

**The Bible:**  
*God's Message to  
Mankind*

*12 Lessons*

*Prepared by:*  
Paul E. Cantrell

2010



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*Lesson One*

***"Basic Facts About the Bible"***

**"Before there was a Bible!"**.....Does this surprise you? Had you ever thought about the fact that the Bible as we know it was not in existence for hundreds of years after man's beginning. According to the Biblical account, mankind had access to Adam for any information about God's dealings with man for some 930 years (Gen. 5:5). Even though all mankind finally became so wicked that God had to destroy them, yet there was one righteous man with which He was able to replenish mankind on the earth—NOAH! (Gen. 6:1-8). Did mankind become so wicked because there was no Bible to help direct them? I am not in a position to say for sure, but we do know that God held them accountable for their wickedness; so, they must have had some way of knowing what was expected of them. The Apostle Paul gives some indication of man's accountability even without a Bible in Romans 1:18-32; 2:12-16).

**NAMING THE BIBLE & ITS LANGUAGES**

Men have given the name of **"Holy Bible"** to this book that we believe has been given by God. It comes from a Greek word:**Βιβλος (Biblos)**. The word is a means: \_\_\_\_\_. Others terms are used to identify the Bible within its pages:

2 Tim. 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_ Heb. 4:12 \_\_\_\_\_ Jude 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 John 17:17 \_\_\_\_\_

There is an interesting observation about the first part of the Bible that is called the Old Testament. It was not given until about 1500 BC—and then, it was only given to the Jewish Nation (Deut. 4:7-8; Ps. 147:19-20). The rest of mankind never had access to the Old Testament for hundreds of years. It was finally translated into the \_\_\_\_\_ Language in the 3rd Century BC and made more accessible to the Greek speaking world. The Old Testament section of the Bible took some 1100 years to be finalized (1500-400 BC). But the New Testament section took only about 50 years to be finalized (50-100 AD). The Old Testament was written in \_\_\_\_\_. The New Testament was written in \_\_\_\_\_ which made the circulation of it much easier among all nations.

**WRITERS OF THE BIBLE**

It is generally believed that a possible 40 men were used by God to write the Bible over a period of about 1600 years. Bible Scholars are agreed on at least 32 writers of the Old Testament books:

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

Add to the above 8 writers, the writers of the books of prophecy which brings the total to 24 writers of the Old Testament.

The New Testament writers:

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

This brings the total of writers to: Old Testament writers \_\_\_\_\_

New Testament writers \_\_\_\_\_.

Total..... \_\_\_\_\_

The is an additional 8 possible writers which would bring the total to 40 possible writers.

**ARRANGEMENT OF BOOKS**

Old Testament:

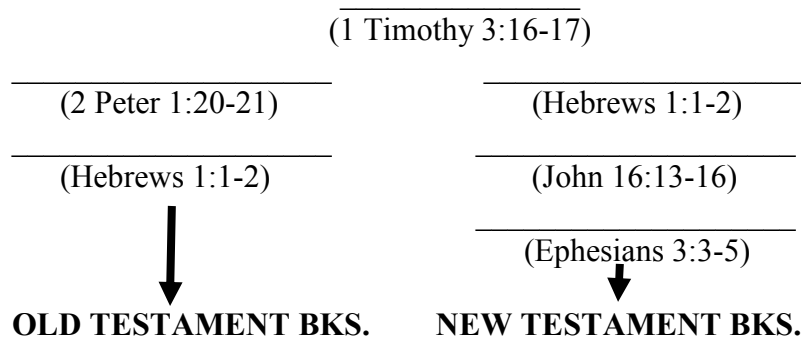
- Section 1 \_\_\_\_\_ books of \_\_\_\_\_
- Section 2 \_\_\_\_\_ books of \_\_\_\_\_
- Section 3 \_\_\_\_\_ books of \_\_\_\_\_
- Section 4 \_\_\_\_\_ books of \_\_\_\_\_
- Section 5 \_\_\_\_\_ books of \_\_\_\_\_

New Testament:

- Section 1 \_\_\_\_\_ books of \_\_\_\_\_
- Section 2 \_\_\_\_\_ books of \_\_\_\_\_
- Section 3 \_\_\_\_\_ books of \_\_\_\_\_
- Section 4 \_\_\_\_\_ books of \_\_\_\_\_
- Section 5 \_\_\_\_\_ books of \_\_\_\_\_

**ORIGINATION OF THE BIBLE**

The Bible is here; therefore, it had to have an origin somewhere back in time. The Scriptures below indicates the claim of the Bible's origin:



**HOMEWORK**

Please read the following questions and Scripture References and answer appropriately.

1. How Strong is your faith in the Bible being the inspired Word of God? (2 Tim. 3:16).

- ◇ Very Strong?
- ◇ Strong?
- ◇ Fairly Strong?
- ◇ Have Doubts?
- ◇ Do not believe the Bible is inspired by God?

2. Please indicate which of the following should be our authority in Religion:

- ◇ Man's Conscience (Acts 23:1; 8:1-4)
- ◇ Doctrines & Commands of men (Mk. 7:6-7)
- ◇ Philosophy of men (Col. 2:6-8)
- ◇ Traditions of men (Col. 2:6-8)
- ◇ The Bible (Matt. 4:4; 7:21)

3. Please indicate below which of the above things will be used to judge us in the Judgment (Rev. 20:12; Jn. 12:48).

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why should men be obedient to God?

- a) Matt. 7:21 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Jas. 1:25 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Heb. 5:8-9 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) 1 Pet. 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Rom. 6:17-18 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What does the Bible say will happen to the disobedient?

- a) Matt. 25:46 \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson Two

**"Overview of the Bible"**

1. What are the two major Divisions of the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What "chosen peoples" does each division deal with? \_\_\_\_\_

It is important to remember that the following dates that are given below are approximate. Bible Scholars have done the best they can to give us a dating system that is useable. The value of dates is to give us some idea of the passing of time and where people fit into the over-all picture in the Bible.

**15-Point Outline of the Bible's Contents**

1. Creation to Flood (Gen. 1-6)	Beginning to 2348 BC
2. Flood to Abraham (Gen. 7-11)	2348-1921 BC
3. Beginning of Israel (Gen. 12-45)	1921-1706 BC
4. Israel in Egypt (Gen. 46-50; Exod. 1-14)	1706-1491 BC
5. Israel in Wilderness (Exod. 15-40; Lev., Numbers, Deuteronomy)	1491-1451 BC
6. Israel Conquering Canaan (Joshua)	1451-1444 BC
7. Israel Under Judges (Jud., Ruth; 1 Sam 1-8)	1444-1075 BC
8. United Kingdom (1 Sam. 9-31; 2 Samuel; 1 Kings 1-11)	1075-955 BC
9. Divided Kingdom (1 Kgs. 12-22; 2 Kgs. 1-16)	955-722 BC
10. Remnant in Judah (2 Kgs. 17-23)	722-586 BC
11. Judah in Babylon (2 Kgs. 24-25)	586-536 BC
12. Judah restored (Ezra; Nehemiah; Esther)	536-434 BC
13. Between the Testaments	434-4 BC
14. Birth & Life of Christ (Matt., Mk., Lk., Jn.)	4 BC-29 AD
15. The church's beginning & Spread (Acts)	29-63 AD

**THE VALUE OF AN OVERVIEW**

A major mistake people often make in their approach to the Bible is to draw conclusions from isolated passages and not from the overall context of the Bible. The above outline gives the major topics of the Bible historically. By reading through the Bible, one will have a better overview of what is taught and makes it easier to harmonize passages that would seem to be contradictory.



**OLD TESTAMENT TIME LINE****Books of History**

Genesis	4004—1635
Exodus	1706—1490
Leviticus	1490
Numbers	1490—1451
Deuteronomy	1451
Joshua	1451—1427
Judges	1425—1120
Ruth	1322—1312
I Samuel	1171—1056
2 Samuel	1056—1017
I Kings	1015—898
2 Kings	896—562
I Chronicles	4004-----1015
2 Chronicles	1015-----536
Ezra	536—456
Esther	521—495
Nehemiah	446--434

**Books of Poetry**

Job	1500??
Psalms	1000
Proverbs	950
Ecclesiastes	950
Song of Solomon	950

**Books of Prophecy**

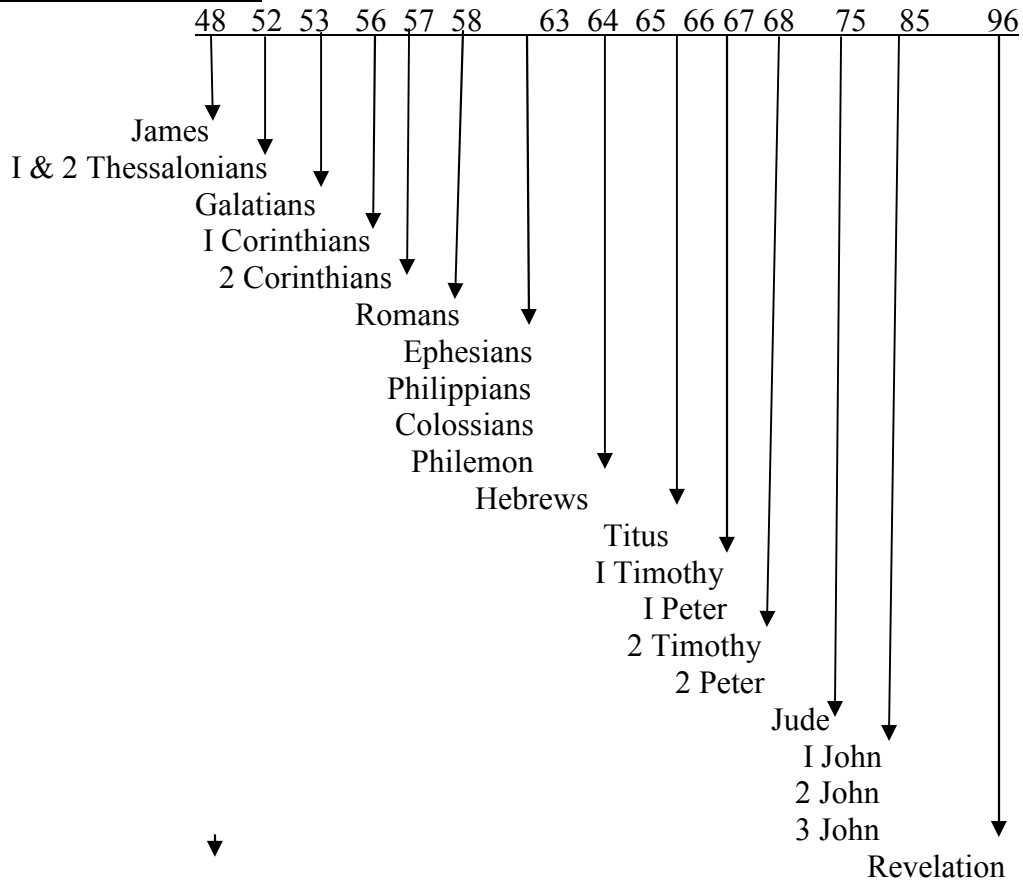
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Century Prophets:</b> Joel	800
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Century Prophets:</b> Jonah	750
Amos	760
Hosea	760
Isaiah	740
Micah	700
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Century Prophets:</b> Nahum	630
Zephaniah	630
Jeremiah	627
Lamentations	586
Habakkuk	620
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Century Prophets:</b> Obadiah	586
Ezekiel	593
Daniel	605
Haggai	520
Zechariah	520
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Century Prophet:</b> Malachi	430

## NEW TESTAMENT TIME LINE

### Books of History

Matt...BC 4.....AD 26—AD 33  
 Mark.....AD 26—AD 33  
 Luke...BC 4..AD 8...AD 26—AD 33  
 John.....AD 26—AD 33  
 Acts.....AD 33-----63-----96

### Letters to Christians



## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

**Please Note:** The above books have been re-arranged in their chronological order to be read with the historical background in mind.

