

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

INTRODCUTION:	2
LESSON 1: SALVATION	3
LESSON 2: BAPTISM	13
LESSON 3: THE CHURCH	21
LESSON 4: WALKING WITH GOD	29
LESSON 5: THE WORD OF GOD	37
LESSON 6: STEWARDSHIP	45
LESSON 7: SEPARATION	53
LESSON 8: BEING A WITNESS	61
LESSON 9: THE FAMILY	64

INTRODCUTION:

Romans 10:17 So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

One of the most important things a new believer can do is to understand what is good for their growth. Our great need for growth is the Word of God. More than that we need to know what God is teaching us in His Word. Man can spend a lifetime learning and studying the Word of God and never learn everything. Yet, there are key things that we need to know.

These lessons that are in this booklet are some of foundational truths that are needed for the Believer. They are things that will help us to grow into the type of Christian that God wants us to be. Even if you finish this book and learn everything in it – there is still much more to learn but this gives a great place to start and a foundation to build on.

I've drawn much of the information from Christian Mentoring A to Z and then from my own studies.

It is my prayer that you will invest yourself into these lessons wholeheartedly. The lessons in themselves are not the answer but diving into the Word of God is. Now is the time to make lifelong habits of reading, memorizing and studying God's Word; developing a good prayer life; becoming faithful in church; and being a witness for Jesus Christ.

Pressing On!

Mark A. Sage, Pastor

Maineville Baptist Church

pastorsage@mainevillebc.org

LESSON 1: SALVATION

Satan may try to get you to doubt your salvation. He may cause you to wonder if you really are a Christian, and tell you that because you do not feel any different than before, nothing really happened. And then, you might sin. You might slip back into your old ways. Satan is quick to sow the seeds of doubt by telling you that Christians don't sin. When doubts come, what will your answer be?

The purpose of this study is to teach you that by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you are saved now and forever — and you can KNOW it for certain!



However, some people falsely think they are saved. An old spiritual put it simply and directly: “Everybody talkin’ about heaven ain’t going there.” Some may think all is well between them and God when it isn’t. One of the most chilling passages in the Bible is found in Matthew 7:21-23, “Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. {22} Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? {23} And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

This reality compelled the Apostle Paul to warn, “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith” (2 Corinthians 13:5). Part of this lesson is a test, a Biblical checklist, to allow yourself to examine the reality of your faith. How can you tell whether you really are a Christian? How do you know if your faith is real? The

Apostle John wrote his first letter to answer these questions and gave a series of tests by which to measure us.

The Holy Spirit is the one who gives assurance (Romans 8:16). It is the work of God in the believer’s life as he lives righteously. With righteous behavior comes the peace and confidence of God.

Read Isaiah 32:17, “And the work of righteousness shall be

P_____; and the effect of righteousness quietness and

A _____ for ever.”

I. WHAT IS MEANT BY “ASSURANCE”?

By “assurance of salvation” we mean the intellectual and spiritual certainty that you belong to God, that you possess eternal salvation.

A. Look up: 2 Timothy 1:12

The “key words” in this verse are K_____ and P_____.

B. Look up: 1 John 5:13

1. On the basis of this verse of Scripture, would you say God wants you to have assurance of salvation? _____

2. What word in this verse indicates this? _____

II. WHY DO I NEED ASSURANCE OF SALVATION?

A. Assurance brings us J____ (1 John 1:4).

B. Assurance brings C_____ before God (1 John 3:19, 21).

C. Assurance brings us C_____ of heart (Colossians 2:2).

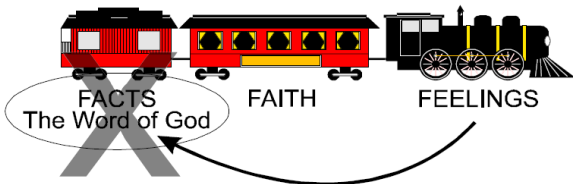
D. Assurance enables us to O_____ the world (1 John 5:4-5).

E. Assurance enables us to effectively serve the Lord by telling others about Jesus. Read the following Scriptures: John 1:40-41; John 4:28-29; and Acts 16:10.

III. WHAT IS THE BASIS OF ASSURANCE OF SALVATION?

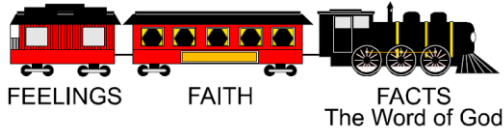
Many Christians base their assurance of salvation upon personal feelings. The problem with this is that feelings change. One day you may feel saved; the next day, through circumstances, you may not feel saved. When you allow feelings

to be the power that drives you, you are in for a rough ride. Feelings should never come before faith in the Word of God.



You have something MORE than feelings to go by — the UNCHANGING WORD OF GOD. Your faith is empowered by the Word of God — “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God”

(Romans 10:17). If you put faith in the Word of God, the feelings of being saved will eventually follow.



Look up 1 John 5:11-12 and write this Scripture out in full.

Circle the words record and hath in the above verses. The record is – that you have eternal life!

There are three grounds for your assurance:

A. The PERSON of God According to Titus 1:2, God cannot ___ ___ ___.

GOD SAID IT — THAT SETTLES IT!

Assurance of salvation is the collective work of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

1. God the Father gave His Son to be the Savior of the world (John 3:16). The Father gives people to the Son (John 6:37).

Through some divine choice God gives people to Christ to be saved, and anyone who comes to Him will not be cast out.

According to John 10:27-29, from whose hands is no one able to snatch us?

2. God the Son prayed, “Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me” (John 17:11). Since Jesus

Christ always prays in perfect harmony with the will of the Father, we can be assured that keeping our salvation secure is the will of God. According to Hebrews 6:19-20, Jesus Christ is our High Priest and serves as an

A ___ ___ ___ of the soul to keep us from drifting away from God.

3. God the Holy Spirit seals the believer's salvation. He is God's pledge to us that full redemption is coming.

B. The PROMISES of God

1. In John 5:24, God says if I H____ everlasting life, I S____ N____ come into condemnation.

2. According to John 6:37, because I came to Jesus Christ, He will in ____ W____ cast me out.

3. According to Romans 10:13, those who call upon the Name of the Lord S____ be saved.

These are just a sample of the positive statements, put in writing, by the God who cannot lie.

C. The PRESENCE of God

1. According to Romans 5:5, when we are saved, God gives us His H____ G____, who dwells in our hearts.

2. According to Romans 8:16, the Spirit of God bears W____ with our spirit that we are in fact God's children. See also the first part of 1 John 5:10.

IV. HOW MAY I KNOW I'M SAVED?

Here is a checklist to use in evaluating the authenticity of your salvation experience. The Apostle John's letter delves into the subjective grounds for assurance. They focus on the fruit of righteousness in the believer's life and the internal witness of the Holy Spirit. These subjective factors have meaning only if they are first rooted by faith in the objective truth of God's Word.

A. Do I believe on the Lord Jesus Christ?

This is a belief that is evidenced by love for Christ and the Father. (1 John 5:1) “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.” The Apostle Paul said it this way, (Galatians 2:20) “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” There’s something very experiential about this truth; there is an experience of knowing God intimately. Do you believe in Christ from the depths of your heart?



B. Am I sensitive to sin?

We cannot claim fellowship with God and walk in darkness. Light and darkness cannot coexist. What does God call people who walk in darkness and claim to have fellowship with Christ? L_____ (1 John 1:6). In 1 John 2:1, John writes that believers should not sin. If they do, they realize that forgiveness is in Jesus Christ, the righteous one. True believers are sensitive to sin.

C. Do I keep God’s commandments?

Do I obey God? 1 John 2:3 says, “And hereby we do K_____ that we K_____ him, if we K_____ his commandments.” The word “keep” means watchful, careful, thoughtful obedience. When Jesus commissioned His church in Matthew 28:20, one of the elements of that commission was to teach disciples to observe all things that He commanded.

True disciples are “obeyers.” Obedience to the commands of God produces assurance. What does God call people who say they know Him and keep not His commandments? L_____ (1 John 2:4).

According to 1 John 2:17, who abides forever? “He that D_____ the will of God.”

D. Do I reject this evil world?

Do I desire to turn from the world and all its sin? Does this evil world system, with Satan as its god, have a pull on my heart and affections? According to 1 John 2:15, what is not in the person who loves the world? “The L_____ of the F_____ is not in him.” Jesus said His children are not of this world even as He is not of this world (John 17:14- 16). We may have to live in this world, but we are not of it. A believer rejects its false religions, errant ideologies,

damning philosophies, godless living, vain pursuits, immorality, materialism, and the like.

Is this you? Do you love darkness or light? According to John 3:19-21, unbelievers love darkness; light only reproves their wicked lifestyles.

E. Do I love believers?

According to 1 John 3:14, assurance resides in those who love the brethren; they know they “have passed from D_____ unto L_____.” In verse 10, God defines an unbeliever as one who D_____ not righteousness, neither L_____ his brother. Loving fellow

Christians comes naturally to believers. It shows that the love of God has been poured out in their hearts. Jesus went so far as to say that this love is an identifying mark of His disciples (John 13:35). So, do you love Christians? Do you love those in the church, or are you cold, indifferent, and uncaring toward them? Your love may not be perfect, but it will be there.

F. Do I experience the ministry of the Holy Spirit?

God says that people can know that they dwell in Him because He has “G_____ us of his Spirit” (1 John 4:13). This ministry of the Spirit includes things such as conviction of sin, fruit of the Spirit

(Galatians 5:22-23), spiritual understanding when reading the Scriptures, and so on. In Romans 8:16, Paul says, “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:” In a definite, concrete way the Holy Spirit brings assurance to you that you belong to God.

G. Am I experiencing spiritual victory?

According to 1 John 5:4, who is born of God? “For whatsoever is born of God O_____ - _____ the W_____.” Believers experience spiritual victory. They may not do so all the time, but there is a pattern of growth. Believers are overcomers! Every believer stumbles from time to time; but unbelievers are devoid of spiritual victory for they do not possess the Holy Spirit who causes the victory.



A person’s assurance cannot be based upon the feeling he experienced at the moment of his “alleged” conversion. A person’s true spiritual state is not known by a past experience but rather by a present pursuit of holiness. Jonathan Edwards (a Puritan preacher) said, “Assurance is never to be enjoyed

on the basis of a past experience. There is need of the present and continuing work of the Holy Spirit...[in] giving assurance.”

V. WHY DO SOME GENUINE BELIEVERS DOUBT THEIR SALVATION?

The answer to this question could have an infinite number of reasons. Here are several of them:

A. Ignorance

Some Christians haven't fully understood God's sovereign operation of securing our salvation forever. They tend to base assurance on feeling and don't understand the objective truth of God's Word on this issue.

B. Temptation

Christians feel the pull of the flesh to sin even though they have a new nature. This pull is disconcerting.

C. Uncertainty

Christians who were saved at a very young age often can't remember the "experience" of the conversion moment. Link that with the "glowing" testimonies of people saved out of a life of wickedness and you have a formula for doubts.

We must realize that each of us are saved the same way. We take God at His Word, trust in Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross which paid for our sins – no matter how many or how few. We are all saved the same way – we take God at His Word.

The "flash" of the dramatically changed life can cause others to doubt their own salvation.

D. Trials

Some Christians become spiritually unstable because they can't see the hand of God in all their trials. "How could God love me and let me go through this?"

E. Disobedience

Perhaps the most common reason for lacking assurance is disobedience. With disobedience comes guilt, and then we question "How could I possibly be saved and have done...."

The testimony of Charles Spurgeon – Whenever I feel that I have sinned and desire to overcome that sin for the future, the devil at the same time comes to me and whispers, “How can you be a pardoned person and accepted with God while you still sin in this way?” If I listen to this I drop into despondency and if I continued in that state I should fall into despair, and should commit sin more frequently than before; but God’s grace comes in and says to my soul, “Thou hast sinned; but did not Christ come to save sinners? Thou art not saved because thou art righteous; for Christ died for the ungodly.” And my faith says, “Though I have sinned, I have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ... though I’m guilty, yet by grace I am saved and I am a child of God still.” And what then? Why the tears begin to flow and I say, “How could I ever sin against my God who has been so good to me? Now I will overcome that sin,” and I get strong to fight with sin through the conviction that I am God’s child.

