



"Next Steps Series"
STUDY GUIDE

BOOK 4

MY FOUNDATION

A STUDY TO HELP YOU DEVELOP A BIBLICAL
FRAMEWORK FOR YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST.

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OTHER RESOURCES:

*Rooted in the faith -1 Year daily devotional (*Same content over a year*)

*The Strongest Concordance



Section 1:

Healthy teaching/ Sound Doctrine

INTRODUCTION:

Doctrine is understood as a principle, position, or body of principles in a branch of knowledge. It includes both specific teachings, and groupings of related teachings. Good teaching (*Doctrine*) leads to good practice, and bad teaching (*Doctrine*) leads to bad practice. Whether a certain teaching (*or someone's teaching*) is good depends on its' truthfulness, its' clarity, and its' practicality. If it isn't true, can't be understood, and can't be applied to life, then the teaching has fallen short of its' purpose.

What is spiritually healthy teaching (*or sound doctrine*) all about? Think about it this way... truth is both helpful & healthy. If you tell someone about a deal that you just found at a certain store, it could be helpful for the other person. If you were lying about it, or simply mistakenly gave them the wrong information, however, it wouldn't be helpful at all. It could even be unhealthy. In some ways, the misinformation, or deceit could even damage your relationship, or at least their willingness to trust you the next time.

If it's helpful and healthy to share information about a good deal on something, how much more helpful and healthy is it to know and share the truth regarding the world we live in, and the God who created everything that exists (*outside of than Himself*). The world we live in is not the way it was meant to be, but God has graciously revealed all that we need to know regarding origins, meaning, purpose, morality, beauty, destiny, and more. God made all things good (*in their original form*), and even though the world as we know it changed when humanity rebelled against Him, we are not without hope. We can learn how to engage wisely in the world, through God's revelation to man (*The Bible*).

The New Testament reveals the concept of 'Sound Doctrine'. It is also referred to as 'Sound words', "the sound doctrine of God", 'the faith', 'the truth', "the teaching", "the apostles' teaching", and more. 'Sound Doctrine' is both healthy and helpful. In this first section, we'll explore what this teaching is, why it matters, and how it can change our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In your experience, do most people seem to do well at knowing God's truth?
2. In your experience, do most people seem to do well at applying this truth in a loving manner?
3. In Hosea 4:6 God says that His people were being destroyed by lack of knowledge.
*In what ways can lack of knowledge be destructive?
4. In 1 Corinthians 3:19, we read that "*the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the sight of God. For it is written: "He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE BY THEIR CRAFTINESS"*". With this in mind, what are some good, or bad ways to use knowledge? Is there such a thing as bad knowledge? Explain.

EXPLORE THE CONCEPT:

Read the following biblical passages, and observe as much as you can about sound doctrine:

John 7:17 / John 16:12-15 / Acts 2:42

John 7:17 / John 13:7 / 2 John 1:9 / Acts 14:22

1 Timothy 1:10; 4:6; 6:3

2 Timothy 1:13; 4:3

Titus 1:9; 2:1; 2:7; 2:10

False Teaching prevents the knowledge of God (Ezekiel 13:8-9)

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. In light of the verses above, does the 'soundness' of the apostles teaching depend on the source and nature of the teaching? Why/ Why not?
2. In light of the verses above, does the 'soundness' of a teaching depend on the life of the learners? Why/ Why not?
3. How can we learn to trust/ live out/ apply principles/ teachings that are sound/ true/ trustable?

Application:

How will I live out the truth in love this week? What truth? In what ways?

