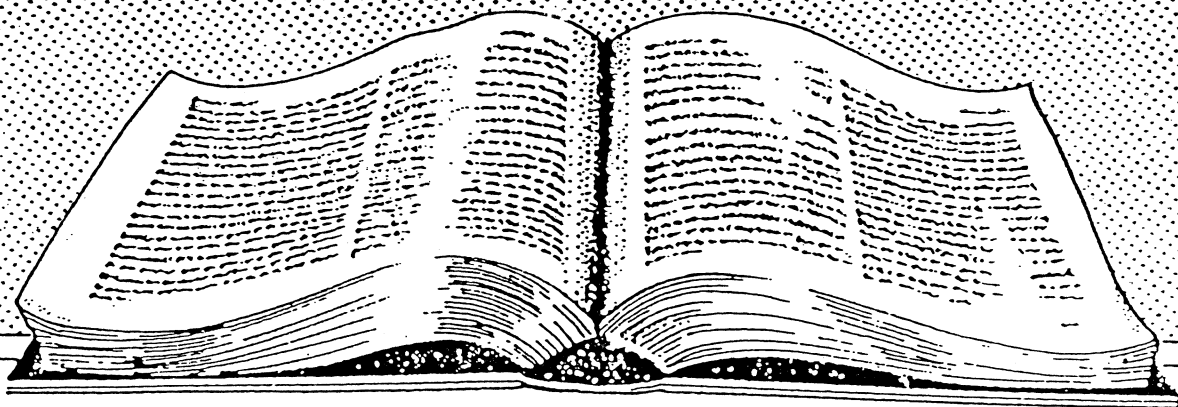


Foundations of Faith 2

FORREST PARK
Church of Christ
Valdosta, Georgia

*“Blessed
are those who
hear the Word of God
and keep it!”*

LUKE 11:28



FOREWARD

I do not claim originality in all the thoughts and material in this book. I have gleaned from many sources during these twenty-four years I have preached the Gospel such as: classes, sermons, lectures, conversations, religious papers and books. I am deeply grateful to every author who has, in any way, contributed to that which is found in this book.

It is my hope that these lessons can be used by others as they endeavor to extend the borders of the Kingdom of Christ. May all the glory go to God for the power in His Word.

I express my appreciation to my expert typist, Lucy Rowell, for without her help there would be no book.

Ray Joyner

KNOW YOUR BIBLE

Matthew 1:21	Acts 17:30	Philippians 4:13
Matthew 6:33	Acts 20:7	Colossians 1:18
Matthew 7:21	Acts 22:16	Colossians 3:1, 2
Matthew 10:32, 33	Romans 1:16	I Thessalonians 5:17
Matthew 15:9	Romans 3:23	I Thessalonians 5:22
Matthew 16:18	Romans 5:6-9	II Thessalonians 1:7, 8
Matthew 28:18-20	Romans 6:3-6	I Timothy 3:1-13
Mark 8:36	Romans 8:28	II Timothy 2:15
Mark 9:1	Romans 10:9, 10	II Timothy 3:16, 17
Mark 16:16	Romans 10:17	Hebrews 9:27
Luke 2:52	Romans 16:16	Hebrews 10:25
Luke 13:3	I Corinthians 1:10	Hebrews 11:16
John 1:1	I Corinthians 11:23-29	James 2:17
John 3:3-5	I Corinthians 13:13	James 2:24
John 3:16	I Corinthians 15:1-4	James 5:16
John 4:24	I Corinthians 16:1, 2	I Peter 3:21
John 8:32	II Corinthians 5:17	I John 1:8
John 11:35	Galatians 1:8, 9	I John 3:4
John 14:6	Galatians 3:27	Revelation 2:10
John 14:15	Galatians 5:4	Revelation 22:18, 19
John 17:21	Galatians 5:19-21	Genesis 1:1
Acts 2:37, 38	Galatians 5:22-26	Genesis 1:27
Acts 2:41	Ephesians 2:8	Genesis 2:7
Acts 2:47	Ephesians 4:4-6	Ecclesiastes 12:7
Acts 8:26-39	Ephesians 5:19	Ecclesiastes 12:13
Acts 10:34	Ephesians 6:1-4	Isalah 59:2
Acts 10:48		

KNOW YOUR BIBLE

(Mat 1:21 KJV) And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

(Mat 6:33 KJV) But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

(Mat 7:21 KJV) Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

(Mat 10:32 KJV) Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

(Mat 10:33 KJV) But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

(Mat 15:9 KJV) But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

(Mat 16:18 KJV) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

(Mat 28:18 KJV) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

(Mat 28:19 KJV) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

(Mat 28:20 KJV) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

(Mark 8:36 KJV) For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

(Mark 9:1 KJV) And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

(Mark 16:16 KJV) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

(Luke 2:52 KJV) And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

(Luke 13:3 KJV) I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE

(John 1:1 KJV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

(John 3:3 KJV) Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

(John 3:4 KJV) Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

(John 3:5 KJV) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

(John 3:16 KJV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

(John 4:24 KJV) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

(John 8:32 KJV) And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

(John 11:35 KJV) Jesus wept.

(John 14:6 KJV) Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

(John 14:15 KJV) If ye love me, keep my commandments.

(John 17:21 KJV) That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

(Acts 2:37 KJV) Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

(Acts 2:38 KJV) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

(Acts 2:41 KJV) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

(Acts 2:47 KJV) Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE

(Acts 8:39 KJV) And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

(Acts 10:34 KJV) Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

(Acts 10:48 KJV) And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

(Acts 17:30 KJV) And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

(Acts 20:7 KJV) And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

(Acts 22:16 KJV) And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

(Rom 1:16 KJV) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

(Rom 3:23 KJV) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

(Rom 5:6 KJV) For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

(Rom 5:7 KJV) For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

(Rom 5:8 KJV) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

(Rom 5:9 KJV) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

(Rom 6:3 KJV) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

(Rom 6:4 KJV) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE

(Rom 6:5 KJV) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

(Rom 6:6 KJV) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

(Rom 8:28 KJV) And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

(Rom 10:9 KJV) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

(Rom 10:10 KJV) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

(Rom 10:17 KJV) So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

(Rom 16:16 KJV) Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

(1 Cor 1:10 KJV) Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

(1 Cor 11:23 KJV) For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

(1 Cor 13:13 KJV) And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

(1 Cor 15:1 KJV) Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

(1 Cor 16:1 KJV) Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.

(2 Cor 5:17 KJV) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE

(Gal 1:8 KJV) But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

(Gal 1:9 KJV) As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

(Gal 3:27 KJV) For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

(Gal 5:4 KJV) Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

(Gal 5:19 KJV) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

(Gal 5:22 KJV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

(Eph 2:8 KJV) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

(Eph 4:4 KJV) There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

(Eph 4:5 KJV) One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

(Eph 4:6 KJV) One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

(Eph 5:19 KJV) Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

(Eph 6:1 KJV) Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

(Phil 4:13 KJV) I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

(Col 1:18 KJV) And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

(Col 3:1 KJV) If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

(Col 3:2 KJV) Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE

(1 Th 5:17 KJV) Pray without ceasing.

(1 Th 5:22 KJV) Abstain from all appearance of evil.

(2 Th 1:7 KJV) And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

(2 Th 1:8 KJV) In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

(1 Tim 3:1 KJV) This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

(2 Tim 2:15 KJV) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

(2 Tim 3:16 KJV) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

(2 Tim 3:17 KJV) That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

(Heb 9:27 KJV) And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

(Heb 10:25 KJV) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

(Heb 11:6 KJV) But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

(James 2:17 KJV) Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

(James 2:24 KJV) Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

(James 5:16 KJV) Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE

(1 Pet 3:21 KJV) The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

(1 John 1:8 KJV) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

(1 John 3:4 KJV) Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

(Rev 2:10 KJV) Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

(Rev 22:18 KJV) For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

(Rev 22:19 KJV) And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

(Gen 1:1 KJV) In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

(Gen 1:27 KJV) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

(Gen 2:7 KJV) And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

(Ecc 12:7 KJV) Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

(Ecc 12:13 KJV) Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

(Isa 59:1 KJV) Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

(Isa 59:2 KJV) But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

BIBLE FUNDAMENTALS CLASS II

1. IN THE BEGINNING
2. THE FALL OF MAN
3. THE FLOOD
4. CALL OF ABRAHAM
5. JOSEPH
6. MOSES
7. THE EXODUS
8. FORTY YEARS IN WILDERNESS #1
9. FORTY YEARS IN WILDERNESS #2
10. CROSSING THE JORDAN
11. GREAT MEN OF OLD
12. LIFE OF CHRIST #1
13. LIFE OF CHRIST #2
14. ACTS OF THE APOSTLES #1
15. ACTS OF THE APOSTLES #2
16. NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS
17. THE APOSTASY
18. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
19. THE METHODIST CHURCH
20. THE BAPTIST CHURCH
21. THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
22. THE JEHOVAH WITNESS
23. THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
24. THE MORMON CHURCH
25. THE NEW COVENANT CHURCH
26. GO YE
27. STOP MAKING EXCUSES
28. HOW TO GET STARTED
29. TIPS ON HOW TO BE EFFECTIVE
30. PERSONAL WORK TOOLS
31. PERSONAL WORK TOOLS (FILMS)
32. PERSONAL WORK TOOLS (CHARTS)
33. PERSONAL WORK TOOLS (OBS)
34. MOST FREQUENT ASKED QUESTIONS #1
35. MOST FREQUENT ASKED QUESTIONS #2
36. VISITING CAN BE EVANGELISTIC #1
37. VISITING CAN BE EVANGELISTIC #2
38. BUILDING AN EVANGELISTIC CHURCH
39. LOOKING BACK - LOOKING FORWARD

Lesson #1
"IN THE BEGINNING"

TEXTS: Genesis, Chapters 1 & 2; John 1:1-4, 14

INTRODUCTION:

- I. The account of creation - **Genesis 1:1 - 2:25**
 - A. The universe and its contents - **Genesis 1:1 - 2:3**
 - B. Man and his habitat - **Genesis 2:4 - 25**

It is fitting that our first lesson be on the creation. There are many things that can be covered by the creation, such as:

- A. The creation is a fact.
- B. God is the factor.
- C. Man is the benefactor.

There can be little or no contradiction of the fact that the earth, the firmament and the heavens do exist. However, many men have observed the physical universe and concluded that there is no God. **Psalms 14:1**

In this lesson we will not concern ourselves with the many proofs of God's existence, but with the fact that:

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

In this very first verse of the Bible we find: Time, Force, Action, Space and Matter.

To create is what God did - to make something out of nothing.
To assemble and utilize is what man does with that which God created.

The Bible's description of the six days of creation:

First day -- Light was created
Second day -- Air and water
Third day -- Dry land and plants
Fourth day -- Various kinds of lights
Fifth day -- Fowl and fish
Sixth day -- Animals and man

Genesis 1:31 -- Very good

Genesis 2:1-3

Seventh day -- God rested

Genesis 2:7

That which was breathed into man on this occasion was the Breath of Life - man became a living soul. (Dust - soul -- **Ecclesiastes 12:7**).

Genesis 2:8-15

Garden of Eden

No one knows the exact location. Traditional view Persian Gulf.

Genesis 2:16, 17
First Law - I John 3:4

Genesis 2:21-25 - creation of woman

I Corinthians 11:9
Ephesians 5:22-28

POINTS THAT RELATE TO THE SCHEME OF REDEMPTION

1. **Genesis** is the Book of Beginnings.
2. The earth was created as the environment in which man was to live and make his decision regarding God.
3. Significance of husband and wife relationship.

Lesson #2
"THE FALL OF MAN"

TEXTS: Genesis 3:1-24

INTRODUCTION:

While man has many problems, some of them are very important, others are not. The greatest problem to any individual person is that of sin. Many of man's problems grow out of sin.

What is sin? I John 3:4

Three different ways of looking at sin.

1. Sins men commit because of ignorance.
2. Sins men commit because of weakness.
3. Men commit sins because of a rebellious attitude.

There is a sin of Commission.

There is a sin of Omission.

Sin came into the lives of the first man and woman when they followed the lie of the serpent rather than the truth of God.

Romans 3:23; I John 1:8-10; Romans 6:23; Ezekiel 18:20

Since every man, woman, boy and girl sin, each one should be deeply and devoutly interested in studying:

1. What sin is.
2. What sin does.
3. The remedy for sin.

In our lesson today we consider that sin had its beginning soon after God had finished His work. Satan was now to begin his warfare against God and all that was good.

Genesis 3:1-5 - The Temptation To Sin

- I. **"The serpent was more subtil"**
 - a. Craftiness, shrews, cunning
 - b. Many devices in which to deceive men into following him.
- II. **"Ye shall not surely die"**
 - a. From true devotion to God to the love of the world
 - b. From sound doctrine to false doctrine
 - c. From truth to a lie

The serpent that managed such persuasion has not limited his activities to the Garden. He still applies his trade today by implying that we can often know better what to do than God does.

Genesis 3:6-8 - Sin Becomes A Reality To Mankind

- I. **"And the eyes of them both were opened"**
 - a. The serpent had painted a rosy picture for Eve, but it was not a true-to-fact picture. When the first human pair had disobeyed God, their situation was completely changed. They were no longer innocent, but were plagued by fear and guilt.

Genesis 3:8-24 - The Consequences Of Sin

I. "For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

a. **Genesis 2:7; Ecclesiastes 12:7**

b. Both Adam and Eve endeavored to shift the responsibility for their sin to the other (excuses).

c. God cast them out from the Garden and placed angels who were to keep man from returning (**Isaiah 59:1, 2**).

Paradise was lost by the first human pair, but because of God's love for mankind (**John 3:16**), steps were immediately taken to see to it that those who will to do God's Will may one day regain it.

Genesis 3:15

Herein is found the good news.

POINTS THAT RELATE TO THE SCHEME OF REDEMPTION:

1. Sins set man apart from God.
2. All men sin.
3. Man must be reconciled to God in order to be saved.
4. Jesus came to redeem us from sins, to fulfill God's Scheme of Redemption.

LESSON #3
"THE FLOOD"

TEXTS: Genesis 6 - 8

INTRODUCTION:

During the time from Adam to Noah there had been a downward spiral on the part of humanity in general.

Genesis 6:5 - The Extent of Wickedness

The corruption of the world was universal. Sin had worked its power to enslave and destroy man, who had become blinded and hardened to it. In the same way sin works in the lives of individuals today.

Not only were the words and deeds of men evil but their very hearts were inwardly corrupted (Romans 1:18-32).

Genesis 6:6, 7 - God's Reaction to This Corruption

"and it repented Jehovah" - Divine Sorrow

1. In the sense that He changed His relationship and dealings with the man He had created.
2. Man had been created for Divine fellowship.
3. Man chose to sin.
4. God cannot fellowship sin so that relationship had to be altered, from fellowship to judgement.

Compare Genesis 1:31 to Genesis 6:6

1. Sin (Hebrews 1:9)
2. Romans 6:23
3. God has never taken delight in punishing men for their sins.
4. The divine purpose is to save rather than to destroy.
5. God has always offered a means of escape.

Genesis 6:8, 9 - "But Noah found favor in the eyes of Jehovah"

1. "Favor" means grace or unmerited favor.
2. II Peter 2:4-9; Hebrews 11:7

Genesis 6:14-16 - "Make thee an ark"

1. Gopher wood
2. 450 feet long
3. 75 feet wide
4. 45 feet high
5. 3 decks
6. 1 window
7. 1 door

*Taken from Halleys Handbook

Genesis 6:22 - "Thus did Noah"

- A. According to all
 1. Building the ark
 2. Securing the animals

- B. His obedience is all the more impressive when one remembers that he stood alone against an evil and scoffing world.

Genesis 7:1-3 - "Come thou and all thy house into the ark;"

1. The work of building the ark now being completed, Noah seems to have been waiting for further direction from the Lord.

Genesis 7:4-12 - "Every living thing that I have made will I destroy"

1. There is no inspired description of the horrors of the flood, but we can well imagine some of the results which were seen when the waters began to cover the earth.
2. I Thessalonians 4:16-18; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Matthew 24:37-39
3. Genesis 7:22-24

Genesis 8:1 - "And God remembered"

1. During all the time that the flood was destroying the earth, God was keeping Noah and his family in mind with regard to His purposes for them.
2. Genesis 8:15-19
3. I Peter 3:20, 21

Genesis 9:1 - "And God blessed Noah"

1. Romans 8:28; Ephesians 1:3; II Timothy 2:10

POINTS THAT RELATE TO THE SCHEME OF REDEMPTION:

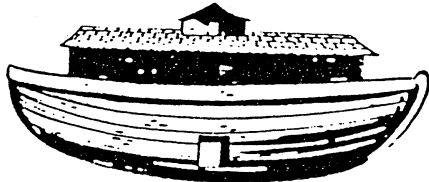
1. The Christian life as a life of sacrifice.
2. How God remembered Noah and us today.
3. God has always offered a means of escape.
4. Salvation in ark - today the church.

THE ARK and THE CHURCH

GEN. 6:13-22

BUILDER: "NOAH"

ONE MATERIAL: Gopher Wood-
 ONE HOPE: Life In New World-
 SAVED IN ARK: Food Therein-



ONE BUILDING: Ark
 (No Lifeboats)
 ONE FAMILY: Eight Noahs-
 ONE NAME: Each Of Eight-

ONE ENTRANCE: Door-
 ONE LIGHT: Window-

"DESTRUCTION"

TYPE- ALL OUTSIDE-
 (FLOOD)

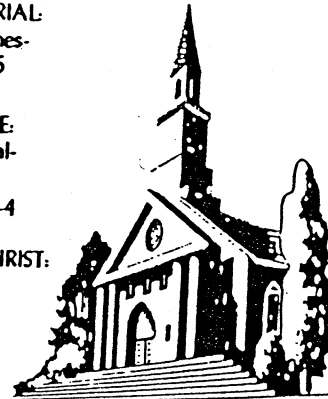
MATT. 16:18

BUILDER: "CHRIST"

ONE MATERIAL: Lively Stones-
 I PET. 2:5

ONE HOPE: Life Eternal-
 EPH. 4:4
 I PET. 1:3-4

SAVED IN CHRIST:
 EPH. 1:3
 GAL. 3:27
 EPH. 5:23



ONE BUILDING: Church-
 EPH. 3:10
 (No Societies)

ONE NAME: Christ's-
 ACTS 11:26

ONE FAMILY: Church-
 EPH. 3:15

ONE ENTRANCE: Christ-
 JNO. 10:9

ONE LIGHT: Bible-
 PSA. 119:105

"DESTRUCTION" ALL OUTSIDE-
 2 THES. 1:7-9

ANTITYPE- I PET. 3:21

LESSON #4
"CALL OF ABRAHAM"

TEXTS: Genesis chapters 12 - 25

INTRODUCTION:

The call of Abraham marked a distinctive stage in the history of salvation. Before the flood mankind had become so evil that it was necessary to virtually destroy man and make a new beginning. After the flood the same evil developed again. God now chose Abraham as the one through whom He would work to redeem man. We will see in this lesson that Abraham and his descendants were not chosen for special favors, but to be an instrument for God's purpose.

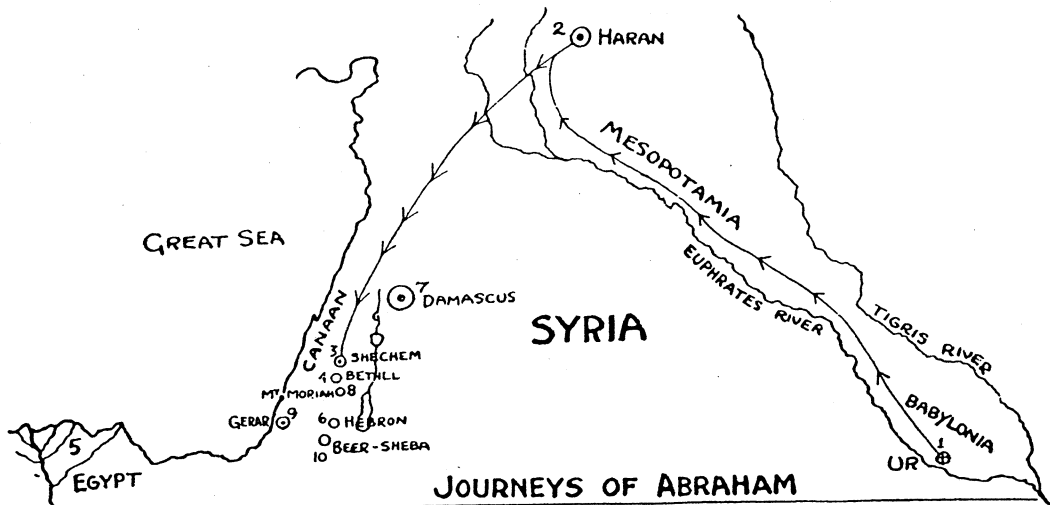
Here starts the story of Redemption. It had been hinted at in lesson one (**Genesis 3:15**). Now 2000 years after the creation in a world lapsed into idolatry and wickedness, God calls Abraham to begin His Scheme of Redemption for mankind.

Genesis 12:1-7 - "Get thee out of thy country"

- A. A divine call (**Matthew 28:19,20**)
- B. By faith (**Hebrews 11:8**)

While living with his father in Haran, Abraham received a message from the Lord calling upon him to separate himself from his old associations and go forth into a new country.

- C. Three promises:
 - 1. His descendants would become a great nation.
 - 2. God would bless him.
 - 3. In him all the families of the earth would be blessed (**Acts 3:25**).



Genesis 12:11-17

Sarai taken into Pharaoh's house - supposed to be sister of Abraham.

Genesis 13:6-13

Lot, given his choice, selected the Jordan valley.

- A. Sodom

Genesis 14:17-20

Meets Melchizedek, King of Salem, and is blessed by him.

Hebrews 7:1-4

Genesis 17:1-14

The covenant made with Abraham and the seal of the covenant indicated.

Genesis 17:15-22

Isaac promised, the heir to the covenant promises.

Genesis 21:1-8

Birth of Isaac (**Hebrews 11:11**).

Genesis 22:1-14

God commanded that Abraham offer Isaac as a sacrifice (**Hebrews 11:17-19**).

POINTS THAT RELATE TO THE SCHEME OF REDEMPTION:

1. Genealogy of Christ (**Matthew 1:1-17**).
2. Faith was the motivating principle in Abraham. Should be to each Christian.
3. The Nation-Land Promise (Land of Canaan).
4. The Spiritual-Seed Promise (Christ).
5. The promise which God had made to Abraham that in his seed would come world-wide blessing was in actuality God's promise to redeem man from sin.

