

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

Every day, read this new Scripture out-loud, at least once, and in a few days, you will have memorized it and be able to recall it without looking at it. And 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 (on Sundays and other days), 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 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 really like!
- **Praise and Worship** - How to honour and bless God!
- **The Lord's Supper** - How should 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, confuse, and turn so many people away from living the Gospel!

II. The New Testament Kind of Church

A. What It Is, and What It Is Not

1. According to *Hebrews 10:25* a church is referred to as the "_____ of ourselves together".
 - a. It is the gathering of Christians together as often as possible to encourage, and minister to each other as we grow, and reach the surrounding area with the Gospel.
 - b. It assembles those Christians together into one unit, one body, as a team of believers, who live as Jesus lived and taught us to. It's like a writing pen has many parts that, when assembled, works just fine.
2. The church is something that _____ Himself started , builds, and develops as a visible testimony to the world of His grace upon repentant sinners (*Matt 16:18*).
3. This "group" of believers is called the "*body of _____*" in *1Cor 12:27*. That means two things:
 - a. It represents His "body" (His physical presence) on earth today (like ambassadors, *2Cor 5:20*), and it operates **like a human body** in the following ways (*1Cor 12:12,13,17-27*):
 - 1) Each member (part) of the body of believers has a different function - each ministering to each other's needs as a whole.
 - 2) 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.
 - 3) Each member's contribution is vitaly important to the well-being of the entire body of believers - we can't go it alone!
 - 4) A properly functioning body operates as a single unit – a team.
 - b. 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*).



4. A church is more than just a group or a 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. A New Testament church therefore is *not* a building at all. If you are looking for a temple to worship in, the Bible says "*your _____ is the temple of ... God*" (1Cor 6:19,20). Think about that! Your place of worship is in your heart!
6. 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!*

7. In short, a church is a group of people who **faithfully assemble together** (that means every week) because they are saved, baptized, and purposed in their hearts to "*observe _____ things*" Christ commanded them to do in the Bible (Mt 28:19,20).

- 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) or else they are only spectators – not members.

III. The Purpose of the Local Church

- A. The three-fold purpose of the church is found in Mt 28:19,20 where all Christians are to be active in:
 1. **GOING** - 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 in going to people everywhere, telling them how to flee from the wrath to come!
 2. _____ - The world needs to be **instructed** about Jesus through Bible preaching, discipleship, and clear, Biblical teaching (Acts 20:25-27).
 3. _____ - People need to turn away from their *birth-religion*, and begin following Jesus Christ according to the Bible only, and that starts when a person is **baptized** (Mt 28:19), publically testifying that you follow Jesus now!

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 every-thing - we can't pick and choose.
- ❖ Christ's church is family-oriented - not self oriented.
- ❖ We love to give of our-selves 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!*

- B. These are the **core** reasons for the existence of any church. If there is a fault in churches, it is because they have priorities that are more important than these!

IV. What a Church Does

- A. **Believes the Bible.** They will believe the Bible - *not criticise it* (2Tim 3:15-17; Act 24:14; Lk 24:25)
- B. **Feeds the flock.** The church is to be a place for _____ and teaching the doctrine (truth) about Jesus Christ, and the Christian life (1Cor 1:17; 2:1-5)!
- C. **Cherishes 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. **Discipleship** - They will be involved in discipling new Christians, preparing them to serve God, and not be babies or selfish anymore (2Tim 2:1-3)!

- E. **Live Separated from the wicked cultures of the world around it** - They will be *different* from the world (1John 2:15; Tit 2:11-14; 2Cor 6:14-17). Not only just in beliefs, but in LIVES (clean and separated).
- F. **Corporate Prayer.** 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!
- G. **Spiritual Warfare** - They use _____ weapons (not fists or guns) to fight temptation, sin and the devil (2Cor 10:3-5)!
- H. **Baptize new believes by Immersion** - They *immerse* - not sprinkle - when they baptize new believers (Acts 8:36-38).
- I. **Provide Christian Fellowship** - They ALL meet together every Lord's day, and as often as possible throughout the week (Acts 5:42; Heb 10:25)!
1. The church is to provide Christians with _____ with other believers (Acts 2:42) – you can't find this at the local pub or disco!
 2. 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!
 3. It encourages, and enables Christians to love and enjoy God (Acts 2:46,47).
 4. It edifies (builds up, strengthens) the saints (which is *all of us*, Eph 4:11-16).
- J. **Ordinances.** The church meeting is a time to remember the three main " _____ " (1Cor 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; 1Cor 11:23-26) is meant to remind us of the high price Jesus 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 15:12,17). 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!
- K. **Evangelism.** A Biblical Church will be involved in _____ to the lost (Acts 1:8). 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!
- L. **Reproducing Itself.** All the above focus a Biblical Church on 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.
- M. **How can you tell if the church to which you belong (or wish to join) is a true New Testament type of church?** It will match the pattern found in the New Testament as listed above!

V. 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 (2Tim 2:2; 1Pet 3:15).
- B. These three stages can be roughly compared to the stages of your growth physically: as a child, then youth, and then mature adult.
- C. Be patient! Growth takes time. If you work hard as a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, you will watch yourself grow!

VI. The Organisation of the New Testament, Local Church. All believers are to be _____ (John 8:31) – that means, be students and followers of Jesus Christ, 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 never 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. There have been five positions of authority in churches throughout history, all under the Word of God (Eph 4:11) (and none of them included Popes, priests, or canons):
1. **Apostles:** Each were “*someone specially chosen and sent out by Jesus.*” Only 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 the New Testament. 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:** They were a special class of people used by God to speak His word until the completion of the Bible (1Cor 13:8-10). Note that the Apostles were also prophets, but most prophets were not apostles, like _____ (Acts 11:27,28; 21:10).
 - a. Remember, 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 1Cor 13:8-10).
- C. Well, if Apostles and Prophets are no longer around, what other leaders are there? (see again Eph 4:11).
1. **Evangelists:** These are Church-starters (like the Apostle Paul was), who *evangelize* the lost to a surrendered faith in Jesus Christ, and then assemble those believers into a local church fellowship (a flock), who are dedicated as a group to obeying and living by all the commands of the Lord Jesus under their own pastor (Mt 28:19,20). As each church obtains its own permanent pastor, the evangelist moves on and starts more churches somewhere else (2Cor 10:16).
 2. **Pastors:** These are Shepherds, the Bishops, the Overseers of the “flock” of Christians that seek to serve Christ. They have the primary job of feeding the flock with the truths of the Bible, leading the flock of Christians to serve God, and protecting that flock from spiritual dangers. They are “coaches”, training Christians to shine as lights in this dark world!

3. **Teachers:** These people labour together teaching the word along-side pastors. No pastor can do all the work to keep a church going, so God gives additional people a heart to minister *WITH* the pastor, so that the Gospel can go further!
4. Of the five leadership groups listed above, only *the last three* are in operation today (Eph 2:19-22). The first two groups (Apostles and Prophets), by their examples laid the foundation of every church (until the Bible was finished), with Christ being the cornerstone of everything. The remaining three groups (Evangelists, Pastors and teachers) simply build upon that **finished** foundation (1Corinthians 3:10,11).

D. The Work and Authority of the PASTOR.

1. The primary leadership in a church is provided by its _____ (Eph 4:11; 1Tim 3:1-5; see also Titus 1:5-9). He is the BISHOP.
 - a. A bishop is a *shepherd* over a “flock” (1Pet 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.
 - b. By the way: a Biblical bishop is *different from modern bishops*.
2. Every church is designed to be led by a pastor. If a church has no pastor, then its main goal should be to pray, and get one, and then follow him as he follows Christ.
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’s will 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 (1Tim 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!

- E. **The Work of Teachers.** These 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 Bible need to know the Bible themselves! They need first to be disciplined, so that they can later 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. **The Office of Deacons.** This is not a leadership role, but it is an official role. Deacons are paid servants/helpers in a church (1Tim 3:8).
1. Even though there are several “official” positions of leadership, God refers to all Christians as _____ (Mt 20:25-28; 25:21), committed *as a team of servants* to obey our Lord’s command to serve each other, and reach this world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!
 2. Some servants are official servants, known as **Deacons**. A deacon is a Bible word for *a God-called servant*, who gives their life to take care of the needs of folks like widows, children, and the poor, so that the pastor can continue to labour in the study and teaching of the word of God (Acts 6:1-4).
 3. Ordained Deacons are paid by the church to be able to serve full time like their pastor does (Acts 6:5,6)! They serve along-side the pastor, taking some of the ministry work load off him, so that he can minister without being crushed by it.
 4. A deacon must see his role as very important, and be committed to serving - not being served, even though being paid!
- G. Notice what is NOT in a church: priests, gurus, canons, altar boys, Monsignors, prelates, primates, clergy, popes, cardinals, nuns, etc! Every religion has to “add” to God’s clearly defined standard – but these additions are only destructive.