Memory verse:

2 Timothy 1:13

The Big Picture

INTRODUCTION:

- The importance of understanding the storyline of the bible...
- The word implanted (James 1:21) bears fruit (James 3:18)
- The growth from the word implanted benefits from directed growth (Trellis metaphor)
 - 1 Timothy 3:14-16; 2 Timothy 1:13; Titus 1:9 Colossians 1:29

THE APOSTLES' TEACHING:

1. **The Kingdom of God** (Acts 1:3, 6; 8:12; 14:22; 19:8; 20:25; 28:23; 28:31...)
2. **Jesus**
 - a. Eternal nature
 - b. All the scriptures concerning Him in the OT
 - c. Who He is (*truly God & truly human*)
 - d. What He did (*Life, Death, Resurrection*)
 - e. What He said (*Teachings, Prophecies...*)
 - f. Both Israel's Messiah & the Bridegroom/ Head of the Church
3. **The unique role of preaching/proclamation**
 - a. Establishing role (*Establishment of the Church age & Establishment of local Churches*)
 - b. Ongoing role
4. **The administration of 'the mystery'**
 - a. Understanding the Foundation & composition of the body of Christ
 - b. Understanding the inter-relation of local churches within the body of Christ
 - c. The Law of Christ vs. the Law of Moses
 - d. Practical application of these truths/ realities: (*Principles/ Prescriptions/ Commands...*)
5. **The Pillar and support of truth**
 - a. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life
 - b. Jesus gave a body of teaching to the apostles through the Holy Spirit
 - c. Jesus is the head of the church

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Is it possible to share the good news of Jesus without communicating doctrine?
2. How does God make it possible for believers to correct wrong understandings gently?

*See 2 Tim. 2:25; Titus 3:2; Prov. 15:1; Gal. 6:1; James 3:13

EXPLORE THE STORYLINE:

The storyline explained in terms of a King & His kingdom (Could be explained other ways, including: God's glory, or a simple Creation - Fall - Redemption - Resoration (*offer/mystery/future...*))

- **God** (*The King over the realm of all created things*)
 - God is...
 - His Created realm (*Spiritual & Physical*)
- **Rebellion against the King of Creation**
- **The Catastrophe of unruled people**
 - Flood Story
 - Origin of Nations
- **The unfolding Promise Plan of God**
 - The initial arrangement
 - *God as King over creation*
 - *Humans as mediatorial rulers over creation*
 - God's arrangement (*Covenant*) with Noah
 - God's arrangement (*Covenant*) with Abraham (*Land, Descendent, Blessing*)
- **A King over a unique Kingdom** (Israel)
 - A unique arrangement (*Covenant*) with a unique people (*Mosaic covenant w/ conditions*)
 - unique law
 - unique protections
 - unique plans
 - Land Promises of the Abrahamic covenant carried out through Israel
 - God's expectations for the kings of Israel
 - God's arrangement (*Covenant*) with David
 - The promised seed through the line of David
 - David's Kingdom ruled by the perfect King, in a comprehensive, everlasting way
- **A New Covenant**
 - Made with Israel (*Promised*)
 - Made ready, and ratified w/ Israel (*Presented*)
 - Church receives the partial blessings/ benefits of this even before the inauguration w/ Israel
- **Something once hidden, but revealed to the Foundational Apostles & Prophets**
 - Jesus' Kingdom Parables
 - The Holy Spirit poured out on both Jew & Gentile (*'One New Man'*)
 - Paul's 'House Law'
- **The restoration of all things**
 - Promises to Israel yet to be fulfilled
 - A gathering/ Judgment of all nations (*Zeph. 3:8...*)
 - Restoration/Purification of Israel to be restored to their rightful place of blessing

NOTES:

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is it important to root ourselves in the storyline of the Bible?
2. Why do you think it was so important for the Apostles to preach about the Kingdom of God to those who grew up Jewish, as well as to those who didn't?
3. Do you think that we can understand the Bible without focusing on & worshipping Jesus?
*Why/ Why not?

Application:

Practice telling the storyline of the Bible for 5 minutes each day this week

Memory verse:

Luke 24:27



INTRODUCTION:

There is one true God. He's a person, not a construct, or a force. He exists eternally in three persons (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit). He wants us to know Him, love Him, and enjoy fellowship with Him. We as humans can know Him, only because He has chosen to reveal Himself. He has done so through Creation, and through His Word (The Bible), and through His Son (Jesus).