ABRAHAM'S LIFE INDEXED

RECORDED EVENTS	PLACE	WHERE RECORDED
Born in Ur of Chaldees, near the river Euphrates. The son of Terah.	Ur of the Chaldees	Ge. 11.27,28
Married Sarai (afterwards Sarah).		Ge. 11.29
Divinely called to leave his native land, not knowing at first the land to which he was to go. Heb. 11:8.	Ur	Ge. 12.1
To be the father of a great nation and the ancestor of the Messiah.	Haran	Ge. 12.2,3
Left Haran at the age of seventy-five, taking with him his nephew, Lot.	Haran	Ge. 12.5
Came to Sichem (Shechem) in the land of Canaan. There he built an altar.	Sichem	Ge. 12.6,7
Pitched his tent near Bethel, and built an altar to the Lord.	Bethel	Ge. 12.8
A famine in the land drove him to Egypt.	Egypt	Ge. 12.10-13
Sarai taken into Pharaoh's house supposed to be the sister of Abraham. Plagues sent upon Pharaoh.	Egypt	Ge. 12.14-17
Abraham reproved by Pharaoh and sent out of the country.	Egypt	Ge. 12.18-20
Left Egypt a rich man and came to Bethel. Lot was also rich in cattle.	Bethel	Ge. 13.1-5
Lot, given his choice, selected the Jordan valley.	Jordan Plain	Ge. 13.6-13
The Lord gives to Abraham and his seed the whole land. He came to Hebron and built an altar to the Lord.	Hebron	Ge. 13.14-18
The battle of the kings, Lot taken a prisoner. Abraham defeats them, rescues Lot, and restores him and his property to Sodom.	Dan, Hob, Sodom	Ge. 14
Meets Melchizedek, king of Salem, and is blessed by him.	The King's Dale	Ge. 14.17-20
The Lord renews his promise to Abraham, and foretells the sojourn of his seed in Egypt.		Ge. 15
The birth of Ishmael, son of Hagar, the maid of Sarai.		Ge. 16
The covenant made with Abraham and the seal of the covenant indicated. Abraham 90 years old. His name changed from Abram to Abraham.	Mamre	Ge. 17.1-14
Isaac promised, the heir to the covenant promises.	Mamre	Ge. 17.15-22
The visit of the three messengers of God who assure Abraham and Sarah of a son in their old age.	Mamre	Ge. 18.1-16
Abraham's prayer for Sodom and Gomorrah.		Ge. 18.23-33
Destruction of the cities of the plain, the escape of Lot to Zoar.	Sodom, Gomorrah	Ge. 19.15-30
Abraham in Gerar. Sarah represented to Abimelech as Abraham's sister, being half-sister to Abraham.	Gerar	Ge. 20
Birth of Isaac. Abraham 100 years old. Heb. 11:11.		Ge. 21.1-8
Hagar and Ishmael cast out.		Ge. 21.9-21
Abraham's covenant with Abimelech.	Beer-sheba	Ge. 21.22-34
Trial of Abraham's faith in obeying God's command that he offer Isaac as a sacrifice. Isaac his only son and heir to the promises. Heb. 11:17-19.	Moriah	Ge. 22.1-14
God renews His covenant with Abraham, and he returned to Beer-sheba.	Beer-sheba	Ge. 22.15-19
Death of Sarah. Abraham purchases Machpelah and there buried Sarah.	Hebron	Ge. 23.1-20
Abraham sends his servant to Mesopotamia to secure a wife for Isaac. He secured Rebekah, sister of Laban.	Mesopotamia	Ge. 24
Abraham marries Keturah who bore him six children.	Hebron	Ge. 25.1-6
Abraham dies at the age of 175, and is buried by Isaac and Ishmael beside Sarah in the cave of Machpelah.	Hebron	Ge. 25.7-10

Lesson #5
"JOSEPH"

TEXTS: Genesis, Chapters 30 - 50

INTRODUCTION:

Beginning with the thirty-seventh chapter of **Genesis** we have the story of Joseph and his brethren. The whole story of Joseph, from the time we see him going to visit his brothers as they were feeding their father's flock and onward, is one of divine providence.

Joseph was the first son of Jacob's beloved wife Rachel.

Jacob had ten sons from his other wives (**Genesis 29, 30**).

Jacob's family:

He had two wives and two concubines.

Leah: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun

Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin

Zilphar, Leah's handmaid: Gad and Asher

Bilah, Rachel's handmaid: Dan and Naphtali

This family was chosen of God to be the beginning of the twelve tribes, which became the nation to bring the Savior into the world.

Jacob loved the sons of Rachel more than he loved the others. He was foolish enough to make a distinction between the sons, allowing the ten to know that he loved the two more. Thus begins the events in the life of Joseph.

Genesis 37

Joseph's brothers become jealous of him and sell him to Midianite merchants going to Egypt.

Genesis 39, 40

Potiphar's wife accuses Joseph of trying to commit adultery with her and Joseph is cast into prison.

Genesis 41

Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream and is elevated to the position of second in command in Egypt.

Genesis 42 - 45

Joseph's brothers make two trips to Egypt to get grain during famine, and on the second trip Joseph reveals his identity to them.

Genesis 46, 47

Jacob's family moves to Egypt.

Genesis 50

Death of Jacob and Joseph.

Joseph exacted an oath of his brothers that when Israel returned to Canaan they would carry his bones. 400 years later this promise was kept.

POINTS THAT RELATE TO THE SCHEME OF REDEMPTION

1. As Joseph was willing to pardon his brothers, Christ is willing to pardon all sinners.
2. A person's role in life may be indeed humble, but he can resolve to serve God the best he can.
3. God works through what appears to be disasters in the eyes of men to carry out His purpose for their best interests.
4. God's providence still operates for the care of His people.

JOSEPH'S LIFE INDEXED

RECORDED EVENTS	PLACE	WHERE RECORDED
<p>Jacob's eleventh son by his favorite wife, Rachel.</p> <p>Jacob loved Joseph more than all his children, and made him a coat of many colors. For this his brothers hated him.</p>	<p>Padan-aram Beer-sheba</p>	<p>Ge. 30.22-24 Ge. 37.1-4</p>
<p>He related two dreams which indicated his future superior position, and they hated him the more.</p>	Beer-sheba	Ge. 37.5-11
<p>Sent by Jacob to his brothers at Dothan they conspired to slay him. Judah proposed that they sell him to some Midianites on their way to Egypt. Dipping his coat in the blood of a kid, they told Jacob he was slain by a wild beast. The Midianites sold him to Potiphar, Pharaoh's officer.</p>	Dothan	Ge. 37.12-38
<p>Joseph's efficiency won Potiphar's favor, who made him overseer of his house.</p>	Egypt. House of Potiphar	Ge. 39.1-6
<p>Failing in her attempt to entice Joseph to sin, Potiphar's wife made a false charge against him and Potiphar had him confined in prison. He was placed in charge of the prisoners.</p>	Egypt. In prison	Ge. 39.7-23
<p>He interpreted the dreams of two prisoners, the king's butler and baker. They were fulfilled.</p>	Egypt. Prison	Ge. 40
<p>Two years afterward Pharaoh had two dreams that troubled him. Joseph interprets them. There will be seven years of plenty and seven years of famine, and he counsels Pharaoh how to deal with the situation.</p>	Court of Pharaoh	Ge. 41.1-36
<p>Pharaoh makes Joseph his prime minister. He acted wisely and the storehouses of Egypt were filled.</p>	Court of Pharaoh	Ge. 41.37-57
<p>The famine in Palestine compelled Jacob to send his sons to Egypt to buy corn. Joseph recognized his brothers but did not reveal his identity. He sent them back with corn and hid their money in the bags.</p>	Court of Pharaoh.	Ge. 42
<p>He required them to return with Benjamin. He revealed himself to his brothers, treated them with great kindness and offered them a home in Egypt.</p>	Egypt	Ge. 43-45
<p>Jacob and his people, seventy souls, were placed by Joseph in Goshen, where they greatly prospered. Jacob blessed Ephraim and Manasseh, sons of Joseph, gave a prophetic statement of the tribes and died. Joseph and his brothers bury him beside his people in the cave of Machpelah in Hebron.</p>	Egypt. Israel in Goshen	Ge. 46.1-50.13
<p>After Jacob's death, Joseph deals kindly with his brethren, assures them that God will restore them to their own land and receives from them a pledge that they will carry back with them his remains. He died at the age of 110 years.</p>	Egypt	Ge. 50.14-26
<p>In some of the circumstances of his life Joseph was peculiarly typical of Christ. He was sold by his own people into slavery. He was cast into prison, to his humiliation. According to his statement one prisoner was greatly favored, the other suffered death. On the cross Jesus spoke one malefactor into paradise; the other died in his sins. Joseph rose from humiliation to exaltation; from His humiliation of death and the grave Jesus rose in the glory of His resurrection.</p>		

Lesson #6
"MOSES"

TEXTS: **Exodus Chapters 1 - 4**

INTRODUCTION:

Between the bulrushes in the Nile and an unmarked grave on Nebo stands the portrait of a man unmatched in history.

Here is the man God chose to lead His chosen people who were to inherit Abraham's promise.

We find in Moses a man who was afraid of his mission because of a sense of inferiority, but yet a man that listened to God and not to the fears of his own heart.

(There is a vast difference between what a man can do alone and what he can do in the strength and with the blessing of God.)

Faith triumphed over fear and trust displaced doubt (**Hebrews 11:23-28**).

It is generally understood that Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible.

Moses lived for 120 years; a period divided into three sections of forty years each.

The first forty years: from his birth until the flight into Midian.

The second forty years: from Midian to the Exodus.

The third forty years: from the Exodus till his death.

In these next three lessons we will study each of these events in the life of this leader of God's people.

Exodus 1:1-7

This book is called **Exodus** because it tells how the people left the land of the Pharaohs and started on the wilderness journey to the land which God had promised to their fathers (**Genesis 12:2; Genesis 12:7**).

The last verse in **Genesis** we read, "So Joseph died." The children of Israel multiplied greatly (**Genesis 32:28; Genesis 46:8**).

Not only had Joseph and his brethren all died, but also all of the Egyptians who knew the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Exodus 1

Oppressed by a new king
The male children destroyed

Exodus 2

Moses is born and laid among the flags.
He is found and brought up by Pharaoh's daughter.
He slayeth an Egyptian and fleeth into Midian.
He marryeth Zipporah.

Exodus 3

Moses keepeth Jethro's flock.
God appeareth unto him in a burning bush.
God sendeth him to deliver Israel.

Exodus 4

Moses begins to make excuses.
Moses' rod is turned into a serpent.
Aaron is sent to meet Moses.

POINTS THAT RELATE TO THE SCHEME OF REDEMPTION

1. God will accomplish His purposes and fulfill His promises in due time.
2. God will balance the scales against injustice in its time.
3. God sustains and protects His children despite sufferings and supreme penalties that some must pay. There is always victory in the end for those that follow Him.
4. Confidence which grows from faith in God will cause a person to stand undaunted.

MOSES' LIFE INDEXED

RECORDED EVENTS	PLACE	WHERE RECORDED
Moses was born when the Egyptians were slaying the Hebrew male children so as to weaken that race. The Hebrews were the slaves of the Egyptians. A new line of kings that knew not Joseph and were hostile to the Jews came to the throne. They adopted various inhuman measures for repression of the Israelites.	Egypt	Ex. 1
Moses in the ark of bulrushes is found by the king's daughter, adopted by her, cared for by his own mother and grew up in the court of Egypt.	Egypt	Ex. 2.1-10
He sympathized with his people and slew an Egyptian who was smiting one of the Hebrews.	Egypt	Ex. 2.11-14
Pharaoh seeking to slay him, he fled to Midian, where he was employed by Jethro, a Midian priest, whose daughter he married, and tended the flocks.	Midian	Ex. 2.15-25
God talks with Moses at the burning bush and commissions him to lead his people out of Egypt. Moses expresses his doubts, is told how to proceed and is assured of God's presence. His rod is turned into a serpent. His brother Aaron is to be his mouthpiece.	Midian	Ex. 3.1-22; 4.1-17
Moses assembled the elders of Israel. He appealed to Pharaoh, who refused to let Israel go, and ten plagues are sent upon the Egyptians. The Passover is instituted and the people leave Egypt.	Egypt	Ex. 4.18—13.22
Israel, pursued by the Egyptians, cross the Red Sea on dry land. The song of Moses.	Red Sea	Ex. 14.1—15.19
Moses brings Israel to Sinai. Manna is provided.	Sinai	Ex. 15.20—18.27
They remain at Sinai about one year, where Moses received from God the Ten Commandments, and many other laws and institutions for the people.	Sinai	Ex. 19—40 Book of Leviticus Nu. 1.1—10.10 Nu. 10.11—14.45
Leaving Sinai, they come to Kadesh. Spies were sent to Canaan. The people were afraid to go in and take the land and were doomed to wander for 40 years.	Kadesh	
Moses leads Israel through the wilderness, and at the end of the 40 years brings them to the plains of Moab. With the exception of Joshua and Caleb, all the people who left Egypt died by the way. These two men, at Kadesh, had urged the people to take possession of the land and not to be influenced by the adverse report of the other spies, hence they were permitted to enter the land.	Wilderness	Nu. 15—36
Israel's last encampment in the plains of Moab. During these last weeks Moses delivered his last addresses set forth in Deuteronomy.	Plains of Moab	De. 1.1—30.20
The last acts of Moses. His charge to Joshua, his successor, his last instructions, his last song.	Plains of Moab	De. 31—33
On Nebo Moses has a view of the Land of Promise. At Meribah Moses and Aaron failed to give God the glory in striking the rock for water and for this sin were not allowed to enter the land. He died at the age of 120 and was buried in the land of Moab. "And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face."	Plains of Moab Nebo	De. 34

Lesson #7
"THE EXODUS"

TEXTS: Exodus Chapters 5 - 14

INTRODUCTION:

Beginning with Chapter 5, we have the account of the efforts of Moses to get Pharaoh to permit the children of Israel to leave the land of Egypt and go three days journey into the wilderness to worship God.

After the death of Joseph the children of Israel became a race of slaves. At the time of the Exodus there were 600,000 men, besides women and children. This could total about 3,000,000 people. From 70 to 3,000,000 in 430 years.

Genesis 46:26; Exodus 12:37, 40

A mixed multitude went up also with them: flocks, herds, cattle, etc.

Chapter 5

When Moses came into Pharaoh's presence demanding permission for Israel to worship, Pharaoh answered Moses with contempt: "Who is the Lord?" Pharaoh not only resisted the demand of Moses, but added to the misery of the children of Israel by increasing their labor.

Chapter 6:1 - 8

God renews His promise.

Chapter 7 - First of the Ten Plagues

Waters of the Nile turned to blood.

Chapter 8

Plagues of frogs, lice and flies.

Chapter 9

Plagues of murrain, boils, hail.

Chapter 10

Plagues of locusts, darkness

Chapters 11 & 12

A. Death of Egypt's first-born.

B. The beginning of the Passover

The Passover was one of the three great annual feasts which God authorized the Israelites to keep under the Law of Moses. The other two annual feasts were Pentecost and Ingathering (Exodus 23:14 - 17).

Chapter 14

God delivers His people.

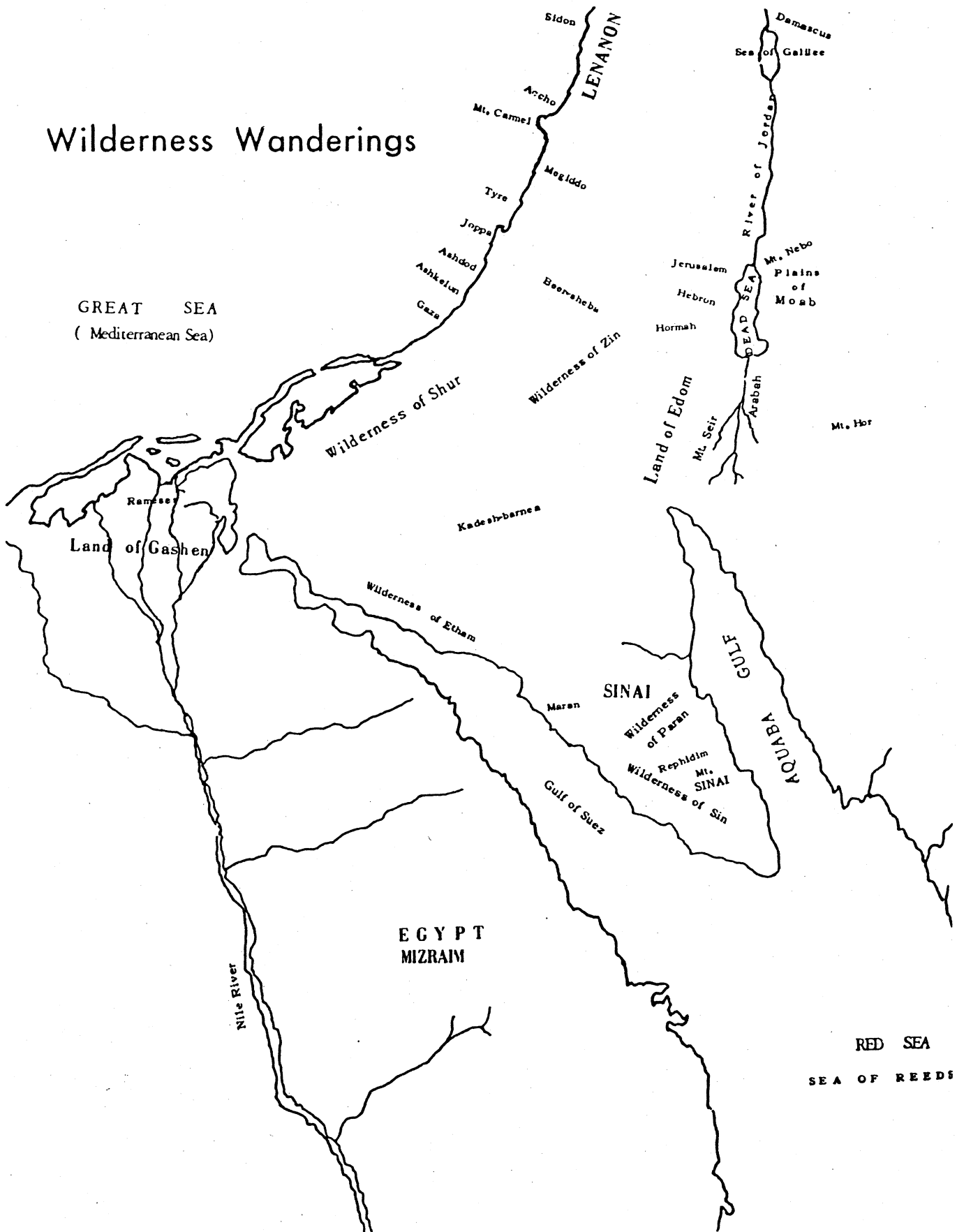
POINTS THAT RELATE TO THE SCHEME OF REDEMPTION

1. We must always remember that the deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage was a type of the deliverance of people in this age from the bondage of sin through Christ.
2. Faith is so important in living the Christian life.
3. In a sense they were baptized.
4. God used water to separate His from the world.
5. The Passover Supper became the most powerful and lasting reminder of Israel's bondage and redemption.

The Lord's Supper has an even greater reminding power of God's presence today for Christians.

6. The lamb was typical of Christ (**I Corinthians 5:7**).

Wilderness Wanderings



Lesson #8
"FORTY YEARS IN WILDERNESS"

#1

TEXTS: **Exodus chapters 15 - 40**

INTRODUCTION:

The Biblical account of the exodus from Egypt and the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness is filled with the record of many mighty acts of God. In these next two lessons we will look at a few of the many events that took place during these 40 years, and bring the children of Israel up to the Land of Promise - the promise made to Abraham so many years before.

After God led the children of Israel safely across the Red Sea, they believed in Him and His mighty power.

Moses led the people in a song of thanks and praise to God (**Exodus 15:1**).

THIS DELIVERANCE OUT OF EGYPT IS SO SIMILAR TO THE DELIVERANCE OF THE CHRISTIAN FROM THE WORLD.

Exodus 15:22-24

Within just a few days, the Israelites forgot how thankful they were to God. They began to grumble and complain to Moses.

Exodus 16:2 - Israel murmured. (manna) (quail)

Exodus 17:3 - People murmured.

Exodus 17:5, 6 - Moses told to smite the rock for water.

Exodus 19:1 - Children of Israel come to Sinai.

Exodus 19:20 - God calls Moses up to the top of Mount Sinai.

Exodus 20:1-17 - Ten Commandments given.

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.

These commandments deal with nearly every part of man's life. We must remember we are not under the Ten Commandments. Nine of these are found in the New Testament and are for us today. We must note that many other laws and ordinances were given on Mount Sinai.

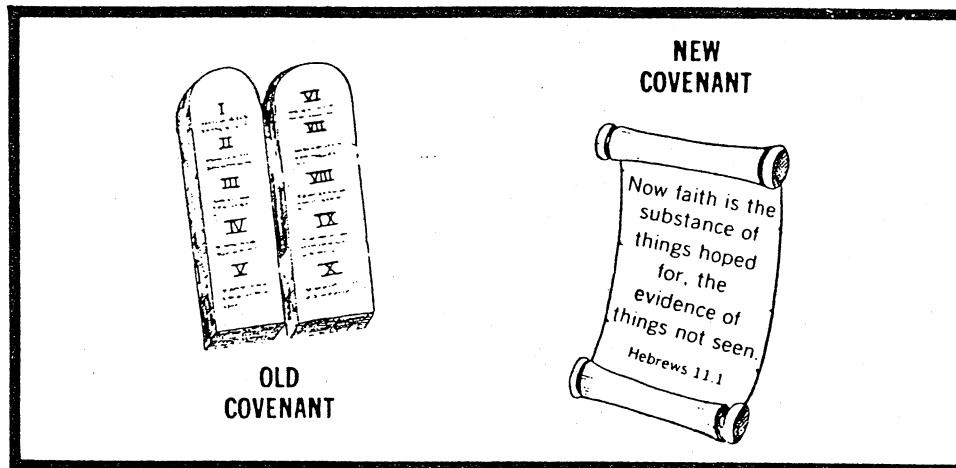
From the time when the first man, Adam, lived until the time when God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses, all people lived under what is called the Patriarchal Dispensation.

