

Christian Beliefs

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INTRODUCTION

This book is to help you learn your Bible. This book is to help you understand more about God. This book is to challenge you to live for Christ.

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.”

(2 Timothy 2:15,16).

Note: All quoted Scripture references are from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise specified.

THE BIBLE

1. WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

1) **The Bible, or the Scripture, is the divinely inspired Word of God.** Paul said, "*All scripture is inspired by God...*" (2 Timothy 3:16, R.S.V.). So we see that the Bible is the written Word of God.

2) **Through men who were guided by the Holy Spirit, God has revealed Himself and His will to men.** All parts of the Bible are inspired by God. However, some parts of God's Word are more clearly understood than other parts.

3) **The Bible has 66 books. It is divided into two parts.** The first part, 39 books of the Bible, is called the Old Testament. It was written before Jesus was born on earth. The second part is made up of the last 27 books of the Bible. It is called the New Testament. It was written after the earthly ministry of Jesus.

4) **The Bible is an old book.** Genesis is the first book of the Bible. It was written about 1400 years before Jesus was born on earth. The Revelation is the last book of the Bible. It was written about 100 years after the birth of Jesus.

Yes, the Bible is an old book, but its message is still as true today as when it was written. It will remain true forever.

2. HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THE BIBLE IS TRUE?

1) **The Bible is true because of its unity.** The 66 books of the Bible were written over a period of about 1500 years. The Bible was written by approximately 40 different men. Yet, when these 66 books are fitted together, they tell one story of God, His love, and His way of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Since the Bible was written over this long period of time by many different men, we know that it was God who told each man the things which he should write. Although the Bible has many different books, it is **one book**. It has **one true author**, God Himself. This is what we mean by the unity of the Bible. Since the Bible has this unity we believe that it is true.

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. What is a true Christian?
2. What is prayer? How can we pray to God?
3. What should be our attitude in prayer?
4. Tell four things to pray for.
5. Tell four important things about witnessing.
6. Tell how Jesus is the only way to be saved.
7. Give the plan of salvation including four truths about salvation.
8. What does it mean to be a child of God?

WITNESSING

1. Be a witness for Christ. Your life is to be a witness for Christ. You cannot continue in sin and witness for Jesus. The Bible says we are to come apart from things of the world and live for Jesus.

God loved us enough to give His only begotten Son.

"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" (1 John 3:16).

2. Witnessing power comes from God. You cannot live a Christian life apart from God.

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me..." (Acts 1:8).

3. Witness wherever you are. People watch you. What kind of testimony are you?

"...he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him" (Luke 8:1).

4. See the need to witness. *"...Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already unto harvest"* (John 4:35).

5. Jesus is the only way of life. *"...I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh unto the Father, but by me"* John 14:6).

6. Tell others of Jesus. Learn the plan of salvation.

- 1) All have sinned. *"All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23).

- 2) A way of escape provided. *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Romans 6:23).

- 3) Christ will save.

Repentance. "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation..." (2 Corinthians 7:10).

Faith "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..." (Acts 16:31).

- 4) He will keep you. *"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"* (John 1:12).

If you are a child of God, you are given power to live for Him. This means leaving the old life and testifying of a new life in Jesus.

"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son" (1 John 5:10).

- 2) The Bible is true because we believe in God. If there were no living God, or if God paid no attention to men, there would be no Bible. It is because God is interested in men that He gave the Bible.

- 3) The Bible is true because it has proven itself to be true.

A. Firstly, the Bible has proven itself to be true by accurately foretelling the future. Throughout the Bible we find prophecies. As we study history and the Bible, we find that the things foretold in the Bible have come to pass just as the Bible predicted. History has proven that the Bible speaks the truth.

B. Secondly, the Bible proves itself to be true when we test its truthfulness. Our lives have been ruined by sin. When we read, believe, and obey the teachings of God's Word, we have peace in our hearts. So we know that the Bible is true because it has proven itself to be true in our own lives.

WHY DID GOD GIVE US THE BIBLE?

- 1) God gave the Bible so that unsaved people can know the way of salvation and be saved. When Paul wrote to Timothy, he spoke of the Holy Scriptures and said, *"...which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus"* (2 Timothy 3:15).

In Paul's letter to the Romans he wrote, *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God"* (Romans 10:17).

It is Jesus who saves. The Bible teaches us of Jesus and how we can be saved through faith in Him.

- 2) God gave the Bible so that the saved can know how they should live as Christians. *"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"* (2 Timothy 3:16, 17).

"Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way" (Psalm 119:104).

The Bible meets our every need for spiritual guidance. The Bible not only shows us the way of salvation, but it teaches us how we should live as Christians.

THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

- 1) The message of the Bible speaks of eternal life. Eternal life means much more than just future life. This eternal life becomes the present possession of those who believe in Jesus Christ. It also has the promise of continuance beyond the earthly life.

2) **God made Himself known to men through Jesus Christ.** Bible history, the prophecies, and the different sacrifices recorded in the Bible before Christ was born on earth looked forward to Him. In the person of the Son of God, the Saviour of all men, the religious teaching culminated. God has revealed Himself completely in Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "...he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believeest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (John 14:9,10).

5. THE BIBLE WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED

"...If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Revelation 22:18,19).

God, by His grace, has given us His Word, the Bible. It is through His Word that we know the way of salvation and the kind of life which will be pleasing to God.

READ, BELIEVE, AND OBEY GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. How did we get our Bible?
2. How has God revealed Himself and His will to men?
3. How many books are in the Bible? Name the two divisions of the Bible.
4. What is the first book in the Bible? About when was it written?
5. Name the last book in the Bible and tell when it was written.
6. For how long will the message of the Bible last?
7. Who told men what to write in the Bible? Who is the true author of the Bible?
8. Why did God give us the Bible?
9. What is one of the best ways to prove that the Bible is true?
10. What is one of the main things the Bible teaches us?
11. How can those who are saved know how to live as Christians?
12. When can a person have eternal life?
13. How has God revealed Himself to all people?
14. Tell how the Bible will remain unchanged. What is the warning about those who would try to change God's Word?
15. Name the importance of reading, hearing, and obeying God's Word.

4) **We must pray in God's will.** God's promise is to those who ask according to His will. Jesus taught us it was not our wills, but God's will that was to be considered. If we expect an answer, it must be in God's will.

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us" (1 John 5:14).

5) **We must pray in faith.** Without faith it is impossible to please God. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

You cannot stay in fellowship with God if you do not pray. You cannot be a witness apart from God. You cannot be a testimony to others if you are out of fellowship with God.

3. For what and for whom shall I pray?

1) **Pray for God's power upon us.** Without prayer we are without power.

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41).

2) **Pray for one another.** Paul asked for prayer for himself. James said we should pray for the sick.

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed..." (James 5:16).

3) **Pray for our enemies.** Jesus prayed for those who crucified him.

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44).

Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..." (Luke 23:34).

4) **Pray for a mission outreach.** The lost world demands our prayers. We can be a witness through prayer.

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved" (Romans 10:1).

Do we desire to see others saved? Pray for labourers to go into the harvest fields.

"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples. The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:36-38).

PRAYER AND WITNESSING

There is more to being a Christian than saying, "I am a Christian." We must walk as Christians. We must talk as Christians. We must act as Christians.

A Christian is one who has accepted Christ as his personal Saviour. That person has then become a child of God. He takes the name of Christ to show others a new way of life.

PRAYER

1. Prayer is talking with God.

- 1) From the beginning God walked and talked with man. He did so with Adam in the Garden of Eden. He talked with Enoch as they walked along the way. He talked with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He spoke to His prophets.

"Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying" (Jeremiah 1:4).

- 2) We are able to talk with God just as those of the Old Testament times. Through Jesus Christ, we enjoy the great privilege of talking with God, which is prayer.

In His word God asks us to call upon Him.

- "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Luke 11:9).*
- 3) In Matthew 6:7-11 Jesus taught how all who are saved can pray to our Father.

We can pray to God through Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is our great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14).

2. Our attitude to prayer.

- 1) We must be earnest about prayer. *"...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).*

- 2) We must be constant in our praying.

The early Christians continued steadfastly in prayer.

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42).

- 3) We must pray in the right spirit. There must be no iniquity in our hearts. We must put sin out. We must come in a spirit of forgiveness.

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Psalm 66:18).

GOD

The most important of all beliefs is that concerning God. Everything depends upon the existence and nature of God. Without God there would be no religion, no hereafter, nothing but chaos.

1. WHERE DO WE LEARN ABOUT GOD?

- 1) The creation is evidence of the work of God as Creator. The things we see about us, such as the mountains and rivers, the earth and sky, plants and animals, and man himself, make us know that someone has created. The perfect design in all this creation proves that it is not the work of man.

The creation was well-planned. For instance, every fruit-bearing plant only bears fruit of its own kind. Our days and nights and the seasons of the year follow a very definite pattern.

How could these things just happen? Who could do such work except God?

The Bible is man's source of absolute authority that God is the Creator.

(Read Genesis 1:1; Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20.)

- 2) Man's awareness of sin gives evidence that there is a God. When a man looks deep within his heart, he knows that he has sinned. He knows that he has done things which are wrong. He knows that he has failed to do some things which he should have done. The Bible calls this sin. So if man has sinned, there must be a God for him to sin against. God has given certain laws. These laws God puts into the heart of man. The transgression of these laws is sin, which is against God. This also teaches man of the existence of God who can be sinned against.

The Bible tells us that God created man in his own image. Therefore, it is natural for man to search for God. He longs for fellowship with God, his Creator.

Read Genesis 1:26; Psalm 42:1; Matthew 7:7,8; Romans 2:15; James 4:17.)

- 3) Man's hunger to know God shows us that there is a God. God made the world. In it he provided for man's physical hungers. A person gets hungry. Food is provided for his stomach. He gets thirsty. Water is provided for his thirst. Our lungs need air and this is provided.

The soul of man hungers for God. This is evidenced in his

restless search for something greater than himself. God made man with this hunger so that man will search for him. Until man experiences God in his heart this hunger can never be satisfied.

