

INTRODUCTION

The following material contains 17 Bible study lessons which will give the child of God basic Bible doctrine. This material is not intended to be an extensive or exhaustive study of Bible truth since it is given for the instruction of a “new” believer in Jesus Christ. The purpose of these studies is to cause the Christian to *“grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”* (II Peter 3:18).

If possible, each lesson is designed to be gone over with the new or unlearned convert by a mature Christian. The lessons are not intended to be read as a novel but carefully studied one by one. Bible references are abundant in each lesson, many being typed out while others will need to be turned to, looked up, and read. If the references are not read, then the teaching will NOT have the desired effect in which it is delivered to you. This material is not given to show you what “we believe” or what someone else or their church teaches. These lessons are given to show you WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS. You will not get this understanding unless you read each reference with an open heart.

The prayer of those who have been responsible to give you this material trust you will read, believe, put into practice, and pass on to others the Bible foundations that are necessary for a blessed and joyous Christian life which is pleasing to God and helpful to the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ.

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

LESSON #1

THE DOCTRINE
OF
SALVATION

Understanding what it takes to save a soul from Hell is the most important thing in the world for a person to know. After receiving salvation, the understanding of one's "new" life becomes vital. This lesson is designed to teach you the fundamentals of the "new" birth.

I. GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

A. To be saved one must know he is a sinner.

*"For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me...
...Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother
conceive me."* Psalm 51:3,5

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"
Romans 3:23

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:"
Romans 3:10

*"But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by
faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe."*
Galatians 3:22

The consequences of a person's sin is "DEATH"! This means not only physical death but spiritual death in the lake of fire.

"For the wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Revelation 21:8

"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:14,15

B. To be saved one must realize he is helpless to save himself or even help save himself.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Ephesians 2:8,9

“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin...Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”

Romans 4:5-8,23-25

C. To be saved one must repent of sin. When one repents, they "change their mind" about the direction they are heading (to Hell) and become "sorrowful" concerning their sin, wanting it removed. Repentance is turning TO God FROM sin, which means that repentance occurs at the same time one "believes" the gospel (Mark 1:15).

“...repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Acts 20:21

“...they should repent and turn to God...”

Acts 26:20

“...the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,”

Hebrews 6:1

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

II Peter 3:9

“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation...”

II Corinthians 7:10

“...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

Luke 13:3

D. To be saved is to receive Christ, who is eternal life, by believing the gospel. Faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as sufficient for your sin is what is required to get the free gift of Heaven. You exercise this faith in Christ when you call on the Lord for salvation. How wonderful to know God's forgiveness through a sinner's prayer for salvation.

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:" I Corinthians 15:3,4

"And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Acts 16:30,31

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:12,13

"...the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 6:23

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ..." Galatians 2:16

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" Romans 5:1

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life..." John 3:36

"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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Romans 10:9-13

II. "BEING SAVED" CHANGES THINGS

A. You were "born again" (John 1:12,13; 3:3). Spiritual birth occurs immediately when one receives Christ. At the moment one receives Christ, God becomes your "Father", and you are no longer in the family of the devil (John 8:44; Matthew 13:38; Acts 13:10; I John 3:10) doomed to Hell, but a glorious "child" of God. Feelings have nothing to do with this. If you don't "feel" saved, it doesn't change the fact of your birth.

B. You became a new creature and have a new life with Christ! *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* (II Corinthians 5:17)

C. You not only received the gift of eternal life but you received the Holy Ghost. See Lesson 4 with I Corinthians 6:19 and Romans 8:9.

D. Your sins are GONE! Your sins have all been forgiven. The blood of Jesus has redeemed you, cleansing you from all sin forever! You'll never suffer Hell for your sin, and God shall remember them no more forever. From this moment on God shall deal with you as a "son" and not as a "sinner". Thus, from now on when you sin, God does not cast you out of His family but corrects you as His child. See I John 2:1 and Lesson 8.

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;"

Colossians 1:14, 2:13

"...through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:"

Acts 13:38

CONCLUSION: Salvation is simple, but it's only by grace (Ephesians 2:8,9; Romans 11:6) and only through the Lord Jesus Christ!

“But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.” Acts 15:11

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

“Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.” I Timothy 2:4-6

“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.”
(II Corinthians 9:15)

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

LESSON #2

THE DOCTRINE
OF
ETERNAL
SECURITY

Introduction: After a person gets saved, the most pressing question that will come to mind is "Can I ever lose my salvation?" This question can only be answered by God's eternal truth and not by man's opinion. The following lesson contains seven points in God's word proving that a person who truly receives Christ can never lose his salvation, regardless of his actions or circumstances.

I. SALVATION IS FOREVER (Not a little while)

John 3:16 - "...whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 5:24 - "...He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

Romans 6:23 - "...the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Notice how the words "eternal" and "everlasting" occur over and over. God's salvation is "without end" and "enduring forever". Just as surely as God will always exist (He is eternal), the salvation of a child of God will always exist as well (It is eternal).

II. SALVATION IS A BIRTH (Unchangeable)

John 1:12,13 - "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

Receiving Christ makes one a "born again" (John 3:3) child of God. Just as you can't change or reverse the fact of your physical birth, even so it is

impossible to change the fact of your spiritual birth in Christ. However, just as a child can be a "bad" child deserving of correction, as believers we can disappoint and anger our heavenly Father. We should therefore live right NOT to stay saved but to stay in fellowship with Him so that we do not have to encounter His painful spankings!

III. JESUS CAN NEVER LEAVE YOU (Hebrews 13:5)

Hebrews 13:5 - "...for he hath said, *I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*"

I John 5:11-13 - "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 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..."

Since eternal life is in Jesus..... and the Christian has Jesus.....and Jesus shall never leave.....then we should "know" we are saved.

IV. GOD CAN NEVER CAST YOU OUT

John 6:37,39 - "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me *I will in no wise cast out.*...And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should *lose nothing*, but should raise it up again at the last day."

V. THE HOLY TRINITY SECURES YOUR SALVATION

You're in the hand of Jesus Christ and also in the hand of God the Father. No man (that includes you) can take you out of God's hand.

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.”*

John 10:29 - *“My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.”*

The Holy Ghost seals you in the hands of God the Father and God the Son. That seal is upon you until the "day of redemption", which is the day that you walk through the gates of Heaven.

Ephesians 1:13,14; 4:30 - *“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory ...And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”*

Romans 8:23 - *“...even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”*

VI. NOTHING CAN SEPARATE YOU FROM GOD AND HIS LOVING SALVATION

Romans 8:38,39 - *“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

This includes the fact that even your actions can't separate you from the salvation of God. Sinful works, the deeds of others, nor Satan himself can ever separate the believer from eternal life with his Lord.

VII. GOD AND HIS POWER KEEPS YOU SAVED

II Timothy 1:12 - "...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

You don't and can't keep yourself saved. That's God's business. You see, you could do nothing to save yourself and you can do nothing to keep yourself saved. God's power, and His alone, keeps every "believer" secure.

I Peter 1:4,5 - "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

God's power keeps you personally, and He also keeps your place in Heaven "reserved".

CONCLUSION: Your salvation is not based on your feelings or emotions. Many people don't have daily assurance if they do not "feel saved". What you should be concerned with is not how you feel but with what God knows and what He has said. Your feelings can't change God's truth or your salvation at all. If you do doubt your salvation then do these things:

1. Examine yourself (II Corinthians 13:5) in the light of God's word (Lessons 1 & 2). God can't lie (Titus 1:2). Did you do what He said to receive His never-ending salvation?

2. Assure your heart before God and gain the "confidence" He wants you to have. God is greater than your "heart" (I John 3:19-21) or feelings. Regardless if they condemn you or not, He "knoweth all things".

3. Understand that disobedience as a Christian can lead to a guilt that causes you to forget about God's eternal salvation (II Peter 1:9; I John 2:3). Live clean, pure, and right before God and others.

4. Remember that assurance of salvation is actually faith in God and His word. This assuring faith grows stronger as you read, study, and memorize the Bible (Romans 10:17).

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

LESSON #3

THE DOCTRINE
OF
BAPTISM

Water baptism is an important step of obedience in the life of a Christian. At the beginning of this study, one must realize that water baptism is NOT essential for salvation. With all the many different teachings on baptism, the Christian must know what the Bible says about the subject and follow likewise. This lesson deals exclusively with water baptism, but at the end of the lesson there is a section which shows the different baptisms of the Bible, of which ignorance is the basis for most false teachings and misunderstandings about this subject.

I. WATER BAPTISM DOES NOT HAVE A PART IN OUR SALVATION

Water baptism can not be a part of salvation since it is a work (something you do). Salvation is NOT of works. Furthermore, the Bible clearly shows that water baptism is NOT a part of the gospel.

Ephesians 2:8,9 - "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

I Corinthians 1:17 - "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel..."

For more help see the Addendum on page 19.

II. WATER BAPTISM IS COMMANDED

Even though water baptism isn't vital to salvation, it is important as obedience to Christ. Every Christian should be baptized in water according to Matthew 28:19,20.

III. WATER BAPTISM IS FOLLOWING THE LORD'S EXAMPLE

I Peter 2:21 - "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:".

I John 2:6 - "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."

