

Prediscipling

adapted from a study

by

Willie White



Prepared on the computer

by

Bill DeLaughter

Box 193

Crown Point, In. 46308-0193

LESSON 1 - GOD

"HE THAT COMETH TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS, AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THEM THAT DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM."-HEBREWS 11:6

To become a Christian, begin with God. "He that cometh to God must believe that he is." How can the creature question the existence of the Creator? The evidence of the living, personal, eternal God is so overwhelming that the psalmist cries out, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psalm 14:1). A fool is defined as, "A person lacking in understanding, judgment, or common sense." It is sensible to believe in God!

The question of God's existence is of primary concern to every individual. Many sincere people are asking, "How can I know that there is a living personal God?" Consider this evidence of God:

1. THE EVIDENCE OF INTUITION.

All peoples in all places at all times have held a belief in a higher power and a desire for worship. God has made us with a deathless thirst for Him. The very fact that man instinctively reaches up for a Power beyond the human is an indication that the Power is there. "It is too necessary not to be true."

2. THE EVIDENCE OF CAUSE AND EFFECT.

Our scientists have long told us that "Every effect must have an adequate cause." The only Cause great enough to account for this marvelous universe, the existence of man, the church, the Bible, answered prayer, changed lives, and the assurance in the heart of the believer is Jehovah God! "He that built all things is God" (Hebrews 3:4).

3. THE EVIDENCE OF REVELATION.

If there be a Creator, we would expect Him to reveal himself to His creature. Jehovah God has revealed himself to man through the Bible, the only textbook on God, and through His Son, Jesus, who declared, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9). Through the Son we come to know the Father. "Matter reveals a presence, history a providence, philosophy a purpose, but only Jesus reveals the Father."

As we study also the characteristics of Jehovah God remember that all which shows WHAT He is shows THAT He is.

1. How do we know that God is?

- a. (Psalm 42:1,1) _____
- b. (Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20) _____
- c. (Romans 15:4; Hebrews 1:1,2; John 14:9) _____

2. Who is it that says there is no God? (Psalm 14:1) _____

3. What is God like?

- a. (John 4:24) _____
- b. (I John 1:5) _____
- c. (I John 4:8) _____
- d. (Hebrews 12:29) _____

4. How can we become acquainted with God? (John 14:9) _____

5. Remember that Jesus said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father," read the following verses, and fill in characteristics of God that were displayed in the life of Jesus.
 - a. (Matthew 9:36; John 11:35) _____
 - b. (John 8:1-11) _____
 - c. (John 2:13-17) _____
 - d. (John 13:1) _____
6. Our text reminds us that God "is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." What is the reward of seeking God? (Jeremiah 29:13) _____

7. Is God far away from us? (Acts 17:27,28) _____

8. What has God done for us?
 - a. (Genesis 1:1) _____
 - b. (John 3:16) _____
 - c. (Psalm 103:12) _____
 - d. (Acts 5:32) _____
 - e. (Jeremiah 33:3) _____
9. Is God interested in man? (2 Peter 3:9) _____

LESSON 2 - CHRIST

Matthew 16:16 "THOU ART THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD."

Nineteen and one-half centuries ago in a far-off land a babe was born, and the babe was named Jesus. Whatever men may believe about Him, they must acknowledge that a man named Jesus lived. History is filled with the fact of Jesus. The calendar declares that He is no myth; the world's date lines bend around the manger of Bethlehem. The question is not, "Did Jesus live?" but "Who is He?" "What think ye of the Christ?" Everything worthwhile in time and eternity rests upon your answer. What are the lines of evidence that cause us to believe Jesus to be the divine Son of God?

1. HIS BIRTH WAS THE BIRTH OF THE SON OF GOD. (MATTHEW 1:18).

The marvelous birth of the child of Bethlehem has never been disproved. Here was the Son of God cradled in a manger!

2. HIS LIFE WAS THE LIFE OF THE SON OF GOD.

He was the One who had power over the laws of nature, power over the laws of sickness and disease, power over the laws of death. He broke up every funeral He ever attended! How truly is has been said, "His life being a miracle, it would have been a miracle if He had not performed miracles." His sinless, miracle-working life proclaims His deity.

3. HIS DEATH WAS THE DEATH OF THE SON OF GOD.

His life was not taken; it was given! He prophesied His death and then went straight toward it. He died in such a way that witnesses cried out, "Truly this was the Son of God," and a dying thief saluted Him as king.

4. HIS RESURRECTION WAS THE TRIUMPH OF THE SON OF GOD.

There is no better attested fact in history than the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and He was "declared to be the Son of God...by His resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4).

5. HIS PRESENT POWER IS THE POWER OF THE SON OF GOD.

After nineteen centuries He is still at work in the world. There is a power which transforms sinners into saints. "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

How can we account for Jesus of Nazareth unless we confess with Peter, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God"?

