

Table of Contents

A Use Your Bible Correspondence Course

David D. Bonner

LESSON 1	
Getting Ready to Understand the Bible.....	2
LESSON 2	
Understanding the Difference Between the Old and New Testaments.....	5
LESSON 3	
The Establishment of the Lord's Church.....	11
LESSON 4	
The Worship of the Church.....	19
LESSON 5	
The Organization and Work of the Church.....	26
LESSON 6	
The Falling Away, Reformation, Restoration and Identity of the Church.....	33
LESSON 7	
The Nature and Unity of the Church.....	41
LESSON 8	
What Happens After Death?.....	47
LESSON 9	
The Christian and Morality (or how to tell what is right or wrong in the moral realm).....	54
LESSON 10	
Faithfulness, Falling From Grace, and Discipline.....	60

This class material was formatted and edited by

Richie Thetford

November 2004

LESSON 1

Getting Ready to Understand the Bible

1. Many people believe that the Bible cannot be understood by man today. Some religionists even teach this. Would God create man and then give him a Book by which he will be judged. (John 12:48) that he cannot even understand? If man cannot understand the Bible, either 1) God is not capable of giving man a book he can understand, or 2) God does not love us enough to give a book we can understand. Who would charge God of either?

2. Fill in the blanks by either quoting, paraphrasing, or giving the meaning of the following scriptures on the **FACT** that man can understand the Bible.
 - A. What were the Ephesians told they could understand and perceive? (Eph 3:4)

 - B. The people of Berea did what? (Acts 17:11) _____

 - C. Paul told Timothy he ought to study so he could do what?
(2 Tim 2:15) _____

 - D. The man who hungers after God's word will find what? (Matt 5:6)

 - E. Before man can come to God he must what? (John 6:44-45)

 - F. How can man be made free? (John 8:32) _____

3. Realizing man **CAN** understand the Bible, let's notice what attitude a man must have in order for him to understand it.
 - A. What must be a man's desire in order to learn the Word of God?
(John 7:17) _____

- B. Why do some people not understand the Bible? (Matt 13:15) _____

- C. If one man says $2 + 2 = 4$ and another man says $2 + 2 = 5$, do both men understand the problem? _____
- D. When two men read the Bible yet have opposite answers to the same questions, do both men understand the Bible? _____
4. **THE WHOLE OF CHRISTIANITY** is included in two things; 1) having the right information, and 2) having the right attitude. If man knows what is right but will not do it, he cannot please God. If man desires to please God but does not know **WHAT** pleases God, he cannot please God. We must at all times have the **RIGHT ATTITUDE** and study to obtain the **RIGHT FACTS**. One with the right attitude of heart will **LIVE** according to the information he has. One with the right information does not always do what he knows to be right. We must **KNOW RIGHT** and desire to **DO RIGHT**.
- A. What two things did Jesus say are necessary to have acceptable worship? (John 4:24) _____
- B. If we worship according to the doctrines of men, what is it? (Matt 15:9) _____
- C. Acts 5:29 teaches we must do what? _____
- D. A certain way may seem good to us but is this an infallible guide? (Prov 14:12) _____
- E. Can man direct himself as he pleases in his worship and actions? (Jer 10:23) _____
- F. Why? (Isaiah 55:8-9) _____
- G. Can anyone know what you like unless you tell him? (1 Cor 2:11) _____
- H. Can anyone know what pleases God unless the Spirit of God tells him (which He does through the Bible since the Bible is inspired)? (1 Cor 2:11) _____

- I. If one has the Bible (scriptures), does he need anything else to make him complete? (2 Tim 3:16-17) _____
- J. The word of God (Bible) is called the doctrine of Christ (New Testament). What is the condition of a man who does not abide in the teaching or doctrine of Christ (New Testament)? (2 John 9-11) _____
- K. Suppose some man adds to the teaching of the Bible! What is his condition? (Rev 22:18-19) _____
- L. What is the condition of any man or angel that teaches a different gospel other than the one the Apostle Paul or any of the other apostles taught? (Gal 1:6-9) _____
- M. What is necessary in order to be saved? (2 Thes 2:10) _____
- N. For those who do not love the truth above all else, it is easy for them to believe what? (2 Thes 2:11) _____
- O. What will some religious people do to keep from leaving their human traditions? (Mark 7:9) _____
5. CONCLUSION: The only way to approach a study of the word of God is with an open heart. If we do not study for **GOD'S APPROVAL**, we may never come to a knowledge of the truth. If one approaches the Bible just trying to **PROVE A POINT**, just trying to prove that something he practices or wants to believe is right, he may never see the truth of God on it. He will be able to understand the Bible if he approaches it with a desire to learn God's will.

All men need to constantly search their hearts to make sure that every motive is to be in submission to God. We should study to find out what is right, and when found, stand by the truth regardless of what other people do. No man or woman should ever compromise **TRUTH** just to unite a family. If a family is united in **ERROR**, God is less pleased than if part of the family stood for the truth. The religion of God has always been one of **CONVICTION**, not **CONVENIENCE**.

LESSON 2

Understanding the Difference Between the Old and New Testaments

1. Possibly the greatest reason many Bible believing people do not understand the Bible is that they do not understand the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament divides itself naturally into three divisions for study; **HISTORY (17 books)**, **POETRY (5 books)**, and **PROPHECY (17 books)**. If you were to read the first 17 books of the Bible, you would have covered the history of the world from the creation to the end of the Old Testament (400 B.C.). The next 5 books are inspired poetry, and the last 17 books of the Old Testament are books called the prophets which deal with the people in their day and prophesy about the Christ and His Kingdom to come (Acts 3:24).

2. The **LAW** came by Moses (John 1:17). Usually when the Bible says **LAW**, it has reference to the Old Testament **LAW OF MOSES**. (Fill in the blanks)
 - A. To whom was the Law of Moses given? (Exod 34:27) _____

 - B. The Law of Moses was a sign between God and whom? (Exod 31:17)

 - C. What did this **SIGN** (the Sabbath Day) commemorate? (Deut 5:15)

 - D. Usually when a man gets married he gives his bride a ring. That ring is a sign between him and his wife. Would that ring mean anything to another woman?

 - E. Would the sign of the **SABBATH KEEPING** mean anything to anyone other than to whom God gave it? _____

3. **REQUIREMENTS** and **LAWS** that **MUST** be followed to **OBEY** the law of Moses.
 - A. What was to be done to disobedient sons? (Deut 21:18-21)

- B. What was used in worship under the Old Testament? (Lev 16:3)

- C. In order to participate in the religious rites of the Old Testament, all men had to do what as a religious practice? (Exod 12:48)

- D. The Israelites had to keep what? (Exod 20:8) _____
- E. Which day of the week was the Sabbath Day? (Exod 20:8-11)

- F. What are the requirements for keeping the **REST** or **SABBATH DAY**?
(Exod 35:3) _____
(Exod 20:10) _____
(Exod 16:29) _____
- G. What is the punishment the Jews were to inflict on all who broke the Sabbath Day requirements? (Exod 31:12-15; Num 15:32-36)

- H. Do you know of anyone today who **OBSERVES** the Sabbath Day as the Old Testament required? (i.e. don't cook, work, and kill others who don't observe the Sabbath Day, etc.) _____

- I. If one would try to keep part of the old law today (such as circumcision for religious reasons) how much of the old law is he obligated to keep? (Gal 5:3)

- J. What is one's condition who keeps part of the Old Testament Law, but not all of it? (Gal 3:10) _____

4. What could the Old Testament Law not do?

- A. (Rom 3:20) _____
- B. (Gal 2:21) _____

- C. (Heb 10:1) _____
- D. (Heb 10:4) _____
- E. (Gal 3:11) _____

5. What did the Old Testament Law do?

- A. (Rom 3:20) _____
- B. (Heb 10:3) _____
- C. If your doctor said you were dying from an illness and said there was no cure for the disease, how would you feel? _____
How interested would you be in the development of a cure? _____
- D. In Jeremiah 31:31-34, it is said that God would make a " _____ " covenant which would be different than the old covenant God made with them when they left Egypt. Verse 34 states in the new covenant, " _____ their iniquity, and their sin _____ "
- E. The Old Testament described and diagnosed sin, but offered no cure. Read Galatians 3:23-25 and discuss how the people were interested in receiving the new law God had promised in Jeremiah. _____

