

## LESSON 12

### PROGRAMMES FOR FOLLOW-UP

Some churches make no effort to involve new Christians in Bible study. Other churches encourage them to enroll in Sunday School or the Bible study programme. A few churches put forth additional effort and provide classes for new members. Very few churches include in their educational programmes instructions for training laymen to follow up new converts.

A careful examination of the Great Commission reveals that training and study are a vital part of making disciples. Since a disciple is a learner, the one who does evangelistic work in sharing Christ must instruct the lost sufficiently in the doctrines of salvation to enable them to respond by faith. A person can have a genuine salvation experience when he receives Christ without fully understanding what has happened to him. Certainly, until the new Christian is taught, he does not know how "to observe all things whatsoever I (Christ) have commanded you" (Matt. 28:20). The subjects in which he needs instruction have been discussed in the previous lesson.

The purpose of this lesson is to present plans and study materials for new Christian training. These plans and materials are mere suggestions as to what should be done.

#### The New Members' Class

##### Purpose

Most new Christians have little knowledge of the Bible and its teachings. In order to encourage them to begin studying their Bibles, they must be introduced to it and be taught how to use it. The first session with new believers can be used profitably in helping them get acquainted with their Bibles. The second session should guide them in understanding what happened to them when they received Christ as Saviour. Next, they need to be taught how to live the Christian life or how to walk in the Spirit. The instruction will be incomplete unless they are taught how to pray and unless they understand the meaning of church membership and the church ordinances. Since every Christian should be faithful in sharing Christ, the new believers need to be guided in witnessing. Instruction in witnessing can follow suggestions in earlier lessons and will not be repeated in this one.

New members who have come into the fellowship of the church from a sister church should be included in this class. When this special class is first included in the programme of the church, it would be beneficial for every member of the church to attend. The majority of Christians are poorly informed concerning the basic doctrines of their faith. The purpose of the class is to equip God's chosen servants for a more effective ministry.

##### Procedures

After the church has approved a class, a time convenient for the majority attending should be selected. Either the pastor or a layman with special training should serve as leader. Getting new Christians off to a good start is very important, and their initial training should not be placed in the hands of an amateur.

The use of effective teaching methods and materials is important. Most teachers tend to lecture, not realizing that what is said will be retained only a brief time. Materials which are designed for home study are effective if the teacher requires the

An effective way of teaching new Christians is having a special class in the church for \_\_\_\_\_

(new members)

The leader of the class should be the \_\_\_\_\_

or a well qualified and trained \_\_\_\_\_

Underline the most effective method of teaching for the new members' class

1. Discussion and sharing by members after home study by them
2. Lecture by the teacher

(Compare your answer with the text.)

members to prepare before coming to class. When students have prepared their homework, the class period can be devoted to the enrichment of the subject studied and to questions of personal interest.

Students should be taught to use their Bibles as well as the materials related to the Bible. The first lesson is designed to acquaint new Christians with the Bible

## LESSON 1

### GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH THE BIBLE

#### *What is the Bible?*

The word "Bible" comes from a Greek word which simply means "little books". The books of the Bible were originally written on separate pieces of writing material and each individual book was circulated independently for a number of years. Eventually the 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament were collected into one volume. The word "testament" means "an agreement" or "a covenant". Although several covenants are set forth in the Old Testament, the most significant began as a promise to Abraham (Gen. 12) and received a much more developed expression at Mount Sinai with the giving of the Ten Commandments.

The Old Testament is so named because of the covenant it contains. This covenant involves responsibilities on the part of both agreeing parties. God promised to bless His people, but he required them to be faithful and to worship only Him. A summary of God's requirements for man is contained in the Ten Commandments and in the agreement that Israel would be a missionary nation. Israel continually broke her responsibilities in the Covenant. Israel deserved to be punished for her sins, but a merciful God expressed His loving nature in the promise of a new covenant which would be written in the hearts of men (see Jer. 31:31ff.). This promise was fulfilled in the coming of Christ who died on the cross to atone for man's sins and the descending of the Holy Spirit who abides within man to guide him in righteous living.

The 27 books of the New Testament give the account of God's New Covenant with man in which God, through Christ, deals with His people in forgiveness and mercy. The Bible is a collection of 66 books which describe the relation of God and man in terms of covenant responsibilities. The covenant relationship is not between equals, nor can sinful man uphold his responsibilities apart from God's power and gifts. The good news of the New Covenant is that God deals with man by grace.

#### *The nature of the Bible*

The Bible is a divine-human book: divinely inspired men wrote about God. The Bible contains a record of God's actions in history. These revelatory actions were interpreted and recorded by man under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. These activities are known as inspiration. The Bible becomes revelation to man when he reads it under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible is a unique book because of revelation and inspiration. Revelation is the act of God in making Himself and His purpose known to man. God has disclosed His nature and will (revelation) to man through angels, dreams, visions, nature, writings, voices, the casting of lots, the inner voice of the individual conscience, and His Son Jesus Christ: "In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets" (Heb. 1:1, RSV).

God, who is Spirit, is invisible and far removed from man in holiness. Man who is a creature and one with earthly beings cannot discover, on his own, the God who created him. God must

New Christians need to learn how to \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible.