Patriarch means father. Dispensation means a system of principles and rules of government. This Dispensation lasted about 2500 years.

When God gave The Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai, a new dispensation began. Religion was no longer a matter for each family to consider separately, but a national matter. This Mosaic or Jewish Dispensation was to last about 1500 years.

It was displaced by the Christian Dispensation, under which we and all other people live today. This dispensation will continue until the world comes to an end.

Hebrews 8:7 - "For if the first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second."



STUDY THE FOLLOWING COMPARISON OF THE TWO COVENANTS:

<u>OLD COVENANT</u>		<u>NEW COVENANT</u>	
Written on stones	(2 Cor. 3:7)	Written in hearts	(2 Cor. 3:3)
By prophets	(Heb. 1:1)	By Christ	(Heb. 1:1-2)
For Jews	(Gen. 17:13)	All nations	(Mk. 16:16)
Blood of Animals	(Heb. 10:4)	Blood of Christ	(Heb. 9:14)
Changeable Priest	(Heb. 7:12)	Unchangeable Priest	(Heb. 7:24)
No forgiveness	(Heb. 10:3)	Forgiveness	(Heb. 8:12)
Passover	(Ex. 12:11)	Lord's Supper	(Acts 20:7)
Sabbath	(Ex. 20:10)	Lord's Day	(Rev. 1:10)
Divers washings	(Heb. 9:10)	Baptism	(Mk. 16:16)

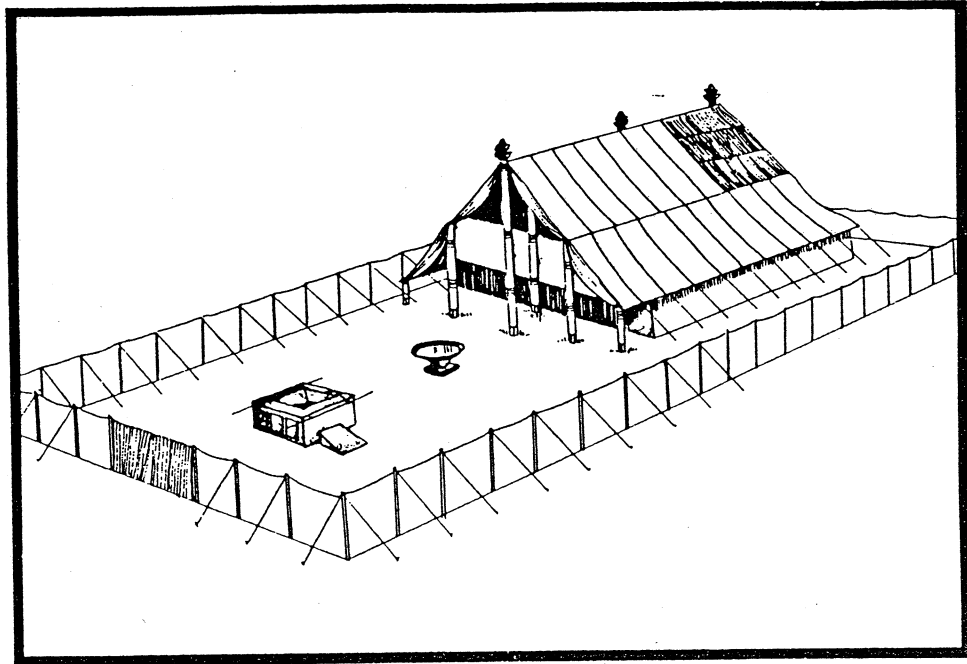
Exodus 24:12-16; Exodus 31:18

God calls Moses back up to the mount to give him Tables of Stone and a Law and Commandments which God would write.

Exodus 25, 26, 27

God gives Moses directions for a special house He wanted built (tabernacle). Since the people were still traveling to Canaan, this had to be a house that could be moved. The tabernacle was divided into two main parts:

1. The Most Holy Place contained only the ark with the mercy seat. It was where the presence of God was. Only the High Priest was allowed to go in there. He could only go once a year to offer a sacrifice for sin. In the ark would be placed the Tables of Stone, a pot of manna and Aaron's rod.
2. The Holy Place contained the table of shewbread, the golden candlestick and the altar of incense. It was entered daily by the priests. In the court around the tabernacle was a laver used for washing the priests hands and feet, and a place for burnt offerings.



Exodus 32

While Moses was still on the mountain talking to God, the people came to Aaron and asked him to make them a god to worship. A golden calf was made to worship. When Moses came down from the mountain he saw what was happening and threw down the Tables of Stone and broke them.

vv. 22-24

Aaron wants Moses to believe his role was accidental and not deliberate.

vv 31, 32

Moses went to God in behalf of the people and offered to have himself blotted out of the Book of Life (**Revelation 20:15**).

Exodus 34:1

New Tables of Stone

Lesson #9
"FORTY YEARS IN WILDERNESS"

#2

TEXTS: Numbers chapters 1 - 36

INTRODUCTION:

The Book of Numbers covers thirty-eight years in the history of the people of Israel. It is the period of their wanderings in the wilderness. It is one long sad story of the complaining and discontent of the children of Israel.

HOW COULD THE WILDERNESS SUPPORT 3,000,000 FOR 40 YEARS?

After almost a year at Mount Sinai, God's people begin their journey to the land God had promised them. Before beginning their journey, many preparations had to be made. God gave them many instructions as to what they were to do.

Numbers 8, 9, 10, 11

The Levites were appointed and assigned to various tasks. The tabernacle had to be dedicated and the Passover had to be observed.

Finally they were ready to begin. God guided them on their journey. He led them with a cloud in the day and by fire at night. When the cloud stopped moving, the people stopped moving. After only three days journeying, the people began to complain about the food.

Numbers 12

Miriam and Aaron become jealous of their brother Moses. God was displeased with the jealousy, but was pleased with the meekness and faithfulness of Moses (v. 3).

Because of her sin Miriam was struck with leprosy. Moses prayed for her and it was taken away, but God had her shut out of the camp for seven days.

Number 13, 14

God had Moses send out twelve spies, one from each tribe, to search out the land. They were to see what the land was like, what kind of people lived there, and what the cities were like.

REPORT OF THE SPIES

The spies found a very prosperous land.

They also found a land with strong men and walled cities.

They said the children of Israel were as grasshoppers.

Ten of the spies said they could not take the land.

Two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, brought back a good report. With God's help, they would surely be able to take the land.

Because of their lack of faith, the children of Israel who were twenty and above at the time of this event were not allowed to enter the Promised Land. Instead they had to wander in the wilderness for forty years. Within sight of the Promised Land, they turned back. Joshua and Caleb were the only ones of the 600,000 men over 20 who lived to enter Canaan.

Numbers 16

In this chapter we have a rebellion against Moses and Aaron. Korah, Dathan, Abiram and 250 leaders were the ones involved. God caused the earth to open up and it swallowed up all the people involved.

People murmured the next day. 14,700 die.

Numbers 20

People gather themselves together against Moses and Aaron because of no water. Moses was told to speak to the rock and it would bring forth water. Moses hit the rock twice. Moses not allowed to lead the people into the land of Canaan.

Numbers 21

The children of Israel speak against Moses. God sends firey serpents. Those who were bitten would die. Brazen serpent made. Those that look upon it would be healed.

Numbers 36:13

Moses speaks to the children of Israel in plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho.....

Deuteronomy 34

The death of Moses.....

Lesson #10
"CROSSING THE JORDAN"

TEXTS: Joshua chapters 1 - 24

INTRODUCTION:

Because of his fatal mistake, Moses was not permitted to lead the children of Israel across the Jordan into the Land of Promise. Because of this, Joshua was appointed as Moses' successor (Numbers 27:12-23).

"Moses my servant is dead..." (Joshua 1:2). These sad words bring Joshua, the son of Nun, on the stage of leadership - the work of the Lord must go on. The promise to the children of Israel will not be broken by a change of leadership.

In the beginning of his work Joshua himself receives a promise from God (Joshua 1:5):

1. No man shall be able to stand against thee.
2. I will be with thee.
3. I will not fail thee.
4. I will not forsake thee.

In Joshua 1:6-9, we find five encouragements from God to Joshua:

1. Be strong.
2. Be of good courage.
3. Observe to do all the law.
4. The Book of the Law will not depart from thy mouth.
5. Be not afraid or dismayed.

NOTE: Joshua was not chosen at random for this job. He was prepared for it by many years of service and training.

Joshua begins his new role as the leader of the people, as many leaders do, with a great deal of encouragement and zeal. He immediately took charge. He knew what needed to be done and moved ahead.

Joshua 2:1

Joshua, once himself a spy, now sends two men to spy out the land and the city of Jericho.

Joshua 3

The children of Israel cross the Jordan into the Land of Promise.

Joshua 4

The Memorial Stones placed so that generations to come would not forget the place of crossing and the miracle.

Joshua 5

Circumcision is renewed. The Passover is kept.

Joshua 6

The fall of Jericho. The taking of this city is the first major victory in the conquest of the land. Jericho had two walls about 15 feet apart; the outer wall six feet thick, the inner wall 12 feet thick, both being 30 feet high. The two walls were linked together by houses built across the top.

Joshua 7

The trespass of Achan and the defeat at Ai.

Joshua 8

Victory and the taking of Ai.

Joshua 9, 10

Battle where the sun stood still.

Joshua 13 - 22

Division of the land.

Joshua 23, 24

Joshua's farewell address.

The book of **Joshua** is divided into three parts:

1. The conquest of the land.
2. The division of the land.
3. Joshua's farewell address.

Joshua had toiled as a slave in Egypt, had crossed the Red Sea, had beheld the terrors of Sinai, and led God's people into the Land of Promise.

Lesson #11
"GREAT MEN OF OLD"

TEXTS: Judges; I Samuel; II Samuel; I Kings; I Chronicles

INTRODUCTION:

We have seen in our last two lessons that the physical promise that was made to Abraham has been fulfilled. He became a nation, and that nation inherited the Land of Promise.

Soon the wilderness bred generation who, under the leadership of Joshua had conquered the land, began to die. A new generation was born and settled in a land of plenty. They soon lapsed into an easy going life and also entered into the ways of idolatrous neighbors.

When they did this, God delivered Israel into the hands of their oppressors. Then when Israel, in their suffering and distress, turned back and cried to God, He would have pity on them and raise up Judges who could lead Israel.

As long as the Judge would live the children of Israel would follow God. But when the Judge would die, the people again would return to the way of the harlot and follow after idols.

Judges 2:7 - 19

Judges 6, 7, 8

An angel of the Lord sends Gideon to deliver the people.
The battle with the Midianites.
He judges Israel for forty years and died in a good old age.

Judges 13 - 16

Samson.

God endowed him with super strength. His birth was announced by an angel. He left his first wife because she revealed the secret of a riddle. Among his great acts of strength was burning the crops of the Philistines by tying torches to foxes and letting them run wild. The slaying of 3,000 Philistines with the jawbone of an ass. The secret of his strength was his long hair. He was betrayed by Delilah and his eyes were put out. His last great feat was the pulling down of the temple of Dagon.

I Samuel 8:4-7, 10-17

The people go to Samuel and ask for a king. Samuel took their request for a king to God in prayer. Samuel, at the direction of Jehovah, explains to the people the manner in which the king would reign.

I Samuel 8:18-22

The people reject the words of Samuel.

I Samuel 9:15-21; 10:17-24

Israel's first King (Saul).

I Samuel 15:10-23

Saul is rejected by Jehovah as King.

I Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel sent by God to anoint the young man David to become the new King of Israel.

I Samuel 17:1 - 58

David slayeth Goliath.

I Samuel 18 - 20

David's popularity turned Saul against him.

I Samuel 31

Death of Saul and his sons.

II Samuel 2 - 5

David is appointed King over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for forty years. David is one of the most prominent figures in the history of the world. He is the most famous ancestor of Christ. Jesus is not called the Son of Abraham or the Son of Jacob but the Son of David.

The life of David was a mixture of good and evil. He also is mentioned as a man after God's own heart (**I Samuel 13:14**). This was only true as he kept the divine commandments.

I Kings 1:11 - 39

David appoints his son, Solomon, as his successor.

I Chronicles 29:26 - 28

The death of David.

Solomon had a vision at Gibeon in which the Lord appeared to him and asked him what he would have. Solomon asked for wisdom, "**Give thy servant an understanding heart.**"

He carried out the plans of his father, David, while his wealth and renown grew. His greatest enterprise was the erection of the temple in Jerusalem.

At Solomon's death his kingdom was divided. His son Rehoboam ruled over Judah and Benjamin. Jeroboam ruled the northern tribes.

The kingdom of Israel (north) and Judah (south) existed side by side until Israel was destroyed by the Assyrians. Judah continued to exist until the weakened Assyrian empire was destroyed by Babylon.

The Babylonians then conquered Judah and carried its people into captivity. In 539 B.C. Cyrus of Medo-Persia conquered Babylon and permitted the Jews to return to Jerusalem. Upon returning, the Jews began to rebuild the temple which had been destroyed.

Sometime in the last 400's Malachi wrote the last book of the Old Testament.

Lesson #12
"LIFE OF CHRIST" #1

TEXTS: **Matthew, Mark, Luke, John**

INTRODUCTION:

Most of us have known the story of our Saviour's birth since our early childhood. It is a fact that no birth in the history of the world has had a greater impact upon man than the birth of Christ. No life has effected the course of human events like the life of Christ.

Here was a man that was born in an obscure village; the child of a peasant woman.

Here was a man that never wrote a book; but more books have been written about Him than any other man.

He never went to college.

He never owned a home.

He never traveled far from His place of birth.

The life of Christ can be divided into two parts:

1. The things He did (**Luke 2:49**).
2. The things He taught (**Deuteronomy 18:18**).

THE BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD OF JESUS

Luke 2:1 - 14

It was a very lowly and humble birth.

Matthew 2:1 - 12

Here we read of the account of the wise men from the East, having seen the star came to present gifts and worship the newborn King.

SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRIST'S BIRTH

What were the principal purposes of Christ's coming?

Genesis 3:15

To reveal God; Atonement for sin.

How do these purposes effect our lives?

We must remember that Jesus did not begin in Bethlehem 2000 years ago.

He was the eternal Word (**John 1:1 - 4, 14**).

His very name reveals His mission (**Matthew 1:21**).

He is also called Emmanuel, which interpreted is God with us (**John 14:8, 9**).

At the early age of 12 Jesus started about His Father's business (**Luke 2:49 - 52**).

The three years of personal ministry were marked by His going and doing good (**Acts 10:38**).

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS
Matthew 3:13 - 17; Mark 1:9 - 11; Luke 3:21, 22

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS
Matthew 4:1 - 11; Mark 1:12, 13; Luke 4:1 - 13

THE FIRST MIRACLE OF JESUS
John 2:1 - 11

THE DISCOURSE OF THE NEW BIRTH
John 3:1 - 21

FOUR DISCIPLES CALLED
Matthew 4:18 - 22; Mark 1:16 - 20; Luke 5:8 - 11

JESUS SHOWS CONCERN FOR ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE
John 4:5 - 42

The beginning of our Lord's ministry should cause us to want to be a part of the spiritual kingdom which He came to establish.

THE JOURNEYS OF JESUS IN HIS EARLY LIFE. MT. 2; LU. 2.

JOURNEYS OF JESUS IN HIS
EARLY LIFE
(See the Key to the Tree of Jesus' Life,
Nos. 39-46.)

1. From Bethlehem to Jerusalem and
Return: Lu. 2.22-38.

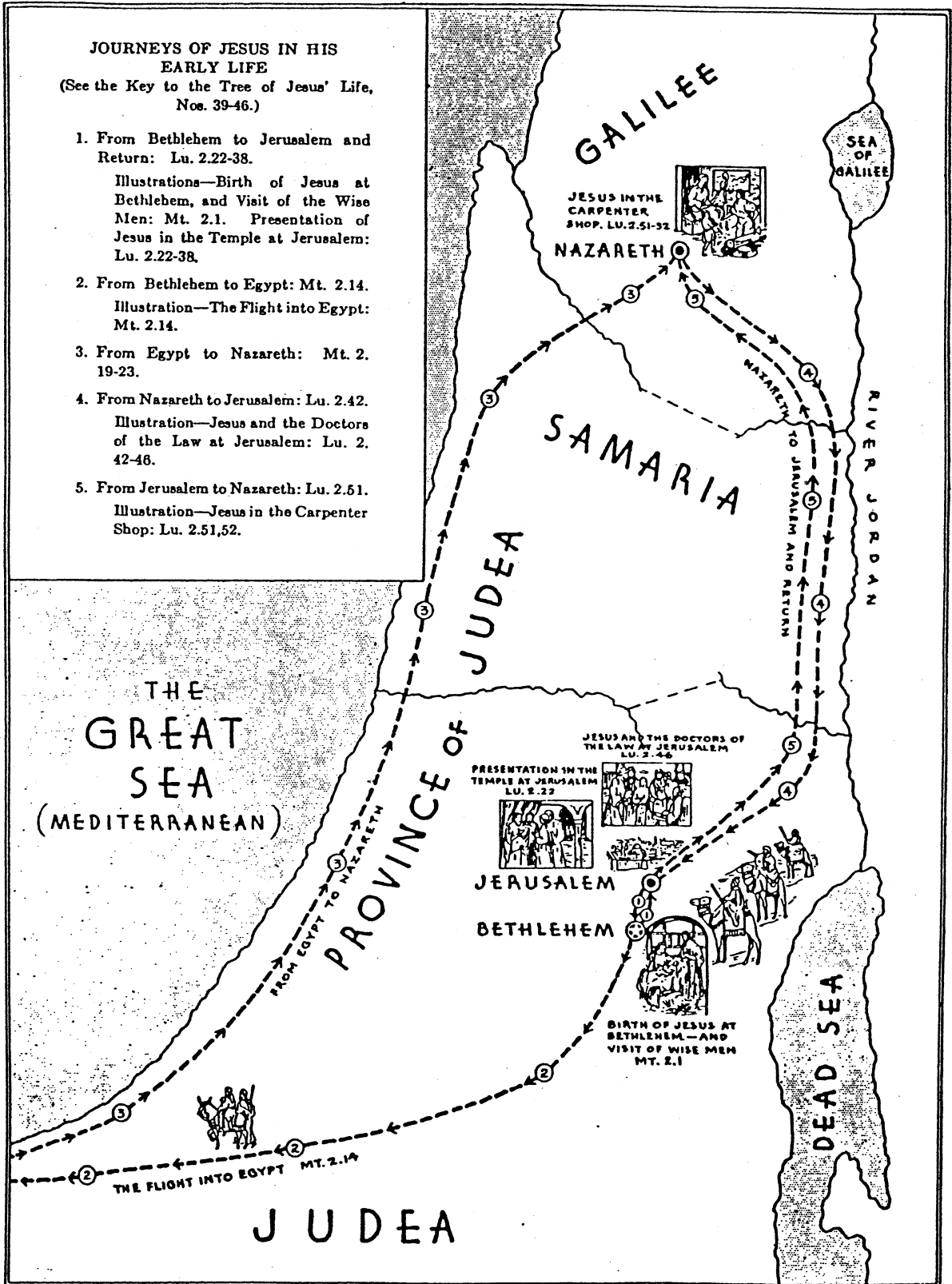
Illustrations—Birth of Jesus at
Bethlehem, and Visit of the Wise
Men: Mt. 2.1. Presentation of
Jesus in the Temple at Jerusalem:
Lu. 2.22-38.

2. From Bethlehem to Egypt: Mt. 2.14.
Illustration—The Flight into Egypt:
Mt. 2.14.

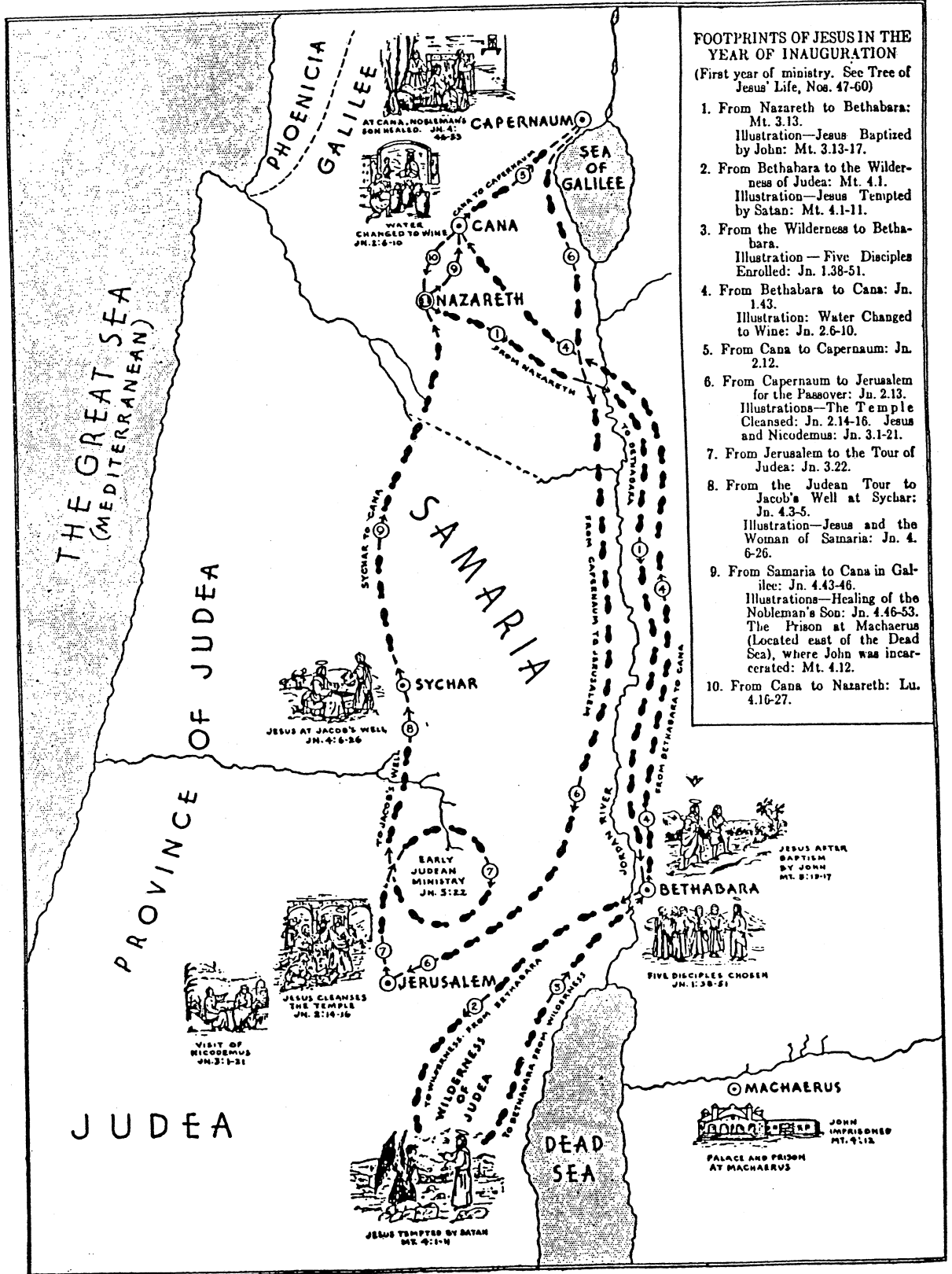
3. From Egypt to Nazareth: Mt. 2.
19-23.

