

BIBLE STUDY COURSE-NIV
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Name _____ 1-1
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Lesson 1
THE WORD OF GOD

In this day of infidelity and skepticism there is no lesson more important than one on the Word of God. There are those who deny part or all of the Bible. These men are called infidels. Some deny the verbal inspiration of the Bible when it contradicts their denominational creed. The Bible claims it is perfect, converting the soul (Psalms 19:7). Jude declares that the faith has been once delivered to the saints (Jude 3) and Peter adds to this testimony when he declares that God has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue (2 Peter 1:3-4). God warned us that we must neither add to nor take from these Sacred Oracles (II John 9).

The conclusion we must reach is that the Bible and the Bible alone is the only creed for the church and to follow it and it alone is its only hope. This is why churches belonging to Christ dare not have any creed but Christ nor follow any book but the Bible.

Use your Bible to fill in the following blanks. All Bible texts and quotations are from the New International Version.

1. *And God _____, "let there be light," and there was light. (Gen 1:3)*
2. *By the word of the LORD were the _____ made. (Psalms 33:6)*
3. *By faith we understand that the _____ was formed at God's _____ so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. (Hebrews 11:3)*
4. *For the word of God is _____ and _____. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; (Hebrews 4:12)*
5. *The word of God gives _____ and _____ to the simple. (Psalms 119:130)*
6. *What is the word of God?*
 - (1) *Jeremiah 23:29 "Is not my word like _____," declares the LORD, "and like a _____ that breaks a rock in pieces?"*
 - (2) *John 6:63 The words I have spoken unto you are _____, and they are _____.*
 - (3) *Luke 8:11 This is the meaning of the parable; The _____ is the word of God.*
 - (4) *Ephesians 6:17 and the _____ of the _____, which is the word of God.*
 - (5) *Psalms 119:105 Your word is a _____ to my feet and a _____ for my path.*
7. *Things that the Word of God does for us according to the following scriptures:*
 - (1) *John 7:17 _____*
 - (2) *James 1:21 which can _____ you.*

Salvation of the soul is impossible unless we receive with meekness the engrafted word. This shows the necessity of obedience to the Word of God.

(3) Psalms 19:7 *The law of the LORD is perfect, _____ the soul.* If the law of the Lord is perfect to revive the soul then creeds, manuals, disciplines and confessions of faith are not necessary!

(4) Acts 11:14 Words were necessary to _____ Cornelius and his household.

8. How are we made clean? (John 15:3) _____ Without obedience to the Word of God, we cannot be made clean in the sight of God.

9. Men are born again when they obey the commandments of the _____ seed, which is the _____ of God. (1 Peter 1:23) The new birth cannot be accomplished, according to the inspired Peter until the imperishable seed or the Word of God is planted in the heart and obeyed. How foreign to God's Word is the teaching that a man can be born again by some mysterious force acting on his heart before he has obeyed the dictates of God as expressed in His Word.

10. Our attitude toward the Word of God is one of not merely _____ to the word but _____ what it says. (James 1:22)

11. By what will we be judged? (John 12:48) _____

12. What will happen to those who take away from any part of the Word of God? _____ (Rev 22:19)

13. Every preacher is charged to _____ the _____ (2 Timothy 4:2). Human opinions, decree of popes or councils are not part of the true gospel preacher's message. He is to preach the Word Only.

14. What is God's power to salvation? (Romans 1:16) _____

15. Do we know anything about God, Christ, heaven, hell, the church and how to be saved except what we learn from the Bible? _____

In reviewing this lesson we find that:

1. All human creeds are in rebellion to the Word of God.
2. No man can be saved without complete obedience to the Word of God.
3. When the book of Revelation was completed, the Word of God was completed. It cannot be added to nor taken from. This forever destroys the claims of those who say they have received present day revelations which are appealed to as authority in addition to the Bible. Those who say they have dug up tablets of gold, journeyed to heaven or had mysterious talks with God must be counted as false prophets.
4. We should have the highest respect for God. His Word must be the final authority in all religious matters.

Please return this lesson if you would like to continue in the course.

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Lesson 2
THE COVENANTS

Next to believing in the inspired Word of God, one of the world's great needs is to understand the difference in the Old and New Covenants (Testaments). We live today under the New Covenant of Jesus Christ. Many people know that all of the bible is true, but they don't believe that all of the Bible applies to us today. Certainly all of the Bible is true but only the New Testament or the New Covenant applies to us now. Peter says that we need to be established in the present truth (1 Peter 1:12). God told Abraham to offer Isaac upon the altar; that is past truth. We are not expected to offer our sons upon the altar. God told Noah to build an ark; that is not present truth. God has not instructed you or me to build an ark. In Hebrews 8:8, God said, *I will make a new covenant.* In Galatians 5:1, Paul declares that we are to stand fast in the freedom of Christ. In Jude 3, Jude speaks of the faith delivered and in Ephesians 4:4-7, Paul says there is but one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. This is the present truth.

WE SEE THE TWO COVENANTS CONTRASTED

OLD COVENANT

1. Founded on the blood of bulls and goats.
2. Men, who had sin themselves, were mediators of the Old Covenant.
3. Humanity for the High Priest.
4. Imperfect covenant.
5. They looked to Moses.
6. Moses the author of the Old Law.

NEW COVENANT

1. Founded on the blood of Christ
2. Christ, the sinless Son of God, is the Christians's mediator.
3. Christ is our High Priest.
4. Better covenant built on better promises.
5. We look to Christ.
6. Christ the author of the New Covenant.

In 2 John 9, we are told to continue in the doctrine of Christ. The doctrine of Christ excludes such practices of the Old Law as (1) animal sacrifices, (2) the burning of incense, (3) going up to Jerusalem to worship, (4) circumcision as a sign of our covenant relationship with God, (5) keeping the sabbath as a day of worship and (6) keeping feast days and new moons.

1. *"For if there had been nothing _____ with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for _____ (Hebrews 8:7). Those who still seek to serve God under the first covenant serve him under a covenant that is not faultless. The covenant of Jesus Christ has no faults. We can serve God in a covenant which is perfect.*

2. God said that the New Covenant would be _____ to the old. (Hebrews 8:6)
3. The Old Covenant was founded upon the blood of _____ and _____ (Hebrews 9:12)
4. The New Testament of Covenant is founded upon the blood of _____ (Heb 9:14).
5. Jesus Christ is the _____ of the New Covenant. (Hebrews 9:15)

6. The Hebrew writer declares that the blood of bulls and goats _____ not take away _____. (Hebrews 10:4) The Old Covenant, founded upon the blood of bulls and goats, could not take away a sinner's guilt but the New Covenant, founded on the blood of Christ, can and does make a sinner righteous. Why go back to the Old Covenant?

7. Christ sealed the New Testament with His _____ (Hebrews 9:14-23). The New Testament is the book for Christians to follow today because it was his unchangeable will for us when Christ sealed it with His own blood.

8. The writer of the Hebrew letter declares that we should look to Jesus, the _____ and _____ of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2) We are not to look to Moses or to the Old Testament but to _____ because He is the author and perfecter of our faith.

9. The Bible teaches that Christ became the _____ of eternal salvation to all them that obey Him. (Hebrews 5:9) We are, therefore, subject to whom? _____

10. The New Testament teaches that under the New Covenant all children of God belong to Christ. Paul teaches in Romans 7:4 that even the Jew had to become _____ to the _____ before they could be married to another. In the same passage Paul teaches that no man could belong to Christ until Christ was _____ from the dead. This clearly shows that men belonged (were married) to Christ, that is, became Christians after the New Testament pattern when Christ was raised from the dead. Before the resurrection of Jesus Christ, men lived and died under the old Covenant, but after the resurrection men became Christians according to the laws of the New Covenant.

You now know that we live under the last will and testament of Jesus Christ. He is the author of eternal salvation and we are to live by the New Covenant ONLY.

Paul plainly teaches that the Old covenant was nailed to the cross (Col 2:14-17). In the blanks below list four other things that Paul uses in this passage to illustrate that the Old Law was nailed to the cross -- things that were in effect under the Old Law. These things may not be used to judge (condemn) people today when they do not observe them, because the law that commanded them was taken out of the way and nailed to the cross.

1. _____ 2. DRINK 3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____

Read Exodus 34:27-35. Now, read 2 Corinthians 3:6-18. This passage calls the Old Testament the letter which kills, the ministration of death and condemnation and says that it has faded away (been abolished). The New Testament is called the spirit which giveth life, the ministration of the spirit and of righteousness, and it remaineth. This shows that the authority of the Old Testament was "done away" or abolished" in Christ, that is, that the authority of Christ is in the New Testament.

- a. God made us competent ministers of a _____ Covenant. (II Cor 3:6)
- b. People have their minds made dull who follow the teaching of the _____ covenant because they do not know that it has been taken _____ in Christ. (II Cor 3:14)

THE PURPOSE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

NIV 2-3

There are those who say, "If we do not live under the Old Covenant why do we have it in the Bible today. Why didn't God destroy it." The following reasons are given in the Bible for the Old Testament Scriptures.

1. For their moral lessons. (1 Corinthians 10:6, 11) *1Cor 10:6 Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. ... 11 These things happened to them as _____ and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.*
2. To prove, by prophecy, that Christ is the Son of God. (2 Peter 1:19) *And we have the word of the _____ made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.*
3. To prove the New Testament system of faith by the type in the Old Testament. (Hebrews 10:1) *The law is only a _____ of the good things that are coming--not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.*

We can see that the Old Testament is preserved for our good, but not for the faith once entrusted. (Jude 3) We do not find the doctrine and practice of Christ in the Old Testament, but in the New. God does not intend for His children to learn by trial and error. The old Testament contains the moral examples that tell of 4000 years of God's dealings with His people.

Let us look to Christ, the author and finisher of our faith, and not go back to the Law of Moses. Read Galatians 5:1-4.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all.