1. What did the prophets claim about Jesus?

- a. Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15) _____
- b. Micah (Micah 5:2) _____
- c. Isaiah (Isaiah 53:4-6) _____

2. What did God claim about Jesus?

- a. (Matthew 3:17;17:5) _____
- b. (Matthew 1:21; Luke 2:11) _____

3. What did the disciples claim about Jesus?

- a. Peter (Matthew 16:16) _____

- b. Philip (John 1:45) _____
 - c. John (John 1:1) _____
 - d. Thomas (John 20:28) _____
 - e. Judas Iscariot (Matthew 27:4) _____
4. What did others claim about Jesus?
- a. Nicodemus (John 3:2) _____
 - b. Officers (John 7:46) _____
 - c. One healed (John 9:25) _____
 - d. Pilate (Luke 23:4) _____
 - e. Pilate's wife (Matthew 27:19) _____
 - f. Centurian (Matthew 27:54) _____
5. What did Jesus claim about himself?
- a. (John 4:25,26) _____
 - b. (John 10:30) _____
 - c. (Mark 14:61,62) _____
 - _____
 - d. (Matthew 9:6) _____
 - e. (Matthew 12:6) _____
 - (Matthew 12:8) _____
 - (Matthew 12:41) _____
 - (Matthew 12:42) _____
 - f. (Matthew 25:31,32) _____
 - _____
6. What is the greatest proof of the deity of Jesus? (Romans 1:4) _____
7. What is the result of refusing to believe in the divine Jesus? (John 8:24) _____
8. What is the reward for believing in the divine Jesus? (John 3:36) _____
- _____

LESSON - 3 THE HOLY SPIRIT

"THE HOLY GHOST, WHOM GOD HATH GIVEN TO THEM THAT OBEY HIM."---
ACTS 5:32

ACTS 5:32. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

One of the most important, most misunderstood, and most neglected themes in the Bible is the Holy Ghost ("Holy Spirit" in the American Standard Version and many other versions). Let us study this subject carefully and prayerfully.

1. WHO THE HOLY SPIRIT IS.

The Holy Spirit is a divine personality and not an impersonal influence! In the Bible the personal pronoun, masculine gender, is used with reference to Him. The Holy Spirit possesses attributes of a person: He is said to think, will, love, and to be grieved. He is called the Spirit of God, Spirit of Christ, Spirit of holiness, Spirit of truth, Spirit of love, etc. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit constitute what we sometimes call the "Godhead."

2. WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES.

All that God does in the world He does through His Spirit. The Holy Spirit has been active in creation, revelation, and redemption. (Genesis 1:2; 2Peter 1:21; John 16:8).

3. HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GIVEN.

- a. The Holy Spirit was given to Jesus without measure at the time of His baptism, giving Him unlimited power. (Matthew 3:16).
- b. The Holy Spirit was given by divine outpouring upon the Apostles (Jews, Acts 2) and upon the household of Cornelius (Gentiles, Acts 10). This baptism in the Spirit enabled the household of Cornelius to speak in tongues, an evidence to the Jews that Gentiles were acceptable to God, and gave the Apostles miracle-working powers and the ability to confer spiritual gifts upon others. (Acts 2:43; 8:18).
- c. The Holy Spirit was given to selected leaders in the early church by the laying on of the apostles' hands (Acts 8:18), resulting in miraculous gifts and powers.
- d. The Holy Spirit is promised to every Christian upon his obedience to Christ (Acts 2:38). This indwelling presence strengthens, comforts, and guides the child of God, and enables him to bear the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23). This power is available to you; don't hesitate to claim what God has promised. (Luke 11:13).

1. What three divine personalities constitute the "Godhead"?

(Matthew 28:19) _____

2.

List the personal characteristics of the Holy Spirit.

- a. Example (Romans 8:27) the holy spirit thinks.
- b. (Romans 15:30) _____
- c. (I Corinthians 12:11) _____
- d. (Ephesians 4:30) _____
- e. (Matthew 12:31,32) _____
- f. (Acts 7:51) _____

3. What was the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament?
 - a. (Genesis 1:2) _____
 - b. (Exodus 31:1-5) _____
 - c. (Judges 3:10; 6:34) _____
 - d. (I Samuel 10:10; 19:20; I Peter 1:10,11) _____

4. When was the Holy Spirit given to Jesus? (Matthew 3:16) _____

5. How much of the Holy Spirit was given to Jesus? (John 3:34) _____

6. What did the Holy Spirit do for the apostles?
 - a. (John 14:16,17) _____
 - b. (Luke 12:12) _____
 - c. (John 16:13) _____
 - d. (Acts 1:5) - _____

7. What two groups of people were baptized in the Spirit? (Acts 1:26-2:4; Acts 10:44-47; Acts 11:15) _____

8. How were special miracle-working powers given? (Acts 8:18) _____

9. How do we receive the Holy Spirit today? (Acts 2:38; 5:32) _____

10. What does the Holy Spirit do for the Christian?
 - a. (Ephesians 1:13) _____
 - b. (Romans 8:26) _____
 - c. (Romans 8:16) _____
 - d. (Galatians 5:16,18) _____
 - e. (Ephesians 3:16) _____
 - f. (Romans 5:5) _____
 - g. (Romans 8:11) _____