(use)

Try to answer the following questions concerning the facts which should be taught new Christians about the Bible:

1. The word "Bible" means \_\_\_\_\_.
2. How many books are in the Old Testament? \_\_\_\_
3. How many books are in the New Testament? \_\_\_\_
4. "Testament" means \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The Old Testament is so named because of the \_\_\_\_\_ it contains.
6. The New Testament gives the account of God's \_\_\_\_\_ with man through Christ.
7. The Bible has a total of \_\_\_\_\_ books and describes the relation of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in terms of \_\_\_\_\_ responsibilities.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

A summary of God's requirements in the Old Testament are found in the \_\_\_\_\_.

(Ten Commandments)

The promise of the New Covenant was fulfilled in \_\_\_\_\_.

(Christ)

The good news of the New Covenant is that God deals with man by \_\_\_\_\_.

(grace)

The Bible was written by \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

(divinely inspired men)

make Himself known in order for man to know Him. God has made Himself known in the history of Israel. The Old Testament is an account of the revelatory acts of God in history. The New Testament is an account of the Son of God who entered history as a baby in Bethlehem. If man reads the Bible with eyes of faith and a submissive heart, he is able to know the invisible God who makes Himself known through the Word.

For a person to understand God's truth in the Scripture as he reads it, he must be guided by the Holy Spirit. According to John 16:13, Jesus promised that the coming of the Holy Spirit would guide the disciples into all truth. Paul explained that no one knows the thoughts of another except the spirit of that one. Likewise, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 2:22ff.). The Spirit is able to make known the mind of God to spiritual men who read the Bible. Apart from the Spirit, man reads the Bible without spiritual understanding. This activity of the Holy Spirit is referred to as illumination.

Read the following Scriptures and determine if they speak of revelation, inspiration, or illumination:

1. John 1:1, 14: \_\_\_\_\_
2. 1 Corinthians 2:11ff.: \_\_\_\_\_
3. 2 Timothy 3:16: \_\_\_\_\_
4. 2 Peter 1:20, 21: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Hebrews 1:1-2: \_\_\_\_\_
6. John 7:17; 14:10: \_\_\_\_\_

### Divisions of the Bible

Our English Bible, composed of 66 books, is divided into the Old and New Testaments. The 39 books of the Old Testament can further be divided into four groups: law (books of Moses), history, poetry, and prophets.

1. There are five books of law: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Although these books contain legal material, they include also much history and other types of literature. Genesis gives an account of creation, man's fall into sin, and God's choice of Abraham and his descendants through whom He made Himself known to mankind. Exodus describes the great deliverance of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage and their receiving of the Law at Mount Sinai. Leviticus presents the civil and ceremonial laws of Israel, and Numbers continues with the history of Israel on her journey to the Promised Land. Deuteronomy means "the second law" and is a review of all the laws given by God.
2. There are twelve books of history: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. These books set forth Israel's history and God's dealings with her from the time the Israelites occupied the land of Canaan in about 1250 B.C. until the Persian period about 400 B.C.
3. There are five books of poetry: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. Four of these books set forth wise sayings in Hebrew poetic expressions, and Psalms served as the song book of Israel. These books are sometimes referred to as the Books of Wisdom.
4. There are seventeen books of prophets. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel are known as the Major Prophets, and the last twelve books in the Old Testament are known as the Minor Prophets because of the brevity of each.

A person should read the Bible with \_\_\_\_\_ and a submissive \_\_\_\_\_.

(faith, heart)

The meaning of the Scriptures is revealed to man through guidance by the \_\_\_\_\_.

(Holy Spirit)

The Old Testament is divided into four groups:

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

The books of law are \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

The name of the book which means "going out" and which contains the account of deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage is \_\_\_\_\_.

(Exodus)

Circle the correct number.

There are (5, 9, 12) books of history in the Old Testament.

(12)

The books of poetry are: \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

(Compare your answer with the text.)

There are \_\_\_\_\_ Major Prophets and \_\_\_\_\_ Minor Prophets.

(Compare your answer with the text.)

The books of the New Testament number 27 and are also divided into four groups:

1. There are four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The first three view the life of Christ from the same perspective and are often called the Synoptics ("to see together"). John's Gospel follows a different approach in describing the life of Christ and is often known as the Fourth Gospel.
2. There is one book of history: Acts of the Apostles. This book reveals much about the early growth of the Kingdom and the development of the early church.
3. There are 13 letters or epistles which have been attributed to Paul and eight general epistles. The Pauline epistles are: Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. These epistles set forth the doctrines of the church as Christianity spread to the Gentile world. The eight general epistles are: Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John, and Jude. These epistles are so designated because they were not addressed to specific churches, but to churches in general.
4. There is one apocalyptic writing: Revelation. Apocalyptic means an unveiling or revealing. This type of literature can be described as impressionistic and visionary. John describes the visions which he was given on the Lord's Day while exiled to the island of Patmos.

Locating a particular book in the Old or New Testament is facilitated if the book is first associated with a literary group. It is easier to remember the four literary divisions of the Old Testament than the location of each one of the 39 books. If Ecclesiastes is mentioned, the book can first be identified with the five books of poetry. It is easy to remember that the books of poetry follow the books of history and precede the books of the prophets. The five books of the four Major Prophets are grouped before the twelve books of the Minor Prophets. Lamentations is grouped with Jeremiah since it is considered to be written by that prophet. The general epistles in the New Testament stand after the Pauline epistles and before the Book of Revelation. If a person desires to find 1 Thessalonians, he should associate it with Paul's writings immediately and look in that group of letters.

