

Biblical Discipleship I

18 Lessons

To help a Christian grow in grace
and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

2023 EDITION

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Discipleship I

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LESSON 1: SALVATION

“What is My New Relationship To God?”

Receiving Jesus Christ as one's Saviour is the most important decision anyone could ever make. This lesson will show what it means to be "saved" and how salvation changes one's relationship to God.

- I. There are TWO spiritual families in the world: the family of God and the family of Satan. Every person is a member of one or the other of these families. *Romans 8:16; Acts 13:10; 1John 3:10*
 - A. Many people assume that God is a Father to all mankind and that all men are brothers! However, the Bible says that God is NOT the Father of those who are not saved! *John 8:38, 44*
 - B. Adam, the first man, was disobedient and sinned against the Lord. Because he sinned Adam DIED spiritually and was separated from God his Father. *Genesis 2:17; 3:6-8, 23-24*
 - C. Adam's descendents (all of us) were born in his spiritually dead condition! *Genesis 5:3*
 - D. Satan became a "father" to the human race. He became the 'god' of this world. The whole world is now under his direct influence. *Eph. 2:1-3; 2Corinthians 4:3-4; Luke 4:5-6; Rev. 12:7-9*
 - E. We all became part of Satan's family just by being born into this world. We were all born as sinners. By our natural birth, we were...
 1. **Spiritually dead** - having no eternal life, no hope of Heaven. *Romans 5:12*
 2. **Condemned** - headed for Hell. *Revelation 20:15; 21:8; John 3:18, 36*
 3. **Lost** - separated from God. *2Corinthians 4:3-4*
 4. **Bound** - subject to the power of sin. *Psalms 51:5; 58:3; Romans 7:18-24*
 - F. Jesus Christ came to die for our sins and bring us into the family of God. *John 1:11-13*
 1. He came to give spiritual life to the dead: *Romans 6:23*
 2. He came to deliver us from our condemnation: *John 5:24*
 3. He came to seek us and save us from our lost condition: *Luke 15:4-7; 19:10*
 4. He came to free us from the power of sin: *John 8:32; Romans 6:17-18, 22; 8:1-2*
- II. To become part of God's family a sinner must be born again. *John 3:3, 6-7; 1Peter 1:23*
 - A. We are born again when we put our faith in Jesus Christ to save us. *Galatians 3:26*
 - B. Being born again, we have everlasting life as a gift from God. *John 6:47; 1John 5:11-12*
 - C. Being born again, we are NO LONGER in Satan's family or under his power. *Colossians 1:12-14*

III. In God's family, we are now children of God. He is truly our Father...

- A. God treats us as **sons - not lost sinners**. *1John 2:1; 1John 3:1-3*
- B. God has **adopted** us legally - making us His **heirs**. *Galatians 4:4-7; Romans 8:15-16*
- C. God has **sealed** us with His Spirit. *1Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 1:13-14*
- D. God does all the things for us that any good father would do. For example:
 - 1. He loves and cares for his children. *1Peter 5:7*
 - 2. He protects his children. *Matthew 18:6*
 - 3. He provides for his children. *Philippians 4:19*
 - 4. He guides and teaches his children. *John 14:26*
 - 5. He encourages his children. *Philippians 4:13*
 - 6. He disciplines his children. *Hebrews 12:6-8*
 - 7. He has a purpose in mind for his children's future. *Romans 8:28-29*
- E. Our Heavenly Father never makes a mistake in dealing with us! *Matthew 7:11; James 1:17*
- F. As obedient sons, we ought to live to please our Father. *Ephesians 5:1, 8-11; 2Cor. 5:14-15*

IV. Now that we are sons of God, how do we overcome sin in our lives?

- A. Our old nature is still present with us. Although we are no longer under Satan's power, we can still be tempted by him because our "flesh" is weak. *Matt. 26:41; Romans 7:18-19; 1John 2:1-2*
- B. But we have a new nature, received from Jesus Christ. It is actually the Spirit of Christ living within us! This new nature is holy and desires to please God! *2Peter 1:3-4; Romans 8:1-4*
- C. The old nature will struggle every day to keep control of us but if we will trust his power, the Holy Spirit will help us overcome sinful desires and habits. *Eph. 3:20; Romans 6:11-13; 1Peter 1:14-16*
- D. There is coming a day when our sinful nature will be gone forever! *1Cor. 15:49, 51-54*

V. If we sin after we are saved, how does it affect our relationship with God?

- A. We are sons of God forever! God will never cast us out of His family. *John 6:37*
- B. Sin causes us to lose "fellowship" with God. *1John 1:3-7*
- C. If we choose to continue in sin, God will "chasten" us. *Hebrews 12:5-13*
- D. If we sin, what should we do in order to stay in fellowship with God?
 - 1. Admit our sins directly and immediately to our Father in heaven. *Proverbs 28:13; 1John 1:8-10*
 - 2. Trust in God's forgiveness through the blood of Jesus Christ. *1John 2:1-2; Heb. 4:16-17*

SALVATION

Questions

1. Who are the two “fathers” spoken of in *John 8:38, 44*?
2. How did Satan become a father to the human race?
3. How did we become a part of Satan’s family?
4. What were four characteristics of our fallen, sinful condition? Give one verse for each point.
 - A. We were _____, _____
 - B. We were _____, _____
 - C. We were _____, _____
 - D. We were _____, _____
5. What did Jesus Christ do to remedy our fallen, sinful condition? Give one verse for each point.
 - A. He came to _____, _____
 - B. He came to _____, _____
 - C. He came to _____, _____
 - D. He came to _____, _____
6. Explain how someone becomes part of God’s family. Please give verses to support your answer.
7. As our Father, God treats us as _____ not as _____ .
8. As our Father, God has _____ us legally - making us His _____ .
9. As our Father, God has _____ us with His Spirit.
10. List seven ways in which God is a good Father to us.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
 - F.
 - G.

11. What do these verses teach us to do as children of God? *Ephesians 5:1, 8-11; 2Cor. 5:14-15*

12. What are the two natures that every child of God now possesses?

13. If we sin after we are saved, can we lose our salvation? Give a verse to prove your answer.

14. If we sin after we are saved, what can it cause the loss of? Give a verse for your answer.

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

16. What must we do to be sure that sin will never ruin our fellowship with our heavenly Father?

- A.
- B.

17. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

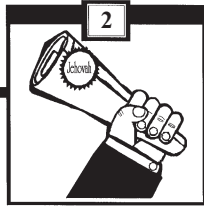
Follow Up

Key memory verses: *Romans 5:12; John 3:3; 1John 1:9*

Learning to discern - and contend for - the truth: As a result of this lesson, you should be able to understand and explain why the following ideas are FALSE:

1. God is everyone's Father and all men are my brothers.
2. If someone sins after they are saved it means they will lose their salvation.
3. To be forgiven, one must confess his sins to a priest or a church leader.

Questions: Write down any questions you have concerning this lesson and discuss them with your discipler.



LESSON 2: ETERNAL SECURITY

“Now That I Am Saved,
Am I Really Saved Forever?”

In lesson one, we learned that there are two spiritual families in the world, God’s family and Satan’s. We also learned that all of us were born into Satan’s family through our physical birth, and that we were born into God’s family through a spiritual birth when we received Christ as our Savior. (*John 1:12-13*). In this lesson we will study the “security” of our position in the family of God. The new birth is irreversible and our relationship with God as His sons continues forever.

- I. Our salvation rests on the promises of Jesus Christ. His promises will never be broken!
 - A. He promised that we will never be cast out of the family of God. *John 6:37*
 - B. He promised that no one could ever separate us from our Father in heaven. *John 10:27-30*
 - C. He promised that those who believe on Him would never come into condemnation. *John 5:24*
 - D. He promised that those who believe on Him would never suffer eternal death. *John 11:25-26*
- II. Since we still have the capacity to sin, how is it possible that we cannot lose our salvation?
 - A. Salvation is the gift of God. It is given to us by God’s grace because of faith in Jesus Christ and not because of our good works. Since we did not receive God’s salvation because of any “good” that we have done, we cannot lose God’s salvation because of any sin that we do. *Ephesians 2:8-9*
 - B. If salvation came as a result of our own works, then the death of Jesus Christ on our behalf was in vain. *Galatians 2:21*
 - C. If our good works (keeping the Law of God) were necessary for salvation, we would lose salvation easily because we cannot keep the Law perfectly. *Galatians 2:16; 3:10*
 - D. Our salvation has been secured by Jesus Christ forever! We can safely trust the keeping of our soul to Him forever. *John 17:11-12; 2Timothy 1:12; 1Peter 1:3-5* (especially verse 5)
- III. The Bible says that NOTHING can separate us from the love of God, which is given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8:38-39* states, “*For I am persuaded [assured, convinced] that neither*”...
 - A. “*Death*” - dying will not separate us from Him
 - B. “*Life*” - nothing in this life will separate us from Him
 - C. “*Angels*” - the host of heaven cannot separate us from God’s love.
 - D. “*Principalities*” - no one in authority can take us from Him.

- E. “*Powers*” - Satan and all his forces cannot cause us to be separated from the love of God.
- F. “*Things present*” - nothing in this world today can take us away.
- G. “*Things to come*” - nothing in the future can take us away.
- H. “*Height*” - nothing above, including in heaven, can separate us from His love.
- I. “*Depth*” - nothing below, including in hell, can separate us from the love of our Father.
- J. “*NOR ANY OTHER CREATURE shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

IV. We have the security of “sonship” with God.

- A. We are God’s children by spiritual BIRTH. *John 1:12-13.*
- B. There is a record of our spiritual birth in heaven. *Revelation 21:27*
- C. Our sonship is sealed by the Holy Spirit of God. *Ephesians 1:13; 4:30*
- D. We have also been ADOPTED. In the court records of Heaven we have been placed as sons - with all the rights and privileges of sonship. *Gal. 4:4-7; Romans 8:15-16*
- D. Human “sonship” continues forever. We have one biological father and that physical connection to him remains forever. A child could leave the country, change his name, and never see his father again for the rest of his life; but it does not change the fact of his sonship. **The same is true of our Heavenly Father. Our spiritual “sonship” can never be broken.**

V. But what if I don’t feel saved?

- A. Salvation is not dependent on your feelings. It is dependent on the TRUTH of the Scriptures. REMEMBER: God’s promises cannot be broken and God cannot lie. *Titus 1:2*
- B. Satan will work against you to produce fear and doubt. He is called the “accuser” of the brethren (*Rev. 12:10*) and will cause you to question your own salvation and doubt the promises of God. REMEMBER: Satan is a liar. *John 8:44.* BELIEVE what God has said! *1John 2:25*
- C. Your own heart will sometimes condemn you and cause you to question your own salvation. REMEMBER: God is greater than your heart and knows if you are saved. *1John 3:20; 2Tim. 2:19.*
- D. *1John 5:11-13* is the key passage in the Bible concerning the ASSURANCE of our salvation. READ and MEDITATE on this passage often and it will help you to settle this issue.

ETERNAL SECURITY

Questions

1. What is the promise that Jesus Christ made in *John 6:37*?
2. How does *John 10:27-30* prove that no one can take away our salvation?
3. How do the following verses prove that we can not “sin away” our salvation?
 - A. *Ephesians 2:8-9*
 - B. *2Timothy 1:12*
 - C. *Galatians 2:21*
4. According to *Romans 8:38-39* _____ can separate us from the love of God.
5. The love of God is given to us in _____ .
6. Give four reasons why our “sonship” with God is eternally secure.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
7. What Bible verse promises that we can KNOW that we have eternal life?
8. Why should we not trust our FEELINGS for the assurance of our salvation?

9. According to *Titus 1:2*, God's promises cannot be _____ and God cannot _____.
10. According to *Revelation 12:10*, Satan is the _____ of the brethren.
11. When it comes to the assurance of salvation even our heart will work against us and condemn us. According to *1John 3:20*, when our heart condemns us, what can we be assured of?
12. Please write out - in full - the key passage in the Bible on the assurance of salvation.
13. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

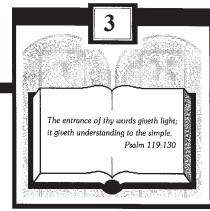
Follow-Up

Key memory verses: *Ephesians 2:8-9; 1John 2:25; 1John 5:13*

Learning to discern - and contend for - the truth: As a result of this lesson, you should be able to understand and explain why the following ideas are FALSE:

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

Write down any questions you have concerning this lesson and discuss them with your discipler.



LESSON 3: THE WORD OF GOD

“Why is The Word of God Essential To My Life?”

One thing that sets us apart as Christians from the rest of the world, is that we have an absolute written authority from God. The Bible is our “final authority” in every issue of life. For a Christian, the most important question is: “*What saith the scriptures?*” The purpose of this lesson is to teach some basic facts about the Bible and show how the word of God is essential to one’s salvation and spiritual growth.

I. The word of God is **essential** to our salvation.

A. Salvation comes through **hearing** and **believing** the word of God. *Luke 8:11-12; John 5:24; Romans 10:14, 17; Ephesians 1:13*

B. The word of God is the “seed” that brings about the new birth. *1Peter 1:23, 25b; James 1:18*

C. The **gospel** is the power of God unto salvation. *Romans 1:16*

II. The word of God is **essential** to our daily Christian life.

A. The word of God reveals Jesus Christ to us. *Luke 24:25-27*

B. The word of God equips us inwardly (“thoroughly”) for service. *2Tim. 3:15-17*

C. The word of God is our spiritual food. *Jeremiah 15:16; Ezekiel 2:8 thru 3:3*

It is like **bread** (*Matthew 4:4*); **milk** (*1Peter 2:2*); and **meat** (*Hebrews 5:13-14*)

D. The word of God keeps us clean within. *Psalms 119:9-11; John 15:3, Eph. 5:25-26*

E. The word of God is our guide in life. *Psalms 73:24; 119:105; 143:8*

F. The word of God will be our final judge. *John 12:48; Hebrews 4:12-13*

III. Some important facts about the Bible:

The Bible is a collection of 66 books written by more than forty authors over a period of almost 2,000 years, yet it fits together perfectly as if written by one author! It was originally written in Hebrew, Greek and some small portions in Aramaic. The Old Testament deals primarily with Israel and prophecies regarding the Messiah and Israel’s future glory. The New Testament deals primarily with the life of Jesus Christ, his church and his future kingdom and glory. The Bible is totally accurate in matters of history, science and prophecy. It is the most influential book on the planet. Although wicked men and devils have tried since the beginning of time to destroy it, the Bible still stands - and it will forever!