4. From Nazareth to Jerusalem: Lu. 2.42.
Illustration—Jesus and the Doctors
of the Law at Jerusalem: Lu. 2.
42-46.

5. From Jerusalem to Nazareth: Lu. 2.51.
Illustration—Jesus in the Carpenter
Shop: Lu. 2.51,52.



FOOTPRINTS OF JESUS IN THE YEAR OF INAUGURATION (Jesus about 30 years of age)



Lesson #13
"LIFE OF CHRIST" #2

TEXTS: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

In our lesson this week we continue a study of the Life of Christ. During His personal ministry we have seen that the last three years of His life were spent personally teaching those who needed help. He had come to seek and save the lost, and is doing so He changed the entire course of humanity.

We have seen that Christ seemed to be as interested in the personal problems of humans as He was with large audiences.

The second year of His ministry was to be a year of great public favor. The fame of Jesus had spread far and wide over the land; a great multitude of people many times would follow Him

The tide would soon turn to a wooden cross and there He would die for mankind.

JESUS TEACHES GREAT MULTITUDES
Mark 3:7 - 12; Matthew 12:15 - 21

JESUS TAUGHT WITH PARABLES
Mark 4:1 - 34; Matthew 13:1 - 52; Luke 8:5 - 18

The parable of the Lost Sheep - Luke 15:1 - 10

MIGHTY WORKS OF JESUS
Matthew 8 & 9

Cleanseth the leper
Healeth the centurion's son
Healeth Peter's mother-in-law
The tempest stilled
Driveth the devils out of two men
Raiseth the dead
Gives sight to two blind men

THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM
Matthew 16

We now come to the grand climax of the public ministry of Christ.

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY TO JERUSALEM
Matthew 21:1 - 11

THE LAST SUPPER
Matthew 26:17 - 29; Mark 14:22 - 25; Luke 22:17 - 20

FORETELLS OF HIS BETRAYAL
John 13:21 - 38

GETHSEMANE

Matthew 26:30, 36 - 46; Mark 14:26, 32 - 42 John 17:1-26

JESUS STANDS ALONE

Matthew 26:56; Luke 22:54 - 62

THE CRUCIFIXION

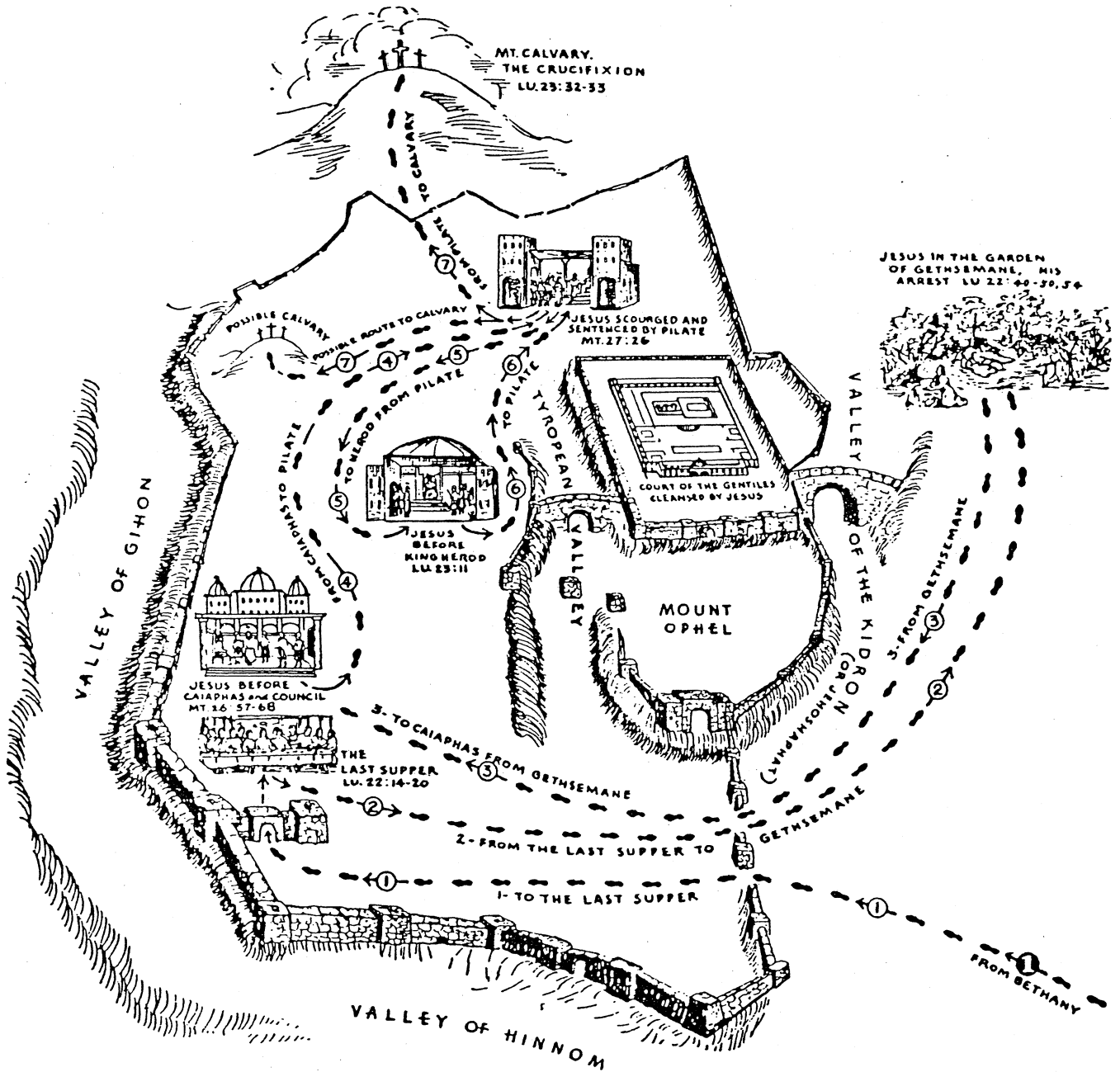
Luke 23:32 - 49; Matthew 27:26 -56; Mark 15:21 - 41; John 19:17 - 37

VICTORY

Genesis 3:15; Matthew 28:1 - 8; Mark 16:1 - 8; Luke 24:1 - 11; John 20:1 - 3

In our next lesson we will begin with The Great Commission for His disciples given just before His ascension. We will also study the acts of these followers of Jesus.

FOOTPRINTS OF JESUS DURING HIS LAST DAYS



JERUSALEM AT THE TIME OF THE CRUCIFIXION

FOOTPRINTS OF JESUS DURING HIS LAST DAYS

(See Key to the Tree of Jesus' Life, Nos. 205-229.)

1. From Bethany to Jerusalem.

Illustration—In Jerusalem, the Last Supper: Lu. 22:14-20.

2. From the Last Supper to the Garden of Gethsemane: Mt. 26:36.

Illustration—In the Garden of Gethsemane; Jesus in Prayer, The Disciples asleep: Lu. 22:40-50.

3. From Gethsemane to the Palace of the High Priest: Mt. 26:57.

Illustration—Jesus before the Council: Mt. 26:57-68.

4. From the Palace of Caiaphas to Pontius Pilate's Judgment Hall: Lu. 23:1.

5. From Pilate to Herod's Palace: Lu. 23:7. Illustration—Jesus before King Herod: Lu. 23:8-11.

6. From Herod's Palace to Pilate: Lu. 23:11. Illustration—In Pilate's Judgment Hall; Jesus receiving sentence: Mt. 27:26.

7. From Pilate's Judgment Hall to Golgotha, or Calvary: Lu. 23:33.

Lesson #14
"ACTS OF THE APOSTLES" #1

TEXTS: Acts 1 - Acts 11

INTRODUCTION:

The book of Acts was written by the physician Luke. The letter is addressed to the same person as the Gospel of Luke.

The main theme of the letter is the history of the development of the church. The events written about in the letter cover a time span of about 30 years, beginning about 30 - 33 A.D. through 60 - 63 A.D.

The Old Testament points that Someone is coming.
The four accounts of the Gospel tell us that Someone is here.
The book of Acts shows us what was the result of that Someone.

The book is like the book of Genesis in that it is a book of beginnings.

1. The beginning of the Holy Spirit's work of evangelization.
2. The beginning of the preaching of the Gospel.
3. The beginning of the Church of the Lord.
4. The beginning of the Christian Dispensation.
5. The beginning of salvation through the blood of Christ.
6. The beginning of world-wide evangelism.

The book centers around two great apostles:
Peter to the Jews; Paul to the Gentiles.

The book centers around four geographical centers:
Jerusalem; Antioch; Ephesus; Rome.

The book gives us the divine execution of the Great Commission.
Matthew 28:18 - 20
Mark 16:15, 16

The book can be divided into two parts:
The period of home missions; the period of foreign missions.

THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST
Acts 1

THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST
Acts 2

GROWTH OF THE CHURCH
Acts 3 & 4

THE BEGINNING OF HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH
Acts 5

THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SEVEN
Acts 6

THE BEGINNING OF CHRISTIAN MARTYRDOM
Acts 7

THE BEGINNING OF CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION
Acts 8:1 - 4

THE BEGINNING OF MISSION WORK
Acts 8:4 - 40

THE CONVERSION OF SAUL
Acts 9:1 - 30

THE GENTILES RECEIVE THE GOSPEL
Acts 9:31 - Acts 10

PETER BEGINS HIS GENTILE MINISTRY
Acts 11 & 12

In our next lesson we will begin with the sending forth of Paul and Barnabas as missionaries, of whom it will be said, "They have turned the world upside down."

Lesson #15
"ACTS OF THE APOSTLES" #2

TEXTS: Acts 13 - 28

INTRODUCTION:

When Jesus explained the Parable of the Tares to His disciples, He told them that the field is the world (**Matthew 13:38**).

When Jesus was explaining the Parable of the Sower to His disciples, He told them the Seed is the Word of God (**Luke 8:11**).

Without the sowing of seed there can be no harvest; so without the sowing or preaching of the Gospel there can be no harvest of souls.

Many people act as if the Great Commission applied only to the apostles, or to the church of their generation. We must never make this error.

We begin this lesson in chapter 13 with the record of the first great missionary church. A church which was so thankful for its blessings that it wished to share them with others.

PAUL BEGINS HIS FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY
Acts 13:1 - 4

FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY
Acts 13 - 14

THE JERUSALEM CONFERENCE
Acts 15

SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY
Acts 15:36 - 41

THE CONVERSION OF LYDIA
Acts 16:6 - 15

THE CONVERSION OF THE PHILIPPIAN JAILOR
Acts 16:25 - 34

PAUL IN ATHENS
Acts 17:22 - 34

END OF SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY
Acts 18:22

BEGINNING OF THE THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY
Acts 18:23

PAUL IN EPHESUS
Acts 19:29 - 41

END OF THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY
TRIP TO JERUSALEM
Acts 21

PAUL RELATES HIS OWN CONVERSION
Acts 22:3 - 16

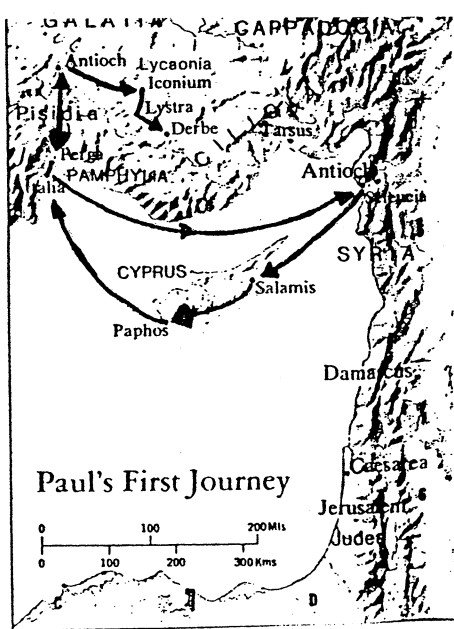
PAUL BEFORE FELIX
Acts 24:1 - 27

PAUL BEFORE FESTUS
Acts 25:1 - 12

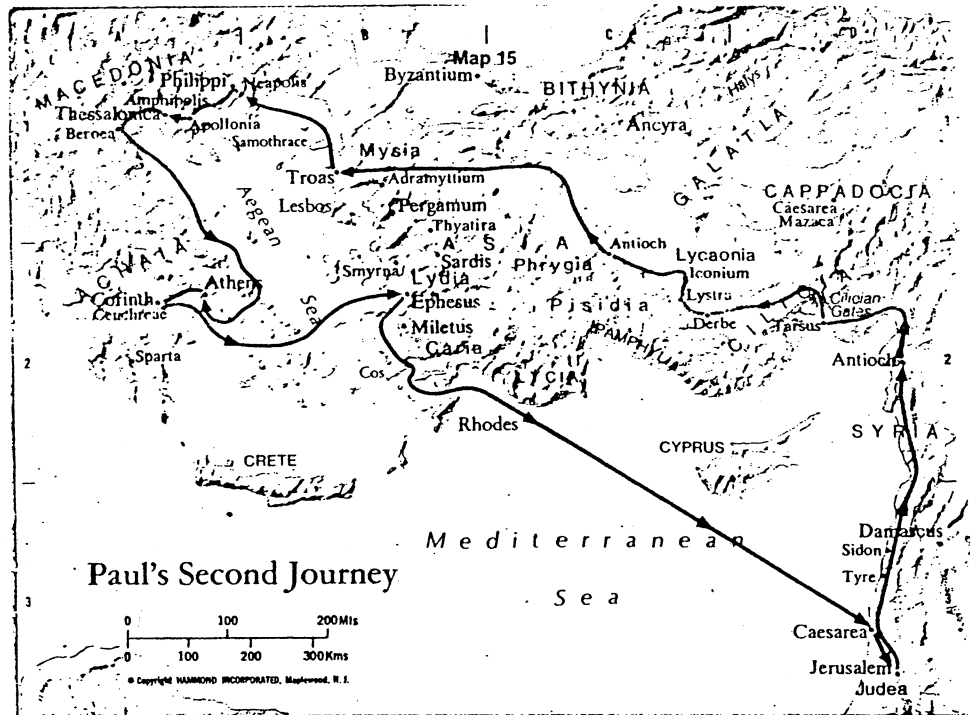
PAUL BEFORE AGRIPPA
Acts 25:13 - 26:32

PAUL'S VOYAGE TO ROME
Acts 27:1 - 28:15

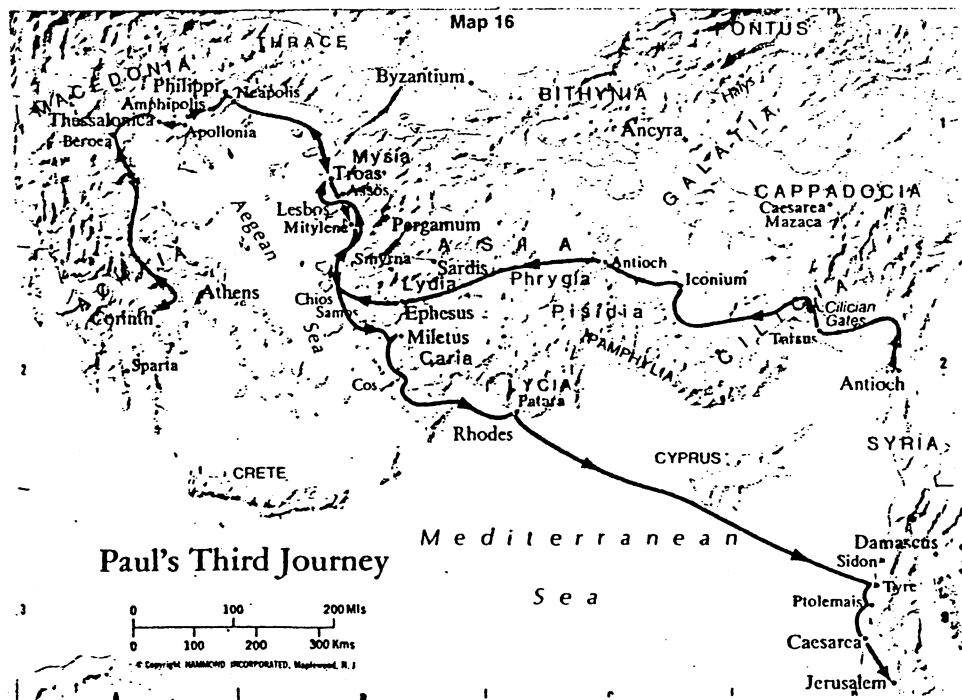
PAUL IN ROME
Acts 28:16 - 31



Paul's First Journey



Paul's Second Journey



Paul's Third Journey

NEW TESTAMENT—CONDENSED OUTLINE

I. BIOGRAPHICAL. FOUR BOOKS.

- (1) **Matthew.** Author, one of the twelve apostles. Narrative especially adapted to the Jews, showing that Jesus was the kingly Messiah of Jewish prophecy. See No. 4262.
- (2) **Mark.** Author, John Mark. A brief, picturesque record, emphasizing the supernatural power of Christ over nature, disease and demons. All this divine energy exercised for the good of man. See No. 4263.
- (3) **Luke.** Writer, "The beloved physician." The most complete biography of Jesus. It portrays him as the Son of man, full of compassion for the sinful and the poor.
- (4) **John.** Writer, "The beloved disciple." The narrative unveils Jesus as the Son of God, and records his deeper teachings. Two words, "Faith" and "Eternal life" re-echo throughout the book. See No. 4265.

II. HISTORICAL. ONE BOOK. The Acts of the Apostles. Writer, Luke. A sequel to the Gospel of Luke. Main theme—The origin and growth of the early church, from the ascension of Christ to the imprisonment of Paul at Rome.

III. THE PAULINE EPISTLES. FOURTEEN (including Hebrews).

- (1) **Romans.** Addressed to Roman Christians. Part (1) Chs. 1-11. A masterly exposition of the need for, and the nature of, the Plan of Salvation. Part (2) Chs. 12-16. Largely exhortations relating to spiritual, social and civic duties. See No. 4267.
- (2) **I Corinthians.** Addressed to the Corinthian church. Leading topics—The cleansing of the church from various evils, together with doctrinal instructions. See No. 4268.
- (3) **II Corinthians.** Leading topics—The characteristics of an apostolic ministry, and the vindication of Paul's apostleship.
- (4) **Galatians.** Addressed to the church in Galatia. Leading topics—A defense of Paul's apostolic authority, and of the doctrine of Justification by Faith, with warnings against false teachers and reversion to Judaism. See No. 4270.
- (5) **Ephesians.** Written to the church at Ephesus. An exposition of the glorious Plan of Salvation. Special emphasis is laid upon the fact that all barriers between Jews and Gentiles are broken down.
- (6) **Philippians.** A love letter to the Philippian church. It reveals the apostle's intense devotion to Christ, his joyful experience in prison, his deep concern that the church should be steadfast in sound doctrine.
- (7) **Colossians.** Written to the church at Colosse. Leading topic—The transcendent glory of Christ as the Head of the Church. This sublime truth calls for the abandonment of all worldly philosophy and sin.
- (8) **I Thessalonians.** Written to the church at Thessalonica. It is composed of apostolic commendations, reminiscences, counsels and exhortations. Especial emphasis is laid upon the comforting hope of the future advent of Christ. See No. 4274.

- (9) **II Thessalonians.** A sequel to the first epistle. Written to enlighten the church concerning the doctrine of Christ's Second Coming and to warn believers against unrest and social disorders. See No. 4275.
- (10) **I Timothy.** Counsels to a young pastor concerning his conduct and ministerial work.
- (11) **II Timothy.** Paul's last letter, written shortly before his death, giving instructions and counsels to his beloved "son in the gospel." See No. 4277.
- (12) **Titus.** An apostolic letter giving counsels and exhortations to a trusted friend, who was pastor in a hard field. Special emphasis is laid upon the doctrine of good works. See No. 4278.
- (13) **Philemon.** A private letter written to Philemon, beseeching him to receive and forgive Onesimus, a runaway slave.
- (14) **Hebrews.** Writer uncertain. Leading topic—The transcendent glory of Christ, and of the blessings of the new dispensation, compared with those of the Old Testament. Key Word, "Better."

IV. GENERAL EPISTLES. SEVEN.

- (1) **JAMES.** Writer probably James, the Lord's brother. Addressed to Jewish converts of the dispersion. Main theme—Practical Religion, manifesting itself in good works, as contrasted with mere profession of faith. See No. 4281.
- (2) **I Peter.** A letter of encouragement written by the apostle Peter to the saints scattered throughout Asia Minor. Leading topic—The privilege of believers following the example of Christ, to have victory in the midst of trials, and to live holy lives in an unfriendly world.
- (3) **II Peter.** Largely a warning against false teachers and scoffers. See No. 4283.
- (4) **I John.** A deep spiritual message addressed by the apostle John to different classes of believers in the church. It lays great stress upon the believer's privilege of spiritual knowledge, the duty of fellowship and brotherly love.
- (5) **II John.** A brief message of John on divine truth and worldly error. Addressed to "The elect lady and her children." A warning against heresy and false teachers. See No. 4285.
- (6) **III John.** An apostolic letter of commendation written to Gaius, containing character sketches of certain persons in the church.
- (7) **Jude.** Writer, probably the brother of James. Leading topics—Historical examples of apostasy and divine judgments upon sinners, together with warnings against immoral teachers. See No. 4287.

V. PROPHETICAL. ONE BOOK.

Revelation. Writer, the apostle John.

Leading topics—Mainly a series of apocalyptic visions, dealing with events in religious history.