God has provided for man's physical needs. In the same way, he has also made himself available to meet man's spiritual hunger.

(Read Psalm 42:1 and Matthew 5:6.)

- 4) **The authority of the Bible is proof of God's existence.** The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired by God. This is the record of God's revelation of himself to man. Upon examination of this record, we discover that the testimony is true. All efforts by sinful men to destroy this evidence through the centuries have failed. It will remain when it is written into the hearts of men.

Man has found out much about God in nature, through human reasoning, and in many other ways. However, the Bible takes these evidences and gives us a complete picture and shows us God as he is.

(Read Deuteronomy 4:1,2; 17:19; Psalm 119:89; Isaiah 40:8; John 5:39; Romans 16:25, 26; 2 Timothy 3:16,17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:19-21.)

- 5) **Personal experience gives us evidence of God.** Many of us bear personal witness of what God has done in our lives. We have called upon God. He has answered our call. We talk with him. He hears our requests. He knows our hearts. He ministers to us according to our needs.

Such experiences teach us that there is a God, a holy, mighty, loving God, who is the Heavenly Father of those who are saved.

(Read Psalm 50:15; 91:15; Romans 8:16,17; 2 Corinthians 5:17.)

2. WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

1) The Nature of God.

A. God is a Spirit. God is not visible. He cannot be seen as other men. This means he does not have a body of flesh, bones, or blood as we have.

(Read John 4:24; Romans 8:14; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Colossians 1:15.)

B. God is all powerful. He is able to do all things. There is no limit to His power. There is nothing impossible for God.

(Read Matthew 19:26; 28:18; Luke 1:37; Ephesians 3:20.)

C. God is all-knowing. God knows all things. He knows what has happened and what will happen. He knows all that we do and all that we think.

(Read Acts 1:24; Hebrews 4:13; 1 John 3:20.)

2. How did Jesus describe the physical death of Lazarus?

3. What kind of death is within the unsaved?

4. What is uncertain as far as physical death is concerned?

5. When one is a Christian how should he consider death?

6. What will the bodies of the saved ones look like when they shall appear from the graves?

7. What are three things the body of Jesus looked like when he was resurrected?

8. What does God's Word say about life after death?

9. Tell how we know that all will be judged by God.

10. Why are the unsaved condemned?

11. What is the only way to be saved?

12. Tell how Christ will be the Judge to the saved and unsaved.

13. Tell three things about hell.

14. Tell four things about heaven.

2) **Hell is a place from which there is no escape.** God freely offers his mercy in Christ Jesus to all. But when a man lives and dies rejecting the mercy of God, then there is no hope for him. There is no second chance or escape from hell.

"And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence" (Luke 16:26).

3) **Hell is a place for those who have rejected God's mercy in Jesus Christ.** God does not want anyone to go to hell. God, out of his love, made a way of salvation for us by sending his Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. If a man loves sin so much that he refuses to repent and trust Jesus, then he must pay the wages of his own sins.

"The Lord is...not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

HEAVEN

1) **Heaven is a place in the presence of God and Jesus Christ.** *"In my Father's house are many mansions: If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 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 14:2,3).*

2) **Heaven is a place of eternal joy.** *"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Revelation 21:4).*

3) **Heaven shall be a place where no sin shall enter.** The Christian enters heaven because Jesus has saved him from sin. When Jesus died on the cross he took our sins upon Himself. He also clothes us in His own righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21).

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God...?" (1 Corinthians 6:9).

4) **Heaven is a place of worship.** *"And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring glory and honour into it" (Revelation 21:22-24).*

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. What are the three types of deaths described in the Bible?

D. God is all-present. There is no place where a person can go to escape the presence of God. He is here and everywhere.
(Read Psalm 139:7,8; Proverbs 15:3.)

E. God is unchanging. He is ever the same. Things and people may change, but God never changes.
(Read Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8.)

F. God is eternal. God has no beginning and no ending. He has always existed and He will always exist.
(Read Psalm 9:7; 90:2; Revelation 1:8; 21:6; 22:13.)

2) The Character of God.

A. God is holy. God hates sin and is separate from all that is sinful.
(Read Psalm 99:9; Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 15:4.)

B. God is righteous. God is righteous and demands the same righteousness in man. He hates sin but loves the sinner.
(Read Psalm 145:17; Isaiah 5:16; Romans 3:26.)

C. God is just. In the day of God's judgement all people will be judged fairly. Many people commit evil here on earth and seem to go unpunished. However, the time will come when all must stand before God to be judged.
(Read Psalm 96:13; Romans 2:2; Hebrews 9:27.)

D. God is merciful. God does not judge us according to what we have done, but in His mercy He judges us because of what Christ has done for us on the cross. We deserve death, but instead He gives us life through Jesus. A prisoner requests justice from the court. A repentant sinner requests and receives God's mercy.
(Read Deuteronomy 4:31; 2 Chronicles 30:9; Psalm 116:5.)

E. God is love. God loves all people. But this love does not blind God so that He cannot see the love condition of mankind. Neither does the love of God prevent His giving righteous judgment to those who choose to live and die in their sins.

Because of God's great love He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and be punished for the sins of all men. Jesus took the punishment for our sins when He died on the cross, making it possible for us to be forgiven. When we repent in our hearts and trust Christ as our Saviour, we have this forgiveness and receive eternal life.
(Read John 3:16 and Romans 5:8.)

3. WHAT IS MEANT BY THE TRINITY?

The Trinity is the biblical teaching concerning the three persons of the Godhead. These three are: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The three are actually one in nature, purpose, and will.

They are so closely related that when one loves, all three love. When one thinks, all three think. When one is present, all three are present. When the Father works, the Son and the Holy Spirit work with Him.

(Read Matthew 12:31,32; John 3:16; 5:32,37.)

In the Bible we learn that there is one God and only one. "*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord*" (Deuteronomy 6:4). The Bible also reveals, just as clearly, the one true God as Father, as Son, and Holy Spirit. Let us examine some of the Scriptures which teach this.

1) **The Bible teaches that Jesus and the Father are one.** The work of Jesus was to represent the Father and to carry out his plan of redemption for all mankind.
(Read John 10:30; 14:9; 2 Corinthians 5:19.)

2) **The Bible teaches that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are one.** As Jesus spoke of the coming Comforter, the Holy Spirit, He made the presence of the Holy Spirit equal to His own presence.
(Read John 14:16-18, 23.)

3) **The Bible teaches that God and the Holy Spirit are one.** The Holy Spirit came to carry on the work of the Father upon the completion of Jesus' mission here on earth.
(Read Acts 5:3,4; 1 Corinthians 3:16.)

The above Scriptures teach us that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one. Perhaps an illustration will help us to understand how one can be three and how the three can be one. Look at a tree. It is one tree, and yet the tree is made up of roots, trunk, and branches. Each part has a distinct work but it is still a part of one tree.

God is one God, and yet He has revealed Himself as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

"In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel" (Romans 2:16).

2) **The Scriptures say that all shall be judged.** "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

3) Man stands before God condemned because of his sin. He stays under this condemnation because of his rejection of Jesus Christ as his Saviour and Lord. When a man refuses God's love and mercy in Christ, there is no salvation for him. Those who live and die having rejected Jesus as their Saviour shall be condemned in the judgment.

"...but he that believeth not is condemned already because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:18-19).

4) **No man shall be saved because of his righteousness.** The only way a man may be saved is by repenting of his sins and accepting Jesus as Saviour. Then he can stand before God in the righteousness which Jesus died to give him (Ephesians 2:8,9).

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, 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" (John 5:24).

5) **Today Christ is the Saviour.** On that day he will be the Judge. His judgment will be one of love. To the saved it will be that of love received. To the lost it will be that of a love rejected.

4. HELL

After death there is one eternal dwelling place—heaven or hell. Every person will spend eternity in either heaven or hell. Therefore, let us see what the Word of God teaches about these places.

1) **Hell is a real place.** There are some who do not believe there is a place of eternal torment which is called hell. But Jesus said more about hell than he did about heaven.

The Bible teaches clearly that hell is a place and Jesus died that we might be saved from it. (Read carefully Luke 16:19-31 to see Jesus' description of hell.)

"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment..." (Matthew 25:46).

2 RESURRECTION

- 1) Jesus' resurrection was an actual bodily appearance viewed by physical sight. Jesus' resurrection body was similar to the one He had in life. His disciples recognized Him. Yet, it was different. His body was not subject to the laws of time, space, or any solid object. The resurrection bodies of all Christians will be like this.

"...we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him..."
(1 John 3:2).

"...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).

Our hope of resurrection is based upon the fact of Jesus' resurrection and His promise to us.

"...Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen, and have the keys of hell and of death..." (Revelation 1:17,18).

- 2) The form of Jesus' resurrection. There are some things we do not know about the body of Jesus after it was resurrected. We do know some things which the Bible tells us.

A. The body of Jesus, as seen after His resurrection was the same body which was buried in the tomb. *"He is not here, but is risen..."* (Luke 24:6).

B. His resurrected body was a real body.
"Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see: for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have" (Luke 24:39).

C. His resurrected body was different from our earthly bodies.

"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9).

- 3) The resurrection of all people. There will be a resurrection of both the wicked and the righteous. Some people teach that there is no life after death. God, in His Word, teaches us there is life after death.

"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2).

3. JUDGEMENT

- 1) God's word tells us that a day is coming when God shall judge all people.

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Tell how we can know that God is the Creator.
2. What can give us the authority that God is the Creator?
3. What is sin according to the Bible?
4. How does man's sin teach men about the existence of God?
5. The authority of the Bible proves what?
6. Why have sinful men failed to destroy the evidence of the Holy Bible?
7. What do personal experiences about the evidence of God teach us?
8. Where does God's existence begin and where will it end?
9. What was God's provision for the forgiveness of sin? How can we receive eternal life?
10. What does the Bible say about God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

OUR ENEMY-SATAN

Did you know that we are at war? That is what the Bible tells us in Ephesians 6:12. Who is our enemy? His name is Satan, or the devil. But who is the devil? From where did he come? Where is he now? What is he doing? Where is he going? We cannot hope to defeat an enemy unless we know something about him. We shall now study about the devil, our enemy.

