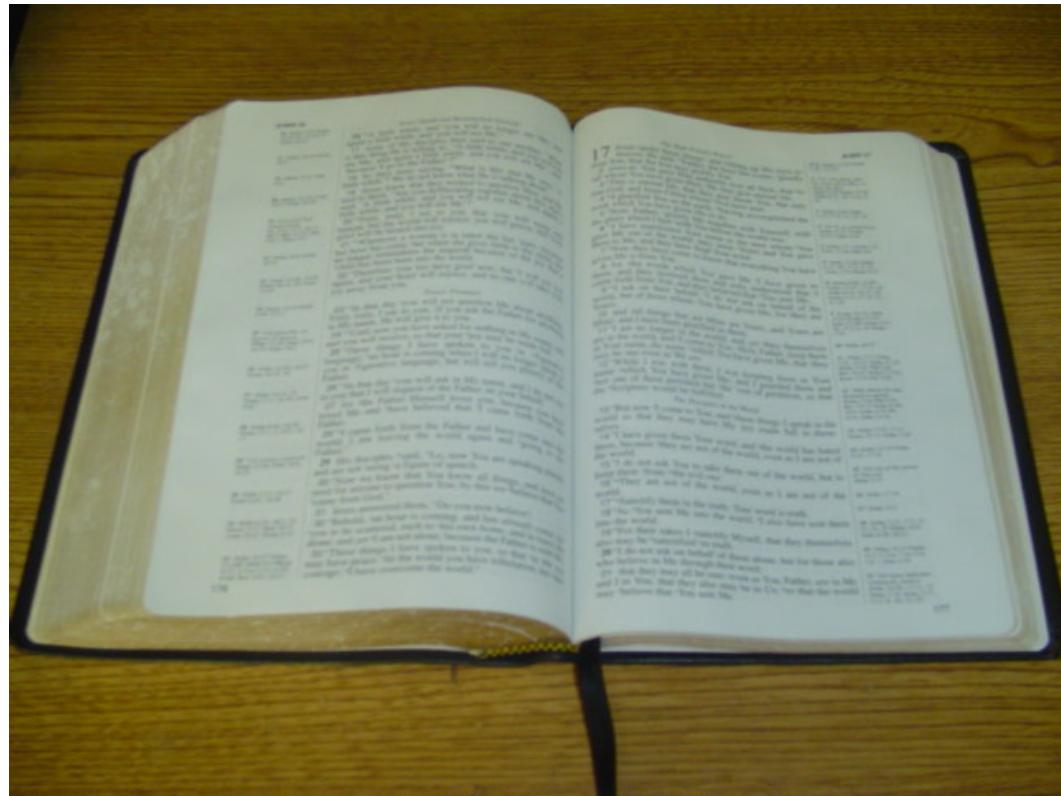


Learn Your Bible

A general introduction to the Bible and
following God's dealing with mankind
through the ages.



Jerry Blount
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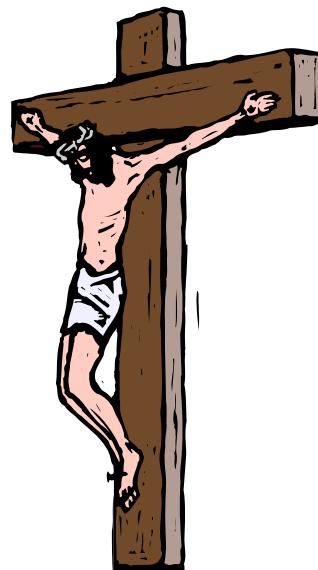


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Learn Your Bible

Introduction

In this study we will be getting to know each other and the Bible. The bible is truly an amazing book. Forty different authors over the space of 1500 years wrote it. It claims to have originated in the mind of God.

Can we believe its' claims? Let's test one of them by looking at the unique way God reveals things to man. At the same time we will notice one of the most interesting sections of scripture.

You can choose any one of the four gospel accounts to read for our first exercise. Matthew 26:57 through 27:66; Mark 14:53 - 15:47;

Luke 22:54 - 23:56: or John 18:28 - 19:24. The apostle Paul promises us (in I Corinthians 2:16) "we have the mind of Christ." Lets now ask the question...

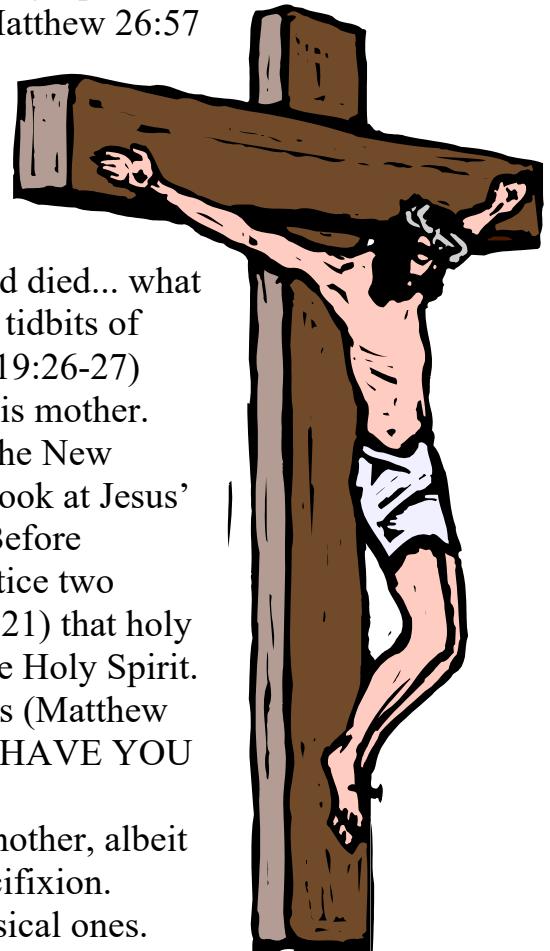
"Jesus, as you hung on the cross, bled and died... what were YOU thinking?" You'll find a few tidbits of information. John for example (in John 19:26-27) records Jesus making arrangements for his mother. One thing almost entirely missing from the New Testament however is a comprehensive look at Jesus' thoughts on this momentous occasion. Before leaving the New Testament we might notice two passages. First, Peter's claim (II Peter 1:21) that holy men spoke ~ that they were moved by the Holy Spirit. Secondly, Jesus' statement from the cross (Matthew 27:45-46) "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"

Now let's look at the account of another, albeit forgotten, eyewitness account of the crucifixion.

David saw it with spiritual eyes, not physical ones.

You see,

he lived in 1000 BC. HE reveals the mind of Christ (in other words, what he was thinking).

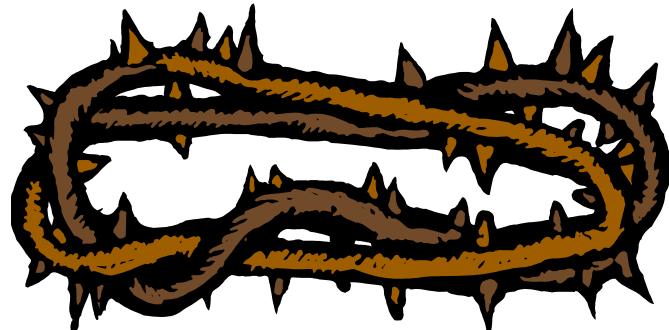


Please read the 22nd Psalm.

1) Do you recognize vs. 1?

2) Can you see the
incredible mental anguish?

3) The New Testament, in
Hebrews 4:15, claims “For we do not have a high priest who cannot
sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all
things as {we are, yet} without sin.” Do you think this claim is
fulfilled here? _____



4) Incredible temptation tends to isolate us or make us feel alone...
Did Jesus experience this? _____ Also see I Corinthians 10:13

5) What NT passage records the fulfillment of Psalms 22: 7 & 8 ?

6) Who are the “bulls of Bashan?” see vs. 12, 13 _____

7) The usual means of execution in David’s time (1000 BC) was by
stoning. Why doesn’t this fit what we read of in vs. 14? _____

8) The usual cause of death from crucifixion was suffocation brought
on by muscle fatigue or a heart attack brought on by the same. How
does this fit vs. 14-15? _____

9) Can you identify the fulfillment of vs. 16? _____

10) How would the bones be described (vs. 14 & 17) if the death had
been by stoning? _____

11) Historically, David (the author of Psalms 22) probably never
personally witnessed a crucifixion. Do you think its fair to say he
describes it accurately? _____

12) What were Jesus' enemies doing (vs. 18) while he was dying?



13) If they'd have realized they were FULFILLING the word and will of God, do you think they would have done it? (see I Corinthians 2:7-8) ?

14) From your knowledge of Bible history, vs. 15 He is described as being in the “dust of death”. In vs. 22 it is described how he will proclaim the name of God. This appears to be a contradiction. What is the most likely explanation? _____

15) Will Jesus ever die again? (vs. 26) _____

16) Where do we live? (vs. 27) _____

17) How do we help fulfill this prophecy in Psalms 22:27 on Sunday mornings? _____

18) How can vs. 31 be used to describe this as an intentional prophecy?



Our Bible study will hopefully become a lifelong endeavor, leading an unswerving faith.

Then... “obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls. As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that {would come} to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories

to follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things into which angels long to look.” I Peter 1:9-12

You have just seen the Bible is an incredible book... We should expect that! It is the **word of GOD!**



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Learn Your Bible

Lesson #1

In this lesson, we will study Moses' account of how the world began, and man's loss of a paradise- through sin.

Many sophisticated attacks are leveled against the Bible. Today a focal point of these attacks is Genesis 1. For this reason, in this first lesson we will notice a little of the evidence available. (For a fuller review of biblical evidences in general, the author has a course available.) In all honesty, we will find that the Bible either stands or falls as a result of this chapter.

Without a great deal of scientific jargon, the issue is whether or not life came from non-life without the help of God. It is also important to note that the state religion today is not Christianity, but Naturalism. Our public schools teach that all things came about "naturally". For example...

'First there was a big boom. The result of this was the sun, moon, stars, etc. Eventually one celled life came from "muck." Progression continued, one celled life became multi-celled... trilobites appeared, fish appeared, the first land plants, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals (whales), and then man.' So reads the state religion...

This directly contradicts Moses' account in several areas, some of which you will have the opportunity to compare later. This also contradicts the known laws of science. "Entropy" is the law that says: "left to themselves, things naturally decay, order becomes disorder." This is in full agreement with Moses. Man "fell" from paradise and things have been in a state of decay since that time. Science however, claims the reverse. They have progression from mindless matter *toward* paradise.

In the first three chapters of Genesis we find the answers to the questions "Who am I?", "Where did I come from?", and at the end of the Bible we find the answer to "Where am I going?".



This will become the foundation on which we will build our faith as we go through the Bible. We see the question of authority forever settled... When God says something, He means it!

We will get our first view of grace and the reason man is not worthy to stand in the presence of God... He has the death penalty standing against him!

We also learn it is on **God's terms** that God is able to forgive this penalty, not on man's terms.

*Read the first three chapters of Genesis, then answer these questions:

1. Make a list of what happened on each of the 7 days of creation;

day 1: _____ vs ? _____

day 2: _____ vs ? _____

day 3: _____ vs ? _____

day 4: _____ vs ? _____

day 5: _____ vs ? _____

day 6: _____ vs ? _____

day 7: _____ vs ? _____

2. Scientists today teach that man came into being by evolution, from dead matter. This obviously contradicts Moses' account, but using the information and order in the introductory material, give two major contradictions between the scientists' view and the Bible.

Evolution: **Sun before the light**



Genesis: _____ day ___, before _____, day ___

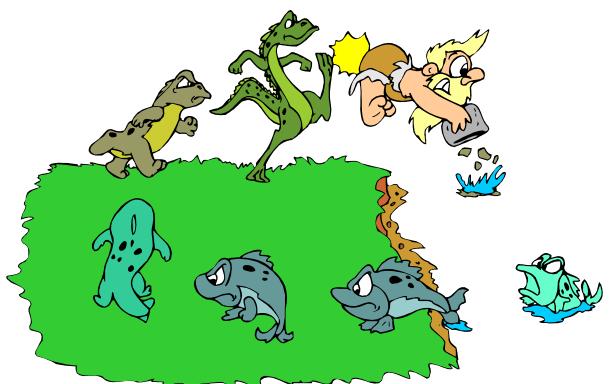
Evolution: **Creeping things before Sea Monsters or whales**

Genesis: _____, day ___, before _____, day ___

Evolution: **Sea life before land plants**

Genesis: _____, day ___, before _____, day ___

3. There are several other contradictions, but this is sufficient to show us what? _____



4. If we claim to be Christians, which must we believe? _____



Moses' information?

5. Moses' account of creation has no proven contradictions between the way it happened, and the scientists' account does. Keep in mind that Moses lived before all of this "knowledge" of fossils, etc., and in worldly eyes Moses was just "a renegade Jew running around in the desert." Now, what would the most logical conclusion be, as to the source of

6. Compare Genesis 3:6 to Matthew 4:1-11. How did Jesus resist temptation?

7. See Hebrews 2:16-18. What point do you think is being made here? _____



APPLICATION:

8. Read Genesis 3:12. Adam lays the blame on two sources, who are they? _____

9. James 1:13-16. Notice the similarity; where is the blame to be leveled? _____

10. Did Adam have a choice? _____

11. What separates us from God? (See also Romans 3:23) _____

12. Compare Genesis 3:7 and 3:21. Who tried to cover Adam?



Who did cover Adam? _____

What lesson does this teach us about coming to God? _____

13. What was the result of their sin?

14 Revelation 20:12-15 What will be the result of our sin? _____

15. Where do we want our name to be written? _____

16. **Who** decides the terms on how it gets there? _____

17. Compare Genesis 3:23, 24 and Revelation 22:1,2,14. Since God records the loss of the tree of life in Genesis, and in Revelation He records man's restoration to it, what do you think the story of the Bible is about? _____

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Lesson #2

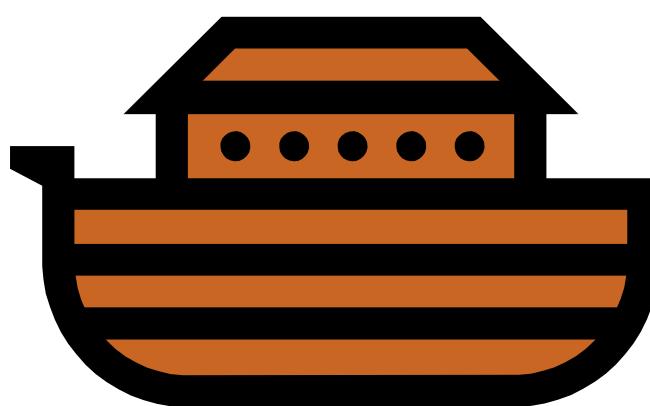


In this lesson, we shall see the world's first murder, the wickedness of man, God's first major act of judgment and the beginning of God's drawing out of a "peculiar people" for Himself.

In Genesis 4, we find the proof text for the old quip, "if you want to stay popular, don't discuss politics or religion." As a Christian, for the most part I can keep my mouth shut on the subject of politics, but not the subject of religion.

Jesus tells us (in Luke 12:8-9), "And I say to you, everyone who confesses me before men, the Son of Man will confess him also before the angels of God; but he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God." We have a responsibility to look into our faith and discuss it, confess it, and as Peter says (I Peter 3:15) "but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always {being} ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence."

Cain and Abel remind us of what we already know... that when faced with the responsibility of changing their lives in such a way as to be in harmony with God, many people just get angry or jealous. We often fear to discuss our faith, but we need to realize that error (false teaching) and/or rationalization will **not** stand the ultimate test of the word of God.



As we move into chapter six of Genesis (skipping over the genealogy of chapter 5), we again learn the lesson of choosing a mate of the followers of God. The sons of God down through the ages, have been caused a lot of grief as they chose

their mates outside the family of God. Gradually, all men became wicked, with the important exception of Noah. God saw the filth and decided to destroy it. He "held his temper" long enough for the family of Noah to save themselves from the calamity to come.

We learn a great deal about God's manner in salvation from this first "worldwide" judgment. He warned Noah, and told him how he could be saved. Noah had the responsibility of acting on this promise of God.

This episode ends in chapter eight with the promise that "while the earth remained," nothing like this would happen again. Men ridiculed Noah, but righteous Noah stands in the "roll call of the faithful," (Hebrews 11) just as we too, have the right to be named in the book of life!

*Read Genesis chapters 4, 6,7,8 and II Peter 3. Then answer these questions:

1. What was the cause of the world's first murder? (see I John 3:11, 12) _____

2. What similar situation do we face today? (Mark 15:9-10) _____

3. Do you think Cain would have killed his brother, if Abel had forsaken his religion? _____ Read Romans 10:17 and Hebrews 11:4
What was wrong with Cain's religion? _____

4) How does the example of Cain and Abel relate to us trying to go out to teach the gospel today? _____

5) Read Hebrews 11:4 and Revelation 6:9-11 and give a brief conclusion on how Abel's trials relate to ours. _____



6) What does our Lord require of us? (see Luke 12:8-9) _____

7. What causes people to become angry in discussing their religion? _____

8. Read I Peter 3:15. Why should we study continually and test our beliefs? _____

9. Why did God destroy this world? _____

10. What was the requirement placed on Noah for his salvation? _____

11. What is Noah called in II Peter 2:5? _____

12. Was his ministry a successful one? (I Peter 3:20) _____

13. Noah was saved from or by water? _____

14. Do you see a parallel between the admonition of Peter (Acts 2:40) and God's warnings to Noah? _____
(explain) _____

15. When was Noah safe from judgment? _____

16. If he hadn't gotten into the ark, would he have been saved? _____

APPLICATION

17. When we are faced with responsibility and making our lives right with God, what should be our response? _____

18. What two men have given us an example of a proper response to God? _____ and _____ Who has given us an example of an improper response? _____

19. Would God have been just or unjust to have destroyed Noah, had he not obeyed God? Why? _____

20. Would he be just for destroying us, if we refuse? _____

21. What do we learn from these examples in early history concerning our response to the demand of the gospel?

22. What do we learn about the word of God? (II Peter 3)



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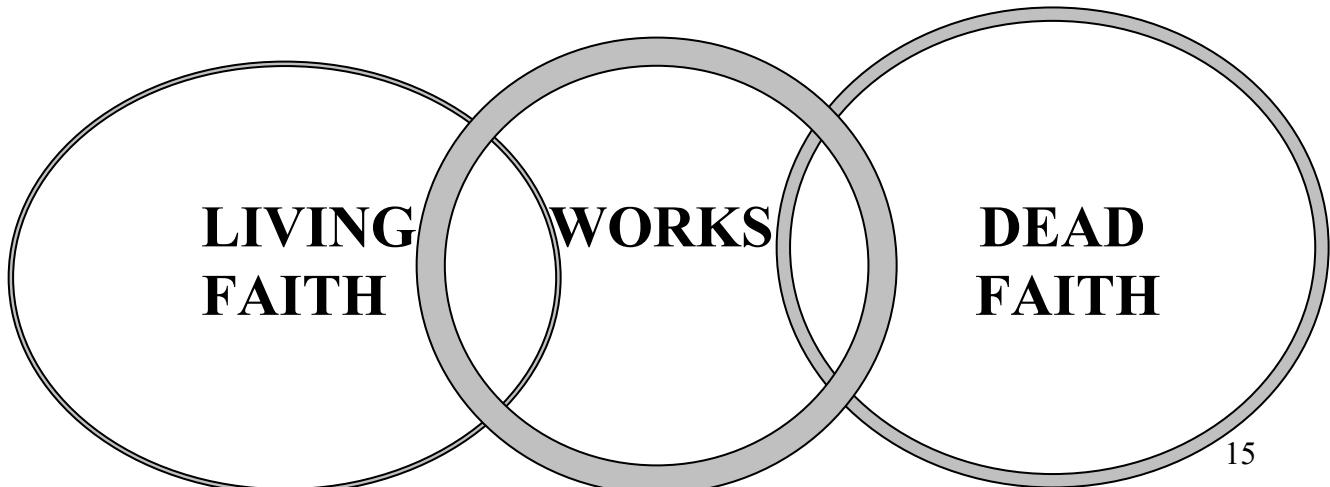
Lesson #3

In this lesson, we shall seek to "draw out" of the scriptures what is meant by "salvation through faith." We will see that faith can be very specific, or a very inclusive term. I would like to compare it to the English word "drink."

If I were to meet you for the first time, and I were to say, "I really enjoyed the drink I had with my dinner," your first inclination may easily be that I had an alcoholic beverage. However, that statement could have referred to any number of beverages, such as coffee, iced tea, etc. The point is this; "drinking" is a very broad term. It can refer to soft or hard drinks, water or even alcohol. The context of the discussion has to determine what is meant. For example, if you knew that I "don't drink," (meaning alcoholic beverages), you would probably conclude that I had in fact, had some unusual or especially good tasting "soft" beverage, rather than something alcoholic.

So it is with faith. It can mean just a pure mental agreement on a given subject, or it may include an obedience, or even works. James seems to have this in mind in James 2, apparently, because Christians were misunderstanding the "salvation by faith" as taught since the resurrection. They had turned faith into a simple mental action. James helps them to remember that while faith can mean mental action, it also means far more.

James and Paul are not in some sort of argument, but rather they are explaining to the Jews that Abraham was being saved by faith before the Law (of Moses) and the works of the Law are not saving, but the faith of Abraham. James is arguing that faith without obedient works is not really faith, it is only this mental assent (note James 2:19). From James 2:26 we learn that both a living faith and a dead faith exist. Putting what we know into chart form, we might come up with something like this:



Using the following chart of Abraham's life, look up each scripture and mark each time Abraham's faith is imputed for righteousness. (You will find three times in these scriptures... it is specifically stated.)

