

# SECTION TWO

*This Section of your Discipleship study  
will establish you in*

## *Fellowship With Other Believers*

Memory Verse:

***"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 10:25**

Take note of the following facts about the verse in its context:

- **Who is talking?** The Apostle \_\_\_\_\_
- **Who is he talking to?** The " \_\_\_\_\_ " (Jews) - Written to both those people who believed on Christ, and those who did not.
- **What is he talking about?** About how that Christians (*ourselves*) should not forsake times when we assemble (Sundays), even though some people are getting into the habit of it, because we know that "*the day*" (of the return of Christ) is approaching fast!

In this Section, we will study:

- **The New Testament Church** - What is it, and what are my responsibilities to it?
- **Scripture Memorization** - How to store God's word into your life!
- **Who is God?** - A Study of what God is like!
- **Praise and Worship** - How to honour and bless your God!
- **The Lord's Supper** - How does a Christian remember Christ's sacrifice on the cross?

**MY NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

# THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

## Lesson Six

Memory Verse: *Hebrews 10:25*

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*"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 10:25*

**I. Introduction.** God established **three** foundational institutions on this earth: the family, civil government, and the group of Bible believing Christians that He calls "the church." Each group has a specific design, and is no less important than the other. Our focus in this lesson is on the local church which has been commissioned by God to carry out His commands of reaching the lost, and maturing the saved. Therefore, God's plan for a Christian's life will always be connected with a local body of believers called **the church**. The purpose of this lesson is to show the disciple the role which their church will play in their everyday life. Without a good understanding of what Christ's church is all about, religions have been able to abuse and confuse, and turn so many people away from the Gospel!

## II. The New Testament Kind of Church

### A. What It Is, and What It Is Not

1. According to *Hebrews 10:25* it is referred to as the "\_\_\_\_\_ of ourselves together" The purposeful getting together of Christians to encourage, and minister to each other as we grow, and reach the surrounding area with the Gospel.
  2. A New Testament church therefore is *not* a building. If you are looking for a temple to worship in, the Bible says "*your \_\_\_\_\_ is the temple of ... God*" (1 *Cor 6:19,20*). Your place of worship is in your heart!
  3. A church is *not* a denomination, or religious organization run by a central headquarters. It is local, and run under the authority and instructions of the word of God through its pastor, and for its own people (*Titus 1:5-9*). *It also is not a social club - i.e., just for fun and pleasure!*
  4. A church is more than just a group or fellowship - it is a body of **committed** believers, seeking to worship and serve Christ together. It's called a "\_\_\_\_\_ of saints" (*Ps 149:1*, see also *Eph 1:1; Col 1:1,2*).
  5. The church is something that \_\_\_\_\_ started Himself, builds, and nurtures as a visible testimony of His grace for sinners (*Matt 16:18*).
6. In short, a church is a group of people who **faithfully assemble** (that means every week) because they are saved, baptized, and purposed in their hearts to fulfill "\_\_\_\_\_" that Christ commanded them to do in the Bible (*Mt 28:19,20*).
7. This "group" of believers is called the "*body of \_\_\_\_\_*" in *1 Cor 12:27*, because it represents His "body" (His physical presence) on earth today (like ambassadors, *2 Cor 5:20*), and operates **like a human body** in the following ways (*1 Cor 12:12,13,17-27*):
    - a. Each member (part) of the body of believers has a different function - each ministering to each other's needs as a whole.
    - b. No one member can function alone - we need each other! When a Christian is not committed to others, especially to other believers, then they are hindering Christ's work in the world today.

- c. Each member's contribution is vitally important to the well-being of the entire body of believers - we can't go it alone!
  - d. A properly functioning body operates as a single unit – a team.
  - e. All this shows that the church that Jesus started is a *living organism* constantly growing, and maturing under the never changing, and always perfect Head, Jesus Christ (Eph 5:23).
- B. The local church is also called “*the \_\_\_\_\_ of God*” (Eph 2:19), or in other words, the “family” of God (as His children). As part of His family, Christians **MUST** be able to get along (John 13:35) under the authority of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:41-47; 20:32).
- C. Remember that all members of God's family must be \_\_\_\_\_ into His family by the new birth (John 3:3; John 1:12,13)

### III. The Purpose of the Local Church

- A. The three-fold purpose of the church in Mt 28:19,20 is for Christians (*action words*):
1. To **GO** - The world is not commanded to go to church, but the church is commanded to go into the world (see also Acts 1:8) with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and compelling them to come to " \_\_\_\_\_ " (Mt 11:28-30). Every Christian needs to be involved!
  2. To \_\_\_\_\_ - The world needs to be **instructed** about Jesus through preaching, discipleship, and teaching (Acts 20:25-27).
  3. To \_\_\_\_\_ - People need to turn away from their *birth-religion*, and begin following Christ only, according to the Bible, and that starts when a person is baptized (Mt 28:19)!

These are the core reasons for the existence of a church. If there is a fault in churches, it is because they have other priorities besides these!

- B. The church is to be a place for \_\_\_\_\_ and teaching the doctrine (truth) about Jesus Christ, and the Christian life (1 Cor 1:17; 2:1-5)!
- C. The church is to provide Christians with \_\_\_\_\_ with other believers (Acts 2:42) – you can't find this at the local pub or disco!
- D. The church must focus on praying with one heart about the needs of its own people, and also of the lost around them (Acts 2:42) - Christians should pray together about everything – it keeps our hearts united!
- E. The church meeting is a time to remember the three main " \_\_\_\_\_ " (1 Cor 11:2), which are not “sacraments,” but *commandments* that the Lord left specifically for the church to remember Him by. These ordinances are:
1. **Baptism** (Acts 2:41) - Baptism is vital to mark the commitment of a new believer to Christ, and to living separated from the old life and religions of their past.
  2. The **Lord's supper** (“*the breaking of \_\_\_\_\_,*” Acts 2:42) – is meant to remind us of the high price Christ had to pay for our forgiveness! A church can remember this event as often as they want, but usually it happens about every one or two months.
  3. **Loving \_\_\_\_\_** (Jn 15:17). This may sound a bit unusual, but Christ commanded the people of a church to love the people of that church. By doing this, God keeps us humble, and godly as a people!
- F. The church is to openly, publicly and consistently testify of God's grace and power to the world (Acts 2:43; 1:8) - it is NOT a secretive society that locks its doors! A true church will boldly evangelize a lost world to Jesus Christ!

- G. The church makes it possible for people to minister to each other's needs (**Acts 2:44,45**). Your greatest ministry will always be one word – OTHERS!
- H. It encourages, and enables Christians to love and enjoy God (**Acts 2:46,47**).
- I. It edifies (builds up, strengthens) the saints (which is *all of us*, **Eph 4:11-16**).
- J. All with the focus of reproducing itself throughout the world through soul-winning, baptizing, training, and then repeating (**Acts 1:8**)! A true New Testament church is not what it ought to be until it has *reproduced itself* somewhere else.

#### IV. Each Person's Function in a Local Church

- A. During your Christian life, you should grow in three general stages:

1. **Observe and learn** - Your first priority should be to submit to the teaching of the word of God to learn how to be the man or woman that God designed you to be (**Matt 11:28-30**). Be teachable. Discipleship is the beginning of this stage. *The key is not to stagnate!*
2. **Participate** - In time, you will naturally grow to the point where you can begin to serve and take on basic functions through the ministries of your church (**Matt 4:19; James 1:22-25**).
3. **Lead** - As your growth continues, you should reach the point where you can begin to minister to others in the same way that you have been ministered to (**2 Tim 2:2; 1Pet 3:15**).

- B. These three stages can be roughly compared to the stages of growth physically: child, youth, adult.
- C. Be patient! It all takes time. Work hard as a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, and watch yourself grow!

#### V. The Structure (Blueprint) of the New Testament, Local Church. All believers are to be \_\_\_\_\_ (**John 8:31**) – students and followers of Jesus Christ, and committed to living just like He would if he were in your shoes.

- A. The **guide and final authority** of a church is always the \_\_\_\_\_ (**Acts 20:32; John 17:17**). In Christ's church, the final authority is not in people, pastors, or princes, but in the living and pure words of God! As disciples, we must follow the Bible's design for Christianity, and not try and improve on it, or adjust it – just live it!
- B. A church has five positions of authority under the Word of God (**Eph 4:11**):
1. **Apostles**: It means "*someone specially chosen and sent out by Jesus.*" Twelve apostles were chosen by Jesus personally (**Mt 10:1,2**) who would be the first **to establish Christianity throughout the world** - they laid the foundation by writing and preaching God's word. The twelve were made apostles by the supernatural empowerment of Jesus Christ. Their powers were specific only to themselves, and not to all of Christianity (**2Cor 12:12**). Once the apostles died, their powers died with them!
  2. **Prophets**: A special class of people used by God to declare His word until the completion of the Bible (**1Cor 13:8-10**). The Apostles were also prophets, but there were some prophets who were not apostles, like \_\_\_\_\_ (**Acts 11:27,28; 21:10**).

#### Truths About the Church

- ❖ Every local Bible-believing church is *Christ's Church*, where He is Head!
- ❖ A true church is subject unto God's word in everything - we can't pick and choose.
- ❖ Christ's church is family-oriented - not self oriented.
- ❖ We love to give of ourselves so others get the Gospel.
- ❖ A true church is evangelistic - on the go for souls!
- ❖ Every Christian must be a committed part of a local church! *We are not loners!*

- a. The Old Testament was written by \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom 16:25,26)
  - b. The New Testament was written by prophets *and apostles*.
  - c. Now that the Bible is completed, the role of prophets and apostles has ceased (see again 1 Cor 13:8-10).
3. **Evangelists:** These are Church-starters (like the Apostle Paul), who *evangelize* the lost to a surrendered faith in Jesus Christ, and then group those believers into a local church fellowship (a flock), that is dedicated as a group to obeying and living by all the commands of the Lord under their own pastor (Mt 28:19,20). The evangelist moves on and starts more churches as each church obtains its own permanent pastor.
  4. **Pastors:** These are Shepherds, the Bishops, the Overseers of the “flock” of Christians that seek to serve Christ. They have the primary job of leading the flock of Christians to serve God, and of protecting that flock from spiritual danger. They are “coaches” training Christians to shine as lights in this dark world!
  5. **Teachers:** These labour in teaching the word along-side pastors. No pastor can do all the work to keep a church going, so God gives people a heart to minister *with* the pastor, so that the Gospel can go further!

