

BIBLE BASICS

*An Introduction to the King James Bible
Authorized Version (A.V. 1611) and to
Bible Believing Baptists*

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All scripture taken from the
Authorized Version (King James) Holy Bible

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Purpose

This study has been designed for these two purposes:

1. To teach basic Bible doctrine from the King James Bible, Authorized Version (A.V. 1611).
2. To introduce born again believers to Bible Believing Baptists.

Many born again believers have never been taught that a daily surrender to Jesus Christ (and faithful service within a local church) *should immediately follow* salvation. This study attempts to provide an understanding to believers of how God's saving grace *should result* in a daily walk of obedience to Jesus Christ and the Bible. The believer's surrender to a daily walk of obedience *is not* to retain or maintain his salvation, but is rather the believer's "*reasonable service*" to Jesus Christ for having saved his/her soul. The Biblical commandment for believers is clearly stated in Romans 12:1-2, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

The goal of this study is to encourage spiritual growth, discipline, and maturity in believers. “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.” (2 Peter 3:18)

Nothing in this study adds anything to God’s simple plan of salvation, which is repentance (*a change of mind or heart*) and placing one’s faith (belief/trust) in Jesus Christ alone. Acts 20:21 states, “Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” A sinner must recognize his sinful condition and that salvation is only available as a free gift of God’s grace, through faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ at the cross of Calvary, i.e. Jesus Christ’s shed blood, death, burial, and resurrection. (1 Cor. 15:1-4) A sinner must change his mind regarding his sinful condition before God and his unbelief in Jesus Christ (John 16:9), and no longer trust his own good works or self-efforts for his salvation. A sinner must also change his mind to understand that salvation *cannot be earned* by his attempts to reform his life, or his efforts to turn from his sins. Neither can a sinner earn his salvation by his faithfulness, water baptism, service, surrender, discipleship, church membership, keeping the Ten Commandments, or any other of his own good works.

This study is not a set of rules to earn or retain salvation, but to teach born-again believers how to more fully surrender and live an abundant Christian life, in close daily fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

This study not only teaches sound Bible doctrine, but also provides a useful tool for any believer who has not been exposed to the basics. This study may also be used in the home as a basis for starting a Family Altar.

All scriptures are taken directly from The Holy Bible, Authorized King James Version (KJV), under the leadership of the Holy Spirit

(John 14:26). To maximize the usefulness of this study, please look up and *read each Bible reference* as you come to it. Believers are encouraged to prayerfully search, meditate on, and allow the Holy Spirit to teach the truth of God's words. Believers are also encouraged to *make personal application* of the truth learned in this study *through obedience* to the words of God.

“...they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” (Acts 17:11b)



Lesson One

Bible Believing Baptists (herein “BBB”)

- I. Unity, Not Union
 - A. BBB have no creed or binding statement of faith written by men, the Baptist denomination, or the local church. BBB adhere to the AV 1611 King James Bible (KJB) as God’s inspired word.
 1. There is no such thing as “The Baptist Faith” apart from the scriptures (KJB).
 - a. BBB do not adhere to a “creedal faith” or “denominational faith.”
 2. A New Testament local church is to operate independently, with Jesus Christ as its head, in accordance with the KJB, and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
 - B. Any statements of “The Baptist Faith” should be taken only as a guide.
 1. Statements/Articles of Faith and Bible studies, (including this one) have no authority over God’s words in the KJB and scriptural interpretations as led by the Holy Spirit.

2. BBB believe The Holy Bible, KJV-Authorized Version 1611, (both OT and NT) is the ***complete and final authority*** for practicing their faith.
- C. Religious freedom will sometimes lead to different ***personal standards and convictions***.
1. All doctrinal beliefs, however, must be in keeping with the KJB and ***rightly divided***, not the opinions or private interpretations of men, church tradition, or so-called Bible scholars.
 - a. Unity is ***not*** uniformity (or the belief that all sincerely held beliefs are equally valid).
 - 1) If we want religious freedom, we must support that same freedom for others.
 - 2) We should not force our beliefs on others, but be students of the KJB, and always remain teachable.
 - 3) We should always be ready to proclaim the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, relying on the words of scripture and the Holy Spirit to do the work in each person's life.
 2. Core fundamental Christian Bible beliefs are not subject to debate. Examples include:
 - a. Salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, not by man's good works such as water baptism, keeping the commandments, turning from one's sins, etc. (Eph. 2:8-9)
 - b. The virgin birth of Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 7:14; Matt. 1:23; Luke 1:26-35)
 - c. The blood atonement of Jesus Christ as the complete payment for sin. (Col. 1:13-14)

- d. The Deity of Jesus Christ. (Acts 16:31,34; Rom. 9:5; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 1:8)
 - e. The inspiration, perfection, and infallibility of the King James Bible as the Final Authority for all doctrine, faith, and practice. (Psalm 12:6-7; Prov. 30:5; Matt. 4:4)
- D. BBB believe in unity within the local church.
- 1. Unity comes from a living faith that is rooted in the King James Bible.
 - a. The two sources of common ground for BBB are the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the KJB.
 - 1) Jesus Christ ties BBB hearts together in Christian love with other believers.
 - 2. BBB believe all born again Christians *should* adhere to living a life separated from sin and the world. “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.” (2 Cor. 6:17) (Rom. 6:4; 2 Cor. 6:14-16)

II. Christianity Is Supernatural

- A. BBB fully reject and oppose every religion which denies the supernatural elements and miraculous works of God.
 - 1. *Examples of supernatural elements:* creation, salvation by grace through faith as a free gift, Jesus’ virgin birth, deity, blood atonement, crucifixion, burial, and resurrection.
 - a. BBB cannot explain everything in the Bible, but are called to believe the scriptures and live a life of faith. “For therein is the righteousness of God

revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:17)

b. God calls us to a living faith. “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

1) We are commanded to **grow** in our understanding of the truth in the KJB. “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” (1 Peter 2:2-3)

B. BBB believe the Lord Jesus Christ is

1. the Word (capital W). (John 1:1; 1 John 1:1)

2. God manifest in the flesh. (1 Timothy 3:16)

3. and has always been the **eternal** Second Member of the Godhead (Trinity). (Colossians 2:9)

4. God (deity) will always be God and will not change. “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” (Hebrews 13:8) “For I am the Lord, I change not” (Malachi 3:6a)

C BBB believe the KJB is the Final Authority, **not** other Christians, Bible scholars, family members, church tradition, or men’s traditions.

III. Distinctive Baptist Beliefs

A. Soul Competency

1. Each person is competent (accountable) before God. “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27)

- a. Not competent in the sense of self-sufficiency, but competent to decide for himself concerning his relationship to Jesus and being **accountable to God** for that decision.
2. Man was originally created by God in God's own image, but man lost the image of God because he sinned against God. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." (Genesis 1:27) Contrast the image of all men since Adam. (Genesis 5:3)
 - a. God has granted man the privilege of free choice (free will).
 - b. Even though God knows all things (Acts 15:18), God did not create man as a robot or a puppet with God pulling the strings, but with a free will to make his own choices.
 - c. ***God does not and will not coerce a man against his own free will.***
 - 1) God wants men to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and then obey Him by exercising their own free will. This maximizes God's glory. (Revelation 4:11)
 - 2) In order for man to choose to freely love God, God must give man the choice to freely reject God. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20)
 - 3) Man is responsible and accountable to God alone (not other men) for the choices he makes. "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." (Romans 14:12)

- 4) Religion is a personal matter between each person and God. “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

B. BBB believe in these six basic principles of religion:

1. The Lord God Almighty has the right to all glory, honour, thanks, power, and worship since He alone is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. (Rev. 4:8-11; Matt. 28:17-18; John 1:3; Col. 1:15-17)
2. All believers have equal and direct access to God.
 - a. Commonly referred to as “The Priesthood of the Believer.” (1 Peter 2:9)
3. All believers have certain responsibilities, duties, and privileges in the local church.
4. To be held accountable and responsible to God, man must be able to decide for himself about all matters of religion.
 - a. BBB believe a person has the God-given *freedom* of choice to belong to *any* religion or denomination, or to choose atheism.
 - 1) This freedom for man to choose does not give him *the right* to sin against God, or *the right* to worship anyone/anything other than the one and true God of the Bible. (Exodus 20:3-6)
5. A free Church in a free State, i.e. complete separation of Church and State.
6. Men ought to love their neighbors (everyone) as themselves. “And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.” (Luke 6:31)

- C. The Bible teaches God's command to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all men. "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:18-20) "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)
1. BBB witness to see men saved by the convicting and drawing power of the Holy Spirit, not through coercion or intimidation of any kind.
- D. BBB are "broad-minded" in that we believe a person should be free to believe as he chooses while BBB insist on that same freedom for themselves.
1. God *does not* endow man with *the right* to worship and serve any other god but Himself.
- E. BBB believe every believer has the *ability and responsibility* to read and interpret scriptures *for himself as he is led by the Holy Spirit* as long as his interpretations are in harmony with the clear doctrines of the Bible. "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Peter 1:20-21)

Religious Liberty

I. Definition

- A. Religious liberty is a term denoting the freedom of every person to worship God as his conscience dictates. It means lawful equality to freely practice religion according to the dictates of one's own conscience before God.
 - 1. Religious liberty does not give a person the right to pursue materialism, paganism, or a sinful life absent from God. Religious liberty *is not* that all beliefs are equally true.
 - a. BBB believe all doctrinal beliefs must be in line with and supported by the KJB.
- B. Religious liberty is not “tolerance” or “anything goes.” Religious liberty is an unalienable right endowed by God demanding personal responsibility and individual accountability before God.
- C. Religious liberty must be rooted in the KJB, not in man's ideas or religious traditions.
 - 1. If any laws of the State conflict with God's laws, we must obey God's laws. “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.” (Acts 5:29)
 - 2. The State should never enact any laws which contradict God's laws as defined in the scriptures.
 - a. Examples: God's laws concerning: 1) marriage as between one man and one woman, 2) murder of the unborn, 3) sexual immorality, 4) sodomy, 5) pornography, 6) drunkenness, 7) the God-given right to defend yourself and your family, etc.

