

# Biblical Discipleship 1

Biblical  
Discipleship  
1

*“... If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;” John 8:31*

# LESSON 1 - SALVATION

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

Your decision to trust Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior is the greatest decision that you could ever make. However, you may not completely understand the true importance of what has happened in your life.

The purpose of this lesson is to explain to you what happened and how this decision has changed your relationship to God.

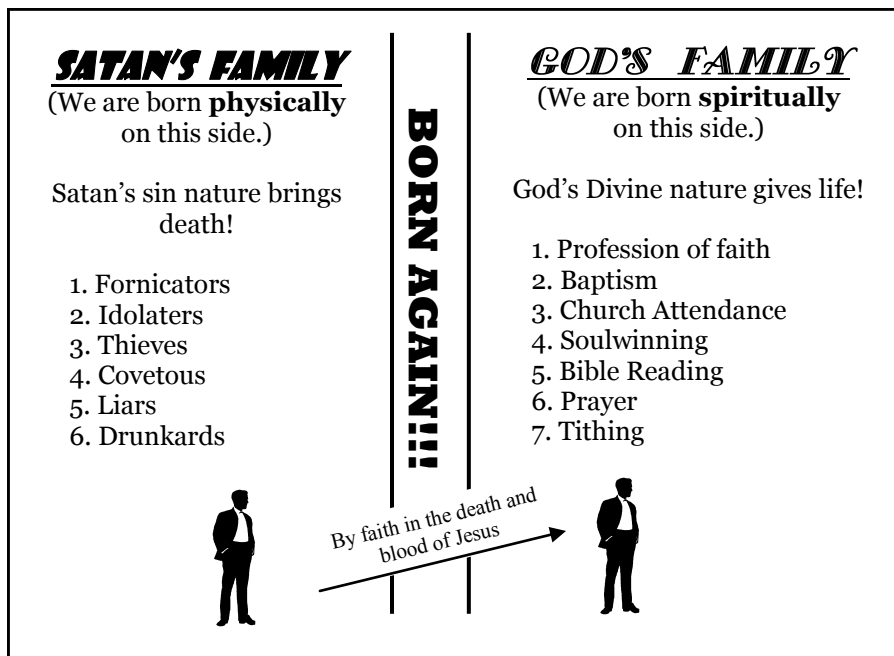
## I. There are only two spiritual families in this world.

### A. The devil's family.

1. John 8:44 speaks of a group of people who are “of your father the devil.” John 8:38.
2. You enter this family by birth through your physical father, who is ultimately a descendant of Adam. Genesis 5:3 shows that the descendants of Adam are born in Adam's image and likeness which is that of a fallen sinner.
3. You inherited your sin nature from your father, Adam. Romans 5:12
4. Romans 5:12 also tells us that as a result of your sin you were sentenced to die. Romans 6:23; 1Corinthians 15:22

### B. God's family.

1. John 1:12, 13 “But as many as received him (this was your decision to trust Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour) to them gave he power to become the Sons of God (that was your entrance into God's family) even to them that believe on his name (this is a biblical belief shown by faith and repentance). Which were born (it is a birth) not of blood (it is not a physical birth), nor of the will of the flesh (it is not something you can do physically), nor of the will of man (it is not something a man can do to save you), but of God (it is a spiritual birth).
2. You also enter God's family by birth; but it is a spiritual birth by your Heavenly Father. John 3:3
3. This new birth puts you into God's family in exactly the same way your physical birth puts you into your father's family. You are now a child of God by birth.
4. As a result of your new birth, you have inherited God's divine nature and you now have eternal life. John 6:47; 3:36; 1John 5:12,13



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

- A. Your body is now the temple of the Holy Ghost. God's Holy Spirit lives inside of you. 1Corinthians 6:19
- B. 2Corinthians 6:14-18 commands you as a believer to keep a difference between yourself and the lost.
- C. You have a new life! 2Corinthians 5:17-18

III. You now have a new relationship with God, which makes you a member of His family.

- A. He is your Heavenly Father and you are His child. 1John 2:1, 3:1
- B. Now that you are saved, God no longer deals with you as a sinner, but as His child.
- C. This relationship is pictured by the earthly relationship between a father and his child.
  - 1. A good father loves and cares for his child.
  - 2. A good father protects his child.
  - 3. A good father provides for his child.
  - 4. A good father guides and teaches his child.
  - 5. A good father helps his child.
  - 6. A good father will not discourage his child.
  - 7. A good father disciplines his child.
  - 8. A good father feeds his child.
  - 9. A good father has a plan for his child.
- D. A good father will never do anything to purposely hurt his child. He will only do those things that will help in the maturing and growth process. Your Heavenly Father works in the same way, only His ways are perfect. Unlike earthly fathers who sometimes make mistakes, God never makes a mistake in dealing with His children. Matthew 7:11

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

- A. That is obvious because you are still alive.
- B. You now have two natures.
  - 1. Old nature - physical, sinful, in Adam's image.
  - 2. New nature - spiritual, perfect, in God's image.
- C. Both natures are present constantly. The one that will control you is the one that you yield to the most. Colossians 3:5-10; 2Corinthians 4:14-18

V. Although you do enter this earth a sinner and part of the devil's family, God does show a special grace to children who die before they reach an age in which they know they are sinners. Children who die before this age are taken to Heaven, as they are not able to repent and believe. God will not send a person to Hell who has not had the opportunity to do this. Romans 10:9,10; 2Samuel 12:19-23

VI. Commonly asked questions.

- A. Will I sin after I am saved?  
Yes, you still have your old sin nature. Romans 7:25
- B. How does my sin affect my relationship with my Father?  
God does not kick you out of His family. When you sin He disciplines you as His child. The fact that He chastens you is a proof that you are still His child. Hebrews 12:5-11
- C. What should I do when I sin?
  - 1. Confess it! then trust the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse you. 1John 1:6-10; Proverbs 28:13
  - 2. Forsake it! Repent from it (turn away from it) and ask God to give you a hatred for that sin so that you can revenge all disobedience by doing what is right. 2Corinthians 10:3-6

VII. Memory verses:

Ephesians 2:8,9

## **LESSON 2 - ETERNAL SECURITY**

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

Once you have settled the question of salvation as the Bible says it, by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, it is important you understand how this decision has affected your entire life.

In Lesson 1, we learned there are only two spiritual families on this earth, God's and the Devil's. We learned we were born into the Devil's family at the time of our physical birth and we were born into God's family when we received Jesus Christ as our Savior. John 1:12,13 In this lesson we will discuss the position of the new believer in God's family and from the Bible understand what it means when it says “**everlasting life**”.

I. The testimony of the Lord Jesus is clear on this subject.

- A. God will not throw you out of His family for any reason. John 6:37
- B. There is **no one** who can cause you to lose your salvation because God your Father is greater than everyone. John 10:27-29
- C. Everlasting (eternal) life - John 3:16, 4:14, 5:39, 6:27, 10:28; 1Timothy 1:16; Titus 1:2, 3:7
- D. Know - Job 19:25-27; 2Timothy 1:12; 1John 5:13; John 10:14
- E. Assurance - Colossians 2:2; Hebrews 6:11, 10:22; Isaiah 32:17

II. Salvation does not depend on your works, but on the power of God.

- A. Salvation is by grace through faith and not by works. It is a **gift** of God. No one can lose salvation, because no one can earn salvation. Ephesians 2:8,9
- B. If we had to do anything to keep or earn salvation, then we would lose it easily. Galatians 3:10; James 2:10 Jesus Christ assures us that it is He who keeps us, not we ourselves. 1Peter 1:3-5
- C. If we could become righteous by anything we do, then Christ's death was a waste. Galatians 2:21

III. There is absolutely **nothing** that can separate you from your salvation or your Heavenly Father.

Romans 8:38,39 says, “For I am persuaded, that neither...”

- A. “Death” - you cannot lose it when you die.
- B. “Life” - you cannot lose it while you are alive.
- C. “Angels” - cannot take it away from you.
- D. “Principalities” - the government cannot take it from you.
- E. “Powers” - the Devil cannot cause you to lose it.
- F. “Things present” - nothing happening right now can take it from you.
- G. “Things to come” - nothing in the future can make you lose it.
- H. “Height” - nothing above you can make you lose it.
- I. “Depth” - nothing below you can make you lose it.
- J. “**nor any other creature**, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

IV. Your salvation is secure because of your new relationship to God.

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

V. Often asked questions

A. How can I know for sure that I am saved? 1John 5:13

B. What if I do not feel like I am saved?

1. Your salvation is not based on feelings. It is based on the unchangeable truth of the Word of God.
  - a. God knows if you are saved or not, even when you have doubts, negative thoughts, and feelings of being lost. 1John 3:20; 1Peter 1:5
  - b. Take your doubts to God and He will show you how to handle them. God wants you to know that you are saved more than you do. If you continue to struggle with doubts, seek counsel from your pastor. 1John 4:18
  - c. Titus 1:2 We are now resting in the hope of eternal life. We are not hoping for it, but already have it and are as confident of it as we are in the fact that God cannot lie.
2. **Just believe what God has said!!** I John 2:25

VI. Memory Verse:

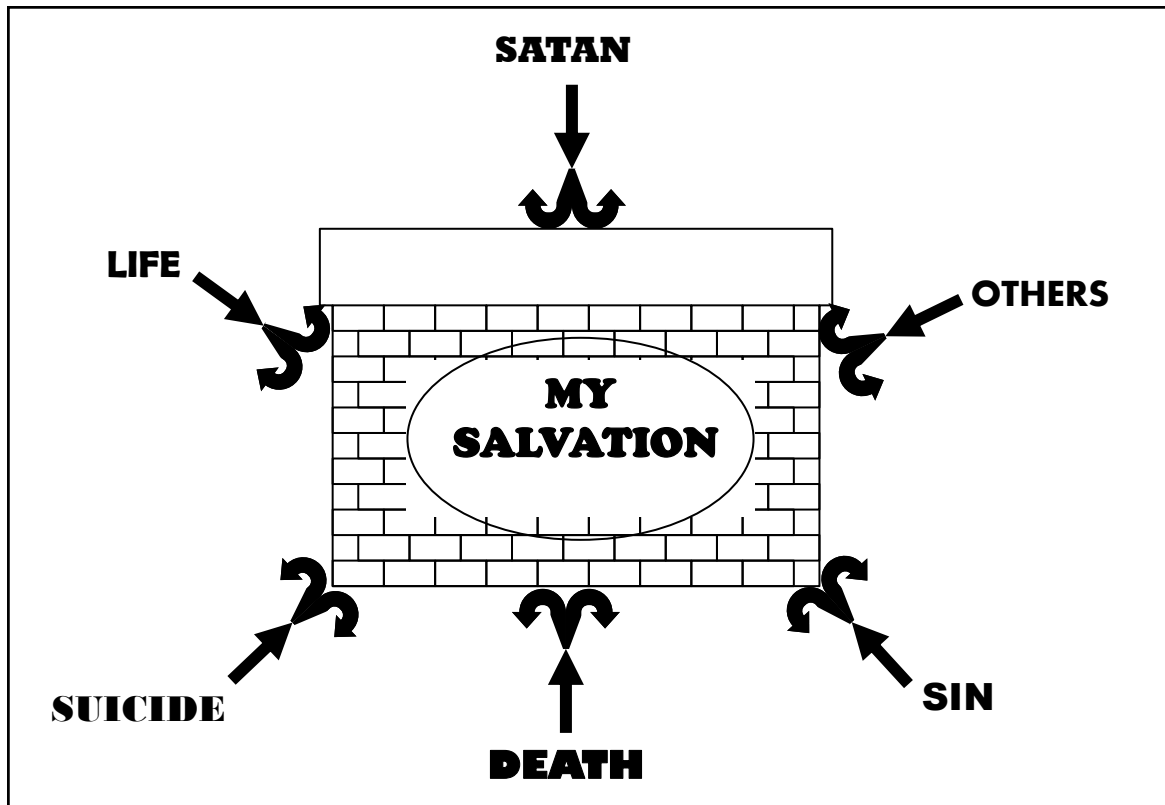
1John 5:13

VII. Questions

A. Do we have to work to keep our salvation?

B. If we sin after we are born again, can we lose our salvation? (suicide?)

C. What if we are not buried by our church? Will we still go to Heaven?



# LESSON 3 - BAPTISM

“What part does baptism have in my life?”

Nearly all religions teach some form of baptism as a part of their doctrine. Some teach that baptism is: pouring, sprinkling, or immersion. Some teach that it is a part of salvation. Some teach that babies receive this baptism. This lesson is going to show you the clear teaching of the Bible concerning baptism so you can understand perfectly what place it has in your own personal life.