Of the five groups listed, only *the last three* are in operation today (Eph 2:19-22). The first two groups laid the foundation (until the Bible was finished), with Christ being the cornerstone of everything. The rest of us build upon that finished foundation (1 Corinthians 3:10,11).

- C. The primary leadership in the church is provided by the \_\_\_\_\_ (1Tim 3:1-5; see also Titus 1:5-9). A Biblical bishop is *different from modern bishops*.
  1. A bishop is a *shepherd* over a “flock” (1 Pet 2:25; 5:1-4). That is what “pastor” means. **Pastor, bishop** and **shepherd** are all the same thing. He is to minister, preach, care for, instruct, and equip the believers.
  2. Every church is to be lead by a pastor. If a church has no pastor, then its primary goal should be to pray for, and get one, and then follow him.
  3. A pastor/shepherd does the following (Acts 20:28-31):
    - a. He \_\_\_\_\_ his flock with the word of God (Bible teaching).
    - b. He \_\_\_\_\_ his flock - knows them; cares for their needs. This is where he keeps them in line with the Bible, and keeps them in motion, always serving the Lord.
    - c. He warns them - that is what preaching and teaching is for! He has a responsibility not just to the “flock” but to the Great Shepherd who called him to preach (Ezek 3:17-19; Col 1:28)!
    - d. Therefore, a pastor is to **oversee** and spiritually care for those to whom he ministers (by living like them, among them, and for them)! He is not to dominate their lives, but **guide**, love, protect them, and if need be, give his life for them as Christ did!
    - e. The pastor is not to be a \_\_\_\_\_ (1Tim 3:1,6), but an \_\_\_\_\_ (1Tim 5:17) - He should be **mature** in the Lord, and should be respected, and followed (2Tim 2:2; Jam 1:22). All pastors *first* are elders (mature Christians), but all elders are not pastors.
      - 1) Every young as well as older man in a church needs to be surrendered to the Lord if He should call them to be a pastor.
      - 2) If a man is called of God to preach, then his local church is his training ground to prepare him to pastor someday!

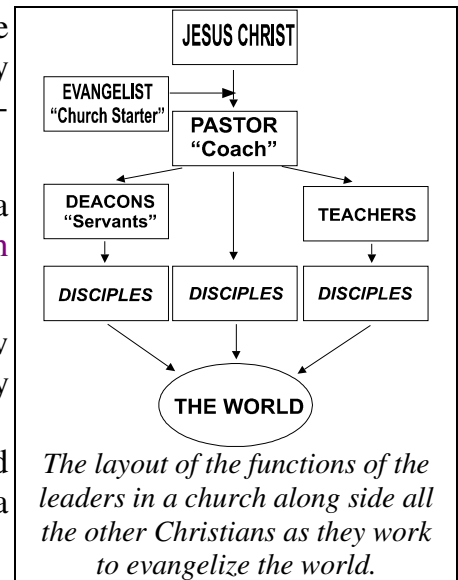
- f. Christians are to \_\_\_\_\_ the instruction of a godly pastor, knowing he watches for your \_\_\_\_\_, and will give an account to God for how you lived your life (Heb 13:7,17). God has given him the responsibility to instruct you as you grow, and to rebuke you when you don't grow (1 Tim 4:12). Every Christian needs a godly pastor.
- g. One of the jobs of pastors is to train more pastors (2Tim 2:2). Pastors come from within a flock. That is how God supplies men to go and reach the world with the gospel – through godly men training faithful men!

D. Every church must have lots of helpers - called \_\_\_\_\_ (1Tim 3:8)

1. A deacon is **a dedicated servant**, who takes care of the needs of folks like widows, allowing the pastor to labour in the study and teaching of the word of God (Acts 6:1-4).
2. All Christians are deacons - they are servants in the local body!
3. Some deacons are *ordained* (specially chosen and paid by the church) like the pastor is, so they can serve full-time (Acts 6:5,6)! They serve along side the pastor, and take some of the load from off him, so that he can minister without being crushed by the work-load. A deacon must see his role as very important, and be committed to serving - not being served, even though being paid!

E. **Teachers** are people God calls to work along with a Pastor to train and mature believers in a church (Eph 4:11-12).

1. Teachers of the word need themselves to know the word! They need to be discipled, so that they can disciple others!
2. Everyone needs to be available should God need them to teach a Sunday School class, help with a Bible Club, or disciple a new Christian!



- F. Beside the above “official” positions, God refers to all Christians as \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt 20:25-28; 25:21), committed **as a team** to obey our Lord’s command to reach this world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!
- G. Notice what is NOT in a church: priests, canons, altar boys, Monsignors, prelates, clergy, popes, cardinals, nuns, etc.! Every religion has to “add” to God’s clearly defined standard – but these additions are only destructive.

**VI. How can you tell if the church to which you belong (or wish to join) is a true New Testament type of church** (meaning, that it matches the pattern found in the New Testament)? Below are key marks of Christ’s Church!

- A. **Evangelism** - They will be involved in \_\_\_\_\_ to the lost (Acts 1:8)!
- B. **Bible Believing** - They will believe the Bible *not criticise it* (2 Tim 3:15-17; Act 24:14; Lk 24:25)
- C. **Doctrine** - They will pay careful attention to \_\_\_\_\_ – making sure it is right, and only from the Bible (Titus 1:9; 2 John 1:9,10).
- D. **Separation** - They will be ***different*** from the world (1 John 2:15; Tit 2:11-14; 2 Cor 6:14-17). Not only just in beliefs, but in LIVES (clean and separated).
- E. **Discipleship** - They will be involved in discipling new Christians, preparing them to serve God, and not be babies or selfish anymore (2 Tim 2:1-3)!

- F. **Spiritual Warfare** - They use \_\_\_\_\_ weapons (not fists or guns) to fight temptation, sin and the devil (2 Cor 10:3-5)!
- G. **Three Church Ordinances** - baptism, the Lord's Supper, and loving one another (1Cor 11:23-26; Mt 28:19,20; Jn 15:12)
- H. **Immersion** - They *immerse*, not sprinkle, when they baptize new believers (Acts 8:36-38)
- I. **Fellowship a Lot** - They ALL meet together every Lord's day, and as often as possible throughout the week (Heb 10:25; Acts 5:42)!

## VII. What is a Baptist Church?

- A. A group of believers that base every belief and every aspect of Christianity solely on the Bible – to the exclusion of all traditions.
- B. A group of believers that were first branded with the name “**ana-baptists**” (which means *re*-baptizers) because they always required people who got saved to get re-baptized, and to come out of the catholic church or any church that did not follow the Bible. The Baptists down through history were tortured and burnt at the stake by the tens of thousands during the dark ages – all because they would not submit to a pope or king who required people to either worship himself, or follow an unbiblical belief. Please realise that what we take for granted as freedoms today, were totally against the law just a few hundred years ago – like the right to own a Bible; the right of free assembly; and the right of disagreement with the government.
- C. What Baptists generally believe can be summarized as follows:
  - B** – Biblical Authority Only. The only source for absolute truth about God, and what is right and wrong is the written word of God. All questions are settled according to “*Thus saith the Lord.*”
  - A** – Autonomy of the local church – a local church is fully able to make its own decisions, and govern itself. There is no hierarchy in Christianity.
  - P** – Priesthood of the believer. Every Christian is able to go directly to God as a priest because Jesus Christ as their High Priest has made it possible.
  - T** – Three ordinances given by Jesus for the Church to obey: To regularly have the Lord's Supper, Baptize, and Love one another.
  - I** – Individual Soul Liberty – a Christian answers only to God concerning his or her faith! A person must learn the truth of the Bible, act on that truth, and is ultimately held responsible by God according to what they did with that truth. No human has power over your faith.
  - S** – Saved and Secure Membership – only born again believers are able to be members of a church, and they are eternally secure in Christ.
  - T** – Three Church Offices: Evangelist (Church Starter), Pastor, and Deacon.
  - S** – Separation of Church and State – the church is under the control of the word of God, not a government. We obey the laws of the land – but when those laws go against the Bible, a Christian ignores those laws!
- D. All Bible-believing and Bible-practicing churches are ‘baptistic’ in that they hold many if not most of the above beliefs. Some churches just don't have the name “Baptist” – but they ought not be ashamed of the name.

## VIII. The Financing of a Local Church (More about this in *Lesson Fifteen*)

- A. The giving of our *tithes* (1/10th of our income), and *offerings* to our local church is God's way of supporting your local church and its ministries. Faithful stewardship (the responsible handling) of our possessions involves giving the “*firstfruits of our*”

increase” to \_\_\_\_\_ (Pr 3:9,10)! Not because He needs our money (Ps 24:1), but rather, out of obedience to His word by faith.

- B. According to **Malachi 3:8-10**, the Lord is very serious about the Christian making sure money does not become a “god” (1Timothy 6:10). He helps by requiring us to keep **Him** in first place with our finances. This is called *the tithe*. If a person does not tithe, no matter how hard it may be, **he or she is \_\_\_\_\_ God**, and are worse off by keeping their money, than by giving it!
- C. Giving our money to the Lord is like the giving of our time, and our love - *it always costs us something* - and it should! Giving demonstrates the proof of our love for \_\_\_\_\_ (1 John 3:18; John 14:15). If a person has a problem with giving, then it is because they do not love Jesus Christ supremely, or they are not willing to follow the word of God by faith.
- D. So, why give regularly to my local church (1 Cor 16:1,2)?
1. To obey God (Prov 3:9,10) - do it first out of *obedience!*
  2. So that it can be self-sufficient (not dependent upon the government, bazaars, or bake sales, but upon the people who assemble together).
  3. So that God’s man (the pastor) can be full-time for serving the Lord, serving you, and reaching the lost, instead of having to work both a job, and do the ministry (1 Tim 5:17,18)!
  4. And also, so that God can bless you, knowing that you seek \_\_\_\_\_ to bless and honour Him (Matt 6:33).

**IX. How Does A Person Join a Local Church?** Every Christian is to be a dedicated member of a local Bible believing church (Heb 10:25).

