

# SINGAPORE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

## **Introduction**

Throughout history, God has given every individual a chance to accept His eternal plan of salvation. Sadly, most people have rejected it and so will suffer forever.

Thus, accepting Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior is the most significant decision you could ever make during your lifetime. Instead of being destined for Hell, you will now spend eternity in the glories of Heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ. No longer living life in vain, now you have a reason to live with eternal results. The emptiness that you once felt inside has been filled by Him.

The Devil also knows of your new life in Jesus Christ. His desire for you to reject God's salvation and be forever damned is no longer in effect. However, he now will exert every effort to keep you from growing close to God and fulfilling God's wonderful plan for your life.

These discipleship lessons are designed to help you begin your new life in Jesus Christ. They are to help you understand what your relationship to God is, how to communicate with Him, how to apply basic Bible principles to your life, and how your life can be an influential witness and testimony of God's grace.

Whether you just got saved or have been a Christian for years, understanding these principles will help establish a solid foundation in your life whereby you can learn to enjoy a victorious life in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our sincere prayer for you is that these lessons might help you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

# LESSON 1 - SALVATION

“What happened when I got saved and what is my new relationship to God?”

Your decision to trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior is the greatest decision you could ever make. However, it is very unlikely that you understand the true significance of what has happened in your life. The purpose of this lesson is to explain briefly what took place and how your decision has affected your basic relationship to God.

## I. There are only two spiritual families in the World.

A. The devil’s family. *John 8:44*

1. You enter this family by birth through your physical father, who is ultimately a descendant of Adam. *Genesis 5:3*

a. The descendants of Adam are born in Adam’s image and likeness.

b. Adam’s likeness is that of a fallen sinner.

2. You inherited your sin nature from your father Adam. *Romans 5:12*

This verse also states as a result of your sin you were sentenced to die

a. *Romans 6:23 “The wages of sin is death...”*

b. *1 Corinthians 15:22 “...In Adam all die...”*

B. God’s family. *John 1:12-13*

By your physical birth, you were born into Satan’s family - in the same way you enter into God’s family by a spiritual birth. *John 3:3*

This new birth puts you into God’s family in exactly the same way your physical birth put you into your father’s family. You are now a son of God **by birth**.

As a result of your new birth, you have inherited God’s divine nature, and you now have eternal life. *John 3:36; John 6:47; 1 John 5:12*

## II. Being in God’s family separates you from the devil’s family.

Your body is now the temple of the Holy Ghost - that simply means that God’s Holy Spirit lives inside of you. *1 Corinthians 6:19*

We are commanded to maintain a difference between ourselves and the lost. *2 Corinthians 6:14-18*

This new life is perfectly summarized: *2 Corinthians 5:17-18*

### **III. What is my relationship with God now?**

He is your Heavenly Father, and you are His child. *1 John 2:1*

Now that you are saved, God no longer deals with you as a sinner – He deals with you as a son!

That relationship is pictured by the earthly relationship between a father and his son.

- A. A good father loves and cares for his son. *1 Peter 5:7*
- B. A good father protects his son. *Psalms 46:1-3*
- C. A good father provides for his son. *Philippians 4:19*
- D. A good father guides and teaches his son. *John 14:26*
- E. A good father helps his son. *Psalms 121:1-2*
- F. A good father encourages his son. *Philippians 4:13*
- G. A good father disciplines his son. *Hebrews 12:5-11*
- H. A good father feeds his son. *Matthew 4:4*
- I. A good father has a plan for his son. *Romans 8:28-29*

\*\* A good father will **NEVER** do anything to purposely hurt his son. He will only do those things which will help his child to grow and mature into the young man that he desires for him to become. Your Heavenly Father operates in the same way, only His ways are perfect. Unlike earthly fathers who sometimes err, God never makes a mistake in His dealings with His sons. *Matthew 7:11*

### **IV. You did not lose your physical nature at the time of your spiritual birth.**

That is obvious because you are still alive! You now have two natures.

- A. Old nature - physical, sinful, in Adam's image.
- B. New nature - spiritual, perfect, in God's image.

\*\* Both natures are present constantly. The one that will control you is the one that you feed the most. **Colossians 3:5-10** (Note the words “*put off*” and “*put on*”.); **2 Corinthians 4:14-18**

**V. Basic questions.**

A. “*Will I sin after I am saved?*”

\* Yes, you still have your old sin nature. **Romans 7:25**

B. “*How does my sin affect my relationship with my Father?*”

\* God does not kick you out of His family. When you sin, however, He disciplines you as a son. **Hebrews 12:5-11**

C. “*What should I do when I sin?*”

\* Confess it and trust the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse you. **John 1:6-10; Proverbs 28:13**

# LESSON REVIEW

1. Who are the two spiritual fathers mentioned in *John 8:38*? Give a Scripture reference to support both answers.
  - A.
  - B.
2. How does an individual enter the devil's family?
3. How does an individual enter into God's family?
4. Why are people sentenced to die after their physical or first birth?
5. List three verses that promise you eternal life.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
6. List two reasons why a Christian in God's family is different than a non-Christian in the devil's family.
  - A.
  - B.
7. God now deals with you as His \_\_\_\_\_ rather than a \_\_\_\_\_
8. Your new relationship with God can be seen through the earthly father and child relationship. List nine ways God deals with you as His child.
  - A.

- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.
- F.
- G.
- H.
- I.

9. Briefly explain the two natures you now possess.

- A.
- B.

10. What would be the reason for one nature to overpower the other?

11. When a Christian chooses to continue in a particular sin, what can he expect from God?

12. According to *1 John 1:9*, when we confess our sins to God, He will \_\_\_\_\_ us and \_\_\_\_\_ us from all unrighteousness.

13. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

***Key memory verses:***

***Romans 5:12***

***John 3:3***

***1 John 1:9***

**Note:** In many churches today, some popular teachings are:

- 1. All mankind is part of one large family and God is the “*Father*” of them all.

2. All mankind must do something in order to earn their way to heaven.
3. All mankind can get to heaven through any way that they choose as long as they are sincere.
4. If there is such a thing as sin, it must be confessed to another man - whether it be a priest or some other church leader.

From the Bible principles you have studied in this lesson, you should fully understand that these teachings are false, and why.

\*\* Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

# LESSON 2 - ETERNAL SECURITY

“Now that I am saved, can I ever lose my salvation?”

Once an individual has settled the question of their salvation as the Bible declares it, by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, it is imperative that they understand how that decision has affected their entire life.

In the first lesson, we learned that there are two spiritual families on this earth - God's family and the Devil's family. We learned that we were born into the Devil's family at the time of our physical birth, and that we were born into God's family when we received the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior. (*John 1:12-13*) In this lesson, we will discuss the state of the new believer in God's family, and from Biblical facts, settle the question of the eternal security of the Christian.

## I. Study the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself on this subject.

- A. Jesus Christ promises that God will never throw you out of His family. *John 6:37*
- B. No man can cause you to lose your salvation, because God your Father is greater than all men. *John 10:27-29*

## II. Okay, God won't cast me out, and no man can take my salvation, but what about myself? Can I do something to lose my salvation?

*No!* Salvation is by grace through faith, and not by works. It is a **GIFT** from God.

You cannot lose your salvation, because you have not earned your salvation. *Ephesians 2:8-9*

There is a curse on every man who does not keep all of God's holy law. *Galatians 3:10; James 2:10*

Since none of us can live up to such a high and holy standard, we could never keep our salvation on our own - we would lose it easily!

It is the Lord Jesus Christ who keeps us, not we ourselves. *2 Timothy 1:12*

If it is possible for us to become righteous by our own works, the death of our Lord Jesus Christ was for nothing. *Galatians 2:21*

## III. Okay, God won't cast me out, no man can cause me to lose my salvation, and I can't lose it myself, but is there anything else that can cause me to lose salvation?

**No! Romans 8:38-39 “For I am persuaded that neither...”**

- A. **“Death”** - you can't lose it when you die
- B. **“Life”** - you can't lose it while you are alive
- C. **“Angels”** - they can't take it from you
- D. **“Principalities”** - the government can't take it from you
- E. **“Powers”** - the Devil and his demons can't cause you to lose it
- F. **“Things present”** - nothing happening right now can take it away
- G. **“Things to come”** - nothing in the future can make you lose it
- H. **“Height”** - nothing above you
- I. **“Depth”** - nothing below you

**“...NOR ANY OTHER CREATURE shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”**

#### **IV. WHY IS THIS?**

- A. Because your relationship with God is now a father/son relationship by birth. **John 1:12-13**
- B. When you were born physically, there was a record made of your birth called a birth certificate. When you were born again, a record was made. **1 John 5:11-13**
- C. Your birth certificate was marked with a seal. Your spiritual birth is sealed by the Holy Spirit of God. **Ephesians 1:13, 4:30**
- D. You will be your father's son for eternity because you were born of his seed. You may leave the country, disown each other, change your name, and never see him, hear from him or even think about him the rest of your life; but all that will never change the fact that he is your father. The same is true of your Heavenly Father. You may die physically, but you can never be unborn. Your birth is fixed forever, both physically and spiritually, and even God Himself can not change that fact!

#### **V. Basic questions.**

- A. **“How can I now for sure I am saved?” 1 John 5:13**

\* As a new Christian, **1 John** should be a primary focal point to help you grow and to settle this issue.

B. *“What if I don’t feel saved?”*

1. Your salvation is not based on feelings. It is based upon the objective factual truth of the Word of God. **1 John 3:20**
  - a. You may sometimes think or feel like you are lost.
  - b. But God knows you’re saved, even if you don’t! **Titus 1:2**
2. JUST BELIEVE WHAT GOD HAS SAID! **Proverbs 30:5; 1 John 2:25**

# LESSON REVIEW

1. What is the promise that you can claim in *John 6:37*?
  
2. From *John 10:27-29*, you should understand that no man can cause you to lose your salvation. Why is this?
  
3. We cannot do anything ourselves that would cause us to lose our salvation. What can we learn from the follow verses to support this statement?
  - A. *Ephesians 2:8-9*
  - B. *2 Timothy 1.12*
  - C. *Galatians 2:21*
  
4. Is there anything at all that can separate us from the love of God?
  
5. *Romans 8:38-39* shows us that we have received the love of God in \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. Briefly explain three examples that relate your spiritual birth to your physical birth.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  
7. What Scripture reference promises that you can know that you have eternal life?
  
8. What do the following verses teach you concerning the promise of eternal life?
  - A. *1 John 3:20*
  - B. *Titus 1:2*
  - C. *1 John 2:25*

9. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key memory verses:**

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

*1 John 2:25*

*1 John 5:13*

**Note:** In many churches today, some popular teachings are:

1. We must work to keep our salvation.
2. If we sin after we are born again, we can lose our salvation.
3. God punishes His children according to His own whim and pleasure.

From the Bible principles you have studied in this lesson, you should fully understand that these teachings are false, and why.

\*\* Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

# LESSON 3 - BAPTISM

“Now that I am saved, where do I start?”

Virtually every religious denomination in existence teaches some form of baptism as part of their doctrine, and the diversities in their teachings are wide. This lesson is intended to give the Bible’s clear and definite teaching on the subject so that you understand perfectly what God’s intention is regarding baptism.