1. WHO IS THE DEVIL?

The devil is a very powerful, very evil person. He has many names: Satan, Lucifer, the god of this world, the serpent, the tempter. His purpose is to turn men against God, and to turn God against men (Job 1:9-11; 2:9). He is seeking to cause man to sin.

2. FROM WHERE DID THE DEVIL ORIGINATE?

The Bible is not clear about this. Isaiah 14:12-15 suggests that the Devil was at one time a beautiful and powerful angel created by God in purity. But this beautiful angel did not keep this "first estate" (Jude 6), but fell through the sin of pride. He wanted to be greater than God. Therefore, he was cast out of heaven (Luke 10:18), along with other angels who had followed him in his rebellion against God (2 Peter 2:4).

3. WHERE IS THE DEVIL NOW?

1 Peter 5:8 says, "...your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

He is not in hell, but here on earth. The devil is going to hell at the end of the world (Revelation 20:10). Matthew 25:41 teaches us that hell was created by God to punish the Devil and his angels. He will not be the king of hell, telling everyone else what to do. He will be punished more than anyone else.

But now the devil is here on earth. He is the one who says, "It does not hurt to cheat in school or drink beer. Everyone else is doing it." He is very clever. He knows that if he can get us to sin a little, he can get us to sin much.

4. HOW DOES THE DEVIL ATTACK US?

The devil is a spirit. We cannot see him with our eyes. He comes to our minds. Proverbs 4:23 says, "Keep your heart (or mind) with all

LIFE AFTER DEATH

1. DEATH

1) Death is a fact which must be faced even though it may not be a pleasant subject. It cannot be ignored because it continually takes place among our loved ones and friends. The Scriptures refer to three types of death: the physical, the spiritual, and eternal death.

2) The New Testament does not regard physical death to be as dreaded as in the Old Testament. Jesus called the physical death of Lazarus, "sleep" (John 11:11-14).

Paul said, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). Even so, death is regarded as an enemy.

"The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (1 Corinthians 15:26).

3) The greater emphasis in the New Testament is placed upon spiritual death. Even while men are alive physically, they may be dead spiritually.

"For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry" (Luke 15:24). The soul that is separated from God by sin is dead (Ephesians 2:1).

"Verily, verily I say unto you, 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" (John 5:24).

4) Death is certain. "What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death...?" (Psalm 89:48).

5) Death is uncertain as far as when it shall happen. The fact of death is certain. However, the time is uncertain. Only God knows the time when we shall be called to die.

6) Death is not magical. Just before dying there are some who call for the pastor as if he had the power to let them die unsaved and wake up saved. Our relation to Christ on earth determines our "place he has prepared."

Death works no miracles for the dying. If we are Christ's, then when we come to our time of death, we say with Paul, "to die is gain." To depart from this life to be with Christ is far better than anything earth can offer.

in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17).

4. The Preparation For His Return

1) **The preparation of the unsaved.** There is only one thing which the unsaved man can do that will prepare him for the Lord's return. He must repent of sin and accept Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour and Lord.

2) **The preparation of the saved.** The saved person should live according to the will of God day by day so that, when Jesus returns, he will be found ready.

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God..." (2 Peter 3:10-12).

"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" (1 John 3:2,3).

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. How do we know about the certainty of Jesus' return?
2. Who is the only one who knows when Jesus will come again?
3. What happens to the unsaved at Jesus' coming?
4. What happens to the saved ones when the Lord comes again?
5. What one thing only can the unsaved man do to prepare him for the Lord's return?
6. How should God's children live to prepare for Christ's coming again?

diligence, for out of it are the issues of life."

Satan puts evil thoughts into our minds so cleverly that we think they are our thoughts. We can see how Satan attacks by reading of Jesus' temptations in Matthew 4:1-11:

1) He comes when you least **Expect Him**. It was after Jesus' wonderful experience with God in the waters of baptism that the devil came (Matthew 4:1).

2) He drops his suggestion to sin into our minds at our **weakest point**.

Jesus was very hungry after his long fast (Matthew 4:2). Therefore, Satan tempted him to turn stones into bread (Matthew 4:3).

3) It is good to remember that the devil can quote scripture, but he will try to make it mean what he wants it to mean (Matthew 4:6). We must always read the verses before and the verses following any given verse to get God's meaning.

4) The devil is **persistent**. Though Jesus overcame the devil once, then twice, the devil continued to come with his temptations until Jesus finally conquered him (Matthew 4:11).

3. HOW CAN I DEFEAT THE DEVIL?

1) **Receive Jesus** into your heart as Lord and Saviour (John 1:12). We cannot conquer the devil in our own strength. He is far too powerful for us. But we can conquer him through Jesus (Revelation 12:11).

1 John 4:4 says, *"...greater is he (Jesus) that is in you, than he (the devil) that is in the world."* *Jesus has already defeated the Devil by His death on the cross (Hebrews 2:14). We must simply claim Christ's victory (1 Corinthians 15:57).*

2) **Pray**. Be in the spirit of prayer at all times (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Jesus did this during His time of fasting (Matthew 4:2).

3) **Watch** for Satan's attack upon your mind (Matthew 26:41). 2 Corinthians 10:5 says, *"...bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."* 1 John 4:1 says, *"...try the spirits whether they are of God..."*

If we will pause to consider God's will before we act, we will know what is right. The answers to the following three questions will often guide us in our speech: **Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind?**

4) **Speak** to the devil. Jesus did this when he was tempted (Matthew 4:4,7,10;16:23). James 4:7 says, *"...Resist the devil and he will flee*

from you." When you see a thief entering a house and you shout at him, he is afraid and runs away. So it is when we speak to the devil, as he seeks to implant his evil thoughts in our minds.

5) **Know And Use God's Word.** Each time the devil came to Jesus, Jesus defeated him by quoting to him God's Word (Matthew 4:4,7,10). This is the sword of the Spirit to use against the devil (Ephesians 6:17). Someone said, "The devil is afraid of God's Word only as it is spoken directly to him...just as a thief is afraid of a gun only as it is pointed at him." Memorize verses in the Bible and quote them to the devil when he comes with his deceiving thoughts to your mind (Psalm 119:9,11).

6) **Look To Jesus** and always do what is right (Hebrews 12:2). Ephesians 6:13 says, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Do not get discouraged. Discouragement is the devil's best tool. Look to Jesus and claim His victory over Satan in every temptation. We can say with Paul, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ..." (2 Corinthians 2:14).

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Who is the devil?
2. From where did he come?
3. Where is the devil now?
4. What is the final destiny of the devil?
5. How does the devil attack us?
6. How can I defeat the devil?

Chapter 12

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

One of the great hopes of the Christian is the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible may not tell us all we would like to know about His return, but there are some points about His return that we need to understand clearly.

1. **The Certainty Of His Return** The fact of our Lord's return is clearly taught in the New Testament.

"Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God..." (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

(Read Matthew 24:27 and Acts 1:11.)

2. **The Uncertainty Of The Time** There is no one, other than God, who knows the hour of His return.

"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matthew 24:36).

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come" (Matthew 24:42).

3. **The Events At His Return**

1) **What Jesus' return shall mean to the unsaved.** "...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of Lord, and from the glory of his power" (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28,29).

2) **What Jesus' return shall mean to the saved.** "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).

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet 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

money.

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2).

"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" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

The heart and life of the giver must be in fellowship with God to make the gift acceptable.

6. Our Privilege In Giving Stewardship should be looked upon as a high privilege. It gives us opportunity to share in the work of the kingdom of God. There shall be rewards for those who are faithful stewards.

"For we are labourers together with God..." (1 Corinthians 3:9).

"His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:23).

7. Our Attitude In Giving God is interested in what we give. God is also interested in the attitude with which we serve and give. Let us be certain that we not only give the right amount, but that we also give with the right attitude.

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

"If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burnt, and have not love, I gain nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:3 R.S.V.).

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. What is a steward? What then are we entrusted with since we are His stewards?
2. What is a tithe? How can people steal from God?
3. Why is it wrong to say we should not tithe since the New Testament does not say we should?
4. What is the reason for tithing?
5. Where and when shall we bring our tithe?
6. When only can a person's gift be acceptable to God?
7. What does God say about those who are faithful in their stewardship?
8. Why are some people's gifts not accepted by God though they may be the right amounts?

Chapter 4

THE CREATION AND FALL OF MAN

1. CREATED BY GOD

People were created by God. The first people were made by Him. Each time a new baby is formed we marvel at the new creation of God.

People were created in the image of God. They not only have an indestructible spirit like God, but they also have the power to choose. People were created to have fellowship with God. They were created to bring glory to God. But God does not force men to serve Him. God wants those who choose in their own hearts to love and serve Him.

(Read Genesis 1:26-30; Genesis 2:7; Genesis 2:18-22; Genesis 3:1-24; and Genesis 9:6.)

2. SOME PEOPLE BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD

God's plan for all people is to save them and make them His children. God draws people by His love so that many will choose to become His true children. These children of God will some day go to live with Him forever.

If we examine the seeds of a certain tree we shall see that God creates many such seeds. But only a few of these seeds will ever sprout, grow, and produce fruit. Likewise God has made many people. But all people will not become children of God. Only those who choose in their own hearts and come to God in the way which He has prepared may truly be His spiritual children.

(Read John 17:1-3, 9, 15; Romans 8:29, 30; 2 Timothy 1:9; and Hebrews 2:10.)

3. THE DEVIL TEMPTED THE FIRST PEOPLE

Because man was created in the image of God, he could choose between right and wrong. Therefore God permitted the devil to tempt the first people.

God allowed Satan to tempt Job. He allowed him to tempt Jesus. He allows Satan to tempt all people today.

Satan likes to report to God whenever he sees people doing wrong, and he lies to the Christian people about God's truth.

But Satan will be punished by God's judgement and he will be destroyed forever.

(Read Isaiah 14:12; Genesis 3:1-5,14,15; Job 1:6-12; 1 Peter 5:8; Luke 4:1,2; and Revelation 20:1-3,10.)