Jesus Christ was baptized in water NOT to be saved but to show us what we should do to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15,16) in our own individual walk with God. Obeying the command of being baptized in water continues us on a path where God can be "well pleased" (Matthew 3:17) with us. Frankly, to be a righteous Christian that pleases God, you need to be baptized in water.

IV. WATER BAPTISM HAS ONE CONDITION

You must be saved before you can be scripturally baptized. Therefore, the baptism of babies can not be scriptural. The following is the proof of this:

Acts 8:35-38 - "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."

V. WATER BAPTISM IS BY IMMERSION

The word “baptize” means to immerse or to put into. Therefore, water baptism is placing a person into the water. Thus, the practice of “sprinkling” is unscriptural.

Matthew 3:16 and Acts 8:38,39 make it clear that water baptism is always by going into the water and coming up out of the water. To refuse water baptism by immersion is to destroy the importance of the next point.

VI. WATER BAPTISM IS A PICTURE AND A TESTIMONY

Romans 6:1-7 shows that water baptism is a picture, symbol, or figure of how Christ died and was buried (going under the water), and how He rose from the dead (coming up out of the water).

Therefore, water baptism is an identification with and testimony of one’s conversion and salvation through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. See also Colossians 2:12.

ADDENDUM

Because of many present-day heresies regarding water baptism, the following may be of help to those that have been taught that water baptism is necessary for salvation.

There are 7 declared baptisms in the word of God. The word “baptize” simply means to “put into” and has nothing to do with water in itself. The “doctrine of baptism_s” (Hebrews 6:2) is seen below. Most of the false teaching on baptism does not discern the fact that there are many different baptisms. Before a verse on baptism can be understood, you must ask yourself WHICH BAPTISM is the verse speaking about.

1. Baptism of the Jews- John 2:6, 3:23-26; Acts 22:12-16
Hebrews 9:10; Numbers 19:7-9
2. Baptism of Repentance- Mark 1:4, Acts 2:38
3. Baptism of the SAVED in water- Acts 8:36-38
4. Baptism of Moses- I Corinthians 10:1 & 2
5. Baptism of Fire- Matthew 3:11
6. Baptism of Death- Matthew 20:22; Luke 12:50;
Romans 6:3-5
7. Baptism of the Holy Ghost- I Corinthians 12:13

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is the saving baptism of I Peter 3:20,21. This text declares that the baptism that has to do with salvation has *nothing* to do with water which is seen in the phrase “not the putting away of the filth of the flesh”, which water does. This baptism has to do with an “answer”. That is, when one says “yes” to Jesus for salvation from his “conscience” or heart (Romans 10:10), he is placed into (which is the meaning of the word baptize) the body of Christ by the Holy Ghost...he is put into the family of God. This is the “one baptism” of Ephesians 4:5. It is the “one” that counts. The Holy Spirit does this baptizing and NOT a man. It is God’s work, not man’s. It is into Christ, not into water.

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

LESSON #4

THE DOCTRINE
OF THE
HOLY GHOST

One of the most misunderstood doctrines in the word of God is the doctrine of the Person and Work of the Holy Ghost. Either He is mysticized as an emotional influence causing irrational behavior, or He is misunderstood as being unimportant in the life of a believer. The Holy Ghost should be very precious to you as a Christian because He came to dwell inside of your body at the moment of your salvation (i.e. the baptism of the Holy Ghost). The following lesson is given to teach you what the Bible says about God the Holy Ghost, to help you appreciate Him, and to exhort you to have a better relationship with Him.

I. THE HOLY GHOST IS THE THIRD PERSON OF THE GODHEAD (THE TRINITY)

I John 5:7 - *“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”*

See the equality of “the Father”, “the Word” (which is Jesus, the Son- John 1:1,14-18), and “the Holy Ghost”. The text plainly says, “these three are *one.*” See also Genesis 1:26 and 11:5-7 to see the plurality of the one God- “us”. See also Matthew 28:19.

The Bible teaches that there is a triune God. He is one, but He is three! Impossible? Not with God! If you could understand God, then He wouldn't be any smarter than you! Believe it because God said it, regardless of whether you can explain it or not. Think of how an egg has three parts but is still ONE egg. How about water, ice, and steam? They are all the SAME molecule but in different FORMS.

The Holy Ghost is the third person of the Trinity. God the Holy Ghost is not just an influence or feeling in your life, but He is a person (just as the Father and the Son) that can be “grieved” by you (Ephesians 4:30) and lied to by you as well (Acts 5:3). Be careful to maintain a proper relationship with Him.

II. THE HOLY GHOST LIVES WITHIN EVERY SAVED INDIVIDUAL

The Holy Ghost is “in your body” if you are saved. Through this indwelling, one is “born of the Spirit” (John 3:6,7). The Bible states that every Christian has the Holy Ghost living in them, and if a person doesn’t have God’s Spirit in them, then they are not saved! The verses below prove this.

Romans 8:9 - *“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”*

I Corinthians 6:19,20 - *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”*

I Corinthians 3:16 - *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”*

III. THE NAMES OF THE HOLY GHOST

- A. The Holy Ghost (John 14:26).
- B. The Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13).
- C. The Comforter (John 14:16).
- D. The Spirit of truth (John 14:17).
- E. The Spirit of the Lord (Acts 5:9).

IV. THE WORK OF THE HOLY GHOST

A. Creator- Genesis 1:2 (earth); Job 33:4 (man);
II Corinthians 5:17 (the “new creature” you
became at salvation’s spiritual birth)

B. Comforter- John 14:16,18,26; 16:7

C. Reprover- John 16:8-11

D. Teacher- I Corinthians 2:9-14; John 14:26;
16:13. He also assures us of our salvation
(Romans 8:16).

E. Sealer- Ephesians 1:13,14; 4:30 (The Holy
Spirit keeps the believer saved until Heaven!)

F. Interceder- Romans 8:26,27

G. Empowerer- Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 2:4;
Ephesians 3:16; Romans 15:13

V. THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Galatians 5:16,22,23,25 - *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and
ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh...But the fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness,
temperance: against such there is no law...If we live in the Spirit, let
us also walk in the Spirit.”*

Ephesians 5:18 - *“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess;
but be filled with the Spirit;”*

To have the spiritual characteristics in our lives we
are commanded to have, we must be filled with the
Holy Spirit. The context of the listed verse
includes the admonition not to be “drunk with wine”,

therefore being filled with the Spirit is the opposite of being filled with alcohol. Just as the drunk is controlled by his drink, you should let the Spirit of God control you! You can only do this if you daily “walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16). If you don’t you will fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Even though every child of God does “live in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25), it is by daily choice to “walk in the Spirit”. You do this by “yielding” to Him daily.

Romans 6:13,16,19 - “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God...Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?...I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.”

REMEMBER: You got all of the Holy Ghost when you were saved (Romans 8:9), but it is up to you to give Him more of you.

CONCLUSION: Review this lesson to be grounded in the important truth of the Holy Ghost and His work. **DO NOT** believe the false teaching that the Holy Spirit is unimportant, **NOR BELIEVE THE LIES OF THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT.** This latter movement is **NOT** Biblical and bases all its teaching on emotionalism and irrational behavior, certainly not on the Bible. The “tongues” and “miracles” movement is totally unscriptural. Don’t get deceived!

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

LESSON #5

THE DOCTRINE
OF
GOD'S WORD

The Bible is God's holy word! Upon that statement lies the hope of all mankind. Without an absolute written authority from God Himself, there can be no discernment of right and wrong, truth or error, or knowledge of anything that God is or requires from man. Without the Bible, man knows not where he came from, where he is, or where he's going. But thanks be unto the Lord for His written revelation that He has divinely and inerrantly given. In the word of God, man finds the way to Heaven and the source for growth as a believer. If you as a Christian want to live right and grow, then THAT BOOK must be your life, guide, and food!

I. THE WORD OF GOD SAVES YOU

I Peter 1:23 - "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

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

James 1:21 - "...receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."

Without the word, you could not be born again!
Without the Bible, man wouldn't know the truth of the gospel, which I Corinthians 15:3-4 defines.

II. THE WORD OF GOD FEEDS YOU

Job 23:12 - "Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food."

John 4:32 - "...I have meat to eat that ye know not of."

If a child does not receive proper food for nourishment, then his growth will be stunted. Even so, if the “child of God” does not receive his “food” spiritually, then he will suffer. The word of God is that “food” that makes a well balanced diet that allows strength and growth for the saved, IF it is digested DAILY. The following is a list of how God describes His word as *food*.

A. Milk: the simplest form of food or truth.

B. Meat: the heaviest form of food or truth.

I Peter 2:2 - *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”*

I Corinthians 3:2 - *“I have fed you with milk, and not with meat”*

Hebrews 5:12-14 - *“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*

C. Bread: the staff of life! (John 6:31-58)

Matthew 4:4 - *“...It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”*

D. Water- Essential to maintain life!
(Ephesians 5:26; John 4:6-15; Isaiah 55:10,11)

E. Honey- Sweet to the taste! (Psalm 19:9,10)

F. Apples- Keeps sickness away. (Proverbs 7:2, 25:11)

III. THE WORD OF GOD EQUIPS YOU

A. Equips for service- *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”* II Timothy 3:16,17

B. Equips for battle- *“And take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”* Ephesians 6:17

IV. THE WORD OF GOD CLEANSSES YOU

John 15:3 - *“Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”*

John 17:17 - *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”*

Psalm 119:9,11 - *“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word...Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”*

I Peter 1:22 - *“...ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth...”*

Therefore, if you as a Christian want to stay clean from sin, then you *must* read and obey the word of God. Either the BOOK will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the BOOK! Remember, the word is “water”, so stay clean!