## I. Why does God instruct us to be baptized?

Baptism is the first act of obedience in service to the Lord. Anyone can be baptized; it requires no special talents or effort.

Our Lord Jesus Christ set the example Himself by submitting to baptism before He began His public ministry. This was in obedience to God’s plan. *Matthew 3:13-15*

Note that this point of submission and obedience is the single most important thing to realize regarding baptism.

Other Bible characters who submitted to baptism after salvation.

- A. The Ethiopian eunuch. *Acts 8:36-39*
- B. The apostle Paul. *Acts 9:18*
- C. The Philippians jailer and his house. *Acts 16:25-33*

## II. What is the purpose of baptism?

There are several types of baptism are mentioned in the Bible. In each case, physical baptism is a picture of a spiritual truth. Therefore, the important point to consider is the picture that is portrayed by baptism.

*Romans 6:1-7* (specifically *verses 3-4*) shows the two purposes of baptism.

- A. It pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- B. It is a public testimony of the new convert’s identification with Jesus Christ. Since we are saved through the death, burial and resurrection, of the Lord Jesus Christ, our baptism identifies us with Him.

### III. Who should be baptized?

The clearest case of an individual's baptism in the Bible is the Ethiopian eunuch. *Acts 8:26-39*

Verse 36      “... *what doth hinder me to be baptized?*”

Verse 37      “...*If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.*”

Verse 37      “...*I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*”

Therefore, the only requirements for baptism are the requirements for salvation. *Romans 10:9-10.*

A.      Heart belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

B.      Confession that He is Lord and Savior.

\* There are NO cases of baptism in the Bible of anyone but believers!

\* Some other instances of baptism immediately after salvation: *Acts 8:12: Acts 18:8*

### IV. What is the method of baptism?

*Acts 8:38-39* -- Both Phillip and the Ethiopian eunuch went down into the water and came up out of the water.

*Matthew 3:16* -- Jesus Christ was baptized in the same manner.

As seen previously; baptism is a picture of the death, burial and resurrection. The only way to bury someone is to put them completely underground. The Biblical method of baptism is complete immersion. No one in the Bible was ever sprinkled because no one can be buried by sprinkling dirt on them.

### V. How important is it to be baptized?

A.      It is **NOT** essential for salvation. *Ephesians 2:8-9*

\* We are saved by grace through faith, without works - that includes the work of being baptized.

B.      It **is**, however, essential for service and spiritual growth. *Matthew 28:19-20*

\* Baptism is an integral part of the Great Commission and precedes teaching.

\* Before anyone can be taught to follow Jesus Christ, they must be willing to submit to the first act of obedience. If a person refuses to obey the Lord in the first point, he will not obey in future points. *Matthew 3:13-15*

## **VI. Basic questions.**

“Where should I be baptized?”

Since baptism is a public confession of your faith in Jesus Christ, most often it will be publicly in front of the local church. Many times people will be baptized in creeks or rivers, which is fine; the Lord Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan. The actual place of baptism is not important. The important point is that by your baptism, you are giving a public testimony of your identification with the Lord Jesus Christ.

# LESSON REVIEW

1. Give the key reason why God instructs the Christian to be baptized.
  
2. In *Matthew 3:13-15*, Jesus Christ was baptized in order to demonstrate His \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to God and His plan. Jesus fulfilled this before He began His \_\_\_\_\_.
  
3. List three men who were baptized after salvation in the New Testament.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  
4. What are the purposes for baptism found in *Romans 6:3-4*?
  - A.
  - B.
  
5. In *Acts 8:36-37* the Ethiopian eunuch had to fulfill two requirements before he could be baptized. What were the two requirements?
  - A.
  - B.
  
6. How do we know that the Ethiopian eunuch and Jesus Christ were not baptized by sprinkling of water?
  - A.
  - B.
  
7. Baptism by complete immersion in water is a picture of what three things?
  - A.

B.

C.

8. Baptism is essential in order for the Christian to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Also, one must be willing to submit to Scriptural baptism so they can be \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ to follow Jesus Christ.

9. Is baptism essential for salvation? \_\_\_\_\_ Give a Scripture reference that explains this.

10. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key Scripture verses you must be familiar with:**

*Matthew 3:13-17*

*Acts 8:36-39*

*Romans 6:1-7*

**Note:** There is much false teaching among religious groups concerning baptism. The Christian should be aware of some of them.

1. **Man must be baptized** in order to be saved.
2. **Baptism by being sprinkled** is just as meaningful as immersion.
3. **Babies should be baptized** into God's family, or into "*the church*".

From the Bible principles you have studied in this lesson, you should fully understand that these teachings are false, and why.

\*\* Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

# LESSON 4 - THE HOLY SPIRIT

“What are the functions and attributes of the Holy Spirit in my life?”

The day you received the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, the Holy Spirit of God took up permanent residency inside your body. This third person of the Trinity is perhaps the most misunderstood and ignored part of the Christian’s relationship with God.

The purpose of this lesson is to give you a basic understanding of what the Holy Spirit does in your life.

## I. Where do I find the Holy Spirit?

\*\* The Holy Spirit of God lives on this earth inside the body of those who are saved. He came in at the moment of salvation and took up permanent residency. *1 Corinthians 6:19-20; John 14:17; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 2:22*

## II. What is the function of the Holy Spirit?

A. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin. *John 16:8-9*

1. In the lost, He convicts of sin to bring them to salvation.
2. In the saved, He convicts of sin to keep them clean and show them how to live for Jesus Christ.
3. You must understand the difference between *conviction* and *guilt*.
  - a. Conviction is God pointing out that something is wrong in your life so you can make it right. *Isaiah 1:18*
  - b. Guilt is the devil accusing you of being unworthy to receive God’s blessings. *Revelation 12:10*

B. The Holy Spirit creates and regenerates.

1. The Holy Spirit was active in creation. *Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4*
2. In Jesus Christ, you are a new creature, born again by the Holy Spirit. *John 3:3-8*

C. The Holy Spirit seals you once you are saved. *Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30*

D. The Holy Spirit bears witness to your salvation. *1 John 4:13; Romans 8:16*

- E. The Holy Spirit teaches you the Bible. *John 14:26; 16:13-15; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10*
- F. The Holy Spirit intercedes in prayer for you. *Romans 8:26-27, Ephesians 2:18*
- G. The Holy Spirit comforts you in time of need. *John 14:15-18; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; 2 Timothy 1:7*
- H. The Holy Spirit empowers you to serve God. *Zechariah 4:6; Ephesians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 4:7*

### III. What is the result of the Holy Spirit in my life?

The Holy Spirit of God produces a set of character qualities as you give your life to Him and walk in His power. This set of character qualities is called the “*fruit of the Spirit*”.

*Galatians 5:22-23* This “fruit” is singular because ALL of these qualities are produced at the same time by a close relationship with the Holy Spirit.

\* The “*fruit of the Spirit*” consists of:

- A. Love.
- B. Joy.
- C. Peace.
- D. Longsuffering.
- E. Gentleness.
- F. Goodness.
- G. Faith.
- H. Meekness.
- I. Temperance.

### IV. Basis questions.

\* “*What is ‘being filled with the Spirit’ and how can I accomplish this?*”

Compare *Ephesians 5:18-19* and *Colossians 3:16* - this shows that investing your life in the Word of God and letting it dwell in your heart will produce the same results in

your life as being filled with the Spirit. The more you saturate your mind with the Word of God, the closer your relationship to the Holy Spirit will be.

Simply **WALK** in the Spirit. Walking is a steady, consistent, natural process of spiritual growth. *Galatians 5:16-18, 25; Romans 8:1*

Allow **God** to control your life. The filling of the Holy Spirit is NOT you getting more of the Holy Spirit. You got all of Him there is at the moment of your salvation. The filling of the Holy Spirit is Him getting more of you!

**BE PATIENT AND CONSISTENT!** Being controlled by the Holy Spirit does not happen overnight. It is a lifelong process of spiritual growth.

# LESSON REVIEW

1. Where do you find the Holy Spirit? List three Scripture references to support your answer.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
2. At what moment does the Holy Spirit come into your life?
3. Why does the Holy Spirit convict the lost of sin?
4. Why does the Holy Spirit convict the Christian of sin?
5. What is the difference between *conviction* and *guilt*?
  - \* Conviction --
  - \* Guilt --
6. List seven other ways that the Holy Spirit works in the life of the Christian
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  - E.
  - F.
  - G.

7. What is the result of the Holy Spirit in your life?
8. *Galatians 5:22-23* lists for us the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_. These qualities are produced in the life of a Christian by a \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_.
9. In order for the Christian to be “*filled with the Spirit*”, they must invest time learning and living the \_\_\_\_\_.
10. True or False
- \_\_\_\_ A. I must get more of God’s Holy Spirit each day.
- \_\_\_\_ B. Being controlled by the Holy Spirit is a lifelong process of spiritual growth.
- \_\_\_\_ C. *Romans 8:1* teaches that you must walk after the flesh.
- \_\_\_\_ D. *John 16:13* shows us that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth.
- \_\_\_\_ E. *Romans 8:26-27* shows us that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us in our prayers unto God.
11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key memory verses:**

*I Corinthians 6:19-20*

*Galatians 5:22-23*

*Galatians 5:16*

**Note:** In many churches today, some popular teachings are:

1. A Christian does not get all of the Holy Spirit at salvation.
2. The Holy Spirit can leave you if you sin

From the Bible principles you have studied in this lesson, you should fully understand that these teachings are false, and why.

\*\* Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

# LESSON 5 - THE WORD OF GOD

“What is the significance of the Bible in my life?”

What separates Christianity from any “religion” in the world is its claim to an absolute written authority from God. Having the Word of God is essential to a Christian’s growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. The standards by which a Christian is to govern his life in every detail are found in the pages of the Word of God.

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint the new Christian with the basics of the Bible and how it relates to his everyday life, so he can begin to understand how its principles are to guide every facet of his walk with Jesus Christ.

## I. The Word of God is active in salvation.

- A. The Word of God is the agent which brings about the new birth. *1 Peter 1:23*
  - 1. *Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace are ye saved through faith...”*
  - 2. *Romans 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing BY THE WORD OF GOD.”*
  - 3. *James 1:21* Says the Word of God is “...*able to save your souls.*”
- B. Paul’s summary of the Gospel contains four parts: *1 Corinthians 15:1-4*
  - 1. Jesus Christ died for our sins.
  - 2. Was buried.
  - 3. Rose from the dead.
  - 4. *ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES.*
- C. You **must** believe what the Bible says about sin, your condition, and God’s plan of salvation in order to be saved.

## II. Since you are saved by the Word of God, it must be your absolute, infallible guide to tell you how to live.

Every major purchase (car, appliance, etc.) is accompanied by an owner’s manual which tells you how to operate it. If you don’t go by the book, it won’t work.

The Bible is God’s “*owner’s manual*” for your life. God would not save you and call you to service without giving clear, exact directions; but you must “*go by the book*” in order to become what God desires for you to be. *Psalms 119:105; Proverbs 3:5-6*

### III. What is the purpose of the Word of God for a Christian?

- A. The Word of God equips you for service. *2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 6:10-18*
- B. The Word of God sustains you. This is illustrated in the Bible as “*spiritual food*.” *Job 23:12; Jeremiah 15:16.*

The Bible is a complete and balanced diet for your spiritual life.