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Lesson 3

THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST

By this time, you are surely impressed with the deep respect you should have for the Word of God and you are well aware of the differences in the Old and New Testaments. This lesson deals with the next great principle of the Christian system, respect for the authority of Christ. The Great Commission, the marching orders for the kingdom is no better than the authority on which it is based. Thus, Jesus said in Matthew 28:18, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ..."* He understood that if men were to preach His gospel He had to have the necessary authority to give for such preaching. In the famous 14th chapter of John, Jesus declares that faith in Him is to be as firmly fixed as faith in God. He said, *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. It is God's design, that we hear Christ and Christ only in all matters of religion. The Hebrew writer declares that we are of the house of Christ, whose house we are if we hold fast. Hebrews 9:15 teaches that Jesus sealed His New Testament with His blood because of His death and that no man can make his will void or add to it. The great lesson on the Mount of Transfiguration is the same (Matt 17:1-6). God declares that we are to hear His Son.*

Matthew 17:1-6

1. Jesus took _____, _____ and _____ unto the mountain with Him
2. _____ and _____ appear and talk with Christ about His coming passion. (Luke 9:31)
3. Peter said, *"Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three _____ --one for _____, one for _____ and one for _____."* (He did not know what he was saying.) (Luke 9:33)
4. God spoke from heaven and said, _____: *listen to _____.* This means that God intends for us to hear Christ instead of Moses who gave the Old Law or Elijah, who represented the prophets. (Luke 9:35)
5. Matthew 28:18, Jesus said, *all _____ is given unto _____ in heaven and in earth.* Jesus has all power; therefore, Moses and the Law of the Old Covenant had to be removed in order to make way for the New Covenant of Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 10:9)
6. Hebrews 5:8-9 Jesus is the _____ of eternal salvation.
7. Hebrews 12:2 We are to look unto _____ who is the author and finisher of our faith. Men who look to the Old Law given under Moses fail to heed the command of God as given here.
8. Acts 2:38 Men were to repent and be baptized in the name or by the authority of _____

Hebrews 9:11-28

9. Jesus is to be heard because He _____ Himself _____ to God. (verse 14)

10. This was accomplished by means of _____. For this reason He became _____ of the New Covenant. (verse 15)

11. Where a will is, it is necessary to prove the _____ of the one one who made it. while Christ was alive He could dispense the blessings as He saw fit. Jesus did this with the thief on the cross and the sick of the palsy (Mark 2:10-11). After the testator dies, his will or testament is in force and then His blessings must be dispensed according to it. That is why the New Testament is the only guide to show us the way of salvation. It is the last will or testament of Jesus Christ.

13. The New Covenant, therefore, began in force after the _____ of the maker of the will. Did the thief on the cross obtain His blessing before or after the New Covenant became effective? _____ (Luke 23:39-43) Did the law that a man must be baptized in order to receive the remission of sins (Acts 2:38, Matt. 28:18-20, Mark 16:16) apply to the thief on the cross _____ Why? _____

Study Galatians 5:1-4

14. Those who accepted the Law of Moses as authority for circumcision became _____ to obey the _____ law. (Gal 5:3)

15. This caused them to be alienated from Christ, they had _____ from _____ (verse 4)

16. All who thus rejected the authority of Christ by accepting also the authority of the law of Moses _____ from grace. (verse 4)

Paul teaches in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, that the Scripture will make a man perfect complete furnished to every good work. Hear Him: *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.* Thus we see that we need no human creeds. We have the New Testament and that is all that is needed. Think a minute. If a human creed is longer than the New Testament, it is too long. If it is shorter, it is too short. If it is different from the New Testament, it is wrong. If it is the same as the New Testament, it is unnecessary, for we already have the Word of God.

WE ARE NOT TO HEAR: (1) Law of Moses; (2) Manuals; (3) Disciplines; (4) Catechisms; (5) Prayer Books; (6) Pronouncements of the Pope; (7) What we think,

BUT WE ARE TO HEAR CHRIST AND HIS NEW TESTAMENT.

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Lesson 4
FAITH

The great writer of the Hebrew Letter gives God's definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1, *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.* This puts faith in the realm of the unseen - the realm of the things we cannot know by our physical senses- things that we cannot know by seeing, touching, tasting, smelling and hearing. Faith comes in the place of things hoped for. This does not mean that we are left without a guide. The Word of God is our guide and we walk by it. Notice carefully the following:

1. Romans 10:17, *faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*
2. 2 Corinthians 5:7, *We live by faith, not by sight.*

Thus we see that we cannot have Bible faith without the Word of God both to produce it and to confirm it. It will not do for us to think that we can compose our own faith. Jeremiah said in the long ago, *I know, O LORD, that a man's life is not his own; it is not for man to direct his steps.* (Jeremiah 10:23) Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus, that there is, *One Lord, one faith, one baptism.* (Eph 4:5).

You will soon see that it is not up to man to decide his faith, but we must decide for the faith of the New Testament. The Bible says nothing of the idea that one man can have his faith and another have his (a different) faith and both of them be accepted. We need the one faith of the New Testament. Peter writes in 2 Peter 1:1, *To those ... have received a faith as precious as ours:* In the New Testament every Christian had a common faith. A faith just like the faith of every other child of God in the days of the apostles. Jude writes in Jude, verse 3, *to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.* Thus we see that the Bible talks about "the faith," "one faith," "a precious faith" and all of this is the faith of the New Testament of which Christ is the author and finisher. (Hebrews 12:2) We are never to be misled that it does not make any difference what we believe, any more than we should be carried astray with the doctrine of error, that it does not make any difference what we obey. The faith we are to have is the faith Christ commanded, and the faith we are to obey is the faith Jesus Christ commanded.

Read Carefully the following Scriptures and fill in the blanks from the verses given.

1. *Now faith is _____ of what we hope for and _____ of what we do not see.* (Hebrews 11:1)
2. How do we get faith? *Consequently, faith comes from _____ the _____, and the message is heard through the _____ of Christ.* (Romans 10:17)

Our faith in God and Jesus Christ is the product of hearing what God had declared in His Word. It is not the product of some mysterious, unexplainable working of the Holy Spirit on our hearts.

3. Faith is so important that a man cannot _____ God without it. (Hebrews 11:6)

4. Name some who believed but were not saved.

a. James 2:19 _____

b. John 12:42-44 _____

These men believed but their faith was lacking. It was not accompanied by the works of obedience.

5. The New Testament was written that men might _____. (John 20:31) It is the New Testament, the Word of God, that produces the faith that is necessary for our salvation. Our faith comes by hearing (Romans 10:17) the Word of God. The New Testament was written and preserved for us just so that we might have faith.

6. How do we show our faith? _____. (James 2:18)

7. Will faith without works save? _____. (James 2:20)

8. Will "faith only" or "faith alone" save Men? _____. (James 2:14-24) James shows us definitely that the only faith that will ever save a man is a faith that is obedient and active. A dead faith, like that of the devils's cannot and does not save. Salvation by faith only may be a doctrine very full of comfort, but it does not save.

9. How many faiths are there? _____ (Ephesians 4:5) The doctrine that a man is entitled to the faith of his choice is completely foreign to the Bible. A man who believes in Jesus is entitled to the one faith that Jesus died to establish if he expects to go to heaven.

10. Is it possible for one who believes to lose his faith? _____ (Luke 8:13) The doctrine that a man cannot be finally lost after he has once believed because of his life and conduct is completely foreign to the Word of God.

11. What kind of faith will save? _____ (Galatians 5:6)

12. Different degrees of faith.

a. Romans 4:20 _____ faith.

b. Romans 14:1 _____ faith.

c. Luke 12:28 _____ faith.

d. Luke 7:9 _____ faith.

13. How did the following heroes of faith prove or demonstrate their faith?

(1) Hebrews 11:4 Abel _____ God a better sacrifice.

(2) Hebrews 11:7 Noah in _____ fear, _____ an ark.

(3) Hebrews 11:8 Abraham _____; and he _____ even though he did not know where he was going.

(4) Hebrews 11:17 Abraham _____ Isaac.

(5) Hebrews 11:31 Rahab _____ the spies.

14. Whoever believes and is baptized will be _____. (Mark 16:16)

15. Whoever does not believe will what? _____. (Mark 16:16)

16. Christians walk by _____. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

By answering these questions carefully and studying the Bible to know the truth, we have found that faith is the bedrock of our acceptability unto God. The writer of Hebrews declares in Hebrews 11:6, *without faith, it is impossible to please God...* All things must be done in faith. There is no way to please God without it. Faith must be present even when we give a drink of cold water in His name. We have also learned that we are not saved by faith only or by faith alone. There is a great deal of difference in saying we are saved by "faith" and that we are saved by "faith only." We need to remember James 2:17, *In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.* When people tell us we are saved by faith only, we need to remind them that it takes all of God's plan to be saved. The Bible teaches we are saved by all of the following and not by any one of them alone.

THINGS THAT SAVE

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. God saves | 1 Timothy 4:10 |
| 2. Christ Saves | Matthew 1:21 |
| 3. Saved by His blood | Romans 5:9 |
| 4. Saved by the gospel | 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 |
| 5. Saved by grace | Ephesians 2:8 |
| 6. Saved by faith | Romans 5:1 |
| 7. Saved by works | James 2:24 |
| 8. Saved by hope | Romans 8:24 |
| 9. Saved by baptism | 1 Peter 3:21 |
| 10. We save ourselves | Acts 2:40 |

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Lesson 5
REPENTANCE

The repentance commanded by Christ and the apostles means to set your mind against sin. It is accomplished with the heart and in the heart. There is nothing mysterious about it. Where our heart has loved evil, we turn, and love good. Where we have set our affections on the things of this world, we repent and set them on the things of God. A change is made in our purpose or intentions, and as a result of our repentance we will reform our lives with a complete submission to the will of God. This is why men are commanded to "repent and turn to God" (Acts 3:19). Paul says in Acts 17:30, *he commands all people everywhere to repent*. Before Agrippa Paul said all the Gentiles had to "*repent and turn to God*". (Acts 26:20) We turn away from the love of sin, and the sinful world and set our affections on Christ who died for us, The importance of this step can be seen when we realize that it was a vital part of the preaching of John the Baptist (Matthew 3:2), of the preaching of Christ (Matthew 11:21), and the preaching of the apostles after the resurrection of Christ. On the day of Pentecost when the Jews cried out and asked what they must do, Peter's answer was, "*repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ...*" (Acts 2:38) All of this is summed up in the words of the Savior in Luke 13:3, *I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish*.

1. John declared, " _____, for the kingdom of heaven is near." (Matthew 3:2)
2. While John was in prison, Jesus preached that Khorazin and Bethsaida should have _____ long ago. (Matthew 11:21)
3. The disciples (the twelve) were told to preach that men should _____. (Mark 6:12)
4. In the Great Commission _____ and _____ were to be preached in the name of Jesus. (Luke 24:46-47) The Great Commission is still in force today and is the same message that is to be preached today.
5. On the day of Pentecost, what were believing sinners told to do? _____ and be _____. (Acts 2:38) Men still have to perform the same acts to receive the promise of the forgiveness of sins.
6. Peter told the audience that had gathered at the temple to _____ and turn to God to have their sins blotted out. (Acts 3:19)
7. All men, everywhere, are commanded to _____. (Acts 17:30) The term all men, everywhere, includes every man and woman who is accountable to God. No one is excluded because of wealth or position or station in life.
8. We must repent or else we will _____. (Luke 13:3). Revelation 21:8 gives us a picture of what happens to the man or woman who perishes in the sight of God. They shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone.
9. There is _____ in heaven when one sinner _____. (Luke 15:7)
10. God would have all men to come to _____. (2 Peter 3:9)
11. Repentance is not godly sorrow, but what does godly sorrow do? _____
_____. (2 Corinthians 7:10)
12. Repentance is more than simple a reformation of life. We have to produce _____ in keeping with repentance. (Matthew 3:8)

13. Give some examples of fruit of repentance:
 (1) Acts 19:18-19 _____
 (2) Acts 16:33-34 _____
14. Matthew 21:28-29 What was the sign that the one son changed his mind (King James Version says repented)? He changed his mind and _____
15. When the prodigal son repented he _____ his mind and _____. (Luke 15:17-20)
16. What leads men to repent?
 (1) Romans 2:4 _____
 (2) 2 Corinthians 7:10 _____
 (3) 2 Corinthians 5:10-11 _____ of the Lord.
 (4) Acts 17:30-31 _____.