V. THE WORD OF GOD REPROVES YOU

A. Before salvation (Acts 2:37, 5:33, 7:54)

B. After salvation (Hebrews 4:12,13)

The guilt you experience because of sin in your life occurs when God shows you your wickedness.

VI. THE WORD OF GOD WILL JUDGE YOU

“...the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”
John 12:48

Though this verse is directed to lost people, the Christian will also be judged by the standard of the word of God when his earthly life is over. Read Lesson #15 on the Judgment Seat of Christ for more information.

In this life God’s word is a “mirror” (James 1:22-25) that judges or shows us our true appearance or state, regardless of blemishes. Mirrors don’t lie!

VII. THE WORD OF GOD UPHOLDS YOU

“...upholding all things by the word of his power...” Hebrews 1:3

The same word of God that created the worlds (Psalm 33:6; Hebrews 11:3; II Peter 3:5-7) is the only power that can hold all things together.

CONCLUSION: The word of God is supremely powerful and should take top priority in the life of every Christian. You can’t do anything for God until you find out what He’s said, and you can’t know all that He has said until you “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God*”. If you fail in this you will be “*ashamed*” (II Timothy 2:15). The Gospel of John is a good place for a new Christian to begin his EVERYDAY reading and studying. If you read and can’t understand something, then keep on reading and pray for guidance then wait for the answer while you grow. But always obey what you do know so that God can show you more.

ADDENDUM

Because this is the sinful age of bible “versions”, it is necessary to include this extra material. The new Christian may ask, “Is the word of God, or Bible that I have in my hand totally and 100% reliable and accurate *in every word*? The answer can be an unquestionable YES! The Bible must be without error and authoritative in all of its contents. It is more accurate than if God Himself spoke from Heaven (II Peter 1:16-21). The Bible speaks of itself as abiding forever (I Peter 1:23-25). Furthermore, it states that it is “For ever...settled in heaven” (Psalm 119:89). The problem today is that some men will not let it be settled on earth! There are not 1,562 DIFFERENT “Bibles”, for His word cannot contradict itself. Notice in Psalm 12:6,7 that the Bible says God has preserved” His word for every generation. So somewhere we have God’s word *in print*! The Authorized King James Bible is the ONLY version in the English language without proven error. ALL the rest have *proven* errors. The King James Bible has been tried and proven for almost 400 years! It is the only Bible with I John 5:7-8, Colossians 1:14, I Thessalonians 5:22, I Timothy 6:10, II Timothy 2:15, James 5:16, Luke 4:4, I Timothy 3:16, I John 4:3, and hundreds of other foundational verses. Therefore, it is the only English Bible that could possibly be God’s preserved word without error! I trust that you as a believer will hold your Bible close to your heart and not let anyone shake your faith in its infallible contents. Remember, you have without a doubt God’s written word. Don’t doubt it and don’t change it!

Deuteronomy 4:2
Proverbs 30:6
Revelation 22:18,19

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

LESSON #6

THE DOCTRINE
OF
PRAYER

In order to have a good relationship with anyone, one must constantly communicate with or talk to that person. Whether it is a husband and a wife, parents and children, or boss and employees, there must be good communication or there will be bad relationships. The same will be true concerning your relationship with God. If you do not let God talk to you (Bible reading) or if you do not talk to Him (praying), then you will not grow in the Lord nor be close to Him. That is why you should take heed to this important lesson of Christian growth. Always remember that the first steps to backsliding are lack of prayer and Bible reading!

I. PRAYER IS ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH CHRIST

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”

I Timothy 2:5

“For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.”

Ephesians 2:18

The believer does not pray through or to medians, religious priests, saints, or the dead. Prayer to God can only be made through the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. THERE ARE FOUR TYPES OF PRAYING

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

A. Supplications- This is praying for a “supply” for others or for yourself. Specific requests.

B. Prayers- This is just generally talking to God.

C. Intercessions- This is praying for others. (See Romans 1:9; Hebrews 13:18; I Samuel 12:23; II Thessalonians 3:1)

D. Giving of thanks- *“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.”* Psalm 100:4

“In every thing give thanks...” I Thessalonians 5:17,18

III. GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

John 14:13,14 - *“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”*

Matthew 21:22 - *“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.”*

Mark 11:24 - *“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”*

I John 5:14,15 - *“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”*

Always pray believing God, but understand that the answer could be no (II Corinthians 12:7-10) if it is not according to the will of God.

IV. PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING

Philippians 4:6 - *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”*

V. PRAY ALL THE TIME

I Thessalonians 5:17 - *“Pray without ceasing.”*

Luke 18:1 - *“...men ought always to pray, and not to faint;”*

VI. PRAY EVERYWHERE

I Timothy 2:8 - *“I will therefore that men pray every where...”*

VII. HOW TO PRAY *“Lord, teach us to pray”* Luke 11:1

A. Just talk to God as a friend (Exodus 33:11)
and as a Father (Galatians 4:6).

B. Don't worry about saying it “just right” since
the Lord knows your heart and your need before
you even pray (Romans 8:26,27).

C. Don't use vain repetitions (Matthew 6:5-8).

D. Notice some different postures of prayer:

1. Kneeling- Daniel 6:10; Ephesians 3:14
2. Bowing- Genesis 24:26
3. Sitting- II Samuel 7:18
4. On your face- Genesis 17:3

VIII. HINDRANCES TO PRAYER

A. Not asking- *“...ye have not, because ye ask not.”* James 4:2

B. Asking selfishly- *“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”* James 4:3

C. Asking without faith- *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.”* James 1:5-7

D. Unconfessed sin: God will NOT hear your prayers if you are not right with Him (read the verses below), nor will He hear you if you are not right with other people (read Matthew 6:14,15; I Peter 3:7).

Isaiah 59:2 - *“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”*

Psalms 66:18 - *“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:”*

Proverbs 28:9 - *“He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.”*

CONCLUSION: Prayer is a great privilege that God has given to us as believers. Oh, what a blessing it is to talk with the God who created us and saved us! Yet, how sad it is that so few of God’s people are actively praying everyday. If you are to grow and enjoy the blessings that God has for you, then you **MUST** pray often. For a believer to spend time with God is not only an unspeakable joy, but it is also **WORK** that becomes a weapon of great power! This lesson has only briefly discussed the great subject of prayer. May you as a believer begin to learn more about prayer *as you pray*.

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

LESSON #7

THE DOCTRINE
OF
THE CHURCH

There are multiplied hundreds of thousands of organized institutions. However, today we know from God's word that He is mainly working through only one institution, and it is one that He has divinely set up...the church. Therefore, if the Christian desires to be what he should for God he must belong and be involved in a local church. Being a part of a Bible-believing church is not a preference or option, but a command as we will see in this lesson.

I. WHAT IS "THE CHURCH" ?

The word "church" has the meaning of a "called out assembly". The church has been "called out" and set apart from this world to serve God. Called out by salvation (I Peter 2:9) and for separation from worldly living (II Corinthians 6:17). The following are the two ways to look at "the church":

A. All who are saved are a part of the church (Ephesians 1:22,23; 5:23,27,30; Colossians 1:18,24). You can have membership in a hundred local church assemblies and still go to Hell if you've never been saved. Salvation makes one a member of "the body of Christ" through the baptism of the Holy Ghost (I Corinthians 12:13). This is God's true church body that will all be gathered in Heaven someday (Hebrews 12:22,23).

B. A local assembling of saved people is considered a "church". Though the importance of point #1 above must be understood, the purpose of this lesson is to teach the saved the importance of the local church. Of the 117 times that the word "church" is used, only about ten times do not refer to a local assembling of

believers. Thus, most of the instructions that God gives to the church are designed to exhort you about your commanded responsibilities concerning your local church.

II. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH ?

A. To reach the lost with the gospel (Acts 1:8)

B. To baptize and teach converts
(Matthew 28:19,20)

C. To observe the Lord's supper
(I Corinthians 11:26)

D. To preach the word (I Timothy 4:13; Titus 2:1; Acts 20:7-9; II Timothy 4:2-4) The church is a place where you should get fed the words of God (Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2). Therefore, if you don't attend church regularly you are missing some important nourishment! The purpose of assembling is to build up and strengthen the church through edification by the preached word of God (Ephesians 4:11-16).

E. To pray (Acts 4:31)

F. To praise the Lord in word and song
(Hebrews 2:12; Psalm 35:18, 42:4, 66:8;
Ephesians 5:19,20)

G. To fellowship (Acts 2:42)

*Notice how the *first* church had all seven of these things in Acts 2:41,42,47. They won the lost (vs.41), baptized and taught (vs.41,42), had the Lord's supper (i.e. "breaking of bread", vs.42),

preached (vs.41,42), prayed (vs.42), and praised God (vs.47).