- A. **Fulfill God's requirements.** There are only two requirements to be added to a church: \_\_\_\_\_ (salvation) and \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:41).
- B. **Know whether it is God's will** to join that church (Acts 2:47). Every Christian must be associated with a Bible believing local church, and committed to getting the Gospel out to everyone in their area. Ask the Lord where you should commit yourself, and your family, and then go for it!
- C. **Request membership.** Don't expect to be a part by *osmosis* (just by attending). You have to **ask**, or people won't think that you are serious.
- D. **Be accepted.** *The local New Testament church is exclusionary* (it does not have to accept everyone – see Acts 9:22-29). You will only be accepted if you have a testimony of your salvation, been Scripturally baptized, and are in agreement with the doctrines of the church you wish to join yourself to.
- E. **Make the church, YOUR church!** Be there for every meeting, pray for your pastor, and for the other people there, and ask God where He needs YOU to work so that souls get saved, and young Christians grow!

Are you a dedicated member of a church that believes the Bible and **practices** it? If so, where? \_\_\_\_\_. If not, is there anything keeping you from joining with your Discipler's church? \_\_\_\_\_

**X. Finding a Place to Serve the Lord in Your Local Church (Acts 13:1,2).** When the Lord places you in a Bible believing church, it ought to become “your” church, where you dedicate your life, efforts, and talents in service to God so that souls get saved, and Christians are fed. Look around you and see where the pastor, or someone needs help teaching in Sunday School, or picking people up for church, or cleaning up the church, etc. Find SOMETHING to do, like:

- A. Teaching a Sunday School Class, or helping another person teach it.



- B. Going out soul-winning regularly with other believers.
- C. Helping the pastor with secretarial tasks like sending out birthday cards.
- D. Start up a Bible study at your workplace during lunch.
- E. Correspond with missionaries to encourage them and pray for them.
- F. Singing special music, or even starting a choir.
- G. Playing a musical instrument.
- H. Holding Bible Clubs in your home and back-garden.
- I. Going with the pastor on visitation calls to people's homes.
- J. Visiting people who are sick and in the hospital.
- K. Helping in a puppet ministry.
- L. Picking up folks who need a ride to church.
- M. Ministering to older folks by mowing their grass, or repairing their homes.
- N. Hosting a Ladies' Coffee Morning in your home for Christian women to fellowship and give testimony so that other lost women can hear the gospel!
- O. And the list goes on... Just add your own ideas, and get started – right away!

### XI. Why Are There So Many Churches?

- A. The Bible warns that not only does God have *His* church (Matt 16:18), but so does \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor 11:13-15). It is called "**religion**" and it is *not* Christianity. Satan's "*church*" is full of: False \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 7:15); False believers (Matt 7:21); Traditions (Col 2:8); and doctrines (Jude 3,4)
- B. When comparing "Religion" with *Christianity*, it is important to find out whether it is founded upon what God said (the Bible), or what **man** said (*tradition*, Mk 7:1-9).
- C. There are lots of different churches today – they all claim to be “churches”
  - 1. Baptist Churches
  - 2. Roman Catholic Churches – allegiance to Rome and tradition
  - 3. Presbyterian Churches – protestant, and baby sprinklers
  - 4. Methodist Churches – believe a Christian can lose their salvation
  - 5. Church of England, Church of Ireland – just barely above catholic
  - 6. Pentecostal Churches – emphasis on miracles and experiences
  - 7. Non-denominational Churches – no real doctrinal stand at all
  - 8. Then there are others – which are clearly **cults**:
    - a. Mormons – all of them are working at becoming gods (Gen 3:4,5)
    - b. Jehovah's Witnesses – working their way to heaven without the new birth (John 3:3)
    - c. Seventh day Adventists – keeping the Sabbath (Rom 10:4).
    - d. Church of Christ – baptismal regeneration (Eph 2:8,9).
  - 9. Never mind the fact that there are lots of different religions
    - a. Buddhism – China - belief in the eight-fold path to nothingness
    - b. Islam – Middle East - believe in Allah and his prophet Mohammed
    - c. Hinduism – India - believe in about 2 million gods
    - d. Shintoism – Japanese - believe in dead ancestors
    - e. Judaism – Israel - believe in God of the Bible, but not Messiah
    - f. Evolutionism – fools - the belief in almighty dirt!
    - g. Atheism – fools – believe only in almighty SELF!
  - 10. In simple terms, there are only two kinds of religions: Either it is DONE, or it is DO, DO, DO, and then DO it some more,

D. A brief History of “Churches,” beginning with the New Testament Church!

Early Christianity	33 AD	The Crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and His sending out His disciples into all the world to preach and establish Christianity by getting people to repent and believe!
	65	The apostle Paul says all of the then known world had heard about Jesus Christ (Col 1:23)! New Testament style churches were spread throughout the Roman empire in every major city!
	95	The apostle John finished writing Revelation, and completes the Bible - no more prophecy! Right after this, the Bible was published as one Book of 66 books in Latin.
	...	Intense persecution against Christianity by the Roman Empire for over 200 years!
	313	The Roman Emperor <b>Constantine</b> gives in, and organises a central <b>state-church</b> in Rome with him at the head. This becomes known as the <b>ROMAN CATHOLIC</b> Church. <u>He becomes the first POPE!</u> Before that time, all "churches" were local, independent, and <i>illegal</i> . After this time, only the “baptistic” churches were illegal.
Church and State	375	The use of “ <u>images</u> ” was introduced along with the <u>veneration of saints and angels</u> – the catholic church just borrowed all the images of the pagans and made them into “Christian” symbols (idols)! God forbid in Exodus 20 the veneration of ANY image or picture!
	394	“ <u>Mass</u> ” was forced as THE method for salvation. Religious leaders made the crucifixion into a ritual that had to be constantly repeated.
	593	<u>Purgatory</u> was introduced as a temporary punishment of sinners. No other religious doctrine produced as much money for the catholic coffers than the teachings about “purgatory!”
	850	<u>Holy water</u> is introduced as having special powers of healing and cleansing.
	1054	The <b>GREEK ORTHODOX</b> church split from Rome over the issue of Papal authority. Now there were two “holy apostolic catholic” churches, neither of which follow the Bible!
	1079	<u>Celibacy</u> of the Catholic priesthood was made mandatory. Before then, most members of the clergy were married.
	1090	The <u>rosary</u> was adopted as a method of praying - it was also borrowed from the pagans. The Hindus and the Buddhists also have rosary beads.
	1190	<u>Sale of indulgences</u> (paying a priest for your sins in money) began. It allowed people to pre-pay for sins that otherwise would have to be paid for in purgatory.
	1215	<u>Confessions to Roman priests</u> started, and was made mandatory to all people for salvation. The gift of Salvation was just constantly being added to!
	The Dark Ages	1525
1534		Henry VIII took the English church away from Rome and started the <b>Church of England</b> .
1541		The <b>Presbyterian</b> church was formed by Christians breaking away from Church of England. They made a big step in attempting to return to Biblical Christianity – but still carried a lot of “baggage” from Catholicism and the church of England.
1791		The <b>Methodist</b> church broke away from the Church of England - by John Wesley. They for the most part went back to Biblical Christianity.
1827		The <b>Mormons</b> (Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints) began "their church" (with their own "Bible").
The Reformation	1854	The <u>Immaculate Conception of Mary</u> (not of Jesus) was declared as doctrine.
	1896	The <b>Jehovah's “Christian” Witnesses</b> were organized (with their own "Bible").
	1900's	A non-stop race to create new religions and moralities like the world has never seen before
	1950	The <u>Assumption</u> (ascension into heaven) of <u>Mary</u> proclaimed as doctrine.
	1980+	Even fundamental Christians no longer believe and practice the Bible (Judges 21:25)
Apostasy		

Bible-Believing Re-Baptizers (Ana-Baptists)

E. All throughout Church history, the people who were determined to only go by the Bible, were side-lined, vilified, hunted and tortured, even by the Protestants all because they would not obey the church and baptize their infants, and would not confess to priests, etc. These groups of Christians had various names, but most of them were Baptist in their doctrine and practice.

- F. Every year there are new “cults” and flavours of “faith” for people to choose from. Bible believers (from the time of the apostles on) have never been a part of the religious "system" listed above, but have always been separate from it, and required anyone who believed the Bible to separate themselves from it (2 Cor 6:14-18). Whenever the religious system caught a Bible believer, they tortured them, and even burned them at the stake for their beliefs (Acts 8:3; 9:1; 24:14)
- G. The answer to why there are so many churches lies in the fact that people believe that there can be so many different approaches to God and the Bible, which is not true (Rev 22:18,19; John 14:6). People must take God’s word literally and completely, and come to God, only God’s way - the Bible way. *Religion* has no authority other than itself, instead of the word of God. Therefore, religions are constantly changing, while in Biblical Christianity, believers are always ***anchored*** to the unchanging words of the living God!
- H. How can a Bible believer identify *false* religions?
1. They have another authority besides the Bible. Either it will be in place of the Bible (i.e., Book of Mormon, Koran), along side *with* the Bible (having equal inspiration), or they will produce their own translation!
    - a. In the Catholic church, the authority is in about 135 volumes of church traditions and writings, along side the Bible.
    - b. In other churches, the authority is in visions, or secret revelations.
  2. They require blind obedience to a human leader – like a pope, or charismatic leader, or miracle worker.
  3. They have a history of killing and suppressing those who do not agree with them (i.e., Islam, Catholicism in the Dark Ages, religious wars).
  4. They usually emphasize obscure passages in their Bible instead of clear ones (i.e., Matt 24:13 and Acts 2:38 instead of Rom 10:13).
  5. They emphasize *secret* societies and special revelations from God that cannot be verified! (Mohammed’s visions, Fatima, Joseph Smith, etc.)

The Bible believer promotes an honest and clear revelation from God in the form of a Book that can be tested, and verified as authentic!

- I. List some cults you now know about:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

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# BIBLE MEMORIZATION

*A Study of the Importance and Methods of Scripture Memorization*

## Lesson Seven

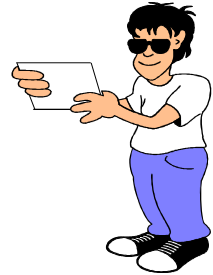
Memory Verse: *Hebrews 10:25*

Lesson Verse: *Psalms 119:11*

*"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."  
Psalms 119:11*

### I. Introduction

- A. It is important for Christians to read and study the word of God daily. But study of the Bible is incomplete if what the Christian reads never takes hold and never manifests itself by a changed life (**James 1:22**). The only way for the word of God to effectively take hold on your life is by learning to memorize both its *promises* and *commands*.
- B. This lesson provides the reasons for Scripture memorization, and the methods that can work best for you.