*A historical framework of the Bible*

As the new Christian seeks to understand the Bible, he will find great benefit in learning a few significant dates and relating all other material to these dates. Genesis begins with creation which extends far back in history. The first person who can be given a historical date with reasonable accuracy is Abraham. However, scholars may vary as much as 300 years regarding the date of Abraham. For our purposes, we will consider his date to have been 2000 B.C. Since Christ was born approximately 2000 years ago and Abraham preceded Him 2000 years, the father of the Israelites lived approximately 4000 years ago.

After being in Egyptian bondage for 400 years, the Israelites were delivered under the leadership of Moses about 1300 B.C. Deliverance from bondage was a great event in the life of the people. After entering the land of Canaan, they were ruled by judges until the time of Saul and David. David was Israel's greatest king, and his reign began in 1000 B.C. After he and his son Solomon reigned 40 years each, the kingdom was divided into Israel and Judah in 922 B.C. the divided kingdoms continued until the fall of the northern kingdom with the defeat of Samaria in 722 B.C. Judah continued to exist as a kingdom for more than another century but was defeated by the Babylonians when Jerusalem fell in 587. The Israelites were permitted to return from

<p>How many divisions of writings are there in the New Testament? _____</p> <p>(four)</p>
<p>The letters or epistles which set forth the doctrines of the Church as Christianity spread to the Gentile world number _____ and are attributed to _____.</p> <p>(thirteen, Paul)</p>
<p>The one apocalyptic writing is _____.</p> <p>(Revelation)</p>
<p>Location of a book in the Bible is facilitated much if the student can first identify its _____.</p> <p>(group)</p>
<p>Dates of key events in biblical history are important in order for a student to keep a _____ perspective.</p> <p>(historical)</p>
<p> </p>

captivity in 538 after the Persians had defeated the Babylonians.

The significant dates in Israel's history are connected with the following important persons and events:

- 2000 B.C.—Abraham, father of the Israelites
- 1300 B.C.—Deliverance from Egyptian bondage
- 1000 B.C.—The golden days of Israel under David
- 922 B.C.—The division of the kingdom under Rehoboam and Jereboam
- 722 B.C.—The fall of Samaria
- 587 B.C.—The fall of Jerusalem
- 539 B.C.—The Edict of Cyrus permitting the Jewish exiles to return
- 538–333 B.C.—The Jews under the Persian Empire
- 333–167 B.C.—The Hellenistic period
- 167–63 B.C.—The Maccabean period
- 63 B.C.—A.D. 135.—The Roman period

Jesus was born during the reign of Herod the Great who ruled Judea for Rome. Since Herod died about 4 B.C., Jesus must have been born in five or six B. C. Although the Christian calendar, which we follow, was designed to begin at the birth of Christ, an error discovered after the calendar had become established accounts for the discrepancy of five or six years. Luke tells us that Jesus began His public ministry when He was about 30 years of age. This information means that Jesus was baptized about A.D. 26, and His death came a little more than 3 years later in A.D. 30. Paul was converted perhaps four years later. The death of James and Herod Agrippa I established the date of A.D. 41–44 for the events described in Acts 12. Important dates in the New Testament to remember include:

- 5 B.C.—The birth of Jesus
- A.D. 26—The baptism of Jesus
- A.D. 30—The crucifixion of Jesus
- A.D. 23—The conversion of Paul
- A.D. 46–48—The first missionary journey
- A.D. 49—The Jerusalem conference (Acts 15)
- A.D. 50–52—Paul's second missionary journey
- A.D. 53–57—Paul's third missionary journey
- A.D. 58–60—Paul's imprisonment and trials in Caesarea
- A.D. 60–62—Paul's Roman imprisonment
- A.D. 64 or 65—The burning of Rome by Nero and Paul's death
- A.D. 66–70—The Jewish rebellion against Roman rule and the destruction of Jerusalem.

The preceding dates will require some effort to memorize, but they are essential for the student of the Bible to keep a historical perspective as he learns biblical content. Only the dates of key events in biblical history have been given.

## LESSON 2 THE MEANING OF SALVATION

### *Terms for salvation*

The most common Old Testament word for salvation has the sense of "to deliver." God is a God of salvation who delivers man from oppression and destruction. Persons are spoken of as being saved from illness, starvation, oppression, ignorance, calamity, and death. Since the Old Testament tends to identify God's favour with physical and material well-being, deliverance from physical evil is stressed. Find the Scriptures listed below and identify the enemy from whom the people sought deliverance.

The Old Testament word for salvation means

"\_\_\_\_\_"

(to deliver)

1. Exodus 14:30 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Isaiah 49:25f. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Psalm 51:1-17 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Deuteronomy 28:29 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Psalm 34:18 \_\_\_\_\_

For Christians, salvation means primarily a right relation to God through Jesus Christ. The prophets had emphasized that God departed from His people and forsook them because of their sins, especially the sin of worshipping other gods. The Jews believed that before God would return to His people, man would have to become righteous by putting away his sins. The preaching of John the Baptist prepared the way for the coming of Jesus by calling on the people to put away their sins. Actually, man did not have power to put away his own sins and become righteous in order to be restored to fellowship with God. Jesus became the sacrificial lamb or sin offering through whom man's sins are removed.