After working with the verses in the questions above we are prepared to correct some false ideas men have about repentance.

1. Repentance is not salvation. Because we have ceased to love sin does not mean that we are saved. Paul repented on the road to Damascus. He had to get up and be led by the hand into the city where Ananias came to him and said "*Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away.*" (Acts 22:16)
2. Repentance is not some mysterious experience. The Jews on the day of Pentecost were told to repent and no record of any mysterious action is recorded. (Acts 2:38-41)
3. Sorrow is not repentance, but should lead to repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10). Some people cry and mourn the consequences of their sins, or even their eternal doom but they are not willing to turn from their sins.
4. Repentance is unto salvation. It looks forward to the salvation of the Great Commission. In Acts 11:18 we are told that God granted the Gentiles repentance unto life.

Repentance is a turning from sin brought about by a heart now set on the things of God and not on the things of the world. It comes before baptism and is necessary to our being scripturally baptized.

17. When Christians sin, they are to _____ and _____ to the Lord. (Acts 8:22, Revelation 2:5) This is not God's law to the alien sinner, but to the child of God that goes back to the ways of the world. (Hebrews 6:4-6)

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Lesson 6

CONFESSION

The cause of Christ has always demanded open confession that Jesus is the son of God. Any disciple of the Master must take his stand before men. There are no secret Christians. The confession is made before men. We are to hold fast to His name. Jesus made this fair offer to men *"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.* (Matt 10:32) One of the great tests made in the days of persecution was to hold fast to His name. Jesus writes to the church in Philadelphia in Revelation 3:8, *I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.*

Paul wrote to Timothy that he has witnessed the *good confession in the presence of many witnesses,* in 1 Timothy 6:12. Thus, we learn there is a divine confession, not founded on men's creeds but by inspiration. When Philip preached to the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8, the eunuch, ready to obey the gospel, asked in verse 36, *"Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"* Philip's answer was, *if you believe with all your heart you may. The official answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."* Therefore, the good confession was made by the eunuch, *"I believe that Jesus is the Son of God."*

You will notice in the following verses these great truths about the confession that Jesus Christ is the son of God.

1. It is necessary to salvation.
2. It is with the mouth.
3. It comes before, and is a prerequisite to, baptism and salvation.

1. The good confession according to Peter, is that Jesus is the _____, the _____ of the Living God. (Matthew 16:16)

2. Young Timothy made the good confession in the presence of many _____ (1 Timothy 6:12)

3. Did Timothy have to make his confession publicly in view of what Jesus says in Matthew 10:32 _____

4. Must one make the good confession in order to be saved? (Romans 10:9) _____

5. Could one have the praise of God if they did not confess Jesus before men? (Jn 12:42-43) _____

6. What did Christ say about Himself? Matthew (26:63-64) _____

7. Jesus promised to _____ before His Father the person that will _____ Him before men. (Matthew 10:32)

8. Christ will _____ those who _____ Him. (Matthew 10:33) On the day of judgement Jesus will be forced to disown those who have disowned Him. This will be a sad day for many.

9. When did God confess that Jesus was the Christ and His Son?

Matthew 3:16-17 _____

Matthew 17:1-5 On the mount of transfiguration when He appeared with _____ and _____, which of these did God say to hear? _____

10. Is open acknowledgement of Christ (before or after) baptism? (Acts 2:37) _____
The pattern as set forth here by the Eunuch is that seen in all the acts of conversion in the NT. Our conversion must be characterized by the same willingness; a confession of our faith in Jesus as the Christ before our baptism into Christ.

11. The chief rulers would not confess Christ because they loved the _____ from men more than the praise from _____ (John 12:42-43) We wonder if the same reason keeps many from making the good confession today.

12. The confession is made with the _____. (Romans 10:10)

13. What price did Jesus have to pay for confessing that He was the Christ before Pilate _____ (Matt 27:35)

14. Stephen was _____ for confessing his faith in Jesus. (Acts 7:57-60)

15. What blessings do we receive for confessing Christ? (I John 4:15)

16. What if our lives are not in keeping with our confession? (Matthew 7:21-23)

Now that you have made a careful study of all the scriptures in this lesson, you have found that confession is unto salvation. Paul declares in Romans 10:10, *For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.* The confession and the creeds of men are different from this great confession that the New Testament teaches. For example, if in making the confession, you said, "I believe that God for Christ's sake, has pardoned my sins," you have made the wrong confession. The "good confession" looks forward unto salvation. When the confession is made, salvation has not yet been realized. Like the Eunuch in Acts 8, based on this confession valid baptism can be administered.

Think what a wonderful thing it is to sweeten your lips with the most precious thing in heaven and earth; to stand unafraid and unashamed before men and say,

"I BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD."

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Lesson 7
BAPTISM

Someone has well said, FAITH changes the mind of affections, REPENTANCE changes the conduct, CONFESSION changes the allegiance, but BAPTISM changes the relationship. In other words, baptism translates one from being without Christ to being within Christ. Paul declares in Galatians 3:27, *for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.* It is one thing to have our own private opinion about baptism, and another to just let the Bible guide us into the truth. We must approach the subject with an open mind. Let us look at the following-

1. Baptism is a vital part of the great commission. (Matthew 28:18-20) *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*
2. Baptism is the only act in the Word of God to be performed in the name (by the authority of) of the Holy Three: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19) *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*
3. Jesus taught that baptism is a part of the plan of salvation. (Mark 16:15-16) *He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.* The Lord Jesus says here that whoever believes the gospel and is baptized in obedience to the gospel, shall be saved; while he that does not believe the gospel shall be damned. Of course, if someone does not believe the gospel, he will not be baptized in obedience to it. You should notice that the main clause in the sentence is, *Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.* Who shall be saved? Jesus did not say, *whoever believes shall be saved*"; neither did he say, *whoever ... is baptized shall be saved*; He did say, *Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.* In order to be saved, one must believe and be baptized; but in order to be damned, one must simply disbelieve.

The Bible teaches that it takes all of the plan of salvation and obedience to all of the commands of Christ to save a sinner. It is not a question of whether we are saved by faith only. It is not a question of whether we are saved by faith, but a question of whether we are saved by faith only. It is not a question of salvation by repentance, but a question of salvation by repentance minus the rest of God's plan. So we see:

We are saved by FAITH	but <u>not</u> by <u>faith alone</u>
We are saved by REPENTANCE	but <u>not</u> by <u>repentance alone</u>
We are saved by BAPTISM	but <u>not</u> by <u>baptism alone</u>

It is a dangerous doctrine that teaches that a man can be saved by doing only some of the things God requires -- not only dangerous, but false. Student, do not be misled. The Bible is always right. In Luke 7:29-30, the Pharisees and Publicans rejected the counsel of God when they failed to be baptized. Peter declares in 1 Peter 3:20-21, "... *only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also*--.

Read the following scriptures carefully and fill in the blanks.

1. It was _____ who gave the command for man to be baptized. (Matthew 28:19-20)
 2. We are baptized in the name of the _____, and of the _____, and of the _____ (Matthew 28:19)
 3. Baptism is a _____ in water. (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12)
 4. When Philip baptized the Ethiopian nobleman, they went down both _____ the _____, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. After the baptism, they both came up _____ of the _____. (Acts 8:38-39)
 5. How many baptisms do we have now? _____ (Ephesians 4:5) The religious world practices many baptisms today, but the Word of God tells us how many are in force, today. The one baptism of Ephesians 4:5, is the same baptism that Philip practiced in Acts 8:38-39 - a burial in water.
 6. Which always comes first, belief or baptism? _____ (Mark 16:16; Acts 8:36-39)
 7. What two things are promised to the sincere person who is baptized? (Acts 2:38)
 - (1) _____ of sins.
 - (2) Gift of the _____.
 8. A sinner is saved (before or after) _____ baptism (Mk 16:16)
 9. Saul of Tarsus was told to arise and be baptized to _____ away his _____ (Acts 22:16) Having our sins washed away is promised after we obey the Lord's command to be baptized. Notice that in being baptized Saul was *calling on His name*. (the Lord's name)
 10. Peter says that baptism that now _____ us. (1 Peter 3:21) Peter did not share the opinion of many today who declare that baptism is not essential to salvation. He said it has a part in saving us.
 11. We get into Christ by being _____. (Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27)
- Ephesians 1:3 tells us that we are blessed with every spiritual blessings in Christ. In order for us to enjoy the spiritual blessings that God has for us, we must be in Christ; and in order for us to be in Christ, we must be baptized into Him.
12. Salvation is _____ Christ and not out of Him. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

13. From your study of faith, repentance, confession and baptism, would you say that baptism without any obedience to any of the other commandments would save one from sin? _____

As a careful student, you must now know that baptism is necessary to salvation, and has been made so by Jesus. The question then arises, why is baptism so important? Look at the following chart.

THE HOW AND WHAT OF BAPTISM

WHAT BAPTISM REQUIRES:

- 1. Water Acts 10:48
- 2. Much Water John 3:23
- 3. Coming to water Acts 8:36
- 4. Going down into the water Acts 8:38
- 5. Burial in water Romans 6:4
- 6. Planting Romans 6:5
- 7. Resurrection Colossians 2:12
- 8. Coming up out of the water Acts 8:38
- 9. Washing of Water Ephesians 5:25

WHAT BAPTISM IS FOR:

- 1. Into the name Matthew 28:19
- 2. Salvation Mark 16:16
- 3. Remission of sins Acts 2:38
- 4. Rejoicing Acts 8:38
- 5. Wash away sins Acts 22:16
- 6. Into Christ Romans 6:3
- 7. New life Romans 6.4
- 8. Cleans -- sanctify Ephesians 5:26
- 9. SAVES US 1 Peter 3:21

Baptism is the act that shows the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is spoken of by Paul as *that form of teaching to which you were entrusted*, Romans 6:17. The word "form" means pattern. When we are baptized into Christ, we are baptized into his death and are raised to walk a new life. Hear Paul; *But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.* (Romans 6:17-18)

THE FORM OF DOCTRINE

Now, let's look at the following diagram in relation to Romans 6:17-18. The resurrection of Christ, together with His death and burial, provided the pattern or form of doctrine by which we are freed from sin.