III. WHERE DO I FIT IN THE CHURCH ?

Most importantly, you are to be there at every assembling of the church. This is not an option but a command and is more important the closer we get to Jesus' coming (Hebrews 10:25). Though many people think they can be "good" Christians purposefully staying at home, this is unscriptural.

Though there are only two offices in the church, pastor (also called bishop or elder) and deacon (see Philippians 1:1), you should be involved in helping your church grow. As a member of that local body of believers, there is a function that only you can perform (I Corinthians 12:14-27). Be available, get involved, and start working! Follow the pastor's lead and offer to help wherever needed. Get excited about participating in the greatest institution on this earth.

CONCLUSION: Your relationship to the local church will influence all parts of your Christian life. You must find a good Bible-believing local church if you are going to grow spiritually and please God. Though the Bible doesn't speak of denominations, we clearly have them today. It is the writer's opinion from studying the scriptures and the religious "denominations" that present day Bible-believing Independent Baptist churches are the closest form of the New Testament church on earth today. Find one (or start one) and begin growing and serving.

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

LESSON #8

THE DOCTRINE
OF
SIN

When you got saved, God judicially forgave you for every sin that you have ever or will ever commit (Colossians 2:13; Hebrews 8:12, 9:26; I John 1:7). Jesus' blood cleansed you totally and permanently, which is why you will be able to enter heaven sinless. However, as long as you remain in your present human body you will have to fight sin on a daily basis. Though God shall not judge your sin with eternal death (since your sin was judged in the body of Christ at Calvary- I Peter 2:24, Romans 6:6, and Revelation 1:5), you can and will be judged in this life as a Christian if you don't daily confess and forsake sinful living. You will also be among life's unhappiest if you don't stay clean! This lesson is designed to show the Christian what sin is, how to keep from it, and the consequences that come if you don't keep clean.

I. WHO IS CAPABLE OF SINNING ?

I John 1:8 - "If we (Christians) say that we have NO sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

Be assured that sinning after salvation does not send you to Hell (go over Lesson #2 again). Yes, sadly, even saved people sin because we were born sinners (Romans 3:23, 5:12; Galatians 3:22; Job 14:1,4; Psalm 58:3). Therefore, our sinfulness is connected to our natural "flesh". As long as you're in your SKIN, you will have trouble with SIN! Though you are free from the penalty of sin, you still have "the infirmity of your flesh" to deal with.

Romans 6:18,19 - "Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh:"

Romans 7:18,21 - *“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.”*

Read Romans 7:14-25 to understand the *war* that you will fight against your flesh (I Peter 2:11). This passage shows the problem of the flesh, that “evil” is always present with you (i.e. your flesh you carry around). It also declares that you can live in victory as a believer, even though you have a daily sin battle. Thank God one day, all the saved shall depart this world and their ‘flesh’ to enter Heaven to sin no more.

Romans 7:24,25 - *“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”*

II. WHAT IS SIN ?

There are sins of commission: sins you *commit* as wrong, unrighteous, or questionable deeds.

I John 3:4 - *“...sin is the transgression of the law.”*

I John 5:17 - *“All unrighteousness is sin...”*

Romans 14:23 - *“...whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”*

There are sins of omission that occur through *omitting* something that you should have done for the Lord or others (Bible reading, prayer, church attendance, witnessing, etc.).

James 4:17 - *“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”*

III. WHY DO I SIN ?

You sin because of the tempting of your “flesh”. This tempting comes from three sources (which are your 3 enemies) and in three areas.

The three sources of temptation are the following:

A. *This sinful world* (Mark 4:19; II Timothy 4:10; Colossians 2:8; James 1:27, 4:4; I John 2:15-17)

B. *Your own inward lusts* (James 1:13-16, 4:1)

C. *Satan* (Luke 4:13; I Corinthians 7:5)

The three areas of temptation which Satan uses from the world to tempt your lusts are listed in I John 2:16. They are seen in the tempting of Eve, Jesus, and in your life as well. They are the following:

A. *The lust of the flesh*- Eve saw the tree was “good for food” (Genesis 3:6). Christ was tempted to turn the stones into bread (Matthew 4:3).

B. *The lust of the eyes*- Eve “saw” that the tree was “pleasant to the eyes” (Genesis 3:6). Jesus was tempted as He saw all the worldly kingdoms with His eyes (Matthew 4:8).

C. *The pride of life*- Eve thought the tree was “desired to make one wise” (Genesis 3:6). Christ was tempted to pridefully cast Himself from the temple (Matthew 4:6).

IV. HOW WILL GOD REACT TO MY SIN ?

Hebrews 12:5,6,9 - *“And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?”*

God will chasten you in these three ways:

- A. *Speaking* to you (Hebrews 12:5- “rebuked”).
- B. *Spanking* you (Hebrews 12:6- “scourgeth”).
- C. He could *kill* you (Hebrews 12:9- “and live?”).

God will also let you reap what you sow (Galatians 6:7,8). However, “if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged” (I Corinthians 11:31,32).

V. HOW CAN I OVERCOME SIN ?

A. The first step is DAILY CONFESSION, and then CLAIMING His forgiveness. The Lord will forgive you for EVERY sin, just be sure that you get honest with God.

I 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.”*
 Proverbs 28:13 - *“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”*

B. Get rid of and stay away from any thing, place, or person that tempts you to sin.

Romans 13:14 - *“...make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”*

C. Stay in the Bible and memorize it. The Book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Book.

Psalm 119:9,11 - *“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”*

D. Walk in the Spirit (Read Galatians 5:16-25, and see Lesson #5). Feed your “spirit” and not your “flesh”!!! If two dogs fight and one is well fed and the other is fed poorly, then which one is going to win the fight?

Galatians 5:16 - *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”*

E. Yield your members to God daily and “reckon” (i.e. strongly believe and know) that you are dead to sin, and it doesn’t appeal to you.

Romans 6:11-13 - *“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”*

F. Next time, take God’s escape out- *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”*
I Corinthians 10:13

G. Christ was tempted like you and can “help”, if you will go to Him in prayer.

Hebrews 4:15-16 - “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

CONCLUSION: Jesus Christ gave the victory over the power of sin (I Corinthians 15:56,57). Claim the victory, be holy (I Peter 1:16), and STAY CLEAN!

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

LESSON #9

THE DOCTRINE
OF
WITNESSING

There is no doubt that God has a job for every Christian. If He didn't, then He would have taken you to Heaven immediately after you received Christ as your Saviour. The Lord has left you here to do something and that something is mainly to be a witness for Jesus Christ. Since the souls of men are eternal, nothing could possibly be more important than trying to keep people out of an eternal Hell by giving them the truth of the gospel. God has given every saved individual (that includes YOU) the responsibility and privilege to reach the world with the gospel. The purpose of this lesson is to outline the commands of Scripture concerning witnessing and give to the believer a proper knowledge of how to lead others to Jesus.

I. THE COMMANDS THAT MUST BE HEEDED

Acts 1:8 - *"...ye shall be witnesses unto me..."*

John 20:21 - *"...as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."*

You have been left or "sent" into this world for the same purpose that Jesus came here, to witness of the truth so the lost can be saved (read John 18:37 and Luke 19:10). This is not an option, but a command. Lack of witnessing is sin (James 4:17). Matthew 28:19 and Mark 16:15 says "Go YE", not a preacher or some other Christian...YOU are to go!

II Corinthians 5:18-20 - *"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."*

These verses prove that EVERY Christian has been given a “ministry”. That “ministry” is to seek to “reconcile” people to God by being a messenger or an “ambassador” of the truth of salvation.

II. THE COURAGE THAT IS NEEDED

Romans 1:16 - *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...”*

II Timothy 1:7,8 - *“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord...”*

Romans 10:11 - *“For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”*

You are told not to be ashamed or afraid to witness! To overcome the fear of witnessing do the following:

A. Boldly MAKE yourself speak up for God (Ephesians 3:12; Philippians 1:20). The more you speak up for Jesus the easier it gets.

B. Pray that God will give you boldness (Acts 4:29,31; Ephesians 6:18,19).

C. Know that the witness is “IN YOU”, whether you think it is or not (I John 5:10). A witness just tells what he KNOWS (John 3:11)!!! Just tell how you got saved and what you know the Lord has done in your life.

D. Study so you’ll not be “ashamed” and know what to say (II Timothy 2:15; I Peter 3:15).

III. THE CONTENT THAT SHOULD BE LEARNED

You should know how to give someone the key verses of salvation. There are many you can use, but here are the simplest verses to remember, all in the book of Romans, until you learn others.

A. Romans 3:23- Show them their sinfulness and tell them they need to repent.

B. Romans 6:23- Show them sin's payment and God's free gift.

C. Romans 5:8- Show them that the sacrifice of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection is their only hope.

D. Romans 10:9,10,13- Ask them to personally pray from their heart to receive Jesus as Saviour.

IV. THE CONVERSATION THAT'S EFFECTIVE

The following are two types of conversation that can be used in witnessing:

A. Direct confrontation- Jesus did this in John 3 to Nicodemus and to the crowd in Luke 13:1-5. John the Baptist (Matthew 3:2), Paul (Acts 17:16,17), Philip (Acts 8:30-35), and others did this often. Some people need you to plainly tell them salvation's one way, how wicked they are, and that they are going to Hell. Get them fearful about the fire that awaits them (Jude 23).

