

THE DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE OBJECTIVES

1. You will learn about the major doctrines of the Bible.
2. You will learn the classifications of doctrine.
3. You will learn about the need for the Scriptures and the verification of the Scriptures.
4. You will learn about many of the erroneous views of God and how to identify false doctrines.
5. You will learn about God's moral attributes.
6. You will learn about the angels, both good and bad, and the classification of angels.
7. You will learn about the origin of man and man's triune person—spirit, soul and body.
8. You will learn about sin and the results of sin throughout history.
9. You will learn about the Lord Jesus Christ and the Trinity.
10. You will learn about the Old Testament sacrifices and atonement.
11. You will learn about salvation and the three important works of salvation. You will also learn about the conditions for salvation.
12. You will learn about the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit and His work in the earth today.

13. You will learn about the origin, the nature and the work of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. The ordinances of the Church will also be discussed.

14. You will learn about God's plan for the "end times" from a futuristic point of view. You will also learn about some false views of death and the eternal state.

15. You will learn about the seven signs of the coming of the Lord Jesus.

THE DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE

Introduction

I. The Nature of Doctrine

Christian doctrine means literally “teaching or instruction” of fundamental truths of the Bible arranged in systematic form. This study is commonly called “theology” which is a discourse about God.

Theology or doctrine may be described as the science which deals with our knowledge of God and His relations with man.

Theology is called a science because it consists of facts relating to God and Divine things, presented in an orderly and logical manner.

The word “religion” comes from the Latin word meaning “to bind.” Religion represents those activities which bind man to God in a certain relationship.

Theology is knowledge about God. Thus, religion is practice, while theology is knowledge.

What is the difference between a doctrine and a dogma? A doctrine is God’s revelation of a truth as found in the Scriptures. Dogma is man’s statement of that truth as set forth in a creed.

II. The Value of Doctrine

Doctrinal knowledge supplies the need for an authoritative and systematic statement of truth. Doctrinal knowledge is essential to the full development of Christian character. Strong beliefs make for strong

character; clear-cut beliefs make for clear-cut convictions. A definite system of belief is an essential part of a man's religion.

Doctrinal knowledge is a safeguard against error. Bible doctrine exposes false notions about God and His ways.

Doctrinal knowledge is a necessary part of the Christian teacher's equipment. The Bible indeed follows a central theme, and that theme is Jesus Christ. From Genesis to Revelation, Jesus is in every book of the Bible, says Dr. Oral Roberts in his book.

III. The Classification of Doctrine

Theology includes many departments:

A. **Exegetical Theology**

The word "exegetical" comes from the Greek word meaning to "draw out the truth." It seeks to ascertain the true meaning of the Scriptures.

B. **Historical Theology**

Historical theology traces the history of the development of doctrinal interpretation. It involves the study of Israel and church history.

C. **Dogmatic Theology**

Dogmatic theology is the study of fundamental of faith as set forth in church creeds.

D. **Biblical Theology**

Biblical theology traces the progress of truth through several books of the Bible and describes the manner in which each writer presents the important doctrines.

E. **Systematic Theology**

In this branch of study the biblical teaching concerning God and man is arranged in topics, according to a definite system. For example, Scriptures relating to the nature and work of Christ are classified under the heading, "Doctrine of Christ." It is systematic in that the material is arranged according to a definite order.

IV. **A System of Doctrine**

The order is based upon God's redemptive dealings with man.

A. **The Doctrine of the Scriptures**

God's Book. The Bible is where we find God's revelation to man. We accept the biblical view as being right by faith, believing that the Bible is God's inspired Book (2 Timothy 3:16).

B. **The Doctrine of God**

From the Scriptures we find out the facts about God, His nature and His existence (Hebrews 11:6).

C. **The Doctrine of Angels**

From God we study His creatures and also angels, both good and wicked. This topic also includes Satan and demons.

D. **The Doctrine of Man**

Here we consider the biblical view of man and his relationship to God. Next in importance to the study of God is the study of man.

E. **The Doctrine of Sin**

The most tragic fact connected with man is sin and its consequences. The Scriptures tell us of its origin, its nature, its consequences and its remedy (Romans 5:12-17).

F. **The Doctrine of Christ**

The study of man's sin is followed by a study of the Person and the work of Jesus Christ, man's Savior.

G. **The Doctrine of the Atonement**

Under this heading, we consider the facts which throw light on the meaning of Christ Jesus' supreme work on man's behalf.

H. **The Doctrine of Salvation**

How the atonement is applied to man's need and made real in his experience. The facts supplying the answer are grouped under the Doctrine of Salvation.

I. **The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit**

How is Jesus Christ's work **for** man made real **in** man? The work, the Person and the power of the Holy Spirit is discussed in the Doctrine of the Nature and Work of the Holy Spirit.

J. The Doctrine of the Church

Jesus Christ's disciples obviously needed some kind of organization for the purposes of worship, instruction, fellowship and the propagation of the Gospel. The New Testament tells us about the nature and work of this organization.

K. The Doctrine of the Last Things

It is natural to want to look into the future and ask how everything—life, history, the world—will end. All that has been revealed concerning the future is grouped under the heading of “The Last Things.”

Now, let's move forward and examine each doctrine in greater detail.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE SCRIPTURES

The Need for the Scriptures

Our first question must be: What is truth? The Bible is the only sure and certain truth. The Holy Scriptures are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:15).

The Scriptures are truths that tell man how to pass from earth to heaven and these revelations are sent from heaven to earth through God's Word.

Man needs these revelations to live by every day. So God inspired men by the Holy Spirit to write His Word in a Book (2 Timothy 3:11).

Books are the best method of preserving truth in its integrity and transmitting it from generation to generation. Now we have the digital era and God's Word can be found on "apps" and various mobile devices. Who would have ever thought that would be the case twenty years ago?