6. The **NEW TESTAMENT** teaches we **ARE NOT** under the Old Testament Law of Moses today:

- A. What was nailed to the cross? (Col 2:14) _____

- B. What was contained in ordinances? (Eph 2:15) _____
- C. Therefore, what was abolished or done away? _____
- D. What is the condition of any Christian who would follow the Old Testament Law today? (Gal 5:1-4) _____

- E. Keep in mind its requirements as well as not offering forgiveness of sins, why would anyone want to follow the Old Testament Law today? _____
7. If there could have been salvation under the Old Testament Law then the death of Christ was needless or worthless (Gal 2:21). However, much of the New Testament teaches that there could be no salvation under the **LAW OF MOSES**, and it was therefore completely necessary for the **SON OF GOD** to die for all men.
- A. Write the gist of each of these scriptures showing the necessity of the death of Jesus.
- 1) (Heb 9:22) _____
 - 2) (Matt 26:28) _____
 - 3) (Rev 5:9) _____
 - 4) (Rom 5:8-9) _____
 - 5) (Eph 1:7) _____
 - 6) (1 Pet 2:24) _____
8. People reason that if the Old Testament is not binding today, then men are free to commit any sins condemned in the Old Testament. That kind of reasoning is not true! For an example, we in America are not under the **LAW OF ENGLAND** today, but does that mean we can commit crimes which the Law of England condemns? NO! Why Not? Simple, the **LAW WE ARE UNDER** (U.S. Law) forbids some of the same things. This does not mean we are still under **ENGLISH LAW**, but that some things are common to both laws or even all laws.

In 1776 the U.S. declared itself independent and free from England. If a lawyer told you to mail your income taxes to England and used a law book dated 1765 as his proof test, what would you think? Would he be reliable to handle your legal affairs? _____ Suppose you would ask some preacher how much Christians are to give today and he goes back to the Old Testament Law of Moses (which was nailed to the cross over 1900 years ago) and cites Leviticus 27:30 and says 10%. (It would be about as good of advice as telling you to worship with burnt offerings (Lev 16:3), or not to eat pork (Lev 11:7). Would this man be any more able to advise you spiritually than the above lawyer would be to advise you legally? _____ And yet, how many people find themselves with such ill advice? _____

9. **TODAY WE ARE UNDER JESUS' LAW.** What is Jesus' law called?
- A. (Gal 6:2) _____
 - B. (Jam 1:25) _____
 - C. (Rom 6:15) _____
 - D. (Heb 9:15) _____
 - E. (2 John 9) _____
 - F. (Rom 1:16) _____
10. **JESUS HAS ALL AUTHORITY TODAY. WE MUST DO THINGS ACCORDING TO HIS WORD.** Write the gist of the following scriptures on this subject.
- A. (Matt 28:18) _____
 - B. (Col 3:17) _____
 - C. (Gal 1:6-9) _____

 - D. (Rev 22:18-19) _____

11. **SINCE JESUS HAS ALL AUTHORITY TODAY,** what do these scriptures tell us about those who worship according to the dictates of their own minds instead of the dictates of the law of God?
- A. (Matt 15:9) _____

 - B. (Acts 4:12) _____

 - C. (2 John 9) _____

Read Hebrews 9:15-17. When does a man's **WILL** or **TESTAMENT** go into effect, before or after he dies? _____

When did the **TESTAMENT** of **JESUS** go into effect, before or after the cross?

CONCLUSION: The purpose of the first lesson was to get in a position to begin to study the word of God realizing that we really can understand the Bible. The purpose of this lesson is to see the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament. While the Old Testament is as inspired of God as the New Testament, the fact remains that God gave the Old Testament Law of Moses to the Jews (Israelites) and to the Jews only. It was nailed to the cross. Jesus' Testament went into effect after the cross. The thing for us today, is to learn the New Testament and live by it.

LESSON 3

The Establishment of the Lord's Church

1. Preparation for the establishment of the church.

- A. What did Jesus promise to build? (Matt 16:18) _____
- B. What does Matthew 16:18 teach the church would be built upon?

- C. The question arises as to what the ROCK is.
- 1) What is the foundation of the church? (1 Cor 3:11) _____

- 2) In Matthew 16:18 Jesus told Peter that he was PETER (PETROS - masculine in gender in the Greek language -- the language the New Testament was written in) and upon ROCK (PETRA - feminine in gender) the church would be built. Since PETER (PETROS) is masculine and ROCK (PETRA) is feminine, could Peter be referred to the ROCK upon which the church is built? _____

(NOTE: The whole structure of Catholicism stands or falls upon this verse. It falls!)
- 3) In understanding what the ROCK is in Matthew 16:18 from the context itself, read Matthew 16:13-20.
- a. What had Peter just confessed? (Vs 16) _____

- b. When Jesus said to Peter that the church would be built upon THIS ROCK, it seems obvious that Jesus had in mind the FACT that HE is the Son of God. The Lord's church is built upon this fact.
- D. Was John the Baptist dead or alive according to Matthew 14:1-2? _____

- E. Since we know this (Letter D), and Jesus promised in Matthew 16:18 to build His church, could John the baptist have been in the church?

- F. How great was John the baptist? (Matt 11:11) _____
- G. What did John preach about the kingdom during his ministry?
(Matt 3:1-2) _____
- H. What did Jesus preach about the kingdom during His ministry?
(Matt 4:17) _____
- I. When did Jesus say the kingdom would come into existence?
(Mark 9:1) _____
- J. Some people teach the kingdom hasn't come. How old would some people be today if this is true? (Mar 9:1) _____
- K. What does Colossians 1:13 teach in respect to the existence of the kingdom?

- L. After Jesus arose from the dead, how much authority did He say had been given to Him? (Matt 28:18) _____
- M. We think of one kind of authority as LEGISLATIVE or authority to make laws. If Jesus has all authority, does that leave any authority for any man or "church" to pass or make any RELIGIOUS LAWS? _____
- N. In Jesus' parting instructions to His apostles, what did He command them? (Matt 28:19-20) _____
- O. In Mark 16:15, what did Jesus command His apostles? _____

- P. In Mark 16:16, how did Jesus say a man can be lost? _____

- Q. In Mark 16:16, what did Jesus make necessary for salvation? _____

- R. Shortly after His resurrection, where did Jesus say REPENTANCE and REMISSION OF SINS would first be preached? (Luke 24:47) _____

- S. Where did Jesus command the apostles to wait? (Luke 24:49) _____
- T. Where did they wait after Jesus went back to heaven? (Luke 24:50-52) _____
- U. What were the apostles to receive? (Luke 24:49) _____
- V. How was the kingdom to come? (Mark 9:1) _____
- W. Read Acts 1:1-11. Just before Jesus went back to heaven He told the apostles they were to receive what in just a few days? (Acts 1:5) _____
- X. When would the apostles receive POWER? (Acts 1:8) _____

- (NOTE: Since the kingdom would come with power (Mark 9:1) and the power would come when the Holy Spirit came, if we can find when the Holy Spirit came we can KNOW when the kingdom came.)
- Y. When did the Holy Spirit come? (Acts 2:1-4). On what day? _____

- Z. How many days did Jesus walk the earth after He was raised? (Acts 1:3) _____
- AA. How many days did the apostles wait for the Holy Spirit and the power to come?

(NOTE: There are some passages in which KINGDOM refers to the eternal kingdom (heaven) such as 2 Peter 1:11. But for the most part "kingdom" refers to the church. A later lesson will deal with the NATURE of the church in which the church is described in different figures.)

2. The day the church was established.

- A. Who was given the KEYS of the kingdom? (Matt 16:19) _____
(NOTE: Read Matthew 16:18-19. Here it seems clear that kingdom and church refer to one and the same thing.)

- B. Who preached the first sermon by which the door of the church was opened? (Acts 2:14ff) _____
- C. After Peter preached the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (Acts 2:29-36) and the gathered throng of Jews knew they were sinners, what effect did it have on them? (Acts 2:37) _____

- D. What did they ask? (Acts 2:37) _____
- E. What did Peter tell them they would have to do in order to have their sins forgiven? (Acts 2:38) _____
- F. They are in Jerusalem: Is this not in fulfillment of Luke 24:47? _____

(Note what Jesus said would be preached (Luke 24:47) and what Peter also preached (Acts 2:38).
- G. Which ones were baptized? (Acts 2:41) _____
- H. How many were baptized? (Acts 2:41) _____
- I. How did these people get into the church? (Acts 2:47) _____

- J. Is God a respecter of persons? (Rom 2:11; Acts 10:34) _____
- K. If we do exactly what the 3,000 did on the Day of Pentecost, to be saved, will God forgive us and the Lord add us to what He added them? _____

3. **Getting into Christ and the blessings IN CHRIST.**

- A. How does one get into Christ? (Gal 3:27; Rom 6:3) _____

- B. Let the square represent **BEING IN CHRIST**. From the scriptures given, write the blessings or THINGS that the Bible says are IN CHRIST. Write these words INSIDE the square.