Salvation in the New Testament refers to deliverance from disease, demon-possession, death, and sin. Indicate the kind of evil from which deliverance is needed in the following Scriptures:

1. Matthew 9:22 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Luke 18:42 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Romans 5:9 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Matthew 14:30 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Luke 19:10 \_\_\_\_\_
6. 1 Timothy 1:15 \_\_\_\_\_

Based on the preceding Scriptures, salvation means the forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God, and deliverance from disease and judgement.

Christ who is the King has conquered Satan. He has entered the house of the "strong man" (i.e., Satan) and has bound him; Satan's kingdom is at an end (see Mark 3:23-27). Christ has loosed us from our sins and delivered us from the prince of this world (John 12:31, 16:11). Although Satan is permitted to continue reigning until God has delivered all His chosen from Satan's domain of sin and death, provision has already been made for man's complete deliverance, including the rescuing of his body from the power of death. The resurrection of the body is man's lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Pet. 1:3). Man is kept by "the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Pet. 1:5). Deliverance from the power of Satan should also be added to our definition of salvation.

A second term which refers to salvation carries the sense of "to redeem." The emphasis is on recovering property which has fallen into alien hands. With regard to man, the term emphasizes being set free. The word pictures the payment of money to purchase back a slave. Redemption gives the concept that an alienated person may be recovered by his original owner for the payment of a sum of money.

1. According to Numbers 18:15f., the first-born who were to be sacrificed to God could be redeemed by \_\_\_\_\_
2. In Numbers 3:45, the first-born were redeemed by the substitution of \_\_\_\_\_ rather than by payment of money.
3. Exodus 6:6 describes \_\_\_\_\_ deliverance from \_\_\_\_\_ bondage.
4. Psalm 49:15 indicates that God will redeem the soul from \_\_\_\_\_

Another term which refers to salvation is " \_\_\_\_\_ "

(to redeem)

The Jewish sacrificial system was regarded as having redeeming significance. Christianity teaches that man needs redeeming from spiritual bondage. He needs to be "set free" from a power greater than himself.

1. According to John 8:31-34, man needs to be set free from \_\_\_\_\_.
2. According to Romans 6:15-23, man is pictured as in bondage to \_\_\_\_\_ and is in need of redemption.
3. According to Hebrews 2:15, man is enslaved by \_\_\_\_\_.

#### *Man's condition in bondage*

The New Testament teaches that sinful man is in urgent need of being redeemed from sin. Briefly state man's condition in sin according to the following verses:

1. John 3:18 \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Romans 1:18 \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Romans 6:23 \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Revelation 21:8 \_\_\_\_\_.

Man who commits sin is enslaved by it and cannot gain his own freedom (John 8:31-36). Paul's testimony represents that of every man who desires to do good but finds within himself the principle of sin which strives against his higher nature and brings him into captivity (Rom. 7:18-23). When man honestly faces up to his situation, he experiences despair because of his inability to overcome his carnal nature which is "the body of this death" (Rom. 7:24). He is unable to attain eternal life by keeping the commandments simply because he fails to keep the commandments (Rom. 2:12-24). These verses teach that man is helpless to save himself. His only hope is in God's love expressed through Christ for him in spite of his sin (Rom. 5:6-8).

#### *The redeeming work of Christ*

In the Old Testament, God's righteous requirements are expressed in the Law which was given to Israel through Moses. Unfortunately, Israel did not live up to her responsibility but continually sinned. The ceremonial system provided for unintentional sins but was incapable of bringing man into right relationship with God. God sent His own Son into the world as a gift of grace to bring redemption to those who had sinned and come short of His glory (Rom. 3:23f.). Atonement means the restoration of man, whose sin has brought alienation, to complete communion with God. According to New Testament teachings, the death of Christ was essential for man's reconciliation to God.

1. According to Matthew 1:21, the name Jesus means \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In John 1:29, Jesus is called the Lamb of God which \_\_\_\_\_.
3. 1 John 1:7 teaches that \_\_\_\_\_ is required for the removal of our sins.
4. According to Mark 10:45, the Son of Man gave His life as a \_\_\_\_\_.

#### *The meaning of the new birth*

A ruler of the Jews, Nicodemus who was a Pharisee, inquired of Jesus what God required of man. Jesus answered that he must be born from above which is a birth of the Spirit (John 3:1-5). Although the birth of God's spirit is mysterious, man can know something about it. Apparently Jesus was speaking of the new birth when He told His disciples that He would send the Spirit of truth who would dwell "with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_" (John 14:17). Since Jesus identified the coming of the Spirit to abide with man as His and the Father's coming to make their abode with man, to be born of the Spirit must mean the same thing as receiving

Christianity teaches that man needs to be redeemed from \_\_\_\_\_ bondage to a power that is \_\_\_\_\_ than himself. Scripture teaches that man is in bondage to \_\_\_\_\_.