**Special Reading Assignment:** As soon as possible, please read quickly through the **Gospel of Luke** and then directly into and through the **Acts of Apostles**. This will give you the basic overview of the history of the New Testament. Many of the above **Letters to Christians** will fit into the historical background.

The material in this lesson should be of help from a historical standpoint.

**HOMEWORK**

Why Study the Bible for Ourselves?

1. God rejected Israel because they rejected what? (Hosea4:6)\_\_\_\_\_
2. The Bereans were called "*More Noble*" than the Thessalonians because they did what?  
(Acts \_\_\_\_\_ 17:10-12)\_\_\_\_\_
3. What two kinds of people will be punished by God? (2 Thess. 1:7-8)\_\_\_\_\_
4. Can man just believe anything he desires and still be set free from sin and its penalty?  
(Jn. 8:32)\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does the wise man tells us to do with truth and how can we do this? (Prov. 23:23)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why are the words of Jesus so important to us? (Jn. 12:48-49).\_\_\_\_\_
7. What kind of attitude did Cornelius show in regards to hearing the Word of God?  
(Acts 10:31-33)\_\_\_\_\_
8. Is there a more important book to demand our time and our attention than the Bible?
  - ◇ Yes
  - ◇ No

**Note:** Set aside some time each day to read the Bible and meditate on how to put it into practice in your life!

Lesson Three

**"Completeness and Preservation  
of the Bible"**

Please indicate your understanding of the present condition of the Bible:

- ◇ God revealed His complete message to mankind by the end of the first Century and He does not have to add anything to it.
- ◇ The Bible is not complete and God is still revealing His message to mankind today.

It is important that we understand what the Bible claims in regard to these questions. The following should make this clear.

**IS THE BIBLE COMPLETE?**

1. Were the Apostles guided into all truth? (Jn. 16:13) \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the Word of God called? (James 1:25) \_\_\_\_\_

3. How much information has God given us concerning life and godliness? (2 Pet. 1:3)  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What are the Scriptures able to do for man? (2 Tim. 3:17) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What warning has been given concerning the Bible? (Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:18-19)  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Can man direct his steps better than God? (Jere. 10:23; 1 Cor. 1:20-21; 2:8-9)  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. If the Apostles were guided into ALL TRUTH; and they all died by the end of the first Century; then, can we say that their work was done by the time of their death?  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Do you believe the Bible to be the complete Word of God?

- ◇ Yes
- ◇ No

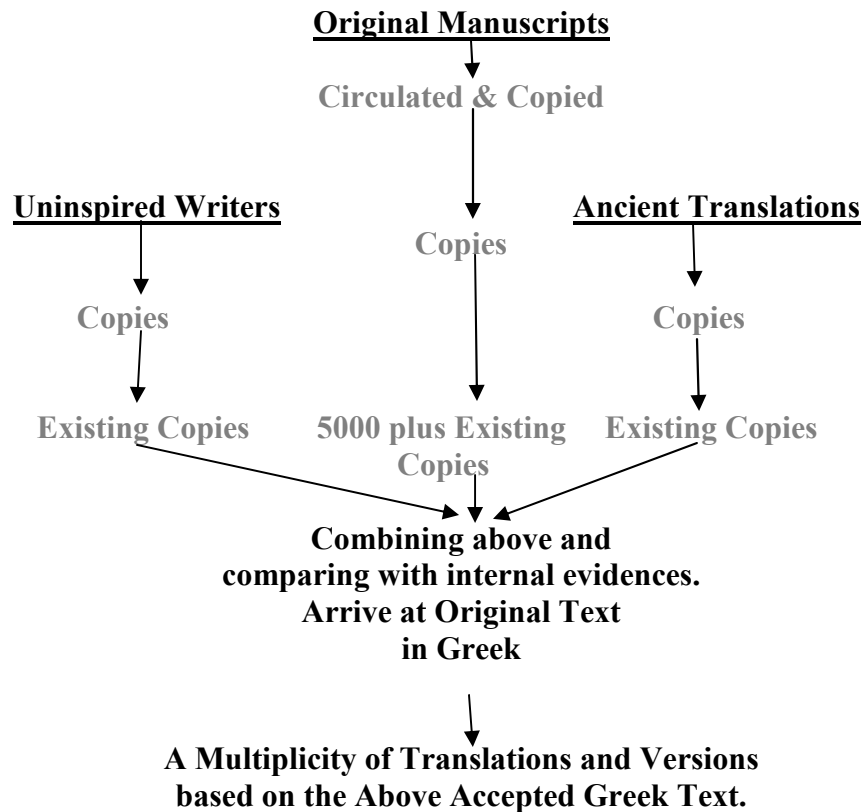
***HAS THE BIBLE BEEN PRESERVED CORRECTLY?***

The Bible began to be written down about 1490 BC and was put into its finished form in 96 AD. It took a few more years for the final product to be circulated sufficiently that it could be recognized as a completed book. But that was almost 2000 years ago.

**Two Important Questions:**

- ◇ Can we be sure we have the same book today as it was first given to mankind?
- ◇ Is there any proof or evidence that can be seen to help convince an open mind?

**EVIDENCE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT**



**Question:** What assurance do we have from Jesus that the Bible has been preserved correctly? (Matt. 24:35)

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## What the Bible Claims It can Do!

1. Acts 2:37—"Now when they heard this, they were \_\_\_\_\_ in their hearts."
2. Rom. 10:17—"So then \_\_\_\_\_ comes by hearing, and hearing by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God."
3. John 8:32—"You shall know the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ shall make you \_\_\_\_\_."
4. 1 Peter 1:22—"Seeing you have \_\_\_\_\_ your souls in \_\_\_\_\_ the truth."
5. James 1:21—"... receive with meekness the engrafted \_\_\_\_\_, which is able to \_\_\_\_\_ your soul."
6. John 15:3—"Now you are \_\_\_\_\_ through the \_\_\_\_\_ I have spoken unto you."
7. 1 Peter 1:23—"having been \_\_\_\_\_, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, which lives and abides forever."
8. 2 Tim. 3:16-17—"That the man of God may be \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ for every good work."
9. 1 Peter 2:2—"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the \_\_\_\_\_, that you may \_\_\_\_\_ thereby."

### When can the Word of God do these things?

10. Matt. 7:21—"Not everyone that says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven; but he that \_\_\_\_\_ the will of My Father."
11. James 1:25—"But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and \_\_\_\_\_ by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual \_\_\_\_\_, This man will be blessed in what he does."

## **HOMEWORK**

**This homework will emphasize the need for  
Reverence for God and His Word**

### **Who were guilty of irreverence toward God & His Word?**

1. Gen. 3:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Lev. 10:1-10 \_\_\_\_\_
3. 1 Sam. 15:24 \_\_\_\_\_

Many people fear only human power and wrath and are led by their own desires and pleasures because they have a low regard or no regard for God. Reverence is godly fear, a deep awe in the presence of God, but not necessarily terror. It is profound admiration for God inspired by faith in His Power, Wisdom, and Justice.

1. What does godly sorrow do? (2 Cor. 7:10) \_\_\_\_\_

2. How can man show reverence for God and His Word?

- a) Deut. 4:2 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Deut. 12:32 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Ps. 119:11 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Prov. 3:5 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Matt. 7:21 \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Acts 5:29 \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Gal. 1:6-9 \_\_\_\_\_
- h) 2 John 9 \_\_\_\_\_
- i) Rev. 22:18-19 \_\_\_\_\_

Reverence for God helps to make us teachable, willing to hear and follow Divine testimony, seek His approval, and eager to be obedient children.

3. Do I really reverence God and His Word?

- ◇ Yes
- ◇ No

## Lesson Four

**"The Theme of the Bible"**

Even though the Bible has two major sections and is made up of 66 individual books, yet it is still **One Book** with **One Theme** from beginning to end—God's plan for the ultimate redemption of fallen man. This lesson helps to show why man needs to be redeemed and how God planned to bring this about. Three statements can sum up the **Theme** of the Bible: (*Someone is coming, Someone has come, and Someone is coming again*).