4. THE FIRST MAN, ADAM, CHOSE TO SIN

When Satan tempted the first people, they chose to obey him. So those first people could not have fellowship with God while they were obeying Satan. The Bible calls the first man Adam. All men since Adam have been born with the desire to obey Satan and to refuse fellowship with God.

(Read Genesis 3:6; Psalm 51:5 and Isaiah 6:5.)

5. EVERY PERSON CHOOSES TO DO WRONG

Every person, as he grows older, has chosen in his own heart to follow Satan and disobey God. God created all people to have fellowship with Himself. Every person has broken that fellowship with God by sin.

(Read Romans 5:12-19; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Romans 3:10-19,23.)

6. MAN MUST LOOK TO GOD IF HE IS TO FIND STRENGTH TO BECOME THAT FOR WHICH GOD CREATED HIM.

No person in his own strength or wisdom can return to fellowship with God. People must look to God and seek His way for restoring the broken fellowship. God's plan is found in the Bible. He explains His way for everyone to become His children.

God does not desire that one person should perish. Yet God knows that some people will not accept His way to be saved. The angels in heaven rejoice when one sinner repents and receives the Son of God as his Saviour.

(Read Romans 3:10-26; Jeremiah 31:31-34; 2 Peter 3:9; and Luke 15:10.)

7. BECAUSE ALL PEOPLE WERE MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE WE MUST RESPECT AND LOVE ALL PEOPLE.

Every person was made in God's image. Every person was created to bring glory to God. God invites each person to become a child of His. Therefore we must love and respect every person in the world.

Like God we must learn to love each person while hating the sins of that person. God showed His love to us. He loved us while we were still sinners. He sent Jesus to die for us.

We also must love all people. We should pray for them. We should witness to them. We should long in our hearts that many will become true children of God.

come to destroy, but to fulfil" (Matthew 5:17).

Certainly Jesus tithed, for the Scripture He had was the Old Testament which clearly taught tithing.

Jesus was interested in what others gave.

"And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury..." (Mark 12:41).

Jesus tithed because he commanded it for others. He reminded people of their obedience in giving the tithe and at the same time reminded the people that there was more to true worship.

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

3. The Use Of The Tithe

- 1) The tithe was given to support the Levites who prepared everything for the worship in the Old Testament. In the same way, Christians are to support their pastor that he may give all his time to the work for which God has called him.

"Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:14).

- 2) The tithe is to be given to support all of God's work.

"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye" (1 Corinthians 16:1).

4. Bringing The Tithe

- 1) Where shall we bring our tithe? We answer this question by letting God speak from His Word.

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse..." (Malachi 3:10).

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

- 2) The tithe is to be brought regularly on the first day of the week or whenever the Christian receives his wages.

- 3) The tithe is the minimum. Less than one-tenth is not a tithe. We have only paid a debt when we give the tithe. God commands us to give an offering. Tithes and offerings are mentioned together.

5. **Our Accountability In Giving** One day, we must stand before Jesus Christ and give an account of the way in which we have used all things entrusted to us. This includes the use of our time, our talents, our bodies, and our

CHRISTIAN GIVING

The Christian who is a faithful steward must use his time, personality, influence, wealth, and everything for the glory of Jesus Christ. In this lesson we want to think especially of the stewardship of our material possessions.

A steward is a person who has been entrusted with the possessions of another. He is expected to care for and use these possessions to please the owner. God is the owner of all things. The things in our possession have been entrusted to us by God. We should please God by using our possessions wisely and by honouring him with them.

All we have comes from God. Even our bodies and lives were given to us by him.

"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 (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).

1. Tithing In The Old Testament

1) We learn that all things belong to God. *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"* (Genesis 1:1).

"For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills" (Psalm 50:10).

"The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts" (Haggai 2:8).

2) We learn that God commanded His people to give a tithe (one tenth) for the support of God's work.

"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord" (Leviticus 27:30).

3) We learn of God's attitude when the people failed to tithe.

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse; for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:8-10).

2. Tithing As Taught By Jesus Many people argue that tithing is not taught in the New Testament. It was a law of the Old Testament and Jesus said, *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not*

(Read Psalm 8:3-6; Acts 17:26-28; 1 Corinthians 3:16,17; Romans 5:5-8; Hebrews 13:1-3; 1 John 3:16-18; and Jude 21:23.)

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Why did God create man?
2. Why should we become God's children?
3. Who can become children of God? How?
4. Who was Satan before he rebelled against God? What are Satan's other names?
5. What does Satan like to do, and what does he do to Christians?
6. With what desire are people born? Who first had this desire and when?
7. How do people break fellowship with God?
8. What happens in heaven when one sinner repents?

THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST

We come now to a most wonderful study—the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of man's fall into sin as a result of Satan's temptation, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to defeat Satan (1 John 3:8). Jesus came to bring men back into fellowship with Himself (John 3:16). Therefore, it is important for us to know Jesus Christ, His person and work. Jesus said, "...no man cometh to the Father but by me" (John 14:6).

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

(There is a book entitled "Who Is Jesus?" which will be sent to you free of charge if you will write to: Bible Way Correspondence School, P.O. Box 8472, Belmont, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.)

1. Jesus is the Promised One of the Old Testament.

Acts 10:43 says, *"To him all the prophets bear witness that every one who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name"* (R.S.V.)

It is amazing to read the detailed prophecies about Jesus' coming in the Old Testament, and then to see their accurate fulfillment in the New Testament. Notice the following:

- 1) The Place of Jesus's birth: Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1-6
- 2) The Virgin Birth: Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:26-35; Matthew 1:25
- 3) The Spirit Of God upon Jesus: Isaiah 42:1; John 1:32-34; 3:34,35
- 4) The Rejection of Jesus: Isaiah 53:3; John 1:11
- 5) The Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem: Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:1-5
- 6) The Betrayal of Jesus: Psalm 41:9; Matthew 26:14-16
- 7) The small details of Jesus's Death:
 - A. The Cry of Jesus: Psalm 22:1; Matthew 27:46
 - B. The Mocking of Jesus: Psalm 22:6-8; Matthew 27:39-43
 - C. The Hands And Feet of Jesus pierced: Psalm 22:16; John 20:25
 - D. They gambled for the Clothes of Jesus: Psalm 22:18; Matthew 27:35
 - E. Jesus was given Vinegar to drink: Psalm 69:21; John 19:29
 - F. His death on the cross was because of Our Sins: Isaiah 53:6; 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - G. The Silence of Jesus at His trial: Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12-14
 - H. Jesus was numbered with the Transgressors: Isaiah 53:12; Mark 15:27,28
 - I. Jesus Prayed For the transgressors: Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:34,43

4. The observance of the Lord's Supper.

- 1) The Lord did not state when or how often we are to observe the Lord's Supper. He began it on the night before His death. The early Christians observed it on the Lord's Day.

Any New Testament baptized believer is eligible to partake of the Supper. No one is worthy except by the grace of God.

- 2) The observance of the Lord's Supper is not to be taken lightly. There should be careful spiritual preparation beforehand on the part of every person. The observance of the Supper is sacred and should be obeyed by every Christian.

"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself not discerning the Lord's body" (1 Corinthians 11:28,29).

As we approach the Lord's Supper we need to examine our hearts to see if there is any unconfessed sin in us. We must be in fellowship with the Lord when we are about to remember the love of Jesus Christ in the Lord's Supper.

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. What are the two ordinances of the New Testament church? Who is obliged to submit to the ordinances of Jesus Christ?
2. What are the three truths symbolized in baptism?
3. Why can baptism not save?
4. Give two meanings of baptism.
5. Who only should be baptized?
6. What happened at the first Lord's Supper?
7. Which things in the Lord's Supper symbolized the brokenness of the body and the poured-out blood of Jesus?
8. What should we remember when we observe the Lord's Supper?
9. What should be the attitude when people observe the Lord's Supper?

4. **The person to be baptized.** When we understand the real meaning of baptism then we know who should be baptized. Baptism pictures a spiritual experience with Jesus Christ. Only those who have had this experience can truly picture the experience in baptism.

In the New Testament we find those who repented and trusted Christ were baptized. In His command to us, Jesus says that we are to make disciples, then baptize them. *"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized..."* (Acts 2:41).

THE LORD'S SUPPER

1. **The first Lord's Supper.** Jesus himself began this ordinance by serving it to his disciples just before his crucifixion.

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:26-28).

2. **The elements of the Supper are symbols of the broken body and poured-out blood of Jesus Christ.** The bread and the fruit of the vine are symbols of the life that Jesus gave for our sins.

"And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come" (1 Corinthians 11:24-26).

Jesus did not change the bread to become his body nor the grape juice to become his blood. He used these things as symbols of his broken body and shed blood.

3. **In Remembrance Of His death.**

1) The Lord's Supper is to be observed in remembrance of Him. Jesus said: *"...this do in remembrance of me"* (1 Corinthians 11:24). As we partake of the supper we are to remember in a special way how the body of Jesus was broken and how His blood was shed that we might have eternal life.

2). The Lord's Supper is to show to everyone present the death of Jesus on the cross. *"...ye do shew the Lord's death till he come"* (1 Corinthians 11:26). There is no merit in partaking of the Lord's Supper except as our thoughts are turned to Jesus Christ and what He did for

J. Jesus was buried in a Rich Man's Tomb: Isaiah 53:9; Luke 23:53; Mark 15:46

8) The Resurrection of Jesus: Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:22-27

9) The Conquering Of Satan by Jesus' death: Genesis 3:15; Hebrews 2:14

2. Jesus is The Son Of God.

Matthew 3:17 says, *"And lo, a voice from heaven, saying 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'"* (R.S.V.). Jesus had no earthly father and Mary was His mother. He was declared to be the Son of God by:

- 1) The Angel Gabriel: Luke 1:35
- 2) John the Baptist: John 1:29-34
- 3) God Himself: Matthew 3:17
- 4) Evil spirits: Luke 8:28; Mark 1:24
- 5) The disciples: Matthew 16:16; John 6:69
- 6) Jesus Himself: Mark 14:61-62
- 7) His resurrection: Matthew 16:21 and 28:6
- 8) His works: John 10:36-38

3. Jesus is God.

John 1:1 says, *"In the beginning was the Word (or Jesus, as shown in verse 14), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"*.