(spiritual, greater, sin)

Scripture teaches that unredeemed man has already been \_\_\_\_\_ because of his unbelief. He is under the \_\_\_\_\_ of God because he has not accepted Christ, and he is already condemned to the second \_\_\_\_\_ which is the wages of \_\_\_\_\_. His only hope is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God expressed in Christ Jesus.

(condemned, wrath, death, sin, love)

Man's only hope of reconciliation with God is the atonement made by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

(death)

Christ into one's life. According to John 1:12, as many as received Christ are given the right to become \_\_\_\_\_ . To receive Christ or to be born of the Spirit brings one into the Kingdom of God.

*How man receives Christ*

When the Jews became convicted on the day of Pentecost for having rejected Jesus and having participated in His crucifixion, they asked Peter what they must do. Peter answered that they must repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins and they would receive the \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:38). Repentance means "to change one's mind" because of remorse for what one has done. Illustrations of repentance are the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-21), the Publican (Luke 18:13-14), and Zacchaeus (Luke 19:2-9). Related to repentance is belief which means to have confidence and trust in Christ. Man must believe that Christ is able to deliver him from sin and to give him victory over death. Belief in Christ results in man's \_\_\_\_\_ (John 5:24), gives him hope of \_\_\_\_\_ (John 3:18), and assures him of everlasting life (John 3:16). When man believes in Christ, he becomes a child of God (John 1:12), joint-heir with Christ (Rom. 8:16), and is made righteous (Rom. 3:24-28).

LESSON 3  
HOW TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

*How to walk in the Spirit*

Since this subject has been discussed in a previous lesson of the study guide, a full presentation will not be made at this point. However, since this important teaching has been neglected widely, a brief review of the steps required for walking in the Spirit will be given. Every Christian needs to understand how to live by the power of God rather than to depend on human resources.

*The requirement of death to self.*—To walk in the Spirit means to live daily under the control of the indwelling Christ. Paul stated that he died daily (1 Cor. 15:31). He spoke of the life which Christ lived in him (Gal. 2:20). In this Scripture, Paul stated that he must be \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ. The same concept was stated by Jesus when He told His disciples if anyone would come after Him, he must \_\_\_\_\_, and take up his cross (Matt. 16:24). To deny self means that a person cannot follow his own desires that originate in his passions and selfishness. Paul referred to these desires as the flesh which lusts against the Spirit; therefore, "ye cannot do the things that ye would" (Gal. 5:17).

*The requirement of faith.*—A person can be saved only by faith because his own efforts or good works are inadequate to earn the love of God (Eph. 2:8f.). Phillips' translation states that "no one can pride himself upon earning the love of God," but man, because of pride, continually tries to please God by his own performance or works. Actually, man keeps coming short of God's glorious ideal (Rom. 3:23). Man must have faith that God will do for him through Christ Jesus that which he cannot do for himself: "For we hold that a man is justified by faith apart from works of law" (Rom. 3:28, RSV). Faith involves believing Jesus' teaching that He and the Father abide within in the person of the Holy Spirit (John 14:17, 23). The power of God, available to all who believe, is immeasurably great (Eph. 1:19). By faith, man lives daily on the basis of God's indwelling power.

*The requirement of confession.*—Paul's teachings were often distorted by his adversaries. They appear to have quoted him as teaching that a Christian could sin at random, and God's grace

<p>To receive Christ is to be born of the _____</p> <p>(Spirit)</p>
<p> </p>
<p>In order to receive Christ man must _____ of his sin and _____ in Christ.</p> <p>(repent, believe)</p>
<p> </p>
<p>Every Christian needs to die to _____ daily and have _____</p> <p>(self, faith)</p>
<p> </p>

would abound to cover that sin. Paul denied that it is possible for a Christian to indulge continuously in sin since the old sinful nature has been put to death (Rom. 6:6). This death to self is the same as denying self or refusing to be controlled by one's sinful desires. The only way to prevent sin's reign and control of life through the fleshly nature is to "yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members, as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you" (Rom. 6:13b-14a).

Paul reminds us that we are servants either of sin or of righteousness (Rom. 6:16). Christians "have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God," thus reaping the fruit of being made righteous and eternal life (Rom. 6:22, RSV). Paul does not deny, however, the possibility of reverting back to sinful desires. Such an action results in sin. John was aware of this problem and pointed out that "if we claim to be sinless, we are self-deceived and strangers to the truth (1 John 1:8, NEB). John agreed with Paul that the Christian who had died to sin would not continually practise sin even though he could not deny that he was guilty of occasional sins (1 John 3:9).

*The need for cleansing.*—Since man's sinful nature makes it impossible for him to maintain perfect righteousness he needs to be cleansed from the sins of which he becomes guilty. To live in daily fellowship with his righteous heavenly Father requires that man live righteously (see 1 John 1:6). A Christian's denial of any sin is not a solution but adds deceitfulness to his wrong attitudes and actions. The biblical solution to sin in the life of a Christian is confession which means to say the same thing about one's nature that God's Word says about it (see 1 John 1:9). This Scripture promises that confessed sins are forgiven and the life of the confessor is cleansed from all sin by the blood of Jesus Christ (1 John 1:7, 9). Since sins occur frequently, confession must be daily. Daily cleansing results in continuous fellowship with God.