2 Tim 2:10; Colossians 1:14; Revelation 14:13; Ephesians 1:3; 2:13; 1:7



- C. From the above, what would you say is the condition of one OUTSIDE OF CHRIST? _____

4. BAPTISM.

- A. FORM---"Baptism" is not a translated word; it is a transliteration of the Greek word "Baptisma". Any New Testament Greek Lexicon will define the word as meaning "immersion" or "submersion".

- 1) Why did John baptize where he did? (John 3:23) _____

- 2) In baptism, was the water carried to the subject or did the subject go to the water? (Acts 8:36) _____
- 3) In baptism, did the one doing the baptizing handle the subject (one who wanted to be baptized) or did he handle the water? (Acts 8:38) _____
- 4) In baptism, both the one to be baptized and the one to do the baptizing went down into and came up out of WHAT? (Acts 8:38-39) _____
- 5) Romans 6:4 teaches we are " _____ with Him by baptism...."

- 6) Colossians 2:12 teaches, " _____ with Him in baptism...."
- 7) In John 3:5 Jesus teaches a man must be born of water and of the Spirit. Could one be born in something smaller than he is? _____
Could a man be born in a body of water smaller than he is? _____
- 8) It is a historical fact that sprinkling or pouring in the place of baptism was unknown in the first century. Such had a much later origin. One could not baptize by sprinkling any more than one could walk to town by riding. One could sprinkle and call it baptism but such would not make it baptism.

B. Subject for baptism.

- 1) What was required for one to be baptized in Acts 8:36-37?

- 2) What requirement did Jesus make for baptism? (Mark 16:16)

(The subject, then, must be a believer.)

C. The purpose of baptism.

- 1) Acts 2:38 states the purpose of baptism as, "for _____"

- 2) Mark 16:16 states the purpose of baptism as _____

- 3) 1 Corinthians 12:13 states the purpose of baptism as to get into _____
- 4) Galatians 3:27 & Romans 6:3 state the purpose of baptism as to get into _____

(NOTE: Since a purpose of baptism is to be SAVED, this makes the subject for baptism a LOST person. Babies are not lost and therefore are not subjects for salvation (or baptism).

(NOTE: All religious bodies which baptize babies either teach now or did teach when they originated the infant baptism doctrine that little babies are born in sin and are lost. The practice of infant baptism is based on the doctrine of infant damnation. Some have changed their teaching and yet have not changed their practice.)

5. OTHER RECORDS OF CONVERSION:

This lesson covers the first RECORD OF CONVERSION when people became Christians; namely, the establishment of the church. There are nine other such records of people becoming Christians and what they did (the same things) that the 3,000 did to become Christians.

6. The four simple divisions of the New Testament are:

Four books (The life of Christ); One book (Acts - the history of the church--all the records of conversion); Twenty-one books (all are letters to Christians (or churches-groups of Christians) telling them how to live, worship, work and the organization of the church, etc.); and One book of REVELATION. From this it is easy to see why all the records of conversion are in the book of ACTS.

LESSON 4

The Worship of the Church

1. What Worship Is.

- A. Name the two parts to acceptable worship (John 4:24) _____

- B. Jesus said to worship God is to do what? (Matt 4:10) _____

- C. There are several words translated worship. One means an act of homage and one means to serve. Worship, in a broad sense, includes not only acts of devotion but all acts of service. It is simply doing what God tells us to do. Service to God involves all of one's life. This lesson primarily covers only the acts the church is to do while assembled (commonly known as the worship of the church).

2. There are five specific acts of worship for the church.

A. The Lord's Supper.

- 1) The elements in the Lord's supper (Matt 26:26-28).
- a. What is to be eaten? _____
 - b. What is the drink? _____
 - c. What would be wrong with eating pork & beans and drinking orange juice in the Lord's supper since the Bible doesn't say NOT to? _____
- 2) The purpose of the Lord's Supper.
- a. When Christians eat the elements in the Lord's supper it is a _____ with the body and blood of Jesus (1 Cor 10:16).

- b. When Christians eat the Lord's supper what does it show about Jesus coming again? (1 Cor 11:26) _____
- 3) Manner of observance.
- a. When Christians take the Lord's supper, what are they to remember while taking it? (1 Cor 11:24-25) _____

- b. If a person eats the Lord's supper unworthily (not thinking about Jesus), what is his condition? (1 Cor 11:27,29) _____
- 4) How often the Lord's supper is to be observed.
- a. There is one scripture in the New Testament showing how often the early disciples took the Lord's supper; how often was it? (Acts 20:7) _____
- b. Which day of the week is the first day of the week?

- c. What was the purpose for the disciples meeting? (Acts 20:7) _____
- d. Had they not met every first day, would Paul likely have known they would meet that first day? (He had waited there seven days to see them - Acts 20:6) _____
- e. Should we meet on the first day of the week to break bread (Lord's Supper) to be like the early church? _____
- f. If Christians meet today with any other frequency than every first day of the week or on any other day of the week, are they following the Bible? _____ If yes, which scripture?

B. Giving - The church's method of raising money.

- 1) When was the early church told to raise its money?
(1 Cor 16:2) _____
- 2) Was the amount or percentage each Christian was to give specified?
(1 Cor 16:2) _____
- 3) How is the Christian to give? (1 Cor 16:2; 2 Cor 9:7)

- 4) Who purposes how much he shall give? (2 Cor 9:7) _____
- 5) Where do some "churches" get the authority to tell individuals how much to give? _____
- 6) How was the early church to raise its money (store)?
(1 Cor 16:2) _____
- 7) Since the Bible doesn't say NOT to, can the church buy farms and other business enterprises to operate for a profit to raise money to do the work of the church? _____ If yes, give scripture. _____

C. Prayer - Man's way of talking to God.

- 1) Whom is to be addressed in prayer? (Matt 6:9) _____

- 2) Whom are Christians to pray for? (1 Tim 2:1) _____

- 3) When the Christian sins, what two things is he to do?
(Acts 8:22) _____
- 4) Name other things the Christian is to pray for (Matt 6:11) _____
(Mark 11:24) _____
- 5) In whose name is prayer to be offered? (Col 3:17; 1 Tim 2:5)

- 6) What should the spirit of prayer be according to the following scriptures?
- a. James 4:3; 1 Tim 2:8 _____
 - b. James 1:5-8 _____
 - c. Matt 6:10 _____
 - d. Matt 26:39 _____
 - e. 1 John 5:14 _____
- 7) What about the insincere person, the rebellious, or the one who will not obey God when he goes to God in prayer?
(John 9:31; 1 Pet 3:12) _____
- 8) What should characterize private prayer? (Matt 6:6) _____

- 9) Discuss how not to pray in public from Matthew 6:5,7. _____

- 10) How does 1 Corinthians 14:15-16 prove that others must understand the one leading the prayer? _____

(This would prove that prayer must be loud enough for all to hear and in a common language)

D. Edification - The church needs to be taught.

- 1) When the disciples met on the first day of the week to take the Lord's supper (Acts 20:7), what did Paul do? _____
- 2) During the days of miracles done by apostles and other inspired men, why was prophecy more important than the gift of tongues? (1 Cor 14:5)

- 3) What is the body? (Col 1:18,24) _____

- 4) What does the body do for itself? (Eph 4:16) _____

- 5) What caused Israel in the Old Testament to be destroyed? (Hosea 4:6)

- 6) What caused their captivity? (Isa 5:13) _____
- 7) What can cause the destruction of God's people today? _____

E. Singing - A part of worship.

- 1) Read the following scriptures in the New Testament that teach about the music of the church. Matthew 26:30 (This one took place before the church came into existence so perhaps it can't really be used.) Acts 16:25; Rom 15:9; 1 Cor 14:15; Eph 5:19; Col 3:16; Heb 2:12; 13:15; Jam 5:13.
 - a. What are Christians to sing? (Eph 5:19; Col 3:16)

 - b. How are Christians to sing? (1 Cor 14:15) _____

 - c. Where are Christians to make melody? (Eph 5:19)

 - d. When are Christians to sing? (Heb 2:12; Acts 16:25)

 - e. State reasons why Christians sing. (Col 3:16) _____
_____ (Heb 2:12; 13:15; Rom 15:9)

- 2) There are two kinds of music known to man. One is singing (vocal music made by the human voice) and the other is mechanical (music made by machinery). In all the scriptures above (all in the New Testament on the subject), which kind is commanded by God for us today?