VII. What is a Baptist Church?

- A. Baptists are a group of believers that base every belief and every aspect of Christianity solely on the Bible – to the exclusion of all traditions and cultural norms.
- B. Bible believers have always assembled themselves together to:
1. Preach and teach all the Bible
 2. To live the Bible’s commands without fear of man or king,
 3. And to encourage each other.
- C. The groups who believed only the Bible, were labelled “Baptists” and “**ana-baptists**” (which means *re-baptizers*) by the Catholic Church during the great persecutions of the Dark Ages because we require people who had been baptized as babies to get re-baptized once they repent and are truly born again the Bible way. Baptists are not Catholic, nor Protestant – just Bible-believing followers of the Lord Jesus! 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.
- D. Please realise that the freedoms we take for granted today, were totally against the law just a few hundred years ago – like the right to own a Bible; the right of free assembly; innocent until proven guilty; and the right of disagreement with the government.

- E. Simply put, a Baptist Church is a local group of people who firmly believe and practice the following things as presented in the Bible alone:
- B** – Biblical Authority Only (2Tim 3:16,17). 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 – this means a local church is fully able to make its own decisions, and govern itself (Acts 5:29). There is no hierarchy over a Bible believing church.
 - P** – Priesthood of believers (Gal 3:26; Mt 23:8). 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 (John 12:48; Gal 5:13). A Christian answers only to God concerning his or her faith! We have the freedom to believe what we want to believe. No human has power over your faith. But all people will answer to God according to whether they lived by the Bible, or by their own will.
 - S** – Saved and Secure Membership (Acts 2:47). Only born again believers are able to be members of a church, and all believers are eternally secure in Christ.
 - T** – Three Church Offices: Evangelist (Church Starter), Pastor, and Deacon.
 - S** – Separation of Church and State (Mt 22:21). Baptists believe 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!

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 faithful obedience to His word.
- B. According to Malachi 3:8-10, the Lord is very serious about the Christian making sure money does not become a “god” in his or her life (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 to Him!
- 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!
- D. 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.
- E. So, why give regularly to my local church (1Cor 16:1,2)?
 1. To obey God (Prov 3:9,10) - do it first out of *obedience*!
 2. So that your church can be self-sufficient (not dependent upon the government, bazaars, or bake sales, but upon the very people who assemble together there).
 3. So that God’s man (the pastor) can be paid for full-time ministry serving people and the Lord, and reaching the lost, instead of having to work both a job, and do the ministry (1Tim 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. So, 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. **Fulfil 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 is supposed to be a member of a local Bible believing Baptist church, and committed with that church to getting the Gospel out to everyone in their area. Ask the Lord where you should commit YOURSELF, and your family, and then join it!
- C. **Request membership.** Don't expect to be a part just by attending your church. You have to **ask to be a member**.
- D. **Be accepted.** *The local New Testament church is exclusionary* (that means, it does NOT have to accept everyone as members – see Acts 9:22-29). You will only be accepted if you have a clear testimony of your salvation, been Scripturally baptized, and are in agreement with the doctrines of the church you wish to join yourself to. Ask the pastor for the doctrinal statement of the church for you and your family to review.
- E. **Once you have been accepted, 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 an accepted 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? **Yes, or No?**

X. Finding a Place to Serve the Lord in Your Local Church (Acts 13:1,2).

- A. When the Lord places you in a Bible believing Baptist church, dedicate your life, efforts, and talents in service to God so that souls get saved, and Christians are matured.
- B. Look around you and see where the pastor, or someone needs help. Take a look at the following list and circle SOMETHING that you might could to do at church:
 1. Helping Teach a children's or teen Sunday School Class.
 2. Going out soul-winning regularly with other believers.
 3. Helping the pastor with secretarial tasks like sending out birthday cards.
 4. Correspond with missionaries to encourage them and pray for them.
 5. Start up a Bible study at your workplace during lunch. You could even use this *First Principles Discipleship Course* as the study materials!
 6. Singing special music, or even joining the choir.
 7. Playing a musical instrument.
 8. Having Bible Clubs in your home and back-garden.
 9. Going with the pastor on visitation calls to people's homes.
 10. Visiting people who are sick and in the hospital.
 11. Helping in a puppet ministry.
 12. Picking up people who need a ride to church.
 13. Making tea and coffee for people who come early to church.
 14. Ministering to older folks by mowing their grass, or repairing their homes.
 15. 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!
- C. And the list goes on... Just add your own ideas, and get started – right away!

XI. Discerning and Using Your Spiritual Gifts

- A. Every believer has been given the GIFT of the Person of the Holy Spirit in their lives (Heb 2:4). HE is the source of all good and abilities in your life now!

- B. The Holy Spirit has given every believer at least one gift/ability that enables them to “_____” the church (1Cor 14:12) – that means *to encourage and build up*.
- C. Spiritual Gifts are a divine enablement that was lacking in a person's life prior to salvation, but are given to be used to serve God by your life through your church. These gifts enable you to do what you could NOT do before getting saved.
- D. Talents are what you seem to already be good at, or enjoy doing:
1. Some people play the piano – that is a talent
 2. Some people can sing – that is a talent
 3. But a spiritual gift is something you could NOT do until you got saved
- E. Spiritual Gifts are not earned. They are not dependent upon superior intelligence, physical power, spiritual maturity, moral character, or the fullness of the Holy Spirit.
- F. These are gifts of God's _____ (1Peter 4:10). Received without any merit.
- G. At the time of Christ, 12 men, called Apostles had very special gifts (Mt 10:1-3):
1. Power over demonic spirits
 2. Ability to heal every disease and sickness! No limits!
 3. They could speak in multitudes of foreign languages (tongues).
 4. They could even RAISE the DEAD! Like it was just as easy to turn on a light bulb!
- H. But, these specific gifts have all passed away (1Cor 13:8-10), and are in hibernation until the time of the Tribulation and the Millennium (*more about this in Lesson 20*).
- I. The gifts that ARE available to believers today are found in Romans 12:6-8...
1. **Prophecy** – (1Cor 14:3) the ability to speak up for God / preach, when you used to be terrified of speaking in front of anybody!
 2. **Ministry / Helps** – that's serving, and making sure everyone is taken care of ahead of yourself, when before, you used to only think about yourself. It picks up the weaker brethren, the defeated, the discouraged, the empty (Gal 6:1).
 3. _____ – (2Cor 3:12) the God-given ability to explain the truths of the Bible and spiritual things, when you used to not be able to explain anything spiritually!
 4. **Exhorting** – being an encourager / a motivator – where you used to be so critical and discouraging to others (Heb 3:13; 10:25).
 5. **Giving** – (Mt 14:15-17) Sharing what you have with others. It is the drive to give things and money away without fear or regard of your lack, out of a deep sense of appreciation towards God!
 6. He that **ruleth** (Rom 12:8) – this is the gift of people management, helping manage people and events and Gospel outreaches, like a helmsman steers a ship according to the commands of the captain/governor (James 3:4).
 7. He that **sheweth** _____ (Mt 9:12,13) – is the person who goes out of their way to meet the needs of the weak and infirm, and sick and poor – never condemning them, but showing mercy on them.
- J. Some suggestions on how you discover your gifts:
1. Clear away any habitual sin in your life and get victory over anything that is blocking the work of the Spirit of God in your life (Heb 12:1; Eph 4:14-32).
 2. Look for just ONE gift – ask God to show you what main gift He has given you.
 3. Concentrate on meeting the needs of others ahead of your needs (Eph 4:12,13). Only as we begin to sacrificially serve others will we be able to sense and confirm the gifts we have been given, and we will start to supernaturally meet the needs of the church body as a whole.
- K. Be careful not to misuse your gifts, or fake a gift in you (Pr 25:14).