**THE CREATION OF MAN**

1. In whose IMAGE was man created? (Gen. 1:26-27)
2. Was man created in the physical or spiritual image of God? (Jn. 4:24)
3. What choice did God give to man in the Garden of Eden and why this choice? (Gen. 2:16-17) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Did God know ahead of time what choice man would make?(Eph. 1:4)\_\_\_\_\_

**THE ENTRANCE OF SIN**

1. Who tempted the woman to eat of the fruit? (Gen. 3:1-3)
2. What reasons did the serpent give to Eve to get her to eat of the forbidden fruit? (Gen. 3:4-5)
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_
  - d) \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Eve see? (Gen. 3:6)
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_
4. What are the 3 avenues of temptation? (1 Jn. 2:16)
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is sin called? (1 Jn. 3:4)\_\_\_\_\_



6. What are the results of sin upon man? (Gen. 2:17; Rom. 6:23) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. What are the two kinds of death that man can experience?  
a) Gen. 3:22-24; Jas. 2:26 \_\_\_\_\_  
b) Isa. 59:1-2; Eph. 2:1, 5 \_\_\_\_\_

8. Did Adam and Eve die the day they ate the forbidden fruit or did God lie? (Gen. 2:17).  
\_\_\_\_\_

### MAN'S NEED FOR REDEMPTION

1. What is the stated price man must pay because of his sins?(Rom. 6:23; 2 Thess. 1:7-9).  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Is man capable of removing his own sins? (Mk. 2:6-7) \_\_\_\_\_

3. To whom must man go to be redeemed from the penalty of his sins? (Jn. 6:67-68; 1 Pet. 1:18-19) \_\_\_\_\_

### GOD'S MEANS OF REDEEMING MAN

1. Through whom did God say He would bless all Nations?(Gen. 12:1-3, 7; 22:18; Gal. 3:15-16) \_\_\_\_\_

2. About whom is Isaiah speaking? (Isa. 53:1-12) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Of whom is Jesus a descendant? (Matt. 1:1) \_\_\_\_\_

4. What does the name Jesus mean? (Matt. 1:20-21) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Who is identified as God's Lamb to be sacrificed for the sins of the world (Jn. 1:29) \_\_\_\_\_

## **JESUS: The Hope of the World!**

It is imperative that YOU understand the important role Jesus plays in God's Plan to Redeem man! Please evaluate the following things said about Jesus!

### **The Life of Christ**

1. He was miraculously born of a virgin named Mary (Matt. 1:18).
2. He stated His mission at the early age of twelve (Lk. 2:49).
3. He publicly & privately taught the people for over 3 years (Matt. 4:17).
4. He performed all kinds of miracles to prove He was the Redeemer God had promised to send (Jn. 20:30-31).
5. He was willingly put to death for the sins of mankind (1 Tim. 2:5-7).
6. But God raised Him up the 3rd day as He had foretold (1 Cor. 15:3-4).
7. After His resurrection, He appeared to many to prove He had been raised as was also foretold (1 Cor. 15:5-8).
8. After a period of 40 days, He ascended back to the Father and is seated at the right hand of God, reigning as King over His kingdom (the church) (Acts 2:32-36).

### **Claims Made About Jesus in John 1:1-41**

1. He was with God and was God (1:1).
2. He was in the beginning with God (1:2).
3. All things were made by Him (1:3).
4. In Him was life (1:4).
5. He can give the right to become children of God to those who believe (1:12).
6. His glory is that of the only begotten of the Father (1:14).
7. Grace and Truth came through Jesus Christ (1:17).
8. He alone has seen the Father and has declared Him unto mankind (1:18)
9. He is the Lord (1:23).
10. He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world (1:29).
11. He baptizes with the Holy Spirit (1:30).
12. He is the Son of God (1:34).
13. He is the Messiah (the Christ) (1:41).

### **WHO IS JESUS TO YOU? (Jn. 6:68)**

- **A Fraud—An irresponsible person?**
- **Who the Bible Claims Him to be—the Son of God?**

## HOMEWORK

### Proper Attitude Towards the Bible

Man needs to recognize his need of God's guidance for his life (Jere. 10:23). The Psalmist expressed it well: *"I have rejoiced in the way of your testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate in your precepts, and, have respect unto your ways. I will delight myself in your statutes: I will not forget your word."*

(Psalms 119:114-116)

(The following questions are designed to help us to see the proper attitudes that man should show toward the word of God.

1. What proper attitude was lacking in 2 Thess. 2:10? \_\_\_\_\_

2. With what attitude should we receive the Word of God? (Jas. 1:21) \_\_\_\_\_

3. What assurances do we have that we can understand the message of God?

a) Eph. 3:3-4 \_\_\_\_\_

b) Rev. 2:11 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What happens when we close our minds to God's Word? (Matt. 13:14-16) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Why did Jesus say people worshipped God in vain? (Mk.7:6-13) \_\_\_\_\_

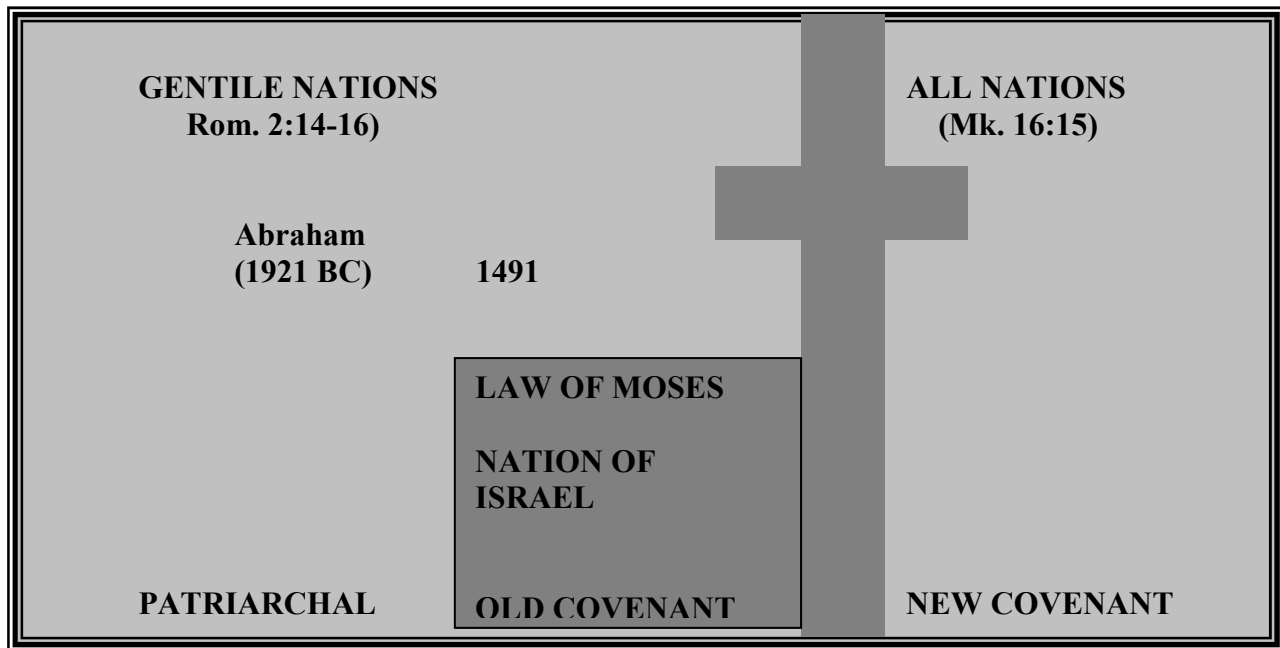
6. What will happen if one does not abide in the doctrine (teaching) of Christ? (2 Jn. 9).

7. What is said of the one who perverts the Gospel of Christ? (Gal. 1:6-9) \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson Five

**"Two Great Covenant—Three Distinct Periods"**

God has dealt with mankind in different ways from the beginning of time. The chart below helps to visualize this fact.



**THE GENTILE WORLD**

1. What LAW were the GENTILE NATIONS under from the beginning of time?

- a) Gen. 4:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Rom. 2:14-15 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Rom. 1:18-32 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What term is used to identify this arrangement? \_\_\_\_\_

**THE NATION OF ISRAEL**

1. What LAW (Covenant) did God give to Abraham's descendants to govern them as a nation when they went into the promised land? (Deut. 4:1-5) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Was this LAW (Covenant) given to any other people or nation? (Deut. 4:6-8; Ps. 147:19-20) \_\_\_\_\_

3. What term is used to identify this arrangement? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What special laws were included in the "Law of Moses?" (Deut. 4:13) \_\_\_\_\_

5. What promise did God make to Israel if they would keep His Law? (Deut. 5:29,33) \_\_\_\_\_

6. What warning did God give to them if they broke His Law?

a) Lev. 26:14-18 \_\_\_\_\_

b) Lev. 26:33 \_\_\_\_\_

7. Which one of the two listed below was the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham to "bless all nations?" (Gal. 3:15-19)

The Law of Moses?

The coming of the Seed of Abraham?

8. For how long was the Law of Moses to govern the Nation of Israel? (Gal. 3:19-25) \_\_\_\_\_

9. What is said about the Old Covenant?

a) Heb. 8:6-8 \_\_\_\_\_

b) Gal. 3:10 \_\_\_\_\_

c) Heb. 10:28 \_\_\_\_\_

10. Would you like to be under the Old Covenant? \_\_\_\_\_

### ALL NATIONS

1. Who took away the 1st to establish the 2nd? (Heb. 10:9) \_\_\_\_\_

2. When did the New Testament go into force? (Heb. 9:16-17) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who are to come under this New Covenant besides Israel? (Gen. 22:18; Mk. 16:15) \_\_\_\_\_

4. What term is used to identify this arrangement? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What happened to the Old Covenant when Jesus gave us the New Testament? (Heb. 8:13; Col. 2:14) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Why should we study the Old Testament today?

a) 1 Cor. 10:11-12 \_\_\_\_\_

b) Rom. 15:4 \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW**

(In order to be sure that you have grasped the concepts in this lesson, the following questions have been prepared to review the thoughts presented.)

1. Under which Covenant was Jesus born? (Gal. 4:4-5) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Jesus' death do for mankind in regards to the Law of Moses? (Gal. 3:13)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why would anyone want to go back to be under the Law of Moses in order to be saved?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Are we to go to the Old Covenant as a source of authority for religious practices today? (Gal. 5:1-4) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Are we under any of the Old Covenant Laws today? (Gal. 5:1-4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Are we under the Ten Commandments found in the Old Law? (Heb. 7:12) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. In what sense did Jesus come to "fulfill" the Law? Matt. 5:17-18) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Why is the New Covenant so much more desirable as a law for us today? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Should we just ignore the Old Testament in our reading and studying of the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

**HOMEWORK**

## (Basic Rules of Bible Study)

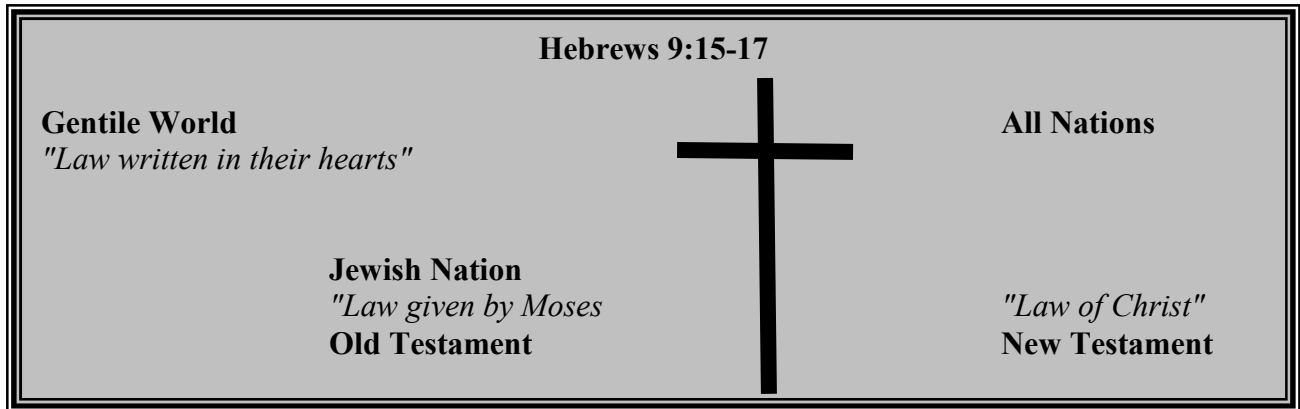
Did God intend for the Bible to be a confusing book? Even though it does contain some statements which are *"hard to be understood"* (2 Pet. 3:16); yet, it certainly was not meant to be confusing. However, due to widespread mishandling of the Bible, it has been made to appear confusing. With few exceptions, most distortions of the Scriptures can be traced to a common source—improper approach to the Bible! Preachers have succeeded in warping the Scriptures and have confused and misled untold millions of people—see illustrations below.