I. God **commands** you to be baptized in water.

- A. Baptism is the first step of obedience of a Christian to the Lord. **Matthew 28:19,20;** Acts 2:41
- B. Jesus set the example Himself by submitting to water baptism before He began his public ministry. **Matthew 3:13-17;** (“suffer” means to permit or allow) Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22
- C. From the verses in Matthew 3, it is clear Jesus was baptized in obedience to God’s plan. This point of submission and obedience is the single most important thing to realize regarding baptism.
- D. Some people in the Bible who submitted to baptism after salvation:
  1. The Ethiopian eunuch. **Acts 8:36-39**
  2. The apostle Paul. **Acts 9:18**
  3. Cornelius and his house. **Acts 10:47,48**
  4. The Philippian jailor and his house. **Acts 16:25-33**

II. What is the purpose of baptism?

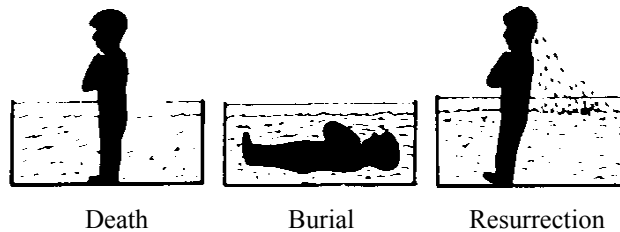
- A. There are several types of baptism mentioned in the Bible - water, Holy Spirit, fire, etc. In each case, physical baptism pictures a spiritual truth. The important point to consider is the **picture** represented by baptism.
- B. Romans 6:1-7 shows the purpose for water baptism.
  1. It **pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**
  2. It is a public testimony of the new convert’s **identification with Jesus Christ through the death, burial, and resurrection**, which is how you were saved. It identifies you with the Lord Jesus Christ.
  3. It also **identifies you with the local church** and what that church believes.
  4. Baptism shows that we have died. The only person to be buried is a dead one. We are dead in Christ. Therefore baptism is a picture of burying the old man and resurrecting to be the new man.
- C. The Bible never says that water baptism is a washing away of sin or even a symbol of it. In fact, the water symbolizes **dirt**, not a cleansing thing (like soap). Romans 6:4

III. Who should be baptized?

- A. The clearest example of a person’s baptism in the Bible is of the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:36-39. Notice the condition that Philip gave the eunuch before he could be baptized. “...If thou **believest** with all thine heart, thou mayest.”
- B. The only requirements for baptism are:
  1. A heart belief in Jesus Christ
  2. Confession that Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour.
- C. There are NO cases of baptism in the Bible of anyone but believers. Can a baby believe?
- D. Some other examples of baptism immediately after salvation. Acts 2:41, 8:12, 18:8

IV. What is the method of baptism?

- A. Again, Acts 8:36-39 gives the clearest example. In verses 38,39, **both** Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and came up out of the water.
- B. In Matthew 3:16, Jesus was baptized in the same manner.
- C. As seen before, the key to water baptism is the picture of death, burial, and resurrection. The only way to bury someone is to completely cover them. The Biblical method of baptism is complete immersion. The very word “baptism” means immersion. No one in the Bible was ever sprinkled, just as no one is truly buried if they have only been sprinkled with dirt.



V. Is baptism necessary?

- A. It is **not** necessary for your salvation. Ephesians 2:8,9 makes it clear that a man is saved by grace through faith without works - including baptism.
- B. It **is** necessary for service and spiritual growth. Matthew 28:19,20 proves it is necessary. Baptism is a part of the Great Commission and should come before any teaching or discipleship.
- C. Before anyone can be taught to follow Jesus Christ, there must be a willingness to submit to the first act of obedience. If a person refuses to obey the Lord in the first point, there will be a problem in obeying in future points. Matthew 3:13-15

VI. What if someone has been saved and then baptized by immersion in a church other than a Baptist church? **Is that baptism acceptable?**

No, because their baptism identifies them with that church and what that church believes. Some religions teach baptism by immersion (Church of Christ), but as a part of salvation. Other religions teach baptism by immersion (Jehovah's Witnesses), but they deny that Jesus is God. Even others teach baptism by immersion (Charismatics), but many of their doctrines contradict the Bible. These churches have **no authority to baptize** as they are not in agreement with the Bible.

VII. Memory Verses:  
Romans 6:3-5

VIII. Questions

- A. Does baptism complete a person's salvation?
- B. Does baptism by sprinkling mean the same as baptism by immersion?
- C. Can babies be baptized into God's family or into the church?
- D. If there is not enough water for immersion, then is it alright to sprinkle?
- E. Based on what you have learned in this lesson, what decision should you make?

# **LESSON 4 - WITNESSING TO THE LOST**

“What are my responsibilities in sharing the Gospel?”

You are a child of God! The reason you are a child of God is because someone who was already a child of God took the time, energy, and effort to bring you the truth of the Gospel so that you could be saved.

What if that person had not taken the time to come to you and present the gospel, to you? What if the generation that had already gone to be with the Lord had not been concerned about sharing their relationship with Christ with the present generation? More important, what if this generation does not care? What if you do not care enough to tell this generation about Christ? The previous generation cannot do it - you and your generation must do it.

Every Christian has the responsibility to share the gospel with those whom they know and meet, and this lesson will provide a simple plan to help you in the greatest task given to us by our heavenly Father - to tell others what we have already experienced.

I. Reaching people with the gospel is God’s heart and work.

- A. God desires that all people get saved. 2Peter 3:9; John 3:16,17; Ezekiel 33:11 God’s will is for all men to be saved, as we will learn in the lesson on the WILL OF GOD. All who are lost are out of the will of God because He “is not willing that any should perish.”
- B. God makes it possible for the lost to be saved. God has done all that is necessary for mankind to become His children and have eternal life. He has made it possible for anyone to be saved, and all can be saved if they will come to Him by faith and receive His gift of salvation.
  1. God, the Holy Spirit, convicts, convinces, and regenerates lost sinners. John 16:8,9; 3:5,6; Titus 3:5
  2. God, the Father, seeks and draws the lost to Himself. Ezekiel 34:11, 16
  3. God, the Son, gave His life as a sacrifice so the lost could be saved. 1Peter 3:18; Ephesians 5:2; Hebrews 9:26-28
- C. God saves the lost. 1Corinthians 3:6,7; Hebrews 7:25 Ultimately God is the One Who “seeks and saves” those who are lost. It is a supernatural act that can only be performed by God and God alone. He is the One Who saves the lost, not our abilities or powers of persuasion.

II. Reaching people with the Gospel is every Christian’s work.

We have seen that the salvation of lost souls is the work of God. As such, He has chosen to use those who have heard and believed the Gospel to carry out that work. God expects Christians to be a witness and share the Gospel with others who do not know Him. We are His tools to bring about His plan to reach the lost. Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 1:8

- A. We are to sow the seed by telling others the Good News of the Gospel. Psalm 126:5,6; Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23
- B. We are to proclaim the Word of God that gives men the faith to believe. 1Peter 1:23; Romans 10:13-17
- C. We are appointed to be His ambassadors to carry out the ministry of reconciliation - reconciling the lost to Him. 2Corinthians 5:18-20; Acts 8:1,4, 5:42



III. How to present the Gospel.

There are certain Biblical truths that must be presented when sharing the gospel. The plan of salvation below is clear and simple and can be presented by any believer. Here are three good ways to present the Gospel.

- A. One way to present the Gospel is by telling the person your personal testimony of salvation. Tell them how you got saved. If they knew you before you got saved, then they will be able to see the change in your life and they will listen to what you have to say.



B. Another way to present the Gospel is by asking the person three questions.

### **The "3 Questions"**

1. Are you a Christian?
2. When did you become a Christian?
3. How did you become a Christian?

From this point you will know what the person is trusting in to get them to Heaven.

C. Now then, you can go to the third way to present the Gospel. The Bible tells us that there are four things that you must know:

1. You must admit that you are a sinner. Romans 3:23
  - You sin because you were born with a sin nature that causes you to sin.
  - You must admit that you have done wrong.
  - You must admit that you have broken God's laws.
2. You must realize that there is a penalty for sin and that penalty is death. Romans 6:23
  - God cannot allow sin to go unpunished.
  - The price of sin is physical and spiritual death.
  - Spiritual death means eternal separation from God in the place called hell. Revelation 20:14
3. You must understand that you cannot do anything to pay that penalty.
  - Your good deeds cannot pay the price. Isaiah 64:6
  - You cannot do enough good things to outweigh one bad thing.
4. God paid sin's price for you when He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to die for sinners. Romans 5:8
  - God knew that you would sin and need a Saviour.
  - He sent His Son, Jesus, to go to the cross of Calvary and die for your sins.
  - Jesus arose from the dead the third day to show you that God accepted what Jesus had done on your behalf.

Then you must tell them what the Bible says they must do in order to get this everlasting life.

1. Repent - You must turn from your sins and turn to God. Acts 17:30, 20:21; Luke 13:3,5
2. Believe - You must believe in your heart that what Jesus did on the cross was enough to pay for your sins. You don't need anything else, only what He did. You must believe in your heart that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross, was buried and rose again.
3. Confess - You must ask him to save you. Romans 10:9-13 Get them to confess with their mouth what they believe in their heart. You may (or may not) want to lead them in a prayer.

Explain carefully to them that it is not just saying a prayer. No prayer will save them. It is not just saying, "I accept". They must believe it in their heart.

Explain to them that your prayer will not save them. They must believe in their heart and they must confess with their mouth.

#### IV. Basic questions

A. To whom should I witness?

Most Christians have been taught to witness to people they have never met and do not know. As a result, most never witness at all because of fear. In reality, Jesus wants us to begin first with those we know. Follow this general order in witnessing:

1. Immediate family and relatives.
2. Friends and neighbors
3. Fellow workers and acquaintances.
4. Finally, those we do not know.

B. How can I overcome the fear of witnessing?

1. Remember that fear comes from the devil, not God. 2Timothy 1:7
2. Remember that the Holy Spirit is working in the heart of the lost before you ever talk to them. John 16:8-11

3. Remember that the Holy Spirit promises to help you and guide you as you witness.  
John 14:26
  4. Remember to give control of your life to the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:18
  5. Remember you are successful as a witness even if a person does not get saved.  
1Corinthians 3:5-8
- C. What if the person I am witnessing to says, “I am a Christian but I am not saved or born again”. What do I tell them? Explain that being a Christian, being saved and being born again are all the same thing. To be a Christian, IS to be saved and IS to be born again. You cannot be a Christian and not be saved or born again.
- D. How can I start soulwinning? Get involved in the church’s soulwinning program. If your job does not allow for you to go soulwinning on Saturday, then set aside another day, get an experienced partner to go with you and GO!

V. Memory Verses:

Romans 10:9,10

## **LESSON 5 - THE WORD OF GOD**

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

What separates Christianity from any “religion” in the world is its claim to have an absolute written authority from God. Having the Word of God is necessary to a Christian’s growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. The standards by which we as Christians are to govern the details of our individual lives are found in the pages of the Word of God.

The purpose of this lesson is to teach you the basics of the Bible and how it relates to everyday life. This should lead to an understanding of how its principles are to guide in every area of our personal walk with Jesus Christ.

### I. The Word of God has a unique history.

- A. The Bible has a total of 66 books; 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.
- B. The Bible was written through more than 40 men.
- C. The Bible fits together perfectly as if written by one man, because the author of all 66 books is the Holy Spirit. 2Peter 1:21
- D. The Bible was written over a time span of about 1600 years.
- E. The Bible is totally accurate in matters of history, of science, prophecy and every issue of life. There are **no** contradictions in the Bible.

### II. The Word of God is infallible (without mistakes) and therefore, is absolutely trustworthy.

- A. The very words of God are inspired. 2Timothy 3:16,17; Proverbs 30:5,6
- B. The very words in the Word of God are preserved. Psalm 12:6,7, 119:160; Matthew 5:17,18, 24:35; Isaiah 40:8; Proverbs 22:20,21; John 10:35
- C. The words in the Word of God are not to be changed by man. Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18,19; Deuteronomy 4:2; John 12:48; 1Timothy 6:3-5
- D. The very words of God are more sure than the audible voice of God. This is a very critical point. It must be understood that all “experiences” are to be judged by an infallible standard which is greater than any experience. Peter said the Word of God was MORE SURE than the physical appearance and audible voice of God. 2Peter 1:16-21 compared with Matthew 17:1-9. Therefore, which translation of the Bible that you use is critically important. While many modern translations and paraphrases attempt to make the Bible more readable, they sacrifice the completeness, purity and perfection of the very words of God. (The NIV and other versions leaves out Acts 8:37, 15:34; Romans 16:24 and many others. It changes Colossians 1:14 and many others. How do you know what else is left out?) At this Independent Baptist Church, because of its preservation and historical accuracy and reliability, we use only the King James Bible in all of our English preaching and teaching.

***THE WORD OF GOD IS OUR FINAL AUTHORITY IN  
ALL MATTERS OF FAITH AND PRACTICE!!***

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

- A. 1Peter 1:23 says we are born again “by the word of God”. The Word of God is the agent which brings about the new birth.
- B. Ephesians 2:8, 9 compared with Romans 10:17.
- C. Speaking to the brethren, James 1:21 says the Word of God is “...able to save your souls.”
- D. Paul’s summary of the Gospel contains three parts, all ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES. 1Corinthians 15:1-4
  - 1. Jesus Christ died for our sins.
  - 2. Jesus Christ was buried.
  - 3. Jesus Christ rose from the dead.
- E. You must believe what the Bible says about sin, your condition, and God’s plan of salvation in order to be saved.