Then	Transition	Now
Old self (v. 6)	Buried with him through baptism into death	New life (v. 4)
Slave to sin (v. 17)	Raised to live a new life (v. 4)	Slaves to God (v. 22)
Fruits to unrighteousness (v. 21)		Fruits to righteousness (v. 22)
Old life (v. 21)		New life (v. 4)

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Lesson 8

SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

As we come to the lesson of the security of the Christian, we need to remember the warning in 1 John 3:7, *Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.* There are some in the religious world that teach that once we are saved, we can never be lost. The purpose of this lesson is to examine this doctrine and to learn what we have to do once we have been saved from our past sins -- What we must do to make our salvation secure. Sin separated man from God in the beginning, and sin is the only thing that can separate the Christian from God now. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 11:3, *But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.* This caused Paul to say, *No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize* (1 Cor 9:27). Although God loves us, and if we have been obedient to his commands, has saved us from our past sins, He cannot and will not tolerate sin from the child of God any more than He will tolerate sin from those who have not been obedient to the Gospel of His Son. Paul said, *So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!* (1 Cor 10:12). Those who are so sure they are saved are the very ones who are in the greatest danger. Study the following scriptures carefully to see the truth on the security of the child of God.

Fill in the following blanks:

1. *Holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have _____ their _____* (1 Timothy 1:19). Paul tells Timothy that it is possible for men to shipwreck their faith.
2. *The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will _____ the _____ and follow deceiving spirits and things _____ by demons.* (1 Tim 4:1)
3. *If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has _____ the faith and is worse than an _____.* (1 Timothy 5:8)
4. *For the love of _____ is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have _____ from the _____ and _____ themselves with many griefs.* (1 Timothy 6:10)
5. *Which some have professed and in so doing have _____ from the _____. Grace be with you.* (1 Timothy 6:21)
6. *Who have _____ away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they _____ the _____ of some.* (2 Timothy 2:18)
7. *Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have _____ their first _____.* (1 Timothy 5:12)

Thus we see that the child of God can; (1) shipwreck his faith, (2) depart the faith, (3) deny the faith, (4), (5) wander from the faith, (6) destroy the faith, and (7) break his pledge. The Holy Spirit teaches in 2 John verse 9, *Anyone who runs ahead and does not _____ in the _____ of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.*

THOSE WHO BECAME CURSED CHILDREN:

In the second chapter of 2 Peter, the apostle tells about a people who had been bought by the Lord, and had escaped the pollution of the world, who went astray and became cursed children. Fill in the number of the proper verse out of this chapter that has in it the statements on the left hand side of the page.

1. *Even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them" verse _____*
2. *They have escaped the pollutions of the world verse _____*
3. *Are gone astray" verse _____*
4. *Became cursed children verse _____*
5. *Shall receive the reward of unrighteousness verse _____*
6. *Bringing swift destruction upon themselves verse _____*

Here you have a complete picture of those who fell from God's favor. They were bought by the Lord and they had escaped the pollutions of the world. Then they went astray and became cursed children. Peter tells us they will receive the reward of unrighteousness because they have brought upon themselves swift destruction.

COMPLETE THESE VERSES:

Paul declares in 1 Corinthians 10:12, *So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you _____*

In Galatians 5:4 Paul says, *You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have _____ from _____.*

Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 10 that in the days of Israel 23,000 fell in one day. They fell because they rebelled against God. Here are twenty-three thousand undeniable arguments that the child of God can fall, and Paul sounds the warning in verse twelve. *So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!* Furthermore, Paul tells the churches of Galatia who had gone back to Moses law to justify circumcision, *You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.*

CAN A CHILD OF GOD SIN?

We are not to be deceived into thinking sin is not sin. Sin is sin, whenever and wherever it is found. The question of the security of the believer is settled on whether or not a child of God can sin. If a child of God can sin, will God charge him with it, and condemn him if he does not repent. John says, *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. (1 Jn 1:8)* John was writing to "his dear children" -- to children of God -- 1 John 2:1. Furthermore, John says "if WE claim we have no sin..." In saying "we" John includes himself, and all other children of God.

Fill in the following blanks:

NIV-8-3

1. *My dear children, I write this to you so that you will _____ .* 1 John 2:1. John would not have exhorted these children of God Not to sin if it was impossible for them to do so. Jesus said of those who die in their sins *where I go you cannot come* --John 8:21

2. *Do not _____ to each other, since you have _____ off your old self with its _____ and of course put on the new (Col 3:9). Here Paul shows that a person who has "put off the old man", and of course put on the new (2 Corinthians 5:17). This shows that a born again believer can lie. Revelation 21:8 teaches that *all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.*"*

3. *you, then, who _____ others, do you not _____ yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you _____ ? You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit _____? You who abhor idols, do you _____ temples?* Romans 2:21-22.

4. *"Do not get _____ on wine, which leads to debauchery.* Ephesians 5:18.

From Ephesians 1:1 we learn that Paul was writing *to the saints ...and to the faithful in Christ Jesus*. In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Paul warned, *"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*

5. *Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to _____ from _____ desires, which _____ against your soul.* 1 Peter 2:11.

6. *Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the _____ he caused to live in us _____ intensely?* James 4:5.

There are some who think that the flesh sins, but not the spirit. This passage shows that it is the spirit that lusts. Furthermore, Jesus said, *For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'*" Matthew 15:19-20. Since these things come "out of the heart" it is the spirit that does the sinning, and since such sins can come "out of the heart" of a child of God, it follows that a child of God can sin with his spirit.

7. *Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the _____ , to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to _____ the _____ of the body, you will live,* Romans 8:12-13. One must be "alive" to "die." "You will die" here cannot refer to physical death, because we die physically anyway, no matter how we live, and it cannot refer to the sinner because he is already spiritually dead. Therefore, it refers to spiritual death, and is addressed to people who are spiritually alive. It is necessary for Christians to "put to death the misdeeds of the body" in order to be saved in heaven at last. The teaching of the scripture is clear. If the child of God sins, and transgresses God's law, and will not repent of the transgression, then he "shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

What we are to do when, and if, we transgress God's law. The following passages outlines God's plan for restoring His erring children.

1. *But if we _____ in the light, as he is in the light, we have _____ with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, _____ us from all _____.* 1 John 1:7 The apostle John declares that "if we walk in the light" two things will result; (1) we have fellowship one with another, and (2) the blood of Christ purifies us from all sin. The fellowship mentioned here is between the "we" who do the walking, and the "HE" who is in the Light, hence God. Both the fellowship with God, and the cleansing blood are contingent upon our walking in the light.

By baptism "*into His death*" (Romans 6:3) we obtain the benefits of Christ's blood -- shed in death -- and are cleansed from past sins. But, by "*walking in the light*" the blood of Christ continually cleanses us from sin. This continuous cleansing is conditioned upon our "*walking in the light.*" In verse 9 John continues, *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* So God keeps us cleansed, as we obey His divine instructions.

2. *My brothers, if one of you should _____ from the _____ and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a _____ from the _____ of his way will _____ him from _____ and cover over a multitude of sins.* James 5:19-20

3. Galatians 6:1 teaches that if a brother who is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should _____ him gently.

4. Simon was a child of God (Acts 8:13, Mark 16:16). He sinned when he thought he could buy the power of God with money (Acts 8:18,19). Peter commanded him to _____ and _____ God in order to be forgiven of this sin. (Acts 8:22)

From these passages we can readily see that a child of God who has fallen into sin may be restored to a fellowship with God and the church, if he will repent, confess and pray for forgiveness of his sins. It is God's will that we do not sin, but if we do sin, *But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.* (1 John 2:1)

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Lesson 9

THE NAME CHRISTIAN

The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. (Acts 11:26) The name "Christian" is found only three (3) times in the Bible, yet it is obvious from each instance that this name is Divinely given and approved. The name is also indicated in the writings of James, Paul and Peter.

Acts 11:26, *The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.*" Acts 26:28, *Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?"*

1 Peter 4:16, *However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.*

James 2:7, *Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?*
 Ephesians 3:15, *from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.*

Even though these Scriptures are plain and positive, there are those who wish to justify the wearing of other names in religion who claim that the name "Christian" was given in derision (to make fun of, mock, ridicule, or hold in contempt) by the enemies of Christ. If this name was given in derision, then its present favorable usage is by tradition, rather than by inspiration. If, on the other hand, it was given by Divine Inspiration, then it takes precedence over, and is superior to, every other designation or name which originated from some other source. We cannot accept the assumptions of men on this, but we must be governed by the revealed Word of God.

In Isaiah 62:2 we read, *The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.* From this prophecy we may learn the following:

1. When. This prophecy of a new name was to be fulfilled when the Gentiles "*see your righteousness,*" that is, when the Gentiles were introduced into the kingdom of the Lord. We read of the conversion of the Gentiles in Acts, chapters 10 and 11, then immediately following the conversion of the Gentiles, we find in Acts 11:26, *"The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch."*

2. What. God's people were called by a "*new name.*" The name Christian is the only name for God's people that is new.

1. "*Children (Sons) of God*" (John 1:12) -- used before in Genesis 6:2.
2. "*Brothers*" (Matthew 23:8) -- used before in Psalms 133:1.
3. "*Disciples*" (Matthew 5:1) -- used before in Isaiah 8:16.
4. "*Saints*" (Acts 9:13) -- used before in Psalms 31:23.
5. "*witnesses*" (Acts 1:8) -- used before in Isaiah 43:10.
6. "*Christians*" (Acts 11:26) -- A new name in Antioch.

3. How. This new name was to be revealed or given by *"the mouth of the Lord."* In addition to the emphatic statement of the Prophet that God, Himself, would name the new name, the Holy Spirit used a word in Acts 11:26, which further proves the Divine origin of the name *"Christian."* The word "called" in Acts 11:26, comes from the Greek word "chrematidzo" which Thayer's Greek-English Dictionary defines, "to give a Divine command or admonition, to teach from heaven." Every time this word is used in the Bible it means, without exception, a call from heaven. Had the name "Christian" been given by men, then the Holy Spirit would have used the word "kaleo" which **means** "to call" but does not imply a Divine calling. For example, in Matthew 2:23, *"Call (kaleo) no man your father upon the earth."* But, Acts 11:26, says *"The disciples were called (chrematidzo) Christians first at Antioch."*

As further evidence that God originated the name "Christian" for the followers of His Son, to the exclusion of all human names, Paul rejected the name *"Nazarene sect"* as used by Tertullus (Acts 24:2, 5,14), but endorsed the name *"Christian"* as used by Agrippa (Acts 26:28-29) and the name *"Christian"* was sanctioned by Peter in 1 Peter 4:16.

Every time the name "Christian" is pronounced, the name of Christ which is embodied in it, is spoken. The apostle had reference to this fact when he said, *If ye are reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye.* (1 Peter 4:14) Again, *But if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed. To suffer as a Christian, and to be reproached for the name of Christ,"* are the same thing. The fact is referred to by James in the language, *Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?* (James 2:7) Paul states the same fact from another standpoint when he says, *For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.* (Ephesians 3:14-15)

Fill in the blanks.

1. *The disciples were called _____ first at _____.* (Acts 11:26) The church at Antioch was the first church composed of both Jews and Gentiles and in harmony with Isaiah's prophecy, we would expect to find the "New Name" which God promised, to be given there.