() Promise at Haran, Genesis 12:1-4; Hebrews 11:8



() Promise renewed, Genesis 15:1-6; Romans 4:5, 9-10

() Birth of Ishmael, Genesis 16:16

() Laughs at promise of son, Genesis 17:1,17; Romans 4:19-22

() Circumcision, Genesis 17:10, 24

() Sacrifice of Isaac, Gen. 22; James 2:21-23; Hebrews 11:17-20



ANSWER THE FOLLOWING

1) Justification by faith is or is not a one time action.

2) When did Abraham become saved? _____

3) There is a point at which we are saved, or justified, but Abraham also teaches us a) we are justified once for all time, or b) we must

continually be justified. (see I John 1:6,7)

4) Do you believe if Abraham had refused Isaac, that he (Abraham) would have gone to heaven? _____ Why? _____

5) What do we learn about justification by faith from Abraham?

6) a) **Who** also has the kind of faith Webster's dictionary calls "a doctrine believed" (James 2:19) _____

b) Looking at the conclusion of James' argument, (James 2:26) which faith would you say this is an example of? (living or dead)

c) "Faith Only" is mentioned only one time in the New Testament. See James 2:24. How is it regarded? _____

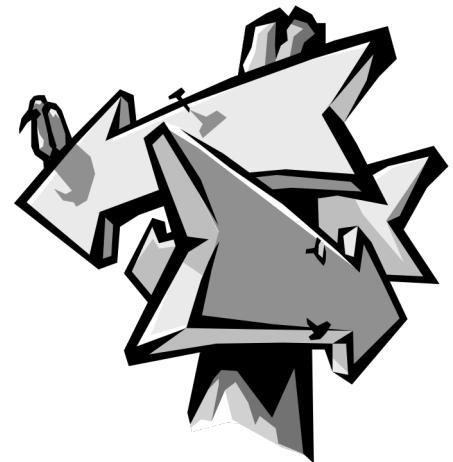
Note: "only believe" is a phrase that does come up in scripture. This confuses some. Read Mark 5:35-43 consider that the faith of the father is under question, not the salvation of the daughter. For him to see his "hearts desire" he needs to hold on to what he already has... which is that the belief that Jesus can do something about his daughter. James is a book written by Jesus' brother and is obviously not taking issue with what Jesus said, but is describing something different. This study (our study) is concerned with our salvation.

7) a) We often emphasize the "grace" of God and we should. What also is the gospel called? (James 1:25) _____

b) When James calls it the "Perfect Law of Liberty," he tells us that the gospel has what within its message? (see II Thessalonians 1:3-9)

c) God is a loving God. This means that His sense of justice is somehow "restricted" by His love. True or False?

8) See Romans 3:23-26. God punishes all sin. Jesus' blood pays the price for the believer or unbeliever. But the believer or unbeliever is left to face his punishment alone.



9) See Ephesians 2:8-10

a) What (whom) was the grace (unmerited favor) of God? _____

b) We are saved through _____ in Jesus Christ.

What actually saves us is the blood of Christ which is the _____ of God.

Refer back to Romans 3:23-26, particularly verse 26.

c) Is it possible for us to **earn** our salvation?

(see Ephesians 2:9) _____

d) God gave us what to "walk in"?

(Ephesians 2:10) _____

MATCHING:

Hebrews 9:22	Tells us the means of our salvation is God's gift (grace) of His son through our faith
Romans 4:4	Tells us we can't earn our salvation
James 2:19	The demons also believe Jesus is the son of God
Ephesians 2:8	The only place in the New Testament that "faith only" is mentioned. (*Note that it is stated that this is NOT enough for salvation)
Ephesians 2:9	Tells us we can't earn our salvation
James 2:22-23	Shows us that both a living faith and dead faith exists
James 2:26	Links Abraham's belief (Genesis 15) and obedience together as perfect faith.
James 2:24	Shows us without the death of Christ, we would not be able to be saved (forgiven)
10) a)	The grace of God appeared and told us we were going to be saved <u>with or without</u> living godly (Titus 2:11-12 & Ephesians 2)

b) Works are not the basis of our salvation, the blood of Jesus Christ is. But can we be saved without them? (James 2:24-26)

(refer back to II Thessalonians 1:8,9)

c) Read Titus 3:4-5. When he says "saved, not by works:" he is saying that the works didn't earn the blood of Christ, however he cannot be saying we'll be saved without them. Explain why:

d) How does he describe baptism?

12) Summarize the meaning of "salvation by faith."

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Lesson #4

In this lesson, we will draw from several areas of the Bible. The subject we will be looking at will be the substitutes that men through history have offered, instead of accepting God's terms.

We will see the danger of rejecting the counsel of God. "For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." (Romans 15:4). Let us learn from the past. The historians tell us "He that is ignorant of the past is doomed to relive it." We need not repeat the mistakes of Adam or of Saul, for example, but to study and learn from them. To offer a substitute is to reject the counsel of God. He, through all eternity, has planned a spiritual blessing for us... if we will only **accept** it.

If we will look **honestly**, we will be able to see ourselves in each example of substitution or rejection, but hopefully we will have the courage to learn. Learning put into practice bears good fruit. The only motivation of our study should be our yearning for the truth. ""We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him." (John 9:31) Doing His will is what we will be interested in.

REVIEW BOTH THE LESSON OF CAIN AND OF ADAM

The first time God's counsel is rejected is in Genesis 3, with Adam and Eve. God said "you will die." Satan said "You surely will not die!"

Notice that Satan changed only one word in a commandment of God! The results were far reaching! 1) the curse of the serpent; 2) the curse of the woman; 3) the curse of the man; 4) the curse of the ground.

It is safe to conclude that it is disastrous to reject God's good counsel for what we today would call worldly wisdom.

1) We say within ourselves that we are righteous. (I'm ok, surely God wouldn't condemn me!) Paul tells us what, in Romans 3:23?

2) How many sins caused the calamity in Eden? _____

3) What does this tell us about the necessity of obeying God's will in every point possible? _____

4) Read I John 1:3-10. What limit does this place in our ability to follow God? _____

5) In Adam, we have the first time God's counsel is rejected. In Cain's sacrifice we have the first religious _____

6) Was Cain's sacrifice satisfactory to God? _____ Why or why not?

7) Will our worship be satisfactory if we substitute our ideas or follow those that do? (Matthew 15:1-9)

READ I SAMUEL 15 THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING

8) What two people are under discussion? _____

9) What was Saul commanded to do? _____

10) What did he do? _____

11) Did he do what the Lord had commanded? _____

12) What reason did Saul give for saving the spoil? _____

13) What does Samuel call partially doing what the Lord commands? _____ and it is as what? _____

14) Make a modern application:



Notice Saul had done, partially, what the Lord commanded, but substituted his own "wisdom" in place of the Lord's! Many people do the same thing today. They will follow God as long as it follows with their life style, or feels comfortable to them. Saul would have enjoyed going to war against his enemies, but God told him he couldn't keep the spoil! Notice

vs. 15 Saul did what he did for a "religious reason"... "To please the Lord." In verse 20 he declared he had obeyed the will of God! A great many religious bodies need to learn this lesson.

They, for whatever reason, have substituted things in the government of the church, the worship of the church, the mission of the church and the "Apostles Doctrine!" A "settle-for" religion isn't good enough, I want to be a part of that church found in the New Testament!!!



15) Read Luke 7:24-30 Who's ministry is under discussion? _____

16) What was the response of the religious leaders? _____

17) What was their response as it relates to God? (verse 30) _____

18) This relates directly to the baptism in effect at the time, which was _____

READ MATTHEW 15:1-9 THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING

19) What question did the Pharisees ask of Jesus? _____

20) What question did Jesus ask of them? _____

21) Notice verse 9. What is the effect of substitution in the church today? _____

22) Is there anything **wrong** with washing your hands? _____

23) When done in a religious setting, what does Jesus call it? _____
What is the effect? _____

READ MATTHEW 7:13-27
THEN ANSWER

24) Today many people think, deep down, that only a **few** will be lost, and **most**, especially our friends and family, will be saved. This is backwards of what Jesus taught. Explain the "roads." The broad road:



The narrow road: _____

25) Read vs. 21-23. Today the prevailing teaching is that "whatever you believe is OK, as long as you believe it 'honestly'." Is this what Jesus taught? _____ Does Jesus know what He is talking about? _____

26) The people in these last few verses were not heathens, but professing to be _____

27) Define "iniquity" _____

28) What have these people done (II John 9) _____

We have seen the results of a few religious substitutions and outright rejections of God's counsel. We have also seen that even things that are otherwise right and good, become wrong when built into religion. Further, we have seen that it matters what you believe because even many religious "Christians" are going to be lost because they were no longer willing to abide in the doctrine of Christ, but went beyond it. Most important, however, we learned from Saul that we must accept and obey all that the apostles delivered to us... it came from God!!

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6/05



Learn Your Bible

Lesson #5

In this lesson, we will be studying a question that has probably divided the Lord's church in more ways than by any other; "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30)

The answers given by modern religious leaders will range greatly. Some actually teach 'there is **nothing** you can **do**, you have been predestined to either heaven or hell," others teach: "pay your indulgences and sin your way to heaven"! We obviously cannot accept human teachings as our authority. The same book that tells us that heaven exists, also tells us how to get there. The Bible should be our ultimate and **ONLY** authority.

But, you may say, these leaders all claim to have the Bible's teaching on the subject! To this I want to refer you to the word of God. In Acts 18:24-26 we learn of a man called Apollos, an eloquent man... mighty in the scriptures... but his teaching on baptism was not the "apostles doctrine" (Acts 2:42). Paul, in Acts chapter 19, apparently ran into some of Apollos' disciples and "re-baptized" them. (Actually "re-baptized" while descriptive, is a poor term. If you have been properly baptized there is no necessity to re-baptize)

From this we learn that education is not a requirement to understanding the word of God. In fact, Paul said "For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not {come to} know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe." and again "but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise," (I Corinthians 1:21, 27)

The point is this, God wrote to you and I, what we might call a letter, to tell us **how** we are to get to heaven. We are capable of understanding it, or He wouldn't have given it to us! Let's read it and find how to go to heaven. The same Bible that directed Christians to heaven then... will instruct us today.

Did you know that in the book of Acts the question of "what must I do" is actually asked not once, but three times? Let's use this as an example to begin our study and note the answers.

1) Acts 2:37 "what shall we do?" vs. 38 _____ and

2) Acts 9:6, 22:10 _____ and go _____
and it will be _____. Saul would be told
what he should do or must do?

3) Acts 16:30 “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” From vs. 31 does it make sense that if one person in a house believes, is everyone in the household saved? _____. Obviously we sometimes need to take a second look. Each of the answers (from questions 1, 2 & 3 above) is different... obviously each person is in a different circumstance when they asked the question.

Next is a chart of the conversions in the book of Acts. Note that while one person emphasizes “this” another emphasizes “that”... this chart will allow you to draw your own conclusions on what **GOD CHOSE TO EMPHASIZE**. This is the only place in the New Testament we actually see folks becoming Christians. The rest of the New Testament is generally addressed to Christians. The example of

<u>Preaching</u>	<u>Believed</u>	<u>Repented</u>	<u>Confessed</u>	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Saved*</u>
Corinth	Vs. 8				Vs. 8
Acts 18:4-8					
Pentecost					
Acts 2:14-41					
Samaria					
Acts 8:5-13					
Eunuch					
Acts 8:35-39					
Saul					
Acts 9					
Acts 22:9-16					
Cornelius					
Acts 10:3-6					
Acts 10:43-48					
Lydia					
Acts 16:13-15					
Jailer					
Acts 16:25-34					

*forgiveness,
remission of sins,
rejoiced, etc...

Acts 18 (Corinth) is worked for you. Acts 19 will be taken up at the end of this study. Read each one and put the verse number under each one of the requirements mentioned in the passage.

1) From the chart we just created, we could be tempted to slight the importance of repenting and confessing Christ. Would this be justified? _____ Explain: _____

2) Which one of these requirements to be saved is mentioned in all of these conversions? _____ Does this make it any more important than belief? _____ (See also John 8:24)

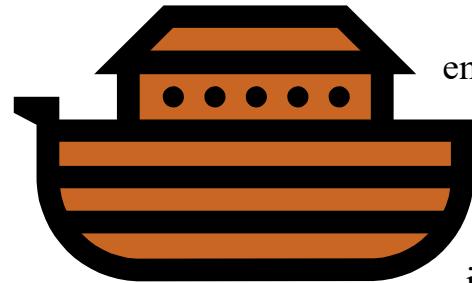
3) In Acts 22:16 how was Paul to call on the Lord? _____

4) Romans 10:8-17, particularly verse 9, is used by some to place confession as the all-important step to salvation. Read this passage and list the verses where each of the "steps of conversion" are mentioned:

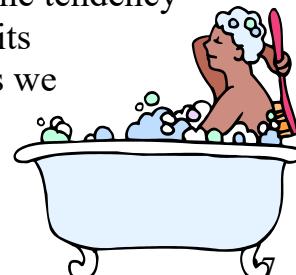
Hearing _____ Believing _____ Confessing _____
Repenting _____ Obeying (baptism etc.) _____

5) Define each of the steps in your own words:

Hearing _____
Believing _____
Confessing _____ Repenting _____
Baptized _____
Saved _____



Many have ridiculed or confused the emphasis that the Bible places on baptism. Most understand the need for the previous steps, but when it comes to baptism, the tendency has been to belittle its importance. Since, as we will see, it is in baptism we obtain the forgiveness



of our sins, we will study this subject further. Many have said the Bible places a mystical and/or magical quality in the water and the effects of baptism. Peter makes an argument from Noah's salvation (I Peter 3:20-21) He says that baptism figuratively saves us just as the flood saved Noah, but it is not as in "taking a bath," but rather the appeal to God in baptism that saves us. In other words, it isn't the water itself that saves us, but how it stands in our obedience to God. The power of baptism isn't in the water itself, but this is the way God gave us to obey, or appeal to Him.

- 6) Will God allow un-forgiven sinners into heaven? (Romans 3:23-26) _____ Explain: _____
-

- 7) Using a dictionary, please define "remission of sins"
-

- 8) When does remission of sins occur? (Acts 2:38, 22:16) _____
-

- 9) What actually cleanses (washes away) our sins? (I John 1:7)
-

When are we given this? (Acts 22:16) _____

Do you see the distinction between the question of what cleanses us and when it cleanses us? _____

The question of the necessity of baptism should be sufficiently answered. It is agreed that one cannot go to heaven unless he is forgiven. Another question comes up however. What makes up baptism? In Romans 6:1-8 we can see Paul explaining the meaning of each part of baptism.

Study the chart:



For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection Vs.5



To properly interpret the Bible, one must be reminded that many, actually most of those in the congregations, could not read. The apostles therefore drew "word pictures." First, we are "dead in sin" (Romans 6:1,2 and Colossians 2:12) just as Christ was dead on the cross. We are buried in a watery tomb, just as he was buried in a stone tomb. Then, we are raised alive, just as he too, was raised alive.

- 10) The word "buried" in Romans 6:1-8 and Colossians 2:12 literally means "entombed." Could sprinkling fulfill the symbolism? _____
Explain: _____
-

- 11) A prominent commentator that practices "sprinkling baptism" explains this passage: "Before we can understand what Paul goes on to say, we must remember that baptism in Paul's day is different than what it commonly is today." What authority would properly justify such a change? (Matthew 15:9)
-



- 12) When did Christ become alive? (Romans 6:4) _____
According to Paul's word picture, when do we become alive? _____
Paul calls this (verse 2) _____
-

- 13) Many teach we are spiritually alive when we believe- before baptism. What does this do to Paul's picture? _____
-
-

- 14) How many types of baptism are acceptable to God? (Ephesians 4:5) _____
-

BUT, I'VE ALREADY BEEN BAPTIZED!
Read Acts 18:24-19:5

15) Was John's baptism immersion? (John 3:23) _____
How do we know? _____

16) Did John's baptism involve repentance? (Acts 19:4) _____

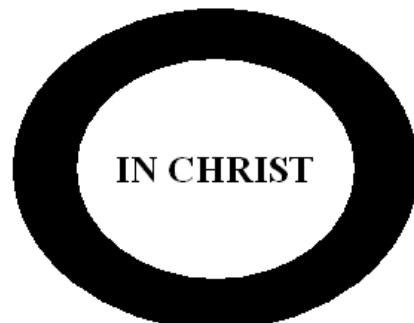
17) John's baptism was even for the _____ of sins.
Luke 3:3

18) They hadn't been baptized into the
_____ (I Corinthians
12:13)

19) For our study we might say what
was deficient is that they hadn't obeyed
_____ (Romans 6:17) which is also called the
_____ (Acts 2:42)
and _____ (Ephesians 4:5). The above scriptures
give us three different descriptions of the gospel.

20) Read Galatians 3:26-27 **HOW** does someone "put on" Christ?
_____ **WHO** has "put on" Christ? _____

HOW does one get "into" Christ? _____



APPLICATION

21) The first question is "Have you obeyed our Lord in
baptism?" _____ If not, " What prevents me (you) from
being baptized?" "Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins,
calling on the name of the Lord." (contact us and we will assist you in
this.)

22) If you have, "Into what then were you baptized? Acts 19:3-4

23) Were you baptized because of or for the remission of your sins?

24) Were you sprinkled or immersed? _____

25) Were you baptized into the "one body?" _____

26) If you obeyed some "other doctrine" were you really baptized, or were you "dunked?" _____

27) Consider the implications of Acts 19:5... If you were previously "baptized" in a different manner, or for a different reason than the one God ordained, Can you "just learn better" later? In other words, can you apply "later knowledge" to a previous baptism and avoid being baptized as God ordained?

What did these "Christians" do when the deficiency was pointed out?
Does this affect you?

Baptism and the understanding of it are essential to our salvation. Study carefully.

Jesus has risen from the dead....

Have you?



Jerry Blount

1/80 (Revised 6/05)

Learn Your Bible

Lesson #6

"There is one body." Ephesians 4:4

"Head over all things to the church, which is His body." Ephesians 1:22,23

In this lesson, we will study the nature of the church. It is a little known fact that the church Jesus built, can be identified today, strictly from the pages of the New Testament, **without** the innovations of man.

Historically, we can trace the development of many churches, but in the Bible we find only one... In order to explain the modern religious developments, many try to say that all these are branches of the same church. "I am the vine, you are the branches." John 15:5 is the most commonly abused text in this respect. A quick look at the context points out Jesus is speaking of individuals, not of churches.

Another common rationalization is that we are all going to heaven, and we are just following different roads to get there. "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it." (Matthew 7:13-14) Regardless of how well intentioned we may be, it becomes obvious from Matthew that Jesus certainly didn't believe or teach that! He taught that men would try all kinds of things, but only a few would follow the right road! He also taught "Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be uprooted." (Matthew 15:13) We are faced with the eternally important question: How may I know what is my heavenly father's plant, and what is an imposter?

While the answer is simple, it is also difficult to abide by. In Luke 8:11 "Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God." Jesus compares the word of God to a seed. What grows plants? ... seeds! If we abide by the word of God (ALL of it - not merely a part that may appeal to us), we will be that plant.

DATE	PLACE	FOUNDER	CHURCH
606 AD	Rome	Boniface III	Roman Catholic
1520 AD	Germany	Martin Luther	Lutheran
1534 AD	England	Henry VIII	
	Episcopalian		
1536 AD	Switzerland	John Calvin	Presbyterian
1550 AD	England	Robert Browne	Congregational
1607 AD	Holland	John Smythe	Baptist
1739 AD	England	John Wesley	Methodist
1830 AD	America	Joseph Smith	Latter Day Saints
1830 AD	America	William Miller	Adventists
1866 AD	America	Mary Baker Eddy	Christian
Scientists			
1872 AD	America	Charles T Russell	Jehovah's
Witness			

**from James R Cope The One True Church

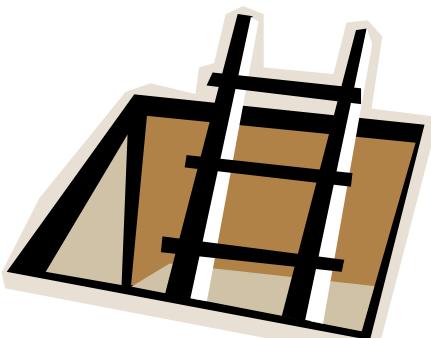
One way to identify the church is to look at when it was founded. When was Christ's church founded? The answer is found in Acts 2, and the answer is AD 29-33. The oldest church on the list above did not come about until approximately 600 years too late.

These all contain various doctrines other than that of the divine seed. They don't adhere to the "one faith" (Ephesians 4:5). Jude tells us to "contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints." (Jude 3). Many today believe that there are several acceptable faiths. We find the Bible does not teach anything like that!

What we are striving at is that the Catholic Church, Lutheran, Baptist, etc. are not the same church! No one really believes that one church is as good as another, or they wouldn't drive past one church building to attend "the church of their choice."

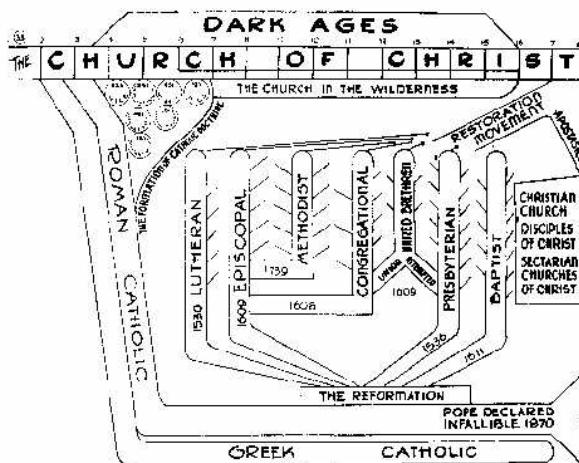
The thing that matters isn't the church of **our** choice, but the church of **Jesus' choice**! "Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her

by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she



would be holy and blameless." (Ephesians 5:25-27). **Hinduism** (NOT Christianity) says "As one may ascend to the housetop by ladder, rope or bamboo, so there are many ways to reach God."