Know this: God's Word is "God-Breathed." Peter says in 2 Peter 1:21, "But holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

As time passed, erroneous and defeative views of doctrines came into being so the church set forth exact and detailed definitions called "creeds" to protect the doctrines.

The Verification of the Scriptures

Jesus Christ Himself endorsed the Old Testament, quoted it and lived in harmony with its teachings. Jesus endorsed its truth and authority (Mathew 5:18, John 10:35).

The apostles also endorsed and followed the Old Testament (Luke 3:4).

The New Testament claims for itself a similar inspiration. The Bible has worked over thousands of years to bring man closer to God. The Word of God has influenced entire civilizations, transformed lives, brought light, inspiration and comfort to millions of people.

And this Word of God is still alive, breathing, and sharper than any two-edged sword dividing rightly between spirit and soul and its work will continue until Jesus comes again (Hebrews 4:12).

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

The Existence of God

The Scriptures do not anywhere attempt to prove the existence of God by formal proofs. For example, in Genesis Chapter One, the Word of God says, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” You must believe this statement **by faith**. In Hebrews 11:6 the writer says, “For it is impossible to please God without faith, and that you must believe that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. In the Bible God is set forth as “**known**.” No proof is necessary.

The creation itself is proof enough that there was a Master Designer who spoke faith-filled words and the universe came into existence (Hebrews 11:3). Romans 4:17 says God calls those things which are not as though they are.

The Nature of God

One of the best definitions is found in the Westminster Catechism: “God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.”

God reveals His character by proclaiming His name. To worship God is to call upon His name:

- a. Elohim (God) – Elohim is plural and means Creator.
- b. Jehovah (Lord)
- c. Jehovah-Rophah (Exodus 15:26) which means, “The Lord Who Heals You.” God does not stand aloof from His creatures.

He comes down to help when they have needs. He has several covenant names.

d. El (God) El-Elyon (Genesis 14:18-20) which means “The Most High God.”

e. El Shaddai (Genesis 17:1-2) which means “The God Who is More Than Enough” or “The God Who is Sufficient.”

f. Adonai (Exodus 23:17) which means Lord or Master and conveys the idea of rulership and dominion.

g. Father. This name describes God as the Producer of all things and the Creator of Man. Only those who are “born-again” by the Spirit of God are His children in the intimate and saving sense (Job 1:12)

Erroneous Views of God

1. **Agnosticism** – denies the human ability to know God. The finite mind cannot grasp the infinite, declares the agnostic.

2. **Polytheism** – the worship of many gods. This was characteristic of the ancient religions and is still practiced in many heathen lands. They have a god for everything (Acts 17:22-24).

3. **Pantheism** – all is god. It is that system of thought which identifies God with the universe. Trees, birds, animals, land, water and man are all parts of God, and God expresses Himself through these substances. Pantheism confounds God with nature. For example, the

poem is not the poet, or the art is not the artist. Pantheists say that God is the universe and the Bible says that God made the universe.

4. **Materialism** – denies any distinction between mind and matter and affirms that all manifestations of life and mind and all forces are simply properties of matter. Materialists say, “Man is simply an animal” in order to sweep away the thought of man’s higher nature and divine destiny.

Consider this: An ounce of common sense is worth more than a load of philosophy.

5. **Deism** – admits that there is a personal God who created the world, but insists that after creation, He left it to be governed by natural law. For example, God wound the world up like a clock, then left it to run without further interference on His part. Hence, no revelation or miracle is possible. This system of thought is also called “rationalism” because it makes reason the supreme guide in religion. It is also described as “natural religion” as opposed to “revealed religion.” The Doctrine of the Trinity comes against this heresy.

The Attributes of God

God is a Spirit. He is infinite (not subject to natural and human limitations). God is One, yet in Three distinct Persons. Elohim – “him” in Hebrew is plural – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

1. **God is Omnipotent** – all powerful.

2. **God is Omnipresent** – God is everywhere all the time. God is not limited by time and space. God is with us.
3. **God is Omniscient** – He knows all things. His knowledge of past, present and future are instantaneous.
4. **God is all-wise and Sovereign** – He has an absolute right to govern and dispose of His creatures as He pleases (Daniel 4:35; Matthew 20:15).

God's Moral Attributes

1. **God is Holy** – He is perfect in all His ways. Man is imperfect. God can neither sin nor tolerate sin. His holiness is absolute moral purity. His is morally perfect; man is sinful. God is holy in Himself. People, buildings, or objects which are described as holy are only holy because God has made them holy or sanctified them. This expresses the relationship to Jehovah—the fact of being set apart for God's service.
2. **God is Righteous** – this is holiness in action. Righteousness is God's holiness manifested in right dealings with His creatures. "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25).
3. **God is Faithful** – He is absolutely trustworthy. His words will not fail. Therefore, His people can stand on His promises.
4. **God is Merciful** – God's mercy is the divine goodness exercised with respect to the miseries of His creatures, feeling for them

and making provisions for their relief, leading to long-suffering and patience (Psalm 32:5).

5. **God is Love** – love is the attribute of God by reason of which He desires a personal relationship with those who bear His image and especially with those who have been made holy and are like Him in character (Deuteronomy 7:8).

6. **God is Good** – the goodness of God is that attribute by reason of which He imparts life and other blessings to His creatures (Psalm 25:8).

V. **The Trinity of God**

The doctrine stated:

God is One, yet Three distinct Persons, everyone of Who is the Godhead, and yet is supremely conscious of the other Two. So, we see there was an eternal fellowship before any finite creatures were created, therefore, God was never alone.

The Three cooperated with one mind and one purpose so that in the truest sense of the word, they are “**One**.”

The Father creates, the Son redeems, and the Holy Spirit sanctifies, and yet in each operation all Three are present and active.

Creeds preserved the Doctrine of the Trinity. The Athanasian Creed was one such creed during the fifth century.

God said, “Let **Us** make man in **Our** own image, after **Our** likeness.”