2. God said that His people would be _____ by a new _____ which the _____ of the Lord would bestow. (Isaiah 62:2)

3. List five names that are found in the New Testament that could not be the new name, prophesied by Isaiah.

Genesis 6:2 _____ Psalms 133:1 _____

Isaiah 8:18 _____ Psalms 8:16 _____

Isaiah 43:10 _____

4. *Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a _____?"*(Acts 26:28)

5. *However, if you suffer as a _____ do not be ashamed, but _____ God that you bear that name.* (1 Peter 4:16) God is glorified when we suffer as a Christian. The name Christian is the only name that glorifies God through Christ.

6. *Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble _____ of him to whom you belong?* (James 2:7)
That worthy name by which we are called is the name "Christian"

7. What did Paul persuade men to be in religion? Acts 26:28 _____

8. When the name Christian is spoken we glorify _____. (1 Peter 4:16)

9. We cannot glorify Christ unless we wear the name Christian TRUE____ or FALSE ____?

10. Peter teaches in Acts 4:12, that any name will do. TRUE____ or FALSE____?

11. The church at _____ was the first to wear the name Christian. (Acts 11:26)

CONCLUSION

1. God foretold the revelation on a "new name" to be given after the Gentiles were admitted into the kingdom.

2. The name "Christian" is the only "new name" revealed when the Gentiles were included in the kingdom.

3. The appropriateness of Antioch as the place for this revelation of a "new name" is seen in the fact that the church there was the first to be composed of both Jews and Gentiles.

4. The word rendered "called" in Acts 11:26 means a divine source or agency.

5. We therefore conclude that the name "Christian" was given by a revelation from God, and not by His enemies.

Every faithful child of God must wear the name Christian and this name only is the idea of every passage of scripture in the Bible that relates to this subject. The name Christian lifts up Christ. Jesus said, *But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.*" : (John 12:32) We cannot lift Him up by a man-made name. Peter declared, *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*" (Acts 4:12). There is none other name!

His name dispels my guilt and fear,
No other name but Jesus;
O how my soul delights to hear
The charming name of Jesus.

Sweetest note in seraph song,
Sweetest name on mortal tongue,
Sweetest carol ever sung,
Jesus, blessed Jesus.

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Lesson 10

THE CHURCH, IT'S ESTABLISHMENT

If you want to know the will of God, there is no more important lesson than the study of the establishment of the church of Jesus Christ. In Matthew 16, in the heart of His personal ministry Jesus asked the soul searching question of His disciples in regard to His divinity. He said, *Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"* In verse 16, Peter answered and said, *You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.* In reply, the Lord declared, *on this rock I will build my church and the gates of hades will not overcome it.* You have already found that many times the doctrines of men contradict the teaching of God. This is especially true in regard to the establishment of the church. Many say that it is unimportant, unnecessary, and incidental, but notice the three great principles that are emphasized in the foregoing conversation in Matthew 16.

- (1) The church is directly connected to and rests upon the divinity of Christ.
- (2) The church was to be built by Christ and not man.
- (3) Christ's ability to build the church would not be stopped even by hades.

The church that rests upon the divinity of the Son of God was established by His divine power and was so important that death, hell and the grave could not prevail against it.

Let us consider the following reasons why we need to know the time of the church's establishment:

- (1) We need to know the time of its establishment that we may properly identify it as the true church.
- (2) We need to know the conditions laid down for membership in the church at the time of its establishment.
- (3) From these we need to be able to determine if members of this heaven sent and blood bought group can be found on earth today.

FILL IN BLANKS WITH THE PROPER WORDS:

1. Isaiah said in Isaiah 2:2-3, *In the _____ the mountain of the LORD'S temple will be established as chief among the mountains; ... The law will go out from _____, the word of the LORD from _____.*

2. In the last days when the law goes forth from Zion and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem, the Lord's _____ will be _____.(Isaiah 2:2-3)

We are told here where the Lord's temple is going to be established -- In the same place that the law goes forth, Jerusalem. Notice this will take place in the Last days, that is, the last dispensation. We are now living in that dispensation -- the last days (Acts 2:17).

3. We read in Micah 4:1-2, *Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the _____ of the LORD, to the _____ of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from _____, the word of the LORD from _____.*

Again, we notice that the Lord's house will be established when the law goes forth; and the law is to go forth from Jerusalem. In the "last days" the church or Lord's house (1 Timothy 3:15) was to be set up in the city of Jerusalem.

4. Peter quotes a prophecy that was come to pass in the " _____." (Acts 2:17)

5. This prophecy is quoted from Joel 2:28-32. Verse 28, *"And afterward, I will pour out my _____ on all _____.* and in verse 32, *And everyone who _____ on the name of the LORD will be _____.*

6. In the book of Acts, Peter said in chapter 2:16-17, *This is what was spoken by the _____.*

7. Peter later referring to this occasion in Acts 11:15 said, *"As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the _____.*

Summary:

You can see that the church, or "house of the Lord" which the prophets said would be established in the last days at Jerusalem, was established in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost which is the beginning of the "last days" or last dispensation. Notice these points and their fulfillment.

THE PROPHECY

FULFILLED

What-Lord's house (church) established Acts 2:47

When-Last Days Acts 2:16-17

Where-Jerusalem (Zion) Acts 2:5

Who-All Nations Acts 2:39

THE CHURCH WAS NOT ESTABLISHED BY JOHN THE BAPTIST NOR DURING THE PERSONAL MINISTRY OF JESUS.

1. In Matthew 3:1-2, John the baptist preached that the kingdom was _____.

2. In Mark 1:15, Jesus taught that the kingdom was _____.

3. In Matthew 10:7, the twelve taught that the kingdom was _____.

4. In Luke 10:9, the seventy were told to preach that the kingdom of God is "come _____".

5. In Matthew 6:9-10, Jesus taught the disciples to pray, your _____."

6. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, *on this rock I _____ my _____.*

7. In Mark 9:1, Jesus said, *"I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the _____ of _____ come with power."*

That promised power came on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) and it was in the city of Jerusalem as promised by the prophets. Therefore the church which is also called the kingdom of God or house of the Lord was established in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost in approximately 33 AD.

8. In Luke 22:18, Jesus said, *For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the _____ of God _____."*

10. In Acts 1:6, they asked Christ, *"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the _____ to Israel?"*

SUMMARY:

We see that the church (the kingdom) was not established in the personal ministry of Christ, nor by John the Baptist, but was constantly spoken of as being in the future.

I. It was prophesied in Isaiah 2:2-3 that the kingdom was to begin and the law was to go forth from what city? _____ This was fulfilled in Acts 2, when the day of _____ was fully come in the city of _____.

II. Jesus prophesied in Mark 9:1 that the kingdom of God was to come with _____. This was fulfilled in Acts 2 when _____ fell upon them.

III. In Acts 1:8, Jesus said, *But you will receive power when the _____ comes on you; and you will be my _____ ...*

IV. In Acts 2:4, when the Spirit came the apostles began to _____ with other _____ as the _____ enabled them.

Thus we see that the Church of the New Testament began on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. This was in the city of Jerusalem, where the Spirit came with power in the life time of many of those that Jesus addressed in Mark 9:1. We know that the church could not have been established after the day of Pentecost for we are told in Acts 2:47, *And the Lord added to their number* (this word is translated church in the King James Version and comes from the Greek word that is usually translated church in the NIV) *daily those who were being saved.*

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Lesson 11

THE BODY OF CHRIST

The church is the body of Christ. This is one of the great truths of the New Testament and it is embodied within it these definite principles.

1. That Christ is the head of the body.
2. That the body derives its name from its head.
3. That the body, the church, is subject to the authority of the head.
4. That there is but one head, and but one body.

The purpose of this lesson is to study these facts as they are presented in the Word of God, in being able to identify this body. In the maze of conflicting creeds, contradictory doctrines, and human denominations, many find themselves bewildered in such a search. Yet the cardinal principle in regard to the truth on the subject of the church is simply this: find it in God's Word. The only place on earth that the truth-seeker can find the New Testament church is in the New Testament. The trouble today is that men are not seeking the church of the New Testament where it can be found.

The book of Ephesians is an essay on the church. The first five chapters are devoted to Christ and the church. This causes Paul to say in Ephesians 5:32, *I am talking about Christ and the church*. And again in verses 25-27, *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church, and gave Himself up for her; to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

The great love and sacrifice of Christ for the His people should cause every student of the Word of God to search diligently and to examine themselves to know the truth concerning the New Testament Church.

The pattern for the church, its doctrine, its organization and its worship is in God's word. If we will speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent, we can have today, with the Divine blue-print in hand, this great institution for which Jesus died.

I. THE CHURCH IS CALLED THE BODY OF CHRIST

1. *And God placed _____ things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the _____, which is his _____, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.* (Ephesians 1:22-23)
2. Christ is the _____ of the _____, the _____. (Colossians 1:18)
3. For the sake of His _____, which is the _____. (Colossians 1:24)

II. THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHES THAT THERE IS ONE BODY

1. Romans 12:4-5, *Just as each of us has one _____ with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form _____ body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

2. 1 Corinthians 12:20, *As it is, there are many parts, but _____.*" Were the members of this one body individuals or religious denomination? (verse 27) _____

3. Ephesians 2:16, Jews and Gentiles are reconciled unto God in _____.

4. Ephesians 4:4-5, *There is _____ and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called.*

If there is but one spiritual body of Christ and that body is the church, then how many churches of Christ are there? _____.

III. CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF HIS SPIRITUAL BODY -- THE CHURCH

1. His dominion over the church is complete. Ephesians 1:22-23, *And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the _____, which is his _____, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

2. Just as the members of one's physical body must be subject to his head, so we must be subject to Christ in everything as members of His body. (Ephesians 5:24) *Now as the _____ submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

3. From the head come the impulses that strengthen and move the members of the body in the performance of their work. Ephesians 4:15-16, *Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the _____, that is, Christ. From him the whole _____, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

(1) What the head commands we can and must do.

(2) What He does not command and teach we must not do.

IV. CHRISTIANS ARE MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.

1. Relationship to Christ as head -- complete subjection.

2. Relationship to fellow Christians as members -- one of complete union and harmony.

(1) If every joint supplies his part, the body is made to be *joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and _____ itself up in _____, as each part does its work.* (Ephesians 4:16)

(2) Many parts, but _____ . (1 Corinthians 12:20)

(3) There should be no _____ in the body. (1 Corinthians 12:25)

V. IMPORTANCE OF BEING MEMBERS OF THE BODY

Answer the following questions True or False

- _____ 1. The body is made up of all the saved. Ephesians 5:23 Acts 2:47
- _____ 2. Men are called unto peace with God through Christ in one body. Colossians 3:15
- _____ 3. One cannot be subject to the head and united with Christ without being a member of His body. Ephesians 5:30 (For example, a member of our physical body is not subject to our head if it is severed from our body.)
- _____ 4. Men may be reconciled to God outside of the body. Ephesians 2:16
- _____ 5. The church is the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 1:22-23
- _____ 6. One may enjoy some spiritual blessings outside of Christ. Ephesians 1:3
- _____ 7. We become members of the body by obeying the commands of Christ. I Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27; Acts 2:41

By answering the above questions, we found that the church is made up of all the saved of the earth, Ephesians 5:23, and that all Christians have been called into one body, Colossians 3:15. Our connections with Christ is made to depend on our being in His body. Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 12:13 that by one Spirit we are baptized into one body.

