

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Foundations for Powerful Christian Living

CLASS OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION – NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Session 1: NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

- The integrity of the Word of God
- How the Word of God came to us
- Characteristics of the Word of God
- Blessings of the Word of God

PART 1: YOU CAN BELIEVE THE BIBLE

Session 2: “TAKE MY WORD FOR IT”—GOD

- Historically verifiable prophecies show that God can foretell the future

Session 3: “TAKE MY WORD FOR IT”—GOD (continued)

- Scientific information in the Bible reveals that God is the Creator of the heavens and the earth
- Archaeology confirms what the Bible says
- History confirms what the Bible says
- God will prove Himself to you

Session 4: THE TEXT WE HAVE IS RELIABLE

- The benefit of many copies—the text is preserved
- Getting back to the “original” text
- We are close to the “original” text
- There are no lost books of the Bible
- Divisions and punctuation of the text
- Why so many versions?

PART 2: CORRECTLY HANDLING THE WORD OF GOD

Session 5: THE WORKMAN AND THE PERFECT WORD

The workman of the Word

Uncovering the perfection of the Word

Misinterpretations and apparent contradictions

Errors in our understanding

Understanding the verse

Understanding the context

Session 6: UNCOVERING THE PERFECT WORD (continued)

Errors in our understanding (continued)

Understanding the context (continued)

Understanding the scope of the subject in Scripture

Understanding the customs of the biblical cultures

Understanding figures of speech

Errors in Translation

Session 7: UNCOVERING THE PERFECT WORD (continued)

Errors in transmission

Understanding Administrations

Dividing the eight Administrations

How do we know what applies to us and what does not?

Marriage regulations changed

Worship practices changed

Regulations about food changed

Sabbath regulations changed

PART 3: SALVATION AND THE NEED FOR A SAVIOR

Session 8: THE FALL

The two Adams

Adam made: body, soul, spirit

The Fall and its results

Session 9: WHO IS IN CONTROL?

“The whole world is under the control of the evil one”

The Devil was not known in Old Testament

Session 10: WHERE ARE THE DEAD?

Where are the dead?

Death is sleep

No everlasting torment for the unsaved

Resolve difficult scriptures by using the keys to research

Session 11: SALVATION AND THE SAVIOR

Salvation

The savior: Jesus Christ

The Golden Thread

And the Messiah is so much more

The man, the Lord Jesus Christ

Session 12: SALVATION BY FAITH

Faith

Faith can grow

Salvation

Salvation is by faith, not works

Session 13: THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

What does the word “Church” mean?

The Christian Church

The Church is new

The Christian Church was a secret

Session 14: THE NEW BIRTH

Christians are sons by birth

Christians are sons by adoption

Christian salvation is permanent

Salvation in the Old Testament was not permanent

PART 4: THE GIFT OF HOLY SPIRIT

Session 15: THE GIFT OF HOLY SPIRIT—BASICS

What do you get with the New Birth?

What is “the gift of holy spirit”?

When was the gift of holy spirit given to the Church?

How does the gift of holy spirit in us differ from the holy spirit upon OT believers?

Water baptism is no longer necessary

What does the gift of holy spirit do for us?

Session 16: THE MANIFESTATIONS OF THE GIFT OF HOLY SPIRIT

Manifestations of the gift of holy spirit

Speaking in tongues

What speaking in tongues is not

What speaking in tongues is

How it Works: The Principle of Communication

What you are doing when you speak in tongues

Session 17: SPEAKING IN TONGUES (continued)

Why should I speak in tongues?

Can speaking in tongues be misused?

How often should I speak in tongues?

Will the language I speak always be the same?

Speaking in tongues in the book of Acts

How to speak in tongues

PART 5: THE CHRISTIAN'S HOPE

Session 18: THE HOPE – THE ANCHOR OF THE SOUL

The Hope – life on a new earth

God's original plan was for man to be on earth

Christians will live forever on the earth

What the future earth (Paradise) will be like

Session 19: THE HOPE – JOBS AND JUDGMENTS

Jobs in the Millennial Kingdom

The Judgments

Christians will be judged only for rewards

If you have sinned, ask for forgiveness

PART 6: SONSHIP BLESSINGS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Session 20: SONSHIP BLESSINGS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Sonship blessings

Sonship responsibilities—obedience and the renewed mind

If we cannot lose our salvation, why not sin?

The renewed mind

Session 21: DEVELOPING THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST

The Fruit of the spirit

Love
Joy
Peace
Patience
Kindness
Goodness
Faithfulness
Gentleness
Self-control

Session 22: THE POWER OF PRAYER

What is prayer?
Christians are commanded to pray
The Lord's Prayer
Pray with boldness and persistence
Pray with faith
Prayer and the spiritual battle
Prayer works, so pray!

Session 23: GIVING, WITNESSING, AND FELLOWSHIP

Giving
Witnessing
Fellowship with others

Session 24: PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Praise and worship
Praise
Worship
The emotional connection
The intellectual connection
Praise and worship in the Bible

INTRODUCTION

SESSION 1 NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

Romans 10:17: Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Before we begin...

- This class will be taught from the New International Version (NIV). It will be helpful to have a King James Version (KJV) available.
- Make notes in your Bible.
- It will be helpful to memorize the books of the Bible.
- The class syllabus has review questions to help you remember what you have heard. It also recommends supplemental readings and tapes to help you expand your understanding of the class topics.
- What does the word “Bible” mean and where did it come from? The standard writing material for the Greeks and Romans was papyrus, and much of it was shipped from Egypt through the Phoenician port of Byblos. Thus, the Greek word *biblos* meant a strip of papyrus, and *biblion* meant a document. Similarly, the Latin *biblia* meant “books,” which could be any book or volume, but, because of the importance, “The Book” was the Bible.

Bible Basics

The Integrity of the Word of God
How the Word of God Came to Us
Characteristics of the Word of God
Blessings of the Word of God

The Integrity of the Word of God

- One of mankind’s greatest spiritual problems is failing to believe in the integrity of the Word of God.
- God is perfect; His Word is perfect. God exalted His Word. Psalm 138:2.
- God does not lie, and He certainly would not need to lie in His Word. Numbers 23:19.

How the Word of God came to Us

- It is God-breathed. The Lord spoke to Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, etc. 2 Timothy 3:16.
- It has its origin in God, not man. The Word and its meaning are from God. It came not by a prophet's interpretation. 2 Peter 1:20 and 21.
- It was given by revelation. Galatians 1:11 and 12.

Characteristics of the Word of God

- True: Psalm 119:160; John 17:17.
- Pure: Psalm 12:6.
- Perfect and trustworthy: Psalm 19:7.
- Holy, righteous, and good: Romans 7:12.

Blessings of the Word of God

- It is freeing: John 8:32.
- It is inspiring: Luke 24:32.
- It gives you knowledge and wisdom for now and the future: Psalm 119:97-100
- It makes you wise about salvation: 2 Timothy 3:15.
- It gives you joy: Jeremiah 15:16.
- It is comforting: Psalm 119:52.
- It gives you hope: Romans 15:4.
- It is profitable for teaching, rebuking and correction (KJV - doctrine, reproof, and correction): 2 Timothy 3:16.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ What does the statement mean, "One of man's basic spiritual problems is failing to believe in the integrity of the Word of God?"
- ✓ How did we get the Word of God? Can you give a Scripture reference?
- ✓ What are some characteristics of the Word of God?
- ✓ What are some of the blessings of the Word of God?
- ✓ Don't forget to memorize the books of the Bible.

Supplemental Reading and Listening

Booklet:

The Bible: You Can Believe It

Free Indeed Videos:

Tape 1, Session 1, "What the Word Says About Itself"

Tape 1, Session 2, "Why I believe the Bible"

YOU CAN BELIEVE THE BIBLE

SESSION 2

“TAKE MY WORD FOR IT”—GOD

Why You Can Believe the Bible

1. Historically Verifiable Prophecies
2. Scientific Evidence
3. Archaeological Evidence
4. Historical Evidence
5. The Lord Will Prove it to You

1. Historically verifiable prophecies show that God can foretell the future

Genesis 12:2

God will make Abraham’s name great and make him into a great nation. Prophecy given almost 2,000 BC, and Moses wrote around 1,450 BC. The “great nations” that were contemporary with Abraham have mostly disappeared, e.g., Sumerians, Elamites, or Hittites.

Genesis 16:10

The Word of the Lord that was given to Hagar, the slave of Sarah, Abraham’s wife, was, “I will increase your descendants until they are too numerous to count.” We know these descendants as the Arabs.

Numbers 24:5-7

The prophet Balaam foretold that Israel would have a king. Moses foretold the same thing in Deuteronomy 17:14-20. These prophecies were spoken in the 40th and last year of Israel’s wilderness wanderings and almost 400 years before Israel had its first king—Saul. Both Balaam and Moses were long dead when the prophecies that God inspired them to speak were fulfilled.

Isaiah 44:26-45:6

We know that Isaiah prophesied between 776-696 BC because Isaiah 1:1 says that Isaiah lived in the time of Uzziah (who started reigning in 776 BC), Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (who ended his reign in 696 BC). Cyrus was a king of the Persian Empire, and he came to the throne in 559 BC, which is almost 150 years after Isaiah died. In 549 BC Cyrus conquered the Medes and united the Median-Persian empire. In 538 BC he conquered Babylon and shortly after that commanded that Jerusalem and the Temple be rebuilt (Ezra 1:1-4).

When Isaiah foretold the rebuilding of the Temple, it had not been destroyed yet. It continued to stand for more than 100 years after Isaiah’s prophecy. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon in 586 BC, burned it to the ground. The history of Cyrus and what he did for Israel is common historic knowledge and can be read in any good encyclopedia.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ What is a “historically verifiable prophecy”?
- ✓ What do historically verifiable prophecies show about God? About the Bible?

Supplemental Reading and Listening

Free Indeed Video:

Tape 2, Sessions 1-4, “Why I Believe the Bible—Prophecy”

SESSION 3
“TAKE MY WORD FOR IT”—GOD (continued)

2. Scientific evidence in the Bible reveals that God is the Creator of the heavens and the earth

The hydrologic cycle

The fact that water is drawn up from the earth into the air and later comes down as rain was not known in ancient times, yet God made it clear in His Word.

Job 36:27 and 28. “He draws up the drops of water, which distill as rain to the streams; the clouds pour down their moisture and abundant showers fall on mankind.”

Ecclesiastes 1:7. “All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again.”

The weather patterns

Modern scientists study the circular patterns of the winds by balloon, airplane, and satellite. Ancient man could not track the patterns of the weather, yet God revealed in the Bible what they were.

Ecclesiastes 1:6 (NIV). “The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course.”

Ecclesiastes 1:6 (NASB). “Blowing toward the south, then turning toward the north, the wind continues swirling along; and on its **circular courses** the wind returns.”

The earth’s suspension in space

Years before the ancient Romans were teaching that the earth was being held upon the shoulders of the god Atlas, and others were teaching that the earth was held on the back of elephants or a large turtle, God revealed that the earth was simply suspended over empty space, or suspended in empty space.

Job 26:7 (NIV). “He spreads out the northern *skies* over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing.”

Job 26:7 (KJV). “He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, *and* hangeth the earth upon nothing.”

3. Archaeology confirms what the Bible says

When the Bible mentions people, places or events, archaeology confirms that they exist as the Bible says they did. Books such as *Archaeology and Bible History* by Joseph Free document the archaeological accuracy of the Bible.