#### *How to pray*

In order to live victoriously, the Christian must remember God's promises concerning prayer. Matthew 21:22 states that whatever is asked in faith shall be received. Numerous other Scriptures contain similar promises. Most of the prayer promises are based on requirements for the one who prays. As previously noted, Matthew 21:22 requires that belief accompany prayer. John 14:13 requires that the Father be glorified in the Son through the prayers asked in the Name of Christ. An examination of James 1:5 reveals that man may ask God for \_\_\_\_\_, but he must ask in faith. James 4:2-3 suggests two reasons why men do not receive divine answers to prayer: they do not \_\_\_\_\_ and they \_\_\_\_\_ in order to consume it upon their lusts.

Paul instructed the Colossians to give thanks for whatever came their way, whether joy or distress (Col. 1:11f.) The prayer of thanks even during a time of distress or uncertainty expresses faith. By faith a Christian knows that God is able to work all things "together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28). By faith a Christian can thank God for whatever happens.

## LESSON 4

### THE CHURCH AND ITS ORDINANCES

#### *The nature of the church*

The Greek word for church means "called out." When applied to the chosen people of God, it emphasizes that they have been called apart from the world and separated to God's service.

The Greek word for church means "\_\_\_\_\_."

(called out)

In using the analogy of the building to describe the church, Christ compared Himself to the foundation rock upon which the building would be constructed. The smaller stones used in the construction of the building represented Peter and others who confess faith in Jesus as the Messiah (see Matt. 16:18). The church—God's people who confess faith in Christ—is a servant to whom the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven are given (Matt. 16:19). The key which opens the door into the Kingdom is the gospel which the church is commissioned to proclaim.

The primary purpose of the church is worship. Paul equated worship and service in Romans 12:1. In the Old Testament, worship consisted of offering blood from animal sacrifices. Paul challenged the Christians to offer their bodies as living sacrifices in service rather than blood from the body of a slaughtered animal. When the church gathers in worship, the service rendered to God is praise and submission to His will. When the church is scattered in the world, the service rendered is witnessing or sharing Christ. Worship is giving honour to God who is worthy, and this worship may be expressed through lips expressing praise and doing service as a result of gratitude to God.

Since the church is made up of the people of God, they are to love one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. The church, therefore, should be characterized by fellowship among the people and fellowship of the people with God and with His Son Jesus Christ (1 John 1:3).

*The ordinances*

One way that fellowship is expressed is in a common meal. The Lord's Supper represents a meal of God's chosen people in the presence of their heavenly Father. A meal is a time of turning one's thoughts from the activities of the day to the relationship within the family. During the Lord's Supper, attention is focused on the relation that God has with His people based upon the death of His Son. The Lord's Supper is a memorial of the death of Jesus whose sacrifice atones for man's sins and makes possible his reconciliation with God. A meal is also a time to enumerate the blessings of the family. The blessings which have come to God's family include not only redemption through the death of Christ but also the full blessings of His Kingdom at His return (1 Cor. 11:26).

Baptism is also a symbol of the new life a person has in Christ. By using the analogy of a bath, cleansing from sin is symbolized by the ordinance of baptism. Another analogy used to describe it is death and burial. Baptism pictures a watery grave in which the person who has died to sin is raised from the old life to live a new life in Christ (Rom. 6:4-6).

Baptism is an external sign which symbolizes cleansing in preparation for entering the Kingdom of God. Baptism itself does not cleanse the internal spiritual man. When the Pharisees responded to John's baptism which prepared for the arrival of the Kingdom, John warned them that apart from repentance, baptism was ineffective for he indeed baptized only with water (Matt. 3:11). This external ritual publicly identifies one as a follower of Christ and as a child of God who has been born into the Kingdom of Heaven.

**How to Witness**

Every new Christian should be involved immediately in sharing his faith. Although some training is desirable, the new Christian can be enlisted to accompany a mature Christian. One of the most effective ways of training is to involve the person in supervised activity. Since these points have been stressed previously, no attempt will be made to develop fully the study on

--

The primary purpose of the church is \_\_\_\_\_

(worship)

The people of God who are the church are to \_\_\_\_\_ one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

(love)

The two ordinances of the church are \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_

(baptism, Lord's Supper)

--

witnessing. New Christians can be trained according to the previous instructions given in this book.

### Bible Study Groups

Limitations of space in this book prevent the development of an outline for Bible study groups. Only brief suggestions are given concerning the study content. The groups should meet in the same location each week; however, that location can vary from a home to a vacant church room. The suggested material to study is based on John's Gospel.

#### *The nature of Jesus (John 1)*

1. Jesus is the Word who is God and reveals God in the flesh (vv. 1-5, 15-18).
2. Jesus is the light who makes known the truth of God in a world of darkness (vv. 5-9).
3. Jesus is creator of the world who was rejected by those whom He created (vv. 10-11).
4. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (v. 29).
5. Jesus is the promised Messiah or Christ (vv. 40-42, 49).
6. Jesus is the Son of Man who connects heaven and earth (vv. 50-51).

#### *How to enter God's Kingdom (John 3)*

1. Man must be born from above (vv. 1-6).
2. Spiritual birth is mysterious but real (vv. 7-13).
3. Man must believe in Jesus as the Son of Man who was put to death (vv. 13-18).
4. Man must give allegiance to the Son of God (vv. 22-36).