VI. WHAT BRINGS ASSURANCE OF SALVATION?

It is possible you may have doubts from time to time. Just remember that Satan is a liar (John 8:44), and his first recorded words in the Bible were casting doubt upon God’s Word (Genesis 3:1). Here are some ways you can have assurance, or deepen your assurance in what God has done for you:

A. Learn the Word of God.

Your salvation is based upon what God has said — not upon how you think or feel. Thus it is important for you to read and study the Bible.

Read 2 Timothy 3:14,15.

B. Thank God for His gift of salvation.

According to Romans 6:23, you have received the GIFT of E_____ L_____. Have you thanked God for this gift yet?

Thanksgiving is evidence of faith. Read 2 Corinthians 9:15.

C. Make a public testimony before others.

Have you told someone that you have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ? Look at 1 John 4:15 and see the relationship between confessing Christ and assurance. Read Matthew 10:32 and Romans 10:9,10.

One way you can confess Christ publicly is to come forward at the “invitation” in one of our Church services. The pastor will gladly introduce you to the Church.

D. Attend church services faithfully.

Fellowshipping with your brothers and sisters in Christ will encourage you. Many of them have experienced the same doubts you may have. Hebrews 10:25 commands this, while Hebrews 10:22 talks about assurance. Have a goal to begin attending all the services.

E. Live a righteous life.

Sometimes a full assurance does not come until God sees we mean business for Him. According to Isaiah 32:17, the effect of R_____ is quietness and A_____ forever.

Remember, your peace and assurance is based upon believing God’s promises and not on your feelings.

- Don’t sugarcoat sin in your life! Recognize it, hate it, call it for what it is – rebellion against God.
- Fix your heart on God. Devote every area of your life to God.
- Use the Word of God to bolster your faith. Memorize it and quote it when Satan whispers doubts in your ear.
- Relentlessly move forward. Perseverance is a forgotten practice in our culture – oh, some athletes and businessmen have it; but few Christians tenaciously hold to the commitments they make at the church altar.

VII. WHAT HAPPENS IF I SIN?

A. Look up 1 John 1:8. Is it possible for a Christian to sin? _____

B. Look up 1 John 2:1. Does God want a Christian to sin? _____

C. Look up 1 John 1:9. If a Christian sins, what is the one thing we are to do about it?

C_____ it to God.

D. Look up 1 John 2:1 again. When I sin, Who appears before God the Father in heaven on my behalf? J_____ C_____ the Righteous.

E. Look up 1 John 1:6,7. In your own words, what does a Christian lose if he sins? _____.

VIII. CAN I EVER LOSE MY SALVATION?

A. John 10:28 says we shall N_____ perish.

B. John 10:29 says no man is A_____ to remove us from God’s hand.

C. John 6:37 says God will in ___ W___ cast out those who come to Christ.

D. John 6:39 says the responsibility of keeping us saved is the Lord's, not ours, and that Christ can L_____ nothing.

E. John 5:24 says the kind of life I now have is E_____.

F. Romans 8:38,39 says that nothing can S_____ us from the love of Christ.

G. 1 Peter 1:5 says we are K_____ by the P_____ of God.

H. Jude 24 says Christ is able to K_____ us from F_____.

I. Philippians 1:6 says that Christ will continue His good W_____ in us until the D_____ of Jesus Christ.

J. Ephesians 1:13 says our salvation has been S_____ with the Holy Spirit.

K. Ephesians 2:8 says that our salvation is the G_____ of God. A gift taken back by the giver is no gift.

L. Ephesians 2:9 says that we have done nothing to gain salvation. If we have done nothing to gain it — we can do nothing to lose it!

M. According to Ephesians 2:2,3 and 1 John 3:10, before we were saved we were in the control of Satan. Now that we are saved, we have a new relationship with God.

1. God is our heavenly F_____ (Romans 8:15).

2. Christians are the S_____ of God (1 John 3:1).

3. In our earthly family, when a child does wrong, his parents do not cast him out of the family and disown him. They will correct and chasten their son — but he is still their son and a member of that family.

4. When a Christian sins, he is not cast out of God's family, thus losing his salvation.

However, like any loving father, God may C_____ the erring Christian (Hebrews 12:6).



LESSON 2: BAPTISM

The subject of “baptism” is without doubt one of the most controversial of all Bible teachings. Different types of “churches” have varying modes of “baptism.” Some sprinkle, some pour, and some immerse. Some baptize infants; others baptize older children and/or adults. And there are groups which even “baptize” on behalf of those deceased. Then others tell us it is not an important thing and therefore practice no baptism at all.

History reveals that baptism has been the most divisive issue throughout the present age. Our Baptist forefathers paid dearly for their stand upon the Bible truth of baptism. Millions were cruelly put to death just because they refused to have their children “sprinkled,” or dared to stand upon the teachings of God’s Word. We do not have to face such persecution today – but we ought to be willing to take the same stand upon the truth of the Bible.

You can learn the truth by carefully studying the following Scriptures. Set aside any preconceived notions and see exactly what the Bible teaches.

I. WHAT IS BAPTISM?

A. How many kinds of Scriptural baptisms are there? Ephesians 4:5 ___ ___

B. What is baptism called in Colossians 2:12? B_____

C. According to Romans 6:4, we are B_____ in the likeness of Christ’s death by baptism.

D. Romans 6:5 tells us that baptism pictures a P_____

E. In your understanding, which action most accurately pictures a burial, or a planting: immersion or sprinkling? _____

F. In Matthew 3:6, where did John the Baptist baptize? _____

G. From John 3:23, what was John the Baptist’s reason for baptizing at a place called Aenon? _____

H. What does your answer to “G.” say about the method of baptizing?

I. In Mark 1:10, when Jesus was baptized, what did He come up out of?

J. Look up Acts 8:38-39. When Philip baptized the Ethiopian, what was the relationship of both men to the water? _____

K. From your honest study of these verses of Scripture, what do you conclude to be the mode of baptism? (Check one)

- Sprinkling
- Pouring
- Immersion

Having drawn your conclusion, the following information will help reinforce the truth:



1. The Greek word rendered baptize in your Bible is “baptidzo.” The meaning of baptidzo is “dip, plunge, immerse, submerge, overwhelm.” ALL reputable Greek scholars (Catholic, Protestant, and Baptist) agree on this point.

2. Pope Stephen II declared the practice of “pouring” for baptism was valid in the case of sick candidates in the year AD 754. The Roman Catholic Council of Ravenna, in AD 1311, gave the first official sanction of sprinkling. Prior to these times, immersion was the mode of baptism. In some Roman Catholic circles, immersion was still practiced as late as the 18th century.

II. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

A. According to Matthew 3:7-8, what did John the Baptist require from people BEFORE he would baptize them? _____

B. Look up John 4:1. What does the relationship between the words “made” and “baptized” show concerning whom should be baptized?

C. In Acts 2:41, what had those who were first baptized done?

D. In Acts 8:12, what had the men and women who were baptized first done?

E. In Acts 8:37, what was the requirement for the Ethiopian’s baptism?

F. Look up Acts 10:47. A person receives the Holy Spirit at salvation. What does a person do after receiving the Holy Spirit? _____

G. Look up Acts 16:14-15. What had the Lord done with Lydia before she was baptized? _____

H. Study Acts 16:30-34. What happened to the keeper of the prison and his household before they were baptized? _____

I. List the three steps of the Corinthians given in Acts 18:8.

H _____, B _____ and B _____

J. From your honest study of these verses of Scripture, whom do you conclude to be the proper candidates for baptism? (Check one)

Babies

Believers

Any sincere person

Having drawn your conclusion, the following information will help reinforce the truth:

1. There is NO evidence of “infant baptism” to be found in the first couple of centuries in church history. The first recorded instance of “infant baptism” was when the Roman Emperor Valens insisted his dying son be “baptized” – in the year AD 370.

2. The Catholic Council of Mela made infant baptism “law” in the year AD 416. It was from this point that the intense persecution of true believers began to be practiced – by other “Christians.”

III. DOES BAPTISM ACCOMPLISH SALVATION?

Many people believe (and are taught) that baptism is a Sacrament – that is, a “means of God’s grace,” a channel through which our salvation comes.

A. Look up Ephesians 2:8. What is the channel of God’s saving grace? “... by grace are ye saved through F_____”

B. What are we NOT saved by? (Ephesians 2:9) “ ... Not of W_____, lest any man should boast.”

C. Compare Titus 3:5, Ephesians 5:26; and John 17:17. How are our sins “washed away?” _____

D. Read Luke 23:32-33, 39-43. One thief was saved. Was he ever baptized?

E. From your honest study of these verses of Scripture, what part does baptism play in your salvation? (Check one)

- No part
- Some part
- Absolutely essential

IV. WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN?

A. Look up 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

1. What does Paul declare here? The G_____ (verse 1)

2. Where does he ask them to keep it? In M_____ (verse 2)

3. What is the Gospel? “Christ D_____ for our sins, was B_____, and R_____ A_____ (verses 3-4).”

B. According to Romans 6:5, baptism is called the L_____ of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

C. In 1 Peter 3:21, baptism is called the L_____ F_____ .

(Carefully read this verse. It does not teach that baptism saves anyone; it is that which baptism pictures that saves. Baptism is the answer or the response of a good conscience. We receive a good conscience before God when we are saved!)

D. From your study and consideration of these verses of Scripture, what would you say baptism is? (Check one)

- A symbol of the Gospel
- The washing away of sins

V. WHAT DOES BAPTISM MAKE ME?

A. Baptism does not make you a Christian.

We have already seen that baptism plays no part in our salvation. A person is Scripturally baptized AFTER salvation, not before it.

B. Baptism makes you a church member. Look up Acts 2:41-42. List the order of events.

R_____ (His Word) = Salvation

B_____ = Baptism

A_____ unto them = Church Membership

C_____ steadfastly = Christian Growth

1. According to John 3:3-5 the “new birth” is the doorway to eternal life. According to Acts 2:41 baptism (which follows salvation) is the doorway in the membership of a church (a body of baptized believers).

2. When you are baptized, you become a member of our church. As such, you enjoy the rights and privileges of membership which include:

- a. Participation at the Lord’s table for the observance of the Lord’s Supper.
- b. Participation in church business meetings.
- c. Opportunities to effectively serve the Lord through His church here.

3. As a Baptist you may be interested in knowing the following:

- a. The name “Baptist” is a Biblical name.

It is found 14 times in the New Testament, referring to John the Baptist. According to Matthew 3:1 John was called a Baptist before he ever baptized anyone. It is a God given name. (He wasn’t called “John the Catholic” or “John the Episcopalian.”)

- b. Christ honored John the Baptist. See Matthew 11:11. Thus the name “Baptist” is one we can bear unashamedly.

- c. All the apostles received Baptist baptism. This was never repudiated – it was a requirement for the selection of a new apostle.

VI. WHO HAS THE AUTHORITY TO BAPTIZE?

- A. The authority to baptize was given to New Testament churches.

Just before our Lord ascended back to Heaven, He left “orders” for His work to be continued. These orders are given in Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; and Acts 1:8. The Lord spoke these words to His disciples. However, if He gave this commission only to the disciples currently present, then it no longer applies – because they are long dead! The Lord Jesus Christ gave the Great Commission to His disciples

INSTITUTIONALLY – not individually. That is, the command to go, preach, baptize, and teach all nations was given to His Church. The disciples comprised the first church. Since the command to “baptize” is contained in the Great Commission, then the authority to baptize has been given to New Testament churches – not to individuals or manmade religious organizations.

The Lord Jesus walked 60 miles (from Galilee, where there was plenty of water, to Judea) to receive baptism from the right authority (John the Baptist). He obviously considered the authority in baptism to be important. It is just as important today to replace Judas Iscariot (see Acts 1:22).