- 1) God's purpose in establishing the State (government) is to guarantee God's rights and laws would be preserved in the society, never to be violated.

II. Church and State

- A. Church and State should be separate in that the State owes to every Church protection and full freedom to pursue its spiritual ends.
 1. Free churches in a free State is the Biblical standard.
- B. No church, religious group, or denomination should be favored or sanctioned by the State nor should the State use churches for political purposes.
- C. The State should never use legislation in order to sponsor or establish any particular sect, religious group, or denomination.
- D. Churches should not resort to the civil authorities to carry out its work.
 1. The Gospel of Jesus Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its purposes.
- E. The State has no right to impose penalties or to interfere with churches whatsoever.
- F. Separation of Church and State *does not mean* they have no relationship whatsoever.
 1. They are *mutually related* in the normal affairs of life in that the State provides a favorable atmosphere in which churches can do their work (such as firemen and policemen, national security, roads and streets, civil stability, judicial system, etc.) while churches, in

turn, should produce the type of citizens which will contribute to a stable social order.

2. The Church and State are *mutually exclusive* at the same time in that neither should seek to control, use, or tell the other how to discharge its responsibilities.
- G. Churches should not be taxed by the State nor should the State provide funds to churches.
- H. Churches should be free to determine their own programs of worship, evangelism, and missions activities as long as they are conducted within the reasonable legal structure of the State, and are within God's will and consistent with the scriptures.

III. BBB and Religious Liberty

- A. BBB have always been ardent supporters of religious liberty for themselves and for all men.
1. All men should have the freedom to worship and serve God as their conscience dictates.
 - a. All men are accountable to God for 1) what they believe and 2) how they act and live.
 - b. Man is able to make choices, but God never granted man the right to worship any other god or to worship creation, which is idolatry. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:3)
 - 1) God alone is to be worshipped and served.

Questions

1. What is meant by “competency of the soul?”

2. List some core fundamental Christian Bible beliefs, which are not subject to debate. _____

3. Do people have the God-given *freedom* to believe anything they want to believe? Why or why not? _____

4. Do people have the God-given *right* to believe anything they want to believe? Why or why not? _____

5. What is Religious Liberty and why are BBB so supportive of it?

6. Explain “separation of Church and State.” _____

Assignment

1. Begin memorizing the 39 books of the Old Testament.
2. Read the “Proverb of the Day.” (For example, on May 1 read Proverbs 1, on May 2 read Proverbs 2, and continue every day so that you read all 31 chapters of Proverbs every month.)
3. Read the book of Galatians this week.
4. Spend at least 15 minutes each day this week in prayer.
5. Memorize 1 John 5:12-13—He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.
6. Memorize this question: “Have you come to a place in your life that you know for certain that you have eternal life and that you would go to heaven when you die?”
7. Communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to at least one lost person this week.



Lesson Two

The Scripture

- I. An Inspired Book
 - A. *The Holy Bible* was written by men divinely inspired by God and was perfectly translated into English in 1611 as the “Authorized Version (AV 1611)” or “Authorized King James Version.” “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16) (Job 32:8)
 1. Inspiration is God’s miraculous use of sinful men, through the power of the Holy Spirit, whereby He enables them by divine guidance, to speak, deliver, or record God’s perfect words.
 2. The term “Bible” as used herein refers to the A.V. 1611 King James Bible (“KJB”).
 - B. The Bible records God’s revelation of Himself to man and is the living Final Authority by which Christians are to live and practice their faith. (Heb. 4:12)
 - C. The theme of the Bible concerns the Lord Jesus Christ as King of Kings and ruling over an everlasting kingdom yet

future. The Bible is God's inspired and perfectly preserved words, without any error, and is not only 100% accurate as to history, but is also perfectly accurate in its doctrines, prophecies, and practical applications for how to properly conduct our daily lives.

- D. The Bible is the *one and only* full, truthful, and complete revelation of the truth concerning salvation in Jesus Christ. The truth is found in the KJB, without any corruption. (2 Cor. 2:17)
 - 1. The Bible is not to be added to or subtracted from. "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." (Rev. 22:18-19) (Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:5-6)
- E. God's revelation is progressive as the Holy Spirit teaches and reveals truth to the believer as he prays, meditates, memorizes, and studies the Bible. (Joshua 1:8; John 5:39; 2 Tim. 2:15)
- F. BBB believe "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Peter 1:20-21)

II. The Bible's Central Figure, Theme, and Goal

- A. The central figure of the Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and Second Person of the Godhead (Trinity). (Col. 2:9)

- B. The central theme of the Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God establishing and reigning supreme over an everlasting Kingdom, to begin at His Second Coming.
- C. The central goal of the Bible for the present “Church Age” is the salvation of lost sinners by grace through faith in Jesus Christ as a free gift, without any good works of man.

III. Attributes of the Bible

- A. The Bible must be *rightly divided* if it is to be properly interpreted. “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Tim. 2:15) (See Lesson 8)
- B. The Bible reveals God’s judgment against sin and fallen man. “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:18)
- C. The Bible is the standard and Final Authority by which God regulates human conduct and the Holy Spirit uses it to 1) convict and save lost sinners and 2) to teach the Christian how to fully live a redeemed and abundant life.

The Church

I. Who Is The Church?

A. The word “church” means “the called out ones,” or “an assembly.”

1. In the NT, “the church” refers to either 1) all saved born-again believers (throughout history) who comprise the Body of Christ or 2) a local assembly of baptized believers.

a. Upon receiving Jesus as Saviour, the new Christian is spiritually born into Jesus Christ’s Body (the “Bride” or “Body of Christ”), which includes all born-again believers. (1 Cor. 12:12-13)

1) The local church operates under the headship of Jesus Christ and the scriptures.

2) All members have responsibilities, duties, and privileges in the local church under the authority of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the scriptures.

a) While water baptism is *not a Biblical requirement* for salvation, most Baptist churches require all believers to be (or to have been) water baptized, by immersion, as a prerequisite to membership in the local church.

b) Most Baptist churches will accept a believer’s water baptism from another church of like faith and practice.

B. The Church is made up of individual Christians, who are both the Body and the Bride of Christ. “And he is the

head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.” (Colossians 1:18)

1. The founder, foundation, and head of the Church is the Lord Jesus Christ.

C. The Church *is not*:

1. The building we worship in or a location for conducting religious activities

2. “Organized Christianity”

3. A group of churches or denominational groups

D. The Church will stand forever. “and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18b)

1. The Rock upon which the Church is built is the Lord Jesus Christ. (Deut. 32:31)

E. Jesus commissioned two ordinances in the local church, 1) Baptism and 2) the Lord’s Supper.

1. Both ordinances are for born-again believers only and are *not prerequisites* for salvation.

F. Christians are to faithfully support the Church by regular attendance, prayer, giving, and service. “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25)

II. Church Autonomy

A. BBB believe that each local church is independent, but must conduct itself under the headship of Jesus Christ,

the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and the Final Authority of the KJB.

1. Churches are not to do what pleases themselves, but rather as Jesus Christ pleases or wills.
 - a. This can be achieved through prayer, Bible study, and following the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
- B. Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, the local church is responsible to direct its own affairs.
 1. Selecting pastors and deacons. (1 Tim. 3; Acts 6:1-6)
 2. Administering the ordinances. (Acts 2:41-42)
 3. Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through evangelism. (Acts 10 & 11)
 4. Sending out missionaries. (Acts 13-14)
 5. Administering church discipline. (Matthew 18:15-17)
- C. BBB are autonomous and independent, and exercise independence through *voluntary* cooperation.

III. The Mission of the Church

- A. To preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all lost people. “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)
- B. God’s eternal redemptive purpose of salvation through faith alone in Jesus Christ is to be realized through, and centered in, the local church. “To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.” (Eph. 3:10-12)

1. As a result, each Christian’s labor and loyalty should be through the local church.
 - a. The local church is to be “where the action is” as each believer surrenders and commits his life to sacrificially serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

IV. Officers of the Local Church

- A. The ordained officers of the local church are Pastors and Deacons.
 1. Qualifications are set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6:1-4.
- B. Pastor means shepherd or one who feeds and tends the flock; it also means overseer. “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.” (Acts 20:28) (1 Peter 5:1-3)
- C. When pastors and deacons do their work faithfully, the Church prospers. “And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.” (Acts 6:7)

Questions

1. What does “divine inspiration” mean as it relates to the Bible?

2. Explain God’s inspiration relating to the men who wrote the Bible. _____

3. Summarize the Central Figure, Theme, and Goal of the Bible.

4. Define “Church” and the difference between the “Body of Christ” and a “Local Church.” _____

5. What are the two ordinances in a New Testament church?

6. What is the mission of the Church? _____

7. List the two ordained offices of the local church and show the Bible reference where each of the office’s qualifications is found in the Bible. Then look up these passages in your Bible and read them. _____

Assignment

1. Continue memorizing the 39 books of the Old Testament.
2. Read the “Proverb of the Day.” (For example, on May 1 read Proverbs 1, on May 2 read Proverbs 2, and continue every day so that you read all 31 chapters of Proverbs every month.)
3. Read the book of Ephesians this week.
4. Spend at least 15 minutes each day this week in prayer.
5. Memorize Romans 3:23—For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.
6. Memorize this question: “Suppose you were standing before God right now and He asked you, ‘Why should I let you into my heaven?’ what do you think you would say?”
7. Communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to at least one lost person this week.

Lesson Three

God

I. One God

- A. BBB believe in one, and only one, living and true God, but manifested to man in three Persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Godhead) (Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:20; Col. 2:9)
- B. God is the Creator, Preserver, Redeemer, and Ruler of the universe.
- C. God is infinite in nature; therefore it is impossible to define God because to define is to limit.