A great moral conflict is portrayed, between the divine and satanic powers, ending in the victory of the Lamb. See No. 4288.

Lesson #17
 "THE APOSTASY"

TEXTS: Acts 20:28 - 30; I Corinthians 1:10 - 13; Romans 16:17; I Timothy 4:1 - 4; II Timothy 4:1 - 4; Galatians 1:6 - 9; Matthew 16:18

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus warned that false teachers would come as in sheep's clothing (Matthew 7:15).

Peter tells us that there will be false teachers operating in the world in which we live (II Peter 2:1).

Paul warned that men would teach different things and lead others away from the doctrine and the church which was purchased with the blood of Christ.

We must remember that from the first, denominational division was not so. The church was established in Jerusalem in 33 A.D. and all Christians make up that church.

We must also remember that elders were appointed over each congregation, each one being independent in its operation, but with the same doctrine and Head.

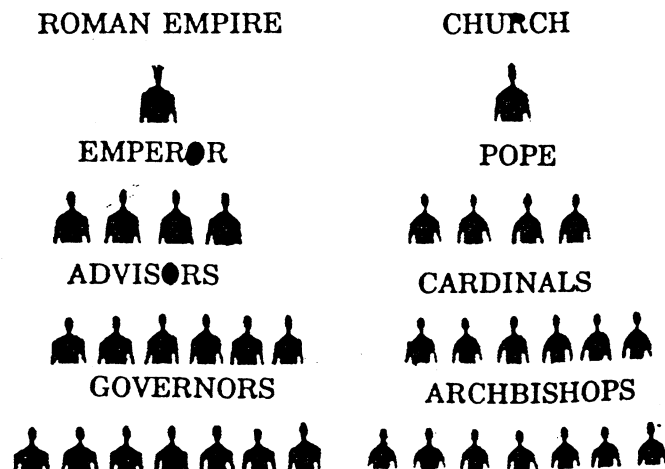
No elder or group of elders had or has any right to dictate to another congregation.

In time, strong elders began to arise and take authority over their own congregations, as well as neighboring congregations.

The falling away from the church which Christ built did not happen overnight, but was one step at a time.

CORRUPTIONS WHICH CREPT INTO THE CHURCH AND LED EVENTUALLY TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1. A.D. 185 - the practice of infant baptism.
2. A.D. 252 - pouring was substituted for immersion.
3. A.D. 590 - First Pope Gregory
A.D. 607 - Boniface III
4. A.D. 593 - the doctrine of Purgatory.
5. A.D. 667 - instrumental music added to worship.
6. 1063 - the doctrine of celibacy.
7. 1311 - sprinkling was authorized.



54. FINALLY, BECAUSE ROME WAS the leading political center of the world, its *bishop* or *patriarch*, Boniface III, assumed a position of special prominence not enjoyed by his peers. This resulted in his being elected in 606 A.D. as the first "universal bishop" or "pope" over the newly organized church thus rejecting Christ as the only Head of THE CHURCH (Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18). The complex organization of this body, from its lowest parish priests, graduated through its *bishops*, "*patriarchs*", etc. to the "*pope*," is as unlike God's New Testament pattern as black is from white.*

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In 1054 the Catholic church was divided. The western portion became the Roman Catholic Church; the eastern became the Greek Catholic Church.

The Church that Christ built gradually drifted into error and would now be difficult to locate.

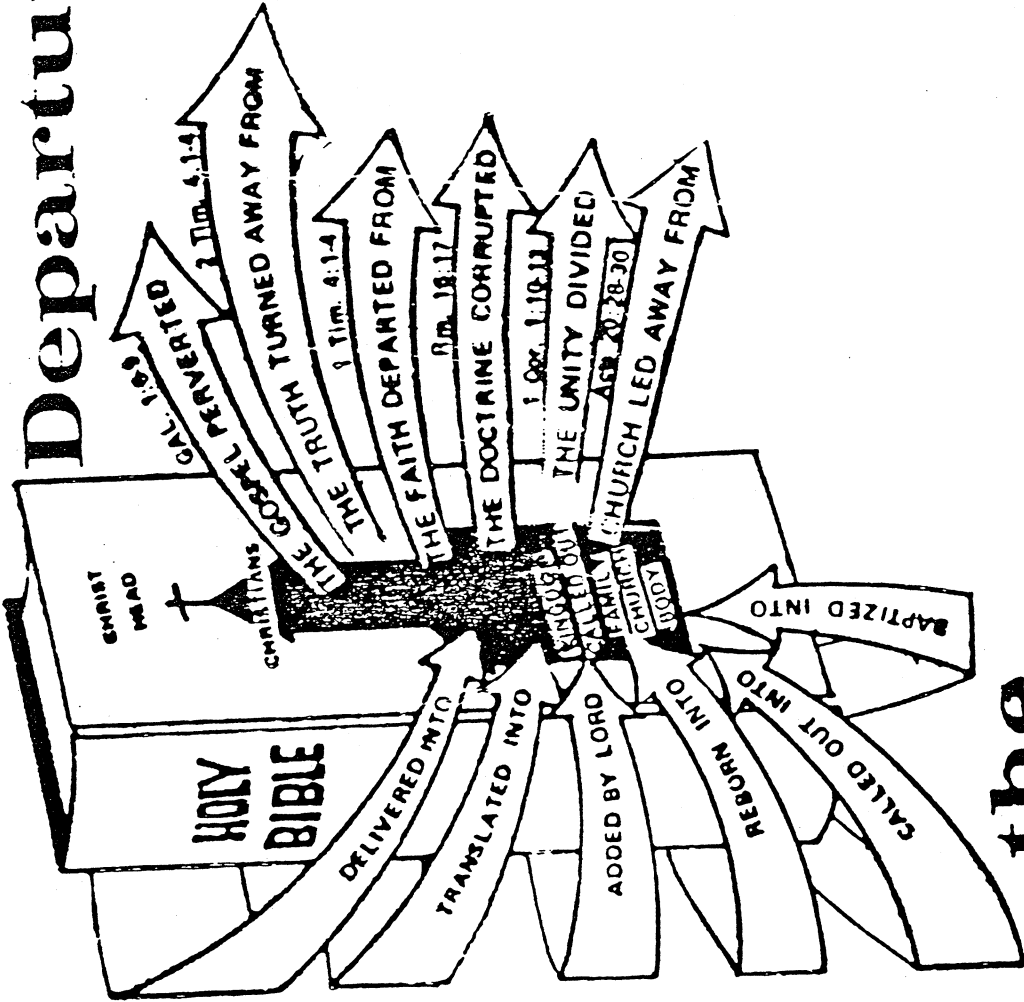
Catholicism held the world in her grip for nearly a thousand years. This period has been called the Dark Ages.

Reformation began in the sixteenth century. It was a sincere effort on the part of scholarly men to bring about reform in the Catholic church.

These attempts caused a separation of the men and the Roman church, and in doing so caused the divided condition of the religious world as we know it today.

From the beginning, this denominational division was not so. We must restore the Church as in the beginning. In the Bible there were no kinds of Christians, just Christians. It must be the same today.

Departures



- ROMAN CATHOLIC
- LUTHERAN
- PRESBYTERIAN
- EPISCOPAL
- METHODIST
- BAPTIST
- ADVENTIST
- JEHOVAH'S WITNESS
- MORMON
- CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
- PENTECOSTAL
- ARMSTRONG

the Faith

Lesson #18
"THE CATHOLIC CHURCH"

The whole structure of the Catholic church is built on the assumption that in **Matthew 16:13 - 19** Christ appointed the first pope and so established the papacy. Destroy this assumption and you destroy the very foundation of the Catholic church.

In the Greek, the word Peter "Petros" a person, masculine, while the word Rock "Petra" is feminine and refers not to a person but to the declaration of Christ's deity that had just been made. **"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."**

The authority to bind and loose, was given to all the apostles and not just Peter.

Catholics claim that the apostle Peter was unmarried. The Bible speaks of his wife and his mother-in-law (**Matthew 8:14**).

Catholics teach the apostle Peter is the foundation of the church. The Bible says that Christ laid the foundation of the church (**I Corinthians 3:11**).

Listed below are a number of Roman Catholic teachings. Beside each of these, we will let the Bible speak. By comparing the teachings with the Bible, we will be able to check Catholic teachings for ourselves.

<u>Catholic Teachings</u>	<u>The Bible Says</u>
1. Three sources of authority a. The Bible b. The Pope c. The church Fathers	II Peter 1:3, 4 II Timothy 3:16, 17
2. Use of images in worship	I John 5:21
3. Special distinction from the ordinary member	Matthew 23:5, 6
4. Instrumental music in worship	Ephesians 5:19
5. Sprinkling for baptism	Colossians 2:12; Romans 6:3, 4
6. Baptism for children because they inherit sin from their parents	Matthew 18:3
7. Confession into the priest's ear	James 5:16
8. Priests to be called father	Matthew 23:9
9. Require that bishops be unmarried	I Timothy 3:2

PRACTICES OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- A. Holy Water - 120 A.D.
Used by the heathen at the entrance of their temples to sprinkle themselves. Later was used in the Catholic church.

B. Purgatory - 593 A.D.

There exists in the next life a middle state of temporary punishment allotted for those who died. The dead may not help themselves, but may be helped by the faithful on earth. The friends of the departed one pay the priest, the priest prays and little-by-little the dead one becomes a little better, soon good enough to go to heaven. The amount of time and prayer depends on the wealth of the family.

C. Marriage is a life long contract - **"Till death do part us."**

D. It is through the Catholic church alone that the fullness of salvation can be obtained.

E. The bread and the fruit of the vine become the literal body and blood of Christ.

F. Good Catholics use their own version of the Bible.

G. Most Catholics will have their priest answer questions for them and allow their priest to study for them.

H. The Catholic church down through the years has added to and changed God's Word, as well as their own teaching.

Lesson #19
"THE METHODIST CHURCH"

During the eighteenth century societies were organized by many people who were seeking spiritual satisfaction that the Church of England was not providing. These groups were called "religious societies" which stressed Bible reading, prayer and benevolence.

It was one of these groups that John Wesley became a leader of. This group was so systematic in their praying and Bible reading that other groups began to call them the "Holy Club," "Bible Bigots," "Bible Moths" and "Methodists." This latter name is the one that stuck.

Thus Methodism was founded by John and Charles Wesley in 1729. Let's note that it was not until 1784 that John Wesley took the step that formally put him out of the Church of England. Wesley never intended to start another denomination, neither did he give his consent to the Methodist Discipline, which contains the church's articles of faith.

The Discipline is the book of laws of The United Methodist Church. The Discipline is the instrument for setting forth the laws, plan, policy and process by which the United Methodists govern themselves.

It is to this The Book Of Discipline Of The United Methodist Church 1980 that we will find their Doctrinal statements.

Book Of Discipline

The Bible Says

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The Methodist Church is a church of Christ in which the pure word of God is preached and the Sacraments duly administered. | Matthew 16:18
Colossians 1:18
Ephesians 4:4 |
| 2. Let every adult person, and the parents of every child to be baptized, have the choice of sprinkling, pouring or immersion. | Ephesians 4:5
Romans 6:3, 4
Colossians 2:12 |
| 3. Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only, is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort. | James 2:24 |
| 4. Original sin standeth not in the following of Adam, but it is the corruption of the nature of every man. | Ezekiel 18:20
I John 3:4 |
| 5. The Methodist Discipline gives rules, doctrines and regulations governing all procedures and affairs of the church, and all ministers are obligated to observe every part of it in his district. | II Timothy 3:16, 17
II Peter 1:3
Galatians 1:8, 9
Matthew 15:9 |
| 6. No member of the Methodist Church may preach without a license. | Acts 8:4 |

7. The term "Reverend" is applied to Methodist men. **Psalms 111:9**

8. Baptism is not essential for salvation. **Mark 16:16**
I Peter 3:21

9. Methodists believe that the church is composed of many branches of which the Methodist church is one. **Matthew 16:18**
John 15:1-6

10. The law-making body of the Methodist church is the general conference.
a. General d. District
b. Jurisdictional e. Quarterly
c. Annual f. Church
II Timothy 3:16, 17

11. Musical Instruments **Ephesians 5:19**
a. John Wesley, "I have no objections to instruments of music in our chapels, provided they are neither heard nor seen."

12. A member in good standing in any christian denomination who has been baptized and who desires to unite may be received by a proper certificate of transfer. **I Corinthians 1:10**

13. The Book Of Resolutions **II Timothy 3:16, 17**

Lesson #20
"THE BAPTIST CHURCH"

The Baptist constitute one of the major protestant forces in the United States. At this time the Baptist churches are divided into four major groups: The American Baptist Convention, National Baptist Convention of America, National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., and the Southern Baptist Convention. Most of the Baptist membership in the United States belongs to one of these groups.

It is often heard among the Baptist that they had no founder but Christ and that they have been preaching and practicing from the days of John the Baptist. But as a church, or as organized churches, they began in Holland after the Reformation had set men free to worship early in the sixteenth century.

In 1631 the Baptist Churches in London sent Roger Williams to America to do mission work. He organized a Baptist Church in Providence, Rhode Island.

Today when someone says that they are of the Baptist faith, they are not necessarily saying much. Listed are a few of the various groups of Baptist churches, each having their own creed and message.

American Baptist Convention
Southern Baptist Convention
Negro Baptists
American Baptist Association
Baptist General Conference of America
Bethel Baptist Assembly
Christian Unity Baptist Association
Conservative Baptist Association of America
Duck River (and Kindred) Associations of Baptists (Baptist Church of Christ)
Free Will Baptists
General Baptists
The General Association of Regular Baptist Churches
General Conference of the Evangelical Baptist Church, Inc.
General Six-Principle Baptists
Independent Baptist Church of America
Landmark Baptists
National Baptist Evangelical Life and Soul Saving Assembly of the U.S.A.
National Primitive Baptist Convention of the U.S.A.
North American Baptist Association
North American Baptist General Conference
Primitive Baptists
Regular Baptists
Separate Baptists in Christ
Seventh Day Baptists
Seventh Day Baptists (German, 1728)
Two-Seed-in-the-Spirit Predestinarian Baptists
United Baptists
The United Free Will Baptist Church

Baptist Teach

1. Some teach that the Church was established in the days of John.

The Bible Says

Matthew 16:18

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2. Baptism is not essential to salvation. | I Peter 3:21
Mark 16:16 |
| 3. Baptist churches use creed books. | II Timothy 3:16, 17
Revelation 22:18, 19 |
| 4. Baptist teach that you are already in Christ before baptism. | Galatians 3:27 |
| 5. Baptist teach faith only will save you. | James 2:24 |
| 6. A man cannot fall from grace. | Galatians 5:4 |
| 7. Some Baptist teach that the kingdom has not come. | Mark 9:1 |
| 8. Baptism may not be essential to salvation, but is essential to obedience. | I Peter 3:21 |
| 9. Three ways in common use by which persons may be admitted to the church: Baptism, Letter, Experience | Acts 2:37-47 |
| 10. There is no scriptural rule as to frequency with which the Lord's Supper should be taken. | Acts 20:7 |
| 11. Footwashing as a church ordinance. | John 13 |
| 12. Nothing is in a name. | Acts 4:12 |
| 13. The saved should join the church. | I Timothy 3:15 |
| 14. Instrumental music in worship is acceptable. | Ephesians 5:19 |

The Baptist teach the Bible and the Bible only

The Hiscox Guide for Baptist Churches, 1975
The Baptist Faith and Message, 1963, 1971, etc.
Statement of Faith and Discipline, 1955

Lesson #21
"THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST"

Modern Day Adventism had its origin with William Miller, a farmer from New York, who preached that Jesus would return in 1843. When that year passed and Jesus did not come, he said he had missed the date by one year and that Jesus would come on October 22, 1844. The year came, the month came, the week and day came, but no Jesus.

Miller said the mistake was due to the fact he had followed the Hebrew rather than the Roman chronology. Each of the prophecies resulted in people leaving their farms untended and selling their property in anticipation of His coming.

After his two predictions concerning the coming of Christ had failed, Miller withdrew from the field of religious leadership.

Soon after Miller withdrew, Ellen G. Harmon began to have dreams which she regarded as of divine significance, and continued to be regarded as an inspired prophetess.

Mrs. White soon had a dream in which she claimed she saw a halo around the fourth commandment which she interpreted as meaning that men were not keeping the Sabbath and this was God's way of showing that it is to be kept in this age.

Mrs. White came to be regarded as the voice of God.

Adventist Teach

1. Mrs. Ellen White's testimonials are inspired like the Bible.
2. God kept the Sabbath after the creation and is binding on us today.

The Bible Says

- II Peter 1:3
Galatians 1:8
II Timothy 3:15 - 17

Colossians 2:14 - 17
Romans 7:1 - 7
Exodus 35:1 - 3

BIBLE REASONS FOR FIRST-DAY WORSHIP

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Jesus was raised upon the first day of the week | Mark 16:9 |
| The resurrection is the heart of the Gospel | 1 Cor. 15:17 |
| The church was established on Pentecost Sunday | Acts 2:1-47 |
| Pentecost was always upon the first day of the week | Lev. 23:15, 16 |
| Communion was practiced upon the first day of the week | Acts 20:7 |
| Communion was practiced steadfastly or regularly | Acts 2:42 |
| Communion was upon the regular day of Assembly | 1 Cor. 11:18-29 |
| Weekly collections commanded upon every first day | 1 Cor. 16:1, 2 |
| No collections and no communion on the sabbath | No scriptures |
| Lord's Day same as Lord's Supper, Jesus' Day | Rev. 1:10; 1 Cor. 11:20 |
-
3. Teach that the Law of Moses was for the Gentiles. Romans 2:14

4 The proper form of baptism is immersion and should follow repentance and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 2:38
Acts 22:16

5. Only an ordained pastor can baptize.

Matthew 28:19

6. There were two Laws

THERE WERE NOT TWO LAWS, BUT ONE

Sabbatarians claim that the Law of God was different from the Law of Moses. This is their way of saying that the Ten Commandments are still binding, but that the ceremonies are done away. But the Law of Moses was the same as the Law of God, as the following verses prove. All of the Jewish commandments were called "The Law" (not Laws) (Gal. 3:24, 25). But Sabbatarians make two laws where the Bible has one. The law of Moses was the same as the Law of God. These verses show that God's Law and Moses' Law were the same:

Hilkiah found the book of Lord given by Moses	2 Chronicles 34:14
Animal sacrifices and feasts in the Law of Lord	2 Chronicles 31:3
Ezra a scribe of the Law of God	Ezra 7:12
Ezra a scribe of Law of Moses which God gave	Ezra 7:6
Book of Law of Moses which Lord commanded Israel	Nehemiah 8:1
They read in the book in the Law of God	Nehemiah 8:8
Moses said honour thy father and thy mother	Mark 7:10
Law of Moses was Law of God, included ceremonies	Luke 2:22, 23
Moses' Law was the Sabbath Law	John 7:19-23
Law graven on stones was Moses' Law	2 Corinthians 3:7-15

Lesson #22
"THE JEHOVAH WITNESS"

The Jehovah's Witness as known today originated about 1872 when Charles Russell and a small group of like-minded followers began studying the Bible from a different point of view. The ideas of Russell were given wide circulation through the Watch Tower Tract Society which began in 1884.

Many of the followers of Russell seceded from the group in 1909 after Russell came to regard his own teachings greater than the Bible itself. This defection was not as large as a later one in 1913 after Mrs. Russell brought suit for divorce from her husband on the grounds of his relation with other women. However, the movement weathered the storm, and after the death of Russell in 1916, Joseph Rutherford became the leader of the group.

Rutherford wrote Millions Now Living Will Die In 1920. These people took on the name Jehovah's Witnesses in 1931. They meet in what they call "Kingdom Halls." They are highly missionary. Most devote 15 hours per month to Kingdom preaching.

The Jehovah's Witnesses are wrong in several points of doctrine.

1. The Watchtower Society dogmatically asserts that only a literal 144,000 persons are going to heaven (**Revelation 14:1 - 3**).
 - a. Read **verse 4**, "These are they that were not defiled with women; for they are virgins."
2. They teach that their name is the new one prophesied in **Isaiah 62:2**.
 - a. Jehovah and witness are used in the Old Testament.
 - b. The Bible teaches **Acts 11:26**.
 - c. They are witness for Jehovah, but they have never seen Him.
3. They teach there will be no everlasting punishment.
 - a. The Bible teaches **Matthew 25:46**.
4. They teach that Christ came invisibly and quietly in 1914 and was only recognized through spiritual eyes and only by Jehovah Witnesses.
 - a. The Bible teaches **Acts 1:11, Revelation 1:7**.
5. They teach that the kingdom of God was actually established on October 1, 1914.
 - a. The Bible teaches **Mark 9:1**.
6. Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus Christ was Jehovah's first creation.
 - a. The Bible teaches **John 1:1 - 3**.
7. The Witnesses believe the earth will last forever.
 - a. The Bible teaches **Matthew 24:35, II Peter 3:10**.

8. The Witnesses have two baptisms: Water and Spiritual.
 - a. The Bible teaches **Ephesians 4:5** - Which?
 - b. **Mark 16:15, 16; Acts 8:38**
9. Jehovah's Witnesses oppose blood transfusions, using **Leviticus 17:14** as their proof text.
10. Jehovah's Witnesses do not salute the flag of any nation.
 - a. The Bible teaches **Romans 13:1 - 4**.

In 1950 these people put out their own translation of the Bible called "The New World Translation." In the foreword of these books we read, "The endeavor of the New World Translation Committee has been to avoid this snare of religious traditionalism."