Do you know of the other kind ever being authorized for Christians in worship? If so, give the scripture. _____

- 3) What would be wrong with having mechanical music in worship since the New Testament doesn't say not to have it? See 7) under Giving and 1), c. under the Lord's supper above for comparison. _____

3. **Bible authority and worship.**

- A. Colossians 3:17 teaches that all done in word (what we teach) and in deed (what we practice) must be done in the name of the Lord (by the Lord's authority). Acts 4:7 shows that name means authority or power.
- B. We understand that **silence does not authorize** in the secular realm. For example: If you were to send in an order to Sears & Roebuck for one pair of black shoes and they sent you a truck load of other things along with the shoes and charge you for them, what would you think? You know when you specify one pair of shoes, that does not include anything else. So it is with God. **WE MUST HAVE AUTHORITY FOR ALL WE DO IN WORD AND IN DEED.** When God specifies **ONE THING**, that only includes the thing specified so we say that all other things are automatically excluded.

LESSON 5

The Organization and Work of the Church

1. The organization of the church.

- A. By using an English dictionary to define "organization" it is seen that an organization is "(1) That which has organic form and (2) That which has been arranged into interdependent parts...." (From organize...)
- B. The word CHURCH is used in two distinct ways in the Bible.
- 1) One way in Matthew 16:18 Jesus said He would _____
His church. Thus, the church is the institution for which Jesus died (Eph 5:25; Acts 20:28). In this sense the church includes all of God's people everywhere.
- a. What is Jesus Head of? (Col 1:18) _____
- b. What is the body? (Col 1:24) _____
- c. How many bodies are there? (Eph 4:4; 1 Cor 12:13,14,20)

- d. How many churches are there? _____
- e. How does one get into the body? (1 Cor 12:13) _____

- 2) Another way the word church is used is in the sense of God's people in a locality who worship and work together as an organization (see definition).
- a. Is there more than one local church? (Rom 16:16) _____
- b. Is there more than one church for which Jesus died? (Eph 5:25)

For which He is the Head? (Col 1:18,24) _____
For which He is the Saviour? (Eph 5:23) _____

- c. Where were the churches of Revelation 1:11 located?

- d. Name two other towns that had churches. (Acts 13:1 and 1 Cor 1:2) _____

C. In order for God's people in a locality to work together and get things done, God had to specify some organization through which to work or tell them to devise their own. God, in His own good wisdom, gave the LOCAL CHURCH.

1) Proof:

- a. Who were ordained in every church? (Acts 14:23)

- b. What were elders to oversee? (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:1-2)

- c. Which flock were elders to oversee? (1 Pet 5:2)

- d. In Acts 20:17 Paul called unto him the _____ of the church.
- e. In talking with these men he called them what? (Acts 10:28) _____

(NOTE: From Acts 20:17,28 alone it can be proved that elders are also called OVERSEERS (or bishops--same word) and since they were over a flock (of sheep - the church) that made them shepherds (or pastors - pastor means shepherd). Thus, elders are bishops or overseers, and pastors or shepherds.

- f. Was there ever just one elder, pastor, or bishop over a church? (Acts 14:23) _____
(Phil 1:1) _____ (Acts 15:4) _____

g. Could an unmarried man be a pastor, bishop or overseer, or elder?
(1 Tim 3:1) _____
(Tit 1:5-6) _____

2) Since elders were over only one church and their oversight never extended any further than the flock "among" them (1 Pet 5:2) and of the "flock they were over" (Acts 20:28), then each local church was completely independent.

a. The independence of the local church as you read about it in the Bible is self evident. Never do you find a local church sending funds to some human organization, some convention, headquarters, missionary or benevolent society, etc. Each local church was organization enough to do what ever God wanted done. If this is not so, please give the scripture where the church ever sent to an organization. _____

b. Gospel preachers have preached for many decades that "any organization larger than the local church, or smaller than the local church, or other than the local church through which the church does its work is unscriptural because the local church is God's organization to do the work of the church".

2. The work of the church. (Now, which work is the organization to do?)

A. Evangelize the world.

1) What did Jesus tell His apostles? (Mark 16:15) _____

2) Since the apostles were not to do this until they were endued with power from on high (Luke 24:49) and since the kingdom (or church) would come when the power came (Mark 9:1), does this not prove that the apostles were to go preach to all when they were in the church for which Jesus died? _____

3) What is said as to the church at Thessalonica sending forth the Word of God? (1 Thes 1:8) _____

- 4) At one time how many churches supported Paul in the gospel? More than one? (2 Cor 11:8) _____
- 5) At another time how many churches supported Paul? (Phil 4:15-16) _____
- 6) Did the churches themselves support Paul or donate to a missionary society that supported Paul? _____
- 7) When a church supports a preacher, who gets the credit or fruit? (Phil 4:17) _____

B. Worship - is a work of the church (Lesson 4, took this)

C. Caring for the needy saints. (The church's benevolence.)

- 1) Are there any the church is not charged with helping? (1 Tim 5:16)

- 2) Name the eight qualifications of a widow indeed for the church to take her on permanent relief. (1 Tim 5:3-16 - especially verses 9-10)

- 3) Besides the church caring for widows indeed on a permanent basis, the church cared for others on a temporary or emergency basis. There are nine passages of scripture in the Bible showing the ones the church helped. (Acts 2:45; 4:35; 6:1-6; Rom 15:25-31; 1 Cor 16:1-3; 2 Cor 8 & 9). Which ones did the early church help? (saints or others?) (Rom 15:25; 1 Cor 16:1; 2 Cor 8:4; 9:1) _____
- 4) Although the church's work is not to help everyone in the world in a physical way, name some things the individual Christian is to do.
 - a. (Jam 1:27) _____
 - b. (Gal 6:10) _____

- c. (Matt 7:12) _____
- d. Would these scriptures include helping all in the world for the individual to help? _____

(NOTE: The Bible also lists deacons (1 Tim 3:8) but their work is not given. They, then, must be under the elders and serve as the elders direct them to. Evangelists and all others are to work too! (Eph 4:11)

- 4.** **Restudy the last page of lesson 4.** It is necessary to have Bible authority for all we do (Col 3:17)

CONCLUDING QUESTIONS:

1. Would it ever be right to set up an organization between the church (God's organization) and the work the church is to do? _____
If yes, give scripture. _____

2. Would it ever be right for one church to oversee the work of another church?
(Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:2) _____
If yes, give scripture. _____

3. Whenever the name, worship, organization, or work of the church is perverted, God is displeased. Would it be any worse to change one than another of these things?

4. When churches build kitchens for food, frolic, and fun, and go into the entertainment business for all, how can they think they are doing what God designed the church to do? _____

5. Each church is supposed to be INDEPENDENT. When a church determines that it will start a project that it knows it cannot do when it starts it but plans for other churches to support the project it oversees, it makes itself dependent upon others for the project it wilfully started. Thus, you have dependence. Any comments on such are welcome.