### II. The Importance of Right Thoughts in the Life of the Believer

- A. Four big truths about *our thinking*:
  1. **You are what you \_\_\_\_\_!** (**Proverbs 23:7**)
  2. **Your thoughts come from your \_\_\_\_\_!** (**Luke 6:45**)
  3. **Your heart is messed up bad!** (**Jeremiah 17:9**)
  4. **But we can be fixed!** (**Ezekiel 36:26,27; 2Corinthians 5:17**)
- B. Even after getting saved, our biggest battle will always be with our "\_\_\_\_\_". - see **2Corinthians 10:5**. Why would the battle be in there?
  1. Because Satan used to own that area of our lives.
  2. Because Satan knows every back door into it.
  3. Because our heart and mind is USED to being run by wrong ideas and feelings, and so, new thoughts and truths from the Bible are often a lot harder to follow!
- C. What are some wrong thoughts that we think all too often?
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_
  5. \_\_\_\_\_
  6. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. How does the devil take control of our thoughts?
  1. **He uses troubles!** The devil uses troubles to get you to think wrong thoughts, and even wicked thoughts – **1Peter 4:12**
  2. **He uses re-occurring circumstances** – things that seem to constantly happen in our lives take our attention off of God, and the devil takes charge and often gets us very discouraged!
  3. **He uses verbal suggestions** from other people (including the TV, radio, music) – all of them speak half truths and even lies that we often believe!
  4. **He uses spiritual influencing** – putting ideas in your heart (**Luke 9:54,55; Ephesians 6:12**) – just as God speaks to your heart at times, so also does the devil if we are not vigilant!

E. So, how do we fight against and defeat such attacks? **Only through...**

1. **Scripture Memorization** – the storing away in our hearts and minds the words of God so that we can meditate on them for strength, wisdom, direction, and comfort.
2. **Scripture Meditation** – the thinking-through the meaning of every word of a Scripture so that we understand it, and so that we can obey it.
3. **Scripture Activation** – acting in obedience to what God says to think and do, instead of what we think and want to do.

### III. The Way to CHANGE Your Mind

A. **Through Salvation** – a complete starting over – a once in a lifetime event! **Matthew 18:3** How does a person do that?

1. By \_\_\_\_\_ **your heart**, facing and accepting your own guilt and shame towards God (**2Corinthians 13:5**)
2. By \_\_\_\_\_ **with all your heart** in Jesus Christ - allowing the blood of Jesus Christ, shed in your place, be the power that cleanses away all your guilt and shame – simply by trusting Jesus to save your soul (**Romans 10:9,10; Heb 9:14**)
3. By \_\_\_\_\_ **your heart** with a Person by yielding to His work in you (**Eph 5:18**)
4. By \_\_\_\_\_ **from your heart** every word God says in His word - living under HIS influence on your life AND thoughts (**Romans 6:17**)

Don't be like so many people that only "take" the gift of salvation without grasping the fullness of God's grace and forgiveness! The only way we are going to grasp just how great God's work is in our life is if we start meditating on His truths!

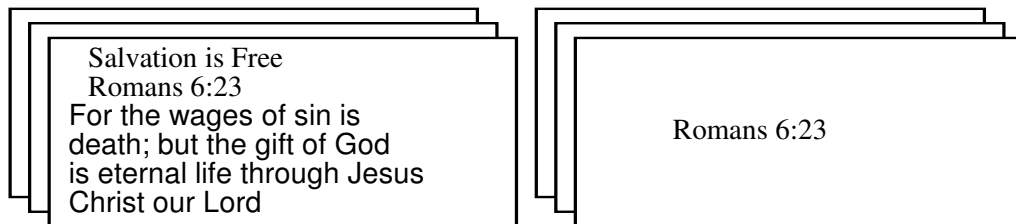
B. **Through Scripture Meditation** – "...and in his law doth he \_\_\_\_\_ day and night" (**Psalm 1:2**)

1. God blesses Scripture meditation! This is not just some "duty" for a Christian to do, but it is the key to God's greatest blessings in every believer's life!
  - a. You will prosper! (**Psalm 1:2,3**)!
  - b. You will get answers to prayer! **John 15:7** You will then *know* what to ask.
  - c. You will become wiser than your \_\_\_\_\_, and stronger than your troubles (**Psalm 119:97-100**).
  - d. You will be able to defeat sinful temptations! (**Psalm 119:11**)
2. God commands his children to, "\_\_\_\_\_ **on these things...**" (**Philippians 4:8**) – what things? List them:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ - it is more than just "facts" – it is something that is real, not imagined, or felt, or supposed, or guessed at, but absolute!
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ - think on things that are in the open, not on things that are evil or hidden.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ - think on things that are right, moral, and godly – not ungodly
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ - think on things that are clean, and innocent
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_ - think about beautiful, pleasant, wonderful things
  - f. \_\_\_\_\_ - think about the good things in other people instead of the bad
  - g. \_\_\_\_\_ - think about good inner qualities of people and God
  - h. \_\_\_\_\_ - think about ways to praise other people, and especially God!
  - i. All of the above can be wrapped up in just one Person that you should think about all the time – who is that? \_\_\_\_\_ (**Isaiah 26:3**)

3. Meditating on such things as listed above will be the way God helps you replace wrong and sinful thoughts:
  - a. By enabling you to reflect on God's goodness – make a list of things that you can be thankful to God for, and then praise your way through it!
  - b. By helping you connect God's promises, His words and warnings with every-day life.
  - c. By speaking to and directing your mind! You will need to learn to confine your mind to just dwelling on the goodness of God for a while at first – to **“rejoice in the Lord”** is a command (Philp 4:4)!
4. Meditation simply is you focusing on what God is saying **one word at a time**, asking yourself what it is saying to YOU, and how to obey it. Think about the words of a verse throughout your day, allowing it to be opened up by the teaching power of the \_\_\_\_\_ (John 16:13).

C. **Through Scripture Memorization** – this is really step TWO! But now you know how important it is!

1. You will never be able to meditate on the words of Scripture unless you have memorized it. God calls it *“hiding it away in our heart”*
2. Start off small. It takes only five minutes in the morning, and five minutes in the evening. Don't plan on hours of work, just plan on slowly collecting particular Scriptures that speak right to your heart and life so that you can be changed!
3. Copy a verse or two to small pocket-sized cards (3"x5" or 4"x6") like below:



4. Make sure that you memorize the *“address”* (or *reference*) of the Scripture along with the verse(s). In the above figure, it is **Romans 6:23**. The important thing is to make the address part of what you are memorizing as well. This way, you will be able to find the verse again in the Bible when you need it for someone else!
5. Keep the cards together in a case or pack of some sort, so that they can be carried around easily in your pocket or purse.
6. Memorize each verse using the following pattern:
  - a. Read the verse out-loud **5** times each time you get a chance to look at it - at least once a day - preferably 2 or 3 times a day.
  - b. Do this for a week.
  - c. At the end of the week you should be able to recite the verse easily by memory
  - d. Try to do a different verse each week.
  - e. Make sure that you go back and review each previous verse at least once a week - maybe go back through all the older verses at one time, so to keep them fresh. You will be surprised how much you remember.
7. Soon you will see these verses help you lead someone to salvation in Jesus Christ, or help you through a struggle, or strengthen another Christian!
8. Review will be the key to retaining what you memorize! Memorization is not just a one-time event, it is repetitive so you can remember what you learn (see Pr 4:4)

**D. Through Belief!**

1. You won't always see the results of meditating on Scripture right away. God will only bless your thoughts if you really start believing what you are learning to think from His word! Trust that "...*weeping may endure for a night, but \_\_\_\_\_ cometh in the morning.*" (Psalm 30:5)
2. Realize how much God thinks about each of us, and loves us (Jer 29:11; Ps 40:5)
3. Believe that you are probably WRONG about how you view things (Isaiah 55:8,9; 2Corinthians 3:5)! Start to believe that God's word, works
4. You need to especially believe that God REALLY IS working everything out for your good, even when it doesn't make sense, or feels like it (Romans 8:28)! God is good; His way of doing things is good; and He only has your good in mind in everything He allows in your life!
5. Just start believing what God says and what God promises. Have you ever started collecting all God's promises to you? They are worth remembering!

**E. Through Obedience!** This is the final step in *Changing Your mind!*

1. Just knowing God's word will not bring you joy and blessing – DOING God's word will bring you joy (John 13:17)
2. **Use what you learn!** Be involved in soul-winning and Church visitation, applying the verses you are memorizing to other people's needs for their salvation, encouragement and spiritual direction (Proverbs 11:30)!
3. We are commanded to NOT think evil, hurtful, revengeful thoughts in 1Corinthians 13:5 "... *thinketh no \_\_\_\_\_*"
4. So, will you start obeying what God says to think about, and rejecting the thoughts that He says NOT to think? If not, you are wasting your time!
5. By thinking right things, you will start Doing right things!

**IV. Final Thoughts**

**A. Some Goals to Set**

1. Memorize verses that will help you win people to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Memorize the same verses that *helped you* see the need to be saved. Write these down and memorize them! (Heb 9:27; John 3:3; Rom 3:23; 6:23; 10:13)
2. Memorize verses that will help you in times of trouble, heartache and temptation (1 Cor 10:13; John 14:1; Isa 40:31; Philp 1:6; 1 Thes 5:24)
3. Memorize verses dealing with current issues facing your co-workers and neighbours (relating to evolution, eternal life, that the unborn child is human and true life)

**B. A Verse a Day, Keeps the Devil Away!** These goals are not obtained in just one month, or even one year. They are obtained one verse at a time. So, at the end of your life, the challenge is to be able to look back and have made it through the trials and troubles because the word of God was faithfully hidden away in your heart!

**C. An Evaluation.** Write out the two verses you have memorized as best as you can:

**Matthew 4:4** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Hebrews 10:25** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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# KNOWING GOD

*A Study of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit*

## Lesson Eight

Memory Verse: *Hebrews 10:25*

Lesson Verse: *1 Peter 1:8*

***"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory." 1Peter 1:8***

### I. Introduction

- A. What an awesome subject: THEOLOGY - *the study of God!* Theology has long been called the queen of the sciences because it is the very foundation of what mankind can know, and it is the limit of what mankind can experience. All other sciences are somewhere in between, and are all relative to how man views and understands God.
- B. This lesson will present a *brief* study of the one true God, in order for the new believer to personally know Who it is who created them, Who hears and answers their prayers, and Who it is that will be the final Judge in the future.