WHAT JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES BELIEVE

BELIEF	SCRIPTURAL REASON	BELIEF	SCRIPTURAL REASON
Bible is God's Word and is truth	2 Tim. 3:16, 17; John 17:17; Matt. 15:3; Col. 2:8; Ps. 83:18; Isa. 26:4; 42:8; As. Ex. 6:3; Matt. 3:17; John 8:42; 14:28; 20:17; 1 Cor. 11:3; 15:28; Col. 1:15; Rev. 3:14; Gal. 3:13; Acts 5:30; Matt. 20:28; 1 Tim. 2:5, 6; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet. 2:24; Rom. 6:10; Heb. 9:25-28; 1 Pet. 3:18; Rom. 6:9; Rev. 1:17, 18; John 14:19; Matt. 24:3; 2 Cor. 5:16; Ps. 110:1, 2; Isa. 9:6, 7; 11:1-5; Dan. 7:13, 14; Matt. 6:10; Ps. 72:1-4; Rev. 7:9, 10, 13-17; 21:3, 4; Eccl. 1:4; Isa. 45:18; Ps. 78:69; Rev. 16:14, 16; Zeph. 3:8; Dan. 2:44; Isa. 34:2; Matt. 25:41-46; 2 Thess. 1:6-9; John 3:16; 10:27, 28; 17:3; Mark 10:29, 30; Matt. 7:13, 14; Eph. 4:4, 5; Matt. 24:3-14; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Luke 17:26-30; Rom. 5:12; 6:23; Ezek. 18:4; Eccl. 9:10; Ps. 6:5; 146:4; John 11:11-14; Job 14:13; Dy; Rev. 20:13, 14, AV (margin); 1 Cor. 15:20-22; John 5:28, 29; 11:25, 26	Adam's death will cease	1 Cor. 15:26; Rev. 21:4; Isa. 25:8; 1 Cor. 15:54; Luke 12:32; Rev. 14:1, 3; 1 Cor. 15:40-53; Rev. 5:9, 10; 1 Pet. 1:23; John 3:3; Rev. 7:3, 4; Jer. 31:31; Heb. 8:10-13; Eph. 2:20; Isa. 28:16; Matt. 21:42; John 14:6, 13, 14; 1 Tim. 2:5; Ex. 20:4, 5; Lev. 26:11; 1 Cor. 10:14; Ps. 115:4-8; Deut. 18:10-12; Gal. 5:19-21; Lev. 19:31; 1 John 5:19; 2 Cor. 4:4; John 12:31; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; 11:13-15; Gal. 5:9; Deut. 7:1-5; Jas. 4:4; 1 John 2:15; John 15:19; 17:16; Matt. 22:20, 21; 1 Pet. 2:12, 4:15; Gen. 9:3, 4; Lev. 17:14; Acts 15:28, 29; 1 Cor. 6:9, 10; Heb. 13:4; 1 Tim. 3:2; Prov. 5:1-23; Deut. 5:15; Ex. 31:13; Rom. 10:4; Gal. 4:9, 10; Col. 2:16, 17; Matt. 23:8-12; 20:25-27; Job 32:21, 22; Isa. 45:12; Gen. 1:27; 1 Pet. 2:21; Heb. 10:7; John 4:34; 6:38; Mark 1:9, 10; John 3:23; Acts 19:4, 5; Rom. 10:10; Heb. 13:15; Isa. 43:10-12
Bible is more reliable than tradition God's name is Jehovah		Only a little flock of 144,000 go to heaven and rule with Christ	
Christ is God's Son and is inferior to him		The 144,000 are born again as spiritual sons of God	
Christ was first of God's creations Christ died on a stake, not a cross Christ's human life was paid as a ransom for obedient humans		New covenant made with spiritual Israel	
Christ's one sacrifice was sufficient Christ was raised from the dead as an immortal spirit person Christ's presence is in spirit		Christ's congregation is built upon himself	
Kingdom under Christ will rule earth in righteousness and peace		Prayers must be directed only to Jehovah through Christ	
Kingdom brings ideal living conditions to earth		Images must not be used in worship	
Earth will never be destroyed or depopulated		Spiritism must be shunned	
God will destroy present system of things in the battle at Har-Magedon		Satan is invisible ruler of world	
Wicked will be eternally destroyed		A Christian must have no part in inter-faith movements	
People God approves will receive eternal life		A Christian must keep separate from world	
There is only one road to life		All human laws that do not conflict with God's laws should be obeyed	
We are now in the 'time of the end'		Taking blood into body through mouth or veins violates God's laws	
Human death is due to Adam's sin		Bible's laws on morals must be obeyed	
The human soul ceases to exist at death		Sabbath observance was given only to the Jews and ended with Mosaic law	
Hell is mankind's common grave		A clergy class and special titles are improper	
Hope for dead is resurrection		Man did not evolve but was created	
		Christ set example that must be followed in serving God	
		Baptism by complete immersion symbolizes dedication	
		Christians must give public testimony to Scriptural truth	

Lesson #23
"THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH"

The Pentecostal Church traces its birth to New Year's Eve, 1899. A group of hungry-hearted people from Topeka, Kansas began a fast that lasted for twenty-one days. During this time they prayed for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which was said to have come on this night.

It was said that on this night mighty works were seen and people were heard speaking in other languages as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance in the same manner as the "120 received it on the Day of Pentecost."

Many evangelists, having heard of this event, came from every part of the United States and many returned from foreign fields to learn about the new and strange doctrine. It was said that many of these evangelists received like experience.

During the early half of the century other groups were formed. Among them, two of the major bodies known as the Pentecostal Assemblies of Jesus Christ, Inc. and the Pentecostal Church, Inc. In 1944 these two groups became known as the United Pentecostal Church.

What Pentecostals Believe

1. They believe that one can be baptized by the Holy Spirit today.
2. They believe in miracles of healing incurable diseases as in the early church.
3. A person may speak in tongues today while under the influence of the Holy Spirit.
4. Man needs not to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit - only in the name of Jesus.
5. Every Christian has a spiritual gift.
6. Teach that salvation precedes immersion.
7. Sequence of events leading to salvation:
 - a. Assembly of God: Faith, Repentance, Holy Spirit Baptism, Speak in Tongues, Full Salvation.
 - b. United Pentecostal: Faith, Repentance, Water Baptism, Holy Spirit Baptism, Speak in Tongues, Full Salvation.
 - c. Others build their faith on feelings only.

What The Bible Teaches

**John 14:26; Acts 1, 2;
I Corinthians 13:8 - 10**

**Matthew 9:12; John 20:30,31
Romans 10:17**

**Acts 2
I Corinthians 13:8 - 10**

Matthew 28:18 - 20

There are many groups that are Pentecostal, but not under the arm of the United Pentecostal church.

Pentecostal snake handling began in 1909 in Grasshopper Valley, Tennessee. After a group had met and after pondering **Mark 16:18**, a big rattlesnake was chased down and was passed among the group. Because no one was injured at this meeting, word quickly spread.

Some groups in the Pentecostal and Holiness churches start their service with singing and shouting to get the Spirit. The praying and music then start in earnest and it gets frantic as they claim to speak in tongues, sway and jerk. When the people get worked up, the snakes are brought in. They may also try a "salvation cocktail" or strychnine and water.

Probably the best known Pentecostal/Holiness preacher is Oral Roberts.

Biblical Miracles

Always successful
No known relapses
Always immediate or almost immediate
Raisings of dead
All varieties of diseases
Usually played down
Include power over non-human nature
Credentials of messengers of Christian Revelation
No noticeable dependence on psychological build-up

Modern Wonders

Usually unsuccessful
Admitted relapses
Usually not immediate; very gradual
No raisings of the dead
Usually functional disease
Usually played up
No power over non-human nature
Not credentials of messengers of Revelation
Conspicuous dependence on psychological build-up

MIRACLES HAVE CEASED

MIRACLES HAPPENED, MIRACLES CEASED

The same Bible which teaches that miracles happened in Bible times also teaches that miracles have now ceased. If one believes Bible teaching that miracles happened, he must also believe Bible teaching that miracles ceased. God began all things by miracles, but He continues all things without miracles. God never created but one man by miracle—Adam, the first man. He began mankind with miracles but continues mankind without miracles. Was your body created by miracle like Adam's? If not, then you see that God began all things by miracles but continues them by natural processes without miracles. Read Genesis 1:27, 28.

Created By A Miracle



Were You Created By A Miracle?

Could You Write By Inspiration?



THE BIBLE WAS CREATED BY MIRACLES

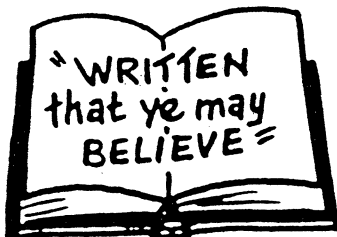
God began the Bible by miracles. Inspired men spoke and wrote miraculously to bring us the Bible. They preached in languages that they had never studied. They prophesied or spoke by inspiration for God. God miraculously used men to bring into the world His message, the Bible. But once the Bible was completed, miracles no longer happened. When the process of miracles produced the product intended—the Bible, then according to God's great plan, miracles ceased. And God's message, the Bible, is now carried on non-miraculous teaching by uninspired men. No more men are being created, and no more Bibles are being created. God's plan for miracles has ceased. Read 2 Timothy 3:16, 17, 2 Peter 1:20, 21, and 2 Timothy 2:2.

GOD TELLS WHY MIRACLES CEASED

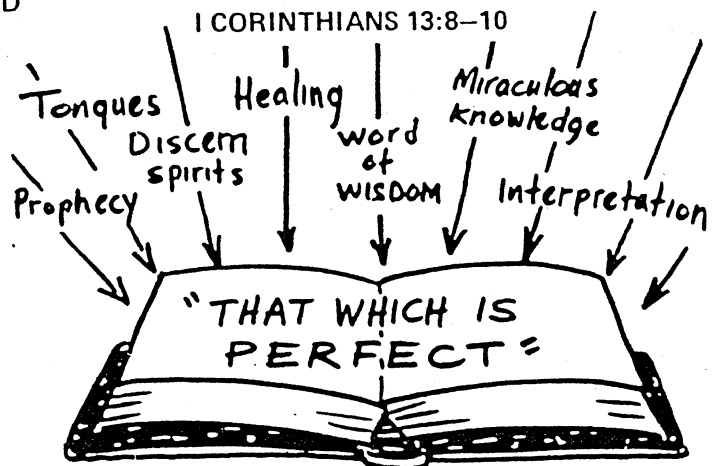
God's two reasons that miraculous speaking and writing have ceased is that they were (1) part-by-part, and not complete, and (2) they were temporary, and not permanent. Each inspired man was given only a part of God's revelation, but the completed Bible is "all truth." All miracles were temporary, but the Bible is permanent.

MIRACLES WERE WRITTEN THAT MEN MIGHT BELIEVE

John 20:31 teaches that the miracles of Jesus were written down in Scripture so that men might believe that He is the Son of God.



I CORINTHIANS 13:8-10



God's plan was not for continuing miracles, but for a permanent and continuing record of miracles for all ages, the Bible. Readers believe in Jesus because of His written Word which is a permanent and error-free record of His miracles which prove that He is the Son of God. A truth once confirmed is forever confirmed. A fact once proved is forever proved. Men in all ages have believed in Jesus by His Book of Miracles, but they have never seen a miracle, nor do they need to see a miracle to believe. Miracles served God's purpose and are no longer needed.



SATAN WORKS FALSE MIRACLES CALLED "LYING WONDERS"

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 says that Satan works through signs (miracles) and lying wonders (or false miracles). But these miracles are deception or lies, they are not real. They are a strong delusion sent by God that those who do not love the truth might believe a lie and be damned. Revelation 13:13 describes the False Prophet as doing great signs like making fire come down from heaven in the sight of men. Matthew 7:22 shows that false teachers will claim to prophesy, cast out demons,

Will You Make The Bible Test?

and do many mighty works in Jesus' name, but He does not know them. 2 Corinthians 11:13, 14, 15, describes false apostles, deceitful workers, who claim the powers of apostles but are in reality ministers of Satan who will be destroyed.

FALSE MIRACLES AND FALSE TEACHERS MUST BE PROVED

The only way to know false teachers is to prove them. Christians must prove all things and avoid every appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:21, 22). 1 John 4:1 commands us not to believe every spirit but to prove the spirits whether they are of God, because many false prophets are in the world. Verse 6 gives the way to prove every teacher. The apostles are of God, and their writings in the Bible are of God. He that is of God will hear or read what the apostles have said in the Bible. By this (or hereby) we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Acts 17:11 says that if what you hear is true when you search it in the Scriptures, it is so. 1 Corinthians 14:37 shows that the man who thinks himself a prophet or spiritual must acknowledge the writings of Paul as the commandments of the Lord.

MODERN TONGUES FAIL THE BIBLE TEST, YOU MAKE THE TEST

Acts 2:6, 8 shows Bible tongues were actual languages, but modern tongues are nonsensical jibberish. 1 Corinthians 14:19 shows that tongues in the Bible were inferior to understandable teaching, but modern tongues are claimed to be superior to teaching. Verses 33, 34 command the women to keep silent in the assembly, but modern tongue-speakers are often leading speakers in the assembly. Modern tongues, when proved by the Bible, must be abstained from. They must not be believed. They are spirits of error. They are not so (1 Thess. 5:21, 22, 1 Jn. 4:1, 6, Acts 17:11).

MODERN MIRACLE-HEALING FAILS THE BIBLE TEST, YOU MAKE THE TEST

Acts 3:2 shows that persons healed were unquestionably lame, and no one doubted the unhealed condition. But modern victims claim internal problems that are out of sight and cannot be verified. Acts 4:16 shows that there were no doubters of Bible miracles, even the enemies of the apostles admitted the miracles. Today there are many doubters, and rightfully so. Real Bible miracles could not be disproved, but present false miracles can be. Acts 5:16 says that the apostles healed every case, but many cases today are not healed by false apostles. Acts 19:11, 12 proves that Bible healing was immediate without long hours of emotional agonizing and disappointment. But the opposite is usually true of false healing today. Modern false miracle-healing fails the Bible test. They must be abstained from. They must not be believed. They are spirits of error. They are not so!

WHY DON'T MODERN MIRACLE-WORKERS WALK ON WATER?

Both Jesus and the apostle Peter walked upon the sea (Matthew 14:25, 29). Why don't men do this today? Both Jesus and the apostles raised the dead (John 11:44, Acts 9:40, 20:9, 10). Why don't modern miracle-workers raise corpses that are stinking (John 11:39)? They do not because they cannot! They cannot because the Bible plainly teaches that miracles have ceased. Miracles have ceased because their purpose to bring us the Bible has been accomplished. Do not be misled by fake healers and lying miracles today. True miracles have been written so that you can believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and believing, you can have life in His name (John 20:31).

Lesson #24
"THE MORMON CHURCH"

Joseph Smith organized the Mormon Church in 1830. He and six other people accomplished this after Smith supposedly had had several years of visions in which he received a series of revelations from God. During one of these visions, the angel Moroni allegedly revealed to Smith the location of some gold plates on which was revealed the Gospel. Smith and his associates received the translation of these words from God Himself and transcribed them. The result is the Book of Mormon. Later, Smith and his congregation had to move westward because of persecution which arose because of some teachings of the Mormon church. The group was run out of Missouri and, in Illinois, Smith was arrested for treason after the church claimed its governing body was the equal of the state legislature. Soon after that, Smith and his brother Hyrum were shot.

After Smith's death, the group split into several different groups. One, led by Brigham Young, migrated to Utah and is the most familiar group to most of us. Another group is headquartered in Independence, Missouri.

The Mormon Church Teaches:

1. That the Bible is not the entire Word of God and that further revelation came to Joseph Smith.

The Bible Says:

Isaiah 8:20 - speak according to this word.

Revelation 22:18, 19 - do not add to nor subtract from this book.

Jude 3 - the faith that was delivered once for all to the saints. (Since it was delivered once for all, it never needs repeating. It needs no expansion or further revelation at a later date. Thayer says the Greek "once" means one time, never needing repetition. The same word is in **Hebrews 9:26 - 28** and **I Peter 3:18**.)

Galatians 1:8, 9 - if even an angel preached a different gospel, he is to be accursed.

II Timothy 3:16, 17 - the Scriptures can furnish us unto every good work; therefore, we needed no further revelation from Smith.

II Peter 1:3 - God's Power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness; therefore, no need for Smith's words.

2. That Adam is God and that Christ is His Son by natural generation.

The Bible Says:

Isaiah 7:14 - a virgin shall conceive.

Matthew 1:18ff - Mary's child was by the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:27, 34 - Mary again called a virgin. She had never known (i.e., had sexual relations) with a man.

3. Christ was a polygamist.

The Bible Says:

Ephesians 5:23ff - Christ's bride (singular) is the Church.

Romans 7:4 - We, the Church, are joined to Him, a figure similar to marriage.

4. That salvation is the resurrection of the dead.

The Bible Says:

Revelation 20:11 - 15 and **John 5:28, 29** - both good and bad will be resurrected. If this resurrection is salvation, then all will be saved, since all are to be raised.

Matthew 25 - these parables teach emphatically that many will be lost.

Matthew 7:13, 14 - many will enter into destruction.

5. That living people may be baptized for those who are already dead.

The Bible Says:

Salvation is based on one's belief, repentance, confession of Christ as our Lord, after we have heard the truth.

Romans 10:17; 10: 13, 14; Mark 16:15, 16; Acts 2:37, 38; Luke 13:3, 5; Acts 8:26 - 40

Revelation 20:12, 13; II Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:12 - each of us must account for and be rewarded or punished for the things we have done, not what someone else has done for us.

6. That we must obey the command of polygamy or else be damned.

The Bible Says:

Genesis 2:18ff - a man is to cleave to his wife (singular).

Ephesians 5:23ff - a man should have one wife, just as Christ has one Church. (Note that each time the singular husband is used, the singular wife is used.)

I Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6 - elders and deacons are to be the husband of one wife.

I Corinthians 7:2 - each man is to have his own wife (singular) and each woman is to have her own husband (singular).

Genesis 4:19ff - Polygamy began with Lamech, a murderer.

THE MORMON CHURCH TEACHES

In 1820 God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ appeared to the prophet Joseph Smith.

Jesus Christ told Joseph Smith to join none of the churches.

The Book of Mormon is the word of God.

Peter, James and John restored the Priesthood to the prophet Joseph Smith.

Like the original Church, the restored church is directed by twelve apostles and a living prophet.

Mankind today can receive the full blessing of the kingdom.

Through reading the Joseph Smith pamphlet, reading and pondering the Book of Mormon, and praying sincerely, a person can know the truthfulness of the Gospel.

God and Jesus Christ as separate individuals, with glorified and perfected bodies of flesh and bones, restored the truth to the prophet Joseph Smith.

The Loss and Falling Away

The "loss and falling away" from the Church that Christ organized was foretold.

Amos: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord."—Amos 8:11

Paul: ". . . for that day (Christ's return) shall not come, except there come a falling away first. . ." —II Thess. 2:3

These prophecies were fulfilled on the following approximate dates.

Living Apostles

None known after 110 A.D.

Living Christian Prophets

Unknown after 1st Century

The Seventy

Unknown after 1st Century

Belief in a Personal God

Doctrine changed by 320 A.D.

Belief in Divinity of Christ

Doctrine changed by 200 A.D.

Called of God "as was Aaron"

Unknown after 1st Century

A Lay Clergy

Changed by the 4th Century

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Unknown after Constantine

Members Called Saints

Discontinued after 250 A.D.

Continuous Revelation

Stopped after 1st Century

Additional Scripture

Unknown after 1st Century

Baptism by Immersion

Sprinkling began 2nd Century

Belief in Physical Resurrection

Rejection began 1st Century

Sacrament of Lord's Supper

Changed after Constantine

Gospel Preached to the Dead

Lost after New Testament Times

Baptism for the Dead

Unknown after 3rd Century

The Church Restored

The Church that Christ organized has been restored as was prophesied.

Isaiah: "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people. . ."—Isaiah 11:11

John the Revelator: "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth . . ."—Rev. 14:6

Jesus: "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things." —Matt. 17:11

Following are the specific years when all of the organizations and ordinances of the Church of Jesus Christ were restored in their perfection in fulfillment of these prophecies.

Living Apostles	Restored 1829
Living Christian Prophets	Restored 1830
The Seventy	Restored 1835
Belief in a Personal God	Restored 1820
Belief in Divinity of Christ	Restored 1820
Called of God "as was Aaron"	Restored 1829
A Lay Clergy	Restored 1829
Gifts of the Holy Spirit	Restored 1830
Members called Saints	Restored 1830
Continuous Revelation	Restored 1820
Additional Scripture	Restored 1823
Baptism by Immersion	Restored 1829
Belief in Physical Resurrection	Restored 1830
Sacrament of Lord's Supper	Restored 1830
Gospel Preached to the Dead	Restored 1840
Baptism for the Dead	Restored 1840

**THE ARTICLES OF FAITH OF THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**

1. We believe in God,
the Eternal Father, and in His Son,
Jesus Christ,
and in the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that men
will be punished for their own sins,
and not for Adam's transgression.

3. We believe that through
the Atonement of Christ, all mankind
may be saved, by obedience
to the laws and ordinances
of the Gospel.

4. We believe that
the first principles and ordinances
of the Gospel are:
first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ;
second, Repentance;
third, Baptism by immersion for
the remission of sins;
fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift
of the Holy Ghost.

5. We believe that a man
must be called of God, by prophecy,
and by the laying on of hands,
by those who are
in authority to preach the Gospel and
administer in the ordinances thereof.

6. We believe in
the same organization that existed
in the Primitive Church, viz.,
apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers,
evangelists, etc.

7. We believe in the gift
of tongues, prophecy, revelation,
visions, healing,
interpretation of tongues, etc.

8. We believe the Bible
to be the word of God as far as it is
translated correctly;
we also believe the Book of Mormon
to be the word of God.

9. We believe all that
God has revealed, all that he does
now reveal, and we believe
that He will yet reveal many great
and important things
pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

10. We believe in
the literal gathering of Israel and
in the restoration of the Ten Tribes;
that Zion will be built
upon this [the American] continent;
that Christ will reign
personally upon the earth; and,
that the earth will be renewed
and receive its paradisiacal glory.

11. We claim the privilege
of worshiping Almighty God
according to the dictates of our own
conscience, and allow
all men the same privilege,
let them worship how, where,
or what they may.

12. We believe in
being subject to kings, presidents,
rulers, and magistrates,
in obeying, honoring, and sustaining
the law.

13. We believe in being
honest, true, chaste, benevolent,
virtuous, and in doing good to
all men; indeed, we may say that
we follow the admonition of Paul—
We believe all things,
we hope all things, we have endured
many things, and hope
to be able to endure all things.
If there is anything virtuous,
lovely, or of good report or praise-
worthy, we seek after these things.

Joseph Smith

Lesson #25
"THE NEW COVENANT CHURCH"

THE ORDER OF FAITH AND PRACTICE

The New Covenant Christian Center is a local expression of the Body of Christ. The Church is committed to the Holy Bible as its final authority for faith and practice. It is our purpose to be involved in the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world through all available means (religious, educational, charitable, etc.). All activities shall be conducted in such a manner that the Lord Jesus Christ will be recognized in His position as Head of the Church.

Delegated authority under the Lord Jesus Christ rests in the responsible oversight of the Pastors and Elders of the Church. The Senior Pastor holds the responsibility of seeing that the admonitions of Philippians 2:1-11 are respected among the leaders and members to insure that the Mind of Christ is reflected in all meetings and activities.