4. History confirms what the Bible says

Belshazzar

Daniel 5:1. We now know that Nabonidus was last king and that Belshazzar was his son and co-regent.

Dating of kings' reigns

Jeremiah 25:1 and Daniel 1:1. Jeremiah used a year that started in the month Nisan, while Daniel used a year that started in the month Tishri. That plus other factors in counting the actual years of a king's reign explains the apparent discrepancy. This class is being taped in January, 2002, which is year 5762 on the Jewish calendar (which starts in the Hebrew month Tishri, approximately our September, and 1422 on the Hijri (Moslem) calendar (first year = 622 AD, the year Mohammad moved from Mecca to Medina.)

5. God will prove Himself to you

When we obey, the Lord reveals himself. John 14:21

If we obey we will know the will of God. John 7:17

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ Give an example of the scientific information in the Bible revealing that God is indeed its author.
- ✓ What does the accuracy of the Bible in the fields of science, archaeology, and history reveal to us?
- ✓ How and when will God prove Himself to us?

Supplemental Reading and Listening

Free Indeed Video:

Tape 1, Session 4, "Scientific Evidence for the Truth of Scripture"

SESSION 4 THE TEXT WE HAVE IS RELIABLE

You can Trust the Bible

The Benefit of Many Copies of Manuscripts

Getting Back to the “Original” Text

We are Close to the “Original” Text

There are No Lost Books

Divisions and Punctuation

Why So Many Versions?

The benefit of many copies—the text is preserved

- Sometimes you hear someone say, “The Bible has been copied so many times it is unreliable.” The opposite is the case.
- There are more than 5,300 manuscripts of the Greek New Testament.
- There are more than 10,000 manuscripts of the Latin text.
- There are more than 9,000 manuscripts of other early versions, including Aramaic, Coptic, Armenian, Ethiopic, Georgian, Slavic, Bohairic, and Anglo-Saxon.
- TOTAL = more than 24,000 manuscripts.
- In comparison, the ancient text with the next most representatives is the Iliad by Homer with 643 surviving manuscripts.

Getting back to the “original” text

Manuscripts are dated by different means:

- The materials they are printed on.
- The size and form of the letters.
- Ink used.
- Ornamentation in the text.

We are close to the “original” text

- Both American and European scholars agree that the Greek text we have today is very close to the originals.
 - Ezra Abbot places the purity of the New Testament text at 99.75%.
 - A. T. Robertson estimates the purity of the text at 99.9%.
- Computers have enabled a closer study of the text than ever before.
- Manuscripts naturally form themselves into families, which helps to compare text and weigh the evidence for a specific reading.
- The Dead Sea Scrolls demonstrated clearly that the method used to preserve the integrity of the Hebrew text worked. There is no credible witness in the academic world that the Hebrew Old Testament we have today was very different from the Old Testament that Jesus read and taught from.
- Information overlap: This is whenever God’s Word speaks on an important issue, and the information is given more than once but worded differently. Thus theologians

today correctly say that there is not one major point of doctrine that is in doubt from lack of textual integrity (This is not to say that there are not differences of opinion on how a certain verse is to be interpreted. But the study of proper interpretation is outside the scope of this course.)

- Scholars testify that there is not one essential doctrine of the Church that is in question because of an inaccuracy in the text (Josh McDowell, *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*).

There are no lost books of the Bible

- Years of committees studying the canon confirm its accuracy and that nothing is missing. The argument that there are books missing is usually an excuse to ignore the Bible. Pirates have the right idea: if there is a piece of something missing (like the missing piece of the infamous “pirate’s map”), study what you have diligently.

Divisions and punctuation of the text

- The writing: Up until the 800’s AD the texts of the Bible were written in uncial script, that is, all capital letters. Beginning in the 800’s a style of writing called “miniscule” began to be used because it saved space and production costs. It was all lower case letters run together.
 - Uncial:
GODSOLOVEDTHEWORLDTHATHEGAVEHISONLYBEGOTTONSON
 - Miniscule: godsolovedtheworldthathegavehisonlybegottonson
- Chapter divisions: The oldest type dates from 350 AD; today’s standard from about 1227 AD.
- Verses: The text was broken in various ways through the centuries to help people read out loud. The first standardized verse breaks were put in the text in the tenth century and the modern verses that Bibles have first appeared in the Geneva Bible of 1560.
- Spaces between words and punctuation were used only sporadically until the 700’s AD.

Conclusion: You can trust the Bible!

Why so many versions?

- The purpose of the version – audience
 - Philippians 3:3-9 (NIV and Cotton Patch Version of Paul’s Epistles)
- The theology of the translators, as well as their idea of what a passage means.
 - 1 Corinthians 14:1 (NIV). “Gifts” is not in the Greek texts.
- The choice of Greek and Hebrew texts.
 - Matthew 6:9 (NIV), “Father in heaven,” and Luke 11:2, “Father”
 - Matthew 6:9 (KJV), “Father which art in heaven,” and Luke 11:2, “Father which art in heaven”

- Concerns over how literal to make the translation, and the vocabulary to use.

For example, Psalm 23:1

(King James Version) The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

(New International Translation) The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

(Bible in Basic English) The Lord takes care of me as his sheep; I will not be without any good thing.

(New Living Translation) The LORD is my shepherd; I have everything I need.

(Young’s Literal Translation) Jehovah {is} my shepherd, I do not lack,

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ How does having many ancient manuscripts help us to reconstruct a Bible that is close to the original?
- ✓ What are some methods for dating manuscripts?
- ✓ What are some reasons we believe that the text we have is very close to the original?
- ✓ Are there lost books of the Bible?
- ✓ If there were lost books of the Bible, what should we do with the Bible that we have?
- ✓ Why is it important to know that divisions and punctuation were not part of the original God-breathed Word?
- ✓ Why do we have so many versions of the Bible?

Supplemental Reading and Listening

Free Indeed Videos:

Tape 1, Session 3, “We Can Trust the Written Word: Manuscript Evidence”

Tape 4, Session 3, “Why Study the Bible”

Tape 4, Session 4, “How To Study the Bible”

Tape 20 and 21, Sessions 1-8, “Tools for Basic Bible Study”

CORRECTLY HANDLING THE WORD OF GOD

SESSION 5

THE WORKMAN AND THE PERFECT WORD

The workman of the Word

- Since the Word is perfect, it must be handled with great accuracy.
- The physical world is set up in an exact and exacting manner; so is the spiritual world. Romans 1:20. God's invisible qualities can be understood from what has been made.
- Do not remain ignorant or reject God's revealed Word. Hosea. 4:6, "Destroyed for lack of knowledge." (KJV)
- Correctly handle the Word. 2 Timothy 2:15.
- Have the right attitude: there is a correct interpretation. Matthew 22:29, "You do err, not knowing the Scriptures." (KJV)
- Do not guess. It is work – not "guesswork." Work the Word until it fits together.
- Be willing to lay aside traditional teachings if they contradict Scripture. Matthew 15:1-3.
- Understanding occurs as you act on the Word. John 7:17.
- The unbeliever will not understand. 1 Corinthians 2:14.
- Work hard to understand:
 - Proverbs 2:2-5. Cry out for understanding.
 - Proverbs 25:2. It is the glory of God to conceal a matter.
 - Matthew 13:10 and 11; Mark 4:33 and 34. Christ spoke in parables but explained them to the disciples.

Uncovering the perfection of the Word

Misinterpretations and apparent contradictions

- Misinterpretations and apparent contradictions in the Bible come from three sources:
 1. Errors in our own understanding.
 2. Errors in translation.
 3. Errors in transmission.

1. ERRORS IN OUR UNDERSTANDING

- A. Understanding the verse.
- B. Understanding the context.
- C. Understanding the scope of the subject in Scripture.
- D. Understanding the customs of the biblical culture.
- E. Understanding figures of speech.
- F. Understanding Administrations, and "to whom."

A. Understanding the verse

1. The animals on Noah's ark

- Genesis 7:1-3 (by sevens); Genesis 6:19-21 (two = in pairs); Genesis 8:18-20 (sacrificed some of the clean animals).

2. Moses was not floated down the Nile by his mother

- Exodus 2:1-8. It was not “chance” that Moses was found by Pharaoh’s daughter. It was strategy. He was placed in the reeds on the bank of the Nile, not sent down the river.

B. Understanding the context

1. Not a blessing, but a curse

Genesis 31:49. May the Lord keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other. Genesis 31:29, 31, 48-50.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ The fact that the laws of the physical universe are so exacting tells us what about the spiritual universe? What verse relates the physical universe to the spiritual universe?
- ✓ Does the fact that 2 Timothy 2:15 says we are to correctly handle the Word of God imply that the Word can be mishandled and misinterpreted?
- ✓ What are the three major sources of misinterpretations and apparent contradictions?
- ✓ Name three reasons that people have errors in their understanding.
- ✓ How many sheep got on Noah’s ark?
- ✓ How far did Moses float down the Nile before the basket he was in got eaten by a hippo?

Supplemental reading and listening

Booklets:

22 Principles of Biblical Interpretation or How to Eliminate Apparent Contradictions

SESSION 6
UNCOVERING THE PERFECT WORD (continued)

B. Understanding the context (continued)

2. The Gospel preached to the world

- Matthew 24:14. The context is not the Rapture of the Church, but the Second Coming of Christ to the earth. Revelation 14:6 and 7.

C. Understanding the scope of the subject in Scripture

The “scope” of a subject in Scripture is all the verses that relate to that subject. Students of the Bible must interpret difficult verses in light of the clear verses on any subject.

1. The day Jesus Christ died: Wednesday around 3 PM

- Matthew 12:38-40. Jesus will be in the ground 3 days and 3 nights
- Mark 15:25,33,37,42. The hours and the day before the Sabbath.
- Leviticus. 23:4-7. The day after the Passover sacrifice (14 of Nisan) was a Sabbath (also, Num. 28:16-18).
- John 19:31. Jesus was crucified before a special Sabbath.

D. Understanding the customs of the biblical cultures

1. Gird up your loins

- 1 Peter 1:13 (KJV vs. NIV). 2 Kings 4:29.

2. Turn the other cheek

- Luke 6:29. It was an insult. Lamentations 3:30; Isaiah 50:6.

E. Understanding figures of speech

1. Antonomasia = name change

- The change of a title or of a name in the place of the person’s proper name. Malachi 4:5 (Elijah = John the Baptist; Matt. 17:10-13). Cp. 2 Kings 9:31, Jehu called “Zimri.” The “Tarzan” example.

2. ERRORS IN TRANSLATION

A. You shall not murder

- Exodus 20:13; Exodus 21:12, 15 and 16. (Book: *The Death Penalty: Godly or Ungodly*).

B. “Mystery”

- Ephesians 3:2-6. “Mystery” is a mistranslation. *Musterion* = “secret.”

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ On what day of the week was Jesus Christ crucified?
- ✓ Was Jesus Christ crucified the day before a Sabbath?
- ✓ In the biblical culture, slapping someone on the cheek was an _____.
- ✓ Is the word “mystery” a good translation of the Greek word *musterion*? What would be a better translation?

Supplemental reading and listening

Books:

The Death Penalty: Godly or Ungodly, Appendix A, “Misapplied Texts.”

Tapes:

The Last Week of Christ’s Life (Mar/Apr 95)

The “Mystery” Revisited (Sep/Oct 96)

Free Indeed Videos:

Tape 8, Session 1, “Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani”

Tape 8, Session 2, “The Apparent Contradictions”

SESSION 7
UNCOVERING THE PERFECT WORD (continued)

3. ERRORS IN TRANSMISSION

A. And that is what we are!

- 1 John 3:1. KJV vs. NIV (NIV is correct).