11. What is the "fruit of the Spirit" in the Christian's life? (Galatians 5:22,23)

a. _____	f. _____
b. _____	g. _____
c. _____	h. _____
d. _____	i. _____
e. _____	

LESSON 4 - THE BIBLE

"HOLY MEN OF GOD SPAKE AS THEY WERE MOVED BY THE HOLY GHOST."-
2 PETER 1:21

The Bible is God's wonder book. It is a library of sixty-six volumes, written in three different languages, by forty men who lived in at least six different countries, writing over a period of sixteen hundred years. Yet in all this diversity we find an amazing unity. How can it be explained? The Bible claims God as its author: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16). Some twenty-six hundred times on its pages the Bible claims to have come from God, through the hand of inspired men. Is it God's truth or man's lie? How do we know that the Bible is the inspired Word of God?

1. THE BIBLE SAYS WHAT NO OTHER BOOK CAN SAY.

The Bible reaches farther into the past than any human book can reach: "In the beginning God" (Genesis 1:1). The Bible reaches farther into the future than any human book can reach: "for ever and ever" (Revelation 20:10). History is written before it occurs! Fourteen hundred years before the birth of Jesus His birth, life, and death were foretold in amazing detail. Fulfilled prophesy is sufficient evidence for the inspiration of the Bible.

The Bible contains ideas and ideals which could come only from God. the idea of God, the idea of creation, the idea of man, the idea of eternity are too great to originate in the mind of man. The Bible tells us why we are here, whence we came, and where we are going.

2. THE BIBLE ENDURES WHAT NO OTHER BOOK CAN ENDURE.

The storms of the centuries have beaten upon this rock of ages, but the Bible stands unchanged. The critics and the skeptics pass away; the Bible stands. "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven"(Psalm 119:89). It is truly "the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Peter 1:23).

3. THE BIBLE DOES WHAT NO OTHER BOOK CAN DO.

The Bible has power to civilize. Chart where the message of this book has gone at any time in its history and you will have charted the course of civilization! The Bible has power to convict of sin, to transform lives, and to create faith in the human heart. " I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16).

1. What is the greatest book in the world? _____
2. Give three Scriptural names for the Bible;
 - a. (Ephesians 6:17; 1 Peter 1:23) _____
 - b. (Matthew 21:42; John 5:39; Acts 17:11) _____
 - c. (Hebrews 5:12; Acts 7:38) _____
3. How many books are there in the Bible? _____
4. What are the two main divisions of the Bible?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
5. Which Testament is the guidebook for Christians? _____
6. Who wrote the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21) _____
7. What is the dictionary definition of "inspiration"? _____
8. What is the dictionary definition of "prophecy"? _____

9. What is the value of studying the Bible?
a. (2 Timothy 2:15) _____
b. (2 Timothy 3:15) _____
c. (John 8:32) _____
10. Are other books necessary for us to be able to understand God's will? (2 Timothy 3:16,17) _____
11. In this reference (2 Timothy 3:16,17) for what does Paul say the Scripture is profitable?
a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____
e. _____
12. What is the result of adding to or taking from God's Word? (Revelation 22:18,19) _____
13. List your reasons for believing the Bible is God's inspired Word.

14. If the Bible is God's Word to us, what should our attitude be as we read the Bible?

LESSON 5 THE CHURCH

"UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH." - MATTHEW 16:18

It was when inspired Peter confessed his faith in the divine Christ that Jesus declared, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." He kept his promise when upon the first Day of Pentecost following His crucifixion and resurrection He sent the Holy Spirit to inspire the disciples to establish His church (Acts 2:1-41).

For nineteen centuries His church has been in the world. Some ridicule it; some oppose it; some ignore it; yet others find peace and joy and purpose for life through it. We can believe in the church for the following reasons:

1. WE CAN BELIEVE IN THE CHURCH BECAUSE OF ITS ORIGIN.

The church was planned in the mind of God (1 Corinthians 1:1,2), purchased by the Son of God (Acts 20:28), and instituted by the Spirit of God (Acts 2).

2. WE CAN BELIEVE IN THE CHURCH BECAUSE OF ITS ORGANIZATION.

The church has a divine head (Colossians 1:18), a divine pattern of leadership (Ephesians 4:11,12), and a divine plan of government (Acts 6:1-6).

Because of this divine plan of organization, "the gates of hell shall not prevail against" the church.

3. WE CAN BELIEVE IN THE CHURCH BECAUSE OF ITS MEMBERSHIP.

The church is composed of born-again people. They are not perfect, but they have heard God's call, have humbled themselves in obedience to His commands and are "pressing on toward perfection."

4. WE CAN BELIEVE IN THE CHURCH BECAUSE OF ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

The church has collected and preserved the sacred writings. The church has provided worship. The church has carried the message that has educated and civilized the world and that has changed lives, saved souls, and given purpose and meaning to life.