Read Psalm 19

1. **Describe God's revelation through creation** (v. 1-6) *Also see Romans 1:18-20
2. **Describe God's revelation through His Word** (v. 7-14)
3. **Compare and contrast these (2) ways in which God has chosen to reveal Himself.**

The Bible also explains that "the word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) Ultimately, Jesus (*God, the Son*) took on flesh and entered into the human experience. In His conception, birth, life, and death, He revealed that He alone is the way, the truth and the life. No one can truly know God (come to the Father), except through Jesus. He alone has command of nature. As He walked the earth, He both embodied & spoke the word of God in a way unlike that of any religious teacher.

The Bible assumes the existence of God, as when you speak a word, that act assumes your existence. If/since God is God, He doesn't need to "prove" Himself. He is eternal, without beginning or end. He has no origin. This is a strange concept to our finite minds, since everything we encounter here on earth has both a beginning and ending. Yet God has neither. He has always existed. And He has always existed in three distinct, yet equal and united, persons.

Many skeptics think they can stump a believer by asking for proof of God's existence. This shouldn't be intimidating. Although we can't see God, He has provided ample evidence of His existence. The question is whether we choose to believe the evidence, and believe Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Read Isaiah 44:6-8 & 45:5. What can we learn from these verses about God?
2. The Bible records many examples of the true God being challenged or pitted against other so-called gods. Read these (2) following examples, and describe the situation & their outcome:
1 Samuel 17:20-51 & 1 Kings 18:20-40
3. Why do you think that God wants it understood that He is the only true God?

HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

When God inspired men to write His Word, they wrote in one of three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Since then the Bible has been copied and translated so other peoples and cultures could read it. Today's Bible can be read in over 704 languages.

Because these books were written hundreds (*and in some cases, thousands*) of years before the first printing press, copies were handmade. Great precautions were taken to keep each copy accurate, yet variations (*most very slight*) occurred between copies. In 1516 A.D. the first Greek New Testament was printed on a press.

The Bible we use today is derived from a thorough comparison of early copies to determine the wording that most closely represents the original writings. Many of our popular versions (*New American Standard Version, English Standard Version, New International Version, for example*) are translated from accurate Greek testaments by groups of outstanding scholars. They have studied each sentence and word in order to bring to us an English Bible that most closely represents the original wording and meaning of God's Word.

THE WORD OF GOD

If the Bible is not God's Word, then all our beliefs are in vain. If the Bible is God's Word, inspired (*God-breathed*) and without error, then we can have confidence in what we believe.

Read the following verses and consider this question: Where did we get the Bible?

- 2 Timothy 3:16
- 2 Peter 1:20-21
- Other examples: (Exodus 3:4; 1 Samuel 3:11, 1 Kings 21:17, 2 Kings 20:1, Jeremiah 1:2, Ezekiel 1:3, Malachi 1:1-2, 2 Peter 1:16)

Read Matthew 4:1-10. How did Jesus use the Old Testament? What did He think/believe about it?

Application:

Take out a piece of paper & describe God the best that you can. After you've completed the list, read back through and ask: If this is who God is, what does this mean for my life?

Memory verse:

2 Timothy 3:16

INTRODUCTION:

1. Not the way it was meant to be

a. The breaking of shalom שְׁלוֹמַם

Shalom is **1.** "peace, prosperity, i.e., an intact state of favorable circumstance (1Sa 1:17); **2.** completeness, i.e., the state of a totality of a collection (Jer 13:19); **3.** safeness, salvation, i.e., a state of being free from danger (Ge 28:21); **4.** health, i.e., a state of lack of disease and a wholeness or well-being (Ps 38:4); **5.** satisfaction, contentment, i.e., the state of having one's basic needs or more being met and so being content (Ex 18:23); **6.** friend, companion, i.e., one who has an association with another with affection or regard (Jer 20:10); **7.** blessing, i.e., the content of the act (*active voice*) of giving kindness to another (Jer 16:5); **8.** יהוה שְׁלוֹמַם (yhwh) Yahweh is Peace, i.e., the name of an altar (Jdg 6:24); **9.** שֹׁר שְׁלוֹמַם (śār šā·lôm) Prince of Peace, i.e., the name of messiah (Isa 9:5)