1. Is Jesus speaking for Himself or quoting someone else in Matt. 11:19?
2. To whom is Jesus speaking in Matt. 10:5-6?
3. In which Covenant is the command given to "keep the Sabbath Day Holy"? (Exo. 20:8-10)
4. Is the statement, "this is my body," in Matt. 26:26 to be understood literally or figuratively?
5. Can "faith only" save a man, or does his faith have to be put into action before he is saved? (Jn. 3:16; Jas. 2:24)
6. Can you harmonize this two passages?
  - a) Matt. 7:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Jn. 7:24 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Does Rev. 20:4 teach that Jesus is coming back to earth to reign for 1000 years?

## Lesson Six

## ***"The New Covenant (Testament) Of Christ"***

To learn an important **Biblical Principle** and not know how to use it would be disappointing. The New Testament is the Covenant that all men are to come under. The purpose of this lesson is to help make application of this concept clear by visual aids, examples and questions.



### **A Problem to be Solved!**

**Note:** The following 3 questions will have conflicting answers. They will present the problem to be solved. The rest of the questions should help to solve the problem.

1. **What was the thief on the cross told to do (or what did he do) in order to go to Paradise with Jesus?** (Lk. 23:39-43; Matt. 27:44). \_\_\_\_\_

2. **What did Jesus tell the Rich Young Ruler to do to have eternal life?** (Lk. 18:18-20). \_\_\_\_\_

3. **What did Jesus command His Apostles to preach to all nations and what did they have to do to be saved?** (Mark 16:15-16). \_\_\_\_\_

### **The Solution to the Problem**

1. **Under which Testament did the Thief live?** \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Under which Testament did the Ruler live?** \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Under which Testament did Jesus give the Great Commission to His Apostles?** \_\_\_\_\_



### The Application of the Principle

1. When did the New Testament go into force? (Heb. 9:16-17) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Jesus tell the Apostles to wait for before preaching to the nations? (Acts 1:4-5; John 16:13-15) \_\_\_\_\_
3. When did the Holy Spirit come upon the Apostles to guide them into all truth? (Acts 2:1-4) \_\_\_\_\_
4. After convincing these devout Jewish people that Jesus was both Lord and Christ, what were they told to do to receive the remission (forgiveness) of sins? (Acts 2:36-41) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Are these things bound upon all mankind today? (Acts 2:38; Matt. 16:18-19; 18:18; Mk. 16:15-16) \_\_\_\_\_

### Some Observations

1. Why isn't the paralytic man's forgiveness an example for us to follow today? (Mark 2:1-11) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why isn't the woman's forgiveness in Jn. 8:1-11 an example for us to follow today? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Does the answer Jesus gave the Ruler apply to us today?(Lk. 18:18-20) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Was the Thief on the cross a "child of God" under the Old Covenant? (Gen. 17:8-14) \_\_\_\_\_
5. How do we know that the Thief had NOT been baptized with John's baptism? (Matt. 3:5-6) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Do we have the right or power to change the Testament of Christ that was bound upon mankind by the Apostles? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Should we tell people they can be saved a different way than what Peter told the people in Acts 2:38? \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW**

*"The Binding of Jesus' Will"*

JESUS  
told the  
\_\_\_\_\_

To wait in the city of  
\_\_\_\_\_

For the coming of the  
\_\_\_\_\_

So that when He came, they were to  
\_\_\_\_\_

To all Nations or Peoples beginning in  
\_\_\_\_\_

They told the people to  
\_\_\_\_\_ and be \_\_\_\_\_

To receive the Remission of Sins!

## **HOMEWORK**

### **"Why Be A Christian?"**

Man has to be motivated to do what he does in most instances. We are made this way! Therefore, we can expect to find good reasons for being a Christian in the way of Rewards and Blessings. The following Scriptures are given to illustrate this concept.

**Acts 2:38** \_\_\_\_\_

**Eph. 1:3** \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 8:28** \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 8:37** \_\_\_\_\_

**Philippians 4:13** \_\_\_\_\_

**Philippians 3:21** \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew 6:33** \_\_\_\_\_

**Philippians 4:6-7** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Corinthians 15:57** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 John 5:13** \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you be a Christian or want to be a Christian if there were no promised rewards?**

**Yes?**

**No?**

## Lesson Seven

**"God's Redeemed People Today"**

"A Redeemer is coming!" was the message of the Old Testament. The New Testament opens with the message: "A Redeemer has come!" The Redeemer was to redeem a special people unto the Lord who would become His church (the called out people) or the new "Kingdom of God" among men. We need to understand the great importance that the Bible gives to this group of people.

1. What did Jesus state about this new kingdom of God?

a) Matt. 4:17 \_\_\_\_\_

b) John 3:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_

c) Matt. 16:18-19 \_\_\_\_\_

d) Mark 9:1 \_\_\_\_\_

2. When did the church begin? (Isa. 2:2-3; Acts 2:16-17) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who could enter it? (Isa. 2:2-3; Acts 1:8; 2:5) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Where did the church begin? (Isa. 2:2-3; Acts 2:5) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Who entered the church? (Acts 2:38, 41, 47) \_\_\_\_\_

6. In what did the believers continue steadfastly? (Acts 2:42) \_\_\_\_\_

7. Why place should the kingdom hold in our lives? (Matt. 6:33) \_\_\_\_\_

8. What two kingdoms are contrasted in Col. 1:13-14? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Why should you want to be in the church (in Christ)?