5. WE CAN BELIEVE IN THE CHURCH BECAUSE OF ITS ETERNAL DESTINY.

The gates of Hades have never prevailed against the church. Real Christianity can never be destroyed, for in it is nothing destructible!

THE CHURCH IS CHRIST'S BODY - IT WILL NOT SEE CORRUPTION;

THE CHURCH IS CHRIST'S HOUSE - IT WILL NOT BE DESTROYED;

THE CHURCH IS CHRIST'S BRIDE - IT WILL NOT BE LEFT DESOLATE.

May we love and cherish the church, remembering that "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25).

1. What is the church?

a. (Ephesians 1:22,23) _____

b. (Ephesians 5:24,25) _____

c. (1 Timothy 3:15) _____

2. Who planned the church? (1 Corinthians 1:1,2; Ephesians 1:3,4) _____

3. What was the price paid for the church? (Acts 20:28) _____

4. When was the church established? (Acts 2:1,41) _____
5. Where was the church established? (Isaiah 3:3; Acts 1:4; 2:5) _____
6. What was the power that gave life to the church? (Acts 2:1-4) _____
7. What did men do to become members of the church at its beginning?
- _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
8. Who "added" the converts to the church? (Acts 2:47) _____
9. In what four ways did the early Christians "continue steadfastly"? (Acts 2:42)
- _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
10. Who is head of the church? (Matthew 28:18; EPHESIANS 1:22,23) _____
11. What is the foundation of the church? (1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:19,20)
- _____
12. How many buildings are erected upon one foundation? _____
13. Where did the early church assemble? (Acts 2:46; Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:19) _____
14. What names did God give for the church?
- (1 Corinthians 1:2) _____
 - (Hebrews 12:23) _____
 - (1 Corinthians 12:27) _____
 - (Romans 16:16) _____
 - (1 Timothy 3:15) _____
 - (Romans 16:4) _____
 - (Acts 8:1,3; 15:3,4; 18:22) _____
15. What does the designation "the church" signify to you? _____
- _____
16. What is the destiny of the church? (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17) _____
- _____
17. What is the dictionary definition of "church"? _____
- _____
18. What is the dictionary definition of "fellowship"? _____
- _____

LESSON 6 SIN

"ALL HAVE SINNED, AND COME SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD." - ROMANS 3:23

"Fools laugh at sin and philosophers explain it away," but the darkest fact in the world is the fact of sin. That sin is, we know through observation, experience, and the testimony of the Word of God. Our guidebook, the Bible, speaks to us of the cause, consequences, and cure for sin.

1. THE CAUSE OF SIN.

The third chapter of Genesis tells us of the origin of sin in the world. Jehovah God had given man the fruit of every tree in the garden, except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and had given the warning, "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17). The serpent came to Eve with the question, "Yea, hath God said?," then with the denial of God's Word, "Ye shall not surely die." The woman ate of the forbidden fruit and gave to her husband, and he did eat. Thus sin came into the world through hearing, believing, and obeying a lie.

2. THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN.

Sin is rebellion against God, and it shall not go unpunished. As a consequence of sin, the eyes of Adam and Eve were opened; and, aware of their nakedness, they hid themselves from the presence of Jehovah. Sin always separates from God! Because of this disobedience, God placed a curse upon the serpent, upon the woman and the man, and upon the earth (Genesis 3:14-19). As a further consequence of sin, man was banned from Eden and from the tree of life. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23)

3. THE CURE FOR SIN.

How dark the picture would be if we knew only of the cause and consequences of sin. Our loving God has made provision for the forgiveness of sin. In the same chapter that tells of the origin of sin, God promised the coming of One who would bruise the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15). Many centuries later John the Baptist introduced Jesus of Nazareth with the words, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Sin is forgiven when men accept and obey Jesus Christ. As sin came into the world through hearing, believing, and obeying a lie, sin is forgiven through hearing, believing, and obeying the truth.

1. What is sin?
 - a. (1 John 3:4) _____
 - b. (1 John 5:17) _____
 - c. (James 4:17) _____
2. What was the consequence of sin in the third chapter of Genesis?
 - a. (Verse 7) _____
 - b. (Verse 8) _____
 - c. (Verses 14,15) _____
 - d. (Verse 16) _____
 - e. (Verses 17-19) _____
 - f. (Verses 22-24) _____

3. What is the final consequence of sin?
 - a. (Romans 6:23; 5:12; James 1:15) _____
 - b. (Matthew 25:41) _____
4. How many have sinned? (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6) _____
5. Does God tempt us to sin? (James 1:13) _____
6. Who tempts us to sin?
 - a. (Matthew 4:1-3) _____
 - b. (James 1:14) _____
7. Do Christians sin? (Romans 7:22-25; 1 John 1:10) _____
8. Must we yield to temptation? (1 Corinthians 10:13) _____
9. Has God promised to forgive our sins? (Isaiah 1:18; Jeremiah 31:34; Matthew 6:14) _____
10. Who is able to forgive sin? (Matthew 1:21; John 1:29) _____
11. How is Jesus able to forgive sin?
 - a. (Hebrews 9:24) _____
 - b. (2 Corinthians 5:21) _____
12. How can we overcome sin? (Revelation 12:11)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
13. What is the dictionary definition of the following words?
 - a. Sin _____
 - b. Temptation _____
 - c. Transgression _____