### II. How Do We Know God?

The Bible says in *John 1:18*, "No man hath **seen** God at any time..." Yet, according to the Bible, God has revealed Himself to mankind in the following **three ways**: In His Creation, in His Word, and by His Son.



#### A. We Find that God Has revealed Himself **In His Creation**.

1. *Psalm 19:1-3*, tells us that God's creation is constantly teaching and instructing every person on this planet that there is a Creator, and that HE is worthy of worship - not that an idol should be worshipped.
2. According to *Romans 1:18-20*, "That which may be \_\_\_\_\_ of God **is** manifest" - it is not hidden. We don't know *everything* about God, but what can be known is revealed because, God has made sure that it is shown "clearly" to all people by His "\_\_\_\_\_ of the world".
3. *Romans 1:20* concludes that people are "without \_\_\_\_\_," because they simply reject the information God gave them to begin with, and come up with their own gods to worship in the place of the Creator!

#### B. Secondly, God has revealed Himself **In His word**. The Bible is our authority for knowing things about God for sure. Every time a prophet preached God's word, they were revealing more about God.

1. The gospel, the preaching of Jesus Christ, and the revelation of the mysteries are all made understood by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the prophets (*Rom 16:25,26*), which have been "made known to \_\_\_\_\_ nations!"
2. According to *Deuteronomy 29:29*, there are "\_\_\_\_\_ things" that simply belong to \_\_\_\_\_. But the rest is OURS to know so that we may DO them as recorded in "all the \_\_\_\_\_ of this law."

#### C. Thirdly, God Revealed Himself **In His Son** (*Heb 1:1-3; Jn 14:7-9; Mt 11:27*)

1. The greatest revelation about God was found in Jesus Christ. A person can know all about the Bible, and yet never know its Author. God had revealed Himself in a limited way through His prophets. But finished the job when He came and spoke for Himself (*1 Tim 3:16*).



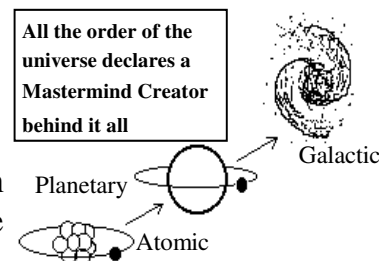
2. Jesus came not only to pay for our sin-debt on the cross, but to reveal the **person** of the God who made each of us. Jesus told Philip in **John 14:9** that “*he that hath seen me hath seen the \_\_\_\_\_*”

If God had not revealed Himself, man would not be able to know Him. But God *has* demonstrated that He is very interested in man knowing Him intimately! In **John 17:3**, Jesus says, “*and this is life eternal, that they might know \_\_\_\_\_ the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*”

### III. What Can Be Known About God?

#### A. We Can Know that God Exists

1. **Psalm 19:1-3** states that all of creation declares that an intelligent Being created everything that there is. There has to have been a Mastermind behind all of this universe! It is *insane* to believe it all came about by mere *chance*!
2. Only a \_\_\_\_\_ believes that there is *no God* (**Ps 14:1**). Did you ever notice how that every religion has a 'god'? Even *atheism* (the belief that there is no God) - their 'god' is themselves!



#### B. We Can Know that God has a Personality and Emotions

1. God *grieves* at sin. (feels remorse, **Gen 6:5,6**). The Lord is not “numb.”
2. God gets \_\_\_\_\_ (**1 Kings 11:9**), and yet loves (**John 3:16**). These are two great contrasting emotions - and God possesses them to the fullest!
3. God can \_\_\_\_\_ (**Prov 1:26**), and even \_\_\_\_\_ (**Zephaniah 3:17; Isa 62:5**). There are some things that really excite God!
4. Our God is a \_\_\_\_\_ God (**Deut 6:14,15**). Look at the context - it is dealing with idolatry, and how that He is very jealous of His creation turning a blind eye to His love and work in their lives, and wasting their worship on idols, which really are satanic demons!
5. Therefore, all the emotions that a person experiences, God experiences - only in their purest form, because He is \_\_\_\_\_ (**Ps 99:9; 1 Pet 1:15,16**).

#### C. We Know God is *not* Human or Human-like - He is above His Creation

1. He is *Creator* and Sustainer of everything. Without Him we can't exist
  - a. **Gen 1:1** says, “*In the beginning God \_\_\_\_\_ the heaven and earth.*”  
**John 1:3** says, “*All things were \_\_\_\_\_ by him and without him was not anything made that was made.*”
  - b. **Ephesians 3:9** declares that, “*God ... created all things by \_\_\_\_\_.*”
  - c. **Colossians 1:17** “*And he is before all things, and by him all things \_\_\_\_\_*” (are held together)! Jesus is the *glue* of the universe.
2. He is *Eternal*, “*from everlasting,*” and “*to everlasting*” (**Ps 90:2**)
3. He is all powerful (*omnipotent*, **Matt 28:18**), all knowing (*omniscient*, **Mt 9:3,4**), all present (*omnipresent*, **Ps 139:7-10**), all at the same time!

#### D. God loves His creation - He is the *Author* of Love (**1 John 4:7-8**)

1. Everything that God created, was \_\_\_\_\_ in His sight (**Gen 1:4,10,12,18,21,25,31**).
2. God is not willing that any of His creation \_\_\_\_\_ (**2 Pet 3:9**) – to be lost forever in hell.

3. God showed His love toward us by giving His only \_\_\_\_\_, (John 3:16) who Himself took our place so that we could go free to heaven by faith in Him! Now, **that** is real love (1 John 4:10).

**E. God is a *Three Part Being* - Three parts of One; not three different gods!**

1. This is the concept of the God-head (Tri-unity, or Trinity). Notice how God said in Genesis 1:26, "Let \_\_\_\_\_ make man in \_\_\_\_\_ image, after \_\_\_\_\_ likeness." (Same in Isa 6:8). Let's find out who the 'us' is.
  - a. Notice the Trinity in Jesus' baptism (Matt 3:13-17).
  - b. Notice the Trinity in the Great Commission of Matt 28:19.
  - c. The Trinity is listed in Paul's prayer in 2 Cor 13:14.
  - d. Jesus, the Father and the Holy Ghost are \_\_\_\_ (1 John 5:7).
  - e. All throughout creation, watch for God's triple signature: like the 3 states of water (ice, liquid, and vapour), the 3 dimensions, the 3 states of time (past, present, and future), 3 basic elements of matter (proton, neutron, and electron), man (1Thes 5:23), and so on.
2. The Godhead (the Trinity) then is made up of **the Father, the Word** (the Son), and **the Holy Ghost** (the Holy Spirit).
3. Let's First Examine **God The Father**
  - a. The Father is the authority of the Trinity. Jesus submitted to the will of the \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden of Gethsemane (Mt 26:39).
  - b. John 1:18 says, \_\_\_\_\_ man has ever seen God the Father with their mortal eyes. This is because God is a \_\_\_\_\_ (John 4:24).
  - c. God is referred to as the Father because He first of all is the Father (the Begetter or Creator) of all things, and secondly because He is the personal Begetter of your salvation - you become His child by faith, and He becomes your Father, or "Abba," (means *Daddy*, Gal 4:6; Mk 14:36), who loves you and looks out for you as His child!
  - d. God the Father's true name is *Jehovah* (Ex 6:1-3) which means "the Lord, the promise keeper." Don't let the Jehovah Witnesses scare you away from that name. It truly IS His name! Every time you see the word LORD as all capital letters, it is the word JEHOVAH!
  - e. Another name God goes by is the "I \_\_\_\_" (Ex 3:13-15). Jesus called Himself by this same name (John 8:56-59)!
  - f. We are told to "*call no man your \_\_\_\_\_*" (Mt 23:8,9) - unless they really ARE your "father" (see Gen 2:24). We do have physical fathers - but only ONE spiritual Father!
  - g. To see and know Jesus Christ is to see and know the \_\_\_\_\_ (John 14:6-9). This is a great mystery (Mt 1:23), but is understood by the fact that Jesus was really God contained in flesh like you and me (1 Tim 3:16).
  - h. Amazingly, the great Architect of all creation, the Creator of "you," wants you to personally get to know Him! The greatest purpose in a person's life is to get to know God, start to love God, and always enjoy God as you serve Him in "*\_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_*" (John 4:23).
4. Let's Next Examine **God The Son, Jesus Christ**
  - a. The name 'Je-sus' means, "*Jehovah Saves*" (Mt 1:21). His title "Christ" is the same as "*\_\_\_\_\_*" (Jn 1:40,41) the "chosen One". So, *Jesus* was really *Jehovah God* who had come in sinless flesh.

- b. Jesus has always existed. He was in Heaven before coming to earth
- 1) **John 1:1** "*In the beginning \_\_\_\_\_ the Word and the Word was with God and **the Word was God.***" The "Word" is **Jesus**, and the Bible says that He was both *in* the beginning, and *was* God Himself (**John 1:14; 8:56-59; 1 John 5:7; Ex 3:13-15**).
  - 2) Jesus shared the glory of God His Father "*...before the world \_\_\_\_\_.*" (**John 17:5**). He was not created- He was *Creator!*
  - 3) How many things were created by Jesus (**John 1:3**)? \_\_\_\_\_. So Jesus could not have been created since "*without \_\_\_\_\_, was not anything made that was made.*"
  - 4) God talked with Jesus and the Holy Spirit when He made man in the beginning (**Gen 1:26**). God was not talking to angels, but to Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Note the "*Spirit*" in **Gen 1:2**.
- c. Jesus **IS** God - The "Deity" (the *God-ness*) of Jesus Christ
- 1) **1 Tim 3:16** says, "*\_\_\_\_\_ was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*" To be manifested means to be shown as real – He REALLY became flesh.
  - 2) **John 1:1** "*...the Word was with God, and the Word was \_\_\_\_\_.*" Jesus was separate yet equal with God (**Philp 2:5-7**)
  - 3) In Jesus was ALL of God (**Col 2:9**). Godhead means trinity.
  - 4) Notice His name in **Matt 1:23**, "*...**Emmanuel**, which being interpreted is \_\_\_\_\_.*" (See **Isaiah 44:6,8**)!
  - 5) **Heb 1:8** has God the Father talking to His Son, and says, "*But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne O \_\_\_\_\_.*"
  - 6) **Jesus** is the manifestation of *Jehovah* God of the Old Testament (**Ex 6:3**).
    - a) He is called *Lord of Lord's* in **Deut 10:17** and **Rev 19:16**.
    - b) Called *the Alpha and Omega* (the first and the last) in **Isa 44:6; 48:12, and Rev 1:17; 22:13**.
    - c) Compare **Isa 44:8** with **John 20:28; 14:6-9**
    - d) Compare **Psa 68:17-18** with **Eph 4:8-10**.
    - e) Compare **Ex 3:13,14** with **Jn 8:56-59**, and see **Ps 90:1,2**.
- d. The supernatural Birth of Jesus was foretold **700 years** before (**Isaiah 7:14**)!
- 1) Jesus was born of a \_\_\_\_\_ named Mary (**Matt 1:23**). She was not *just* a "young woman" like some of the Bibles say in **Isa 7:14**. God was doing something very supernatural!
  - 2) **Matt 1:18-20** tells us, "*for that which is conceived in her is of the \_\_\_\_\_.*" Jesus was not conceived by **Joseph!**
- e. Jesus' Life on Earth was truly supernatural, and **sinless**.
- 1) **Luke 2:40** "*And the child grew and waxed \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, filled with \_\_\_\_\_: and the grace of God was upon Him.*"
  - 2) Jesus was "*\_\_\_\_\_ of the devil.*" (**Luke 4:1,2**), and yet never sinned, because "*...in him is no \_\_\_\_\_.*" (**1 John 3:5**)
  - 3) **1 Pet 2:22** says that Jesus "*... did no \_\_\_\_\_.*"
  - 4) **2 Cor 5:21** tells you that He even "*... **knew** no \_\_\_\_\_.*"