II. God Described

- A. God is sinless and perfect in all His attributes. (Heb. 4:15)
- B. God is eternal and the creator and sustainer of His universe. (Col. 1:17)
- C. God is wise and totally righteous. (1 Tim. 1:17; Jude 25)
- D. God demonstrated His love by Jesus Christ and His finished work at the cross. (Rom. 5:8)
- E. God is everywhere at the same time. (Prov. 15:3)

- F. God seeks mankind and desires every person to get saved. (Luke 19:10; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9)
- G. God is a personal God, caring about each person individually. (1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Pet. 5:7)

III. The Attributes of God (Elements Describing God's Nature)

- A. **Eternal**—God has neither beginning nor end. Past, present, and future are one to Him. “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.” (Revelation 22:13)
- B. **Immutable**—God does not change. “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” (Hebrews 13:8)
- C. **Omnipresent**—God is present at all times in every part and time of His universe. God is in events in time, yet God is not limited by time or space. (Jude 25)
- D. **Immensity**—God is superior to time and space; no human concept can define God. (Ex. 15:11)
- E. **Omniscience**—God has all knowledge, He knows all things simultaneously. His foreknowledge of events does not mean he predetermines all events, such as man's choice to accept or reject Jesus as personal Saviour. God's foreknowledge *and* man's freedom of choice exist at the same time and are compatible doctrines in the Bible. (Acts 15:18)
- F. **Omnipotent**—God possesses all power. He can do anything in keeping with His nature and purposes. The only limits to God's power are self-imposed in order to conform to His own laws, character, and purposes; these limits are evidence of God's power, not an evidence of any weakness. (1 Chron. 29:11; Psalm 29:4)

- G. **Holiness** - God is morally perfect and demands holiness of His children. Holiness involves purity and means to be sanctified or set apart by God for God's purposes. "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love" (Ephesians 1:4) "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation." (1 Peter 1:15-16)
- H. **Righteousness**—As perfectly right and never wrong, God is perfectly just and cannot ignore or condone evil and sin.
 - 1. Since God is holy and just, he must punish all sin. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)
- I. **Truth**—God is truth and is the source of all truth. All truth is of God. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)
- J. **Love**—The attribute that God personifies. "God is love." (1 John 4:8b)
- K. **Judgment**—God's favorite attribute. "For the Lord loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off." (Psalm 37:28)

IV. God Is One Person Bearing Three Relationships To Man

- A. God The Father
 - 1. God reigns in providential care over His creation. (Col. 1:17)
 - 2. God controls the flow of history, in strict accordance with His purposes. (Acts 15:18)

3. All men are God's *creatures*, but not all are God's *children*. (Gen. 2:7; Acts 17:28-29; John 1:12)
4. God is fatherly in His attitude for His children (believers), desiring what He knows is best for each person. "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" (Matthew 7:11)
5. God's will is that all men be His children through faith in God's Son, Jesus Christ. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

B. God The Son

1. Jesus Christ is the *eternal* Son of God and is God manifest in the flesh. (1 Tim. 3:16)
2. "Christ" is his official title, which means "Messiah," the anointed one for salvation.
3. "Lord" (capital "L") and "Word" (capital "W") also refer to Jesus Christ. (Rev. 19:13, 16)
4. "Son of Man" was Jesus' self-designated name, which stressed Jesus' humanity.
5. "Son of God" stressed Jesus' deity as God's Son. Jesus said, "I and my Father are one." (John 10:30)
6. While on earth, Jesus Christ was 100% man (yet without sin) and 100% God. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him

the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:" (Philippians 2:5-7)

7. Jesus Christ was active in the creation of the universe. "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." (John 1:3)
8. Jesus is God. "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." (Col. 2:9)
9. Jesus Christ became flesh that He might redeem man from sin. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
10. Jesus was born of a virgin. "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost." (Matthew 1:18) "And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus." (Matthew 1:25) (See also Luke 1:26-38)
11. Jesus was perfect and never committed a single sin. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15) (John 8:46)
12. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price for sin for all men, therefore Jesus is the justifier before God of all who believe in Him as their personal Saviour. "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." (John 10:11)
13. Jesus death was voluntary. No one took His life, Jesus gave it freely. "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto

death, even the death of the cross.” (Philippians 2:8)
(John 10:17-18)

14. Jesus’ sacrificial death is a “once-for-all” death. “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.” (Hebrews 9:28) “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.” (1 Peter 3:18) “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” (Hebrews 10:10)
15. Jesus’ resurrection gives Him the power to save and demonstrates God’s acceptance and approval of Jesus’ death on the cross as full and complete payment for mankind’s sins. Jesus is both the crucified Saviour and living Lord. His resurrection proves the deity of Jesus Christ and guarantees each believer’s own bodily resurrection. (Rom. 1:4)
16. At the Second Advent, Jesus will return in great glory and power. In the current age, Jesus remains the justifier whereby lost men may be reconciled to God. (2 Cor. 5:20-21)
17. Jesus indwells all true believers in the person of the Holy Spirit as the living and ever-present Lord. (Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 3:16)

C. God The Holy Spirit

1. He is God in spiritual manifestation.
2. He possesses all the attributes of God and all elements of God’s nature, personality, and character.

3. The Holy Spirit is unseen but possesses all of God's great power.
4. Christians are to live and work only in the power of the Holy Spirit, not in fleshly self-effort.
5. The Holy Spirit reveals and illumines men's minds to understand God's will. (Rom. 8:27-28)
6. The Holy Spirit can guide Christians with *all decisions*. (Rom. 8:26; John 14:26)
7. The Holy Spirit serves to convict lost people of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged." (John 16:8-11)
8. The Holy Spirit enables a lost person to trust Jesus Christ by faith. The Holy Spirit brings the lost person from eternal death to eternal life. (Col. 2:11)
9. The Holy Spirit seals and sanctifies the new Christian as God's possession in Jesus Christ. (Eph. 4:30)
10. Immediately upon becoming a new believer, the Holy Spirit *indwells* (takes up full and complete residence) in the believer's body. (Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 3:16)
 - a. The body of the Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

- 1) Believers *have no right to live selfishly or carnally*. All believers are called to total surrender and total submission to Jesus Christ. (Rom. 12:1-2) (Rom. 6)
11. The Holy Spirit is the divine teacher, comforter, encourager, and exhorts the Christian into holy living. (John 14:26)
12. The Holy Spirit gives believers spiritual gifts with which to serve God. (1 Cor. 12:4-11) (Rom. 11:29)
13. The Holy Spirit does not reveal or glorify Himself, but rather God in Christ. “He shall glorify me; for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.” (John 16:14a)
 - a. Any religion that magnifies the Holy Spirit *above* Jesus Christ is *not* of the Holy Spirit.
14. One is *indwelled* with the Holy Spirit at conversion but may not be *filled* with the Holy Spirit’s power, by failing to surrender or submit oneself to the control of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. The issue is how much the believer submits himself to the control of the Holy Spirit. The Bible teaches believers receive the full and complete Holy Spirit when they first receive Christ (Romans 8:9). Upon receiving Christ as their Saviour believers must submit daily to the Holy Spirit’s control.
15. Believers are to pursue the fruit of the Holy Spirit. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)
16. If we live in the Spirit we should walk daily in the Spirit. (Gal. 5:16)

D. Trinity (The Three In One)

1. Only one God, but manifesting Himself in three different relationships (at the same time) to man. (1 John 5:7; Matt. 28:19; Col. 2:9)
 - a. A simple Trinity analogy: A married man is only one person but relates himself 1) as a *son* to his parents, 2) as a *father* to his children, and 3) as a *husband* to his wife.

Questions

1. Why is it impossible to define God? _____

2. How could Jesus be both 100% God and 100% man? _____

3. Why must God punish sin? _____

Assignment

1. Complete the memorization of the 39 books of the Old Testament.
2. Read the “Proverb of the Day.” (For example, on May 1 read Proverbs 1, on May 2 read Proverbs 2, and continue every day so that you read all 31 chapters of Proverbs every month.)
3. Read the book of Philippians this week.
4. Spend at least 15 minutes each day this week in prayer.
5. Memorize Romans 3:10—As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
6. Memorize this question: “Have you come to a place in your life that you know for certain that you have eternal life and that you would go to heaven when you die?”
7. Communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to at least one lost person this week.

Lesson Four

Man

I. Creation of Man

A. Man was created by a special act of God.

1. God formed man from the dust of the ground, He did not speak mankind into existence. Man's body is made up of the natural earthly chemical elements. "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (Genesis 2:7)
2. Man is separate from all animal life in that God gave man a living body, soul, and spirit. God gave man the ability and freedom to make moral choices and decisions, a conscience, the opportunity to have fellowship with God, and the absolute freedom to exercise his own will.
 - a. Man without God (left to himself) will destroy himself, die without God, and spend eternity in hell. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Corinthians 2:14) (See also Romans 3:10-18)

3. Man was created to live forever in fellowship with God. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (John 3:16-17) “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)
- B. Creation of man was the crowning work of God’s creation. Man’s proper response should be to *first* get saved, *then have* good works. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Eph. 2:8-10)
- C. Man is a trinity, possessing a spirit, soul, and body. (1 Thess. 5:23)
1. Man is not a body that happens to have a soul and spirit, but rather man is a spiritual being, with an eternal soul, which are presently (and temporarily) contained in an earthly body.
 - a. The body is mortal (dies), while a person’s spirit and soul are immortal (never die).
 - b. Man’s spirit is dead (Eph. 2:1) until such time as he gets born again. (1 Peter 1:3)
- D. Originally, God created man in God’s own image. “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” (Genesis 1:27) Since Adam’s fall into sin, all men have been begotten

in Adam's sinful image, being born spiritually dead. (Gen. 5:3; Eph. 2:1-5; Col. 2:13)

1. Mankind has a rational, emotional, and moral nature and God has given every person the freedom to exercise his own will to make decisions and choices that are either 1) obedient to God or 2) disobedient to God.
 2. God created mankind with a spirit and soul to be able to fellowship with God.
- E. God created mankind to have dominion over the lower orders of creation. "Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas." (Psalm 8:6-8)
1. Dominion means to use and be good stewards over God's lower orders of creation.