- 1. Milk. *1 Peter 2:2*
  - 2. Honey. *Psalms 119:103*
  - 3. Bread. *Luke 4:4*
  - 4. Water. *Isaiah 55:10-11*
  - 5. Meat. *Hebrews 5:12-14*
- C. The Word of God keeps you clean to please God. *Psalms 119:9-11; John 15:3*

### IV. Is the Bible completely reliable?

It is more sure than the audible voice of God. This is a very critical point. It must be understood that all “*religious experiences*” are to be judged by an infallible standard which is greater than any experience.

This is illustrated clearly for us:

- A. Peter heard the voice of God. *Matthew 17:1-9*
- B. Peter’s faith in God’s Word. *2 Peter 1:16-21*

### V. How do I learn the Bible?

- A. The Holy Spirit of God will lead and guide you into all truth. God may use other means or instruments to aid in teaching you - books, tapes, preachers, etc. - but ultimately, all of God’s truth is revealed by the Holy Spirit. *John 14:26; John 16:13-15*
- B. The Bible is learned by comparing Scripture with Scripture, relying on God’s Spirit to teach you and not your own natural intellect. *1 Corinthians 2:9-16.*

### VI. A brief information of the Bible.

- A. A total of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.

- B. Written through more than 40 men.
- C. Fits together perfectly as if written by one man, because the author of all 66 books is in fact the Holy Spirit of God.
- D. Written over a time span of about 2,000 years.
- E. Totally accurate in matters of history, of prophecy and of every issue of life.
- F. Not one single contradiction.

**VII. Read this famous anonymous quote concerning the Bible:**

*“The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.”*

*Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler’s map, the Pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s charter.*

*Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.*

*Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given to you in life, will be open at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor and condemns all who trifle with its holy contents.”*

**VIII. Basic questions.**

- A. *“Where should I start reading?”*

As a young Christian, you should focus on the primary places which deal with your new relationship with your Heavenly Father. Let me recommend three good places where you might begin:

- \* **John** -- Written that you might believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- \* **1 John** -- Written that you might have assurance of salvation.
- \* **Psalm 119** -- Shows the love we should have for the Word of God.

- B. *“What if I find something I don’t understand?”*

Don’t get upset about it, God will reveal it to you in time - when you are ready. Be sure you live what you do understand. God will not give you more than you are capable of handling. As you put into practice the things you are learning, God will then entrust you with more.

# LESSON REVIEW

1. The Word of God is active in our salvation. Briefly explain how the following verses apply to this fact.
  - A. *1 Peter 1:23*
  - B. *Romans 10:17*
  - C. *James 1:21*
  
2. What are the four key elements of the Gospel according to *1 Corinthians 15:14*?
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  
3. What are the major purposes of the Word of God in the Christians life?
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  
4. From *2 Timothy 3:16-17*, we understand that all Scripture is profitable for the following:
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  
5. The Bible is likened to God's "*owner manual*" for your life. Briefly explain why this is.

6. Your physical body needs food in order to function properly. Your spiritual body needs food also. Give two Scripture references that show us this.
- A.
- B.
7. According to **2 Peter 1:16-21**, the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ than the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. The Bible judges all of man's \_\_\_\_\_ because it is an \_\_\_\_\_.
8. According to **Genesis 1 and 2**, man's theory of evolution is a lie. What do we learn from the following verses regarding this subject?
- A. **Hebrews 11:3**
- B. **Psalms 33:6**
9. We learned from lesson # 4 that the \_\_\_\_\_ guides us into all truth. The Bible is also learned by \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture with \_\_\_\_\_ and depending on God's Spirit to teach you.
10. According to **1 Corinthians 2:9-16**, why can't lost people properly understand what the Bible teaches?
11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key memory verse:**

**2 Peter 1:21**

**Psalms 119:9**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

**Note:** Many popular attitudes about the Bible are:

1. The Bible is just another religious book written by men.
2. The Bible can only be understood by the "clergy" or after many years of formal religious education.

3. In order to understand the true meanings of the Scriptures, you must study the original manuscripts in the Greek and Hebrew languages.

From the Bible principles you have studied in this lesson, you should fully understand that these attitudes are wrong, and why.

\*\* Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

# LESSON 6 - PRAYER

“How important is prayer in my life?”

Someone once said that a Christian is only as strong as his prayer life. There is a great deal of truth in this because prayer is simply your direct communication to God. When you read our Bible, God speaks to you; and when you pray, you speak to God. You need to realize that your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ cannot grow as it should, without proper communication.

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint you with the basics of a proper prayer life so that these lines of communication can be open and effective in your life.

## I. What is the purpose of prayer?

- A. Prayer is **NOT** to move God for you or change His mind; it is for you to be conformed to His will for your life.

\* A proper prayer life results in peace of heart and mind. *Philippians 4:6-7*

- B. Prayer is to draw you close to God so He can prove His sufficiency for every need.

1. God is active in every detail of your life, and He knows exactly what you need even before you ask. *Matthew 6:8*
2. God allows needs to come into your life so you will be drawn to Him and so that He might be glorified. *Psalms 50:15*
3. The most dangerous time in your life is when every single need is met, and you have need of nothing - including God! *Revelation 3:16-17*
4. God uses those needs to draw you to a place where He can bless you and reveal to you that your only real need is simply the Lord Jesus Christ and His grace. The classic example of this tremendously important principle is Paul's thorn in the flesh. *2 Corinthians 12:7-10*
5. This is why it is absolutely essential to give thanks in everything, including and especially the needs and difficult times of your life. *1 Thessalonians 5:18*
6. That is also why it is absolutely essential to develop a consistent prayer attitude so that your first reaction to every difficulty is to go to God in prayer. *1 Thessalonians 5:17*

## II. How do I pray?

We do not always know how to pray or what to pray for. That is why the Holy Spirit who lives inside you intercedes for you in prayer. **Romans 8:26-27**

Some basic guidelines of pray:

- A. Pray always - develop a lifestyle of prayer. **1Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1**
- B. Don't repeat the same words over and over. **Matthew 6:7**
- C. Talk to the Lord as a friend - He **IS** your friend' **John 15:13-14; Exodus 33:11; Proverbs 18:24**
- D. Realize that you have **DIRECT** access to God personally. You do not need to go through any man to talk to God. **1Timothy 2:5; Ephesians 2:18**
- E. Be sure to keep your basic relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ proper. There are some things in your life which will hinder your prayers.
  1. Unconfessed sin. **Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 66:18**
  2. An unforgiving spirit. **Matthew 6:14-15**
  3. Bitterness towards your mate (as well as others). **1 Peter 3:7**
  4. Not asking. **James 4:2**
  5. Asking with selfish or other wrong motives. **James 4:3; Proverbs 21:13**
  6. Insensitivity to the Word of God. **Proverbs 28:9**

## III. There are four basic types of prayer. (**1Timothy 2:1**)

- A. Supplication - specific requests. **Philippians 4:6** “...let your request be made known unto God.”

\* Too many prayers are wasted because they are so general. For example: We pray, “**Lord, please give me a blessing.**” But God says, “**Which one - how do you want me to bless you?**”

- B. Prayers - this is the summation; this term is used to classify all communication with God.
- C. Intercessions - prayers for others. This is important to keep your motives pure and keep your selfish eyes off yourself.
- D. Giving of thanks. **Psalm 100:4**

#### IV. **Keep track of your prayer request.**

Making a list will help you remember what to pray for. Otherwise your prayer life will not be consistent.

Keeping a list of answered prayers is tremendously important to reinforce your faith in God's ability to answer prayer.

#### V. **Basic questions.**

A. *“Does God answer all my prayers“*

Yes, but not always the way you may want Him to, or at the time you want Him to. As we learned in lesson one, God is your Heavenly Father and all His ways are perfect. There will be times when in His infinite wisdom, the best answer to prayer will be **“NO”** or **“NOT YET”**. In those times, you must simply trust Him and never become bitter at Him.

B. *“How important is it to pray for others?”*

1. Paul prayed for others continually, (***Romans 1:9***) and requested prayer for himself on many occasions. ***Hebrews 13:18; 2 Thessalonians 3:1***
2. Samuel said it was a sin against God not to pray for others. ***1 Samuel 12:23***
3. An example of effectual prayer for others is how a preacher from England named George Mueller prayed for the salvation of several of his friends for up to 60 years. When he died, some were still lost. However, some were saved at his funeral, and many others were saved within the next year.
4. Keep at it! The full results of our prayers to God will never be known completely in this life.

# LESSON REVIEW

1. What is something prayer does **NOT** accomplish?
  
2. What is the result of a good prayer life?
  
3. Prayer keeps you close to God so He can prove His sufficiency for your every need. What do the following verses teach us about God and our needs?
  - A. *Matthew 6:8*
  - B. *Psalms 50:15*
  
4. Give the situation that is most dangerous for a Christian to be in.
  
5. According to *1 Thessalonians 5:18*, we are to give thanks in everything. This includes the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of our lives.
  
6. What should be your first reaction in a tough situation?
  
7. There are some primary principles concerning prayer. Briefly explain them from the following verses.
  - A. *1 Thessalonians 5:17*
  - B. *Matthew 6:7*
  - C. *Exodus 33:11*
  
8. List the attitudes that will interfere with your prayer life.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.

- D.
- E.
- F.
9. What are two ways that help you keep your prayer request in order?
- A.
- B.
10. God answers your prayers, but not always the way you expect. His answer will sometimes be \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
11. Man is instructed not to pray to idols or to other men. Explain *1 Timothy 2:5* in light of this truth.
12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

***Key memory verses:***

***1 Timothy 2:5***

***Psalms 66:18***

***1 Thessalonians 5:18***

**Note:** In many churches today, some popular teachings are:

1. Man should pray to idols, saints or other men.
2. If you pray long enough or hard enough, God will change His mind and do what you want.
3. The best prayers are those which have been written by others and are just “*said*” by you.
4. Prayer must be at a set time and in a set format.

From the Bible principles you have studied in this lesson, you should fully understand that these teachings are false, and why.

\*\* Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

# LESSON 7 - THE WILL OF GOD

“How do I find God’s will for my life?”

A famous preacher once said that a successful man is a man who finds out what God wants him to accomplish with his life and then fulfills it completely. That is a very profound statement. The true measure of a man’s success is not his social status or bank account, or his influence and fame. It is simply doing what God wants him to do with his life.

The purpose of this lesson is to give you a clear understanding of what the will of God is, as revealed in the Bible, so you can begin to accomplish those things God would have you to accomplish in your life.

## I. What the will of God is NOT:

The will of God is not physical, but spiritual. It is never connected with a set of rules, a geographical location, or a specific ministry.

The will of God is not to be confused with the plan of God for your life. God does have a specific plan for each individual life. That plan is the specific direction God will give in the individual circumstances of your life.

## II. There are two aspects to the will of God, His permissive will, and His directive will.

A. The permissive will of God. It must be clearly understood that God does occasionally allow things to happen that He does not necessarily approve of in order that He might accomplish some larger purpose. Examples are abundant, both in and out of Scripture.