LESSON 7 SALVATION

"THE END OF YOUR FAITH, EVEN THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOULS." 1 PETER 1:19

When the angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph to encourage him to take Mary to be his wife, the announcement was made that she would bring forth a son, and that His name would be called Jesus, "For he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). The most blessed fact in the Word of God is "the salvation of your souls." The Bible reveals to us the following facts regarding salvation:

1. ALL NEED TO BE SAVED.

- a. All need to be saved from the GUILT of sin. "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Because all have sinned, all need to be forgiven.
- b. All need to be saved from the POWER of sin. Because all have sinned, all need to be delivered from the power of sin in our lives. We need power to overcome sin.
- c. All need to be saved from the PENALTY of sin. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). All men need a Savior from sin's penalty.

2. ALL CAN BE SAVED.

The invitation of Jesus, the Savior of the world, is "Come unto me, ALL ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). "If ANY man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in" (Revelation 3:20). His gracious invitation is to "ALL," to "WHOSOEVER," and to "ANY MAN."

3. THERE IS BUT ONE WAY.

The apostle Peter declared to the Jewish Sanhedrin in Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." The way of salvation is the way of Jesus, the Son of God, who declared in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jesus alone is able to save from the guilt, the power, and the penalty of sin.

This is the wonderful message of the Word of God: " He shall save his people from their sins."

1. Why was Mary's son named "Jesus"? (Matthew 1:21) _____
2. How many need to be saved?(Romans 5:12) _____
3. How many can be saved?
 - a. (Matthew 11:28) _____
 - b. (Revelation 3:20) _____
 - c. (John 3:16) _____
4. In what three respects do all men need to be saved? (Refer to text above.)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
5. Who alone is able to save? (Acts 4:10-12) _____
6. How is Jesus able to save from the guilt of sin? (2 Corinthians 5:21) _____

7. How is Jesus able to save from the power of sin? (Philippians 4:13) _____

8. How is Jesus able to save from the penalty of sin? (Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1) _____

9. Could the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament take away sins? (Hebrews 10:4) _____

10. Can we be saved by our good works? (Matthew 7:22,23) _____

11. Can we be saved by our own righteousness? (Titus 3:5; Isaiah 64:6) _____

12. What is it that saves us?
a. (Titus 3:5) _____
b. (Ephesians 2:8) _____
c. (Ephesians 1:5-7; 1 Peter 1:18,19) _____
d. (1 Peter 3:20,21) _____
3. What is God's part in man's salvation?
a. (John 3:16) _____
b. (John 14:16; 16:18) _____

14. What is man's part in his own salvation?
a. (Acts 2:40) _____
b. (Acts 16:31) _____
c. (Acts 3:19) _____
d. (Romans 10:9,10) _____
e. (Mark 16:16) _____
f. (Acts 2:42; Revelation 2:10) _____

15. What is the dictionary definition of the following words?
a. Salvation _____

- b. Forgive _____

- c. Redeem _____

LESSON 8 FAITH

"WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM." HEBREWS 11:6

"What must I do to be saved?" What a tremendous question! That was the question of the Philippian jailer in Acts 16. How simple was the answer given by Paul and Silas in verse 31: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Study Acts 16:16-34 and you will find what the faith is that saves.

1. OUR FAITH IS TO BE PLACED IN GOD'S SON: "BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS."
The Greek preposition "en" means "on," or "in," or "into." There is a vast difference in believing about a person and believing in a person. When we believe in a person we are willing to trust him.

2. OUR FAITH IS TO BE IN THE LORD: "BELIEVE ON THE LORD."
The title "LORD" means "MASTER," "RULER," or "SUPREME ONE." When we acknowledge Jesus as Lord, we accept Him as our Master and do His bidding.

3. OUR FAITH IS TO BE IN JESUS: "BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS."
The name "JESUS" means "SAVIOUR" (Matthew 1:21). When we accept Him as Jesus, we acknowledge His willingness and His ability to save us from sin and eternal punishment.

4. OUR FAITH IS TO BE IN CHRIST: "BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST."
We must acknowledge Jesus as Christ, or "the anointed" (John 20:30,31). The prophets, priests, and kings were anointed with the holy anointing oil; so when we say that Jesus is the Christ, we are claiming Him as our prophet, priest, and king.

5. OUR FAITH IS TO MANIFEST (SHOW) ITSELF IN OBEDIENCE.
The jailer washed the stripes of Paul and Silas, demonstrating his repentance, and was baptized, he and all his immediately. The faith that saves is a faith that leads us to obey the commands of Christ. How much faith does it take to save? Just enough to cause us to accept and obey Jesus Christ!

The jailer "rejoiced, believing in God with all his house." There is always a great joy in human hearts when we believe in God and obey His Word.