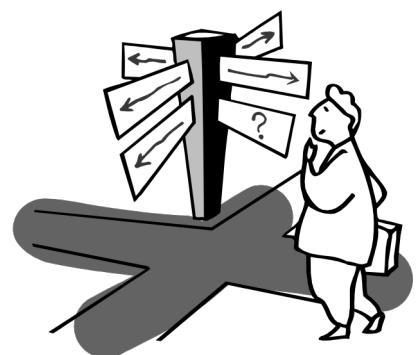
I want to be a part of that New Testament church founded in Acts 2... it accepts the word of God as its only seed, without the blemish of man's innovations and traditions! WHAT THE WORLD SAYS AND WHAT JESUS SAYS... ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS!



During the 1800's in our country, there was a great cry for "back to the Bible!" As people began to look around at the religious "mess" they began to see that none of these denominations were free from man's (Satan's) handiwork.

They began to turn their backs on these various "manmade religions" in favor of Christ's church! The same seed that made Christians ***then*** will indeed make Christians ***now***. For example, it takes a Bible plus a catechism to make a Catholic; a different catechism and the Bible to make a Lutheran; A Bible plus a certain creed book will make a Methodist, change the creed book and you'll have a Presbyterian, Baptist, etc.... the Bible alone will make Christians!

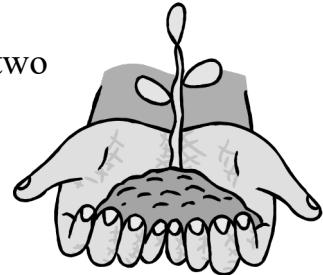
In other words, the pure seed makes Christians, hybrid seed makes a member of a denomination... which is it for you? A Christian or a Denominationalist?



- 1) Matthew 16:18 What did Jesus call the church? _____
 - 2) Read Ephesians 4:1-6 There is one _____ and one spirit.
 - 3) There is one Lord, one _____, one _____:

- 4) Colossians 1:18 Jesus is the head of the _____, which is the _____.
- 5) Ephesians 1:22,23 He governs all things concerning the _____, which is His _____.
- 6) What does this do to the idea of God being the founder of 300 denominations? _____.

- 7) a) I Corinthians 14:33 With the religious confusion obvious, who is the founder of denominationalism? _____.
b) Matthew 21:25 According to Jesus, what are the two sources of authority? _____ and _____



- 8) What “grew” Christians during the first century?
(see Matthew 13:3-9 and 13:18-23) _____

Was anything mixed with the seed? _____

- 9) Matthew 13:24-30 and 37-43 Who's work is it to mix the seed?



- 10) Does it make sense that the same seed will raise the same plant?
explain: _____
If you plant a wheat seed what kind of plant grows? _____
- 11) Matthew 15:12-14 Explain in your own words how this passage would relate to us: _____

12) Does it matter which church you are a part of? _____
Explain: _____

13) Refer back to chart. What was the shortcoming of the reformation?

14) a) One of the restoration pleas, "Where the Bible speaks, we will speak, where it is silent, we will be silent," sought to go all the way back to the original seed rather than reform... just one of the many apostasies of these churches. Explain the necessity of doing this:

b) Read I Peter 4:11 does this plea have a Bible basis? _____

15) Romans 16:16, Matthew 16:18 Can you find your church mentioned in the New Testament? _____ Jesus' church is.

16) I Timothy 4:1-3 Pick out two false doctrines that can still be seen in the Catholic church today: _____

In what light are these spoken of? _____

17) Acts 20:17 Who was Paul talking to? _____
Now Vs 28-31; Where were the false teachers to come from?

18) Many look on this great falling away from the truth as a limiting power of God, but the fact is that he foretold it, and who would cause it. Recall I Timothy 4:1-3. What apostasy does this resemble? _____

19) II Timothy 4:1-4 What warning does this have for us? _____



APPLICATION

20) Matthew 15:1-9 and Acts 20:17, 28-31 Relate what we have just learned to I Thessalonians 5:21 and apply it: _____

21) II Corinthians 13:5 Again make an application: _____

22) Since Jesus founded only one church, it is important to be a part of HIS church. Read I Corinthians 12:13 Can this be said of you?

Explain: _____

23) One of the passages we studied confirms to us that God didn't found denominationalism. What passage is it? _____

24) Are you a part of this One Body, or of a denomination? _____
Explain:



25) Acts 2:47 and Ephesians 5:25 Where are the saved?

Learn Your Bible

Lesson #7

In this lesson we will begin to build the church we read of in the Bible. One important realm we need to consider is the role of names in the service of God.

I am confident that our primary purpose for studying the word of God is in order for us to serve Him in truth. I have heard many times "there is nothing in a name," but let us lay our preconceived ideas aside and see what God says on the subject. We are well aware of what man says!

We will begin our study with Abraham, popularly known as the "Father of the faithful"

(Genesis 17:4-6). As you may

have already realized, the name of Abram was changed to Abraham for a special reason. God made a covenant with Abraham that he would be the father of many nations (verse 4). The name Abram (father) became inappropriate and had to be changed to Abraham (father of a great multitude).

Later, in the same passage, a similar thing happened concerning Sarah, Abraham's wife. She was going to have a child, therefore her name Sarai ("Princely") was no longer suitable... but "Sarah" ("Princess") more aptly described her relationship before God.

Jacob ("Supplanter") had a similar situation in his relationship to God (read Genesis 32:24-32). Jacob, fearing his brother Esau, was separated from his family to pray. While alone, he wrestled with an angel all night. The angel changed his name, in a blessing, to "Israel" (Prince of God).

These examples show the value of names in service to God in the Old Testament, but what of the New Testament? Philippians 2:9-11 illustrates the royalty attached to Jesus' name. John 14:13



Illustrates the relationship of Jesus' name to our prayers. Acts 5:41
Teaches us to rejoice when we are counted worthy to suffer for His name.

Is there anything in a name? Throughout history, God has shown a special concern to the titles His children wear!

LOOK UP AND FILL IN

NAMES OF THE CHURCH

Matthew 16:18 _____
Acts 8:1 _____
Romans 16:16 _____
I Corinthians 1:2 _____
Ephesians 1:21-23 _____
Ephesians 2:21 _____
Colossians 1:13 _____
I Timothy 3:15 _____
Revelation 21:9 _____
I Peter 2:5 _____
I Cor 14:33 _____

NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE CHURCH

Acts 5:14 _____
Acts 6:1 _____
Acts 6:3 _____
Acts 9:13 _____
Acts 11:26 _____
Romans 1:7 _____
Romans 6:22 _____
Romans 8:14 _____
Romans 8:17 _____
I Peter 2:5 _____
Revelation 1:6 _____