B. There are four requirements for baptism to be scriptural:

- THE RIGHT CANDIDATE – a believer
- THE RIGHT MODE – immersion
- THE RIGHT MEANING – a picture
- THE RIGHT AUTHORITY – a New Testament church

All those who are baptized into this church are baptized on the authority of this church. Even though the pastor actually performs the act, he does so on behalf of the church body. That is why . . .

1. All those desiring baptism are presented before the church members, and the church votes to receive them into membership upon their baptism.

2. The church receives members from other New Testament churches of like faith and order by way of a “Letter of Commendation.”

3. The church does not receive into membership those who have been “baptized” into some man-made religion, “church,” or denomination. We require Scriptural baptism.

VII. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

Some people do not hold great importance to baptism – seeing it as either unnecessary, or an “option” of being a Christian. On the other hand, the Word of God places great emphasis upon the ordinance. The Biblical “symbol” of Christianity is baptism...

Not the cross



Not the fish



These later became identifying symbols of Christianity. They are good symbols, but they do not replace the one God gave – baptism.

Here are some reasons why you should be baptized:

A. The Lord Jesus Christ was baptized (Matthew 3:13-17).

1. He came from G_____ to J_____ (60 miles) to receive baptism (verse 13). It was important to the Son of God to get baptized.
2. Jesus said baptism B_____ us (verse 15). That is, “it is fitting.”
3. God the Father was well P_____ when God the Son was baptized (verse 17).
4. By baptism we are figuratively buried with H____, that is, we associate with Christ when following Him in baptism (Rom. 6:4).

B. Baptism is a command from the Lord (Matthew 28:19).

As noted previously, the command to baptize was given to the Lord’s churches – thus it follows that those who are won to Christ have a duty to be baptized. Write out John 14:15.

C. Baptism is the Bible way.

1. Look up Acts 2:38. Here the command is for E_____ O_____ of you to be baptized.
2. Acts 8:12 includes both M_____ and W_____ in the act of baptism.

D. All Christians are exhorted to be faithful in church attendance.

We read of this command in Hebrews 10:25. Can we properly follow this command and not be a member of a New Testament church, and not be baptized? No.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED: Be sure to record the date of your baptism at the very beginning of these lessons. Write it (along with the date of your salvation) in your Bible.

IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN BAPTIZED: Write out the question the Ethiopian asked in the last part of Acts 8:36.

In your own words, and in your own situation, answer this question.

Why not decide now to obey the Lord?

“Having studied the Scriptures concerning the subject of baptism, and realizing this step is required of me by the Lord, I hereby determine by the grace of God that I will present myself for baptism by coming forward during the invitation at the next service of the church, thus publicly associating myself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and committing myself to active membership in this church.”

Signed: _____ Date: _____

VIII. WHAT DO I DO TO PREPARE FOR BAPTISM?

“Okay, I’ll get baptized!! What do I do?” Follow these simple steps:

Come down the aisle during the invitation at the close of the service. I will meet you there, and we can tell Pastor what you have come for.

Pastor will lead the church to accept you into its membership upon your baptism. Your baptism will be scheduled on a Sunday morning at your convenience (schedule it now).

Many people use this event as an opportunity to invite unsaved family and friends. They will hear the gospel presented. Perhaps they also will receive Christ as Savior.

Talk to the Pastor or his wife about what you should bring for the baptism.

When you arrive to church on the day of your baptism someone will go with you to the dressing room to leave your bag of clothes.

During the first verse of the invitation, go to the dressing room and prepare for baptism. A church member will be at the dressing room to answer your questions and help you in any way.

LESSON 3: THE CHURCH

And My Relationship With It his study looks at one of the most confusing and misunderstood doctrines of the Bible. People have all kinds of ideas as to what a church really is. Some people think it is a building (a cathedral, or some place of worship). Others think of a church as a denomination (a human organization). Some Christians conceive the “Church” as consisting of all born again believers in the world, a kind of “invisible, universal” church.

Our task is to put aside all these notions and determine what God says a church is in His Word.

I. THE CHURCH IS A NEW TESTAMENT INSTITUTION.

Look up Matthew 16:18. This is the first mention of the Church in the Bible.

A. Who founded (built) the Church? _____

B. Look up John 1:42. What is the meaning of Peter’s name? _____

C. Look up 1 Peter 2:3-8. Who did Peter identify as the “Rock” upon which the Church would be built? _____

D. In Acts 4:10-11, Jesus is identified as, “the S_____ which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the C_____.”

E. How does the Apostle Paul identify Jesus Christ in Ephesians 2:20?

The C_____ C_____ S_____.

Note: This institution, the local New Testament church, was built upon Jesus Christ. It is new and is not to be confused with the nation of Israel. The Old Testament is primarily addressed to Israel, and the New Testament is mainly written to churches. Don’t confuse these two institutions (church and nation). The Bible distinguishes the two in 1 Corinthians 10:32.

II. THE CHURCH IS AN ASSEMBLY.

The word “church” (or “churches”) is found 114 times in the New Testament, and is translated from the Greek word “EKKLESIA.”

This word “ekklesia” means – “a company of people called out for a specific purpose.” It has its roots in the democracies of the Greek city-states, when the town crier would call out the citizens to a meeting to conduct business.

In Matthew 16:18, the Lord Jesus didn't change the meaning of ekklesia, but set it apart it from other churches of the day with the personal pronoun "MY."

Definition of a Church

A New Testament church is an organized assembly of baptized believers who band together for the purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission.



Thus, a New Testament church is the "Lord's Assembly."

III. THE CHURCH IS A LIVING ORGANISM.

A. The church has a Head.

Man-made religious organizations have their heads – presidents, popes, moderators, superintendents, etc. Each New Testament Baptist church also has a Head – but One vastly different from any of the above.

1. Look up Colossians 1:18 and Ephesians 5:23, 24. Who is the Head of each New Testament Baptist church? _____

2. Each church is to be S_____ to its Head.

3. Look up John 17:17. In what way is a Church subject to its Head?

Note: Jesus Christ is not a "figure-head." Any "church" which is not subject to Him and His laws is out of control. No church has the right to make laws – it may only obey the laws already given by the Head through His Word.

A church without a living Head is dead!

B. The church is a body.

1. Romans 12:5 says we are, "one body in C_____."

Circle each occurrence of the word "body" in this passage.

(1 Corinthians 12:12-27) "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. {13} For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. {14} For the body is not one member, but many. {15} If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? {16} And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? {17} If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? {18} But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it

hath pleased him. {19} And if they were all one member, where were the body? {20} But now are they many members, yet but one body. {21} And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. {22} Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: {23} And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. {24} For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: {25} That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. {26} And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. {27} Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”

2. According to 1 Corinthians 1:2, who is the letter of 1 Corinthians written to? The C_____ of G____ at Corinth.
3. In 1 Corinthians 12:27, what does Paul call this church of God which is at Corinth? _____
4. According to 1 Corinthians 12:18,20,26-27, what are the Corinthians in the church considered? M_____
5. According to verse 18, how did they get into the body of Christ at Corinth?

6. Answer the following questions according to this passage in 1 Corinthians 12.
 - a. Are there many or few members in the church? _____(v.14)
 - b. Are some members of the church unnecessary? _____(v.21)
 - c. What are two things members do on behalf of each other? (v.26)

7. How do members get into the church?

1 Corinthians 12:18 _____

Acts 2:47 _____
8. From a practical standpoint, what does this truth about members being added to the church by God mean regarding your commitment to the church?

9. Should Christians become members of the local church they go to? _____

IV. THE CHURCH HAS OFFICERS.

A. Look up Philippians 1:1. What are the two offices in a church?

B _____, (elders, pastors) and D _____.

B. Look up 1 Timothy 3:1-13. This reference gives the qualifications required for these two offices.

Note: The terms “bishop,” “elder,” and “pastor” are used interchangeably in the New Testament. We prefer to use the term “pastor” because the other two have been given unbiblical ecclesiastical connotations.

1. Look up 1 Peter 2:25 and 5:4. Who is the Chief Pastor of my Church? _____

2. The word “pastor” means shepherd. According to 1 Peter 5:2 and Acts 20:28 what is the church called in relation to its pastor(s)? The F _____ of God.

3. According to 1 Peter 5:2, what is the duty of the pastors? _____

4. According to Ephesians 4:12-14, why has the Lord given our church a pastor(s)? _____

5. According to Acts 20:17, 28-31, how will our pastor(s) protect me?

6. According to Hebrews 13:7, we are to R _____ our pastor(s) and F _____ them.

7. According to Hebrews 13:17, we are to O _____ our pastor(s) and S _____ to their leadership in the church.

How Should We Address Our Pastor(s)?

Many feel unsure as to what they should call their pastor(s) in conversation. There is no God-given title for a pastor, and it is unwise to refer to him as “Reverend” or “Father.” (See Psalm 111:9; Matthew 23:9.) Both of these refer to God.

However, just as we train children not to call their parents by first names out of respect for their place and authority, and thus with their teachers and policemen, etc., it is right to show similar respect to the men God puts over you in your church.

Our senior pastor may be addressed as Pastor; our associate pastors as Pastor (last name). The respect in the title is primarily for the God-appointed office more so than for the individual.

Give each of your pastors your confidence, love, encouragement, and constant prayers. Be their co-worker. Go to them in your difficulties; call them when in need.

They can help you with counsel from the Word of God. Never make them your idol – keep your eyes on the Lord, but neither harshly criticize your pastor(s) or be a party to scheming against them. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 and 1 Timothy 5:17-19.

Also...Love and appreciate the wife of each of the pastors. They hold no office in the church and have no authority – yet they are so important to their husbands' ministries. They don't seek recognition or special treatment.

V. THE CHURCH MAKES DECISIONS.

A true New Testament Baptist Church never makes laws – it simply follows its Lord's commands as set forth in His Word. In a practical sense, a church often needs to make decisions in keeping with this principle. Unlike the hierarchical systems of many religious bodies, Baptist churches practice what is known as Congregational church government, where the congregation decides on a course of action.

A. Look up Acts 6:1-5. Who chose the seven deacons? _____

B. Look up Acts 1:15-26. What preceded the vote of the whole church in electing a successor to Judas? P_____ .

C. According to Matthew 18:17, what is the highest decision-making body in spiritual affairs? The C_____ .

D. In Matthew 18:18, the decisions of a church congregation are ratified in H_____ .

VI. THE CHURCH IS AN INDEPENDENT INSTITUTION.

A. Each New Testament Baptist Church is independent.

In Acts 15 the men from the church at Antioch came to the church at Jerusalem to consider a matter of extreme doctrinal importance. After they determined the teaching of God's Word on the matter (verses 15-18), the issue was resolved. Even then, the church at Jerusalem HAD NO AUTHORITY over the church at Antioch. Their sentence was that “. . . we trouble not them . . .”; and they simply wrote a letter making a request (see verse 19).

This is vastly different from the hierarchical religious systems of man – wherein the various congregations of a denomination are controlled and dictated to by “higher authorities.”

B. Churches are to be separated from governments.

1. The Bible teaches separation between the spiritual and the secular institutions (see Matthew 22:21).

a. Christians are to be law-abiding citizens (Romans 13:1-7).

b. Christians may disobey a civil law only in the case where they are compelled (by that civil law) to disobey God’s law (Acts 5:29).

2. Governments should not involve themselves with the establishment or support of any particular religious group, except to offer security and protection as it would for all citizens of the land.

C. Churches may scripturally cooperate with other churches.

Independence does not mean isolationism. Baptist churches often cooperate in certain areas with each other – provided such cooperation is voluntary, and does not violate the sovereignty, independence, and autonomy of each church.

1. New Testament churches worked together to support missionaries. See Acts 11:22-26; 2 Corinthians 8:9-14.

Churches (plural) of G_____ Galatians 1:2

Churches (plural) of A____ 1 Corinthians 16:19

2. New Testament churches worked together in social relief. See 1 Corinthians 16:1-3; Acts 11:27-30; Romans 15:25-26. This financial assistance was a gift, not a loan.