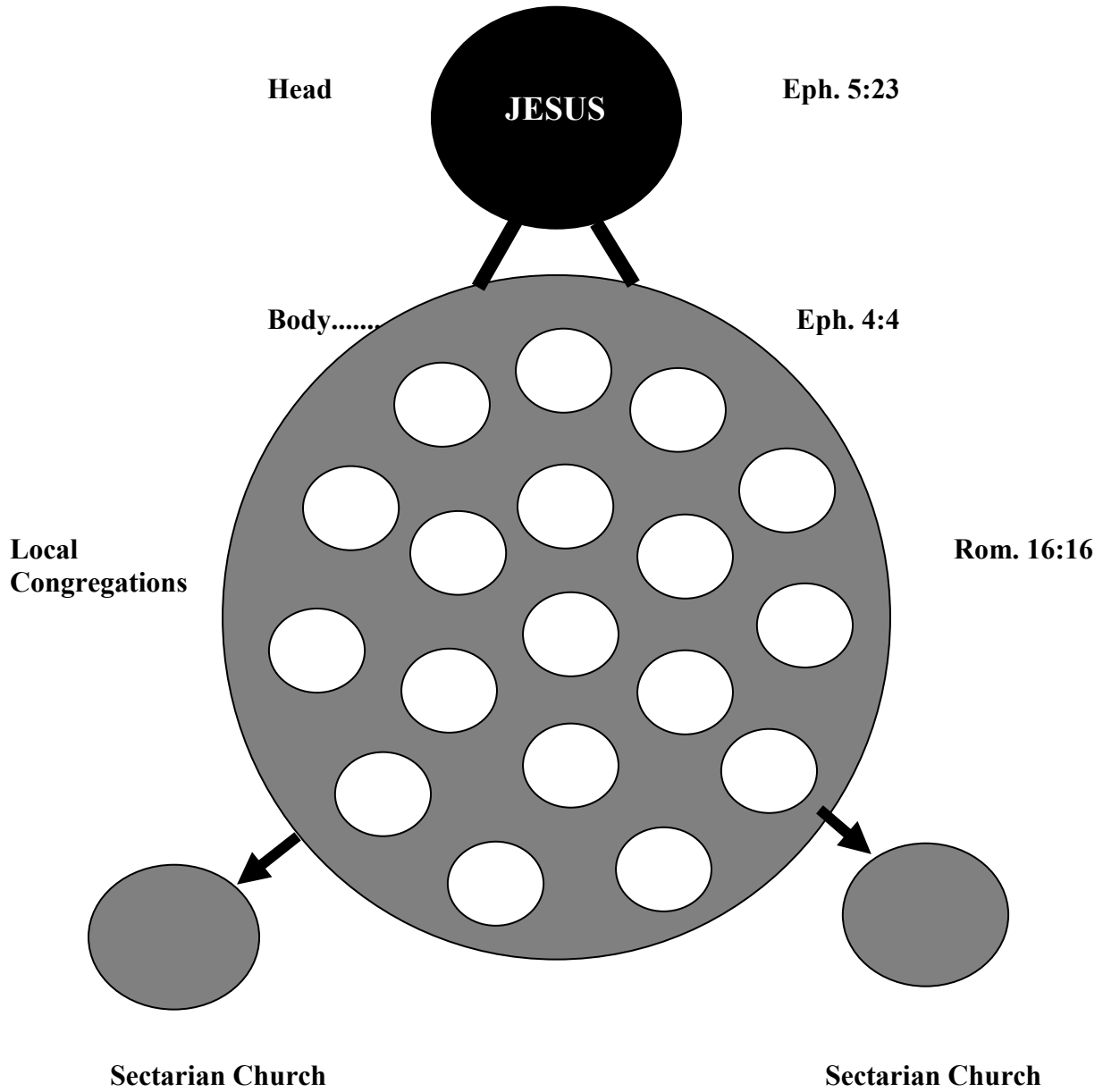
a) Acts 20:28 \_\_\_\_\_

b) Eph. 1:3 \_\_\_\_\_

10. How many churches did Jesus build? (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:4) \_\_\_\_\_

11. Why is it important for you to be a member of Christ's church? \_\_\_\_\_

**The Universal Body (church) of Christ  
(Matthew 16:18)**



*1 John 2:9; 2 John 9-11; 1 Cor. 1:10-13*

## **Identifying the Lord's Church**

1. Builder & Founder (Matt. 16:18).....Jesus
2. Beginning Place (Lk. 24:47; Acts 1:4-5; 2:1).....Jerusalem
3. Foundation of church (1 Cor. 3:11).....Jesus
4. Collective terms for church (1 Cor. 1:2).....Church of God  
     (Rom. 16:16).....Churches of Christ  
     (1 Tim. 3:15).....Family of God  
     (Col. 1:13).....Kingdom of God's dear Son  
     (Col. 1:18).....Body of Christ  
     (Eph. 2:21).....Temple of God
5. Individual Terms for God's People (1 Cor. 1:2).....Saints  
     (1 Cor. 12:12-13).....Members of the Body  
     (1 Pet. 2:5).....Priests  
     (Acts 11:26).....Disciples, Christians  
     (1 John 3:1).....Sons of God  
     (Gal. 6:1).....Brethren
6. Worship of church (John 4:24).....in spirit and in truth  
     (See homework for details)
7. Government (Universal over congregations) (Jn. 18:37)---King Jesus  
     (Eph. 5:23)---Jesus as Head
8. Government (Congregational) (Tit. 1:5).....Elders in each church  
     (Phil. 1:1)....Deacons in each church  
     (Eph. 4:11-13)...Evangelists, Teachers
9. Mission (Matt. 28:18-20).....Preach & Teach Gospel to all Nations
10. Rule of Faith (2 Tim. 3:16-17).....The New Covenant of Jesus
11. Membership into church (Acts 2:37-41, 47).....Faith  
     Repentance  
     Confession  
     Baptism  
     Added to the church
12. Members should be characterized by:
  - a) Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6; John 8:24.....Strong Faith
  - b) John 13:35; Matt. 5:43.....Love for one another
  - c) James 4:6-10.....Spirit of Humility
  - d) Titus 3:8.....Lives filled with good works
  - e) Romans 8:6.....Spiritual Mindedness
  - f) Romans 8:24.....Hope of Heaven

**Are You  
 Searching for a  
 Church  
 like This?**

**HOMWORK**

"Obedience to God"

Commands of God are both GENERAL and SPECIFIC in nature. When a command is GENERAL, man's judgment has to be used to carry it out to the best of his knowledge. But when the command is more SPECIFIC in nature, then we have to carry it out the way the Lord specifies! The following will help to illustrate this!

1. Out of what was NOAH to build the ARK? (Gen. 6:14) \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Did NOAH have a choice in this matter? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Whom did Jesus say we were to worship? (Matt. 4:10) \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Whom could we worship if Jesus had said "Just Worship?" \_\_\_\_\_
  5. Was Naaman told where to go and dip seven times to be healed? (2 Kgs. 5:10) \_\_\_\_\_
  6. Could he have dipped in any other waters and been healed? \_\_\_\_\_
  7. In remembering Jesus' death, what two elements did Jesus say were to be used to represent His body and His blood respectively? (Matt. 26:26-29) \_\_\_\_\_
  8. Could we use anything else besides these two elements and still be obedient to God? \_\_\_\_\_
  9. If Jesus had not SPECIFIED what He wanted, then what could we use? \_\_\_\_\_
  10. Has God SPECIFIED the kind of music He wants in worship? (Eph. 5:19) \_\_\_\_\_
  11. Would we be obedient to God by using another kind of music? \_\_\_\_\_
  12. If God had said, "Make music to me," then what could we use? \_\_\_\_\_
  13. Is it a sin to forsake the assembly for worship? (Heb. 10:24-25) \_\_\_\_\_
  14. What kind of an attitude is being shown by people who add or change the worship that God has prescribed? (Matt. 15:7-9) \_\_\_\_\_
  15. What kind of activities has God stated that He wants in worship to Him? (Acts 2:42; John 4:24; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:17-34; 14:15; 1 Cor. 16:1-2) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson Eight

***"Seeking for Truth"***

One of the grave errors made in studying the Bible is to consider one verse to be the Truth of God, but when another verse seems to be contrary to my understanding, it is rejected as not being God's Truth. This is not only being dishonest with the Bible, but it usually leads to our being wrong in our beliefs and practices! There is an important **principle** here that must be understood and respected—*"Take all of what the Bible says on a subject and then form a correct understanding of God's Truth so that it harmonizes all verses!"*

**ILLUSTRATIONS OF THIS PRINCIPLE**

(Please read carefully the following Scriptures and check the statement which best reflects the meaning of the passage).

**Matthew 23:23**

- 1. Jesus said they should have given a tithe;
- 2. Jesus said they should have done the weightier matters.
- 3. Both must be done to be acceptable.

**Matthew 22:37-40**

- 1. Jesus taught that men must love God.
- 2. Jesus taught that men must love their neighbor.
- 3. Both must be done to be acceptable.

**James 1:22**

- 1. James teaches that men must hear the word.
- 2. James teaches that men must do what the word says.
- 3. Both must be done to be acceptable.

**John 3:16; James 2:18-20, 24**

- 1. Jesus teaches that men must believe to be saved.
- 2. James teaches that men must have works to be saved.
- 3. The correct understanding is that men must have a working, obedient faith to be saved.

**1 John 3:18**

- 1. Men need to love in word.
- 2. Men need to love in deed.
- 3. Men need to do both to have true love.



## APPLICATION OF THIS PRINCIPLE

**The following is a big problem** in the religious world that has partially been caused by translators of the Bible. When the word **baptism** is used, different ideas come to the minds of different people. Why? Partially because the word has not been *translated!* It has been *transliterated!* The following is a way of helping to illustrate this fact. Please fill in the English letters directly below the Greek letters of "baptism."

Greek Letters:    **Βαπτίζω**  
 English Letters:    \_\_\_\_\_

Since the word is not translated, how can the average Bible reader know what God is commanding when he commands **baptizo** (baptize)? If you do not have access to a Greek Lexicon, you can still find the answer from the Bible by applying our principle. That is, get all the Scriptures together that give any indication of **how** baptism was performed and then draw your conclusion from the Bible. Below are these Scriptures. Please put in the blank to the right what is indicated about baptism.

**John 3:23** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Acts 8:35-38** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Acts 8:39** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Romans 6:4** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Romans 6:5** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Colossians 2:12** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does the Bible say baptism is performed?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sprinkling, Pouring, and Immersion** are three different actions. See which is which below! There are also three different Greek words used to express these actions. See if you can discover which one goes with which Scripture.

**Heb. 9:13 (Rantizo) (Ραντίζω)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Acts 2:17 (Cheo) (Χηω)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Rom. 6:4 (Baptizo) (Βαπτίζω)** \_\_\_\_\_

**What action did God command?** \_\_\_\_\_

By getting all of the Scriptures together and then drawing our conclusions makes it possible to draw a Bible conclusion. It only takes a little insight to be able to see what is clearly taught in Scripture about this important subject.

## A Fuller Application of This Principle

### The Principle:

- a) Pull together all passages on a given subject;
- b) Draw conclusions from all the facts;
- c) Be sure that your conclusion harmonizes with all Scripture!

### Βαπτισμῶ in the New Testament

#### Baptism of the Nation of Israel in the Red Sea. (1 Cor. 10:2)

- a) It is figurative.
- b) It is past historical incident.

John's Baptism. (Matt. 3:6-7, 11, 13-14, 16; Mk. 1:4, 5, 8-10; Lk. 3:3, 7, 12, 16, 21, 7:29-30; 20:4; John 1:25-26, 38, 31, 33; 3:22-23, 26; 4:1-2; 10:40; Acts 1:5, 22; 10:37; 11:16; 13:24; 19:3-4).

- a) During the public ministry of Jesus.
- b) No longer valid (Acts 19:1-7).

Baptism of Jesus' suffering. (Matt. 20:22-23; Mk. 10:38-39; Lk. 12:50).

- a) Figurative.
- b) Past historical event.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 3:11; Mk. 1:8; Lk. 3:16; Jn. 1:33; Acts 1:5; 11:16).

- a) Promised by Jesus (Acts 1:5).
- b) Fulfilled (Acts 2:1-4; 11:14-18).

Baptism in water under the Great Commission. (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16).

- a) A command to believers (Acts 2:38, 41; 8:12-13, 16, 36, 38; 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:15, 33; 18:8; 19:5; 22:16; Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Cor. 1:13-17; 12:13; 15:29; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 4:5; Col. 2:12; Heb. 6:2; 1 Pet. 3:21).
- b) In order to be saved---Remission of sins. (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38).
- c) Superseded John's Baptism. (Acts 19:1-7).

Baptism of fire. (Matt. 3:11; Lk. 3:16).

- a) A future punishment. (Rev. 20:14-15).