F. Understanding Administrations

- In Christian theology this is called “Dispensationalism.”
- Dispensationalism is a systematic theology that recognizes that God relates to mankind in different ways at different times. God changes the rules.
- Administration = *oikonomia* = administration of a house or household (*oikos* = house; *nomos* = law). The rules of the house. The management of the house. Ephesians 3:2.
 1. Paradise
 2. Conscience
 3. Civil Government
 4. Law
 5. Grace
 6. Appearing (or Tribulation)
 7. Millennial Kingdom
 8. Final Paradise

God changed the rules about circumcision

- Genesis 17:12-14. You must be circumcised.
- Galatians 5:2. Christ will be of no value to you.

DIVIDING THE EIGHT ADMINISTRATIONS

1. Paradise. Ends with the Fall. Edenic world; only one known prohibition.

2. Conscience. Starts with the Fall, ends with the Flood. Laws of the time unclear, although there were obviously sacrifices and sacrificial requirements.

3. Civil Government. Starts after the Flood, ends when God gave the Mosaic Law. Animals now afraid of man, and man eats animals for the first time. Man is commanded to govern over men (Gen. 9:1-6). Marriage laws were not as strict as they would be under Mosaic Law; Abraham married his half-sister: Genesis 20:11 and 12, versus Leviticus 18:9.

4. Law. Starts when God gave the Mosaic Law, ends on Day of Pentecost. (“Old Covenant”; Ex. 24:3-8). New regulations of all types regarding physical and spiritual life. Jesus commanded people to keep the Law of Moses (Mark 1:40-45). The “New Testament” page between Malachi and Matthew is not accurate.

5. Grace. (Eph. 3:9, Col. 1:25 and 26). Started on the Day of Pentecost, ends with the Rapture. Many of the regulations of the Law no longer apply. The Church Epistles are the Scripture most specifically addressed to Christians.

6. Appearing (or Tribulation). Starts right after the Rapture, ends after the battle of Armageddon. It is the “time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jer. 30:7). There will be a return to many of the Laws of Moses as is clear from the letter to the seven assemblies in Revelation.

7. Millennial Kingdom. Starts after Armageddon when Christ sets up his kingdom on earth. Ends at the Final War, when fire from heaven destroys the enemies of God (Rev. 20:7-9). The earth is then restored. All animals eating plants again. Christ will enforce the laws with a “rod of iron.” He will reign from Jerusalem in righteousness and justice. No war, no sickness, and no poverty.

8. Final Paradise. Starts after the Final War and White Throne Judgment, and lasts forever. Totally new heaven and earth. Huge city with streets of gold. Tree of Life available to people again. God as well as Jesus lives and reigns on earth.

How do we know what applies to us and what does not?

- The whole Bible is God-breathed and we can learn from it. Romans 15:4.
- The Church Epistles addressed specifically to Christians; we must read and understand these. 1 Corinthians 1:1 and 2.
- Watch for the rules to change: If something in the Epistles written to the Christian Church changes something that was written earlier, then the latter is what applies to Christians. Conversely, if a rule that is part of an earlier Administration is not specifically changed, then it remains in effect. God does not have to repeat Himself in every Administration.

Marriage regulations changed

- Original Paradise: God created Adam and Eve and said, “They shall be one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). His intent is clear, and was reinforced by Christ when he cited the reference in Genesis to show that God created male and female and in marriage they “two” become “one flesh” (Matt. 19:4-6).
- Conscience and Civil Government: Multiple wives were a common occurrence, although not formally sanctioned by God. Also, there was no formal statement about who could marry whom. Thus Abraham married his half-sister, Sarah (Gen. 20:12) and Jacob married Rachel and Leah who were sisters.
- Law Administration: Allows (but never encourages) more than one wife (Ex. 21:9 and 10; Deut. 21:15-17). However, the Law tightly restricted whom a person could marry. Marriage to a half sister was forbidden (Lev. 18:9), as well as marrying both a woman and her sister (Lev. 18:18). There were many other forbidden marriages in the Mosaic Law. Interestingly, the Babylonians were monogamous, and the biblical record shows that after the Judeans returned from Babylon it was the usual custom to have only one wife. The Four Gospels do not record anyone with more than one wife.

- Grace Administration: The rule in the Grace Administration is that marriages are to be strictly monogamous. Each man is to have “his own wife” and each woman “her own husband” (1 Cor. 7:2). Having more than one wife in the Grace Administration disqualifies a person from leadership (1 Tim. 3:2 and 12; Titus 1:6), which was obviously not the case under the Law. The Old Testament shows that most kings and powerful leaders had more than one wife.

Worship practices changed

- Original Paradise: No sacrifices and no specific place to worship. Adam and Eve worshipped by being obedient to God.
- Conscience and Civil Government: There were sacrifices, but altars were set up and sacrifices made wherever the family was camped. Genesis 12:8; 13:18.
- Law Administration: Worship was tightly regulated. The types of sacrifices and how they were to be done was spelled out in the Law of Moses. Sacrifices were to be done only at the Tabernacle and Temple. Deuteronomy 12:1-13.
- Grace Administration: No animal sacrifices. Christ was sacrificed for us. 1 Corinthians 5:7.

Regulations about food changed

- Original Paradise: ate plants only. Genesis 1:29 and 30.
- Civil Government: eat meat. Genesis 9:2 and 3.
- Law Administration: it became sin to eat certain meat, such as pork. Leviticus 11:3-7.
- Grace Administration: it is not sinful to eat any meat, but it may be unwise. 1 Corinthians 10:25.

Sabbath regulations changed

- Original Paradise, Conscience and Civil Government: No Sabbath rest required.
- Law Administration: Sabbath rest required. Exodus 20:8-10.
- Grace Administration: No special days. Colossians 2:16 and 17; Romans 14:5 and 6.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ The system of Christian theology that recognizes that God deals with mankind differently in the different administrations is called _____.
- ✓ How many administrations are there?
- ✓ Name three administrations.
- ✓ What administration do we Christians live in?
- ✓ What is a major difference in God's commandments concerning marriage between the Law and the Grace Administration?
- ✓ What are some major differences between the Law and Grace Administrations concerning worship?

Supplemental reading and listening

Books:

Defending Dispensationalism
22 Principles of Bible Interpretation
The Christian's Hope – The Anchor of the Soul

Tapes:

The "Sons of God" of Genesis 6 (Jan/Feb 93)
Eat, Drink, and Remember (Jul/Aug 93)
The Role of Women in the Church (Mar/Apr 96)
The Purpose of the Ages (May/Jun 97)

Audio Tape Seminars:

The Book of Revelation (9 hours)

SALVATION AND THE NEED FOR A SAVIOR

SESSION 8 THE FALL

The two Adams

- The whole Bible is the story of two men: the first Adam and the last Adam (1 Cor. 15:45). The first Adam ruined everything, the last Adam is fixing it.
- Jesus Christ is the great subject of the Bible from Genesis 3:15—Revelation 22:21.

Adam made: body, soul, spirit

- Adam made of dust but not yet living. When God breathed into Adam he became a living soul. Genesis 2:7.
- Adam created in God's image: ability to create, love, dream, fully express himself in language.

The Fall and its results

- Genesis 2:25. Adam and Eve were naked.
- 3:1 serpent = *Hypocatastasis* for the Devil. Not a snake.
 - *Simile, Metaphor, Hypocatastasis* (using “pig” as an example).
 - Sneaky or crafty (a snake can get close to you and you will not know it).
 - Blends into his environment.
 - Assaults the Word of God; assaults the goodness of God.
2:16 and 17: “When you eat of it [the tree] you will surely die.”
3:2-6: Add to the Word, subtract from the Word, change the Word.
3:7: “The eyes of both of them were opened” = a fundamental change.
- They realized they were *Arum*; **both** naked and crafty. (The Hebrew words below, like all Hebrew, reads from right to left, not left to right like English does). The letters are “Ayin” (silent “A”), “resh” (“R”), “waw” (“W”), “Mem” (“M”).

~ wr [= Hebrew word without the vowel points added by the Masorites.

~W[= crafty

~W[= naked. There was no difference between “naked” and “crafty” in the original Hebrew text. The context made the meaning clear.

- Adam and Eve disobeyed, and when they did, they took on the sin nature of the serpent. Then they produced a race that, because of sin nature, was dead.
- Genesis 3:8-15:
 - 3:14: crawl on your belly = Figure, *idiom*, Psalm 44:25, humiliation.
 - Eat dust, *idiom*, Psalm 72:9 utter defeat.
 - 3:15 is first prophecy of the coming Savior.
- Genesis 3:17-19: the curse on the ground.
 - Romans 8:18-22: The creation in bondage.
 - Revelation 22:2 and 3: No more curse in the Final Paradise.

- Genesis 3:20 and 21: First blood sacrifice; substitutes for Adam and Eve.
- Genesis 3:22-24: “Knowing good and evil.”
 - Luke 11:35: Do not let your understanding be evil.
- Romans 5:12: Adam’s sin brought death to everyone.
- Romans 5:18 and 19: Christ’s obedience made life available for everyone.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ The whole Bible is the story of two men. They are _____ and _____.
- ✓ In the Garden of Eden, Eve spoke with a snake. T or F.
- ✓ Representing the Devil as a serpent by the figure of speech *Hypocatastasis* emphasizes his _____.
- ✓ The Devil blended truth and falsehood in order to trick Eve. T or F. Does he do the same today?
- ✓ After Adam and Eve sinned, they knew they were ~ **WF** [, both _____ and _____.

Supplemental reading and listening

Books:

One God & One Lord, Chapters 1-3

Tapes:

A New Race for a New Age (Nov/Dec 92)

Free Indeed Videos:

Tape 3, Session 3, “Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God”

SESSION 9 WHO IS IN CONTROL?

“The whole world is under the control of the evil one”

- James 1:17. God is love and the author of “every good and perfect gift.”
- Genesis 1:26-28. Adam and Eve were to rule the world.
- 1 John 5:19. The Devil is in control of the world.
- The world portrays the character of the one ruling it.
- 2 Corinthians 4:4. The Devil is called the “god of this age.”
- Luke 4:5-7. The Devil was given the world.
- Hebrews 2:14. Devil holds power of death.
- 1 Corinthians 15:26. Death is an enemy.
- Acts 10:38. Jesus Christ vs. Satan.
- Luke 13:10-17. Woman crippled by Satan.
- 1 John 3:8. Jesus Christ came to destroy the Devil’s work.
- Matthew 12:22-26. If God were behind both evil and good, then His kingdom is divided.
- There is a war going on between good and evil.

The Devil was not known in Old Testament

- John 1:17 and 18. Grace and **truth** by Jesus Christ, who made known the Father.
- Luke 10:17-24. Jesus Christ revealed the Devil.
- 1 John 5:20. Jesus Christ came and gave us understanding so that we could know God.
- Since the Devil was hidden in Old Testament, God “took the rap” for evil.
 - Exodus 4:21. The Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart.
 - Job 1. An allegory designed to show that worship of God was not connected to whether you were blessed in this life or not.
- Ephesians 6:12. There is a spiritual battle going on and it is very important that we do our part.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ God originally gave the rulership of the world to _____.
- ✓ The Bible calls Satan “the god of this age.” T or F.
- ✓ The Bible says death is an enemy. T or F.
- ✓ Who does the Bible say holds the power of death today?
- ✓ The Devil’s kingdom was not revealed in the Old Testament. T or F.