II. The Fall of Man

- A. The temptation experience in the Garden of Eden was a test that provided an opportunity for man to exercise his free will and absolute freedom of choice. ***Man failed.*** (Genesis 3)
1. The origin of evil. (Ezekiel 28, Isaiah 14:12-15, Isaiah 45:5-7; Amos 3:6)
 2. The temptation to do evil is not of God. "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man." (James 1:13)
- B. Sin may be defined as rebellion against God's will.

1. Sin is missing the mark or falling short of God's glory. (Rom. 3:10-12, 23; Eccl. 7:20)
 2. Sin is described in the Bible as crooked, perverse, violence, lawless, iniquity, offense, wickedness, transgression, rebellion, among other terms. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isa. 53:6) (Job 22:5; Prov. 21:4; Rom. 14:23; James 4:17; 1 John 5:17)
 - a. Jesus paid the full penalty God demanded as the price of mankind's sin. As a result, the Calvinist doctrine of "limited atonement" is false. (1 John 2:2; Heb. 2:9; 1 Tim. 2:6)
- C. The root of sin is always *selfish envy (covetousness) or pride*. (Ex. 20:17; Rom. 7:7, 13:9; Prov. 13:10, 28:25)
1. Centering one's life on self rather than on God. "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren." (James 1:14-16) (Ps. 39:5)
 2. Sin is allowing *anything* to come between the believer and a right relationship with God. The middle letter of both words "sIn" and "prIde" is "I" (for good reason).
- D. Committing even a single sin makes us guilty of breaking all of God's laws. "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." (James 2:10)
- E. Satan is the great deceiver and the father of all lies. (John 8:44) The devil is subtil (Gen. 3:1) and tempts mankind with things that 1) appeal to man's physical desires or appetite (lust of the flesh), 2) appear pleasing to the

eye (lust of the eye), and 3) appeal to selfish desires or ambitions for personal gain (pride of life). “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”(1 John 2:15-16)

- F. All have sinned. “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23) “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.” (Romans 3:10)
1. We all inherit from Adam the same bent and tendency toward sin. All people are sinners by birth, by nature, by choice, and by practice. “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12) “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.” (Psalm 51:5) (Psalm 58:3)
- G. When man sins, he owes an eternal penalty for which he can never fully pay. Both physical *and* spiritual death directly result from each man’s sinful nature. “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23) “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Rev. 20:15)
- H. While still sinners, man was the object of God’s love when Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay for mankind’s sins. “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, *Christ died for us.*” (Romans 5:8)
1. God’s wrath *abides presently* on every “accountable” person (any person knowing good and evil) who has not trusted in Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. (Deut. 1:39; John 3:18)

Questions

1. What is meant by the fact that God *originally* created man in his own image? _____

2. Define sin. _____

3. What is the root of sin? _____

4. Explain why committing even a single sin makes us guilty before God. _____

5. Explain what happens when man sins. _____

Assignment

1. Begin memorizing the 27 books of the New Testament and review all Old Testament books.
2. Read the “Proverb of the Day.” (For example, on May 1 read Proverbs 1, on May 2 read Proverbs 2, and continue every day so that you read all 31 chapters of Proverbs every month.)
3. Read Romans chapters 1-8 this week.
4. Begin reading your Bible from front to back.
5. Spend at least 15 minutes each day this week in prayer.
6. Memorize Romans 6:23—For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
7. Memorize this question: “Suppose you were standing before God right now and He asked you, ‘Why should I let you into my heaven?’ What do you think you would say?”
8. Communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to at least one lost person this week.

Lesson Five

Salvation

- I. Redemption—God’s Divine Plan
 - A. Salvation is God’s plan to redeem mankind from the penalty, power, and presence of sin.
 1. To redeem is to buy back.
 2. God paid the ransom Himself, to Himself (through Jesus’ crucifixion on the cross), in order to satisfy the just demands of His own holy and righteous nature. (Gen. 22:8; 1 Cor. 5:7)
 - B. The blood of Jesus was the once-for-all sacrifice to fully pay for the sins of man. “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.” (1 Peter 3:18) (Heb. 9:28, 10:10)
- II. The Way of Salvation
 - A. Sin separated man from God, but Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10)

- B. Failure in one law makes man as guilty as though he had failed in all. “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.” (James 2:10)
- C. Salvation is freely offered to whosoever will receive Jesus Christ as Saviour. God gives each person the free will to receive or reject Jesus Christ. “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” (John 1:12)
- D. The Bible teaches that a person may *know* whether or not he is saved. “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” (1 John 5:12-13) “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.” (Romans 8:16)
- E. Salvation is provided only as a free gift by faith alone in Jesus Christ. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)
 - 1. Man doesn’t (and cannot) earn salvation, and cannot retain it with good works.
 - a. Salvation is a gift of God through faith alone in Jesus Christ. (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Peter 1:3-5)
 - b. Good works are a result (fruit) of salvation, not a source (root). “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)
 - 2. Man’s only part in receiving salvation is to exercise his freedom of choice (his own will) to repent and receive

salvation through faith alone (believing/trusting) in Jesus Christ. “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

- F. Receiving God’s free gift of salvation allows the Christian to be declared righteous by God.
 - 1. When God adopts the believer into His family as a saved child of God, God only sees the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ. (John 1:12; Rom. 8:15-17; 2 Cor. 5:21)
 - a. The born again believer receives *complete forgiveness of all his sins* (past, present, and future) and he receives *the gift of eternal life* when by faith alone he accepts Jesus as his personal Saviour. “As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.” (Psalm 103:12)

III. Regeneration (or Justification)

- A. The event of being born again (justified, redeemed, reconciled, regenerated, converted, saved).
 - 1. It is the instantaneous work of God by the spiritual circumcision of the Holy Spirit. (Col. 2:11-15)
 - 2. Regeneration delivers the new believer from the eternal *penalty of sin* (Hell).
- B. Upon getting born again, everything *spiritually* changes in the new believer. (2 Cor. 5:17-18)
 - 1. Nothing changes *physically*, since the old nature is not yet eradicated. (Rom. 7:7-25)
- C. The instant one is born again, he is a child of God in a sealed relationship that can *never* be broken. “And I give

unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 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 10:28-29) (2 Cor. 1:21-22; Eph. 4:30)

- D. Upon becoming a child of God, believers receive all privileges and responsibilities of "son-ship." "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." (Romans 8:16-17)
- E. When a lost person is convicted of his sin by the Holy Spirit, he will either 1) reject Jesus Christ and sink deeper into sin or 2) he will receive Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour.
1. Conviction is not regeneration; and knowing all the facts *about* the gospel (and even believing they are true) *does not* mean one is saved. (Acts 16:30-31; 1 Cor. 15:2-4; Rom. 10:9-13; James 2:19)
 2. *Head knowledge* of Jesus Christ *is not* regeneration. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matthew 7:21-23)
- F. *Biblical* repentance is a *change of mind* toward God, and is *absolutely essential* for salvation. "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." (Acts 20:21) *Biblical* repentance is a change of mind concerning different

things (depending on the prior beliefs of the individual) and can include (but is not limited to) such things as:

1. Changing one's mind concerning his lost, hopeless, and sinful condition before God.
2. Changing one's mind concerning how to be saved through *faith alone* in the finished work of Jesus Christ at the cross, i.e. Jesus Christ's shed blood, death, burial, and resurrection.
3. Changing one's mind concerning self-righteousness and his ability to earn salvation.
 - a. *Biblical* repentance must be followed by placing one's complete faith in Jesus Christ.
 - 1) Repentance is *not* a sinner turning from his sins (or his *willingness* to turn from his sins), his attempts at giving up his sins, joining a church, tithing, reforming his life, making a commitment to follow Christ, living right, or any other good works.
- G. Faith means to fully trust and believe in Jesus Christ, not just knowing the facts about the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 1. If a man *Biblically* repents toward God, he will trust Jesus as his personal Saviour.

IV. Sanctification

- A. It is the state of being set apart and dedicated to the service of God.
 1. It begins at the point of regeneration, *but does not happen automatically.*

2. “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.” (Gal. 5:16)
 3. Sanctification is an ongoing process to deliver the new believer from the *power of sin*.
- B. It is a work of the Holy Spirit wherein the Holy Spirit takes up residence in the new believer’s life and seeks to develop, grow, and use him fully in God’s service.
 - C. A believer who surrenders to the Holy Spirit (Rom. 12:1-2) will seek to abstain from sin and evil by constantly yielding to his new sinless nature. “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.” (1 Peter 2:11) “Abstain from all appearance of evil.” (1 Thessalonians. 5:22)
 - D. The Christian lifestyle should be a sanctified lifestyle. God gives the believer new desires and the believer ought to surrender to the leadership of the Holy Spirit and obey the scriptures. “Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.” (Psalm 37:4)
 - E. Sanctification involves constant maturing and growing in the Christian faith. “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.” (2 Peter 3:18)
 - F. God calls all believers to be conformed to the likeness and image of Jesus Christ. “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:29)

V. Glorification

- A. Glorification is the final blessed and eternal state of the redeemed, which shall be realized forever in Heaven, when believers will be eternally delivered from the *presence of sin*.
- B. The Bible teaches degrees of reward in heaven for believers and degrees of punishment in hell for the lost. (See Luke 12:47-48; 19:12-27; Deut. 32:22; Psalm 86:13)
- C. All the regenerated will be saved and go to heaven, but many (if not all) believers shall suffer loss at the Judgment Seat of Christ. (Matt. 12:36; Rom. 14:12)
 - 1. “Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” (1 Corinthians 3:13-15)
 - 2. Rewards and positions during the Millennium and in Heaven for all eternity will be determined by the believer’s service for Christ while on earth. (1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 20:6)
- D. All crowns will be cast at the feet of Jesus, the only One who is worthy. “The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” (Revelation 4:10-11)

Questions

1. How did God pay the ransom to Himself to satisfy the demands of His own holy and righteous nature? _____

2. Explain how you may know you are saved. _____

3. Does receiving Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour actually eliminate sin from our lives and make us sinless?