### QUESTIONS

1. In Acts 2 (33 AD)—how many kinds of baptisms?

- a) Acts 2:1-4 (1:4-5) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Acts 2:38, 41 \_\_\_\_\_

2. In Ephesians 4:5 (63 AD)—How many kinds of baptisms were still valid? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which one was a:

- a) Promise \_\_\_\_\_
- a) Command \_\_\_\_\_

## HOMEWORK

### "Conversions in the Book of Acts"

(Please fill in the blanks provided—either what people were told to do or what they did in order to be right with God)

Acts 2:14-47-----Verse 21 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 37 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 38 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 41 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 44 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 8:5-13-----Verse 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 12 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 13 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 8:26-39-----Verse 30-31 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 35 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 36-37 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 38-39 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 10:1-11:18---Verse 6 (11:4) \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 35 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 43 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 47-48 \_\_\_\_\_  
Ch. 11:18 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 16:25-34-----Verse 31-32 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 33 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 34 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 22:6-16\*\*----Verse 10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 16 \_\_\_\_\_

(\*\*See also Acts 9:1-18; 26:12-18)

## Lesson Nine

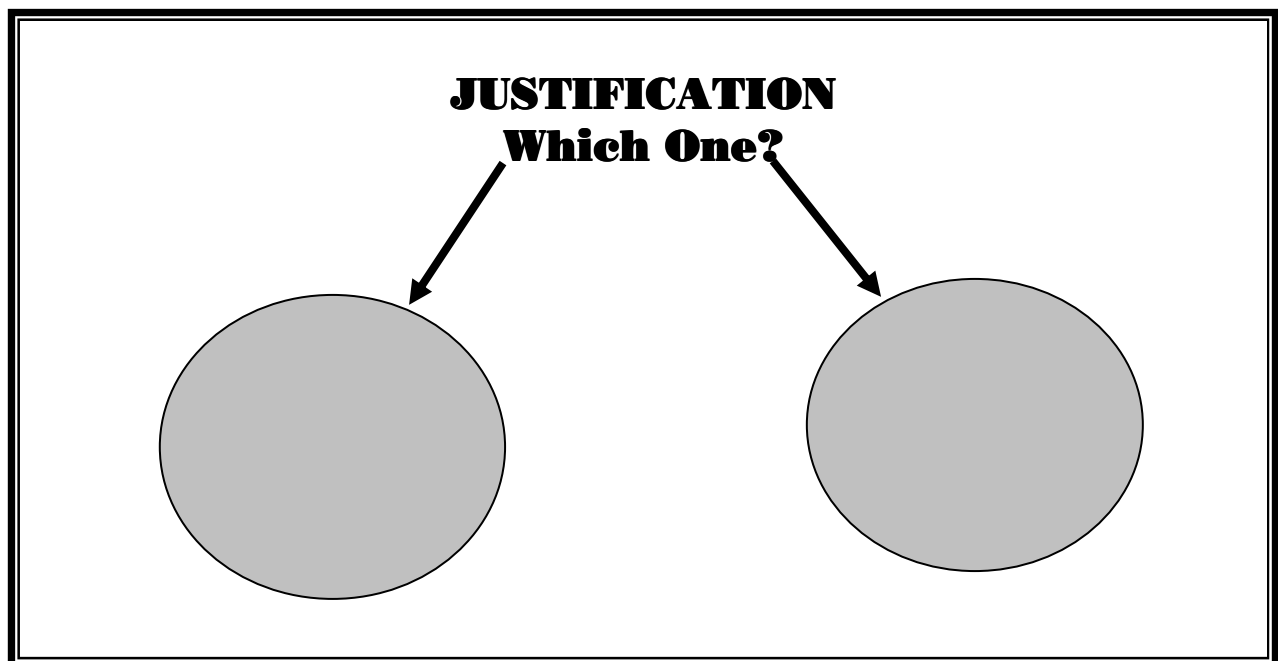
**"Truth is Harmonious"**

**Truth is Truth!** It is not **error**, nor is it a **lie!** Truth is in complete harmony with itself. This is a very important concept if a right understanding of the Bible is desired. Many have stated that they believe the Bible contradicts itself. On the surface, without a careful study of the context (and comparing other Scriptures on the same subject), it is easy to see why people would draw this conclusion. Not understanding this important principle has played havoc in the religious world. We would like to illustrate how this principle easily solves the "great" problems that some people have in understanding the Bible correctly.

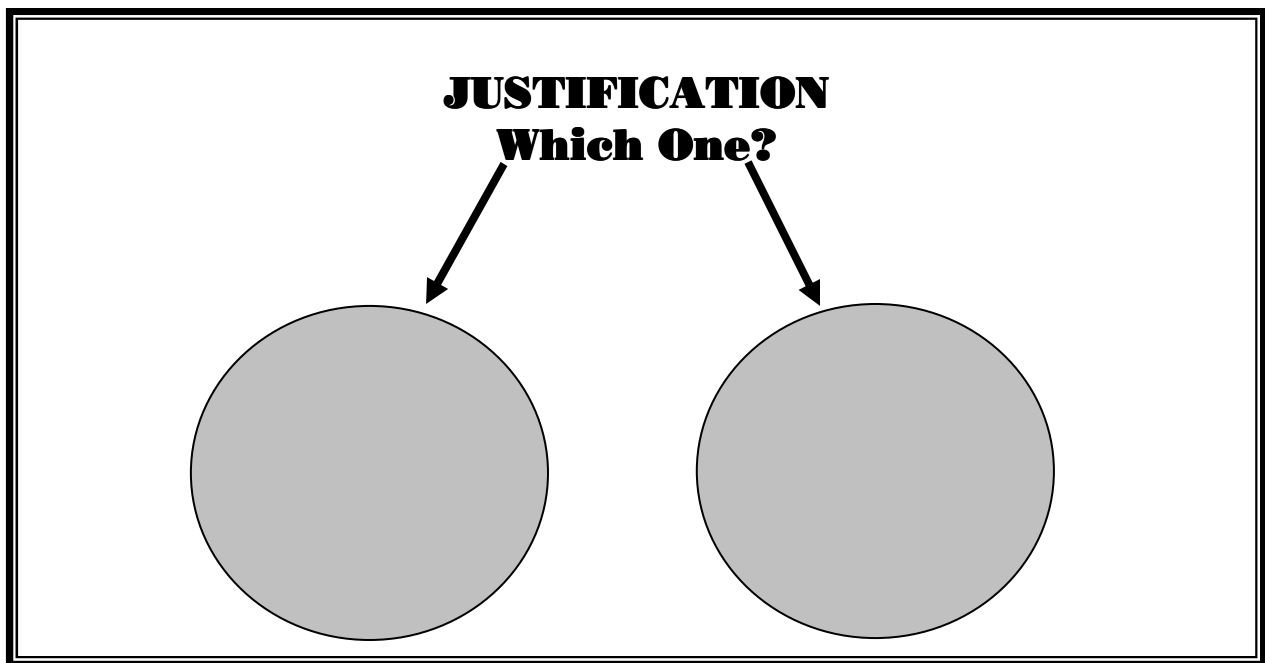
**THE PRINCIPLE:**

**Truth is in complete harmony with itself when properly understood.**

1. According to Rom. 4:2, was Abraham justified by his works? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does the Scriptures say about Abraham's being accounted as righteous? (Rom. 4:3).  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does it mean that the man who works is owed a debt? (Rom. 4:4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. By what is a man accounted righteous? (Rom. 4:5) \_\_\_\_\_
5. What two SYSTEMS OF JUSTIFICATION are being contrasted in these verses?
  - a) Rom. 4:2, 4 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Rom. 4:3, 5 \_\_\_\_\_



6. Upon what basis can a man be justified by LAW? (Rom. 2:13) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What if a person does not keep the WHOLE Law? Jas. 2:10) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the result of one who breaks the LAW of GOD? (Gal. 3:10) \_\_\_\_\_
9. Can a person be justified by the "Works of the Law?" (Gal. 3:11; Rom. 3:20) \_\_\_\_\_
10. If a man cannot be justified by "Works of Law," then by what can he be justified?  
a) Titus 3:5-7 \_\_\_\_\_  
b) Eph. 2:8-9 \_\_\_\_\_  
c) Rom. 3:19-26 \_\_\_\_\_
11. How does James say Abraham was justified? (Jas. 2:21) \_\_\_\_\_
12. Is this a contradiction of what Paul stated in Rom. 4:1-5? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Does James say Abraham was justified by FAITH? (2:21) \_\_\_\_\_
14. What TWO THINGS is James contrasting in regards to man's justification? (2:17-24)  
a) \_\_\_\_\_  
b) \_\_\_\_\_



15. By what KIND of faith is a man justified? (Jas. 2:22, 24) \_\_\_\_\_

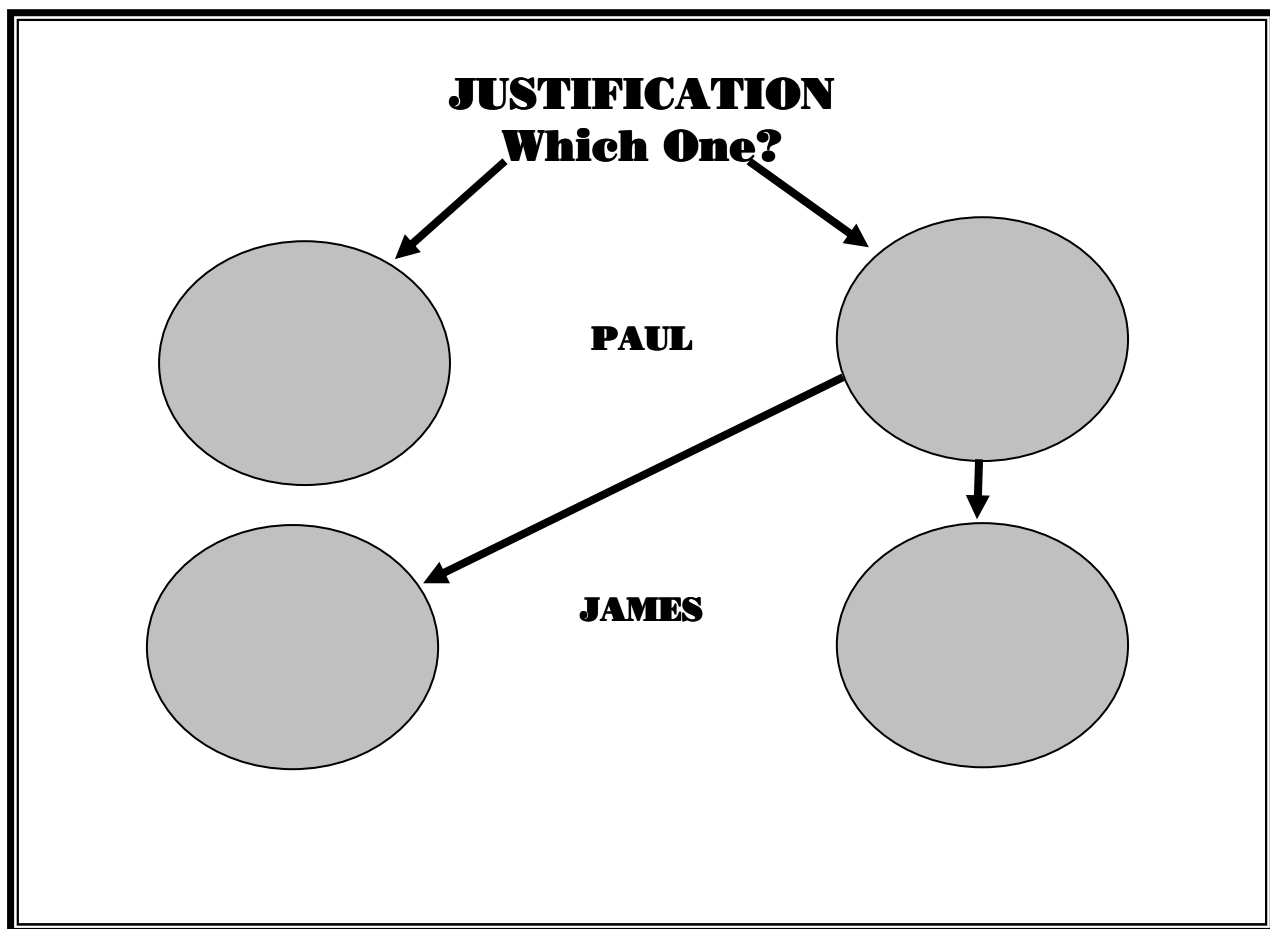
16. WHEN does faith save or justify? (Jas. 2:24) \_\_\_\_\_