3. New Testament churches were involved in regional fellowship.

4. Read Colossians 4:16. Here were two churches that shared the Scriptures and other apostolic writings.

VII. THE CHURCH IS A COMMISSIONED ORGANIZATION.

A. The church has been given a mission.

The Lord Jesus Christ established His churches to continue His work here on earth. This is not a social ministry, but a spiritual one. Just before the Lord

returned to Heaven, He left His church with instructions known as the “Great Commission.”

1. Jesus’ authority (Matthew 28:18)

How much authority does Jesus have? _____

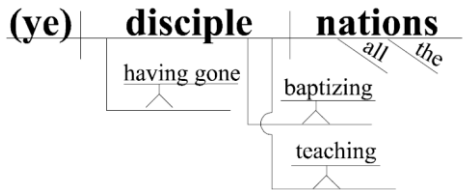
What is this authority? In this verse, the word “power” is the Greek word *ekousia* (authority power), not *dunamis* (power or might) as a great conqueror would have. When Jesus said, “All power is given unto me...” He was speaking of having all authority.

2. Our responsibility (Matthew 28:19-20)

The commission in these verses is not the original authority to preach, baptize, and teach. It was already given (Mark 3:14;

Matthew 10:5-6; John 3:22-26, 4:1-2), and that commission was to reach out to Israel only – now the disciples are to reach out to the entire world population!

Diagram of Matthew 28:19-20



The commission is to make disciples of Christ of all peoples of the world. The church is to do more than just evangelize. Soul winning is the first step in “discipling” someone. They also need to be baptized and taught the whole counsel of God.

3. Jesus’ promise (Matthew 28:20) is to be with us A_____, even unto the E____!

B. This Great Commission is repeated in all the Gospels and the Book of Acts.

Read these passages and see exactly what the mission of a Baptist church is (Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 20:21; Acts 1:8).

A. BAPTISM was taught in Study #2.

B. The LORD’S SUPPER will be taught in Study #12.

IX. THE CHURCH IS TO BE FINANCED.

This will be addressed in Lesson 6: Giving.

X. THE CHURCH AND YOU

Having learned these many things about the New Testament church, how should it be applied? Listed below are some practical instructions for you to receive great blessings from your church:

A. Join It.

1. It is God's will for every born-again believer to be a member of a sound, Bible-believing, New Testament church.
2. Look up Acts 2:47. "The L_____ added to the C_____ D_____ such as should be saved."
3. Look up 1 Corinthians 12:18. God has S_____ the M_____ in the B_____.

B. Love It.

A Christian ought to love the things his Lord loves. Look up Ephesians 5:25. Christ L_____ the C_____ and G_____ Himself for it.

C. Support It.

1. Your church is the place where you will grow, find comfort and fellowship, and serve the Lord. Write out Hebrews 10:25.

2. Plan now to attend as many of the services and meetings of your church as you can. Decide in your heart never to miss a service unless providentially hindered.

Ask yourself these questions:

If everyone in the church (from pastor down) was as committed to the church as I am, would it continue to thrive?

Would as much ministry get done? Would as many people receive Christ?

Would attendance on Sunday and Wednesday nights increase or decrease?

Would the church be as financially prepared to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth?

LESSON 4: WALKING WITH GOD

Bible Christianity is not a CREED (a set of beliefs), but a PERSON – the Lord Jesus Christ. When we received the Lord Jesus as our Savior, we received Him as a real Person into our heart and life, and although there are many things to learn about the Lord and the Christian life, we must never forget there is a personal relationship to be enjoyed and maintained.

Personal relationships are maintained by **communication** – by each party sharing from his heart. The deeper the sharing, the deeper and stronger will be the relationship. Every Christian needs a relationship with God. This is accomplished through a “Daily Walk” with his Lord, and it enables him to enjoy all that God has in store. This is also the battleground where victory or defeat in your Christian life will be decided!!!

I. WHAT ARE THE VITAL REQUIREMENTS OF A GOOD DAILY WALK?

A. Look up 2 Peter 3:18. God’s will for you as a young Christian is to G_____ into spiritual maturity (that is, in grace and knowledge of Christ).

B. Just as there are a number of essential requirements for physical growth, there are some for spiritual growth. This study will deal with two vital things you need for a daily walk with the Lord.



II. WHEN SHOULD I WALK WITH GOD?

A. Our walk with the Lord needs to be constant.

1. Look up Joshua 1:8. God’s command was that His Word would not D_____ from the mouth of God’s people day and N_____. See also Deuteronomy 6:6-9.

2. In 1 Thessalonians 5:17 we learn we should pray without C_____.

B. Nevertheless, in our busy schedules of daily life, it is necessary for a Christian to set aside a DEFINITE TIME EACH DAY for a devotional walk with the Lord.

1. Look up Daniel 6:10. How many times did Daniel pray each day? _____

2. Look up Acts 17:11. What did the Berean Christians do each day?

3. There is no prescribed time for your daily devotions – the important thing is that you set time aside.

My Commitment to God

Having considered my family, my duties, and my usual activities in the light of God’s clear command, I now promise the Lord that I will set aside the following time each day for the purpose of Bible study and prayer: (time each day = _____)

Signed: _____ Date: _____

- It may be early in the morning...
- It may be after the family has left for the day...
- It may be during an undisturbed lunch break...
- It may be when the family has gone to bed...

YOU SET A TIME — THEN STICK WITH IT!!

III. HOW SHOULD I WALK WITH GOD?

Now that you have set aside a definite time for devotions, remember that good habits are hard to form. Ask the Lord to help you keep this one vital appointment. If you fail, don’t quit, rather determine to start again.

A. Plan ahead for success by:

1. Getting a good night’s rest so you wake up refreshed. You cannot stay up late at night and feel like having a good Quiet Time early the next morning.
2. Selecting a special place – a place that is convenient, has a pleasant atmosphere, and has good lighting. Using the same location each day will help you build a successful pattern.
3. Approaching your Quiet Time with an attitude of expectancy. You can expect God to show you activities you either need to start or stop and attitudes you need either to develop or change. God will teach you much about Himself.

B. Discipline yourself to accomplish a daily Quiet Time.

Look up 1 Timothy 4:7. God says we are to exercise ourselves unto G_____
_____.

The word “exercise” is translated from the Greek word *gumnazo*, from which we also get our words *gymnasium* and *gymnastics*. Our U.S.A. gymnastics team is a vivid example of disciplined training. In like manner a Christian is to discipline (train, exercise) himself to become godly.

IV. HOW DO I USE THE QUIET TIME SECTION OF MY SPIRITUAL JOURNAL?

A. Begin your Quiet Time with prayer.

This will be a brief prayer for understanding as you prepare to read God’s Word. The Psalmist said, “Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law” (Psalm 119:18).



B. Read the Scriptures.

Use a Bible reading schedule. It will pace you to read through the entire Bible. If you don’t, your Bible reading may become hit and-miss. A free Bible reading schedule is available for you on the tract rack at the church.

C. Record insights and make personal application.

Think about the meaning of what you read. Seek answers to such questions as:

- Who is speaking? To whom is he speaking?
- What is he speaking about? What is taking place?
- When is this taking place?
- Where is this taking place?
- Why is this happening? Why is he saying this?
- Write out a scriptural insight from your reading.

This may be something new you learned or something God impressed upon your heart. This insight doesn’t need to come from the entire passage you read; it might just come from one verse or a phrase within a verse. There is space provided to record this in your Spiritual Journal. Writing an insight down helps solidify it in your own thinking.

The discipline of journaling is becoming well known in the Christian community. To help you make a personal application, put on your spiritual eyeglasses and ask these questions (they can be remembered by the acrostic SPECTACLES).

Did God reveal any . . .

Sins to confess?

Promises to claim?

Examples to follow?

Commands to obey?

Truths to rejoice in?

A verse to memorize?

Challenges to face?

Lessons about God?

Errors to avoid?

Supplications (prayers) to utter?



As you write out your application, make it personal, specific, and measurable.

Write a brief prayer sentence from this insight.

D. Spend time in prayer.

Ask God to guide you throughout the day and to provide opportunities for you to apply what you have learned during your Quiet Time.

E. Review your memory verses.

Memorizing a verse from the Bible each week is an excellent way to grow spiritually. At the end of your Quiet Time review your verses from previous weeks.

V. SOME RULES FOR BIBLE STUDY.

A. Begin with a short prayer asking the Lord to teach you. Look up and write out Psalm 119:18. _____

This can be a model prayer for you.

B. Take every word on its primary, literal meaning – unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

Remember, God means what He says and says

what He means.

“When the plain sense makes common sense, seek no other sense, or it all becomes nonsense.”

C. Mark your Bible. Underline key verses. Write down other references in the margins.

D. Scripture always interprets Scripture (2 Corinthians 2:13) Always interpret an obscure passage in the light of a clear passage.

E. You MUST resolve to obey the Word of God as you read it and study it (John 15:14).

F. Treat the Bible as a personal letter from God. Read it expectantly – as a lover reads a love letter (Jeremiah 31:3).

G. When you cannot understand a passage of Scripture, remember you have pastors, teachers, and a discipler who care for you and who delight in teaching the Word of God. Call them, listen to them, and then check the Scriptures to see if what they say is so.

VI. SOME TEACHING ON PRAYER

A. What is prayer?

1. Look up Matthew 6:5-7. In your own words, tell what prayer is not. Prayer is not _____.

2. Look up Matthew 7:7a.

The word “pray” simply means “to A___.” Prayer is asking – it is the cry of a Christian unto God, the request of a child to his or her Father.

B. To whom do we pray?

Look up John 15:16; John 16:23; and Luke 11:2. To whom should we pray?

Note: Nowhere does the Bible teach us to repeat Luke 11:2-4. It is not the Lord’s prayer. (He never prayed it — it is a “model” prayer.)

C. In whose name do we pray?

Look up John 14:14 and John 16:24. We pray in the name of J_____.

D. What things may we ask for?

Matthew 6:11_____

James 1:5_____

2 Thessalonians 3:1_____

Acts 4:29_____

Psalm 34:4 _____
Psalm 119:18 _____
Psalm 119:133 _____

VII. A GOOD PATTERN IN PRAYER

There are many other things we can pray for; the above are some examples. As a general rule include the following in your prayer:

A doration – Adore God (pray verses of adoration)*

C onfession – Confess your sins to God

T hanksgiving – Thank God for His blessings

S upplication – Pray for (1) others and their needs, (2) yourself and your needs* 1 Chronicles 29:11-14; Jeremiah 32:17-19; Revelation 4:11; Revelation 5:12-13

A. Adoration – Praising God for Who He is (Psalm 34:1) “I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”



A wonderful way to begin a time of prayer is by expressing praise to God! In a prayer of adoration, you express your deep feelings toward God in response to His love, wisdom, presence, power, knowledge, grace, holiness, greatness, and His other divine attributes. This kind of prayer will always be an occasion for joy.

Remember that our adoration must be reserved for God, not for projects, ministries, or works done in His name. When you are in His will, the desire to praise Him will come naturally. Memorize choice passages on praising God and use them as you adore Him (1 Chronicles 29:11-14; Exodus 15:11; Isaiah 6:3; Jeremiah 32:17-19; Revelation 4:11; 5:12-13).

B. Confession – Agreeing with God about your sin (1 John 1:9) “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

When you trusted Jesus Christ as Savior, a special relationship was established between you and God. He became your heavenly Father, and you became His adopted child. That relationship is eternal.

However, through our self-centered and sinful decisions in life we strain the quality of that relationship and fellowship with God is broken. It is confession that restores the privilege of that wonderful fellowship.

Both sin and righteousness are the result of personal decisions, so confession that is based upon genuine repentance will be proven by a change in your daily life. For this reason, your greatest spiritual victories will normally come as the result of this honest, cleansing kind of prayer. Your confession and repentance need to be specific.