Why or why not? _____

4. Define the following terms:

Regeneration _____

Sanctification _____

Glorification _____

Assignment

1. Continue memorizing the 27 books of the New Testament and review all Old Testament books.
2. Read the “Proverb of the Day.” (For example, on May 1 read Proverbs 1, on May 2 read Proverbs 2, and continue every day so that you read all 31 chapters of Proverbs every month.)
3. Read Romans chapters 9-16 this week.
4. Continue reading your Bible from front to back.
5. Spend at least 15 minutes each day this week in prayer.
6. Memorize Rev. 20:15—And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.
7. Memorize this question: “Have you come to a place in your life that you know for certain that you have eternal life and that you would go to heaven when you die?”
8. Communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to at least one lost person this week.

Lesson Six

God's Purpose of Grace

I. Election

- A. God's redemptive purpose from eternity.
 - 1. God foreknew man would sin and would need to be saved. (1 Peter 1:19-20)
 - a. God's foreknowledge did not cause man to sin.
 - 2. Sin came from man exercising his freedom of choice, i.e. his own free will. (James 1:13-16)
- B. God calls and wills for each person to be saved, but only those who receive Jesus by faith alone are saved or "elected." "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." (1 Tim. 2:3-4)
- C. Election *is not* God choosing that certain individuals will be saved and some will be lost (Calvinism). "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9) "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men." (Titus 2:11) "And he is the

propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2:2)

1. God’s plan calls for men to exercise their free will concerning God’s offer of salvation.
 - a. God’s election is based on man’s own free will choice to receive or reject Jesus Christ. “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13)
- D. Each person is free to receive or reject Jesus Christ, but is responsible to God for the choice he makes. “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” (Romans 14:12)
- E. Man cannot come to God (receive Jesus Christ as Saviour) anytime he wants to. He must respond when the Holy Spirit convicts him of his need of a Saviour. (Isaiah 55:6)
 1. Man must take advantage of his opportunity to receive Jesus. “For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” (2 Corinthians 6:2)
- F. God’s foreknowledge and man’s free will are both found throughout the Bible and are always *compatible doctrines*. (Acts 15:18; Rom. 4:5; 5:1)
 1. While God’s foreknowledge is perfect, it *is changeable* to reflect man’s free will choices. (1 Sam. 23)
 - a. God never overrules man’s free will, nor man’s freedom of choice, e.g. to 1) trust Christ and get saved (Rom. 4:5) or 2) reject Christ and be damned. (Prov. 16:4)
- G. God has taken the initiative to save man. (Luke 19:10)

1. Without God's initiative, man had (and has) no hope. (Eph. 2:1-12)
 - a. Natural (lost) men do not seek God, but God is actively seeking lost men. "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." (Romans 3:11)
- H. God's plan is that whosoever will believe in Christ shall be saved. (Eph. 1:3-14)
 1. Man is free to decide whether or not he will get saved. (John 1:12; Rev. 22:17)
 - a. God **will not** save man against man's own free will. (Rom. 10:13)
 - b. A pardon is only a pardon if it is received (or accepted) by the one being pardoned.
- I. The Holy Spirit's role is to convict man of his sin and to draw him to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. (John 16:7-9)
 1. The Holy Spirit does not (and will never) force open the door of man's heart.
- J. God graciously saves each one who repents (changes his mind) and trusts Jesus Christ. (John 6:37)
 1. Salvation is by God's grace alone, apart from man's own efforts or merits. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- K. God has chosen the local church (using surrendered believers through programs such as outreach, visitation, evangelism, missions, etc.) to be used in His election plan through the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. Believers are responsible to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone throughout the entire world. “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)
2. Lost people are saved through the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.” (Acts 8:4) “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.” (1 Corinthians 1:21)

II. Eternal Security

- A. Eternal Security is the Bible Doctrine whereby all born-again believers remain eternally saved ***through the power of God***. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:3-5) (John 3:15-16)
- B. Believers are ***incapable*** of holding onto God or salvation. It is God who keeps believers saved. “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 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 10:28-29) (John 3:18, 36; 5:24; 1 John 5:12-13)
- C. A born again believer who lives a fleshly carnal lifestyle will soon forget he has been purged from his sins and will doubt his salvation. (1 Cor. 3; 2 Peter 1:1-9)

1. Good works are the fruit of being saved when a believer surrenders his body to serve the Lord. (Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 2:10; Gal. 5:22; Phil. 2:12)
 2. Believers *who walk in the spirit* are “doers” of the word. “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” (James 1:22) (John 7:17; Gal. 5:16)
- D. Born again believers are sealed and secured forever. “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.” (Ephesians 1:13-14)

III. The Believer and Sin

- A. Upon regeneration, believers are saved from the *penalty of sin*, but must deal with the devil’s temptations to sin in the flesh and the power and presence of sin in this world. (Eph. 6:12-20)
 1. Example: Even Paul struggled with sin *after* he was saved in Acts 9. (See Romans 7)
- B. Christ died some 2000 years ago to pay for all of man’s sins (1 John 2:2), but a sinner must trust (believe on) Jesus Christ to *personally receive the forgiveness* of his sins.
 1. Salvation in Jesus Christ gives the believer forgiveness of *all sins*: past, present, and future.
 - a. When Jesus was crucified on the Cross, all of our sins were *future* at that point in time. “He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is

high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.” (Psalm 103:10-12)

1) *Never ask God to give you what you deserve* (which would be eternity in Hell). Each lost sinner needs to repent, believe, and call upon Jesus Christ for His grace.

C. *All* born again believers’ sins have been forgiven, but this does not grant believers a *license* to sin. “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?” (Rom. 6:1-2) (Read all of Rom. 6)

1. Believers who refuse to surrender their bodies to obey and serve God do not lose their salvation but fall under God’s chastisement. (Heb. 12:5-11; Gal. 6:7-8)
2. All believers sin on occasion due to fleshly weaknesses and sinful choices, but this does not mean sin is acceptable to God.
 - a. God has promised believers a way to escape from temptation and sin. “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13)
 - b. *Believers must learn to hate sin just as God hates sin.* “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.” (Proverbs 8:13)

- D. When believers do sin, we are commanded to immediately confess it in order to restore our *fellowship with God*. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
(1 John 1:9)
1. Confessing sin means to agree with God that we have sinned, and is followed by asking for God’s forgiveness and ability to forsake it by the power of God.
(Prov. 28:13)
 2. A born again believer’s salvation relationship (position) as a saved child of God can never be broken or lost. (Review II. Eternal Security above)
- E. At least the following things occur when *a believer* commits sin:
1. He *does not* lose his salvation, i.e. his position (permanent relationship) with the Lord as a saved child of God is eternally secure. (John 3:16, 18, 36)
 2. He grieves the Holy Spirit of God. “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 4:30)
 3. He brings shame to Jesus Christ and His holy name.
 4. He damages or loses his Christian testimony and opportunities to witness.
 5. He damages or loses his fellowship with the Lord.
 6. He damages or loses his usefulness in serving God.
 7. He loses his joy and peace in Christ.
 8. He suffers *in the flesh* the temporal consequences of his sin. (Gal. 6:7-8; Heb. 12:5-11)

- F. Believers may also sin through *sins of omission*. “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” (James 4:17)
- G. The believer’s works will be tried (tested) at the Judgment Seat of Christ. (1 Cor. 3:11-15)

Questions

1. What is the doctrine of election? _____

2. Why does God give man the freedom to accept or reject Jesus?

3. Can a person receive Jesus anytime he/she wants to? Why or why not? _____

4. Define Eternal Security _____

5. God's forgiveness of sin by receiving Jesus does not give believers a license to sin. Why is this true? _____

Assignment

1. Complete memorization of the 27 books of the New Testament and review all Old Testament books.
2. Read the “Proverb of the Day.” (For example, on May 1 read Proverbs 1, on May 2 read Proverbs 2, and continue every day so that you read all 31 chapters of Proverbs every month.)
3. Read John chapters 1-10 this week.
4. Continue reading your Bible from front to back.
5. Spend at least 15 minutes each day this week in prayer.
6. Memorize Romans 5:8—But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
7. Memorize this question: “Suppose you were standing before God right now and He asked you, ‘Why should I let you into my heaven?’ What do you think you would say?”
8. Communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to at least one lost person this week.

Lesson Seven

The Lord's Day

- I. Sabbath Day
 - A. Refers to the purpose of the day which is to “rest,” i.e. to replenish both body and spirit.
 - B. The Hebrew Sabbath was observed by the Jews on the seventh day to commemorate God’s rest from (completion of) His creative work. (Gen. 2:2-3)
 - C. By the time Jesus Christ was on the earth, the Jewish religious teachers had devised more than fifteen hundred rules of conduct designed to regulate the observance of the Sabbath.
 1. The Sabbath became more of a burden than a blessing or celebration in worship of God.
 - a. Jesus’ position was “And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.” (Mark 2:27-28)
 2. Jesus ignored the man-made religious rules, but always kept the Fourth Commandment as God had

intended it to be observed. “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.” (Exodus 20:8-11)

- a. Hallowed means to keep holy, set apart, consecrated, dedicated, sanctified, revered.
3. In the OT, the penalty was severe for violating the Sabbath. “And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day. And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. And the Lord said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp. And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the Lord commanded Moses.” (Numbers 15:32-36)

II. Lord’s Day

A. Lord’s Day means a day *belonging solely* to the Lord.

1. *All days* belong to the Lord, but the Lord’s Day is to be a holy day each week set apart to rest, worship, and honor Jesus Christ not only as Creator, but also as Redeemer.

B. The *first day* of the week was observed by the early

Christians as the Lord's Day. "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight." (Acts 20:7)

- C. The Lord's Day is to memorialize and celebrate
 - 1) the completion of God's redemptive work through Jesus Christ's finished work at the cross and 2) His glorious resurrection.
- D. Jesus taught three things are acceptable to be done on the Lord's Day: deeds of 1) necessity, 2) mercy, and 3) worship. (Matthew 12:1-13 and Luke 14:5)
 - 1. On the Lord's Day, believers should rest from all unnecessary secular labors.
 - a. Believers are able to differentiate themselves from the world by keeping the Lord's Day as a holy day devoted to worship and rest.