Man is one, yet tri-part, consisting of a spirit, a soul and a body.

THE DOCTRINE OF ANGELS

I. Their Nature – Angels are:

A. **Creatures** – That is, angels are created beings. They were called forth out of nothing by the almighty power of God. Paul says in Colossians 1:16-17, “For by Him (Jesus) all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things and in Him all things consist.”

The Apostle John writes in John 1:2-3, “He (Jesus) was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

We do not know when they were created but they were in existence for a long time and we also know that the rebellion of those angels under Satan had already taken place, leaving two classes of angels, good and evil (Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:14-16).

Man is forbidden to worship angels (Colossians 2:18).

B. **Spirits** – They are spirit beings, and they are not limited by natural conditions. They travel at unimagined speeds. They can assume human form to become visible (Genesis 19:1-3). They have celestial bodies.

C. **Immortal** – They are not subject to death (Luke 20:34-35).

D. **Numerous** – “Ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands”—an innumerable company of angels (Hebrews 12:22). Their Creator and Master is the “Lord of Hosts.”

E. **Sexless** – Angels are always described as male, but in reality they are sexless. They do not propagate their kind (Luke 20:34-35).

II. **Classification of Angels**

Order is the first order of heaven. Angels are classified according to order and rank and activity (1 Peter 3:22). All angels and authorities and powers have been made subject to Him (Jesus).

A. **Angel of the Lord**

This Angel is different from all the other angels. This Angel is the Son of God, the Messiah, represented as a “Christophany.” A Christophany is the appearance of Jesus Himself in the Old Testament (Joshua 5:13-15). Daniel 3:24-25 – “...like the Son of God.” Therefore, the Angel of the Lord is really an uncreated being that appears as an Angel for times of trouble or to transmit important messages.

B. **The Archangel**

Michael is mentioned as the archangel or the chief angel (Jude 9; Revelation 12:7). He appears as the guardian angel for Israel (Daniel 10:13). Gabriel is the chief messenger angel and he ranks right under Michael the Archangel (Daniel 10:12; Luke 1:26).

C. **Elect Angels**

Elect angels are those angels (2/3) who stayed true to God during Satan's rebellion (1 Timothy 5:21).

D. **Angels to the Nations**

There are good angels set over nations by God and bad angels sent by Satan. Principalities are those that Satan uses to hinder Israel and to come against God's people. Look at Daniel 10:13, 20. The Prince of Persia, the Prince of Greece, hindered the Angel Gabriel in spiritual warfare in the heavenlies (Ephesians 6:12).

E. **The Cherubim**

These angels appear to be high ranking angels who protect the throne of God. Also, they are part of God's redemptive purposes. Some have a composite form—face of an ox, eagle, lion and man.

F. **The Seraphim**

These angels are mentioned in Isaiah Six and they are in heaven and they have six wings and they fly (Isaiah 6:2). They are called "burning ones."

These angels are obedient to God, reverent, wise, meek, mighty, and holy and set apart by and for God. They serve Him. They are God's agents and messengers. Their purpose is to serve God.

III. **Character Traits of Angels**

A. Angels are obedient and reverent.

B. Angels' highest activity is to worship God.

- C. Angels are wise, meek, and mighty.
- D. Angels excel in strength.
- E. Angels are holy, being set apart for God.

IV. **The Work of Angels**

- A. Angels are God's agents, carrying out decrees and judgments.
- B. Angels are God's messengers. The word "angel" literally means "messenger."
- C. Through angels God sends warning, instructions, encouragement and communication.
- D. Angels are God's servants (Hebrews 1:14).
- E. Angels are ministering spirits to heirs of salvation. They help deliver and sustain believers. Believers may have "guardian angels" (Matthew 18:10). Acts 12:15 says, "It is his (Peter's) angel."

V. **Satan**

- A. **His Origin**—(Ezekiel 28:12-19, Isaiah 14:12-15)

Satan was created as "Lucifer" meaning "light bearer", Son of the Morning. Lucifer was beautiful when God created him, but pride was his downfall. In Isaiah 14:12-15 we find the five "I Wills" of Satan. He wanted to overthrow God's throne, but he failed. He was cast out of heaven with a group of angels, about 1/3 of the angels of heaven (Revelation 12:7).

In Luke 10:17 Jesus Himself affirms this act. “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”

Satan means “adversary.” He stands against God’s people. Devil means “slanderer.” He slanders God and His people.

Other names for Satan include destroyer, Apollyon, Abaddon. He is filled with hatred. “The devil comes to kill, to steal and to destroy” (John 10:10).

In the Garden of Eden he was the serpent. Revelation 12:9 calls him “that serpent of old.”

He is referred to as the tempter in Matthew 4:3. He came to tempt Jesus in the wilderness. Satan always tries to tempt people to do evil.

He is referred to as the “prince” or the “god of this world system” in 2 Corinthians 4:4 and John 12:31).

B. His Activities

1. Satan opposes God’s work by trying to hinder the going forth of the Gospel. He deceives, snares, and blinds people from the truth of the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. His sphere: He is the “prince of the power of the air.” Ephesians 2:1-2 says he operates in the earth, in the air and in the underworld. He has limited power. God allows him to have limited power and authority. Every believer has much more power than he has (1 John 4:4). His final destiny is being bound in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years and then the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10).

VI. **Wicked Spirits**

A. **Fallen Angels**

There are two classes of fallen angels. One group is currently locked in Tartarus (hell) (Jude 6, 2 Peter 2:4). These angels came to the daughters of men in Genesis Six and produced a race of giants. The other group fell with Lucifer in the rebellion. They operate in the first and second heavenly spheres (Ephesians 6:12). They are demonic and evil but possess celestial bodies.

B. **Demons**

Demons are disembodied spirits which desire to enter into human beings in order to obtain authority and control (Luke 8:2). They can possess people (but not believers in the Lord Jesus) and they must be cast out in the Name of Jesus. Demons can take control of an unbeliever and some have supernatural strength. They can insert a new personality into an unbeliever (multiple personality disorder).