XII. Why Are There So Many Churches?

- A. The Bible warns that not only does God have *His* church (Matt 16:18), but so does _____ (2Cor 11:13-15).
- B. Satan's churches are called "**religion**" and they are *not* Christianity. Satan's "*church*" is full of:
1. False _____ (Matt 7:15)
 2. False believers (Matt 7:21)
 3. Traditions (Col 2:8)
 4. And false doctrines – heresies (Jude 3,4)
- C. So, 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).
- D. There are lots of different churches today – they all claim to be “churches” but are they?
1. Baptist Churches – strictly living by the Bible only
 2. Roman Catholic Churches – allegiance to Rome and tradition and not just Bible
 3. Presbyterian Churches – protestant, and baby sprinklers
 4. Methodist Churches – believe a Christian can lose their salvation
 5. Lutheran Churches – protestants that follow the teachings of Martin Luther
 6. Church of England, Church of Ireland – just barely different than Catholic
 7. Pentecostal Churches – emphasis mainly on miracles and experiences
 8. Non-denominational Churches – no strong doctrinal stand at all
- E. Then there are other religious groups – which are clearly **cults**:
1. Mormons – all of them are working at becoming gods (Gen 3:4,5)
 2. Jehovah's Witnesses – working their way to God without the new birth (Jn 3:3)
 3. Seventh day Adventists – keeping the Sabbath (Rom 10:4)
 4. Churches of Christ – believe salvation requires baptism and good works (Eph 2:8,9)
- F. Never mind the fact that there are lots of different **religions** all over the world
1. **Buddhism** – China – belief in the eight-fold path to nothingness
 2. **Islam** – Middle East – believe in Allah and his prophet Mohammed
 3. **Hinduism** – India - believe in about 2 million gods
 4. **Shintoism** – Japanese – believe in dead ancestors
 5. **Judaism** – Israel – believe in God of the Bible, but not Messiah
 6. **Evolutionism** – fools – the belief in almighty dirt!
 7. **Atheism** – fools – believe only in almighty SELF!
- G. But in spite of all the above confusion, there are only two kinds of religions:
1. Either salvation is already and completely DONE by Christ...
 2. Or it is that we must DO, DO, DO good works, and then DO some more.
- H. There are so many churches today simply because people believe that there can be so many different approaches to God and the Bible, which just 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. That's why, religions are constantly changing, while in Biblical Christianity, believers are always **anchored** to the unchanging words of God!

I. 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!
Church and State	313	The Roman Emperor Constantine gives in, and organises a central state-church in Rome with him at the head. This becomes known as the ROMAN CATHOLIC Church. <u>He becomes the first POPE!</u> Before that time, all "churches" were local, independent, and <i>illegal</i> . After this time, <u>only</u> the “baptistic” churches were illegal.
	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!”
The Dark Ages	850	<u>Holy water</u> is introduced as having special powers of healing and cleansing.
	1054	The GREEK ORTHODOX 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 Reformation	1525	Martin Luther broke away from the Roman Catholic Church - started the Lutherans . Martin was a good monk, but wanted to get the Bible into the hands of the common people – he found he had to leave the “church” in order to live by the Bible.
	1534	Henry VIII took the English church away from Rome and started the Church of England .
	1541	The Presbyterian 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 Methodist church broke away from the Church of England - by John Wesley. They for the most part went back to Biblical Christianity.
Apostasy	1827	The Mormons (Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints) began "their church" (with their own "Bible").
	1854	The <u>Immaculate Conception of Mary</u> (not of Jesus) was declared as doctrine.
	1896	The Jehovah's “Christian” Witnesses 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)	

- J. Every year there are new “cults” and flavours of “faith” for people to choose from.
- K. But 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 (2Cor 6:14-18).
- L. Whenever the predominant religious system (Jewish, catholic, protestant, etc) caught a Bible believer, they side-lined, vilified, hunted and tortured them, and even burned them at the stake for their beliefs all because they would not obey the church and baptize their infants, and would not confess to priests, etc. (Acts 8:3; 9:1; 24:14).
- M. So, How can a Bible believer identify *false* churches and *false* religions?
1. The first thing to look for is whether a church or religious organisation has another authority besides just the Bible.
 - a. Either their authority will **take the place of** the Bible (i.e., Book of Mormon, Koran), or **along-side with** the Bible (like Catholic traditions, having equal inspiration), or they will **produce their own bibles!**
 - b. In the Catholic church, their authority is found in about 135 volumes of church traditions and writings, along-side the Bible.
 - c. In other churches, their authority is based on visions, or secret revelations by their leaders. Anytime someone claims to have a vision, a dream or special revelations from God that cannot be verified (like Mohammed’s visions, Fatima, Joseph Smith, etc.) THEY are attempting to be equal with the Bible, or over-ride it. And THAT is a cult!
 - d. 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!
 2. Another thing to look for is whether they require blind obedience to any human leader – like a pope, or some charismatic leader, or a miracle worker.
 3. Find out if they have a history of killing or suppressing those who do not agree with them (i.e., like Islam does, and like Catholicism did in the Dark Ages).
 4. Do they emphasize obscure passages in their Bible instead of clear ones? (Like, Matt 24:13 and Acts 2:38 instead of Rom 10:13 and Eph 2:8,9).
 5. One last thing to check, is see if they emphasize *secret* societies and groups that are not open and transparent. If secret things are going on, then they are not like Christ (Mt 26:55; Philp 2:15).

XIII. Questions

- A. According to Hebrews 10:25 a church is referred to as the “_____ of ourselves together”.
- B. A church is like the human what? _____
- C. Who started and designed the concept of a Church? _____
- D. What are the three ordinances/commandments for the church to keep?
1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
- E. What are the three leadership roles in a church?
1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
- F. What spiritual gift do you think you might have from God? _____

Date Lesson Completed _____	Discipler _____
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BIBLE MEMORIZATION

A Study of the Importance and Methods of Scripture Memorization

Lesson Seven

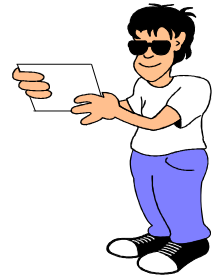
Memory Verse: *Hebrews 10:25*

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 and meditate on every word of God!
- 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 our heart can be fixed** (*Ezekiel 36:26,27; 2Corinthians 5:17*)
- B. Even after getting born again, our biggest battle will always be in our "_____" - see *2Corinthians 10:5*. Why would the battle be in there?
 1. Because Satan used to own that area of our lives – our thoughts.
 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 you think all too often?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
- D. How does the devil take control of our thoughts (referred to as demonic attacks)?
 1. **We usually just LET him have control** without us even thinking about what we are thinking about (*Luke 22:31*)!
 2. **He uses troubles to scare us!** The devil uses problems to scare you and get you to believe his lies, instead of resting in God's care and wisdom (*1Peter 4:12*).
 3. **He uses re-occurring circumstances** – bad things that seem to constantly happen in our lives usually take our attention off of God, so that the devil takes charge !
 4. **He uses verbal suggestions** from people (including the TV, radio, music) – all of them usually speak half-truths and even lies that we often believe without question!
 5. **He uses spiritual influencing** – Satan especially puts 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 careful about what we end up thinking about!
- E. Everyone battles with many of the following wrong thoughts: suicide, lust, hatred of other people, envy, worry (fretting), depression, hatred of themselves, covetousness, constant fears, and even apathy. Do you think about any of those things a lot? _____

- F. So, how do we fight against and defeat such demonic attacks? *Only through...*
1. **Regular Scripture Reading** – it helps wash and cleanse our habitual thoughts that often defile us and defeat us (Eph 5:26).
 2. **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.
 3. **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.
 4. **Scripture Activation** – acting in obedience to what God says to think and do, instead of what we think and want to do (James 1:22).
- G. The truth is, we can never change how we *feel*, but we can change *the way we think*. That's why the Bible constantly refers more to our *mind* instead of our emotions.
1. Computer programmers refer to something called G.I.G.O. which stands for *Garbage In Garbage Out*. What we have put into our thinking affects what comes out of our lives by our words, and especially our actions.
 2. The opposite is true as well. G.I.G.O. could become, *Good In Good Out*. The key is to find what is truly Good and wholesome and clean, and think on that!

