

Basic Biblical Discipleship

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

Should the following course of discipleship look familiar in the arrangement of its topics and substance, it is because much of its content has been adapted from other widely-distributed courses of discipleship produced by various churches and individuals. We are much indebted to whoever may be responsible for the “original” work on the format of this study. There is nothing “deep” or “spectacular” about the material, but there is something very powerful about the pure words of God and this power is often manifested in a life-changing way when believers gather around its truths and study its precepts with the help and direction of the Holy Spirit. This series of studies should provide the learner with a good introduction to that which we as believers have been commanded to observe. Ideally, the lessons will be taught by one believer to another (or a small group of others). If the scripture references are viewed and read the outline will pretty well “teach itself.” Each lesson is followed by some simple questions covering the principles addressed in the lesson. Another very important part of these lessons is the memory work at the close of each study. Memorizing the assigned scriptures will be essential to getting the most out of this discipleship course. It should be remembered that discipleship is not a series of lessons, but a commitment to follow the Lord Jesus Christ and a process of growth as He leads us in the Christian life. The completion of this material will not necessarily make anyone a disciple of Jesus Christ; but a disciple is a learner and contained in the scriptures provided herein are some of the truths that are an essential part of walking with the Lord. We hope that it will be approached prayerfully and that the Lord might use it to be a blessing as you *grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ* (2 Pet 3:18).

Ridge Road Baptist Church
3600 Ridge Road
Brewton, AL 36426
www.ridgeroadbaptist.org

Lesson One: Salvation

What does it mean to “get saved” and how does salvation change my relationship to God?

The most important decision that anyone ever makes is the decision to personally receive Jesus Christ because this decision changes one’s life for eternity. This lesson is designed to explain what is meant by “getting saved” and how that affects a person’s relationship to God.

I. God’s Simple Plan of Salvation

A. Before a person can get saved he must know that he’s a sinner.

Jesus said, *I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.* Luke 5:32

See Romans 3:10, 23, Galatians 3:22

Sin is what we must be saved *from* in order to spend eternity in heaven with God.

Jesus said, *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.* Luke 19:10

B. The consequence of man’s sin is death.

For the wages of sin is death... Romans 6:23

Death means “separation”.

- Adam’s sin has brought about physical death for all men (see Romans 5:12).
- Our sin has brought about spiritual separation from God (see Ephesians 2:1).
- Some day our sin will separate us from God forever in a lake of fire (see Revelation 20:14-15, 21:8).

C. We are helpless to save ourselves.

If we could simply be good enough to save ourselves, then Jesus would not have needed to die. See Galatians 2:21, 3:10, James 2:10, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5, Romans 4:4-8

D. Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again from the dead.

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Jesus Christ, God’s sinless Son, took our place of death and condemnation so that we might be saved. See 1 Peter 3:18, Romans 5:8, 2 Corinthians 5:21.

E. God expects us to repent and receive Jesus Christ.

... repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 20:21

Repentance means to change our mind and agree with God about your sin and how to be saved. See Luke 13:3, 2 Peter 3:9, and 2 Corinthians 7:10.

We do this by placing our faith and trust in Jesus Christ **alone** to save us. This is what it means to receive 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

Salvation is by faith **alone** through Christ **alone**. See Romans 3:28, 5:1, Galatians 2:16, 3:24. (Note: “Justified” means to be declared righteous.)

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. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Romans 10:9-13

II. Salvation Makes You a Part of God’s Family

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

A. Salvation is a new birth in to God’s family.

Your sin made you a part of the wrong family. See John 8:44, Ephesians 2:1-3.

But when you received Jesus Christ you were born again. See John 1:12-13, 3:3-8.

B. Now God is your Father.

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26

This relationship is pictured by the earthly relationship between a father and his child.

1. A good father loves and cares for his child. See 1 Peter 5:7.
2. A good father protects his child. See Matthew 18:6.
3. A good father provides for his child. See Philippians 4:19.
4. A good father guides and teaches his child. See John 14:26.
5. A good father helps his child. See Psalm 46:1.
6. A good father encourages his child. See Colossians 3:21.
7. A good father disciplines his child. See Hebrews 12:5-11.
8. A good father feeds his child. See Matthew 4:4.
9. A good father has a plan for his child. See Romans 8:28-29.

Our Heavenly Father never makes a mistake in dealing with us as his child. See Matthew 7:11.

C. Now you have eternal life.

Our first birth gave us temporal, physical life. Our new birth gave us eternal, spiritual life.

Eternal life is not just a future promise, it is a present possession.
See John 3:36, 5:24, 6:47, Romans 6:23, and 1 John 5:12.

D. Now you have the Holy Spirit living inside of you.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
Romans 8:16

The Holy Spirit living inside of us gives us the capacity to be like Jesus Christ.
We will have a future lesson on the Holy Spirit.

III. Basic Questions

A. Now that I'm saved will I still sin?

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 1 John 2:1

Because God has made us free from sin (Romans 6:22), we do not have to sin. However, we still have a sinful nature, or an “old man”, that can lead us in to sin.
See Ephesians 4:22-24 and Romans 7:25.

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

Sin does not change your *relationship* with your heavenly Father (He's still your spiritual father by birth). But sin will affect your *fellowship* with your heavenly Father (your ability to enjoy His communion). See First John 1.

C. What should I do when I sin?

Confess your sin to God. See 1 John 1:6-10, Proverbs 28:13.
Forsake it and ask God to give you a hatred for it. See 2 Corinthians 10:3-6, Psalm 119:104.

Lesson One Questions

1. What is it that we must be saved from in order to spend eternity with God in heaven?
2. What is the meaning of death in the scriptures? List three types of death in the Bible.
3. The gospel is defined in First Corinthians 15:3-4; list the three parts of the gospel below.
4. What does it mean to repent?
5. How does a sinner receive Jesus Christ?
6. When does a person receive eternal life?
7. What should you do when you sin after you have been saved?

Memory Verses for Lesson One

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

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

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

Lesson Two: Eternal Security

Can someone who is truly saved ever be lost again?

One issue that every believer must settle in their walk with God is whether or not they can lose their salvation. This is an important subject, because we will not be able to be effective in serving the Lord and bringing Him glory if we don't *know* that we're saved. Assurance of our salvation is essential in enjoying our fellowship with God. This lesson is designed to show you how your relationship with God has been finally, eternally, and unchangeably affected by God's salvation and how God has promised to keep us saved.

I. You Are Eternally Secure in Jesus Christ

A. The life God gives is *eternal* life.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. John 6:47

If you were to die and go to hell after believing on Christ, then the life you received could not have been eternal. See John 3:16, 36, and Romans 6:23.

B. You can never change who your birth father is.

Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:13

God has likened our salvation to a physical birth. You can't change your spiritual birth Father any more than you can change your physical birth father. See John 3:3-7.

Not only that, but the Bible also tells us that we've been adopted. See Romans 8:15 & Galatians 4:5-7. The laws of adoption are very strong. An adopted child can *never* be abandoned or disinherited.

C. Salvation was not based on *our* works, but upon 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

If you could not do anything to earn salvation, how could you do something to lose it? We can neither do anything to add to or take away from Christ's sacrifice. See John 19:30 and Galatians 3:1-3.

D. Jesus Christ has promised us security.

The Lord Jesus Christ has promised never to leave us.

... for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. Hebrews 13:5

The Lord Jesus Christ has promised us that he will never cast us out.

... him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. John 6:37

The Lord Jesus Christ said that no one could pluck us from His hand.

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

Notice in this passage, that:

1. Eternal life is a gift.
2. "Shall" is absolute.
3. "Never" is absolute.
4. We're in the hand of Christ.
5. We're in the hand of the Father.
6. No one is greater than God!

E. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

This verse makes it clear that we cannot lose our salvation.

1. Death – You can't lose it when you die.
2. Life – You can't lose it while you're alive.
3. Angels – Angels cannot take it from you.
4. Principalities – The government cannot take it from you.
5. Powers – The devil cannot take it from you.
6. Things present – Nothing happening right now can take it from you.
7. Things to come – Nothing in the future can take it from you.
8. Height – Nothing above you can take it.
9. Depth – Nothing below you can take it.
10. Nor any other creature – This should cover everything else!

This wonderful love is found in Christ Jesus our Lord. That is precisely where you are located spiritually! See 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Ephesians 2:6, 5:30, and 2 Timothy 2:13.

F. The Godhead (or Trinity) keeps us saved.

The power of God keeps us.

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:5

The Son of God keeps our salvation.

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. 2 Timothy 1:12

The Holy Spirit has sealed us until Christ comes.

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30

II. Basic Questions

A. How can I know for sure that I'm saved?

You'll simply have to believe what God has said about salvation.

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 5:13

If you've done what God said to do in order to get saved (receive Christ by faith), then believe what He said He would do (save you!).

B. What if I don't feel saved?

Salvation is not based on feelings. This is illustrated in the Ethiopian Eunuch's conversion in Acts 8:26-39. In this passage you find:

1. The fact ("scripture" – v. 35): This is what the word of God says.
2. The faith ("believe" – v. 37): I believe what the word of God says.
3. The feeling ("rejoice" – v. 39): My emotions begin to respond to what I believe (most of the time!).

God gives us a witness in our heart. See Romans 8:15-16. But even this witness is based upon the word of God. See 1 John 5:9. God is trustworthy!

And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life. 1 John 2:25

Lesson Two Questions

1. In what two ways are you God's child? Provide scripture to support your answer.
2. Give three scripture references where Christ promised that you could not lose your salvation.
3. How does the Godhead (or trinity) keep us saved? Include scripture references.
4. How can a person know that he is saved?
5. What two things must be present to have the Biblical "feeling" of salvation? Does the order matter?
6. Can someone who is truly saved ever be lost again?

Memory Verses for Lesson Two

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

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

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 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 10:27-29

Lesson Three: Baptism

What is the meaning and importance of baptism?

There are a number of different views concerning baptism among various religious denominations. Our authority for this subject, or any other, must be the word of God. The purpose of this lesson is to set forth the Biblical teaching of water baptism, explaining its importance, its purpose, and its method. It will also introduce the subject of Spirit baptism, which places us supernaturally in to the body of Christ.

I. The Importance of Baptism

A. Water baptism is *not* essential for salvation.

Water baptism is a good work. The New Testament makes it very clear that salvation is by grace, *apart from works* – including baptism.

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

If you read on through Ephesians 2:10 you'll see that good works should follow salvation, not precede it.