C. Thanksgiving – Expressing gratitude to God for what He has done

(1 Thessalonians 5:18) “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

The average Christian probably spends too much time asking and too little time thanking. Paul’s admonition to “give thanks in Illustrate this heavenly Father/(us) relationship by the parent/child relationship that we are familiar with. A child is born into a family.

Nothing can sever that relationship. Your father will always be your father though fellowship with your father can be broken and you no longer enjoy that relationship.

everything” reflects the maturity of his Christian life. He had been shipwrecked, beaten, hungry, severely criticized, and imprisoned – yet, he could honestly write those words. Why? Because his heart was filled with gratitude! He expressed it like this:

(Philippians 3:7-8) “But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. {8} Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,”

Prayer provides the opportunity to express our deepest emotions and feelings to God. How long has it been since your heart was overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude?

D. Supplication – Praying for the needs of others

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

(1 Samuel 12:23) “Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:”

When Christ enters our lives, it becomes our spontaneous desire to seek God’s blessings for those around us. This is called “supplication” or “intercession.” It would probably be safe to say that the most consistent intercessory praying which we do focuses on the spiritual needs of relatives, friends, and neighbors.

Many of those we intercede for are lost. Others are Christians living beneath the resources and privileges freely available to God’s children. In each of these instances, intercessory prayer is a ministry of love. Through intercession, any Christian can be mightily used of God to affect the cause of evangelism worldwide. Whatever our physical condition, we can all be a part of God’s powerful army of prayer.

E. Keep an on-going prayer list.

1. Keep a prayer list with your Bible on which to write down any definite requests you have - special family needs, church needs, and the special requests other Christians may share with you.
2. Don’t forget to write down the answers as they come.

LESSON 5: THE WORD OF GOD

What is the “authority” in your life? Those who believe something must have a reason for their beliefs. Just as there are standards in the business world, in the government, and in education – the Christian needs an absolute standard for his beliefs, his duties – indeed, his whole conduct. Many people have as their authority their inner-CONSCIENCE. “Let your conscience be your guide!” they say. This sounds good, but according to Titus 1:15 the conscience may be D_____; according to 1 Timothy 4:2, S_____ and according to 1 Corinthians 8:7 W_____.

Other people, especially religious folk, have the “CHURCH” or man-made CREEDS as their authority. Such standards are unreliable because man is involved. Colossians 2:8 warns us against P_____ and Matthew 15:3,6,9 warns us against T_____.

For the Christian, only the BIBLE (the Word of God) is the unchanging authority for faith and practice.

This study will teach you what the Bible is, why you can take it as your authority, and how to use it as a child of God.

I. WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

A. The Bible is a collection of ___ books, divided into two major sections known as the OLD and NEW _____.

B. Other names given to the Bible are:

1. The _____ . Romans 10:17
2. The H_____ S_____ . 2 Timothy 3:15

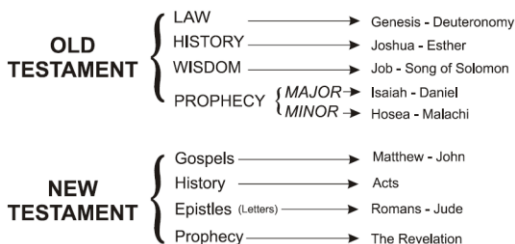
C. The Bible is God’s revelation of Himself and His ways to man. He reveals:

1. His character – the sovereign God of the universe. He is the standard of absolute holiness.
2. His divine judgment for sin and disobedience.
3. His divine blessing for faith and obedience.
4. His redemption of mankind through Jesus Christ as the sacrifice for sin.

5. His eternal plan for the ages – an eternal kingdom of righteous people over which He will rule.

D. The Books of the Bible are not arranged chronologically, but rather “topically.” Both of the Testaments have their books set in groups.

(All new Christians experience difficulty at first in finding the books of the Bible, especially during a preaching service. Don’t be embarrassed to use the index in the front of your Bible or to accept the assistance of another Christian. The more you use your Bible the sooner you will become familiar with the location of its books.)



E. The Old Testament reveals God’s creation of the universe and then focuses on the nation of Israel, His chosen people. It covers:

1. Creation of the universe
2. Fall of man
3. Flood Judgment over the earth
4. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel) – fathers of the chosen nation
5. The history of Israel [exile in Egypt (430 years), Exodus and wilderness wanderings (40 years), Conquest of Canaan (7 years), Era of the Judges (350 years), United Kingdom under Saul, David, Solomon (110 years), Divided Kingdom of Judah & Israel Encourage them to memorize the books of the Bible in order. (350 years), Exile in Babylon (70 years), Return and rebuilding the nation (140 years)].

F. The period of history which falls between the closing of the Old Testament and the opening of the New is called “The Intertestamental Period.” This is not a Biblical name, but it identifies a period of history. Some Bible scholars call it “The 400 Silent Years.” During this time God did not speak to man through prophets nor inspire the writing of Scripture. This silence was broken when God sent John the Baptist. He was the prophesied forerunner of Jesus Christ. Through John, Jesus Christ, the Apostles, the Holy Spirit, and the Church, God has spoken volumes to reveal Himself.

1. The New Testament completed God’s written revelation. When it was finished, God said, “If any man shall A__ __ unto these things, God shall add unto him the P_____ that are written in this book” (Revelation 22:18).

2. The New Testament covers the life of Christ, the establishment, growth, and multiplication of the local New Testament church, and God’s proclamation of future events. The focus of the New Testament is on Jesus Christ, then the Church.

II. HOW DID WE RECEIVE THE BIBLE?

The Bible is not just a book, it is THE Book – different from any other book that has or will be written. The Bible is a SUPERNATURAL book because of the way in which God gave it to mankind.

A. Look up and write out 2 Peter 1:21.

This verse of Scripture teaches three important facts concerning how we got the Bible.

1. It wasn’t made up by men – “... came not by the W__ __ __ of man...”

2. Men of God wrote the Bible – “... holy men of God spoke...”

3. God authored the Bible – “... as they were M__ __ __ by the Holy Ghost.”
Over 2000 times in the Old Testament alone, the Bible asserts that God spoke what is written within its pages.

B. God used human writers to pen His Words.

1. God employed over 40 men from all walks of life to record the Bible. This was accomplished over a period of 1,600 years.

2. Most of the Old Testament was originally written in HEBREW. The New Testament was originally written in GREEK.

C. God authored the Bible.

God wrote & man wrote? A good way to illustrate this miracle is to consider how you would write things down on paper. First, it is the pen that actually does the writing – but it only writes as you move it. Second, the characteristics of the script will depend on the kind of pen or writing instrument you use.

Write your name down on paper using a “fine ball-point pen,” a “felt-tip marking pen,” and a paintbrush – note there will be the same words, but a different appearance! (2 Peter 1:21) “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

1. The way in which God gave us the Bible is called INSPIRATION. Inspiration means “breathed out by God.”

2. The Holy Spirit moved the human writers of the Bible in such a way that they recorded the very words of God, though couched in their own literary style. God limited Himself to their knowledge, their vocabulary, their experiences, as He told them what to write.

3. Because the Bible is the INSPIRED Word of God, we must accept it as the authority for all we believe and do.

· BEWARE of men who say, “The Bible BECOMES the Word of God” when it speaks to you personally. Read Matthew 5:18; 24:35, and 1 Corinthians 2:13. According to these passages, God has inspired the W_____ (not just the ideas and thoughts).

BEWARE of men who say, “The Bible CONTAINS the Word of God,” meaning there are parts of it which are not God’s Word. Look up 2 Timothy 3:16. According to this verse, how much of the Bible is inspired? A_____

4. Because the Bible is the inspired Word of God, it is T_____ from beginning to end (Psalm 119:160).

D. God directed men to compile the separate books of the Bible.

1. The first book of the Bible was written approximately 1405 BC, and the last one was written around AD 95. Throughout this time God progressively revealed Himself and His purposes in the inspired Scriptures. How do we know which books of sacred writings were supposed to be included in the Bible?

2. Over the centuries, three widely recognized principles were used to validate those writings that came as a result of divine revelation and inspiration.

Which books go in the Bible?

- Test #1 – the writing had to have a recognized prophet or apostle as its author (or one closely associated with them).
- Test #2 – the writing could not disagree with or contradict previous Scripture.

- Test #3 – the writing had to have general consensus by the church as an inspired book. When various councils in church history met to consider the canon (Bible), they did not vote for the canonicity of a book but rather recognized, after the fact, what God had already written.

3. The Old Testament had, by the time of Christ, been written and accepted in the Jewish community. The Old Testament canon of Christ's day confirms our own, and it does not contain the 14 uninspired and spurious Apocryphal books. The Apocrypha is neither cited by any New Testament writer, nor did Jesus affirm any of it.

III. DO WE HAVE THE BIBLE TODAY?

The original manuscripts of the Bible have been long lost. Does this mean we no longer have the pure Word of God?

A. Look up Psalm 119:89, Isaiah 40:8 and Matthew 24:35.

1. Not only did God give us His Word, but He also promised to preserve it until the end of the world.

2. According to Isaiah 40:8, the Word of God will stand F___ E___.

3. Matthew 24:35 says God's Word will not P___ A___.

4. God anticipated the battle that would rage over the Bible. Satan denied God's Word to Eve (Genesis 3:4), King Jehoiakim of Judah actually tried to destroy it (Jeremiah 36:23), and it's destruction has been the edict of kings and emperors ever since. Godless, atheistic governments have banned it.

B. How has God preserved His Word?

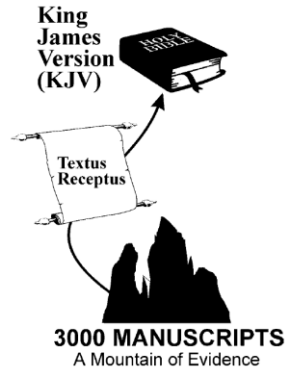
God has providentially kept His Word from destruction and corruption in two ways:

1. Through the centuries, the Lord has raised up men with a love for His Word to keep it from harm. Zealous Jewish patriots, and then later, simple Bible-loving Christians, have kept the Scriptures available to all generations. Satan has, on numerous occasions, attempted to remove the Bible from the face of the earth. Hellish decrees have seen the Bible banned, burned, banished, and battered by scornful men.

2. The Hebrew text of the Old Testament has been faithfully preserved by meticulous Jewish scribes – it is called the Masoretic Text. The Greek text of the New Testament has been faithfully preserved in what is called the Textus Receptus, or Received Text.

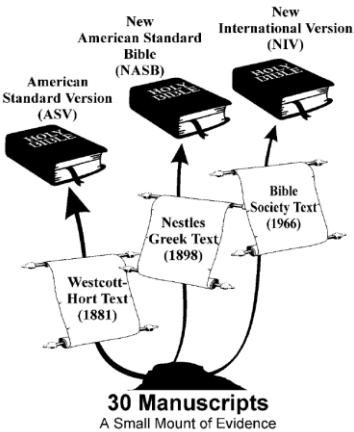
Over 3,000 ancient manuscripts of the New Testament, along with 2,000+ lectionaries (selected readings) still exist today – the majority of them attesting to the Received Text.

3. Beware of all other translations such as the Revised Standard Version (RSV), the New International Version (NIV), the New American Standard Version (NASB), Good News Bible, the New English Bible – they are all based upon inferior manuscripts (see diagram below).



If you don't already possess a Bible, you may purchase one from our church bookstore. The cost of Bibles range from a few dollars to one hundred dollars – depending on the quality of paper and the type of binding.

C. Do we need to know Hebrew and Greek to understand the Bible?



Mastery of the original languages will always yield a rich understanding of Scripture. However, we have the preserved Word of God in our language.

With the preponderance of Bible helps (commentaries, word studies, Bible histories and geographies, Bible customs and manners, lexicons, interlinears, and so on) any diligent student of the Scriptures can learn the Bible without learning Hebrew and Greek. The Bible was written for you, not for the textual critic. God gave us the Scriptures

to learn of Him and obey; they're not just for the academic exercise of study.