James Swanson, Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

b. Israel's Peace offerings (Exodus 20:24; Num. 25:12; Malachi 2:5)

c. Peace with God (Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:13-18)

d. Believers in Christ have peace, though not all is at peace in the world

(John 14:27; Romans 8:6; Philippians 4:7)

e. A day of coming peace for Israel & all nations (Ezekiel 37:26-28; Ezekiel 45:16; Isaiah 56:7)

2. The wife of God (The peace of Israel) & the bride of Christ (Peace established in the Church)

3. The restoration of all things (Jeremiah 30; 1 Cor. 15...)

4. A foretaste of restoration.

SIN:

1. Sin is missing the mark (ἁμαρτία) :

Prov. 8:36; Psalm 25:8; Rom. 3:23, 14:23

2. Sin is Rebellion/ Dishonor (ἀτιμάζω) :

Rom. 1:21, 2:23

3. Sin is lawlessness/ Going out of bounds:

1 John 3:4; Rom. 2:12-16, 3:20, 4:15; Gal. 3:17-19

4. Sin is ungodliness:

2 Peter 2:6, 3:7; Isaiah 59:2

5. Sin is a twisting/ bending (עוה aw-vaw') :

Prov. 12:8; Acts 20:30; 2 Cor. 11:13-15

6. Sin is an error regarding truth (שגה sheg-aw-gaw') :

Josh. 20:3; Jn 9:41; Heb. 9:7 ; 1 Tim. 1:13; Js. 4:17

7. Sin is unrighteousness:

1 Jn. 5:17; Rom. 1:18

8. Sin is a law that reigns in your body:

Rom. 6-7; Js. 1:14-18

SALVATION:

1. Justification

- a. Atonement (Substitution/ Redemption/ Reconciliation)
- b. Propitiation (1 John 2:2)
- c. Receiving the free gift (Receive; believe; trust; drink; eat; Come to Jesus...) *Eph. 2:8-9
- d. Forgiveness
- e. The great exchange (2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 4:24)

2. Regeneration

- a. John 3:3-5
- b. Titus 3:5

3. Sanctification

- a. "This is God's will for you" (1 Thess. 4:1-8)
- b. Be holy as I am holy (1 Peter 1:16) **Holiness is about distinctiveness, not moral perfection.*
- c. God is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.. (Phil. 2:12-13)
- d. Your body is a temple (1 Cor. 6:12-19)
- e. Your body is a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1-2)
- f. Glorify God in your body (1 Cor. 6:20)
- g. Removal - Renewal - Replacement (Eph. 4:22-24; 2 Cor. 4:16; Co. 3:5-10; Rom. 12:2)

4. Glorification

- a. What is mortal will be swallowed up by life (2 Cor. 5:4)
- b. In a specific moment, those of us in the Church age will all be changed (1 Cor. 15:52)
- c. When we see Him, we will be like Him (1 John 3:2)

Application:

What is one thing in my life that God is/ might be working to change? What will I do to cooperate with Him in this?

Memory verse:

Philippians 2:13

The Church & Household Order

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. **When you hear the word 'Church', what comes to mind?** (Word/ Image/ Description...)
2. **What makes a 'Church', a 'Church'?** When does it become a 'Church', or when does it cease to be a 'Church' anymore?
3. **Do you have any hurt from a Church?** Have you brought it before God, trusting Him in the process healing from this? **Don't look @ His bride through the lens of your hurt.*

THE CHURCH:

1. ἐκκλησία (*Ekklesia*) "A called-out gathering/ assembly"
2. **Once hidden, now revealed** (Ephesians 3:1-11)
3. **The body of Christ** (Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 10:17, 1 Corinthians 12:27 Ephesians 5:23)
4. **A building** (Ephesians 2:20)
5. **A grafted in branch** (Romans 11:11-25)
6. **The household of God** (Ephesians 2:19; Ephesians 4:5 John 1:12)
7. **The Flock of God** (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:3)
8. **A Priesthood** (1 Peter 2:5)
9. **The bride of Christ** (Ephesians 5:23; Revelation 19:7-9)
10. **The local assembly** (1 Cor. 5:4-5, 16:2; "to the church at...")
11. **Cooperation beyond the local Church** (Acts 11:27-30; 1 Corinthians 11:16...)
12. **A gospel-shaped community** (formed; founded; fueled; focused; fellowship)