The gospel message does *not* include baptism. The Apostle Paul defines the gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 and baptism is not included. In fact, Paul stated that

For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel... 1 Corinthians 1:17a

Compare this to Romans 1:16. Obviously, baptism has nothing to do with getting saved.

- Water baptism does not cleanse from sin (1 John 1:7, Revelation 1:5).
- Water baptism does not impart the new birth (John 1:13, 1 Peter 1:23).

The penitent thief would be a good example of someone that got saved, but was never baptized (Luke 23:39-43).

B. Water baptism *is* an important step for believers.

1. Baptism is an important step of obedience and submission.

God's word does command us to be baptized.

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

Jesus Christ set an example in Matthew 3:13-15 that we should follow (1 Peter 2:21, 1 John 2:6). Notice in this passage that John's baptism is a baptism of *repentance* (this is different from believer's baptism). Jesus Christ didn't have to repent! Yet he submitted himself to baptism in order *fulfill all righteousness* (v. 15).

Interestingly, Jesus Christ did not begin his public ministry until *after* he was baptized.

2. Baptism is an important step of identification with Christ's death and resurrection.

In Romans 6:1-7 we learn what is represented by baptism: the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Each of these parts is pictured in water baptism.

In 1 Peter 3:21 we learn that water baptism is a *figure* of what saves us. We are saved by believing on the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

There is a sense in which one's baptism is one's own "public profession of faith". While the salvation of a soul can not be observed with human eyes, baptism is a visible public testimony of a believer's faith in the gospel of his salvation.

II. The Scriptural Method of Baptism

A. Believer's Baptism is for Believers Only

The most clear-cut example of a sinner's salvation and baptism in the Bible is that of the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8. In that passage the Eunuch asks Philip what hindered him from being baptized. Philip's answer makes the pre-requisites for baptism crystal-clear:

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. Acts 8:37

There are NO Biblical cases of unbelievers being baptized in the Bible. This, of course, would include babies. (Ex. Acts 8:12, 9:18, 16:25-33, 18:8)

B. Believer's Baptism is by Immersion Only

The word "baptize" means to immerse, to dip, or to put into.

When the Ethiopian Eunuch was baptized it states,

...they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. Acts 8:38

When Christ was baptized it states the following,

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: Matthew 3:16

(See also John 3:23.)

Since water baptism is intended to be a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection the picture would be incomplete if the one being baptized was simply sprinkled. When is the last time that you went to a funeral where they sprinkled the casket?!

III. The "One Baptism" That Saves

Interestingly, most of the references to baptism in Paul's epistles have nothing to do with water.

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, Ephesians 4:4-5

As we shall see, while there are many different types of baptism, there is only one baptism that saves and that saving baptism is the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:13

This baptism places us supernaturally into the body of Jesus Christ. See also Romans 6:3-4, Galatians 3:27, Colossians 2:12.

IV. The Doctrine of Baptisms

There is more than just one baptism (Heb 6:2). In this lesson we have spoken of two different baptisms: believer's baptism (Matt 28:19) and Spirit baptism (1 Cor 12:13). If you turn to Matthew 3:11-12 you'll find three baptisms in two verses. Below we've summarized *seven* baptisms in God's word:

- A. The baptism of Moses – 1 Corinthians 10:1-2
- B. The baptism of repentance – Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:4
- C. The baptism of suffering and death – Matthew 20:22, Luke 12:50
- D. The baptism of the Jews at Pentecost – Acts 2:38
- E. The baptism of the saved in water – Matthew 28:19, Acts 8:36-38
- F. The baptism of the Holy Ghost – 1 Corinthians 12:13, Acts 1:5
- G. The baptism of fire – Matthew 3:11, Revelation 20:14

Lesson Three Questions

1. Why isn't water baptism essential for salvation? Provide scriptural support.
2. Name two important reasons we should be baptized.
3. What is pictured by believer's baptism?
4. What does the word baptize mean?
5. How do we know that immersion is the proper method of baptism?
6. What is the one baptism that saves? Where does this place us? Provide scripture.
7. Can you find the three baptisms mentioned in Matthew 3:11-12?

Memory Verses for Lesson Three

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

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 always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:19-20

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:3-4

Lesson Four: The Holy Spirit

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in my life?

The moment that you received Jesus Christ by faith the Holy Spirit took up permanent residence inside your body. The doctrine of the Holy Spirit is an often misunderstood or neglected subject, but it is of tremendous importance to you as a believer. Apart from the Holy Spirit it is impossible to live the Christian life. The purpose behind this lesson is to give you a basic understanding of what the Bible teaches about the person and work of the Holy Ghost.

I. The Holy Spirit is the Third Member of the Godhead

The “Godhead” is another word for “Trinity”. The Bible teaches us that God is a “three-part” being.

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

1 John 5:7

The plurality of the Godhead can be seen in such places as Genesis 1:26, 11:5-7, and Matthew 28:19. Man, as created in God’s image, is also a three-part person (Genesis 2:7, 1 Thessalonians 5:23). It is important to understand the Holy Spirit is God.

- He is not an impersonal force.
- He is not a warm, fuzzy feeling.

He can be lied to (Acts 5:3-4), He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30), He can speak (Acts 13:2, 21:11), etc.

II. The Holy Spirit Dwells Inside Every Believer

A person that does not possess the Holy Ghost does not belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9). The Bible makes it plain that the body of the believer is the temple of the Holy Ghost:

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

This was Christ’s promise to the disciples before he went to the cross in John 14. Turn to John 14:16-17 and observe where the Holy Spirit dwells and for how long He dwells there.

III. The Holy Spirit Serves a Number of Important Functions in the Life of the Believer

- A. The Holy Spirit reproves sinners of unbelief and convicts saints of sin (John 16:7-8).
- B. The Holy Spirit regenerates us (gives the new birth) when we get saved (John 3:3-8).
- C. The Holy Spirit baptizes us into Christ’s body at the time of conversion (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- D. The Holy Spirit seals us unto the day of redemption (Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30).

- E. The Holy Spirit bears witness that we are children of God (Romans 8:16, Galatians 4:6, 1 John 4:13).
- F. The Holy Spirit is our teacher (John 14:26, 16:13, 1 Corinthians 2:9-14).
- G. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us in prayer (Romans 8:26-27).
- H. The Holy Spirit empowers us for Christian service (Ephesians 3:16, Acts 1:8, 4:8, Romans 15:13).

IV. **The Holy Spirit Produces Fruit in the Life of the Believer**

God desires to reproduce His character in our lives to make us like Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:13). We can not be like the Lord Jesus apart from the Holy Ghost. In Galatians 5:22-23 there are nine fruit of the Spirit listed. These character qualities will be produced in us as we submit ourselves to His control:

- A. Love – A divine assurance from God as well as a divine enablement toward others.
- B. Joy – Not an emotion, but a state that transcends our circumstance (Romans 14:17).
- C. Peace – Assurance and stability that passes understanding (Philippians 4:7).
- D. Longsuffering – Patience with the shortcomings and offences of others.
- E. Gentleness – Relating to others with kindness and tenderness.
- F. Goodness – The ability to do good toward others, both saved and lost.
- G. Faith – Believing God’s word and God’s faithfulness.
- H. Meekness – The proper attitude and approach toward God and others.
- I. Temperance – Spirit-inspired self-control in the fear of God.

V. **Walking in the Spirit**

The scriptures command us to be filled with the Spirit in Ephesians 5:18. If it is a sin to be drunk with wine, then it is equally sinful not to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is not an emotional experience. This is not about you receiving more of the Holy Spirit – but it has everything to do with the Holy Spirit having more of you through your conscious submission to His leadership.

- A. Immerse yourself in the word of God. The word of God and the Spirit of God are always in agreement because the Holy Ghost is the author of the Holy Bible. We can not know the mind of the Spirit if we fail to know the words of the Scripture. The Bible and the Holy Ghost are so closely associated that they are often represented by the same figures (ex. light, water, breath). The scripture commands us to be filled with both and the results are shown to be the same (Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 5:18-19).
- B. Place no confidence in your own fleshly ability. The difference between walking after the flesh and walking in the Spirit is *one step*. This is why we must live a life of utter dependency upon God’s power in us (Philippians 3:3, Romans 6:13, 16, 19, Galatians 5:16-18).

- C. Stay with it. A life that is surrendered to the power of the Holy Ghost requires patience and persistence. We're engaged in a growth process and it does not happen overnight. Learn from your mistakes and keep your eyes on Jesus Christ. The ultimate goal of the Holy Spirit is to make you more like Christ (Galatians 5:25, Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 3:18).

Lesson Notes

Lesson Four Questions

1. Give scriptural support for the doctrine of the trinity.
2. According John 14:16-17 where is the residence of God's Holy Spirit and how long does He dwell there?
3. In what ways does the Holy Spirit direct our fellowship with God and equip us for Christian service?
4. List the characteristics that the Holy Spirit reproduces in the life of the believer according to Galatians 5.
5. In your own words, explain briefly what it means to be "filled with the Spirit".
6. What is the ultimate goal of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer?

Memory Verses for Lesson Four

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

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

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. Galatians 5:16

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

Lesson Five: The Word of God

What is the significance of the Bible in my life?

We are greatly privileged to have an absolute written authority from God Himself – the Bible. Apart from the scriptures we would not know who Jesus Christ is or what He has accomplished on our behalf. The Bible not only reveals the way of salvation, it provides an absolutely authoritative standard by which we're to govern every detail of our lives. It is impossible to live the Christian life and grow spiritually apart from the influence of that Book. This lesson is intended to give you a basic knowledge of what you possess in the word of God and how its truths should serve to guide your every day life.

I. The Very Words of God are Pure and Absolutely Reliable

- A. The word of God is given by inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:15-17, Proverbs 30:5-6).
- B. The words of scripture have been preserved to every generation (Psalm 12:6-7, 119:160, Matthew 24:35, Isaiah 40:8).
 - This is very important. The inspired words of God were not destroyed thousands of years ago when the originals ceased to exist.
 - The words of God are perfectly preserved in the King James Bible.
 - a. The KJV comes from the right ancient manuscripts – from Antioch where believers were first called Christians (Acts 11:26).
 - b. The KJV is the Bible of the Reformation and every major revival in modern church history (Revelation 3:8).
 - a. The distribution of the KJV has exceeded one-billion copies and has been translated in to over 300 foreign languages.
 - b. There are over 200 modern English Bible versions on the market and none has been the source of a real national revival.
- C. The words of scripture are never to be altered or removed by men (Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30:5-6, Revelation 22:18-19).
- D. The written word of God is even “more sure” than an audible voice from heaven (2 Peter 1:16-21).
 - This means that all doctrines and experiences must be judged by the infallible standard of the Bible.