IV. Some terms to understand:

- A. **Revelation** - The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to man. We could never have known God unless He had chosen to reveal himself. *1Cor. 2:9-12*
- B. **Inspiration** - The Bible is inspired of God! God spoke to men and made them know the words that needed to be written down. Therefore, its words are the very **words of God!** *2Timothy 3:16; 2Peter 1:21; 1Thess. 2:13; Exodus 24:4; Deut. 32:1; Job 23:12*
- C. **Preservation** - God not only inspired His words but He promised to preserve them forever! The original Greek and Hebrew manuscripts no longer exist but faithful copies were produced by Bible-believing Christians in the early centuries. These copies, along with translations made into other languages, were received by good churches and preserved by God for future generations as the true scriptures (called the "Received Text"). *Matt. 24:35; 1Peter 1:24-25; Isaiah 59:21*
- D. **Translation** - In 1611 the Received Text was translated into English as our King James Bible. Miraculously, this happened with **no loss** of God's words! A perfect translation would have been impossible were it not for the **power** of God and His **promise** to preserve His words! *Psalms 12:6-7*
- E. **Interpretation** - God wants us to understand the Bible! The Holy Spirit is our teacher to guide us into all truth. *1Timothy 2:3-4; John 8:31-32; John 16:13-15*
- F. **Application** - The Bible is most profitable when we apply its truths personally; when we **live it**. *2Timothy 3:15-17; James 1:21-25; Luke 6:46-49*

V. How do we know the King James Bible is the true word of God?

- A. There are more than one hundred so-called Bibles available in the English language! And it seems there is a "new" one coming out every year! But which one is the true Bible? They can't all be true because they all say something different. How did we get such a mess?

The very first thing we learn about the Devil in the Bible is that he is "subtle". In the Garden of Eden he changed the words of God in order to cause Eve to doubt God (*Genesis 3:1-5*). Down through history he has used certain men to corrupt the Scriptures by changing its words, by adding or subtracting from what God said. (*2Cor. 2:17; Jude 1:3-4*) Nearly all of these wicked men have worn the garb of Christianity. Some of them have had positions of great scholarship (Origen, Eusibeus, Westcott, Hort, etc.) or great authority (Popes). Their tampering with the word of God has created a multitude of conflicting new "Bibles" and caused most Christians to conclude that there is no true "final authority" available today.

- B. Some of the strongest warnings in the Bible are to those who would tamper with the words of God. *Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:5-6; Jeremiah 23:29-31, 36; Revelation 22:18-19*

The men who tamper with God's words justify themselves by claiming they are "correcting" it to make it easier to understand for the rest of us! It reveals their arrogance and their hypocrisy. They would never think of altering the words of Shakespeare - but they have no such hesitation when it comes to the eternal words of God. We can safely reject their "help"!

- C. We can know for certain that we have an infallible, perfect Bible. There are more than five thousand ancient Greek and Hebrew manuscripts of the Bible that still exist today. The vast majority (98%) bear witness to the fact that one “Received Text” has survived down through the centuries, in spite of all the attempts to desecrate or destroy it. The King James Bible was faithfully translated from the Received Text. The manuscript evidence and our **faith** in God’s promise to preserve His words leads us to one conclusion: the King James Bible is the pure and perfect Word of God! “*The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*” (Isaiah 40:8)

VI. How does a Christian learn the truth of the Bible?

- A. **Depend** on the Holy Spirit - He is the Author of the Bible. His ministry is to guide you into **all truth**. God may use other instruments to aid your learning (books, tapes, preachers, etc.) but ultimately, truth will be revealed to you by the Holy Spirit. *John 16:13-15; 1Cor. 2:12-14*
- B. **Pray for understanding.** *Psalms 119:18; Prov. 22:17-21; Luke 24:44-45*
- C. **Believe** what you are reading! *1Thessalonians 2:13*
- D. **Meditate** on it: keep it in your heart. *Joshua 1:8; Psalms 1:1-3; 119:47-48, 97*
- E. **Study** your Bible diligently; “**search**” the scriptures. *2Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:10-11; Prov. 2:1-5*

VII. Where should a new Christian begin reading?

- A. Its important to read your Bible from beginning to end. However, it helps to first read the parts that teach you the basics about your new life in Jesus Christ. Here are some suggestions.
1. **Genesis** - written to teach us how all things began (creation, sin, rebellion, redemption, the Jewish people, etc) and how God first began to reveal Himself to mankind. It is the foundation for all the rest of the Bible.
 2. **The Gospel of John** - written to strengthen our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. *John 20:30-31*
 3. **1st John** - written to give assurance of salvation. *1John 5:13*
 4. **Psalms chapter 119** - the greatest (and longest) chapter in the Bible, all about David’s love for the Word of God. Read this slowly and you will fall in love with God’s word also!
 5. **1Thessalonians** - written to comfort new believers and remind them of the second coming of Jesus Christ. *1Thess. 4:13-18*
- B. What if you don’t understand what you are reading?
1. Don’t be discouraged. God will give you understanding when you are ready to receive it. *John 16:12, Isa. 28:9-10; Hebrews 5:13-14*
 2. Be sure to apply what you do understand. As you become a “doer” of the word and not just a “hearer” (*James 1:22*), God will teach you more. *Philippians 4:9; Psalm 111:10*

THE WORD OF GOD

Questions

1. The Scriptures have an essential role in our salvation. What do the following verses say about this?

A. *Romans 1:16*

B. *Romans 10:17*

C. *James 1:18*

D. *1Peter 1:23*

2. List six ways that the word of God is essential to the Christian's daily life.

A.

D.

B.

E.

C.

F.

3. According to *2Timothy 3:16-17* what are four things the scriptures are profitable for:

4. What basic facts can you give about the Bible?

5. Briefly define the following words. Give one verse for each.

Revelation:

Inspiration:

Preservation:

Translation:

Interpretation:

Application:

TRUE OR FALSE? (circle one)

6. The corruption of the word of God began in recent years. TRUE or FALSE
7. All the “new” versions of the Bible say the same thing as the King James Bible. TRUE or FALSE
8. God is angry with anyone who would tamper with His words. TRUE or FALSE
9. How does a Christian learn the truth of God’s word? Please give a verse for each point.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
10. What is the greatest chapter in the Bible?
11. What should I do to ensure that God will entrust me with more understanding?
12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

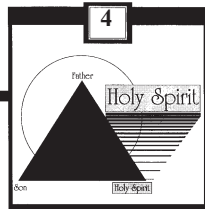
Follow Up

Key memory verses: *2Peter 1:21; Psalm 12:6-7; 2Timothy 3:16-17*

Learning to discern - and contend for - the truth: From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand and be able to explain why the following ideas are FALSE.

1. The Bible is just another religious book written by men.
2. The Bible can only be understood by the “clergy” or by years of formal education.
3. In order to understand the true meanings of the Scripture, you must study Greek and Hebrew.

Questions: Write any questions you have concerning this lesson and discuss them with your discipler.



LESSON 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Who is the Holy Spirit and What is His Ministry in My Life?”

There is much false teaching about the Holy Spirit today. He is perhaps the most misunderstood and misrepresented member of the Godhead! By some people He is exalted to an unscriptural level of pre-eminence over Jesus Christ. By other people He is practically ignored, as if the Christian life could be lived without Him. The purpose of this lesson is to give you a proper understanding of His attributes and His true ministry in your life.

I. Who is the Holy Spirit?

A. He is a **PERSON**. He is not a **FORCE** that we **possess** and **use**. *John 15:26; 16:13*

B. He is **GOD**. *Acts 5:3-4; Genesis 1:2; 1Corinthians 3:16*

C. His **NAMES** reveal who He is and what He does.

Spirit of **Christ** - *Romans 8:9; Luke 23:46; John 20:22; Gal. 4:6* (He is the Holy Ghost)

Spirit of **Promise** - *Ephesians 1:13-14* (He is the **earnest** of God's promise)

Spirit of **Grace** - *Heb. 10:29; Zech. 12:10* (He is the **fountain** of the grace of God)

Spirit of **Life** - *Romans 8:2* (He is the **source** of life and makes the life of Christ a reality in us.)

Spirit of **Truth** - *John 14:16-17; 15:26* (He is the **author** and **teacher** of the Truth)

II. Where is the Holy Spirit?

A. He is “omnipresent” (*Psalms 139:7-10*) yet now He abides inside the bodies of those who are saved. He took up residency the moment we were saved. *1Cor. 6:19-20; John 14: 17; Rom. 8:9-11*

B. Before you were saved, another spirit was at work in you. This is still the case for those who have not been “quickened” (made alive, saved) by the Holy Spirit. *Eph. 2:1-2; Titus 3:5*

III. What does the Holy Spirit do?

A. He **reproves** the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment. *John 16:8-11*
(To “reprove” means “to charge with a fault” - *Prov. 15:5, 10, 31, 32; 29:1*)

1. He reproves the lost - to save them. *John 16:9*

2. He reproves the saved - to sanctify them, to keep them clean and to convince them to live righteously for Jesus Christ. *John 16:10; Ephesians 5:8-13*

3. He reproves both the saved and lost - to warn of coming judgment. *John 16:11-13*

- B. The Holy Spirit regenerates the sinner and makes him a child of God. *John 3:3-8; Titus 3:5*
- C. The Holy Spirit baptizes you into the body of Christ. *1Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4*
- D. The Holy Spirit seals you. *Eph. 1:11-13; 4:30; 2Cor. 1:21-22*
- E. The Holy Spirit teaches you the Bible. *John 14:26; 16:13-15*
- F. The Holy Spirit intercedes in prayer for you. *Romans 8:26-27; Eph. 2:18*
- G. The Holy Spirit comforts you in time of need. *John 14:15-18; Romans 15:13*
- H. The Holy Spirit empowers you to serve God. *Luke 4:1, 14; Eph. 3:14-16*
- I. The Holy Spirit will raise up your body in the resurrection. *Romans 8:11*

IV. What is the evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence in a Christian's life?

We do not look for miracles, healings or "speaking in tongues" as evidence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Those things can be the deceptions of the flesh or the counterfeits of Satan. The evidence is that which can not be imitated by man or devil:

- A. **The witness of the Spirit** - He communicates directly with our spirit to give us an inward peace and assurance that we are the children of God. *Romans 8:15-16; Galatians 4:6*
- B. **The fruit of the Spirit** - He produces the character of Jesus Christ within us as we die to our flesh and yield to Him. The result is that we become more like Jesus Christ. *Gal. 5:22-24; Rom. 8:26-29*

V. What does it mean to be "*filled with the Spirit*" and to "*walk in the Spirit*"?

- A. To be filled with the Spirit does not mean that we get more of the Spirit, (we received all of Him the moment we were saved). It means that the Holy Spirit gets more of us. We need to fully submit our whole life to His control.
- B. If we compare *Ephesians 5:18-19* and *Colossians 3:16* we learn that being filled with the Spirit is the same as being filled with the Word of God. Therefore, the more we saturate our minds with His Word, the more of the Spirit's grace and power we will experience. *John 6:63*
- C. The Bible tells us to "*walk **in** the Spirit*". This means to have daily, consistent fellowship with God through His Spirit, letting Him work **in us and through us**. *Galatians 5:16, 25*
- D. The Bible also tells us to "*walk **after** the Spirit*". This means to yield our lives to His direction, to trust all of our tomorrows to the Lord, to submit ourselves to the word of God, and simply follow His will, for His pleasure. *Romans 8:1-5*

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Questions

1. The Holy Spirit is NOT a _____. He is a _____.
2. What truth does Acts 5:3-4 reveal about the Holy Spirit? _____.
3. The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of God. List five other names given to Him in the Bible.
A. _____ D. _____
B. _____ E. _____
C. _____
4. Where does the Holy Spirit dwell on this earth? - Give a verse to support your answer.
5. According to *Ephesians 2:1-2*, what spirit is at work in the lives of those who are not saved?
6. The Holy Spirit reproves the unsaved of sin for what purpose?
7. The Holy Spirit reproves the Christian of sin for what purpose?
8. List eight other ways that the Holy Spirit works in the life of a Christian.
1) _____
2) _____
3) _____
4) _____
5) _____
6) _____
7) _____
8) _____

9. What is the evidence of the Holy Spirit working in our lives? Please give a brief explanation.

A. The _____ of the Spirit: _____

B. The _____ of the Spirit: _____

10. List the nine Christ-like characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit in *Galatians 5:22-23*

11. True or False

___ A. Miracles and “speaking in tongues” are proof that the Spirit of God is at work in someone.

___ B. A Christ-like character is the result of years of religious training and self-discipline.

___ C. To be filled with the Spirit is to get more of God’s Holy Spirit each day.

___ D. To be filled with the Spirit is to be filled with the Word of God.

___ E. All we need to do to experience more of the Spirit’s grace and power is to pray more.

___ F. If we walk in the Spirit we will not fulfil the lusts of our flesh.

13. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

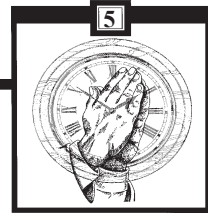
Follow-Up

Key memory verses: *1Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 5:16; Galatians 5:22-23*

Learning to discern - and contend for - the truth: As a result of the Bible principles in this lesson, you should be able to understand and explain why the following ideas are FALSE:

1. A Christian needs to pray to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit after he gets saved.
2. If a Christian sins badly after he is saved, he can lose the Holy Spirit.
3. The Holy Spirit is moving like a mighty wave through the world today.
4. The unpardonable sin against the Holy Spirit can be committed by a Christian.

Questions: Write down any questions you have concerning this lesson and discuss them with your discipler.



LESSON 5: DAILY QUIET TIME

“The Source of Our Spiritual Strength”

“Quiet time” may be known by other names but it is the indispensable portion of our day that we spend alone with our Heavenly Father. It is a specific time in a quiet place in which to seek spiritual nourishment and divine guidance. It is a time to be still and listen to God; to allow Him to speak to our hearts through His precious Word. The purpose of this lesson is to explain why a daily quiet time is so important for every believer and to encourage you to begin to have one in your life.

- I. What is the purpose of a daily quiet time with God?
 - A. It is a time for intimate **fellowship** with the Lord. God’s highest desire is not that we might achieve some great work for His name’s sake, but that we would have fellowship with Him. We should daily seek His presence in our lives. *Psalm 27:8; 63:1; Proverbs 8:17*
 - B. It is a time for undistracted **communication** with the Lord. God speaks to our hearts more clearly in those still, quiet moments. We hear His voice through the pages of His Word and we talk to Him in prayer. *Proverbs 8:34; 1Kings 19:9-13; Psalm 4:4*
 - C. It is a time for personal **worship** of God in spirit and in truth (*John 4:23-24*). We may worship the Lord in public meetings with our brothers and sisters in Christ (*Psalm 34:3*) but the “worship” we give Him in our quiet time is more important to God and more beneficial to us. *Psalm 63:3-6*

II. Four essential elements of quiet time:

- A. **A proper place** - It may have to be a humble “closet” but find a place of solitude, free of distractions, where you can be alone with God. *Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12; Matthew 6:5-6*
- ❖ *There is a strange strength conceived in solitude. Crows go in flocks and wolves in packs, but the lion and the eagle are solitaires. Strength is not in bluster and noise. Strength is in quietness. The lake must be calm if the heavens are to be reflected on its surface. Our Lord loved the people, but how often we read of His going away from them for a brief season. He tried every little while to withdraw from the crowd. He was always stealing away at evening to the hills. Most of His ministry was carried on in the towns and cities by the seashore, but He loved the hills the best, and oftentimes when night fell He would plunge into their peaceful depths.*

The one thing needed above all others today is that we shall go apart with our Lord, and sit at His feet in the sacred privacy of His blessed presence. Oh, for the lost art of meditation! Oh, for the culture of the secret place! Oh, for the tonic of waiting upon God!