Supplemental reading and listening:

Books:

Don’t Blame God!

Tapes:

Overcoming Evil with Good (Sep/Oct 01)

Free Indeed Videos:

Tape 7, Session 2, “Don’t Blame God”

SESSION 10

WHERE ARE THE DEAD?

Where are the dead?

- The Devil's lie: "You shall not surely die." The dead are dead, not alive. (Gen. 3:4)
- Death is the absence of life.
- 1 Corinthians 15:26. Death is an enemy.
- Psalm 49:12-14. Man is like the animals that die.
- Animals have a soul. Genesis 1:21; 2:19 ("creature" = "soul").
- There is no "immortal soul" in the Bible.
- Psalm 6:5. A person does not remember you when he is dead.
- Psalm 115:17. The dead do not praise the LORD, those who go down to silence.
- Psalm 146:4 (KJV): "His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish."
- Ecclesiastes 9:4-6, 10. No knowledge in the grave.
- Job 14:12: "So man lies down and does not rise; till the heavens are no more, men will not awake or be roused from their sleep."
- John 3:13. No one has ever gone to heaven.
- Acts 2:34. David is not in heaven.
- Ecclesiastes 3:19-21, 12:7. The spirit goes back to God. When you die, the body goes back to dust, the soul ceases to exist, and the spirit "goes back to God," meaning that God keeps it in His memory.

Death is sleep

- Figuratively speaking the dead are "asleep." 1 Thessalonians 4:13, 15-18. Cemetery = from Greek *koiman*, "to put to sleep."
- The dead will get up when Christ Raptures the church. "Rapture" is from the Latin word *rapeo*, "to carry off."

No everlasting torment for the unsaved

- Revelation 20:4 and 5, 11-15. The dead come to life; the Lake of Fire is the second death.
- John 3:16. "Perish" versus having everlasting life.
- Deuteronomy 18:9-13. It is forbidden to consult the dead.
- "Hell" is not forever: the only way to have everlasting life is through Christ.

Resolve difficult scriptures by using the keys to research

- 2 Corinthians 5:1-8. "Absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ Do both man and animals have soul life?
- ✓ The phrase “immortal soul” occurs how many times in the Bible?
- ✓ The Bible calls death “sleep” because man will “wake up” in the future. T or F.
- ✓ Christians who have died will get up from the dead at the _____.
- ✓ The Bible clearly and strictly commands people not to try to contact the dead. T or F.

Supplemental reading and listening

Books:

Is There Death After Life?

Free Indeed Videos:

Tape 14, Sessions 1 - 4, “The Dead Are Dead”

SESSION 11 SALVATION AND THE SAVIOR

Salvation

- “Save” is from the Greek word, *sozo*. The basic meaning of the verb *sozo* is to rescue from peril, to protect, to keep alive.
- Saved from what? Death.

The Savior: Jesus Christ

- Christ’s sinless life, his death for our sins, and his resurrection, are all central to Christianity. 1 Corinthians 15:3 and 4. Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.
- God had been building up to Jesus Christ from Genesis 3:15.
- Genesis 22:1 and 2. Abraham offers Isaac.
 - 22:2: “Your only son” = *hyperbole*, exaggeration for emphasis.
 - Hebrews 11:17-19. Isaac was a type of Christ.
- John 1:29. “Behold the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” (NASB)
- The Old Testament sacrifices were a pattern (type) of substitutionary sacrifice.
- Romans 6:23. There had to be a payment for sin.
- 2 Corinthians 5:21. Christ became a sin offering for us.
- The entire Old Testament points to Christ.

THE GOLDEN THREAD—Jesus Christ in the 39 books of the OT (from *One God & One Lord*, P. 84-87)

In **Genesis** he is the seed of the woman (3:15).

In **Exodus** he is the Passover Lamb (12:11).

In **Leviticus** he is the High Priest (21:10).

In **Numbers** he is the one lifted on a pole who gives healing (21:9).

In **Deuteronomy** he is the prophet from among his brothers (18:15).

In **Joshua** he is the captain of the Lord’s host (5:14).

In **Judges** he is the stone that crushes the heads of his enemies (9:53).

In **Ruth** he is the kinsman-redeemer (3:9).

In **1 Samuel** he is the ark and mercy seat before whom pagan gods bow (5:3).

In **2 Samuel** he is the King – declared by prophets and anointed with oil (5:3).

In **1 Kings** he is the true Temple where people meet God (8:11).

In **2 Kings** he is the great miracle worker (2:9).

In **1 Chronicles** he is the descendant of Adam who will rule forever (1:1).

In **2 Chronicles** he is the child-king hidden and protected from his enemies (22:11).

In **Ezra** he is the teacher well-versed in the Law of Moses (7:10).

In **Nehemiah** he is the one who remembers us with favor (5:19).

In **Esther** he is the gold scepter of mercy in the hand of God the King (5:2).
 In **Job** he is the daysman, the mediator between God and man, whom Job longed for (9:33).
 In **Psalms** he is the stone the builders rejected (118:22).
 In **Proverbs** he is the Word fitly spoken (25:11).
 In **Ecclesiastes** he is that which gives life meaning (2:25).
 In **Song of Solomon** he is the lover and our beloved (2:16).
 In **Isaiah** he is the son of the virgin (7:14).
 In **Jeremiah** he is the source of living waters (2:13).
 In **Lamentations** he is the hope whose compassions are new every morning (3:23).
 In **Ezekiel** he is the one who gives life to dry bones (37:11).
 In **Daniel** he is the son of man coming in the clouds of heaven (7:13).
 In **Hosea** he is the faithful husband who buys back his unfaithful wife (3:2).
 In **Joel** he is the one who pours out the Lord's spirit on all people (2:28).
 In **Amos** he is God's plumbline, making the straight and crooked obvious (7:8).
 In **Obadiah** he is the deliverance on Mt. Zion (v. 17).
 In **Jonah** he is the sign – three days and nights in the heart of the earth (1:17).
 In **Micah** he is the peace that causes all nations to beat their swords into plowblades (4:3).
 In **Nahum** he is God's refuge to the good and God's vengeance to the wicked (1:7).
 In **Habakkuk** he is the righteous one who lived by faith (2:4).
 In **Zephaniah** he is the one who will restore the fortunes of Judah (3:20).
 In **Haggai** he is the desired of all nations (2:7).
 In **Zechariah** he is the smitten shepherd (13:7).
 In **Malachi** he is the "sun of righteousness" risen with healing in his wings (4:2).

And the Messiah is so much more

Like Abel's sacrifice, he is the sacrifice that is pleasing to God.

Like Noah's ark, he is the shelter from God's wrath.

Like Moses' staff, he is the one who makes a way for us in impossible situations.

Like manna, he is the bread from heaven.

Like Joshua's pile of rocks, he is the faithful witness.

Like Shamgar's ox goad, he is our victory against certain death.

The man, the Lord Jesus Christ

- The Old Testament foretold his death and resurrection. Isaiah 52:13-53:12. (Chapter 52 breaks in wrong place).
- What qualified Christ to be the perfect sacrifice: He was one from out of the flock and without blemish.
 - Hebrews 2:17 and 18. Jesus is our brother, made just as we are.
- 1 Timothy 2:5. He is our mediator.

- Hebrews 5:7-9. Jesus Christ had to rely on God to raise him from the dead.
- John 17:1-3. Jesus Christ was sent by the only true God.
- Jesus Christ had no sin nature: sin is passed via the male (seed), and Jesus was conceived by God.
- Luke 1:26-35. How Mary became pregnant by God.
- Jesus Christ was not “killed,” he gave up his life.
- Matthew 27:45-50. (Cp. Luke 23:46; Jesus committed his life to God and died).
- Luke 24:1-8. Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. He is savior and Lord.
- Acts 1:9-11. Christ is now in heaven.
- 1 Corinthians 15:20-23. Christ’s resurrection is the proof that God will raise us from the dead.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ Christians are “saved.” Saved from what?
- ✓ The very first prophecy of Jesus Christ in the Bible is Genesis _____.
- ✓ The record of Abraham offering Isaac foreshadows God offering His Son. T or F.
- ✓ The Old Testament foretold many things about the coming Messiah, even his death and resurrection. T or F.
- ✓ Jesus Christ was a man, and is the mediator between God and man. T or F.

Supplemental reading and listening

Books:

One God & One Lord, Chapters 4-14; Appendix G

Booklets:

Beyond a Reasonable Doubt: 23 Arguments for the Historical Validity of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Tape Seminar:

Jesus Christ the Diameter of the Ages (6 hours)

Free Indeed Videos:

Tape 9, Sessions 1-4, “The Birth of Christ”

Tape 18, Sessions 3 and 4, “The Resurrection”

SESSION 12

SALVATION BY FAITH

Faith

- What is faith? Trust.
- Greek: *Pistis* = “trust, confidence, assurance,” was translated into the Latin *fides* = “trust, confidence, assurance,” and then came from the Latin into the English as “faith.”
- Hebrews 11:1 and 6. “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” Faith, like any other trust relationship in your life, is built upon time and trustworthiness.

Faith can grow

- 2 Corinthians 10:15. Your faith can grow.
 - Luke 17:5: “Increase our faith.”
- No such thing as “just take it by faith.” “Risk” vs. “Faith.”
- Faith knows what the senses cannot: There is a God, Jesus Christ will come back, we do have everlasting life, etc.
- 2 Corinthians 5:7. We live by faith.
- What is the difference between living by faith and “just take it on faith?” Trusting the promises of God (Hair stylist example).
- Romans 10:17. Faith comes by hearing.
- Hebrews 11:7a. Noah had a relationship with God.
- Hebrews 11:22. Joseph had a relationship with God.

Salvation

- Salvation is easy, and free!
- Romans 3:23. We all need salvation.
- Romans 10:9 and 10. The simple formula.
- Acts 16:22-32. The Philippian jailor.

Salvation is by faith, not works

- Ephesians 2:8. Salvation is not by works, and you cannot lose it by doing evil works.
- Romans 3:19-22. Works vs. faith; Law vs. Grace.
- Acts 21:17-21. The Christians in Jerusalem were zealous for the law.
- Deuteronomy 6:25. Old Testament righteousness comes from the works of the Law.
- John 3:16. Everlasting life through Christ.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ What is a good one-word definition of faith?
- ✓ The Greek word translated faith is _____?
- ✓ If you think your faith in God is small, work on building it. Your faith (trust) in God can grow as you develop your relationship with Him. T or F.
- ✓ Salvation is free to us because someone else paid for it. Who? With what?
- ✓ What single verse gives an easy formula for salvation? Can you quote it?

Supplemental reading and listening

Books:

Don't Blame God!, Chapter 10

Booklets:

Becoming a Christian: Why? What? How?

Tapes:

Justification by Faith (Sep/Oct 95)

Why the New Birth is the Miracle of Miracles (May/Jun 98)

Free Indeed Videos:

Tape 3, Session 1, "How to be Saved"

Tape 3, Session 4, "Salvation by Faith"

SESSION 13

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

What does the word “Church” mean?

- “Church” = *ekklesia* = an assembly, a group called together for a specific purpose.
 1. Christian assembly: 1 Corinthians 1:2.
 2. Jewish assembly: Matthew 18:17; Acts 7:38 (NIV & KJV).
 3. Pagan assembly: Acts 19:32 and 39.