#### IV. The Word of God is spiritually discerned.

- A. The Bible is learned by comparing scripture with scripture, relying on God's Holy Spirit to teach you and not your own intelligence. 1Corinthians 2:9-16 People wonder why they cannot understand the Bible. It is the Holy Spirit that teaches. A lost person does not have the Holy Spirit and therefore, cannot understand the Bible
- B. The Holy Spirit of God will guide you into all truth. Truth is always revealed by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, any believer indwelt by the Holy Spirit can learn the Bible. John 14:26, 16:13-15; Proverbs 22:20,21

#### V. The Word of God has a profound impact on human history.

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

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

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

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

#### VI. The Word of God is your absolute, infallible (no mistakes), perfect guide for life.

- A. Every major purchase is accompanied by an owner's manual which tells you how to operate it. If you do not go by the book, it will not work.
- B. The Bible is God's "owner manual" for your life. God would not save you and call you to service without clear, exact directions. You must follow the book. Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 3:5,6



#### VII. The Word of God accomplishes many purposes in the life of a Christian.

- A. The Word of God equips you for service. 2Timothy 3:16,17; Ephesians 6:10-18
- B. The Word of God sustains (nourishes) you and keeps you spiritually alive. It is often associated with different foods. Job 23:12; Jeremiah 15:16. It is a complete and balanced diet.
  - 1. Milk. 1Peter 2:2
  - 2. Honey. Psalm 119:103; Proverbs 16:24
  - 3. Bread. Luke 4:4
  - 4. Water. Isaiah 55:10, 11; Ephesians 5:26
  - 5. Meat. Hebrews 5:12-14; 1Corinthians 3:1, 2
- C. The Word of God keeps you clean to please God. Psalm 119:9-11; John 15:3

### VIII. Questions some people ask:

#### A. Where should I start reading?

As a young Christian, focus on the primary places which deal with your new relationship with your Heavenly Father. The Gospel of John, the Epistle of 1John, and Psalm 119 are excellent places to begin.

1. The Gospel of John is written that you might believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. John 20:31
2. The Epistle of 1John is written that you might have complete assurance of salvation. 1John 5:13
3. Psalm 119 is written to establish your love for the Word of God.

#### B. What if I find something that I do not understand?

1. You will find many things that you do not understand. Do not get frustrated. Wait for God to reveal it in His time. John 16:12
2. The most important thing is to live what you do understand. God will not give you more than you are capable of handling. As you put into practice the things that you are learning, God will entrust you with more.

### IX. Memory Verses:

2Timothy 3:16,17

### X. Questions

A. Can the Bible be understood by any believer? Why?

B. Why is it important to read the Bible everyday?

## **LESSON 6 - PRAYER**

“How important is prayer in my life?”

A Christian is only as strong as his prayer life. When you read the Bible, God speaks to you. When you pray, you speak to God. Your personal relationship to the Lord cannot grow without proper communication. Prayer is simply your direct communication to God.

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

### I. Prayer has specific purposes.

- A. Prayer gives you the ability to communicate with God. Hebrews 4:16
- B. Prayer gives you peace of heart and mind. Philippians 4:6, 7
- C. Prayer draws you close to God so he can prove His sufficiency for every need.
  - 1. God knows exactly what you need before you ask Him. Matthew 6:8
  - 2. God allows needs to come into your life so He can draw you to Him. Psalm 50:15

### II. Prayer must have a specific place in your life.

- A. It is absolutely necessary to recognize you have needs in your life that only God can meet. Therefore, you must make prayer your life. Revelation 3:16, 17
- B. It is absolutely necessary to give thanks in everything, including the difficult times in your life. 1Thessalonians 5:18; Romans 5:3-5; 1Peter 3:12-15; Psalms 102:1,2
- C. It is necessary to develop a consistent prayer attitude where your first reaction in a difficult moment is to go to God in prayer, not to a man. 1Thessalonians 5:17

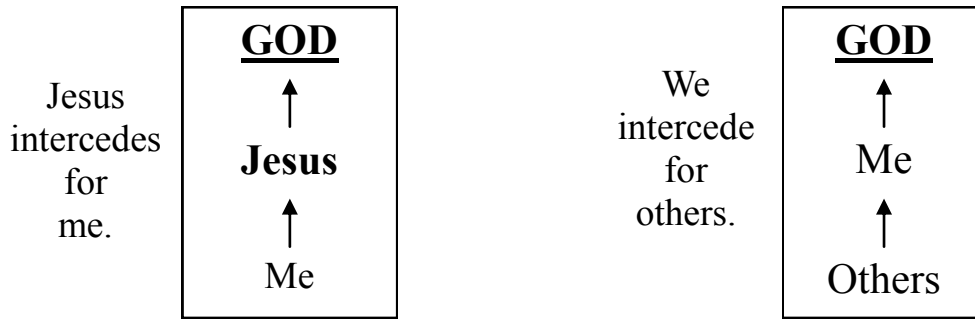
### III. Prayer has specific principles.

- A. The Bible provides basic guidelines.
  - 1. Pray always - develop a lifestyle of communicating with God. 1Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1
  - 2. Do not repeat the same words over and over again. Matthew 6:7
  - 3. Talk to the Lord as a friend and a Father because that is what He is - your friend and your Father! Exodus 33:11; Matthew 6:5,6
  - 4. Realize you have DIRECT access to God personally. You do not need to go through any other person to talk to God. 1Timothy 2:5; Ephesians 2:18
- B. Always focus on maintaining a proper relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. There are certain things that can hinder your prayers.
  - 1. Unconfessed sin. Isaiah 59:1,2; Psalm 66:18
  - 2. An unforgiving spirit. Matthew 6:14, 15
  - 3. Bitterness towards your mate (as well as others). 1Peter 3:7
  - 4. Not asking. James 4:2
  - 5. Asking with selfish or other wrong motives. James 4:3; Proverbs 21:13
  - 6. Insensitivity to the Word of God. Proverbs 28:9
- C. Romans 8:26, 27 makes it clear we do not always know how we should pray or for what to pray. That is why the Holy Spirit intercedes for us in prayer.

### IV. Prayer has different parts.

- A. Worship - This is where we see God for who He really is. This is when you humble yourself before a Holy God. Revelation 4:11 Psalms 145:1-3 Hebrews 4:16
- B. Giving of thanks - This is appreciation for God. Psalm 100:4 makes it clear we enter the presence of God through thanksgiving and praise.
- C. Confession - This is where we see how we really are. We confess any known sin in our life. Psalms 51:1-4 139:23,24
- D. Prayers - These are specific requests rooted in God's Word. Philippians 4:6 Too many prayers are wasted because they are so general and not Biblically based. I.e. “God, please give me a blessing.” “Which one? How do you want me to bless you?”

E. Intercessions - prayers for others. This is important to keep your motives pure and keep your selfish eyes off yourself. 1Samuel 12:23



F. Supplication - urgent requests. This is when you seek to discover God's plan in a specific matter. 2Corinthians 12:7-10; Matthew 26:36-44

V. You should have a plan for your prayer life.

- A. Make a list to help you remember. Otherwise your prayer life will not be consistent.
- B. Keep a list of answered prayers to reinforce your faith in God's ability to answer.

VI. Often asked questions.

A. Does God answer all my prayers?

Yes, but not always the way or at the time you expect. As we learned in lesson 1, God is your Heavenly Father and all his ways are perfect. There will be times when in His infinite wisdom the best answer to prayer will be "NO" or "NOT YET". In those times, simply trust Him.

B. How important is it to pray for others

1. Paul prayed for others continually (Romans 1:9) and requested prayer on many occasions. Hebrews 13:18; 2Thessalonians 3:1

2. Samuel said it was a sin against God not to pray for others. 1Samuel 12:23

James 5:16 says that the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. An example of effectual prayer for others is how a preacher for England, George Mueller, prayed for the salvation of several people for up to 60 years. When Mr. Mueller died, some of these people were still lost. However, there were some saved at his burial and many others were saved within the next year. This leads to the next point.

**KEEP AT IT AND BE FAITHFUL!** The full results of your prayers will never be known completely in this lifetime.

3. Should I try to change God's mind when I pray?

No. The purpose of prayer is to conform you to His will, not the other way around.

VII. Memory Verse:

Psalm 66:18

VIII. Questions

- A. Should people pray to idols, saints, or others?
- B. If you pray long enough and hard enough, will God change His mind and do what you want?
- C. Should prayers be written by others and "said" by you?
- D. Should we have a set time for private prayer?

# **LESSON 7 - THE WILL OF GOD**

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

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

The will of God is something that all of us should have a desire to be in. However, many times there is misunderstanding when it comes to knowing what the will of God is. “Will” simply means “direction.” God has a direction that He wants us to be going. Since the Bible calls it the will OF GOD then God wants us going in His direction.

The purpose of this lesson is to give you a clear understanding of what the will of God is, as revealed in the Bible, so you can begin to accomplish those things that are important to Him. Acts 22:12-14; Ephesians 5:17; Philippians 2:13; Colossians 4:12

## I. Understand the example given of the will of God.

- Matthew 26:39, “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”
- Matthew 26:42, “O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.”
- Luke 11:2, “When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.”
- John 4:34, “My meat is to do the will of him that sent me and to finish his work.”
- John 5:30, “I can of my own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which has sent me.”
- John 6:38, “For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.”
- Romans 8:27, “...he (Christ) maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

## II. Understand the three areas of the will of God.

### A. In **Salvation**. 2Peter 3:9

- Matthew 7:21, “Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”
- Matthew 18:14, “Even so it is not the will of the Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.”
- Galatians 1:4, “Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this evil present world, according to the will of God and our Father.”
- Ephesians 1:5, “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.”
- 1Timothy 2:4, “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”
- James 1:18, “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.”
- 1John 2:17, “And the world passeth away and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

### B. In **Sanctification**. (Separated from sin and the world and set apart for God’s service.)

1. Set apart from the world and worldly minds. Romans 12:2
2. Set apart in your bodies. 1Thessalonians 4:3 (apparel - 1Timothy 2:8-10)

The will of God in Salvation and Sanctification is the same for everyone, the next one we will look at, Service, is not the same for everyone but different as God sees fit.

### C. In **Service**.

1. Serving where God wants you to serve. Acts 18:21; Romans 1:10; 15:32; 1Corinthians 4:19
2. Serving with the right motives. Ephesians 6:6; Galatians 1:10
3. Serving no matter what is asked of you. Hebrews 13:21



III. Understand the end results of doing the will of God.

- A. A proper knowledge of doctrine. John 7:17
- B. Answered prayer. John 9:31; 1John 5:14
- C. A knowledge of knowing your eternal inheritance. Hebrews 10:36, 9:15
- D. A knowledge of knowing you are truly part of the family of God. Matthew 12:50
- E. A knowledge of knowing that you have a heart like God's heart. Acts 13:22

IV. Understand the error of resisting the will of God. Romans 9:19-21

V. Understand God's direction in your life and the three resources He has provided.

- A. He has given you the Holy Spirit to indwell you and direct your life. Galatians 5:25; John 16:13; 1Corinthians 2:9, 10
- B. He has given you the Word of God as your absolute authority in every area of life. You must learn to saturate your mind with God's thoughts. Philippians 2:5; Romans 12:1,2; Isaiah 55:6-11
- C. He has given you the local church which is organized to equip you for life and the ministry. Through your pastor and other believers He provides you with wise counsel. Ephesians 4:11,12

VI. Understand God's priority in doing His will for your life.

- A. Obedience to God in salvation and sanctification is more important than the discovery of how God wants you to serve!! **DO NOT EVER FORGET THAT!!**

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

- B. God is more interested in what you are than in what you do!

He is infinitely more interested in your being the type of person He wants you to be rather than your doing "mighty works" for Him. Be what He wants you to be and He will show you what to do. Philippians 2:13

VII. Basic Questions.

- A. Why does not God reveal all the details of His direction for me now?

- 1. It would overwhelm you before you got started.
- 2. You may not be equipped to handle it now. God will reveal what you can handle when you are ready.
- 3. You may not be the type of person God wants you to be yet.
- 4. God wants you to be patient as He works in your life spiritually. As time goes on and you begin to grow in your Christian walk, your interests, talents, and desires will grow and change. Be patient and consistent in fulfilling God's will for your life. He will be faithful to guide you. (Holy Spirit, the Word of God, the church)

- B. Why does God allow seemingly "bad" things to happen in my life?

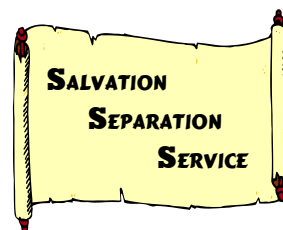
- 1. Occasionally things happen in a Christian's life which do not appear to be good.
  - a. God will allow suffering in the lives of His children to perfect them, although He would prefer that they did not have to suffer. 1Peter 3:15-18, 4:19, 5:10; 2Corinthians 12:6-10
  - b. From lesson 1, we learned our Heavenly Father will never make a mistake as He deals with His children. Matthew 7:11; Romans 8:28
- 2. God allows all of us to make our own choices in life - both good and bad.
  - a. We have a free will Revelation 22:17
  - b. God will not force anyone to do anything. God offers salvation and lays down the principles for a godly life. However, if we exercise our free will and reject salvation, the result is suffering the consequences. Galatians 6:7, 8

VIII. Memory Verses:

Romans 12:1,2

IX. Questions.

- A. What is God's will for your life in salvation?
- B. What is God's will for your life in sanctification?
- C. What is God's will for your life in service?