- selected -

- B. **A proper attitude** - It should be one of whole-hearted expectancy. If we expect nothing we will receive nothing. *Psalm 119:2, 10; Jeremiah 29:13*
- C. **A regular appointment** - It should become a regular habit to meet with God every day, preferably in the morning before we face the pressures of the day. *Psalm 5:3; 143:8*

People in the Bible had a regular time and place to meet alone with God: **Abraham**, *Gen. 19:27*; **Moses**, *Exodus 25:22*; **David**, *Psalm 55:17*; **Daniel**, *Daniel 6:10-11*; and most importantly... **Jesus Christ**, *Luke 22:39* (Note: “wont” means “as was his habit”)

- D. **A definite commitment** - It should be a priority! Our priorities reveal what we truly value. We can't let the world or the flesh hinder our quiet time. *Job 23:12; Proverbs 25:28; 1Cor. 9:27*

III. Some practical suggestions to make your “quiet time” the highlight of your day!

- A. Start with prayer. Thank God for His Word and for what He is about to show you. Ask the Lord for illumination, guidance and understanding. *Psalm 5:1-3; 119:18, 73.*
- B. If you are aware of any sin that may hinder your time with God, confess and forsake it immediately. *1John 1:9; Acts 24:16; James 4:8*
- C. As you read and meditate on His Word, pause at any verse that seems to speak to your heart. Ask the Lord to show you how to apply it in your life. Let the Scriptures that you read be the springboard to your praise, your confession of sin, your prayers, etc. When a verse has been a special blessing to you, take the time to hide it in your heart through memorization. Always remember that your goal is not to gain information, but to gain understanding, wisdom, strength, and guidance by applying God's truth to your every day life. *Matthew 4:4, John 6:32-33, 63; Proverbs 22:17-21*
- D. Highlight your Bible as you read. Make a habit of cross referencing verses that relate to one another in thought or principle. *1Corinthians 2:13* (Example: *Romans 7:23* with *Galations 5:17*)
- E. Don't be in a rush. Give yourself some time to “wait upon the Lord”. The word “wait” does not mean to sit idle, to daydream, but to **give patient attention** to someone (like a waiter in a restaurant). In our modern world we don't want to wait. We expect things instantly. But God will not be hurried to accommodate your schedule. Just as “*the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it,*” (James 5:7) you must wait on the Lord for the precious fruit that comes from “quiet time.” Even when you are in desperate need, wait! *Psalm 27:14; 40:1-3; Isa. 40:31*
- F. Expect opposition! “Quiet time” is the heart of a proper spiritual life. It has the potential to make you strong, victorious, and thereby effectual for the cause of Christ. For that reason, Satan will try to discourage or distract you every day. *1Peter 5:8-9*

QUIET TIME

Questions

1. Why is “quiet time” so important to our relationship with the Lord?

A. It is a time for _____

B. It is a time for _____

C. It is a time for _____

2. What are four essential elements of “quiet time” and why is each one important?

A.

B.

C.

D.

3. What do each of these verses teach us about our quiet time with God?

Mark 1:35

Psalms 119:2

Daniel 6:10

Job 23:12

4. How should you begin we quiet time?

5. What should you do when the Lord shows you some sin in your life during quiet time?

6. What are some things you can do when a particular verse speaks to your heart?

7. What should you do when you see verses in your reading that are similar in thought or principle to one another?

8. What does it mean to “*wait upon the Lord*”?

9. Why is it so difficult to be consistent in the practice of quiet time?

10. Briefly explain the main purpose of this lesson.

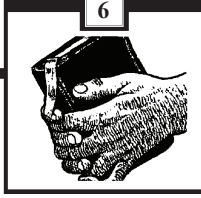
Follow Up

Key memory verses: *Psalm 46:10; Psalm 25:4,5; Isaiah 30:15; Psalm 27:8*

Learning to discern - and contend for - the truth: From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand and be able to explain why the following ideas are FALSE.

1. God understands that life is too busy for us to spend quality time alone with Him.
2. All I need to do is study my Bible to have an intimate relationship with God.
3. True solitude in the presence of God requires that I be in a church building.

Questions: Write any questions you have concerning this lesson and discuss them with your discipler.



LESSON 6: PRAYER

“How Can We Have An Effective Prayer Life?”

Someone once said that a Christian is only as strong as his prayer life. That is true because prayer is direct communication with God. When we read the Bible God speaks to us; when we pray, we are speaking to God.

This lesson will show how to have an effective prayer life so that the lines of communication with God can always be open in our lives. Our personal relationship with Jesus Christ cannot grow without it.

- I. At its basic level, prayer is simply TALKING to God. It may take various forms. *1Timothy 2:1*
 - A. Supplication - specific requests. Too many prayers are wasted because they are too general. Learn to pray specifically. *Philippians 4:6; Ephesians 6:18*
 - B. Intercession - praying for others. We are self-centered by nature, and most of our prayers are for ourselves! It is good to get our eyes off ourselves. *Colossians 1:9; Luke 6:28; Hebrews 7:25*
 - C. Giving thanks - we should come to Him with thanksgiving and praise. *Psalms 100:4; Hebrews 13:15*
- II. Jesus taught that we “ought **always** to pray, and not to faint.” (Luke 18:1). Why should we pray?
 - A. Prayer is obedience to God. *Psalms 65:2; 1Timothy 2:8*
 - B. Prayer teaches us to continually submit ourselves to God’s will. We do NOT pray in order to move God to do our will! *Matthew 26:39*
 - C. Prayer gives us peace of heart and mind. *Philippians 4:6-7*
 - D. Prayer brings us close to God so that He can prove His sufficiency for our every need.
 1. God loves us and knows exactly what we need before we ask. *Matthew 6:7-8*
 2. God allows needs and trials to come into our lives so we will seek Him. (*Psalms 50:15*) We must learn that our GREATEST need is simply for the mercy and grace of God. *Hebrews 4:16*
 3. When we feel we have need of nothing- including God, we are in grave spiritual trouble. *Rev. 3:17*
 4. God uses the problems of life to draw us to total dependence upon Him. *2Cor. 12:7-10*
 5. This is why it is essential for us to give thanks for “all things” even our greatest needs and trials. *Ephesians 5:20; Romans 8:28; 1Thess. 5:18*
 6. In every difficult moment, our **first** response should be to pray. Go to God “early” - before things get worse! *Psalms 63:1; Proverbs 8:17; Isaiah 26:9; 2Chronicles 20:2-4, 12*

III. Some things that will help our prayers:

- A. Pray believing - have faith that God is able to answer our prayers! *Hebrews 11:6; Ephesians 3:20*
- B. Pray often – make a habit of praying always. *1Thess. 5:17; Luke 18:1* This does NOT mean the vain repetition of memorized prayers. *Matthew 6:7-8*
- C. Pray intimately - talk to the Lord as to a dear friend, for he is your Saviour and dearest friend! *John 15:13-14; Exodus 33:11; Proverbs 18:24*
- D. Pray directly - we have DIRECT access to God personally through Jesus Christ. We need no human mediator. *1Timothy 2:5; Ephesians 2:18; Hebrews 4:16*
- E. Pray scripturally - let God’s Word shape your desires and requests. Knowing the will of God will make your prayer life more effectual. *Romans 8:26-27; 1John 5:14-15*

IV. Some things that will hinder our prayers:

- A. Unconfessed sin. *Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 66:18*
- B. An unforgiving spirit. *Ephesians 4:30-32*
- C. Bitterness toward our spouse (as well as others). *1Peter 3:7; Col. 3:19*
- D. Praying with selfish or carnal motives. *James 4:3*
- E. Insensitivity to the Word of God. *Proverbs 28:9*

V. A few basic questions:

- A. Should we keep a list of prayer requests? YES, this helps us remember what to pray for. It also strengthens our faith to look back at that list and see how God answered our prayers.
- B. Does God always answer our prayers? YES, but not always in the way we desire. There will be times when His best answer will be, “*No*” or “*Not now*”. In those times, we simply trust Him because we know that all His ways are perfect and He can never make a mistake.
- C. How important is it to keep praying?
 1. Paul prayed for others continually. *Romans 1:9; Philippians 1:3-4; 2Timothy 1:3*
 2. Paul often requested prayer for himself. *Romans 15:30; Ephesians 6:18-19; 2Thess. 3:1-2*
 2. Don’t give up. The full results of our prayers may never be known completely in this life. They will be known in heaven. *Acts 12:5; Luke 18:1-8*

PRAYER

Questions

1. Prayer is simply _____.
2. Several kinds of prayer are mentioned in 1 Timothy 2:1? What are they and why is each one important?
 - A. Supplications
 - B. Intercessions
 - C. Giving thanks
3. What are four reasons we “ought always to pray, and not to faint”?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
4. What truth about prayer do we learn from each of the following verses?
 - A. *Matthew 6:8*
 - B. *Psalms 50:15*
 - C. *2 Corinthians 12:7-10*
 - D. *Ephesians 5:20*
5. List five things that will help our prayers.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.

6. List five things that will hinder our prayers.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
7. What is a simple way to help keep our prayers consistent and be able to remember the times that God answered our prayers?
8. God always answers our prayers, but not always in the way we expect. His answer will sometimes be _____ or _____.
9. What great truth is taught in *Acts 12:5*, *Romans 1:9* and *Colossians 4:2*?
10. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

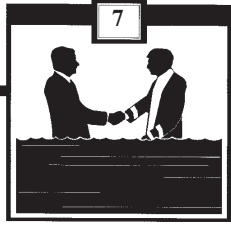
Follow Up

Key memory verses: *1 Timothy 2:5; Psalm 66:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18*

Learning to discern - and contend for - the truth: As a result of the Bible principles in this lesson, you should be able to understand and explain why the following ideas are FALSE:

1. We should pray to our departed loved ones, the saints in Heaven or other men.
2. If you pray long enough or hard enough, God will change His mind and do what you want.
3. The most effective prayers for us to say are those that have been written out by others.
4. Prayer must always be at a set time and in a set format.

Questions: Write down any questions you have concerning this lesson and discuss them with your discipler.



LESSON 7: BAPTISM

“What Is The Meaning and Purpose of Water Baptism?”

Virtually every religion in existence teaches some form of baptism as part of their doctrine, and the differences in their teachings are wide. Some so-called Christian denominations even claim that baptism is necessary to a person’s salvation. This lesson is intended to give the Bible’s clear and definite teaching on the subject so the believer will understand God’s beautiful truth regarding baptism.

I. The baptism of Jesus Christ in the Jordan River is the pattern for our baptism. *Matthew 3:13-17*

A. Jesus was baptized “*to fulfill all righteousness*” (*Matthew 3:15*). He was baptized not to become righteous but because he was righteous.

Likewise, we are baptized, not to become saved (righteous in Christ) but, because we are saved!

B. Jesus was baptized in contradiction to the baptisms of his day. John the Baptist preached repentance and called the Jews to come to God and confess their sins (*Mark 1:4-5*)! Jesus did not need to repent. He had no sins to confess! That’s why John was reluctant to baptize Him.

Likewise, we are NOT baptized to show our repentance or to have our sins washed away but to show that we are trusting Jesus Christ and that our sins have been washed away by His precious blood!

C. Jesus was baptized to reveal himself to Israel as the Son of God. God confirmed His identity from Heaven. *John 1:29-34; Matthew 3:16-17*

Likewise, we are baptized before the church to testify before our brothers and sisters in Christ, that we are sons of God! *1John 3:1-3*

D. Jesus was baptized that He might take his place as a faithful Jew along with his persecuted people, as Moses had done: “*choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God.*” *Hebrews 11:25*

Likewise, we are baptized to acknowledge that we are part of the body of Christ; members of a church family and willing to share in its burdens as well as its blessings.

E. Jesus was baptized to begin his ministry. The Old Testament priests were consecrated at the age of thirty (*Num. 4:3*) and were “washed” and “anointed” on the day of their consecration (*Ex. 40:12-13*). Jesus began his ministry the same way. *Luke 3:21-23; Acts 10:37-38*.

Likewise, we are baptized as the first step of obedience in a life of serving Jesus Christ.

F. Jesus was baptized to show his coming death, burial, and resurrection: He “died” (to self) in full surrender to the will of God, was “buried” (in water) and was “raised” again out of the water.

Likewise, we are baptized to show that we have put our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ and have salvation through his death, burial and resurrection. *Romans 5:8-10; 1Cor. 15:3-4*

II. Our baptism in water is a picture of these great spiritual truths:

- A. It pictures our “baptism” into the body of Christ. *1Cor. 12:12-13; Galatians 3:27*
- B. It pictures that, in Christ, the believer is crucified, buried, and risen together with Him. *Gal. 2:20; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12*

III. **Who** should be baptized and **when** should they be baptized? .

- A. The examples of baptism in the book of Acts prove that only those who have believed on Jesus Christ and know they are saved may be baptized and should do so as soon as they are willing:
 1. The Jews who got saved on the day of Pentecost. *Acts 2:41*
 2. The Samaritans. *Acts 8:12*
 3. The Ethiopian eunuch. *Acts 8:26-39*
 4. The Apostle Paul. *Acts 9:18*
 5. Crispus along with many of the Corinthians. *Acts 18:8*
 6. The Philippian jailer and his house. *Acts 16:25-33*
- B. Notice that there are no babies baptized in the Bible! Only believers mature enough to understand the gospel and acknowledge their salvation are baptized!

IV. **What** is the proper means of baptism?

- A. The Bible shows that it was always by immersion in water:
 1. The eunuch: (*Acts 8:26-39*) gives the clearest example. “*They went **down both into the water...** and when they were come **up out of the water...***” (vv. 38-39). It was immersion, not sprinkling!
 2. Jesus Christ: (*Mat. 3:6, 16*) Jesus was baptized “**in** Jordon” and “*when he was baptized, went **up** straightway out of the water.*”
- B. Baptism is a picture of death, **burial** and resurrection! The only way to bury someone is to put them completely under ground. Therefore, the biblical method of baptism is to put them completely under water. Sprinkling dirt on someone is no burial and sprinkling water on someone is no baptism.

V. **Where** should baptism be done and by whom?

- A. “In the church” (*Eph. 3:21*). Usually baptism will take place in the church house before the congregation but the actual place of baptism is not important. The important thing is that it be an act of public testimony of our faith and obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ, and be witnessed by the saints.
- B. The one doing the baptizing will be one of the pastors or elders, but any one of the men of the congregation, if appointed by the leadership, is qualified to administer this ordinance.