NOTES:

HOUSEHOLD ORDER:

1. **Unity & Oneness** (*Ephesians 2:14-22/ 4:1-6; Philippians 2:1-16*)
2. **The Head** (*Ephesians 1:18-23*)
3. **4 commitments lived out in 3 contexts** (*Acts 2:42-47*)
4. **Leadership** (Apostles; Elders; Deacons; Equippers)
5. **Gospel-driven Generosity** (*Acts 4:32, 6, 11:27-30...; 2 Corinthians 8-9*)
6. **The importance of household order** (*Ephesians 3:3,8-11*)
7. **The importance of orderliness** (*1 Corinthians 14:40*)
8. **The importance of worship** (*1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 12:1-2; Eph. 5:19; 2 Peter 3:11*)
9. **The firstness of the gospel** (*1 Corinthians 15:3-11*)
10. **The centrality of the Bible** (*Acts 20:27-32; 1 Timothy 4:13/ 1 & 2 Timothy/ Titus; John 7:17*)
11. **Various roles, same mission**
 - a. Family member, employee, employer, neighbor, citizen, Calendar, Finances...
 - b. Spiritual Gifts & roles within the Church (*Rom. 12:1-12; 1 Cor. 12-14; 1 Pet. 4:7-11*)
 - c. Make Disciples (*1 Thessalonians 2:1-13*)
 - d. Maturity (*Ephesians 4:1-16*)
12. **Living out the "One-Anothers"** (See sheet)

NOTES:

Application:

How should I think about my local Church family? How about the Global Church?

Memory verse:

Proverbs 18:1

Introduction to the unseen realm

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. How often do you think about the unseen realm?
2. To what degree do you feel like the unseen realm actually affects your everyday life?

"**Faith** (πίστις) is the **assurance** (ὑπόστασις) of things hoped for,
the **conviction** (ἐλεγχος) of things not seen..."
(Hebrews 11:1)

FAITH: "primarily, firm persuasion," a conviction based upon hearing... to believe, also to be persuaded of, reliance upon, confidence in, not mere credence." (Vines)

ASSURANCE: "the noun corresponds only to the following senses, which can involve independent derivations of the noun from the verb: 1. "to stand under (as a support)," 2. "to place oneself under (concealment)," 3. "to stand off from," "to deposit oneself as sediment on the ground," and hence "to be," "to exist," 4. "to promise." From these meanings we get the following meanings of the noun: 1. "support," 2. "ambush," 3. "deposit," "sediment," trans. everything that settles, hence the philosophical sense "existence," "reality," Lat. substantia (Gerhard Kittel, Geoffrey W. Bromiley, and Gerhard Friedrich, TDNT)

CONVICTION: "proof, convincing, in Heb. 11:1, the sense of ἐλέγχος is "persuasion," but not in a subjective sense. An ἐλέγχος is present as the basis of resting on what is hoped for. Faith does not do the convincing, but God, for the whole point in Hebrews is that faith stands on the revelation, word, and promise of God. Faith is the divinely given conviction of things unseen and is thus the assurance of what is hoped for."
(Gerhard Kittel, Geoffrey W. Bromiley, and Gerhard Friedrich, TDNT)

*The unseen realm is just as real as the things in the seen realm.
The spiritual is just as real as the physical.*

A FEW VERSES TO GET THE IDEA:

Colossians 1:16, 2:10, 13-15

Ephesians 1:20-21; 3:9-10; 6:11-12

Job 1:6-7

Psalms 82

Memory verse:
Hebrews 11:1

Angelic Beings & the Spiritual Battle

ANGEL (מַלְאָךְ, mal'akh; מַלְאָךְ, mal'akh; ἄγγελος, angelos).

Heavenly messengers in the Bible. The Hebrew and Greek words usually translated as “angel” are probably better translated as “messenger.”