# LESSON 8 - THE LOCAL CHURCH

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


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

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

## I. Understanding the Biblical definition of the local church.

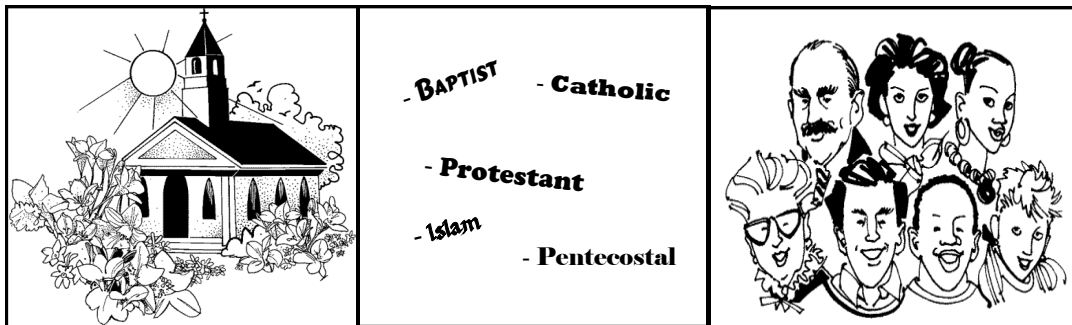
A. It is not a building. Acts 14:27

1. We worship God in spirit and in truth. John 4:24

2. Our bodies are the temple of God. 1Corinthians 6:19 

B. It is not a denominational group of congregations.

C. A local church is a body of men and women who have been saved and baptized and called by God to serve in a specific area.



D. The church is the body of Christ - the saved multitudes from every nation.

1. Writing to saved people, Paul states clearly in 1Corinthians 12:27, “...ye are the body of Christ.”

2. Paul compares the church body to the human body in 1Corinthians 12:14-27.

a. Each member has a different function - vs. 14-20.

b. No member can function alone - vs. 21.

c. Each member’s contribution is important - vs. 22-24.

d. A properly functioning body operates as a single unit - vs. 25-27.

## II. The Biblical function of the local church.

A. According to Acts 2:41-47, the first local church in the Bible was organized for the following purposes:

1. Teaching the Word of God - vs. 42.

2. Fellowship with other believers - vs. 42.

3. Prayer - vs. 42.

4. Observance of the two ordinances of the church (baptism and the Lord’s Supper) - vs. 41,42.

5. Testifying to God’s grace and power - vs. 43.

6. Meeting the needs of others - vs. 44,45.

7. Reaching out into the community - vs. 46,47.

8. Glorifying and praising God - vs. 47.

9. Adding members to the local church - vs. 47.

B. The first priority of the local church is to edify (build up, teach, and strengthen) the saints. Ephesians 4:11-16

## III. Understand your function within the local church.

During your Christian life you should grow through three broad and general stages as outlined in Ephesians 4:12.

A. You are to be perfected (completed and instructed) as a saint. This is a time to **observe and learn**.

Your first priority should be **submission to the teaching** of the Word of God and learning to be the person God wants you to be. Matthew 11:28-30

B. You are to do **the work of the ministry**. This is a time to **participate**.

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

C. You are to **edify the body** of Christ. This is a time to **lead**.

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

You are to be an **example** of being faithful to church. The church is important to God and He warns us not to forsake it but we are to exhort (encourage) one another by our faithful church attendance. Hebrews 10:25

These three stages can be roughly compared to the stages of physical growth: childhood, youth, and adult. **BE PATIENT!!** This process takes time. **Just be sure to remain faithful to God's established institution - the local church.** Matthew 6:31-34

#### IV. Who is the head of the church?

A. Christ is the head of the church. Ephesians 5:23-25

B. God has put the pastor as the overseer of the church. That's what the word pastor means. Acts 20:28; 1Peter 5:2-4

#### V. Often asked question.

If God wants me to be a member of a local church what things should I look for to make sure it is the right church for me?

A. Pray about it! Ask God to lead you to the right church. James 1:5

B. Observe the qualities of the church and compare them with the Biblical qualifications of a local church.

1. Is there evidence of soul-winning? Matthew 7:20; Acts 2:47

2. Does the church leadership believe and teach the Bible as the Word of God and the infallible guide for life? Titus 1:9

3. Is the membership encouraged to read and study the Word of God as much as the leadership? Acts 17:10-12

4. Do the people minister to the needs of others? Acts 6:1

5. Does the church send out and support missionaries? Acts 13:1-3

#### C. Church Membership

The membership of a local church is made up of **only saved people** who have, since their salvation, been baptized by immersion and have voluntarily been brought into membership, being in agreement with the local church's operational guidelines and statement of faith and who accept the Word of God as their final authority. Acts 2:41, 47  
In order to join this church you must follow these steps in order.

1. Salvation

2. Baptism by immersion

3. Read and accept the Church Constitution.

4. Ask to join the church.

#### VI. Memory Verses:

Ephesians 4:11,12

#### VII. Questions

A. What is the primary purpose of the church?

B. Who is responsible to meet the spiritual needs of the people?

C. What decision should you make right now?

## LESSON 9 - THE HOLY SPIRIT

“What are the works and characteristics of the Holy Spirit in my life?”

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

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

### I. The Holy Spirit has a specific residence.

- A. The Holy Spirit of God dwells in your body if you are saved. He came in at the moment of salvation and took up permanent residence. Romans 8:9 This is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. **1Corinthians 12:13**
- B. God gives His Spirit to dwell in you FOREVER. John 14:16, 17; Galatians 4:6
- C. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. 1Corinthians 6:19, 20; Ephesians 2:22

### II. The Holy Spirit has specific functions.

- A. The Holy Spirit **convicts** of sin. John 16:8, 9
  1. He convicts the lost of sin to bring them back to Christ.
  2. He convicts the saved of sin to keep them clean and show them how to live for Jesus Christ.
- B. The Holy Spirit creates and **regenerates** the new believer.

You became a new creature when you were born again by the Holy Spirit. John 3:3-8
- C. The Holy Spirit is the **seal** of your salvation. Ephesians 1:13,14; 4:30
- D. The Holy Spirit **bears witness** to you of your salvation. 1John 4:13; Romans 8:16
- E. The Holy Spirit **teaches** you the Bible. 1Corinthians 2:9,10
- F. The Holy Spirit **intercedes** in prayer for you. Romans 8:26, 27; Ephesians 2:18 (no priest)
- G. The Holy Spirit **comforts** you in time of need. John 14:15-18; 2Corinthians 1:3,4; 2Timothy 1:7
- H. The Holy Spirit **empowers** you to serve God. Zechariah 4:6; Ephesians 3:16; 2Corinthians 4:7

### III. The Holy Spirit produces specific results.

- A. The Holy Spirit of God produces a set of character qualities as you give your life to Him and walk in His power. This set of character qualities is called the **fruit** (singular) of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22,23. It is singular because ALL of these qualities are produced at the same time by a close relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- B. The fruit of the Spirit consists of nine qualities that will be in a believer's heart:
  1. Love - giving
  2. Joy - happiness is based on circumstances, joy is based on our relationship with Christ
  3. Peace - freedom from fear or anger; calmness of mind
  4. Longsuffering - patient, not easily provoked
  5. Gentleness - mild-mannered, sweet disposition
  6. Goodness - morally good, kindness
  7. Faith - trust and confidence in God
  8. Meekness - humility, submission
  9. Temperance - self control

### IV. Often asked questions

- A. What is “being filled with the Spirit” and how can I accomplish this?
  1. Allow God to control your life. The filling of the Holy Spirit **is not you getting more of the Holy Spirit**, (you received all of Him at the moment of salvation), **it is the Holy Spirit getting more of you.** **Romans 6:11-13**
  2. Saturate your mind with the Word of God. The result of this will be a joyous heart attitude toward God. **Colossians 3:16** Therefore, a person who saturates his mind with the Word of God will be filled with the Spirit. **Ephesians 5:18**
  3. BE PATIENT AND CONSISTENT! Being controlled by the Holy Spirit does not

happen over night. It is a life long process of spiritual growth through obedience to God's Word. Galatians 5:16-18, 25; Romans 8:1; John 8:29

4. **What is the difference between the "filling" and "indwelling" of the Holy Spirit?**

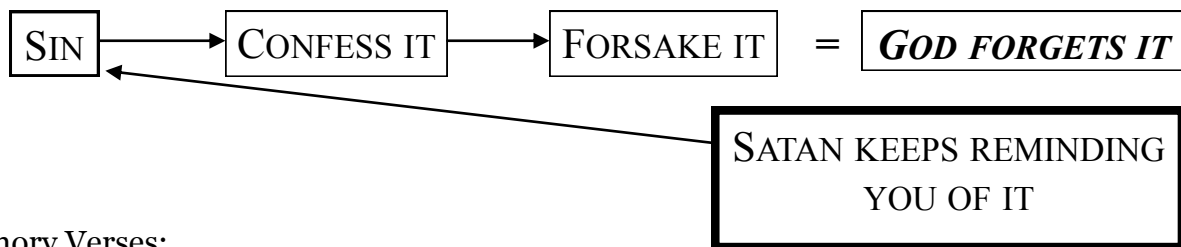
- a. Indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Baptism of the Holy Spirit)
  - 1) He comes in Himself (all of Him) and begins to live inside you at the moment of salvation. **Romans 8:9**
  - 2) He will remain FOREVER. John 14:16
- b. Filling of the Holy Spirit
  - 1) This comes through your yielding and obedience to God and His Word.
  - 2) This filling must be renewed daily.

| <u>Baptism of the Holy Spirit</u> | <u>Filling of the Holy Spirit</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. At salvation                   | 1. After salvation                |
| 2. Once only                      | 2. As often as you yield          |
| 3. Remains forever                | 3. Lose it when you sin           |

5. The main characteristic of being filled with the Holy Spirit is witnessing boldly for Christ.

B. How do I understand the difference between conviction and guilt?

- 1. "Conviction" is God pointing out that something is wrong so you can make it right. John 16:8
- 2. "Guilty feelings" are caused by the devil accusing you of being unworthy. If you believe the devil rather than God, your walk with God will be hindered. Revelation 12:10



V. Memory Verses:  
1Corinthians 6:19,20

VI. Questions

- A. Does a Christian receive all of the Holy Spirit at salvation?
- B. Will the Holy Spirit leave you if you sin?
- C. Explain the difference between the "filling" and "indwelling" of the Holy Spirit?

## LESSON 10 - FINANCIAL GIVING

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

Giving is a wonderful blessing for Christians and is a way God has provided for us to prove our love and to show our trust in Him. Many people today cannot be trusted, so when Christians talk about money they are naturally suspicious. That is also because they do not know the Bible and understand God’s plan.

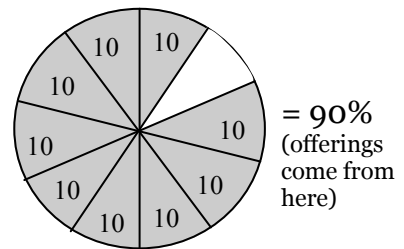
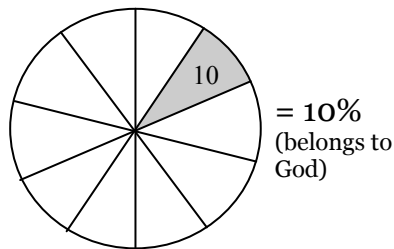
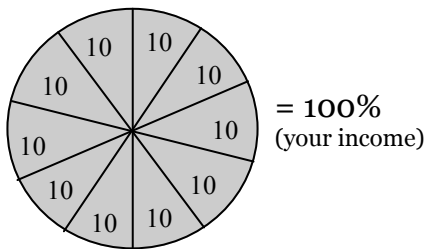
Before you can understand the nature of giving, you must understand one fact very clearly: **God does not need your money. He owns everything.** This lesson teaches you your responsibility as a steward of God and how to use the resources that He gives to you.

### I. Biblical giving begins with having the right attitude about finances.

- A. We are a creation of God, and because He is the Creator, He owns everything and can demand anything of His creation. Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-3
- B. We are bought with a price, His blood, so again, we belong to Him. Everything we have also belongs to Him. 1Corinthians 6:19,20
- C. We should give liberally. 2Corinthians 8:2-3, 9:13; 1Chronicles 29:7,8
- D. We should give sacrificially. John 3:16; Luke 21:1-4
- E. We should give joyfully. 2Corinthians 9:7
- F. We should give willingly. 1Chronicles 29:6,9
- G. We should give humbly. Matthew 6:1-4; 1Chronicles 29:10-14

### II. Biblical giving requires the right definitions of terms.

- A. Tithe - the tenth part (10%) of anything. Biblically, the tenth part of the increase came from the profits of land and stock, crops or fruit. Deuteronomy 14:22; Genesis 14:20
- B. First fruits - the fruit, produce, livestock, or anything collected in any harvest season was given to God, acknowledging that He owns everything. Proverbs 3:9,10 This teaches us the principle of taking care of God’s things first and trusting Him to bless us and take care of us.
- C. Offerings - a gift or sacrifice made above the tithe to show the sincerity of your love for God. 2Corinthians 8:1-8 This comes out of the remaining 90%.