COMPARE THESE TWO PASSAGES

Galatians 3:26-27

for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

IN CHRIST

IN THE BODY

1 Corinthians 12:13

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

THE ONLY WAY THAT ANY MAN CAN BE IN CHRIST IS TO BE IN THE SPIRITUAL BODY OF CHRIST WHICH PAUL DECLARES IN ROMANS 16:16, IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Lesson 12

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

The pattern for the organization of the New Testament church is in the New Testament. Christ has provided the complete and unchangeable pattern. For man to presume to change the pattern for the organization of the New Testament church would violate the authority of Christ, and man's dependence on the Word of God. God would not permit Moses to change even one of the measurements of the tabernacle. The writer of the Hebrews letter demands this same principle today. In Hebrews 8:5, the writer stresses the importance of the pattern. This same principle applies to us. *"See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."* God would not permit Noah to change one feature of the ark, but demanded complete and absolute submission to the Divine Instruction. Examples could be multiplied and scriptures given but to the conscientious student these should be enough.

The question is, then, by what right have men decided on ecclesiastical, episcopal and presbyterian forms of government? For the scholars to say that it makes little difference how Christ's church is organized is to declare one of two things:

1. That the pattern for the church is not in the New Testament and thus cannot be followed, or
2. That the pattern is in the New Testament, but can be disregarded.

The fact that a pattern exists in the New Testament is amply demonstrated in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1 and 1 Peter 5. The same authority that gave the doctrine gives the organization. The same respect for the doctrine should characterize the respect for the pattern of organization. If men cannot improve on the teaching of Christ, by what principle can they improve on His plan for organization? The following lesson will clearly demonstrate these facts:

1. That the New testament church in every community was complete, having elders, deacons and members, and was able to do all that could be done in the name of Jesus.
2. That in the New Testament, God had no other organization, other than the New Testament church, to do His work.
3. Every congregation enjoyed complete autonomy and was free from any superstructure of organization or authority. In other words, every congregation is independent of any denominational headquarters, and was responsible only to the Lord.
4. To restore the church of the New Testament, men today will have to make a complete return to this pattern of organization.

THE EVANGELIST:

The term evangelist means a proclaimer of good news. In the New testament the work of the evangelist was to proclaim Christ, to preach Him to a dying world. It is referred to as a definite work in Ephesians 4:11, and Philip is designated as an "evangelist" in Acts 21:8.

FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH RIGHT WORDS

1. Paul writes to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:5, that he was to *do the work of an _____, discharge all the duties of your _____.*
2. In 2 Timothy 4:2, read and fill in three of the four specific works of the evangelist mentioned there:
 (1)_____ (2)_____ (3)_____ (4)_____
3. In 2 Timothy 2:15, the evangelist is to *Do your best to present yourself to God as one _____, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who _____ handles the word of truth.*
4. The qualification for an evangelist is found in 2 Timothy 2:2, where Paul says, *And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses _____ to reliable men who will also be qualified to _____ others.*
5. In 1 Timothy 5:22, the evangelist is told to keep himself _____.

We see that the New Testament evangelist can be any faithful and able male member of the body of Christ. His work is to preach the gospel of Christ in its fullness. In the New Testament no evangelist assumed authority over any church. They only had the authority that the preaching of the Word of God furnished as they spoke.

ELDERS:

elder, presbyter, bishop, overseer, pastor and shepherd all refer to the same office in the New Testament. The word elder and presbyter come from the Greek word (presbuteros) and means an older man, one of superior age, wisdom, and experience in the Lord. The terms bishop and overseer come from the Greek word (episkopos) and mean guardian or superintendent, and express the duty of watching over and caring for the local congregation. The words pastor and shepherd come from the Greek word (poimain) and mean to feed or to tend a flock, and indicate that they should have a shepherd's care over a congregation.

1. A list of qualifications for the high office of elder (bishop, pastor, overseer, shepherd) is found in the 1 Timothy 3. Read this chapter and list the qualifications below:
 (1)_____ (2)_____ (3)_____ (4)_____
- (5)_____ (6)_____ (7)_____ (8)_____
- (9)_____ (10)_____ (11)_____ (12)_____
- (13)_____ (14) manage his own family well (15)_____
- (16)_____ (17)_____

This same list, substantially, is to be found in Titus 1. Read this account also and compare it to 1 Timothy 3.

DEACONS:

NIV-12-3

2. The qualifications for a deacon are found in 1 Timothy 3:8-12. Read these qualifications and list them below:

(1)_____ (2)_____ (3)_____

(4) Not pursuing dishonest gain (5)_____ (6)_____

(7) Nothing against them (8)_____ (9) manage his Children and house well

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

1. There was a plurality of bishops or elders in each congregation.

(1) Philippians 1:1, *Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the _____ and _____.*

(2) Acts 14:23, *Paul and Barnabas appointed _____ for them in each church.*

(3) Titus 1:5, *The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint _____ in every town, as I directed you.*

2. 1 Peter 5:1-3

(1) The fifth chapter was addressed to the _____.

(2) Peter was also an _____.

(3) The elders are to _____ the flock of God.

(4) The elder's work is not to be because they _____ but rather _____.

(5) Not greedy _____ but _____.

(6) The elders are not to _____ it over those entrusted.

(7) They are to be _____ to the flock.

3. 1 Peter 5:4 *And when the Chief _____ appears, you will receive the crown of _____ that will never fade away.*

Now the question is this -- are you a member of a church organized this way, with a plurality of elders and deacons? Missionary societies, ladies' auxiliaries, missionary boards and things like these are unknown to the pattern of the New Testament church. Just as any organization larger than the local congregation with its elders, deacons, evangelists and members is unscriptural (not taught in the scriptures and therefore an invention of man), it is also true than any organization within the church that is smaller than the local congregation itself, also exists without Divine authority.

THE CHURCH, AND THE CHURCH ALONE, IS GOD'S ORGANIZATION TO DO HIS WORK!

If you answered yes to any of the questions in the above paragraph, you have to consider what you have to do about it.

Read 2Tim 4:2-3. Is it sound doctrine for a church to have these things present?

Since it is not sound doctrine, what did Paul tell Timothy to do about it?

If you are going to reprove or rebuke the teaching, you need to be well prepared. If your Minister or Pastor will not change or tells you he knows better than you, check your Scriptures again. What does Mt 14:15 tell you will happen to those who follow someone who is not teaching the truth?

Once you have talked with your Pastor or Minister about what the Scriptures teach and they refuse to change their practice, it's time for you to "shake the dust off your feet" and move to the church Jesus built. The one you have been reading about in the New Testament as you studied these lessons.

Please let us know if there is any way we can help you in making your decision to faithfully follow Jesus and His teachings.

THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

The history of man shows that he is sure to worship the object of his devotion, even if it is an idol. The Old Testament is a commentary on false and mis-directed worship. Because men wanted to worship the works of their own hands or the works of nature, Moses directs the children of Israel in Exodus 20:3-6, that *"You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.* It is absolutely necessary therefore, that a man be devoted to God. Jesus said, ... *"Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."* (Matthew 4:10) The conception of the world concerning the way God may be worshipped is a misconception of the truth. In action, men are saying, "God may be worshipped acceptably in various ways", but the ways of God are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). Jesus taught us the true way in which to worship God acceptably: *God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.*" (John 4:24).

I. THE FIVE KINDS OF WORSHIP MENTIONED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

A. VAIN WORSHIP

Jesus declared in Matthew 15:7-9, *You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men."*

1. Were the Pharisees and Scribes worshipping God? _____
2. Did the fact that they worshipped God mean that their worship was acceptable? _____
3. Fill in the following things that make worship vain:
 - (1) People honor God with their _____
 - (2) Their _____ is far from _____
 - (3) They teach the _____ of men

The Pharisees worshipped God, but their worship was in vain. This kind of worship is useless and empty. They had sought to substitute the ways of men for the ways of God. There are many who are guilty of the same thing. Such worship is vain because they observe the doctrines and commandments of men. People want to be deceived: even though vain worshippers praise God with their lips, their hearts are far from Him. This is evidenced when they are called upon to quit worshipping in ways that are not found in the Word of God. Will they change? Those whose heart's desire is to be close to the Lord will, but the fact that others will not. This is proof that their heart is set on the commandments and doctrines of men and "far from God."

Such people simply become "offended at such teaching." See Matthew 15:12, regarding those who were offended at the plain teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ. He had this to say, *He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit."* (Matthew 15:13-14)

B. IGNORANT WORSHIP (Acts 17:23)

Paul declares, *For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.* The Athenians were guilty of ignorant worship because they were uninformed about the true God. There is absolutely no justification for such ignorant worship today. The apostle Paul declared: *In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.*" (Acts 17:30-31). Jesus speaks plainly about God and instructs men that they should worship Him in truth, that is, according to the truth (John 17:17).

1. Were the Greeks at Athens worshipping sincerely? _____
2. Did the fact that they sincerely worshipped make their worship acceptable? _____

C. SELF-IMPOSED WORSHIP

Paul declared this type of worship when he says, *Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.* The "appearance of wisdom" seems to be the dominating feature in many places. Contrary to "self-imposed worship" and a "appearance of wisdom," the Christian, with his profound faith in God, is determined to worship God according to His (God's) revealed will. Recognition of the true God and a belief in Him that leads to profound devotion will lead one to leave every false way. The true Christian is interested only in pleasing His Creator. He thinks more of the Creator than he does of the creature and refuses to change the truth of God into a lie. Paul speaks of some who "changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever." (Romans 1:25)

- (1) Self-imposed worship has an _____ of wisdom, false _____ and _____ of the body. (Colossians 2:23)
- (2) Christians are not to _____; do not _____; do not _____, because all these are _____ to _____ with use (Col 2:21-22).

D. MOCK WORSHIP (Mark 15:19-20)

Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. This action on the part of the soldiers is the height of contemptible mockery.