LESSON 6

The Falling Away, Reformation, Restoration, and Identity of the Church

1. The falling away of the church.

A. Facts about the church.

- 1) Jesus promised to build the church. (Matt 16:18)
- 2) The church came into existence on the day of Pentecost just 50 days after the resurrection of Christ. (Acts 2)
- 3) The spread of the church:
 - a. Where did Jesus command the gospel be preached? (Matt 28:19; Mark 16:15) _____
 - b. How many heard the gospel? (Col 1:5-6,23) _____

 - c. Discuss the growth of the church from each of the following Scriptures.
 1. Acts 2:41,47 _____
 2. Acts 4:4 _____
 3. Acts 5:14 _____
 4. Acts 6:7 _____
 5. Acts 11:24 _____

B. Facts about the falling away of the church.

- 1) When would the falling away take place? (2 Thes 2:3-4)

- 2) Why would many perish? (2 Thes 2:10) _____

- 3) Why would some believe a lie? (2 Thes 2:10-11) _____
- 4) Why would some not believe the truth? (2 Thes 2:10) _____

- 5) What would some do? (1 Tim 4:1) _____

- 6) With what are false teachers compared? (Acts 20:29) _____

- 7) What did Jesus warn about? (Matt 7:15) _____

- 8) What would some of the elders do? (Acts 20:17, 30) _____

C. Historically, here is what happened.

The church Jesus built had spread all over the world before the close of the first century. As long as any apostles were alive they kept teaching the truth. With the death of the last apostle by 100 A.D., the Bible had been completely written. Christians which had been following the Word of the apostles and other inspired men should have **CONTINUED TO FOLLOW THE WORD** of the apostles and other inspired men (See 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 John 9; Gal 1:6-9, etc.). Christians began to follow man rather than God. The things of God became foolishness unto them so they followed men instead of God (1 Cor 2:14). The falling away didn't take place overnight! Gradually God's will was replaced with the ways of man. There was a falling away in **NAME, ORGANIZATION, WORSHIP, TEACHING, AND ATTITUDE TOWARD THE BIBLE**. Soon little truth was taught.

- 1) Whereas the church had been called the _____
(Rom 16:16) and _____ (1 Cor 1:2), The church spread all over the world, and people began to refer to it as the universal church. More than 600 years after the establishment of the true church, the "fallen church" became known as the Catholic church. The word "church" is a descriptive noun. It is never capitalized in the Bible. It doesn't deserve to be! It is not a proper name. Just like when you say, "The car of Jones," you only mean the car which belongs to Jones, so when you say the "church of Christ" you only mean the church which

belongs to Christ. Since Jesus said in John 17:10 that what belongs to God belongs to Him and what belongs to Him belongs to God the Father, so the church can be said to be the "church of Christ; church of God; church of the First Born." Any church that has **AN OFFICIAL NAME** is wrong. It is not following the Bible.

- 2) In the Bible the local church is the only organization God set up for the church to get its work done. Each local church had men over it called _____ (Acts 14:23; 20:17,28) (See also lesson 5). This simple organization was soon lost. The churches began to combine their work under a central or sponsoring church and the elders began to combine their work and oversight under a central or sponsoring elder. In the 2nd century this "main elder" took on the title "bishop" for himself alone and he was over the other elders. This church would also start other churches and oversee them so the bishop in a large church soon was over many churches. This was happening in many places so by 594 A.D. there were actually five large central or sponsoring churches which were over all the Western church. As these "bishops" sought even more power, finally in the year 606 A.D. one of them by the name of Boniface III of the Roman church came to be over all the Western church. They called him the POPE. This is the real origin of the Roman Catholic Church with a pope. This falling away in organization didn't take place overnight. It took nearly 600 years (or about 500 years from the death of the last apostle when there were still pure churches).
- 3) There was a falling away in worship (See Lesson 4, for the Scriptural worship of the church). The Lord's Supper was perverted. Other methods of raising money were introduced. Instrumental music in worship was introduced by "Pope Vitalian" in 670 A.D. Prayer through priests rather than through Jesus was introduced. The whole worship was corrupted. It didn't happen overnight. It took centuries to change.
- 4) The doctrine or teaching was greatly changed. Infant baptism came in. Sprinkling replaced baptism. Many new teachings were brought in gradually.

- 5) The attitude toward the Bible being taught and practiced was changed (2 Tim 3:16f; 2 John 9, etc.). The Roman Catholic Church teaches that tradition handed down by word of mouth is equally binding with the Bible. They take the voice of the "living church" and their "tradition" on par (actually above) the Bible.

2. The Reformation.

- A. After the church had fallen away from the truth, the world came into a period called the dark ages. Learning in all fields was at an all time low. Superstition and ignorance reigned. Before the invention of the printing press in 1454 A.D. a hand written Bible cost about a year's wages of a working man. Few men could read during this time. Unless one could read Latin he couldn't find a translation of the Bible he could read. With persecution in Greece, many Greek scholars moved to Europe and began to translate the Scriptures into other languages. Wycliffe (1380) and Tyndale (1525) made translations of the Bible into English (New Testaments). After the printing press came in, one could buy a Bible for a day's wages. People began to read the Bible and see what they were in (the Catholic Church) was not what they read about in the Bible.
- B. In 1517 Martin Luther started open opposition to the Catholic Church of which he was a member. He never intended to start a new church. He wanted to **REFORM** that which he was in. Others had the same idea. Thus, the movement started by such men is generally called the "Protestant Reformation." Protestant means protesting (to Catholicism) and "Reformation" meant to reform.
- C. After Luther died, although he had said, "just call yourselves Christians and do not follow me," his followers formed a church and named it in Luther's honor. Many other denominations began to start. Some started directly off of the Catholic Church and others started off other reforming churches. Today we see about 300 to 500 such denominations (Protestant) in the world. Every Protestant denomination stands as evidence that there was a protest of the Catholic dogma.

3. The Restoration.

The word **RESTORATION** means to **RESTORE THAT WHICH WAS**, whereas the word **REFORMATION** means to **REFORM THAT WHICH IS**. Those like Martin Luther who were reformers had the idea of reforming the Roman Catholic Church. Many of them never did have the idea of starting anything new at all but only changing their religious organization. After Luther and others like him died, their followers often started new religious bodies and named them in their honor or by some peculiarity of doctrine, practice, or organization.

About 1800 A.D. in the U.S.A. many men on the new frontier wondered why there had to be so many churches. There weren't many people yet there were many "churches." They began to wonder.....

- A. Didn't Jesus just build one church? (Matt 16:18) YES
- B. Didn't they all have the same Bible? (2 Tim 3:16-17) YES
- C. Didn't Jesus pray for all to be united? (John 17:20-21) YES

Why, then, should there be many churches divided against themselves? Why couldn't they all just get back to the Bible and be united?

The idea of the **RESTORATION** was **NOT TO START A NEW CHURCH** nor just to reform old churches. The idea was **TO GO BACK TO THE BIBLE AND RESTORE THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST** in every community all over the world and **UNITE** all people everywhere. Thus, the restoration was based upon two principles: **UNITY** of all men upon TRUTH. They were not working for **UNITY** alone and realized that **TRUTH** is as important as **UNITY**. They worked for **UNITY UPON TRUTH**. Greater unity was seen in the world religiously before the reformers tried to reform Catholicism than at any other time (since the 1st century). The reformers realized the Catholic Church was wrong. The ones who wanted to **RESTORE** the Lord's church as you read about it in the Bible, realized that both the Catholics and Protestants were wrong. Yet, they desired **UNITY** of all but not to the sacrificing of **TRUTH**.

It is the plea of the church of Christ to go back to the Bible and be the church you can read which has the same worship, organization, doctrine, attitude toward the Bible, and uses the same terms.

4. The identity of the church, or, can the church of Christ trace itself back to the Bible?

- A. The plea of the church of Christ is to be the church you read about in the Bible. It can be traced back to the Bible in faith and practice.

Illustration: If you were to lose your car, you could give the police a complete description of your car and they, from the description, could pick out your car from among thousands of cars. And, every car that met the description (model, brand, color,.....down to the motor number) would be yours. How many could meet that description? _____

It is the same with the church. How many different kinds of churches could completely meet the description of the church in the Bible? _____

B. The description.

- 1) It is called the church of Christ and the church of God. What was the church in the Bible called? (Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 1:2) _____
- 2) The Bible teaches having elders over every church when there are men who meet the qualifications (Titus chapter 1 and 1 Timothy chapter 3).
 - a. Who were in each church? (Acts 14:23) _____
 - b. What were these men over? (Acts 20:17,28) _____

 - c. What was their work? (1 Pet 5:1-2; 1 Tim 3:5) _____

- 3) In worship the Lord's Supper is served each first day of the week. When did the early church meet for the Lord's Supper? (Acts 20:7) _____

- 4) The Bible does not authorize raising money by rummage sales, farms, or other ways. The saints are to lay by in store on the first day of the week. How did the early church raise money? (1 Cor 16:2) _____
- 5) Vocal music or singing is the only music with which God is worshiped. Which kind of music did the early Christians worship God with? (Eph 5:19; Col 3:16; 1 Cor 14:15, etc.) _____
- 6) The attitude toward the Bible is Bible authority for all we do. What attitude did the early church have? (2 John 9; Gal 1:6-9; Col 3:17) _____

7. There is no authority for the church to enter every field of endeavor such as recreation, secular education, general welfare of humanity, etc. Did the church as you read about in the Bible do more? _____
Naturally the church stands ready to aid the saints when they are in need.
- C. Every church in the world that meets a complete description of the church in the New Testament.....is the church you read about in the Bible. Any church that fails to meet that description is not it. We want to meet it. We just want to be the Lord's church to **please the Lord**.