- 5) With all of Jesus' sinlessness, He could have just STAYED separate from us, but instead, He came our way, and went all the way on the cross to bring us back to God (*Isaiah 53:4-6,10*)
- f. Jesus paid man's sin-debt Himself
- 1) Jesus was crucified, providing full forgiveness for our sins.
    - a) *Rom 5:8* "But God commendeth his **love** toward us in that while we were yet \_\_\_\_\_ Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for us."
    - b) *2 Cor 5:21* "For \_\_\_\_\_ (God) hath made \_\_\_\_\_ (Jesus) to be \_\_\_\_\_ who knew no sin; that we might be made the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in him."
    - c) Only the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse sin. *Heb 9:22* says, "...without shedding of \_\_\_\_\_ is no \_\_\_\_\_," and *1 John 1:7* states, "...and the blood of \_\_\_\_\_ his Son \_\_\_\_\_ us from all sin."
  - 2) Jesus has the **victory** over death and hell giving us eternal life
    - a) All other religious founders are still in the grave: Islam (Mohammed), Buddhism (Buddha), Mormon (Joseph Smith), Jehovah Witness (their *Jesus* is still dead), etc.
    - b) After Jesus rose from the grave, He was seen by over \_\_\_\_\_ witnesses. (see *1 Cor 15:3-8*)
    - c) *Acts 2:32* "This \_\_\_\_\_ hath God \_\_\_\_\_, whereof we are all witnesses." Jesus did NOT stay in the grave!
    - d) Jesus is now living and is seated at God's right hand (*Heb 10:12*), as our ONLY mediator, "For there is one \_\_\_\_\_ and one \_\_\_\_\_ between God and men, the man \_\_\_\_\_," (*1 Tim 2:5*). He's our advocate/defence attorney!
  - g. Take note that Jesus had \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (*Mt 12:46-50; 13:55,56; Mk 6:3*). They were actual half-brothers and sisters (Mary has more children after Jesus). Even though HE was not "normal," He grew up in a normal family.
  - h. Jesus is everything the believer needs (*Col 2:9,10; 1 Cor 1:30,31*)!

## 5. God The Holy Spirit, (the Holy Ghost)

- a. The *Holy Spirit* is the Third Person of the Trinity. We say "*person*" because He is as much God as the Father and Jesus Christ. Just as He was active in creation, the Holy Spirit actively indwells the body of the Christian (*1 Cor 6:19*), and empowers him for God's service.
- b. The Holy Spirit was with God in the beginning. *Gen 1:2* states, "...And the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ moved upon the face of the waters."
- c. The Holy Spirit is God, just as are the Father, and the Word.
  - 1) *1 John 5:7* "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the \_\_\_\_\_, and **these three are** \_\_\_\_\_."
  - 2) The Holy Spirit comes from the Father, and is referred to as a Person. *John 15:26* "But when the **Comforter** is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the \_\_\_\_\_ of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, **HE** shall testify of me."
  - 3) It was the power of the Holy Spirit that \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus from the dead (*Rom 8:11*; see again *Acts 2:32*).

d. What the Holy Spirit does in the life of a person:

- 1) He **regenerates**. **John 3:5** "Jesus answered, Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be \_\_\_\_\_ of water and of the \_\_\_\_\_, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."
- 2) He **indwells** the believer the moment he believes, therefore the believer's body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit. **1 Cor 6:19** "What? know ye not that your \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Ghost **which is in you**...?"
- 3) He **fills** the yielding believer. **Eph 5:18** "Be not drunk with \_\_\_\_\_ wherein is excess; but be \_\_\_\_\_ with the Spirit."
- 4) He **seals** the believer - **once saved, always saved**. **Eph 4:30** says, "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God whereby ye are \_\_\_\_\_ unto the day of redemption."
- 5) He **instructs** the believer, guiding him to maturity (**Jn 14:26**) through \_\_\_\_\_ (**2Tim 2:15**) and under Bible preaching. The Christian cannot grow without the Bible being the priority in their life (**Mt 4:4; Job 23:12**)!
- 6) He produces **fruits** in the life of the believer as well (**Gal 5:22,23**) – these counteract the “works of the flesh” that our old nature does “naturally” (**Gal 5:19-21**).
- 7) He **bestows gifts** of ability to the Christian that enable him or her to serve God effectively.

e. The Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit

- 1) Notice the seven **SERVICE** gifts of **Romans 12:6-8**. These enable Christians to do something of value for God with their life.
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_ - the gift of **preaching**. It is prophetic because you KNOW the future from the Bible!
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_ - the gift of **servicing**
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_ - the gift of **teaching** God's word
  - d) \_\_\_\_\_ - the gift of **encouragement**
  - e) \_\_\_\_\_ - **giving** above normal, as the Lord gives you extra money because He knows you will give it away!
  - f) \_\_\_\_\_ - the gift of **management**
  - g) \_\_\_\_\_ - the gift of **comfort**

Take a moment and note which one(s) you might have.
- 2) Notice the nine **SIGN** gifts of **1Cor 12:1,8-11**. Most of them have passed away (**1Cor 13:8-10**) because they were special **miracles** to turn Israel's heart back to God (**Mk 16:15-20**)- they are not for all Christians, nor for all time (**1Cor 1:22; 14:22**).
  - a) **Word of** \_\_\_\_\_ - ability to know what people ought to do (wise actions) in tough situations (**1Cor 12:8**).
  - b) **Word of** \_\_\_\_\_ - the ability to know something that is hidden in others (**Mt 9:4**).
  - c) **Faith** - The ability to believe God for others even when they themselves just can't believe (**Mt 17:20**).
  - d) \_\_\_\_\_ - The ability to miraculously cure diseases (**Mt 10:1**), and raise the dead back to life (**Mt 10:8**).
  - e) **Miracles** - a supernatural ability to prove what you are saying is from God (**Mark 16:20**).

- f) \_\_\_\_\_ - the ability to foretell the future in addition to what the Scriptures say.
- g) **Discerning of spirits** - the ability to sense demonic activity in other people (Mt 16:21-23).
- h) **Tongues** - miraculously preaching the Gospel in foreign languages (Act 2:1-12; 1Cor 14:21,22; Isa 28:11).
- i) **Interpretation of tongues** - ability to translate what someone is saying in a foreign language so others can hear what is being spoken (1Cor 14:27,28).

Now, some of these are available to us today in an obviously limited way, but not like in the first Century.

- 3) The Holy Spirit plants **9** different fruits in the believer's life (Gal 5:22,23). They are far more important than any gift of miracles you may wish you had! Discuss what each fruit means and allow each to grow in your life!
- 4) God in Galatians 5:22,23 says that "The fruit of the Spirit is..."
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_ - unconditional love (1Cor 13:1-8) Only God produces this in and through the life of the believer. The ability to love all that God loves
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_ - unending, always present. It is an attitude of the mind that over-rides circumstances and feelings.
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_ - being at rest even in a storm (Mk 4:36-40)
  - d) \_\_\_\_\_ - endurance, ability to put up with trouble
  - e) \_\_\_\_\_ - compassion, even when you want revenge
  - f) \_\_\_\_\_ - ability to do right when hard to do so
  - g) \_\_\_\_\_ - ability to always believe God
  - h) \_\_\_\_\_ - not drawing attention to yourself
  - i) \_\_\_\_\_ - being under control; Holy Spirit-control

#### IV. How To Know God Better

- A. **Know His Son.** You can go to church, be baptized, become head deacon, or even a pastor, and yet, if you do not know Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour, you cannot ever know God - you can only fake it (John 3:3)!
- B. **Know His Word.** Once you are born again, and know God's Son Jesus Christ, you only know His saving power. The next step involves studying His word He left for you to read, love, memorize, and live in (2Tim 2:15)!
- C. **Know His Will for Your Life.** A life without purpose is the most miserable of experiences! When God saved you, He had a plan for your life. Your task now is to find it, and then live it until your dying day (Rom 12:1,2 says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your \_\_\_\_\_ service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye \_\_\_\_\_ by the renewing of your mind, that ye may **prove** what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, \_\_\_\_\_ of God."). There will be more about this in *Lesson Twelve*. But briefly, for you to know God's will for your life involves first, to **live** what you currently know and understand (like, if a person knows that they need to be saved, then they need to do THAT, not something bigger). If you won't obey what God has already shown you, why do you think that He will show you something more? God's will has a way of finding you more often than you finding it. Suffice it to say, God's will is not some big task for you to do, but a daily life that you should be living each and every day!