Water Baptism and The Lord's Supper

- I. Ordinance vs. Sacrament
 - A. Ordinance means "decree" or "command." The NT church had two (and only two) ordinances, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, which were taught and commanded by Jesus.
 - 1. Baptism—"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." (Matthew 28:19)
 - 2. Lord's Supper—"This do in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19b)
 - B. Sacrament means a necessary work of man *in order to receive salvation*.

1. In the NT, the Bible teaches the ordinances of 1) Baptism (by immersion) and 2) the Lord's Supper, but in the scriptures *neither one is essential* to salvation.
 - a. Both are to be observed within the local church in obedience to God and the scriptures, *not* because they are required for salvation.
- C. The Bible teaches both ordinances are expressions of obedience, symbolic, and give testimony of the change in the new believer's spiritual life. *The ordinances are not sacramental.* The Bible teaches salvation by faith in Jesus alone, *not* based on any good works that man does. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- D. Both Baptism and the Lord's Supper 1) *look back* to what Jesus accomplished for the believer's salvation and also 2) *look forward* to his glorious return.

II. Water Baptism

- A. Water baptism means to dip, plunge, submerge, or immerse.
 1. Water baptism is for believers, i.e. only those who have *already* received Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour through personal faith in Him. (Acts 8:36-39; 18:8)
 - a. After salvation, water baptism by immersion *should be the new believer's first act of faith and obedience.* "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and

said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.” (Acts 8:35-38)

- b. There is no saving power or effect in the observance of water baptism.
 - 1) The thief that was crucified with Jesus Christ was saved *after* the New Testament was instituted (Hebrews 9:16-17), and was never water baptized, *proving* that water baptism is not essential to the plan of salvation today. Notice that Jesus Christ died *before* the thief died. (John 19:31-33) “And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:42-43)
- B. Water baptism *symbolizes* the new believer’s *spiritual circumcision and spiritual baptism* (Col. 2:11-12) and is an *outward* (public) testimony of the *inner* change in one’s life. “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.” (Acts 2:41)
 1. **NOTICE:** Spirit baptism and water baptism *are different*. (See Lesson 8)
- C. Water baptism *symbolizes* and identifies the believer with Jesus Christ’s redeeming work at the cross of Calvary, i.e. Jesus Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection. (1 Cor. 15:1-4)
- D. Water baptism also gives a public testimony to the new believer’s belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ as well as his belief in and expectation of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

- E. Because it is a church ordinance in response to the commandment of Jesus, water baptism is normally a prerequisite to the privileges of local church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

III. Lord's Supper

- A. It is for all believers who have been water baptized according to the scriptures, whether or not they are members of the local church where the Lord's Supper is being administered.
- B. The elements are unleavened bread and "the fruit of the vine."
 - 1. Unleavened bread is free of fermentation, symbolizing Jesus' pure body and sinless life.
 - 2. The "fruit of the vine" is to be fresh pure grape juice, untainted by fermentation, symbolizing the purity of Jesus' precious blood, i.e. not intoxicating wine or liquor.
 - a. The word "wine" is not used in the Bible in connection with the Lord's Supper.
- C. The scriptures teach the elements are not sacramental, but rather symbolize the crucified body and shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ at the Cross of Calvary.
 - 1. There is no saving effect in partaking of them.
- D. Both elements symbolize what Jesus accomplished for man's salvation. "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto

you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." (Matthew 26:26-29)

- E. Both bread and cup should be taken in remembrance of the Lord Jesus Christ. "After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me." (1 Corinthians 11:25)
- F. Jesus did not say when or how often believers should observe the Lord's Supper. "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." (1 Corinthians 11:26)
 - 1. The Lord's Supper is to be observed on a continuing basis throughout the believer's life.
 - a. The local church should establish the frequency of observance.
- G. The Lord's Supper is a time for self-examination wherein one should not partake in an unworthy manner. "For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep." (1 Corinthians 11:29-30)

Questions

1. What is to be the purpose of the Lord's Day in the life of a Christian? _____

2. What three things did Jesus teach were acceptable to be done on the Lord's Day? _____

3. Explain the difference in the meaning of the terms "ordinance" and "sacrament." _____

4. Why does the Bible teach that the ordinances are symbols, not sacraments? _____

5. What do water baptism and the Lord's supper symbolize and give testimony to? _____

Assignment

1. Review memorization of all 66 books of the Bible.
2. Read the “Proverb of the Day.” (For example, on May 1 read Proverbs 1, on May 2 read Proverbs 2, and continue every day so that you read all 31 chapters of Proverbs every month.)
3. Read John chapters 11-21 this week.
4. Continue reading your Bible from front to back.
5. Spend at least 15 minutes each day this week in prayer.
6. Memorize 2 Cor. 5:21—For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.
7. Memorize this question: “Have you come to a place in your life that you know for certain that you have eternal life and that you would go to heaven when you die?”
8. Communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to at least one lost person this week.

Lesson Eight

Rightly Dividing

- I. God's commandment to *study* and *rightly divide* the Bible. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Tim. 2:15)
 - A. Every verse in the Bible has *three applications*: 1) Historical 2) Doctrinal (which is often Prophetic) 3) Practical (referred to by Bible students as "the Spiritual Application").
 - B. **Basic OT Divisions**: Creation of the world, God's earliest dealings with mankind, God's selection of the nation of Israel (the Jews) starting with Abraham, and the history of the nation of Israel until the birth of Jesus Christ.
 - C. **Basic NT Divisions**: The earthly ministry of Jesus Christ primarily to the Jews, His crucifixion, the Church Age, the Tribulation, the Millennium, and Eternity Future.
 1. New Testament divisions are to be understood by three groups of people: Jews, Gentiles, and the Church. (1 Cor. 10:32; Rom. 3:22, 10:12; Eph. 3:3-9, 4:4-5, 5:32)

D. Below are listed *seven divisions (or dispensations)* in the scriptures where God relates to, deals with, speaks to, and dispenses to mankind in different ways. History and Bible prophesy show all seven dispensations end in mankind's failure and apostasy.

1. Innocence

God gave Adam one commandment to keep. (Gen. 2:17)

2. Conscience

This dispensation ends with the flood of Noah's day.

3. Law

Unofficial (Gen. 9)

Official (Ex. 20) until John the Baptist (Luke 16:16)

4. Jesus Christ Ministering on Earth

The Law is still in effect. This dispensation ends at the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

5. Church Age

Salvation is by grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ.

This dispensation ends at the Rapture of the Church.

6. Tribulation

This 7-year period starts shortly after the Rapture of the Church.

7. Millennium

The 1000-year "Kingdom of Heaven" period where Jesus Christ reigns on the earth.

★ Eternity Future

A "new beginning" where no sin is possible, time shall be no more, and is not a part of the seven dispensations that end in mankind's failure and apostasy.

II. Transitional Book Divisions

- A. The book of Matthew is a transitional book, which transitions from the Old Testament to the New Testament, the transition point being the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary in Matt. 27. (Heb. 9:14-17)
- B. The book of Acts is a transitional book where the emphasis is transferred from the history of Israel to the history of the Church. God focuses on the Jews in the early part of the book through the preaching of Peter, and then God focuses on the Gentiles in the latter part of the book through the preaching of Paul. **NOTE:** Paul's epistles come next in the Bible starting with Romans through Philemon. Paul, the "14th Apostle," most likely also wrote Hebrews. (Acts 14:14)
- C. The book of Hebrews is a transitional book from the Church Age to the Tribulation, and is doctrinally aimed at the Jews. The book of James is also written doctrinally to the Jews (notice James 1:1 "...to the twelve tribes..." —those are Jews!). 1 and 2 Peter through Jude are General Epistles applying to Jews, Gentiles, and the Church, while the book of Revelation is primarily dealing with the Jews in the Tribulation.

III. Divisions Relating to Jesus' Ministry on Earth

- A. There is no such thing as a "council" today in the Church Age that anybody faces for saying to his brother "Raca." (Matt. 5:22)
- B. Contrast calling somebody a "fool" under the Law (Matt. 5:22; Matt. 23:17, 19; Luke 12:20; Luke 24:25) with Paul calling somebody a "fool" in the Church Age (1 Cor. 15:36).
- C. No one escapes hell today in the Church Age by plucking out your right eye or cutting off your right hand. (Matt. 5:29-30)

- D. No Christian today gives up everything he owns to whoever asks for it. (Matt. 5:42)
- E. Jesus' primary ministry while he was on the earth was to the Jews. (Matt. 10:1-6)
- F. Contrast physical birth versus spiritual birth. (John 3:3-8)
 - 1. The context *IS NOT* water baptism! The word "*born*" is used *eight times* in these verses.
- G. Believers today who rightly divide the Bible are *not* praying "...Thy kingdom come..." (Matt. 6:10) apart from praying for the return of Jesus Christ first to usher in that Kingdom, i.e. the Kingdom of Heaven. (1 Thess. 1:10; 1 Tim. 6:14-15; 2 Tim. 4:8; Titus 2:13)
- H. The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) has many practical applications for believers to learn from today and teaches much about living the Christian life. Doctrinally, however, the Sermon on the Mount is the *Constitution for the Millennium*, and *is not* where to find the Plan of Salvation during the present Church Age.