MEMBERSHIP

Persons seeking membership in this Church shall be willing to meet the following conditions:

1. Submit a completed application for membership.
2. Carefully read the Order of Faith and Practice and state that he finds them to be an acceptable expression of his own faith and that they do not violate his conscience or will as to his faith and practice as a Christian.
3. Have an interview with a Pastor, Elder or another member recommended by one of the pastors. During the interview he shall show evidence by testimony that he is a born-again believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. Ask for and receive water baptism if he has not been baptized as a believer.
5. State his desire to have his membership transferred from his former church to the New Covenant Christian Center if he is a member of another church, assuring the interviewing Pastor or Elder that he is not leaving his former church because of unresolved conflicts between him and any member of that church.
6. Express a desire to become an active part of a Home Church where he can come into fellowship with other believers in the area. Acknowledge that he will respect the leadership of the Home Church Pastor.

7. Demonstrate a willingness to show respect to all the delegated authority of the church -- Pastors, Elders, Home Church Pastors and Deacons.
8. Accept a 30-day waiting period after application for membership before being presented to the Body of Believers during a Sunday worship service.
9. Be willing to assume a normal amount of responsibility to work in the ministry of the Church in accordance with the gifts and callings of God.
10. Support the work of the ministry at New Covenant Christian Center with the tithe and offering.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Note: The word, "catholic" in the Apostle's Creed means "universal" as opposed to the name "Roman Catholic Church" which designates a particular denomination. We therefore understand the word "catholic" to refer to all believers everywhere who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus and are a part of His Body.)

STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. THE HOLY BIBLE

We believe in the verbal inspiration of the Holy Bible, both the Old and New Testaments (II Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12; I Peter 1:23-25; II Peter 1:19-21).

2. GOD

We believe in one God revealed in three Persons; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16, 17; 23-29; John 17).

3. MAN

We believe that man, in his natural state, is a sinner, lost, undone, without hope, and without God (Romans 3:19-23; Galatians 3:22; Ephesians 2:1,2,12).

4. DIVINITY AND HUMANITY OF CHRIST JESUS

We believe that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is God come in

the flesh and that He is both divine and human (Luke 1:26-38; John 14:1-3; Acts 2:36; 3:14,15; Philippians 2:5-12; Hebrews 1:3-15).

5. BLOOD ATONEMENT

We believe in the saving power of the Blood of Jesus Christ and His imputed righteousness to all who believe on Him with faith (Acts 4:12; Romans 4:1-9; 5:1-11; Ephesians 1:3-15).

6. BODILY RESURRECTION

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ (Luke 24:39-42; John 20:24-29).

7. ASCENSION

We believe that Jesus Christ ascended to the Father and is presently seated at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us (John 14:1-6; Romans 8:34).

8. SECOND COMING

We believe in the visible, bodily return of Jesus Christ to this earth to gather His Church (Bride) and judge the world (Acts 1:10,11; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; James 5:8; Revelation 1:7). (Note: It is not necessary that we all believe alike concerning whether He is coming before, during or after the Great Tribulation.)

9. SALVATION

We believe that the terms of salvation are repentance toward God for sin, and a personal, heartfelt faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, which results in regeneration of the person. This salvation is entirely by grace of our Lord and not of works. Works are excluded except as fruit of salvation (Acts 3:19,20; Romans 4:1-5; 5:1; Ephesians 2:8-10).

10. LOCAL CHURCH

We believe that the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a Local Expression of a Body of Believers who have been baptized in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; who are under recognized, delegated authorities; and who assemble to worship, carry forth the Great Commission and minister as the Holy Spirit leads (Matthew 16:18; 28:19-20; Acts 2:40-47; 20:28; Ephesians 5:22-32; I Timothy 3:15).

11. ORDINANCES

We believe that the two ordinances of the Church are water baptism and communion (The Lord's Supper) (Matthew 3:15,16; 28:19,20; Acts 8:38; Romans 6:1-4; Luke 22:13-20).

12. SEPARATED LIFE

We believe that believers should seek, as the early disciples did, to practice the separated life from the world and unto Jesus Christ and to set standards of conduct which shall exalt our Lord and His Church (Romans 12:1-3; II Corinthians 6:17; Galatians 6:14; Ephesians 5:11; Col. 3:17).

13. HEAVEN AND HELL

We believe the Holy Scriptures clearly set forth the doctrines of eternal punishment for the lost and eternal bliss and salvation for the saved -- Hell for the unsaved and Heaven for the saved (Matthew 25:34,41,46; Luke 16:19-31; John 14:1-3; Revelation 20:11-15).

14. HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity whose purpose in the redemption of man is to convict him of sin, regenerate the repentant believer, guide the believer into understanding the Holy Scriptures, indwell and give gifts to believers as He wills, that they may minister as Christ would to men. We believe that the manifestations of the Holy Spirit, recorded in I Corinthians 12:8-11, shall operate in the churches today which yield to the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe a believer can be baptized in the Holy Spirit during the time Jesus is regenerating him, or any time subsequent to his regeneration (new birth) experience.

We believe that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, is for all believers as promised by John the Baptist, was witnessed by the early disciples of Christ, and is evidenced in the lives of many present day believers in the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 11:13; John 7:37-39; 14:16,17; Acts 2:39-48; Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:4,5,8; Acts 10:44-47; 19:1-6).

15. DIVINE HEALING

We believe that God does use doctors, medicines and other material means for healing. However, we believe that divine healing has been provided for us in the Atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ. Divine healing may be received through the laying on of hands by Elders, laying on of hands by believers, by the prayer of an anointed person gifted for healing the sick, by the anointing with oil and the prayer of faith, or by a direct act of faith where the believer receives healing from the Lord Jesus Christ without ministry from anyone else (Isaiah 53:5; James 5:14-16; Mark 16:18; I Corinthians 12:9; Mark 11:23).

16. PRIESTHOOD OF BELIEVERS

We believe that each believer is a priest of the Lord Jesus Christ and has direct access to the Father through the Lord Jesus. Each person must believe for himself, be baptized for himself, obey for himself and answer to his Creator for himself (Revelation 1:6; I Peter 2:9).

17. GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH

We believe that the New Testament Church should be apostolic in nature and governed by delegated authorities. Those authorities at the New Covenant Christian Center are the Pastors and Elders. When it is deemed best for the life

of the church and testimony of the Lord, the Pastors and Elders may discipline, in the spirit of love, any member who departs from the Statements of Faith of this Body of Believers.

18. TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We believe that God's plan of finance for His work is by tithes and offerings and that it is a joy for His children to acknowledge His Lordship in this manner (Malachi 3:6-12; Genesis 14:17-20; Hebrews 7:1-10; Matthew 23:23; II Corinthians 8 and 9; Acts 20:35).

COVENANT WITH OUR LORD AND ONE ANOTHER

Having been led by the Spirit of God to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord by faith, and having publicly confessed Him by baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we freely and joyfully recognize the covenant our Heavenly Father has established for us with Himself through the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves, by the grace of God working in us, to walk together according to the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ (I John 1:3).

We commit ourselves to maintain family and private worship, to rear our children in the nurture and Spirit of the Lord, to seek the salvation of all members of our own families and of our acquaintances, and to strive for maturity in ourselves and in our fellow Christians.

We commit ourselves to follow Christian principles of morality in our daily living; to be ethical in our dealings and faithful in our commitments; to promote the unity of fellowship by proper attitudes and careful speech; and to be zealous in our efforts toward the advancement of the Kingdom of God here and throughout the world.

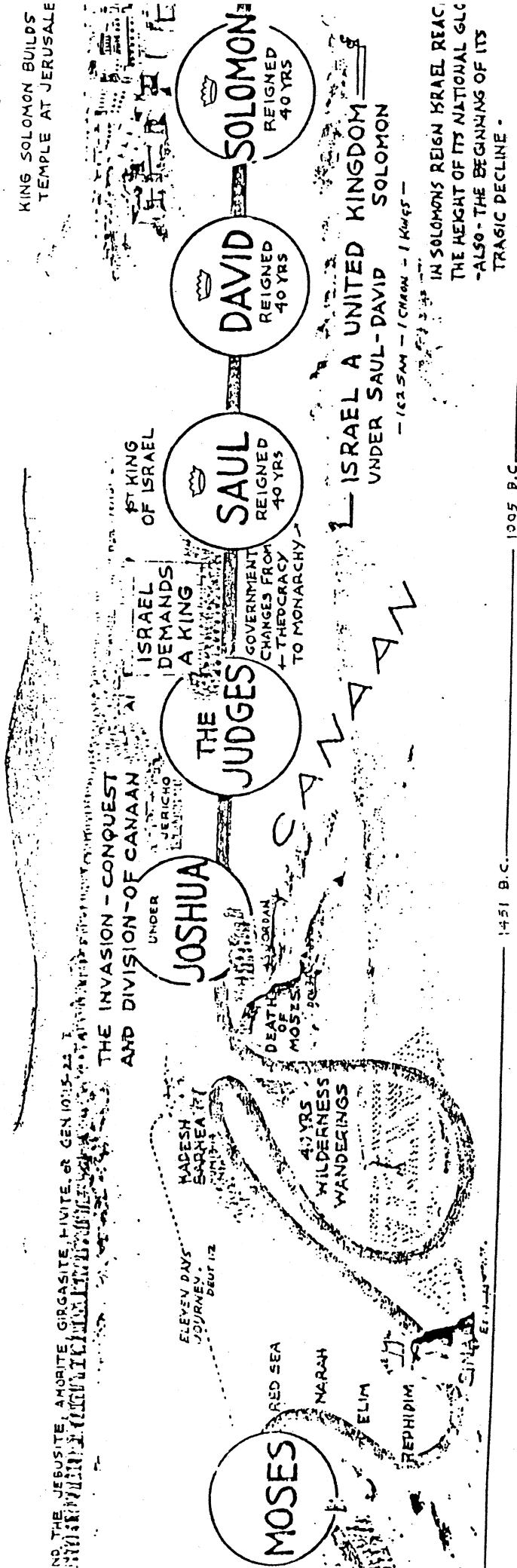
We commit ourselves to respect the leadership of the Pastors, Elders, Deacons and Home Church Pastors and to encourage them in their efforts to give spiritual oversight and guidance.

We commit ourselves to come under the oversight of a Home Church and to be as faithful as possible in attendance, so that we may have fellowship and oversight in our Christian growth. We will seek to know our Pastors, Elders, and Home Church Pastor, respecting and supporting them in every way possible.

The men set in delegated authority in this church commit themselves to uphold the principles found in Titus 1:5-9 and I Timothy 3:1-7 and to show love, care and respect to all the members of this Body.

FIFTH DISPENSATION - (LEGAL)

LAW



RED SEA • SINAI • WILDERNESS JOURNEY • DEATH OF MOSES • CONQUEST OF CANAAN • THEOCRACY TO MONARCHY

EXODUS LEVITICUS NUMBERS DEUTERONOMY JOSHUA JUDGES 1 AND 2 SAMUEL 1 AND 2 KINGS

Lesson #26

"GO YE

Genesis 1:1	-	The beginning
Genesis 1:26, 27	-	All good
Genesis 1:31	-	All is very good
Genesis 2:16, 17	-	God gave man one law
Genesis 3	-	We read of the fall of man
Isaiah 59:1, 2	-	
Romans 5:12	-	Because of sin death came to all men
Romans 3:23	-	All sin
I John 1:10	-	

Genesis 2:7

Ecclesiastes 12:7; 14

Hebrews 9:27 - The judgment is a time of sentencing. The die is already cast in death as to where we will be in eternity. The murderer knows that he is guilty when the verdict is pronounced, but he is there to be sentenced.

II Corinthians 5:10 - Who will be there?

Romans 14:11

Revelation 20:11 - 15

Matthew 25:41

Revelation 20:10

Revelation 14:11

But thanks be to God that He did not leave man in a hopeless state. After man first sinned, God knew that man would need a Savior. He began immediately to unveil His plan.

Genesis 3:15

Isaiah 53:4 - 6

John 3:16

Since all men are sinners, all men need a Savior. God's plan is this, **Matthew 28:18 - 20.**

There is no alternate plan, no debate, no question about it. Jesus simply said, "Go Ye!"

Since the days of the Ethiopian eunuch who asked Philip, "**How can I, except some man should guide me?**", people have been seeking personal assistance in understanding God's Word.

"What does this scripture mean?"

"Why do you believe the Bible to be the Word of God?"

"What is the difference between the Old and New Testament?"

Thousands of similar questions have been asked and are being asked by thousands of sincere people each and every day.

God's plan for these people is for you and me to GO AND TEACH.

HOW DO I FEEL ABOUT PERSONAL EVANGELISM?

1. How many people in this church did I help lead to Christ? _____
2. How many people do I NOW have my heart set on to win to Christ?

3. To what extent have I gone to try to win these people? _____
4. Approximately how many hours (or minutes) per week do I average talking to people about the Lord? _____
5. Have I tried to teach a lost soul TODAY? _____
6. How many times have I felt it WAS NOT MY PLACE to help convert lost souls? In other words, how many times have I tried to shift responsibility?

7. How often do I pray for certain individuals to obey the Lord, or be restored to faithful Christian duty? _____
8. If each Christian would win as many souls to Christ during one year as I have, how many additions would a church the size of this one have?

9. Do I ever pray FERVENTLY that I might become a better soul winner?

10. Do I SINCERELY TRY to help that prayer be answered? _____
11. Am I generally embarrassed to converse with people about Christ?

12. Do I know enough Scripture to help one become a Christian? _____
13. Do I honestly feel that I am my brother's keeper, and that his salvation may depend LARGELY upon me? _____
14. Have I offered the excuse, "I DON'T KNOW HOW," for not doing personal work? _____
15. Do I think I can ever really learn how until I try? _____
16. When do I plan to begin? _____
17. Has it ever occurred to me that many will die and go to God unprepared while I'm wasting time thinking I don't know how? _____
18. Do I feel a person HAS TO BE PAID for this kind of work? _____
19. Am I interested enough in heaven, and does it mean enough to me that I earnestly desire others to go with me? _____
20. Does a checkup like this help me to do better? _____

Lesson #27
"STOP MAKING EXCUSES"

Genesis 3:12; Exodus 32:1

We can see by these verses that excuse making has been around for a long time.

Luke 14:16 - 24

There is a vast difference between an excuse and a reason.

EXCUSE: is to make apology for, or an attempt to remove blame.

If I am making an excuse for my action, I realize that I am worthy of blame or guilt and I make an apology in an attempt to get rid of the guilt.

REASON: is justification for an act.

So many times we offer excuses to God when, from our viewpoint, we may consider them a reason. We must be honest with ourselves and honest with God to distinguish between the two.

THE FIRST PART OF OUR LESSON WE WILL DIRECT OUR ATTENTION TO THE CHRISTIAN, AND THE SECOND PART TO THE NON-CHRISTIAN.

A. SOME EXCUSES FOR NOT DOING PERSONAL WORK.

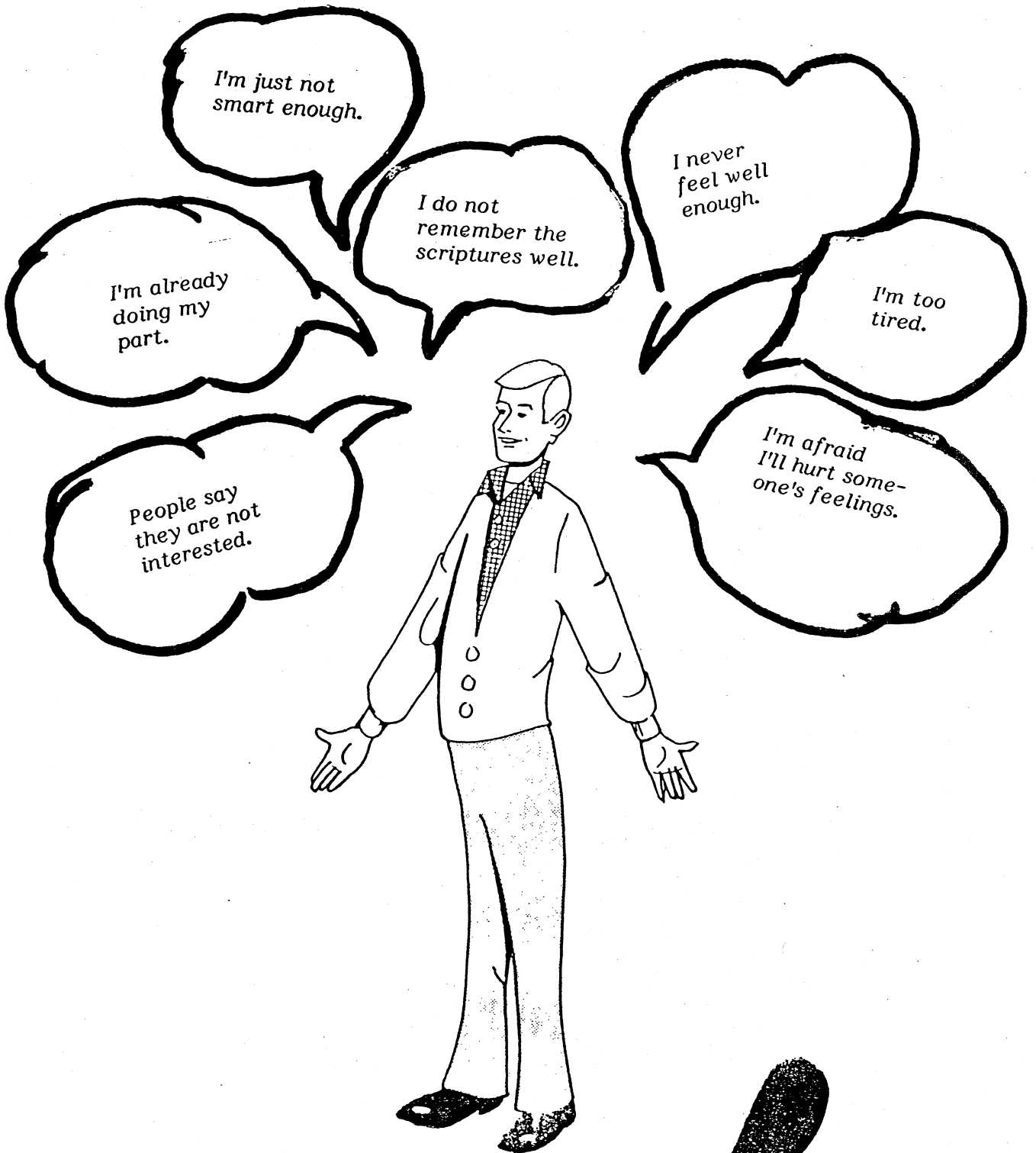
1. I don't know enough to teach others.
2. I give enough to hire my teaching to be done.
3. I just do not have enough time.
4. I don't have enough education.
5. I am just not physically able to teach.
6. I am just too old.
7. I'm afraid I'll hurt someone's feelings.
8. I'm already doing my part.
9. I don't know how to begin.
10. _____

SOME EXCUSES THAT NON-CHRISTIANS OFFER FOR NOT WANTING TO STUDY THE BIBLE.

1. You people offer just another way.
2. I don't have the time.
3. You people are too narrow-minded.
4. I've already got a church.
5. I try and keep the Ten Commandments.
6. I believe in God already.
7. I work all week long. Sunday is the only day I have free.
8. I would study, but I was baptized when I was a baby.
9. I would study, but I'm as good as church members.
10. I'm too mean to make a change.

LET'S STOP MAKING EXCUSES AND "GO YE"!!!

STOP MAKING EXCUSES!



GO YE



Lesson #28
"HOW TO GET STARTED"

It is a fact that before we can get started and teach our first Bible Class, we will need to find people that are willing to be taught. In order to do that, we must learn how to arouse interest. There are three steps essential in selling and also doing personal work.

1. WE MUST LEARN HOW TO APPROACH PEOPLE.

The first few words we speak often determine whether or not that person hears the Gospel or not. Therefore, a soul hangs in the balance of heaven or hell.

Some are ready to listen to the Bible and we can start teaching them, others are not ready and time must be spent in preparing them to hear.

- a. Be genuinely interested in their interest.
- b. Help people in time of need.
- c. John 13:34, 35

2. WE MUST LEARN HOW TO TEACH THEM.

We must know our product and, in order to be successful, we must believe that person needs it for eternal salvation. We must believe that a man and woman who have not obeyed the Gospel are lost, that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, and that you are God's vessels through which the Gospel is to be carried.

If we have a desire to be a soul winner, we will also have a desire to learn how to handle the Word of God. We all have learned to do those things that we really want to do.

3. WE MUST LEARN HOW TO LEAD THEM TO ACTION.

Note: We do not force them to obey the Gospel. It must be done from the heart. There must be a conversion of the mind and soul.

One of the best ways to start is to get the person alone. There are times when you would study with a family, this, too, is good; but to study in a group with different questions and views being expressed, is most difficult.

In order for the teaching to be done most effectively and with the best results, preparation is a must, as well as good common sense and sound judgment. Think about the surgeon that may hold a man's heart in his hand. You hold a man's soul - handle it carefully.

THE VERY FIRST THING YOU MUST DO TO GET STARTED IN DOING PERSONAL EVANGELISM IS PREPARE YOURSELF.....

EXPLANATION OF THE SALVATION HIGHWAY FLOW CHART

Here is how to begin dialogue with a lost friend. Here is how to "prepare the soil" to present the Gospel. Here is how to change the subject from sewing to salvation, from football to what God says one must do to become a Christian. Do you want to know how?