### III. Biblical giving is about the blessings of God.

- A. It shows you are honest with God. Malachi 3:8
- B. It brings the blessings of God when given and a curse when not given. Malachi 3:9,10; 2Corinthians 9:6-8

### IV. Biblical giving has a purpose.

- A. The tithe was given to support the men of God in the Old Testament who were doing the work of God. Nehemiah 10:37; Numbers 18:24
- B. Israel gave much more than we do as God commanded them to give a second tithe that was to be given to take care of the widows, orphans and strangers. Deuteronomy 14:22,28,29 God expects His people to help those who are helpless. The individuals themselves were not allowed to partake of this charity.
- C. All offerings and tithes collected were given to be stored in God’s house. Someone was assigned to monitor its distribution for the ministries of God’s house. Nehemiah 10:38,39; Ezra 7:16; **2Chronicles 31:12**

V. Biblical giving is a very important part of the Christian's life.

A. The tithe is holy. Leviticus 27:30-32; 2Chronicles 31:5, 6

We steal from God when we do not pay it.

We steal from God's men when we do not pay it.

We steal from God's house when we do not pay it.

B. When we do not tithe it is like denying the faith.

If we do not tithe, why is it so terrible? You are denying that God is your Sovereign and that His way is right. It is willful disobedience to His Divine Word.

C. The greatest way that you show that you believe in a Redeemer is tithing.

Why?? God is worthy of the first fruits, because He gave the first fruits for us.

1. Jesus Christ Himself is the first fruit. 1Corinthians 15:19-23; First fruit meant that a harvest was to follow. Jesus was the first to rise from the grave, never to die again.

2. All of the Old Testament first fruits were a picture of Christ. He was the first eternal born. Hebrews 1:6

3. By not giving the first fruits, it is dishonoring God who would not give us anything less than His first fruits - which was Jesus Christ.

4. We could not even enter the presence of God without the first fruit offering of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hebrews 10:19. Without Jesus we cannot come to God at all.

5. It is a picture to show us that God gave His best for us, so we in turn should give our best for Him.

6. Do we dishonor the Offering that He gave to us?

D. The significance of giving.

1. It is recognition of a Divine Creator.

a. All things come from Him. Deuteronomy 26:10

b. His power is what gives us all things.

2. It shows honor to an Almighty Creator. Proverbs 3:9,10

When we do not give to God what He wants us to give, what we are saying is that we do not believe that there is a God, that we do not need God. All of life demands some form of honor (parents, police, President, etc.). It would be terrible for us to dishonor them. How much more dishonorable would it be not to give honor to our Jehovah God?

3. It shows that God has the first place in our lives. Exodus 36:5

The first and best belongs to the Lord. God deserves the best, for without Him we can do nothing.

VI. Biblical giving has a time to give.

In the Old Testament there were different times they were to give the tithe. In the New Testament Paul said it was to be given on the first day of the week when the believers met. 1Corinthians 16:1,2 Offerings could be given at any time.

VII. Biblical giving has a place to give.

As we said before the tithe is to be given the first day of the week. But where should we give it? It is to be brought to the house of God. Nehemiah 10:38; 2Chronicles 31:11,12 Malachi calls it the "storehouse" (Malachi 3:10) or "in store" as 1Corinthians 16:2 says. That would obviously be the church treasury.

VIII. Biblical giving has a penalty for not paying the tithe.

Leviticus 27:31 declares that if we use the tithes for any other purpose, then we are to add a fifth part to the tithe. In other words we would owe God 30%. If we refuse to pay it at all, then God calls us a thief. Malachi 3:8

IX. Biblical giving produces some results.

A. It will bring God's pleasure. Mark 12:41-44

B. It will bring God's provision. Psalm 37:25; **Luke 6:38; Philippians 4:19**; 2Corinthians 9:6-10

C. It will bring God's protection. It will keep us from loving money and the things that money can buy.

| <b>Tithe</b>               | <b>Offerings</b>                                      |
|----------------------------|---|
| Is a payment               | Are a gift  |
| Shows honesty              | Show love   |
| Is 10% of total income     | Are above the ten percent                             |
| Is paid on Sunday          | Are given anytime of the week                         |
| Is set aside for God's men | Are set aside for God's house or the ministries of it |
| Is commanded               | Are commanded   |
| Is a set amount            | Are an amount to pray about                           |

X. Memory Verse:  
2Corinthians 9:7

- XI. Questions.
- A. What is the principle of tithing?
  - B. Why should we tithe?



# **LESSON 11 - DEALING WITH SIN**

“How do I overcome sin in my life?”

The Bible says that Satan like a roaring lion is walking about seeking someone to devour. This means that we must be very careful. The Bible also compares the Christian to a soldier because we are in a deadly spiritual war. Many young Christians are not aware of the seriousness of this truth. As you grow you will see more completely how powerful this struggle is.

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

## I. Know what sin is.

- A. Sin is breaking God's law. 1John 3:4
- B. Sin is any unrighteousness. 1John 5:17
- C. Sin is anything done apart from faith. Romans 14:23; Hebrews 11:6 Genesis 3 shows how Eve did not trust God and because of that yielded to sin and was separated from God.

## II. Know why you sin.

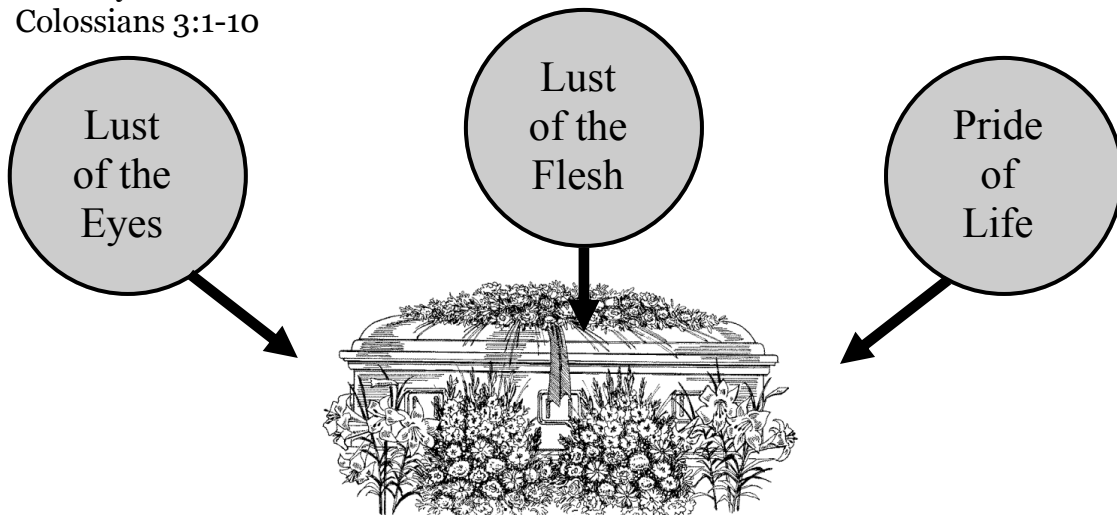
- A. You sin because you inherited a sinful nature from Adam. Romans 5:12
- B. You sin because your old nature draws you into sin. James 1:13, 14; Romans 7:14-25
- C. You sin as a result of temptation in three major areas which are outlined in 1John 2:15,16. Jesus was also tempted in these areas, yet without sin as stated in Hebrews 4:15.
  - 1. The lust of the flesh - Eve was tempted in this point in Genesis 3:6 when she saw that the tree was “good for food.” Jesus was tempted in this point in Matthew 4:3,4 when the devil tried to get Him to turn stones into bread.
  - 2. The lust of the eyes - Eve was tempted here when she saw the tree was “pleasant to the eyes.” Jesus was tempted when the devil showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and promised to give them to Him in exchange for worship. Matthew 4:8-10
  - 3. The pride of life - Eve fell to the temptation “to be desired to make one wise.” Jesus overcame the temptation to cast Himself down to prove the angels would take care of Him. Matthew 4:5-7

## III. Know how God sees your sin.

- A. God judged your sin at Calvary. 2Corinthians 5:21
- B. God will chastise you as a father chastises his child if you continue in sin. Hebrews 12:5-11
- C. God says you will reap according to what you have sown. Galatians 6:7, 8

## IV. Know how you can overcome sin.

- A. Do not allow sinful thoughts to control your mind. 2Corinthians 10:5; Philippians 4:8
- B. Do not make provisions for the flesh. Do not put yourself in a position to be tempted. Romans 13:14
- C. Realize you are dead to sin in Jesus Christ. Dead men cannot sin. Romans 6:6-13; Colossians 3:1-10



- D. Accept responsibility for your sin. Your sin is your own fault, not anyone else's. You will never correct anything until you face up to your responsibility. Proverbs 28:13
- E. Agree with God that you have sinned. 1Corinthians 11:31, 32
- F. REPENT! If you have true godly sorrow concerning your sin, repentance will follow naturally. Do not go back to your sin, but rather turn from it. Ask God to give you a hatred for that sin and then do not go back to participating in it again. 2Corinthians 7:10,11; Romans 6:1,2; Proverbs 8:13
- G. Confess your sins to God. 1John 1:9
- H. Trust God's promises to cleanse you. 1John 1:9
- I. Hide God's Word in your heart to fight sin.
  - 1. 1Corinthians 10:13 says that God has made a way of escape from temptation.
  - 2. That way of escape is found in Psalm 119:9-11. It is the Word of God.
  - 3. Jesus Christ overcame His temptation by quoting Scripture.
  - 4. The only way of overcoming sin in your life is through the power of the Word of God as you hide it in your heart and apply it to your life.
- J. Walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 8:1-8

V. Basic Question: How do I keep the influences of a sinful world from affecting me?

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

VI. Memory Verses:

Psalm 119:9-11

VII. Questions

- A. What is true repentance?
- B. How can I keep from sin?

## **LESSON 12 - LIBERTY IN CHRIST**

“Since all my sins are forgiven, am I free to do what I want to do?”

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

The purpose of this lesson is to help you understand just what your liberties in Christ are and how they relate to your actions as a child of God.

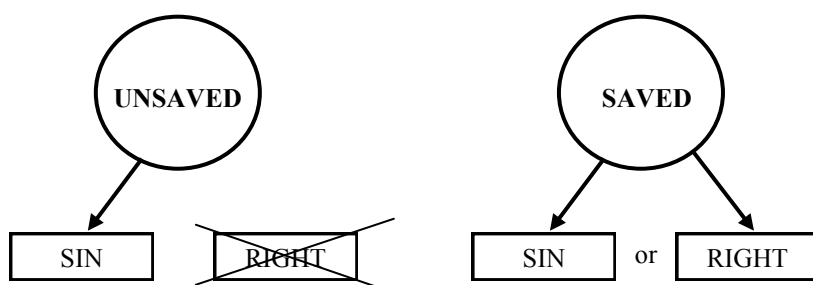
### I. You are free to do what is right. John 8:36

A. You are free from the Old Testament law to do what is right, not what you want. Romans 6:12-18; 8:2; Galatians 3:24, 25

1. Your liberty is not so you can feed your sinful flesh. Galatians 5:13

2. Your liberty is so you can serve God. 1Peter 2:16; Ephesians 6:6; Colossians 3:24

B. You are free to make right choices. Joshua 24:15; Romans 14:18-23



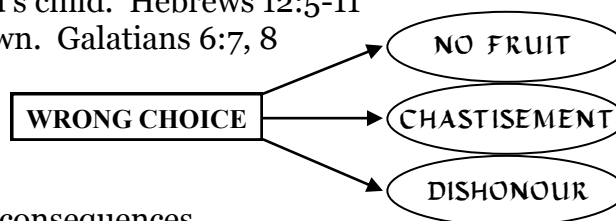
### II. Your choice brings consequences in your personal life.

A. Your choice to sin brings consequences.

1. You will not bear fruit. John 15:1-8

2. You will be chastened as God's child. Hebrews 12:5-11

3. You will reap as you have sown. Galatians 6:7, 8



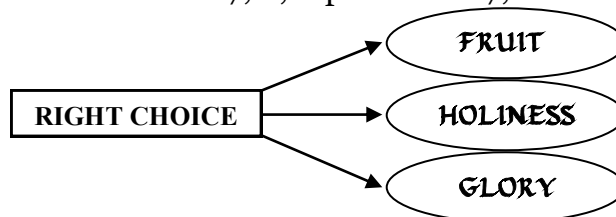
B. Your choice to obey God brings consequences.