IV. Present Church Age

- A. Today, all Gentiles and Christians need to pay special attention to Paul's Epistles (Romans through Philemon), since Paul is the apostle to the Gentiles. (Rom. 11:13)
- B. Faith alone in Jesus Christ as the sole means of salvation for the Church Age was revealed to Paul. (Gal. 3:22-26)
- C. Contrast the rich young ruler (Matt. 19:16-22) who was talking with Jesus during the 4th dispensation (Jesus' ministry on the earth, prior to Calvary) with Gentile salvation by faith alone during the Church Age (Acts 13:39, 15:9-11; 16:30-31, Rom. 3:20, 4:5, 5:1, 10:13; Gal. 2:16, 3:24; Col. 2:11-13, Eph. 2:8-9, Titus 3:5)

D. The seven different baptisms in the Bible must be rightly divided according to their context.

1. Verses showing *Spirit Baptism*

a. Matt. 3:11; Acts 1:5; Rom. 6:1-4; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:26-28; Eph. 4:4-5; Col. 2:11-12

2. Verses showing *Water (or other) Baptisms*

a. Baptism unto Moses (under the cloud and through the Red Sea) (1 Cor. 10:1-2)

b. John's water baptism to manifest Christ *to Israel* (Matt. 3:1-6; John 1:31-34; Acts 13:24)

c. Jesus Christ's baptism of physical suffering and crucifixion at Calvary (Matt. 20:22-23)

d. Israel's reconciliatory water baptism preached by Peter (Acts 2:38)

e. Water baptism of already saved Gentile believers (Acts 8:35-39; 18:8)

f. Baptism of the lost in fire (Matt. 3:11b-12)

V. Additional examples of Rightly Dividing

A. *God's righteousness* from *man's righteousness* (Rom. 10:3-4)

B. *Position* (Gal. 3:26) from *Practice* (Gal. 5:16)

C. *Relationship* (John 1:12) from *Fellowship* (1 John 1:9)

D. Contrast OT and NT relationships with God. (Ezek. 18:21-24; Ezek. 33:11-19; John 3:36; 8:24)

1. Believers today are sealed and cannot lose their salvation. (Eph. 1:12-13; 4:29-30)

2. Carnal believers walk after the flesh, but are still saved. (1 Cor. 3:1-3; 11-15)
3. Carnal believers can easily forget they have been purged from all their sins. (2 Peter 1:4-9)
4. Believers are eternally secure in the love of God. (Rom. 10:9-19; John 1:12; Rom. 8:35-39)

VI. Bible Study Tips

A. **Compare and contrast** verses with the same or similar words and phrases. (1 Cor. 2:12-13)

1. The “**spiritual things**” we have been given by God are **the words of God** in the King James Bible (KJB).

B. The KJB defines all of its own terms. Some examples:

1. Define: “propitiation” which is used 3 times in the KJB (Rom. 3:21-26; 1 John 2:2, 4:10)
2. Meanings and interpretation of words in the KJB are found by comparing and contrasting.
 - a. Define “froward” (Prov. 4:24 cf. Prov. 6:12-14)
 - b. Define “snared” (Prov. 6:2)
 - c. Define “slumber” (Prov. 6:4)
 - d. Contrast “scorner” and “hate” (Prov. 9:8)
 - e. Compare “wicked” and “false” (Prov. 17:4)
 - f. Define “begetteth” and “sorrow” (Prov. 17:21)
 - g. Define “perish” (Prov. 19:9 cf. Prov. 19:5)
 - h. Define “churlish” (1 Sam. 25:3 cf. Isaiah 32:5-7)
 - i. Contrast “single” as the opposite of “evil” (Matt. 6:22-23)

- C. The KJB is self-interpreting, e.g. Ex. 20:13 says “Thou shalt not kill.” Christ interprets this verse in Matt. 19:18 as “...Thou shalt do no murder...” Therefore, the proper scriptural interpretation is that killing someone 1) in self-defense or 2) in time of war is not condemned by the scriptures, since in these cases killing is not murder ***as defined by the Bible.***

- D. Every verse in the Bible can have practical application to individual believers today if there is an established New Testament principle given to the Church. For example, in Psalms 5:1-3, David is praying to God and since prayer is a New Testament command (Eph. 1:16; 1 Thess. 5:17) we ought also to pray as he did. However, in Psalm 109, David is praying for vengeance against his enemies; contrast this with the Church Age command to pray for and bless our enemies. (Rom. 12:14-21)

Questions

1. Memorize and write down 2 Tim. 2:15 without looking at your Bible. _____

2. Name the three applications for every verse in the Bible.

3. Look up 1 Cor. 10:32 and identify the three different groups of people the NT is addressed to. _____

4. List the three “transitional books” in the Bible and the transition (from/to) found in each one. _____

5. Where is the “Sermon on the Mount” located in the Bible and what is its *Doctrinal* application? _____

6. Jesus’ primary ministry while he was on the earth was to whom? _____

7. What books of the Bible did Paul write and why do believers today need to pay close attention to them? _____

8. Explain the difference between “Position” and “Practice” in the believer’s relationship to God. _____

9. What is the scriptural method for studying your Bible and where in the Bible is this instruction given? _____

Assignment

1. Review memorization of all 66 books of the Bible.
2. Read the “Proverb of the Day.” (For example, on May 1 read Proverbs 1, on May 2 read Proverbs 2, and continue every day so that you read all 31 chapters of Proverbs every month.)
3. Continue reading your Bible from front to back.
4. Spend at least 15 minutes each day this week in prayer.
5. Memorize Ephesians 2:8-9—For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.
6. Memorize this question: “Suppose you were standing before God right now and He asked you, ‘Why should I let you into my heaven?’ What do you think you would say?”
7. Communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to at least one lost person this week.

Lesson Nine

Evangelism and Missions

- I. Responsibility and Obligation
 - A. Evangelism and missions is proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire world through personal witnessing, praying, and giving financially to support missions.
 - B. Believers (and no one else) are commissioned to preach the gospel; if they do not proclaim Jesus to the world, it will not get done. It is every believer's privilege, responsibility, and obligation. God's redemptive purpose in Jesus Christ is to be realized and centered in the local church.
 - C. Five times in the Bible believers are given the commission to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world. (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-49; John 20:21-23; Acts 1:8)
 - D. Jesus commanded believers to be witnesses wherever they are. Not for a moment did Jesus consider the idea that believers would *not go* and witness. Jesus commanded believers to win souls, to baptize them, and to teach them to obey all of Jesus' commandments. "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)

1. “Go” literally means *wherever you go* and *as you go* through this life. It is a commandment to all believers everywhere to witness as a primary responsibility and obligation if we are to participate in God’s plan for His local church here on earth.

II. The Church’s Lifeblood

A. Evangelism and missions are the lifeblood of the Church. Believers are the *tools* God uses.

1. Souls worldwide depend upon believers doing the job. Believers *owe a debt to the lost* to be witnesses of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. “I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:14-16)
2. Times of greatest spiritual power in the Church have always been when priority is placed on evangelism and missions.
3. The success of the Church depends on each believer’s zeal and dedication in proclaiming the true gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - a. A well-known Baptist once said that the church that is not missionary in spirit and practice does not deserve the ground upon which its building stands. “The earth is the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.” (Psalm 24:1)

B. Jesus never commanded believers to “win the world to Christ,” but rather to faithfully preach the true Gospel of

Jesus Christ to the entire world. “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” (James 1:22) (Mark 16:15)

1. Results are always in God’s hands and in the responses of lost people to whom we witness.

The Christian and the Social Order

I. Responsibility

- A. The establishing of righteousness in the world, if it is to occur, *must begin* with the regeneration (salvation) of individual sinners.
 1. The hearts in *individuals* must first be changed before *societal* changes can occur.
 - a. It does no good to have people with full bellies and health care (their physical needs met) who remain lost in their sin and headed for an eternity in Hell. “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10)
 2. Salvation of lost souls must be the believer’s first priority. God often uses meeting physical needs for spiritual purposes, but meeting physical needs should never be an end in and of itself.
- B. The Bible teaches that every believer is under obligation to make the will of Jesus Christ supreme in his own life. “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33)
 1. This includes the believer’s business dealings, stewardship, obeying the laws of the civil authorities, etc. using Biblical principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love.

- a. To compromise the words of the KJB *is the same as* surrendering to the enemy.
 - b. Believers must take an unpopular stand against the evil in this world. “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.” (1 Corinthians 16:13) “Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.” (2 Thessalonians 2:15)
 - c. Believers should expect the world to hate them. “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.” (John 15:18-19)
- C. Believers should oppose every form of greed, selfishness, and vice. “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.” (Colossians 3:1-2)
1. Believers are to function in the world but are not to live according to the world’s system. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16) (2 Peter 1:4)
 2. To live carnally makes the believer an enemy of God. “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” (Romans 8:7)
 3. Believers are not to be friends with the world or the world’s system. “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with

God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” (James 4:4)

- D. Believers should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the aged, the helpless, the unborn, and the sick, but *only as a means* to gain the opportunity to preach the gospel to the lost. “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” (James 1:27)
- E. Believers are to be good citizens of both the kingdom of God and also the nation in which they live. “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s.” (Matthew 22:21b) (Romans 13:1-7)
- F. Believers are to obey the laws of the land as long as they are not in conflict with God’s words in the KJB. “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.” (1 Peter 2:13-15)
- G. Believers should live a lifestyle of bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

Peace and War

I. Responsibility

- A. It is the duty of the believer to seek peace with all men, using principles of righteousness. “Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.” (Romans 12:17-18)
 - 1. The only effective remedy for war is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - a. True peace only comes through salvation in Jesus Christ. “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7)
 - 1) Jesus Christ is the *only answer* to man’s deepest needs, which are spiritual.
- B. Believers are not to take revenge or be vengeful. “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.” (Romans 12:19)
- C. Believers are to respond to evil by doing good. “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21)
 - 1. Believers should do everything reasonable to prevent strife, but without compromising the words of God in the scriptures.
- D. God judges sin *on earth* by the use of wars and other disasters and calamities. God will judge the unforgiven sins of lost sinners *in eternity* by casting them into the lake of fire. “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Rev. 20:15)

1. The scriptures teach the right of defending one's person, family, home, and nation. "Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one." (Luke 22:36) (1 Timothy 5:8)

- E. A person cannot be at peace with themselves or others until they are first at peace with God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" (Rom. 5:1)

Questions

1. Explain the role of the believer and the Church in evangelism and missions. _____

2. Who is responsible for *the results* of the believer faithfully proclaiming the gospel? _____

3. What is the first step toward righteousness in the world?

4. Explain “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.” _____

5. Are Christians obligated to obey *every law* of the land? Why or why not? _____

6. What (Who) is the ultimate solution to every problem?

7. How are believers to respond to evil? _____

8. What does the Bible say about taking revenge? _____

9. Is it possible to be at peace with yourself and with others without first having peace with God through faith in Jesus Christ? _____

Assignment

1. Review memorization of all 66 books of the Bible.
2. Read the “Proverb of the Day.” (For example, on May 1 read Proverbs 1, on May 2 read Proverbs 2, and continue every day so that you read all 31 chapters of Proverbs every month.)
3. Continue reading your Bible from front to back.
4. Spend at least 15 minutes each day this week in prayer.
5. Memorize Romans 10:9-10—That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
6. Memorize this question: “Have you come to a place in your life that you know for certain that you have eternal life and that you would go to heaven when you die?”
7. Communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to at least one lost person this week.