The Christian Church

- Started on Pentecost. Acts 2:1-4.
 - Leviticus 23:15 and 16. Feast of weeks, “Pentecost” in Greek.
- Will end at the Rapture. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.
- The Rapture is not the second coming.
 - Revelation 19:11-16. At the second coming Christ comes from heaven on a horse and fights the battle of Armageddon.
 - Matthew 25:31-34. The nations are gathered before him on earth, not in the air.

The Church is new

There are Epistles addressed to the Christian Church. Today there are only two groups of people in God’s sight: those who are Christians and those who are not.

- Romans – Thessalonians are called “the Church Epistles.”
 - **Romans**: *Doctrine*. It sets forth the doctrine of salvation by faith and being dead and risen with Christ.
 - **Corinthians**: *Reproof*. It deals with the *practical* failure to walk out the teaching of Romans, that we died and are risen with Christ.
 - **Galatians**: *Correction*. Deals with the doctrinal failure of the Galatians to adhere to Romans.
 - **Ephesians**: *Doctrine*. The Secret: Jew and Gentile “one new man,” and all Christians part of the Body of Christ.
 - **Philippians**: *Reproof*. Practical failure to exhibit the teaching of Ephesians in manifesting the mind of Christ as members of one Body.
 - **Colossians**: *Correction*. Doctrinal failure to keep hold of the Head, Jesus Christ, and not seeing their completeness and perfection in Christ.
 - **Thessalonians**: *Doctrine*. The Church is raptured up into the air to be with the Lord. Glorified with Christ.

The Christian Church was a secret

- Ephesians 3:1-10.
 - v. 3 Mystery = *musterion* = “secret,” not “mystery” (This fact was already covered in the section on how apparent contradictions can be caused by mistranslation). In the Bible many of the secrets of God are revealed.
 - Matthew 13:11. “Secrets” of the kingdom of heaven.

- v. 3 A secret is known once it is revealed. (Eph. 1:9)
- v. 8 “unsearchable” = “untrackable”
- v. 10 Why did God hide the Secret? To reveal it in His timing to the spiritual realm.
- 1 Corinthians 2:6-8. Had Satan known the Secret, he would not have crucified Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 2:9 and 10. The Secret was completely unknown in the Old Testament.
- Colossians 1:25-27. The Secret was hidden. Christ in you, the hope of glory.
- 2 Corinthians 3:7-11. The ministry of death versus the ministry of life.
- There is permanent salvation in the Grace Administration. This is clearly revealed by the vocabulary that is unique to epistles addressed to Christians.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ The Greek word *ekklesia* is usually translated “church,” but more accurately it means _____.
- ✓ When did the Christian Church start?
- ✓ When will it end?
- ✓ There are letters specifically addressed to the Christian Church. These letters are known as the seven _____.
- ✓ Romans, Ephesians and Thessalonians are which? Doctrinal, reproof, or correction.
- ✓ The Greek word *mysterion* should be translated as _____.
- ✓ The Christian Church was a secret that even Satan did not know about. T or F.

Supplemental reading and listening

Books:

The Christian’s Hope: The Anchor of the Soul, Chapter 3
One God & One Lord, Appendix J

Tapes:

Saved, Sealed, and Secure in Christ (Nov/Dec 95)
 The “Mystery” Revisited (Sep/Oct 96)
 Let’s Not Keep the Secret a Secret (Sep/Oct 98)

Free Indeed Videos:

Tape 17, Session 1, “The Secret”

SESSION 14 THE NEW BIRTH

Christians are sons by birth

- 1 John 3:1. Christians are “sons of God.”
- God chose *vocabulary* to communicate His will. If we ignore it we will miss what God is trying to say.
- 1 Peter 1:3 and 23. New Birth. *Anagennao* (the prefix, *Ana* = again; the verb *gennao* = to be born).
- Titus 3:5. Rebirth. *Paliggenesia* (pronounced *palingenesia*. The adverb *Palin* = “again, anew,” and the noun *genesis* = origin, beginning, birth). “Born again,” or “originate again.”
- James 1:18. Birth. *Apokueo* (prefix, *Apo* = away from, and verb, *kueo* = to be pregnant). Literally = “move away from pregnancy; to give birth to.”
- 1 Peter 1:23. Incorruptible seed.

Christians are sons by adoption

- Ephesians 1:5; Romans 8:15 (KJV), 23 (we wait for the full realization); “Adoption” was permanent in the Roman world.
“The Roman-Syrian Law Book will illustrate this passage of the epistle. It actually lays down the principle that a man can never put away an *adopted son*, and that he cannot put away a real son without good ground. It is remarkable that the adopted son should have a stronger position than the son by birth, but it is so.” Sir William Ramsay, quoted in *Just and the Justifier* by Charles H. Welch.
- Galatians 4:5. NIV = “full rights of sons.” KJV = “the adoption of sons.”
“The adopted son became a member of the family, just as if he had been born of the blood of the adopter; and he was invested with all the privileges of a *filius familias* [son of the family] (Welch, p. 211). “The adopted son became owner of the property (p. 208).”

Christian salvation is permanent

- Ephesians 2:10. “Created” in Christ.
- Ephesians 1:23. Part of the Body of Christ.
- Ephesians 1:13. The gift of holy spirit is **sealed** in the Christian.
- Ephesians 1:14; 2 Corinthians 1:21 and 22; 5:4 and 5. The holy spirit “guarantees” our everlasting life.
- 1 Corinthians 3:10-17. We can suffer loss, but not loss of salvation. “Destroy” is *phtheiro*, which is better translated “mar” (*The Christian’s Hope*, pp. 102, 103).
- Romans 8:35-39. Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Salvation in the Old Testament was not permanent

- Hosea 1:2-8. God stopped loving Israel and showing her mercy for a time.
- It should at least be noted that no verse in the OT or Gospels indicates that salvation was permanent. There are no words such as “sealed,” “guarantee,” or “New Birth.”

Moreover, the conditional nature of salvation is set forth clearly in verses in other administrations:

- Deuteronomy 6:25. It will be our righteousness if we do the works of the Law.
- Psalm 1:4 and 5. The wicked will not stand in the Day of Judgment.
- Ezekiel 33:11-16. A man has to continue to do righteous acts.
- Matthew 10:22 (24:13). He who stands firm to the end will be saved.
- Matthew 19:16-18. If you want to have everlasting life, obey the commandments.
- Revelation 2:10 and 11. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ God says Christians are “born” when they are saved because birth is _____.
- ✓ In the Roman culture, adoption was _____.
- ✓ Each Christian is born again of _____ seed.
- ✓ In the Old Testament, people could lose holy spirit. However, in the Grace Administration it is _____ inside the person.
- ✓ According to Deuteronomy 6:25, people were righteous if they _____.
- ✓ In Hosea, God said He would not show love to Israel. In contrast, what does Romans 8:35-39 say to the Christian Church.

Supplemental reading and listening

Books:

The Christian’s Hope: The Anchor of the Soul, Appendix C

The Gift of Holy Spirit: Every Christian’s Divine Deposit, Chapter 1

Booklets:

Becoming a Christian: Why? What? How?

24 Reasons Why Salvation is Permanent for Christians

Righteousness: Every Christian’s Gift from God

Tapes:

Saved, Sealed, and Secure in Christ (Nov/Dec 95)

THE GIFT OF HOLY SPIRIT

SESSION 15

THE GIFT OF HOLY SPIRIT – BASICS

What do you get with the New Birth?

- When you are saved, you receive the gift of holy spirit.

What is “the gift of holy spirit”?

- The nature of God, who is Holy and Spirit.
- It is “holy spirit,” the gift of God, not “Holy Spirit,” which is another name for God. In the Greek it is *pneuma*, spirit, and *hagion*, holy, which means, “set apart (by virtue of one’s purity).” Many words do not change meanings if they are capitalized or not. Car, house, dog, and cat mean the same whether the first letter is upper case or lower case. But that is not true with every word, e.g., Mark or mark, Bill or bill, Faith or faith, John or john. The translators rarely get the giver and the gift correct. Cp. Luke 11:13; Acts 2:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:8.
- God is called “the Holy One.” 2 Kings 19:22 (KJV).
- When we receive it, we become holy. Colossians 1:2.
 - We become “partakers of the divine nature.” 2 Peter 1:4 (KJV).
 - We have “Christ” in us. Colossians 1:27.

When was the gift of holy spirit given to the Church?

- At Pentecost. Acts 2:1-4 (The Pentecost experience occurred in the Temple, which in Scripture is often called a “house.” Cp. Luke 24:53; John 2:17; Ps. 69:9).
- It first came with the signs of wind and tongues of fire. Acts 2:1-4.
 - The fire on Pentecost: Matthew 3:11—John had said that one would come who would baptize with spirit and fire.
 - The wind—Cp. John 20:22 (Jesus breathed on the disciples).
- Christ said it would come. Luke 24:49; Acts 1:1-5.
- It was given by the Father to Jesus, who, as the Head of the Body, gives it out to his Church. John 15:26; Acts 2:33.

How does the gift of holy spirit in us differ from the holy spirit upon OT believers?

1. **OT:** It was upon a few people. Numbers 11:16 and 17, 25.
NT: It is given to **all** who believe. Acts 2:38.
2. **OT:** It was given by measure, not in fullness. 2 Kings 2:9.
NT: It is given to the Christian in fullness. Acts 2:4. Christians are baptized, fully immersed, in holy spirit. Acts 1:5.
3. **OT:** It was given to people conditionally. Samson lost it (Judg. 16:20), Saul lost it (1 Sam. 16:14), and David prayed not to lose it (Ps. 51:11).
NT: It is given permanently by being “born” inside us (1 Pet. 1:23). It is “sealed” in (Eph. 1:13).
4. **OT:** It was God’s choice whether or not to put holy spirit on someone (Num. 11:17).
NT: Our choice, not God’s. When one becomes a Christian, he receives the gift of holy spirit (Acts 2:38).

Water baptism is no longer necessary

- Acts 1:5. Christians are immersed in holy spirit.
- Ephesians 4:5. The “one baptism” is holy spirit.

What does the gift of holy spirit do for us?

- It allows us to walk minute-by-minute with God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- It allows us to walk as Christ walked and do what he did. John 14:12.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ The “Holy Spirit” is God, and “holy spirit” is the gift from God. T or F.
- ✓ When was God’s gift of holy spirit first given to the Church?
- ✓ Give three differences between God’s gift of holy spirit as it was given in the Old Testament and as it is given to the Christian Church.
- ✓ Christ said that people would have “power” when they received holy spirit, and it gives us the ability to walk like Christ walked when he was on earth. T or F.

Supplemental reading and listening

Books:

The Gift of Holy Spirit: Every Christian’s Divine Deposit, chapter 2, conclusion

Booklets:

34 Reasons Why the Holy Spirit is Not a ‘Person’ Separate From the Only True God, the Father

What is True Baptism?

SESSION 16 THE MANIFESTATIONS OF THE GIFT OF HOLY SPIRIT

Manifestations of the gift of holy spirit

- 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 deals with the manifestations of the gift of holy spirit.

Speaking in tongues

- Speaking in tongues is a Christian speaking a language that he does not understand, one that has been given to him by the Lord through the gift of holy spirit.

What speaking in tongues is not

1. It is not gibberish, babble or a made-up language.
2. It is not speaking a language that you already know and speak. The person speaking in tongues does not understand what he is saying. Unfortunately, this point is not clear in most Bible versions because translators added the word “him” in 1 Corinthians 14:2. The word “him” is not in the Greek text, and adding it changes the meaning of the verse and makes it erroneous. There is a world of difference between “no one understands” (which means the speaker does not understand) and “no one understands him” (which means that the people listening do not understand but the speaker probably does). Comparing the NIV with the NASB shows that adding the word “him” changes the meaning of the verse:

1 Corinthians 14:2 (NIV): For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, **no one understands him**; he utters mysteries with his spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:2 (NASB): For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for **no one understands**, but in *his* spirit he speaks mysteries.