1. The version of the Bible translated from the Masoretic Text and the Textus Receptus is the King James Version, also known as the Authorized Version.

2. When you hold a copy of the King James Version (KJV), you hold in your hands the Word of God. Its textual script is the most authenticated rendering of the English Bibles.

D. Have critics of the Bible harmed the authority of the Scriptures in any way?

Absolutely not! In fact, history, geology, archeology, and sciences in general are all on the side of the Bible. They attest to its accuracy. Though the Bible is not

primarily a history book or a science book; it is historically and scientifically accurate. The science of archeology has repeatedly validated the accuracy of the Biblical record of historical events. There have always been skeptics with their theories. Their theories crumble and the skeptics die – the Bible stands!

*Last eve I paused beside the blacksmith's door,
 And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime.
 Then looking down I saw upon the floor,
 Old hammers worn with beating years of time.
 How many anvils have you used, said I,
 To wear and batter all these hammers so?
 Just one, said he, and then with twinkling eye,
 The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.
 Just so, thought I, the anvil of God's Word
 For ages skeptics' blows have beat upon.
 And though the noise of falling blows was heard,
 The anvil is unharmed, the hammers – gone!*

IV. WHY DO WE NEED THE BIBLE?

A. Look up 1 Peter 2:2; Matthew 4:4; Psalm 19:10.

According to these Scriptures, the Bible is our spiritual F_____.

B. Read Hebrews 4:12 & Ephesians 6:17. The Bible is our spiritual S_____.

C. Look up Psalm 119:11. This verse says the Bible keeps us from S_____.

D. Look up Psalm 119:105.

According to this Scripture, the Bible is life's:

_____ (Use your own words.)

E. Look up 2 Timothy 3:16. The Bible is profitable for:

D_____ (what is right); R_____ (what is not right);

C_____ (how to get right) & I_____ in righteousness (how to keep right).

F. Look up 1 Thessalonians 4:18 and Psalm 119:50. The Word of God is for our

C_____.

V. WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THE BIBLE?

A. John 5:39; Acts 17:11 _____

B. 2 Timothy 2:15 _____

C. James 1:22 _____

D. 1 Corinthians 2:13 _____

E. Psalm 1:2; Joshua 1:8 _____

F. Psalm 119:11 _____

You may wish to write the following statement in your Bible as a wise reminder:

THIS BOOK WILL KEEP YOU FROM SIN — OR SIN WILL KEEP YOU FROM THIS BOOK.”

While history shows many famous ‘Bible haters’ who later became ‘Bible lovers,’ it never records the opposite. To take this a step further, it can be shown that no evil and murderous dictator or tyrant in history was ever a friend of the Bible and that no good and wise leader was ever an enemy of God’s Word. Thus to deny the authority of the Bible is to set oneself against practically every great leader in Western civilization.” – Wilmington’s Guide to the Bible, page 798

LESSON 6: STEWARDSHIP

This lesson goes right to the heart of your relationship with God. Many Christians are “found out” here because their lives are motivated by SELF rather than the SPIRIT of God.

Salvation is a free gift from God! Eternal security is a sure promise of God! In other words, we DO NOTHING to get saved or to remain saved. Praise God for this!

When we are born again, we are adopted into the family of God. We are His children, and He is our Heavenly Father. In any family, the children have responsibilities, and in this study you are going to learn about one of your own responsibilities as a member of God’s family.

I. PRINCIPLES OF STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is defined as managing another's property or financial affairs; administering anything as the agent of another or others. Ultimately, all that we have was created, provided, and sustained by God. He has graciously allowed us to have stewardship over it.

Before you progress into this lesson, it is vital that you see and understand some principles.

A. Principle #1: Everything belongs to ___ ___ ___ – Psalm 24:1; Haggai 2:9; & Exodus 19.

B. Principle # 2: Stewardship is that management of the affairs of another – Genesis 39:1-6.

Who was the master in the story? - _____

Who was the servant in this story? - _____

According to verse 4, what was Joseph made? - _____

4. According to verse 4, what was put into Joseph’s hand? – Potiphar’s house and everything Potiphar put into Joseph’s _____.

C. Principle # 3: Every Christian is a steward – Matthew 25:14-15.

The LORD has entrusted His wealth to Christians.

D. Principle # 4: Stewards are required to be found _____ – 1
Corinthians 4:1–2

Faithful means strict or thorough in the performance of duty; true to one's word, promises, vows, etc.; steady in allegiance or affection; loyal constant;; reliable, trusted, or believed.)

II. AREAS OF STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is a subject that is often misunderstood. Many think it relates only to money. Money is part of God's plan for stewardship, and it is important enough to be discussed in some detail later – but it is only part of God's overall plan in this matter.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Everything good thing we have is called a GIFT which come from God. As stewards, we are responsible to God in the use of such things. We have been made stewards of the obvious areas listed below (TIME, TALENTS, TESTIMONY, and TREASURE).

A. Stewardship of TIME

Time maybe our most precious resource today... more than other resources such as money, gifts, etc.

Ephesians 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

THIS MEANS WE ARE TO MAKE EVERY MINUTE COUNT FOR GOD.

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Our Earthly lifetime is compared as a vapor.

Read Romans 13: 11-14 and see that Christians should be ever ready – not wasting any time!

2 Timothy 2:4a speaks to one of the greatest problems for Christians in time management: “No man that warreth _____ himself with the affairs of this life.

What are some ways that we get ourselves caught up in the affairs of this life that can take us away from service and worship of our God?

CHURCH SHOULD NOT BE MISSED

According to Hebrews 10:25, assembling at church is something that God says we should not _____.



How much time / week do you give to God? How much time do you give?

Suggested:

Your Time:

o Sunday School 1 hour _____

o Sunday Services (AM & PM) 2.15 hours _____

o Daily Devotions 3.5 hours (1/2 hour per day) _____

o Family Devotions/Prayer 1.25 (15 minutes 5x weekly) _____

o Mid-week Services 1.25 hour _____

o Visitation/Outreach 1.75 hour _____

Suggested Total 11 hours Your Total: _____

This represents 10% of our waking time during any week or about 15% of non-work “available” time assuming a 40 hour work week!

B. Stewardship of our TALENTS (referred to in terms of money but really addresses money and for this section, one’s ABILITY.)

Read Matthew 25:12-30 and answers the questions below:

1. What did the Lord give to His servants? - _____
2. Did every servant receive a talent? - _____
3. Did every servant receive the same number of talents? - _____
4. What was the Lord’s basis of dispensing responsibility to His servants?
5. According to verse 19, what did the Lord do when He came back?

[THIS IS IMPORTANT – Don't judge your actions by what others do but by the talents God gave you!]

6. What did the Lord say to those good stewards? [made them rulers over more]

7. Answer the following:

- o Have I been given at least one talent? _____
- o What is your talent (if known)? _____
- o Am I using my talent(s) for Christ? _____
- o Will I have to give an account to the Lord for my talent? _____
- o What will happen if I misuse my talent(s)? _____

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

EACH individual church member is like a part of the human body.

- We each cannot all be the same (v.19).
- God has put you in this church for a definite function (v.18).
- Every member of our Church is _____ (v.22).

C. Stewardship of our TESTIMONY

Philippians 2:15 teaches us that we are to “_____ as lights in the world.”

Matthew 5:14-16 says that we are to let our “light shine before _____.”

In 1 Peter 3:15 it says we are to “be ready always to give an _____ to every man that asketh.”

The believer must realize that there is a calling on his life and that God wants him to be a good testimony in this world and be a ready witness – as stewards of the mysteries of God.

D. Stewardship of Our TREASURE (money)

The same principles of stewardship which apply to our time, talents, and testimony are given for the management of our money.



ALL the money you have and receive IS FROM GOD and IS GOD'S.

Deuteronomy 8:18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for *it is* he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as *it is* this day.

Even though we may earn our money through the labor we put forth, this verse tells us it is the “LORD THY GOD” Who gives us the power (ability) to get money. The stewardship of God’s money is usually referred to in the Bible as Tithes and Offerings.

A. What is a tithe?

The tithe means quite literally “one tenth.” Biblically, it is to give “one tenth” of the increase that God has given to us. Each of us have stewardship over 100% of our increase (our income). God commands us that we should give Him back 10% and do as we wish with the other 90%.



The first mention of tithe (a tenth) is in Genesis 14:20 where Abraham meets Melchizedek on his return from the defeat of the kings who had attacked Sodom and carried Lot away captive. Melchizedek is identified as not only the king of Salem, but a priest of the Most High God. In the brief account it seems clear that Abraham gave him a tenth in recognition that the Most High God

had delivered his enemies into his hand, and therefore really owned the spoil resulting from the victory.

Tithing is found throughout the Word of God. People mistakenly believe that “tithing” is strictly part of the Law of the Old Testament and is not applicable to the New Testament Believer. This is not accurate.

B. The Law does teach that Old Testament Saints are to give their tithe.

According to Leviticus 27:30 we are to give “_____ the tithe of the land...”

In Proverbs 3:9-10 the Bible teaches us that when we give we are to give “the _____ of all our increase.” But praise the Lord, it is always with promise of God providing what we need. He says in verse 10 that “our barns will be filled with _____.”

C. Tithing was confirmed and continued in the New Testament.

While Jesus Christ spent much time preaching and taught a vast amount of doctrine and at times suspended things such as the Sabbath – his teaching and preaching only confirmed the practice of tithing to God in passages such as Matthew 23:23 & Luke 11:42.

D. Tithing in the New Testament

When Christ made many changes, additions in the New Testament such as: comparing murder to hating your brother; lusting is as the sin of adultery; and he suspended the Sabbath. But he never adjusted or suspended the tithe. If anything he confirmed it and talked more about faithful giving.

Luke 11:42 But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Matthew 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier *matters* of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Many times when we hear about stewardship or giving we immediately tense up. We begin to search for the many things in our lives that keep us from being good stewards.

* If I had a better job, I'd be able to give more.

* If old aunt Bessie would kick the bucket, I'd have some money to give.

* If I could get out of debt, I would give more.

In 1 Corinthians 16 there is An Exhortation - a command, a call to get believers involved in giving. Giving is a Christian responsibility and privilege like prayer and worship and fellowship. Those who are serious about their walk with God know generous giving is a truth straight from God's Word.

Read the following verses and then answer the questions that follow

1 Corinthians 16:2 Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Malachi 3:8-10 ⁸ Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. ⁹ Ye *are* cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, *even* this whole nation. ¹⁰ Bring ye all the tithes

into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

Where should a Christian place their tithe?

Malachi 3:10 commands that the believer should “Bring ye all the tithes into the _____.”

The storehouse” for Old Testament Jews was the treasury of the Temple at Jerusalem. The storehouse in the New Testament is the local church.

What is promised when we tithe? Malachi 3:10 says that God will “_____ you out a blessing.”

When is the believer to give? According to 1 Corinthians 6:2 we are to give “On the _____ day of the week.”

1 Corinthians 9:13-14 ¹³ Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live *of the things* of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? ¹⁴ Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

Verse 13 relates to the Old Testament practice, and verse 14 carries this principle over to the New Testament churches. Your tithes and offerings are for the support, upkeep, and ministry of your church. Tithes should NEVER be designated – they are to be left free for use as the church needs to.

F. According to Malachi 3:8 – What does God call us if we refuse to tithe?

G. Read Malachi 3:10 - What promise does God give those who faithfully tithe? _____

H. Who does the Tithe belong to? _____ **Leviticus 27:30** And all the tithe of the land, *whether* of the seed of the land, *or* of the fruit of the tree, *is* the LORD'S: *it is* holy unto the LORD.

Ten percent of your gross income is NOT YOURS – it belongs to God. The other 90% is under our care to be good stewards of as we see fit.

I. How can I please the Lord when tithing?

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
Give the Lord FIRST place in everything.

Proverbs 3:9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

1 Corinthians 16:2 Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Sunday and tithing come on the first day of the week since GOD IS FIRST!

What about an “offering”? Many people feel they have done God a great favor just by tithing. But we do not give the tithe – it is not ours to give. Only after faithfully tithing can we give an offering.