III. Here is The Way to CHANGE Your Mind – change what you think about...

- A. **Through Repentance** – You have to start with this! Repentance is a regular effort of submitting your life and feelings to the Lordship of Jesus Christ over you. Allow God to show you where you are wrong, and allow Him to change. You won't be changed until you WANT Him to change you.
1. By _____ **your heart**, facing and accepting your own guilt and shame towards God (2Cor 13:5). Sorrow is good when it brings us to God for forgiveness!
 2. By _____ **with all your heart** in Jesus Christ - allowing His blood, shed in your place, be the power that constantly cleanses away all your guilt and shame.
 - a. Have you simply trusted Jesus to save your soul? (Romans 10:9,10) **Yes, No?**
 - b. Well, keep trusting His blood to cleanse and protect your soul (Heb 9:14)!
 3. By _____ **your heart** with a Person - 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)
 5. Many people only “receive” the gift of salvation without ever wanting to enjoy the fullness of God's grace and forgiveness for the rest of their lives! The only way that happens is if we start memorizing and meditating on Bible truths!

B. God Changes Our Thinking Through Scripture Memorization

1. God calls memorizing Scripture “_____” *Scripture away in our heart* (Psalm 119:11). That means storing away the words of Scripture in your mind and heart in an organised way so that you can call it to mind whenever you need it.
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 just **5** times and then put it away.
 - b. Do this at least once a day 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 new 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**)
- C. 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 by it! (**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**) – best reason!
 2. God commands us to, "_____ on these things..." (**Philippians 4:8**):
 - a. _____ - think about more than just "facts" – true things are real and not imagined, or felt, or supposed, or guessed at, but absolute and unchanging!
 - b. _____ - think on things that are in the open, not on things that are evil or hidden or dark.
 - 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 describe just one Person you should think about all the time – who is that? _____ (**Isaiah 26:3**).
 3. Meditating on the things as listed above will be the first way God helps you replace wrong and sinful thoughts with the following RIGHT kind of thoughts:
 - a. Pondering God's goodness – You will need to learn to limit your mind to just dwelling on the goodness of God for a while at first – "*rejoice in the Lord*" is a command (**Philp 4:4**). Make a list of things that you can be thankful to God for, and then praise your way through it!

- b. Scripture meditation will help you connect God's promises, words and warnings with your everyday life.
 - c. Through simple Scriptures, God will speak to you and direct your thoughts in a new and better way!
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).

D. God Changes Our Thinking 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. Finally, 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're commanded to *not* think "_____"; hurtful, revengeful thoughts in 1Cor 13:5
4. So, will you start obeying what God says to think about, and rejecting the thoughts that He says NOT to think? **Yes, No.** 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 (1Cor 10:13; John 14:1; Isa 40:31; Philp 1:6; 1Thes 5:24).
3. Memorize verses dealing with current issues facing your co-workers and neighbours (like evolution, eternal life, that the unborn child is human and true life).

B. **A Verse a Day, actually 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 _____

Date Lesson Completed _____ *Discipler* _____

KNOWING GOD

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

Lesson Eight

Memory Verse: *Hebrews 10:25*

Lesson Verse: *1Peter 1:8*

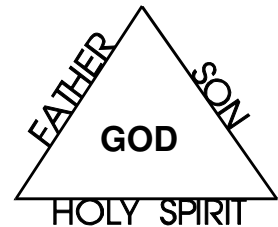
"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory." 1Peter 1:8

I. Introduction

- A. THEOLOGY! What an awesome subject: *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 heaven, 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 Can We Know God?

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



- B. We Find that God Has revealed Himself first **In His Creation**.

1. *Psalms 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.
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. You find proof for the existence of a Creator in:
 - a. DNA – biology – the fact that DNA has design and order and information;
 - b. All the laws of the universe – physics – they are amazingly balanced;
 - c. There needs to be an ultimate Creator for everything to come into existence – nothing "just happens" without something starting it or creating it.
 - d. If you found a watch on a beach, you would easily know that someone MADE it and that it did not just appear out of random chances coming together. The same is true with all of life and the universe itself – someone had to make it!
4. None of the above proofs for a Creator are enough for anyone to know WHO the Creator is, but just enough to know that He does exist. *Romans 1:20* concludes that people know enough about God and are "*without _____*" because if they don't believe, they are simply rejecting the information God gave them to begin with, and will always come up with their own gods to worship in the place of the Creator!
5. The fact that the whole world attempts to worship a Creator, proves they know there is something bigger than the world that deserves worship. They just don't know who He is or how to find Him. But that is why God reveals Himself in more ways.

- C. Secondly, God has revealed Himself **In His Words**.

1. Everything we can for sure know about God is written in the Bible.

2. We will never know everything there is to know about God, but what we can know, we will find in the Bible (**Deuteronomy 29:29**).
3. The purpose of the Bible is to enable seekers to know God, love God, and enjoy God forever! Without the Bible, it is a blind exercise!
4. The gospel, the life and preaching of Jesus Christ, and the revelation of the mysteries of God are made understood by the “_____ of the prophets” (**Rom 16:25,26**), which have been “*made known to _____ nations!*”
5. If you want to know God, you will find Him in the pages of the Bible! Not in universities, laboratories, or test tubes.

D. Thirdly, God Revealed Himself **In His Son** (**Heb 1:1-2; John 14:7-9; Matt 11:27**)

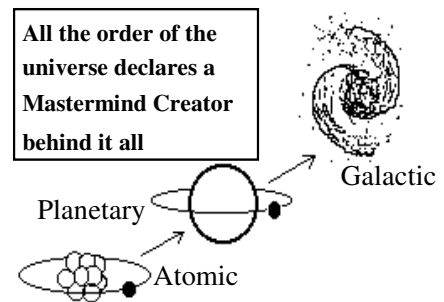
1. The greatest revelation about God was found in Jesus Christ. A person can study science all their life and never know who created everything. A person can know all about the Bible, and yet never know its Author. So, God had revealed Himself best when He came into this world and spoke for Himself (**1Tim 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 _____.*”
3. If God had not revealed Himself, man would not be able to ever know Him at all. 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 _____ (YOU) the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*”

E. Do you WANT to know Him? The God who created you, and made everything there is, made it possible for you to know Him (**Jer 9:23,24**) if you really want to (**Jer 29:13**)!

III. What Can Be Known About God?

A. We Can Know for sure that God Exists

1. **Psalm 19:1-3** tells us 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!
 - a. A book requires an author to have written it.
 - b. A program requires a programmer
 - c. A poem requires a poet
 - d. A design requires a designer
 - e. An invention requires an _____
 - f. When we see a painting, do we believe that the artwork created itself, or, is it self-evident that an ARTIST created it?
 - g. So, All of Creation requires a Creator!
 - h. Any other belief is Insanity. It is *insane* to believe that everything came about by mere *chance* out of nothing!
2. Only a _____ believes that there is *no God* (**Ps 14:1**).



B. We Know that God has a Personality and Emotions

1. God *grieves* at things (feels remorse, **Gen 6:5,6**) – especially at our sin.
2. God gets _____ (**1Kings 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 _____ (Psalm 99:9; 1Peter 1:15,16).
- C. We Know that **God is perfect, and cannot sin, or fail, or stop being good!** (Mt 5:48)
That is what makes Him God.
- D. **We Know that God Created Everything**
1. **Genesis 1:1** describes God creating...
 - a. Time (“in the beginning”)
 - b. Space (“heaven”)
 - c. Matter (“earth”)
 2. He created everything visible (all matter) AND _____ (everything spiritual; Col 1:16).
 3. The ONLY thing that has always existed, and always will exist, is God (Ps 90:2).
- E. **We Know God is Greater than all 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.*"
 - b. **John 1:3** says, "*All things were _____ by him and without him was not anything made that was made.*"
 - c. **Ephesians 3:9** declares that, "*God ... created all things by _____.*" Not by evolution, or a “big-bang”!
 - d. **Colossians 1:17** "*And he is before all things, and by him all things _____*" (are held together)! Jesus is even the *glue* of the universe.
 2. God is *Eternal*, "*from everlasting*," and "*to everlasting*" (Ps 90:2)
 3. He is three things all at the same time:
 - a. All powerful (*omnipotent*, Matt 28:18)
 - b. All knowing (*omniscient*, Mt 9:3,4)
 - c. All present (*omnipresent*, Ps 139:7-10)
 4. He exists OUTSIDE of all that He has created – that means He is bigger and greater than everything He has made! So, the next time you look out at a starry sky, knowing how big our universe is, know that the God we worship is bigger still!
- F. **We Know 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 _____ (2Pet 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).
- G. We know **there is only one God** (1Kings 8:60; Isaiah 45:6)
1. Many religions believe there are different *gods* that control various aspects of life, like a sun-god, a god of death, a god of lightning and thunder, and a god of harvest.