1. You will reap holiness. Romans 6:22

2. You will reap glory. Romans 8:12-18

3. You will be filled with the fruits of righteousness. Philippians 1:9-11

4. You will reap as you have sown. Galatians 6:7, 8; Ephesians 6:7, 8



C. Your choice (good or bad) will result in glory to God. You will be either a vessel of honor or dishonor. The choice is yours. 2Timothy 2:20, 21

### III. Your choice brings consequences to those around you. Romans 14:7 (Jonah - Jonah 1:4-14, Achan - Joshua 7:1-12, Paul)

A. You are to avoid things which would cause a weaker brother to stumble in his faith. Romans 14:13-15; 1Corinthians 8:9-13

- B. You are to avoid things which appear wrong even though they may not be wrong. (going into a bar to witness) Romans 14:16; 1Thessalonians 5:22
- C. You are to have a good testimony toward both saved and lost people. Romans 14:18, 15:1-3; Acts 16:1, 2

#### IV. Your freedom has Biblical limitations.

A. Some limitations are clearly defined. Ephesians 4:25-29

1. Do not lie. - 25
2. Do not be angry. - 26
3. Do not give place to the devil. - 27
4. Do not steal. - 28
5. Do not use corrupt communication. - 29

B. Some limitations are not so clearly defined.

Going to the cinema to watch a “good” film. Sitting with friends while they are drinking the local brew, even though you are not drinking it.

Even in these areas you can determine Biblical boundaries through the application of God’s Word. From a practical standpoint, you can do this by asking yourself questions based on Biblical truth.

1. Am I being brought under the power of something that should not be controlling my life? 1Corinthians 6:12 (expedient means appropriate, proper or advisable)
2. Am I edifying myself or others? 1Corinthians 10:23
3. Can I ask God to bless what I am doing with a clear conscience? Colossians 3:17; Acts 24:16
4. If the Lord returned at this moment, would I be ashamed of what I am doing? 1Corinthians 1:8; 1Thessalonians 5:23
5. Would it cause a brother to stumble? Romans 14:13-15; 15:1, 2
6. Would it be the cause for a lost person to reject the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour? 1Corinthians 10:31-33
7. Does my conscience condemn me for it? 1Peter 3:16; Hebrews 13:18
8. What is good or right about this thing that I would allow in my life? Philippians 4:8,9

#### V. Basic Question: How do I get the balance between my liberties and other people’s needs?

You can achieve that balance only through the power of the Holy Spirit as you walk with Him. 2Corinthians 3:6,17; Romans 7:6

#### VI. Memory Verse:

Galatians 5:13

#### VII. Questions

- A. What is the purpose of our liberty in Christ?
- B. How can I apply this lesson in my own life?

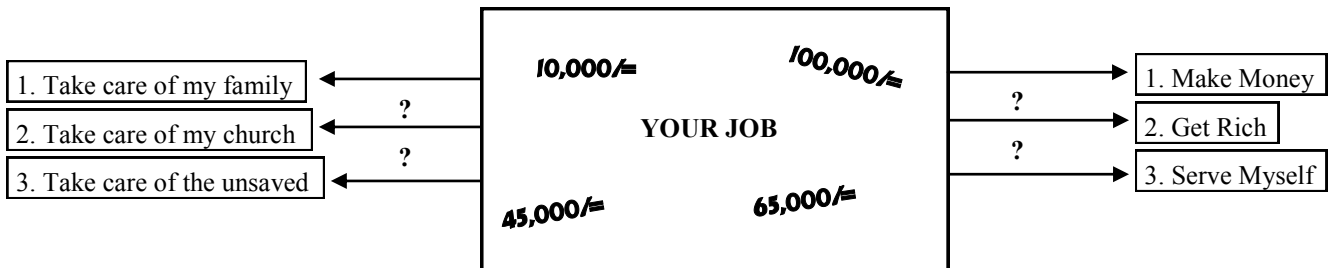
# **LESSON 13 - MY JOB AND EMPLOYER**

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

Since the Bible is the final authority in every area of your life, it has much to say about how you are to conduct yourself on your job. We spend much of our life on the job and it is necessary to learn how the Lord would have you look at this area of responsibility. If you want to be an effective servant of God, you must do so with all your life.

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

- I. Your job is simply part of your true calling to “full time Christian service.”
  - A. Your true job is to serve Jesus Christ. Ephesians 4:1
  - B. You are an important part of the body of Christ and your contribution is important. God expects every Christian to be involved in the Lord’s work. 1Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:11-16
  - C. Your service to God is to be at all times, not just when you go to church. 2Timothy 4:2
- II. Your job has a purpose to support the ministry God has for you. (soulwinning, discipleship) Matthew 28:19,20; Luke 19:10; John 17:18 How do we accomplish this?
  - A. Your first ministry is to your family. 1Timothy 5:8 (90% of your income) **After** your family is taken care of, you are to assist those in need. 1Timothy 5:8; Ephesians 4:28
  - B. Your second ministry is to your church family. Galatians 6:10 You have the responsibility to take care of the church. (10% of your income)
  - C. Your third ministry is to reach the lost. 2Corinthians 5:20 (giving of your time)
  - D. Your ministries are taken care of by your honest and sincere work.



- III. Your job should be a ministry opportunity, not just a job.
  - A. Your fellow workers are probably the greatest exposure you will have to lost people.
  - B. Your life may be the only true witness of the Lord that they will ever see.
    1. Your life should be a light representing Jesus Christ. Matthew 5:14-16
    2. Your life should reflect the Bible. 2Corinthians 3:2
  - C. You will have a much greater influence on those you spend the most time with. Although total strangers are surely an opportunity for a witness, those who can see a consistent testimony of a Christian’s life are much easier to win.
- IV. Biblical attitudes of employees.
  - A. Serve as if the Lord Jesus Christ is your employer. Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-24
  - B. Respect authority. Obviously, no employer will be correct in every point and you certainly can have disagreements; however, you are to submit to your employer’s authority, using it as an opportunity to show a testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. Titus 2:9, 10
  - C. Respect your employer’s property, it does not belong to you. Leviticus 19:11
  - D. Respect your employer’s time. Do a day’s work for a day’s wage. 2Corinthians 8:21; Colossians 3:22 Do not be late! You are stealing your employer’s time when you are late!
  - E. Do the very best you can to help your employer succeed and make him look good. Romans 12:11; 1Corinthians 10:24; Proverbs 10:4, 18:9, 21:25, 22:29 Joseph is the greatest Biblical example. Genesis 39:1-5, 20-23
  - F. Mind your own business and do not let someone else’s laziness affect you. 1Thessalonians

4:11; 2Thessalonians 3:10-13

G. Realize the more responsibilities that you have, the more time and energy is demanded. Be sure any new responsibilities will not hinder your service for God. 2Timothy 2:4

#### V. Biblical attitudes of employers.

- A. Treat people justly and equally. Set standards for them consistent with those you set for yourself. Colossians 4:1; Ephesians 6:9
- B. Consider the needs of others without always thinking of yourself. Philippians 2:2, 3
- C. Always maintain the attitude of a servant, even as a leader. Mark 10:42-45; 1Corinthians 9:19, 10:33; John 13:13-17; Philippians 2:5-9

#### VI. Basic Questions.

- A. What if my job conflicts with spiritual matters?
  - 1. There will always be some conflict of priorities between church activities and your work schedule. You cannot quit your job or take off work because of a few minor conflicts. Remember, your job is a ministry opportunity. However, you must not use your job as an excuse to neglect your responsibilities to your church. You must maintain balance in this area.
  - 2. When your job responsibilities are contrary to Biblical principles, then you must say "no".
    - a. When they ask you to forsake the house of God. Hebrews 10:25
    - b. When they ask you to lie or steal for your employer or violate other clear commandments of God.
    - c. When there are temptations or sinful activities on your job.
- B. How do I handle "persecution" on the job?
  - 1. If you are being "persecuted," it is usually for one of two reasons: your actions are improper, or your godly testimony is an offense to someone. 1Peter 3:16, 17
  - 2. Expect a certain amount of trouble from the world if you are truly serving Jesus Christ. 2Timothy 3:12
  - 3. Learn to commit that trouble to the Lord. 1Peter 2:18-23
- C. What should I consider when looking for employment?
  - 1. Have you taken the matter to God in prayer? James 1:5; Philippians 4:6, 7
  - 2. Will the new job keep you from serving the Lord? Do not be afraid to seek wise counsel in this area from another brother in Christ or your pastor.
  - 3. If you are being asked to shift to another area, is there a church there which can continue to provide your spiritual needs? This is an extremely important point!

#### VII. Memory Verse:

2Timothy 2:4

#### VIII. Questions

- A. Are you using your current job as a means of serving God?
- B. Are you involved in the three areas of ministry? (taking care of your family, the church and witnessing to the lost)
- C. What is one area that you could improve as an employee?

# LESSON 14 - THE LOST WORLD

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

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

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

- I. Learn to expect opposition from the world if you live for Jesus Christ.
- A. You will be opposed because Jesus Christ was opposed. John 15:18-21
  - B. You will be opposed only if you live for Him. If you go along with the world, you will not be opposed. 2Timothy 3:12

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>The World <b>HATED</b> CHRIST.</p>     | <p><b>Does</b> the World LOVE You?</p>        |
| <p>The World <b>HATES</b> Christians.</p> | <p><b>Does</b> the World <b>HATE</b> You?</p> |

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

- III. Learn how to overcome this opposition.
- A. Give a soft answer. Avoid fights whenever possible. Proverbs 15:1; Romans 12:18
  - B. Please God with your life. Proverbs 16:7
  - C. Have faith in God. 1John 5:4, 5
  - D. Love your enemies and help them. Jesus Christ loved His enemies enough to die for them when He did not have to do it. The world cannot understand this type of love, and those who are seeking the truth will be drawn to it. Romans 12:14,20,21
  - E. Pray for your enemies; pray with pure motives. Matthew 5:44
  - F. Keep good company. Associate with people who love God and want to serve Him. Proverbs 13:20; 1Corinthians 15:33
  - G. Immerse yourself in the Word of God. Romans 12:1,2

IV. Learn how the lost world should view you as a Christian.

- A. They should know you love God - NOT by your mouth but by your life. 1Corinthians 8:3
- B. They should see your life-style as separate from the world and your behavior as a testimony to others. 2Corinthians 6:14-18; 1Peter 2:9
- C. They should view you as moderate in all things, but not so peculiar that you lose influence. This would include your dress - moderate, not weird. Philippians 4:5; 1Corinthians 9:22
- D. They should see you as open and honest in all matters. 2Corinthians 8:21; Romans 12:17
- E. They should see a living testimony of the grace of God. Philippians 2:14,15
- F. They should see you as being of "good report." 1Timothy 3:7; Colossians 4:5, 6

V. Learn how you should view your place in the world.

- A. You are a pilgrim in a strange land. Hebrews 11:13; 1Peter 2:11
- B. Your home is in heaven. Ephesians 2:6; Philippians 3:20
- C. Your mission is to reach the lost for Jesus Christ. Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20

VI. Basic Question: What are my responsibilities to my government?

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

VII. Memory Verses:

1John 2:15,16

VIII. Questions

- A. In what areas can you expect to receive persecution?
- B. Should you pay taxes even to a corrupt government?



# **LESSON 15 - OTHER CHRISTIANS**

“What is my relationship to other Christians?”

As we learned in Lesson 1, when you got saved, you moved from the devil’s family to God’s family. Spiritually, you now have a new family with many brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

We saw how the church is likened to a body in lesson 8 and in this lesson we will study the special relationship which you now have with your spiritual family. This lesson is designed to give you a clear understanding of how the body of Christ operates as a family unit.

- I. You have a family relationship to other Christians.
  - A. Other Christians are your brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. Be sure to understand, only those in Jesus Christ (saved people) are your brothers and sisters. Likewise, those not in Jesus Christ (lost people) are not your brothers and sisters. 1John 3:1,2; Hebrews 2:9-12
  - B. Other Christians are your fellow laborers in service for Jesus Christ. 1Corinthians 3:5-10
- II. You share specific responsibilities with other Christians.
  - A. We are to pray for each other. Almost every one of Paul’s letters open with a prayer for those to whom he is writing. 1Thessalonians 1:2,3; 2Timothy 1:3
  - B. We are to minister to each other.
    1. Physically.
      - a. For those in your immediate family. Galatians 6:10; Romans 12:13
      - b. For the entire body of Christ. Acts 11:27-30
    2. Spiritually. Galatians 6:1,2; Romans 15:1,2
  - C. We are to encourage and edify one another. 1Thessalonians 5:11
  - D. We are to serve one another with humility. Philippians 2:3,4; Matthew 20:25-28
- III. You have a personal responsibility to maintain a Biblical attitude toward other Christians.
  - A. You should love them. 1John 3:14-16; 1Peter 4:8
  - B. You should be patient with them. Romans 15:5-7
  - C. You should be sensitive to their needs. 1John 3:17,18; James 2:15, 16
  - D. You should be forgiving of them. Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13
- IV. You have a part in a Biblical fellowship that unites Christians.
  - A. Fellowship is sharing our common life in Christ
    1. “Fellowship” is a term commonly used by Christians generally referring to getting together for activities or times of sharing common interest. However, this is only a small part of true fellowship.
    2. While fellowship is sharing things in common, true biblical fellowship goes far beyond just a meal or activity. It is the sharing of your life and ministry with other believers through the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:3-6; 2:1, 2
  - B. Fellowship involves many areas of Christian living.
    1. Prayer. 2Corinthians 1:11
    2. Faith. Romans 1:12
    3. Ministry. 2Corinthians 8:4; Galatians 2:9
    4. Suffering. Philippians 3:10; 1Peter 4:13, 5:1
    5. Doctrine. Acts 2:42; Romans 16:17
  - C. Fellowship is maintained by the practice of Biblical character qualities.
    1. Humility. Philippians 2:3-8
    2. Honesty. Ephesians 4:25; 2Corinthians 4:2
    3. Love. John 13:35; Galatians 5:13-15
    4. Hospitality. Titus 1:8; Acts 2:42,46,47
  - D. Fellowship among believers must be based on your fellowship with Christ.

