Corinthians 6:14-18; I Peter 2:9

C. They should see you as being open and honest in all matters.

II Corinthians 8:21; Romans 12:17

D. They should see a living testimony of the grace of God.

Philippians 2:14-15

E. Generally you should be of “good report”.

I Timothy 3:7; Colossians 4:5-6

V. How should I view the world?

A. You are a pilgrim in a strange land. Hebrews 11:13; I Peter 2:11

B. Your home is in heaven. Ephesians 2:6; Philippians 3:20

C. This world is a “mission field” to reach the lost for Jesus Christ.

Acts. 1:8 Matthew 28:18-20

VI. Common questions.

A. What are my responsibilities to my government?

1. Government is one of three institutions ordained by God, the other two being the family and the church. All governments are controlled by Satan (Luke 4:5-6) and therefore are essentially against God. However, you are still to

submit to the ordinance of God. Romans 13:1-2

2. If you do what is right you have no reason to fear. God will honour you for doing right. Romans 13:3-5

3. Render to the government what is due by law. Romans 13:6-7 Matthew 17:24-27, 22:15-22

4. Submit to their ordinances. I Peter 2:13-15

5. Honour those in authority, even the wicked, without partaking of their wickedness. Commit any adverse situations to God and let Him handle them. I Peter 2:17-23 . When Peter wrote these words, Nero, perhaps the most wicked king ever, ruled the Roman empire.

**ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE UNSAVED WORLD.
LESSON #15**

1. As a Christian you will encounter some opposition from the world. Why is this?

A.

B.

2. List the sources of opposition you will face.

A.

B.

C.

D.

3. There are ways that the Christian can deal with opposition from the world. Briefly explain how the following verses can help you.

A. Proverbs 15:1

B. Proverbs 16:7

C. I John 5:4-5

D. Romans 12:20-21

E. Matthew 5:44

F. Proverbs 13:20

G. Romans 12:2

4. When unsaved people observe your life what should they see?

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

5. As you look at the unsaved world what is your position?

A.

B.

C.

6. God has ordained three institutions for man. List them.

A.

B.

C.

7. As Christians we have responsibilities concerning our government. List four primary responsibilities.

A.

B.

C.

D.

8. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key Memory Verses: Memorize at LEAST ONE of these verses.
II Timothy 3:12; I John 2:15-16; I Corinthians 8:3**

NOTE: Can you see that some churches wrongly teach that:

1. Christians are to be totally separate from unsaved people.
2. We should do anything to keep people from being upset with us.
3. The best way to fight opposition is with an aggressive approach.

All that you have studied and learned has been in vain if you do not continue in the race for Christ you've now begun. Be faithful to all that you have learned. Serve Christ as you now know you should. Pass along to others what you have learned and continue to grow in HIS grace.



Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice
in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain,
neither laboured in vain. Philippians 2:16

For Additional Copies or Comments Contact:
Bearing Precious Seed Canada
a ministry of
Bible Baptist Church
32 Park Ave.
St. Thomas, Ontario Canada N5R 4W1
(519) 637-3434 www.CanadaBBC.org
DrAlStone@gmail.com Dr. Al Stone, Pastor
(c) copyright 1998