Who created God? The answer is, no one, for He has always been alive. Who created Jesus? The answer is the same, because Jesus is God. We know that Jesus is God because of the following reasons:

- 1) The Bible says so: John 1:1; Acts 9:5; Acts 20:28; Titus 2:13; 2 Peter 1:1
- 2) God says so: Hebrews 1:8
- 3) Jesus' power to Forgive Sin shows that He is God: Mark 2:5-12
- 4) Jesus Himself claimed equal honour with God: John 5:23; 14:9; Philippians 2:6
- 5) Jesus accepted Worship As God: John 20:28; Revelation 1:17 (Micah 5:2 says *"...whose (Jesus') goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting"*). Because of this Scripture, many teachers of the Bible believe that many of the appearances of God in the Old Testament were those of the eternal Son of God, Jesus, before He was born in the manger.

(Study Genesis 16:10; 22:11-12,15-18; Joshua 5:14; Judges 6:11,14; 13:3,18-21; Psalm 34:7; Daniel 3:25.)

4. Jesus was The Sinless Man: Hebrews 4:15

Jesus was perfect God, but He was also perfect man. This truth is like the two sides of the same coin.

As a man Jesus grew (Luke 2:52), felt hunger and thirst (Matthew 4:2; John 19:28), became tired (John 4:6), felt sorrow (John 11:35), felt compassion (Matthew 9:36), felt grief and anger (Mark 3:5), and was tempted (Hebrews 4:15). But He did not sin (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:22).

Therefore, Jesus was the "perfect lamb" to die on the cross to pay for our sins. This made it possible for us to be given, as a gift, His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21), and so, go to heaven.

5. Jesus has All Power; He is the Great Creator.

One of the tragedies in our world today is that people have a small concept of Jesus. They do not understand Who He is and the power He has. Matthew 28:18 says, "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me'" (R.S.V.).

John 1:3 says, "All things were made by him (Jesus), and without him was not any thing made that was made". God the Father planned all things (Ephesians 1:9,10). God the Son, Jesus, created all things (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2). God the Holy Spirit teaches us, and makes God real to our lives (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:8).

This power of Jesus as Creator and Sustainer of the world (Colossians 1:17) is shown in the following:

- 1) Jesus has power over Nature.
 - A. He has power to command the Wind and the Sea (Matthew 8:26).
 - B. He has power to Walk Upon Water (John 6:19).
 - C. He has power to Multiply Food (John 6:8-13).
 - D. He has power to Command A Green Tree and cause it to wither (Matthew 21:19).
 - E. Jesus not only had the power to Create the heavens and the earth, but He also has the power which Keeps All Things from destruction (Colossians 1:16,17).
- 2) Jesus has power over Evil Spirits: Luke 8:31,32
- 3) Jesus has power over Disease: Mark 1:40,41; 5:25-29
- 4) Jesus has power to Forgive Sin: Mark 2:5-12
- 5) Jesus has power over Death: Matthew 9:25; Luke 7:14,15; John 11:43,44

Chapter 10

BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

The New Testament church has two ordinances: baptism and the Lord's Supper. They cannot save, but are symbolic in nature. Every believer is under obligation to submit to the ordinances of Jesus Christ.

BAPTISM

1. Baptism is the immersion in water of the believer in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. The truths symbolized in baptism are:

- 1) Forgiveness of sins.
- 2) Fellowship or union with Christ in His death and resurrection. The form of baptism symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection.
- 3) Cleansing from all unrighteousness and consecration to the service of God. There must be a complete surrender to the service of the kingdom of God and resolve to walk in newness of life. Baptism comes before church membership and participation in the Lord's Supper.

2. Baptism does not save.

- 1) Baptism cannot save because water cannot wash away sin. "...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).
- 2) Baptism does not save because it is an act of man, but salvation is the gift of God.

"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).

- 3) We know that baptism does not save because the thief on the cross was saved by the grace of God without baptism.

"And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).

3. The meaning of baptism.

- 1) Baptism is an outward symbol of what has already taken place within the life of the believer. If baptism actually conferred remission of sins, it would have to be repeated after each sin. Baptism is administered once only to a believer.
- 2) Baptism symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection which the believer experiences in his heart through faith in Jesus Christ.

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

(Read also Matthew 3:16.)

Name three things.

6. What are some of "man's" qualifications for church membership? Who only should be members of a church?
7. Describe the church government given in the Bible?
8. Who should discipline a church member? Who should choose church leaders?
9. Describe the two officers in the church.
10. When should a person be disciplined by the church?
11. What should be the attitude of the church when it disciplines a member?
12. What are the four main duties of a church?

Truly we serve a great God in the person of Jesus Christ!

6. Jesus is Saviour.

Matthew 1:21 says, "She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (R.S.V.).

- 1) Jesus is the Only Saviour: Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5
- 2) Jesus saves us from Sin. When Jesus died on the cross, all our sin was placed on Him (Isaiah 53:6). He was the perfect Lamb of the Old Testament who bore our sin (2 Corinthians 5:21; John 1:29). Jesus rose from the dead that He might live His life in us as Lord and Controller of our lives (Romans 10:9).

Jesus saves us from our sin in three ways:

- A. Jesus saves us from the Penalty of sin-eternal punishment in hell: Matthew 25:46; Luke 16:22,23; Revelation 20:15
 - B. Jesus saves us from the Power of sin daily in our lives: Philippians 4:13
 - C. Jesus saves us from the Presence of sin in that one day we shall go to heaven, where there is no sin: 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; Revelation 21:1-4
- 3) Jesus saves us for a life of Service to God: Ephesians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 6:19,20. Because Jesus is our great Saviour, we should allow Him to control our lives forever! When we do this, we become a child of God (John 1:12).

7. Jesus is Lord.

One of the neglected truths in these days concerns the **LORDSHIP** of Jesus Christ. However, Acts 2:36 says, *Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified*" (R.S.V.). The Bible teaches us that a man cannot accept Jesus as Saviour unless he is also willing to accept Him as Lord (Luke 9:23). The rich young ruler would have happily followed Jesus as Saviour, but he was unwilling to make Him Lord. Therefore, he could not be counted as a Christian (Matthew 19:20-22).

- 1) **The Meaning of the word, "Lord"**: owner, ruler, controller. Just as one owns and controls a bicycle, so Jesus wants to control our lives.
- 2) **Reasons why Jesus is Lord of every Christian:**
 - A. **Jesus Paid The Price** to redeem every Christian from sin and its eternal punishment (1 Corinthians 6:19,20; 1 Peter 1:18,19).

church in a spirit of love (Galatians 6:2). It is never to be done in a spirit of revenge or punishment, but with the desire that the disobedient member may see his sin, repent, and return to following the Lord Jesus.

8. THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

- 1) **To win the lost to faith in Christ through the preaching of the gospel**
"Go ye therefore, and teach (make disciples of) all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19).
"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47).
"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth..." (Romans 1:16).
- 2) **To baptize those who have been saved.** *"Go ye therefore, and teach (make disciples of) all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost"* (Matthew 28:19).
"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized..." (Acts 2:41).
- 3) **To teach fully the Christian way of life.** *"Teaching them to observe all thing whatsoever I have commanded you..."* (Matthew 28:20).
"For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27).
- 4) **Worship, strengthening one another, and fellowship.** *"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, and fellowship, and in the breaking of bread, and in prayers"* (Acts 2:42).
"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24,25).
"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:3).

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. What is an organized church according to the New Testament?
2. When Jesus said, "...upon this rock I will build my church," was he speaking about building his church on Peter?
3. What was the rock on which Christ was to build his church?
4. Who is the head of the Church?
5. What does the Bible mean when it calls Christ the "head of the Church"?

B. The Lordship of Christ is the **Basic Requirement** for being a Christian (Romans 10:9). Every Christian, who repents and accepts Jesus as Saviour, also must accept Him as Lord (1 Corinthians 8:6).

- 3) Christians should **Obey** Jesus as their Lord, not in word only, but in deed (Luke 6:46; Matthew 7:21). What are some of the things Jesus wants us to do? Notice the following:
 - A. **To Confess Him** to our friends (Matthew 10:32,33).
 - B. **To Live** so that people will glorify God (Matthew 5:16).
 - C. **The Work** we do and the **Games** we play should be according to the will of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).
 - D. Follow God's plan for **Christian Marriage and Home Life** (Ephesians 5:22-33; 6:1-4).
 - E. **Give One Tenth** of the money which comes to us to the Lord's work (Malachi 3:10; Proverbs 11:24,25; Matthew 23:23; Hebrews 7:8).
 - F. **Give our Time** to the Lord in daily Bible study (2 Timothy 2:15), prayer (Matthew 26:41), and church attendance (Hebrews 10:25).
 - G. **Teach** others about Him and His salvation (Matthew 28:19,20).
 - H. **Be Baptized and Serve** in the church (Acts 2:41-47).
- 4) **At the Last Day** all people shall confess Jesus as Lord (Philippians 2:10,11). If we will make him Lord today, we will be happy when we bow before him on that day!

8. Jesus is Judge.

John 5:22 says, *"The Father judges no one, but has given all judgement to the Son"* (R.S.V.).

As people today judge Christ by either accepting or rejecting him, so will he do to all people. What will happen when Jesus is judge (Acts 17:31)?

- 1) There will be a **Resurrection** and a **Just Judgement** (John 5:29,30).
- 2) Every **Evil Thought** and every **Unkind Word** will be revealed and judged (Matthew 12:36).
- 3) It will be **Too Late** to repent and trust Christ (Hebrews 9:27).
- 4) Those who have made Jesus Lord in their lives will go to **Heaven** (Romans 10:9). Those who have not allowed Jesus to control their lives will be **Condemned**. They will be lost forever in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10,15; 21:8).
- 5) The Christians who follow Jesus will have their **Works Tried** by fire. If a Christian's works stand the test, he will be rewarded. If the works are burned, he will not be rewarded, though he will be saved and will go to heaven (1 Corinthians 3:13-15). We are not saved by our good

of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas..." (Acts 15:22).