1) Read Acts 4:10-12. What about men's labels? Are they still Christian? _____

~~~ Read I Corinthians 1-4~~~

2) Define "Christian" \_\_\_\_\_

3) Define "Lutheran" \_\_\_\_\_

We are going to pull the highlights out of a lengthy four chapter condemnation of what I like to call the "roots of Corinthian denominationalism."

4) Read I Corinthians 1:10-15. In verse 10, what does Paul condemn? \_\_\_\_\_



5) He admonishes them by the name of Jesus Christ to be \_\_\_\_\_

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6) Verse 13, is Christ divided? \_\_\_\_\_ Would “Pauline” be an acceptable religious title for a Christian? \_\_\_\_\_ How about the “Church of Paul”? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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7) Read 2:4-6 Paul reminds them his teaching is from where?

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8) a) Read 2:9-16 Without a \_\_\_\_\_ from God, it is impossible to know how to please Him.

b) Explain what this teaches us about changing or ignoring any portion of what God said (vs. 16) \_\_\_\_\_

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9) 2:14 Shows us spiritual wisdom is \_\_\_\_\_ to those not following God.

10) Read 3:1-6. What caused this mess? \_\_\_\_\_

11) Read 4:6. Being called after men's names is \_\_\_\_\_

---

12) Reread 4:6 closely. Were Paul and Apollos the actual mens names that were causing problems, or were they just used by Paul as examples? \_\_\_\_\_

13) Read 4:14. Why did Paul write to them? \_\_\_\_\_

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14) Make a modern application: \_\_\_\_\_

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Many will begin to ask, "If these things are so important, why has no one recognized it before?" The answer is of course that many have, but men cling to carnality much harder than they care to admit! Read the words of Martin Luther (see if you can recognize the passage he's alluding to) "I pray you leave my name alone, and call not yourselves "Lutherans," but "Christians." Who is Luther? My doctrine is not mine. I have not been crucified for anyone. St. Paul would not let any call themselves after Paul, nor of Peter, but only of Christ. How then, does it befit me, a miserable bag of dust and ashes, to give my name to the children of God? Cease, my dear friends, to cling to these party names and distinctions; away with all; and let us call ourselves Christians after Him from whom our doctrine comes." (The Life of Luther, by Stork p.289)

Isn't it amazing that people will not give up their party names to be "just" "Christians?" They will even use men's names against their will!



15) Which passage (already studied) is Martin Luther alluding to in the quote mentioned above? \_\_\_\_\_

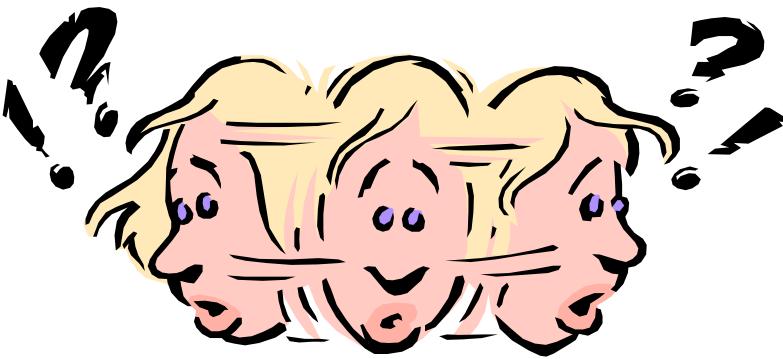
The Lutherans are not the only ones guilty of this polygamy. (Remember the Church is the bride of Christ and a bride is known by her husband's name, see Ephesians 5:23-27). Let's consider the words of perhaps the best-known Baptist preacher (before Billy Graham), that ever lived Charles Spurgeon:

"I say of the Baptist name, let it perish, but let Christ's name last forever. I look forward with pleasure to the day when there will not be a "Baptist" living. I hope they will soon be gone. I hope the Baptist name will soon perish; but let Christ's name endure forever." (Spurgeon Memorial Library, Vol. 1, p.168)

While we may admire his courage in condemning a party name, he still didn't leave it! As long as people are content to worship under party names, they will continue to be used.

## "HYPHENATED CHRISTIANS

From scripture, I am sure that method and system should be used in the Lord's work, but I am not a Methodist; that we should have bishops (the Greek word being episcopos) to oversee the work in a congregation, but I am not an Episcopalian; that we should have elders (the Greek word being presbuteros) who are bishops to rule and oversee in the congregation, but I am not a Presbyterian; that each congregation is independent, but I am not a Congregationalist; that it takes immersion to



constitute the act of baptism, but I am not a Baptist; that Christians should be holy but I am not a Holiness; that Christ will come again, but I am not an Adventist; that the church is universal or catholic, but I am not a Catholic. According to some good folk--since I believe in the above facts, I should call myself a 'Methodist-Episcopalian-Presbyterian-Congregationalist-Baptist-Holiness-Catholic-Christian'! A monstrous hyphenation, and a rather long name! It is quite unnecessary, too. We find in the Bible that the disciples were called Christians, but we never read of any person being called some hyphenated -Christian.' (Brownlow, Why I Am A Member of The Church of Christ, p32).

If we are prone to rationalize this away, the best way I can think of to prove its importance would be to walk up to a person on the street and ask, "What are you religiously?" His answer is almost certain to be something other than CHRISTIAN! Any response other than "Christian" gives glory to something other than Christ. To a division, to a man, etc. can only be the glory. Am I an Apoloist, Paulinian, Petrolic, Johnness (oh yes, I'd better add Christian, in case you're a heathen!"? NO! I am a Christian! Why? We have already studied Paul's specific rebuke to this affect.

Let's be content with what the Bible teaches or be honest and name ourselves Satanists, because ultimately, all division comes from him. Be open about whom we give glory to! "...but if {anyone suffers} as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name." (I Peter 4:16).

16) Give a brief explanation of God's view of the names his subjects wear and its importance to us: \_\_\_\_\_

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17) Referring to the chart you first made, what does the name "saint" refer to? \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ Are you one? \_\_\_\_\_ What large religious body has perverted the use of this name? \_\_\_\_\_

18) a) Read Matthew 23:1-12. Relate this to a religious group's use of "Father"

b) Can a Christian (preacher or otherwise) wear this name religiously? \_\_\_\_\_



19) Who and who ALONE has the right to wear this type of a title? Psalms 111:9 (\*KJV "Holy and Reverend is His name")

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20) Compare the principle (calling "Rabbi") in Matthew 23:8-10 and relate this to the denominational title of "Reverend"

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21) How many groups do you know that violate this teaching?

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22) What does it matter? \_\_\_\_\_

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23) How does this affect YOU?

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Jerry Blount 1/80 revised 6/05

## **Learn Your Bible**

### **Lesson #8**

When we come down to authority in the Church that Jesus built, we need to build a foundation of biblical principles. The first of which will be "rightly dividing" the word of God.

We find basically three dispensations in biblical history, (some see more, but with reference to their religious practices, I think all would agree to three.) These are the Patriarchal, the Mosaical and the Christian ages, respectively. We might compare these to starlight, moonlight and sunlight, the degree of light referring to God's continuously clearer revelation of Himself. Of course Jesus Christ is the ultimate in God's revelation to man. "He who has seen me, has seen the Father" (John 14:9)

In the Patriarchal dispensation, we find the father of each household officiating as the priest for the entire family. At that time, the religion revolved around the family. God spoke ("long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways",) Hebrews 1:1 to the heads of the house. Job was one of these patriarchs. "rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings {according to} the number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts. Thus Job did continually." Job 1:5 This is perhaps the clearest statement we find defining the role of the Patriarch (father) during this period. As far as the Jews are concerned, this period came to an end with the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai.

The Mosaical Age began with the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai. Here, after God had called "a peculiar people," or a special people, He made His will known.

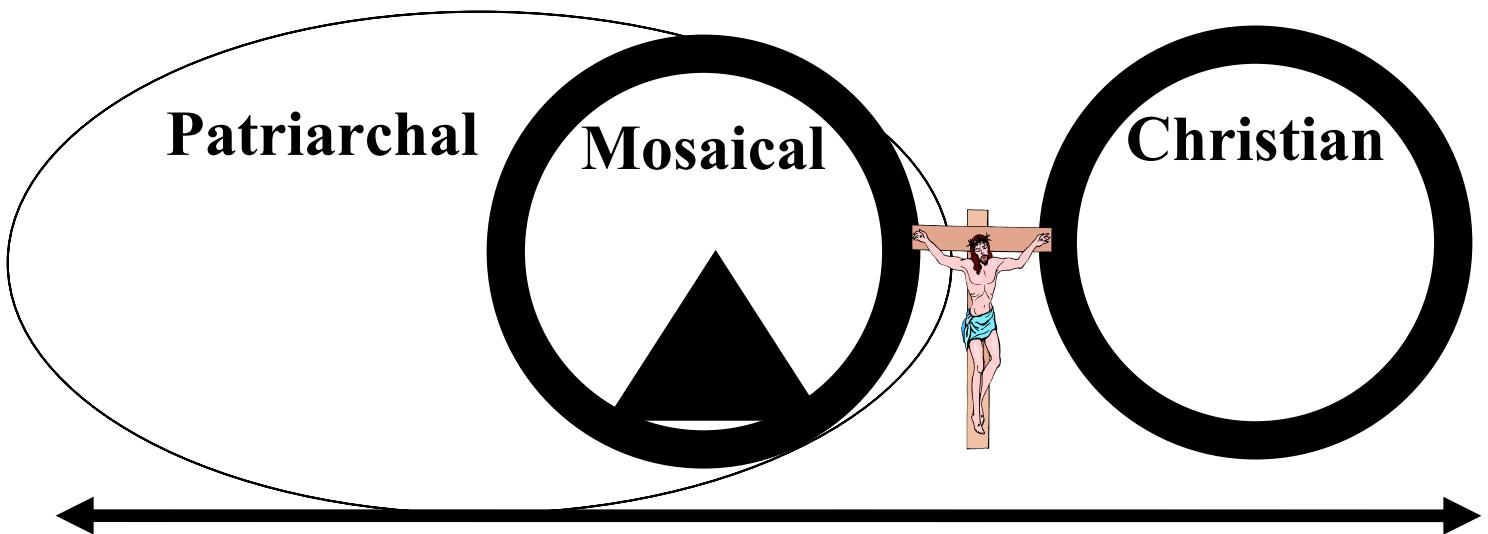
The Mosaic period was characterized by a national High Priest (he took the place of the patriarch) who once a year offered a national sacrifice for the entire nation. There were also numerous smaller sacrifices, feast days, the Sabbath, etc. The Hebrew author (Heb 10:1) tells that these things were just shadows of the good things to come.

Paul tells us the purpose of the Law was to serve as a tutor to bring us to Christ (Galatians 3:24). The schoolmaster was the guardian given the oversight and discipline of boys. The Law therefore, was to discipline the Jews in such a way that it would bring them to Christ.

The dispensation came to an end with the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2. That day the Lord added 3000 souls to the church.

Jesus was born under the Law (Galatians 4:4) “But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor” (Galatians 3:25).

When the gospel came it then replaced the old law. Whereas the Old Covenant was for Jews only (a national religion), the New Covenant was for all nations. We have a high priest in heaven rather than on earth (Hebrews 8:1).



For the purpose of authority in our practices offered to God, we can now rightly divide the word of God. Living under the New Covenant we wouldn't go back to the Old Testament to authorize our religious worship.

The book of Galatians was written to some people that were trying to bring the practice of circumcision forward into Christianity. Paul explains to them (Galatians 5:1-4) that bringing anything of the Old Law forward, makes us bound to the whole (Old) law (animal sacrifices, etc.). He further explains that it causes us to fall from grace!

## THIS ONE EXAMPLE TEACHES US THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING CAREFUL NOT TO OVERSTEP OUR AUTHORITY!!!

As a Christian, the first question that comes to mind is "How can I know what constitutes authority?" A **direct command** to Christians of the New Testament would obviously carry forward for us. An example of this is in I Corinthians 16:1,2 where Paul commands the churches to take a collection on the first day of the week. Another thing that obviously is binding (and as much so as a command) is **an example**, a practice of first century Christians...by this I mean biblical concepts, not secular traditions.

A good example of this type of authority would be the assembling together on the Lord's Day (Sunday). Nowhere are we specifically commanded "Thou shalt go to church." We can figure out that they assembled together by comparing various references. The important thing to note is that forsaking the assembly is a "willful sin" and will cause us to be eternally lost (Hebrews 10:24-31). While we are not specifically told to assemble, we realize they did assemble together. We **necessarily infer** that we are therefore bound to do likewise or we will face the consequences.

Another type of authority is in the realm of **expediency**. Expediency basically means whatever is profitable. In action we might define the rule of expediency as follows: a command given without designating the means to carry it out, leaves the recipient free to choose the most profitable way to carry it out. When the means is designated, however, there is no realm of expediency.

For instance, God told Noah to build an ark out of gopher wood. Noah was at liberty to use saws, hammers, etc. to accomplish this task. Even though Noah was at liberty to choose his tools, he did not have that freedom for choosing his wood. Why? God said "gopher wood." By doing this, God eliminated all other forms of wood. The Lord didn't have to list all other possible types of wood and outlaw them individually... they were already eliminated!

### NOTICE THE DANGER OF USING THIS RULE TO JUSTIFY THINGS WE WANT WHEN IT DOESN'T APPLY!

We cannot properly complete a study of this nature without mentioning the silence of God. Some good folks have the attitude that if God didn't specifically forbid them to do a particular thing, then it is all right to (religiously) do it. The example of Noah shows this approach to be incorrect.

Jesus attacks this idea head on. The Pharisees came to him condemning him for not going through the ritual of washing their hands before eating (Matthew 15:1-9.) Jesus goes on to mention another tradition and concludes with the statement "BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN."

The apostle Paul makes an argument from the silence of the Old Testament about a priest from the tribe of Judah. Since God hadn't

authorized a priest from this tribe (they came from the tribe of Levi) it should be obvious to the Jew that the Law had to change to allow for it (Heb 7:12-14). Paul uses this principle as an assumed truth to prove another point!

We can, I think, learn that this can honestly be called the "thunderous silence of God"! Where God has not spoken, we dare not go!



of each: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) Read Hebrews 8:7-13. The Hebrew author is quoting Jeremiah 31:31 to show what? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

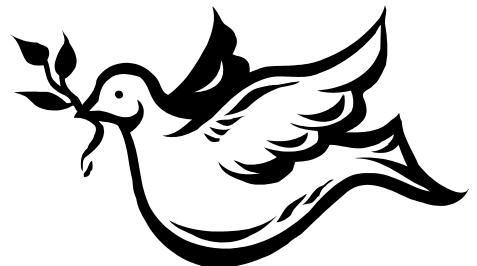
3) Read Hebrews 8:13. When he called one "New", what did that imply of the other? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) Read Hebrews 9:16, 17. When did the New Testament come into effect? \_\_\_\_\_

5) a) Read Matt 5:17,18. What did Christ have to do before he could take the Old Testament out of the way? \_\_\_\_\_

b) If he hadn't, it would have been (see vs. 17) \_\_\_\_\_

6) What have we learned about using those practices during the life of Christ as authority today (offering a dove, circumcision, tithing, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



7) What was the purpose of the Old Law? (Galatians 3:24)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8) It was never intended to be permanent but only until what time? (Galatians 3:19) \_\_\_\_\_

9) Read Galatians 5:2-4. Since the entire book of Galatians is dealing with people bringing pieces of the Old Testament forward, what does this teach us?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10) I Corinthians 16:1-2 is an example of what type of authority?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11) Assembling together (as it relates to us) is an example of what type of authority? \_\_\_\_\_

12) Read Hebrews 10:24-31. Is this type of authority binding on us?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13) I Corinthians 10:23-28 Explain the rule of expediency:

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14) Using the illustration of Noah, give an example of

a) Noah's liberty under expediency; \_\_\_\_\_

b) at least two things Noah under this realm, would not have the liberty to do \_\_\_\_\_

15) Explain the importance of observing the silence of God (see Matt 15:1-9 & Mark 7:1-8) \_\_\_\_\_

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16) Read Hebrews 7:11-14. Paraphrase Paul's argument from silence: \_\_\_\_\_

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17) List a couple of examples where people have not observed the silence of the scriptures today. \_\_\_\_\_

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Jerry Blount 4/81 revised 6/05

## Learn Your Bible

### Lesson #9

In the last lesson, we studied authority in the New Testament. As we continue building the church that Jesus built, from Jesus' book, these principles will become increasingly important. The worship that a church offers to God is one of the ways of identifying it, either as Christ's church, or as man's church.

As has been brought out before in this series, Jesus identifies "vain worship" as that worship offered according to the doctrines (teachings or ideas) of men, rather than of God (Matthew 15:1-9). He

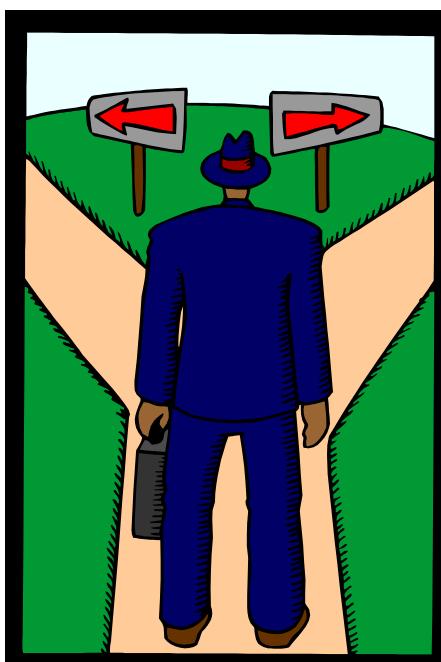
further warned that the majority of those worshipping him would follow men's doctrines rather than God's. In other words, the majority would follow the "broad road" (Matthew 7:13) with only a few following the "small and narrow" way of truth. Those following the broad road are labeled as workers of lawlessness (Matthew 7:23).

Because of the prophecies of Jesus, we should expect just what we find today... 300+ denominations each following different men's precepts (remember the study of names.)

The warnings are clear enough... "true worshipers will worship the Father

in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). How may we know that we are "walking in the light," (I John 1:7)? Jesus, in a prayer to His father, identified the word of God as "truth" with the power to "sanctify" (John 17:17). The obvious conclusion is that we must do everything the Word of God tells us to do, without changing or adding to anything He has commanded. Then and only then, do we know we are abiding "in the teaching of Christ" (II John 9).

One important area to study is the "Lord's Day." Christians today are to worship on the first day of the week. The only place in the Bible that the term "Lord's day" is used is in Revelation 1:10. The context gives no clue as to which day is meant.



Why do we today worship on the first day rather than the Sabbath (7th day)? The nature of the Sabbath needs to be understood in order to properly answer this.

The first Sabbath was a "test" Sabbath in Exodus 16:16-30; it became law in Exodus 20. The children of Israel were totally ignorant of the Sabbath (see 16:23). They were given a trial run before it became binding on them. Nothing happened to those breaking the "test Sabbath", but after it became law, those profaning it were punished by stoning (see Numbers 15:32-36). It seems harsh for example, to stone a man for "just" picking up sticks, but God's laws are not to be taken lightly!

This Sabbath was to remind the Jews that they were "resting" from Egyptian bondage (Deuteronomy 5:13-15). They were to rest, like God did on the seventh day, after the creation of the world (Exodus 20:11). It was to serve as a "sign" between God and His nation (Exodus 31:16,17).

What would this reminder of Egyptian bondage have to do with

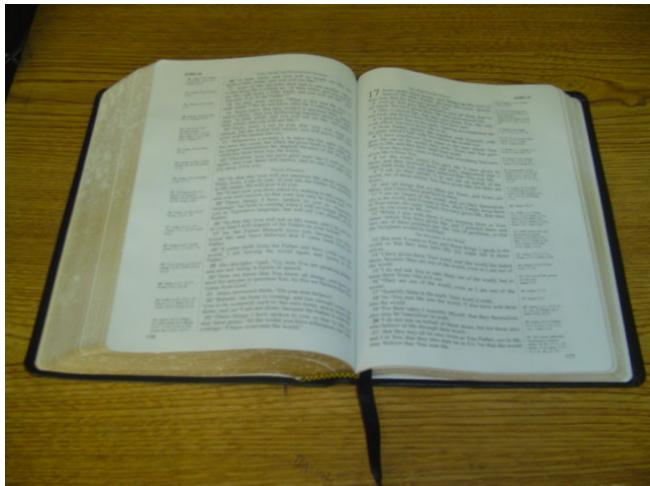
you and I today? Nothing... our bondage was to sin. Jesus conquered this on the first day of the week when he came back from the dead. They remembered deliverance from carnal bondage, likewise, we remember deliverance from carnality!

The first gospel sermon was preached on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), not to mention the first 3000 souls being added to the church (Acts 2:47). The day of

Pentecost, one of the Old Law's shadows, always fell on the first day of the week.

On the first day of the week, we have our only "time example" of partaking of the Lord's Supper. The apostle Paul commands that on the first day of the week we take a collection (I Corinthians 16:1,2) so that the church doesn't have special collections, etc.

Like its shadow in the Old Testament, the Christian has a definite obligation on the Lord's Day... to assemble with the saints. The Hebrew author, after a discussion on the importance of the blood of Christ, sets forth in no uncertain terms that forsaking the assembly



is sinning willfully, treading underfoot the Son of God, etc.... (Hebrews 10:24-31).

LET US "SET ASIDE" THE LORD'S DAY  
FOR THE LORD!

- 1) From Matthew 15:1-9 describe the importance of proper worship. \_\_\_\_\_

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- 2) From Matthew 7:13-14 what should we expect the majority of the "religious" people's worship to be (see also vs. 21-23)? \_\_\_\_\_

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- 3) To be acceptable to God, our worship must be in \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_ (John 4:24) which is to say \_\_\_\_\_ (I John 1:7) or abiding in the \_\_\_\_\_ (II John 9)

- 4) What allows us to know whether our worship is the above (read John 6:53-63)? \_\_\_\_\_

- 5) What passage is the only place the "Lord's Day" is found?

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- 6) In what passage is the first Jewish Sabbath found? \_\_\_\_\_

- 7) What was the difference between the effect of breaking the first Sabbath and breaking it after it had become law? (see Numbers 15:32-36) \_\_\_\_\_

- 8) What did the Sabbath remind the Jews of? \_\_\_\_\_

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- 9) How were they to observe it? (Exodus 20:10,11) \_\_\_\_\_

52



10) What do we remember today? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11) Read Luke 24 and underline vs. 1, 7, 13 and 21. Now build an "un-get-aroundable" argument that Jesus rose the first day of the week, which was His 3rd day in the grave:

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### CAUSE & EFFECT

12) Read Hebrews 10:24-31 List 5 things that forsaking the assembly is described as, or parallel to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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13) List 4 consequences to us (judgment, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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14) What difference do you see in the result of profaning the Sabbath (Old Testament) and forsaking the assembly (New Testament)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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15) How is the church to be financed?  
I Corinthians 16:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



16) Read vs. 2 carefully. What is Paul's (inspired) attitude towards "special collections"? \_\_\_\_\_

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17) What does this verse do to "passing the plate" at revivals all week long, church garage sales, pie/cake sales, churches in business, etc.?

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Can you find a scripture where the apostles had a church garage sale?

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18) Read II Corinthians 9:6,7 What about the Old Testament tithing?

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The Lord's church was never meant to be a big business, nor a beggar; but to be financed only by freewill offerings...

Let's be a part of Christ's church!

Jerry Blount 4/81 revised 6/05

## Learn Your Bible

### Lesson #10

One important realm that God has decreed for us to do in **worship to Him**, is to sing. Music has always played an important part in the worship to God. As in several of the other areas we have studied thus far, man's handiwork can be seen in this realm of worship to God. God has commanded one thing, and man ~in many cases~ is responding with another.

We should ask ourselves at the outset of this study "Why do we do the things we do (religiously)?" Are our motives of stubbornness and tradition, or are they of scripture? Jesus identified every act of religion as coming either from heaven or from men in Matthew 21:25. (Recall also our study of Matthew 7:13ff).

The point of our discussion in this lesson will be the music God has commanded for us in the New Testament age. As we will study out the subject, we will find that God has decreed that "singing" is to be the music offered to Him. Obviously most of our neighbors use instrumental music in worship to God.



The Apostle Peter speaking through inspiration gave all of us responsibility. That responsibility is to be able to explain and defend the things that we do in the name of God! "sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always {being} ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;" (I Peter 3:15)

**Can you or I, or anyone else find Christians in the NT playing mechanical instruments in their worship of God? As we look around in the religious community, we must ask "Why not?"**

Before we go into the passages dealing with music in the New Testament, let's refresh our memories. Recall the principle we learned in the example of Noah. Noah was told to build an ark... of gopher wood. Expediency would leave Noah free to use saws, hammers, nails and so on, but not to use pine (assuming pine isn't gopher wood... no one really knows). Why? God said gopher wood... that excluded everything else. Anything else, after wading through all the excuses, would be a direct violation of a perfectly clear command of God! So it is with singing. Just as God designated the specific wood

of the ark for Noah, so also God designated the specific music of HIS church.

#### BEFORE GOING ON, READ EPHESIANS 5:18-20 AND COLOSSIANS 3:16

If you read carefully, you've noticed both the kind of music in the New Testament and the designated accompaniment! The example of any church singing with any accompaniment other than the designated accompaniment "melody of the heart" (described as thankfulness in the heart, Colossians 3:16) does not exist. This tells us point blank that to substitute "heartless" musical instruments for the accompaniment of the heart is no different than if Noah had substituted pine and fiberglass for gopher wood and pitch. (After all, wouldn't fiberglass be "better?" It would take a better paint job!) What about a substitute of coffee and donuts for unleavened bread and fruit of the vine in the Lord's supper... that would be more modern and perhaps more socially acceptable!



Four arguments are put forward in support of instrumental music. Firstly, they had it in the Old Testament. No one can deny the fact that musical instruments were used in the Old Testament (see II Chronicles 29:25). A proper understanding of the dispensations (which we have previously studied) answers this quibble. Using Paul's argument in Galatians 5:3 (on circumcision) that bringing forward into the New Testament a piece of the Old Testament, makes us a debtor to the whole law (animal sacrifices, etc.) He goes on in verse 4 to say that this will cause you to fall from grace.

A little clearer picture of "why" it wasn't included can be obtained by a little thought on the nature of the Old Law. Everything in the Old Testament was a symbol of something in the New Testament. The animal sacrifices in various ways looked forward to Christ. The physical looked to the spiritual. Incense in the Old Testament is one of those clearly understood symbols. In Revelation 8:3 and 4 we learn what the incense offered under the Old Testament represented... the prayers of the saints.

It is a "safe" conclusion then that the instruments under the Old Law looked forward to the "melody of the heart" of the New. The

physical instruments, it is clear, are contrary to the very nature of the New Testament.

A second attempt to justify the very popular tradition of instrumental music in the worship of the saints is from the Greek word PSALLO. Generally we can assume if the argument is too sophisticated Jesus wouldn't have made it because he spoke to the common people.