For more than nineteen hundred years men have looked upon this scene, some with indifference, others with sincere regret because of blasphemy and scorn that was heaped upon the Son of God. Human nature has never changed. There are men who mock, ridicule, and blaspheme the sacred precepts of the scriptures. The Christian must not be built of mock-worship. When we bow the knee before God, we must do it in sincerity. Like David, *May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.* (Psa 19:14)

E. TRUE WORSHIP (John 4:24)

24 *God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.*" Our heavenly Father has given us the things must be done in the worship service. God requires nothing so complex that He makes it impossible for any man to worship Him in an acceptable manner. On the other hand, that which God requires is so plain that any man is without excuse in his failure to follow the Lord's plan. The simplicity of scriptural worship makes it possible for the Christian to worship God in the beauty of holiness. There are "True worshippers" in the land and they can and may be identified. Their worship is according to, and in keeping with, the teaching of the scriptures. Jesus said, *Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.* (John 4:23). The "True worshippers" of the church met upon the first day of the week. *On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.* (Acts 20:7)

II. THINGS THE CHRISTIAN IS TAUGHT TO DO IN THE WORSHIP ON THE LORD'S DAY

A. TEACH

1. Acts 20:7, *On the _____ of the week we came together to _____.* Paul _____ to the people ... When the Christians at Troas came together Paul preached the word.
2. Matt 28:20, *and _____ them to obey _____ I have _____ you.* ... After a believer is baptized, Jesus says that they are to be taught to observe **His** commandments.
3. Jn 6:45, *It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be _____ by God.'* In the Christian dispensation the prophet declared that the followers of Christ would all be taught.

B. PRAY

1. Eph 6:18, *And _____ in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*
2. Acts 2:42, *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to _____."*
3. Phil 4:6, *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by _____ and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

There is a lot of comfort in telling Jesus about our troubles. Christians should thank the Lord daily for all of His marvelous goodness. All prayer should be offered in Jesus's name, and in His name only. There is no scriptural authority for praying in the name of Peter, or Paul, or James or Mary, or anyone else, except Jesus.

C. SING

1. Eph 5:19, *Speak to one another with psalms, _____ and spiritual songs. _____ and make _____ in your _____ to the Lord,*
2. Col 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you _____ psalms, _____ and spiritual songs with _____ in your hearts to God.*
3. A close study of the above Scriptures shows that the lord has told us what to do, what to use, and how to use it.

What to do? **Sing** What to use? **Psalms, hymns, spiritual songs** How? **in your heart**

How can we improve on the Lord's plan? Anyone who presumes to do so is guilty of a presumptuous sin. Instruments of music in the worship service are a sure sign of a departure from the original instruction as to the way the Christian should worship the Lord in song. Mechanical musical instruments were introduced into the worship of God hundreds of years after the days of the Lord and His apostles. The fact that they had instruments of music at hand to use, but did not use them during the lifetime of the Apostles should be enough evidence to the sincere student that such is not the will of God. You may be interested in the following quotation regarding the origin of instrumental music in the worship.

"The organ is said to have been first introduced into church music by Pope Vitalian I, in 666. In 757 a great organ was sent as a present to Pepin by the Byzantine emperor, Constantine Copronymus, and placed in the church of St. Corneille at Compiègne. Soon after Charlemagne's time, organs became common." (Chamber's Encyclopedia, Vol.7,P.112) Nichol's Pocket Bible Encyclopedia, P.121.

D. LORD' SUPPER

1. Acts 2:42 *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the _____ of _____ and to prayer.*
2. 1 Cor 10:16, ... *is not the bread that we break a _____ in the body of Christ?*
3. Acts 20:7 (please read and fill in the following)
 - (1) Why did the Christians assemble at Troas? to _____.
 - (2) When God told Israel to remember "the" Sabbath Day to keep it holy, how often did He expect them to keep the Sabbath Day holy? Every Sabbath, or any Sabbath that they chose? _____.

(3) In the same connection, when the disciples at Troas came together on the first day of the week to break bread, how often did they take the Lord's Supper, or bread? _____

There are those who declare that it is unnecessary to observe the lord's Supper once a week. The only time element stipulated as to the frequency is "*the first day of the week.*" The first day of the week comes every week to the Christian just as the Sabbath Day came every week to the Jews.

Furthermore, the expression "*When we came together*", indicates that they came together habitually to break bread on that day. The fact that they waited 7 days for the first day of the week to come, shows that the first day of the week was the day on which the church assembled to break bread. (Acts 20:6-7)

E. CONTRIBUTIONS

1. 1 Cor 16:2, *On the first day of every week, each one of you should _____ a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no _____ will have to be made.*

2. 2 Cor 9:7, *Each man should give what he has _____ in his heart to _____, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a _____ giver.*

3. God has planned that each Christian should give as he or she has been prospered and according as he or she has planned in his heart. God has never authorized His children to go from door to door to solicit money from local business men or to raffle off a quilt or to have a bingo party to raise money to pay church debts. Nor has God authorized the church to own or operate business enterprises such as farms, ranches, dairies, saw mills, office buildings to rent, etc. God wants His people to support His kingdom on the first day of the week as they have been prospered and after they have purposed to give out of the cheerful heart.

When we come together, it is to be on Sunday, the Lord's day (Rev 1:10), and we come to proclaim the Lord's death by partaking of the Lord's Supper. At the same time we sing (not play) from the heart, we are taught and we give back a portion of what God has given us. All of this is to be done with prayer. God's way is so simple it is difficult to understand why man has changed it so much.

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Lesson 14

A REVIEW

You have now gone over 13 lessons concerning the Bible. Hopefully, you have done well and have learned from your study. No study is complete, however, without some practical applications. In this lesson we will review our earlier lessons and will apply them to our lives. We do not want to become like those who opposed the Lord *always learning, but never able to acknowledge the truth.* (II Tim 3:7) Paul indicates that those who have learned must put the things they have learned into practice to be approved of God. Jesus thought the same thing when he asked his followers *Why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?* (Lk 6:46) You have answered the questions based on what the Bible says. In Lesson 1, we studied the necessity of following God's word and not the doctrines of men. We have a choice: God revealed His will in the Bible and we can believe it or; God revealed His will in the Bible and we can do what we want to. It's your decision and no one else will make it for you. When you have read the truth and refuse to obey it, you either become a dishonest person or you don't believe it's the truth. As you fill in the blanks in the following questions, you must make a decision about what you will do and what you have done. Then you will need to examine where you stand before the Lord.

1. What is the word of God?

- (1) John 6:63 are _____ and they are _____.
- (2) Luke 8:11 *This is the meaning of the parable: The _____ is the word of God.*
- (3) Ephesians 6:17 *"and the _____ of the _____ which is the word of God."*
- (4) Psalms 119:105 *Your word is a _____ to my feet, and a _____ for my path."*

2. To whom are we to listen today?

- (1) The writer of the Hebrew letter declares that we should look to Jesus, the _____ and _____ of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2) We are not to look to Moses or to the Old Testament but to _____ because He is the author and perfecter of our faith.
- (2) The Bible teaches that Christ became the _____ of eternal salvation for all who obey Him. (Hebrews 5:9) We are, therefore, subject to whom? _____
- (3) Matt 28:18, Jesus said, *"all _____ in heaven and on earth has been given unto _____*. Jesus has all power; therefore, Moses and the Law of the Old Covenant had to be removed in order to make way for the New Covenant of Jesus Christ. (Heb 10:9)

3. Why was the New Testament given?

(1) Jesus did many other _____ in the presence of his disciples, which are not _____ in this book. But these are written that you may _____ that Jesus is the _____, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have _____ in his name. (Jn 20:30-31)

(2) For if there had been nothing wrong with that first _____ no place would have been sought for another. 8 But God found fault with the _____ and said: "The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new _____ with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. (Heb 8:7-8)

(3) In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the _____. (Heb 9:16) While Christ was alive He could dispense the blessings as He saw fit. Jesus did this with the thief on the cross and the sick of the palsy (Mark 2:10-11). After the testator dies, his will or testament is in force and then His blessings must be dispensed according to it. That is why the New Testament is the only guide to show us the way of salvation. It is the last will or testament of Jesus Christ.

4. The New Covenant began in force after the _____ of the one who made it. Did the thief on the cross obtain His blessing before or after the New Covenant became effective? _____ (Luke 23:39-43) Did the law that a man must be baptized in order to receive the remission of sins (Acts 2:38, Matt. 28:18-20, Mark 16:16) apply to the thief on the cross _____ Why? _____ Many say that they want to be saved like the thief on the cross, but we must listen to what Jesus has to say to us His last will and testament. *Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me, _____, _____ and do not do what I say?"*

5. Matthew 28:18, Jesus said, "*all _____ in heaven and in earth is given unto _____* . Jesus has all power; therefore, Moses and the Law of the Old Covenant had to be removed in order to make way for the New Covenant of Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 10:9)

6. Hebrews 12:2 We are to look unto _____ who is the author and perfecter of our faith. Men who look to the Old Law given under Moses fail to heed the command of God as given here.

Paul teaches in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, that the Scripture will make a man perfect (complete) and furnish him to every good work. *All _____ is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, _____, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be _____ equipped for every good work.* We do not need human creeds. We have the New Testament and that is all we need. Think a minute. If a human creed is longer than the New Testament, it is too long. If it is shorter, it is too short. If it is different from the New Testament, it is wrong. If it is the same as the New Testament, it is unnecessary, for we already have the Word of God.

7. Now faith is _____ of what we hope for and _____ of what we do not see. (Heb 11:1)

8. How do we get faith? *Consequently, faith comes from _____ the message, and the message is heard through the _____ of Christ.* (Romans 10:13-17)

Our faith in God and Jesus Christ is the product of hearing what God had declared in His Word. It is not the product of some mysterious, unexplainable working of the Holy Spirit on our hearts.

NIV-14-3

9. Name some who believed but who were not saved.

- a. James 2:19 _____ b. John 12:42-44 _____

These men believed but their faith was lacking. It was not accompanied by the works of obedience.

10. Different degrees of faith.

- a. Romans 4:20 _____ faith. b. Romans 14:1 _____ faith.
c. Luke 12:28 _____ faith. d. Luke 7:9 _____ faith.

11. There are many different things mentioned in the New Testament that save us. We must have all of things in order to secure our salvation.

- a. _____ saves 1 Tim 4:10 b. _____ saves Matthew 1:21
c. Saved by His _____ Romans 5:9 d. Saved by the _____ 1 Cor 15:1-2
e. Saved by _____ Ephesians 2:8 f. Saved by _____ Romans 5:10
g. Saved by _____ James 2:24 h. Saved by _____ Romans 8:24
i. Saved by _____ 1 Peter 3:21 j. We save _____ Acts 2:40

12. Will "faith only" or "faith alone" save men? _____. (James 2:14-24) James shows us definitely that the only faith that will ever save a man is a faith that is obedient and active. A dead faith, like that of the devils's cannot and does not save. Salvation by faith only may be a doctrine very full of comfort, but it does not save.

13. On the day of Pentecost, what were believing sinners told to do? _____ and be _____. (Acts 2:38) Men still have to perform the same acts to receive the promise of the forgiveness of sins.