B. Conversational witnessing- Jesus, in John 4, casually spoke to the woman at the well until an opportunity arose to witness in conversation.

V. THE COMPASSION THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Jude 22 - *“And of some have compassion, making a difference:”*

Psalm 126:5,6 - *“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”*

Compassion does make a difference. Tears are a key to witnessing. Jesus Christ, our example, had compassion (Matthew 9:36-38, 18:33) and wept over people (Luke 19:41; John 11:35) throughout his ministry on earth. It's a shame that the people that are already in Hell are more concerned about those headed to Hell than we are (Luke 16:27-31). We should daily be trying to lead someone to Christ and praying for the Lord to send forth more laborers into the harvest (Matthew 9:38). You might think that you haven't been saved long enough to be a good witness for the Lord but that couldn't be farther from the truth. Give people your testimony with compassion in your heart. You must tell others since there are those that ONLY YOU can reach.

CONCLUSION: As a Christian you do need to recognize that lost people are different than you. The word of God states that you are “peculiar” to this world of lost sinners (Titus 2:14); therefore, when you witness to them about the Lord they may “persecute you” (II Timothy 3:12) or even “hate you” (John 15:18,19). Nevertheless, you must tell the good news of the gospel with all the fervency in your heart, because without your witness many could die and go to Hell. Aren't you glad someone told you?!?

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

LESSON #10

THE DOCTRINE
OF
MONEY &

Since the time of man's fall, there has always been an extreme temptation for man to be materialistic and selfish. Money, and the lust for it, has ruined countless people, including Christians. Furthermore, countless more believers fill their lives with sin by not giving to the Lord out of what He has given them. Our attitude toward money (including things) and giving is very important, about which the Bible has much to say. This lesson will give the Bible-believer the facts regarding these subjects in a day when the world turns a deaf ear to them.

I. MONEY AND SIN

Money is a "god" to some (Matthew 6:24), keeping many from receiving salvation (Mark 10:23-27; I Timothy 6:9). Wealth won't do a lost person any good when he's dead (Proverbs 11:4; Luke 12:16-21), because God can't be bought off. Money can't buy salvation (or peace, health, happiness, real love, etc.)!

A. It is a sin to love money- "*For the love of money is the root of all evil...*" (I Timothy 6:10). Money itself is not evil, but the love of it is. In other words, it is not wrong to have money (Job and Abraham were very rich and godly), but it is wrong for money to have you! See Ecclesiastes 5:10 to see the end of loving money. Psalm 49:6-17 gives some additional comments on this as well.

B. Money and the acquiring of possessions is a sin when that's all you work for in life- "*Labour not to be rich...*" (Proverbs 23:4).

C. It is a sin to hoard money- *“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”* (Matthew 6:19-21)

D. Coveting is sin- *“Thou shalt not covet...”* (Exodus 20:17)
“And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.” (Luke 12:15). **Wanting someone's house, clothes, or wealth is just as bad as fornication** (I Corinthians 5:10,11; Colossians 3:5; Ephesians 5:3) or drunkenness (I Corinthians 6:10) in God's sight! Covetousness is a sin of the last days (II Timothy 3:2; James 5:1-3)!

Money can cause you to forget God, becoming a sin to you (Deuteronomy 6:10-12), so pray that you'll be neither rich nor poor (Proverbs 30:8,9).

II. MONEY AND RESPONSIBILITY

I Timothy 6:8 - *“And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.”*

Philippians 4:11 - *“...I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”*

Luke 3:14 - *“...be content with your wages.”*

Hebrews 13:5 - *“...be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have...”*

Be content with what you have! A lot of our money problems can be found in buying things *we don't need!* (TV's, vehicles, stereos, expensive clothes, etc.)

Romans 13:8 - "Owe no man any thing..."

Though you shouldn't worry about money or material things (Matthew 6:25-34), you must still be wise and responsible for testimony sake. The indebtedness and poorly managed financial lives of God's people is damaging to the cause of Christ. Use wisdom. Don't buy what you can't afford or pay for!

I Timothy 5:8 - *"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."*

II Corinthians 12:14 - *"...the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children."*

You have a responsibility to make sure your family is provided for. This includes "laying up" for your children (not yourself!) as the ant would prepare for winter (Proverbs 6:6-8). You still should be careful to maintain a balance so you won't be guilty of hoarding.

III. GIVING

A. How do I give to the Lord? Mainly to and through the local church (I Corinthians 16:2) *"as God hath prospered"*, and always with a proper attitude (II Corinthians 8:4,5; 9:7).

B. How much should I give to the Lord? At least 10% of your income (Proverbs 3:9). There is no lower standard of giving in the Bible. This tenth, or tithe, was:

1. Standard before the law- Genesis 14:20,
28:22.
2. Standard during the law- Malachi 3:8-10
3. Standard after the law- Matthew 23:23;
Hebrews 7:8,14-28.

Though the tithe is required, it is the minimum of giving. Really, a Christian should give over and above what is required. We should give more under grace than one under the law, praying earnestly and purposing in our hearts what to give (II Corinthians 9:7). The early church, though very poor, gave SACRIFICIALLY (II Corinthians 8:2,3,12; Luke 21:1-4).

C. Why should I give? You should give because it is commanded (see above), to get God's blessing (II Corinthians 9:6-8; Luke 6:38; Proverbs 3:9,10; Philippians 4:17; Proverbs 11:24), primarily because you LOVE GOD, and also to be a HELP! Giving helps in the following necessary areas:

1. Helps get out the gospel (Romans 10:14,15)! Every Christian and church should give to Missionaries and Missionary works.
2. Helps provide for the needs of the pastor and other church needs (I Corinthians 9:13,14; I Timothy 5:17,18; Numbers 18:21).
3. Helps needy individuals (I Timothy 5:9,10,16 Acts 6:1), needy churches (Acts 11:29,30), or anyone else who has a need (Proverbs 21:26, 28:27) BUT especially for the saved (I John 3:17,18; Galatians 6:10). Notice that the above examples were mainly through the church.

D. Can I afford to give? You can't afford not to! God has promised to supply your needs IF you give (Philippians 4:14-19). God knows what you need and doesn't want you to worry about not meeting the bills (Matthew 6:25-34). He's able to provide, even when you think it is impossible (Genesis 18:14; Luke 1:37; Philippians 4:19). Give Him what He deserves FIRST (I Kings 17:12-16) and He will honour and take care of you. See also Psalm 37:25, 23:1, and Proverbs 13:25.

CONCLUSION: When possessions and money matters are studied out, we must all see the dangers and make sure that God has the preeminence (Colossians 1:18) in this area. Your wallet and all your financial decisions should be in the Lord's hands. Pleasing Him should always be the most pressing thing on your mind. If your heart is right, then earthly things don't mean much to you, materialism isn't a problem, and giving occurs automatically. You see, this is so important because God cannot have your heart without your treasure (Matthew 6:21).

Concerning giving, remember this: God doesn't need your money...YOU need to give in order to be obedient, grow in the Lord, and receive the greater blessings of God. The Christian must know that all he has comes from God, all he has can be easily taken away by God, and all he has cannot be remotely compared to what God has in store for him beyond this life.

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

LESSON #11

THE DOCTRINE
OF
THE FAMILY
OF GOD

Your relationship as a Christian to other Christians is very important. You see, every saved individual is in THE SAME FAMILY (Ephesians 3:15; part of the family has gone on to heaven and the other part is still on earth). Because all believers are in “the family of God”, we are declared to be brothers and sisters spiritually. To call lost people “brethren” is not only untrue but sinful. If you’re saved, the ONLY person who is your brother (besides physical relation, of course) is another saved individual. Your love should be directed toward your FAMILY, in other words, all believers. The following lesson reveals your responsibilities and expected attitudes toward your “FAMILY”.

I. YOU SHOULD LOVE THE BRETHREN

I Peter 3:8, 4:8 - “Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous...And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves...”

I John 3:14, 15, 16 - “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

If you hate your brother, then you are a murderer. One trait of a saved man is that he loves other saved people. You don’t have to like all believers, but you do have to love them!

II. YOU SHOULD GET ALONG WITH THE BRETHREN

A. “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1). **God demands unity!** See also Philippians 2:2 and Romans 15:5-7. There is power in a unified church (read Acts).

B. “Only by pride cometh contention” (Proverbs 13:10). It takes **humility to get along with the brethren.** See also Philippians 2:2-8.

C. “...for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal...” (I Corinthians 3:3). **Division and strife is Satanic (James 3:14-16) and reveals carnality UNLESS it is over doctrinal heresy or moral wickedness (I Corinthians 5:11; Romans 16:17; II Thessalonians 3:6).**

D. “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.” (Psalm 119:165). **Getting “offended” is never right!**

E. “But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.” (Galatians 5:14,15) **Failure to get along with other Christians can be devastating.**

Though brothers and sisters are prone to fight, it is a dangerous thing that Satan can use against the church to destroy the work of God in an assembly.

III. YOU SHOULD PRAY FOR THE BRETHREN

James 5:16 - “...pray one for another...”