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# PRAISE AND WORSHIP

*A Study of the Christian's Life and Attitude Toward God*

## Lesson Nine

Memory Verse: *Hebrews 10:25*

Lesson Verse: *Psalms 9:1,2*

*"I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High." Psalm 9:1,2*

### I. Introduction

- A. Most professional sports fans have their favourite player. This is also true in the entertainment world, where fans follow their favourite celebrity. They have posters on their walls, and are loyal fans in every way. Some people even idolize these human celebrities like they would a god. They end up worshipping *humans*. Yet to the Christian, **God** is to have first-place in life. In the heart of the believer, Jesus Christ is our *Idol*, our *Hero*, our *God*, and nothing is to be loved, praised or worshipped above the Lord!
- B. What is *your* attitude towards the Lord Jesus? How is your worship towards Him? This study will examine how to develop and improve your personal worship of our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ (*Rev 5:12,13*)!

### II. The Purpose of Creation - To Honour and Glorify God!

- A. Genesis 1:1 tells us that, "*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*" But for what purpose did God create everything? The answer is found in *Revelation 4:11*. "*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy \_\_\_\_\_ they are and were created.*" Everything was created to glorify the Creator - much like a watch is usually manufactured to adorn the wearer of it. To **glorify** means to praise, or worship. To **honour** means to esteem highly, or to place great value upon something or someone.
- B. *Psalm 19:1* states that "*The \_\_\_\_\_ declare the glory of God...*" All of creation automatically glorifies the Creator - it reflects Him, and praises Him. But why don't humans - they are part of God's creation as well? The answer is found in our \_\_\_\_\_, where sin, self and Satan daily receive our worship instead of God (*Jer 17:9*).
- C. For a part of God's creation to not honour Him as its Creator and God, is the worst form of disrespect and contempt!
- D. How should we glorify Him?
1. In our \_\_\_\_\_ (*Matt 15:8*)
  2. Beyond that, we should honour God in our \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ (*Luke 10:27*)! That is what makes up our **ATTITUDE**
  3. And in our \_\_\_\_\_ (*Ex 34:14; Mt 4:10*)
  4. And finally in our **faithfulness** (*Mt 25:21*). This answer is a little tricky, because we all know how to glorify God occasionally, but rarely are we consistent, and faithful in living for Jesus!
- E. If we are not glorifying the Lord in our life, there are only two other possible *beings* that get the worship - who are they? \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_

### III. The Purpose of Salvation - to enable us to honour and glorify God!

- A. Jesus Christ came to reclaim sinners from sin so they might honour and glorify God once again (*Eph 2:4-6; Eph 1:4-6,12*). When we were unsaved, we served our own

pride and flesh, but now we are to glorify the Lord. **1Peter 2:9** says that we are a "\_\_\_\_\_ generation, a \_\_\_\_\_ priesthood, an \_\_\_\_\_ nation, a \_\_\_\_\_ people; that ye should shew forth the \_\_\_\_\_ of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." If you are saved, then show it!

B. What are we to do in order to give praise and honour to the Lord?

1. First **learn God's word well** (**2 Tim 2:15**) - so that we do it the right way! This pleases God when we listen to HIM, and learn His will.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ **in God's word daily** (having God's word in our thoughts and obeying it brings praise to God; **John 15:7,8**). Don't be a good-time Charlie (only living for Jesus when it is easy or convenient).
3. **Live God's word daily** (**Jam 1:22; Matt 5:16**) – that is what faith is – trusting God enough to obey every word!
4. **Express your thankfulness**, praising God with your lives and your lips, for all His care, wonders and blessings (**Ps 100:4; Col 3:15**)! Our worship is often so empty of praise and thankfulness and we need to repent of it.

#### IV. The Constant Attitude of the Believer Towards God is to be One of Praise!

The **attitude** of your heart and mind is most important, if you expect to bring praise and honour to the Lord. With so much *pessimism* in our world, we must be careful to maintain a daily attitude of praise (not because things are good, but because our God is good). The flesh (our old sinful nature), and Satan are totally opposed to the Christian maintaining this type of attitude.

A. There are three kinds of attitudes that a Christian can have (**Rev 3:15,16**):

1. **Cold Attitude**- *unthankful, angry, hurt, bitter, rejecting.*
2. \_\_\_\_\_ **Attitude**- *uncaring, apathetic, unconcerned, numb!*
3. **Hot Attitude**- *rejoicing, thankful, and serving fervently.*

B. You have to re-train your mind to think on things that honour the Lord. Look at **Phillipians 4:8**. Think on the things that are "*true, \_\_\_\_\_, just, \_\_\_\_\_, lovely, and of good report.*" Concentrate on things that promote virtue, and promote PRAISE. The Christian should focus on these things! The act of godly worship is based upon your choice to have a right attitude! Make this a verse for you to memorize this week!

#### V. How To Develop Your Praise and Worship

A. First, realize that **worship is not just for church time**. Praise is something that should be radiating from the heart of the Christian throughout each day (**Psalm 33:1; 35:28; 71:8; 71:14**). Even when hard, or not "in season."

B. **Learn to be Spirit filled** (**Eph 5:18**). A Christian is "sealed" (preserved) by the Holy Spirit from the moment of salvation, but can be very empty of His power. The following are practical steps to having a Spirit-filled life:

1. Get **saved** (**Jn 3:3-6,12**). You cannot be spiritually minded unless you get the Spirit of God in you (**Jn 4:24; 1 Cor 2:14,15**). There are SO MANY "christians" who never have been born again the Bible way that bang their "head against the wall" so-to-speak every day trying to be "spirit-filled" instead of "Spirit-filled!" It is simply because they are trying to do it without the **Holy Spirit!**
2. Be sure to confess and forsake all sin daily (**1 John 1:9; Prov 28:13**). The Holy Spirit fills only clean "vessels," or bodies (**2 Tim 2:21**).
3. Learn to ignore your *self* and your *wants* daily (**Gal 2:20**), and focus on doing *Christ's* will according to His word. This is probably the hardest step for most



new Christians – we don't know how to "let go" of what we are so used to carrying (grudges, bitterness, sorrow, anger, etc).

4. Present your body to the Lord as a living \_\_\_\_\_, for Him to use in His service (**Rom 12:1**). Pay the price of serving Him! He is worth it!
  5. \_\_\_\_\_ to be filled with the Holy Spirit (**Luke 11:9-13**), so that you can minister to others. You have not, because you \_\_\_\_\_ not (**James 4:2**).
  6. Love **God** (John 14:23)
  7. **Obey** the Holy Spirit when He directs you (**Acts 5:32**). Most Christians are very disrespectful to the guidance that the Spirit gives (**Eph 4:30**)!
  8. Have faith that the Holy Spirit will empower you to do what He has called you to do (**Heb 11:6; Acts 4:29-31; 13:1,2**).
  9. Practice the following:
    - a. Remember that the Holy Spirit is God, and personal (**John 16:13**)!
    - b. Honour Jesus at all times (ask yourself; "*Would Jesus do what I am doing right now?*") See **Prov 3:5,6**).
    - c. Have clean thoughts. Your heart and mind cannot contain both spiritual and wicked thoughts at the same time (**2 Cor 10:4,5**).
    - d. Meditate on God's word (**Psalms 1:1,2; Josh 1:8**).
    - e. Realize that He is with you everywhere you are (**Matt 28:20**).
    - f. Be a witness of the saving and keeping power of Christ (**Acts 1:8**).
- C. **Maintain an attitude of gratitude.** "*In every thing give \_\_\_\_\_ for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you*" (**1 Thes 5:18,19**). The attitude of the Christian can "quench" (turn off) the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus died to conquer not just your sins, but your complaining too! It is THIS one thing that so limits God's work in our lives (**Ps 78:36-42**).
- D. **Enjoy worshipping God.** Your time in prayer and in the Bible can be so full of joy if you try to *enjoy* it, instead of *endure* it (**1 John 1:4**). Enjoy worshipping alone, *and* in the presence of other believers - in singing, testimony times, and prayer times. When the preaching is right, say "AMEN," and "PRAISE GOD," and even an "OH ME" when it steps on your toes! This is what the congregation did in the Old Testament at the reading and preaching of the word of God (**Neh 8:1-6**)!
- E. **Have Family Devotions.** Make worship a family affair! Pray, praise, and give thanks to the Lord together. Sing in the car or at home scripture songs and hymns (**Col 3:16**). Have fun with devotions by quizzing each other and honouring each other's progress through the word of God, and growth!
1. Have family worship time every morning, right after breakfast (make sure to have the whole family eat together – stop letting everyone eat when they want, and on their own!
  2. Have every body get their Bible, and read through a Book of the Bible (like **Psalms**, or **Proverbs**, or **Matthew**). Let each person read a verse, and help them understand what it is saying.
  3. Try to make the Scriptures apply to your family and the things you are going through.
  4. After about 20 to 30 minutes, have someone pray about what you have learned, asking God to help you be like Jesus, and to do right. Pray also for the needs of your family, and for your church, and missionaries.
  5. Get busy serving the Lord now through the rest of the day
  6. You also can switch the time to right after your dinner, or just before bed.
  7. Just make sure you set a time, and then do it EVERY DAY!

- F. **Surround your home life with the right kind of music** (Eph 5:19; Cf Eccl 7:5). Listening to godly music will lift your heart to praise God (Ps 150). Get good, godly music tapes and cd's to listen to throughout the day. Also participate in the church music ministries: singing specials or singing in the choir - *all to praise the Lord!*
1. Be very careful about what music comes into your heart (Jer 10:2).
  2. It is a sin to collect all the world's music – you need to throw away all your worldly music, and buy as much Godly Christian music as possible, and fill your home and mind with praises to God!
  3. The world's music emphasizes the rhythm and beat of the music. Godly music has no drums, and emphasizes Scripture and Bible truths, and the words are what a person hears instead of mainly the music.
- G. **Fellowship with the right friends!** Maintaining good friends in the church will provoke you to praise and worship God more. God says in 1Cor 15:33 that “*evil \_\_\_\_\_ corrupt good manners.*”
1. When we hang around with “bad influences,” it usually affects us for the bad.
  2. Be careful who you spend all your time with so that filthy language, and wicked thoughts don't overtake all the work of the Holy Spirit in your life. If we don't protect our walk with God, it just crumbles, because, God will just simply back away from your life if you so desire - He cannot totally leave you, but it will seem like it (Ps 35:22; 38:21).