BAPTISM

Questions

1. The baptism of Jesus Christ is the _____ for our baptism.
2. In Matthew 3:15 Jesus said the reason for his baptism was to “_____”.
3. Please mark the following statements **true** or **false** concerning the baptism of Jesus.
 - A. Jesus was baptized in order to become righteous. _____
 - B. The purpose of our water baptism is to show that we have repented of our sins. _____
 - C. At his baptism Jesus was revealed to Israel as their Messiah, the Son of God. _____
 - D. We are baptized in order to show that we want to be saved. _____
 - E. Our baptism is the first step of obedience in a life of serving Jesus Christ. _____
 - F. Baptism is a picture of the marriage relationship. _____
4. What does a believer’s baptism in water picture?
 - A.
 - B.
5. 1Cor. 12:12-13 says we are “*baptized into one body*”. What is that body?
6. In *Acts 8:36-37*, the Ethiopian eunuch was given only one requirement for baptism:
“*If thou _____ with all thine heart, thou mayest.*”
7. Why is it unscriptural to baptize infants?

8. List four examples of people who were baptized in water soon after they were saved:
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
9. Give two good examples from the Bible that prove that the proper method of baptism is by immersion and not by sprinkling. What words in those verses would tend to prove this?
 - A.
 - B.
10. Why is sprinkling someone with water an unscriptural means of baptism?
11. Where should a believer be baptized and by whom?
12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Follow Up

Key memory verses: *Matthew 3:15; Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:3-4*

Learning to discern - and contend for - the truth: From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand and be able to explain why the following ideas are FALSE.

1. Man must be baptized in order to be saved.
2. Baptism by sprinkling with water is just as meaningful as immersion in water.
3. Babies should be baptized to wash away the stain of original sin.
4. Baptism has absolutely no significance for the Christian and is not an ordinance for the NT church.
1Cor. 11:2

Questions: Write any questions you have concerning this lesson and discuss them with your discipler.



LESSON 8: THE WILL OF GOD

“What is The Will of God for My Life
And How Do I Fulfil It?”

It has been said that a successful Christian is one who finds out what God wants him to do and then does it. In other words, true success is simply doing the will of God. The purpose of this lesson is to show that every Christian can know the will of God and do the will of God from the heart.

- I. The “will of God” consists of all those things that God, according to His own purpose and for His own pleasure, has determined should be and will be done.
 - A. God only acts in accordance with His will. *Ephesians 1:11; Romans 8:27*
 - B. Jesus came into the world to do the will of God. *Psalms 40:7-8; Matt. 26:39, 42; John 6:38*
 - C. Every believer can know the will of God. *Ephesians 1:9; 5:17; Colossians 1:9*
 - D. Every believer can and should do the will of God. *Hebrews 13:20-21; 1Peter 4:1-5; Eph. 6:5-6*
- II. Some aspects of the will of God are **clearly revealed** in the Scriptures. These are **explicit** and apply equally to every human being. For example, it is the will of God for **everyone**:
 - A. To be saved. *2Peter 3:9; 1Timothy 2:3-4; Acts 17:30; John 6:40*
 - B. To be filled with the Spirit of God. *Ephesians 5:17-18*
 - C. To be sanctified (to live holy lives). *1Thessalonians 4:3-4, 7; 5:22-24*
 - D. To serve the Lord whole-heartedly. *1Peter 2:15-16; Philippians 2:5-7; Ephesians 6:5-7*
 - E. To be joyful and thankful, even in suffering! *1Thess. 5:18; 1Peter 4:19*
 - F. To be “conformed to the image of Jesus Christ”! *Romans 8:28-29; 1John 3:1-3*
- III. Other aspects of the will of God are specific to the individual. God has a unique and personal “course” for each Christian to fulfill in this life. *Acts 20:24; 2Timothy 4:7*
 - A. The specific will of God for one believer (matters involving marriage, children, career, ministry, etc.) may differ greatly from that of another. *1Cor. 12:4-6, 17-18; Eph. 1:1; 1Peter 3:17; Romans 1:9-10*
 - B. The details of God’s specific will for us are made known gradually. As we learn to trust and obey Him, God reveals more and more of His will for us. *Acts 9:6; Isaiah 30:21*
 - C. The explicit will of God revealed in the Scriptures is more important than any personal matter. If we neglect the things clearly revealed to us, we will never know the details of His specific, personal will for our lives.

IV. In personal matters such as marriage, children, career, ministry, etc., how can we know the will of God?

- A. Surrender our plans to God. Most people are self-willed and only want God to approve their plans. We must sacrifice our plans and goals and replace them with His! *Matt. 26:39; 2Cor. 5:14-15*
- B. Trust God whole-heartedly to direct our steps. *Prov. 3:5-6; Psalm 37:3-5; Heb. 11:6*
- C. Consider the **four witnesses** - God has provided a way for us to know His will in personal matters. When these four witnesses “agree” we can be assured we have found the will of God!
 1. **The Scriptures.** The specific will of God for our lives will **never** contradict His Word. As we read and meditate on God’s Word He will direct our steps. *Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 6:20-23*
 2. **The advice of trusted “elders”.** We should seek godly counsel from those who are older in the Lord and whose lives demonstrate that they have wisdom: our pastors, our deacons, a godly husband, or saved parents that love the Lord. They have God-given authority and will often be used of God to give us guidance. *Prov. 15:22; 2Timothy 2:1-2, 7; Hebrews 13:17*
 3. **The circumstances.** Circumstances alone are never enough to determine the will of God but they should be taken into consideration. (*Phil. 2:23-24*) God “opens” and “closes” doors in front of us through our circumstances. (*Rev. 3:7-8; 2Cor. 2:12*) But remember, difficult circumstances do not always indicate a closed door (*1Cor. 16:9*) and favorable circumstances do not always indicate an open door: Jonah wanted to flee from God and found circumstances favorable to his plans (*Jonah 1:3*), but it was not God’s will for him to run away! Circumstances should only be considered in the light of the other witnesses.
 4. **The peace of God in our hearts.** The Holy Spirit gives us peace inside - rather than turmoil - when our decisions are according to His will. *Philippians 4:6-7; Colossians 3:15*

V. Basic questions. (Some people believe that God has a “perfect” will and a “permissive” will.)

- A. Does God have a “**permissive**” will (a secondary plan) for us when we fail to do His “**perfect**” will?
 1. Romans 12:2 says in part, “...*be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*” This verse seems to make a distinction between the “perfect” will of God and that which is “good” or “acceptable” (permissible) to God. But notice it does not say the “*good or acceptable or perfect will of God*” but the “*good and acceptable and perfect will of God*”. The will of God is all of these things at the same time: it is *good* (consistent with God’s nature) and *acceptable* (pleasing to God and not something to be resisted or rejected by man) and *perfect* (flawless, complete). This verse does not suggest that God has a “permissive” will.
 2. Sometimes, failure to do the will of God seems to go unpunished. Sometimes there are good things that come from the failure (such as valuable lessons we learn that make us wiser servants in the future). However, this is not because God had a permissive will or a secondary plan for our lives; it is simply because He is **always** a merciful and loving Father! When we fail to do His “*good and acceptable and perfect will*” He is still, “*full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.*” *Psalms 86:15*

B. Does that mean there are no consequences if we fail to do God's will?

No, even though God is merciful and longsuffering, we should always remember there are often serious consequences for disobedience to His will: we may suffer...

1. The chastening of the Lord. *Proverbs 3:11-12*
2. The loss of God's choice blessings in our life. *Hosea 7:1; Matt. 23:37*
3. The sorrow of wasted time and missed opportunities to serve the Lord. *Luke 9:23-26; Eph. 5:14-17*
4. The loss of rewards in heaven. *Colossians 3:23-25; 2John v.8*
5. We may also bring upon ourselves burdens that have to be carried for the rest of our life. For example, Abraham was certainly "out of God's will" when he left the place of promise and went to Egypt in a famine (*Genesis 12:10*). Although God was merciful to him in Egypt, Abraham brought back a servant named Hagar (*Gen. 12:16; 16:1*), who became a great burden to him and whose descendants (the Arabs) have been adversaries of the Jews ever since!

C. Is it ever God's will for evil things to happen?

Sometimes God allows evil things to happen for the sake of the good that He intends to bring out of it. Examples of this abound in the Bible and in history:

1. Adam's sin brought death and condemnation to the world, but because of that, God revealed His divine attributes of mercy, grace and lovingkindness.
2. Joseph's betrayal at the hands of his brothers and his sufferings in Egypt allowed him to rise to power in Egypt and help his brothers and their families when famine came to the land. Joseph said, "*But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but **God meant it unto good**, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.*" - *Genesis 50:20*
3. Paul's last trip to Jerusalem in Acts 21, against a four-fold warning from God not to go there, brought prison and death for Paul. But for the churches it brought prison epistles that have enriched the body of Christ. *Philippians 1:12*
4. Israel's "fall" (her rejection of her Messiah and loss of the kingdom) brought nearly 2,000 years of spiritual blindness and suffering to the Jews but salvation to the Gentiles. *Romans 11:11-15*
5. The persecution of the Jews in World War II caused the nations to briefly take pity and provide the Jews a homeland in the Middle East, opening the door for the fulfillment of prophecy.
6. The Lord's death on Calvary brought eternal life to sinners! *Acts 2:23; 4:28; 13:27; 2Cor. 8:9*

In every one of these cases we can see that ultimately the will of God was done! His ways and plans are seldom clear to us in advance - but they are always **perfect** (*Deut. 32:4*). God is always wise and good in everything that He does. Everything will glorify Him in the end! *Romans 8:28*

THE WILL OF GOD

Questions

1. The will of God consists of all those things which God, according to His own _____ and for His own _____, has determined _____.
2. What verses would you give to show that God always acts in accordance with His own will?
3. TRUE or FALSE: Jesus Christ understood and perfectly fulfilled the will of God. _____
4. TRUE or FALSE: The will of God is very difficult for a Christian to understand. _____
5. What are six things about the explicit will of God that apply to all men? Give one verse for each.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
 - F.
6. Give three things that are true about the **specific** will of God.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
7. What must we do to know the details of God's **specific** will?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

8. Match each of these verses to one of the “four witnesses” that God uses to confirm His specific will:

Revelation 3:7-8 ____

A. The Scriptures

Psalms 119:105 ____

B. The advice of elders

Philippians 4:6-7 ____

C. The circumstances

Proverbs 15:22 ____

D. The peace of God

9. What does Romans 12:2 teach us about the will of God?

10. Does God have a “permissive” will for our lives? Explain your answer.

11. List five possible consequences of our disobedience to the will of God?

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

12. Why does God sometimes allow evil things to happen?

13. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

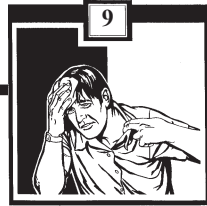
Follow Up

Key memory verses: Romans 12:1-2; I Peter 3:17; II Peter 3:9

Learning to discern - and contend for - the truth: As a result of the Bible principles in this lesson, you should be able to understand and explain why the following ideas are FALSE:

1. Everything that comes to pass was exactly what God willed to happen.
2. God’s will is that only good things should happen in the lives of His children.
3. God has both a perfect will and a permissive will.

Questions: Write down any questions you have concerning this lesson and discuss them with your discipler.



LESSON 9: DEALING WITH SIN

“How Do We Overcome Sin in Our Lives?”

Every Christian soon realizes that there is a spiritual war going on within him and being waged against him, a war that is just as intense as any physical war. A Christian must learn how to win this war. In lesson one, we saw that when we were saved we inherited a new nature, which is the Spirit of Jesus Christ living in us. However, our “old nature” was not eradicated! It now struggles against the “new nature” and is used against us by Satan. This lesson is written to help us understand spiritual warfare and win the victory in our struggle against sin.

- I. What is a biblical definition of sin?
 - 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*

- II. Why do we still sin after we are saved?
 - A. Because we still have a sinful nature (called the “flesh”) which is active and can draw us into sin. *James 1:14-15; Romans 7:18-24*
 - B. Because Satan, “the tempter” (*Matt. 4:3*), exploits the weakness of our flesh to tempt us to sin. *1Chronicles 21:1, 7-8; John 13:2; Acts 5:3*

- III. Temptation to sin comes in three ways: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. (*1John 2:16*) In the garden of Eden, Satan tempted Eve in all three ways (*Genesis 3:6*). He did the same to Jesus Christ in the wilderness (*Heb. 4:15; Luke 4:2-13*). He will do the same to you:
 - A. **The lust of the flesh** - Eve was tempted when she realized the tree was “*good for food*”. Jesus was tempted in this point when the devil tried to get Him to turn the stones into bread.
 - B. **The lust of the eyes** - Eve was tempted when she saw the tree was “*pleasant to the eyes*”. Jesus was tempted when the devil had Him look upon all the kingdoms of the world and then promised to give them to Him in exchange for worship.
 - C. **The pride of life** - Eve was tempted when she was told the fruit would “*make one wise*” as “*gods*”. Jesus was tempted to cast Himself down to proudly prove the angels would take care of Him

- IV. We should not be ignorant of these “devices” of the devil! Soldiers are carefully trained to know the enemy’s tactics; to know where and how an attack is likely to occur. To disregard that information is foolish and deadly. It puts that soldier at risk as well as his brothers-in-arms! *2Cor. 9:2-11; Eph. 6:11*

V. What things can we do to overcome sin?

- A. Acknowledge that sin is our own fault, not anyone else's. We will never correct anything until we accept responsibility for our sin. *Proverbs 28:13; Romans 2:13-15; 2Timothy 2:24-26*
- B. Keep sinful thoughts from occupying our minds. *2Corinthians 10:5; Romans 12:2*
- C. Remind ourselves continually of the fact that, in Jesus Christ, we are dead to sin. Therefore, sin is not our master any longer. *Romans 6:6-7, 11-13; Colossians 3:1-3; Galatians 2:20*
- D. Judge ourselves in the light of God's Word. *1Cor. 11:31; Psalm 119:9, 30, 59-60, 101; 19:7-11*
- E. Ask God to reveal our hidden sins to us. *Psalm 19:12-13; 139:23-24*
- F. Confess our sins to God, knowing that He will always cleanse us and help us in time of need. *Psalm 32:4-5; 1John 1:9; Hebrews 4:15-16; 2Peter 1:4*
- G. Walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. *Galatians 5:16; Romans 8:1-2*
- H. Die to "self" every day. *Mark 8:34-35; Romans 12:1; 2Corinthians 4:10*
- I. Most importantly, we must "hide" God's Word in our hearts. *Psalm 119:11; Matt. 4:4, 7, 10*

VI. How does God deal with our sins now that we are saved?

- A. First, remember, ALL OF OUR SIN was already judged by God at Calvary. *2Cor. 5:21*
- B. However, if we continue to sin willfully:
 1. God will chasten us as a father would his children. *Hebrews 12:4-8*
 2. We can lose blessings, fellowship with God, joy, testimony, victory, etc. *Jer. 17:5-6; Gal. 6:7*
 3. We can lose eternal rewards. *Colossians 3:23-25; 1Cor. 3:13-15; 2John v.8*

VII. Basic questions.

- A. How do we keep the influence of a sinful world from causing us to sin?
 1. We must separate ourselves from the sinful things of this world (music, TV, movies, magazines, bars, nightclubs, etc.). Although we need to associate with unsaved people in order to win them to Christ, we must not participate in their sin. *Eph. 5:5-12; 2Cor. 6:14-18; James 4:4*
 2. We must separate ourselves unto the Lord Jesus Christ. "Separation" means not only to **move away from** the world and from sin but to **move toward** the Lord. *James 4:8*

DEALING WITH SIN

Questions

1. List three definitions of sin.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
2. Why do we still sin after we are saved?
 - A.
 - B.
3. Briefly explain in your own words what the apostle Paul is teaching us in *Romans 7:18-24*.
4. All sin originates from one of three areas of temptation. List the three that are seen in *1John 2:16*.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
5. How was Eve tempted by the devil in these three areas in *Genesis 3:6*?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
6. How was Jesus tempted by the devil in these three areas in *Matthew 4:3-11*?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

7. Briefly explain what truth is found in each of the following verses to help us overcome sin.
- A. *Proverbs 28:13*
 - B. *Romans 6:11-12*
 - C. *1Corinthians 11:31-32*
 - D. *Romans 12:1*
9. Jesus Christ overcame His temptation by recalling the Scriptures that He had hidden in His heart (*Matthew 4:3-11*). Write out a verse in the Bible that teaches us to do the same.
8. What happens if we continue in sin after we are saved?
- A.
 - B.
 - C.
10. List two ways to keep the influence of this sinful world from affecting your life.
- A.
 - B.
11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

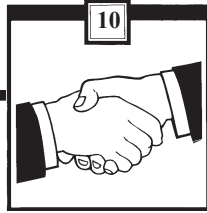
Follow Up

Key memory verses: *Psalm 119:11; Hebrews 4:15; Romans 6:11*

Learning to discern - and contend for - the truth: From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand and be able to explain why the following ideas are FALSE.