IV. YOU SHOULD COMFORT THE BRETHREN

I Thessalonians 5:11 - “Wherefore comfort yourselves together...”

V. YOU SHOULD FORGIVE THE BRETHREN

Colossians 3:13 - *“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”*

Matthew 6:14,15 - *“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*

We are commanded to forgive each other because Christ has forgiven us (Ephesians 4:31,32). Read Matthew 18:21-35 for the proper attitude. If we don't forgive our brethren, we have unconfessed sin in our heart that God will not forgive until we make it right.

VI. YOU SHOULD MEET THE NEEDS OF THE BRETHREN

A. Spiritual Needs- Galatians 6:1,2 shows how we are to help keep each other right with God. We must be concerned about each other spiritually.

B. Physical Needs- See I John 3:17,18; James 2:15,16; Romans 12:13, and Galatians 6:10.

CONCLUSION: Truly the Christian should feel close to his “family”. How beautiful it is to see the loving “bond” (Ephesians 4:2-4) that ties together all those of *“like precious faith”* (II Peter 1:1). Christian, enjoy the precious closeness of THE FAMILY OF GOD. The world cannot duplicate the blessed love of God's children. If what you desire is **joyful** relationships with others, then remember...

Jesus First **O**thers Second **Y**ourself Last

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

LESSON #12

THE DOCTRINE
OF
THE HOME

By no means shall this lesson include all the Biblical or practical truth on the home. It would take hundreds of pages to expound this subject. Nevertheless, it is important for the believer to know the simple yet necessary Bible facts regarding this area. One of the greatest attacks of Satan against the saved is the attempt to destroy the Christian home. Nations, marriages, and the lives of countless children are at stake in this raging battle with the devil. Approach this lesson with a wholehearted concern over your family, desiring God's direction and the Book's teaching.

I. THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP

God ordained the honourable institution of marriage. See Genesis 2:21-24 and Hebrews 13:4. The following are four main Satanic ploys to destroy the proper marriage relationship:

A. Marriages between saved and lost people- See II Corinthians 6:14's condemning of such.

B. Immorality- Adultery and fornication attacks the blessed marriage union. God's perfect plan is *one man and one woman for life!* Sexual relations outside of the marriage bond is not only destructive but terribly sinful (I Corinthians 6:15-18; Exodus 20:14; Proverbs 6:32).

C. Sodomy- Homosexuality is heathenistic, perverted, reprobate, unreasonable, abominable, and an attack on the proper place of marriage. Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:26-28,32, and Genesis 19 are God's thoughts on such acts.

D. Divorce- This terrible plague has spread

across the world and into the Christian home. God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16)! However, He is still able to bind up the broken-hearted for His use and glory. Many verses in the Bible address divorce and remarriage. It is a complex subject that must be considered with prayer and a right heart. To begin to understand God's views of divorce and remarriage read Matthew 19:6-9 and I Corinthians 7:10-16,27,28.

II. THE HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITIES

A. He is to **love** his wife (Ephesians 5:25). This is no easy task since the text states "*as Christ also loved the church*". Colossians 3:19 further reveals this love by exhorting the husband to not get "bitter" at his wife, which can kill a marriage.

B. He is to **know** his wife (I Peter 3:7).

C. He is to **honour** his wife (I Peter 3:7).

D. He is to establish prayer and devotional time with his wife and children in the home (I Peter 3:7; Deuteronomy 6:6,7). Therefore, he is responsible to keep his wife clean (Ephesians 5:25-28; John 15:3) by teaching her the Bible (I Corinthians 14:35).

E. He is to responsibly act as the authority and ultimate decision maker of the affairs of the home. He is declared the "head" of the home and of his wife (Ephesians 5:23). Anything with two heads is a monster! Thus, the Lord has entrusted the husband with this authority, and he will give an account of how he handles it (Luke 12:48).

III. THE WIFE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

A. She is to be in **subjection** to her husband (I Peter 3:1,5; Ephesians 5:24). "SUBjection" as "SUBmit" (Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18) has the idea of voluntarily being "under" (like SUBway, SUBmarine) the authority of another. The verses above require the wife to submit to the husband "even as" we are to submit to the Lord. Furthermore, notice Genesis 3:16 and the word "rule". This does not mean that the wife is inferior to her husband. Remember how Christ "submitted" to His Father's will yet He was EQUAL to Him. I Corinthians 11:3,8,9 further brings this truth out in the "headship" principle. If the wife is not "obedient" to her husband, she not only will be unhappy but will classify herself as a "blasphemer" of the word of God (Titus 2:5).

B. She is to **love** her husband and children (Titus 2:4).

C. She is to **reverence** her husband (Ephesians 5:33).

D. She is to be **meek** and **quiet** (I Peter 3:4).

E. She is to be **chaste** (Titus 2:5; I Peter 3:2).

F. She is to be a **keeper at home** (Titus 2:5).

IV. THE CHILDREN'S RESPONSIBILITIES

A. They are to **honour** their parents (Exodus 20:12).

B. They are to **obey** their parents (Colossians 3:20; Ephesians 6:1,2). See Jesus' example (Luke 2:48-51).

C. They are **NOT** to be **stubborn** or **rebellious**, which is likened unto drunkenness, gluttony (Deuteronomy 21:18-21), witchcraft, and idolatry (I Samuel 15:23). The O.T. penalty was death.

D. They are to be **disciplined!** Chastisement in love (Hebrews 12:6) with proper use of the rod is a must (Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; 23:13,14; 29:15). This will produce "fear" (Leviticus 19:3) which will deter evil (Proverbs 16:6). Fathers also keep Ephesians 6:4 in mind.

E. They are to be **provided** for (I Timothy 5:8; II Corinthians 12:14).

F. They are to **requite their parents** (I Timothy 5:4).

CONCLUSION: May God help you to follow His blueprint for a peaceful and blessed Christian home, overcoming Satan's powerful attacks against it.

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

LESSON #13

THE DOCTRINE
OF THE
WILL OF GOD

The greatest joy in a Christian's life is to know that he is pleasing God by doing His will. Jesus is the ultimate example of this (Hebrews 10:7; Matthew 3:17). What a blessing it is to know that you are exactly where God wants you to be as a Christian and doing exactly what He wants you to do in this life. But before you can experience God's blessing in His perfect will, you must know what His will is. Many believers are unsure of God's plan for them (sadly, others don't care what that plan is), and consequently, they lead unsuccessful and unhappy lives in the eyes of God. The purpose of this lesson is to equip the Christian with God's word so that you may *know* the will of God and *do* it.

I. IT IS THE WILL OF GOD THAT ALL BE SAVED

Matthew 7:21, Mark 3:35, and I John 2:17 indicate that we are saved by "doing" the will of God. John 6:40 and II Peter 3:9 tells us that this will is to believe on the Lord and to repent of our sin, which He wants "all" to do.

II. IT IS THE WILL OF GOD THAT EVERY CHRISTIAN BE SANCTIFIED

I Thessalonians 4:1-7 tells us that we can only be in God's will IF we are living clean holy lives in our thoughts, motives, and actions. If a Christian isn't living a sanctified life (which is a pure life that is separated from evil), then God isn't pleased with them nor can He bless them with His future plan.

III. IT IS THE WILL OF GOD THAT YOU THANK GOD IN EVERYTHING

I Thessalonians 5:18 - "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

IV. IT IS THE WILL OF GOD THAT YOU OBEY THE GOVERNMENT

I Peter 2:13-15 - "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:"

V. IT IS THE WILL OF GOD THAT YOU BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST

Romans 8:28,29 - "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son..."

Ephesians 4:13-15 - "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:)"

VI. IT IS THE WILL OF GOD FOR YOU TO KNOW THE WILL OF GOD

Ephesians 5:17 - "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."

A. The Lord not only wants you to know the commands concerning His will, but He also wants you to know His will in your daily plans and choices (I Corinthians 4:19; James 4:15). This discerning of God's will takes much wisdom (James 1:5).

B. To know God's will from day to day, you must first be totally committed to His desires not yours (I Peter 4:2). This is a commitment not just outwardly but of the heart (Ephesians 6:6).

C. Realize that God shows us what His will is from day to day, not way down the road. Do what you know to do today, and God will show you the rest when you are ready. He leads us in life as one would shine a flashlight on a path in the darkness. The light never reveals the path way down the road, but one step at a time.
(Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 4:18)

D. Romans 12:1,2 - *"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. 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."* To know God's will you must first present your body (future, etc.) to Him totally submissive to whatever He would lead you to do. Then, if you will stay clean (Romans 12:2's "be not conformed") He will "renew your mind". Your mind is "renewed" by the word of God and prayer. Therefore, you can't know God's will if you're not praying and reading the Bible. However if you will do this, you are able to "prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God".

E. Through the information given thus far you can find out what “vocation” God has “called” you to (Ephesians 4:1). Over and over, Paul tells us he was “called to be an apostle by the will of God”. God does have a place in life that only you can fill...so find that place of service!

F. You can “complete” God’s will for your life (Colossians 4:12), and the Holy Spirit is praying that you will do just that (Romans 8:27).

CONCLUSION: God will work His will out in your life for *your good* if you will please Him by following Him and the plan which He has for your life.