II. The Bible is the Greatest Book Ever Written

- A. It is unified. Though the Bible is like a library (with 66 books) it is still one Book. It was penned by 40 different writers over a period of about 2,000 years, and yet it never contradicts itself.

- B.** It is prophetically accurate. One of the greatest proofs of inspiration is fulfilled prophecy (Isaiah 46:10). From the rise and fall of kingdoms, to the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, no other book on earth is able to tell the future with absolute accuracy and one-hundred percent fulfillment.
- C.** It is scientifically accurate. Science is just catching up to the Bible in many ways. The Bible speaks of “the circle of the earth” (Isaiah 40:22), which hangs “upon nothing” (Job 26:7). It speaks of underwater sea currents (Psalm 8:8), wind currents and the water cycle (Ecclesiastes 1:6-7), and even the Second Law of Thermodynamic (Hebrews 1:10-12). All of these things were written in scripture thousands of years before they were discovered by “modern science”.
- D.** It is historically accurate. It has been said that every time another piece of dirt is moved in the Middle East they discover some new way in which the Bible is true. The world-wide flood of Noah’s day is attested to in some 250 ancient world histories. Many of the cities and locations named in the Bible have only recently been discovered by archeologists.
- E.** It is indestructible. No book has ever been so hated and yet so widely distributed. Roman Caesars and Communist Dictators have sought to destroy it and scholars have attempted to discredit it, but to no avail. It is the most widely published book in the earth’s history.

III. The Word of God is Active in Salvation

- A.** It is the agency of the new birth (1 Peter 1:23, James 1:18, 21).
- B.** It is the source of true faith (Romans 10:17).
- C.** It is the vehicle of the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

Apart from the scriptures we wouldn’t even know who Jesus Christ is. In order for a man to be saved he must believe what the Bible says about his sin and God’s Son.

IV. The Word of God Provides the Believer with Nourishment

Scripture is often likened to food (Job 23:12, Jeremiah 15:16). As you can see below the Bible provides every believer with a well-balanced spiritual diet.

- A.** Water (Isaiah 55:10-11, Ephesians 5:26)
- B.** Bread (Luke 4:4)
- C.** Milk (1 Peter 2:2)
- D.** Meat (1 Corinthians 3:1-2, Hebrews 5:13-14)
- E.** Apples (Proverbs 7:2, 25:11)
- F.** Honey (Psalm 119:103)
- G.** Vegetables (Psalm 78:24)

V. The Word of God Cleanses the Believer

It has been aptly said that “That Book will keep you from sin, or your sin will keep you from that Book.” The word of God is an essential cleansing agent in which we should wash regularly (John 15:3, 17:17, Psalm 119:9, 11).

VI. The Word of God Must Be Spiritually Discerned

Reading the Bible is not like reading a textbook or a newspaper. The Bible is a spiritual book (John 6:63). This means it must be spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:9-16).

- A.** The Holy Spirit is our teacher and guide in Bible study (John 14:26, 16:13-15, 1 John 2:27). None but the author of any given work is perfectly qualified to interpret its content.
- B.** The Bible is a self-defining, self-interpreting book. We discover its meaning by comparing scripture with scripture (1 Corinthians 2:13).
- C.** The other foremost key to Bible study is to obey the word (John 7:17).

VII. The Word of God Must Be Applied Personally

- A.** God did not give us the Bible just to fill our heads with knowledge (1 Corinthians 8:1). The word of God is intended to make us godly (1 Timothy 3:16-17).
- B.** Understanding everything is not what is primarily important. There are some things you may not be prepared to understand (John 16:12). Be patient; God will show you these things when you are ready. The most important thing to remember is to put into practice what you *do* understand (James 1:22-25).

Lesson Five Questions

1. According to Psalm 12:6-7, who is responsible for preserving God's pure words?
2. Provide two reasons why the King James Bible is superior to every other modern version.
3. List four features that make the Bible the greatest book ever written.
4. In what ways is the Bible active in salvation?
5. Who is our foremost teacher and guide in Bible Study?
6. How does the Bible define and interpret itself?
7. What is the most important thing to remember in learning, reading, and studying the Bible?

Memory Verses for Lesson Five

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.
Psalms 119:9

Lesson Six: Prayer

What is the role of prayer in my fellowship with Jesus Christ?

Clear and consistent communication is an essential part of any healthy relationship. This is certainly true of our relationship with God. This communication is two way. When we read the Bible, God speaks to us. When we pray, we speak to God. Prayer is simply our direct communication to God and it is an important part of spiritual growth. This lesson is intended to provide you with a basic understanding of the discipline of prayer so that you might maintain an open line of communication with God.

I. Prayer is Possible through the Lord Jesus Christ

- A. The Creator of the universe desires fellowship with you. He is willing to listen when you speak and answer you personally.
- B. This is only possible through what Jesus Christ accomplished for us on the cross (Hebrews 10:19-22).

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 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. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16

- C. This means that you can go directly to God through Jesus Christ when you pray (1 Timothy 2:5).
 - You do not have to be in a particular place (like church), nor must you pray through an intermediary (like a priest or a saint). You can speak directly to God through Jesus Christ.

II. Four Different Types of Prayer

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 1 Timothy 2:1

- A. Supplication – This is an earnest, specific request; asking God to “supply” a need that you have (Phil 4:6, ex. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Matthew 26:36-44).
- B. Prayer – This is simply you talking to God. You don’t have to be asking for something to speak to the Lord. He wants to hear from you all the time.
- C. Intercessions – This is when you pray for others. Don’t just focus on your own needs. Prayer is a ministry that every believer should have. See Romans 1:9, Hebrews 13:18, 1 Samuel 12:23)
- D. Giving of Thanks – This is thanking God for who He is and what He has done for you (Psalm 100:4, 1 Thessalonians 5:18).

III. God Works in Our Lives Through Prayer

Prayer is not about changing God's mind to conform to your will, but it has great power to change our hearts to conform to His.

- A. Prayer admits a dependency upon God. It serves to draw us close to Him, so that He can prove His sufficiency for every need (Matthew 6:8, Psalm 50:15).
- B. Prayer is the way that we cast all our care upon the Lord (1 Peter 5:7).
- C. Prayer provides us with God's peace in our hearts and minds (Philippians 4:6-7).

IV. Principles for Proper Prayer

- A. Pray constantly (1 Thessalonians 5:17, Luke 18:1, Romans 12:12).
 - We should develop a lifestyle of communicating with God. Our first reaction to any trial or success should be to go to God in prayer.
 - We should make time for extended seasons of prayer (Matthew 6:6), but God can hear our prayers any time and in any place (Nehemiah 2:4)
- B. Don't pray just to impress others (Matthew 6:5).
 - Public prayer can be a help to others (1 Corinthians 14:15, ex. John 17), but we must remember that prayer is talking to God.
- C. Don't use vain repetitions (Matthew 6:7).
 - Your prayer doesn't have to be wordy, eloquent, or rehearsed.
 - Prayer is not religious, it is relational.
- D. Talk to God as you would talk to a loving Father (Matthew 6:9, Galatians 4:6-7).
- E. Pray in Jesus' name according to the will of God (John 14:13-14, 15:16, 16:23-24, 1 John 5:14).
 - This involves more than just tacking Christ's name onto the end of a prayer. It has to do with praying consistently with His character and for His glory.
 - We know the will of God and the character of Christ from the word of God. Therefore, we should pray consistently with the word of God.
- F. Be assured that even when you struggle in prayer, God knows your heart and the Holy Spirit is praying right with you (Romans 8:26-27).

V. Hindrances to Prayer

Prayer is one aspect of our fellowship with God. Oftentimes when some other area of our fellowship is damaged it will hinder our prayers. Below are some common hindrances to prayer.

- A. Not asking (James 4:2).

- B. Asking with selfish motives (James 4:3).
- C. Asking without faith (James 1:5-7).
- D. Unconfessed sin (Psalm 66:18, Isaiah 59:2).
- E. An unforgiving heart (Matthew 6:14-15).
- F. Bitterness toward your spouse (1 Peter 3:7).
- G. Insensitivity toward God's word (Proverbs 28:9).

VI. God Answers Prayer

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. Matthew 21:22

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. Mark 11:24

And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. 1 John 5:15

God really does answer the prayers of His people. However, He doesn't always answer them in the way or the timing that we expect. Sometimes his answer is "No". Time will often reveal why God has answered a certain way, just as a child comes to understand why his parents did not give him everything he asked for.

VII. Some Thoughts and Tips that Might Help

- A. Pray first. Begin everyday by talking to God.
- B. Listen carefully. While God will not speak to you in an audible voice we can experience two-way communication with God through prayer and Bible-reading if we'll be attentive to the leadership and direction of the Holy Spirit.
- C. Pray with others. There is something very special about corporate prayer (Matt 18:20). Praying with other believers will be a great help to your prayer life.
- D. Keep a prayer list. It will help you to pray more consistently if you have a list (or multiple lists) that help you to remember specific needs.
- E. Keep a journal. Sometimes it is helpful to record prayers and answers to prayer that can reinforce your faith that God is listening.

Lesson Six Questions

1. How do we have access directly to God in prayer? Provide scripture.
2. List the four different types of prayer.
3. In what way does God often change us through prayer?
4. What does it mean to pray in Jesus' name?
5. List seven hindrances to prayer found in God's word.
6. Does God always answer our prayers? Does He always answer them the way we want or expect?

Memory Verses for Lesson Six

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: Psalms 66:18

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Philippians 4:6

Pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson Seven: The Church

What is the church and what should my relationship be to it?

The local church is at the center of God's program for this age. God's plan for every believer is best fulfilled in connection with a Bible-believing local church. The purpose of this lesson is to give you a basic understanding of the doctrine of the church and to help you see the importance of the local church in your personal relationship with God.

I. What is "the Church"?

The word "church" means "a called out assembly". It is not a physical building (Acts 14:27) or a denominational organization. This word is used in two ways in the New Testament.