1. Occasionally, things happen in a Christian’s life which do not appear to be good.
  - a. God will allow suffering in the lives of His children to perfect them, although He would prefer that they did not have to suffer. *1 Peter 3:15-18; 2 Corinthians 12:6-10; 1 Peter 5:10*
  - b. From lesson one, we learned that our Heavenly Father will never make a mistake in His dealings with His children. *Matthew 7:11; Romans 8:28*
2. God allows men to make their own choices in life, both good and bad.
  - a. Paul’s trip to Jerusalem - *Acts 21:4-14*. God warned him three times not to go, but then allowed him to go to teach him obedience.

- b. Hitler - God did not necessarily approve of him murdering over 6 million of His chosen people, but He allowed it as the beginning of the restoration of the Jews, and to return them to their homeland.
- c. Man has a free will. God will not force anyone to do anything. God offers salvation and lays down principles for a godly life; but if a man exercises the free will God has given him and rejects salvation, God permits that man's free will to be exercised, and the man suffers the eternal consequences. ***Galatians 6:7-8***

B. The directive will of God.

- 1. There are certain things God specifically wills.
  - a. Salvation. ***2 Peter 3:9***
  - b. Thankfulness. ***1 Thessalonians 5:18***
  - c. Submission. ***1 Peter 2:13-15***

However, this must be balanced by the next point:

- d. Non conformity. ***Romans 12:1-2***
  - \* Submission to the ordinances of man is to maintain a proper testimony in order that we might win them; while at the same time, your life is to be transformed to live by a higher standard to please God.
- e. Sanctification. ***1 Thessalonians 4:3-7***
- f. Right motive for service. ***Ephesians 6:5-8***
- g. Make good use of your time. ***Ephesians 5:15-17***
- 2. Summarizing God's will for your life: The will of God is the same for every person on earth, to be conformed to the image of His Son. ***Romans 8:28-29; John 17:20-23; Ephesians 4:13-15***

### III. How can I find God's direction for my life?

Three things must be functioning in the life of a Christian for him to fulfill God's will and receive His direction.

- A. The Holy Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit which indwells you must have free course in your life to direct you. *Galatians 5:25; John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10*
- B. Word of God. The Word of God is your absolute authority in every detail of your life. You must learn to saturate your mind with God's thoughts. *Philippians 2:5; Romans 12:1-2; Isaiah 55:6-11*
- C. The local church. The local church is organized to equip Christians for ministry. *Ephesians 4:11-12*

**IV. How does God give His direction in details of my life?**

You must be in conformity to the will of God before He will direct you in the specifics of life. Your priority should be to fulfill the general will of God in your daily life, and then trust Him to guide you in the detailed plan, step by step.

God is infinitely more interested in your **being** the type of person He wants you to be than in your doing for Him many "*mighty works*". Be what He wants you to be, and He will show you what He wants you to do.

**V. Basic questions:**

*"What doesn't God reveal all of the details of His direction for me now?"*

- A. It would overwhelm you before you got started.
- B. You may not be equipped to handle it yet.
- C. You may not **be** the type of person God wants you to be yet.
- D. God will reveal what you can handle when you can handle it.

# LESSON REVIEW

1. List four things that the will of God is **NOT**:
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  
2. God also has a specific \_\_\_\_\_ for you life, which involves His\_\_\_\_\_.
  
3. Briefly explain the permissive will of God.
  
4. According to *1 Peter 5:10*, God allows Christians to go through suffering so that they might be more:
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  
5. God has given all men a free will, therefore, He will not force man to do anything. But when God offers an individual salvation or direction, and this is rejected, what is the result?
  
6. God has a direct will for man. List seven things that God specifically will for us.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.

- E.
  - F.
  - G.
7. Summarize God's will for a Christian's life. Give Scripture reference to support your answer.
  8. What must be active in the life of a believer to fulfill God's will and receive His direction in life?
    - A.
    - B.
    - C.
  9. Before God will give His direction for your life, what must take place?
  10. Briefly explain the difference between the will of God and plan of God.
  11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key memory verses:**

*Romans 12:1-2*

*1 Peter 3:17*

*2 Peter 3:9*

**Note:** There is much confusion today about the will of God. Some popular beliefs are:

1. The will of God is different for every individual.
2. The will of God has to do with specific, physical matters and geographic locations.
3. God has predetermined what will happen (fate) and man's free will has no bearing on the matter.
4. Problems in a Christian's life are always the result of sin in his life.

From the Bible principles you have studied in this lesson, you should fully understand that these teachings are false, and why.

\*\* Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

# LESSON 8 - THE LOCAL CHURCH

“What is the purpose of my involvement in a local church?”

God has established three major institutions on this earth: the family, civil government, and the local church. It is the local church which has been commissioned by God to carry out His purposes in reaching the lost and perfecting the saved. Therefore, God’s plan for a Christian will always be fulfilled best when connected with the local church.

The purpose of this lesson is to impress upon you the central role which the church should play in your everyday life.

## I. What is the local church?

- A. It is **NOT** a building. *Acts 14:27*
  - 1. We worship God in spirit and truth. *John 4:24*
  - 2. Our bodies are the temple of God. *1 Corinthians 6:19*
- B. It is **NOT** a denominational group of congregations.
- C. A local church is a body of men and women who have been saved and called by God to serve in specific area. “*The church*” is the body of Christ, the saved multitudes of every nation.
  - \* Church is compared to the human body. *1 Corinthians 12:14-27*
    - 1. Each member has a different function. *verses 14-20*
    - 2. No one member can function alone. *verses 21*
    - 3. Each member’s contribution is important. *verses 22-24*
    - 4. A properly functioning body operates as single unit. *verses 25-27*

## II. What is the function of the local church?

The first local church in the Bible was organized in Jerusalem. (*Acts 2:41-47*) The believers there organized their church for the following purposes.

- 1. The teaching of the Word of God. *verse 42*

2. Fellowship with other believers. *verse 42*
3. Prayer. *verse 42*
4. The observance of the two ordinances of the church.
5. Baptism. *verse 41*
6. The Lord's Supper. *verse 42*
7. To be a testimony of God's grace and power. *verse 43*
8. For mutual assistance and ministry. *verses 44-45*
9. To reach out into their community. *verses 46-47*
10. To glorify and praise God. *verse 47*

\*\* The single most important priority of the local church is to edify – that means to build up, teach, strengthen – the saints. *Ephesians 4:11-16*

### III. How do I function in the church body?

According to *Ephesians 4:12*, during your Christian life, you should grow through three broad, general stages:

- A. The perfecting of the saints -- **observe and learn.**

Your first priority should be to submit to the teaching of the Word of God in order to learn to be the man or woman God wants you to be. *Matthew 11:28-30*

- B. The work of the ministry -- **participate.**

Soon, you will naturally grow to the point where you can begin to serve and take on some basic functions through already established ministries of your church. *Matthew 4:19; James 1:22-25*

- C. The edifying of the body of Christ -- **lead.**

As your growth continues, you should reach the point where you can begin to minister to others in the same way you have been ministered to. *2 Timothy 2:2*

\*\* These three stages can be roughly compared to the stages of physical growth: childhood, youth and adult.

\*\* *BE PATIENT!* This process, like growing up physically, takes time. Just remain faithful to God's established institution, the local church and you will grow.

#### IV. Basic questions.

*“If God moves me to another location, how do I find the particular local church that God wants me to serve through?”*

- A. Pray about it! Ask God to show you which church to associate yourself with.  
***James 1:5***
  
- B. Observe the qualities of a particular church and compare them with the Biblical requirements of a proper church.
  - 1. Is there evidence of soul winning? ***Matthew 7:20; Acts 2:47***
  - 2. Do they believe and teach the Bible as the Word of God and the infallible guide for life? ***Titus 1:9***
  - 3. Is the membership encouraged to read and study the Bible as much as the leadership of the church? ***Acts 17:10-12***
  - 4. Do they minister to the needs of people? ***Acts 6:1***
  - 5. Do they send out and support missionaries? ***Acts 13:1-3***

# LESSON REVIEW

1. What are the three institutions God has established on earth?
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  
2. List some things that a church is **NOT**:
  
3. Define the following terms:
  - A. Local church.
  - B. “The church”.
  
4. In *1 Corinthians 12:14-27*, Paul teaches that in many ways the church body is similar to the \_\_\_\_\_ . List five parts of the body that are mentioned in this passage of Scripture.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  - E.
  
5. List four basic similarities between the church body and the human body.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.

6. The first local church in the Bible was at Jerusalem. In *Acts 2:41-47*, we see this local church functioning. List the functional purposes found in this passage of Scripture.
- A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  - E.
  - F.
  - G.
  - H.
7. What is the most important priority of a local church?
8. There is a proper order for you to follow in participating in the church body. List the three general stages connected with spiritual growth.
- A.
  - B.
  - C.
9. How do these three stages of spiritual growth match up with the three stages of physical growth found in *1 John 2:12-14*?
- A. \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The Christian should be \_\_\_\_\_ because growing spiritually is a process which can only be properly accomplished within the established \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.

11. When a Christian is looking for a local church to serve in, what are some qualities he should be checking for?
  
12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key memory verses:**

*Ephesians 4:11-12*

*1 Corinthians 12:27*

*2 Timothy 2:2*

**Note:** Many churches today are not fulfilling God's plan because their primary attitudes are:

1. In order to really learn the Bible, you must go to a Bible College.
2. The primary purpose of a local church is to be a social or political organization.
3. The local church is primarily for weddings, funerals and religious holidays.
4. Only the "*leadership*" of the church is charged with any responsibility of meeting people's spiritual needs.

From the Bible principles you have studied in this lesson, you should fully understand that these attitudes are wrong, and why.

\*\* Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

# LESSON 9 - OTHER CHRISTIANS

“What is my relationship to other Christians?”

As well learned in lesson one, when you got saved, you moved from the devil’s family to God’s family. Spiritually, you now have a new family with many brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

We saw how the church is likened to a body in the previous lesson, and in this lesson, we will study the special relationship which you now have with your spiritual family. This lesson is designed to give you a clear understanding of how the body of Christ operates as a family unit.

## I. How can I relate to other Christians?

- A. They are your brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. Be sure to understand, only those in Jesus Christ – those truly born again – are your brothers, regardless of any other factors. Likewise, those NOT in Jesus Christ – those who have never been truly born again – are not your brothers regardless of any other factors. *Matthew 12:46-50; John 1:12*
- B. They are your fellow laborers in service for Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians 3:5-10*

## II. What are my responsibilities toward other Christians?

- A. We are to pray for each other. Almost every one of Paul’s letters opens with a prayer for those to whom he is writing. *1 Thessalonians 1:2-3; 2 Timothy 1:3*
- B. We are to minister to each other.
  - \* Physically.
    - 1. For those in your immediate family (local church). *Galatians 6:10; Romans 12:13*
    - 2. For those in the body of Christ. *Acts 11:27-30*
  - \* Spiritually. *Galatians 6:1-2; Hebrews 12:1-3*
- C. We are to encourage and edify one another. *1 Thessalonians 5:11*
- D. We are to serve one another with humility. *Philippians 2:3-4; Matthew 20:25-28*

### III. What should be my attitude toward other Christians?

- A. The primary attitude should be to love them. *1 John 3:14-16; 1 Peter 4:8*
- B. Be patient with them. *Romans 15:5-7*
- C. Be sensitive to their needs. *1 John 3:17-18; James 2:15-16*
- D. Be forgiving of each other. *Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13*

### IV. What is “fellowship”?

- A. “Fellowship” is a term commonly used by Christians generally referring to getting together for activities or a time of sharing common interests. However, that is only a small part of true fellowship.