1. What is the dictionary definition of faith? _____

2. What is the Bible definition of faith?(Hebrews 11:1) _____

3. Can we be well-pleasing to God without faith? (Hebrews 11:6) _____

4. What is the source of faith? (Romans 10:17) _____

5. What is accomplished through faith?

a. (Acts 15:9) _____

b. (Acts 26:18) _____

c. (Romans 5:1) _____

d. (Galatians 3:26) _____

e. (Ephesians 2:8) _____

- f. (John 3:16) _____
- g. (Matthew 21:22) _____
- h. (Mark 9:23) _____
6. What is the "end" of our faith? (1 Peter 1:9) _____
7. What did the following persons do "by faith"?
- a. Able (Hebrews 11:4) _____
- b. Enoch (Hebrews 11:5) _____
- c. Noah (Hebrews 11:7) _____
- d. Sarah (Hebrews 11:11) _____
- e. Abraham (Hebrews 11:8-10) _____
- f. Moses (Hebrews 11:23-28) _____
8. How can we demonstrate our faith? (James 2:20) _____
9. What did Jesus ask us to believe? (John 14:1) _____
10. What are we to believe about Jesus? (Matthew 16:16) _____
11. What is the meaning of the title "Lord"? _____
12. What is the meaning of the title "Christ"? _____
13. What three groups of people were anointed in Bible times?
- a. (1 Kings 19:16) _____
- b. (Leviticus 4:3) _____
- c. (2 Samuel 5:3) _____
14. Over what two things did Jesus marvel?
- a. (Matthew 8:10) _____
- b. (Mark 6:6) _____
15. What was Jesus' sternest rebuke? (Matthew 6:30; 8:26) _____
16. What is the result of refusing to believe in Jesus (Mark 16:16; John 8:24) _____
17. What are persons who first believe in Jesus asked to do? (Acts 2:37,38) _____

LESSON 9 - REPENTANCE

"REPENT YE THEREFORE, AND BE CONVERTED, THAT YOUR SINS MAY BE BLOTTED OUT" - Acts 3:19

One of the most unpopular and most misunderstood themes in the Bible is that of repentance. Some look upon repentance as a ceremony; others would limit repentance to the shedding of tears and agonizing prayer; others seem to think of repentance as being sorry that they were caught in sin or crime! Let us see what the Bible has to say about this important step toward becoming a Christian.

1. THE BIBLE MEANING OF REPENTANCE.

The Greek word in Acts 3:19, etc., which is translated by our English word "repent" means literally "to change the mind."

2. THE BIBLE TELLS US WHAT PRECEDES REPENTANCE.

An awareness of the goodness of God (Romans 2:4), faith in Jesus Christ and the conviction of sin in our lives (Acts 2:37,38), and godly sorrow for that sin (2 Corinthians 7:9,10) always precede the changing of the mind regarding sin.

3. THE BIBLE TELLS US WHAT FOLLOWS REPENTANCE.

- a. Obedience always follows true repentance. (Acts 2:41)
- b. Forgiveness follows repentance and obedience. (Acts 3:19).
- c. Changed conduct follows repentance. Our text commands us to "repent . . . and be converted (or turn)." When we truly repent of sin, we desire to make restitution to those whom we have wronged, as did Zacchaeus the tax-collector. (Luke 19:8).

4. THE BIBLE TELLS US WHO NEEDS TO REPENT.

"Now commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17:30). Inasmuch as "All have sinned" (Romans 3:23), all need to repent. The Lord does not wish that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). How vital it is that each one of us repent, for "except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).

1. What is the dictionary definition of repentance? _____

2. What is the meaning of the Greek word translated "repent" in the Bible? _____

3. Who needs to repent? (Acts 17:30) _____

4. Why do all men need to repent? (Romans 3:23) _____

5. Why should we repent, according to Acts 17:30,31? _____

6. Why did Jesus say He had come into the world? (Luke 5:32) _____

7. What is it that leads us to repentance? _____

a. (Romans 2:4) _____

- b. (2 Corinthians 7:9,10) _____
8. Toward whom do we repent? (Acts 20:21) _____
9. How does the Holy Spirit help us to repent? (John 16:8) _____

10. What did God tell repentant people to do? (Acts 2:38; 22:16) _____

11. What two things are promised those who repent and are baptized? (Acts 2:38)
a. _____
b. _____
12. What follows repentance (Acts 3:19)
a. _____
b. _____
13. How did the prodigal son demonstrate his repentance? (Luke 15:20) _____

14. What happens in heaven when a sinner repents? (Luke 15:7) _____
15. What should we do after we repent and turn to God? (Acts 26:20) _____

16. Do Christians ever need to repent? (Acts 8:18-22; Revelation 2:5) _____
17. Is God concerned over repentance (2 Peter 3:9) _____
18. What is the result to us if we fail to repent? Luke 13:3) _____

19. Should repentance be preached? (Luke 24:47) _____
20. What is the dictionary definition of restitution? _____

21. Write in your own words why you believe everyone should repent. _____

LESSON 10 - CONFESSION

"WITH THE MOUTH CONFESSION IS MADE UNTO SALVATION." Romans 10:10

It was when Peter confessed his faith in the divine Christ that Jesus declared, "Upon this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). Paul wrote to the Roman Christians, "With the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:10). The "good confession" (1 Timothy 6:12) is important, for it is a step in our being saved!