- A. The universal church is made up of all saved people everywhere (Heb 12:22-23).
 - 1. This is the church which Christ founded (Matt 16:18).
 - 2. The universal church constitutes the spiritual body of Christ (Eph 1:22-23, 5:23, 27, 30, Col 1:18, 24).
 - 3. An individual becomes a part of this body through the baptism of the Holy Spirit when they believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor 12:13).
 - 4. Membership in a local church has no bearing on one's membership in the body of Christ. It is entirely possible to be a member of a local church and still go to hell, if you've never been saved.
 - 5. There are three primary pictures for the church in the New Testament:
 - a. A Body – Romans 12:4-5, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 – Illustrating unity.
 - b. A Building – Ephesians 2:19-22, 1 Pet 2:4-8 – Illustrating indwelling.
 - c. A Bride – 2 Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 5:22-32 – Illustrating intimacy.
- B. A local church is a group of believers gathered at a specific geographical location (Heb 10:25).
 - 1. It is important to understand the truth about the universal church. However, the vast majority of the more than 100 references to the "church" in the New Testament are references to a local assembly.
 - 2. Every member of the universal church should be a member of a local church.
 - 3. Whatever we might learn about the body of Christ from the New Testament is most consistently and effectively carried out within a local church.

II. What is the Purpose of the Church?

In Acts 2:41-47 we get a description of the practice of the early church. The church has some distinctive purposes in the word of God.

- A. The foremost role of the church is to teach the word of God (Acts 2:42, 4:2, 5:21, 42, 6:4, 11:26, 18:11, 20:20, 28:31).

1. The first priority of the local church is the perfecting of the saints and this is carried out by the teaching of God's word by gifted men within the church (Ephesians 4:11-12).
 2. This teaching takes in "all the counsel of God's word" (Acts 20:27).
 - a. The Epistles – "the apostle's doctrine" (Acts 2:42).
 - b. The Gospels – "the words of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Timothy 6:3).
 - c. The Old Testament – "whatsoever things were written aforetime" (Romans 15:4).
 3. This will include the teaching of doctrinal truth, as well as the correction of doctrinal error (2 Tim 3:16-17).
- B.** Another purpose of the church is corporate prayer (Acts 1:13-14, 2:42, 3:1, 4:23-24, 6:6, 12:5, 12, 13:13, 16:16, 20:36).
- C.** The final purpose of the church is worship (John 4:20-24, Philippians 3:3). This will include the observance of the ordinances such as baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:41-42). Worship is associated throughout scripture with sacrifice and the church has spiritual sacrifices which it is to offer.
1. Souls (Romans 15:16) – Soul-winning and missions is the responsibility of the church.
 2. Your Body (Romans 12:1-2)
 3. Money (Philippians 4:15-16)
 4. Praise and Thanksgiving (Hebrews 13:15, Acts 2:47)
 5. Doing Good (Hebrews 13:16, 10:24-25)

III. Where Do I Fit into the Church?

- A.** Every believer has a part to do in the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:14-27).
1. Each member has a different function (v. 14-20).
 2. No one member can function alone (v. 21).
 3. Each member's part is important (v. 22-24).
 4. A properly functioning body operates as a unit (v. 25-27).
 5. The body principle is best practiced in a local church setting. One thing every believer *can* do, is be in faithful attendance (Hebrews 10:25).
- B.** Grow in your relationship to the Lord, learn what your strengths and gifts are, and make yourself available to the church leadership to pitch in where you're needed most.

IV. What if I Have to Re-locate?

Being in a good local church is critical. Any time you must move to a new location, finding a good Bible-believing church to be a part of should be a priority. Here are some tips for finding one:

- A.** Seek the Lord for wisdom and guidance (James 1:5).
- B.** Look for evidence of evangelism and outreach (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15).
- C.** Make sure the leadership believes the word of God and encourages the people to read and study it for themselves (Titus 1:9, 2 Timothy 2:15).
- D.** Look for a church that ministers to one another's needs.
- E.** Look for a church that is engaged in world-wide missions.

Lesson Seven Questions

1. What does the word “church” mean?
2. What are the three primary pictures for the church and what is the lesson communicated by each picture?
3. Briefly explain the difference between the universal church and the local church.
4. List the three purposes of the church listed in this lesson.
5. How does the New Testament church worship God?
6. List three lessons that can be learned from First Corinthians 12 where the church is compared to a body.

Memory Verses for Lesson Seven

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

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

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Ephesians 4:11-12

Lesson Eight: Other Christians

What is my responsibility to other Christians as a part of God's family?

When you received the Lord Jesus Christ you were born again into God's family. This means that you have a new Father. It also means that you have brothers and sisters in Christ as a part of the household of faith. Just like with any earthly family, God's family comes with certain privileges and responsibilities for every different member. This lesson is designed to acquaint you with your role in God's family by addressing your relationship to other believers.

I. You Have a Spiritual and Eternal Relationship to Every Other Child of God

A. Other saved people are your brothers and sisters in Christ.

See the following passages that illustrate this point: John 1:12, Galatians 3:26, 4:5, 6:10, Ephesians 1:5, 2:19, 3:14-15, 1 John 3:1.

1. This means that lost people are not your spiritual brothers and sisters regardless of any other factors.
2. God puts even more emphasis on our eternal, spiritual relationships than he does upon our physical kinship (Mark 3:31-34, 1 John 3:16).
3. This also means that other genuine Christians, regardless of their denominational affiliation, are your brothers and sisters in Christ as well.

II. You Have Specific Responsibilities Toward Your Spiritual Family

If you study the words "one another" in the New Testament you'll notice that there is a great deal of instruction on how the people of God are to treat other believers. Spiritual maturity demands interaction with others. If you can only get along with YOU, you are not spiritually mature! You'll notice in most of the following areas that the standard for your treatment of others is God's treatment of you – He certainly has set the bar high!

- A. You should love God's people (John 13:34-35, 1 Peter 3:8, 4:8, 1 John 3:14-16).
- B. You should minister to God's people, both spiritually and physically (Galatians 6:1-2, Rom 12:13, 1 John 3:17-18).
- C. You should pray for God's people (James 5:16, 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3).
- D. You should comfort, edify (build up), and encourage God's people (Romans 15:1-2, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Heb 3:13).
- E. You should serve God's people with humility (Philippians 2:3-4).
- F. You should be patient with God's people (Romans 15:5-7, Ephesians 4:2).
- G. You should be kind and forgiving toward God's people (Ephesians 4:32).
- H. You should be honest with God's people (Ephesians 4:25).

III. You Have a Part in Biblical Fellowship with Other Saints

Christian fellowship is not based on food or common worldly interests. Christian fellowship is based on our common fellowship with Jesus Christ.

- A.** Biblical fellowship is the sharing of life and ministry with other believers (Philippians 1:3-6, 2:1-2, see also 2 Corinthians 1:11, 8:4).
- B.** Maintaining fellowship with God's people requires the exercise of spiritual character like humility (Philippians 2:3-8, Proverbs 13:10).
- C.** When we do not have fellowship with the saints, it is an indication that our fellowship with Christ is not where it should be (1 John 1:3-7, 1 Corinthians 1:9-10).

IV. The Bible Gives Instructions for Handling Offense Among Other Believers

The time will come when you experience hurt, disagreement, and offense at the hands of God's children. Many believers let these experiences get them out of fellowship with God's people and ultimately neutralize their effectiveness for the Lord. You can not let every little conflict offend you (Psalm 119:165). In the cases of serious offense there is a definite Biblical pattern for dealing with it.

- A.** Address the offense with the party that has hurt you; this should be done personally and privately (Matthew 18:15). Most conflicts will be resolved at this stage.
- B.** If the matter is not solved privately, enlist a mature and objective mediator that both parties will respect (Matt 18:16, 1 Corinthians 6:1-5).
- C.** If the matter still cannot be resolved, take it to the church leadership so that the offending party might have the opportunity to submit to Biblical authority within the local church (Matthew 18:17).
 - 1.** In some cases church discipline will be in order. Be prepared to support church discipline. There are certain offenses that demand the attention of church leadership.
 - a.** False doctrine (Romans 16:17)
 - b.** Fornication/Intemperance (1 Corinthians 5:9, 11)
 - c.** Refusal to work (2 Thessalonians 3:6, 11, 14)
 - d.** Greed and covetousness (1 Timothy 6:5)
 - 2.** The purpose of church discipline is repentance (Luke 17:3) and restoration (Galatians 6:1-2).
 - 3.** Commit these situations to the pastoral leadership of the church (Hebrews 13:7, 17).
- D.** Always guard yourself against a root of bitterness in your heart when facing conflict and offense (Galatians 5:14-15, Hebrews 12:14-15).

Lesson Eight Questions

1. Why would God put more emphasis in his word on our spiritual relationships than physical kinship?
2. In what way has Jesus Christ established the standards by which we're to treat others? Give examples.
3. Give a few examples of how we should treat our brothers and sisters in Christ.
4. On what should our fellowship with other believers be based upon? When a man does not have fellowship with other believers what does that indicate about his fellowship with God?
5. What is the first step in resolving a serious offense with another believer?
6. What must you guard yourself against in the face of conflict and offense?

Memory Verses for Lesson Eight

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

Lesson Nine: The Will of God

How can I know the will of God for my life?

The world imposes many different measurements of success on people, such as social standing, health, or financial prosperity. God has a very different standard for success in this life. A man that finds out what God wants him to accomplish with his life and then fulfills it is a successful man. This lesson is designed to help you see what the will of God is for your life, so that you can concentrate on fulfilling His will.

I. Focusing on the Revealed Will of God

Many people get caught up with trying to find out the details of God's will for their lives and miss out on the obvious general aspects of His will as revealed in scripture.

- A. We should not look upon the will of God as a mystical or elusive set of circumstances over which to be confused or unsure about. Much of the will of God is absolute – it is not circumstantial or fluctuating; much of it is uniform – it is the same for everyone; and much of it is revealed – it is spelled out plainly in scripture.
- B. On the other hand, God has a plan for the details and direction of your life that operates within your circumstances and includes options – the Lord will take into account your age, location, and talents and provide you with choices to make; this plan for your life is unique – it will be tailored specifically for you and differ from others; and this plan is unveiled over time – the Lord reveals these details and His direction gradually as He can trust you with it.

II. The Bible Makes Much of God's Will Perfectly Clear

God has revealed many things about His will for your life in the pages of scripture. Because the word of God never changes it is the absolute standard along which we must compare the decisions and direction of our lives.