It is true that to fellowship is to share things, but true Biblical fellowship goes **FAR BEYOND** just a meal or an activity. It is the sharing of life through the person of the Lord Jesus with another believer. *Philippians 1:3-6; 2:1-2*

- B. The essential elements of true Biblical fellowship are not physical matters such as social status, friendship, common interests, etc.; but are spiritual requirements of personal character.

- 1. Humility. *Philippians 2:3-8*
- 2. Honesty. *Ephesians 4:25; 2 Corinthians 4:2*
- 3. Love. *John 13:35; Galatians 5:13-15*
- 4. Hospitality. *Titus 1:8; Acts 2:42; 46-47*

- C. The areas of true fellowship include, among others:

- 1. Prayer. *2 Corinthians 1:11*
- 2. Faith. *Romans 1:12*
- 3. Ministry. *2 Corinthians 8:4; Galatians 2:9*
- 4. Suffering. *Philippians 3:10; 1 Peter 4:13; 5:1*

- D. Although doctrinal beliefs are vitally important, true Biblical fellowship is not based on exact doctrinal agreement, but on our relationship with the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. While we may not be able to closely work with some who are truly saved because their doctrinal beliefs are not the same as ours, and even though our fellowship with them may be limited, we can have fellowship with them in that we are brothers and sisters in Christ. *John 1:3-7; 1 Corinthians 1:9-10*

## V. Basic questions

*“What if another Christians offends me?”*

Unfortunately, this will probably happen to you if you spend any time with your brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. There will be times of offense, hurt, and disagreement within the body of Christ, just as in your physical family. If this happens and **if it is serious enough**, the Bible clearly gives us a definite progression of principles to deal with the matter. How should you respond in such a case?

- A. Take the offense directly to the other party first, privately, and try to settle it between yourselves. *Matthew 18:15*
- B. If the matter is not resolved privately, take it to a leader in your church so he may attempt to mediate the situation. *Matthew 18:16; 1 Corinthians 6:1-5*
- C. Do **NOT** go to the lost world to settle a problem within the body of Christ. *1 Corinthians 6:6*
- D. If this matter still cannot be resolved:
  - 1. Personally accept the wrong. *1 Corinthians 6:7-8*
  - 2. Commit the situation to the Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Peter 2:19-23*
  - 3. Forgive your brother. *Colossians 3:13*
  - 4. Pray for your brother. *Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:14*

# LESSON REVIEW

1. List the two primary aspects of your relationship with other Christians.
  - A.
  - B.
  
2. List four responsibilities you have toward other Christians, and give a Scripture reference that best defines each point.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  
3. List four attitudes you should have toward other Christians, and give a Scripture reference that best defines each point.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  
4. What does the term "*fellowship*" mean?
  
5. The essential elements of true Biblical fellowship are not \_\_\_\_\_ matters, But pertain to \_\_\_\_\_ requirements of personal \_\_\_\_\_.
  
6. List four character qualities needed in the Christian's life in order to participate in true fellowship with other believers.
  - A.
  - B.

- C.
- D.
7. List four areas of true fellowship, and give a Scripture reference for each.
- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.
8. True or False:
- \_\_\_\_\_ A. True Biblical fellowship is based on exact doctrinal beliefs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ B. True Biblical fellowship is possible with a lost person.
- \_\_\_\_\_ C. We must have fellowship with Jesus Christ before we can have true fellowship with other Christians.
9. In the event another Christian offends you, list three principles which should govern your actions in attempting to resolve the matter.
- A.
- B.
- C.
10. In the event your brother or sister refuses to help resolve a problem, what should you do?
11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key memory verses:**

*Ephesians 4:32*

*1 John 3:14-15*

*1 John 1:7*

**Note:** Among many Christians today, the following attitudes prevail:

1. We are not to associate with Christians who do not believe exactly as we do.
2. “*Fellowship*” must be centered around a meal or an activity.

From the Bible principles you have studied in this lesson, you should fully understand that these teachings are wrong, and why.

\*\* Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

# LESSON 10 – TITHING OR GIVING

“What is the meaning of giving and what are my responsibilities in this area?”

Giving is an extremely controversial subject in Christianity today largely due to the severe pressures exerted on God’s people to give to so many worthy causes. This is perhaps one of the most misunderstood subjects in Christianity.

Before you can properly understand the nature of New Testament giving, you must understand one fact clearly: **God does not need your money!** He already owns everything.

This lesson will deal with the Christian’s responsibility in stewardship of his life as well as his resources.

## **I. Before any giving can be truly proper, you must be willing to give yourself first.**

- A. God brought you with a price, the blood of Jesus Christ, and you belong to Him. *1 Corinthians 6:19-20*
- B. God commands you to present your body as a living sacrifice, not just your pocketbook. *Romans 12:1*
- C. A willing mind and heart, with a life committed to serving God, must precede financial giving in order for God to truly bless it. *2 Corinthians 8:3-5, 12*

## **II. What is the reason for my giving?**

- A. Giving proves the sincerity of your love for Jesus Christ. *2 Corinthians 8:8*
- B. Giving develops an attitude of grace for other works. It takes no special talents or abilities to give - only grace. *2 Corinthians 8:6-7, 9:8*
- C. Giving is an investment in eternal riches and gets your eyes off of earthly riches, which will fade away. *Matthew 6:19-21*
- D. The person who benefits most from your giving is **YOU**. *Acts 20:35*

## **III. What am I supposed to give?**

- A. You are supposed to give your life first. Your giving is to be out of a willing heart and because of your love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

- B. Let us examine amounts of giving from the Bible.
1. The “*tithe*” - in the Old Testament, the Jews were required by their religious law to give a certain percentage of their income. This “*tithe*” was one-tenth of a person’s income. In addition, the Jews gave freewill offerings for various other works of God, bringing their total giving to well over ten percent. ***2 Chronicles 31:11-12; Deuteronomy 12:5-7***
  2. The church is not bound by the letter of the Old Testament law. However, the principles of the Old Testament establish patterns for our relationship with God in this New Testament age. ***1 Corinthians 10:11; Romans 15:4***
  3. Therefore, the “*tithe*” - the tenth - is the bare minimum to be given.
  4. Christian maturity will result in sacrificial giving. When a person gives beyond his power to give, it costs him something. At this point, the grace of giving is maximized his life. ***2 Corinthians 8:3***

#### IV. Where am I to give?

- A. Your primary responsibility is to your local church. All giving in the New Testament is done within the context of the local church ministry. ***1 Corinthians 16:1-3***
- B. Obviously, anyone is free to give to causes outside the local church, and God may even use and bless it. However, it is the local church which is **central** in God’s plan. Any giving outside of it should never be done at the expense of what God would have you to give to your church - the tithe.

#### V. What does my money go for?

- A. The support of the leadership of the church. ***1 Corinthians 9:13-14; Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:17-18***
- B. Other works of God supported through your church. ***Philippians 4:15-16***
- C. Support of those people within the church body who are **UNABLE** to support themselves, and who have proven themselves **FAITHFUL** under the New Testament guidelines. ***Acts 6:1; 1 Timothy 5:16. 9-10***
- D. To meet the general needs of the church as determined by the leadership of your church. ***2 Corinthians 8:4; Acts 11:27-30***

## **VI. Other principles of giving.**

- A. Remember at all times the law of sowing and reaping. **2 Corinthians 9:6; Galatians 6:7-9**
  
- B. True New Testament giving goes much further than a simple “*tithe*”. It is giving complete control of your life and resources to Jesus Christ. If God has complete control of your life, He will automatically have control of your resources. All of the above principles of giving can be applied to your time and service as well as your money.
  - 1. God’s plan is that we be conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Romans 8:29**
  - 2. God’s essential nature is giving, manifested in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. **John 3:16; 1 John 4:10; 2 Corinthians 8:9**
  - 3. When you give according to Bible principles, you will manifest the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ in your life, resulting in God being glorified through you. **2 Corinthians 9:8-15; 1 Chronicles 29:8-13**

## **VII. Basic questions:**

*“How can I be sure I am giving to the right things and that my money (and time) is being used as God would have it?”*

- A. Build your giving (time, service and money) around the local church. It is God’s ordained institution for this age.
  
- B. In most churches, a group of men are entrusted with the responsibility of handling the financial matters of that local body. If you have prayerfully sought God’s leadership in choosing a local church, and you have followed the principles in His Word in doing so, then you ought to trust the leaders of the church to handle this matter properly. If you have good reason to believe that the church’s resources are not being used Scripturally, then speak to the individuals with that responsibility. If the matter is not answered to your satisfaction, then perhaps you should consider praying about seeking another church.

# LESSON REVIEW

1. Give one reason from your own studies in the Bible why you believe that God doesn't need your money.
  
2. Before you consider giving any money to the Lord's work, you must first give yourself. List three reasons for this.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  
3. List three reasons for giving your resources.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  
4. The basic amount we should give to God is the "*tithe*". How much is that?
  
5. Christian maturity will result in \_\_\_\_\_.
  
6. Any giving to other "*Christian*" organizations should never be done at the expense of what God would have you to give to your \_\_\_\_\_.
  
7. List four areas in which money is to be used by the local church. Give a verse that best defines each point.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.

8. If God has control of your \_\_\_\_\_ , He will have control of your \_\_\_\_\_
9. Explain what true New Testament giving is.
10. Circle the one who benefits the most from your giving: God; the church; the pastor; or you?
11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key memory verses:**

*2 Corinthians 9:7*

*Matthew 6:21*

*2 Corinthians 8:9*

**Note:** From many pulpits, and on most radio and television shows, you will hear the following teachings regarding giving:

1. The Christian's primary responsibility in giving is his money.
2. Christians are obligated to give to any and every good cause
3. If you don't give, the work of God will suffer.

From the Bible principles you have studied in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

\*\* Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

# LESSON 11 - MONEY & POSSESSIONS IN GENERAL

“What should be my attitude toward money and possessions?”

One of the greatest temptations we face as Christians is the tremendous materialism that has invaded our culture. We are geared to think that success is measured by the abundance of our material wealth; when in reality, a man’s success is measured by fulfilling God’s plan for his life as we saw in a previous lesson.

The Bible has a great deal to say about our attitudes toward physical possessions. The object of this lesson is to determine how God would have us deal with this matter in light of Biblical principles.