1. There is no such thing as sin.
2. Sometimes you can't help sinning because someone else forces you to.
3. If I sin badly enough, I can lose my salvation.

Questions: Write any questions you have concerning this lesson and discuss them with your discipler.



LESSON 10: OTHER CHRISTIANS

“What Is My Relationship & Responsibility to Other Believers in the Body of Christ?”

In lesson one we learned that when we were saved, we were made “sons of God” and were adopted into God’s family. We now have a brand new relationship with Jesus Christ, who is our true God and Saviour, and with other believers, who are our true brothers and sisters in the body of Christ.

This lesson is designed to give a clear understanding of the special relationship that Christians have one with another, and how that relationship is meant to strengthen and edify the whole body.

I. How are we related to other Christians?

- A. We are true brothers and sisters. Be sure to understand that only those who are in Christ (saved people) are part of our true spiritual family. *1John 3:1-3; Romans 8:29; Hebrews 2:11-12*
- B. We are “laborers together” in service for Jesus Christ. *1Corinthians 3:5-9*

II. What are our responsibilities toward other Christians?

- A. To love one another sincerely. *John 13:34-35; 1John 3:23; 1Peter 1:22*
- B. To be patient with one another. *Romans 15:5-6*
- C. To be forgiving of one another. *Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12-13*
- D. To minister to one another materially. *2Cor. 8:1-4; Rom. 12:13; Gal. 6:10; 1John 3:17-18*
- E. To minister to one another spiritually. *Hebrews 6:10*
 - 1. Praying for one another. Paul’s letters are filled with references to his prayers for other Christians. *Romans 1:9; Philippians 1:3-4; Col. 1:9; 1Thess. 1:2; 2Timothy 1:3; etc.*
 - 2. Encouraging and edifying (building up) one another. *Romans 14:19; 1Thessalonians 5:11*
 - 3. Serving one another. *Galatians 5:13-14; Philippians 2:3-4; Matthew 20:25-28*
 - 4. Being merciful to help and restore a fallen brother. *Galatians 6:1-2*

III. What does it mean to have “fellowship” with other Christians?

- A. True Christian fellowship means more than believers just sharing a meal or an activity together. It means all of us being in fellowship with Jesus Christ. We must learn to have fellowship with Him first before our fellowship with other believers will be proper. *1John 1:3, 6-7; John 17:20-21*

B. True Christian fellowship does not require that we all have the same social status, interests, or cultural background, but it does require that we have a godly attitude.

1. Humility - *Philippians 2:2-3; 1Peter 5:5*
2. Honesty - *Ephesians 4:25*
3. Love - *1Thess. 3:12; 4:9-10*

C. True Christian fellowship can take many forms. Here are just a few:

1. Praying together - *2Corinthians 1:11*
2. Serving together - *2Corinthians 8:4; Galatians 2:9*
3. Suffering affliction together - *Gal. 6:2; Phil. 3:10; 1Peter 4:13; Heb. 10:32-34*

IV. What if another Christian sins against us?

A. Love and forgiveness should always be our first response to anyone who has sinned against us. *2Corinthians 12:15; Proverbs 17:9; 1Peter 4:8; Eph. 4:31-32*

B. Unfortunately, there are times of serious offense, hurt, and disagreement within the body of Christ. If this happens, ***Matthew 18:15-17*** tells us how to respond:

1. (v.15) Take the matter directly to the other party first and try to settle it privately.
2. (v.16) If that fails, then take someone else along to hear both sides of the dispute.
3. (v. 17) If the matter is still not resolved, take it to one of the pastors to mediate the situation. *1Corinthians 6:1-3*
4. Christians do NOT go to the unsaved to resolve a problem within the church. *1Cor. 6:5-6*

C. If the matter still cannot be resolved:

- a. Accept the wrong without murmuring. *1Corinthians 6:7-8*
- b. Commit the matter to God. He will handle it justly. *1Peter 2:19-23*
- c. Forgive those who have wronged you. *Colossians 3:12-13*
- d. Love them and pray for them. *Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:14; 13:8-10*

OTHER CHRISTIANS

Questions

1. List two important ways in which you are related to other Christians.
 - A.
 - B.
2. List five responsibilities we have toward other Christians, and give scripture for each point.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
3. List four ways in which you can minister spiritually to a brother or sister in Christ.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
4. What does the term “fellowship” mean?
5. What important godly attitudes are needed for true fellowship with other believers?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

7. List three activities of true fellowship, and give a scripture reference for each.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
8. True or False? True Christian fellowship depends on exact doctrinal agreement.
9. True or False? True Christian fellowship is possible with an unsaved person.
10. What should be your first response when another Christian sins against you?
11. In the event of a serious offense, list three steps you should take to resolve the matter.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
12. In the event the matter cannot be resolved, what should you do?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
13. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Follow Up

Key Memory verses: *Ephesians 4:32; John 13:34-35; 1John 1:7*

Learning to discern - and contend for - the truth: From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand and be able to explain why the following ideas are FALSE.

1. We are not to associate with Christians who do not believe exactly as we do.
2. Fellowship must be centered around a meal.
3. My first response when someone sins against me should be to tell it to other Christians.

Questions: Write down any questions you have concerning this lesson and discuss it with your discipler.



LESSON 11: THE LOCAL CHURCH

“What Is the Purpose of the Local Church
And Why Should I Be Faithfully Involved?”

The church was founded by Jesus Christ after His ascension into Heaven to create a testimony on this earth for the glory of His name. The Bible shows us that the church is God’s instrument for “perfecting” the saints and reaching the lost with the gospel. Therefore, God’s plan for our lives can only be fulfilled through our faithful involvement in His church. The purpose of this lesson is to show the characteristics of the true New Testament church and the importance of its role in our lives.

- I. The word “church” is used in two different ways in the Bible:
 - A. The word “church” sometimes refers to “the body of Christ”: a spiritual body made up of all the saved who are joined to Christ by the Holy Spirit. *Eph. 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18, 24*
 1. There is only ONE body of Christ. *Eph. 4:4; 5:23*
 2. This “church” includes New Testament believers who are in heaven! *Eph. 1:10; 3:14-15*
 3. This “church” is seated together in “heavenly places” in Christ! *Eph. 2:6; Phil. 3:20*
 4. This “church” is the “bride” of Christ, is loved by Him, and will be caught up together as one body in the Day of Christ. *Eph. 5:25-30; Rev. 19:7-9, 21:9, 22:17; 1Thess. 4:16-17*
 - B. The word “church” also refers to “local” congregations of believers gathered together in “earthly places” to worship and serve Jesus Christ. *1Cor. 1:2; Galatians 1:2; Eph. 1:1*
 1. The local churches are many. *Acts 9:31; 1Corinthians 4:17; 16:19*
 2. The members of this church are likened to the members of a human body. (1Cor. 12:14-27)
 - a. Each member has a different function. *vv. 14-20.*
 - b. No one member can function alone. *v. 21.*
 - c. Each member’s contribution is important. *vv. 22-24.*
 - d. The members should operate in harmony, as a single unit. *vv. 25-27.*
 3. As each member of the local church fulfills his function, edifying others and being edified in return, the whole church grows together toward Christ-likeness. *Ephesians 4:13-15*
 4. The “overseers” of the local church are the bishops and deacons. (*Phil. 1:1; Acts 20:17, 28*)
 - a. The bishops are the pastors/shepherds of the flock. Their primary work is prayer, teaching the Word of God, and caring for the spiritual needs of the flock. They are under the authority of the chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ. (*1Peter 5:1-4*)
 - b. The deacons assist the pastors and serve under their authority. Bishops and deacons must be of the highest character. *1Timothy 3:1-13*

5. **How important is the name?** The early believers were not divided by “denominations.” They were known only by the Saviour’s name. (*Acts 11:25-26; 26:28; 1Peter 4:16; James 2:7*). Gradually, groups of believers came to be called by various **man-made names** to distinguish them from other groups. (Montanists, Paulicians, Waldenses, etc.) During the Reformation, this practice of denominating every Christian group became permanently established. (Lutherans, Presbyterians, Methodists, Mennonites, Moravians, Baptists, etc.) But these names are nothing in comparison to the name which is above every name: **the Lord Jesus Christ!**

a. Jesus Christ is honoured when we identify ourselves by His name - not a denomination.
Revelation 2:13; 3:8; Isaiah 43:6-7; Acts 15:17; Eph. 3:14-15

b. In all that we do as a church we are to exalt the name of Jesus Christ: *Psalms 34:3*

We are saved by faith in His name. *John 1:12; 20:31; Acts 8:12; 1John 5:13; Romans 10:13*

We pray in His name. *John 14:13-14; 15:16*

We gather together in His name. *Matthew 18:20*

We are baptized in His name. *Acts 2:38; 8:14-16; Acts 19:4-5*

We preach the gospel and minister in His name. *Acts 9:26-29; Colossians 3:17; Heb. 6:10*

6. The church is NOT the building.

a. God does not dwell in any building made by human hands. *Acts 7:48-49*

b. God dwells **IN** His people! Our bodies are the temples of God. *1Corinthians 6:19-20*

c. Also, when we gather together, the Lord is in the midst of us and the congregation becomes the “temple of God.” *Ephesians 2:19-22; 1Corinthians 3:16-17; Matthew 18:20*

II. The purpose and ministry of the local church:

A. The first local church was at Jerusalem. Doctrinally, this was the church in it’s “infant” stage. Paul’s doctrines were not yet known. The church at Jerusalem is NOT the model church for us today.

1. Some practices in Jerusalem were temporary and were not meant to continue. (*1Cor. 13:11*)

a. They were ruled by apostles, men who were eyewitnesses of the resurrection of Christ.

We have no more “apostles.” *Revelation 2:2*

b. They worshipped in the temple and lived under the Law. *Acts 21:18-24*

We are no longer under the laws of Moses. *Gal. 3:23-24; Col. 2:14*

c. They were waiting for the kingdom of heaven to come to earth. *Mat. 10:23; Acts 1:6; 3:19-21*

We are now waiting to be “caught up to meet the Lord in the air.” *1Thess. 4:16-17*

d. They were strictly a Jewish church, racially separated from the Gentiles *Acts 10:28; 11:19*

We are one in Christ; there is now “no difference” between the Jew and the Gentile.
Ephesians 2:13-18; Romans 10:12-13; Galatians 3:28

2. Some practices of the church in Jerusalem are still vital to us today (*Acts 2:41-47*):

a. Teaching and preaching the word of God. (*v. 42*)

b. Fellowshiping with other believers (*v. 42*)

c. Praying together (*v. 42*)

d. Observing the ordinances: baptism (*v. 41*) and the Lord’s supper (*v. 42*)

e. Assisting and ministering to one another (*vv. 44-45*)

f. Winning the lost to Jesus Christ (*vv. 46-47*)

- B. The church at Ephesus, established by Paul in Acts 19-20, is the model church for us today. Writing to that church, Paul summed up the three-fold ministry of every local church today: “***the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.***” (Eph. 4:12)

III. Three important reasons we should be faithfully involved in the local church:

- A. *Growing* - the local church is like a greenhouse in which all the conditions for our spiritual “growth” are optimized. Spiritual growth takes time - but if we remain a faithful part of the local church, we will “*grow up into him in all things*” (Eph. 4:13-15).
- B. *Giving* - support of the work of the Lord is our responsibility. We do this through the local church by offering our finances, our time, our energies, and our prayers. *2Cor. 8:1-5; 9:7-8; Phil. 2:19-21*
- C. *Going* - personal involvement in taking the gospel to a lost world is of utmost importance. Every one of us should be a witness to the saving grace of Jesus Christ. *Acts 1:8; Romans 10:14-15*

IV. Basic questions.

- A. What is the most important characteristic to look for in a church?

SOUND DOCTRINE is the most important characteristic of a New Testament church. A gathering of believers can only be considered a “true” church if their doctrine is sound (faithful to the Scriptures). The Bible warned that sound doctrine would be harder to find in the last days. *2Timothy 4:2-4; Jude 1:3; Amos 8:11-12*

- B. What other important characteristics should a good church have?

1. It should be winning people to Jesus Christ. *Matthew 7:20; Acts 2:47*
2. It should believe and teach the King James Bible as the pure Word of God. *Titus 1:9*
3. It should emphasize the teaching and preaching of God’s Word rather than social activities and programs.
4. Its members should be encouraged to study the Bible as much as the leaders. *Acts 17:10-12*
5. It should be sending out and supporting missionaries. *Acts 13:1-3*
6. It should be separated from all forms of modernism and compromise (groups that have false doctrine, the charismatic movement, the ecumenical movement, “Contemporary Christian” music, etc.) *2Corinthians 6:14-18; Eph. 4:14; 2Thess. 3:6,14*

THE LOCAL CHURCH

Questions

1. In what two ways is the word “church” used in the Bible?
 - A.
 - B.

2. What are four characteristics of the body of Christ?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.

3. According to **1Cor. 12:14-27**, in what four ways is the local church similar to the human body?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.