The Lexham Bible Dictionary (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016)

ANGELS

1. They are mentioned 273 times in 34 biblical books.
 2. They were all created by God. (Gen. 2:1; Neh. 9:6; Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16)
 3. They report directly to God. (Job 1:6; 2:1)
 4. They were present at the Creation of the world. (Job 38:1, 4, 7)
 5. They announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds. (Luke 2:10–14)
 6. They do not marry. (Matt. 22:30)
 7. They were created to live forever. (Rev. 4:8)
 8. Their purpose is to glorify God. (Rev. 4:8)
 9. Some angels help human beings. (Heb. 1:14)
 10. Some angels harm human beings. (Mark 5:1–5)
 11. They are spirit beings. (Ps. 104:4; Heb. 1:7, 14)
 12. They are invisible beings. (Rom. 1:18–32; Col. 2:18; Rev. 19:10; 22:9)
 13. They are innumerable. (Deut. 33:2; Ps 68:17; Dan. 7:9–10; Mt. 26:53; Heb. 12:22; Rev. 5:11)
 14. They possess intelligence. (Dan. 9:21–22; 10:14; Rev. 19:10; 22:8–9)
 15. They possess will. (Isa. 14:12–15; Jude 6)
 16. They display joy. (Job 38:7; Luke 2:13)
 17. They display desire. (1 Pet. 1:12)
 18. They are stronger than men. (Ps. 103:20; 2 Thess. 1:7; 2 Pet. 2:11)
 19. They are more intelligent than men. (Dan. 9:21–22; 10:14)
 20. They are swifter than men. (Dan. 9:21; Rev 14:6)
 21. They are not omnipresent. (Dan. 10:12)
 22. They are not omnipotent. (Dan. 10:13; Jude 9)
 23. They are not omniscient. (Matt. 24:36)
 24. Some are *described as* cherubim. (Ezek. 1:1–28; 10:20)
 25. Some are *described as* seraphim. (Isa. 6:1–8)
 26. The majority remained true to God. (Rev. 5:11–12)
 27. They will join all believers in the heavenly Jerusalem. (Heb. 12:22–23)
- *Do not worship angels (Col. 2:18; Rev. 19:10) or engage w/ doctrines of demons (1 Tim. 4:1)

NAMES:

1. Ministers, signifying their religious virtues and spiritual service (Ps. 103:20–21; 104:4)
2. Host, speaking of their military service (Gen. 32:1–2; Josh. 5:14; 1 Sam. 17:45; Ps. 89:8)
3. Chariots, which may refer to their swiftness (2 Kings 6:16–17; Ps. 68:17; Zech. 6:5)
4. Watchers, speaking of their duties as supervisors and agents (Dan. 4:13, 17)
5. Sons of the mighty, which may refer to their awesome strength and power (Ps. 29:1; 89:6)
6. Sons of God (Gen. 6:2, 4; Job 1:6, 2:1; 38:7)
7. Holy Ones, saints, referring to their total separation to the will of God (Ps. 89:7; Dan. 8:13)
8. Stars, [may indicate both their number and brightness] (Job 38:7; Ps. 148:2–3; Rev. 12:3–4)

H. L. Willmington, Willmington's Book of Bible Lists (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1987), 18–19

FALLEN ANGELS

1. **Job 4:18**
2. **Isaiah 14:12-15**
3. **Ezekiel 28:12-19**
4. **Matthew 4:1-11**
5. **Matthew 25:41**
6. **2 Peter 2:4**
7. **Revelation 12:9**
8. **Revelation 20:1-3 & 10**

THE BATTLE

1. **God's purpose for the Church** (Ephesians 3:10)
2. **The nature of our battle** (Ephesians 6:12)
3. **Original awe of God** Job 38:7
4. **Angel's awe of God's work**
 - a. Job 38:7
 - b. 1 Peter 1:12
 - c. 1 Corinthians 11:10
5. **Ministry toward those being redeemed**
 - a. Daniel 10:21
 - b. Matt. 18:10
 - c. Acts 12:1-10
 - d. Hebrews 1:14
 - e. Hebrews 13:2
 - f. Romans 8:38-39
6. **Action Steps**
 - a. Properly directed awe
 - b. Be Vigilant (1 Peter 5:8) & not ignorant of Satan's schemes (2 Cor. 2:11)
 - c. Submit to God & resist the adversary (James 4:7)