The *New American Standard Version* translates the verse correctly. When Christians speak in tongues, they speak in a language that they themselves do not understand, which is why the text says, “for no one understands” [i.e., the speaker]. There are rare occasions when the person in the audience understands what the person speaking in tongues is saying. This happened in Acts 2, and there are Christian testimonies of times when someone listening understood the tongue but the speaker did not. Speaking in tongues may occasionally be understood by someone listening, *but it is never understood by the one doing the speaking*. This is what 1 Corinthians 14:2 is saying, and why adding “him” changes the verse from truth to error.

3. It is not designed for missionary work. The vocabulary is given by the Lord via the holy spirit, not chosen by the speaker. Occasionally there is a miracle where someone in the audience understands, but even then it is not a message *to* him. Acts 2:11 says that the crowd heard the Apostles declare the wonders of God. It got their attention, but it was Peter’s sermon that brought them to Christ. 1 Corinthians 14:2 says that speaking in tongues is *not* to men.
4. It is not “dead,” “gone,” or “passed away.” 1 Corinthians 13:8-12 says that speaking in tongues will pass away when “that which is perfect is come,” (KJV) and when we all know “even as we are known.” That will be after the Rapture of the Church.

What speaking in tongues is

1. It is a language. 1 Corinthians 13:1 (Acts 2:5-8). Speaking in tongues is a Christian speaking a language that he does not understand, one that has been given to him by the Lord through the gift of holy spirit.
2. It is supernatural, [i.e., it is beyond the natural]. It comes from the Lord. (John 20:21 and 22)
3. It is a manifestation of the gift of holy spirit born inside the Christian. 1 Corinthians 12:7. It is not a gift, it is available to all Christians.
4. It is a **God-given ability**. No non-Christian can speak in tongues.
5. It is part of the “power” that Christ mentioned in Acts 1:8.
6. It came on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) for the very first time in history.
7. It is one of the two manifestations of the holy spirit not in the Old Testament or Gospels.
8. It is proof that you have the holy spirit sealed inside you and therefore have your salvation guaranteed.

How it Works: The Principle of Communication

God’s spirit teaches His creation in you, which is now your spirit, and your spirit teaches your mind or body.

Jesus Christ told his disciples that the holy spirit would “teach” them (John 14:26), and that is the essence of revelation. God or the Lord Jesus Christ “teaches,” or communicates with, the gift of holy spirit inside the person, and then the holy spirit communicates with the individual’s mind or body. This principle works in six of the nine manifestations. The Manifestations of Workings of Miracles, Gifts of Healings, and Faith are not included.

What you are doing when you speak in tongues

1. Speaking the Wonders of God. Acts 2:11.
2. Praising God. Acts 10:46; 1 Corinthians 14:16 and 17.
3. Speaking to God and not to men. 1 Corinthians 14:2.
4. Speaking secrets (*musterion*). 1 Corinthians 14:2.
5. Speaking a language of men or of angels. 1 Corinthians 13:1.
6. Edifying yourself, building yourself up. 1 Corinthians 14:4; Jude 20.
7. “Praying in the spirit.” 1 Corinthians 14:14 and 15. In many charismatic circles today if a person prays while he is very emotional and feeling wonderful on the inside and they pray it is called “prayer in the spirit.” It is important to know that the only reference to “prayer in the spirit” in the Bible is regarding speaking in tongues.
8. When it is sung, it is called “singing in the spirit.” 1 Corinthians 14:15. The only “singing in the spirit” in Scripture is singing in tongues.
9. Giving thanks well to our Heavenly Father. 1 Corinthians 14:17.
10. A sign to unbelievers of the power of God. 1 Corinthians 14:22.
11. Is saying that Jesus is Lord. 1 Corinthians 12:3. If we refuse to submit to him and speak in tongues, then in that area of our life we have not really made him Lord.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ Speaking in tongues is not a “gift,” it is a _____.
- ✓ Speaking in tongues is not gibberish or babble, it is a _____.
- ✓ The person speaking in tongues understands what he is saying. T or F.
- ✓ When did people speak in tongues for the first time?
- ✓ Give four things you are doing when you speak in tongues.

Supplemental reading and listening

Tape Seminar:

Growing Up In Christ, Part 2: “Teaching and Activation in the Manifestations of the Gift of Holy Spirit” (9 hours)

Books:

The Gift of Holy Spirit: Every Christian’s Divine Deposit, Chapter 3

Free Indeed Videos:

Tape 11, Session 4, “Speaking in Tongues”

Tape 17, Session 2 and 3, “Manifestation of Holy Spirit”

Tape 18, Session 1, “Promised Holy Spirit”

SESSION 17 SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Why should I speak in tongues?

- God says He wants me to. 1 Corinthians 14:5.
- God says I should desire spiritual things. 1 Corinthians 14:1.
- God says I should desire to build up the church. 1 Corinthians 14:12.

Can speaking in tongues be misused?

- Yes. It is under the speaker's control. That is why the Lord gives almost a whole chapter on how to operate it correctly, because it can be operated incorrectly. For example, God tells us not to all speak in tongues in the church at one time. 1 Corinthians 14:23.

How often should I speak in tongues?

- Scripture says, "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thess. 5:17 – KJV).
- The Apostle Paul wrote: "I thank God, I speak in tongues more than all of you" (i.e., more than the people in the Corinthian church). 1 Corinthians 14:18. We should speak in tongues much each day.
- How often we speak in tongues is our choice, because we can do so at any time. Not a special anointing. *The Gift of Holy Spirit*, p. 34 and 35. 2 Corinthians 1:21.
- It is not an "anointing," it is an energizing. 1 Corinthians 12:6.

Will the language I speak always be the same?

- Occasionally your tongues language may change, which is why the text speaks of "diversities" of tongues or "different" tongues. It is God's prerogative to change the language you speak. 1 Corinthians 12:10.

Speaking in tongues in the book of Acts

- Acts 2:1-4. The Day of Pentecost.
- Acts 10:46. The Gentiles speak in tongues. Acts 10:27-29, 44-46; 11:1-3, 15, 18.
- Acts 19:1-6. At Ephesus.
- Some argue that Acts does not say that everyone who was saved spoke in tongues. It does not have to. Acts is not doctrine. Neither does it say that everyone prayed. 1 Corinthians 14:5 is the doctrine we are to follow.

How to speak in tongues

1. Remember that you will not understand what you are saying.
- 2 **You** must do the speaking. Scripture says of the apostles on the day of Pentecost that *they* spoke in tongues, and the testimony is the same in every reference to it. For example, 1 Corinthians 14:2 says, "anyone who speaks in a tongue...." There is *never* a reference to "the Lord" speaking. It is the person who is doing the actual speaking. This explains why some Christians do not speak in tongues even when they want to and know it is God's will.
3. You must **speak**. Say out loud, "I know that God wants me to speak in tongues" and pay attention to what you are doing as you speak. *You* move your mouth, your tongue, you

actually make the sound. Speaking in tongues is *speaking*. If you will not move your mouth and make the sounds, then you will not speak in tongues, or any other language for that matter.

4. The language forms **as you speak**, syllable by syllable. Because you do not understand what you are saying in tongues, you cannot wait until you know what you are going to say before you speak. The Lord will not give you a sentence in tongues that you then speak. The Lord will “put on your tongue” a syllable. It will come out **as you speak**. It is a walk by faith. You open your mouth to speak, and as you speak the Lord provides the syllables.

The *New American Standard Bible* has a translation of Acts 2:4 that shows this principle: “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit [holy spirit] and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit [God] was giving them utterance.”

Notice that Scripture tells us that they were speaking as the Spirit **was giving** them utterance. The Lord does not tell us ahead of time. We step out on faith word by word. Notice also that the Lord gave the “utterance,” (*i.e.*, what to say). The Lord gave the words to speak. A great Bible teacher once said, “**What** you speak is God’s business, but **that** you speak is your business.

5. Speaking in tongues will probably seem very strange at first. Just keep walking by faith and speaking. Practice makes it easier.
6. There may be a tendency to repeat the same syllables or words over and over. Remember that **you** are doing the speaking, so relax and let the Lord expand your vocabulary with different sounds. If you get stuck and find yourself saying the same word over and over, which does happen occasionally, force yourself to try different vowel and consonant sounds to become unstuck.
7. The Devil may try to tell you that you are not speaking in tongues but just making up words, since you are making the sounds yourself. The best defense is a good offence and the best offense is knowing and speaking God’s Word.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ Give a reason that Christians should speak in tongues.
- ✓ Can speaking in tongues be misused?
- ✓ It may happen that your tongues language will change. T or F.
- ✓ How often does God want us to speak in tongues?

Supplemental reading and listening

Tapes:

In Defense of Obligation (Nov/Dec 94)

Stretching for the Lord (Jul/Aug 95)

THE CHRISTIAN'S HOPE

SESSION 18 THE HOPE: THE ANCHOR OF THE SOUL

The Hope – life on a new earth

- Hebrews 6:19. The Hope, the anchor of the soul.
- Matthew 5:5. The meek will inherit the earth.
- Psalm 37:9-11; 28 and 29. The meek will inherit the earth.
- Genesis 13:14-17. God gives the land to Abraham (Cp. 15:7 and 18; 17:8).
- Acts 7:5. Abraham did not get any land.
- Revelation 19:11-15. Jesus Christ rides down from heaven to fight Armageddon and conquer the earth.
- Daniel 2:35 and 44. Christ's Kingdom fills the earth.
- Ezekiel 37:1-14. The dead awake and go to the land of Israel.
- Revelation 21:1 and 2. The new Jerusalem comes down from heaven.

God's plan was for man to be on earth

- Genesis 2:15. Adam and Eve in Eden, the garden of delight, Paradise.
- 2 Corinthians 12:4. Paradise.
- Luke 23:43. You will be with me in Paradise ("Today" = *idiom*. Josh. 23:14 – KJV vs. NIV. Cp. Deut. 4:26,39,40; 5:1; 6:6; 7:11; etc.). The original text was all capital letters, no spaces between words, no punctuation.

Christians will be on the earth

- 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18. *Apantesis*, occurs four times in the Greek New Testament.
- 1 Corinthians 6:2. The saints will judge the world.

What the future earth (Paradise) will be like

- This is a sampling – many more scriptures in the book *The Christian's Hope: The Anchor of the Soul*. God so wants us to get saved that He spends many verses telling us how wonderful Paradise going to be. Sadly, most Christians do not know them.
 1. Everyone will know God. Habakkuk 2:14; (Jer. 31:33,34; 1 Cor. 13:11 and 12).
 2. Righteous and just rulership. Jeremiah 23:5 and 6.
 3. No war. Micah 4:3 and 4 (Cp. verse 1, "In the last days").
 4. Perfect health. Isaiah 33:24 (Rev. 21:4).
 5. New bodies. Philippians 3:21.
 6. Safety and security. Isaiah 32:18 (secure homes); 11:6-9 (wolf and lamb – not the lion & lamb); lion will eat straw. Genesis 1:30.
 7. The land will be healed. Isaiah 32:15; 35:1-7.
 8. Abundant food. Isaiah 25:6; (Matt. 26:29); Amos 9:13.
 9. Everlasting Joy. Isaiah 35:10.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ Christ said, “The meek shall inherit _____.”
- ✓ For the Christian, everlasting life will be spent sitting on a cloud, playing a harp.
T or F.
- ✓ The Bible tells us many wonderful things about the future earth so people will want to get saved and be there. Give five of these wonderful things.