## I. You do NOT have to be wealthy or poor to please God!

- A. This is very important to understand. Spirituality is not measured by either the abundance **OR** lack of material goods. Nowhere in the Bible does God condemn anyone simply for having money. Instead, he deals with their heart attitude.
- B. The Bible does not say that “*money is the roof of all evil*” - it says “...*the LOVE of money is the roof of all evil...*” (**1 Timothy 6:10**)
- C. Many godly Bible characters were wealthy.
  - 1. Solomon was the wealthiest man in history, yet observe his conclusion. ***Ecclesiastes 12:13-14***
  - 2. Job was the wealthiest man of his day (***Job 1:3***), yet when all his wealth was gone, observe his attitude. ***Job 1:20-22***
  - 3. Even the Lord was accompanied by a group of wealthy women who provided for Him materially. ***Luke 8:1-3***

## II. At what point does money and possessions interfere with my relationship with God?

- A. When you trust in them rather than trusting in God. ***Mark 10:23-27; Proverbs 11:28***
- B. When your affections are set on your earthly possessions instead of your heavenly possessions. ***Matthew 6:19-21; Colossians 3:1-4***

- C. When you think your own spirituality, another man's spirituality, or God's blessings can be measured by material possessions. *Luke 12:15*
- D. When your objective in life becomes to earn as much money as possible. *Proverbs 23:4; Ecclesiastes 5:10-12*
- E. When you think that you provide for your own needs instead of God providing them for you. *Philippians 4:19; Deuteronomy 8:10-18*

### III. What are the proper attitudes I should develop toward physical possessions?

- A. First and foremost, **BE CONTENT** with what you have. Understand that to be content is not to grudgingly resign yourself to accept your state, but to rest satisfied in God's provision: realizing whatever you have been given is a blessing from the hand of God.
  - 1. We are to be content with our possessions. *Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:8*
  - 2. We are to be content in whatever state we find ourselves, resting in the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 4:11* -- Note that Paul wrote these words while in jail!
- B. Realize that there are many things which are far more important than money, and which money cannot buy.
  - 1. Wisdom. *Proverbs 16:16*
  - 2. A righteous life. *Proverbs 28:6, 16:8; Psalm 37:16*
  - 3. A good night's sleep. *Ecclesiastes 5:12*
  - 4. God's Word. *Psalm 119:14, 72, 127*
  - 5. Good health. *Luke 8:43*
  - 6. Quietness and peace. *Ecclesiastes 4:6*
- C. If and when God blesses you physically, don't forget Him. *Deuteronomy 6:10-12; Proverbs 30:7-9; Revelation 3:17*
- D. Realize that if God takes all your wealth away, it should not affect your relationship with Him. *Job 1:20-22*
- E. Don't be envious of someone else's wealth. *Psalm 49:16-17; Exodus 20:17*
- F. Stay away from "get rich quick" schemes. *Proverbs 20:21, 28:20, 22*

- G. Realize that our culture through the media and advertising has a tremendously negative materialistic influence on you. Guard yourself. Make sure your major desires are spiritual instead of physical.

**IV. You must strike a proper balance in your attitude toward money and possessions.**  
*Proverbs 11:1*

- A. The Bible is a balanced Book - we must have a balance in our lives:

\*\* The same Bible teaches us:

1. Not to worry about our physical provisions. *Matthew 6:25-34*
2. To provide for our families. *1 Timothy 5:8*

\*\* The same Bible says: *1 Timothy 5:1 7-1 8*

1. "...the love of money is the root of all evil..."
2. "...the laborer is worthy of his reward."

- B. These are not contradictory statements, but balancing principles to show you how to handle physical possessions.

**V. Basic questions.**

*What will God provide for me?*

- A. God promises to provide your "needs". *Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:25-34*
- B. Those "needs" will be physical as well as spiritual.
- C. You must discern between "needs" and "wants". This is a very difficult thing to do, especially in our society. Compare the following verses on "needs" and "wants"
  1. Needs - *James 2:15-16; Hebrews 4:15-16; Mark 2:25*
  2. Wants - *Psalms 23:1; Proverbs 13:25; Philippians 4:11; James 1:4*

# LESSON REVIEW

1. Does the amount of wealth you have determine whether or not God is pleased with you? \_\_\_\_\_. Briefly explain.
  
2. What can we learn about man and money from *1 Timothy 6:10*?
  
3. Two men in the Bible who were very wealthy had an attitude that was uncommon among others. What was so different about their attitude concerning wealth?
  - A. Solomon.
  - B. Job.
  
4. List five wrong attitudes towards money that will interfere with your relationship with God. Give a Scripture verse that helps you best understand each wrong attitude.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  - E.
  
5. What is the most important attitude you should develop toward physical possessions?
  
6. What does the apostle Paul teach us through the attitude displayed in the following verses?
  - A. *Hebrews 13:5*
  - B. *1 Timothy 6:8*
  - C. *Philippians 4:11*

7. List six important things that money cannot buy and that only God can give you.
- A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  - E.
  - F.
8. List five other attitudes you should develop toward money and physical possessions.
- A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  - E.
9. God promises to provide your needs, not necessarily your \_\_\_\_\_. Your needs are both \_\_\_\_\_ as well as \_\_\_\_\_. Give some examples of your needs and wants. Use the verses provided in this lesson for each as well as some verses from your own personal studies.
- A. Needs --
  - B. Wants --
10. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key memory verses:**

*Philippians 4:11*

*Philippians 4:19*

*Colossians 3:2*

**Note:** Some common attitudes regarding physical possessions are:

1. If you get enough material wealth, you will be satisfied.
2. God must be pleased with wealthy people for Him to have blessed them with so much.
3. A wealthy person must have violated God's laws in order to obtain his wealth.
4. Your worth as a person is measured by your material wealth.

From the Bible principles you have studied in this lesson, you should understand that these attitudes are wrong, and why.

**\*\* Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.**

# LESSON 12 - DEALING WITH SIN

“How do I overcome sin in my life?”

A famous preacher once said that when a saved person begins to battle sin in his own life, he enters a combat so intense it makes *World War II* look like a Sunday School picnic. This truth is not evident to a young Christian; but as you grow, you will realize further intensity the struggle.

As we saw very briefly in lesson one, when you got saved, you became two people. Your old man in Adam’s image has a sinful nature, and your new man in Christ Jesus has God’s image. This lesson is designed to help you combat the sin nature of the old man.

## I. What is sin?

- A. Sin is breaking God’s law. *1 John 3:4*
- B. Sin is any unrighteousness. *1 John 5:17*
- C. Sin is anything done apart from faith. *Romans 14:23*
- D. Sin is failing to do that which is right. *James 4:17*

## II. Why do I sin?

- A. You sin because you inherited a sinful nature from Adam. *Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49*
- B. You sin because your old nature draws you into sin. *James 1:13-14; Romans 7:14-25*
- C. You sin as a result of temptations that come in three major areas.  
*1 John 2:15-16*
  - 1. The lust of the flesh.

*Genesis 3:6* Eve was tempted in this point in when she saw that the tree was “good for food”.

*Matthew 4:3* Jesus was tempted in this point in when the devil tried to get Him to turn stones into bread.

2. The lust of the eyes.

**Genesis 3:6** Eve was tempted here when she saw the tree was “*pleasant to the eyes*”.

**Matthew 4:8** Jesus was tempted when the devil showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and promised to give them to Him in exchange for worship.

3. The pride of life.

**Genesis 3:6** Eve fell to the temptation “*to be desired to make one wise*”.

**Matthew 4:5-6** Jesus overcame the temptation to cast Himself down to prove angels would take care of Him.

### III. How does God look at my sin?

- A. Your sin was judged by God at Calvary. **2 Corinthians 5:21**
- B. If you continue in sin, God will chastise you as a father chastises his son. **Hebrews 12:5-11**
- C. God will allow you to reap according to what you have sown. **Galatians 6:7-8**

### IV. What things can I do to overcome sin?

- A. Your sin is your own fault, not anyone else’s. You must accept responsibility for your sin. You will never correct anything until you face up to responsibility. **Proverbs 28:13**
- B. Don’t allow sinful thoughts to control your mind. **2 Corinthians 10:5**
- C. Don’t make provisions for the flesh. **Romans 13:14**
- D. Realize that you are dead to sin in Jesus Christ. Dead men cannot sin. **Romans 6:6-13; Colossians 3:1-10**
- E. Judge your sin. Agree with God that it is sin. **1 Corinthians 11:31-32**
- F. Confess your sins to God. **1 John 1:9**
- G. Hide God’s Word in your heart to battle sin.
  1. **1 Corinthians 10:13** God provides a way for of escape from sin for us.

2. *Psalm 119:9-11* That way of escape is the Word of God.
  3. Jesus Christ overcame His temptations by quoting Scripture.
  4. The only sure way of overcoming sin in your life is through the power of the Word of God as you hide it in your heart and apply it to your life.
- H. Trust God's promises to cleanse you and to fight your battles for you.  
*2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 4:15-16*
- I. Walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. *Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 8:1-8*

**V. Basic questions.**

*"How do I keep the influences of a sinful world from affecting me?"*

- A. Don't involve yourself with sinful activities. Of course, you must associate with lost people in order to try to win them, but don't get involved in their sin.  
*Ephesians 5:5-12*
- B. Separate yourself from the ways of the world and follow the Lord Jesus Christ.  
*2 Corinthians 6:14-18; James 4:4*
- C. Realize that "*separation*" is also a positive thing. Not only are you to be separate from the world, but you are to separate yourself **UNTO** the Gospel.  
*Romans 1:1*

# LESSON REVIEW

1. List three definitions of sin.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
2. Why do we have to battle sin?
  - A.
  - B.
3. Briefly explain in your own words what the Apostle Paul is communicating to us in ***Romans 7:14-25***.
4. The Bible teaches that all sin originates from one of three categories. List the three that are seen in ***1 John 2:16***.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
5. Match the above categories with the three things that Eve saw in Genesis 3:6.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
6. Match the above categories with the three areas the devil used in tempting the Lord Jesus ***in Matthew 4:3-11***.
  - A.
  - B.

- C.
7. List three ways that God looks at your sin.
- A.
- B.
- C.
8. Why must you accept responsibility for your sin?
9. Briefly explain the instruction given to us in the following verses.
- A. *Romans 13:14*
- B. *1 Corinthians 11:31-32*
- C. *1 John 1:9*
- D. *2 Corinthians 7:1*
10. Jesus Christ overcame his temptation by quoting Scripture (*Matthew 4:3-11*). What do the two following verses teach us about this?
- A. *1 Corinthians 10:13*
- B. *Psalms 119:11*
11. List three ways that help minimize the influence of a sinful world on your life.
- A.
- B.
- C.
12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key memory verses:**

*Psalms 119:11*

*Hebrews 4:15*

*Romans 6:11*

**Note:** In many churches today, some popular teachings are:

1. There are “*big sins*” and “*little sins*”.
2. Sometimes you have to sin because someone else forces you to.
3. Our sins can be forgiven by other men if we confess to them.
4. If I sin bad enough, I can lose my salvation.
5. There is a “*sin unto death*” or an “*unpardonable sin*” I can commit.

From the Bible principles you have studied in this lesson, you should understand that these are teachings are false, and why.

\*\* Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

# LESSON 13 - LIBERTY IN CHRIST

“Since all my sins are forgiven, am I free to do as I please?”

The New Testament is very clear that as saved people, we are no longer bound by any law to please God, but we are under His grace. Many people, however, take this freedom as an opportunity to sin, thinking they are free to do as they wish.

The purpose of this lesson is to help you understand just what your liberties in Jesus Christ are, and what lines need to be drawn in your life in relation to your actions as a child of God.