- A. It is God's will that all men be saved (2 Peter 3:9).
 - 1. This means that all lost people are out of the will of God.
 - 2. This also means that God expects us to be actively involved in preaching the gospel.
- B. It is the will of God for us live a holy life and abstain from sexual immorality (1 Thessalonians 4:1-7).
- C. It is the will of God that we give thanks in everything (1 Thess 5:18).
- D. It is the will of God for us to submit ourselves to the ordinance of man (1 Peter 2:13-15).
- E. It is the will of God to redeem the time He has given us (Ephesians 5:15-17).
- F. It is the will of God to serve those in authority from the heart (Ephesians 6:5-8).
- G. It is the will of God for our minds to be transformed and that we not be conformed to this world (Romans 12:1-2).

- A. It is the will of God that we be conformed into Christ's image (Romans 8:28-29).
 - 1. This begins with our salvation (1 Timothy 2:3-4).
 - 2. It continues with our sanctification (1 Peter 4:1-2).
 - 3. It will be completed with our glorification (Ephesians 1:3-14).

The will of God has much more to do with what we *are* than what we *do*.

III. What About the Areas of God's Will that I'm Not Sure About?

- A. The key to discerning the details of God's plan for our lives is to obey the aspects of His will that He has already revealed to us (John 7:17, Rom 12:1-2). You must begin by obeying what you know and as you obey the light God has given you he will give you more light.
- B. Recognize the tools the Lord has given you to discern the details of His will for your life.
 - 1. The Holy Spirit guides and directs us as we submit to Him (Galatians 5:25, John 16:13).
 - 2. The word of God will direct our paths and confirm God's plan for our lives (Psalm 119:105). This is why it is critical to submerge ourselves in Bible reading and preaching.
 - 3. Other believers will be used of the Lord to give counsel and advice that will help you discern God' mind (Proverbs 11:14).
- C. Recognize that God wants you to know and fulfill His will as much or more than you do (Philippians 2:13, Ephesians 5:17, Colossians 1:9).
- D. Nevertheless, He chooses not to reveal all the details of His plan for our lives all at once.
 - 1. If he did it would overwhelm us. Sometimes we're simply not ready (John 16:12).
 - 2. God wants us to be patient and walk by faith trusting him with what we do not understand.
- E. You can stand perfect and complete in all the will of God (Colossians 4:12), and the Holy Spirit is praying for that very thing (Romans 8:27).

Lesson Nine Questions

1. How has God clearly revealed much of His will for our lives?

2. This lesson mentioned eight areas of God's will that are clearly revealed in scripture. List these below.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.
 - h.

3. What is the key to understanding the details to God's plan for our lives?

4. What are some of the tools the Lord has given us to discern the details of his plan for our lives?

Memory Verses for Lesson Nine

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

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. Romans 12:1-2

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Lesson Ten: Dealing with Sin

How do I overcome sin in my life?

Every man, woman, boy, and girl has three very real enemies of their soul: the world, the flesh, and the devil. These enemies are constantly collaborating to rob the believer of his joy and Christian testimony and neutralize his service to God. The way this is accomplished is through sin. Sin is what the Lord Jesus Christ went to Calvary to deal with, but we must continuously appropriate His cross-work in order to enjoy victory over our sin. The purpose of this lesson is to show you what sin is, how to have victory over it, and what you stand to lose when you give into temptation.

I. What is Sin?

The following passages provide us with a good definition of sin. You will notice that the definition gets broader and broader.

- A. Sin is the transgression of God's law (1 John 3:4).
- B. Sin is anything that is not right (1 John 5:17).
- C. Sin is anything you know to do that you fail to carry out (James 4:17).
- D. Sin includes foolish thoughts (Proverbs 24:9).
- E. Sin is anything done apart from faith (Romans 14:23).

II. Why Do I Sin?

Within our very nature we have a disposition toward sin (Romans 7:18, 21). However, we do not HAVE to sin (John 8:11, 1 Corinthians 15:34, 1 John 2:1). Sin is the result of our being drawn into temptation by our own lusts (James 1:13-15). This temptation comes in three forms (1 John 2:15-16).

- A. The lust of the flesh – This is what Eve faced when she saw that the tree was “good for food” (Genesis 3:6). Jesus Christ was tempted in the same way to turn stones in to bread (Matthew 4:3).
- B. The lust of the eyes – This is what confronted Eve when she saw that the tree was “pleasant to the eyes” (Genesis 3:6). The Lord Jesus Christ was tempted when the Devil caused all the kingdoms of this world to pass before his eyes (Matthew 4:8).
- C. The pride of life – This is what tempted Eve when she thought that the tree was “desired to make one wise” (Genesis 3:6). Likewise, Christ was tempted to cast Himself down from the pinnacle of temple (Matthew 4:6).

In each of these areas Eve gave in. On the other hand, in each of these areas Jesus Christ resisted the devil's temptation setting an example for us (Hebrews 4:15-16).

III. How Does God Deal with My Sin?

- A. God has dealt with your sin by judging it in Christ on the cross (2 Corinthians 5:21). This affords us judicial forgiveness for all of our sins – past, present, and future (Colossians 2:13, 1 John 2:12).

- B. While your sin will not force you out of God's family, He will deal with you as a loving father deals with his son, by chastening you (Hebrews 12:5-11).
- C. All of our actions have consequences. Even though you may confess and forsake your sin, God will still allow you to reap what you have sown (Galatians 6:7-8).

IV. What Do I Stand To Lose Because of My Sin?

While you cannot lose your eternal life, there are things that you may forfeit because of continued disobedience to God's word.

- A. You can lose your joy (Psalm 51:12).
- B. You can lost your testimony (Genesis 19:14).
- C. You can lose your rewards (2 John 8).
- D. You can lose your health (1 Corinthians 11:30).
- E. You can lose your life (1 Corinthians 11:30).

V. How Can I Overcome Sin?

- A. Be honest with God about your sin. Take responsibility for your actions and confess your sins (1 Corinthians 11:31-32, Proverbs 28:13, 1 John 1:9).
- B. Don't put yourself in a situation that you know will lend itself to temptation (Matthew 6:13, Romans 13:14).
- C. Don't allow sinful thoughts to control your mind (2 Corinthians 10:5).
- D. Walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16).
- E. Yield your members to Christ, reckoning yourself dead unto sin, but alive unto God (Romans 6:11-13).
- F. Meditate in the word of God (Psalm 119:9, 11, 2 Corinthians 7:1). Do you remember Christ's method of overcoming the Devil's temptation?
- G. Ask the Lord for the help you need (Hebrews 2:18, 4:15-16).
- H. When you are tempted, take God's way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- I. Learn to hate the sin that so easily besets you (Proverbs 8:13, Psalm 119:104).
- J. Make an effort to revenge all disobedience and make restitution for your past sins (2 Corinthians 7:10-11, 10:6).
- K. Separate yourself **from** worldly influences (2 Corinthians 6:14-18) and separate yourself **unto** the things of God (Romans 1:1, Ephesians 4:28, 1 Corinthians 16:15).

Lesson Ten Questions

1. What are the three forms in which temptation presents itself?
2. How did Jesus Christ overcome the Devil's temptation in Matthew 4?
3. Can a believer lose his salvation because he sins? What can the believer lose because of sin?
4. Why does God chasten his children?
5. What has God promised to provide us in the face of temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13)?
6. What are the two aspects of Biblical separation? Give an example of how this works for you personally?

Memory Verses for Lesson Ten

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:11

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

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Psalms 119:11

Lesson Eleven: Liberty in Christ

Since all my sins are forgiven, am I free to do as I please?

God's grace is infinitely greater than our sin (Rom 5:20). As New Testament believers we are not under the law, but under grace (Rom 6:14). We are saved and kept eternally secure, not because of what we do, but because of what Christ has done on our behalf. Sadly, some people will pervert these wonderful truths and use them as an excuse to live for themselves. This lesson is designed to give you a balanced view of your liberty in Jesus Christ.

I. Your Liberty in Christ Provides Freedom to do God's Will, Not to Sin

- A. Your liberty is *from* sin that you might do what is right, not what you want (John 8:36, Galatians 3:24-25, Romans 6:12-18, 8:2-4).
- B. Our liberty in Christ frees us to serve the Lord and others (1 Peter 2:16). Our liberty should never be abused to fulfill our fleshly lusts (Galatians 5:13).

II. There Are Definite Consequences for Every Decision You Make

- A. Sinful choices will not cause you to lose your salvation, but it will hinder your capacity to bring honor to the Lord Jesus Christ and enjoy your salvation.
 - 1. Sin prevents us from bearing fruit for God (John 15:1-8).
 - 2. Sin brings about the chastisement of God (Hebrews 12:5-11).
 - 3. Sin brings about misery and corruption (Galatians 6:7-8).
- B. Choosing to obey God's word brings about positive consequences that please the Lord.
 - 1. You will reap holiness (Romans 6:22).
 - 2. You will reap fruits of righteousness (Philippians 1:9-11).
 - 3. You will reap the enjoyment of your everlasting life (Galatians 6:7-8).
- C. Within the household of faith God is going to use your life to bring about his glory one way or the other. You get to choose whether you are a vessel of honor or a vessel of dishonor (2 Timothy 2:20-21).

III. The Misuse of Your Liberty Can Have a Serious Effect on Others

- A. You cannot exempt yourself from influencing others. You will either be a testimony for good or bad, but you cannot remain neutral (Romans 14:7).
- B. You are to avoid things that might cause a weaker Christian to stumble in his faith (Romans 14:13-15, 1 Corinthians 8:9-13).

- C. You are to avoid the appearance of evil, even when it may not technically be wrong (1 Thessalonians 5:22).
- D. It should be every believer's desire to maintain a good testimony before believers and unbelievers alike (Acts 16:1-2, 11:22-24, Colossians 4:5, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

IV. While You are Not Under the Law, You are to be Motivated by Love

In the New Testament, love is the answer to the law. This provides us with important, common-sense boundaries in every relationship that we have. See Matthew 22:37-40, Romans 13:8-10, Galatians 5:13-14, 6:2.

V. We Must Let the Holy Spirit Guide Us in Matters that are Not Perfectly Clear

There are some matters where the scriptures do not clearly define what is and is not acceptable. But even in these so-called "gray areas" the scriptures provide us with guidance and direction as the Holy Spirit applies them to our specific circumstances. Below are a series of questions that you can ask yourself on occasions of uncertainty.