But here goes... Their argument is that the word (translated with only one exception in the New Testament as "to sing") means to sing with an instrument. Our answer to this argument is two-fold. The primary answer is the origin of the word. It originally meant to pluck your hair. With time it came to mean to pluck or strum on a harp. The word progressed to the point that in David and Solomon's time, it meant either to sing (period!) or to strum (pluck). Today it means purely to sing.

That's all well and good you say... How can I know who's right? My answer is to go back to the Bible! The Bible is quite complete and would not allow a false doctrine to "make it all the way through" without defeat.

Turn back to Ephesians 5:19. The passage uses two Greek words. ADO (singing) and PSALLO (making melody, or strumming). The word PSALLO is much like BAPTIZO (baptize) in that it denotes a pure action. Baptize means merely to immerse. The word doesn't tell us what to immerse into. We have to look further for this information (normally the context). PSALLO means to strum or sing. The definition "to sing" comes from strumming the vocal chords. It evolved to mean singing with accompaniment.

Notice this passage (Ephesians 5:19) Paul states specifically the accompaniment of the New Testament singing! Literally ***strumming the heart***. Just as we know baptism in the New Testament doesn't mean baptism in blood, but water, we also know singing with the accompaniment of the heart is what PSALLO means in the New Testament. Let's go a step further and, for argument's sake, say that PSALLO does mean singing with instrumental accompaniment. Then such passages as James 5:13 would be violated (it's translated merely sing, not sing with an instrument) when a Christian went down the road singing praises to God! It would be like bringing half of the required tithe under the Old Testament! What this shows is that arguing from the language proves too much and shows the whole

argument to be faulty, regardless of how many PhD's the person making the argument has!!

A third argument is... "But God didn't say that we couldn't"! Let's remember again the very clear example made of Noah. God did not say Noah couldn't use pine and fiberglass. **A proper respect for God's will and the authority of God** leads Noah to do what God said... not to go helter-skelter into things God didn't specifically condemn.

Let's go a step further, however, in this consideration. God has told us to put our desires aside in order to serve Him. Jesus in his discussion with the Samaritan woman at the well, told her that "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24). In a prayer to His father, He also said, "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth" (John 17:17). Thus far we see that in order to worship God, we have to do it "in truth" and that this truth is from "thy word." We either find where God has ordained it, or we are condemned by it! Can you find this practice among Christians in scripture? (I certainly cannot!)

The last argument in support of instrumental music that some resort to, is "**My preacher says it's OK,**" or "**you guys are the only ones around that believe this way.**" This is an argument that shouldn't be needed if we are practicing what we preach (I live by the Bible), but let's consider this approach anyway.

The fact of the matter is, that historically, organs and instruments of music in general have caused a great deal of controversy. **Virtually every time the instrument has been added into a denomination, it has been after a bitter fight. This fight, as recently as 100 years ago, was still going strong!**

The first organs were apparently introduced into the Roman Catholic Churches sometime between 600 and 700 AD. The Greek Orthodox (Eastern church) has not allowed them in to this day!

Hear the words of the various **founders** of the denominations on this very subject:

John Calvin (founder of the Presbyterian church) "Musical instruments in celebrating praises to God would be no more suitable



than the burning of incense, the lighting of lamps, the restoration of the other shadows of the Law. The Papists, therefore have foolishly borrowed this, as well as many other things, from the Jews." (Calvin's Commentary on Psalm 33)

John Wesley, the reputed founder of the Methodist church is quoted by Adam Clarke to have said, "I have no objection to instruments of music in our chapels, provided they are neither heard nor seen." (Clarke's Commentary, Vol. 14 p. 686)

Martin Luther, founder of the Lutheran Church, called the organ "an ensign of Baal" (flag of one of the idols the Canaanites worshipped) (McClintocks Strong's Encyclopedia, Music, Vol. 6 p. 762)

The very founders of these large denominations recognized instrumental music for what it is... an addition of the Catholic Church for the purpose of catering to the carnal side of men.

Erasmus, a Roman Catholic of the 16th century, admitted this very thing. "We have brought into our churches, a certain operose and theatrical music... the church rings with the noise of trumpets, pipes and dulcimers; and human voices strive to bear their part with them. Men run to the church as to a theater, to have their ears tickled." He was commenting on I Corinthians 14:19. "However, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.." Who was Erasmus? He is the scholar that assembled the Greek manuscripts that were the basis of the King James translation of the Bible!

The earliest reference we have to instrumental music in the churches is by Justin Martyr (in 139 AD). "Plain singing is not childish, but only the singing with lifeless organs, with dancing and cymbals, etc. Whence the use of such instruments and other things fit for children are laid aside, and plain singing only retained." He is only explaining it did not exist! On what authority does it exist in the churches today, if the New Testament Christians of the first and second centuries didn't have them? Pure and simple carnality!



Charles Spurgeon (one of the greatest Baptist preachers that ever lived, who preached to 10,000 persons every Sunday in the Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle, London, England), refused to allow instrumental music wherever he preached. When asked the reason, he said "I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also! I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the understanding also." (I Corinthians 14:15) He then went on to add, "I would as soon pray to God with machinery as to sing to God with machinery! (ibid)

He obviously hit the nail right square on the head. Instruments of music **have no place in the worship** to God! Just because carnality has overrun the denominational world, does not mean that we have to be a part of it! The Lord's church still offers "pure" worship to God. We offer a worship not tainted with carnality. Which is it for you? Carnality or Christianity? As we continue building the church of the New Testament, we see just how narrow the "truth" of God really is. (Matthew 7:14)

1) The traditions of men have the effect of destroying our worship to God. True / False

2) According to Jesus, what are the two possible sources of authority for each and every act in religion? Matthew 21:23-26 \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ What caused this issue to come up? Vs 12-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) Which of the two possible sources of authority for instrumental music (in our worship to God) applies? \_\_\_\_\_

4) Who has an obligation to justify any religious practice that is being participated in? (I Peter 3:15) \_\_\_\_\_

5) A) Give a brief parallel between the effect of Noah using fiberglass and plywood, and our using instrumental music today.  
\_\_\_\_\_

B) Note I Peter 4:11 When you explain (why you participate in) a religious practice today, from where is your answer to come?  
\_\_\_\_\_

6) What kind of music has God specifically told us to use in our worship to Him? \_\_\_\_\_ and to use what accompaniment? \_\_\_\_\_

7) Explain why the fact that instrumental music was used in the Old Testament has no bearing on us today. \_\_\_\_\_

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8) Why is the nature of the New covenant foreign to instrumental music? \_\_\_\_\_



9) What other Old Testament shadow could we compare instrumental music to? \_\_\_\_\_

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10) What religious leader quoted in this lesson, made the same comparison? \_\_\_\_\_

11) What Greek word is often used in an attempt to justify instrumental music? \_\_\_\_\_

12) What was the original meaning of PSALLO? \_\_\_\_\_

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13) How is it like BAPTIZO? \_\_\_\_\_

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14) The only time in the New Testament it is used to designate an accompaniment, what accompaniment is designated? \_\_\_\_\_

B) what passage? \_\_\_\_\_

15) To go further would be to \_\_\_\_\_

16) How would we violate James 5:13 if the word meant “to sing with an accompaniment,” rather than either to sing or accompany (make melody)? \_\_\_\_\_

17) How does the example of Noah answer the question of "but God didn't say we couldn't ? \_\_\_\_\_

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18) How does John 4:24 & 17:17 relate to this study? \_\_\_\_\_

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19) Who introduced the first organ into worship? \_\_\_\_\_

20) When were they introduced? \_\_\_\_\_

21) In what three denominations did the very founders denounce instrumental music? \_\_\_\_\_

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22) Of what religious affiliation was Erasmus? \_\_\_\_\_

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23) A) By whom and when was the earliest reference to instrumental music in the church? \_\_\_\_\_

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B) What was he explaining?



24) What passage did Charles Spurgeon quote to show the carnality of instrumental music?

What was his religious affiliation? \_\_\_\_\_

25) In I Corinthians 14:7 Paul refers to instruments of music as what kind of things \_\_\_\_\_ making sounds?

26) Make a comparison between substituting coffee and donuts for the Lord's supper and instrumental music for singing. Explain why there is no way to claim to be a Christian and still worship where these practices go on. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



We, Christians, make use only of one organ or instrument, even the peaceful Word, with which we honor God; no longer with the old psaltery, trumpet, drum, cymbal, or pipe."

**Clement of Alexandria—A. D. 190**

I believe that after an honest study of this matter, you can see the arguments are not just something from a "narrow-minded church of Christ preacher" but a very real and important Bible principle. Let's "go back" to the kind of Christianity we read about in the Bible, not the newspaper!



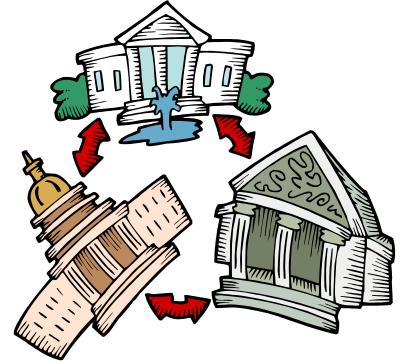
Jerry Blount  
4/81 revised 6/05

## Learn Your Bible

### Lesson #11

## THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH

Few realize that the organization of the church can be discerned from the Bible. We don't need to be named after a specific method of government (Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregationalist) because the Bible gives us one example. When we say "Christian" in its biblical sense, we identify ourselves. Our purpose in this lesson will be to construct the government of the church.



## THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

One of our first questions is going to be, "who's the boss?" Every organization, country, etc. has to have someone in charge. That "someone" in the church, is Jesus Christ. "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." (Matthew 28:18). "And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." Ephesians 1:22,23 "He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything." (Colossians 1:18).



That Jesus alone is given the headship or preeminence of the church is very clearly shown. To call someone else by the title, "Your Eminence," is to deny the preeminence of Jesus Christ. To have a government or a system different from the revealed will of God (the New Testament example) is to deny that Jesus has "all authority:" in the realm of

religion. The only authority for adding someone or something to the government of the Church (i.e. the Pope, Missouri Synod, Diocese, Southern Baptist Convention, etc.) is of man.

The first thing that comes to mind after thinking along these lines is that "this sounds like a monarchy or some form of

authoritarian government." The answer is, of course, correct! "He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords," (I Timothy 6:15). While Jesus is a loving God, we must never forget that to go beyond what He has decreed in His new covenant is to usurp His authority, to rebel against his kingship! The government of the church then, is revealed through the completed Word. If we'll be governed by it, then we are his subjects.

## THE EARTHLY ORGANIZATION OF HIS CHURCH

There is of course, no earthly head. The head is Jesus Christ in heaven. Another thing that becomes clear with only a light reading of the New Testament is that the congregations were autonomous. Each congregation is separate from any other. When Jesus came back for a final admonition to the churches, (Rev 2 & 3) He did not address the "Diocese of Asia," but addressed each congregation individually.



There are three offices, as such, within each congregation. These are the "Elders" (Pastor, or overseer), "Deacons", and "Evangelist", (or preacher). The three positions are clearly distinguishable and must not be confused, as the denominations have confused preacher and pastor. A preacher can also be a pastor (see I Peter 5:1) if qualified.

The office of Elder is appointed the job of overseeing the affairs of each congregation. There are three titles or descriptions given for the same office. These come from three different Greek terms. The first is "Presbuteros," translated Presbyter, or Elder. It refers to one advanced in life, an older person. The word itself was used of men around the age of 50. We can see then, from the label alone, this is no job for a young man. This label has the man himself in mind, as our first name (for example John) has us in mind.

The second Greek term is that of "Episkopos," translated "Bishop" or "Overseer". It refers to a Superintendent. The one in charge of seeing things are done properly. This label has the office of the man in mind, like the term husband or father would.

The third Greek term is that of "Poimen," translated "feed, pastor or shepherd." It refers to the actions of the person, specifically the function, the Bishop (or Overseer) is given to perform.

With the three terms in mind, it becomes easy to understand their meaning when seen in use. Paul called the **Elders** of the church before him (Acts 20:17). In his farewell address to them, he said, "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to **shepherd** the church of God which He purchased with His own blood." Acts 20:28).

It is obvious that the Elder was to oversee and to feed the church. Another translation might have the Presbyter, bishoping and pastoring the church. Different translations may be a little confusing, but if the three Greek terms are kept in mind, it helps.

Peter also helps to clarify this issue, "Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as {your} fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to {the will of} God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;" (I Peter 5:1,2).

Note that Peter gave them charge to "feed the flock," Moffatt's translation renders it, "be shepherds to your flock of God." They are told to shepherd or pastor the flock. The modern denominations have altered the word of God when a preacher is the pastor! The Elders are the Pastors.

A Deacon is one of those "less clear" roles in the New Testament. Most of our knowledge of the role of a Deacon comes from the title itself. The word means "a servant." Apparently the deacon is an office of servant under the elders. In Acts chapter 6 the apostles told a congregation to choose out seven men to serve tables in order that the apostles were free for spiritual things. Most agree this was an early example for the role of a deacon, though this is before deacons as such were instituted. The only conclusion to be drawn is that the deacons (as the seven in Acts 6 served under the apostles) serve under the Elders.

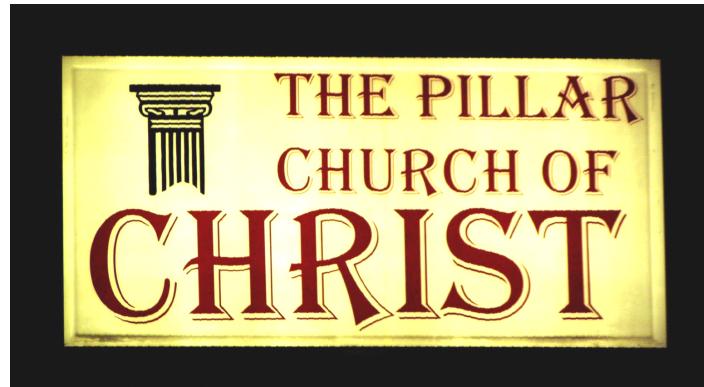


The Evangelist is the last of the offices in the church. He is somewhat separate from the congregation. His primary role is to teach, whether from a pulpit, a street corner, or a kitchen table. Paul told the evangelist Timothy, "Pay close attention to yourself and to

your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you. (I Timothy 4:16). "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." (II Timothy 2:2).

Whether as a traveling preacher (the normal for Timothy) or a located preacher (Phillip), the preacher's job is to teach and preach. "preach the word; be ready in season {and} out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction." II Timothy 4:2. He is also given the responsibility of appointing elders (Acts 14:23).

He has the job of visiting the sick, but no more than any other Christian. He is not anymore a marriage counselor than any other Christian. (These roles are that of an elder.) This is an often abused concept, the preacher is not a "hired Christian!" He is not the clergy, but is a brother to each in the congregation. He is no more a priest than the other members of the congregation. All are priests under the Christian dispensation (I Peter 2:5, Rev 1:6). Our High Priest is in heaven, so is our Father, or "Reverend"!



The scriptures contain no central organization for the church, no Pope, Synod, Southern Baptist convention, big Bishops, little Bishops, little Priests, big Priests, committees, no democratic procedure, superintendent of Sunday School, Youth Director, etc. Where God has not given us authority, **we dare not go!!**

- 1) What form of government does the church have? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Who is the boss? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) How does He rule? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) His word is inspired, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
(see also Jude 3)

5) What is the effect of altering the government of the church in any way? \_\_\_\_\_

See also I Corinthians 4:6, Matthew 15:9, Matthew 28:18

6) Who is the earthly head of the “entire” church? \_\_\_\_\_  
What scripture would justify an earthly head? \_\_\_\_\_

7) Many want to place Peter as Head using Matthew 16:19.  
However, Matthew 18:18 gives the same authority to all apostles.  
Read II Corinthians 11:5 and 12:11 and Galatians 2:5-14. If any one person, who could be argued to be the most authoritative of the apostles? \_\_\_\_\_ The word of God in Matthew 18:18 shows all apostles to be what? \_\_\_\_\_

8) The congregations in the New Testament a) had a central government or b) were autonomous. (circle one)



9) What authority is used for any organization larger than the congregation?  
(see Matthew 15:9) \_\_\_\_\_

10) When Jesus came to give his final admonition to the churches, He addressed the a) Diocese of Asia b) Synod of Asia c) Mid-eastern Baptist Convention d) each congregation individually.

11) Three terms are used to describe the office of elder (in Greek)  
What are they, and please explain  
each: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12) What is another way to say "feed, or  
"shepherd" the flock? \_\_\_\_\_



13) Who are the Pastors? \_\_\_\_\_ To who do most denominations give this job to (in defiance of the scriptures)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

14) What two passages discussed, show all three terms (in question 11) to refer to the same office? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

15) Many want an elder (bishop, etc) to be over several congregations. Read I Peter 5:2. Over which flock do they have authority? \_\_\_\_\_

16) The Deacon is to be a servant. What example apparently should be used for their office's role? Acts 6:1-6 \_\_\_\_\_

17) The qualifications of Elder and Deacon are listed in I Timothy 3:1-14. Can an elder be a woman? (note: verses 2, 4, 5 and compare to 2:11,12) \_\_\_\_\_ Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

18) The Evangelist can be either a "traveling" or "located" preacher. Give an example of each \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

19) What is the job of the Evangelist? (II Timothy 2:2, 4:2, Acts 14:23) \_\_\_\_\_

20) Read Matthew 23:8-10 and relate this to the practice of calling a preacher "Reverend" or "Father" \_\_\_\_\_

21) Read Psalms 111:9 This is the **only** place in the Bible that the term "Reverend" is used. (King James Version) "Awesome" is used in the NAS version. Who **alone** has the right to it? \_\_\_\_\_

22) Read I Peter 2:5, Revelations 1:6 Is there any justification for calling a preacher a priest? \_\_\_\_\_  
Who are the priests? \_\_\_\_\_

23) Read John 3:25-31 A) What caused this discussion to come up?

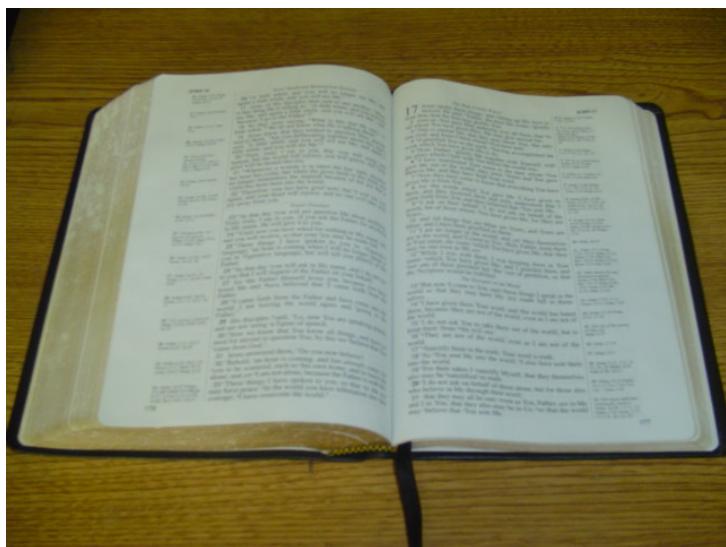
Vs 26 \_\_\_\_\_

B) What likely motivated John's disciples? \_\_\_\_\_

C) What is John's attitude toward his lot in God's kingdom? Vs 27

D) How is this relevant to our study and God's description of how He wants His church to be governed by Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

E) What attitude should we have as we seek to grow in God's kingdom? Vs 30-31 \_\_\_\_\_



Let us be content to abide in the word of God.  
"So faith {comes} from hearing, and hearing *by the word of Christ.*" Romans 10:17

"Test yourselves {to see} if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!"  
II Corinthians 13:5.

Jerry Blount 5/80

revised 6/05

## **Learn Your Bible**

### **Lesson #12**

We have journeyed through the scriptures noting both the comfortable and the uncomfortable subjects indiscriminately. We have seen the followers of God at their best and at their worst.

The obvious intent of studying the scriptures is to learn the ways of God and better our lives by application of this knowledge.

How may we answer the questions of life and godliness that may come up in the future? The times and seasons do change, as do the fine points of the questions before each generation. I note the “fine points” because the underlying basic questions remain the same.

We live in a time that society as a whole is paying the price for experimenting with, (rejecting) the laws of God. Often the results are interlocking. For example... it is illegal to teach that God created the world. Our children are taught in the schools that they are in the image of an ape. The result? A generation has arisen that believes they are animals, and therefore they act like it! Discipline is also out of style (lesson 13). We became lax in locking up the criminals... therefore it wasn't long before we were unable to build prisons fast enough for the ones we (suddenly) recognized needed to be locked up.

Many churches have lost faith in the appeal of gospel (salvation from sin). Now many promote their childcare above their worship. Their extensive social activities for all ages are promoted far and above any indication they may (or may not) have in the way of Bible study.

The church has been torn by a group of people deciding to go beyond scripture... If God didn't forbid them outright to do something they charge full steam ahead! Some will soon be having sermons picturing Jesus hanging on the cross and dying for the sake of our children. That sounds great doesn't it? Jesus crucified to establish free childcare and a Church of Christ ball team!

No, this is NOT good... This behavior undermines the seriousness of sin and the incredible price paid to establish the church. Today conservative Christianity is ridiculed on all fronts... That's ok, “if God is for us who can be against us?”

Note the incident below. David came up with a good idea in the service of God. He wanted to build the temple. God asks David the questions we also should ask. These are questions David didn't ask.

Let's see... Should the church have a drinking fountain, a parking lot, a choir, instrumental music, a central organization, a pope, head elder, women preachers or elders, baseball team, garage sale, fund-raiser, schools, day care, operate like a bank, business... the list goes on and on. A local Christian church recently had a carnival! Pick any subject and make the choice... you can answer with tradition ~we've always done it, ~what you want, or ~what God wants.

The Episcopalians have decided to have homosexual priests because it's what they want. Can we say anything if we make our decisions in the same way (albeit on a smaller scale)? Do you have the courage to ask God's questions? It's somewhat difficult to take issue with the list of questions below... if you believe that the Bible is the word of God.

Let's ask the questions God asked... and see if we have the courage to implement the answers before our great grandkids ordain homosexual elders in the Church of Christ!

## 2 Samuel 7

**1. Now it came about when the king lived in his house, and the LORD had given him rest on every side from all his enemies,**  
Note, this has always been the time of greatest danger for the people of God... during times of rest, with no defined enemy. That's when we have always had the big ideas and better ways to serve God.

**2. that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells within tent curtains."**  
This really is a good idea, and sound reasoning isn't it? How can David keep a straight face and dwell in a house of cedar? How is it a good thing that God doesn't have the same things going for Him that the people of the world have?

**3. Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your mind, for the LORD is with you."**

This is not a question of the godliness of the men involved. Two godly men have evaluated this "good idea" and it sounds great! Sound familiar? This is how the church got a ball team! This is how we got an organ! And if we keep on, it is how we'll embrace homosexuals... right now it's offensive but if we keep on "not judging" what God has judged... we'll soon arrive!

**4. But in the same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying,**

The crucial mistake here is that both men forgot to ask God for His judgment before they decided this was a good idea! Did your church

ask God before they built a kitchen? (I Corinthians 11:22 “What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.”) God has given His opinion! He has also given his opinion on women preachers, and elders (I Timothy 2:12. But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.)

**5. "Go and say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD, "Are you the one who should build Me a house to dwell in?**

When did we decide the church shouldn't ask this question? God obviously wants us to ask, “Is this the church’s job?” Should the church have a hospital, ball team, choir, or an “in-house” restaurant? Sometimes the answer is yes... Sometimes no. God demands that we ask!