17. What part do WORKS play in man's justification before God? (Jas. 2:22) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

18. How do you explain the following Scriptures in light of the above study?

- a) Jas. 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Rom. 6:17-18 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Matt. 7:21 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) John 12:42-43 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Heb. 5:8-9 \_\_\_\_\_
- f) 1 Pet. 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_

### HARMONY OF PAUL AND JAMES



## HOMEWORK

### *"Counting the Cost to Follow Christ"*

Remember the good ol' days of youth and the **water-hole** not far away where many of the neighborhood children would swim. In the **Spring**, while the water was still cool, there was a reluctance to jump in. Finally, one brave soul would jump in, shiver a little, and look back, saying: *"Come on in, the water's fine. What are you waiting on?"* So, one after another would get up the courage to *"take the plunge!"*

In a similar way, God is calling on us to surrender to Him and become His follower. Some have "made the plunge." Others have no plans to do so, while others are undecided. God is calling on us to make the plunge of complete surrender to Him.

1. Why is it so important for you to follow Christ? (Jn. 14:6) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What kind of commitment is God calling for you to make? (Rom. 12:1). \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How is this commitment described? (Matt. 10:34-39;39;Lk.14:33) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does Jesus advise you to do before becoming His follower? (Lk. 14:28-32) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Does commitment to God and popularity with the world go hand in hand? (Jn. 15:18-19)  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Does commitment to God involve giving yourself in service to others? (Matt. 20:25-28; Jas. 1:22-25) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Is there something that would hinder you from full commitment?
  - 0 Unwillingness to surrender all to Jesus?
  - 0 Love others more than God?
  - 0 Love the world more than having a hope of heaven?
  - 0 Other \_\_\_\_\_?
8. For how long should you be a follower of Jesus?(Rev. 2:10) \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson Ten

***"Erring from the Truth"***

Mankind never seems to stay faithful to God for very long as a general rule. He has demonstrated his failures to God over and over through the centuries. The most obvious and well-known illustration of this fact is seen in the Israelite people. They would be faithful to God for a while, usually when they had good leadership, and then they would gradually drift away again. Read **Judges 2:7, 11-12, 16-19**.

**Principle**

*"Depart from the Word of God, and you depart from God"*

1. What terms describe Israel's falling away from God?(Isa. 1:2-4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. If a person has the choice to become a child of God, can he also have the choice to leave God, if he so desires? (Heb. 3:12; 6:4-6) \_\_\_\_\_
3. How does one leave God? (Heb. 3:12; 2 John 9) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. If one has left God and wants to return, what must he do and with what kind of an attitude? (2 Kings 22:2, 15-20; 23:1-3, 24-25; Acts 8:22) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. The New Testament foretells of an apostasy of the church. List characteristics of this falling away from these Scriptures:
  - a) Acts 20:28-32
    - 1 \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) 1 Tim. 4:1-5
    - 1 \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2 \_\_\_\_\_
    - 3 \_\_\_\_\_
    - 4 \_\_\_\_\_



c) 2 Thess. 2:1-12

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7

### Brief Historical Sketch

The church as God revealed it in His Word was gradually changed by men over a period of several hundred years into a "man-designed" church with its own government and its human doctrines and commands. While some basic fundamentals of Christianity were retained; yet, many changes were made. All efforts to stop this downhill slide were met with firm rebuke, persecution, and death in many instances. This apostate condition continued and became even more corrupt.

It was not until the 1500's that sufficient efforts were made to begin bringing about some major changes. But again, strong resistance resulted in several religious groups being started in different countries. The Lutheran Church began in Germany; The Church of England (known as the Episcopal Church in America) was started in England; The Presbyterian Church was started in Scotland; The Methodist Church in England and America; and the Baptist Church in England and America. Other lesser known churches were also started during this same period of time. Since the 1700's, more and more churches have been started. All of these have their own sectarian name, special form of government, and their own doctrines to govern their churches.

However, serious and honest-minded people could not reconcile all these churches with what the Bible taught. So one after another began advocating a Restoration of the church as it was in its beginning. The approach was:

- (1) Just go by the Word of God;
- (2) Drop all human names that divide people;
- (3) Just become a Christian the same way they did in the first century by obeying the Gospel;
- (4) Become a member of the Lord's church—the body of Christ.

Churches of Christ exist today throughout the world as a result of these early efforts at Restoration!

Are you concerned about just following the Bible?

If people have left God's Way and want to return to His Way, what must they do?

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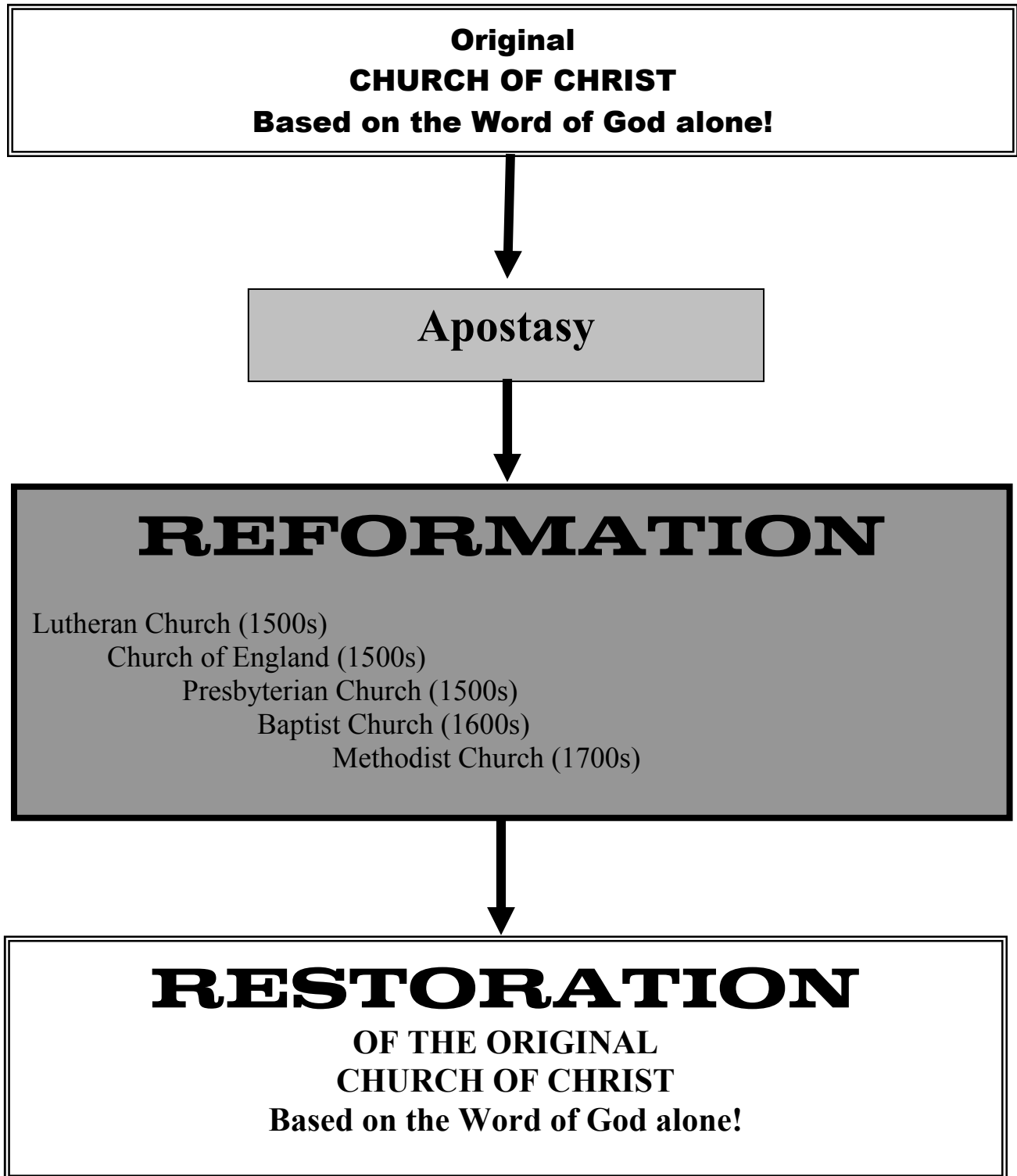


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## ***Apostasy, Reformation, Restoration***