When a case arose which called for church discipline, it was the church which was exhorted to take the action against the erring member.

(Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; Matthew 18:15-17.)

6. THE OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

- 1) **The Pastor** The words, "pastor," "elder," and "bishop," are used to mean the same thing in the New Testament. In Acts chapter 20, Paul sent for the elders of the church at Ephesus (v.17). In verse 28 he tells them that the Holy Spirit has made them overseers (bishops), and that they are to feed (pastor) the church. Peter speaks of himself as an elder in 1 Peter 5:1.

Perhaps the question will arise, "Who should be the pastor of a church?" We find God's qualifications for the pastor given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:7-9. These passages should be studied very carefully by everyone in the church.

The church should also remember that God had a reason for giving the qualifications. When the church seeks a pastor, it should be sure that the man is qualified according to the Bible, before he is invited to become the pastor of the church.

- 2) **The Deacons** The New Testament churches also had deacons. The qualifications for deacons are found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-6.

7. THE DISCIPLINE OF THE CHURCH

- 1) **There are times when discipline is necessary.** When the life of a church member is so contrary to the teachings of Jesus that he is bringing shame to the church and injury to the cause of Christ, it becomes necessary for the church to discipline him.

"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us" (2 Thessalonians 3:6).

"To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh..." (1 Corinthians 5:5).

- 2) **There must always be the proper purpose and attitude when the church disciplines a person.** "...that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus" (1 Corinthians 5:5).

When discipline becomes necessary, it is to be done by the

works, but our good works will determine our reward in heaven. In view of the coming judgement, what sort of people should we be?

9. Jesus is for All People

John 3:16 says, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

One of the great lies which Satan is telling in Africa today is this: "Jesus is a God for the white man, not the African". Those who listen to and follow this life will be lost eternally. We know that Jesus is for **All People** because of the following reasons:

- 1) **God** said so (John 3:16).
- 2) **The Prophets** said so (Genesis 22:18; Isaiah 49:6).
- 3) **The Angels** said so (Luke 2:10).
- 4) **John The Baptist** said so (John 1:29).
- 5) **Jesus Himself** said so (Matthew 28:19).

In view of this, let us give ourselves totally to Jesus Christ to follow him as our Lord and Saviour!

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. What two things did Jesus come to do?
2. Who is Jesus?
3. What two Scriptures in the Old Testament have much to say of Jesus's death?
4. How do we know that Jesus is the Son of God?
5. How do we know that Jesus is God?
6. How do you explain that Jesus is perfect God and yet perfect man?
7. How do you know that Jesus is the great Creator? What Scriptures state this truth? How did Jesus demonstrate this truth?
8. What is the way to heaven? Is there any other way?
9. What does it mean to make Jesus "Lord" of our lives?
10. If we refuse to make Jesus "Lord" of our lives, can we go to heaven?
11. What are some of the things which we will want to do if Jesus is "Lord"?
12. Why are people lost?
13. What will happen when Jesus is judge?
14. How do we know that Jesus is for **All People**?

SALVATION

1. MAN NEEDS SALVATION

Sin separates people from God because God is holy and righteous. Therefore, God cannot have fellowship with people until they are saved or cleansed from sin. All people have sinned. The penalty for sin is death, so all people need to be saved from sin which causes eternal death.

They also need to be saved in order to have their fellowship restored with God. God made everyone and he wants to give everyone eternal life. God cannot give eternal life while anyone remains in his lost, sinful condition. If a person wants an eternal and joyful life, he must be saved.

(Read Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 3:10-19,23; Romans 6:23; Matthew 16:26; 1 Corinthians 15:19.)

2. NO PERSON CAN SAVE HIMSELF

A person cannot hold his feet by his hands and pick himself up above the ground. In the same way, no one can save himself from sin and put himself into fellowship with God. A person may try all his life to do good things. That will not satisfy God. The Bible tells us that no man can save himself by any good works he does.

(Read Romans 3:20 and Galatians 3:11.)

3. GOD OFFERS SALVATION BY HIS GRACE

God offers his salvation to the people of this world. God does this by his love and grace. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to take the punishment for our sins. Christ died so that God could forgive people and still remain a righteous, holy God. Through the death of Jesus, God offers to save people from their sins.

(Read Romans 3:21-28; Romans 4:5; 5:8; Ephesians 2:8; and Isaiah 53:5.)

4. GOD OFFERS NEW LIFE

The salvation which God offers is more than just escape from eternal punishment. God also offers new life when we receive Christ. God makes us His children. Jesus died for our sins. But He did not remain dead. He rose again. Because He lives

- 1) The church should have only saved people in its membership. "....And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).

Sometimes people who have never been saved become members of a local church. This is of man. It is against the plan of God. Some people become members of a church through a false profession of faith. Some churches bring babies into their membership. God wants only those who have been born again within the membership of the church.

- 2) The church should have only those in its membership who have been baptized as the Bible teaches.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19).

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41).

From these passages and many others, we learn that Jesus commanded baptism. The churches described in the New Testament practised baptism for people after they were saved. That is why the members of a church should be baptized like the New Testament shows. Being put under the water is a picture of the burial and resurrection—even as Christ was buried and arose from the dead (Romans 6:4,5).

5. The Government Of The Church

As Baptists we believe in and practise being equal in church government. This belief and practice is based on the following things:

- 1) **The Headship of Jesus Christ** We have seen earlier in this chapter that Christ is the head of the church. He is to the church as the head is to the body. It is the head which gives direction to each member or part of the body. Even so, it is Christ, through the Holy Spirit, who is to lead each Christian and then direct the body as a whole.
- 2) **The Equality of All Believers** The Bible teaches that true believers are all members of the body of Christ, called the church. No one member of the body, or church, can rule over another member of the church. In the same way the hand cannot tell the foot what to do. That is the work of the head.

Study carefully Romans 12:3-6 and 1 Corinthians 12:14-20.

- 3) **Examples Seen in the New Testament** When deacons were to be selected, it was done by the entire church.

Read Acts 6:1-6.

When a serious problem was faced by the Christians, it was the entire church which decided what should be done. "Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men

THE CHURCH

1. What Is A Church?

A church is a group of baptized believers who have joined together to obey the commands of Jesus. Most of the references to the church in the New Testament refer to the local congregation of believers. An organized church in the New Testament sense is always a local congregation of true believers at a particular place.

2. The Church Was Begun By Christ

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus responded to Simon Peter's confession that He was the Son of God by declaring, "*And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church...*"

What was the rock on which Christ was to build His church? Certainly it was not upon the man Peter. God would never build his church upon a mere man. Furthermore, the New Testament does not give Peter the place of highest honour among the apostles.

In the same chapter in which Jesus said, "*upon this rock I will build my church*," he also said to Peter, "*...Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men*" (Matthew 16:23).

The rock on which Jesus declared he would build his church was the rock of belief or confession such as Peter made that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. Therefore, all who repent of their sins and confess Christ as Lord and Saviour become like "living stones" in a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5,6).

3. The Head Of The Church

Paul calls Christ the "head of the church" three times in the book of Ephesians (Ephesians 1:22; 4:15; 5:23). No man or group can be the head of a New Testament church. Jesus Christ alone is the head of the church.

What does the Bible mean when it calls Christ the "head of the church"? It means the following things:

- 1) Christ is the only one who can be the leader of the church.
- 2) Christ controls and gives direction to the church.
- 3) The place of honour in the church must always be given to Christ.

4. The Membership Of The Church

In the New Testament we find there are two conditions given for membership in the local church: salvation and baptism.

forever, we may live forever.

Salvation means we have a new life, Christ's life within us. The saved person becomes a child of God.

(Read John 5:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17,18; Romans 5:10; Romans 8:14-16; and 1 John 3:1,2.)

5. SALVATION COMES BY NEW BIRTH

Salvation comes only one way. That way is by a new birth. Jesus said, "*You must be born again*." He said that a person can neither see the Kingdom of God nor enter it unless he is born again. Jesus offered new birth as the only way to be saved.

(Read John 1:12-13; John 3:3-7; and 1 Peter 1:23.)

Salvation, or being saved, means being born again. If you want to be born again you must do these things:

- 1) **Agree with God that you are lost.** Agree that you are a sinner and do wrong. Confess your need to be saved from sin. Tell God that you desire to have fellowship with Him and become His child.

(Read Isaiah 6:5; Isaiah 53:6; Isaiah 64:6; and Romans 3:10).

- 2) **Repent of your sins.** Agree that you are a sinner and tell God you are sorry for the wrong things which you have done. Agree that apart from Him you can do nothing but sin. Tell Him you want a changed life so you will not want to follow Satan. Choose to leave all sin and turn to Christ.

(Read Mark 1:14,15; Acts 17:30; and Luke 13:3.)

- 3) **Believe in Jesus Christ.** Trust Christ who died on the cross. Believe that He is the Son of God. Believe that He is God's way to bring salvation to you. Believe that He is risen and that He now lives. Trust yourself to Him.

(Read Romans 10:9-13; Acts 2:38; and Acts 16:31.)

- 4) **Accept Christ as your Lord.** Tell God that you are willing to obey Christ. Choose by your will to make Christ your leader and the Lord of your life.

(Read Matthew 10:32,33; and Philippians 2:11.)

- 5) **Through faith accept God's salvation.** Know that God will keep His promise. Know that you are now a child of God because God says that in His Word.

(Read Galatians 3:11; 1 John 2:25; and 1 Peter 1:3-5.)

6. SALVATION CONTINUES FOREVER

Salvation does not end. Those who are born again have passed from spiritual death into eternal life. They have become children of God. God promises that He will not throw out those who come to Him. He tells you that no one can snatch you out of His hand.

Salvation makes one a new creation. A person who has been born again has a desire deep in his heart to obey God. Although a saved person sometimes sins, he receives forgiveness when he confesses that sin to God. Saved people want to please God who has saved them. They should choose to please Him in all they do. They are His children forever. Therefore, they want to bring glory to their Father's name.