Malachi 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Tithing requires an obedient heart but offerings (giving) requires a willing heart.

Exodus 35:5 Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever *is* of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass,

The Bible refers to offerings as FREE-WILL offerings. **Ezra 1:4** And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that *is* in Jerusalem.

What kind of giver does the Lord love? **2 Corinthians 9:7** Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

If we tithe and also give an offering, will the Lord allow us to suffer and go without the necessities of life?

2 Corinthians 9:8 And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

LESSON 7: SEPARATION

The issue of “separation” is one of the distinguishing features of Bible-believing Baptists. It is a subject which has to do with the way we live, the way we conduct ourselves as a Church – and yes, standards!

Such a study could easily become just a list of taboos – but that is only part of what the Lord intends. As you enter into this study of the Bible, it is important for you to grasp the principles involved as well as the practices.

We are living in a world of rapidly declining moral and spiritual standards. This decay is seriously affecting Christians and churches to the point that it is often difficult to tell Christians from non-Christians!

I. WHAT IS MEANT BY SEPARATION?

A. When the Bible says something is holy it conveys that it has been set apart:

When we say that God is holy, this means He is “set apart” from all His creation in righteousness. When we say that the Bible is holy, we mean it is “set apart” from all other books. When we are taught to sanctify the Lord in our hearts, this means we are to set God apart from idols.

B. There are two aspects to separation in your life:

Positional separation – We been set apart unto God. In Hebrews 10:10 it says that “we are _____” (set apart) through Christ.

Practical separation – As a Christian I choose to be set apart unto God. **1 Peter 1:14b-15** As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation [conduct];

C. There are two parts of separation (different sides of the same coin):

Separation to the Lord. **Romans 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

Separation from Ungodliness. **Romans 12:2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

II. THE BASIS OF PRACTICAL SEPARATION

A. The basis God's nature:

1 Peter 1:16 says: "Be ye _____ for I am; _____."

B. The basis of redemption [your redemption has been paid for by Jesus Christ – you have been BOUGHT by Christ]: Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

C. The basis of regeneration [After being bought by Christ, He has regenerated you into something new].

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 we read that once someone has accepted Christ "he is a new _____."

III. SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD.

John 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

The believer is IN the world but NOT OF the world – because the Lord chose us OUT OF the world. [Practical separation does not mean we are to live a cloistered life or have nothing to do with unsaved people.

1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

The believer is to "love not" the world, neither the things that are in the world.

When the Bible speaks of "the world" in this sense, it does not mean God's creation, His material provisions, etc. It refers to the "world system", which is the dominion of Satan.

1 John 2:16 For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. It defines the world as:

i. The lust of the _____.

ii. The lust of the _____.

iii. The pride of _____.

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

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the _____ of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Young people need to be especially careful concerning this.

Romans 12:2 And be not _____ to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself _____ from the world.

A worldly Christian is one given over to pleasing the “flesh,” the old sinful nature. The works of the flesh are listed in Galatians 5:19-

IV. SOME AREAS OF PERSONAL SEPARATION.

A. The things I will allow my eyes to see:

Psalm 101:3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; *it* shall not cleave to me.

What are some wicked things to be seen today? _____

Job 31:1 I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?

Areas of personal separation applies to many common practices such as:

- Movies & televisions (violence, adultery, drunkenness, witchcraft, and all kinds of perverted and ungodly living)
- Internet
- Books and magazines

B. The places I will allow myself to go:

We are taught that the Lord Jesus Christ may come at any moment, and that we should never be ashamed to meet Him [1 John 2:28 - And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.]

There are many places the Christian should not go... establishments whose business it is to exploit man's vices (human nature) for entertainment.

C. How I present myself:

Clothing – The area of fashion is a difficult one especially for Christian women. This is difficult because fashions go through such extreme – from weird to conservative, from short-short to ankle length, from modest to provocative, etc. The Bible does give some clear instruction in this matter.

1 Corinthians 7:31 And they that use this world, as not abusing *it*: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

1 Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;
Not only women, but men today are consumed with making statements and being flashy with apparel rather than their character.

Bare thighs (mini-skirts, and shorts) is equated with nakedness. Read Isaiah 47:1-3.

Hair length – the Bible teaches men should have short hair (uncovered and women should wear their hair long (as a covering) to honor her husband. Read 1 Corinthians 11:6-16.

Maineville Baptist Church recommends these principles when it comes to our clothing and testimony in the world:

1. Modesty – No revealing or tight clothing. Nothing flashy to draw attention.
2. Line of demarcation between men and women – men should dress like men and women should dress like women. We should avoid unisex clothes or anything doubtful.
3. Line of demarcation between the Christian and the world – Do we look like a Christian or do we look like a lost person? It should be obvious.
4. Heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. – We are children of God; we should dress and act like it.



Your Pastor and teachers keep a standard when leading, teaching and preaching at church. Men wear ties and suit jackets and women wear knee length skirts and dresses. If these standards are good at church, we should also implement them in our daily lives as well. With purpose – dress like men and women; dress with modesty; dress as a Christian should as a child of God.

Deuteronomy 22:5 The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so *are* _____ unto the LORD thy God.

Proverbs 7:10-11¹⁰ And, behold, there met him a woman *with* the _____ of an harlot, and subtil of heart. ¹¹ (She *is* loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:

D. The things I will say:

No _____ communication: Ephesians 4:29

The swearing and cussing of our generation is wicked and sinful and should not be used by the Christian. It is a terrible testimony for God.

Christ centered speech – **Ephesians 5:19** Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Speak with grace [elegance or beauty of form]. **Colossians 4:5** Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

DO NOT TAKE THE LORD's Name in vain (3rd Commandment)!

E. The people I will associate with:

Psalm 1:1 Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of _____, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

1 Corinthians 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep _____, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

Proverbs 22:24 Make no _____ with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

Don't associate with gossips or busybodies: **1 Timothy 5:13** And withal they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house;

and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

V. SEPARATION IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIPS

Do not be unequally _____ with unbelievers: **2 Corinthians 6:14** Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

The most important application of this principle is marriage. It is both wrong and dangerous for someone who is a Christian to date an unsaved person. It is a sin for a Christian to marry a non-Christian. If you are desiring to get married, first pray and ask God to direct you; then get godly counsel from your parents, pastor, and look at church first (or other Baptist churches of like faith).

VI. SEPARATION IN RELIGIOUS MATTERS

We are living in an ecumenical age where all religions and branches of Christianity are coming together in religious unity. When Bible believing Baptists refuse to have part with the World Council of Churches, or fellowship with non-Baptist religious groups, or even work together with other Baptists, they are often called narrow minded, unloving, or extremists. Read scripture to see what the Word of God says:

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be _____?

2 John 1:9-10⁹ Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth _____ in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him God speed:

Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the _____ which ye have learned; and avoid them.

According to this passage, we are to mark those who cause divisions and offenses contrary to doctrine and avoid them.

THREE EXCUSES CHRISTIANS USE FOR NOT LIVING SEPARATE LIVES.

Excuse #1: Other Christians don't have your standards. Many Christians see nothing wrong with rock music, worldly fashions, questionable amusements,

etc. – but this does not make them right! We need to study the Bible and form Bible-based convictions; then live by them.

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is _____. See 1 John 2:3-6.

Excuse #2: The most important thing is to win souls, and to do this I must be acceptable to the lost.

NO! You need to please your Lord. It is NEVER right to do wrong in order to accomplish a right! Read: **1 Thessalonians 5:22** Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Excuse #3: I have liberty in Christ (because I am saved...)

True, but Christian liberty is NOT license. Liberty is the freedom to do right – never the freedom to do anything! Rather our freedom is to choose to serve God with our lives.

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

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

1 Corinthians 10:23 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things _____ not.

Be careful to never use Christian liberty as a _____ block.

1 Corinthians 8:9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

VIII. PRINCIPLES FOR LIVING A SEPARATED LIFE.

A. Is it scriptural? Does the Word of God have anything directly to say on the manner? **Psalms 119:15** I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy _____.

B. According to Colossians 3:17, all that I do is in the _____ of the Lord; therefore I need to be careful of my testimony.

C. In Romans 14:21, we see that we should be careful not to cause a brother _____ by what we allow ourselves to do.

D. Do I have doubts about it? When in doubt... don't do it! Read Romans 14:22-23 (from verse 21) which defines doubt as lack of faith which is sin:

E. Believers should _____ what is acceptable to God: Ephesians 5:1.

LESSON 8: BEING A WITNESS

One of the great responsibilities of every believer is to be a witness for Jesus Christ. Being a witness means to testify concerning what we have seen or what we have experienced. As a believer we have received the forgiveness of sin and eternal life. This is the message that we are to bare witness about to others who do not know about the forgiveness that is in Jesus Christ.

I. THE CONVICTION OF BEING A WITNESS

A. WHO SHOULD BE A WITNESS?

Every Believer. In the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) the “ye” in “Go ye therefore” refers to every disciple present as well as every believer today.

B. WHY SHOULD WE WITNESS?

Because we were commanded to do it.

In Matthew 28:18-20 the Lord commissions His church to go reach the world with the Gospel of Christ that they might be saved, see them baptized, and see that they grow and are disciplined as well.

Though Christ Jesus was meek and lowly and kind and compassionate he has still commanded us to do a job, it was not a suggestion, it was an order.

Where would we be today, except someone else obeyed Christ’s command? 2 Corinthians 1:4 We are comforted in order to comfort others.

Because if we do not go who will?

Because when people die without Christ, they go to hell for eternity.

C. HOW SHOULD WE BE A WITNESS?

Faithfully

Talk to people you know. Talk to people you meet. Go out weekly with the church for their outreach time. Have a goal of passing out 5 tracts while you are in a store or a place of business. The most important thing is to consistently go and tell the lost about Christ.

Being Soul-conscious

Realize that everyone you meet as a soul that is either going to go to heaven or to hell.

Ask God to lead you into a conversation with someone at church, or offer them advice on how they could take care of a problem, through Jesus Christ.

People are complainers, they always have problems, Jesus is the answer.

The most important word in the Great Commission is “GO”

Walking in the Spirit's power and depending on the Lord and not our own wisdom.

With Compassion

Jude 22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

D. WHERE SHOULD WE SEEK TO BE A WITNESS?

Mark 16:15 says “Go ye into all the _____.” (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-21; Mark 16:15)

II. WHAT KEY POINTS MUST BE DELIVERED?

MBC Soulwinning Plan

A. Show them God wants them to know that they have eternal life.

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

2 Peter 3:9 – God’s not willing for anyone to go to hell

B. Show them that they are a sinner.

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: **Romans 3:23** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Romans 5:12 – Original Sin

Revelations 20:12 – There will be a Judgment Day

C. Show them the wages of sin is death.

Romans 6:23a For the wages of sin is death;

Revelation 21:8 – For all sinners

Revelation 20:12-15 – The second death is Hell

D. Show them Christ died to pay their sin debt.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 2:1-2 – Propitiation (payment)

E. Show them that if they repent of their sin and place their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, He will save them.

Romans 10:9-10, 13 ⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation... ¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

John 3:3, 16

F. Ask them if they are willing to put their faith in Christ right now and follow the Lord today.

Lead them in a prayer, encouraging them to call upon Jesus Christ to save them from their sin and to take Him as their Lord and Savior.

I want to lead you in a prayer, so that you can tell God what you are doing and receive him as your Lord and Savior.

Sample prayer to have repeated:

Dear Lord Jesus I am know that I am a sinner, I know I have sinned against you...

I repent of my sin and ask your forgiveness.

I believe that you died on the cross to pay for my sins, and I believe that your rose from the grave.

Today I place my faith in you, come into my life and take me to heaven when I die. Thank you, in Jesus' name, Amen!