#### *Other subjects*

As the new Christian continues to study the Gospel of John, he would profit by giving titles in his own words to the successive chapters of the Gospel. An appropriate title for chapter 4 would be "The Nature of True Worship." Chapter 5 deals with the power of the Son of God. Chapter 6 deals with the heavenly bread. Although students of the Bible need some background guidance to the passages which they study, learning aids should not be permitted to replace the reading of the Word of God itself.

<p>A profitable study for a Bible study group suggested is based on _____ Gospel.</p> <p>(John's)</p>

## Home Study Exercises

Basic activity (Levels 1, 2, and 3). After reading the comments in the study guide, do the following exercise.

1. What method or technique is best for teaching new Christians? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who should serve as leader of a class for new Christians and why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why is it important to assign homework? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the best way to acquaint new Christians with the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the meaning of the word Bible? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who wrote the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How many books are in the Old Testament? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How many books are in the New Testament? \_\_\_\_\_
9. The word testament means: \_\_\_\_\_
10. The Old Testament is an account of the \_\_\_\_\_  
acts of God in history.
11. The New Testament is an account of \_\_\_\_\_
12. The Bible is a collection of \_\_\_\_\_ books which describe \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Where in the Old Testament may a summary of God's requirements of man be found? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. How was the promise of a new covenant fulfilled? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. What is the good news of the New Covenant? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. How should man read the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. How may the meaning of the Scriptures be revealed to man? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
18. Name the five books of Law:
- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (4) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (5) \_\_\_\_\_
19. Which book describes the great deliverance of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage and their receiving the Law? \_\_\_\_\_
20. How many books of history are there? \_\_\_\_\_. Name them. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

21. Name the five books of poetry.
- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (4) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (5) \_\_\_\_\_
22. Who were the Major Prophets? \_\_\_\_\_
23. Which epistles set forth the doctrines of the church as Christianity spread to the Gentile world? \_\_\_\_\_
24. Name the one apocalyptic writing. \_\_\_\_\_
25. List four things a person needs to know in understanding the meaning of salvation. \_\_\_\_\_
26. What are two important things a Christian needs to know about living the Christian life? \_\_\_\_\_

**Suggested supplementary activity (Levels 2 and 3).** Read chapters 7, 8, and 10 in Moore's book and prepare a brief outline on one of the following to be presented in the seminar:

Chapter 7: The New Member Class

Chapter 8: The Adoption Plan

Chapter 10: The Home Bible Class

### Seminar Discussion

1. What should be the goals of a new member's class?
2. What subjects should new members study?
3. What is required for new member classes to succeed?
4. Draw up practical plans for training and teaching new members in your church.
5. Invite three persons to share the information from the three chapters read in Moore's book.

# APPENDIX A

## A RELIGIOUS SURVEY\*

**I. INTRODUCTION:**

“Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and this is \_\_\_\_\_. We are taking a survey in this community to help determine the religious thinking of the people and to be available to share with those in need of a faith. We shall appreciate your opinions in answer to a few questions.”

**II. PERSONAL INFORMATION:**

1. Male or female.
2. Approximate age.
3. Occupation.
4. Marital status.
5. Family (number of children).

**III. RELIGIOUS INFORMATION:**

6. Religious affiliation.
7. Denominational preference.
8. Age when group was joined.
9. Frequency of attendance.
10. Do the children attend Sunday School?

**IV. EVALUATION OF SPIRITUAL NEEDS:**

11. What has had the greatest spiritual influence on your life?
12. Who is Jesus Christ according to your understanding?
13. In your opinion, how does one become a Christian?
14. Most people express the need for a more personal faith. Why do you think they feel this need?
15. Do you feel the need for a more personal religious faith?

**V. CONCLUSION:**

“This ends our survey. Thank you for your cooperation. Have you ever seen this booklet on salvation? If you have a few minutes, I would like to share it with you.”

The survey enables you to begin a conversation with a person which leads to a witnessing opportunity. It helps to get acquainted with the person and reveals his spiritual thinking and needs. It leads the person to evaluate his own spiritual situation which often results in a desire to receive spiritual help.

**Community Religious Survey Record Form**

name <sup>1</sup>	address <sup>2</sup>	not home	not interested	shared salv. bklt.	received Christ	shared H. S. bklt.	follow-up visit	comments

<sup>1</sup>Get name only if interest is shown.

<sup>2</sup>Record address for each house.

Visitor \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\* See Appendix B for information on ordering survey forms.

## APPENDIX B

### SCHOOL OF EVANGELISM MATERIALS

1. General evangelism materials and tracts: Baptist Sunday School Board  
Attn: Evangelism Department  
127 Ninth Ave. North  
Nashville, TN 37234, USA
  
2. *MasterLife* and other discipleship materials: Customer Service Center  
127 Ninth Ave. North  
Nashville, TN 37234-0113, USA
  
3. Campus Crusade Materials: Bookstore  
Arrowhead Springs,  
San Bernadino, CA 92404, USA  
  
    “The Four Spiritual Laws” (salvation booklet)  
    “The Holy Spirit Booklet”  
    “How to Present the Ministry of the Holy Spirit”  
    “Community Religious Survey”
  
4. The Navigators: Colorado Springs, CO 80935, USA  
  
    “New Topical Memory System” (Scripture cards with instruction booklet)

## APPENDIX C

### THE ROMAN ROAD

A simple and effective method for presenting the plan of salvation is to use verses of Scripture only from Romans.