THE DOCTRINE OF MAN

I. **The Origin of Man**

Man was created in the image of God. Man was created “after their own kind.” Man is a species or a group. Man did not evolve from a lower species.

Genesis 1:26-27 says, God created man in His image. There is no DNA link between man and lower primates. Evolution is “debunked” by DNA.

Man is a triune being. Man is a spirit; he possesses a soul and he lives in a body (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Man can reason.

The human spirit makes man different from all other animals. It is the spirit that needs to be born-again. Before regeneration, the spirit's condition is one of "dead in trespasses and sin" (Ephesians 2:2-3).

Jesus said, "You must be born again" (John 3:8). This is spiritual renewal re-birth by the Spirit of God.

The spirit of a man is "born again" and made alive in Christ. The soul is not born again. The soul contains the mind, the will, the emotions and the intellect. The soul must be saved in the process of sanctification." James 1:23 says, "The implanted Word of God is able to save the soul." So, it is a daily process of "saving the soul."

The body is the covering, the flesh over the spirit and the soul. The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). It is the "flesh" that believers constantly war against (Galatians 5:16-17). The works of the flesh are listed in Galatians 5:19-21 and none of these are good.

We must allow the spirit man to rule over our flesh and our soul. The spirit man must dominate.

THE DOCTRINE OF SIN

Sin is a fact. The devil has incited rebellion and sin from the beginning. We read in Genesis 4:7 where sin is personified.

The word “sin” comes from the Greek word “hamateria” which means “to miss the mark” of God’s perfection.

We see the account of the fall of Adam and Eve and the entrance of sin into the Garden of Eden. Romans 5:12 says, “Sin entered world and death through sin and this death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

Sin caused the ruin of the entire human race. But God had a divine plan to redeem mankind back to Him (Genesis 3:15).

We are all tempted to sin but through Christ Jesus, sin cannot and will not have dominion over you (Romans 6:14).

Due to sin, judgment came upon the serpent, the devil, the woman and the man, Adam. But Jesus came to earth to restore everything back (Romans 5:15-17).

Christian Science denies the reality of sin. Christian Scientists do not believe in the atoning and remitting blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are many consequences to sin.

Inborn sin or original sin is the sin of Adam.

The acts of sin that follow the age of accountability are called “actual sin.”

Jesus came to deliver us from all the effects of the fall of Adam and Eve (Romans 5:12-21).

Romans 3:8-9 says all have sinned, all are under the curse.
Jeremiah 7:9 says that the human heart is deceitful and wicked.
Ephesians 2:1-3 mentions a “child of wrath.”

God punishes sin. Genesis 2:17 says, “In the day that you eat of the fruit of the tree, you shall surely die.”

Adam and Eve both died spiritually that day, but God had a master plan for them to obtain atonement for their sin—the shedding of blood.

The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). This death is not extinction, but separation from God. It is called the Second Death. It is spiritual death (Revelation 2:11).

THE DOCTRINE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

I. The Nature of Christ-- His Titles

A. The Son of God (Deity)

This means “one born of God.” “Son of Man” means “one born of man.” The name or title, Son of God, proclaims His deity. Jesus had a relationship with God the Father that not another person has ever had in the universe.

Jesus knew from an early age that He had a divine purpose. He placed Himself side by side with divine activity. John 16:28 says, “I came forth from the Father.” In John 20:21 Jesus said, “My Father has sent Me.”

Jesus insisted on absolute surrender on the part of His followers.

Jesus' authority came from above and He spoke with absolute authority. Never did He say, "It is My opinion" or "It may be." No, He spoke with authority: "Verily, verily, I say to you..." Jesus used this phrase no less than forty-nine times.

Jesus was totally sinless. He was tempted, but He never, ever sinned. John 8:46 says, "Which of you convicts Me of Sin?"

Hebrews 4:15 says He was tempted, but never sinned.

His own disciples spoke of Jesus as their Divine Savior.

Paul saw Him as the "glorified Christ" in Acts Nine.

John says in John 1:1, He was the Word from the beginning. Jesus had an eternal pre-existence.

The Nicene Creed states: "We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, only begotten of the Father, that is, of the Substance of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one Substance with the Father..." 325 AD.

Jesus' title, "Lord," meant that He was deity. This has been a battle all throughout Christianity. There are many cults today that do not believe Jesus to be God. Jesus possesses the title, "Son of God," and He earned this title (Philippians 2:9) by dying and being raised again for the salvation of mankind. Since Jesus redeemed mankind, He certainly has the right to be called their "Lord."

"Son of Man" (humanity) – This title identifies Him with humanity. He shared human nature, human qualities and was subject to

human infirmities. He was **the** Son of Man, not **a** Son of Man. He was fully God and fully man, **the God-Man**.

His title, “Son of David,” is equivalent to “Messiah.” He was of the lineage of King David. 2 Samuel 7:16 gives the prophecy of an everlasting destiny for David. Jesus was the Son of David (Matthew 9:27).

B. **His Purpose**

Jesus came to “save” people (Luke 19:10). Jesus name in the Hebrew is “Yeshua” which means “Savior.” Jesus’ mission was to come to the earth and save mankind. He came to those who would come to Him in faith and believe (John 3:16).

C. **His Offices**

1. **The Prophet** – He came as a prophet like Moses. Jesus came preaching repentance and the kingdom of God. “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17). Jesus predicted the future (Matthew 24).

2. **The Priest** – Jesus represents mankind before God. Jesus is our Mediator (Hebrews 4:14-15).

3. **The King** – He is the King of the Jews. He will sit on the throne of David as King during His 1,000 year reign on the earth.

D. **His Work**

The work of Jesus was to die for the sin of the world on the Cross. Then with the Resurrection from the dead, Jesus gives mankind an offer of eternal life spent with Him in heaven.