2. Each god has to be appeased and made deals with in order for things to go well.
3. But the truth is, there is only one, almighty, all wise God, that has already done everything so that anyone can be forgiven and made right in His eyes (2Cor 5:21).

H. God is a *Three Part Being* - Three Persons, Yet One God; not three different gods!

1. This is the concept of the God-head (Tri-unity, or Trinity).
 - a. Notice how God said in **Genesis 1:26**, "Let _____ make man in _____ image, after _____ likeness." (Same in **Isa 6:8**). The 'us' is the trinity.
 - b. Notice the Trinity in Jesus' baptism (**Matt 3:13-17**).
 - c. Notice the Trinity in the Great Commission of **Matt 28:19**.
 - d. The Trinity is listed in Paul's prayer in **2Cor 13:14**.
 - e. Jesus, the Father and the Holy Ghost are _____ (**1John 5:7**).
 - f. 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), three parts of man (**1Thes 5:23**), and so on.
 - g. The concept of the Trinity is not made-up. It just is *beyond* our understanding!
- I. The Godhead (the Trinity) then is made up of **the _____**, **the _____** (the Son), and **the Holy Ghost** (the Holy Spirit) – see **1John 5:7**.

IV. Let's First Examine God as The Father

A. **God is a spirit!** God exists without any physical form or body. **John 1:18** says, "_____ man" has ever seen the Father with their mortal eyes, because God is a _____ (**John 4:24**). He only exists as pure light (**1John 1:5**).

B. God Has a Name.

1. God the Father's true name is **Jehovah** (**Ex 6:1-3**) which means "the Lord, the promise keeper."
 - a. Every time you see the word "LORD" as all capital letters in the King James Bible, it is the word **JEHOVAH** in Hebrew!
 - b. It is a very holy name (**Lev 19:12**) – NEVER to be used flippantly or in vain!
 - c. But at the same time, don't let the Jehovah Witnesses scare you away from that name. It truly IS God's name!
2. Another name God goes by is the "I _____" (**Ex 3:13-15**). Jesus called Himself by this same name (**John 8:56-59**)! That's because Jehovah and Jesus are the same.
3. One final name you can use for God is "_____" which means 'Daddy' – a very humble, intimate and loving name that we can refer to God as (**Ro 8:15; Mk 14:36**)

C. God IS the Father.

1. God is referred to as **God the Father** because:
 - a. He is the Father (the Begetter or Creator) of all things.
 - b. Secondly, He is the Father of the Son of God, Jesus Christ (**Psalms 2:7**).
 - c. Thirdly because He is the personal Begetter of your salvation - you become His child by your 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* now!
2. God the Father is the authority of the Trinity. He is in charge of this universe whether we like it or not. That makes Him sovereign.
3. We are supposed to submit to the will and commandments of God the Father.

- a. Jesus submitted to the will of the _____ in Gethsemane (Mt 26:39).
 - b. The Holy Spirit obeys the will of the Father (John 15:26).
 - c. Certainly WE should submit!
4. Jesus said we are to pray to God the Father (Matt 6:9).
 5. The title of "Father" is reserved only for three persons:
 - a. God – Holy Father (John 17:11) – not a name for the Pope!
 - b. Your earthly father (your parent, see Mt 19:5)
 - c. And the "founding fathers" of your nation
 - d. It is NOT for anyone else who may want you to call them 'father.' We are told to call NO ONE ELSE "your _____" (Mt 23:8,9)!
- D. The most amazing truth about **God the Father...** that the great Architect of all creation, the actual Creator of "you," **wants YOU to personally get to know HIM!** The greatest purpose in anyone's life is to get to know God, start to love God, and always enjoy God in your life as you serve Him in "_____ and in _____" (John 4:23).

V. Let's Next Examine God The Son, Jesus Christ

A. Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1-3; 1John 5:7).

1. In the beginning the "_____" always was (existed).
2. He was and is God. "*the Word was with God, and the Word was _____*" (Jn 1:1)
3. Even though He was God, He became _____ and dwelt amongst men (John 1:14)

B. Jesus IS God – The "Deity" (the *God-ness*) of Jesus Christ

1. The Bible calls Jesus GOD!
 - a. Heb 1:8 has God the Father talking to His Son, and says, "*But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne O _____*..."
 - b. 1Tim 3:16 says, "*_____ was manifest in the flesh...*" To be manifested means to be shown as real – God REALLY became flesh. Most of the new bibles only say "He" inferring that only JESUS became flesh. We ALL believe THAT fact. But will we believe that GOD became flesh? That is the issue!
2. In Jesus was ALL of God (Col 2:9). The word Godhead means *trinity*.
3. As a Man, Jesus was separate but equal with God (Philp 2:5-7). Jesus took nothing away from God, by being God as well! Ponder that!
4. Notice His name in Matt 1:23, "*...Emmanuel, which being interpreted is _____*" (See Isaiah 44:6,8)!
5. So, *Jesus* is the manifestation of *Jehovah* God of the Old Testament (Ex 6:3).
 - a. They both are called *Lord of Lord's* in Deut 10:17 and Rev 19:16.
 - b. They both are called *Alpha and Omega* (the first and the last) in Isa 44:6; 48:12, and Rev 1:17; 22:13.
 - c. They both can't be Gods (compare Isa 44:8 with John 20:28; 14:6-9) – they must be the same God!
 - d. Psalm 68:17-18 says GOD, while Eph 4:7-10 says Jesus.
 - e. Compare Ex 3:13,14 with Jn 8:56-59, and see Ps 90:1,2.

C. Jesus is THE most prophesied person in the entire Bible (Luke 24:47).

1. The Defeater of Satan (Genesis 3:15)
2. The promised Prophet like Moses (Deut 18:15)
3. The coming King of Israel (Isaiah 9:6,7)

4. The Suffering Servant of God (*Isa 53:6*)
5. The Substitute for sinners (*Num 21:8*)
6. The Rock of the Wilderness (*Exod 17:6; 1Cor 10:4*)
7. The Bread of Life – Manna from heaven (*John 6:58*)

D. THE Most Wondrous Thing of all time happened... When God Became a Man – when the Word of God became the Son of God

1. We call it Christmas!
2. God the Father did not birth another God. God the Word became a Man (*Jn 1:14*).
3. When He became a MAN, He became Jesus, **the Son**. God lived as a Son.
4. So, He is NOT just the Son of God, but God Himself, in the flesh. *Jesus* was really *Jehovah God* who had come in sinless flesh.
5. Jesus said, *to see and know Him* is actually to see and know the “_____” (*John 14:6-9*). Jesus was not just a man, or even “another God” (see *Isaiah 43:11; 44:6*). He was God the Father, in the flesh!
6. This is a great mystery, but is understood by the fact that Jesus was really God contained in flesh like you and me live (*1Tim 3:16*).

E. Jesus is Eternal.

1. Even though He was born, and had an earthly beginning, He has always existed. He was God before coming to earth.
2. *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*).
3. Jesus shared the glory of God His Father "...before the world _____." (*John 17:5*). He was not created – He is the *Creator!*
4. 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.*”
5. 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*.

F. Jesus is the Son of Man – Fully Human, AND Fully God

1. The supernatural Birth of Jesus was foretold **700 years** before (*Isaiah 7:14*)!
 - a. *Matt 1:18-20* tells us, "for that which is conceived in her is of the _____". Jesus was NOT conceived by **Joseph!**
 - b. 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. Jesus' Life on Earth was truly supernatural, and **sinless**.
 - a. *Luke 2:40* "And the child grew and waxed _____ in _____, filled with _____: and the grace of God was upon Him."
 - b. Jesus was "_____ of the devil." (*Luke 4:1,2*), and yet never sinned, because "...in him is no _____." (*1 John 3:5*)
 - c. *1Peter 2:22* says that Jesus "... did no _____..."
 - d. *2 Corinthians 5:21* tells you that He even "... **knew** no _____."
 - e. So, with all of Jesus' sinlessness, He could have just STAYED separate from us, but instead, He came into our world, and went all the way on the cross to bring us back to God (*Isaiah 53:4-6,10*).