LESSON 7

The Nature and Unity of the Church

1. BELOW ARE A NUMBER OF THINGS GOD'S PEOPLE (the church) ARE SAID TO BE:

A. God's people are said to be the church. The word "church" is translated from the Greek word "ekklesia" which means "called out." The Greeks used this word long before Christ. It means any called out assembly. See Lesson 5, A, 2, to see the two ways the word church is used (local and universal).

- 1) How many churches did Jesus say He'd build? (Matt 16:18) _____
- 2) What is the church built upon? (Matt 16:18; 1 Cor 3:11) _____
- 3) Who is the Head of the church? (Eph 5:23) _____
- 4) Is Christ the Head of something which is non-essential? _____
If yes, does that make Christ non-essential? _____
- 5) What are those in the church referred to? (1 Cor 14:33; Rom 1:7; 1 Cor 1:2; Phil 1:1) _____
- 6) What are saints said to be? (1 Cor 1:2) _____
- 7) Sanctified means set apart or made holy. The lesson or nature of the church taught by the word church is that God's people are called out of sin and are set apart for God and His use.
- 8) What was the church bought with? (Acts 20:28) _____

B. The church is said to be the body of Christ. This is a comparison of God's people with a human body.

- 1) What is the church said to be? (Col 1:18,24; Eph 1:22-23)

- 2) How many bodies are there? (Eph 4:4; 1 Cor 12:20; Rom 12:4) _____

- 3) How many heads are there? (Col 1:18) _____
- 4) How many churches are there? (according to the Bible) _____
- 5) If a body had two heads, or if one head had many bodies, what would it be said to be? _____
(NOTE: Many teach the church has two heads and some teach Christ has many bodies or churches. Can either position be right? _____)
- 6) How does one get into the body? (1 Cor 12:13) _____

- 7) Who are the members of the body? (1 Cor 12:13,20,27; Eph 5:30) _____

- 8) Are all members of the body important? (1 Cor 12:15-22) _____
Why? _____
- 9) Of what is Christ the Saviour? (Eph 5:23) _____
- 10) Does one have to be in the church to be saved? _____
(LESSON: God's people are the body over which Christ is Head and the body must take all orders from that Head. The Head wants each member to work.)

C. The church is the bride of Christ.

- 1) Who is the Lamb of God? (John 1:29) _____
- 2) Who is the bridegroom? (Rev 21:9) _____
- 3) How is Christ over the church? (Eph 5:23) _____
- 4) Why will a young man who loves his parents one day leave them of his own accord? (Eph 5:31) _____
- 5) Why is it a great mystery for one to leave the world of sin for Christ (to be a part of the bride of Christ)? (Eph 5:32) _____
(LESSON: Relationship of submission to Christ. This figure shows the relationship is one of love.)

D. The church is the house (family) of God.

- 1) The church of God is what? (1 Tim 3:15) _____

- 2) What is a man's house? (Acts 16:31; 1 Cor 16:15) _____

- 3) How does one get into a family? _____
- 4) How does one get into God's family? (John 3:3-5) _____

- 5) Why is the process of becoming a Christian called the new birth? (Rom 6:4) _____
- 6) How different is one after conversion to Christ? (Col 3:9-10) _____

- 7) Who is the Father in the family? (Col 3:17) _____
- 8) Who are the children? (1 John 3:1-2) _____
- 9) If God has any children outside of His family (the church), are they legitimate? _____
- 10) Can one, then, be a child of God and not be in God's family which is the church? _____
- 11) How important does this make being in the church? _____

- 12) Whom will the Father listen to? (Matt 6:9; 1 Pet 3:12) _____

- 13) Whom will the Lord not listen to? (1 Pet 3:12; John 9:31) _____

- 14) What are the children to each other? (2 Pet 3:15; Acts 21:7) _____

15) Whom are saints especially interested in? (Gal 6:10) _____

(LESSON: The closeness of those in God's family to God the Father and to each other.)

16) What will the children of God do for each other? (1 John 3:17) _____

17) Who else will God's children help? (Gal 6:10) _____

(Matt 22:39; 7:12) _____
(Matt 5:44; Rom 12:20) _____

E. The church is the kingdom.

1) What did Paul say he was in? (Col 1:13) _____

2) Who is King? (Rev 17:14) _____

3) What is the law? (Gal 6:2) _____

4) Who are the citizens? (Eph 2:19) _____

5) How wide is the territory? (Matt 28:19; 1 Thes 1:8) _____

6) How much authority does a king have? _____

7) How much authority does Jesus have? (Matt 28:18) _____

8) How much authority does this leave for a church council, preacher, creed, book, or anything or anyone else? _____

9) What does Colossians 3:17 teach in respect to authority? _____

(LESSON: The authority of Christ is absolute and the church must bow to it.)

F. The church is the temple of God.

- 1) Who is the foundation of the temple? (1 Cor 3:11) _____
- 2) Who are the stones in the temple? (1 Pet 2:5) _____
- 3) Who is the chief corner stone? (Eph 2:20) _____
- 4) How serious is it to destroy (by corrupting) God's temple or church?
(1 Cor 3:16-17) _____
- 5) What kind of a foundation is Jesus? (1 Cor 10:4) _____
(LESSON: Shows the solid foundation of God's people.)

2. UNITY

- A. For what did Jesus pray? (John 17:20-21) _____
- B. What did Paul condemn? (1 Cor 1:10) _____
- C. Division is a sign of what? (1 Cor 3:3-4) _____
- D. How can two who differ have unity? _____

- E. What did Jude command? (Jude 3) _____

- F. What did Paul do? (Acts 17:1-3) _____
(Acts 17:17) _____
- G. Should we do the same today? _____
- H. What was Paul always ready to do? (Phil 1:16) _____

- I. Did the Pharisees and Sadducees want any more discussions after Jesus
answered their questions? (Matt 22:46) _____

- J. Who are the ones today who refuse discussions religiously? _____

- K. What did Apollos do? (Acts 18:28) _____
- L. Where did he do it? (Acts 18:28) _____
- M. Did Paul even withstand those in the church who were wrong? Gal 2:11) _____
Whom did Paul withstand? (Gal 2:11) _____

- N. Did Paul withstand Peter privately or before all? (Gal 2:14) _____

- O. Are we to do the same thing today? _____

3. GOD'S PLAN FOR UNITY. Ephesians 4:4-6.

- A. There is _____ body. What is the body? (Eph 1:22-23) _____
- B. There is _____ spirit. What is the Spirit's sword? (Eph 6:17) _____
- C. There is _____ hope. What is this hope? (Tit 1:2; 3:7) _____
- D. There is _____ Lord. Who is the Lord? (Rev 17:14) _____
- E. There is _____ faith. What are Christians to do regarding the faith? (Jude 3)
_____ (Rom 16:26) _____
- F. There is _____ baptism. What is the purpose of that baptism? (Acts 2:38) _____

(Acts 22:16) _____
(1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:27) _____
- G. There is _____ God. What are we to do in respect to God? (Matt 4:10) _____

LESSON 8

What Happens after Death?

1. MAN -- A DUEL BEING IN THE FLESH.

A. Name the two parts of man (Matt 10:28) _____

B. What else can these two parts be called? (2 Cor 4:16) _____

C. The inward man is called what? (Matt 10:28) _____

D. The inward man is also called what? (Acts 7:59) _____

POINT: There seems to be no difference between the soul and spirit of man. Both terms refer to the inward man - the real man (Perhaps in some Scriptures there may be some difference, but by taking the Bible overall, there seems to be no difference).