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# THE LORD'S SUPPER

*A Study of Our Lord's Memorial to His Death on the Cross*

## Lesson Ten

Memory Verse: *Hebrews 10:25*

Lesson Verse: *1 Corinthians 11:26*

*"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do **shew** the Lord's death till he come." 1 Corinthians 11:26*

### I. Introduction

- A. One of the memorials that Christ has instructed Christians to regularly practice is that of the *Lord's Supper* (1 Cor 11:2; referred to as an 'ordinance' or commandment). This Supper pictures many spiritual truths that apply to our lives now that we are saved - most importantly being the *remembrance* of Christ's death for us, and the price of our sin on His cross.
- B. The Lord's Supper focuses our lives back on the basis of our salvation - the substitutionary death of our Saviour in our place.
- C. The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint the Christian with what the Bible teaches about the Lord's Supper, its importance, and the attitude with which it should be experienced, and conducted.

### II. The Importance of the Lord's Supper

- A. 1 Cor 11:26 says that when a Christian eats the Lord's supper, "...ye do shew the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ till he come." Its primary importance is to bring remembrance the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. Luke 22:19 says, "...this do in \_\_\_\_\_ of me." It is intended to bring our attention back to what Jesus did for us on the cross.
- B. We are told in 1 Cor 11:24 that Christ's body was \_\_\_\_\_ for us. Not only are we to remember His death, but also His suffering. The breaking of bread in the supper **pictures** the breaking of His body! It does NOT *continue* the same sacrifice for there is NO further sacrifice needed (read Heb 10:5-14; and John 19:30)!
- C. The blood, which is able to cleanse us from our sin and save our souls, is **pictured** (not *recreated*) in the cup from which we drink during the memorial (Rom 3:24,25). That blood was shed for us for the remission of (the taking away of) our sins (Heb 9:22).

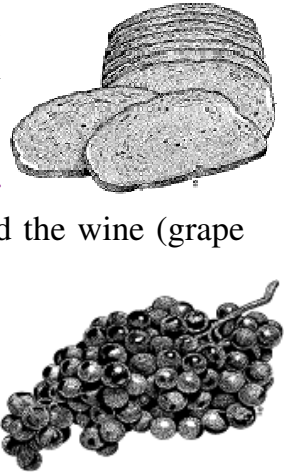
### III. The Elements of the Lord's Supper as Listed in John 6:53-63

Some religions teach that the body and the blood of Christ are really consumed when eating the Lord's Supper, but that teaching is definitely not Scriptural.

- A. When Jesus spoke of eating His flesh and drinking His blood in John 6:53-63, He was very careful to explain that He was NOT speaking literally. John 6:63 tells us that the words that Christ was speaking "are \_\_\_\_\_." They were not to physically eat *Him*, but rather to partake of Him *spiritually*, to partake of His finished work on the cross. No one ate His body literally then, and no one is to now! Or Christ is teaching cannibalism!
- B. The Jews were commanded **never** to eat \_\_\_\_\_ (Lev 17:11,12), for the blood is the life of the flesh. That is why the Jews were confused (John 6:52, 60). They were trying to apply what Christ said literally and physically (like Nicodemus did about the new birth in John 3:3-7), which was contrary to Scripture.
- C. Jesus in John 6 is stating that a *better* "manna" than the kind the Israelites ate in the wilderness had come (Jn 6:30-34). The Jews had asked for literal *bread* to give them eternal life (6:34), just as the Samaritan woman had asked for literal \_\_\_\_\_ in John

4:15. But Jesus said HE was living bread, and living water (Jn 4:14; 6:35; 7:37-39). Jesus knew however, that they would not believe His *words* (Jn 6:35,36) so He purposely turned them away with a parable since all they wanted was food for their belly, not for their soul (Jn 6:41-44,66).

- D. This was not the only time that Jesus used "figures," or examples to explain His work on earth. He also referred to Himself also as "*the* \_\_\_\_\_" (John 10:7,9), and yet he was not a *literal* \_\_\_\_\_ with hinges, but the WAY through which to get to heaven (John 14:6).
- E. So, at the cross, there lays a GIFT (Rom 6:23), and that is all. There is no *flesh* and *blood* waiting there to be ingested (eaten). It is *eternal life* itself, which simply has to be *received* (John 1:12,13) by faith (Eph 2:8,9)!
- F. The Lord's Supper is the fulfillment of the *Passover Supper* since Jesus was the Lamb of God that took away the sins of the world through His death on the cross (John 1:36; Luke 22:7-20).
- G. The two elements are: *unleavened bread* and *unleavened wine*. They are unleavened because leaven is a picture of \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor 5:8), and Christ has no \_\_\_\_\_. The bread pictures His body, and the wine (grape juice, or new wine) pictures His blood. Grape juice is used because normal fermented wine is *leavened* and corrupted, while new wine (grape juice) has not fermented but only has the flavour of the grapes (as in *pure blood*, see Deut 32:12-14).



#### IV. Who Can Participate?

The passage of Scripture that teaches all about the Lord's supper is 1 Corinthians 11:20-26. It describes how the Lord's Supper should be conducted. The people Paul was writing to were *believers*. Lost people are not included at the Lord's table because they have never experienced the free gift of salvation that the Lord's table is *picturing*. The death and sufferings of Christ would have no real significance to them. Not only is it restricted to true Christians, but to "clean" or "worthy" Christians who have confessed sins and things that are displeasing to God, since it was our sins that crucified Jesus (1 Cor 11:27-34)!

#### V. How is the Lord's Supper to be Performed?

There are no explicit instructions on how to perform the Lord's supper other than presented in 1 Cor 11:20-34. No fancy rituals, or mystical sayings are involved. There is no transformation of the bread and wine! It is only a remembrance. Simply, unleavened bread and unleavened wine (grape juice) are to be eaten and drank in the worship time of your local church (Acts 2:42; 20:6,7) for the purpose of **remembering** Christ's substitutionary death *in your place* so that you could be completely saved from the punishment of your sin!!!

#### Key Truths about the Lord's Supper

- ❖ It is a memorial not a sacrifice.
- ❖ It is a somber, reflective time.
- ❖ It uses unfermented grape juice, and unleavened bread to represent the blood and body of Jesus.
- ❖ It is to be practiced only by Christians who are living in obedience to God's word

#### VI. As a Christian, How Should I Approach the Lord's Supper?

- A. **With fear and trembling.** Paul does rebuke the Corinthians for taking this event lightly in 1 Cor 11:17-22. They had turned it into some kind of a feast for satisfying one's hunger rather than making it a time of remembering the Lord's death. This is a very sacred time, and should be approached with a sacred attitude.
- B. **With desire.** Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ to eat the Passover with His disciples in Luke 22:15. Although the Lord's table should be approached with reverence, a believer

should look forward to the Lord's supper as a way of bringing his attention back to what Christ had done for him.

- C. **With a clean heart.** The Bible in **1 Cor 11:28,31** tells us to \_\_\_\_\_ and judge ourselves when we partake of the Lord's supper. This self examination is to make sure that our relationship with God is right. God chastises those that partake who do not forsake their sin (**Prov 28:13**). The Lord's supper is a *reminder* that our \_\_\_\_\_ was the reason for Christ giving His life for our salvation from sin, and God wants us to be clean spiritually when we partake of the Lord's supper.
- D. **With good understanding.** There are **two** "tables" listed in **1 Cor 10:20,21**. One is a SACRIFICE to \_\_\_\_\_, and the other is a "communion" (**10:16**) or "fellowship" with Christians only *remembering* Christ's death. So many people participate in a mockery of the Lord's Table, and are actually worshipping devils. No Christian has any business doing that.

**VII. Comparing the Lord's Supper with the Eucharist**

<b>The Lord's Supper</b>	<b>The Roman Catholic Eucharist</b>
Is a <i>memorial</i> of Christ's death	Is a <b>re-sacrifice</b> (Christ is killed again)
Uses simple unleavened bread	Uses a fancy 'graven' ( <b>IHS</b> ) wafer
Uses simple unleavened grape juice	Uses intoxicating, alcoholic wine
Presented by Bible believing pastors	Presented by Bible rejecting priests
Is a reminder of what saved us	Is part of the process of salvation
Called <b>communion</b> , and <b>Lord's Supper</b>	Called <b>the Mass</b>
A simple reminder	A fancy ritual and ceremony

<i>Date Lesson Completed</i> _____	<i>Discipler</i> _____
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## Section TWO Test

### *Fellowship With Other Believers*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Each mark = 2 points) SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

Congratulations on completing Section TWO of the First Principles Bible Study Course! This test will help you evaluate how much you learned in your study time. Please take your time, and think about each question so that you remember what the Bible taught!

1. According to the Bible, in **1 Corinthians 6:19,20**, a Christian's \_\_\_\_\_ is the temple of God.
2. The New Testament church can be best described as \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Write out word-perfect **Hebrews 10:25** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. The final authority of the church is? \_\_\_\_\_
5. According to the Bible, what is a Bishop? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What is a **deacon** in a church? \_\_\_\_\_
7. A church meeting is mainly for: **worship, preaching, or prayer?** (circle one)
8. Not only does Christ have His church, but so does whom? \_\_\_\_\_
9. List a way that a person can identify false religion \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Bible study is incomplete if a person is only a hearer of the word and not a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. When memorizing Scripture, make sure that you memorize not only the words of the verse, but also the \_\_\_\_\_
12. *Theology* is the study of \_\_\_\_\_
13. List one of the three ways that God has revealed Himself to humanity: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. List the location of a verse that teaches that God is a tri-part being (a trinity)  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. The name JESUS means \_\_\_\_\_
16. The name EMMANUEL means \_\_\_\_\_
17. Jesus was born without a human \_\_\_\_\_
18. Throughout Jesus' entire life, He never \_\_\_\_\_ at all!
19. According to **2 Cor 5:21**, God made Jesus Christ to be \_\_\_\_\_ for us.
20. Not only did Jesus die, and get buried, but also \_\_\_\_\_
21. **1 John 5:7** says that there are three that bear record (stand together in testimony) in heaven, the Father, the Word, and \_\_\_\_\_
22. There are nine fruits of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. Name three:  
1) \_\_\_\_\_, 2) \_\_\_\_\_, 3) \_\_\_\_\_
23. The primary purpose of a person's salvation is to \_\_\_\_\_ God
24. There are three kinds of attitudes that a Christian can have toward the Lord: Hot, \_\_\_\_\_, and Cold.
25. Instead of being filled with **wine**, the Christian is to be filled with \_\_\_\_\_
26. In order for the Christian to best serve the Lord, they are told in **Romans 12:1** to present themselves a living \_\_\_\_\_