G. Thank God for their salvation and review with them what they did.

John 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

LESSON 9: THE FAMILY

The Bible teaches that God has two institutions – the HOME and the CHURCH. Nothing should be more important to a Christian than these two places, for they are ordained of God. The Home and the Church are complementary. The strongest home is one that is built around a church, and the strongest church is one that is made up of families who attend regularly and serve God faithfully. Christ and His church are a focal point for spiritual growth, for fellowship, and for family activities. Faithful attendance to the local church by committed believers makes the church an ideal place for building family unity. There is a mutual benefit for both the families and the church.

It is little wonder, then, that Satan’s arena of diabolic activity is in our homes and in the churches. This is truly an age when many “homes are on the rocks – instead of on ‘THE ROCK’.”



The Bible is a very practical book and has much to say about the home. God has a definite blueprint for your family and home. Rather than a long study, this short lesson will identify some godly principles for you to follow.

I. THE FIRST HOME

Open your Bible to Genesis 2:15-25 and read this passage carefully.

- A. What did God say was not good for man? _____
- B. How was the first woman made? _____
- C. In this passage, God says the woman is to be an H___ M___ for the man. (This means that the woman completes the man; she is a “helper suitable” to him.)
- D. In marriage, what is the couple to leave? _____
- E. In marriage, what is the couple to become? _____
- F. Look up Matthew 19:4-6. What did the Lord Jesus Christ say concerning the permanency of the marriage relationship?
- _____

Summary:

God instituted marriage. The man and the woman are to leave their families and cling to one another.

They become one.

This is a permanent relationship (“until death do us part”). A Christian couple should not entertain thoughts of divorce.

Read Genesis 2:15-25. Marriage as we know it in our culture finds its roots in these verses of God’s Word. This is where it started.

G. Look up Romans 7:1-3. According to God’s plan for marriage, the bond of marriage was to be broken by D_____.

H. Look up Hebrews 13:4a. What two things does God say are honorable?

1. M_____.

2. The bed U_____ (i.e., marital intimacy).

I. According to Hebrews 13:4, what does God judge?

W_____ (fornicators) & A_____

God is serious about sexual purity! An unmarried couple may live together or sleep together and be justified in the eyes of many, but God says He will judge such activity. Our world is obsessed with sex; God’s people live by a higher standard. The pornography publisher maintains, “Sex is a function of the body, a drive which man shares with animals, like eating, drinking, and sleeping. It’s a physical demand that must be satisfied. If you don’t satisfy it, you will have all sorts of neuroses and repressive psychoses. Sex is here to stay; let’s forget the prudery that makes us hide from it. Throw away those inhibitions, find a girl who’s like-minded and let yourself go.”

A thoughtful person will see the foolishness of such rhetoric, such as, extramarital pregnancies, forcible rapes, illegitimate births, and venereal diseases of all sorts. Sex is not just a biological function; it is an intimate and emotional oneness that God designed a married couple to have as they raise a godly family. Emphasize the seriousness with which

God takes sexual impurity. God actually warns us to “flee fornication.”

1. DON’T LIVE TOGETHER OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE!

2. Follow God’s Word on this matter!

Ephesians 5:3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

II. THE HUSBAND’S DUTY TO HIS WIFE

A. To C_____ unto his wife (Genesis 2:24).

B. To L_____ his wife (Ephesians 5:25).

C. A husband’s love for his wife is to be the same as:

1. C_____’s love for the C_____ (Ephesians 5:25).

2. Men’s love for their own B_____ (Ephesians 5:28).

D. To P_____ for his wife (1 Timothy 5:8).

E. To give H_____ to his wife (1 Peter 3:7).

F. To render due B_____ to his wife (1 Corinthians 7:3).

G. To D_____ not his wife (1 Corinthians 7:5).

This is referring to the physical intimacy of marriage.

H. The husband is to be the H_____ of the wife and the home (Ephesians 5:23.)



This has nothing to do with being a “dictator,” but it means he is to be in the place of leadership. Both the husband and wife are equal in quality, worth, and in many other ways. Each may have strengths over the other. Headship given to the man is a functional position. It is God’s chain of authority. Every institution has to have leadership.

III. THE WIFE’S DUTY TO HER HUSBAND

A. To S_____ to her husband in his exercise of leadership in the home (Ephesians 5:22).

B. To R_____ her husband (Ephesians 5:33.)

Never criticize your husband in the presence of others.

C. To G_____ the household. (1 Timothy 5:14).

Can a woman work outside the home? The Bible does not teach it is wrong for a woman to get a paying job, especially in a time of need, but her first priority is to be a homemaker. When a job causes a wife to neglect her husband, and a mother to give second best to the children – she ought to quit her job and trust the Lord! God never intended for children to be left in the care of others while their mother worked outside of the home. Materialism and career “peer pressure” are what usually drives a woman to leave her children for others to raise while she works outside the home. A mother of “latch-key” kids has forsaken her role of greatest influence on this world.

D. If your husband is not a Christian, follow the teaching of 1 Peter 3:1.

The word “conversation” in this verse means a “godly manner of life.”

Do I have to obey my unsaved husband? Don’t set out to disobey your unsaved husband, even if it means having to miss coming to a church service. Pray hard, and let God deal with him! In the case of a hard-hearted and stubborn husband, you may get to the point of “having to obey God rather than man.” To help you evaluate your own motives and attitudes seek the counsel of a godly friend as a safeguard to rejecting your husband’s authority.

Never push the Bible “down his throat.” Instead, seek to be a “living Gospel” to him by following the Scriptural pattern above. Earnestly pray for your husband and love him. Ask the Lord to open opportunities for you to witness to him or invite him to the church meetings.

E. To D_____ not her husband (1 Corinthians 7:4,5).

Note: The physical union of marriage is intended for the intimate pleasure of both husband and wife. Never use this part of your marriage as a “bargaining chip” with your husband. Husbands and wives must work together in this area to achieve both understanding and harmony.

IV. THE PARENTS’ DUTY TO THEIR CHILDREN

A. Children are the Lord’s H_____ (Psalm 127:3).

B. Parents (not school, not baby-sitters, not television) are responsible to T_____ up their children (Proverbs 22:6).

C. Fathers are responsible to bring their children up in the N_____ and A_____ of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4b). The word “nurture” means discipline.

1. Children require discipline and should be taught this in the home. It will take disciplined character on the part of the parents to accomplish this.
 - a. Children should be taught to OBEY without question; and when necessary, without waiting for an explanation.
 - b. Obedience must be instant and without argument.
 - c. For character building, parents should allow no exceptions to this rule.
2. Children should be taught to work. In their first year they can be taught to pick up clothes and toys.
3. Children should be taught regular habits for happiness and usefulness.
 - a. They should go to bed at regular times without complaint.
 - b. They should have good habits of personal hygiene.
 - c. They should be trained to be orderly and neat. Parents have to set the example!
 - d. Their television watching should be very carefully controlled and limited.
Children should never be permitted to watch television apart from parental supervision!
 - e. They should be taught responsibility for personal actions.
 - f. They should be disciplined in love when disobedient or rebellious.
4. Children need to be taught the art of living peaceably with others at home.
 - a. No fighting should be allowed.
 - b. They should respect the possessions of other family members (including their parents) and not take what is not their own.
 - c. They should be taught to share their property.
 - d. They should be taught to forgive and to ask for forgiveness.
 - e. They should be taught respect for others in general (parents, elders, those in authority, peers, etc.).
5. Children should be taught the right use of money.

a. When old enough, they should earn some money of their own (but not for doing things they ought to be doing anyway, such as making their beds or cleaning up their rooms).

b. They should be taught to tithe and give offerings to the Lord.

c. They should be taught how to spend money wisely.

d. They should be taught to save.

6. Children need, and should have, time with their parents.

a. They should have “special” times with each parent and special times with the entire family together.

b. Parents should lead their children in such a way that in time they can win that one to Christ.

All of the above spell TIME AND WORK. That’s what it takes! Most modern-day parents are too lazy (selfish) to give the time and put in the consistent effort to raise godly children — they want instant results, or to let others do it for them.

Determine here and now that you will follow God’s pattern, and dedicate yourself to its consistent application while you have children in the home!

D. See your children as they really are in God’s sight.

Look up Proverbs 22:15a and Psalm 58:3: we are all born with a “sin nature.”

E. Read God’s provision for correction of children:

1. The Father’s I _____ (Proverbs 13:1).

2. The R___ (Proverbs 22:15b).

F. Much of today’s humanistic philosophy says it is wrong to spank children, but God says it is necessary and right -- provided . . .

1. The rod is applied to the right place. Never strike your child across the face, chest, back, etc. Apply the “board of education” to the “seat of learning.”

2. The rod is applied in love (Proverbs 13:24b).

Never spank your children in anger or to vent your frustrations. Send your child to his room and wait for a few minutes to think things through. Then communicate with him why he is going to be disciplined. After the spanking reassure him of your love.

3. The rod is applied early in life (“...while there is hope...” -- Proverbs 19:18).

4. The rod is applied effectively (Proverbs 19:18). Children will cry with a proper spanking. They may also do their best to make you feel like an ogre -- don't spare it!

Children need punishment for bad behavior. When punishment is applied, freedom from guilt is possible.

5. The rod is applied consistently. Don't spank for wrongs the child didn't know about. Don't spank for last week's wrongs. Spank as close to the time of misbehavior as possible to insure maximum learning and effectiveness. **DON'T EVER NOT SPANK WHEN YOU SAID YOU WOULD!**

6. There is a time of loving and prayer soon after the rod has been applied. Never apologize for spanking, rather, assure the child of your love (Proverbs 13:24a).

V. THE CHILDREN'S DUTY TO THEIR PARENTS

A. H__ __ __ __ __ thy father and thy mother (Exodus 20:12).

B. Listen to your parents' I__ __ __ __ __ - __ __ __ __ __ (Proverbs 13:1).

C. O__ __ __ your parents (Ephesians 6:1).

VI. FAMILY LIFE -- GOD'S HEAVEN ON EARTH

“In the house of the righteous is much treasure.” — Proverbs 15:6

A. Look up Ephesians 4:31-32. List the six things

that need to be put out of your family and home:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

B. From the same verses list the three things you need to have there:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

C. Look up Deuteronomy 6:5-7. What is it that should be a constant part of your home? _____

D. Look up Joshua 24:15f. What was Joshua's motto for his home?

VII. ESTABLISHING A FAMILY ALTAR

One of the greatest blessings you can enjoy in your home is to have what is termed a "family altar."

A family altar is a definite time, place, and event in the life of your home where the whole family meets around the Word of God — to read, to pray, to sing, to talk. In our fast-moving society, it will be one of the most difficult things for you to do — but one of the best.

A. The responsibility for the family altar This responsibility rests upon the F__
— — — —.

B. How to establish your family altar

1. Decide upon the most suitable time for your home. If appropriate, call a family conference to make this decision.

2. Make a definite commitment to the Lord to establish your family altar. Plan to stick to it.

3. Work out a plan of Bible reading and devotional material. This will vary depending upon the age of any children. Talk to your pastors and church leaders if help is needed in selecting some good material.

4. Do it!! Right away! Then be ready to resist the Devil as he throws his fiery darts of opposition.

C. Suggestions for a good family altar

1. Always read a portion of Scripture. The book of Proverbs is excellent for the family.

2. Have a hymn or chorus "of the month." Learn it as a family.

3. Use “prayer cards” for a family prayer time. Make these up your self; and include your pastors, teachers, missionaries, church members, relatives, and the unsaved.
4. Be brief. It is far better to be brief and consistent than drawn out and haphazard.
5. Involve the entire family.
6. Use some variety. Reading through a good Christian biography is one helpful adjunct.
7. Keep it informal, Biblical, and open for suggestion and improvement.
8. For younger children, acting out a Bible story is a fun and effective learning exercise.

HELP!

Christian homes and marriages are NOT exempt from pressures and troubles. There may be times when serious problems arise. Always feel that you can confidently (and confidentially) speak to your pastors about such matters. They know the Bible has the answers, and are more than willing to counsel with you. But, be willing to accept Bible answers and principles over worldly “solutions!”

Warning: Be careful that the atmosphere of your home is not different at family altar time. That is hypocrisy and will harm your children greatly.