(Read John 3:16,36; John 10:28,29; John 17:3; 2 Timothy 1:12; and John 6:37.)

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Why should people be saved?
2. Why can no man save himself or satisfy God?
3. Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?
4. Besides salvation from eternal punishment, what else does God offer?
5. What is the only way by which salvation comes? What does Jesus say about this?
6. What must one do to be born again?
7. What happens when one is born again? How long does one stay saved?

7. Tell how sin affects being filled with Christ on the cross?
8. How can a Christian know he died with Christ on the cross?
9. How can Christ be the Lord of your life?
10. Tell how you received salvation and the fullness of the Holy Spirit.
11. What does it mean to "yield yourself to God."
12. Tell how to keep being filled.
13. What is the fruit of the Spirit?
14. What is the purpose of living a Christian life?

(Read Romans 6:6-11.)

- 4) **Choose to make Christ Lord of all your life.** Deny self the right to control your life. Give that power to Christ by faith.

(Read Philippians 2:11; Romans 10:9.)

- 5) **Through faith accept the fullness of the Holy Spirit.** Your salvation came by faith. The fullness of the Holy Spirit also comes by faith.

(Read Ephesians 5:18; 1 John 5:14,15; and Luke 11:13.)

- 6) **Yield yourself to God.** Give Christ your mind. Give him your heart. Give him your body. Give him all which is yours.

(Read Romans 6:12-16; 1 Corinthians 6:19,20; and Romans 12:1,2.)

- 7) **Keep on being filled.** Walk day by day in the Spirit. Ask each morning for the Holy Spirit to show you all that is evil in your heart. Confess that sin and ask Him to rearrange all that is left according to His plan. Through faith accept His filling for a new day.

(Read Galatians 5:16,25; and Romans 8:1-14.)

6. GROWTH IS MEASURED BY THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

When a Christian grows like Christ, the Lord produces the fruit of the Spirit. Here is an example of the fruit of the Spirit. You may say of an apple, "The apple is round. The apple is red. The apple is sweet." You are speaking of a material fruit.

The fruit of the Spirit is the life of Christ. It is a life of love, joy, and peace. It is also a life which is longsuffering, gentle, and good. It is a life of faith, meekness, and temperance. It is the life of Christ. The Christian who becomes more and more like Christ is a growing Christian.

(Read Galatians 5:22,23.)

7. GROWTH IN A CHRISTIAN BRINGS GLORY TO GOD

The purpose for which a Christian lives or dies is to bring glory to God. The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to show Christ in the life of every Christian. The purpose of God's Son is to bring glory to His Father. The Christian who grows brings glory to God.

(Read John 15:8; 2 Timothy 2:20,21; and 2 Timothy 3:17.)

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. How can Christians abide in Christ for spiritual growth?
2. How old is a new-born Christian? Should he remain like that? What should he do?
3. How can one know about Christian growth?
4. What helps a Christian grow? Who can teach a Christian these things?
5. What is witnessing? How does a person have faith?
6. How can the Holy Spirit fill a person?

THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is not a thing or influence, but a spiritual person. He can lead, He speaks, and He teaches. At different times He is called: the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, and the Spirit of the Lord.

The Holy Spirit is equal to and named with God the Father and God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit lives forever within everyone saved, because their bodies are called "the temple of the Holy Spirit" (John 14:16,17; 1 Corinthians 6:19). He represents and wants to testify of Christ through all those who are saved (John 15:26,27).

2. WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO?

- 1) The Holy Spirit convicts the lost of sin (John 16:8). He gives them the desire and also invites them to receive Christ as Saviour (John 6:44; Revelation 22:17).

- 2) The Holy Spirit calls and sends the saved out to preach God's Word to the lost (Luke 10:2; Acts 13:2-4).

- 3) Since He dwells within all saved ones, He also baptizes or puts these saved ones into the "Body of Christ" called THE CHURCH. The church is made up of everyone who is saved (1 Corinthians 3:16; 12:13).

- 4) The Holy Spirit seals or shows the believer that he belongs to the Lord Jesus forever (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30).

- 5) The Holy Spirit wants to fill every saved person as God commands (Ephesians 5:18). The Holy Spirit cannot fill a believer when he sins against Him.

3. HOW DO CHRISTIANS SIN AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Christians may sin against the Holy Spirit in six ways:

- 1) You can lie to the Holy Spirit by words or even by actions (Acts 5:3). Ananias listened to Satan and then told a lie.

- 2) You can test or tempt the Holy Spirit. This means that you think God will not correct or punish you when you sin and then do not confess and make right those sins (Acts 5:9). Sapphira agreed with Ananias to sin in this way. It resulted in their physical death (1 John 5:16; 1 Corinthians 5:5; 11:30-32).

- 3) You sin against the Holy Spirit when you resist or refuse to obey

Him as He speaks through God's Word (Acts 7:51).

- 4 You grieve the Holy Spirit by other sins such as not speaking the truth, living like some heathen or giving a place in your life to Satan. Stealing from any person, group, or God's tithe grieves the Holy Spirit. Also, allowing any evil words to come out of your mouth grieves Him. You also grieve Him by bitterness, wrath, anger, slander, unkindness, or unforgiveness (Ephesians 4:15-32).
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You cannot be filled with the Holy Spirit by coming forward in a meeting and just saying, "I rededicate and surrender my life to God". And you cannot be filled with the Holy Spirit by just daily studying the Bible. These things are good but they are not God's way to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in John 7:37, 38: "...If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water' " (R.S.V.). These verses show: the Conditions, God's Promise, and The Result of the Spirit-filled life.

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This Thirsting means that you want to know and do God's will. You can find God's will be continuously studying His Word, talking to Him in prayer, and putting His will ahead of your own. Only if you desperately thirst or desire God's fulness, can you be filled with

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God's main provision for Christian growth is the Holy Spirit. When a person is born again, the Holy Spirit comes to live in that person's heart. Unless the Holy Spirit is in a person's heart, he has not been born again.

The Holy Spirit who dwells in the Christian's heart cannot produce Christian growth until the whole life is surrendered to Christ. God's Word commands the Christian to be filled with the Holy Spirit. You can be filled with the Holy Spirit if you will do the following in your heart:

- 1) **Agree with God that you can do nothing good in your own strength and by your own wisdom.** Realize how helpless you are to grow and be like Christ. See your wicked self who wants to take the control of your life out of the hands of Jesus.

(Read Romans 7:18,19; Jeremiah 17:9; and John 15:4,5.)

- 2) **Confess every known sin.** Sin hurts God. Confess to God the wrong things which you have done. Sin also hurts other people at times. Tell others you are sorry if you have done wrong things to them. As you are able, make those things right and claim God's forgiveness. Then ask others whom you have wronged to forgive you.

(Read 1 John 1:9; James 5:16; 2 Corinthians 7:1; and 1 Peter 1:15,16.)

- 3) **Know that God has the answer to every need in Christ.** Know that when Christ died, you died with Him also. God's Word says you became a Christian by believing that Christ died for your sins. Believe also when God's Word says that you died with Christ.

CHRISTIAN GROWTH

A plant does no work to make itself grow. It grows when it abides in good soil, gets water, and remains free from disease. A Christian grows as he abides in Christ. God provides His Holy Spirit to indwell and enable a Christian to abide in Christ.

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1. BORN A BABY

You look at a new baby. You say, "Here is a person". But he cannot walk. He cannot talk. He cannot eat mealies. But we know he is a person. He is a baby person. He must grow.

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Prayer and Bible study are necessary if a Christian is to grow. But one who studies the Bible by his own wisdom and prays in his own strength will not grow. He will become proud of his study. He will boast about his prayer life. But he will not grow by them. He will not bring glory to God.

God gave the Holy Spirit to teach every Christian His truths. The Christian should ask the Holy Spirit to put in him a love for the Bible. A few minutes of Spirit-led Bible study is much more helpful than hours when a Christian studies by his own power.

The Holy Spirit will also teach the Christian to pray. Christian growth comes when prayer is taught by the Spirit of prayer.

(Read 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16,17; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; John 16:13; and Romans 8:26,27.)

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- 2) If you fully thirst for God and His fulness, then you must **Come To Him**--the Lord Jesus Christ. This is not to be saved a second or a third time. You can be saved only one time. You must come to Christ wanting Him to be **the Lord** of your life.

This means that you desire His cleansing of any sins the Holy Spirit shows or will point out to you from God's Word. And it also means you want to walk in the light as He is in the light and be sure you are cleansed from all sins (1 John 1:7).

This also means you believe and agree that you have been "crucified with Christ" (Galatians 2:20; Romans 6:6). You also agree that "no longer I but Christ lives in me". You consider yourself to be dead to sin, to yourself, to the world and to Satan. You are alive only to "...live...for him who died...and was raised" (2 Corinthians 5:15 R.S.V.).

You must be willing to "...consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:11 R.S.V.). This means to surrender your body and your life completely for the Lord daily and for all time (Romans 12:1; 6:13); Luke 9:23). Then you must keep looking to God and trusting Christ to live out His life through you. 3) Are you truly **thirsting** or desiring to live for God's glory only? Have you submitted yourself to Jesus as Lord for full cleansing and full control? If so, now, to be Spirit-filled, Jesus says, "DRINK".

As you drink water to quench the thirst in your body, you take or accept the Holy Spirit who lives within you to fill and control you. If you have met God's conditions to be filled, now you obey His command and accept His gift for the Holy Spirit to fill and control you.

How do you obey! And how do you accept His gift of fulness? The last condition is **Believe** that God has done what He has promised. Just as you can be saved only by faith, you can be filled with the Holy Spirit only by **faith** (Galatians 3:2,14). Different people feel differently, or have no feelings, because feelings are not the condition to be filled).

You had to fulfill the conditions of repentance before being saved by faith. Now you meet the conditions of **thirsting, coming to Jesus** for cleansing and constant fellowship, **drinking** or taking the fulness of the Holy Spirit by **faith**.

This must be a daily experience. You need a "first filling", but it should be followed by daily fulness.