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

LESSON #14

THE DOCTRINE
OF
WORK
RELATIONSHIPS

As one would expect, the Bible does not leave any area of our lives untouched with its principles of truth and direction. You see, Bible doctrine does include practical living (Titus 2:1-10). Because of this fact, we will realize in this lesson that the Lord is concerned about our work relationships in the world. We must live and work IN the world but not be OF the world. It has been stated that one-fourth of the average person's life is spent "on the job". Surely the Lord is concerned about this area that demands so much of a Christian's time. As this lesson begins, may you know that God wants to use you in all your life, including when you are "at work".

I. KNOW THAT IT IS A SIN NOT TO WORK, IF YOU ARE ABLE TO WORK

II Thessalonians 3:10-12 - "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread."

I Timothy 5:8 - "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

These verses declare the sin of not working. This sin is obviously connected with the sins of laziness (look up the Bible words "slothful" and "sluggard"), and reveals a lack of character in the matter of responsibility.

II. KNOW THAT EVERY CHRISTIAN IS “FULL-TIME” FOR GOD

Ephesians 4:1,12 - *“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called... For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”*

II Corinthians 5:17-20 - *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.”*

Your “vocation” is “the ministry” according to these verses. This ministry is reaching the lost full-time. You should look at employment as God’s field for your witness. For most believers, more unsaved people will be met at work than at any other place. Your witness is required to strangers everywhere (I Peter 3:15), but you have a better opportunity to reach those that you have continually been a testimony to (II Corinthians 3:2).

III. KNOW THE PROPER ATTITUDE OF AN EMPLOYEE

A. Ephesians 6:5-8 & Colossians 3:22-24 tells the employee to:

1. Be “obedient”.
2. Work “as” unto Christ.

3. Work from the “heart” or “heartily”.

4. Work aware of the “reward” ahead.

B. Titus 2:9,10 further tells us not to steal from or argue with our employer. This does not mean you can’t disagree, nor does it mean you must obey if asked to sin. II Corinthians 8:21 also tells us not to be dishonest while on the job, which would include dishonest use of your time or misuse of property not belonging to you.

C. Don’t work slothfully (Romans 12:11; Proverbs 18:9).

D. Mind your own business instead of the business of the other employees.
(I Thessalonians 4:11; II Thessalonians 3:11,12).

E. Seek the success of your employer.
(I Corinthians 10:24)

IV. KNOW THE PROPER ATTITUDE OF AN EMPLOYER

A. Pay your employees fairly (Colossians 4:1).

B. Don’t threaten or talk hatefully with your workers (Ephesians 6:9). Note: This doesn’t mean they can’t be corrected or fired.

V. REALIZE THAT PERSECUTION MIGHT COME ON THE JOB

A. The “real” Christian will suffer because of his holy life and testimony (II Timothy 3:12).

B. Some persecution comes because of ignorance instead of from righteous living (I Peter 2:18-23; 3:16,17). Your obnoxious, pushy witness to a boss or co-worker is not proper.

C. The devil may tempt you through the wicked conversation or activity of others at work. Though you may have no choice in what others do or say, you surely may let it be known that you object to such and refuse to join in. Guard yourself against all evil.

VI. SEEK GOD’S DIRECTION THROUGH PRAYER ABOUT ANY AND ALL JOB CHANGES

Nothing can replace God given wisdom (James 1:5). Be sure something is God’s will (see Lesson 13) before you make a decision.

CONCLUSION: It is such a great privilege to be a full-time Christian. It is sad that many look and act like a “Christian” just on Sunday, and then live like the lost while at work through the week. Surely, the believer is to always see every day as a labour of love for the Lord, seeking to work and do His business.

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

LESSON #15

THE DOCTRINE
OF THE
JUDGMENT SEAT
OF CHRIST

Certainly every Christian knows that there is something more to life than what's on earth. What awaits us beyond this world should occupy our minds, motivate our service, and encourage our continued faithfulness. Heaven is obviously a place so wonderful that the greatest of all expectations could not possibly grasp the wonderful bliss of it (I Corinthians 2:9). However, though every saved individual will enjoy pleasures evermore, there is still a day of judgment for every Christian. This judgment for all believers is called the Judgment Seat of Christ. Though we should rejoice over our heavenly home, we should also be sober-minded about the day when we shall stand before our Saviour to give account of our lives before entering that wonderful place.

I. THE LORD JESUS SHALL JUDGE EVERY MAN (John 5:22) BUT AT TWO FUTURE SEPARATE TIMES

A. The judging of the saved (Romans 14:10)

The Judgment Seat of Christ, which is the focus of our lesson here, will occur immediately after the Rapture and resurrection of the saved (see Lesson 16). There will be no lost people at this judgment. The lost will be judged 1,000 years later (see next point & Lesson 17).

B. The judging of the lost (Revelation 20:11-15)

This is the Great White Throne Judgment. No saved people will be judged there. This is the final judgment of all the dead in all ages who are condemned to the Lake of Fire.

II. EVERY SAVED PERSON WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF

Romans 14:10 - *“But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.”*

III. SOME SAVED PEOPLE WILL SUFFER LOSS AND SHAME AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” (I Corinthians 3:11-15)

A. Even if the believer has done nothing for Jesus, “he himself shall be saved” and enter heaven (I Corinthians 3:15), “yet so as by fire”.

B. II Corinthians 5:10 - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

Instead of the blessing of receiving rewards, the unfaithful believer will “receive...things” for their “bad” works that were done while in their body.

This is the burning of the “wood, hay, stubble” in I Corinthians 3:12. It all goes up in smoke but the soul! This person’s life was a complete waste and failure!

C. “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...Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame...the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." (I John 2:28, Revelation 16:15, and 19:8). For lazy Christians there will not only be regret over "loss" but great shame as if standing naked before a crowd. Though judicially or technically your sins were judged by Christ on the cross (I Peter 2:24), your unconfessed sins *could* be brought up at the Judgment Seat of Christ (I Timothy 5:24; I John 1:9; Matthew 12:36), at least in the sense of answering for them (see II Corinthians 5:10 and Romans 14:12 again).

IV. SOME SAVED PEOPLE WILL RECEIVE REWARDS IN THREE POSSIBLE WAYS

A. TREASURES- *"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:"* (Matthew 6:20). The "gold, silver, and precious stones" of I Corinthians 3:11-15 are the treasures available to the Christian. Notice that these are given to those whose work passed the fire test (i.e. they were genuine). Even some outwardly "good" works will be burned up because they were not done in the right motive (i.e. "of what sort it is").

B. CROWNS will be given by the Lord to faithful believers in the following FIVE areas:

1. *The Incorruptible Crown* (For self-control)

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they

do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” (I Corinthians 9:24-27)

2. The Crown of Rejoicing (For witnessing!)

“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy.” (I Thessalonians 2:19,20)

“Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown...” (Philippians 4:1)

3. The Crown of Righteousness (For loving the Return of Jesus! See Lesson 16)

“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

(II Timothy 4:8)

4. The Crown of Life (For enduring temptation and suffering until and/or through death!)

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.” (James 1:12)

“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10)

5. The Crown of Glory (For the pastor or wise!)

“The elders...when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.” (I Peter 5:1-4)

“...get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour...She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.” (Proverbs 4:7-9)

You can win more than one crown! Strive for all of them, knowing they shall be cast at Jesus feet in a worship service one day in heaven that is limited to those who faithfully won a crown!

Revelation 4:4,10 - *"...and they had on their heads crowns of gold...and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne..."*

C. CITY RULE during the earthly 1,000 year reign of Christ- *"And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities."* (Luke 19:17,19) **If you have been faithful over whatever God has given you to do in this life, then you will be granted an earthly rulership according to your faithfulness when Jesus comes again. See Lesson 17 for details.**

CONCLUSION: The greatest accountability that any Christian has is to the Lord Jesus Christ, their Saviour. What an overwhelming thought to know that one day you will look into the eyes of fire (Revelation 1:14, 2:18, 19:12) and loving watchfulness (I Peter 3:12) of the One who died for you and explain to Him your service or lack of it. Christian, you better live in light of that day, knowing that Christ has seen every minute of your life and shall review it before you. As you live, let your thoughts be above (Colossians 3:1-3), thinking not only of Heaven but also of the Judgment Seat of Christ.

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

LESSON #16

THE DOCTRINE
OF THE
SECOND COMING
OF CHRIST
(PART I)

The Bible tells us the beginning of all things, the ending of all things, and everything that lies in the middle. In view of this and our present corrupted society, which is always getting worse, it is good to know that the word of God has foretold that the Lord Jesus is coming one day to straighten all things out! Therefore, the greatest hope for the Christian and for the world is the truth that Jesus is coming again. The Second Coming of Christ is a personal, visible, literal, and factual event that has been prophesied throughout the Bible at least 1,000 times. Anything that is mentioned in the Scripture that often must be extremely important information for us all.

The Second Coming can be thought of and divided as a drama, opera, or play. Each of these, though referred to in the singular, can include several ACTS which would be divided by an intermission or drawn curtain. Thus, the Second Coming (singular) is composed of the following two acts that are separated by seven years time:

1. Christ's coming in the **clouds** FOR HIS SAINTS (Part I). This is called the Rapture.
2. Christ's coming to the **earth** WITH HIS SAINTS (Part II). This is called the Revelation.