- A. Am I being brought under the power of something that should not be controlling my life? See 1 Corinthians 6:12.
- B. Am I edifying myself or others? See 1 Corinthians 10:23.
- C. Can I ask God to bless this thing I would do with a clear conscience? See Colossians 3:17, Acts 24:16.
- D. If the Lord returned at this moment, would I be ashamed? See 1 John 2:28, 1 Thessalonians 5:23.
- E. Would it cause a brother to stumble? See Romans 14:13-15, 15:1-2.
- F. Would it be cause for a lost person to reject the Lord Jesus Christ? See 1 Corinthians 10:31-33.
- G. Does my conscience condemn me for it? See 1 Peter 3:16, Hebrews 13:18, 1 Timothy 1:5.
- H. What is good or right about this thing that I would allow in my life? See Philippians 4:8.

It is only through a consistent walk with the Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit that we can maintain a balance between liberty in Christ and the needs of others (2 Corinthians 3:6, 17).

Lesson Eleven Questions

1. What does it mean to have liberty in Christ? What have we been liberated from?
2. What are some of the consequences of the believer's choosing sin instead of righteousness?
3. What are some of the consequences for a believer who sins according to this lesson?
4. What are some of the positive consequences for the believer that chooses to obey God's word?
5. How might the misuse of your liberty affect someone else negatively?
6. How can we know the proper course of action in a situation that is not specifically spelled out in the Bible?

Memory Verses for Lesson Eleven

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. Galatians 5:13

Lesson Twelve: Witnessing for Christ

As a child of God, what responsibility do I have to tell others of my Savior?

Aren't you glad someone told you about Jesus Christ? Different believers have different skills, talents, and gifts, but every believer has a responsibility to be a witness of Jesus Christ in some way. This lesson is designed to show you your Christian obligation to be a witness and provide you with some tips on how you can do this effectively.

I. A Ministry for Every Believer

- A. The last instructions the Lord Jesus Christ gave his followers before ascending back to the Father was to teach and preach the gospel to others (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47-48, Acts 1:8).
- B. This is called the ministry of reconciliation in Second Corinthians 5:18. Observe that this ministry is essentially a *word* ministry (2 Corinthians 5:19).
- C. God uses human instrumentation (like you and me) to bring sinners to Christ (Proverbs 11:30, 1 Corinthians 4:15, 7:16, 9:22).

II. Being Prepared to Speak Up

Many believers do not witness for Christ because they do not know how. If it is your responsibility to witness for Jesus, then it is your responsibility to prepare yourself for the opportunity when it should arise (1 Peter 3:15).

- A. You should know what the gospel, is since that is the substance of our message. The gospel is defined in the New Testament in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. You can have confidence that any sinner that truly believes the gospel will be saved (Romans 1:16).
- B. You should be equipped with the word of God, since faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God! It is a good idea to get a small Bible and mark the verses that you might use to lead someone to Christ. You should also memorize important verses that will help in the event that you do not have a Bible with you. You can begin by memorizing "The Romans Road": Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-10.
- C. Try to remember to take tracts with you (in your pocket or your purse) so that you can share these with people you attempt to witness to.
- D. Keep in mind that everyone needs to be saved. Learn to look upon others as eternal souls that must be born again to be spared hell.

III. Objectives for Presenting the Gospel

There are certain truths that a lost person must be confronted with in order to be saved. Outlined below are some important basic steps that should be covered when attempting to lead someone to Christ.

- A. You must show the person that he is a sinner and that his sin separates him from God.
 - 1. Appropriate scriptures – Rom 3:10, 23, James 2:10.

2. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-18) serve as an excellent tool to illustrate man's sinfulness (1 John 3:14).
- B.** You must show the sinner that there is a penalty for his sin and that penalty is death.
1. Appropriate scriptures: Romans 6:23, Revelation 20:14-15, 21:8.
- C.** You must show the sinner that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for his sin.
1. Appropriate scriptures: 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18, 1 Corinthians 15:3, 2 Corinthians 5:21.
 2. It is important that they understand that Christ was sinless (1 Peter 2:22, Hebrews 4:15).
- D.** You must show the sinner that salvation is by faith alone, apart from works.
1. Appropriate scriptures: Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 2:21, 3:24, Romans 3:24.
- E.** You must show the sinner that they must receive Christ personally by faith.
1. Appropriate scriptures: John 1:12, Romans 10:9-10, Acts 16:31.
 2. If the person is prepared to do this, you may ask them to pray and ask Christ to save them (Romans 10:13-15).

IV. Giving Your Personal Testimony

One of the most powerful tools that you have at your disposal is your own personal testimony. Even if you didn't feel perfectly comfortable going systematically through the gospel, or if a person didn't seem to be receptive to scripture at first, you can always tell someone what Christ has done for you.

- A.** There are three parts to every personal testimony as can be seen from the Apostle Paul's example in Acts 26.
1. Your life before you got saved (Acts 26:4-5, 9-11). This is your chance to tell someone that you were a sinner in need of a Savior.
 2. How you got saved (Acts 26:12-18). This is your chance to tell someone that you trusted Jesus Christ alone and He saved your soul.
 3. Your life since you got saved (Acts 26:19-23). This is your chance to tell someone that Jesus has made a difference in your life and that you know you're on your way to heaven.

V. A Few Tips

- A.** Mark a Bible. There is nothing as powerful as God's word.
- B.** Pray for souls. You'll be much more conscious and burdened for the souls you pray for.
- C.** Pass out tracts. Even when you can't speak up you can often pass along the gospel in print.

Lesson Twelve Questions

1. Whose responsibility is it to be a witness? Provide scriptural support.
2. What is the scriptural definition for the gospel?
3. What are some steps that you can take to be prepared to lead someone to Christ?
4. What scriptural tool has God left us to convince men of their sin?
5. What are the three basic parts to a personal salvation testimony?
6. List the five things from this lesson that you must show a sinner in order for him to be saved?

Memory Verses for Lesson Twelve

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 1 Peter 3:15

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

Lesson Thirteen: The Home and Family

As a Christian, what is my responsibility to my family?

The home is the first institution that God established and it provides the foundation for every other institution. It has been said that the home is the place of practical Christianity. What that means is that if you can't conduct yourself in a Christian manner with your spouse, children, or parents, your Christianity is not worth much. It will be difficult to maintain a Christian testimony if you don't act like a Christian around the people you live with. The idea behind this lesson is to give you a Biblical concept of the roles and relationships essential to a Christian home.

I. The Marriage Relationship

At the heart of the home is the union between the husband and wife. Marriage is God's design and it is best enjoyed by following his plan (Genesis 2:21-24).

- A. Marriage is between a man and a woman (Romans 1:26-27). This excludes homosexuality.
- B. Marriage is God's boundary for sexual intimacy (Hebrews 13:4). This excludes immorality (1 Corinthians 6:15-18, Proverbs 6:32).
- C. Marriage is intended by God to be permanent (Matthew 19:6-9). God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16).
- D. God warns against an unequal yoke (2 Corinthians 6:14, 1 Corinthians 7:39). A believer should only marry another believer.

II. Responsibilities of the Husband

The husband is to be the "head" of the home (Ephesians 5:23) and his relationship with his wife is likened to that of Jesus Christ's to the church in Ephesians 5.

- A. He is to love his wife as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25, 28-29).
- B. He is to sanctify and cleanse her with his words (Ephesians 5:26-27).
- C. He is to avoid bitterness toward his wife (Colossians 3:19).
- D. He is to dwell with her according to knowledge (1 Peter 3:7).
- E. He is to honor his wife (1 Peter 3:7).
- F. He is to be a spiritual leader for his wife and his children praying with the family and teaching them God's word (1 Peter 3:7, 1 Corinthians 14:35).

III. Responsibilities of the Wife

- A. She is to be in subjection to her husband (1 Peter 3:1, 5, Ephesians 5:24). Sub means to be "under" as a submarine or subway. This does not mean that the wife is of lesser value, it simply means that she voluntarily takes a place in the home under the authority of her

husband. Christ was equal to God, but submitted Himself to the Father's will for the good of the human race (1 Corinthians 11:3, 11).

- B.** She is to reverence her husband (Ephesians 5:33).
- C.** She is to be meek and quiet (1 Peter 3:4). This kind of spirit will accomplish much more than trying to "talk" sense into her husband (which he perceives as "nagging").
- D.** She is to be chaste (1 Peter 3:2, Titus 2:5).
- E.** She is to be a keeper at home (Titus 2:5).
- F.** She is to be obedient to her husband (Titus 2:5).
- G.** She is to love her husband and children (Titus 2:4).

IV. Responsibilities of the Parents

- A.** They are to train up their children in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6).
- B.** They are to restrain their children (1 Samuel 3:13).
- C.** They are to correct their children through chastisement and instruction (Proverbs 19:18, 23:13-14, 29:15, 17).
- D.** They are to teach them the word of God (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Psalm 78:4-7, Ephesians 6:4).
- E.** They are not to provoke them to wrath and anger (Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21).
- F.** They are to provide for them (1 Timothy 5:8, 2 Corinthians 12:14).

V. Responsibilities of the Children

- A.** They are to listen to them (Proverbs 1:8, 2:1, 4:1).
- B.** They are to obey them (Ephesians 6:1).
- C.** They are to honor them (Eph 6:2).
- D.** They are not to be stubborn or rebellious (Deuteronomy 21:18-21).
- E.** They are to see that their needs are met in their old age (1 Timothy 5:4, John 19:26-27, Proverbs 23:22).

Lesson Thirteen Questions

1. In what way is the institution of the home foundational to the institution of the government or the church?
2. What is God's attitude toward divorce? Provide scriptural support.
3. To whom is the husband compared in Ephesians 5? What are some ways in which he fulfills this role?
4. What does it mean for a woman to put herself in submission to her husband? Does this mean she is somehow of lesser value or intelligence?
5. In what ways do you believe society misrepresents what is appropriate for parent/child relationships?

Memory Verses for Lesson Thirteen

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

For Husbands:

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;
Ephesians 5:25

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. 1 Peter 3:7

For Wives:

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. Ephesians 5:22

For Parents:

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

For Children:

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. Ephesians 6:1-3

Lesson Fourteen: Money and Possessions

What should be my attitude toward handling money and giving to God?

Ever since the early church one of the greatest temptations facing believers pertains to our attitude toward money. While you can't always *see* the sins of greed, covetousness, and materialism, these sins represent a great threat to our spiritual health. A proper heart-attitude toward the Lord will extend to our finances. The purpose of this lesson is to show you what your attitude should be toward managing money and giving to God.

I. The Issue isn't Really Money

Money is an inanimate object. Just like with the misuse of a gun or knife, the problem with money is not really with the object, but its improper use.