Rivers of living water or eternal life for others will flow from your life. You will live for God's glory only. Others will see and hear about Jesus from you as you live victoriously.

4. HOW DO YOU STAY SPIRIT-FILLED OR WALK IN THE SPIRIT?

Does the Spirit-filled life mean that you will never sin? No, it is still possible to sin, but it is also possible moment by moment not to sin (1 John 2:1; 3:6; Galatians 5:16).

- 1) Any time the Spirit-filled Christian worries, gets upset, or takes his eyes off the Lord Jesus, he sins. But immediately, he should confess and agree that he has sinned. He should then make it right with God, another person, or any group he has sinned against. Then he thanks God for the cleansing. By this he comes back into spiritual fellowship and spiritual fullness.

A true Christian cannot lose his salvation (John 10:28,29). But he can lose fellowship, his testimony, joy, and peace by not confessing any sin the Holy Spirit shows him.

- 2) You stay filled by walking or depending on the Holy Spirit and consciously obeying Him (Galatians 5:16). When you walk in the Spirit you will have a heart that still thirsts or desires God's will only.
- 3) You will stay in fellowship with the Lord by studying and obeying God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15).
- 4) You will talk to the Lord in prayer concerning everything (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- 5) You will desire to have fellowship with other Christians in church (Hebrews 10:25).
- 6) In everything and all the time you will thank and praise the Lord (Ephesians 5:20; Hebrews 13:15).

The Holy Spirit will work through you in speaking to the lost about God's salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ (John 15:16,26,27, and Acts 1:8).

As you stay filled with the Holy Spirit, He produces the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness and faith, meekness, self-control (Galatians 5:22,23). You will be living just as Jesus would live (1 John 2:6). You will depend on Him to live out His life through you by the Holy Spirit every day and in every place (2 Corinthians 2:14).

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Who is the Holy Spirit? What is His relationship to God the Father and God the Son?
2. How long does the Holy Spirit stay in saved ones? Why does He live in them?
3. What work does the Holy Spirit do to those lost in sin?
4. What does the Holy Spirit show the believer in relationship to Christ?
5. Can you tell six ways Christians sin against the Holy Spirit? Why are saved ones not Spirit-filled?

6. Name four things people do to try to be filled with the Holy Spirit but which are not God's way to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
7. Which verses show: the condition, God's promise, and the result of the Spirit-filled life?
8. What does it mean to thirst for God's fullness?
9. How do you come to the Lord Jesus Christ for God's fullness? What must you do to obey God's command and accept His gift for fullness?
10. How do you "DRINK" or obey this command?
11. How do you receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit? How often should you be spiritually full or controlled by the Holy Spirit?
12. What happens when you lead a daily Spirit-filled life?
13. When can a Spirit-filled Christian sin and how does he come back into spiritual fellowship and spiritual fullness?
14. What happens if he does not confess his sins?

(Read Romans 6:6-11.)

- 4) **Choose to make Christ Lord of all your life.** Deny self the right to control your life. Give that power to Christ by faith.

(Read Philippians 2:11; Romans 10:9.)

- 5) **Through faith accept the fulness of the Holy Spirit.** Your salvation came by faith. The fulness of the Holy Spirit also comes by faith.

(Read Ephesians 5:18; 1 John 5:14,15; and Luke 11:13.)

- 6) **Yield yourself to God.** Give Christ your mind. Give him your heart. Give him your body. Give him all which is yours.

(Read Romans 6:12-16; 1 Corinthians 6:19,20; and Romans 12:1,2.)

- 7) **Keep on being filled.** Walk day by day in the Spirit. Ask each morning for the Holy Spirit to show you all that is evil in your heart. Confess that sin and ask Him to rearrange all that is left according to His plan. Through faith accept His filling for a new day.

(Read Galatians 5:16,25; and Romans 8:1-14.)

6. GROWTH IS MEASURED BY THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

When a Christian grows like Christ, the Lord produces the fruit of the Spirit. Here is an example of the fruit of the Spirit. You may say of an apple, "The apple is round. The apple is red. The apple is sweet." You are speaking of a material fruit.

The fruit of the Spirit is the life of Christ. It is a life of love, joy, and peace. It is also a life which is longsuffering, gentle, and good. It is a life of faith, meekness, and temperance. It is the life of Christ. The Christian who becomes more and more like Christ is a growing Christian.

(Read Galatians 5:22,23.)

7. GROWTH IN A CHRISTIAN BRINGS GLORY TO GOD

The purpose for which a Christian lives or dies is to bring glory to God. The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to show Christ in the life of every Christian. The purpose of God's Son is to bring glory to His Father. The Christian who grows brings glory to God.

(Read John 15:8; 2 Timothy 2:20,21; and 2 Timothy 3:17.)

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. How can Christians abide in Christ for spiritual growth?
2. How old is a new-born Christian? Should he remain like that? What should he do?
3. How can one know about Christian growth?
4. What helps a Christian grow? Who can teach a Christian these things?
5. What is witnessing? How does a person have faith?
6. How can the Holy Spirit fill a person?

Chapter 7

THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is not a thing or influence, but a spiritual person. He can lead, He speaks, and He teaches. At different times He is called: the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, and the Spirit of the Lord.

The Holy Spirit is equal to and named with God the Father and God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit lives forever within everyone saved, because their bodies are called "the temple of the Holy Spirit" (John 14:16,17; 1 Corinthians 6:19). He represents and wants to testify of Christ through all those who are saved (John 15:26,27).

2. WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO?

- 1) The Holy Spirit convicts the lost of sin (John 16:8). He gives them the desire and also invites them to receive Christ as Saviour (John 6:44; Revelation 22:17).
- 2) The Holy Spirit calls and sends the saved out to preach God's Word to the lost (Luke 10:2; Acts 13:2-4).
- 3) Since He dwells within all saved ones, He also baptizes or puts these saved ones into the "Body of Christ" called **THE CHURCH**. The church is made up of everyone who is saved (1 Corinthians 3:16; 12:13).
- 4) The Holy Spirit seals or shows the believer that he belongs to the Lord Jesus forever (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30).
- 5) The Holy Spirit wants to fill every saved person as God commands (Ephesians 5:18). The Holy Spirit cannot fill a believer when he sins against Him.

3. HOW DO CHRISTIANS SIN AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Christians may sin against the Holy Spirit in six ways:

- 1) You can lie to the Holy Spirit by words or even by actions (Acts 5:3). Ananias listened to Satan and then told a lie.
- 2) You can test or tempt the Holy Spirit. This means that you think God will not correct or punish you when you sin and then do not confess and make right those sins (Acts 5:9). Sapphira agreed with Ananias to sin in this way. It resulted in their physical death (1 John 5:16; 1 Corinthians 5:5; 11:30-32).
- 3) You sin against the Holy Spirit when you resist or refuse to obey

Him as He speaks through God's Word (Acts 7:51).

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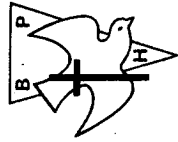
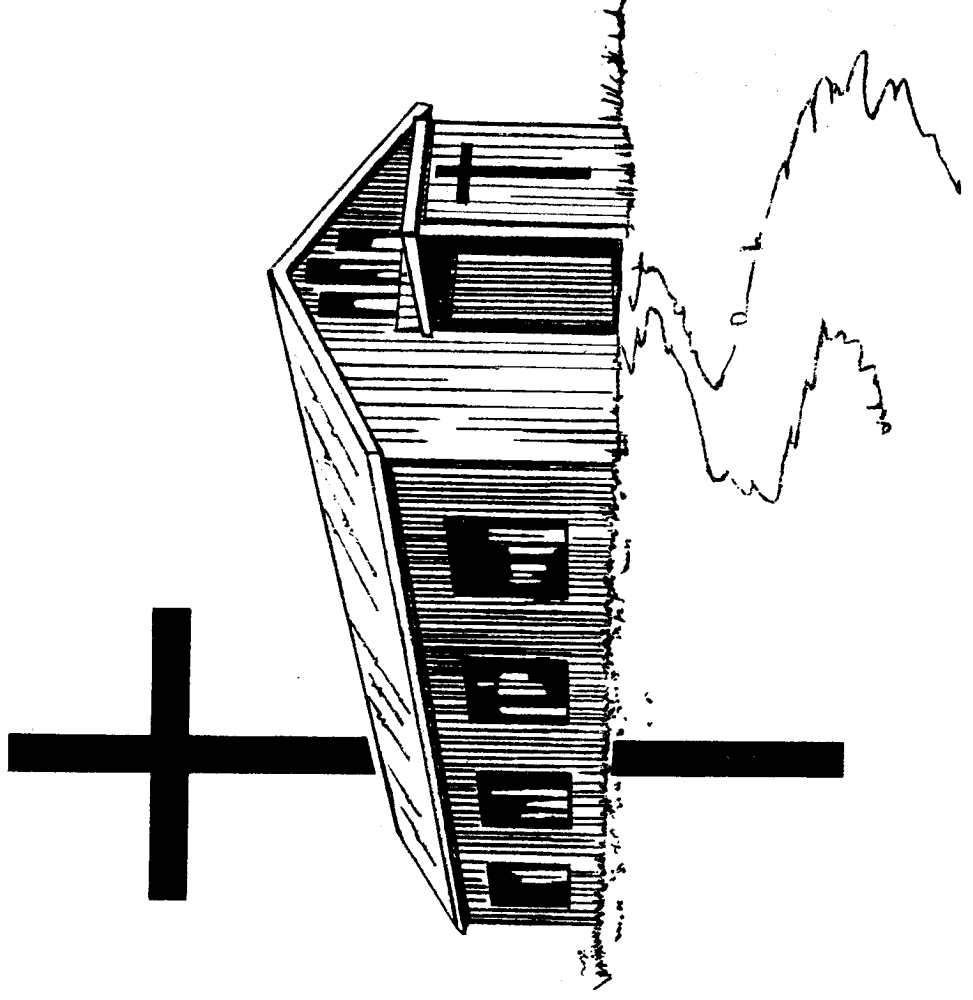
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