The death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus were Paul's gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Jesus came back for forty days and then ascended back to heaven (Acts 1:11-12). Ten days later He sent the Holy Spirit to earth to empower the church.

Jesus now sits at the right hand of God the Father in heaven. He intercedes for us in heaven (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25).

Jesus is omnipresent in the hearts of all believers.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE ATONEMENT

All the atoning sacrifices found in the Old Testament pointed directly to the "Supreme Sacrifice" in the death of Christ Jesus in the New Testament.

The origin of sacrifice was ordained in heaven. Atonement was in the mind and purpose of God before there was a need for it. Jesus is described as "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8).

The first mention of the sacrificial animal is found in Genesis Three. The Lord Himself slew the animal, shed the blood and took the skins to cover Adam and Eve.

This example was passed down from generation to generation. Noah, after the flood, sacrificed to God. Noah's offspring demonstrated these methods all over the known world.

Then God chose Abraham to make another start as He had done with Noah. From Abraham to Moses, the Mosaic sacrifices were used for worship and atonement. The purpose of these bloody sacrifices is fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ Who is the Perfect Sacrifice (2 Corinthians 5:21).

The Old Testament sacrifices all pointed to Jesus and what He would do in the New Testament.

The imperfection of sacrifices of bulls and goats could not cleanse the conscience. But the Blood of Jesus and His sacrifice goes far beyond to not only "atone" or cover, but to "remit" or blot out sin—take away sin, so the believer can know he has been fully forgiven of sin and guilt and can have a clear conscience.

The atonement in the New Testament was fulfilled at the Cross. Jesus was the "Sacrifice."

In John Twenty, we see Jesus after the resurrection meeting Mary Magdalene. He told her not to touch Him for He had not yet ascended to offer His Blood as High Priest for mankind's redemption. Hebrews 9:14-17 shows this picture.

The word "atonement" in Hebrew means "to cover." Atonement covered the "sins" and the sinner in the Old Covenant. But Jesus came

to “take away” sin. He came to “remit” sin. Jesus was the “propitiation” for sin. The “propitiation” means “near.” It means to bring together man and God and to reconcile man back to God by atoning for his transgressions and winning divine favor and grace.

Also, in Romans 3:25 it means “mercy seat” in the Greek—literally “covering”—an atoning sacrifice.

Christ was our perfect Substitute in His sacrifice. He “redeemed” us by His own precious Blood (1 Peter 18-19).

The word “redeemed” means to “purchase” or “buy back out of the marketplace.” Then Jesus reconciled us back to God (2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

The atoning work of Jesus gave us divine pardon for our transgressions—sins were blotted out.

Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ now have freedom from sin and freedom from the guilt of sin and the power of sin (Romans 6:14). Believers are also delivered from the second death.

We are given the gift of eternal life – zoe. Now we can live a victorious, overcoming life over the devil. Christians have the “victory” over the devil as long as they have the Victor (Jesus).

THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

Three Aspects of Salvation

1. **Justification** – a judicial term which means “declared not guilty”—acquitted, and declared righteous--that is justified.

2. **Regeneration** – (the inward experience) and adoption (the outward experience or privilege). The soul, which is dead in trespasses and sin, needs a new life and that new life is imparted by a divine act of regeneration (Titus 3:5). The Holy Spirit is the Agent of Regeneration. The person becomes a child of God and a member of God’s family—the church.

3. **Sanctification** – suggest a temple scene, which is connected with the worship of God. The life-style and process of sanctification goes on for the rest of the believer’s earthly life. This person is set right with God. The experience of salvation or state of grace is: Justification, regeneration (and adoption) sanctification.

Being justified, the person belongs to the righteous; being regenerated, he becomes a child of God; being sanctified, he is a “saint” – a holy person set apart for God’s service.

Salvation brings a brand new life in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The Christian life is a life dedicated to the worship and service of God—a sanctified life.

There are three blessings that flow from our union with Christ:

1. The believer is one with Christ by virtue of His atoning death and by virtue of His life-giving Spirit. We have become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:21) and through Him we have the forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7); in Him we are new creatures, born again by the Spirit of God to a new life (2

Corinthians 5:17). We are sanctified in Him (1 Corinthians 1:2) and He is made unto us sanctification (1 Corinthians 1:30). Jesus is the Author of our eternal salvation.

Conditions for Salvation:

The Scripture sets forth repentance and faith as the conditions for salvation. Water baptism is mentioned as the outward symbol of the convert's inner faith (Acts 3:19; 1 Peter 3:21).

Turning from sin and turning to God are the conditions and preparations for salvation. Repentance is "the true turnabout." The Greek word of "repentance" is "metanoeo" and it means "to have another mind" or "a change of mind and heart."

Faith in the Bible means belief and trust. What is saving faith? Faith in Christ is a saving grace whereby we receive and rest upon Him alone for our salvation as He is offered to us in the Gospel.

A sure trust and confidence that Christ Jesus died for my sins, that He loved me and gave Himself for me.

It is to believe and rely on the merits of Christ, for His sake God is willing to show His unfailing mercy to us.

Conversion is the act of turning **from sin** and turning **to God** (Acts 3:19). Conversion describes the human side of salvation. It is the outward things people see in the convert.

Grace means unmerited, or undeserved favor. Grace is God's dealings with the sinner absolutely apart from the question of merit or demerit.

Grace is neither treating a person as he deserves to be treated nor treating him better than he deserves.

God's grace to sinners is seen in the fact that He Himself, through the atonement of Christ, paid the full penalty for sin; therefore, He can justly pardon sin without regard to the sinner's merit or demerit.

Sinners are pardoned not because God is gracious to "excuse" their sins, but because there is redemption through the Blood of Christ (Romans 3:24).

Grace is independent of man's work or activities.

Prevenient Grace – means literally "coming before or going before." Prevenient grace is the divine influence preceding a person's conversion, exciting his efforts to return to God. It is the effect of God's favor in drawing men to Him (John 6:44).