14. Peter told the audience that had gathered at the temple to _____ and be converted to have their sins blotted out. (Acts 3:19)

15. Repentance is not godly sorrow, but what does godly sorrow do? _____
_____. (2 Corinthians 7:10)

16. Repentance is changing our mind, but it leads us to change our lives. We have to _____ in keeping with repentance. (Matthew 3:8)

17. What leads men to repent? a. Rom 2:4 _____ b. 2 Cor 7:10 _____
c. 2 Cor 5:10-11 _____ of the Lord. d. Acts 17:30-31 _____

Repentance is not salvation. The fact that we have ceased to love sin does not mean that we are saved. Paul repented on the road to Damascus. He had to arise and be led into the city and

Ananias had to come to him and tell him to *get up, be baptized and wash away your sins* (Acts 22:16) Repentance is not some mysterious experience. The Jews on the day of Pentecost were told to repent and no record of any mysterious action is recorded. Many repented. (Acts 2:38-41) Sorrow is not repentance, but should lead to repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10). Some people mourn the consequences of their sins, or even their eternal doom but they are unwilling to turn from their sins.

18. Christ will _____ those who _____ Him. (Matthew 10:33) On the day of judgement Jesus will be forced to deny those who have denied Him. This will be a sad day for many.

19. Confession is required for _____ (Rom 10:9-10) Our conversion must be characterized by a confession of our faith in Jesus as the Christ before our baptism into Christ.

20. The chief rulers would not confess Christ because they loved the _____ of men more than the praise of _____ (John 12:42-43) We wonder if the same reason keeps many from making the good confession today.

21. It was _____ who gave the command for man to be baptized. (Matt 28:19-20)

22. We are baptized in the name of the _____, and of the _____, and of the _____ (Matt 28:19)

23. Baptism is a _____ in water. (Romans 6:4: Colossians 2:12)

24. When Philip baptized the Ethiopian nobleman, they went down both _____ the _____, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. After the baptism, they both came up _____ of the _____. (Acts 8:38-39)

25. How many baptisms do we have now? _____ (Ephesians 4:5) The religious world practices many baptisms today, but the Word of God tells us how many are in force, today. The one baptism of Ephesians 4:5, is the same baptism that Philip practiced in Acts 8:38-39 - a burial in water.

26. Which always comes first, belief or baptism? _____ (Mk 16:16 : Acts 8:36-39)

WHAT BAPTISM IS FOR:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Salvation | Mark 16:16 | 2. Remission of our sins | Acts 2:38 |
| 3. To wash away sins | Acts 22:16 | 4. To puts us into Christ | Romans 6:3 |
| 5. To give us a new life | Romans 6:4 | 6. Cleans -- sanctify | Ephesians 5:26 |
| | 7. To <u>SAVE US</u> | | 1 Peter 3:21 |

HAVE YOU FOLLOWED THE COMMANDS ABOVE THAT YOU MIGHT BE SAVED?

If we may assist you in following God's word, please indicate how. _____

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Lesson 15

A REVIEW

In our first review lesson we covered the questions of the authority of God's word and found that it is absolute -- we must obey God and he is revealed in the Bible. God has given all authority in heaven and on earth (Matt 28:18) to his son and we must now listen to Jesus as he speaks in his Last Will and Testament, the New Testament (Heb 1:1-2; 9:15). The Old Testament (the Law of Moses) was done away with when Christ died and offered His blood as a sacrifice for our sins (Col 2:14; Heb 9:24-25). In His will, Jesus has said that we must believe in Him or we will die in our sins (). To those that believe that Jesus is the Christ, he gave the right to become sons of God (Jn 1:12). In order to come into Christ, we find that we must be baptized (Gal 3:27; Rom 6:3,4). However, those who would be baptized must also confess Jesus as Lord (Rom 10:9-10; Acts 8:36-37). They must also have repented of their sins (Acts 2:38). If you are unwilling to believe that Jesus is the Christ, you cannot be saved (Jn 3:16). One who believes but is not committed to Jesus as the Christ will not confess his name before men (Jn 12:42-43). Anyone who will not repent of his sins will surely perish (Luke 13:3). Just as surely anyone who will not be baptized will not be saved (I Pet 3:21; Mk 16:16). The medium for this one baptism (Eph 4:5) is water (Acts 10:47; Acts 8:38). Surely, as you have read these commands and studied your Bible, you have come to the same conclusions and have been obedient to the Lord.

When you are obedient to the Lord's commands, He adds you to his group (church) (Matt 16:18; Acts 2:47). In the Scriptures, we find that:

1. Christ is the head of the body.
2. The body derives its name from its head.
3. The body, the church, is subject to the authority of the head.
4. There is but one head, and but one body.

1. Christ is the _____ of the _____, the _____. (Colossians 1:18)

2. Ephesians 2:16, Jews and Gentiles are reconciled unto God through the _____.

3. Ephesians 4:4-5, "*There is _____ and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- one Lord, one faith, one baptism;*

If there is but one spiritual body of Christ and that body is the church, then how many churches of Christ are there? _____.

4. His dominion over the church is complete. Eph 1:22-23, *And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be _____ over everything for the _____, which is his _____ ...*

5. Just as the members of one's physical body must be subject to his head, so we must be subject to Christ in everything as members of His body. (Ephesians 5:24) *Now as the _____ submits to _____, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

_____ 6. The body is made up of all the saved. Ephesians 5:23 Acts 2:47 (True or False)

_____ 7. One cannot be subject to the head and united with Christ without being a member of His body. Ephesians 5:30 (True or False) (For example, a member of our physical body is not subject to our head if it is severed from our body.)

_____ 8. Men may be reconciled to God outside of the body. Ephesians 2:16 (True or False)

_____ 9. One may enjoy some spiritual blessings outside of Christ. Ephesians 1:3 (True or False)

10. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, *on this rock I _____ my _____.*

11. In Mark 9:1, Jesus said, "*... some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the _____ of _____ come with power.*"

That promised power came on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) and it was in the city of Jerusalem as promised by the prophets. The church Jesus promised to build, which is also called the kingdom of God or the house of the Lord, was established in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost in about 33 AD.

The church that Jesus built has a number of identifying characteristics in addition to the time of its establishment, one of which is its organization. It had a plurality of elders and deacons in every church. It also had evangelists and teachers.

12. Philippians 1:1, *Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the _____ and _____:*

13. The qualification for an evangelist is found in 2 Timothy 2:2, where Paul says, *And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses _____ to _____ men who will also be _____ to teach others.*

14. A list of qualifications for the high office of elder (bishop, pastor, overseer, shepherd) is found in 1 Timothy 3:2-7. Read this chapter and list the qualifications below:

(1)_____ (2)_____ (3)_____ (4)_____

(5)_____ (6)_____ (7)_____ (8)_____

(9)_____ (10)_____ (11)_____ (12)_____

(13)_____ (14)_____ (15) manage family well

(16)_____ (17)_____

15. The qualifications for a deacon are found in 1 Timothy 3:8-12. Read these qualifications and list them below:

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

(4) Not pursuing dishonest gain (5) _____ (6) _____

(7) Blameless (8) _____ (9) Ruling their Children and house well

Now the question is this -- are you a member of a church organized this way, with a plurality of elders and deacons? Missionary societies, ladies' auxiliaries, missionary boards and things like these are unknown to the pattern of the New Testament church. Just as any organization larger than the local congregation with its elders, deacons, evangelists and members is unscriptural (not taught in the scriptures and therefore an invention of man), it is also true than any organization within the church that is smaller than the local congregation itself, also exists without Divine authority.

THE CHURCH, AND THE CHURCH ALONE, IS GOD'S ORGANIZATION TO DO HIS WORK!

We also find that there are a number of things christians are taught to do in the worship on the Lord's day when they come together.

16. A. TEACH Acts 20:7, *On the _____ of the week we came together to _____.* Paul _____ to the people ...

17. B. PRAY Ephesians 6:18, *And _____ in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*

Christians should thank the Lord daily for all of His marvelous goodness. All prayer should be offered in Jesus's name, and in His name only. There is no scriptural authority for praying in the name of Peter, Paul, James or Mary, or anyone else, except Jesus.

18. C. SING Eph 5:19, *Speak to one another with psalms, _____ and spiritual songs. _____ and make _____ in your _____ to the Lord,*

19. Col 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you _____ psalms, _____ and spiritual songs with _____ in your hearts to God.*

How can we improve on the Lord's plan? Anyone who presumes to do so is guilty of a presumptuous sin. Instruments of music in the worship service are a sure sign of a departure from the God's instruction as to the way the Christian should worship the Lord in song.

20. D. LORD'S SUPPER Acts 2:42 *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the _____ of _____ and to prayer.*

21. Acts 20:7 (please read and fill in the following)

- a. Why did the Christians assemble at Troas? to _____.
- b. When God told Israel to remember "the" Sabbath Day to keep it holy, how often did He expect them to keep the Sabbath Day holy? Every Sabbath, or any Sabbath that they chose? _____.
- c. When the disciples at Troas came together on the first day of the week to break bread, how often did they take the Lord's Supper, or bread? _____.

E. CONTRIBUTIONS

22. 1 Corinthians 16:2, *On the first day of every week, each one of you should _____ a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no _____ will have to be made.*

23. 2 Cor 9:7, *Each man should give what he has _____ in his heart to _____, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a _____ giver.*

24. God has planned that each Christian should give as he or she has been prospered and according as he or she has planned in his heart. God has never authorized His children to go from door to door to solicit money from local business men, to raffle off a quilt, to have a spaghetti dinner or bingo party to raise money to pay church debts. Nor has God authorized the church to own or operate business enterprises such as farms, ranches, dairies, saw mills, office buildings to rent, etc. God wants His people to support His kingdom on the first day of the week as they have been prospered and after they have purposed to give out of the cheerful heart.

25. Can you follow Christ and call yourself by the name of some man? I Cor 1: *What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow _____"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow _____"; still another, "I follow Christ." Is Christ _____? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul?*

Surely we can see that we must be Christians and members of Christ's church to glorify Jesus. We should never call ourselves by the name of some man.

26. *However, if you suffer as a _____, do not be ashamed, but _____ God that you bear that name.* (1 Peter 4:16) God is glorified when we suffer as a Christian. The name Christian is the only name that glorifies God through Christ.

27. What did Paul persuade men to be in religion? Acts 26:28 _____

28. We cannot glorify Christ unless we wear the name Christian TRUE ___ or FALSE ___?

29. Peter teaches in Acts 4:12, that any name will do. TRUE ___ or FALSE ___?

Hopefully, you have learned a great deal about Christ, the church and God's will for you in this series of lessons. Most importantly, if you have not been obedient to the will of the Lord as revealed in His word, we plead with you to obey Him. If you are attending a church which does not follow God's will as revealed in His word, you must change. Jesus did not die on the cross so that you could attend the church of your choice. He died to save you and to purchase all the saved (the church) with his own blood. Division and denominationalism were not a part of his plan. Make your decision now to obey Christ and put aside the doctrines of men. If you are doing this now, God will surely bless you all the days of your life. If you are not, now is the time to change and bring your life into the outline of God's word.

If we may assist you in following God's word, please indicate how. _____