1. THE GOOD CONFESSION IS TO BE MADE WITH THE MOUTH (ROMANS 10:10)
When we come to believe with all our hearts that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, we are willing to acknowledge that faith with our lips.

2. THE GOOD CONFESSION ACKNOWLEDGES JESUS AS LORD.
"Jesus as Lord." This is the acknowledgment of the lordship of Jesus: He is my Master - I am His slave; when He speaks, I will obey. Many desire Jesus as Saviour; not so many desire Him as Lord!

3. THE GOOD CONFESSION MUST COME FROM A BELIEVING HEART.
"Believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead" (Romans 10:9). This is the keystone: faith in the resurrected Christ. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is established fact, and He was declared to be the Son of God by the resurrection from the dead. (Romans 1:4).

4. THE GOOD CONFESSION ACKNOWLEDGES JESUS AS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD.
This was the confession made by Peter, and this is the fact upon which the church is built. When we confess that we believe Jesus is the Christ, we acknowledge Him as God's anointed: our prophet, priest, and king, the Messiah of the Old Testament, the Son of the living God.

5. THE GOOD CONFESSION IS TO BE MADE PUBLICLY.
It was God's Son who promised, "whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess before my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32). Jesus was tried publicly, suffered publicly and died publicly for us. Is He asking too much when He calls upon us to confess Him before men?

Do you believe in your heart that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that God raised Him from the dead? Will you confess Him before men? "Now is the day of salvation."

1. What did Paul call our confession of faith? (1 Timothy 6:12) _____

2. Why is the good confession important? (Romans 10:9,10) _____

3. What did Jesus say He would do for those who would confess Him before men? (Matthew 10:32) _____

4. What did Jesus say He would do to those who denied Him before men? (Matthew 10:33) _____

5. How did Nathanael word his confession?(John 1:49) _____

6. How did Peter word his confession? (Matthew 16:16) _____

7. How did the eunuch word his confession? (Acts 8:37) _____

8. What significant word is added in Romans 10:9 that is not used in the three confessions above? _____
9. What do we mean when we confess that Jesus is our Lord? _____

10. If Jesus is really our Lord what shall we do? (Luke 6:46) _____

11. What are we to believe when we make the good confession? (Romans 10:9) _____

12. What evidence causes us to believe in the resurrection of Christ?
 - a. (John 20:3-8) _____
 - b. (Matthew 28:2-6) _____
 - c. (Luke 24:8-10) _____
 - d. (Matthew 28:11-15) _____
 - e. (1 Corinthians 15:5-8) _____
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
 - f. (Philippians 3:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17) _____
13. What would have been the result if Christ had not been raised ? (1 Corinthians 15:14-19) _____

 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
14. Why are not all men willing to make the good confession? (John 12:42,43) _____

15. Will all men eventually confess faith in Christ?(Romans 14:11) _____

16. Why should we make public confession of our faith in Christ?

LESSON 11 - BAPTISM

"HE THAT BELIEVETH AND IS BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED." MARK 16:16

Christian baptism is an act of loving obedience to a positive divine commandment. The first public act in the ministry of Jesus was His baptism by John the Baptist in the river Jordan. (Matthew 3:13-17). The last commandment of our Lord to His disciples was, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19). On the day the church was born, Peter directed inquiring believers, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38).

1. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Baptism is for those who have heard the gospel (Acts 18:8), those who believe the gospel (Mark 16:16), those who are repentant (Acts 2:38), and those who have become disciples or learners (Matthew 28:19). Only such are Scriptural candidates for baptism.

2. HOW SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

We shall see in our workbook section what was required in administering Bible baptism. The Greek word (BAPTIDZO) always means to dip, plunge, or immerse. Immersion in water is the only form which meets the Bible requirements for baptism. Baptism is the burial in water of the body of a penitent believer for the remission of sins.

3. WHY SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

We should be baptized to have our sins forgiven (Acts 22:16), to "put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27), to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38), and to be added to Christ's church (Acts 2:41).

Peter declares that baptism saves (1 Peter 3:21). The formality does not save, the water does not save, the obedience does! Baptism is an act of loving obedience to a positive divine commandment; and Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Do you love Jesus? If so, you will strive to do all that He commands.