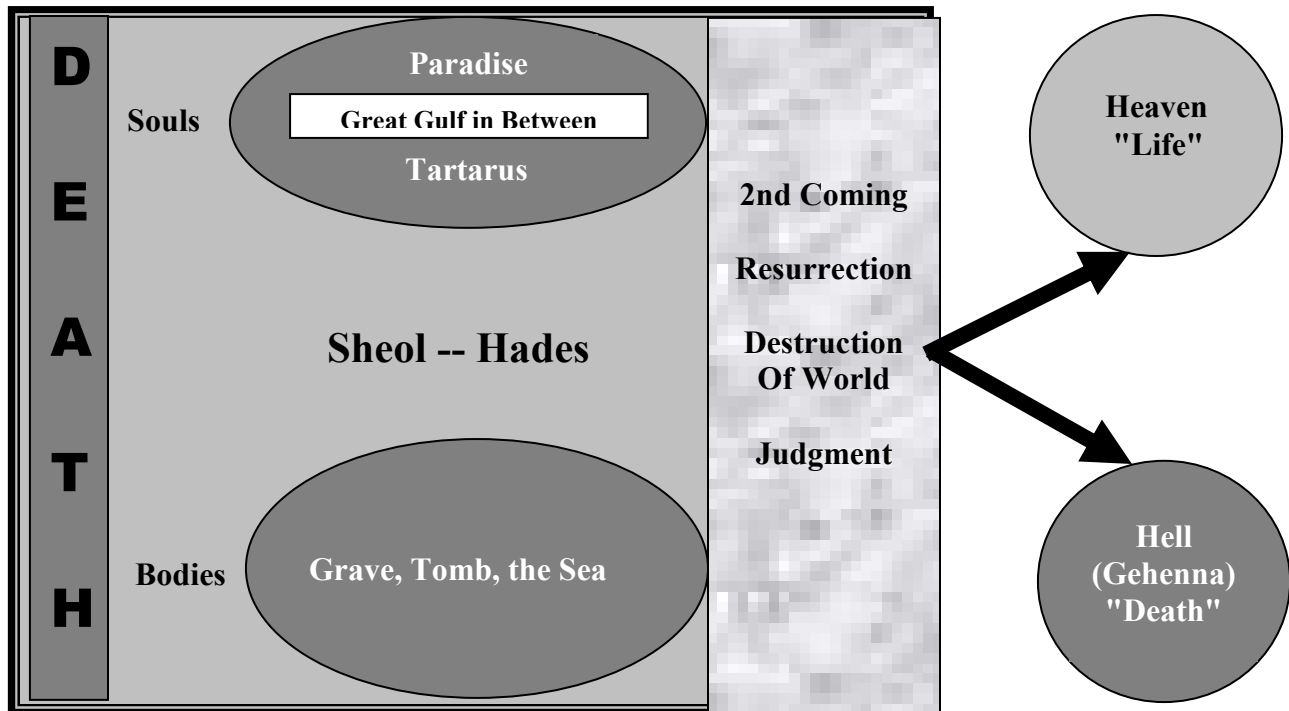
**HOMEWORK***The Worship of God*

1. What does God have a **RIGHT** to expect of His creatures? (Matt. 4:10) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What are two requirements in worship to God? (John 4:24) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Does God want *Private worship*? (Matt. 6:5-8) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Does God want *Public (assembly) worship*? (1 Cor. 11:17-20) \_\_\_\_\_
5. What *admonitions* are given about the public (assembly) worship?
  - a) Heb. 10:25 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) 1 Cor. 14:26 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) 1 Cor. 14:40 \_\_\_\_\_
6. What *two things* were specifically indicated as being done on the 1st day of the week (Sunday)?
  - a) Acts 20:7 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) 1 Cor. 16:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_
7. What *other things* were done when they assembled, but can be done at other times besides Sunday?
  - a) Acts 20:7 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) 1 Cor. 14:15 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) Acts 12:12 \_\_\_\_\_
8. What will cause *my worship* to be in vain?
  - a) Acts 17:23 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Matt. 15:7-9 \_\_\_\_\_
9. What is the *prime purpose* of all of our worship activities? (1 Cor. 10:31) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What is the *secondary purpose* of our public (assembly) worship? (1 Cor. 14:26) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson Eleven

**"Mankind's Eternal Destiny"**

The Concept of **Redemption** is a saving of man from his **Just** punishment for sin and making it possible to enjoy Eternal Life with God after this life is over. This series of studies would not be complete without considering mankind's ultimate destiny! However, at the same time stressing that man is a responsible being and must respond to God's offer in a responsible manner.



**BODY and SOUL**

1. Where does the **BODY** go upon physical death? (Eccl. 12:7) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where does the **SPIRIT** go upon physical death? (Eccl. 12:7) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where does the **RIGHTEOUS SOUL** go upon physical death? (Lk. 23:43; Acts 2:30-32; Lk. 16:19-22) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Where does the **UNRIGHTEOUS SOUL** go upon physical death? (Lk. 16:23; 2 Pet. 2:4) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why is there a **GREAT GULF** fixed between them? (Lk. 16:23-26) \_\_\_\_\_

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## DEATH and HADES

6. Who has the Keys of Death and Hades? (Rev. 1:18) \_\_\_\_\_

7. What will happen to Death and Hades at Jesus' return?(Rev. 20:14) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## JESUS' RETURN

8. Will Jesus' return be private or public? (1 Thess. 4:16-17) \_\_\_\_\_

9. When will He return? (Matt. 25:13; 24:36; 2 Pet. 3:10; 1 Thess. 5:2-3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. What is the purpose of His coming again?

a) Jn. 5:28-29 \_\_\_\_\_

b) 2 Pet. 3:10 \_\_\_\_\_

c) Matt. 25:31-32 \_\_\_\_\_

d) Matt. 25:41 \_\_\_\_\_

e) Matt. 25:46 \_\_\_\_\_

f) 1 Cor. 15:22-28 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## FEAR or CONFIDENCE

11. Who will have no reason to fear at His return?

a) Matt. 18:3-4 \_\_\_\_\_

b) 1 Jn. 4:17-18 \_\_\_\_\_

12. Will man have another chance after death to be saved? (Lk. 16:22-26) \_\_\_\_\_

13. How long is man's punishment to be for sin? (Matt. 25:46) \_\_\_\_\_

14. How long is man's reward to be in Heaven? (Matt. 25:46) \_\_\_\_\_

15. Will all men be raised some day? (Jn. 5:28-29) \_\_\_\_\_

16. With what kind of a body will the Christian be raised? (1 Cor. 15:35-44) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**VICTORY**

17. If all men are to be raised, then in what sense does the Christian gain a victory in Christ?

\_\_\_\_\_

18. Who also will be punished besides sinful man? (2 Pet. 2:4; Rev. 20:10, 15)\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**HEAVEN**

19. In what terms is heaven described?

- a) Rev. 2:7 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Rev. 21:1 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) John 14:2 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) 2 Pet. 1:11 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) 1 Cor. 3:14 \_\_\_\_\_
- f) 2 Tim. 4:8 \_\_\_\_\_

**HELL**

20. In what terms is hell (gehenna) described?

- a) 2 Thess. 1:7-9 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Matt. 25:46 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Mk. 9:44-45 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Rev. 20:15 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Matt. 25:30 \_\_\_\_\_

**GOD IS FAITHFUL!**

21. Will God do what He has promised in the way of reward and punishment for man? (2 Pet. 2:4-10; Heb. 6:16-19)\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## HOMEWORK

### *"Walk in Newness of Life"*

When one becomes a Christian, he not only has an opportunity to start over again, but the direction for his life will be changed to conform to the Will of his new Master, Jesus Christ.

### QUESTIONS

1. (2 Cor. 5:17). "If any man is in Christ, he is a \_\_\_\_\_"
  
2. (Rom. 6:1). A new creature is no longer to continue in \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Newness of life involves:
  - a) Rom. 12:2---"A transformation of our \_\_\_\_\_"
  - b) Rom. 12:2---"Not conforming to this \_\_\_\_\_"
  - c) Col. 3:1-2---"Seeking things that are \_\_\_\_\_"
  - d) 2 Cor. 6:17---"Not touching (holding on to) the \_\_\_\_\_"
  - e) Eph. 4:22---"Putting off the \_\_\_\_\_"
  - f) Eph. 4:24---"Putting on the \_\_\_\_\_"
  
4. What are some things to be put away from our Lives? Eph. 4:25-31
 

a) _____	e) _____	h) _____
b) _____	f) _____	i) _____
c) _____	g) _____	j) _____
d) _____		
  
5. What are some things to be put on in our lives? Eph. 4:32
 

a) _____	b) _____	c) _____
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6. What are some sins that must be put off or avoided? Gal. 5:19-21
 

a) _____	g) _____	m) _____
b) _____	h) _____	n) _____
c) _____	i) _____	o) _____
d) _____	j) _____	p) _____
e) _____	k) _____	q) _____
f) _____	l) _____	r) _____
  
7. What are some good things to be put on in our lives? Gal. 5:22-23
 

a) _____	e) _____	h) _____
b) _____	f) _____	i) _____
c) _____	g) _____	j) _____

## Lesson Twelve

**"A Devoted Follower"**

"You are not your own....For you are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

**1. What are some specific things Christ calls upon His followers to do?**

- a) 2 Cor. 7:1 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) 1 Pet. 1:15-16 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Eph. 4:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Eph. 4:24 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) 2 Pet. 3:18 \_\_\_\_\_

**2. What must I realize in order to be a devoted follower of Christ?**

- a) 1 Pet. 2:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) 1 Cor. 6:19-20 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Gal. 1:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Rev. 22:17 \_\_\_\_\_

**3. What will help me to be a devoted follower?**

- a) 2 Tim. 2:15 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Ps. 1:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Ps. 119:11 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) 1 Tim. 4:7 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) 1 Cor. 15:33 \_\_\_\_\_
- f) 2 Pet. 2:20-22 \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Matt. 15:16-20 \_\_\_\_\_
- h) 1 John 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- i) James 5:16 \_\_\_\_\_

**4. What obligation does a knowledge of truth bring?**

- a) 2 Thess. 2:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) 1 Pet. 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Luke 12:47-48 \_\_\_\_\_

**5. What Choices do I need to make?**

- a) Matt. 6:24 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Rom. 6:16 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) 1 John 1:6-7 \_\_\_\_\_

**6. How does one show his love for God?**

- a) 1 John 5:3 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Why is it so important to be born again?**

- a) John 3:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_



8. Is the fear of HELL a legitimate reason for becoming a Christian?

a) Matt. 10:28 \_\_\_\_\_

9. What is obedience from the heart? (Romans 6:17-18)

a) What is the right knowledge? \_\_\_\_\_

b) What is the right attitude? \_\_\_\_\_

c) What is the right action? \_\_\_\_\_

d) What is the right results? \_\_\_\_\_

e) What made their obedience acceptable? \_\_\_\_\_

f) Could these people have "obeyed from the heart" if they were taught incorrectly? (Rom. 10:1-2) \_\_\_\_\_

g) Would they have been made free from sin if they had been insincere, but baptized? (Matt. 15:8) \_\_\_\_\_

h) Would they have been made free from sin if they had been sincere but sprinkled with water instead of immersed, as God commands? (Matt. 7:21-23) \_\_\_\_\_

10. A TEST EXAMPLE (Acts 19:1-7)

a) Were they immersed to obey God when they were baptized with John's baptism? \_\_\_\_\_

b) Were they sincere? \_\_\_\_\_

c) Then, why did they need to be baptized again? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What is said about those who profess to know God, but do not obey Him?

a) 1 John 1:5-7 \_\_\_\_\_

12. Am I manifesting a spirit of obedience by doing what God tells me to do?

\_\_\_\_\_

### CONCLUDING QUESTIONS

1. Are you a follower of Christ?

2. Have you made a commitment to let Him be the Lord of your life?

3. Are you willing to pay the cost of becoming a Christian and living the Christian life?

4. Have you considered the alternative?

5. If you are not yet a follower of Christ, what do you need to do to become His follower?