Supplemental reading and listening

Books:

The Christian’s Hope: The Anchor of the Soul

Tapes:

The Kingdom of God, Paradise Regained (Mar/Apr 92)

Free Indeed Videos:

Tape 6, Sessions 1 and 2, “The Hope”

SESSION 19 THE HOPE: JOBS AND JUDGMENTS

Jobs in the Millennial Kingdom

- Genesis 2:15. Adam and Eve had jobs in Eden.
- Life on the earth in the Millennial Kingdom will be like life would have been had Adam and Eve not sinned and the human population multiplied.
- Jobs in the Kingdom of Christ on earth include:
 - Rulers. (Isa. 32:1).
 - Farmers. (Amos 9:13 and 14).
 - Fishermen. (Ezek. 47:10).
 - Cleanup duties. (Ezek. 39:14 and 15).
 - Herdsmen. (Jer. 31:12).

The Judgments

- This can be an uncomfortable subject.
- One of the reasons we should not sin even though we cannot lose our salvation is that we will not be rewarded for our sin.
- Ephesians 2:10. Christians are created to do good works.

Christians will be judged for rewards

- We are judged for our works (but saved by grace).
- Every Christian will stand at the judgment seat of Christ and be judged for the way he conducted his life. The good news is we can receive great rewards and crowns. The not-as-good news is that we can suffer loss.
- The coming Judgment is not a new concept. The Judgment is not a “pop quiz” (*The Judgment Seat of Christ*, by Rick Howard, p. 3).
- Jeremiah 17:10. Reward people as their deeds deserve (Many verses say this. See list of other verses, p. 95, *The Christian’s Hope*).
- Parable of the Talents. Matthew 25:14-18, 26a.
- The fear of God. 2 Corinthians 5:9-11a. At the judgment seat of Christ we receive what we are due (*Counterattack*, by Jay Carty, p. 114).
- Matthew 16:27. Jesus Christ will reward us for what we have done.
- Colossians 3:23-25. “Rewarded” for good or “repaid” for wrong.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6. Avoid sexual sin.
- 2 Timothy 2:11-13. We can reign with Christ or be denied a reward.
- 1 John 2:28. Be faithful so that you will be confident and unashamed at his coming.
- Luke 9:26. If you are ashamed of Christ he will be ashamed of you.
- Ezekiel 44:10-16. The Levites who strayed versus the Levites who were faithful.

If you have sinned, ask for forgiveness

- 1 John 1:9. God will forgive your sins if you ask Him to do so.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ Name one of the jobs that Adam and Eve had in the Garden of Eden.
- ✓ Name two jobs that are specifically mentioned in the Bible that people will have on earth in the future.
- ✓ The coming Judgment can be an uncomfortable subject. Although we cannot lose our salvation, what is at stake is our _____.
- ✓ The subject of being rewarded in the future is mentioned many times in Scripture. T or F.
- ✓ The parable of the Talents should remind us not to waste our lives, but to use our time and resources wisely. T or F.
- ✓ If you have sinned, go to the Lord and ask for _____.

Supplemental reading and listening

Tapes:

Running for the Prize (Jul/Aug 97)

Free Indeed Videos:

Tape 6, Session 3, "Rewards"

SONSHIP BLESSINGS & RESPONSIBILITIES

SESSION 20

SONSHIP BLESSINGS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Sonship blessings

- As sons of God there are certain things we have by virtue of the fact that we are both sons of God and citizens of His coming Kingdom. We need to respond with gratitude for these things that God did by grace and because of His love.
- Some blessings are: Gift of holy spirit; everlasting life; born into a family; access to God and the Lord Jesus Christ; you can operate the manifestations of the spirit.
- In this session we will look at the redemption that God accomplished for us in Christ, and focus on three points:

A. Righteousness: the result of justification, the state of being “right” before God without guilt or sin, in spite of the shortcomings of the flesh.

- 2 Corinthians 5:21. Christians have the righteousness of God.
- Romans 3:20-22. Christians are righteous through faith in Christ.

B. Justification: The judicial act by which God deals with us not according to our sinful flesh, but according to His gracious decision to identify us with Christ. When we were justified, we were exonerated from guilt. “Justified” is “Just if I’d never sinned.” It also means being without the ultimate consequence of sin, i.e., death.

- Romans 3:23-26. We are justified freely by grace when we have faith in Jesus Christ.

C. Sanctification: It is our inner holiness, our inner purity. It is a complete separation from the world, which is not holy. It is an inner work that makes us pure and undefiled before God:

- 1 Corinthians 1:2. Christians are called “Holy.”
- 2 Corinthians 1:1. Christians are called “saints” (Col. 1:2 says, “holy brothers”).
- The legal side; the practical side. We need to walk out what we have in Christ. We still have to deal in a practical manner with our sin nature.
 - Philippians 2:12. Work out your own salvation.

Sonship responsibilities—obedience and the renewed mind

If we cannot lose our salvation, why not sin?

1. Hebrews 11:24 and 25. Sin may be fun at first, but you will eventually become a slave to sin: Romans 6:16 mentions being a “slave to sin,” drugs, alcohol, promiscuous sex. Even things that are not sinful can “hook” you.
2. Romans 2:24. Your witness will turn people away from Christ.
3. You will not earn everlasting rewards in the future.

4. Obedience will bless us in every way. God loves us and gave us the Bible to help us. It is the world's "snow job" that gets us to believe that obedience is somehow restrictive, boring, no fun, etc. Getting revelation; manifesting power; having peace, joy; kindness.

The renewed mind

- When we get born again, holy spirit is created in us, but our minds are the same until we "renew" them.
- We have to obey the Word. We must take charge of our lives. God will not control us.
- Ephesians 5:1-5. We are to imitate God and Christ.
- Roman 12:1 and 2. "Up-new our minds."
- Ephesians 2:1-3. The Devil makes the world tempting, and the sin nature has cravings.
- Galatians 5:16 and 17. There is a war between your flesh and your spirit.
- Romans 7:15-17. Flesh vs. spirit; I do not do what I want to do, I do what I do not want to do.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. Bring our thoughts captive to Christ.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ As Christians, we are righteous in God's sight, and righteousness is being _____ with God.
- ✓ A great way to remember what "justified" means is by the phrase, " _____ never sinned."
- ✓ Biblically, "saints" are not dead people who were especially good. Every Christians is a "saint." T or F.
- ✓ Although we cannot lose our salvation, there are good reasons to obey God. Name two.
- ✓ In the war between your new holy nature and your sin nature, who decides who wins?

Supplemental reading and listening:

Books:

Sex and Scripture

Righteousness – Every Christian's Gift from God

Tapes:

Jesus Christ and You (Jan/Feb 92)

Defeating the Enemy Within (Nov/Dec 97)

Sanctification, Sin Nature, and True Repentance (Nov/Dec 98)

Resisting Idolatry, Temptation, and Deception (May/Jun 99)

Be Transformed! The Promise of a New Life in Christ (Jan/Feb 01)

Free Indeed Videos:

Tape 7, Session 3, "How to Find Your Ministry"

Tape 7, Session 4, "Tithing and Giving"

Tape 8, Session 4, "No Idolatry"

Tape 13, Session 4, "Who Does the Work - God or Man?"

SESSION 21 DEVELOPING THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST

The fruit of the spirit

- Galatians 5:19-24. The fruit of the spirit. Not an exhaustive list.
- Evidence of your choice to “up-new” your mind, to obey God and to deal with the things in your life that keep you from being Christ-like (e.g., anger).
- Christ is looking for character. Matthew 7:21-23. Contrast many sports figures, rock stars, etc.

1. Love (*agape*)

Agape love is commanded, showing that it is related to obedience. Love is difficult to specifically define. It is action, not a feeling (John 3:16). Christ’s healings and miracles were energized by his love (Matt. 14:14; etc.) Christian love does not always go along with natural inclinations. The love of God in a person is not drawn out by the loveliness of its objects. It is an exercise of the will in deliberate choice, and is why God can command us to love our enemies (Matt. 5:44; Ex. 23:4 and 5). Love energizes faith and empowers us to give and keep on giving. There can be a cost to genuine love. The two great commandments: love God and love your neighbor (Luke 10:27).

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Note that love is described by actions, not feelings.
- John 13:35. We will be known by our love for one another.

2. Joy (*chara*)

An inner light, an inner effervescence or bubbling.

True joy is a quality of life, not simply an emotion. It is not happiness.

It is grounded in knowing God and believing Him.

The things that we know about God are not stolen from us by the trials of life.

That is why we know that joy is not happiness, but that it is based in truth. It cannot be “snuffed out.” Joy should be visible so that others can be won by it.

The apostles rejoiced after being beaten that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for the name of Jesus (Acts 5:41). Joy can result from how we choose to interpret the things that happen to us, especially painful things.

Joy is commanded (1 Thess. 5:16), so it must be a choice of our will, based upon how we think about our circumstances.

- Hebrews 12:2. Joy is associated with hope.
- Nehemiah 8:10. It strengthens us for the work we are called to do.

3. Peace (*eirene*)

Peace is quietness, rest, tranquility. It is an inner quietness born of strength, exemption from the rage and havoc of conflict or war, internal or external. True peace includes the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ and so fearing nothing from God. Peace is not the state of being undisturbed because you do not care what happens, it is the state of quietness that comes from knowing that there will be a righteous end to life and the world.

- God is a God of peace: 2 Corinthians 13:11.
- We have peace with God: Romans 5:1
- The Church Epistles open with “Grace and Peace”: Romans 1:7
- Jesus is the prince of Peace: Isaiah 9:6
- We can have inner peace in difficult circumstances: Psalm 23:5.
- The peace of God will guard your heart: Philippians 4:7.

4. Patience (more accurately, “longsuffering”: *makrothumia*: *makro* = long; *thumia* = passion, anger)

Longsuffering is the ability to hold back anger for a long time; to persevere patiently and bravely; to be patient in bearing the offences and injuries of others; to be mild and slow in avenging. It is that quality of self-restraint which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish; it is the opposite of anger. It is not being a door mat, being “too spiritual” to get angry at people. Patience is a partner to longsuffering: In contrast to longsuffering, “patience” (*hupomone*) is the quality that does not surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial; it is the opposite of despondency and is associated with hope (1 Thess. 1:3). The difference between the two words is that while *hupomone* does not easily succumb under suffering, *makrothumia* is the self-restraint which does not hastily lash out against a wrong. Longsuffering (*makrothumia*) and patience (*hupomone*) occur together in Colossians 1:11; 2 Timothy 3:10.

- 1 Corinthians 13:4. It is one aspect of the love of God.

5. Kindness (*chrestos* or *chrestotes*)

A generous, warm-hearted, friendly nature. It is sweet, mild, and full of graciousness. It is a virtue that pervades and penetrates the whole nature, that mellows anything harsh or austere. Christ’s yoke is “easy” (kind, *chrestotes*) because there is nothing harsh, sharp, or galling about it (Matt. 11:30). It is willingly ready to do good, and kindness expresses itself in deeds towards another. It springs from an inner disposition to benefit others, but is engaged and aroused by their need. True kindness must be distinguished from sentimentality: It can be easy to feel sorry for someone who has gotten themselves into a mess, and begin to “caretake” them, which actually weakens them. In many situations, what a person really needs to become strong is to repent and get busy restoring his own life with the help of the Lord. Those who offer kindness always need to be aware of the line that differentiates kindness from caretaking.