THE MOST HIGH GOD

1. Daniel 5:18-21
2. 1 Timothy 6:14-16
3. John 16:33

Memory verse:
Ephesians 6:12

Section 8:

Future Life of the individual

**"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
There is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge,
will give me on that day, and not only to me, but to all those who have loved his appearing."**

2 TIMOTHY 4:7-8

The dead will have a conscious existence in eternity...

Philippians 1:21-23
Luke 16:19-31

...and their bodies will be resurrected.

John 5:28-29

Unbelievers, already under condemnation, will be sentenced to suffer eternal separation from God.

Matthew 25:46
Revelation 20:15

Believers, already having been granted eternal life...

John 3:16
John 6:47

...will be judged (*not condemning judgment*) & rewarded according to their works,

Romans 14:10-12
1 Corinthians 3:10-15
2 Corinthians 5:10

and will experience a glorified, eternal existence in the presence of the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:17
Revelation 21:3-5
Psalm 16:11

Take a few minutes, and talk to God (Pray) about these verses that you've just heard.

What questions do you have for Him?

What thoughts do you want to express?

What emotions are you experiencing?

Memory verse:

2 Cor. 5:8

THE PERSONAL FUTURE OF EVERY BELIEVER:

1. **Smiling at the future** (Prov. 31:25; Matt. 6:33-34)
2. **Living with an untroubled heart** (John 14:1-6)
3. **Living a life free from condemnation** (John 3:16-21; Rom. 8:1; Rom. 6:1-12)
4. **Not destined for “the wrath to come”** (1 Thess. 1:9-20)
5. **Possibility 1: Physical “death”** (2 Cor. 5:8; John 11:25)
 - a. Those who die, will be with Jesus, when Jesus descends with a shout, the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet of God. Their physical bodies will be resurrected at that time. (1 Thess. 4:13-18)
6. **Possibility 2: The swallowing up of our mortal body w/ life in an instant** (1 Cor. 15:50-57)
 - a. There is a future moment, when Jesus will descend with 1. a shout 2. the voice of the archangel, and 3. the trumpet of God. All Church Age believers who are alive at this time “will be caught up together with those who have already died, and will meet the Lord in the air” (1 Thess. 4:13-18)
7. **The Judgment seat of Christ** (Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 2 Cor. 5:10)
 - a. This may happen immediately after death (Heb. 9:27)
 - b. The timing for those who are “caught up” is uncertain. Possibly immediately, or sometime before the marriage of the lamb, since the bride will be without spot or wrinkle (Eph. 5:27; Rev. 19:7-8)
8. **A future coming with all “His Saints”** (1 Thess. 3:13; Rev...)
 - a. Takes place after the Marriage & Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:1-16), Armageddon (Rev. 19:17-21), a future resurrection of saints who died during the tribulation (Rev. 20:4; Dan. 12:2) and before a future Millenium/ thousand-year reign (Rev. 20:1-3)
9. **A millennial Kingdom in which all believers will reign with Christ:**
 - a. The Jewish Disciples from Israel will reign (Matthew 19:28)
 - b. Church age believers will reign (1 Cor. 6:1-2; 2 Tim. 2:12)
 - c. Those who died during the trib. will reign (Rev. 20:4)
10. **A post Millennial resurrection of the rest of the dead** (*dead without Christ*) (Rev. 20:5)
11. **A final battle:**
 - a. The nations will be gathered by Satan to attack Jerusalem once more (Rev. 20:7-9)
 - b. Satan and his minions will be eternally vanquished (Rev. 20:10)
 - c. God will then judge “the dead” (Rev. 20:5, 12), justly throwing them into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:11-15)
12. **The new Heavens & Earth** (Rev. 21-22)

THE PERSONAL FUTURE OF EVERY UNBELIEVER:

1. Possibility 1: Death

- a. body in the ground
- b. spirit in Hell/ Abaddon/ the pit/ torment

2. Possibility 2: The Day of the Lord (OT verses about the D.O.L.)

- a. **"Jacob's trouble"** (Jer. 30:7)
 - i. National repentance in Israel (Zech. 12; Rom. 11:26; 9:22-23)
 - ii. Seven years of "Jacob's trouble" (Dan. 9:26-27)
 - iii. This period begins when the Anti-Christ enforces "a covenant with many" (1 Thess. 5; Ezek. 38:8,11).
This will not happen until He is revealed, which won't take place until "what" & "who" restrains him now is taken out of the way (2 Thess. 2:6-9).
 - iv. The 70th week of Daniel / Tribulation (Dan. 9:24-27; Rev. ch. 4-19)
- b. **Identifying "the wrath to come"** (1 Thess. 1:9-20; Rev. 6:16-17)

3. Armageddon (Rev. 19:17-21)

4. All who have died will be raised after the Millennial resurrection (Dan. 12:2; Rev. 20:5)

5. In a final battle, the nations, led by Satan, will attack Jerusalem once more (Rev. 20:7-9)

6. They will be judged according to their deeds (Rev. 20:5, 12), since they rejected Jesus (John 12:48). Their sentence will be to be thrown into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:11-15).

Memory verse:
Ephesians 6:12

Future Life of the Church

1. REVIEW FROM LAST SECTION...

2. NEW

**The Church began on a particular day of Pentecost
when our ascended Lord sent His Spirit to the waiting disciples.**

Acts 2:1

Acts 2:37-47

**The present Church age will come to an end when our Lord
comes in the air to remove His Church from the earth...**

John 14:3

1 Thessalonians 4:16.17

...and fulfill His promises to Israel.

Zechariah 12

Romans 11:26-29

**The second coming of Christ is His personal, physical,
and visible return from heaven to earth (not where we meet Him in the air)...**

Acts 1:11

Zechariah 14:4

...with His Church,

Revelation 19:11-16

1 Thess. 4:17

Colossians 3:4

...to establish His thousand-year reign...

Revelation 20:4

many O.T. descriptions

...before instituting His eternal kingdom.

1 Corinthians 15:24-25

Revelation 21

Memory verse:

Review previous week's verses

Living out the truth

**"But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart
and a good conscience and a sincere faith.."**

1 TIMOTHY 1:5

The foundation of biblical truth, exists, and has substance/strength outside of any one of us. We do not define, or determine truth, but for our lives to be grounded, we must lay hold of this foundation, and trust it in our own lives.

1. Truth that's learned, but not trusted/ implemented leads to unstable living.

- Matthew 7:24-27
- John 7:17
- Hebrews 5:11-14
- 2 Peter 1:10

REFLECTION: Take a moment, think back on everything you just saw in these verses, and try to let them sink in to you understanding.
Do you have thoughts/ questions?

2. Christian learning must happen in the context of love.

- Matthew 22:34-40
- 1 Timothy 2:4
- 1 John 3:14
- Ephesians 4:14-16
- 1 Timothy 1:5

REFLECTION: Take a moment, think back on everything you just saw in the previous verses, and try to let them sink into your understanding.
- Do you have thoughts/ questions?



1. Throughout this study, which of the following was most meaningful to you/ Why?

- Healthy Teaching/ Sound Doctrine
- The Big Picture
- God & the Bible
- Humanity, Sin & Salvation
- The Church & household order
- The unseen realm
- Future Life

2. What are some things that you can implement into your life as a result of this study?
/How are you going to do so?

3. How can you strengthen your understanding of the foundation that we have in Christ?

4. What is my next step in knowing God & following Jesus, after this study?

Recommendations:

1. 'Making Disciples Together' Study
2. Revisiting any of the pathway courses to let what you've learned better sink in.

OTHER RESOURCES:

- *Rooted in the faith -1 Year daily devotional (Same content over a year)
- *Biblical Beliefs Study Guide
- *The Strongest Concordance
- *The Moody Handbook of Theology
- *Charles Ryrie's or Lewis Sperry Chafer's Systematic Theology