4. Who are the overseers of the local church?

5. **Psalms 34:3** says, “*O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt **his name** together.*” How does the local church exalt the name of the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.

6. What are some of the practices of the “infant” church of Jerusalem that are now “done away”?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.

7. **Acts 2:41-47** describes the church at Jerusalem. What vital characteristics did that church have?

- A. D.
- B. E.
- C. F.

8. According to **Ephesians 4:12**, what is the threefold purpose of the local church today?

9. What are three reasons for our faithful involvement in the local church?

- A.
- B.
- C.

10. What is the most important characteristic to look for in a church?

11. What are some other important characteristics of a good church?

- A. D.
- B. E.
- C. F.

12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Follow Up

Key memory verses: *Ephesians 4:11-12; 1Corinthians 12:27; 2Timothy 2:2*

Learning to discern - and contend for - the truth: From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand and be able to explain why the following ideas are FALSE.

1. In order to learn the Bible and the ministry, you need to go to a Christian College.
2. The primary purpose of a local church is to provide social activities and programs for the family.
3. The way to judge the quality of a church is by its size or its name.

Questions: Write down any questions you have concerning this lesson and discuss them with your discipler.



LESSON 12: THE UNSAVED WORLD

“How Does Being a Christian Change My Relationship to the Unsaved World?”

The Bible commands us to separate ourselves from the things of this world! Yet, it also commands us to go into all the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ to reach those who are lost. This lesson teaches us how to reconcile those two commands and how to live a balanced, consistent life in this world, so as to influence people for the Lord without being influenced by people for evil.

I. As believers how should we view our place in this present world?

- A. We are like pilgrims passing through a foreign land. *Hebrews 11:13; 1Peter 2:11*
- B. This world is not our “home”, our home is in heaven. *Ephesians 2:6; Philippians 3:20*
- C. This world is a “mission field” of lost souls to be reached for Christ. *Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8*

II. The Christian who lives a godly life can expect to suffer opposition from the world.

- A. This world is evil and operates contrary to God’s purpose. *Gal. 1:4; 1John 5:19; Eph. 4:17-18*
- B. Jesus Christ was misunderstood, hated, and opposed by the world. *Psalms 109:1-5; John 15:24-25*
- C. The early churches suffered the same. *1Thess. 2:14-15; 3:1-3; 1Peter 4:12-16*
- D. The world will hate and oppose a godly Christian. *John 15:18-21; 2Timothy 3:12;*

III. From whom can we expect opposition?

- A. From family, friends, and fellow workers. *Matt. 10:34-37; Mark 6:1-4; John 1:10-11*
- B. From strangers and unsaved people in general. *Gal. 4:28-29; John 17:14*

Note: The hatred that this world has for truth and righteousness comes out subtly through the educational system, the news media and the entertainment industry. It permeates the books, magazines, TV programs, movies and music of our times. That’s why we must judge “the things of the world” by God’s Word. *John 3:19-20; Prov. 6:20-23; Matt. 22:29*

C. From Satan and the evil spirits who serve him. The Bible says:

1. He is the “god” of this world. *2Corinthians 4:3-4*
2. He is our “adversary”. *1Peter 5:8*
3. He is the “accuser of our brethren.” *Revelation 12:10*
4. He and the evil spirits that serve him “wrestle” against the saved. *Ephesians 6:10-12*

D. How should we respond to the hatred and opposition of the world?

1. By not losing our joy! *Luke 6:2-23*

2. By a soft answer to those who may contend with us. *Proverbs 15:1-2; Romans 12:18-19*
3. By having faith in God. *1John 5:4-5; Ephesians 6:16*
4. By loving our enemies and doing good to them. Jesus Christ loved His enemies enough to die for them. The world does not understand this type of love, but those who are seeking the truth are drawn to it. *Matt. 5:43-46; Romans 12:14, 20-21; 5:8*
5. By praying for our enemies - with pure motives. *Luke 6:28*
6. By keeping company with those who love and serve God. *Psalms 1:1; 119:63; Proverbs 13:20*
7. By renewing our minds daily with the Word of God. *Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:22-24*

IV. Someone once asked, "If you were put on trial by the world for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" What evidence should the world see in our lives, to know that we are saved?

- A. They should see that we love God. *1Corinthians 8:3*
- B. They should see that we love the brethren. *John 13:34-35*
- C. They should see that we no longer partake of their sins. *2Cor. 6:14-17; Rev. 18:4*

Note: Separation from the world does not mean we live isolated from the world. For the sake of the gospel Jesus was a friend to sinners, but without partaking of their sins. *1Cor. 5:9-11; 9:22*

- D. They should see that we are balanced (*Philippians 4:5*), even while abstaining from all appearance of evil. *1Thessalonians 5:22*
- E. They should see that we are open and honest. *2Corinthians 8:21; Romans 12:17*
- F. They should see that we are peaceful and content. *Phil. 2:14-15; 1Thess. 5:15; James 3:13-16*

V. Basic questions:

- A. If this world system is contrary to God, why must we submit ourselves to it's laws?
 1. God established the foundations of civil government in the years after the flood of Noah. He did so that society would have structure and order for the good of man. Although Satan now controls the kingdoms of this world (*Luke 4:5-6*) we are still to submit to the authority of government because government was ordained of God. *Romans 13:1-2; 1Peter 2:13-15*
 2. If we do right, we have no reason to fear. God will bless us for honoring His Word. *Romans 13:3-5*
 3. We are to render to the government what is due by law. *Rom. 13:6-7; Matt. 17:24-27, 22:17-21*
- B. Where do we draw the line when it comes to unjust or ungodly laws?

When the laws of man violate the Word of God, we must respectfully and humbly disobey the laws of man and take the consequences joyfully. *Acts 4:17-21; 5:27-29; 41-42*

THE UNSAVED WORLD

Questions

1. How should we view our place in this world?

- A.
- B.
- C.

True or false? (2 - 5)

2. _____ This world is basically beautiful and good.

3. _____ Jesus Christ was hated without a cause.

4. _____ Our unsaved family and friends will usually love and support us in our faith.

5. _____ This world respects truth and righteousness.

6. List four things that the Bible says concerning Satan's opposition to the saints.

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

7. There are a number of effective ways to respond to the hatred and opposition of the world. What do the following verses say about the matter?

A. *Proverbs 15:1-2*

B. *Luke 6:22-23*

C. *1John 5:4-5*

D. *Romans 12:20-21*

E. *Matthew 5:44*

F. *Proverbs 13:20*

G. *Romans 12:2*

8. What evidence should the world see in our lives, to know that we are saved?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
 - F.
9. Give three reasons why we should submit ourselves to the government.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
10. What should we do when the laws of our government are contrary to the Word of God?
11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Follow Up

Key memory verses: *2Timothy 3:12; 1John 2:15-16; 1Corinthians 8:3*

Learning to discern - and contend for - the truth: From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand and be able to explain why the following ideas are FALSE.

1. Christians are to be totally separated from unsaved people.
2. Christians should do anything to keep people from being upset with them.
3. The best way to fight opposition is with an aggressive approach.
4. Since the government is evil, you are not obligated to obey it.

Questions: Write down any questions you have concerning this lesson and discuss them with your discipler.



LESSON 13: WEALTH AND WORLDLY GOODS

“What Should My Attitude Be Toward Money and Material Possessions?”

We are conditioned by our culture to think that success means financial prosperity. There are even churches today that preach a “prosperity gospel” in which material wealth is said to be the best evidence of God’s blessings in a Christian’s life. But in reality, true success is understanding and doing the will of God; and the real evidence of God’s blessing is not **material prosperity** but **spiritual prosperity** (growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ). This lesson will show how God views money and possessions and help us line up our views with His.

- I. The most important truth concerning wealth and worldly goods is that everything - the earth and everything in it - belongs to God. We have absolute ownership of nothing material! We are only stewards (caretakers) of those things entrusted to us by God. *Deut. 10:14; Psalm 24:1; 1Chron. 29:14-16; Acts 4:32*
- II. Neither wealth nor poverty is an indication of our spirituality.
 - A. Nowhere in the Bible does God condemn anyone simply for having money. Neither does He condemn anyone simply for being poor. Instead, he deals with heart attitudes. *1Timothy 6:10*
 - B. Sometimes wealth is a blessing from God. Some godly people in the Bible were wealthy:
 1. Joseph became a wealthy man and rose to great power in Egypt because, “*the LORD was with him, (and) made all that he did to prosper in his hand.*” (*Genesis 39:2-3; 41:37-45*)
 2. Job was a very wealthy man, yet he maintained a godly attitude. *Job 1:3, 20-22*
 3. King David, Israel’s greatest King, “*a man after mine own heart*”, remained humble, even though he was very wealthy. *1Chron. 29:10-14, 28; Psalm 19: 9-10; 62:10; 119:14, 72, 127*
 4. Some of the followers of Jesus Christ were wealthy. *Luke 8:1-3; John 12:3*
 - C. Sometimes poverty is better than wealth. Some godly people in the Bible were poor:
 1. The widow who sustained Elijah in Zarephath. *1Kings 17:8-16*
 2. The widow who cast all her money into the offering. *Mark 12:42-44*
 3. The Apostle Paul. *Galatians 1:13-14 cf. Philipians 3:7-8; 2Corinthians 6:10*
 4. Jesus Christ himself was poor. *Matthew 8:20; 2Corinthians 8:9*
- III. Wealth and material possessions can often ruin our relationship with God. How is this possible?
 - A. If we trust in our wealth rather than trusting in God. *Mark 10:23-27; Proverbs 11:4,28*
 - B. If our affections are set on material things instead of things above. *Matt. 6:19-21; Colossians 3:1-2*

C. If our goal is to earn as much money as possible. *Proverbs 23:4; Ecc. 5:10-12*

D. If we forget that God is the source of all material blessings. *Job 31:24-28; Deuteronomy 8:10-18*

IV. What are the right attitudes we should have toward money and material possessions?

A. We should learn to BE CONTENT with what we have. Contentment means to rest happily satisfied in God's provision; realizing that whatever we have is a blessing.

1. We are to be content with our possessions. *Hebrews 13:5; 1Timothy 6:6-8*

2. We are to be content with our circumstances, resting in the Lord Jesus Christ. *Phil. 4:10-12*

B. We should realize that our true riches are spiritual. *Ephesians 1:3; 2Corinthians 8:9*

C. If God blesses us materially, we should not forget Him. *Deuteronomy 6:10-12; Proverbs 30:7-9*

D. If God takes away all our wealth, it should not affect our relationship with Him. *Job 1:20-22*

E. We should not be envious of someone else's prosperity. *Psalms 73:1-28; Luke 12:15*

F. We should stay away from "get rich quick" schemes. *Proverbs 20:21; 28:20,22*

G. A godly attitude toward money does NOT mean that we should neglect our financial responsibilities.

1. We are to provide for our family. *1Timothy 5:8*

2. We are to be honest in all our financial dealings. *Mark 12:13-17; 2Cor. 8:21; 1Thess. 4:11-12*

V. Basic questions.

A. Doesn't God promise to provide **all** of our needs?

1. Yes, *Philippians 4:19* and *Matthew 6:31-32* promise exactly that. But we should understand that what we want is not always what we need. God responds to our "need." *Hebrews 4:15-16*

2. We should also understand that the promises in *Phil. 4:19* and *Mat. 6:31-32* are "conditional":

a. The context of *Philippians 4:19* (vv. 15-19, especially v. 18) makes it clear that this was written to those who had learned to be faithful and sacrificial in their giving. (*Prov. 11:24-25*)

b. The context of *Matthew 6:31-32* (vv. 24-33, especially v. 33) makes it clear that this was spoken for those who put spiritual things ahead of material things.

B. Doesn't God promise to give us the **desires** of our heart?

1. Yes, *Psalms 37:4* promises exactly that. But notice there is an important condition in that verse! If we truly "delight" ourselves in the Lord, then our "desires" will change: we will desire those things that please Him! *Psalms 19:8-10; 27:4; Isaiah 26:9; 1Peter 2:2*

2. On the other hand, if our heart is not right with God, our desires will not be right. And even though we may obtain the things our heart craves - it will result in spiritual poverty. *Psalms 78:29-31; 106:13-15*

MONEY & POSSESSIONS

Questions

1. What is the “prosperity gospel”?
2. What is the most important truth to remember about our wealth and “possessions”?
3. Is our wealth an indication of whether or not God is pleased with us? _____. Briefly explain.
4. What do we learn about one’s heart attitude toward money in *1 Timothy 6:10*?
5. Job and King David were both very wealthy men - but they had an attitude toward their wealth that is uncommon today among rich people. What was so different about their attitude?
 - A. Job
 - B. David
6. Sometimes poverty is better than wealth. Briefly explain.
7. List some godly people in the Bible who were poor.
8. List four ways that prosperity can interfere with our relationship with God. Give a scripture verse.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
9. What is the most important attitude we should have concerning our wealth and material possessions?
10. What do these two verses teach us about contentment?
 - A. *Hebrews 13:5*
 - B. *Philippians 4:11*

11. What other things should we keep in mind concerning money and possessions?

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.
- F.

12. God has promised to provide all of my _____, but not all of my _____.

13. When considering God's promise in Philippians 4:19, what condition is given?

14. When considering God's promise in Matthew 6:31-32, what condition is present in the context?

15. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

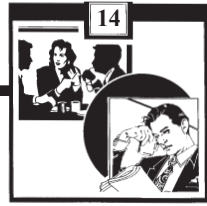
Follow Up

Key memory verses: *Philippians 4:11; Philippians 4:19; Colossians 3:2*

Learning to discern - and contend for - the truth: From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand and be able to explain why the following ideas are FALSE.

1. If you get enough material wealth, you will be satisfied.
2. God must be pleased with rich people to have blessed them with so much.
3. Your worth as a person is measured by your material wealth.

Questions: Write down any questions you have concerning this lesson and discuss them with your discipler.



LESSON 14: OUR JOB AND EMPLOYER

“How Do I Serve the Lord in My Workplace?”

The Bible is the final authority in every area of our lives. Therefore, it is no surprise that it has a great deal to say about how to conduct ourselves in the workplace. We spend about one-fourth of our adult life on the job, and it is essential to have a biblical attitude toward this area of responsibility. If we intend to be effective servants of God, we must be so at work as well as at church and at home.

This lesson is designed to show what type of employee or employer God would have us to be.