*Why every person needs salvation.*—“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). This verse states two important truths: it states that everyone has sinned, including the person to whom the witness is speaking, and it defines sin as coming short of God’s glory. This definition speaks of the failure of man to become what God expects of him. It means that man is missing the purpose for which he was created; therefore, his life will lack fulfilment and abundance. Other related verses in Chapter 3 are 10 and 11. Verse 10 emphasizes that everyone is unrighteous. Verse 11 suggests that the most serious sin of man is his failure to seek after God and to obey His will.

The moral man normally concludes that to be fair with his neighbour, to mind his own business, and to stay out of trouble are the primary requirements for earning a right standing with God. He fails to consider his responsibility to do the will of God and live his life for the glory of his Creator. Man’s greatest mistake is to conclude that he can live independently of God because of his freedom.

*The results of sin.*—“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23). The man who ignores God comes short of His requirements. This life of sin earns death, not the right to life. Physical death is the separation of the soul from the body. Spiritual death is the separation of man from God. Since man is created by God, he cannot exist physically or spiritually apart from God. Death does not mean that the person who sins ceases to exist, but it means that man exists eternally in a state of separation from God. To be separated from a God of love and mercy means to exist in a condition of sorrow and punishment. Revelation 21:8 describes the “second death” in terms of “the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone.” The man who permits his pride and freedom to cause him to live a self-directed life independent of God earns the wages of sin which is death.

*Christ died to pay the penalty of sin for us.*—“But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8—RSV). The man who turns his back on his Creator earns and deserves the punishment of eternal death. Although he is an enemy of God (cf. 5:10), God continues to love him enough to permit His Son to suffer the penalty of death in his place. Through the cross of Christ, God provided eternal life as a free gift.

*How a person receives God’s gift of salvation.*—“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart, man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Rom. 10:9f.). What two things does this Scripture require in order to be saved? It requires that Jesus be confessed as Lord. The name Jesus means Saviour (cf. Matt. 1:21). To confess Jesus as Lord means to confess that the One who died on the cross in our place to save us from sin is both Saviour and Lord of our lives. To confess Him as Lord means to recognize His right to control our lives. The second requirement is to believe in our hearts that God has raised Him from the dead. A confidence in the God who raised Jesus from the dead is essential for trusting Him for victory now and for resurrection in the last days. These verses teach us to depend on Jesus who died on the cross to forgive our sins, to surrender our lives to Him as Lord, and to trust our lives to Him for resurrection.

Verse 10 states that through faith man becomes righteous. Man can only be righteous if his past wrongs are blotted out and if his present actions are right. Jesus as Saviour removes man’s sins, and Jesus as Lord guides his life in works of righteousness. The salvation which Christ provides, therefore, includes freedom from the wrongs of the past, victory over the evil power of the world, and victory over death in resurrection. This is what Paul calls the “good news” of Christ which is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who has faith. Notice that the Scripture states that whoever confesses and believes in his heart *shall* be saved. You may receive the gift of salvation now by faith.

*Salvation can be received now.*—“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom. 10:13). You do not have to wait until you earn or deserve salvation to receive it. In fact, there is nothing you can do to provide for your own salvation. God has already provided for your salvation through the work of Christ. What you must do is turn to Him and call upon Him in order to be saved. He will not force you to receive it and to turn from your sins, but He promises to give salvation to you if you ask Him. You can receive it now by asking the Lord to forgive your sins and to take control of your life and by trusting Him for eternal life.

## APPENDIX D

### USING YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Paul frequently shared his personal testimony in witnessing. The testimony continues to be a valuable way to witness for several reasons.

- (1) What a person has actually experienced and bears witness to cannot be controverted by the sceptic.
- (2) The personal testimony relates salvation to contemporary life.
- (3) It removes the explanation of how to be saved from the realm of theory to the practical experience of what has happened in the life of an individual.
- (4) It usually communicates how to be saved more clearly than sermons or written explanations.

For the testimony to be clear and to the point, attention should be given to the points in one's salvation experience which are meaningful to the lost person.

- (1) The language should be simple and conversational. General statements which are vague should be avoided. The statement, "I got converted when I was twelve," gives little helpful information to the lost person. It would be better to describe specifically what you did to receive salvation.
- (2) Do not magnify your pre-Christian life of sin nor dramatize or exaggerate your experience of salvation. People are often misled to think they must wait for a Damascus Road experience before they can be saved.
- (3) Place the emphasis of your conversion on Christ and His work.
- (4) Avoid irrelevant details concerning your own life. You need to tell only enough about yourself to give the experience a setting in history—a time and place.
- (5) Emphasize in specific ways how Christ has made a difference in your life.

There is value in writing out a personal testimony. The vital points of the experience can be analysed and expressed more concisely and interestingly. Work on writing the testimony should continue until it is expressed in 200 words or less. The following outline may be of help.

#### Preparing Your Testimony

"May I tell you the greatest thing that ever happened to me?"

1. My life and attitudes before following Christ:

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2. How I realized my problem:

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3. How I became a Christian:

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4. What being a Christian means to me: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_