- A. The *love* of money is the root of all evil, not money itself (1 Timothy 6:10). Money can be a useful tool or it can be the means of our destruction. The difference has to do with our attitude toward it.
- B. Spirituality is never determined by a lack or an abundance of money. God blessed and used both the rich (like Job, Joseph of Arimathea, and Barnabas) and the poor (Mary and Joseph, Jesus Christ) in the scripture. It is not your bank account that makes you useful to the Lord.

II. You Must Not Let Money Become Your Focus and Get Between You and the Lord

This includes an abundance or a lack of money.

- A. Your trust should be in God, not in wealth or possessions (Mark 10:23-27, Proverbs 11:4, 28).
- B. Keep your attention and affections on heavenly things (Matthew 6:19-21, Colossians 3:1-4).
- C. Never judge a person's spirituality by their material possessions (Luke 12:15).
- D. Your objective in life should never be to get rich (Proverbs 23:4, 28:20, 22, 1 Timothy 6:9).
- E. Keep in mind that there are many things that money cannot buy (Proverbs 15:16, 16:8, 16, 17:1, 28:6).

III. Avoid Covetousness and Aim for Contentment

Jesus Christ provides His people with contentment regardless of what their financial standing is (Hebrews 13:5, Philippians 4:11, 1 Timothy 6:8).

- A. Don't forget about God if he blesses you financially (Deuteronomy 6:10-12, Proverbs 30:7-9).
- B. If God took all of your wealth away, it should not change your attitude toward Him (Job 1:20-22).
- C. Keep a balance in your attitude toward money.
 - 1. You shouldn't worry over money (Matthew 6:24-25), but you must work for a living to provide for your family (1 Timothy 5:8).

2. You should not be covetous of riches (1 Timothy 6:9), but you should seek to earn a fair wage (1 Timothy 5:18).
3. You should not hoard away your money (Matthew 6:19-20), but you should prepare for your family's future (2 Corinthians 12:14).

IV. You Should Give of your Resources to the Lord's Work

If we keep in mind that our money is a tool, then it should be a tool that we make available for the Lord's use. This is a very natural exercise if we ourselves are surrendered to the Lord (Romans 12:1, 2 Corinthians 8:5).

- A. Giving financially to the Lord expresses love to God and gratitude for Christ's sacrifice (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).
- B. Giving financially to the work of the Lord allows you to invest in things of eternal consequence (Philippians 4:17, Matthew 6:19-21).
- C. Giving to God cultivates grace in our hearts and shows our dependency in the Lord (2 Corinthians 8:7, 9:8).

V. Giving Should Follow Certain New Testament Principles

- A. You should give with the right attitude and motives (2 Corinthians 9:7).
- B. Your giving should center on your local church (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
- C. Your giving should *begin* with a tithe (Genesis 14:20, Mal 3:8-10, Matthew 23:23).

VI. Giving Meets Important Biblical Needs

- A. It helps to support those that minister the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:11-14, 1 Timothy 5:17-18).
- B. It helps to support missions and evangelism (Philippians 4:15-19).
- C. It helps to support those in need within the congregation (Acts 6:1, 1 Timothy 5:9-10, 16).

Lesson Fourteen Questions

1. In what way can money have a negative impact on you spiritually?
2. What does the Lord Jesus Christ offer to His people, regardless of their financial standing?
3. What are some of the spiritual benefits to giving to the Lord's work?
4. Around what does New Testament giving center?
5. Where should your giving begin?
6. What are some Biblical needs that are met by your giving through the local church?

Memory Verses for Lesson Fourteen

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. Philippians 4:11

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

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 9:7

Lesson Fifteen: My Job and Employer

What should be my attitude toward my job and employer?

Unfortunately, many believers compartmentalize their Christianity by seeking to separate their faith and church involvement from their vocational and professional responsibilities. It's been suggested that, on average, we spend about one-fourth of our life on the job. Jesus Christ wants more than just three-fourths of your life. The Bible has plenty to say about the believer's relationship to his work. This lesson is designed to give you with a Biblical attitude toward your job and your employer (or employees).

I. Christianity is "Full-Time"

The fact is that if you are a Christian at all, you will still be a Christian when you are at work (Ephesians 4:1). Most people, when asked who they are, will tell you what they do for a living. As a child of God you are much more than your job.

- A. The purpose of your job is to "support" your ministry at home (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12, 1 Timothy 5:8), at church (Galatians 6:10), and to the world (2 Corinthians 5:18).
- B. Your job is probably a mission-field. The work-place is a great place to be a testimony and a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:14-16, Philippians 2:15-16, 2 Corinthians 3:2, 1 Peter 3:15).

II. Seek to Be a Good Employee by the Bible's Standards

You will not be an effective witness for Jesus Christ if you do not display a Biblical attitude toward your employer and fellow employees.

- A. Recognize that you ultimately answer to Jesus Christ. Therefore you should seek to serve Christ as if He were your employer (Ephesians 6:5-8, Colossians 3:22-24).
- B. Show respect for authority by being submissive and compliant toward your supervisors (Titus 2:9).
- C. Do an honest days work (Titus 2:10, 2 Corinthians 8:21).
- D. Mind your own business and do your job. Do not be hindered by other employees (1 Thessalonians 4:1).
- E. Be diligent and seek the success of your employer (Romans 12:11, 1 Corinthians 10:24). Consider the life of Joseph as an example.

III. Seek to Be a Good Employer by the Bible's Standards

If you are the one in charge in the work place, you are still answerable to Jesus Christ. As a supervisor you have a great opportunity to influence others positively for the Lord Jesus Christ.

- A. Treat your employees justly and equally, paying a reasonable wage (Colossians 4:1).
- B. Don't threaten or speak hatefully to your employees (Ephesians 6:9).
- C. Maintain the attitude of a servant, even in a position of leadership (1 Corinthians 9:19, 10:33).

IV. Dealing with Persecution and Temptation on the Job

- A.** As a Christian, you should not be surprised when you encounter persecution (2 Tim 3:12).
- B.** Keep in mind that many times persecution is caused by ignorance or hypocrisy (1 Peter 3:16-17). While you should seek for opportunities to witness you must avoid being rude or pushy (Matthew 10:16).
- C.** You must guard yourself against temptation on the job. It is very easy to be drawn into unholy conversation or activity as you try to live peaceably with your co-workers. You must guard your heart and your testimony (Romans 13:14, Proverbs 14:9).

V. Prayerfully Seek the Lord When Facing a Job Change

Be aware that where you work, who you work for, and what you do will have a serious impact on your family and even your church. Be sure that the Lord directs this important decision.

- A.** Be certain that you are dependent on the Lord's guidance and wisdom in the matter (James 1:5).
- B.** Ask yourself how a new job or a move will affect your service to the Lord Jesus Christ and your relationship to your church. This can be a very complex issue. You may want to seek counsel from others before making a big change.

Lesson Fifteen Questions

1. According to God's word, what is your vocation? Provide scripture.
2. How does your employment "support" your ministries?
3. To whom is every Christian employer and employee ultimately responsible? How should this affect our work ethic?
4. What are some Biblical marks of a good employee?
5. What are some Biblical marks of a good employer?
6. Why must we take special care to guard our heart and testimony on the workplace? What are some common ways believers damage the cause of Christ on the job?

Memory Verses for Lesson Fifteen

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. 2 Timothy 2:4

Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour. Proverbs 14:9

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Colossians 3:23

Lesson Sixteen: The Lost World

As a Christian, how do I relate to the lost world?

There can be no doubt from scripture that this world system is against the Lord Jesus Christ and His people. Nevertheless, He has left you here for a short time and He has called on you to be separate from this world at the same time that you engage it as a witness. The purpose of this lesson is to give you a balance of these responsibilities.

I. Expect Opposition and Persecution

- A. The world is opposed to Jesus Christ and He has told you to expect the same opposition when you follow him (John 15:18-21).
- B. If you never encounter persecution or opposition from the world, it may be an indication that you are not living for the Lord Jesus Christ (John 7:7, 2 Timothy 3:12).

II. Recognize Where this Opposition Will Come From

- A. The most difficult opposition that you will face is from those you are closest to. This is usually the first source from which a believer will encounter opposition and persecution (Matthew 10:35-36, Mark 6:4, John 1:11).
- B. This world is naturally opposed to the purposes of Jesus Christ (its entertainment, music, media, etc.). You must be prepared to judge these things alongside the word of God (1 John 2:15-17, James 4:4).
- C. The arch-enemy of your soul is the devil himself. He is working through the world system to cause you to sin and diminish your service for Christ (1 Peter 5:8, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

III. Learn How to Deal with the World's Opposition

- A. Give a soft answer (Proverbs 15:1, Romans 12:18).
- B. Please the Lord with your life (Proverbs 16:7).
- C. Have faith in God (1 John 5:4-5).
- D. Remember that the lost world is in bondage. Have compassion (Rom 12:14, 20-21).
- E. Pray for your enemies with pure motives (Matthew 5:44).
- F. Be careful to keep spiritual company (Proverbs 13:20, 1 Corinthians 15:33).
- G. Immerse yourself in the word of God (Joshua 1:6-9).

IV. Learn How the Lost World Should View You

- A. They should know you love God by your actions (1 Corinthians 8:3, 1 John 3:18).

- B. They should recognize that you are not like them (1 Peter 2:9, Phil 2:14-16).
- C. They should view you as moderate in all things (Philippians 4:5, 1 Timothy 2:9, 1 Peter 4:3-4).
- D. They should view you as being honest and upright (2 Corinthians 8:21).
- E. They should see you as being of “good report” (Colossians 4:5-6).

V. Learn How You Should See Your Place in the World

- A. You are a pilgrim in a strange land (1 Peter 2:11, Hebrews 11:13). This world is not your home!
- B. You are an ambassador representing your King, Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20).

VI. What about My Responsibility to the Government?

The fact is that Satan presently rules over the kingdoms of this world (Luke 4:5-6). Nevertheless, God is ultimately in control, even above the devil (Daniel 4:34-35). Civil government is a divine institution. Just because churches, or homes, or governments are flawed does not mean that we should rid ourselves of the institution. A proper attitude toward governmental authority is very important.