- I. Every Christian has been called into a life of ministry.
 - A. We have been “saved to serve”. *Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5-8; Hebrews 9:13-14*
 - B. Our primary “vocation” (our work, our calling) is to serve Jesus Christ. *Eph. 4:1; Col. 3:23-24*
 - C. We are called to minister for Jesus Christ “in the world” - not just in the church. *2Corinthians 1:12; Matt. 5:14-16; Galatians 6:9-10; Philippians 2:15*

- II. Two important ways in which our employment serves the cause of Christ:
 - A. As a means of financial support to make it possible for us to minister to others.
 1. To our family. *Deut. 11:18-21; 1Timothy 5:8, 3:5,*
 2. To our church. *Hebrews 6:10; 1John 3:16-18; Eph. 4:28*
 3. To the lost. *2Corinthians 5:20; Galatians 6:10*
 - B. As a ministry opportunity in itself.
 1. In most cases, the workplace will provide us the greatest opportunity to reach unsaved people.
 2. Our life may be the only true witness of Jesus Christ that our co-workers ever see.
 3. Our co-workers, because they have an opportunity to see a consistent testimony in our life, are more likely to be won to Christ than total strangers we meet outside of work. *2Corinthians 3:2*

- III. What attitudes should we have toward those in authority over us at work?
 - A. We should have a servant’s heart. *Ephesians 6:5-8;*
 - B. We should respect those in authority over us. *Rom. 13:7; 1Tim. 6:1; Titus 2:9-10; 1Peter 2:17-18*
 - C. We should be honest concerning our employer’s property and time. *Lev. 19:11; Col. 3:22-23*
 - D. We should mind our own business and beware of laziness. *1Thess. 4:11-12; 2Thess. 3:10-12*
 - E. We should help make our employer successful; in doing so, we will be successful. *Proverbs 10:4, 13:4, 18:9, 22:29; 1Kings 11:28* Joseph is a great example of this: *Genesis 39:2-4, 21-23; etc.*

IV. As employers or supervisors, what attitudes should we have toward those over whom we have authority?

- A. We should treat our employees or those we supervise justly and equally. *Colossians 4:1*
- B. We should not set standards for them that we do not keep ourselves. *Ephesians 6:9*
- C. We should listen to suggestions and admit when we are wrong. *Romans 12:3; Proverbs 16:18*
- D. We should not put self interest above the needs of others. *Philippians 2:2-3*
- E. Even in a position of leadership, we should always maintain the attitude of a servant. *Mark 10:42-45*

V. Two important things to consider if there is an opportunity for promotion or advancement:

- A. With greater responsibility comes greater problems. *James 3:1; Ecclesiastes 4:6; 8:9*
- B. With greater responsibility comes more of a demand on our time and energy. We must be sure that taking on new responsibilities will not hinder our service for God. *2Timothy 2:4*

VI. Basic questions

A. What about when our work conflicts with spiritual things?

1. **Work schedules** sometimes conflict with church and family schedules. While our jobs are an important area of responsibility, they must never become an **excuse** to neglect our family or our church. We **MUST** prayerfully maintain a balance in this area.
2. **Involvement in sinful activities at work** will ruin our testimony and bring reproach on the name of Jesus Christ. If work responsibilities would ever cause us to sin against God, then we must respectfully refuse to be involved in those things.
3. **Evangelizing** our co-workers should never interfere with our being a good worker. We were hired to work not to witness - so we must not let our good “*be evil spoken of*” (*Romans 14:16*). God will give us far more opportunities to witness if we are faithful and diligent in our work habits.

B. What about when we are persecuted on the job?

1. We can expect opposition from the world if we are truly serving Jesus Christ. *2Timothy 3:12*
2. Remember **why** persecution comes and **how** to respond: *1Peter 2:20-23; 3:13-17; 4:14-16*

MY JOB & EMPLOYER

QUESTIONS

1. Christians are called into a life of ministry. Give three facts concerning our ministry and a scripture reference for each.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

2. One important way in which our employment serves the cause of Christ is to financially support our ministries. List three ministries each of us need to support.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

3. Explain why we should view our job as a ministry opportunity in itself:
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

4. What attitudes should we have toward our supervisor or employer?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.

5. As employers or supervisors, what attitudes should we have toward those over whom we have authority?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.

6. What do these verses tell me to consider concerning advancement or promotion at work?
 1. *Ecclesiastes 4:6; 8:9*

 2. *2Timothy 2:4*

7. Briefly explain how you should handle each of these problem areas at work?
 - A. Work schedules that conflict with church or family schedules.
 - B. Sinful activities at work.
 - C. Witnessing on the job.
 - D. Persecution

8. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Follow Up

Key memory verses: *2Timothy 2:4; Mark 10:44-45; Colossians 3:23*

Learning to discern - and contend for - the truth: From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand and be able to explain why the following ideas are FALSE.

1. Your job is just a paycheck.
2. Your job status is the most important measure of your success.
3. God expects to always put church activities ahead of your job.

Questions: Write down any questions you have concerning this lesson and discuss them with your dicipler.



LESSON 15: LIBERTY IN CHRIST

“Since We Are Forgiven and Secure in Christ,
Are We Free to Live as We Please?”

The New Testament is very clear that those who are saved are no longer under the restrictions of religious laws, but have freedom through Jesus Christ to live under the grace of God (*John 1:14*). Many people, however, use this freedom as an opportunity to sin, thinking they are free to live as they please.

The purpose of this lesson is to help the Christian understand what it means to have liberty in Christ, and to see the principles that govern that liberty.

I. What is the nature of our liberty in Christ?

- A. Outside of Christ, all people are under the condemnation of the Law of Moses. *Romans 3:19-20; Galatians 3:10; 1 Timothy 1:9-10*
- B. Outside of Christ, all people are bound in sin. *John 8:32-34; Prov. 5:22; Eph. 2:1-3*
- C. True freedom is found only in Christ Jesus. *John 8:36; Galatians 5:1*

II. How did Jesus Christ obtain our freedom?

- A. He fulfilled the righteousness of the Law by living sinlessly under its demands. *Psalm 40:7-8; John 8:46; Hebrews 4:15; 1 John 3:4-5*
- B. He satisfied the penalty of the Law by shedding His blood for us and, in effect, nailing the Law to his cross. *Ephesians 2:13-15; Colossians 2:13-14*
- C. He applied the finished work of his cross to us (the moment we believed on Him as our Saviour) by sending the Spirit of Christ to “baptize” us into His death, burial, and resurrection, thus making us free from the penalty and the power of sin, and the condemnation of the Law. *Romans 6:3-7; 7:4-6; 8:1-2; Galatians 3:13-14*
- D. He gave assurance of our freedom by rising from the dead and sending His Spirit to dwell in us. *Galatians 4:4-7; 2 Corinthians 3:17*

III. What are some practical results of our liberty in Christ?

- A. We are free to serve God without the constraints of the Law. *2 Corinthians 3:6-11, 17*
 - 1. We serve Him because we are saved - not to become saved. *John 6:39-40; 1 Peter 1:3-5*
 - 2. We serve Him because we love Him - not because we are compelled to by the Law. *2 Cor. 5:14-15*
- B. We are free to make our own choices. *Joshua 24:15; Romans 14:1-5*

IV. Our liberty must be used responsibly in a way that honors Jesus Christ:

- A. Liberty is not a license to do as we please. *Romans 6:14-15; 1Peter 2:15-16*
- B. Liberty is not to be used to satisfy the desires of our flesh. *Galatians 5:13*
- C. Although sinful choices do not cause us to lose our salvation, sinful choices have consequences:
 1. Spiritual barrenness, unfruitfulness for Jesus Christ. *Psalms 106:13-15; John 15:1-2*
 2. Reaping what we have sown. *Isaiah 3:10-11; Galatians 6:7-8*
 3. Chastisement from God. *Proverbs 3:11-12; 1Corinthians 11:30-32*
 4. Becoming “vessels unto dishonour”. *2Timothy 2:19-21*

V. Guidelines for the proper use of our liberty:

- A. We must keep in mind that we are no longer our own. *Rom. 14:7-9; 1Cor. 6:19-20; 1Peter 1:17-19*
- B. We must avoid anything that would cause a weaker Christian to stumble. *Romans 14:13; 19-21*
- C. We are to be charitable always, regardless of our liberty. *Romans 14:14-15; 1Cor. 13:1-3; 16:13-14*
- D. We must avoid things that could appear to be evil even though they may not be evil. *Romans 14:16-17; 1Thessalonians 5:22*
- E. We are to always maintain a good testimony before God and men. *Romans 14:18*
- F. We are not to allow ourselves to come under the power of something that should not be controlling our lives. *Romans 14:22; 1Corinthians 6:12*

VI. When faced with choices about things that are not clearly approved or clearly forbidden in the Bible (questionable situations, those so-called “gray” areas), we need to ask ourselves these questions:

- A. “If I do this, will it bless and edify (*strengthen, build up*) others?” *1Corinthians 10:23-24*
- B. “Can I thank God for this with a clear conscience?” *Colossians 3:17; Acts 24:16*
- C. “Would I be ashamed if the Lord returned at that moment?” *1Cor. 1:8; 1Thess. 5:23; 1John 2:28*
- D. “Could it possibly cause an unsaved person to reject Jesus Christ as Savior?” *1Cor. 10:32-33*

VII. We should always be ready to relinquish our liberty rather than to offend a brother in Christ or misguide an unsaved person.

- A. The welfare of our brethren is more important than our liberty. *1Cor. 8:4-13; Phil. 2:3-4; Rom. 15:1-3*
- B. The salvation of the lost is more important than our liberty. *1Corinthians 9:19-22*
- C. The glory of God is more important than our liberty. *1Corinthians 10:27-31*

LIBERTY IN CHRIST

Questions

1. Outside of Christ all people are under the condemnation of the _____.
2. Outside of Christ all people are bound in _____.
3. What great truth concerning our liberty do we find in *John 8:36*?
4. How did Jesus Christ obtain our freedom? Complete the sentences below and give a verse.
 - A. He fulfilled the righteousness of the Law by:
 - B. He satisfied the penalty of the Law by:
 - C. He applied the finished work of his cross to us by:
 - D. He gave assurance of our freedom by:
5. We obtained our liberty in Christ the moment we _____.
6. What are two practical results of our liberty in Christ?
 - A.
 - B.
7. What do the following verses teach us about our liberty?
 - A. *Romans 6:14-15*
 - B. *Galatians 5:13*
8. If you use your liberty in Christ to sin, will it mean the loss of your salvation?
9. If you use your liberty in Christ to sin, what will be the consequences?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
10. List six guidelines for the proper use of our liberty. Give a Bible verse to support each one.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

D.

E.

F.

11. Explain how each of the following verses affects the use of your liberty in questionable situations.

A. 1Corinthians 10:23

B. Colossians 3:17

C. 1Corinthians 1:8

D. 1Corinthians 10:31-33

12. Why should I be willing to relinquish my liberty at certain times?

A.

B.

C.

10. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Follow Up

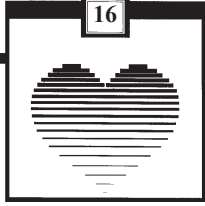
Key memory verses: *Galatians 5:1; Galatians 5:13; Romans 14:21*

Learning to discern - and contend for - the truth: From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand and be able to explain why the following ideas are FALSE.

1. There are Christian laws that we must live by in order to please God.
2. We are free to do whatever we want regardless of how it affects other people.
3. Our liberty in Christ is a right and we should never give it up.

Questions: Write down any questions you have concerning this lesson and discuss them with your dicipler.

LESSON 16: GIVING



“What Is A Christian’s Responsibility In The Area of Financial Giving?”

Giving is a controversial subject in some churches today - largely because of the economic pressures of our times and the financial abuses perpetrated by many churches and Christian organizations. Yet, giving is a vital part of our stewardship (the management of our resources).

This lesson will deal with Christian stewardship, the giving of our life and resources to the Lord.

- I. The first thing we must understand about New Testament giving is that God does not need our money! “*The earth is the Lord’s and the fulness thereof.*” (*Psalms 24:1*)
- II. More important than the giving of our money or other resources is the giving of our lives.
 - A. God desires to have our HEARTS and not our GOODS. *Proverbs 23:26; 2Cor. 12:14*
 - B. We were bought with a price, the blood of Christ; and we belong to Him. *1Cor. 6:19-20*
 - C. God commands us to present our bodies as living sacrifices. *Romans 12:1*
 - D. If we first give ourselves to the Lord, we will have no problem giving Him our goods. *2Cor. 8:1-5*
- III. Acts 20:35 says, “*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*” Here are some reasons that is true:
 - A. Giving proves the sincerity of our love for Jesus Christ. *2Corinthians 8:8*
 - B. Giving is an investment in eternal riches and gets our minds off of earthly riches, which will fade away. *Matthew 6:19-21*
 - C. Giving causes God to multiply our material blessings so that we can keep giving! *2Cor. 9:8-11; Philippians 4:19* [Note: this last verse was a promise made to the Macedonian believers, who were already giving faithfully and sacrificially to the Lord’s work. See: *2Cor. 8:1-2; Phil. 4:15-18*]
- IV. Where should we give?
 - A. All of our giving should be done through our local church. *1Corinthians 16:1-3*
 - B. Examples from the past:
 1. In the Old Testament, the tithes were brought to the Temple and given to the priests. *Malachi 3:10*
 2. In the days of Jesus, giving was brought to the Temple and cast into the treasury. *Mark 12:41-44*
 3. In the church of Jerusalem, giving was brought to the Apostles and distributed by them. *Acts 4:32-37*
 4. In the New Testament church we are not bound by the Law, nor by these examples, but the principle remains: our giving to the Lord should always be through the local church.
 - C. There may be worthy causes outside the local church to which we may give our time and money, but it should never be at the expense of what God would have us to do in our church. *Ephesians 3:21*

V. How is our money used in the local church?

- A. To support the pastors of the church. *1Corinthians 9:13-14; Galatians 6:6; 1Timothy 5:17-18*
- B. To further the gospel to the lost. *Philippians 4:15-16*
- C. To relieve those within the church who are in serious need, and who are FAITHFUL to the church. *Acts 6:1, 11:27-30; 1Timothy 5:16, 9-10*
- D. To meet general needs as determined by the pastors and deacons of our church.

VI. How much should we give?

- A. In the Old Testament, the Jews were required by the law to give “tithes” of their income to the Levites. Although the word “tithe” means one-tenth, there were multiple “tithes” required for various purposes from different areas of their income. (*Deut. 14:22-23; 2Chron. 31:5-6; etc*) Added together, the required Jewish giving was more than thirty percent! On top of that, the Jews were required to give offerings for various other works of God. The main passage that shows this is *Malachi 3:8-10*.
- B. In the New Testament, there is no set rule that requires us to give a certain percentage. Believers are no longer under the Law, but under Grace. (*John 1:17; Romans 6:14; Galatians 5:1*) Therefore, the Old Testament tithe serves only as an example, not a law. When it comes to our giving to the work of God, we should not feel compelled by a religious ordinance but should be led by the Holy Spirit.
- C. New Testament giving is summarized in *2Corinthians 9:7*
 - 1. “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart.” Giving purposefully, from our hearts.
 - 2. “Not grudgingly.” Giving willingly. (See *2Cor. 8:11-12*)
 - 3. “Or of necessity.” Giving not out of obligation.
 - 4. “For God loveth a **cheerful** giver!” Giving gladly - not sadly!