Lesson Ten

Stewardship

I. Responsibility

- A. *All things we have belong to God.* God is the source of all blessings, including all spiritual and material possessions. Men are merely stewards of God's "stuff" for a short time. "For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?" (1 Corinthians 4:7) "For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof." (1 Corinthians 10:26) "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (James 1:17)
1. A steward is one who manages the affairs of another. Stewards do not own anything.
- B. A Christian steward is responsible for things which belong to God in that they should be used for God's glory. "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." (1 Peter 4:10)
- C. Faithful stewardship should be a characteristic of all believers.

1. Christians are called to be good stewards and are accountable for all of life's choices and decisions. "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." (1 Cor. 4:2)
- D. All believers are debtors to all men concerning the stewardship of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul said, "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also." (Romans 1:14-15)
1. All believers are debtors to the lost because of the forgiveness and salvation we first received from Jesus Christ. Christians *owe* the entire world the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - a. Christians are to proclaim the gospel 1) through personal witnessing, and 2) by giving and praying for missionaries so the gospel may be preached around the world.
 2. Believers should cheerfully give material possessions to enable others to preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in places where they cannot go.

II. Stewardship of Possessions

- A. Believers should store up treasures in heaven, not on earth. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." (Matthew 6:19-20)
1. The believer's priority should be on spiritual things, not on temporary earthly or material things. "Finally,

brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” (Philippians 4:8) “While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:18)

- B. Your *heart and treasure* are always in the exact same place. “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:21)
 - 1. You may evaluate your own heart by 1) taking notice of what you most enjoy talking about and 2) looking at where you spend your time, talents, gifts, and money.
- C. Man cannot serve both God and money. “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” (Matthew 6:24)
 - 1. The reason you cannot serve both God and money is *because both demand 100% loyalty*.
- D. Believers should not be anxious, worry, or fret about material things. “Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his

righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:25-27, 33)

1. Worrying is sinful because it insults God who has promised to provide for the believer’s needs. Worry demonstrates a lack of faith and trust in God. (Psalm 37:7; Prov. 3:5-6; Phil. 4:6; Luke 12:22-31)
- E. The *love* of money is the root of all evil. “For the *love* of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” (1 Timothy 6:10)
 1. Money is not evil in and of itself; proper stewardship of money can be used to glorify God.

III. The Measure of Stewardship

- A. Tithes and offerings are to be a part of the believer’s stewardship. “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house” (Malachi 3:10a)
 1. Tithe means “one tenth,” NT believers should give out of love even above the tithe.
- B. God tells us to prove (test) Him in our giving. “And prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” (Malachi 3:10b)
 1. God honors faithful tithing and giving.
 - a. The motivation for giving should be obedience and love for God, not selfishness.
- C. Believers should give regularly and in proportion to how they have been prospered. “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath

prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”
(1 Corinthians 16:2)

1. Commitments, promises, and vows to God *must always* be fulfilled. “When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.” (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5)
- D. Believers are to give sacrificially, voluntarily, cheerfully, and generously to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the world. “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)
1. Since God owns everything, He is fully capable of taking back His provisions and resources anytime He desires. (Proverbs 23:5)
 - a. God is giving the believer the opportunity to demonstrate faith in God.
- E. There are blessings which come as a *by-product* to believers who give in the Biblical manner. “I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35) “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.” (Luke 6:38)

1. Believers are not to give selfishly just so they can receive, but rather one should give because of having already received from God.
 - a. There is no place for selfishness in giving.
- F. ***Not giving robs God.*** “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the Lord of hosts.” (Malachi 3:8-12)
1. God rebukes the devil and richly blesses believers who give bountifully and sacrificially.

Prayer

- I. What is Prayer?
 - A. Prayer is asking God for something in accordance with His will.
 1. A=Ask, S=Seek, K=Knock (Matt. 7:7; Luke 11:9)
 2. Prayer must be accomplished with “importunity,” which means ***unashamed persistence***. (Luke 11:5-8; 18:2-7)
 - B. Along with the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (i.e. the KJB), ***prayer*** is another essential weapon for the believer. (Eph. 6:17-20; 2 Cor. 10:4)

1. Little prayer equals little spiritual power; much prayer equals much spiritual power. “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” (James 5:16b)

C. Prayer secures the intercession of both the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ so the believer’s prayers get conformed to the will of God. (Rom. 8:26-28, 34)

1. Believers ought always to pray as Jesus did, for God’s perfect will to be done. (Luke 22:42)

II. Necessity of Prayer

A. Believers are commanded to always pray. (Luke 18:1; John 16:24; Eph. 6:18; 1 Thes. 5:17; Col. 1:3)

B. Believers are to pray with thankfulness. (Ps. 105:1; Eph. 1:16, 5:20; Phil. 4:6; Col. 3:15, 4:2; 1 Thes. 1:2, 5:18)

C. Lack of prayer hinders the power of God’s word and the work of the Holy Spirit. (2 Thes. 3:1)

D. Believers need to seek the counsel of the Lord through prayer *before* attempting to do anything. (1 Chronicles 16:10-11; Joshua 9:3-14; Psalm 34:10; Prov. 19:21)

III. A Case Study: Solomon’s Prayer for Wisdom (1 Kings 3:5-15; 2 Chron 1:7-13)

A. Solomon’s prayer for wisdom is a pattern to believers for how to approach God in prayer. To have a successful prayer life, believers must learn and apply the following five principles taught by Solomon’s prayer.

1. Every prayer *must* first acknowledge God’s great mercy and kindness. (1 Kings 3:6; 1 Chron. 29:13; Psalm 44:8; Psalm 147:1)

2. Believers **must** see themselves as servants of the Lord. (1 Kings 3:7-9; Matt. 23:11)
 3. Believers **must** be humble and see themselves as small and unqualified for the task at hand, and remain fully dependent on the Lord for His wisdom and power. (1 Kings 3:7; John 15:5)
 4. Believers **must** recognize the huge responsibility God has given them, which is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person. (1 Kings 3:8; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; Luke 24:47)
 5. Believers **must** always pray for what they **already know God would want**, i.e. pray unselfishly for God's perfect will in every situation. (1 Kings 3:9; Matt. 26:42)
- B. Because Solomon approached God with humility and unselfishness in his prayer, God richly rewarded Solomon and gave him much more than he asked for. (1 Kings 3:10-14; 4:29-34; 10:23-24; 2 Chron. 1:11-12)
- C. If believers are to receive the same results to prayer that Solomon received, all five of the above principles of prayer must be consistently applied. (Ps. 37:4-5; Matt. 6:33; Eph. 3:20)

IV. Hindrances to Prayer

- A. The Bible shows that prayer is hindered in the following ways.
1. Lack of faith/belief. (Matt. 9:2; Matt. 21:22; Mark 11:22-24; Heb. 11:6; James 1:6-7)
 2. Sin and iniquity. (Ps. 66:18; Prov. 15:29; Isa. 59:1-2)
 3. Failure to A-S-K. (James 4:2; Luke 11:9-10)

4. Selfish requests. (James 4:3)
5. Failure to keep God's commandments and live pleasing to God. (1 John 3:22)
6. Improper fellowship between the husband and wife. (1 Peter 3:7)
7. Not asking according to God's will. (1 John 5:14-15)
8. Pride. (Job 35:12)
9. Unwillingness to help the poor. (Prov. 21:13)
10. Bloody hands. (Isa. 1:15; Ezek. 3:16-18; Ezek. 33:6)
11. Ill (bad or evil) behavior. (Micah 3:4)
12. Unwillingness to forgive. (Mark 11:25-26)

Questions

1. The fundamental principle in understanding proper Christian stewardship is that all possessions, both spiritual and material belong to _____.
2. Why is stewardship important? _____

3. Why does the Bible say believers are debtors to all men concerning the stewardship of the Gospel? _____

4. Why is it wrong for the believers to put money or material possessions as the main priority in his life? _____

5. Why can't the believer serve God and serve mammon (money) at the same time? _____

6. What is meant by the fact that your heart and your treasure are always in the same place? _____

7. Why shouldn't the believer worry about material things?

8. Why is the *love* of money the root of all evil? _____

9. Why does God tell us to test him in our giving? _____

10. What attitude should the Christian have toward giving?

11. Who do we rob when we are disobedient in Biblical giving?
_____ (and *ourselves* of blessings)

12. What is prayer? _____

13. Why is continual prayer necessary for believers? _____

14. Re-read 1 Kings 3:5-15, 2 Chron 1:7-13, and all references given which relate to Solomon's prayer for wisdom, then list the five principles of prayer that must be applied to all believers' prayers. _____

15. Look up and review all references given that relate to the hindrances to prayer.

Assignment

1. Review memorization of all 66 books of the Bible.
2. Read the “Proverb of the Day.” (For example, on May 1 read Proverbs 1, on May 2 read Proverbs 2, and continue every day so that you read all 31 chapters of Proverbs every month.)
3. Continue reading your Bible from front to back.
4. Spend at least 15 minutes each day this week in prayer.
5. Memorize Romans 10:13—For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
6. Memorize this question: “Suppose you were standing before God right now and He asked you, ‘Why should I let you into my heaven?’ What do you think you would say?”
7. Communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to at least one lost person this week.