1. What is the meaning of the word baptism? _____

2. Who set the example for our baptism? (Matthew 3:13-17) _____

3. Where was Jesus baptized? (Matthew 3:13) _____
4. What was the reason Jesus gave John for desiring to be baptized? (Matthew 3:15)

5. What happened immediately after Jesus' baptism? (Matthew 3:16,17) _____

6. Who should be baptized?
 - a. (Acts 18:8) _____
 - b. (Mark 16:16) _____
 - c. (Acts 2:38) _____

- d. (Matthew 28:19) _____
7. According to the above Scriptures, can a baby be Scriptural baptized? _____
8. How many "modes" of baptism are there? (Ephesians 4:5) _____
9. What is required in administering Christian baptism? Find the clues as to the form of baptism in the following verses.
- a. (Acts 8:36) _____
- b. (John 3:23) _____
- c. (Matthew 3:13) _____
- d. (Acts 8:38) _____
- e. (Acts 8:39) _____
- f. (John 3:5) _____
- g. (Colossians 2:12) _____
- h. (Romans 6:4) _____
- i. (Hebrews 10:22) _____
10. According to the above Scriptures, could we be baptized by having water sprinkled or poured upon us. _____
11. What three great facts of the gospel do we portray when we are baptized? _____

12. What did Jesus promise those who would believe and be baptized? (Mark 16:16) _____

13. What two things did Peter promise to those who would repent and be baptized? (Acts 2:38)
- a. _____
- b. _____
14. What reason did Paul give for baptism? (Galatians 3:27) _____

15. When, in God's plan does a sinner contact the blood of Jesus? (Romans 6:3) _____

16. What did Peter say that baptism does for us? (1 Peter 3:21) _____

17. What is the result if we know what we should do and refuse to do it? (James 4:17) _____

18. What should be our greatest reason for desiring to be baptized? (John 14:15) _____

19. What should we do after we are baptized?
- a. Romans 6:4) _____
- b. (Acts 2:42) _____

LESSON 12 - THE NEW BIRTH

"YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN." (John 3:7)

A man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, came to Jesus by night with a burden on his heart. It was to this religious leader that Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." Let us study John 3:1-8 to find what Jesus taught about the new birth.

1. JESUS TAUGHT THAT THE NEW BIRTH MUST BE A REBIRTH.

"Ye must be born again" (John 3:7, 3). Before a living creature can be born again, there must be a death and a burial. We are to die to sin (Colossians 3:3) and be buried in the waters of Christian baptism to be resurrected to newness of life. (Romans 6:1-4).

2. JESUS TAUGHT THAT THE NEW BIRTH IS ESSENTIAL.

The new birth is essential to our understanding of the kingdom of God: Jesus said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." The new birth is essential to our entering the kingdom of God: "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

3. JESUS TAUGHT THAT THE NEW BIRTH IS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH WATER AND THE SPIRIT.

When Jesus said that we must be born of water, He was talking about a step in entering the kingdom. He was speaking of this birth of water when He declared in Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Peter was speaking of this birth of water when on the Day of Pentecost he called upon the multitude to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38).

But the birth of water is only part of the new birth; it must also be a birth of the Spirit. It is the power of the Holy Spirit that makes the obedient believer a new creature in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17). The Holy Spirit has come into the world to convict men of sin. (John 16:7,8). The Holy Spirit has given us the Word of God, which BEGETS the new life. (1 Peter 1:23). The Holy Spirit is promised at the time of rebirth. (Acts 2:38,39).

May we neglect neither the birth of water nor the birth of Spirit, but in obedience to the commandments of our loving Lord, and by His divine power, become a new creature in Christ Jesus.

1. Who was Nicodemus? (John 3:1) _____

2. What did Jesus say we must do to see the kingdom of God? (John 3:3) _____

3. What must we do before we can be reborn?

a. (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:3) _____

b. (Romans 6:1-4) _____

4. Is it enough to reform, or to change outwardly? (Matthew 23:25) _____

5. What did Jesus say we must do to enter into the kingdom of God? (John 3:5) _____

6. What did the three thousand do on Pentecost to enter the kingdom? (Acts 2:37-41) _____

7. What did the Ethiopian eunuch do to enter the kingdom? (Acts 8:35-39) _____

8. What did Lydia do to enter the kingdom? (Acts 16:14,15) _____

9. What did the Philippian jailer do to enter the kingdom? (Acts 16:29-34) _____

10. What did the Corinthians do to enter the kingdom (Acts 18:8) _____

11. What did Saul of Tarsus do to enter the kingdom? (Acts 22:6-16) _____

12. How do we "put on" Christ? (Galatians 3:26,27) _____

13. If any man is in Christ, what is he? (2 Corinthians 5:17) _____
14. How does the Holy Spirit help us to become new creatures?
 - a. (John 16:7,8) _____

 - b. (2 Peter 1:21; 1 Peter 1:23) _____

 - c. (Acts 2:38) _____

 - d. (Romans 8:13) _____

 - e. (Romans 8:14) _____

 - f. (Galatians 5:22,23) _____

15. Now think back over the twelve lessons you have studied, and write, in your own words, why you think every individual should accept Christ and become a new creature in Him

CONCLUSION

If you have studied these lessons without ever having made a commitment to obey the commands of The Lord Jesus completely and have never confessed your faith in Jesus as Lord, have never really repented of your sins, have never been immersed, will you make that decision now?