**6. "For I have not dwelt in a house since the day I brought up the sons of Israel from Egypt, even to this day; but I have been moving about in a tent, even in a tabernacle.**

Note that God is not bothering to ask a question here... He is making a statement to the effect that you have no example. Based on this statement I would note that we should ask the question, **“Do we have an approved example to base our authority on?”** Did the church of the NT set up a central bank... like the Roman Catholics have? Can one congregation hold the deed for (rule over) another congregation?

**7. "Wherever I have gone with all the sons of Israel, did I speak a word with one of the tribes of Israel, which I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?' "**

God is asking question #3. **“Did I ask for this?”** This is obviously the same as asking for a direct command.

Note the implied law of silence kicking in here. We could look further into Hebrews 7 for this to be spelled out. When God asks question #3 and the answer is “no...” doesn’t it mean something? Doesn’t it mean we should “leave it alone?”

**8. "Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel.**

**9. "I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth.**

**10. "I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly,**

God is kind here. He loves David but the point is none the less clear... Be happy with the lot in life that God gave you. The church is not the government! It is not the world's welfare agency. It is not the family ("church must not be burdened, so that it may... I Timothy 5:16). Note that God is asking the same things anti's ask. This refusal to ask and answer God's questions... has allowed the churches to go in directions that have to be appalling to God. For example... entertainment, carnivals etc!

**11. even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you.**

David, you have been walking on God's turf... God wants to make a house for you, not you make a house for God. This reminds me of the apostle Paul's comment (For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ. I Corinthians 2:16) We find ourselves trying to lead (or teach) God rather than the other way around.

**12. "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.**

**13. "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.**

**14. "I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men,**

This is perhaps the most important reference for us in our day and time. God does want the temple built. It is a good work. These two godly men are right about seeing the need for the work. God just wants someone other than them to do it. God is God! God has the right to make His decisions. Can we learn to be content with God's decisions? Can we learn to allow Him to lead? It is this question that led to all the division in the kingdom. It is the answer that we give to this question that has caused people to blindly follow along generation after generation, each moving further and further from the truth! If it

is someone else's job other than the church, who are we to question? Not every job belongs to the church!

**15. but My loving kindness shall not depart from him, as I took {it} away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.**

**16. "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."'"**

**17. In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.**

Tragically gone are the days when men of God open their Bibles to answer **ALL these questions**. This principle is in fact how we find ourselves refusing to speak where God has spoken... Because we have refused to observe His silence where He was silent!

**18. Then David the king went in and sat before the LORD, and he said, "Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that You have brought me this far? (Indeed! Who am I? Or who are you? If God speaks, or doesn't!)**

**19. "And yet this was insignificant in Your eyes, O Lord GOD, for You have spoken also of the house of Your servant concerning the distant future. And this is the custom of man, O Lord GOD.**

**20. "Again what more can David say to You? (Amen! What more can we say?) For You know Your servant, O Lord GOD!**

**21. "For the sake of Your word, and according to Your own heart, You have done all this greatness to let Your servant know.**

God has  
let us  
know!



The critical question is whether we will listen. You can find the same principles of authority in Acts 15, although they are not spelled out as clearly. This observation is important because we live under the New Testament. The underlying principles of authority in the service of another (God in this case) are timeless, however.

Good ideas (regardless of who comes up with them) must be questioned on a logical basis. 2) Are you (the church etc) "the one for this job (the one who should)? 3) Did the NT church do this (example) 4) Did God ask for it (speak a word)? 5) If the answer is no... be satisfied with what He has said! 6) God may want a good

work done... by someone else (a bank for example). 7) When God has made His decision what more can we say... but thank God for letting us know!

“Come and eat our chicken in the fellowship hall” rather than “as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby” (I Peter 2:2).

It is easy to throw rocks. We must avoid living in a glass house. “You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?” (Romans 2:21) Looking to the future, let’s make an incident from our past our focal point for this study. Please Read II Samuel 7 & I Chronicles 17:1-18.

- 1) Today no one is openly persecuting Christians (in this part of the world). Read II Samuel 7:1 How is this similar to our story?

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- 2) What particular dangers do wealth and peace hold? I Chronicles 17:1

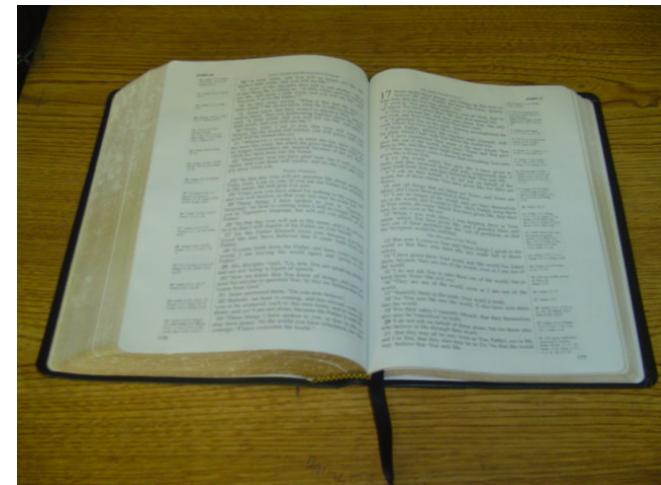
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- 3) Were David and Nathan both godly men? \_\_\_\_\_ Were they seeking to do “great things” for God?

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- 4) What “new thing” did they think needed done?

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- 5) What does God actually **want** of us? Rom 12:1,2 \_\_\_\_\_

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- 6) What did God say to them? I Chronicles 17:3-6 \_\_\_\_\_

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7) When dealing with the future questions of life, is it appropriate to ask “did God say we can’t?” \_\_\_\_\_ Is it just as appropriate to ask “did God say we should?” \_\_\_\_\_ Did David ask whether HE should? \_\_\_\_\_

8) Is there a difference between the questions of “Can we” and “Should we”? \_\_\_\_\_

9a) Previous to David and Nathan deciding to build the temple had God forbidden anyone to build a temple for Him? \_\_\_\_\_

9b) When did God say they couldn’t build the temple?  
\_\_\_\_\_

10) When will our next revelation from God come? Jude 3, Revelation 20:11-15 , Revelation 22:18-19  
b) Can we afford to wait until then to find out if God approves of our actions and innovations? \_\_\_\_\_

11) What question does God himself ask of David & Nathan? see I Chronicles 17:6, II Samuel 7:7  
\_\_\_\_\_

12) What New Testament promise is made to us? II Timothy 3:16,17  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) Key in on the comment about scripture completely furnishing us. If we want to establish a “Church of Christ” daycare, where should we be able to find the instructions?  
\_\_\_\_\_

c) If those instructions are not found in scripture and we believe this is the work of the church and proceed anyway... What are we saying about Paul’s promise?  
\_\_\_\_\_



13) According to Jesus, (in the judgment) What will be the failure of the majority of those claiming the name of Christ? Matthew 7:21-29  
\_\_\_\_\_

14) Did God want the temple to be built? I Chronicles 17:11-14

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15) Does God care about when things are done? Galatians 4:4

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16) Does when it is done, affect whether God approves of it? Acts 19:1-5

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17) Does God care about who does a thing?

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18) Is it appropriate to first ask if a thing needs to be done, then to ask who should do it?

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19) In addition to being godly men & knowledgeable men, David and Nathan were also both \_\_\_\_\_.

20) What was their one failure in considering this matter?

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Each generation must ask and answer the question of how may I best serve God and find the abundant life offered by Jesus Christ John 10:10. “If a man love me, he **will** keep my words and my Father will love him and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”

John 14:23 “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in His love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, that your joy might be full.” (John 15:10-11).



As we come to grips with all the unknowns that might arise we will do well to rely on Jesus' promise and warning "I am the way the truth and the life. No one cometh to the Father but by me." John 14:6

What is the will of God for you? In this life... "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter; fear God, and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work unto judgment with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil." Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Jerry Blount 9/99 Revised 08/04

## Learn Your Bible

### Lesson #13

In New Testament times as well as modern times, the churches of Christ have had to "fight off" the liberalizing trends of the world. Paul said, "Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Rom 12:2) We have to keep the lessons of the past before us or we will become a denomination. Since the beginning of New Testament times the church has been falling into apostasy, returning, and falling again.

Man comes up with a "good idea" and replaces God's will with it. Notice Paul had this in mind when he gave the command to be transformed. "For I say through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think." (Rom 12:3) "O the depth of the riches both of wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways are past finding out." (Rom 11:33) The bottom line is that we cannot second-guess God. When we are shown how to do a thing, whom to do it with, and for whom it is intended, we **must** respect it.

In recent years men have begun to involve the church in a great many things Christ didn't charge it with. This is dangerous because time and money are diverted from the work of the church to the work of the world.

**When will we quit repeating history's mistakes?**

**Other kingdoms have fallen...**

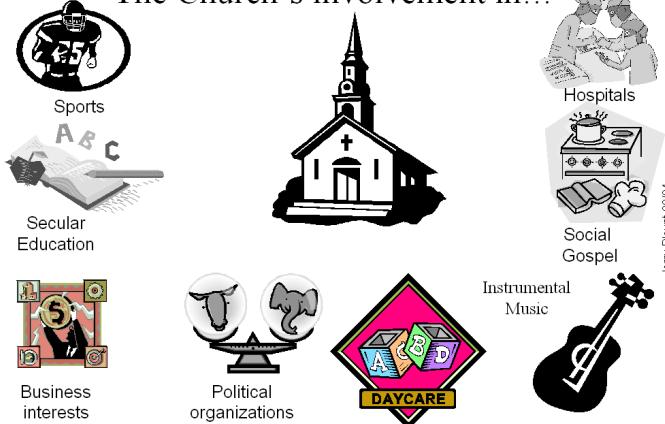


**Can you find "your" church's activities and/or organizations in scripture? If not who is the head of your church? Do You believe Jesus is the head of His church? Whom... do you follow?**

Once this trend is started we lose the ability to stop it. We've given up the laws that stop it. Put more simply, if we rationalize away the boundaries set up by scripture, we no longer can condemn someone else that goes a little further than we already have gone. Jesus recognized this principle in the

Where will it all end?

The Church's involvement in...



Sermon on the mount. "Judge not that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged, and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured unto you again." Matthew 7:1-2 In the church of Christ we cry out against the denominational trends and plead: "Back to the Bible." Many of the congregations have lost the right to make this plea as they have crossed this line, perhaps slowly at first, but then rapidly going further and further. "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye?"

You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." (Matthew 7:3-5) This also brings to mind the words of Paul, "and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth, you,

Did Jesus die for this?



therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not \_\_\_\_\_ do you \_\_\_\_\_?"  
(Romans 2:19-21)

Around 100 years ago the churches of Christ had a major split over instrumental music, and missionary societies. The missionary society was an attempt to activate the church universal to preach when the local congregation is given the responsibility. Being raised on the liberal side of this split (in the Christian Church) I have, in the past, defended what I now despise. I have seen an incompetent eldership lead to women elders, a woman preacher, belittling of God's laws of marriage and divorce and finally the preacher told a teenage class he didn't see all that much wrong with fornication as long as it was "done in love."

We may say "how can this happen?" Historically, we can now follow the paths of the Christian church and churches of Christ. It starts small and ends big.

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**Religious authority that ORIGINATES with men is CONDEMNED by Christ. "BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN."**  
**Matthew 15:9**

Simple, yet plain scriptures like "What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God..." (I Corinthians 11:22) are rationalized away or worse yet, just ignored!

One of these steps is to disregard the more complex laws of scripture, such as the scriptural methods or patterns. It is easier to mock these since many if not most Christians are too lazy to study them out. A good example is the orphan home with a sponsoring church arrangement, now common in the more liberal churches of

## **Missionary and Benevolent Societies**

- 1) Not the church
- 2) Claim to do the work of the church
- 3) Claim to be more efficient
- 4) Have their own payroll
- 5) Have their own treasury
- 6) Constitution bylaws, etc. (not scripture)
- 7) Makes its own contracts
- 8) Universal ie. not local in function.
- 9) Without scriptural command, example or, necessary inference.



**What's different... Except the name?**

Christ! Normally the only real defense that is offered for these arrangements is, "you just can't dump an orphan on the street" or "it's a good work to care for the orphans." This is the same thing I used to say about the missionary society, "you can't leave the ignorant on the street, and it's a good work to preach the gospel."

Notice how the emotional appeals are necessary because (note #9 on chart) they have no scriptural basis whatsoever. Peter or Paul had nothing to do with anything remotely related to this. In fact, it violates some of those blatant teachings as we shall see.

Virtually every apostasy which we face today has the defense that we have no “binding pattern.” Many will admit that a pattern exists, but deny that it binds. Look down through the chart and see where this attitude has led. It really doesn’t matter where we turn, someone is wanting to change scripture!

# Man's rejection of Bible Patterns Old Testament

|                                                                                                            |                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Golden Calf (Aaron's)                                                                                      | Moses' Leadership          |
| Golden calves (Jeroboam's)                                                                                 | Temple worship @ Jerusalem |
| See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. Hebrews 8:5 |                            |

## Heresy



Sprinkling Baptism  
Priest only Lord's supper  
Lord's supper monthly  
Denominational headquarters  
Instrumental Music  
Sponsoring Church  
Benevolent societies  
Reject inspiration

## Moses' Leadership

## Temple worship @ Jerusalem

See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. Hebrews 8:5

Defense

## No binding pattern for ...

- Baptism
- Lord's supper
- Lord's supper
- Universal work of the church
- Worship
- Church cooperation/ organization/behavior
- Church cooperation/ organization/behavior
- Salvation

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.                   Isaiah 55:8



Where did God tell us to take on responsibility as a congregation for anyone other than saints? In James 1:27 the individual is told to visit the father-less and widows. Look at I Timothy 5 and see the very stringent qualifications before the church would consent to take on the responsibility for a widow. This is a far cry from the present day practice of one church being a "sponsoring church", setting up a human institution to care for orphans, scouring the countryside for

orphans, then telling the brotherhood to send them the money that is designated in scripture as "for saints."

Notice how God has specified "whom" the church is responsible for. No one denies the need for orphans to be cared for. No one denies that Christians (James 1:27) are responsible to help. But the benevolent work of the church is specified as being administered to saints.

### The Bible Pattern

|                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Acts 11:29          | Sent relief unto brethren    |
| Romans 15:25        | Minister unto saints         |
| Romans 15:26        | Contribution for poor saints |
| I Corinthians 16:1  | Collection for the saints    |
| II Corinthians 8:4  | Ministering to saints        |
| II Corinthians 9:1  | Ministering to saints        |
| II Corinthians 9:12 | Want of the saints           |

**If this example is of no consequence...**

Why does the Bible say more about this than the Lord's supper?

Notice that "saints only" and "faith only" are radically different. We can shoot down the false pattern of "faith only" over and over again. But where is the exception to the rule of the church helping saints? Emotionally this seems harsh, but in a day and time when the practice in (Corinth) Greece wasn't to abort unwanted children, but simply to lay them along the road to freeze to death... the church did nothing! They had the means to help saints... but they couldn't feed the world. Jesus said, "For you always have the poor with you," Mark 14:7.

Today the funds and attentions of the church have been diverted by Satan himself. The church is fully capable to do anything it has the responsibility to do. When benevolence was practiced by the church, it didn't set up and fund a human institution to accomplish its' work. It was its own benevolent organization. Not only is the "who" of responsibility specified, but the "who" of administration is also specified. The church has been equipped thoroughly by the gifts of Jesus Christ to do its work. It needs no outside organization to do its own work. The church resides in the perfect will of God. Through it we see the wisdom of God. How do we see the wisdom of God when man substitutes his own wisdom for God's?

## Destroying False Patterns

| Faith only         |                | Saints only             |          |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------|
| Faith              | Other          | Help Saints             | Other    |
| 1. John 3:16       | Matthew 10:32  | 1. Acts 2:44-45         | 1. _____ |
| 2. John 20:31      | Luke 13:2-3    | 2. Acts 4:34-35         | 2. _____ |
| 3. Luke 7:50       | Acts 2:38      | 3. Acts 6:1-6           | 3. _____ |
| 4. Acts 16:31      | Acts 17:30     | 4. Acts 11:27-30        | 4. _____ |
| 5. Romans 5:1      | Romans 6:3-5   | 5. Romans 15:25-26      | 5. _____ |
| 6. Galatians 3:26  | Galatians 3:27 | 6. I Corinthians 16:1-2 | 6. _____ |
| 7. Ephesians 2:2-9 | James 2:24     | 7. II Corinthian 8 & 9  | 7. _____ |
| 8. I John 5:1      | I Peter 3:21   | 8. I Timothy 5:16       |          |

“Faith only” if a false doctrine or pattern... easily demonstrated.

What about “saints only?”

Where is the exception?

Notice how in scripture the church sent directly to the need. Time and again the church sent benevolent gifts to where they were needed. Notice again the vast difference between the practice of scripture and the practices we hear so much about today.

Many times people today will ask why do we fuss so much about this one little practice? The answer, of course, is history. What happened when Adam and Eve changed the one law they did not like? The effects were disastrous. The next generation came on, and one of their children murdered the other... they had gone a step further.

We cannot, must not, forget it took 600 years before someone had the nerve to claim the title of Universal Bishop (Pope). That happened in slow measured steps... and the good people did nothing! We must do Bible things in Bible ways. We must apply the same principles to ourselves first before we apply them to others. "Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. (Romans 2:1). Let this never be truthfully said of us!

## Two patterns in Scripture!

### The Lord's supper Biblical Benevolent org.

Acts 20:6,7                  Passage                  Needy                  Organization

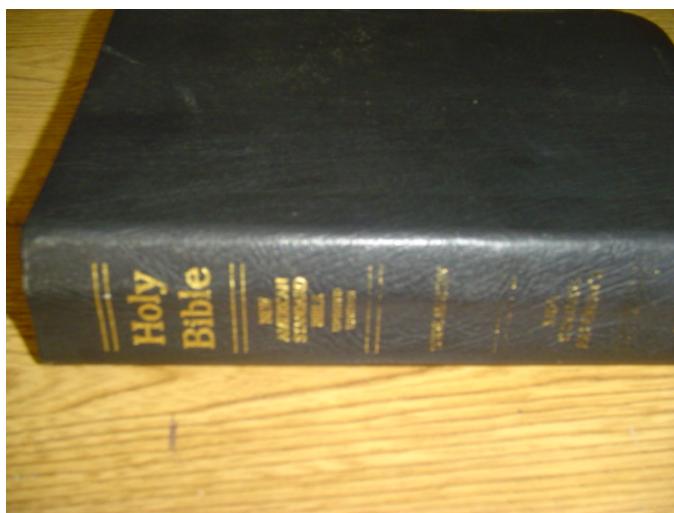
|                                                                      |                                                                        |                                                                            |                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) On the Lord's day                                                 | Acts 2:44-45                                                           | Saints                                                                     | Local church                                                 |
| 2) No other day authorized                                           | Acts 6:1-7                                                             | Widowed saints                                                             | Local church                                                 |
| 3) Every Lord's Day                                                  | Acts 11:27-30                                                          | Judean saints                                                              | Local church                                                 |
| 4) No authority to elevate<br>one L. supper over<br>another (Easter) | Romans 15:25-26<br>II Cor. 16:1-3<br>II Cor. 9:12-13<br>I Timothy 5:16 | Jerusalem saints<br>Jerusalem saints<br>Jerusalem saints<br>Widowed saints | Local Church<br>Local church<br>Local church<br>Local Church |

**Our teaching on the Lord's supper is sound and based Acts 20:6,7.  
How can we defend this teaching if we reject the second better illustrated  
pattern?**

**What/who is the Bible's benevolent Organization?**

Many churches are being shocked by the height of immorality but if they/we rationalize away the authority of scripture what else can we really expect? When we set the gears in motion, we cannot be surprised when we lose the ability to stop them. It is the same kind of

thinking which on one hand rationalizes away the examples of the local church in action that on the other hand rationalizes away fornication, homosexuality, etc. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh (mans' ways, jb) will from the flesh reap



corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit (God's way, jb) will from the Spirit reap eternal life." (Galatians 6:7,8)

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**THE CHURCH CAN OVERSEE ANY WORK GOD HAS AUTHORIZED THE CHURCH TO DO!!!**

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1) Until recent times, the church did not have to worry about liberal attitudes. True / False

2) We should conform to this world's attitudes in order to get along.  
True / False

3) The "church of Christ" cannot be called a denomination because we have a scriptural name and no man made creed. True / False

4) What makes a denomination? I Corinthians 1:10 \_\_\_\_\_

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5) It's a simple matter to second guess God and to know what would please him since we think along the same lines. True / False

6) What passage teaches us on the depth of God's thoughts?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Can we find them out without revelation?  
\_\_\_\_\_

7) If we have overstepped our bounds of authority, how can we stop someone else from going further?  
\_\_\_\_\_

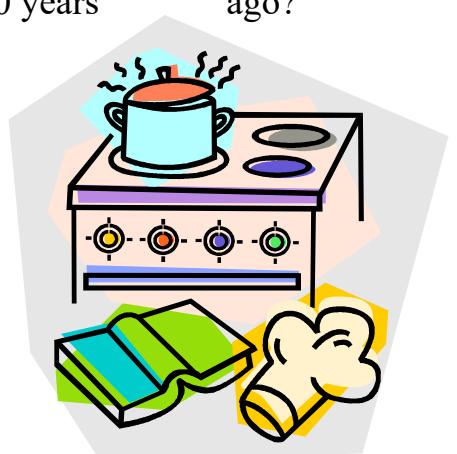
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8) What did Jesus say along these lines?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9) In practice what was the church split over 100 years ago?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
and  
What do you  
think was the underlying reason?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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10) Read I Corinthians 11:22 & 34. What authority do we have for using the Lord's church for a social agency building social kitchens, etc.?  
\_\_\_\_\_



11) Read Obadiah 1: 11. If we go along with something that contradicts Gods Word, what does that make us? Vs  
11\_\_\_\_\_

12) What is the difference between the missionary and benevolent societies? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13) Give five examples of binding patterns which others have rationalized away: 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_  
5) \_\_\_\_\_

14) Read James 1:26,27. Is James addressing the church or individuals? \_\_\_\_\_ Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### READ ACTS 5:1-11 & ANSWER THE FOLLOWING

15) Vs 4 While they owned the land, it was

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16) After it was sold, the money was

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17) Apparently, they designated it as God's and then kept part of it. Once something is His, it is dangerous to misuse it. They lied about it and kept it. What happened next? \_\_\_\_\_

18) In reviewing Peter's rebuke, he assumes there is / is not a distinction between personal and God's funds.

19) The reason no orphanages are mentioned in scripture is because they either didn't have any or practiced abortion so they had no illegitimate births. True / False

20) Who did the church send relief to in Acts 11:29?

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21) Who is the collection for in I Corinthians 16:1? \_\_\_\_\_

22) Can you find anywhere in scripture to show the church's responsibility to be broader than "saints only" in benevolence?

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23) What was the organization set up to do the church's benevolent work? \_\_\_\_\_

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24) When a need arose for outside support it was:

- a) sent to a central hierarchy
- b) sent to a benevolent organization
- c) sent to a sponsoring church
- d) sent directly to the need

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**"The man who is right is the majority of one."**

**THOREAU**

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READ GALATIANS 6:7,8

25) A man reaps what he \_\_\_\_\_. 

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26) Mans ways are called sowing to the \_\_\_\_\_.

27) Gods ways are called sowing to the \_\_\_\_\_.