This lesson will deal with the first aspect of His coming: the Rapture or the Appearing of Jesus Christ in the air to catch His people away and take them out of this world.

I. THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING

A. Angels proclaimed it- *"...Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."*
(Acts 1:11)

B. Jesus proclaimed it- *“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”*
(John 14:3)

“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”
(Revelation 22:20)

C. The apostles proclaimed it- The number of verses are too many to list but here are a few of them: I Corinthians 1:7, 4:5, 11:26; I John 2:28; I Thessalonians 5:23; II Thessalonians 2:1; James 5:7,8.

II. THE PURPOSE OF HIS COMING

A. To resurrect the dead in Christ first, and then to gather together all living believers by the Rapture’s translation, just as God did for Enoch.

Hebrews 11:5 - *“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him...”*

I Corinthians 15:51,52 - *“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”*

I Thessalonians 4:13-17 - *“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”*

1. The Rapture will occur in a “twinkling of an eye”, taking the world by surprise (I Thessalonians 5:1-8).

2. A “trumpet” will sound (I Corinthians 15:52) with a “shout” and a “voice” being heard (I Thessalonians 4:16).

3. Only the saved will *go up* to the clouds. (I Thessalonians 4:17, Revelation 4:1,2).

B. To rescue the saved from the coming doom and “wrath” (called the Tribulation period, see Lesson 17) that God will literally pour out upon the world and the wicked. See Romans 5:9 and I Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9 compared with the seals and plagues of Revelation 6:1-17 and 15:1. Also, Isaiah 13:9-13 and Zephaniah 1:14-18 speaks of this Tribulation period or “day of wrath”. You see, God will not start pouring out these judgments until His children are safely out of the world (II Thessalonians 2:6,7).

III. THE PURIFYING HOPE OF HIS COMING

A. When we realize the truth of the Rapture, which could now be at any moment, it will cause us to live right. *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”* (I John 3:2,3)

B. When we realize the truth of the Rapture, it should cause us to have the following commanded attitudes about His coming:

1. We should “look” for Him daily!

“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body...”

Philippians 3:20,21

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”

Titus 2:13

“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.”

Matthew 24:42

See also Hebrews 9:28, II Peter 3:12, Romans 13:11, Mark 13:33-37, I Thessalonians 5:1-11, and I Peter 4:7. Note: You can’t “look” if you’re sleeping. You must “watch” as the Bible says!

2. We should patiently “wait” for Him!

“And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.”

I Thessalonians 1:10

“And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.”

II Thessalonians 3:5

“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord.

Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.”

James 5:7,8

3. We should “love his appearing”!

“...all them also that love his appearing...” (II Timothy 4:8)

4. We should be “redeeming the time” that we have now (Ephesians 5:16), knowing that our opportunities will be gone after Christ calls us home to heaven (John 9:4). Therefore, we must strive to be faithful until He comes, or as Luke 19:13 says, “occupy” until He comes.

IV. THE PRAYING FOR HIS COMING

A. David encouraged it! “*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem...*” (Psalm 122:6). There can’t be “peace” at Jerusalem until Jesus, the Prince of Peace, comes.

B. Jesus gave the example! “*Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*” (Matthew 6:10). This prayer was intended for the bringing in of the “kingdom” which is covered in Lesson 17. Though we should look for the “appearing” of Christ and not His “kingdom”, the rapture must take place before Matthew 6’s prayer can be fully answered. Therefore, it is an example of the longing prayer for Christ’s coming.

C. The last prayer of the Bible is a prayer for Jesus to come (Revelation 22:20)! Let us pray for the coming of the Lord, seeking to “hasten” unto that day (II Peter 3:12).

CONCLUSION: Are you looking up? Are you listening for the trumpet? Would you be shocked if the Lord called you out of this world today? Is there some unfinished or unstarted work for the Lord that you wish to do before He comes? Is there someone you wish to see saved before its too late? Get busy, Christian, because today could be the day that Jesus comes! May every believer be busy for the Lord each and every hour since we know not when that hour shall be (Mark 13:32,35). We should be not only seriously conscious of His coming, but also engulfed with excitement of the prospect that today could be the day that Jesus Christ comes for His own! Are you excited about taking your trip to Heaven’s skies? Are you telling the news that *Jesus is Coming Again?!?!!*

BIBLE FOUNDATIONS

LESSON #17

THE DOCTRINE
OF THE
SECOND COMING
OF CHRIST
(PART II)

This last lesson deals with the second aspect of the Second Coming of Christ, which is called the Revelation as was explained in the previous lesson's introduction. This "Revelation" is what the Book of Revelation goes into great detail. The purpose of this lesson is to give to you the Bible facts of Christ's Second Advent (His coming to the earth), and the things that follow after, thereby stirring your heart concerning God's wonderful plan to end all things and begin anew.

I. THE TRIBULATION PERIOD SHALL PRECEDE CHRIST'S SECOND COMING TO THE EARTH

A. *The Time of the Tribulation* is approximately seven years. This is described in Daniel 9:20-27. Daniel's 70th week (each week representing seven years; see also Genesis 29:27) is the designation for the Tribulation period. These seven years will be divided into two equal periods of 42 months (Revelation 13:5), the latter period (called the Great Tribulation, Matthew 24:21) being the most severe in God's judgment on the world.

B. *The Names for the Tribulation* :

1. "That day"- O.T. prophets (approx. 100x's)
2. "The Day of the Lord"- Isaiah 13:6,9; 34:8; Jeremiah 46:10; Ezekiel 30:3; Joel 1:15, 2:1,11; 3:14; six times in Zephaniah , etc.
3. "Jacob's trouble" (Jeremiah 30:7)- Israel will be terribly persecuted during this time.

4. The “Great Tribulation”- Matthew 24:21 (verses 15-30 further explains this time); Revelation 7:14

5. “...a time of trouble, such as never was...” (Daniel 12:1)

6. “...the great day of his wrath...” (Revelation 6:17)
See Lesson 16.

C. The Judgments in the Tribulation- This time will be a time of God’s plagues of wrath (Revelation 15:1) poured out on this wicked world. These are terrible miracles which the world has never seen. Space will not allow more explanation. Read Revelation chapters 6-16 for more details.

D. The Man of the Tribulation- There shall be a superman, dictator, or savior that shall rule the world during this time. The Bible calls this man the “antichrist” (I John 2:18), “that man of sin” (II Thessalonians 2:3), “the son of perdition” (John 17:12, II Thessalonians 2:3), and “the beast” (Revelation 11:7, ch.13, 17:8, 19:20). He has many other names, and volumes could be written about him.

II. ARMAGEDDON OCCURS AT THE TIME OF THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST TO THE EARTH

A. This occurs at the end of the above 7 years.

B. Revelation 16:14,16 names this battleground.

C. Revelation 19:11-21 describes this battle.

1. Jesus Himself will fight (vs.11-13,16).

2. The saints are the armies in vs.14.
3. There will be a quick and horrible end to the battle (vs.15-21, 14:20; Isaiah 63:1-4; Zechariah 14:12 with Psalm 147:18).

III. ALL NATIONS SHALL BE JUDGED AFTER ARMAGEDDON

- A. The place of this judging is in “the valley of Jehoshaphat” (Joel 3:2,12), which is the Kidron Valley between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives (where Jesus’ feet will touch first, Zechariah 14:1).
- B. Matthew 25:31-46 describes this judgment of each nation. They are judged individually on how they treated the nation of Israel.

IV. THERE WILL BE A 1,000 YEAR REIGN OF CHRIST AND HIS SAINTS ON THE EARTH

- A. Luke 1:31-33 and Isaiah 24:23 foretold this.
- B. The length of this reign of 1,000 years is spelled out in Revelation 20:1-7 SIX TIMES. Satan will be chained during this period!
- C. The twelve disciples, excluding Judas, will have a special rulership (Matthew 19:28).
- D. All faithful saints will rule and reign with Jesus (Luke 19:11-26; II Timothy 2:12; Revelation 5:10). This will be a millennial “inheritance” of city rule over the earth based upon what you get from the Judgment Seat of Christ (Lesson 15).

E. This will be a perfect society where the sin curse is lifted from the earth and all live in harmony and prosperity (Isaiah 11:6-11; 32:1-4, 15-18; Joel 3:17,18; Amos 9:13-15; Micah 4:1-4).

**V. AFTER THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST
TO THE EARTH AND THE END OF HIS EARTHLY
KINGDOM, THERE WILL BE :**

A. The final battle of Gog & Magog that occurs when Satan is loosed after the 1,000 years and many are deceived (Revelation 20:7-10). This is the end of Satan forever.

B. The Great White Throne Judgment, which is the second resurrection or second death, of all the lost dead to be cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15).

C. A New Heaven and a New Earth (Revelation 21:1). This is eternity. No more time, sin, death, etc. The Lord God will enjoy forever with all the saints of all ages!

*“He which testifieth these things saith,
Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come,
Lord Jesus.”* Revelation 22:20

*“But the God of all grace, who hath called
us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus,
after that ye have suffered a while, make
you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.
To him be glory and dominion for ever and
ever. Amen.”* I Peter 5:10,11