## I. Am I free to do whatever I want?

- A. Personally, within your own life, you are free to make your own choices. *John 8:36; Romans 14:22; Titus 1:15*
- B. You are eternally secure in Jesus Christ. If you have genuinely placed your trust in Him as your Savior, you cannot go to hell. You will go to heaven regardless of what you do and whether you like it or not. *Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9*
- C. You are not bound by the Old Testament law. *Romans 8:2; Galatians 3:24-25*

## II. HOWEVER

- A. The liberty you have in Jesus Christ gives you freedom to do what is right without the constraints of the Old Testament law as opposed to giving you license to sin or do whatever you desire. *Galatians 5:13*
- B. Your liberty is not so you can satisfy your sinful lust and fleshly desires. *Romans 6:12-18*
- C. Your liberty is so you can serve God. *1 Peter 2:16*

## III. How does my freedom affect me personally?

- A. You are free to make your own choices, but if you choose to sin, you should be aware of the consequences.
  - 1. You will not bear fruit. *John 15:1-8*
  - 2. God will chasten you as His son. *Hebrews 12:5-11*
  - 3. God will allow you to reap as you have sown. *Galatians 6:7-8*

- B. God will get the glory from your life one way or another; either as a vessel of honor, or a vessel of dishonor. The choice is yours. **2 Timothy 2:20-21**

**IV. How does my freedom affect those around me?**

- A. Your life will be a testimony for good or for bad whether you want it to be or not. **Romans 14:7**
- B. You are to avoid things which could cause a weaker Christian to stumble in his faith. **Romans 14:13-15; 1 Corinthians 8:9-13**
- C. You are to avoid things which appear wrong even though they may not be wrong in themselves. **Romans 14:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22**
- D. You are to have a good testimony toward both saved and lost people. **Romans 14:18**
  - 1. To the saved. **Acts 6:1-3, 16:1-2**
  - 2. To the lost. **Colossians 4:5; 1 Timothy 3:7**
  - 3. The purpose of this is to influence them for good in the Lord Jesus Christ. **Acts 11:22-24; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23**

**V. What are the bounds of my liberty?**

There are many “gray areas” in dealing with certain things you may or may not want to be involved in. In these cases, ask yourself some questions.

- A. Am I being brought under the power of something that should not be controlling my life? **1 Corinthians 6:12**
- B. Am I edifying myself and others? **1 Corinthians 10:23**
- C. Can I ask God to bless it with a clear conscience? **Colossians 3:17; Acts 24:16**
- D. If the Lord returned at this moment, would I be ashamed? **1 Corinthians 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:23**
- E. Would it cause a weaker brother to stumble? **Romans 14:13-15, 15:1-2**
- F. Would it be a cause for a lost person to reject the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior? **1 Corinthians 10:31-33**
- G. Does my conscience condemn me for it? **1 Peter 3:16; Hebrews 13:18; 1 Timothy 1:5**

**VI. Basic questions.**

*How do I achieve a balance between my liberties and other people's needs?*

**ONLY** through the power of the Holy Spirit as you walk with Him!  
**2 Corinthians 3:6; Romans 7:6**

# LESSON REVIEW

1. As a Christian, are you free to do whatever you please? Briefly explain.
  
2. The Word of God draws some boundaries on our freedom. Explain those boundaries from each of the following verses.
  - A. *Galatians 5:13*
  - B. *Romans 6:18*
  - C. *1 Peter 2:16*
  
3. When you choose to sin, what are the consequences of your choice?
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  
4. God will get the glory from your life, either as a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ or as a \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. List four ways that your freedom can influence people around you
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  
6. You are to have a good testimony toward both saved and lost people. What is the reason for this?

7. List seven questions you can consider in setting the bounds of your personal liberty.
- A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  - E.
  - F.
  - G.
8. What is the role of the Holy Spirit regarding your personal liberty?
9. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key memory verses:**

*Galatians 5:13*

*Romans 15:1*

*1 Corinthians 10:31*

**Note:** In many churches today, some popular teachings are:

1. There is a “*set of rules*” a Christian must live by in order to please God.
2. You are free to do whatever you want regardless of how it affects other people.
3. What you do has no real influence on other people.

From the Bible principles you have studied in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are completely false, and why.

\*\* Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

# LESSON 14 - MY JOB & EMPLOYER

“What should be my attitude toward my job and my employer?”

Since the Bible is the final authority in everything you will ever encounter in life, it is no surprise that it has a great deal to say about how you are to conduct yourself on your job. We spend about one-fourth of our adult life on the job, and it is essential to your spiritual growth to learn how the Lord Jesus Christ would have you look at this area of responsibility. If you intend to be an effective servant of God, you must do so with all your life and not just the three-fourths of it that are spend away from your job.

This lesson is designed to help you to be the type of employee (or employer) that God would have you to be.

## **I. ALL saved people are called to “full-time Christian service”.**

Your vocation is to serve Jesus Christ. *Ephesians 4:1*

- A. The Bible is very clear that EVERY saved person is an integral part of the body of Christ and that each member’s contribution is important.

God expects every Christian to be involved in the Lord’s work.  
*1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:11-16*

- B. Your service for God is to be at all times, not just when you go to church.  
*1 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 4:2*

## **II. The primary purpose of your job is to support your ministry.**

- A. Of course, your first ministry is to your family. *1 Timothy 5:8, 3:5*

- B. Your second ministry is to your church family. *Galatians 6:10*

- C. Your third ministry is to reach the lost. *2 Corinthians 5:20*

As we saw in a previous lesson, your resources should be yielded to God’s service. Those resources are to be used to glorify God through the above three areas.

## **III. What should be my attitude toward my job?**

- \*\* You should view your job as a ministry opportunity, not just as a job.

- A. For most Christians, your fellow workers are the greatest exposure you have to lost people.
- B. Your life may be the only true witness of the Lord Jesus Christ they may ever see.
  - 1. You are a light representing Jesus Christ. *Matthew 5:14-16*
  - 2. Your life should reflect the Bible. *2 Corinthians 3:2*  
  
Someone has wisely said, “*Your life may be the only Bible that some people will ever read.*”
  - 3. You will have a much greater influence on those with whom you spend the most time. Although total strangers are surely an opportunity for a witness, those who can see a consistent testimony of a Christian’s life are much easier to win.

**IV. What attitudes should I have toward my supervisors and the company I work for?**

- A. Serve as if the Lord Jesus Christ is your employer. *Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-24*
- B. Respect the authority of their position. Obviously, no employer will be correct in every point, and you certainly can disagree with them; however, you are to submit to their leadership, using it as an opportunity to show them a testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. *Titus 2:9-10*
- C. Respect your company’s property, it does not belong to you. *Leviticus 19:11*
- D. Respect your company’s time, do “*eight hours of work for eight hours of pay*”. *2 Corinthians 8:21; Colossians 3:22*
- E. You are to do the very best you can to help the company succeed and make your employer look good. *Romans 12:11; 1 Corinthians 10:24; Proverbs 10:4, 18:9, 21:25, 22:29*
- F. Mind your own business and don’t let someone else’s laziness affect you. *1 Thessalonians 4:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-13*

**V. The Bible also shows the employer or supervisor how to relate to those who are under his leadership.**

- A. Do I treat my people justly and equally? Do I set standards for them which I refuse to keep myself? *Colossians 4:1; Ephesians 6:9*
- B. Am I consumed by own self-interest without considering the needs of those around me? *Philippians 2:2-3*

- C. Am I trying to be a leader over too many things? Remember to consider the following points whenever a promotion or transfer opportunity presents itself
1. A great Bible principle is, ***“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much..” (Luke 16:10)*** Be sure you can handle what you have now.
  2. Realize the more responsibility you have, the more potential there is for problems to arise. ***James 3:1; Ecclesiastes 8:9***
  3. Realize the more responsibilities you have, the more time and energy is demanded. Be sure your new responsibilities will not hinder your service for God. ***2 Timothy 2:4***
- D. Even in a position of leadership, you should always maintain the attitude of a servant. ***Mark 10:42-45; 1 Corinthians 9:19, 10:33***

## VI. Basic questions.

- A. *What if my job conflicts with spiritual matters?*
1. There will always be some conflict of priorities between church activities and your work schedule. You cannot quit your job or take off of work because of a few minor conflicts. Remember, your job is a ministry opportunity. However, you must not use your job as an excuse to neglect your responsibilities to your church. You **MUST** maintain a balance in this area.
  2. When your job responsibilities are contrary to Bible principles, then you must draw a line:
    - a. Refuse to lie or steal for your employer or violate other clear commandments of God.
    - b. Guard against temptations on your job.
    - c. Don't be influenced by sinful activities around you.
- B. *How do I handle “persecution” on the job?*
1. Most *“persecution”* in our culture is a result of the Christian's own ignorance or lack of personal commitment to the Lord. If you are being *“persecuted”*, it is for one of two reasons: your behavior is improper, or your proper testimony is an offense to someone. ***1 Peter 3:16-17***
  2. Expect a certain amount of adversity from the world if you are truly serving Jesus Christ. ***2 Timothy 3.12***
  3. Learn how to commit that adversity to the Lord. ***1 Peter 2:18-23***

C. *What should I consider when looking for employment?*

1. Have you taken the matter to God in prayer? **James 1:5; Philippians 4:6-7**
2. Will the new responsibility destroy what God is trying to build in your life? This is a complex question. Don't be afraid to seek wise counsel in this area from your pastor or another brother in Christ whom you respect.
3. If you are being asked to move to another city, is there a church there which can continue to provide your spiritual needs? This is an extremely critical point! If this applies, review the principles in **Lesson 8** on how to find a good local church in another city.
4. In looking for a change in jobs, are running away from something you should be facing and trying to correct?

# LESSON REVIEW

1. Why are all Christians called into “*full-time Christian service*”? Give a Scripture reference for each reason.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  
2. The primary purpose of your job is to support your ministry. List the three ministries you need to support.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  
3. Why should you view your job as a ministry opportunity?
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  
4. What are the attitudes you should have toward your company and/or supervisor?
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  - E.
  - F.

5. List some principles that you observe in the life of Joseph which had an impact on his master from *Genesis 39:1-6*.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  
6. As an employer, what are some questions you should ask yourself concerning your attitude toward the people who work for you?
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  
7. List four points to consider when deciding whether or not to take a promotion.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  
8. What should you do when your job schedule does not allow you to be involved in your church activities?
  
9. Jobs, at times; may contain responsibilities that violate Biblical principles. List three areas to be aware of.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.

10. What should you consider if someone at work gives you a hard time concerning your Christian faith?
- A.
  - B.
  - C.
11. When you are looking for a new job, what should you consider?
- A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key memory verses:**

*2 Timothy 2:4*

*Mark 10:44-45*

*Colossians 3:23*

**Note:** In our society today, some common beliefs are:

1. Your job is just a paycheck.
2. Your job status is the most important measure of your success.
3. Your employer must always take a back seat to church activities.

From the Bible principles you have studied in this lesson, you should understand that these beliefs are completely false, and why.

\*\* Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

# LESSON 15 - THE LOST WORLD

“As a Christian, how do I relate to the lost world?”

The Bible is very clear that the present world system is contrary to God’s eternal purpose. The Word of God commands His children to be separated from this world system; yet at the same time, to reach lost men and women who live in it for Jesus Christ.

This lesson is designed to show Christians how to live a balanced and consistent life in order to influence people for the Lord Jesus Christ, without allowing the world to influence them for evil.