- A. God has ordained the powers that be, and as such we should be subject to their authority (Romans 13:1-5).
- B. We’re to render to the government what is due by law (Romans 13:6-7, Matthew 17:24-27, 22:15-22).
- C. We’re to submit ourselves to their ordinances (1 Peter 2:13-15).
- D. We’re to honor the office that our governmental leaders fill and be careful how we speak of them (1 Peter 2:17-23, 2 Peter 2:10).
- E. Civil disobedience is only appropriate when the ordinance of human government is in direct opposition to the clear-teaching of the word of God (Acts 5:29).
- F. We must recognize that spiritual character can not be legislated. Political action is of limited spiritual value. The best thing we can do for men or nations is lead individuals to Jesus Christ (Titus 2:14).

Lesson Sixteen Questions

1. Why does the believer's responsibility to the lost world demand balance?
2. What might it indicate if a believer never encounters persecution or opposition? Provide scripture.
3. How might maintaining spiritual company help you to deal with opposition?
4. How should we as believers see our place in this world?
5. Under what circumstances is civil disobedience justified according to the word of God?
6. Why is political action of limited value spiritually?

Memory Verses for Lesson Sixteen

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12

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. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. 1 John 2:15-17

Lesson Seventeen: The Judgment Seat of Christ

As a Christian, will there be a judgment day for me, and for what will I be judged?

The hope of heaven is secure for every born-again child of God, but what awaits us beyond this life should certainly motivate our faithful service to God. The way we live after we're saved does matter to God, and the Bible tells us that there will be a day of accountability. As believers, taking our eyes off temporal matters and focusing on issues of eternal importance is a critical part of spiritual maturity. As we shall see in this lesson, there will be a day of account for every believer. This lesson is designed to get you acquainted with that final accounting and to get your eyes on eternal matters so that you will not have to be ashamed at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

I. What is the Judgment Seat of Christ?

There are a number of different judgments in the Bible. While the Christian will never be judged for his sins and wind up in hell, every person will be judged by God some time after death (Hebrews 9:27). The believer's judgment is called the Judgment Seat of Christ and it is for saved people only (Romans 14:10).

- A. You were judged as **a sinner** at the cross of Calvary, when Christ suffered your punishment in your place (2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 3:18, Romans 5:8). In between your salvation and your death (or the rapture) God deals with each of us as **a son** through chastening (Hebrews 12:5-11). At the Judgment Seat of Christ we will be judged as **a servant** for reward or loss (1 Corinthians 3:14-15).
- B. The Judgment Seat of Christ is not to be confused with the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15). The Judgment Seat of Christ is not to determine if you will go to heaven or hell. It is exclusively for believers (2 Corinthians 5:10).
- C. While you are eternally secure as a child of God, the way you live does matter to Him or else there would be no Judgment Seat of Christ.

II. What should I expect at the Judgment Seat of Christ?

It is a sobering thought to consider standing before the Lord Jesus Christ and having your conduct and service for him examined (Revelation 1:13-18). Probably the best insight we have in to the Judgment Seat of Christ is found in 1 Corinthians 3:9-15.

- A. We will be judged for the methods (v. 10 - "how") and motivation (v. 13 - "what sort") with which we served the Lord Jesus Christ (v. 9-13).
 - 1. Service done for the Lord Jesus Christ will be purified (gold, silver, precious stones), while that done for impure motives will be burnt up (wood, hay, stubble).
 - 2. If we serve the Lord with selfish motives or to please other men we can expect no heavenly reward for that service (Luke 16:15, Ephesians 6:6).
- B. We will be rewarded for faithful service to the Lord Jesus Christ (v. 14). There are five "crowns" mentioned in the New Testament which the believer can earn at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

1. The Incorruptible Crown – For temperance (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).
 2. The Crown of Rejoicing – For soul-winning (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20).
 3. The Crown of Righteousness – For loving Christ’s return (2 Timothy 4:8).
 4. The Crown of Life – For enduring temptation or dying for Christ (James 1:12, Revelation 2:10).
 5. The Crown of Glory – For being a faithful elder (1 Peter 5:1-4).
- C. We will suffer loss for a failure to serve our Savior acceptably (v. 15). Even though a believer may suffer loss, they will still be saved (“yet so as by fire”).
1. We can lose rewards that we had previously earned when we don’t finish well (2 John 8, Revelation 3:11).
 2. We will receive those things done in the body, including that which is bad (2 Corinthians 5:10). There is an element of “terror” to this accounting (2 Corinthians 5:11).
 3. To suffer loss at the Judgment Seat of Christ will bring about shame (1 John 2:28, Revelation 3:18).

III. How should the Judgment Seat of Christ affect me right now?

We should seek to live our lives in light of eternity. The Lord Jesus Christ has been so good to us and we should have a sincere desire to please him. The crowns that we can earn by our faithful service to Christ will be our wedding present to Him some day (Revelation 4:10-11). The doctrine of the Judgment Seat of Christ should have a profound impact on our perspective of what is important right now.

- A. We should set our affection on things above (Colossians 3:1-4).
- B. We should lay up treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21).
- C. We should recognize that earthly treasures and rewards are only temporal, but the rewards that Christ will bestow at the Judgment Seat will last forever (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

IV. Seven Judgments (For further study)

- A. The sin of the world (Galatians 3:13, 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- B. The prince of this world (John 12:31, 16:11).
- C. The believer as a son (1 Corinthians 11:31-32, Hebrews 12:5-11).
- D. The Judgment Seat of Christ (Romans 14:10, 2 Corinthians 5:10).
- E. The nation of Israel in the Great Tribulation (Ezekiel 20:20-28, Isaiah 4:2-4).
- F. The principalities (Isaiah 24:21-22, Daniel 7:9-14).
- G. The Gentile Nations (Matthew 25:31-46).
- H. The Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15).

Lesson Seventeen Questions

1. From the lesson, where and in what way does God judge a sinner? A son? A servant?
2. What is the difference between the Judgment Seat of Christ and the Great White Throne Judgment?
3. For what will we be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ?
4. What are the things a believer can earn a crown for at the Judgment Seat of Christ?
5. What does it mean in First Corinthians 3:15 when it says “he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire”?
6. What is the practical effect on a believer’s life of really looking forward to the Judgment Seat of Christ?

Memory Verses for Lesson Seventeen

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:10

And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. 1 John 2:28

Lesson Eighteen: The Second Coming of Christ

What should be my attitude toward the return of Jesus Christ?

The return of the Lord Jesus Christ is the most often prophesied event in all of scripture and it is the believer's "blessed hope" (Titus 2:13). Unfortunately, this doctrine is often confused, neglected, or altogether ignored. The truth is that the return of Jesus Christ is an extremely practical subject when believed literally and applied personally. The purpose of this lesson is to give you an overview of what the Bible says about the end-times and to point out how the soon return of Jesus Christ should affect us practically as we wait for Him.

I. An Overview of the End-Times

While there may be different ideas about the details of the Second Coming of Christ and the events of the Last Days, a literal interpretation of scripture will provide us with a good idea of God's "big picture" for the end-times.

A. The Rapture of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). The next "big event" on God's prophetic calendar is the catching-away of the church.

1. The Lord himself will come at this time *for* his saints.
2. All believers will get their glorified body at this time (1 Corinthians 15:51-53).
3. This will occur before the start of the tribulation (1 Thessalonians 5:9).
4. It is following the rapture that the church will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10) and ultimately marry her Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:7-9).

B. The Tribulation (Daniel 9:24-27, 12:1, Matthew 24:21). Following the rapture of the church the Lord will turn his attention to the nation of Israel (Jeremiah 30:7).

1. There will be a personal antichrist that comes to great power at this time (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, Revelation 13:1-2). He will mercilessly persecute Israel, attempting to destroy them (Revelation 12:17).
2. There will be horrible, cataclysmic judgments in the earth including war, famine, and pestilence, such as has never been seen before (Matthew 24:22, Revelation 6).

C. The Revelation of Christ (Revelation 19:11-16). At the close of the Great Tribulation Jesus Christ will return to assume control of the earth. This is the most oft prophesied event in all of scripture.

1. In connection with His coming, the Battle of Armageddon will take place (Revelation 16:14, 16).
2. The Jewish remnant will be saved when they see Jesus Christ (Zechariah 12:10) and restored to the head of nations (Deuteronomy 28:13).

3. The Gentile nations of the earth will be judged at Christ's return based on how they treated the Jews (Matthew 25:31-46).
 4. The Devil will be put in the Bottomless Pit (Revelation 20:1-3).
- D.** The Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 11:15, 20:4). Jesus Christ will establish a kingdom of peace and righteousness on planet earth that will last one-thousand years.
1. At the end of this one-thousand years, Satan will be loosed briefly and lead a final rebellion against King Jesus (Revelation 20:7-10).
 2. This will result in the renovation of the earth by fire (2 Peter 3:8-10).
 3. The Great White Throne Judgment will take place and all the wicked dead from ages past will be cast out of hell and into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:11-15).
- E.** The Eternal Kingdom (Luke 1:31-32). With sin and rebellion eradicated an eternal kingdom will commence.
1. This will begin with a new heaven, a new earth, and a New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:1-4).
 2. We will serve the Lord without interruption or temptation for ever and ever (Revelation 22:3).

II. The Difference the Promise of His Coming Makes Now

If a bride were expecting her Bridegroom to sweep in and carry her off to their home at any minute, she would be looking for him. If you expected a great King to visit your home you would make sure things were tidy and in order. If you were planning on moving to a new home a great distance away, you would make preparations for the move ahead of time. Jesus Christ is coming for his church and the hope of that coming should have a practical impact on our lives.

- A.** The hope of His coming will purify us (1 John 3:1-3, Titus 2:11-14).
- B.** The hope of His coming will give us confidence (Philippians 1:6, 1 John 2:28).
- C.** The hope of His coming will give us evangelistic urgency (John 9:4).
- D.** The hope of His coming will cause us to be faithful in our service (2 Timothy 4:1-8).
- E.** The hope of His coming will bring us comfort (1 Thessalonians 4:18).
- F.** The hope of His coming will give us hope in difficult times (1 Peter 1:5-7).
- G.** The hope of His coming will cause us to patiently wait for His return (James 5:7-8).

Lesson Eighteen Questions

1. What is the next big event on God's calendar of Bible Prophecy? When will this occur in relation to the Tribulation?
2. To whom does God specifically turn His attention to during the Tribulation? Provide scripture.
3. List four important prophetic events connected with the revelation of Jesus Christ at the Second Coming.
4. When does the Great White Throne Judgment take place?
5. List three "new things" connected with the Eternal Kingdom in Revelation 21.
6. Name at least three practical ways in which the believer's life will be impacted as he looks for the return of Jesus Christ.

Memory Verses for Lesson Eighteen

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Titus 2:13