I believe babies and children before the age of accountability are under God's prevenient grace (2 Samuel 12:22-23).

Effectual Grace – means grace that is effectual in producing conversion, if not resisted (John 5:40; Acts 7:51).

Grace can be resisted (Hebrews 10:29).

It is the Blood of Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that can combine to sanctify believers going from glory to glory to glory (2 Corinthians 3:18). This is growing spiritually and conforming to Christ.

The Security of Salvation

On this matter I will refer you, as a student, to the varying thoughts on this subject by various writers.

1. Calvinism

John Calvin was a lawyer, a French reformer who fled to Switzerland and wrote many articles. The Calvinistic doctrine states that salvation is entirely of God. Man has absolutely nothing to do with it. If a man repents and believes and comes to Christ, it is entirely because of the drawing power of God's Spirit. He was "elected" by God. Only those "elected" by God can be saved. This is the doctrine of predestination. Also, the Holy Spirit cannot be resisted, if one is elected. All the others have no chance and they go to hell.

2. Arminianism

Joseph Arminian was a Dutch reformer. He taught that God's will is that all men be saved because Christ died for all, not just some "elect." God offers His grace to all. While salvation is the work of God absolutely free and independent of our good works or merits, yet man has certain conditions fulfill. He can either choose to accept God's grace or he can resist and reject it. The power of choice remains with

the person. He believed that one could “fall from grace” due to sin and rejecting Jesus Christ.

John Wesley was an Arminian, and George Whitfield was a Calvinist. Yet both led thousands to Christ.

Charles Finney and Charles Spurgeon were both Calvinists, yet their messages challenged the hearers to persevere in the faith.

I believe there must be a Scriptural balance between these two doctrines. I believe in man’s choice, yet I also believe in the security of the believer (one who is **truly born again** by the Spirit of God).

I challenge you to do a deeper study of both of these doctrines and make a decision for yourself.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is a Person. He is God, a part of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit always lifts up Jesus and He is self-effacing. As a Person, He has feelings, shows emotions, can be hurt and can be quenched.

You can observe the Holy Spirit at work all through the Bible.

Since we have four other courses on the Holy Spirit, I will be brief here and you will learn all about the Holy Spirit in the other courses.

The Holy Spirit is vital to every church and He is to be welcomed and allowed to move so that people’s lives can be touched and changed.

Let’s look at the names of the Holy Spirit:

1. The Spirit of God
2. The Spirit of Christ

3. The Comforter (Paraclete)
4. The Holy Spirit
5. The Holy Spirit of Promise (Luke 24:49)
6. The Spirit of Truth
7. The Spirit of Grace
8. The Spirit of Life
9. The Spirit of Adoption (Romans 8:15)

As we can see, there are many names in the Bible for the Holy Spirit—one Holy Spirit and several manifestation in His ministry.

The Holy Spirit was the Power in the creation.

The Holy Spirit created and sustains man (Genesis 2:7).

Let's look at the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the world today.

Jesus said in John 16:7-11 that the Holy Spirit's ministry would be to:

1. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin. The Holy Spirit convicts or convinces people of their sin. The sin is **the sin of unbelief** for not believing in Jesus and His saving grace.

2. Righteousness – “Of righteousness because I go to My Father, you will see Me no more.” He is righteous and the Holy Spirit convinces the unbeliever they are not right with God. The Holy Spirit assures that there is pardon and salvation in the Name of Jesus.

3. The judgment of Satan – “Of judgment because the prince of this world is judged.” The Holy Spirit convinces man that Satan has

been judged and therefore man can be “free indeed,” no more subjects of the tempter, no more bound to obey Satan, but loyal subjects of Christ Jesus.

What is true of Christ Jesus is also true of the Holy Spirit. After accomplishing His dispensations (He will return to heaven in a body which He has fashioned for Himself—which is the church, which is His body).

The work of the Holy Spirit is “to gather out a people for His (Christ’s) name” (Acts 15:14), and when accomplished and the “fullness of the Gentiles be come in” (Romans 11:25), then the Rapture of the Church will take place.

The Holy Spirit ascends to heaven with the church (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7). Here the Holy Spirit completes His administration in the earth.

The Holy Spirit will take on a new role in the Tribulation Period. During this period the Holy Spirit is omnipresent, so He will remain active during this period of seven years.

What will take place is the conclusion of the Holy Spirit’s dispensational mission as the “Spirit of Christ,” after which He will still be in the world but in a different role.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

The Nature of the Church

The New Testament Greek word for church is “ecclesia” meaning “an assembly of called-out ones.” The Holy Spirit “calls” people out of the world system to Christ and into the Kingdom of God (Colossians 1:13).

The word “church” comes from the Greek word “kuiiaki” meaning “that which belongs to the Lord.”

This group professes undying allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ. Christians are so called because they center around the “Person of Christ.” The name, Christian, was first used at the church in Antioch, Syria.

The church is a body of believers, thus called the Body of Christ. Jesus is the Head and we are body.

The church is the temple of God, because Christ dwells in the hearts of believers and we form the temple of God (Ephesians 2:21-22).

The church is also called the “Bride of Christ” (2 Corinthians 11:2). The church is “betrothed to Christ.”

Jesus is the Bridegroom, the church is the bride.

In Acts 7:38 Israel is called a “congregation of Israel” which is translated “ecclesia” or church, at Mt. Sinai. Thus, Israel was the Church of Jehovah. After His rejection by the Jewish Church (Israel), Jesus predicted the founding of a “new congregation” or church, a divine

institution that should continue His work on the earth (Matthew 16:18). This is the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, which came into existence on the Day of Pentecost.