3. Jesus grew up in a normal family. Jesus had _____ and _____ (Mt 12:46-50; 13:55,56; Mk 6:3). Mary has more children after Jesus. They were actually half-brothers and sisters – not cousins.

G. Jesus IS the Promised Messiah – the Saviour of the whole world!

1. His title "Christ" is the same as "_____" (John 1:40,41), which means, the "chosen One".
2. It was prophesied that the messiah would:
 - a. Heal the Jewish people (Malachi 4:2).
 - b. He would save them from their enemies (Zechariah 9:8-10).
 - c. He would restore the kingdom of David (Isaiah 9:7).
3. But BEFORE He could do any of that, He had to suffer in the place of all mankind!

H. Jesus is the Saviour of the Whole World purchasing forgiveness for all!

1. His very name 'Je-sus' means, "*Jehovah Saves*" (Mt 1:21).
2. Jesus completely paid all man's sin-debt Himself, taking the place of all sinful men in death, providing full forgiveness for anyone who will believe (Acts 13:38,39).
 - a. Rom 5:8 "*But God commendeth his love toward us in that while we were yet _____ Christ _____ for us.*"
 - b. 2Cor 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.*"

I. Jesus has the victory over death and hell giving us eternal life (Romans 6:23)!

1. All other religious founders are still in the grave: Islam (Mohammed), Buddhism (Buddha), Mormon (Joseph Smith), Jehovah Witness (their *Jesus* is still dead), etc.
2. After Jesus rose from the grave, He was seen by over _____ witnesses (see 1Cor 15:3-8).
3. Acts 2:32 says, "*This _____ hath God _____, whereof we are all witnesses.*" Jesus did NOT stay in the grave!
4. Jesus is now living and is seated at God's right hand (Heb 10:12), as our ONLY _____ (1Tim 2:5). He's our advocate/defence attorney!
5. HIS life enables us to live and prosper in this life (Col 2:9,10; 1Cor 1:30,31)! Without Him, you will have no life (John 15:1-7)

J. Jesus IS Lord – that means He is in charge of your and my life (Philp 2:11).

1. He is Greater than the _____ – over all the Laws of God (Mark 2:28)
2. He is Greater than the Temple (Matt 12:6).
3. He is Lord of the weather (Mark 4:39-41).
4. He is Lord over all demons and even Satan (Luke 8:26-31).
5. He is greater than sin's grip over you (Matt 9:6).
6. He is able to conquer health problems and death (John 11:43-45).
7. He is King over all kings, and Lord of lords! He is actually the Boss over all bosses, Ruler over all rulers and the king over all kingdoms!
8. Why don't we do what He says? (Luke 6:46)

K. Jesus is COMING again!

1. He is coming to take us home to heaven (John 14:1-3).

2. He is coming soon (Mark 13:32,33) – when you are not expecting it!
3. He is coming _____ (Rev 22:12).
4. We should be looking for Him every day to come for us (Titus 2:13).
5. More about this in Lesson 20, when we study the Future!

VI. God The Holy Spirit, (the Holy Ghost)

A. The Holy Spirit is a Person.

1. He is the Third Person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit comes from the Father, and is referred to as a Person – not just a Power. 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."
2. 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 (1Cor 6:19), and empowers him for God's service.

B. The Holy Spirit IS God, just as are the Father, and the Word are.

1. The Holy Spirit was with God in the beginning. Gen 1:2 states, "...And the _____ of _____ moved upon the face of the waters."
2. 1 John 5:7 "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the _____, and these three are _____."

C. The Holy Spirit is All Powerful.

1. He provided the power that Jesus relied upon to live as a perfect Man (Luke 4:14).
2. It was the power of the Holy Spirit that _____ Jesus from the dead (Rom 8:11; see also Acts 2:32).

D. The Holy Spirit does some very important work in people's lives:

1. He *convicts* people – convinces them of their guilt before God (John 16:7,8).
2. He *regenerates us* – gives us a new LIFE. 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."
3. He *indwells* the believer the moment he believes, therefore the believer's body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit. 1Cor 6:19 "What? know ye not that your _____ is the _____ of the Holy Ghost **which is in you...**?"
4. He *fills* the yielding believer. Eph 5:18 "Be not drunk with _____ wherein is excess; but be _____ with the Spirit."
5. He *seals* the believer. Eph 4:30 says, "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God whereby ye are _____ unto the day of redemption." That means **once saved, always saved.**
6. 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)!
7. He *empowers* believers to live beyond their human abilities (2Tim 1:7)!
8. He *bestows gifts* of ability to the Christian that enable him or her to serve God effectively.
9. 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).

E. The Holy Spirit gives Priceless GIFTS to believers:

1. There WERE nine **SIGN** gifts given to first century Christians as listed in 1Cor 12:1,8-11.

- 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 telling-forth what the Scriptures already 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).
 - j. Some of these are available to us today (faith, and discernment) in an obviously limited way, but not like in the first Century. They all 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 were not for all Christians, nor for all time (1Cor 1:22; 14:22).
2. There are seven **SERVICE** gifts of Romans 12:6-8 given today that enable Christians to serve God by their life. *These was explained back in Lesson 6.*
- a. _____ - the gift of **preaching**. It is prophetic because you KNOW the future from the Bible!
 - b. _____ - the gift of **servicing**, as "a minister"
 - 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**
 - h. Take a moment and note which one(s) you might have.
- F. The Holy Spirit produces Priceless FRUITS in the lives of believers too!
1. 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! Take time to discuss what each fruit means!
 2. 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 overrides 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
3. Here are some ways to get all the above fruits to grow in your life:
- a. Weed out any sins that can choke the fruit that God is trying to grow in you!
 - b. Specifically FEED the fruits, and not your flesh – with humility, and the Bible!
 - c. Allow God to prune you as He sees fit – taking away people and things that are draining the life that He is trying to put IN you!
 - d. Allow the fruits to be picked by, and spent on others. That’s why God produces fruit in you – for others to use up! God will always replace them!

VII. Do You Want To Know God Better?

A. Get to Know His Son.

- 1. Trust Him to save you! 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**)!
- 2. Spend time with Him reading through the Bible and casting all your care upon Him.

B. Get to 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. Seek to Know His Will for Your Life (**Romans 12:1,2**).

Seeking to know God’s will for your life (who to marry, what career path to follow, how you should use your spiritual gifts to serve the Lord, etc) will help you draw very close to Him. There is an entire lesson (**Lesson 12**) that will help you discern God’s will for your life.

<i>Date Lesson Completed</i> _____ <i>Discipler</i> _____

PERSONAL 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. To the Christian, **God** has first-place. He is worthy of all our worship, all the time.
- B. Yet most people believe worship is something only to be done in a church building, or only when everyone else is worshipping God.
- C. Worship is how we personally honour God! It is not praying or sitting in church. It is actively giving God your best efforts, your sharpest thoughts, your deepest love, and your richest gifts. Worship is showing our love for God.
- D. This study will examine how to develop and improve your personal worship of our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ (**Rev 5:12,13**), like we will in heaven!

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 WHY did God create everything? What is the biggest purpose of creation?
 1. 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.*"
 2. Everything that exists was created to glorify the Creator - much like a watch is usually manufactured to adorn the wearer of it.
 3. To **glorify** means to make beautiful, to praise, worship, or bring all good attention on someone you have lifted higher than yourself.
 4. To **honour** means to esteem highly, to greatly respect, or to place great value upon something or someone.
- B. **Psalm 19:1** states that "*The _____ declare the **glory** of God...*" Did you know that all of creation automatically glorifies the Creator - it reflects Him, and praises Him by its order and beauty. But why don't humans? We are part of God's creation as well! The answer is found in our _____, where sin, self and Satan usually receive our worship instead of God (**Jer 17:9**).
- C. God _____ us to worship Him (**John 4:23,24**).
- D. For any part of God's creation to not honour Him as its Creator, and Lord and God, is the worst form of disrespect and contempt!

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

- A. Sin in us does NOT honour God! So, Jesus Christ came to deliver sinners from sin so that they might honour and glorify God once again (**Eph 2:4-6; Eph 1:4-6,12**).
- B. When we were unsaved, we served our own pride and fleshly desires. But now we glorify the Lord. **1Peter 2:9** says 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."
- C. If you are saved, then show it!