- God is kind, even to the unthankful. Luke 6:35.
- God’s kindness leads people to repentance: Romans 2:4 (2x).
- Love is kind. 1 Corinthians 13:4.
- It is the responsibility of every believer to be kind to others. Ephesians 4:31 and 32.

6. Goodness (*agathosune*)

“Goodness” is uprightness in heart and life, a moral excellence. The person who exhibits the fruit “goodness” is upright and honorable.

“Goodness” can be called the “fruit with teeth,” because goodness, while it has a lot in common with “kindness,” very clearly also contains the idea that it is a *good* thing to uphold standards, enforce the law, and punish wrongdoers.

“Goodness” is usually associated with activity rather than inner nature, although the good actions spring from the good heart: “The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart” (Luke 6:45). Many “good” tasks are uncomfortable to perform.

In a system without godly standards, all kinds of “good” things become “evil” (like telling someone that their pre-marital sex or their extra-marital “affair” is wrong).

Also, without godly standards, many “evil” things become “good” (pre-marital sex is OK and the affair your having is OK if your marriage is bad. Not returning something you find even if you would have a good chance of finding the owner. “Finders Keepers.”)

- Romans 15:14. Believers are to be good and instruct one another.

7. Faithfulness, faith (*pistis*)

The word *pistis* can mean faith or faithfulness, and here “faithfulness” is the better translation. Faith is that simple trust in the promises and character of God. Faithfulness means continued faith or perseverance. It is a steadfast adherence to God and His will for our lives. We trust God because God is *trustworthy*. We are also to continue in our faith day after day, thus being faithful toward Him.

- God is faithful. God, who promised, is *faithful*. Hebrews 10:23.
- Christ was faithful. Jesus was a faithful High Priest. Hebrews 2:17.
- We are to be faithful. Those given a trust must be faithful. 1 Corinthians 4:2.

8. Gentleness (*praotes*, more accurately, “meekness”)

A willingness to listen to reproof and correction as well as help others without unduly asserting authority or overpowering others with the need to be right. A submissive attitude toward the will of God. It is coachability, the ability to take coaching, teaching, and even reproof from others without any resistance or temptation to seek revenge.

It is the fruit of power. The common assumption is that meekness is synonymous with “mousy,” “cowardly,” or “timid,” and that when a man is meek it is because he cannot help it; but the Lord was ‘meek’ because he had the infinite resources of God at his command. Someone who is meek can afford to be so because his strength and confidence allows him to listen to others.

- Christ was meek: Matthew 11:29: “I am meek and lowly in heart.” (KJV)
- Meekness is to be the default manner for Christian leaders.
- Moses was the meekest man on earth at his time. Numbers 12:3.
- Christians are to be meek and act in meekness. Galatians 6:1 (“spirit of meekness”).

9. Self control (*egkrateia*; pronounced “enkrateia”)

Self control is mastery over oneself. The root word is *kratos*, which means power in action. It is the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites. God designed the human mind to control the human body. The concept of “self-control” implies a standard to conform to. The Word of God provides that standard. Godly self

control is not trying to reform the flesh by self-discipline, or overcoming sinful tendencies by outward religious practices.

- Christians are not to live like unbelievers who indulge the flesh. Ephesians 2:3.
- Christians are to control themselves. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ Character counts! T or F.
- ✓ Biblically, *agape* love is a decision, not a feeling, which is why we can be (and are) commanded to love. T or F.
- ✓ Joy and happiness are not the same. Briefly give a difference.
- ✓ Briefly describe “longsuffering.”
- ✓ Christ said his yoke was “kind.” What did he mean?
- ✓ What fruit of the spirit is the “fruit with teeth”?
- ✓ Christ said he was “meek, and lowly of heart.” Therefore “meekness is not weakness.” What is it?

Supplemental reading and listening

Tape Seminar:

Growing Up in Christ, Part 1: The Fruit of the Spirit—Developing the Character of Christ
(9 hours)

Tapes:

Proverbs: Wisdom for All Ages (Jul/Aug 99)
Life is Relationship (Jul/Aug 00)

Free Indeed Videos:

Tap 12, Session 2, “Love is in Relationships, Not Things”

SESSION 22 THE POWER OF PRAYER

What is prayer?

- Prayer has power to bless God and His people and defeat the Enemy.
- Pray = ask.

Christians are commanded to pray

- Romans 12:12. Be faithful in prayer.
- Ephesians 6:18. Pray all kinds of prayers.

Prayer is to be “watchful.” Not babbling or vain repetition. Matthew 6:7.

“The word [babbling] has nothing to do with stammering. Its meaning seems to be to babble; i.e., to utter a lot of useless and superfluous words. “Like pagans” is more than a reference to the custom of the pagans in their praying, for the Jews often prayed in the same way. The heathen tried to tire out their gods with such endless prayers. Mere formulas were repeated over and over again; the Jews had such prayer formulas, Catholics also have them in the form of their Rosary. It is heathen folly to measure prayer by the yard.” R. C. H. Lenski, *Commentary on Matthew*.

- Philippians 4:6. Make requests to God.
- Colossians 4:2. Devote yourself to prayer.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Pray without ceasing.

The Lord’s Prayer

- Luke 11:1-4
 - v. 2. “Hallowed” - Heinz Cassirer’s translation, *God’s New Covenant*, reads “Father, may your very name be treated as holy.”
 - v. 4. “Lead us not into temptation” – idiom of permission.

Pray with boldness and persistence

- Luke 11:5-8. Jesus told his disciples to be bold and persistent in prayer.
- Luke 18:1. Jesus repeats that prayer must be bold and persistent.
- Prayer opens up a pathway for God to move on earth – the Devil is in control. (*Possessing the Gates of the Enemy*, by Cindy Jacobs, p. 54).

Pray with faith

- Mark 11:20-24. Jesus taught his disciples to pray with faith.

Prayer and the spiritual battle

- Daniel 10:1-14. There may be spiritual reasons we are not getting our prayers answered.

Prayer works, so pray!

- John 14:12. We can do the works that Christ did.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ Give a one-word definition of “pray.”
- ✓ Give a verse from the Church Epistles that tells Christians to pray.
- ✓ Jesus first taught his disciples to be bold and persistent in prayer by telling them a story about a man who needed _____.
- ✓ Jesus repeated his teaching about being bold and persistent in prayer by telling a story about a widow and _____.
- ✓ Jesus taught his disciples to pray with faith. T or F.

Supplemental reading and listening

Tapes:

Let Us Pray (Sep/Oct 93)

Prayer and Fasting (Jan/Feb 99)

Free Indeed Videos:

Tape 4, Session 1, “Prayer”

Tape 4, Session 2, “Some How’s of Effective Prayer”

SESSION 23 GIVING, WITNESSING, AND FELLOWSHIP

Giving

- Giving vs. tithing. God has always desired that men give.
- Genesis 4:3-5a. The giving of Cain and Abel.
- First mention of giving a tenth.
 - Genesis 14:17-20. Abraham gave a tenth to Melchizedek.
 - Hebrews 7:4. A tenth of the battle spoils is not a Mosaic tithe.
- Mosaic Law: The tithe was to support the Levites and the Temple.
- Leviticus 27:30-33. Give a tenth of the increase of your flock, herd, or crops.
- Malachi 3:8-12. Not tithing was robbing God because tithing was required in the Mosaic Law.
- In the Grace Administration, Christians are to give as they purpose in their hearts. 2 Corinthians 9:6-12.
Sowing sparingly – a heart issue, not quantity issue. The widow threw in two copper coins. Mark 12:41-44.
- Christians should support their church and full time ministers. 1 Corinthians 9:7-14.

Witnessing

- Telling others about Christ is a sonship responsibility.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. God gave Christians the ministry of reconciliation.
- Mark 16:15. Preach to “all creation.” Figure of speech, *Hyperbole*.
- Romans 10:9-15. Faith leading to salvation comes through hearing the message.
- Acts 1:8 and 9. Christians are to be witnesses, not theologians. Tell people what Christ has done for you.

Fellowship with others

- Hebrews 10:22-25. Christians need to fellowship together.
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. The Christians Church is one body with many parts. We are placed where the Lord wants us, and we need each other.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ The word “tithe” means _____.
- ✓ Christians have to keep the Mosaic tithing law. T or F.
- ✓ Christians should give, keeping in mind that we will reap what we sow. T or F.
- ✓ Christians have the responsibility to tell others about Jesus Christ. T or F.
- ✓ Do not let fear that people will ask you questions you cannot answer keep you from witnessing. Christ sent us out as witnesses, not _____.
- ✓ It is fine with God if you want to be the “Lone Ranger Christian” and not fellowship with other Christians. T or F.

Supplemental Reading and listening

Tapes:

The Joy of Giving (May/Jun 91)

Reaching Out with the Love of God (Mar/Apr 01)

Free Indeed Videos:

Tape 7, Session 4, “Tithing and Giving”

SESSION 24

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Praise and worship

- Praise and worship are very closely related. Both relate to who God is and what He has done.

Praise

- Praise is an outward response or expression of thanks to God (or to Jesus Christ) for who He is and what He has done. Praise is expressed in songs, psalms, giving of thanks, shouts of joy, dancing, and many other ways.

Worship

- Worship focuses upon who God is. The word “worship” comes from “worth,” and we worship God because He is “worth it.” It focuses on the worth of God and not on what He has done. Worship occurs in the heart, but then can be expressed outwardly in many ways, including praise and service to God.

The emotional connection

- Worship and praise are important in the life of a Christian because they are evidence of and establish the emotional connection between God and man. To truly worship takes recognition of who God is, which also means developing an understanding of who we are. It builds humility and honesty about ourselves as sinful human beings, and gets rid of a lot of arrogance, pride, and self-importance. It also builds thankfulness, because He has done so much for us. Praise and worship come from the “heart” or the emotional side of us. Our praise and worship should not be only mental. God made us emotional creatures, and if there is a lack of emotion in our lives toward God, we should question how much what He has done for us really means to us. If someone gave you a million dollars, you would have a strong emotional response of thanksgiving. God has given us a lot more than that.

The intellectual connection

- If our worship is all emotion and not based upon an intellectual understanding, we are not actually worshiping, but just singing or dancing because it feels good.

Praise and worship in the Bible

- Exodus 15:1 and 2. The Israelites sing and praise God after the destruction of Pharaoh and his army.
- 2 Samuel 6:12-14. David worshiped and praised before the ark of God.
- Acts 16:22-25. Paul and Silas sing hymns in prison.
- 1 Timothy 2:8. Lift up hands in prayer.
- Nehemiah 12:27 and 28,43. The people praised when the Temple was finished.
- Psalm 150. Praise God!

Conclusion

- Philippians 1:9-11. Prayer: that your love may abound and you are filled with the fruit of righteousness.
- Ephesians 1:17-21. Prayer: that you may know God better, that you may know the hope and the power that we have as Christians.

Check Your Understanding

- ✓ The word worship comes from the word _____.
- ✓ Outward praise and worship are evidence of, and establish, our _____ connection with God.
- ✓ It is important to ground praise and worship in an intellectual understanding of who God is and what He has done. T or F.
- ✓ The record of Paul and Silas singing hymns in prison shows vividly that we praise God at all times (because He is worth it) and not just when things are _____ in our lives.

Supplemental reading and listening

Tapes:

Let Us Praise (Nov/Dec 93)