The Word of the Church or the Mission Statement

1. To preach the Word of God and salvation
2. To provide a means of worship—music and worship
3. To provide religious fellowship
4. To hold to a moral standard
5. To carry out the ordinances of the church
 - a. **The Lord's Supper or Communion**
 - b. **Water Baptism**

These are “the sacraments”, literally “sacred things” or “oaths consecrated by a sacred rite.” These are ordinances because they are “ordained” by the Lord Himself.

The word “baptize” means “to dip or immerse.” The earliest mode was by immersion, but due to lack of water “pouring” or “sprinkling” was permitted.

Later infant regeneration became attacked because infants were being baptized by sprinkling. I do not agree with these as the Anabaptists also did not agree.

The earliest Scriptural, original mode of water baptism was by immersion which is true to the symbolic meaning of baptism—the death, the burial and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 6:1-4).

Water baptism is done in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The Lord's Supper or Communion is the distinctive rite of Christian worship, instituted by the Lord Jesus Himself on the eve of His atoning death. It consists of a religious partaking of bread and wine (or juice) which having been presented to the Father in a memorial of Christ's supreme sacrifice, and becomes a means of grace where we are inspired to increase our faith and our faithfulness towards Him.

Every time we partake, as believers, we are remembering His death on the Cross, His burial and His resurrection till He comes again.

We have full assurance of forgiveness of sins through the Blood of Jesus.

Any believer in the Lord Jesus Christ can partake in the communion. How often should we take communion? "As often as you do it, do it in remembrance of Me." Do it a worthy manner and remember His sacrifice for you. Also, when you lift the cup, it is a promise that He will come again for you. You are betrothed to Him as part of the Bride of Christ.

Who may preside over the service? I believe in the "priesthood of the believer" which means we are all "priests" and "saints" unto God. Any ordained minister or lay minister may preside as long as it is done in order.

The Government of the Church

Jesus purposed to give mankind His Gospel and to represent Him in the world. He gave no organization or plan of government, gave no detailed rule of faith and practice. He gave two ordinances or rites of baptism and communion. He would send the Holy Spirit to guide and direct His apostles concerning the matters of the church.

He imparted His very life, making the church a living organism. This living body then could adapt its own form of organization according to the needs and the circumstances. They all had to follow the doctrines and teachings of Christ.

Each local church was self-governed and managed to take care of their own affairs.

The Apostle Paul kept oversight over the Gentile churches that they started. The churches of that day were independent, but they did have relationships with other churches.

The ministry of the churches was prophetic in nature and general in administration. The apostles operated in the prophetic ministry. They were Christ-called, Spirit-filled churches. They were supernatural churches.

The local churches had presbyteries or elders, pastors, teachers and bishops or overseers. Their duties were to help grow the body and to help the people grow spiritually by foundational teaching (Ephesians 4:13).

Deacons and deaconesses were used to help with the day-to-day affairs of running a church.

THE DOCTRINE OF “LAST THINGS”

Death

Death is the separation of the soul and the spirit from the flesh body. Some like Paul described death as “sleep.”

Death is the first outward and visible effect of sin, and it will be the last effect of sin from which we shall be saved (Romans 5:2; 1 Corinthians 15:26).

Two terms – “immortality” and “incorruption” which are used in reference to the resurrection of the body (1 Corinthians 15:53-54). Immortality means “not subject to death.” The Christian, when he dies, will become immortal and incorruptible, having a new celestial body, no longer subject to death.

The wicked dead will have a resurrection unto death. They will be separated from God for eternity. This is the Second Death. They go to the “Lake of Fire.”

1. The Intermediate State

This is the state of the dead between death and the resurrection. For believers Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:7, “To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.” At death the spirit and the soul go to heaven and the body is left in the earth awaiting the Resurrection.

For the unbeliever at death, their spirit and soul goes to “Hades” in the underworld and awaits the end of the Millennial Reign of Christ in the earth. They then go to the “Great White Throne Judgment” (Revelation 20:11-14). After the Judgment, they will go to “Ghenna” or the Lake of Fire for eternity.

2. **Some False Views**

a. Purgatory – The Roman Catholic Church teaches that even the faithful need a process of purification before becoming fit to enter God’s presence. There is no Scriptural basis to support this view. It was started as a way to raise revenue to support and build St. Peter’s Basilica.

b. Spiritism – Teaches that people may communicate with departed spirits through “mediums.” This is “witchcraft” and forbidden by God (Leviticus 19:3).

c. Soul Sleeping – Seventh Day Adventists believe that the soul exists in an unconscious state until the resurrection. The Bible does say that they “sleep in Jesus” at death, but the spirit and the soul are conscious and they go to heaven until the Rapture of the Church

The Resurrection

The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead is a fact. It now provides us with eternal hope. Our bodies will be resurrected into spiritual bodies and our new bodies will become immortal. We will look somewhat like our physical bodies, but much more glorious.

Our bodies will travel at great speeds and be able to go through walls. We will deal with mortal people in our glorified bodies, during the Millennium Reign of Christ.

I will not say a lot about heaven in this course because we have a whole course on the Doctrine of Heaven.

The Destiny of the Wicked

The Word of God tells us that the wicked dead will be eternally separated from God and they will spend eternity in the “Lake of Fire” – hell.

Hell is a place of extreme suffering (Revelation 20:10). These people will be able to see, feel and experience the suffering. It is a place of utter hopelessness—never to be free (Matthew 25:41).

False Views

1. **Universalism** teaches that everyone will finally be saved. This false view also teaches that God is too loving to exclude anyone from heaven. The Bible disputes this claim in Romans 6:23 and Luke 16:19-31.

2. **Restorationism** teaches that punishment in hell is not eternal, but only a temporary experience for the purpose of purifying the sinner to fit him for heaven. If this were so, the power of the fires of hell would have more power than the Blood of Jesus.

3. **Second Probationism** holds that all will have a second chance to accept salvation between death and the resurrection. After physical death, man's destiny is fixed.

4. **Annihilationism** teaches that God will "annihilate" the wicked (2 Thessalonians 1:9). This word does not mean "annihilation" but "ruin." The spirit and the soul will still be in existence and will be able to experience "hell" (Luke 16:19-31).