You must learn to have personal fellowship with Him before your fellowship with other believers will be proper. True biblical fellowship is grounded in the elements listed above (prayer, faith, ministry, suffering, doctrine) as we come together in our fellowship in the person of Christ. 1John 1:3-7; 1Corinthians 1:9, 10

V. Basic question: What if another Christian offends me? Psalms 119:165

Unfortunately, this will probably happen to you if you spend any amount of time with your brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. Just as in your physical family, there will be time of offence, hurt, and disagreement within the body of Christ. The Bible gives us directions in dealing with all situations. In serious cases of offence, the following principles provide a definite progression to deal with such matters.

A. **PRIVATELY take the offence directly to the other party first** and try to settle it between yourselves. Matthew 18:15; Luke 17:3

B. If the matter is not resolved privately, **take a mature believer** or two with you as a mediator in the situation. This person should be able to bring an objective evaluation and give balance in dealing with the offence. Matthew 18:16; 1Corinthians 6:1-5; Deuteronomy 19:15

1. Do not go to the lost world to settle a spiritual problem within the body of Christ. 1Corinthians 6:6

2. Do go to the authorities if a crime has been committed. Romans 13:1-5

C. If the matter still cannot be resolved **take it to your pastor** so the offending party has the opportunity to submit to Biblical authority and respond to church discipline. Matthew 18:17

1. Be prepared to support church discipline. Romans 16:17; 1Corinthians 5:9,11; 2Thessalonians 3:6,14; 1Timothy 6:5; 1Timothy 5:20

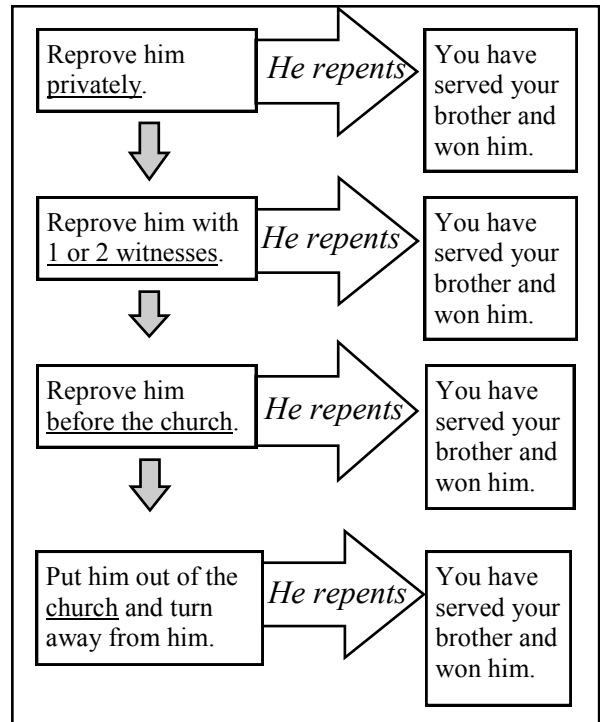
2. Commit the situation to the pastoral leadership of the church. They will handle it justly as the Holy Spirit leads through the structure God has established. Hebrews 13:7,17

3. You should be ready to forgive your brother or sister if there is true repentance. However, reconciliation and restoration cannot take place without this repentance on the part of the offending party. God made forgiveness possible when Christ died and rose again. That forgiveness becomes operative only when we repent and receive His forgiveness. Matthew 18:21,22; Luke 17:3; Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:32

4. If the person refuses to repent, then you must put him out of the church and turn away from him. Matthew 18:17; 1Corinthians 5:5; 1Timothy 1:20; 2Thessalonians 3:6,14,15; Romans 16:17-19

5. Pray for your brother. Romans 15:30

6. Though you are ready to forgive when the offence is dealt with Biblically, be certain you do not enter into sin by having bitterness in your heart in the meantime. Hebrews 12:14, 15



**The purpose for church discipline is RESTORATION!!**

VI. Memory Verse:

Ephesians 4:32

VII. Questions

A. What do I do if another Christian offends me?

B. What is the purpose of church discipline?

# LESSON 16 - SEPARATION

“What should my attitude be toward my flesh and the world?”

The issue of “separation” is one of the distinguishing features of Independent Baptists. It is a subject which has to do with the way we live, the way we conduct ourselves as a local church, and standards for living.

Such a study could quite easily become a list of “thou shalt not’s,” but that is only part of what the Lord intends. As you enter into this study of the Bible, it is important that you grasp the principles involved as well as the practices outlined.

This lesson is designed to encourage you to lift high your standards. We are living in a world of rapidly declining moral and spiritual standards. This decline is seriously affecting Christians and churches to the point that it is often difficult to tell Christians from non-Christians.

## I. Exactly what is meant by “SEPARATION”?

A. There are four words used in the Bible which have basically the same meaning: SEPARATION, SANCTIFICATION, HOLINESS, and SAINTS. All have the same basic meaning: “SET APART.”

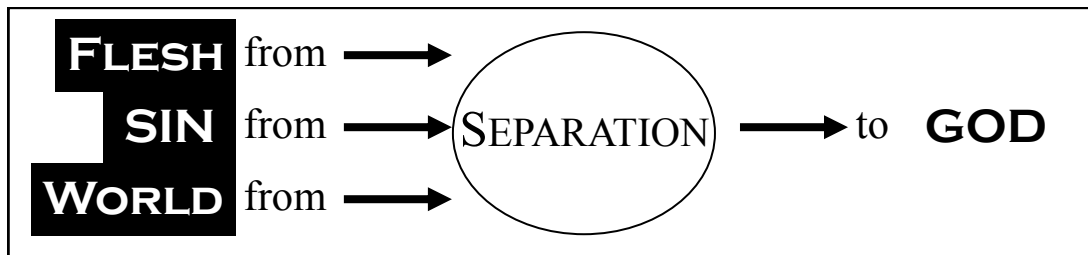
1. When we say that God is holy, that means He is “set apart” from all His creation in righteousness.
2. When we say that the Bible is holy, we mean that it is “set apart” from all other books.
3. When we are taught to sanctify the Lord in our hearts, this means we are to “set God apart” from all other idols.

B. There are two areas to separation in your life.

1. Positional separation - In Christ I HAVE BEEN set apart unto God. Hebrews 10:10
2. Practical separation - As a Christian, I AM TO LIVE as set apart unto God. 1Peter 1:15,16

C. There are two important features to separation, two sides of one coin:

1. Separation TO the Lord. Romans 12:1
2. Separation FROM ungodliness. Romans 12:2



## II. What is the reason for practical separation? Why be holy?

- A. It is the character of God’s very nature. 1Peter 1:16
- B. It is the result of redemption. 1Corinthians 6:19, 20
- C. It is the result of regeneration. 2Corinthians 5:17
- D. It is commanded in God’s Word. 2Corinthians 6:17

## III. Separation from the world.

A. We are to be in the world but not of the world. John 15:19

Practical separation does not mean that we are to live a sheltered isolated life, or to have nothing to do with anyone who is not saved.

B. We are not to love the world or the things of the world. 1John 2:15

C. When the Bible speaks of “the world” in this sense, it does not mean the creation of God or His material provision. It refers to the “world system,” which is the dominion of Satan. 1John 2:16 defines the world as: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

D. Doing the will of God is the most important and lasting thing that we can do. 1John 2:17

E. Friendship with the world makes us an enemy of God. James 4:4

F. We are not to be conformed to the world. Romans 12:2

G. Pure religion is keeping yourself undefiled from the world. James 1:27

H. A worldly (carnal) Christian is one who tries to please the “flesh”, the old sinful nature. The works of the flesh are listed in Galatians 5:19-21

#### IV. Some areas of personal separation

##### A. The things I will allow my eyes to see. Job 31:1,7

###### 1. Attending cinema and renting videos.

Almost all cinema movies are full of violence, adultery, fornication, drunkenness, witchcraft, and ungodly living. Christians should not support this business.

###### 2. Watching television. (TV)

If you feel at liberty to own a television, the most important control is the "OFF" switch. The rubbish that can be brought into your home, the laziness that it promotes, and the influences it has over young minds requires wisdom and firm control. Control is the key.

###### 3. Books and Magazines.

Filthy and pornographic publications should never be in the possession of a Christian. Do not read magazines and newspapers that draw attention to ungodly things. (Red Pepper)

##### B. The places I will allow myself to go.

We are taught that the Lord Jesus may come at any moment, and that we should never be ashamed to meet Him. 1John 2:28 There are many places where Christians should not go - the discotheque, the bars and pubs, gambling places, etc.

##### C. The things I wear.

The area of clothes is a difficult one for the Christian. This is because clothes change with extremes, from normal to strange, from ankle length to short-short, from modest to seducing, etc. Yet, we must remember that the fashion of this world will pass away. 1Corinthians 7:31 The Bible does, however, give instructions in this area. The important thing to remember in the matter of the way we dress is very simple. We dress for **modesty** and **distinction**.

a. Modesty - We dress because of sin. Adam and Eve were naked in the Garden, but then they were perfect. Genesis 2:25 When sin entered the world, Adam and Eve realized that they needed to be clothed. Genesis 3:6,7,21 Bare thighs are associated with nakedness whether you are a man or woman. (as with mini-skirts and shorts) From history we understand the thigh to be the area between the knee and the waist. The standard for all Christians should be modest apparel. Exodus 28:42; Isaiah 47:2,3; 1Timothy 2:9,10

God made men and women sexually different, but attractive to one another. Men are enticed by the sight of a woman's body (this is the reason the world uses immodestly dressed females in advertising). When a woman wears pants, tight fitting dresses or low-cut clothing, the shape of her body is brought out and it is enticing to the man. Matthew 5:28; 1Thessalonians 4:3-7

Slits in dresses should be avoided. When a woman with a slit in her dress walks, she is playing games with a man's eyes. Some women say that they have to have a slit or they could not walk in the dress. In that case the dress is too tight and should not be worn.

b. Distinction - The Bible teaches that from the beginning God intended men and women to be distinctly separate. This is the basis of Deuteronomy 22:5. God forbids men and women to wear clothing that pertains to the opposite sex. We already saw in Exodus 28:42 that breeches or britches (pants, trousers) was the clothing God designed for men. Therefore women are not to wear them. Women should dress like women and men should dress like men.

Long hair is a woman's glory, but long hair on men is a shame. Again we see the God's desire for distinction between men and women in what they wear and how they look. 1Corinthians 11:6,14,15

##### D. The things that I say.

1. Ephesians 4:29 teaches against corrupt communication.

2. Ephesians 5:19 teaches us that a Christian's conversation should be Christ centered.

3. Colossians 4:6 says our speech should always be with grace.

Every language has a list of obscene words. Christians should not use them! You should never be heard using the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:9) or God in careless speech. "Oh, My God" Exodus 20:7; James 3

E. The people I associate with.

1. According to Psalm 1:1, a man is blessed when he walks not in the counsel of the **ungodly**.
2. According to 1Corinthians 5:11, we are not to keep company with **Christians who are worldly and carnal**.
3. We are to stay away from **angry people**. Proverbs 22:24
4. We are to avoid close associations with **fools**. Proverbs 1:7, 4:19, 9:6, 12:15, 13:20, 14:7, 23:9; Psalm 14:1
5. We should never stop to listen to a **tale-bearer**. Proverbs 16:27, 28; 18:8; 20:19; 26:20-22; 2Thessalonians 3:11; 1Timothy 5:13 The best way to handle a gossip is to say something like this: "Just a minute. Let's both go to the person you are talking about, and we will hear what you have to say together."

V. Separation in close partnerships.

- A. 2Corinthians 6:14 warns against being unequally yoked together with unbelievers.
- B. The greatest application of this principle is in the area of marriage. It is wrong and dangerous for a Christian to court an unsaved person. It is a sin for a Christian to marry a non-Christian.
- C. Be careful about being in business with lost people.

VI. Separation in religious matters.

We are living in an ecumenical (universal) age where all religions are coming together in religious unity. When Bible believing Baptists refuse to have any part with the World Council of Churches, or fellowship with non-Baptist religious groups, or even work together with other Baptists, they are often called "narrow-minded", "unloving", and "extremists", etc.

- A. The Bible says we are to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. Ephesians 5:11
- B. Can two walk together except they be agreed? Amos 3:3
- C. 2John 9,10 says that we are to have nothing to do with those who abide not in the doctrine of Christ.
- D. Romans 16:17 tells us we are to mark those which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrines which we have learned, and avoid them.

VII. Two excuses Christians often use for not living separated lives.

- A. Other Christians do not have your standards.