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

- A. The **attitude** of your heart and mind is most important, if you expect to bring praise and honour to the Lord by your life. 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.
- B. There are three kinds of attitudes that a Christian can have towards God (**Rev 3:15,16**):
1. **Cold Attitude** - *unthankful, angry, hurt, bitter, rejecting.*
 2. _____ **Attitude** - *uncaring, apathetic, unconcerned, numb!*
 3. **Hot Attitude** - *rejoicing, thankful, passionate, and serving fervently.*
- C. You have to re-train your mind to think on things that honour the Lord. Look at **Philippians 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 Personal Praise and Worship of God

- 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 times are hard, or not "in season." It should be something you do as naturally as breathing.
- B. **Worship God spiritually** – with your spirit (**John 4:24**). The words you say are not nearly as important as the heart behind the words. To worship spiritually means:
1. Humble yourself – offer to God nothing but praise.
 2. Be honest and real to God.
 3. Don't worry about your surroundings – they do not make or break worship.
 4. Worship whether anyone else is.
 5. Bow your head and close your eyes – worship is a time to focus on God, and nothing else.
- C. **Worship God the way HE wants you to – the Bible way** (**2Tim 2:15**) – there is a right way! Most people worship any way they feel like. THAT is not acceptable with God (**Psalm 19:14**)!
1. "_____" **in God's word daily** – that means KEEP God's word in your thoughts and obey it throughout each day (**John 15:7,8**).
 2. **Meditate on God's word** (**Psalm 1:1,2; Josh 1:8**).
 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. When our thoughts are filled with God's words, our heart will naturally worship!
- D. **Learn to be Spirit filled** (**Eph 5:18**). A Christian is "sealed" (preserved) by the Holy Spirit from the moment of salvation, but can often be very empty of His power. The following are practical steps to having a Spirit-filled life:
1. Remember that the Holy Spirit is God, and is a Person that seeks a prominent place in your life (**John 16:13**)!
 2. **Get saved** (**John 3:3-6,12**). You cannot be spiritually-minded unless you get the Spirit of God in you (**John 4:24; 1Cor 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 "spiritual" instead of "Spirit-filled!" It is simply because they are trying to do it without the *Holy Spirit in them!*
 3. Be sure to **confess and forsake all sin daily** (**1John 1:9; Prov 28:13**).

- a. The Holy Spirit fills only clean “vessels,” or bodies (2Tim 2:21).
 - b. So, have clean, wholesome thoughts. Your heart and mind cannot contain both spiritual and wicked thoughts at the same time (2Cor 10:4,5).
4. Learn to **ignore your self and your wants daily** (Gal 2:20), and focus on doing *Christ’s* will according to His word (Mt 26:42). 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, lusts, etc).
 5. In prayer, **present your body (your hands, your mind, your plans, etc) to the Lord** as a living _____, for Him to use (Rom 12:1). Be ready to pay the price of serving Him! He is worth it!
 6. “_____” 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).
 7. **Love God** (John 14:23). Sounds so simple, but it is the foundation for worship.
 8. **Obey the Holy Spirit** when He directs you (Acts 5:32). Most Christians are unaware of His guidance, and then very disrespectful when He gives it (Eph 4:30)!
 9. Believe 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).
- E. Maintain an attitude of gratitude.** Just become thankful for absolutely everything!
1. "*In every thing give _____ for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you*" (1Thes 5:18,19). A bad attitude of a Christian can “quench” (turn off) the work of the Holy Spirit.
 2. 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).
 3. **So, constantly express your thankfulness**, verbally praising God with your lips, for all His care, His wonders and blessings (Ps 100:4; Col 3:15)! Our worship is often so empty because we *neglect* to praise and thank God.
- F. Enjoy personally worshipping God.**
1. Your time in prayer and in the Bible can be so full of joy if you try to *enjoy* it, instead of *endure* it (1John 1:4).
 2. Enjoy worshipping alone, **and** in the presence of other believers - in singing, testimony times, and prayer times. When the preaching is good, say "AMEN," and "PRAISE GOD," even when it steps on your toes!
 3. This is what the congregation did in the Old Testament at the reading and preaching of the word of God (Neh 8:1-6)!
 4. And this is what we will be doing for all eternity in heaven (Rev 19:1,4-6).
- G. Worship God together as a Church** (Heb 10:25; Psalm 95:6).
1. Our personal worship should blend with other believers in congregational worship.
 2. Public worship is never a time to be ashamed, or to show off. It is a time of focusing **ONLY** on the Lord Jesus Christ, and worshipping Him!
 3. God means for all believers in an area to gather together and worship God together so that they can live for God as a unified, assembled body in this world.
 4. Our worship should be decent and orderly (1Cor 14:33,40).
 5. So, make sure you and your family are faithful members of a Bible believing Baptist church, attending all services, and even serving in various ministries so that any number of believers can worship the God of heaven and earth without distraction.
- H. Have Family Devotions.** Make worship a family affair!

1. Devotions are when you set aside time every day to worship (show your devotion to) God. The idea is to pray, praise, and give thanks to the Lord TOGETHER as a family by singing spiritual songs in the car or at home (Col 3:16), quizzing each other and honouring each other's spiritual growth in the word of God.
2. The best time to have family worship time is 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)! You only need to set aside 15-30 minutes.
3. Have everybody get their Bible, and then read out-loud 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. Try to make the Scriptures apply to your family and the things you are going through.
4. Hold your family close during this time of worship.
5. After about 15 minutes, have someone bow their heads and pray about what you all have learned, asking God to help you all be like Jesus, and to do right throughout the day. Pray also for the needs of your family, and your church, and missionaries.
6. You can switch the time to right after your dinner, or just before bed. Whatever will work best for you and your schedule. Just make sure you set a time, and then do it EVERY DAY!

I. Surround your home life with the right kind of music (Eph 5:19; Cf Eccl 7:5).

1. Be very careful about what kind of music comes into your heart (Jer 10:2).
2. Listening to godly music will lift your heart to praise God (Ps 150). Worldly, carnal, lustful music (Rock Music, etc), will quench the Spirit, and will hinder and block your ability to worship the God of heaven!
 - a. So, purchase a lot of good, godly music to listen to throughout the day.
 - b. How do you tell the difference between good music and worldly music?
 - 1) The world's music emphasizes the rhythm and beat of the music.
 - 2) Godly music has no drums, and emphasizes the words of Scripture and Bible truths. In other words, you will mainly hear the words sung instead of the music performed.
 - c. If you want to fill your home and mind with praise, you need to throw away all your worldly music, and buy as much Godly Christian music as possible!

J. 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. So, be careful who you spend all your time with so that their filthy language, and wicked thoughts don't overtake all the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.
3. 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 He has when you push Him away (Psalm 35:22; 38:21).

K. Just remember, you were saved to praise the Lord (Psalm 9:1; 33:1; 34:1)!

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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 Last Supper* with His disciples.
- B. This event is supposed to be regularly remembered by Christians as a Church, and is called an 'ordinance' or commandment (**1Cor 11:2**) – it is mandatory for Christians to honour and remember our Lord's death on the cross.
- 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.
- D. Before we go any further, read through two portions of Scripture: **Matthew 26:26-29**; and **1Corinthians 11:23-33**.

II. The Importance of the Lord's Supper

- A. The Lord's Supper powerfully focuses our lives back on what it cost for people to be forgiven - the substitutionary death of our Saviour in our place.
- B. **1Cor 11:26** says that when a Christian eats the Lord's supper, "...ye do shew the Lord's _____ till he come." So, its primary importance is to **remind** us of 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.
- C. This *Remembrance Supper* has many spiritual reminders that are supposed to affect our lives now that we are saved:
 1. That Jesus Christ's death was for us,
 2. That the price of our sin was Christ's suffering on a cross,
 3. That Jesus submitted to the crucifixion because there was no other way to satisfy the justice demanded for the sins of the whole world,
 4. That we should not now live the way we used to because sin has not only been paid for, but defeated on the cross!