28) From man's ways we reap \_\_\_\_\_. From Gods ways we reap \_\_\_\_\_.

29) Make a comparison between sowing to the flesh and sinning.

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30) Read Romans 6:21 When we become Christians we are to leave the world's attitudes. Compare to Jeremiah 3:3-5

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31) Read Hosea 8:2, 7, 12 Compare to modern situations: \_\_\_\_\_

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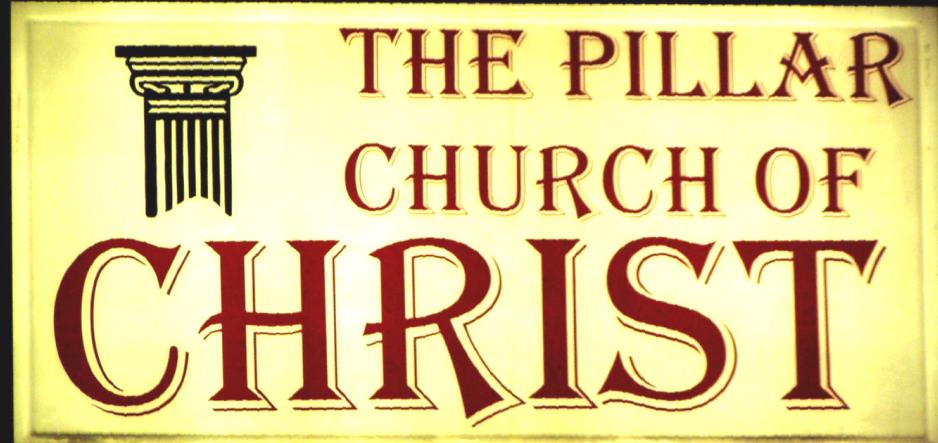
32) Read Isaiah 32:1 Who is Isaiah prophesying of?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Read vs. 5 What was one of the things Jesus wanted us to learn? \_\_\_\_\_

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33) Read Isaiah 30:1,10 and compare to II Timothy 4:3

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## Learn Your Bible

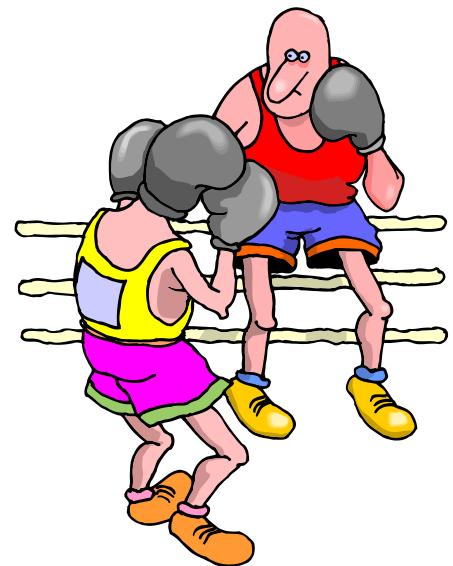
### Lesson 14

This study will be a review from a different perspective on how to arrive at the answer to the question of "Is this what God wants of us?" Did you realize we have an example recorded of when the apostles, elders, and brethren had a dispute...and they had to resolve it?

The manner in which they resolved this disagreement is illuminating. This is one example of Old Testament and New Testament instruction pretty much going hand in hand. It wasn't a brawl... but it did become a textbook lesson on authority!

#### **Review II Samuel 7 and lesson 12 before proceeding.**

The apostles and the early church in general had to deal with the issue of how to blend respect for the OT with the fact that Jesus had come in the flesh. Because Jesus has come, died and put away the Old Law,...we are now under the New Testament.



The authority of Jesus Christ is to be absolutely respected. A pagan centurion displayed his understanding when this man said, **"For I also am a man placed under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it."**

**9. Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled at him, and turned and said to the crowd that was following Him, "I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith." Luke 7:8-9**

My question is, "why should this respect for God and His authority be so rare?" Why was Jesus shocked at the depth of understanding of this man concerning authority? In the Church this mustn't be rare. We are Christians!

Now let's learn from the Apostles in how they dealt with a question of authority and propriety. Read Acts 15:1-32

When we look closely at the method we will see the Apostles using the same three questions God asked of David and Nathan back in II Samuel 7. Do you remember them?

- 1) Is this your job? Does God want you to do this? (Is this your turf, the Church's turf, the government's turf etc.?)
- 2) Do you have an example of this? (Is this what they did?)
- 3) Did I ask for this? (Is there some command of God relevant to the question at hand?)

Notice that as each question comes up... We are not only to ask if a thing needs done, but if we are the one to do it?



**Should the church field an army with guns and bombs and go after the Muslims of the world? NO! Why?**

"Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." John 18:36

In other words this is not the Church's job. That job falls to a different kind of kingdom. We do have an historical example of a pope doing this (the crusades), but we have no example of the church of scripture doing this or anything like it. The pope wasn't acting on any God-given authority. We also have no command for Christians to wield any weapons in our work beyond the sword of the spirit!

- 1) Look closely at Acts 15:1 What was the issue in front of them?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Did they claim to have authority for  
what they were teaching? \_\_\_\_\_ Compare I Timothy 1:1-7 Isn't  
Acts 15:1 a good example of these teachers? \_\_\_\_\_



2) Paul Harvey news reported that some churches are offering communion to parishioner's pets. This would obviously be popular with some. I consider this nonsense but how should we decide whether or not this is actually a good idea? \_\_\_\_\_

3) How was it decided for Paul and Barnabas to handle the situation? Vs.2 \_\_\_\_\_ The apostles decided that dissention was appropriate for this situation. True / False. Since it brings reproach on the church, (and disheartens some of the weaker souls who may witness it), we should sweep doctrinal issues under the rug rather than admit we have them. True / False.

4) Look closely at vs. 6. Did the apostles have an automatic answer to each question as it arose or did they have to practice a similar pursuit of truth as we do? \_\_\_\_\_

5) Look closely at vs. 7 Note they were "disputing" with apostles until they began the process of asking questions... When Peter spoke, note that his first comment is that "God made a choice". Whose "turf" was it to deal with Gentile issues? \_\_\_\_\_

A. Compare this with I Corinthians 16:1-2. Has God "chosen" how to fund the Church of Christ's operation on earth?

If \_\_\_\_\_ common today, didn't come from God... Where did it come from? \_\_\_\_\_



Did He (God) choose garage sales? \_\_\_\_\_  
Did He "choose" a collection on Wednesday? \_\_\_\_\_ Did He "choose" book sales and raffle tickets? \_\_\_\_\_ How about Bingo? \_\_\_\_\_  
Did the apostles ever go out on a so-called "fundraiser"? \_\_\_\_\_  
the authorization to do these things, so

B. Compare this with I Timothy 2:7-15 Note He ordained a preacher, apostle, and a teacher vs. 7 note the contrast of roles from Vs. 10 (the word "**but**"). Did God "choose" different roles for men and women?

\_\_\_\_\_ Men were to preach **BUT** women are to learn in

\_\_\_\_\_? If God chose men as the preachers and yet today some churches choose women to preach anyway... On what basis do we deny the pulpit to practicing Homosexuals?

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C. Compare this with I Corinthians 1:27-29 Has God purposely “chosen” a direction that He knew would confound many?

\_\_\_\_\_ Why did He make this choice? \_\_\_\_\_

Please note this directly relates to how He would choose to save men.

Compare this to I Corinthians 11:22, 34  
Did God make a choice on “how” men would be “brought” to the gospel?

Did God “choose” to build banquet halls and “invite” folks for pizza? \_\_\_\_\_ Is it fair to say that God in fact “chose” not to include banquets as part of your means of service to Him? \_\_\_\_\_



6) Note Acts 15:10 “Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?”

A. Is placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that is not ordained in scripture a case of “tempting God?” \_\_\_\_\_

B. Can you find in scripture where the church shouldered the responsibility for child-care? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Can you find in scripture where the church shouldered the responsibility for secular education? \_\_\_\_\_

D. Can you find in scripture where the church shouldered the responsibility for social entertainment? \_\_\_\_\_

E. Can you find in scripture (I Timothy 5:7-16) where the church is specifically told not to shoulder the burden of things primarily the responsibility of the home? Vs 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Considering I Timothy 5:8... if we try to shove our responsibility off onto the “neck of the disciples” (Acts 15:10), what have we done? \_\_\_\_\_



Compare Acts 15:9 & 10. “He made no”... in vs 9 and “why do you?” Is this a valid comment when folks go beyond scripture? In other words If God made no (provisions or requirements in scripture for this) ... Why do you? \_\_\_\_\_

7) Note Acts 15:13-15 James now speaks. Note further now you have the spoken word of an inspired apostle of God (Peter).

A. Then James (Jesus’ brother) compares Peter’s determination with what? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Compare this with II Samuel 7:7 Should we demand to find our practices in scripture before we do them? \_\_\_\_\_

C. If even Peter’s teaching was compared to the scripture, should it be offensive to us that our teaching must also be compared to scripture? \_\_\_\_\_

Command and practice are the basis of the discussion so far.

8) Note Acts 15:19. Should we “trouble” the brethren with practices, rituals, or responsibilities, that God didn’t ordain for **His church**? \_\_\_\_\_

Should James’ conclusions be voiced in the presence of these apostles? \_\_\_\_\_ Should **we talk about the “WHY”** behind our decisions on what to and what not to involve the church in? \_\_\_\_\_

9) Note Acts 15:23-30. The apostles & elders wanted to clear this matter up so they put it in writing and circulated this decision and its basis.

A. Can you just “hide” behind the Elders decisions? \_\_\_\_\_ In other words, When the Elders make a decision does this relieve you of your individual responsibility before God if they are leading you down a path not ordained by God? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Consider verse 24 when folks start laying “practices” (in this case circumcision) or “burdens” on the churches that are not from God, the Apostles call this “\_\_\_\_\_ you with words, \_\_\_\_\_ your souls!”

C. How many folks do you suppose have lost their souls as the churches have substituted worldly lures for the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_

D. Does an eldership today have the right to “trouble” the church by bringing in a baseball team as part of the work of the church?



\_\_\_\_\_ Can you find a scripture that would justify the practice? \_\_\_\_\_ Can you find a scripture that would justify the church sponsoring a country music group?

10) Consider Vs. 28 “For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, **to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things.**” Note the phrase “necessary things.”

A. Is it appropriate for the elders or anyone else to lay on the church things that are not “necessary” to the proclamation of the gospel?

B. Should the church take on the burden of (all of) the world’s poor? (be sure to check with Jesus, Matthew 26:11) \_\_\_\_\_ (be sure to note the specific restriction of II Thess. 3:6-10) Is it appropriate for the church to take on this burden with no restriction?

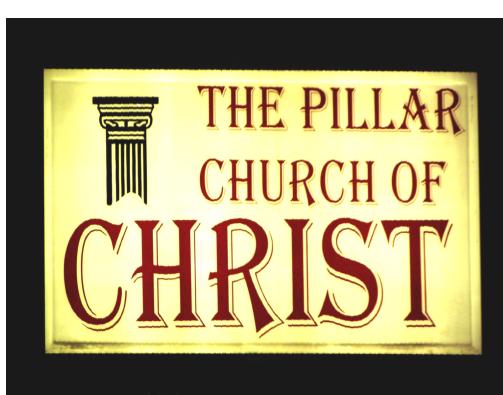
C. Should the church take on the burden of the worlds’ aged? (note the specific restriction of I Timothy 5:16) \_\_\_\_\_

We live in a world in which virtually “everything goes.” The dilemma our generation faces is that we must determine what should “go.” Generations have arisen that no longer know what questions to even ask!

How many churches do you know that have not even studied the

mistake of David in II Samuel 7 (we all know of Bathsheba) or the disagreement of the churches in Acts 15...

"Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment." (Jesus said this in John 7:24)

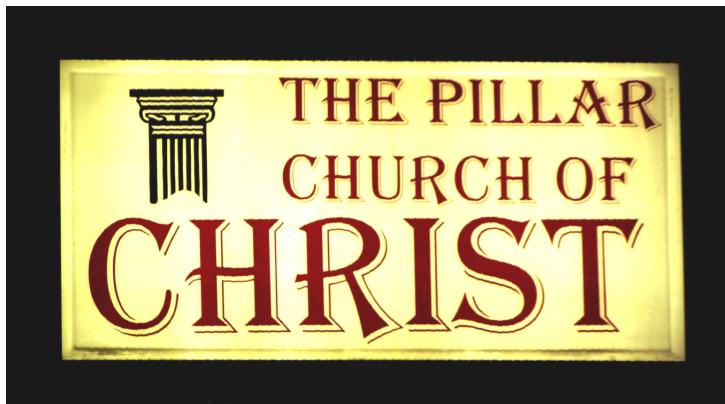


Jerry Blount 08/04 revised 6/05

## Learn your Bible

### Lesson 15

Can you image assembling at church one Lord's Day and receiving a letter from Jesus himself? Can you imagine it being addressed to your church? Well, it happened to seven churches! The book that today we call the Revelation is actually a letter or series of letters



written to the seven churches of Asia. The main body of the book of Revelation (aka the Apocalypse) is for all, but chapters 2 and 3 are seven "cover letters" for those seven churches.

These letters arrived in about 96 AD. The church had gone from its infancy to maturity.

The Christians of these churches were much like us. They had not seen the events of the Bible. They were told of the resurrection. The Apostles, (with the exception of John) were long dead.

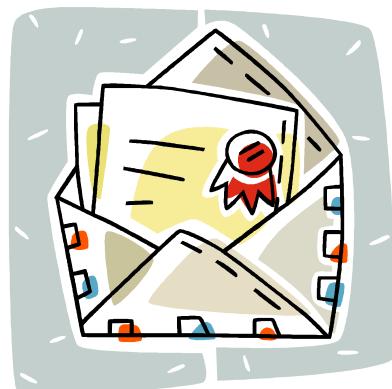
In a practical way, we could describe these letters as Jesus' evaluation of these churches. We hear a lot today about "this" or "that" making no difference (all churches being acceptable). Jesus dictated these letters, **Himself!** Let's put the modern attitudes to the test.

Does it matter to Jesus whether your church follows the Word of God?

1. Read Revelation 1:9-18 Where was John? \_\_\_\_\_ Who appeared?  
\_\_\_\_\_ What was John's reaction?

What would your reaction be?  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Rev. 2:1-7 Which church received this letter?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Vs 2-3 Was this a working church?



\_\_\_\_\_ Did they put teachers/teachings/practices to the test?

\_\_\_\_\_ Did Jesus rebuke or compliment this?

\_\_\_\_\_ Vs 4 What is Jesus' complaint?

\_\_\_\_\_ Vs 5 What is

the "threat?" \_\_\_\_\_

Application. Will Jesus just ignore a problem in a church? \_\_\_\_\_ What do you suppose it meant to the people there if Jesus withdrew his acceptance of them? \_\_\_\_\_



Vs 6 Today we run from the term

"hate." Is it ever appropriate to hate? \_\_\_\_\_ Is it

appropriate to name names? \_\_\_\_\_ Does Jesus speak in such abstract terms they would have considered Him politically correct?

3. Read Revelation 2:8-11 Which church received this letter?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is it possible on earth to operate in such a way that Jesus has no complaints? \_\_\_\_\_ What lay in store for them? \_\_\_\_\_ Did Jesus encourage them? \_\_\_\_\_ When Jesus "evaluated" them, did they pass? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Read Revelation 2:12-17

Vs 12-13 Which church received this letter?

\_\_\_\_\_ What happened there? \_\_\_\_\_



Vs 14 Does Jesus get upset over allowing false teaching in

a church? \_\_\_\_\_ When he describes said teaching, what does he use to characterize it? \_\_\_\_\_ What are the two key elements of this teaching given? \_\_\_\_\_

Turn to I Corinthians 10:20-22

Does this scripture deal with Jesus' complaint? \_\_\_\_\_

Did this church "knowingly" ignore scripture? \_\_\_\_\_

Turn to I Corinthians 11:18-22 Do churches today ignore this scripture in the next chapter? \_\_\_\_\_ Read Revelation 2:15 closely. Are we supposed to follow principles from scripture?

\_\_\_\_\_ How large would the Bible be if it were simply lists of every detail of what to do or not to do?

\_\_\_\_\_ If our actions are "in the same way" should

we be concerned? \_\_\_\_\_ This church is obviously ignoring I Corinthians 10:20-22... Would your church be wise to ignore I Corinthians 11:18-22? \_\_\_\_\_ Revelation 2:16 Would you like to be in that congregation? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Read Revelation 2:18-29 Which church received this letter?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Vs 18-19 Was this church more or less than when it began? \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 20 Should the church



be “tolerant” of teaching such as this? \_\_\_\_\_ What two fields of toleration are listed? \_\_\_\_\_

Which passage in I Corinthians deals with the sin regarding eating described here? \_\_\_\_\_

Vs 22 if you support this church, how does it affect you? \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 23 What does this mean for the children of this church? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Read Revelation 3:1-6 Which church received this letter?

\_\_\_\_\_ Vs 1 despite the name and the appearance is it possible for a church to be dead inside? \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 2 How is deadness to be determined?

\_\_\_\_\_ Vs 3 What are they to do?

\_\_\_\_\_ Vs 4-6 Look closely at Vs 5 What is the implied threat?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is it possible for the church’s actions to affect your eternity? \_\_\_\_\_



7. Read Revelation 3:7-13 Vs 7-8 Who opens and closes doors for churches? \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 9 are there those who claim to follow God that in fact do not?

\_\_\_\_\_ Vs 10 are they commended for their new and different ways to serve God? \_\_\_\_\_ What are they commended for? \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 11 What is possible for someone else to do? \_\_\_\_\_ Can they do it against your

will? \_\_\_\_\_ What are you to do to resist? \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 12  
What should you strive to be? \_\_\_\_\_

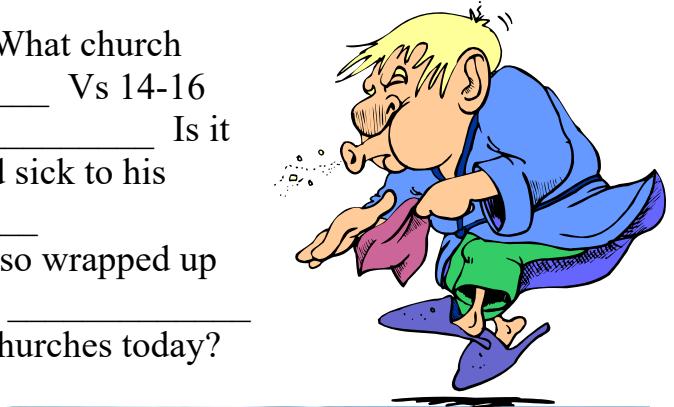
8. Read Revelation 3:14-22 What church received this letter? \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 14-16  
What is the worst sin? \_\_\_\_\_ Is it fair to say this makes the Lord sick to his stomach? \_\_\_\_\_

Vs 17 Can a church become so wrapped up in wealth they miss the point? \_\_\_\_\_  
Does this sound like a lot of churches today?

\_\_\_\_\_ Would it be fair to say they put their trust in wealth?

Is Jesus jealous?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Vs  
18-22 What does Jesus council them to do?

\_\_\_\_\_ John 7:24.  
"Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."  
Application



9. Does Jesus evaluate churches? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Should you use the same standards Jesus uses to evaluate churches? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Does it appear that one church is as good as another in the eyes of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

12 Read II Thessalonians 2:1-

13 Does it appear that God expected there to be a departure from the truth?

\_\_\_\_\_ Sometimes the Bible is addressed to churches, sometimes to



individuals. What makes up a church? \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 3

What must happen before the end? \_\_\_\_\_

People have constantly tried to figure out what specific point in history this is referring to. Let's ignore that for this study and look at the principles that emerge. Is it important for you to identify and avoid apostasy? \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 5 Did Paul warn of such things to his generation? \_\_\_\_\_ Shouldn't we do the same?

\_\_\_\_\_ Vs 9 is the grandiose display to be a part of the presentation of erroneous teaching? \_\_\_\_\_

(Compare Vs 9 to the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 7:13-14) What is one of the earmarks of most false teaching? \_\_\_\_\_

II Thessalonians 2:10 what is the fatal flaw of those who lose out?

\_\_\_\_\_ Vs 11 is there a sense in which God can be said to be behind this? \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 12 Why would God allow such a thing?

II Corinthians 5:12.

We are not again commanding ourselves to you but {are} giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you will have {an answer} for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart.

Jerry Blount

06/05

## Learn Your Bible

### Lesson #16

Discipline is a subject that has fallen into disrepute in much of our society today. It once was an accepted principle that "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him." (Proverbs 22:15) *Today the accepted principle is that unless you hide your head in the sand, your children shall be driven far from you. Ignoring bad behavior is backed by the thought: "Correct not the child for he must have a natural development and experiment with all ideas of life."*

*Any form of retribution is considered out of place. What right have we to judge right and wrong? We live in a free society. We must be allowed to explore all avenues...*

As a result of these attitudes, crime has increased at an alarming rate in recent years. In the classrooms the students virtually dictate to the teacher their will. But *they are happier... or are they?* Teenage suicide rose by 92% in 2 years, during the height of the "God is dead" movement.

Nearly three thousand years ago the Bible said: "Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil." (Ecclesiastes 8:11).

Paul Harvey reported 1-12-81 that in the town of Liberal, Kansas, a town of 15,000, a judge decided to give this principle of punishment of lawbreakers a try. He made a 30-day sentence mandatory for 1st time offenders of shoplifting. Previously they'd had 15-16 cases per month. Within 6 months that number was cut to 3! The majority of those were outsiders who hadn't seen or didn't pay attention to the warnings posted in the stores.

Discipline in the nation, the church and the home are all interrelated. Let's consider the story of Eli. "Now the sons of Eli were



worthless men; they did not know the LORD" (I Samuel 2:12)." You'll notice here the total failure of the parent. In this life many things are important to teach our children, **but without teaching them about God, we fail.**

"Now Eli was very old; and he heard all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who served at the doorway of the tent of meeting. He said to them, "Why do you do such things, the evil things that I hear from all these people? "No, my sons; for the report is not good which I hear the LORD'S people circulating. "If one man sins against another, God will mediate for him; but if a man sins against the LORD, who can intercede for him?" But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for the LORD desired to put them to death." (I Samuel 2:22-25)

Notice according to God's word (Proverbs 22:15) that reasoning with a child isn't always possible. It takes correction. Eli's child had come to the point that words were futile. Children and adults alike learn if your words are going to be backed up with action. Eli had not backed up his words.

Eli had several courses of action open to him at this point; he could have 1) cut them off from the priesthood (probably the minimum action called for in this case) 2) disowned them as sons or 3) had them stoned as rebellious sons.



Today we forget how strongly **our Lord believes in and demands discipline!** Notice, "If any man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or his mother, and when they chastise him, he will not even listen to them, then his father and mother shall seize him, and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gateway of his hometown. They shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey us, he is a glutton and a drunkard.' Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death; so you shall remove the evil from your midst, and all Israel will hear {of it} and fear.." (Deuteronomy 21:18-21) It is important to notice this wasn't condoning child abuse (in anger or otherwise). It was to be administered by the old men of the city after all other hope had been exhausted.

Eli's failure to administer discipline is described by God. He said to Eli "you honor your sons above Me," (I Samuel 2:29) and that "those who despise Me will be lightly esteemed." (I Samuel 2:30).

God appeared to Samuel and said, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle." (I Samuel 3:11). He then proceeded to tell Samuel how he would perform against Eli, " all that I have spoken" (I Samuel 3:12).

" For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them" (I Samuel 3:13).

Today we suffer from the Dr. Spock syndrome. Don't *force* a child **do** anything... don't make him stick to commitments, don't make waves! Does a lack of restraint really encourage their minds to develop, or does it make them vile?

We have noticed the necessity of discipline in the nation and in the family. Doesn't it make sense that if God required these two great institutions to administer discipline to its members, that he also would require it of the third and greatest institution... the church?

Notice in the administration of discipline that we find one of the primary purposes of discipline is to "have won your brother." (Matthew 18:15), "so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus." (I Corinthians 5:5) And "restore such a one" (Galatians 6:1) in order to "save his soul from death" (James 5:20).

Discipline when administered properly is to be motivated from love. Too often we confuse a *lack* of discipline with an abundance of love. Solomon set the record straight regarding this attitude centuries ago: " He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently" (Proverbs 13:24).

The Lord himself prescribed the procedure of discipline.

**1) " If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother."**

**(Matthew 18:15).** Notice that in this the first step he didn't say to go tell the whole church and get them so upset that all hope of reconciliation is destroyed! This common error sadly causes some to lose faith in all forms of congregational discipline.



The proper manner is to go directly to the person involved in order to straighten it out. Our ***first and primary motive*** is to gain thy brother. Since our Lord specifies we are to go to him alone, another major intention is to try to cause as little embarrassment as is possible, for both parties. The person going may find out the brother is innocent of the charges that have been brought forward.

I recall an incident in which a congregation had heard that a certain preacher had said something out of turn about the group. Instead of finding out firsthand, (by going to this man), the elders of the offended church upset their congregation with the rumor by spreading it, then brought the preacher up before the elders of another congregation, with the original congregation present. In the course of the discussion it was brought out that they had charged the wrong man! What unnecessary pain and embarrassment for all involved!

**2) But if he does not listen {to you,} take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED."**

**(Matthew 18:16)** Notice this is a measured and semi-private step in God ordained discipline. A couple of things are apparent to the erring party, that although still private, the matter must be straightened up. His fellowship with his brethren is on the line.

This third party has one advantage in that he can hear both sides and hopefully resolve conflict. If it is a misunderstanding, it can still be resolved. If not...

**3) " If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector." (Matthew 18:17)** The full congregation now must make a decision as to the matter and stand behind it.

Today some are proud of their lack of discipline. Look how "liberal minded" we are... when harbored, sin festers and destroys. Corinth was this way, " It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst." (I Corinthians 5:1-2). When a problem such as this comes up it is not the time for pride or for revenge, but for ***mourning***.

Another major reason for discipline is to nip a problem in the bud. History teaches us that problems that are not dealt with do not go away, they only get bigger. "I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus." (I Corinthians 5:5)

The Church, then has a responsibility to keep itself pure. "Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump," (I Corinthians

5:7) This purity is essential. The church preaches of **godliness**. The effectiveness to make this call must not be lost through a tarnished image.

The motives of the church must be pure as well. "Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." (I Corinthians 5:8).

The church, ~ in sincerity and truth ~ has the responsibility to  
1) mourn I Corinthians 5:2    2) judge the erring I Corinthians  
5:3-4    3) to put him away I Corinthians 5:2,5,7    4) to accept  
him back if repentant II Corinthians 2:2-10.

1) When discipline is withheld, everyone is happier and better adjusted to cope with life. True / False