The Second Coming of Christ

The Second Coming of Christ Jesus is mentioned more than 300 times in the New Testament. Paul refers to it 50 times in his letters.

First of all, let's distinguish between the Rapture of the Church or "Parousia" (the Greek word for "appearing"), and the literal Second Coming of Christ.

The former is the Rapture of the Church where Jesus comes for the Church, His Bride. This event takes place in the "air" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18). This is also the first resurrection of the dead.

The Second Coming of Christ comes seven years later at a time when Jesus will set His feet on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4).

This event occurs after the seven years of Tribulation upon the earth is complete.

No one knows the time of His coming, but I believe we can know the season. I believe Jesus will come during the "Feast of Trumpets" in the months of September or October. I just do not know the year.

There are many signs of His coming. Here are a few:

1. The rebirth of the nation of Israel – 1948
2. Jerusalem taken back by the Jews – 1917, 1967
3. Rise of the Antichrist Beast System – Treaty of Rome 1957.

Ten toes of iron mixed with clay

4. Explosion of technology (Daniel 12:4)
5. Signs in the heavens – increase in earthquakes (number and intensity)
6. Wars and rumors of war – Matthew 24:3-6
7. Spiritual signs – Laodicean age – apostasy of the church
8. Rise of the antichrist spirit – 1 John 4:3; 2:18; 2:22

Lawlessness in many nations. The rise of Islam and terrorist groups. The end of the Church Age is at hand.

Final Thoughts

The next major event for the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is the Rapture of the Church. Jesus comes in the air to take His Bride to heaven.

The dead in Christ will be raised first and their corruptible bodies will be changed to incorruptible, immortal bodies (1 Corinthians 15:51-57. They will rise and meet Jesus, who has brought their spirits and souls with Him to unite with their new celestial bodies (1 Corinthians 15:42-47.

Those who are alive at the time and remain will rise to meet the Lord in the air and they will exchange their physical bodies for their new glorified bodies.

Then we will all go to the Judgment Seat of Christ in heaven to be judged for works and rewards (1 Corinthians 3:11-15).

Later the Bride will have a wedding ceremony in heaven (Revelation 19:7-10). The Bride becomes the Wife of the Lamb. After seven years in heaven, while the Great Tribulation is going on in the earth, after which Jesus will return to the earth and bring His wife with Him (Revelation 19:16-20). Jesus will stop the Battle of Armageddon with His Word and all the armies will be destroyed.

Seventy-five days later Jesus will sit on the throne of His Father, David, in Jerusalem and rule and reign for 1,000 years and we will reign with Him.

During these 1,000 years, Satan is bound in the Bottomless Pit.

At the end of the 1,000 years, Satan is loosed for a short time and he incites rebellion in the earth. Again, Satan rises up against God and Jesus destroys him. He is cast into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20) with the false prophet and the Antichrist, the Beast forever.

Following the 1,000 year reign of Christ on the earth, the next event is the Great White Throne Judgment of all the wicked dead (Revelation 21:1-5). All of these will go to the Lake of Fire for eternity.

God will then renovate the heaven and the earth with fire. This is called the “Day of God” (2 Peter 3:2).

Then the New Jerusalem will come out of the new heaven into the new earth (Revelation 21:10-12).

The Wife of the Lamb (that is all believers) will live in the New City of Jerusalem for eternity.

The Jews will inherit the new earth. The Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) will live in the New City of Jerusalem with the glorified saints where we will worship God forever.

What a great future and hope we have in our wonderful Lord Jesus Christ!

THE DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE TEST

Circle either True or False.

1. True or False. Dogmatic theology is the study of fundamentals of faith as set forth in the church creeds.
2. True or False. The Scriptures are truths that tell man how to pass from earth to heaven and these revelations are sent from heaven to earth through God's Word.
3. True or False. Pantheism is the worship of many gods.
4. True or False. Gabriel is the Archangel or Chief Angel and appears as the Guardian Angel for Israel.
5. True or False. There are many consequences to sin. Inborn sin or original sin—the sin of Adam—the acts of sin that follow the age of accountability are called “actual sin.”
6. True or False. The Nicene Creed states that Jesus was created and of different substance from the Father.
7. True or False. In the Atonement, the purpose of the bloody sacrifices were fulfilled in Christ Jesus, who was the Perfect Sacrifice.
8. True or False. There are three main aspects of salvation: repentance, regeneration and reformation.
9. True or False. The Scripture sets forth repentance and faith as the conditions for salvation.
10. True or False. Prevenient grace means – going before. Grace is the divine influence preceding a person's conversion.

11. True or False. John Calvin was a Dutch reformer who taught that God's will is that all men be saved because Jesus died for all, not some few elect.
12. True or False. The work of the Holy Spirit in the world today is to convict of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.
13. True or False. The New Testament Greek word for "church" is "ecclesia" meaning "an assembly of called-out ones."
14. True or False. The Church is the "Bride of Christ" and is now "betrothed" to Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2).
15. True or False. There is a difference in the Rapture of the Church and the Second Coming of Christ.

THE DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE EXIT OUTCOMES

1. Write a two-page paper on doctrines discussed in this course. Be brief on each doctrine.
2. Write a two-page paper on the Doctrine of God.
3. Write a one-page paper on erroneous views of God.
4. Write a one-page paper on man being a tri-part being. Distinguish between spirit, soul and body.
5. Write a two-page paper on angels—good and evil. Discuss Satan's origin and his fall.
6. Write a one-page paper on sin and discuss the consequences of sin.
7. Write a one-page paper on the mission of Jesus Christ and His purpose for coming to the earth.
8. Write a two-page paper on the atonement and salvation.
9. Write a one-page paper on the Holy Spirit and the church today.
10. Write a one-page paper on Death and The Last Things. List the signs of Christ's Second Coming to the earth.