III. The Elements of the Lord's Supper

- A. It all started with the **Passover Meal** (**Exodus 12:1-8**)
 1. God defeated the mighty Egyptian Pharaoh not with an army, but by His people simply trusting in the death of innocent lambs in their place!
 2. If a household did not kill a lamb and put the blood of that lamb on the outside doorpost of their house, God's judgment would fall on that house and their firstborn would die!
 3. But if a household believed God's warning, and put the blood of their little lamb on the doorposts of their house, God's judgment would PASS-OVER them.
 4. That night, all of Egypt experienced judgment and death, while God's people, who had just put their faith and trust in a lamb, walked out free from slavery!
 5. But that was not the end of the story!
 6. The Passover lamb of **Exodus chapter 12** pointed people's attention to a **future** Lamb who would take away the "_____ " (**John 1:29**).

B. The Lord's *Remembrance Supper* is the fulfilment of the *Passover Supper*.

1. The Passover Supper had the following foods in it (Matt 26:20,21; Ex 12:18-20):
 - a. Roasted lamb meat
 - b. Bitter herbs – like horseradish
 - c. A dish of sour vinegar sauce
 - d. Unleavened loaf of bread. Plain, flat bread – like a tortilla – not white and fluffy
 - e. Unleavened grape juice to drink. Plain, fresh tasting, **unleavened wine** – it was only grape juice, not alcoholic
2. The Passover supper focused everyone's attention on the lamb that gave its life so that God's judgment would "pass over" them.
3. Jesus came to be the _____ of God to take away the sins of the whole world through His death on the cross (John 1:29; Luke 22:7-20).

C. Why was everything unleavened?

1. In the Passover meal there was to be no _____ (yeast) used at all (Ex 34:25).
2. Why? Because LEAVEN is a picture in the Bible of _____ (1Cor 5:6-8), and Christ has no SIN in Him (1John 3:5).

D. At Jesus' last supper with His disciples, he took these **TWO** foods, and taught them to remember His death with them.

1. **The unleavened loaf of bread pictures His body.** We are told in 1Cor 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 Hebrews 10:5-14; and John 19:30)!



2. **The unleavened cup of wine pictures Christ's blood.** The wine (grape juice, or new wine) pictures His _____ (1Cor 11:25), which cleanses us from our sin and saves our souls. His blood is **pictured** (not *recreated*) in the cup from which we drink during the memorial (Rom 3:24,25). It was shed for us for the remission of (the taking away of) our sins (Heb 9:22). So, fresh grape juice is used because normal fermented wine is *leavened* and alcoholic, while new wine (grape juice) has not fermented but only has the flavour of the grapes.



E. 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.

1. Jesus taught an almost entire chapter on His body and blood being sacrificed for the sins of the whole world (John 6:27-35, 41,42, 47-63).
 - a. The Jews had asked Jesus for literal *bread* to give them eternal life (6:34).
 - b. So Jesus explained in John 6 that the manna God gave to the Israelites in the wilderness did NOT give anyone eternal life (John 6:49), but that now God has given the world a *better* "manna" (6:30-34,50) – the better manna was Himself.
 - c. Just as the Israelites accepted the manna in the wilderness as a gift from God, and gathered it and ate it to live physically, people now need to accept the Bread of Life to live eternally!
 - d. Jesus said His words are life giving and need to be believed (John 6:47).
 - e. Jesus knew however, that they would not believe His *words* (John 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 (John 6:41-44,66).

2. 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.
 - a. **John 6:63** tells us that the words that Christ was speaking “*are* _____.”
 - b. People were not to physically eat *Him*, but rather partake of Him *spiritually*, which means accept His finished work on the cross like you would a free meal.
 - c. The Jews were commanded **never** to eat _____ (**Lev 17:11,12**), for the life of the flesh is in blood. Only pagans ate blood in the worship of their false gods.
 - d. So, what Jesus said confused all the Jews (**John 6:52, 60**) who were trying to understand what Jesus said literally and physically (eating His body) which was contrary to Scripture. Or Christ is teaching cannibalism!
 - e. This was not the only time that Jesus used “figures,” or examples, or word pictures to explain His work on earth:
 - 1) Jesus compared Himself to LIVING BREAD, and yet His physical flesh profits no one in any way (**John 6:63**).
 - 2) LIVING _____ (**John 4:14,15; 6:35; 7:37-39**).
 - 3) He also referred to Himself also as “*the* _____” (**John 10:7,9**), and yet he was not a *literal* door with hinges, but the WAY through which anyone can get to heaven (**John 14:6**).
 - 4) When Jesus told Nicodemus to be “*born* _____”, he thought Jesus was telling him to go back into his mother’s womb and be born all over again *physically*! Yet Jesus was talking about another birth – a spiritual birth!
 - 5) So, many things that Jesus spoke about were not physical, but spiritual.
- F. So, at the cross, there lays a GIFT (**Rom 6:23**), and that is all. There is no *flesh* and *blood* waiting to be eaten. But there is **eternal life**, which simply has to be *received* into your HEART (**John 1:12,13**) by faith (**Eph 2:8,9**) as if accepting a piece of bread!

IV. Who Can Participate in this Remembrance Ceremony?

- A. The people Paul was writing **1 Corinthians 11:20-26** to were *believers*.
- B. 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.
- C. 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 (**1Cor 11:27-34**)!
- D. That is why there is a time of deep reflection on our way of life, and any sinful habits that we may be holding on to, that will stop us from honouring Jesus’ death!
- E. It would be a mockery if someone tries and remembers an event that has no meaning to them - like remembering the day you got married, when you never got married!
- F. Only for Christians who are worthy - serious about Jesus being Lord in their life
 1. Unworthiness - All of us are unworthy of God’s love. But there are Christians who are “unfit” as servants of the Lord. Living for the world, and not for Christ
 2. When you treat Christ flippantly, or without fear, you are acting just like those who CRUCIFIED Him!
 3. God wants every Christian to participate - but not when they are not serious about their Christian life
 4. Are you living a lie? Calling yourself a Christian, but not honest? not saved yet? Don’t eat until you settle your own relationship to God!

- 5. Are you living in sin as a Christian? Rejecting what you know God has said, and holding on to something that you know is against God? Don't eat unless you are willing to turn away from it!
 - 6. Are you serious about the Lord? Or, is He just a convenient Genie that you turn to for impossible situations? Become His servant!
- G. But every Christian ought to use this time as an opportunity to get their life cleaned up right then and there, and then start fresh for this week - walking with the only God and Saviour Jesus Christ

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

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

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 **1Cor 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 in **Luke 22:15** _____ to eat the Passover with His disciples. 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 **1Cor 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 **1Cor 10:20,21**. One is a SACRIFICE to _____, and the other is a "communion" (**10:16**) or "fellowship" with Christians who regularly *remember* Christ's death. So many people in their 'churches' 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

The Lord's Supper	The Roman Catholic Eucharist
Is a <i>memorial</i> of Christ's death	Is a re-sacrifice (Christ is killed again)
Uses simple unleavened bread	Uses a fancy 'graven' (IHS) 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 communion , and Lord's Supper	Called the Mass
A simple reminder	A fancy ritual and ceremony

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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 the three ways that God has revealed Himself to humanity: 1) _____,
2) _____, 3) _____
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 **2Cor 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 _____

27. God's will is summed up in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, that in everything we are to give

28. Describe what Family Devotions are: _____

29. Is there a difference in the kinds of music a Christian should listen to, as opposed to what the world listens to? _____

30. What is a church *ordinance*? _____

31. Name the three ordinances: 1) _____, 2) _____, 3) _____

32. When a Christian participates in the Lord's supper, they are remembering what event?

33. The breaking of bread pictures the breaking of Christ's _____ at the cross

34. What kind of bread is to be eaten at the memorial of the Lord's Supper?

35. What kind of wine is to be drank in the Lord's supper? _____

36. The important thing to have when participating in the Lord's supper is a clean what?

How are you doing?

Have you been born again? **Yes, No.** When? _____

Have you been baptized? **Yes, No.** When? _____

Have you read your Bible all the way through yet? **Yes, No.** What Book are you reading currently? _____

Have you memorized the two memory verses listed so far? **Yes, No.**

How many Scriptures have you memorized so far? _____

Are you faithful in church (every Sunday possible)? **Yes, No.**

Well Done!

You have now completed Section TWO, and its test. Hand this test in to your Discipler, and it will be quickly graded. The results will only be known by you, your Discipler, and the Course Administrator. Its results will not be made available to ANYONE else. After going through this test, knowing what you don't know, and maybe don't understand, you may want to go back over certain portions of the Course before going on to the next Section. Otherwise, press on, and keep growing!