2) What did Solomon say about punishing criminals? (Ecclesiastes 8:11) \_\_\_\_\_

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3) Read I Samuel 2:12-30, 3:12-13, then answer:

a) his sons were worthy men, they knew well the Lord. (Vs.12) True / False



- b) Eli should have reasoned with his children. True / False  
c) Did Eli rebuke his children? (Vs. 22-25) Explain:

d) Words had a powerful effect on Eli's children. True / False  
Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

e) What were the options open to Eli?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



- 4) Read Deuteronomy 21:18-21 a) What is our Lord's view of discipline? \_\_\_\_\_  
b) The rebellious child isn't the only one we should be concerned with... who else? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5) Read I Samuel 2:29 What is God's estimation of lax discipline?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6) What do we learn from I Samuel 2:29 and Matthew 10:34-39?  
\_\_\_\_\_

7) Read I Samuel 3:13 What had Eli failed to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8) List 3 descriptions of the purpose of congregational discipline with scripture.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9) (Thought question) What is the threefold motivation for congregational discipline?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10) If we're emotionally "very close" to the individual, its ok to forgo our responsibility to discipline. True / False

11) Read Matthew 18:15-17

a) List the 3 steps to be taken if one brother trespasses against another:

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b) Explain the significance (or benefit) of going "in private" in vs. 15

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c) What advantage have the one or two witnesses of vs. 16 over both the offended party and the offending party? \_\_\_\_\_

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12) Read I Corinthians 5:2 What should be our response to sin when it is uncovered?

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13) What happens if the church ignores problems within its ranks? (see I Corinthians 5:6)

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14) Read Isaiah 32:1-5 Note Vs. 1 This is a prophesy of what is to happen within Christianity. Now look at vs. 5 (try to read a KJV). The "vile" is compared to what term? \_\_\_\_\_ Is it a compliment to be called a "liberal" in a moral sense?

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15) Read I Corinthians 5:5 What must the church do?

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16) Read II Thessalonians 3:6, 14, 15

a) What must the church do? \_\_\_\_\_ b) Note

that man, and have no \_\_\_\_\_ with him that he  
may be \_\_\_\_\_

c) (thought question) What happens if a few in the congregation don't support the church's actions? \_\_\_\_\_

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17) Compare I Corinthians 5:9-11 and II Thessalonians 3:14 "no company" means: \_\_\_\_\_ See II John 10, 11  
it also includes \_\_\_\_\_.

18) Re-read I Corinthians 5:9-11  
What is the significance of a  
"brother"? \_\_\_\_\_

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19) Read I Corinthians 5:8 What is said about motives?

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20) Read Galatians 6:1,2 The concern is for two parties, who are they? \_\_\_\_\_

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21) Read II Corinthians 2:2-10 After discipline has been administered, what is also the congregation's responsibility?

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22) If the lines of morality are blurred within the church through hypocrisy, how is the world to see Jesus clearly?



23) Does scripture teach on discipline? \_\_\_\_\_ How important is this subject? \_\_\_\_\_

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Jerry Blount 2/84 revised 6/05

## Learn Your Bible

### Lesson #17

"I suppose you have heard of the man who attended the gospel meeting, expressing a desire to become a member of the church. The only problem, he was in the wrong church, talking to the wrong preacher. He said, 'I want to be baptized, but I don't want to be called on to visit the sick or the newcomers; I don't really care to develop into a song leader, or a teacher of the congregation. Also, my time is valuable, so don't expect to see me at worship too often. When I do come, I'll not be able to give much to the church for I have just bought a boat and a house on the lake.'

The preacher thought for a moment and replied, 'I believe you are in the wrong church. The church you are looking for is about three blocks on down the street.' The man followed the directions and soon found himself standing before an old abandoned, boarded-up church building. Obviously, no one had met there for years. He was standing before the end result

of the very attitude he nursed in himself. Here, in eloquent testimony, the old building was saying, 'Saved people are the church. Without active members, the church will die. Religion that costs nothing in time, money, and sacrifice is a dead religion.' The man had found a church that was "out of business" because of people exactly like him." Think about it!!

One very difficult hurdle for us to jump seems to be that of shouldering responsibility. We often reply that "I know I should..." and that's as far as we get. Very few are like the man in the story who admitted what he wanted... most are not that honest with themselves. The purpose of this lesson will be self-evaluation.

Simply stated, the problem is that time is not on our side. Every 21 seconds, someone dies without the Lord. 50 million die each year. 70 million more people are born, than die. If we convert 300,000 a



year, this is 4/1000's of 1% of the world's population increase. It is an awesome set of odds stacked against us!

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### You can always find excuses for not doing the things you do not want to do...

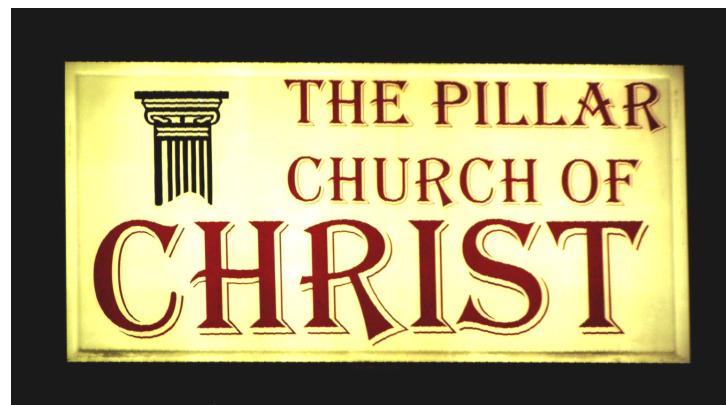
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Our Lord as he prepared to leave this earth, left the apostles with what is often called the "Great Commission"; "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20).

The early Christians took the example set by the apostles seriously. They taught daily as they went house to house (Acts 5:42). As a result, the Lord added to the church day by day (Acts 2:47). Today most churches teach only 4 hours in 7 days! Early Christians "went everywhere preaching the word." Is this the case today? What has changed? The Word is the same. The church of scripture is the same. What could possibly be different?



In the space of 35 years "THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD." (Romans 10:18). The apostle affirms that it "was proclaimed in all creation under heaven," (Colossians 1:23).



In the space of the next 35 years, if things continue as they *are*, will we be able to say this again? We're prone to say..."I'm not responsible for the

whole church's lack of effort. Obviously one person cannot preach to the whole world. If the entire church did just as you do, would we be able to cover the world with the teachings of Jesus Christ? In fact, if the early church followed ***your example***, would it still be here today?

It is an unfortunate fact of life that approximately 95% never win a soul to Christ. We can't answer for the church, but we will answer for our deeds (II Corinthians 5:10).

## You Are Preaching...

**There isn't a word that a preacher can say, no matter how lovely or true,**

**Nor is there a prayer that his eager lips pray, that can preach a sermon as you,**

**You vowed to serve Christ and men know you did. They're watching the things that you do.**

**There isn't one action of yours that is hid, men are watching and studying you.**

**You say you're no preacher? Yes, but you preach a wonderful sermon each day.**

**The acts of your life are the things you teach it isn't the things that you say.**

**So Christians, remember you bear his dear name. Your lives are for others to view.**

**You are living examples, men praise you, or blame, and measure all Christians by you.** (Borrowed)

Notice what God said to Ezekiel setting forth the responsibility that comes with knowledge. "Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman to the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me. "When I say to the wicked, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. "Yet if you have warned the wicked and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered yourself." Ezekiel 3:17-19.

In a practical sense are we not the watchmen of today? Do we not have the responsibility to warn and teach? Most in the church would have to agree. "But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer

of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for {once} he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the {law} of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does." James 1:22-25

In most cases individuals underestimate their own ability to lead others to Christ. The preacher is so much more qualified, or is he? A picture directory company made a survey for use in sales promotions. They sought to find out why a person chooses a particular church. The results are as follows:

- 3% chose a church because the minister called on them
- 9% because of the architectural beauty of the building
- 14% prior church affiliation
- 18% nearness of the building
- 22% people there were respected and admired
- 34% a member of the church had invited them

Lloyd Barker, via Gospel Truths

The influence of friends genuinely concerned is unfortunately the most powerful determining factor. I say unfortunately only because it is often the least used!

You are presently reading this because someone was concerned enough about you to help you have the hope of heaven. "Treat others the same way you want them to treat you." (Luke 6:31)

In the next 5 years, enough people to populate the United States, will die without Jesus Christ!



1) How often does someone without Jesus Christ, die? \_\_\_\_\_ What does this emphasize? \_\_\_\_\_

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2) Read Matthew 28:19-20. What were some of Jesus' last words before leaving this earth? \_\_\_\_\_ Since this was said at the end, what does this show about its' importance?

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3) How did the early Christians view this responsibility? Acts 8:1-5

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4) How long did it take them to cover the earth with their words?

\_\_\_\_\_ How many Christians never convert another? \_\_\_\_\_



5) Read Acts 28:17-23. When Paul came to Rome, A) What had these people heard from knowledgeable sources? \_\_\_\_\_ B) What had they heard from rumor about the church of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

C) When given the opportunity to “know” truth, what was their reaction? \_\_\_\_\_

D) What insight does this give us when we encounter objections (from others) to what the Bible says? \_\_\_\_\_

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6) Read Ezekiel 3:17-19. a) If we warn the wicked and he ignores us, what is the result to him? \_\_\_\_\_ What is the result to us? \_\_\_\_\_ b) You now have the knowledge to make it to heaven and what that statement means. What if we don't warn those around us? \_\_\_\_\_

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7) A) Read I Samuel 8:7. If they reject the gospel whom have they rejected? \_\_\_\_\_ B) Read II Corinthians 4:1-7, Note the “earthen vessels” Paul has been dead for 2000 years, who has this “treasure” today? \_\_\_\_\_

8) Read John 1:35-41

a) What was the first thing after following Jesus, that Andrew did?

b) Read I Corinthians 4:10-15 Andrew apparently wasn't as eloquent and outgoing as Peter. If Peter had many children in the gospel, what did Andrew have? \_\_\_\_\_

c) Reread vs. John 1:41 How complicated was Andrew's approach? \_\_\_\_\_

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d) What overrode Andrew's lack of "deep knowledge"?

9) Compare Romans 10:1-3 and Revelation 3:15-16. I would compare the so called “Jehovah’s Witnesses” to the Jews’ dilemma in Romans 10. They are an example of zeal without \_\_\_\_\_ Since you now have “knowledge” of the gospel, what is your greatest immediate danger from Revelation 3? \_\_\_\_\_ Is it fair to say that the end of zeal without knowledge, and knowledge without zeal are virtually the same?





10) Compare Matthew 4:18-20 and I Corinthians 11:1. Is the old parental adage “do as I say, not as I do” valid for a Christian? What was Paul’s approach?

11) II Corinthians 12:14-16 a) Often the more we love... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ b) We should use all the wisdom  
we can gather True / False

12) Make a list of 10 people you know. Use this as a "Prospect List" for the next couple of months.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_ 7) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_ 8) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_ 9) \_\_\_\_\_  
5) \_\_\_\_\_ 10) \_\_\_\_\_

If we don't get **started**, we'll **never** get there!!

13) Make a list of people you have talked to about Jesus Christ in the last 6 months.

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If you were Jesus Christ, would you consider this an adequate demonstration of your love for Him? He ***died*** for you!

14) Read Luke 6:46. If we don't get started how would this apply?

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### Why Doesn't the Church Do Something???

**Read Luke 14:15-24 then....**

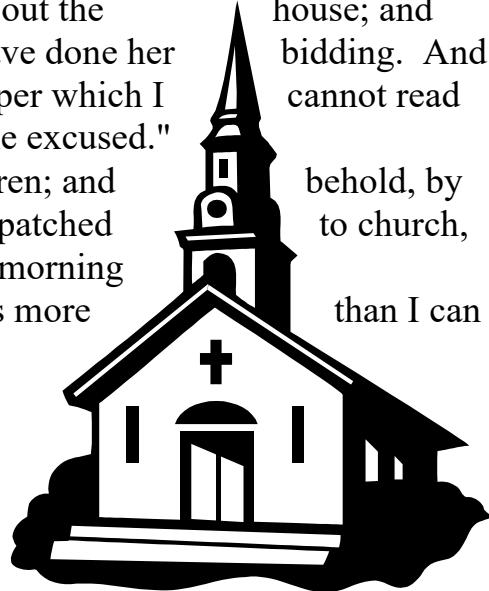
Behold, a certain church prepared a service of worship and invited whosoever should to come. And it came to pass that the church sent forth an invitation to all of its members saying "Come, for the elders and deacons have made all things ready." And, lo, the majority began with tiresome repetition to make excuses.

The first to speak said, "All week I have labored hard and unceasingly, yea, until very late on Saturday night. On Sunday I must needs rest in bed until noon. Or if I should arise at the usual hour, there are many odd jobs to be done about the house; and my wife does not let me rest until I have done her bidding. And as a last resort, there is the Sunday paper which I cannot read at any other time. I pray thee, have me excused."

And another said, "I have children; and the time they are dressed, fed, and dispatched I have reached the end of my Sunday morning enthusiasm, and to get myself ready is more manage; and besides this, our near kindred are to visit in our home this day. I pray thee, have me excused."

And another said, "The members of my family are indeed peculiar, for they must needs eat on Sunday the same as on other days; if I go to church, will the minister send someone to prepare dinner? To sit down to dinner an hour late is near impossible, for we are not at all of the mind to subdue the call of the appetite to our spiritual needs and Christian thoughts. I pray thee, may I be excused?"

And many other excuses of equal impressiveness did the people make. Yet did these same people raise a great hue and cry and make bitter lament when war and crime and corruption and cheap living among the young people and adults flourished greatly in our midst. Where once the preachers and leaders were looked to as *guides*, they



instead became *followers*, and that of worldly things; the world of pleasure, the movies, and her counterpart television, proved to be their master. Influence and dedication were disregarded and indifference grew mightily. And with one accord they began to make complaint saying, "Why doesn't the church do something about this thing? never realizing that *they* are the church!

--Adapted

- 15) A recent survey indicates the average congregation baptizes only 5% of their membership annually. If children of members are deducted, the figures drop to 2%. Less than 10% had an active prospect file. The number of college classes averaged less than 1% of the membership. Members gave less than 4% of their income to the church and all works related to Christ. Less than 5% of us won a soul to Christ last year.

Without the proper care we all shrivel up and die, so does the church. This dog represents many in their spiritual condition... starved!

a) How does this compare with your congregation?



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b) Who is the person you should start with to raise those averages?

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c) According to the survey in the reading, (done by the directory company), the preacher is the biggest influence in a church's membership. True / False

16) Read Proverbs 20:11. Relate this to our claims, "I am a Christian" (follower of Christ) and "I love the Lord," if we don't do anything in this aspect of Christianity? \_\_\_\_\_

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17) Read Matthew 23:1-4

- a) Did the Pharisees teach the right things to do? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Did they do them? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) What is the effect of this attitude on the part of parents in a family?  
(Application) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) What is the effect in church? \_\_\_\_\_

- e) Their attitude was that the work of God was for somebody else to do. True / False
- f) Luke 12:1 What does Jesus call this attitude? \_\_\_\_\_
- g) This is a common charge leveled against the church. Can we afford to let it be true? (Matthew 24:50-51) \_\_\_\_\_

18) Read Matthew 22:37-40

- a) What is the second "great" commandment? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Can you "love your neighbor" and silently allow them to be lost? \_\_\_\_\_

19) Read Luke 14:15-24

- a) What is our Lord's attitude toward excuses? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Relate Galatians 6:7-9:

c) You will need to point to some "fruit" of your labor in the judgment. When should you begin working on this? \_\_\_\_\_

***Remember:***

- 1) God knows what I really can or can't do
- 2) I cannot deceive God
- 3) I will be held responsible for not making an attempt

20) Read Matthew 25:14-30

- a) vs. 14 Because he's traveling in a "far country" what are we tempted to do with our talents? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) What is the effect? \_\_\_\_\_

**Compare the effectiveness of the JESUS' Church "Then" with the JESUS' Church "Now".**



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>The Church then...</b>                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>THE CHURCH</b>                                                                                                       |
| <b>Now...</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                         |
| 1) Jerusalem Christians taught daily...<br>exceptions)<br>(Acts 5:42)                                                                                                                                                 | 4 hours in 7 days (a few                                                                                                |
| 2) They taught publicly and from house<br>part.)<br>to house (Acts 5:42; 20:20)                                                                                                                                       | Publicly (for the most                                                                                                  |
| 3) There were additions daily<br>several (Acts 2:47)<br>attendance do not<br>average one convert per week                                                                                                             | Many congregations with<br>hundred in                                                                                   |
| 4) Early Christians went everywhere<br>never win a soul<br>preaching the word. (Acts 8:4)                                                                                                                             | Approximately 95%                                                                                                       |
| 5) They preached the gospel to the whole<br><b>around us are</b><br>of creation in less than 35 years after<br>than the<br>the great commission was given.<br>the printing<br>(Mark 16:15; Col. 1:23)<br>the internet | to Christ<br><b>Several religions</b><br>growing at a faster rate<br>Church... And we have<br>press, copy machines, and |
| " Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of<br>all men. "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole<br>purpose of God.." Acts 20:26-27                                        |                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Let's live for Jesus, He died for us!</b>                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                         |



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## **“Going To Church”**

### **Hebrews 10**

This worksheet is intended as a supplemental study for new Christians on the overall attitude that God has toward the assembling of saints to worship Him. One section of scripture actually deals with this subject at length. It gives us insight into the attitude God expects you to have toward Him, your commitment to Him, and your assembling to worship Him.

This section of scripture could be characterized as “politically incorrect.” It is totally different than the normal attitudes the people around us have in this area. **But this passage shows us God’s attitude, and that is all that really matters.**

#### **Read**

#### **Hebrews 10:16-31**

- 1) The author is quoting an Old Testament prophecy (Jeremiah 31:31-34) describing God’s relationship with Christians in the New Testament vs. 16. Where will the New Testament ultimately be written? \_\_\_\_\_



- 2) What is God ultimately promising to do, when we become Christians? Vs. 17-18 \_\_\_\_\_

- 3) vs. 19 A) When our sins are forgiven, we can have or enter with?

- B) Key in on the word “since” In VS 19 & 21. What are the two reasons we should do the things in following verses?

&

- 4) vs. 22 Let us \_\_\_\_\_ near with a \_\_\_\_\_ heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with \_\_\_\_\_. What are two obvious ways we can draw near to God? \_\_\_\_\_

- 5) **From vs. 23 only**, What is the opposite of “holding fast”?
- 

- 6) vs. 24 To what ends are we to consider each other and provoke them? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_



- 7) From vs. 25 only, what is the opposite of exhorting (or encouraging) one another?
- 

- 8) Thought question. We are called upon to do a number of things in these verses. For example: vs. 22 “draw near”; vs. 23 “hold fast”; vs. 24 “consider one another” What is the illustration of not doing these things vs. 25?
- 

- 9) Many things in scripture are simply stated as truths, or commands with no explanation as to “why”. This subject is explained at length... why is this subject so serious? vs. 26 \_\_\_\_\_
- 

- 10) Thought question. “Forsaking the assembly” is the example in this context, of “willful sin” ... is this the only kind of willful sin we can commit? \_\_\_\_\_ Why do you suppose that this sin is the one chosen for the example? \_\_\_\_\_
-

What follows is a list of terrible images to drive the point home. Two types of images are woven together to be sure we do not miss the point. One type of image is what might be called a label, or name. Forsaking the assembly is “sinning willfully” for example. The other type of image is what we might call a “consequence.” In other words, forsaking the assembly (“not going to church” in OUR language)



leads to not “having any sacrifice for our sins.” Obviously we are in some pretty heavy stuff here. **God takes this as a personal insult.**

11) What are the labels used to describe this situation. (We’ll give you the first one)

- 1) willful sin vs. 26
- 2) setting aside the \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 28
- 3) trample \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 29
- 4) counting the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ an  
\_\_\_\_\_ thing vs.29
- 5) doing \_\_\_\_\_ unto the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 29 (note:  
country folk would call this spitting in His eye!)

12) What are the consequences listed in the context (we’ll give you the first one)

- 1) no more sacrifice for sins vs. 26 (note God is simply saying here  
He'll send you nothing else... His son was enough. He'll not  
make you a second offer)
- 2) a \_\_\_\_\_ expectation of \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 27
- 3) a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ which shall \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 27
- 4) died without \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 28
- 5) a sorer \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 29
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_ belongs unto me vs. 30
- 7) I will \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 30
- 8) it is a \_\_\_\_\_ thing to fall into  
\_\_\_\_\_ vs. 31

**Hebrews 10 is one of the great unknowns of the scriptures.** Most people are completely shocked when they read it. Then they start (rightfully) getting mad! It is hard for us to think that the religious leaders of our day would fail to make something so serious as this known. A doctor that failed you in this way would be sued for malpractice! You have a right to know where you stand. There are many things in scripture called sin. Many things are dealt with harshly (adultery, homosexuality, murder, etc). No other sins are elaborated to this length! **You have a right to know...**

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## **EVOLUTION'S IMPOSSIBILITIES**

**Can an “accidental life” form without... intellect, will, perception of environment, education or instinct accomplish the following ... In one generation?**

**1) BEGIN.... all the elements of life in one place at one time!**

**NOTE:** The imagery of dead animal... It won't just come to life, it cannot be revived!

**2) SURVIVE ... How long would it live? Seconds? Minutes? Years?**

**NOTE:** The combined efforts of the human race for many thousand years have not been able to eliminate death. How did survival just happen?

**3) EAT... What would a fragile life form find to eat ?**

**NOTE:** Remember this is an alien planet... Life has not existed... No organic remains to eat...

**4) REPRODUCE... An incredibly complicated procedure!**

Could you be taken blindfolded to an alien world with no history of life (nothing to eat).... With all your intellect, education, your will to survive, knowledge of hunger, and will to reproduce intact... Could you then manage to live long enough to produce any kind of life ... Let alone reproduce your own “kind”? Note: we aren’t asking can you go into a laboratory and produce an Amoeba! We are asking you produce your own kind without help in one generation!

**The heavens declare the glory of God! Psalm 19:1**

**JERRY BLOUNT 04//02**