It is true that many Christians see nothing wrong with the devil's music, worldly clothes, questionable places, etc. - but that does not make them right. We need to study the Bible and form Bible based convictions; then live by them. James 4:17

- B. The most important thing is to win souls, and to do this I have to be acceptable to the lost.  
NO!! You need to be acceptable to your Lord. It is never right to do wrong in order to do right! 1Thessalonians 5:22

VIII. How do I know if something is right or wrong for me? Ask yourself.

- A. Is it scriptural? Psalm 119:15, 105
- B. Can I do this in the name of the Lord? Colossians 3:17
- C. Will the lost be hindered in their salvation by what I do?
- D. Will Christians be edified in their spiritual growth by what I do? Romans 14:21
- E. Do I have some doubts about it? Romans 14:22,23 If in doubt, don't.
- F. Would what I want to do be acceptable to the Lord? Ephesians 5:10

Always ask the questions: "Can I take the Lord Jesus there?", "Would He join in with me?", "Would He do it?" "What would Jesus do?" Answering properly based on the Word of God will solve most of your problems.

IX. Memory Verse:

2Corinthians 6:17

X. Questions

- A. What is the purpose of separation?
- B. What are 4 areas that I should personally separate?
- C. How do I know if something is right for me?

# **LESSON 17 - THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**

“Is there a judgment day for Christians, and if so, what will you be accountable for?”

The Bible says God’s ways are not man’s ways. Man looks on the outward physical matters while God looks on the heart attitude and operates in the spiritual realm. If you are going to serve God effectively, you must take your focus off physical matters and concentrate on the spiritual. Your life will only make sense and have purpose and meaning as you live in the spiritual area, focused on eternal matters.

This lesson is designed to help you keep your focus on these eternal matters and to inform you of your final accountability to the Lord Jesus Christ as His servant.

## I. Understand what the Judgment Seat of Christ is.

- A. Judgment faces every human being who has ever lived. Proverbs 29:26; Hebrews 9:27
- B. Judgment for sin took place on the cross of Calvary. Since placing your faith in Jesus Christ, you do not have to fear eternal punishment or judgment of your sins because He took your punishment upon Himself. 1Peter 2:24; 2Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13
- C. The Christian will give an account of his life at the Judgment Seat of Christ. 2Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10 Only Christians will be at this judgment.
- D. The lost will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment. Only the lost will be at this judgment.

| <b>Judgment Seat of Christ</b>                 | <b>Great White Throne Judgment</b>           |
|--|--|
| 1. This judgment does not determine destiny.   | 1. This judgment does not determine destiny. |
| 2. This judgment is only for the saved.        | 2. This judgment is only for the unsaved.    |
| 3. This judgment is for works done for Christ. | 3. This judgment is for works.               |

## II. Understand the purpose for the Judgment Seat of Christ.

- A. You will be judged for your work as a servant of Jesus Christ. 1Corinthians 3:11-15
- B. Your work will be judged for the quality as opposed to the quantity.
  - 1. “Of what sort it is.” (what kind) 1Corinthians 3:13
  - 2. Duty, obedience and attitude are very important.

## III. Understand the negative results of this judgment - loss and shame are possible.

- A. Paul said, in speaking of the Judgment Seat of Christ in 2Corinthians 5:11, that the “terror of the Lord” should motivate us to serve Him and persuade others. A Christian should never fear going to hell, but there are some things to beware of concerning the Judgment Seat of Christ.
- B. Some Christians will be found:
  - 1. Ashamed for not living for the Lord Jesus Christ at His appearing. 1John 2:28
  - 2. Suffering loss because their works were temporal and not eternal. 1Corinthians 3:15
  - 3. Losing rewards because they lived in sin rather than for Jesus Christ. 2Corinthians 5:10; Galatians 6:7, 8
  - 4. Do not be fooled by outward appearances, in your own life and the lives of others. Many people only APPEAR to be servants of the Lord. Luke 16:15; 1Corinthians 1:27-31
- C. Be sure to invest in Heavenly rewards instead of earthly rewards. The real servants of the Lord will be revealed at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Matthew 6:19,20; Colossians 3:1-4

## IV. Understand the rewards that may be received at this judgment.

- A. The New Testament says that crowns may be received at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
  - 1. The Crown of Righteousness - 2Timothy 4:8 - given to those who love the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - a. The Bible closes with “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” Revelation 22:20

- b. Your greatest desire should be, at all times, to be with the Lord. Philippians 1:23,24
- c. You will not love His appearing unless you, like Paul, have fought a good fight, finished your course, and kept the faith! 2Timothy 4:7
- 2. The Crown of Life - Revelation 2:10 - the faithful believer's crown. This is also seen in James 1:12 as given to those who endure temptation.
- 3. The Incorruptible Crown - 1Corinthians 9:25 - the crown of temperance or self-control.
  - a. The context deals with temperance or self-control in all matters (physical, spiritual, and mental) to be a testimony to others.
  - b. This is balanced by remembering some have infirmities for the purpose of glorifying God. Paul is a great example. 2Corinthians 12:7-10
- 4. The Crown of Rejoicing - 1Thessalonians 2:19 - the soul-winners crown.
  - a. This crown is given to those who win people to Jesus Christ. Philippians 4:1
  - b. This is called the crown of rejoicing because it produces rejoicing in heaven when someone gets saved. Luke 15:7
  - c. It also produces joy in your own life, when you see that someone has been saved from everlasting punishment. If you ever get discouraged, then go soul winning. When you lead someone to Christ it will encourage you.
- 5. The Crown of Glory - 1Peter 5:4 - the pastor's crown. Given to those who pastor or shepherd people in the Word of God.
- B. The rewards you receive on earth are all temporal and will perish. The rewards you receive at the Judgment Seat of Christ are eternal and will never perish. 2Corinthians 4:17-5:4

#### V. Basic Question: Why should I be concerned about the Judgment Seat of Christ?

- A. Looking for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ is one of the most practical doctrines in the Bible for everyday living. Notice in the following verses how many practical character qualities are produced by looking for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - 1. Patience. James 5:7,8; 2Thessalonians 3:5
  - 2. Peace and comfort. 1Thessalonians 4:13-18
  - 3. Joy. 1Thessalonians 2:19
  - 4. Holiness. 1Thessalonians 3:13; 1John 3:1-3
  - 5. Confidence. Philippians 1:6; 1John 2:28
  - 6. Diligence in service. 2Timothy 4:1-8
  - 7. Righteous living. Titus 2:11-14
  - 8. Faith even in difficult times. 1Peter 1:5-7
- B. By constantly looking for the return of Christ, you will naturally develop a desire to please God rather than man. Developing this attitude is the surest way to handle criticism and opposition. 2Corinthians 5:6-11

#### VI. Memory Verse:

1John 2:28

#### VII. Questions

- A. Who will be at the Judgment Seat of Christ and who will not be?
- B. What is the purpose of the Judgment Seat of Christ?

# **LESSON 18 - REACHING THE WORLD**

“How can we reach the world for Christ?”

Evangelizing the world with the Gospel is not an option for Christians. Jesus Christ made soulwinning and discipleship the responsibility of every believer.

Christians must be committed to reaching the world for Christ. However, when we consider the current population of over 6 billion, we might think that this is impossible. Would Christ command us to do something that was impossible to do? NO!! While it seems humanly impossible, “with God all things are possible.”

In lesson 4 you learned that God has commanded believers to share the Gospel with the lost. Christ commands us to reach people for Him and to make disciples of all nations. How can we possibly reach the entire world? The truth is, the Lord has given us a plan that will enable us to do just that.

## I. Understand the Task. **Matthew 28:19,20**

A. **We are to win the world.** Acts 1:8

1. Our Jerusalem is our town and the surrounding villages.
2. Our Judea is Uganda.
3. Our Samaria is Africa.
4. Our uttermost parts are the rest of the world. Acts 8:4

B. **We are to baptize them.** Acts 2:41; 8:12

C. **We are to teach them** to observe all things that He has commanded. Acts 28:31; 2Timothy 2:2

The Great Commission is not a special calling, it is a command given to all those who have become His children. The Great Commission must become the lifestyle of every believer. We will now look at God’s plan, which makes it possible to reach the entire world in 20 years.

## II. Fulfill our task by making disciples.

A. Through world missions - the plan of sending missionaries.

First, the Word of God tells us to become involved in sending those whom God sets aside to take the gospel to other nations. This is world missions. The heart of the local church must be world missions.

1. Some will be called to go.

God sets aside some believers who are given the specific task of personally taking the gospel to another nation. Paul was one of the greatest missionaries ever, and he was set apart by God to take the gospel to the Gentiles. Acts 9:15

2. The church is called to send. Acts 13:1-3

Not all Christians are called to personally take the gospel to a particular nation, but ALL are called to be senders of those who are called to go through the local church. The offering for missions is the way God has established for the church to send those who are called to go (2Corinthians 8:2-4,10,11). What is a Missions Offering?

- a. It is a commitment. It is a commitment made to God by an individual to give a specific amount to world missions over a specific period of time.
- b. It is a commitment given by faith. It is a gift promised and given by faith, believing that God will supply your needs as you faithfully support world missions.
- c. It is an offering. It is an offering given above and beyond your tithes.

B. Through personally **making disciples.**

God’s plan is not only fulfilled by sending out missionaries, it is also fulfilled by the local church through soulwinning and discipleship.

1. God wants you to be a laborer in His field. Matthew 9:37,38

The need is not for new and better programs. Christ has already given us the plan for reaching the world. The real need is for more Christians who will become involved in making disciples (being laborers).

2. God wants you to pass on what you have learned. 2Timothy 2:2

- a. The things that you have heard and learned in Discipleship 1 should be a part of your life by now.



b. You are commanded to pass on the things that you have learned by teaching them to others.

c. The goal is for you to teach others who, then will be able to teach others also.

A disciple who is truly committed to the Lord will become actively involved in the command of the Lord to make disciples of all nations.

### III. Fulfill our task by reaching the world **one-by-one**.

According to Matthew 28:19, the heart and soul of the Great Commission is to “make disciples of all nations.” Our Lord told us to win the lost to Christ, baptize them, and teach them to observe all things that He commanded us. There is a pattern given to us in the Bible for fulfilling this task - that pattern is MULTIPLICATION.

#### A. Reaching the world by addition. Acts 2:41,47, 5:14

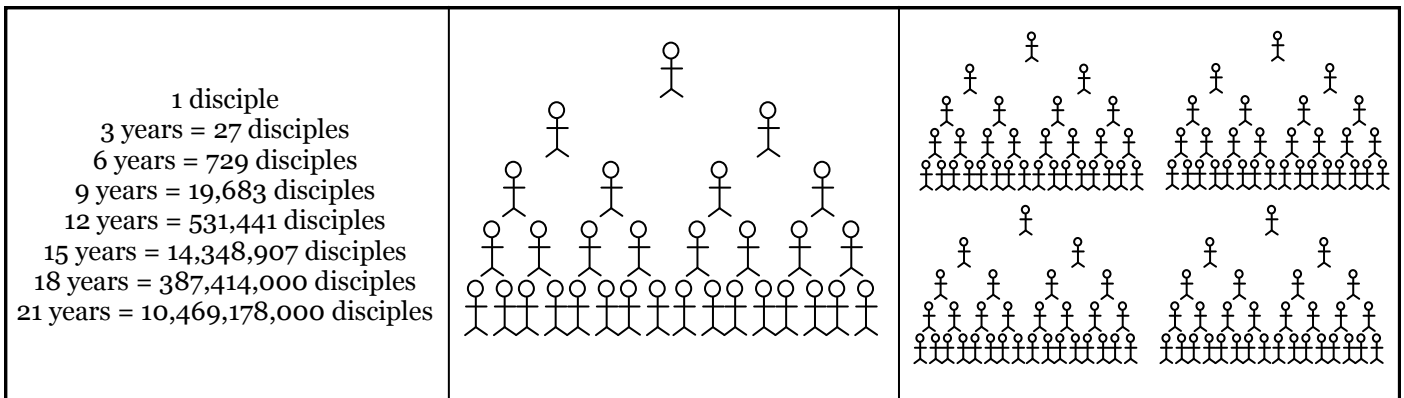
Many churches have tried to reach the world by winning as many people to Christ as they can. However, soul-winning alone only allows the local church to ADD to its numbers as people are won to Christ.

Example: Suppose we were able to do as they did on the Day of Pentecost and win 3,000 souls to Christ every day and add them to our church. It would take 5,479 years to reach the world population of six billion people.

#### B. Reaching the world by **multiplication**. Acts 6:7, 9:31

It is true that we are to win souls, but we are also to disciple them so that they in turn can reproduce disciples who reproduce disciples who reproduce disciples, and so on. This is multiplication. We can reach the world one individual at a time if Christians will become involved in carrying out all of the Great Commission. (soulwinning, baptism, discipleship) Discipleship wins people through multiplication.

Suppose one person wins 2 people to Christ and teaches them to become reproducing disciples in one year. Next, that person and the 2 disciples win and disciple 6 others the next year. If this process continues, and everyone reproduces at the same rate, in 3 years you would have 27 disciples.



The task given to us by the Lord is not impossible. However, we must follow the Lord’s plan to make reproducing disciples.

Will you become a disciple-maker? If so, we encourage you to enroll in Discipleship 2, in order that we might more clearly teach you the philosophy, purpose and method of Biblical Discipleship so that you can pass on the principles you have learned in Discipleship 1.

### IV. Memory Verse:

2Timothy 2:2

### V. Questions

A. Whose responsibility is it to reach the world for Christ?

B. Do you want to go on to Discipleship 2 and learn how to disciple others?