## I. You must realize that if you live for Jesus Christ, you will surely encounter opposition from the world.

- A. You will be opposed because Jesus Christ was opposed. *John 15:18-21*
- B. You will be opposed only if you live for Him. If you go along with the world, they will not oppose you. *Timothy 3:12*

## II. What areas will this opposition come from?

- A. Your primary opposition will come from those closest to you who know you the best — friends, family, fellow workers, acquaintances. *Matthew 10:35-36; John 1:11; Mark 6:4*
- B. From lost people in general. The two spiritual families have **NEVER** gotten along and never will. *Galatians 4:29*
- C. From society in general. The nature and course of this present world system is against God. This opposition is communicated subtly through the media (literature, television, radio, etc.) You must judge those things by the Word of God. *1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4*
- D. Of course, the master mind behind this opposition is Satan. *Corinthians 4:3-4*
  - 1. He is your adversary. *1 Peter 5:8*
  - 2. He is currently at work in lost people. *Ephesians 2:2*

## III. How can I overcome this opposition?

- A. Give a soft answer. Avoid fights whenever possible. *Proverbs 15:2; Romans 12:18*

B. Please God with your life. *Proverbs 16:7*

C. Have faith in God. *1 John 5:4-5*

D. Love your enemies and help them.

Jesus Christ loved His enemies enough to die for them when He didn't have to do it. The world cannot understand this type of love, and those who are seeking the truth will be drawn to it. *Romans 12:14; 20-21*

E. Pray for your enemies, and pray with a pure motive. *Matthew 5:44*

F. Keep good company. Associate with people who really love God and want to Serve Him. *Proverbs 13:20; 1 Corinthians 15:33*

G. Immerse yourself in the Word of God. *Romans 12:1-2*

#### **IV. How should the lost world view me as a Christian?**

A. They should know you love God – **NOT** by what you say, as much as by the way you live! *1 Corinthians 8:3*

B. Your lifestyle should separate you from the world, and your behavior should seem very peculiar to them. *2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 1 Peter 2:9*

C. However, you should not be so peculiar physically that you lose influence. The lost should view you as moderate in physical matters. *Philippians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 9:2*

D. They should see you as being open and honest in all matters. *2 Corinthians 8:21; Romans 12:17*

E. They should see you a living testimony of the grace of God. *Philippians 2:14-15*

F. Generally, you should be of “good report”. *1 Timothy 3:7; Colossians 4:5-6*

#### **V. How should I view the world?**

A. You are a pilgrim in a strange land. *Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11*

B. Your real home is in heaven. *Ephesians 2:6; Philippians 3:20*

C. This world is a “mission field” and your purpose here is to reach the lost for Jesus Christ. *Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20*

## VI Basic questions:

*What are my responsibilities to my government?*

- A. Government is one of the three institutions ordained by God; the other two being the family and the church. All governments are controlled by Satan (**Luke 4:5-6**) and, therefore, are essentially against God. However, you are still to submit to the ordinance of God. **Romans 13:1-2**
- B. If you do what is right, you have no reason to fear, God will honor you for doing right. **Romans 13:3-5**
- C. Render to the government what is due by law. **Romans 13:6-7; Matthew 17:24-27; 22:15-22**
- D. Submit to their ordinances. **1 Peter 2:13-15**
- E. Honor those in authority, even the wicked, without partaking in their wickedness. Commit any adverse situations to God and let Him handle them.  
  
**1 Peter 2:17-23** - Remember that when Peter wrote these words, Nero was king, perhaps the most wicked king Rome ever had.
- F. Realize that you cannot legislate morals or change mankind through political action. Man is by nature fallen and sinful, and must be changed individually, from the inside out, through a personal saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Titus 2:14**

# LESSON REVIEW

1. As a Christians you will encounter some oppositions from the world. Why is this?
  - A.
  - B.
  
2. List the sources of opposition you will face.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  
3. They are ways that the Christians can deal with opposition from the world. Briefly explain how the following verses can help you.
  - A. *Proverbs 15:1*
  - B. *Proverbs 16:7*
  - C. *1 John 5:4-5*
  - D. *Romans 12:20-21*
  - E. *Matthew 5:44*
  - F. *Proverbs 13:20*
  - G. *Romans 12:2*
  
4. When lost people observe your life, what should they see?
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.

- E.
  - F.
5. As you look at the lost world, what is your position?
- A.
  - B.
  - C.
6. God has ordained three institutions for man. List them.
- A.
  - B.
  - C.
7. As Christians we have responsibilities concerning our government. List four primary responsibilities.
- A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
8. Many “*Christians*” groups today are trying to force morality on people through the passing of laws. Why won’t this process work?
9. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key memory verses:**

*2 Timothy 3:12*

*1 John 2:15-16*

*1 Corinthians 8:3*

**Note:** Some popular attitudes among Christians are:

1. Christians are to be totally separate from lost people.
2. I should *do anything* to keep people from being upset with me.
3. The best way to fight opposition is with an aggressive approach.

From the Bible principles you have studied in this lesson, you should understand that these attitudes are completely wrong, and why.

\*\* Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

# LESSON 16 - THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

“Is there a judgment day for Christians, and what will I be accountable for”

The Christians life is a series of paradoxical truths. The Bible says God’s ways are not our ways because man looks on outward physical matters, while God looks at the heart attitude and operates in the spiritual realm. If you are going to serve God effectively, you must take your focus off of physical matters and concentrate on the spiritual. Your life will only make sense and have purpose and meaning a you live in the spiritual realm, focused on eternal things.

This lesson is designed to keep your focus on these eternal matters by detailing your final accountability to the Lord Jesus Christ as His servant.

## I. What is the “*Judgment Seat of Christ*”?

- A. God will judge every human being who have ever lived. ***Proverbs 29:26; Hebrews 9:27***
- B. God judged the sin of the world at Calvary. By placing your faith in Jesus Christ, you do not have to fear judgment of your sins because He took your judgment upon Himself. ***Peter 2:24; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13***
- C. Your judgment will be for your service to the Lord Jesus Christ since the time that you were saved. This event is called the “*Judgment Seat if Christ*”. ***2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10***

## II. What will I be judged for at the Judgment Seat of Christ?

- A. You will be judged for your work as a servant of Jesus Christ. ***1 Corinthians 3:11-15***
- B. Your work will be judged for quality as opposed to the quantity.
  - 1. “*Of what SORT (what kind) it is.*” ***1 Corinthians 3:13***
  - 2. Heart attitudes will be more import than actual works. If the proper attitudes are developed, the proper works will come naturally. ***1 Thessalonians 2:4; Ephesians 6:6***

### III. What are the negative consequences of this judgment?

A. Paul said in speaking of the Judgment Seat of Christ in *2 Corinthians 5:11* that the “**terror of the Lord**” should motivate us to serve Him and persuade others. A Christian should never fear going to hell, but there are some things to beware of in relation to the final judgment.

\*\* Some Christians will be found:

1. Ashamed for not living right. *1 John 2:28*
2. Suffering loss because their works were temporal and not eternal. *1 Corinthians 3:15*
3. Losing rewards because they lived in sin rather than for Jesus Christ. *2 Corinthians 5:10; Galatians 6:7-8*

B. Remember that appearances are many times very deceiving.

1. Don't be fooled by outward appearances, in your own life as well as in the lives of others. Many people only **APPEAR** to be servants of the Lord. *Luke 16:15; 1 Corinthians 1:27-31*
2. Be sure to invest in heavenly rewards instead of earthly rewards. The **real** servants of the Lord will be revealed at the Judgment Seat of Christ. *Matthew 6:19-20; Colossians 3:1-4*

### IV. What rewards are obtainable?

The rewards obtainable at the Judgment Seat of Christ can be seen by studying the five crowns found in the New Testament.

A. Crown of Righteousness – *2 Timothy 4:8* – for those who love the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ. *Revelation 22:20*

\*\* Our overriding desire should be, at all times, to be with the Lord. *Philippians 1: 23-24*

B. Crown of Life – *Revelation 2:10* – the martyr's crown.

\*\* *James 1:12* Also given to those who endure temptation. This is the same as the martyr's crown because you overcome temptation by dying to self. *Romans 6:6-11*

C. Incorruptible Crown – *1 Corinthians 9:25* – for temperance or moderation.

1. Context deals with temperance or moderation in all matters (physical, Spiritual and mental) in order to be a testimony to others. *1 Corinthians 9:18-27*

2. This is balanced by remembering that some have infirmities for the purpose of glorifying God. Paul is a great example. ***2 Corinthians 12:7-10***
- D. Crown of Rejoicing - ***1 Thessalonians 2:19*** – the soul winner’s crown.
1. Given to those who win people to Christ. ***Philippians 4:1***
  2. Called the crown of rejoicing because it produces rejoicing in heaven when someone gets saved. ***Luke 15:7***
- E. Crown of Glory - ***1 Peter 5:4*** – the shepherd’s crown. Given to those who pastor or shepherd people in the Word of God.
1. The New Testament is very clear that **ALL** saved people are to be actively teaching someone the Word of God – not just preachers. ***Ephesians 4:11-16***
  2. It requires wisdom which can only be obtained through the Word of God. ***Proverbs 4:7-9***

## V. Basic questions.

*Why should I be concerned about the Judgment Seat of Christ?*

- A. The focus on the return of the Lord Jesus Christ is one of the most practical doctrines for everyday living in the Bible. Notice in the following verses how many practical character qualities are produced by focusing on the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
1. Patience. ***James 5:7-8; 2 Thessalonians 3:5***
  2. Peace. ***1 Thessalonians 4:13-18***
  3. Joy. ***1 Thessalonians 2:19***
  4. Holiness. ***1 Thessalonians 3:13; 1 John 3:1-3***
  5. Confidence. ***Philippians 1:6; 1 John 2:28***
  6. Diligent in service. ***2 Timothy 4:1-8***
  7. Righteous living. ***Titus 2:11-14***
  8. Faith in difficult times. ***1 Peter 1:5-7***
- B. The rewards you received on earth are all temporal and will perish. The rewards you will receive at the Judgment Seat of Christ are eternal and will never perish. ***2 Corinthians 4:17-5:4***

- C. By constantly focusing on the Judgment Seat of Christ, you will naturally developed a desire to please God rather men. Developing this attitude is the surest way to handle criticism and opposition. **2 *Corinthians* 5:6-9; 1 *Corinthians* 7:23**

# LESSON REVIEW

1. What group of people will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ?
  
2. What will you be judged for at the Judgment Seat of Christ?
  - A.
  - B.
  
3. There are some things which you should beware of regarding the Judgment Seat of Christ. List them below.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  
4. The real servants of Jesus Christ will be revealed and the less sincere will be exposed. What are two principles to remember concerning this? Give a Scripture reference for each.
  - A.
  - B.
  
5. There will be rewards available for those who are found faithful in their service to the Lord Jesus Christ. List the five crowns and describe briefly what they are given for.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  - E.

6. When a Christian focuses his attention on the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, he tends to develop some proper character qualities. List them.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  - E.
  - F.
  - G.
  - H.
7. What is the difference between the rewards you receive on earth and the ones that will be received at the Judgment Seat of Christ?
8. What is the greatest benefit in your life of constantly focusing on the return of the Lord Jesus Christ?
9. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

**Key memory verses:**

*2 Corinthians 5:8-9*

*1 John 2:28*

*Luke 16:15*

**Note:** In many churches today, some popular teachings are:

1. God is going to judge Christians for their sins.
2. Christians will be judged for what they have done without regard for their motives.
3. Our rewards and losses are all received in this life.

From the Bible principles you have studied in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are completely false, and why.

**\*\*** Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.