VII. Other principles to consider in giving.

- A. We should give according to how God has prospered us (*1Cor. 16:2*), but when measuring our “prosperity” we need to take into account our spiritual blessings (*2Cor. 8:9; Eph. 1:3*) and then give accordingly!
- B. We should give “sacrificially”. God’s grace will enable us to give beyond our normal ability. *2Corinthians 8:1-3*
- C. Remember the law of sowing and reaping. *2Corinthians 9:6; Luke 6:38; Proverbs 11:24*
- D. Remember the greatest principle of all: true New Testament giving is not primarily about money. It is about giving **ourselves** to the Lord! That is where real giving must always begin, turning over the control of our lives to Jesus Christ.

GIVING

Questions

1. What is the very first thing to understand about giving?
2. Before you consider giving money or anything else to the Lord, you must give yourself first. Why is that so?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
3. The Bible says, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*" What are three reasons this is true?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
4. Where should a Christian first give his time, service, and resources?
5. Give three examples from the Bible for your answer in question #4.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
6. List four ways in which money is to be used by the local church. Give a verse that best defines each point.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
7. What was the Old Testament law that governed one's giving to the Lord's work?
8. What passage in the Bible best shows this?

9. The New Testament believer no longer lives under _____ but under _____.
10. We should not be compelled by a religious ordinance in our giving, but should be _____.
11. What four attitudes on giving are found in *2Corinthians 9:7*?
- A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
12. List four other principles to consider when giving to the local church:
- A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
13. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Follow Up

Key memory verses: *2Corinthians 9:7; Matthew 6:21; 2Corinthians 8:9*

Learning to discern - and contend for - the truth: From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand and be able to explain why the following ideas are FALSE.

1. Christians are supposed to tithe.
2. Christians are obligated to give to every good cause presented to them.
3. If you don't give, the work of God will not get done.

Questions: Write down any questions you have concerning this lesson and discuss them with your discipler.



LESSON 17: MISSIONS

“What Is Biblical Missions and Why Should It Be A Priority in My Life?”

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint the new believer with the subject of Biblical missions so that he can understand the work of the local church in taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to the rest of the world, and see his personal responsibility to be involved in that endeavor.

I. **WHAT** does Biblical missions consist of?

- A. **Going and preaching** the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world. *Mark 16:15*
- B. **Reconciling** the lost to God. *2Corinthians 5:18-20*
- C. **Discipling** new believers. The early church was sent out to preach the gospel to the lost and then disciple those who got saved. We see this in *Matthew 28:19-20*:
 1. Missions: **“Go ye therefore,”** (Going into the world with the gospel.)
 2. Evangelism: **“And teach all nations.”** (Teaching the lost the way of salvation.)
 3. Discipleship: **“Teaching them to observe all things.”** (Discipling the saved to serve the Lord.)
- D. **Establishing churches** around the world. *Acts 11:19-26; 14:21-23; 15:40-41; 16:5*

II. Missions began with God and continues today through the local church and every believer:

- A. Missions began with God’s love for the world. *John 3:16*
- B. God sent Jesus Christ into the world to save sinners. *John 3:17; 4:40-42; 1John 4:14*
- C. Jesus Christ sent his disciples to carry on His work. *John 17:18, 20:21; Luke 24:45-48; Acts 1:8*
- D. We are now **“ambassadors for Christ.”** (*2Cor. 5:20*) We are His witnesses, sent to take His gospel to the world. *Luke 8:37-39; John 4:35; Acts 8:4; Romans 10:14-15*

“In the first few centuries, Christianity grew like wildfire. The disciples and churches were multiplied rapidly in spite of great persecution. The rulers of the Roman Empire viewed Jesus Christ and His followers as a threat and considered the gospel an intolerable offense against their religion. As Christianity spread throughout the empire, the Roman government began a violent persecution of Christians that continued for two hundred years and took the lives of countless thousands of believers. Persecution became the norm for any person who received Jesus Christ as Saviour. Yet, the disciples and churches continued to multiply greatly, even in such a climate of intolerance.”

“How was this possible? The answer is simple! **Every Christian considered himself a missionary!** The soldier tried to win recruits for the kingdom of God; the prisoner sought to bring his jailer to Christ and the jailer his prisoners; the slave girl whispered the gospel in the ear of her mistress; the wife prayed, and sought to win her husband to the Lord. And so it went. **Everyone who had experienced the joys of new life in Christ sought to win others to the faith.**”

- selected

III. **HOW** is the work of missions to be done?

- A. Missionaries are **taught** and **trained** in the local church. *Ephesians 4:11-16; Phil. 4:9*
 - 1. The twelve apostles were taught and trained by Jesus Christ about **missions** (*Matt. 9:35-10:7; Luke 10:1-2; John 4:27-38*) and **discipleship**. *John 4:39-42*
 - 2. Paul, the great missionary to the Gentiles, was discipled by Barnabas (*Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26*) and taught by Jesus Christ. *Acts 26:13-18; Galatians 1:11-12, 15-17*
- B. Missionaries are **sent out** by the Lord, through their local church, and are accountable to their church. *Acts 13:1-5; 14:25-27*
- C. Missionaries are **sustained** by their local church in the following ways:
 - 1. **Financial support:** *Philippians 4:15-18*
 - 2. **Prayer support:** *Colossians 4:2-4*
 - 3. **Personnel support:** *Acts 13:5; 19:21-22; 20:4; Romans 16:3-4; 1Cor. 3:6-9; 16:17-18*

IV. **WHERE** is the work of missions to be done?

- A. Missions begins at home, in our own Jerusalem. *Luke 24:47*
- B. The world is divided into four mission fields as designated by the Lord in **Acts 1:8**. Each mission field is progressively more difficult than the one before it. The Lord promised us His **power** and His **presence** in each one.
 - 1. **Jerusalem:** the unsaved in our immediate area, with whom we live and work.
 - 2. **Judaea:** the unsaved of our same culture who live in surrounding areas.
 - 3. **Samaria:** the unsaved of a different culture who live in outlying areas.
 - 4. **The uttermost:** the unsaved of a different culture and language, who live a great distance away.

V. **WHY** should missions be a priority in our lives?

- A. Because the Lord commands us. *Mark 16:15; John 20:21; 14:15, 21, 23*
- B. Because His love constrains us (apprehends and holds us). *2Cor. 5:14-15, 20*
- C. Because lost souls should concern us. *Romans 9:1-3; Jude 1:22-23*
- D. Because judgment is coming for every one of us (the judgment seat of Christ)! *2Cor. 5:9-11; Proverbs 24:11-12; Job 26:2-4*

MISSIONS

Questions

1. What does biblical missions consist of?
 - A. _____ and _____ the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.
 - B. _____ the lost to God.
 - C. _____ the believers.
 - D. _____ around the world.

2. Write out the Bible verses that best illustrate the answer for letter “C” in Question 1.

3. Why did Christianity spread so rapidly in the first few centuries?

4. What do the following verses teach us about missions?
 - A. *John 3:16*
 - B. *John 3:17*
 - C. *John 20:21*
 - D. *2Corinthians 5:20*

5. Who is responsible for the training of missionaries?

6. What do these verses teach us about the sending of missionaries?
 - A. *Acts 13:3-4*
 - B. *Acts 14:25-27*

7. Give three ways that the local church can sustain and minister to its missionaries.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

8. Where should the missionary work of the individual Christian begin?

9. From *Acts 1:8*, what are the four mission fields of the church, and what do these places represent?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.

10. What four things should motivate us to be faithful in the work of missions?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.

11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Follow Up

Key Memory Verses: *John 3:16-17; Luke 19:10; Acts 1:8*

Learning to discern - and contend for - the truth: From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand and be able to explain why the following ideas are FALSE.

1. The social programs of the church are more important to God than missions.
2. Missionaries should be trained in Bible colleges and sent out by missionary agencies.
3. The primary responsibility of missions is to meet the physical and social needs of third world countries.

Questions: Write down any questions you have concerning this lesson and discuss them with your discipler.



LESSON 18: THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

“What Will the Day of Judgment Be Like For Christians?”

The Christian’s day of judgment is not the same as the day of judgment for the unsaved. The saved will be judged and rewarded at the “Judgment Seat of Christ”, which takes place immediately after the church is caught up into heaven. (*2Tim. 4:1; Rev. 22:12*) The unsaved dead will be judged at the end of the world at the “Great White Throne” judgment. (*Revelation 20:11-15*)

This lesson explains the nature of the Judgment seat of Christ, so that we may better prepare for that day.

- I. What will Christians be judged for?
 - A. Our **SIN** will NOT be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Our sin was already judged at the cross. When we placed our faith in Jesus Christ, ALL of our sins were forgiven! We stand justified before God and no longer have to fear His judgment for our sins. *Rom. 4:4-8, 23-25; 5:1; John 5:24; Colossians 2:13 “all”; Leviticus 16:21-22 “all”*
 - B. Our **SERVICE** (good works) will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
 1. We were saved to **serve** Jesus Christ. (*Titus 3:8; 1Peter 2:15-16*) Compare *1Thess. 1:3 w/ 1:9-10*.
 2. “**Good works**” were of no value to our salvation but are the basis of our rewards. *Eph. 2:8-10*
“When I was converted I made this mistake: I thought the battle was already mine, the victory already won, the crown already in my grasp ...But I found out, after serving Christ for a few months, that conversion was only like enlisting in the army, that there was a battle on hand, and that if I was to get a crown, I had to work for it and fight for it.” (D. L. Moody, “The Overcoming Life” 1896)
 3. Jesus Christ will be the judge of his servants. *2Cor. 5:10; Romans 14:10-12*
 4. The heart motive with which we serve the Lord is more important than the works themselves. *Romans 6:16-17; 1Cor. 4:3-5; Ephesians 6:6-8; Job 26:2-3*
 5. Jesus Christ will reward us for our labour. *Colossians 3:23-25; Hebrews 6:10*
 - C. A full description of the Judgment Seat of Christ is given in *1Corinthians 3:11-15*.
 1. A day of **review**. *1Cor. 3:11-13* - Our “works” for Jesus Christ will be reviewed (judged) as to “what sort” they were: did we work faithfully, giving our best, out of love for our Saviour?
 2. A day of **reward**. *1Cor. 3:14* - The Lord rewards faithfulness! *Matt. 25:21*
 3. A day of **regret**. *1Cor. 3:15* - Although the believer can never lose his salvation, he can lose ALL or part of his rewards. *2John 1:8*

II. What areas of our Christian service will be judged? These five “crowns” are named in the Bible:

- A. **1Thess. 2:19** - Being a witness & winning the lost. *Phil. 4:1; John 4:35-36*
- B. **1Cor. 9:19-27** - Dying to self for the sake of the gospel. *Phil. 3:10-14; Mark 8:34-35*
- C. **1Peter 5:3-4** - Being a godly leader, in the home or in the church. *Prov. 4:7-9*
- D. **James 1: 12** - Being faithful in the face of trials or death. *Revelation 2:10*
- E. **2Tim. 4:8** - Looking for and loving the Lord’s return. *Isaiah 64:4 w/ 1Cor. 2:9*

III. What is the Christian’s reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ?

- A. To **reign** with Jesus Christ in his kingdom and in eternity. *2Tim. 2:12; Rev. 5:10; 20:6; 22:5*
- B. To be **glorified with Christ** and **honoured** by the Father.
 1. Jesus Christ was “crowned” with **glory** and **honour** when He went up into a mountain with Peter, James, and John and was “transfigured” before them (*Heb. 2:9*). They **saw** His glory and **heard** the honour given to Him by the Father. *Matt. 17:1-6; John 1:14; 2Peter 1:16-18*
 2. The faithful Christian will be **glorified** with his Lord.
 - a. The “glory” of God is seen in the Bible as brilliant, fiery “light”.
Psalms 104:1-2; Ezekiel 1:28, 10:4; Acts 26:12-13; 1Tim. 6:14-16; Rev. 21:23
 - b. God’s purpose in saving us was to one day glorify us with His Son. *2Thess. 2:13-14; 2Tim. 2:10; Rom. 8:16-18; 8:29-30; 2Cor. 4:17*
 - c. To be glorified with Christ is the “blessed hope.” *Titus 2:13; Colossians 1:5 w/ v. 27; Romans 8:19-23*
 - d. Not every believer will be glorified equally: *1Cor. 15:41-44; Daniel 12:2-3; Prov. 3:35*
 3. The faithful Christian will be **honoured** by God. *John 12:26; Mat. 25:20-23; Prov. 27:18*

IV. There is also a negative side to the Judgment Seat of Christ.

- A. Although we need have no fear of going to hell, there are some sobering aspects of our judgment that should cause us to serve the Lord “*with fear and trembling.*” (*Phil. 2:12*):
 1. We can suffer shame when we stand before Jesus Christ. *1John 2:28*
 2. We can suffer the loss of our heavenly rewards! *2John 1:8* If we spend our life living for “self”, then our life will have been “lost” to the cause of Christ. Our time on this earth will have gained Him no glory and gained us no reward at the Judgment Seat. *Luke 9:23-26*
 3. We can be denied the privilege of reigning with Christ in His kingdom. *2Tim. 2:11-12; Rev. 3:11, 21*
- B. Remember, the Lord judges the heart; outward appearances are often deceiving. *Matt. 7:21-23*
The true servants of the Lord will be revealed at the Judgment Seat of Christ. *Jer. 17:10; 1Cor. 4:5*

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

Questions

1. What group of people will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ?
2. What group of people will be judged at the White Throne Judgment?
3. What will you NOT be judged for at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Give a verse.
4. What will you be judged for at the Judgment Seat of Christ? Give a verse.
5. One of the most important Bible passages about the Judgment Seat of Christ is 1Corinthians 3:11-15. Fill in the missing words:

Every man's _____ shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work _____ . If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, _____ . If any man's work shall be burned, _____ : but he himself shall be _____ ; yet so as by fire.
9. List the five crowns and describe briefly what area of Christian service each one represents.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.
6. According to *Revelation 20:6*, what is the Christian's reward?
7. According to *Romans 8:16-18*, what is the Christian's reward?
8. According to *John 12:26*, what is the Christian's reward?

10. There are some negative aspects of the Judgment Seat of Christ. Briefly explain what they are from these verses:
- A. *1John 2:28*
 - B. *1Corinthians 3:15*
 - C. *Luke 9:23-26*
 - D. *2Timothy 2:11-12*
11. What does *1Corinthians 4:5* teach us about the Judgment Seat of Christ?
12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Follow Up

Key memory verses: *2Corinthians 5:8-9; 1John 2:28; Luke 16:15*

Learning to discern - and contend for - the truth: From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand and be able to explain why the following ideas are FALSE.

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

Questions: Write down any questions you have concerning this lesson and discuss them with your discipler.