E. Whom should we especially fear? (Matt 10:28) _____

Why? (Heb 10:31) _____

2. DEATH -- SEPARATION OF BODY AND SOUL.

A. In what does the real man live? (2 Pet 1:13) _____

B. When the spirit departs from the body, what will be the condition of the body? (Jam 2:26) _____

C. What did Paul say he was going to do? (2 Tim 4:6) _____

D. How sure is death? (Heb 9:27) _____

E. What do the living know? (Eccl 9:5) _____

F. Where does the body go at death according to:

1) Ecclesiastes 12:7 _____

2) 2 Corinthians 5:1 _____

G. Who was to receive the spirit of Stephen? (Acts 7:59) _____

H. What happened to his body? (Acts 8:2) _____

I. At death, the body goes to dust, the grave, or sleeps.
(Eccl 12:7; John 12:17; 1 Thes 4:13f)

3. HADES -- THE PLACE WHERE THE SPIRIT (or soul) GOES AFTER DEATH.

A. HADES is a Greek word which means, "not to be seen, or the place of the dead." This Greek word is in the American Standard Version New Testament but the King James Version has HELL for this word. The King James Version also translates "GEHENNA" by the word "HELL". There is a vast difference between the words HADES and GEHENNA. (But since both words are translated by the one word "HELL" in the King James Version, one needs to either read the American Standard Version for this part of this lesson or simply understand by the explanations given that the different words are used and the meanings of the words. GEHENNA means the final state of the unrighteous and all translations translate GEHENNA by the word HELL (this **is** what it refers to). The latter part of this lesson will deal with GEHENNA or HELL.

B. HADES means the place of the dead but there are TWO DIVISIONS of HADES:

1) PARADISE is a division of HADES where the righteous dead go.

a. Where did Jesus and the forgiven thief go the day of Christ's crucifixion? (Luke 23:43) _____

b. Did Jesus go to the Father in heaven that day? What did Jesus say after He was raised from the dead? (John 20:17) _____

c. Where did Jesus' body go when He died? (Matt 27:59-60) _____

d. What did Jesus' flesh not do? (Acts 2:31) _____

e. Jesus was not left where? (Acts 2:31) _____

f. Again, which part of Jesus went to hell (HADES) at death?
(Acts 2:27) _____

2) **TORMENT or TARTARUS** -- (another division of HADES) where the unrighteous dead go.

a. The angels that sinned were cast down to HELL (literally - TARTARUS -- NOT GEHENNA) to wait for what? (2 Pet 2:4)

This word TARTARUS (in the Greek New Testament) is found only here. Both American Standard Version and King James Version translate this word HELL. It is a place of punishment but before the judgment day and before the eternal HELL (GEHENNA).

b. Where did the rich man go? (Luke 16:23) _____
(NOTE: Word here is HADES, not GEHENNA)

c. Was this before or after the judgment? _____ Before or after the end of the world? (Luke 16:27) _____

d. What condition was the rich man in? (Luke 16:24) _____

e. What was the condition of Lazarus at the same time? (Luke 16:22)

POINT: Both Lazarus and the rich man were in HADES. Lazarus was in PARADISE of HADES and the rich man was in TORMENT or TARTARUS of HADES. At death, every person goes to one of the two divisions of HADES.

4. THE RESURRECTION.

A. Who will be raised? (John 5:28-29) _____

B. What classifications of men will be raised? (Acts 24:15) _____

- C. What proof did Jesus offer that the dead are raised? (Luke 20:37f) _____

- D. Will the raised body be the same as the body that died? (1 Cor 15:37) _____

- E. What kind of a body will the raised body be? (1 Cor 15:38) _____

- F. What kind of body is buried? (1 Cor 15:44) _____
- G. What kind of body is raised? (1 Cor 15:44) _____

5. THE JUDGMENT.

- A. How many will be at the judgment? (2 Cor 5:10) _____
(Matt 25:31-32) _____
- B. By what standard will we be judged by? (John 12:48) _____

- C. By what standard should we live by? _____

- D. What basis will God have for judging us? (2 Cor 5:10; Rev 20:13) _____

6. HELL (GEHENNA). By definition, "GEHENNA" -- the name of a valley on the South and East of Jerusalem was called GEHENNA. This was because of the cries of the little children who were thrown into the fiery arms of Moloch (i.e. of an idol having the form of a bull). The Jews abhorred the place after these horrible sacrifices had been abolished by king Josiah (2 Kings 23:10). They cast into it not only all manner of refuse, but even the dead bodies of animals and of unburied criminals who had been executed. Since fires were always needed to consume the dead bodies and that the air might not become tainted by their putrefaction, it came to pass that the place was called GEHENNA" (Thayer). When Jesus wanted to use some word to refer to the place of the wicked or unrighteous - **their eternal destiny** -He used this word, HELL!

- A. Where can God put body (resurrected body) and soul? (Matt 10:28) _____

- B. Of what are some in danger? (Matt 5:22) _____
- C. Where can one be cast? (Matt 5:29) _____
- D. Describe the eternal place of the wicked. (Mark 9:43-48)

- E. Describe the eternal place of the wicked. (Matthew 25:30)

- F. Describe the eternal place of the wicked. (Revelation 20:15)

- G. Describe the eternal place of the wicked. (Matthew 25:41,46)

- H. For whom is the eternal punishment? (Matt 25:41) _____
- I. How long will it last? (Matt 25:41,46) _____
- J. Does God want man to go to hell? (1 Tim 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9) _____

- K. How will the end of the world come? (2 Pet 3:10) _____

7. **HEAVEN -- THE ETERNAL PLACE OF THE RIGHTEOUS. (the eternal dwelling place of God)**

- A. What will man have in heaven? (Mar 10:30) _____
- B. Read the descriptions of heaven as given in Revelation 21:1-27 and 22:1-5. POINT: We motivate our children to obey us in three ways. 1) FEAR of punishment, which is the lowest form of motivation. 2) Promise of reward which is a high or form. 3) And, out of their love for us. God uses these three too! We should fear HELL (GEHENNA), desire to go to HEAVEN, but if there were no heaven nor hell, we should want to please GOD out of love for our Creator and what He has done and is doing for us. Only when we love God above all others (Luke 14:25f) will we try to be the kind of people He wants to inherit one day (Eph 1:18). We want to inherit HEAVEN. God wants to inherit us (Eph 1:18) if we are the people we ought to be.

LESSON 9

The Christian and Morality (or How to Tell What Is Right or Wrong in the Moral Realm)

1. **There are two parts to Christianity;** namely, MORALITY (how one lives) and DOCTRINE (what one believes and practices religiously).
 - A. To what did Paul command to take heed? (two things) (1 Tim 4:16)

 - B. Why are both of these things important? (1 Tim 4:16) _____

2. **Before one can do anything as a Christian,** there are a number of tests that the Christian must pass in order to be right. Anything in the moral realm may be tested by these.
 - A. **IS IT DIRECTLY CONDEMNED?** Anything that is directly condemned is sinful and can never be made right under any circumstances.
 - 1) What are the sins of Galatians 5:19-21 called in Galatians 5:19? _____

 - 2) What will be the eternal condition of those practicing any of these sins? (Gal 5:21) _____
 - 3) Before doing anything, then, ask yourself the question, IS IT DIRECTLY CONDEMNED? If it is, it is wrong!
 - B. **IS IT HARMFUL TO YOUR BODY?** Anything that harms the body is wrong.
 - 1) Does the Christian own his own body? (1 Cor 6:19-20) _____
Who does? _____
 - 2) What are we to do in our bodies? (1 Cor 6:20) _____

- 3) If I destroy my automobile with an axe would you care? _____
But, if I destroy your automobile with an axe, would that be right morally? _____ Why? Because if I destroy that which belongs to another, it is wrong!
- 4) Since the Christian body belongs to God and not himself, is it right for a Christian to destroy his body? _____
- 5) Before doing anything, ask yourself the question, IS IT HARMFUL TO MY BODY?

C. IS IT DOUBTFUL? Anything that is doubtful should be left alone.

- 1) Anything that is doubtful is what? (Rom 14:23) _____
- 2) If we do something that is not of faith, what is it? (Rom 14:23) _____

- 3) How does faith come? (Rom 10:17) _____
- 4) We must be sure that what we are going to do is right. IF WE DOUBT, IT IS SIN.

D. COULD IT BE A STUMBLING BLOCK? If by doing something, another would be lost, the Christian cannot do it.

- 1) What should a Christian not do? (Rom 14:13) _____

- 2) To whom should we not give offense? (1 Cor 10:32) _____

- 3) If we know we are causing someone to stumble and be lost, we must give up whatever we are doing.

E. DOES IT BRING ME INTO AN ENTANGLING ALLIANCE? If it does, I must give it up.

- 1) What do evil communications (or companionship) do? (1 Cor 15:33) _____

- 2) If what I do causes me to be associated with evil people in such a way that I will lose my soul because of it, I must give it up.

F. DOES IT CREATE AN INORDINATE FLESHLY APPETITE? If what I do completely gets control of me and is my master, I must give it up. The Lord only must be my Master.

- 1) What would Paul not be brought under the power of (1 Cor 6:12) _____

- 2) How many lords do worldly people have? (1 Cor 8:5) _____

- 3) How many lords does the Christian have? (1 Cor 8:6) _____
- 4) An idol is anything a person worships other than God. Name one thing that can be an idol. (Col 3:5) _____

- 5) There are many things right within themselves yet some cannot engage in them for they would become masters of them.

G. DOES IT HURT MY INFLUENCE? The Christian must use his life to help others get to heaven.

- 1) What is the disciple to do? (Matt 5:16) _____

- 2) What should others do when they see how Christians live? (Matt 5:16)

- 3) Everything the Christian does should be done for what purpose?
(1 Cor 10:31) _____
- 4) Anything that would make the Christian less effective in serving God and reaching souls **must be eliminated** from the Christian's life.

H. DOES IT CONFLICT WITH MY DUTY AS A CHRISTIAN? Some things may be right in themselves but may take too much time, money, or energy which the Christian needs with which to serve God. If so, the Christian must not do it.

- 1) What must the Christian seek first? (Matt 6:33) _____

- 2) What kind of treasure must the Christian lay up? (Matt 6:20) _____

- 3) Where is a person's heart? (Matt 6:21) _____
- 4) For example, if a person spends all his time on fishing: then where is his heart? _____ The Christian must keep his heart on heaven and serving God.

I. WOULD JESUS DO IT? Ask yourself this question before doing anything!

- 1) Who is our example? (1 Pet 2:21) _____
- 2) What should we follow? (1 Pet 2:21) _____
- 3) What should we try to be? (Matt 5:48) _____

- 4) Jesus is perfect (Heb 4:15; 5:8f; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 John 3:5). We are to strive to be like Him. Ask yourself whether Jesus would do what you contemplate doing. If you don't think He would, you shouldn't either.

3. **Try some practice examples** by the nine rules above to see if such things are right or wrong morally.

A. Drinking.

1) Is it condemned directly? _____ Drunkenness is (Gal 5:21). Is it harmful to your body? Some 60% of all traffic deaths are due to drunkenness. Some doubt it. All admit it could cause others to stumble. It gets such a control over some that they cannot give it up. Some spend all their living on it. It certainly harms one's influence.

B. Dancing.

1) Is it sinful? _____ Galatians 5:19-21 condemns lasciviousness. By definition, Lasciviousness is "unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence, wanton acts or manners as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc." (Thayer)

2) Is dancing harmful to my body? _____ There are many fights around dance halls. Some get shot for dancing with another's wife. Drinking goes on around many dance halls.

3) Ask yourself the rest of the points with which to try anything. By dancing we mean "hugging another who doesn't belong to you." What man wants another man hugging his wife. Evil associates, drinking, fighting, and practically every form of evil goes on around some places for the dance.

C. Gambling.

1) Is gambling directly condemned as sin? _____ The word gamble is not in the Bible but stealing is condemned (Eph 4:28). A professional gambler may take one's money easier than a thief. There seems to be three laws of exchange. 1) The law of exchanging a commodity for its value in money. 2) The law of labor (physical or mental) where one actually earns, by time and energy expended, the money received. 3) The law of love--in which something is given without any desire or expectation of receiving any return. Gambling comes under none of these. It is even condemned by state law in most states. BY DEFINITION,

WHAT IS GAMBLING? Some say it is just taking a chance and that all of life is a chance! NOT SO!! Gambling is a WAGER based on a chance. A farmer may plant a crop and lose money on it for it may never come up. But, should that farmer bet \$5,000.00 on that crop making so many bushels to the acre, that would be a wager based on the chance of harvesting a good crop. Yes, all life is a chance but we do not have to try to beat another out of his money based on some chance.

- 2) Is gambling harmful to the body? ____ Many starve because of it (or almost).
- 3) Is it doubtful? ____ The whole world doubts it.
- 4) Could it become a stumbling block? ____ Many stumble by it. Some rob to get the money with which to gamble.
- 5) It creates such an inordinate appetite in some that they lose all they have in this way.

D. Other things.

LESSON 10

Faithfulness, Falling from Grace, and Discipline

1. **Faithfulness is required.**

- A. What should Christians be? (1 Cor 15:58) _____

- B. What does steadfast mean? _____

- C. What did the early disciples do steadfastly? (Acts 2:42) _____

- D. Should Christians today do the same things steadfastly? _____

- E. How often did the disciples in early days meet for the Lord's Supper? (Acts 20:7)

- F. Does this require steadfastness? _____
- G. What happens to the man who eats and drinks the Lord's Supper unworthily?
(1 Cor 11:28-30) _____
- H. What happens to the man who doesn't attend to eat the Lord's Supper? _____

- I. How often are Christians to give to the Lord's (church's) treasury? (1 Cor 16:2)

- J. Where should we put the Lord? (Matt 6:33) _____
- K. If it is a matter of attending services or doing something for fun, which should
come first? (Matt 6:33) _____

- L. If it is a matter of faithfulness to God or pleasing husband, wife, or others in the family, which comes first? (Luke 14:26) _____

- M. What can be said about brethren in Colossae? (Col 1:2) _____

- N. What can be said about the Christians who shall overcome? (Rev 17:14) _____

- O. How can a Christian know that he knows Christ? (1 John 2:3) _____

- P. What is one's condition when he is not faithful in keeping the Lord's commands but says he is? (1 John 2:4) _____

- Q. What is the condition of faith without faithfulness? (Jam 2:17) _____

- R. What justifies a man? (Jam 2:24) _____

- S. At the judgment, by what will we be judged? (Rev 20:13) _____

2. A Christian can fall from God's grace (favor) by sinning, and be lost in hell.

- A. What may a brother do? (Jam 5:19) _____

- B. What does someone need to do if a brother errs from the truth? (Jam 5:19) _____

- C. What happens if one converts the erring brother? (Jam 5:20) _____

- D. How does one escape the pollution of the world? (2 Pet 2:20) _____

- E. If a person escapes sin (pollution of the world) but goes back into sin, is he better off as a Christian sinning or before he became a Christian? (2 Pet 2:20f)

- F. If a Christian goes to the Old Testament (the Law of Moses) to live by, what has he done? (Gal 5:4) _____
- G. What did Paul give warning about? (1 Cor 10:12) _____
- H. Would it make sense to warn someone about something which is impossible to do? _____
- I. If a person once saved is always saved and cannot so sin as to be lost in hell - Either (a) he cannot ever sin....sinless perfection, or (b) he can sin all he wants to and go to heaven anyway....license to sin.

3. Discipline

- A. What should the church do to an immoral man? (1 Cor 5:5) _____

- B. What is the purpose of delivering one unfaithful morally to Satan? (1 Cor 5:5)
1) _____
2) _____
- C. What will a little leaven do to a lump? (1 Cor 5:6) _____

- D. What will a little sin do to a whole church? _____

- E. What does it mean for the church to "Purge out the old leaven?" (1 Cor 5:7) _____

- F. What should we not do? (1 Cor 5:9) _____

- G. Is this the fornicators in the church (brethren) or those of the world (not in the church)? (1 Cor 5:10-11,13) _____

- H. If you couldn't associate with immoral people in the world, what would you have to do to get away from them? (1 Cor 5:10) _____

- I. List the sins a brother should be withdrawn from according to 1 Corinthians 5:11

- J. With whom should the church have no company? (2 Thes 3:14) _____

- K. Is this the non-Christian or the brother? (2 Thes 3:15) _____
- L. What is the purpose of having no company with the sinful brother? (2 Thes 3:14)

- M. What are grounds for withdrawal? (2 Thes 3:6) _____

- N. Who are others to be avoided in the church? (Rom 16:17) _____

- O. What does it mean to "mark"? _____

- P. When someone completely quits the church, has the church withdrawn from him or has he withdrawn his fellowship (joint participation) from the church?

- Q. If the church cannot withdraw participation from one who has quit, can it still mark him as a quitter? _____
- R. Can the church withdraw its recognition and approval of one who is unfaithful?