- Then, ask this first question: _____ ↑
- He will give you one of these three usual answers: _____ ↑
- If he says, "No", ask him, "Does it bother you?" _____ ↑
- If he says, "No", again, tell him you are ready to talk about it whenever he is ready, and leave him as a friend. _____ ↑
- If he says, "When I think about it," ask him, "Well, can we think about it? Can we talk about it?" _____ ↑
- If he says, "No," he may simply not be ready yet; so again, leave him as a friend. _____ ↑
- If he says, "Yes," to any of these questions, or if he gives a positive, "I hope so" or "I think so," your next immediate question is: _____ ↑
- "ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?" _____ ↑
- In this simple interview, you want first to hear his own story. _____ ↑
- If he answers, "No" to the last question, ask him if he was ever a Christian. Many think they once were, but because they went back into sin, they are no longer Christians. What you want to learn is how he believes he became a Christian the first time: _____ ↑
- If he again answers, "No," progress as the flow chart shows: _____ ↑
- If he believes he "is" or ever "was" a Christian, you will want to learn the details of his story. Interview him with these questions (far side of the chart): "How old were you?" "Where was it?", etc. Pinpoint the exact moment he believes he was saved, redeemed, or "came to have eternal life." Do not move forward until you learn that exact moment! _____ ↑
- Then, after you hear his story, he is more open to hear yours! _____ ↑
- THEN, TEACH HIM THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST! _____ ↑

Salvation Highway

Flow Chart



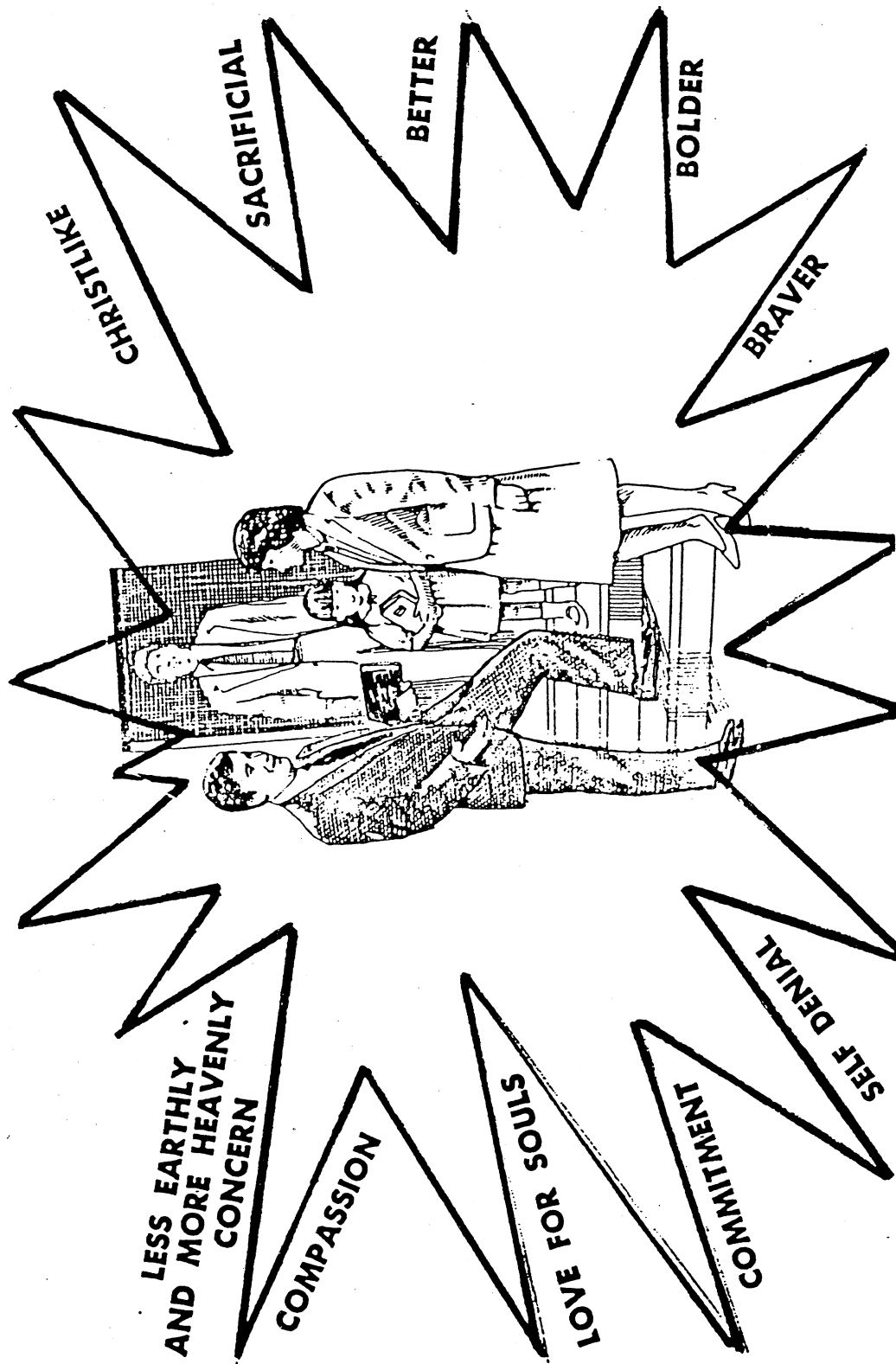
MINISTRIES

1 Question: What if the Lord were to come right now; would you know for sure, nothing doubting, you would go to heaven?		"No!"	"Yes!"	"I Don't Know!" "I Think So!" "I Hope So!"
Does It Bother You?				
"No!"	"When I think about it!"	"Yes!"		
Remember I asked and want to talk about it!	Can we think (talk) about it?			
"No!"	Remember I asked and want to talk about it!	"Yes!"		
2 Question: Are you a Christian?		"No!"	"Yes!"	"I Don't Know!" "I Think So!" "I Hope So!"
Were you ever a Christian?				
"No!"	"Yes!"			
Do you love God?				
"No!"	"Yes!"			
Remember I asked and want to talk about it!	Wonderful!			
3 Question: May I share with you how I was saved? (Move to gospel presentation)		I was not saved that way!		

- 1) How old were you?
- 2) Where was it?
- 3) Was it Sunday or during a revival? Was it at home?
- 4) What night was it?
- 5) Did you respond at an invitation?
- 6) Did the preacher pray?
- 7) Did he say _____? (Use familiar denominational terms.)
- 8) Then you are telling me you were saved in the prayer, right? (Yes)
- 9) When did you join that church?
- 10) Oh, were you saved on Tuesday night and were baptized into that church on Sunday morning, right? (Yes)

ATTITUDES THAT MAKE SOUL-WINNERS

John 13:34, 35



Lesson #29

"TIPS ON HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE PERSONAL WORKER"

I. THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- A. Be natural.
- B. Know your product.
- C. Are you sold?
- D. Make your mission clear.
- E. Stand in his shoes.
- F. Meet the immediate need.
- G. Sell the first lesson.
- H. Make it easy to say "Yes." ("No" means: "I'm not sold. Tell me more.")
- I. Save something to use after each close.
- J. Try to arrange definite time and place.
- K. Try to keep class small.
- L. Meet regularly.
- M. Don't be disorganized.
- N. Make a personal visit when possible rather than a phone call.

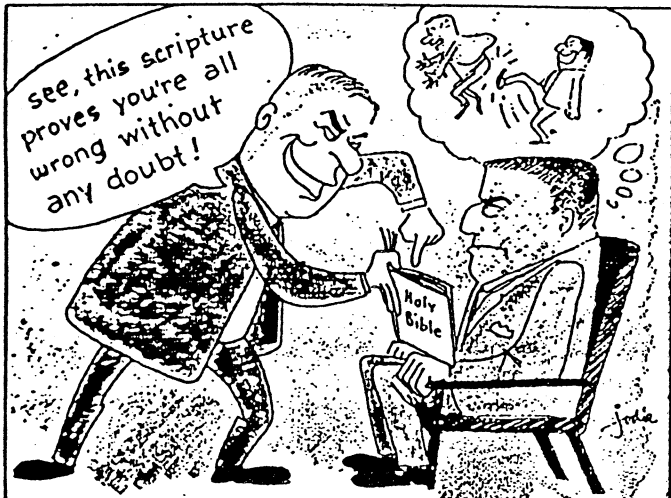
II. POSSIBLE APPROACHES:

- A. Non-denominational, Restoration Movement approach
 1. Use key word: Unity
 2. Facts about the church:
 - a. Non-denominational
 - b. Neither Catholic, Protestant, nor Jew

III. SOME FUNDAMENTALS OF TEACHING HOME CLASSES:

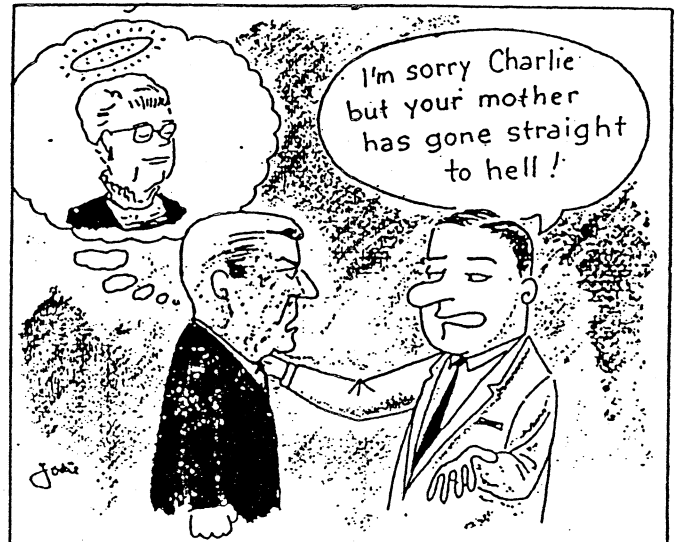
1. The place of study is important.
 - a. Home
 - b. Church building
 - c. Prospect's home
2. Area in the home depends upon the type of study.
 - a. Charts on kitchen table.
3. Do not plunge into the study with your very first remarks.
4. Do not be afraid to say, "I don't know."
5. Do not apologize for the truth.
6. Do not become angry or lose self-control.
7. Do not talk over the prospect's head.
8. Do not make it easy for the prospect to say "No."
9. Review often and stress the basic principles already presented.
10. Be consistent.
11. Do not be resentful; try to understand why he thinks as he does.
12. Attempt to learn from the prospect.
13. Leave the door open so that you might come back again.
14. Know as much as possible about the person to whom you are talking.
15. Do not begin any lesson with differences. Seek a common ground to begin on.
16. Take people where you find them and work from there.
17. Do not confuse by quoting scripture. Read together your references from the Bible.
18. Lead them along the path you want to pursue; don't let them lead you.

19. At no time argue with them.
20. Maintain a well-balanced personality.
21. Make sure the other person is at ease and comfortable.
22. When questions are asked that will be answered in later lessons, point out that it will be easier to understand the answer then because it will fit in with the lesson.
23. If possible, make your answers short and concrete.
24. If a question in the realm of opinion comes up that you would rather not answer, point out that it would only be an opinion, and one person's opinion is as good as another's. Then go on with your study. You might ask them how they feel about it.
25. If possible, it is best for all to use the same type Bibles where the pages are numbered the same.



NO.1 DON'T "pin their ears back" proving them wrong—but correct them with gentleness... in love.

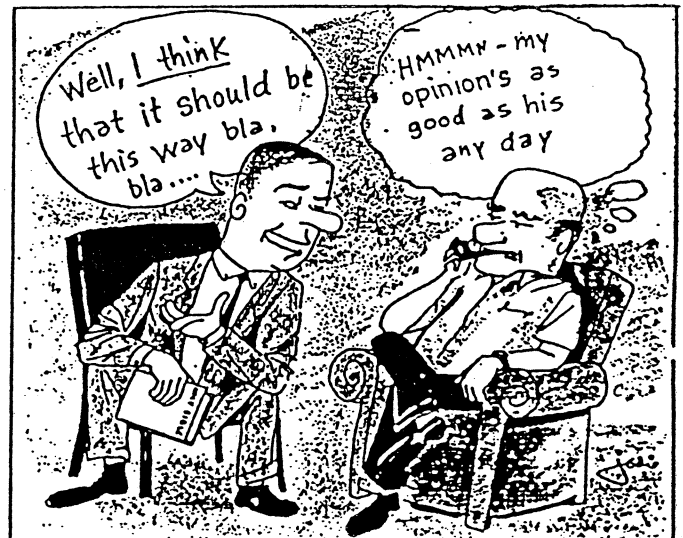
11 TIM. 2:24, 25 "And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kindly to every one, an apt teacher, forbearing, correcting his opponents with gentleness"



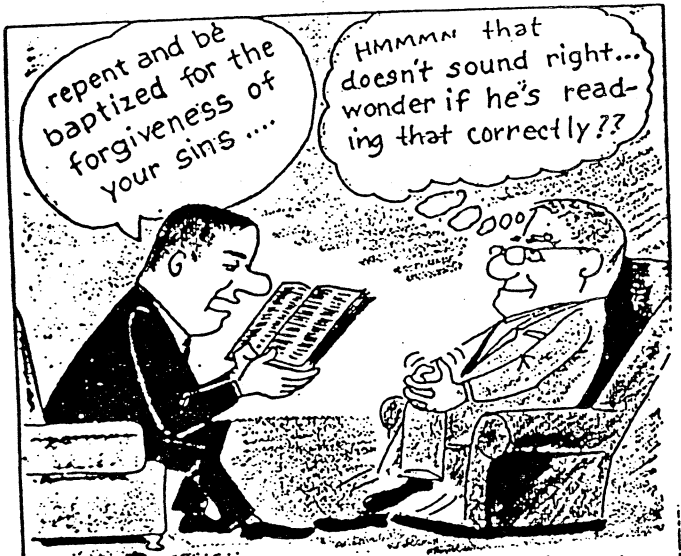
NO.2 DON'T judge or condemn—"There is one that seeketh and judgeth" John 8:50 Not only do you violate God's word when you so act but it quickly closes the door to teaching.



NO.3 DON'T attempt to teach at inopportune times. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to keep silence, and a time to speak." Ecclesiastes 3:1, 7



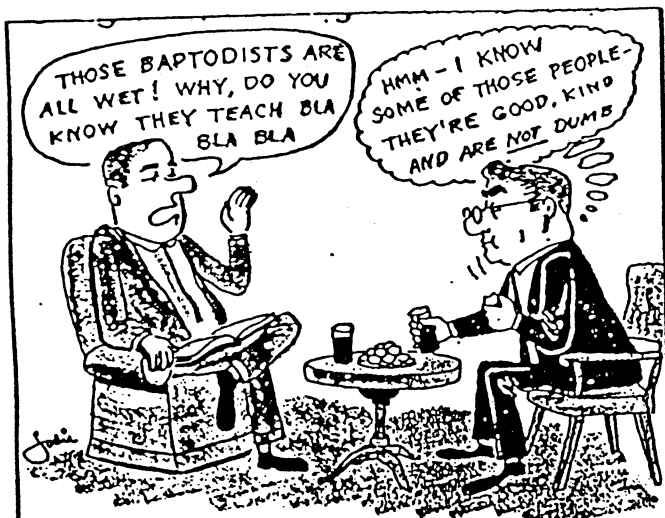
NO.4 DON'T express personal opinions. It does not matter what you or I think... but only what the Lord says, for his word is truth (John 17:17) and all authority is his. (Matt: 28:18)



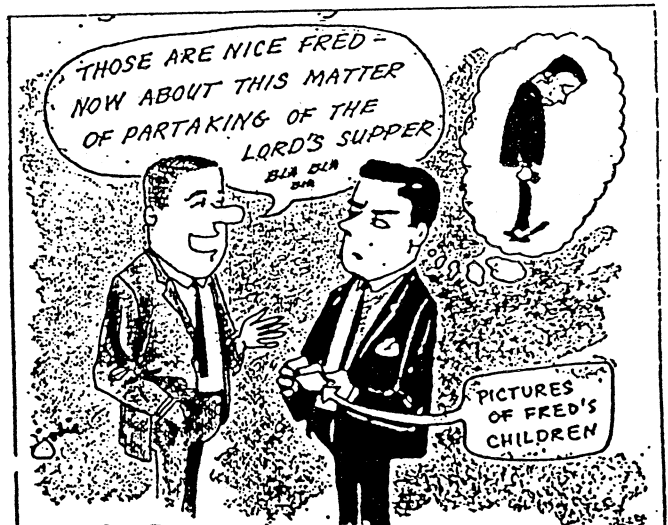
NO. 5 DON'T do all the reading. Given the opportunity, the student sees and understands for himself and is therefore more inclined to accept the truth.



NO. 6 DON'T overstay your welcome. Be considerate of your friends' time and plans. Be quick to leave when obviously interrupting.



NO. 7 DON'T run down other religions. You can never build anything up by "knocking" something else. Present the gospel (the truth) in its power and simplicity and it will take care of error.



NO. 8 DON'T be a religious fanatic. Develop interest in other things. Remember, most people like someone who shows interest in their children, hobbies etc. There will be ample opportunity to teach them as their confidence and trust in you grows.

Lesson #30 31, 32, 33
"PERSONAL WORK TOOLS"

Many times in doing personal work the teacher becomes despondent, loses interest and, eventually, stops teaching because his prospects are not responding to the Gospel. He fails to stop and analyze the source of the problem. His lack of communication may be caused by his inability to present clearly how and why the prospect must become a New Testament Christian.

Many materials and aids have been prepared by our brethren to help make the personal worker more effective.

Eventually, each teacher and personal worker will develop his or her own individual method of teaching a lesson or leading in a Bible study. Each personal worker must prepare himself for the study, and choose which study method he will use.

1. I prefer an Open Bible Study, and I do mean an open Bible. Quoting from the Bible is not an Open Bible Study.
 - a. Many scriptures to begin with, using your own method.
 - b. Keyed Bible
 - c. Small reference chart can be of a great help.
 - d. Large teaching charts, supported by the open Bible.
2. Filmstrips (Jule Miller)
3. Tracts with different subjects
4. Charts
5. Bible Fundamentals I
6. Books - (Introducing the Church of Christ, Why I Am A Member of the Church of Christ)

RECOMMENDED BOOKS TO HELP WITH PERSONAL EVANGELISM

1. You Can Do Personal Work - Gatewood
2. Let's Go Fishing For Men - Hailey
3. From House To House - Stewart
4. Glory of the Ordinary - Exum
5. Introduction To Soul Winning - Pepper

Never will any two of your personal studies be alike. Over the years your methods and tools will change to your personal liking.

Materials and Aids That I Use In Day-By-Day Evangelism

A POCKET
BIBLE
READY
REFERENCE
FOR
PERSONAL WORKERS

- APPOINTMENTS
- ATTENDANCE
- BAPTISM
- BIBLE
- CHRISTIAN, TO BE A
- CHRISTIAN LIVING
- CHURCH
- CONVERSION
- DIVORCE
- HEAVEN
- HELL

LET THE
BIBLE
Speak

out Salvation

THE ACTS 2
abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language...

THE ACTS 3
all men, as every man had heard (they) continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart...

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH
Where Jerusalem
1st. 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

ORGANIZATION
NAME: _____
DATE: _____
ADDRESS: _____

MEMBERSHIP
NAME: _____
DATE: _____
ADDRESS: _____

DOCTRINE
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of Jesus Christ His only begotten Son, who was begotten of the Father before all ages, and came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary, and was crucified for us, and buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father, and shall come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together worshiped and glorified, who speaketh by the prophets. I believe in one baptism for the remission of sins, and in the resurrection of the dead, and in the life of the world to come. Amen.

FORREST PARK
CHURCH OF CHRIST
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

OPEN
BLE STUDY

BIBLE FOR
39

God's Redemption

LESSON NO. 1

van Stewart, 1975
its reserved.

AM PM

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Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046
U.S.A.

1 "WHY DOESN'T THE CHURCH OF CHRIST USE INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC IN WORSHIP?"

By: Chester Hunnicutt

WALKING BY FAITH. "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (II Corinthians 5:7). Christianity is a religion of faith. All acceptable service to God depends upon a proper understanding and appreciation of this vital principle. If we had the proper appreciation of the Word of God, we would never have to preach against such subjects as instrumental music in worship.

Many skeptics attempt to discredit the Bible because its religion is purely of faith. When a person disregards the Bible by adding innovations he is walking by opinion and puts himself in the class with the skeptic. Worship must be of faith to please God.

1. Faith Defined In Distinction To Opinion. Read **Romans 10:17**. This settles how faith comes; it comes by hearing the Word of God. Where there is no Word of God there is no faith. This is not an opinion of man; it is the teaching of God.

Since we are to "walk by faith," and "without faith it is impossible to please God," (**Hebrews 11:6**), it follows that in any matter in which we are not directed by the Word of God, we are neither walking by faith or pleasing to God.

2. What Is It To Walk By Opinion? In **John 3:1-5** we learn that Nicodemus came to Jesus by night. Why he came by night is not revealed, therefore, it is in the realm of opinion. Opinion is what men think, not what the Bible says. In **Matthew 2:1** it is stated that wise men came to see Jesus. How many wise men? Two or three would be a matter of opinion. **Deuteronomy 29:29** says that the secret things belong to God. Why He did not see fit to include instrumental music in worship belongs to God.

VAIN WORSHIP. **Matthew 15:9** - "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Why were these Scribes and Pharisees worshipping in vain? Because they were doing, as religious service, things which God had not commanded. Even a small thing as washing hands, sinless outside of religious service, is sinful if performed as an act of worship. The playing of instruments is perfectly all right but is sinful if used in worship.

SOME APPLICATIONS OF THESE PRINCIPLES. God, through Samuel, commanded King Saul to utterly destroy the Amalekites. Saul brought back King Agag and spared the best of the sheep and cattle. He followed his own judgment and was condemned for it. The prophet told Saul, "Behold to obey is better than sacrifice and to hearken than the fat of rams."

Numbers 16 tells about Korah and Dathan taking authority that did not belong to them and they burned incense. They chose 250 principal men to side with them. The earth opened up and swallowed them.

Is it wrong to baptize infants? If so, why? Not because it is wrong to apply water to infants but because God nowhere commanded it. He did command penitent believers to be baptized. Is it wrong to play an instrument? There is nothing wrong if it is an act outside of worship. Many good people misunderstand this. They argue that since it is so attractive they cannot see any harm in it. God is not opposed to it on this ground but for some reason He chose singing instead. See **Ephesians 5:19** and **Colossians 3:16**.

10

MOST
FREQUENT
QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE
CHURCH
OF
CHRIST

**"Be ready
always to give an
answer to every
man that asketh
you a reason of
the hope that is in
you." —Peter**

It is sometimes argued from **Revelation 5:8** and **14:2** that there will be instrumental music in heaven. There will also be infant membership and "**golden bowls of incense.**" If God wants such music there, it is His right just as it is His right to leave it out of the church.

It isn't new for people to get tired of God's way and substitute their own ways. Mosheim tells us that Christian worship consisted of hymns, prayers, the reading of the scripture, a discourse to the people and the Lord's Supper. (Mosheim, Vol. 1, p. 303.) But in the 2nd and 3rd centuries the seed of general perversion of God's order was sown. (**II Thessalonians 2:7.**) Pope Vitalian is related to have first introduced organs into some of the churches of Western Europe about 670. (Amer. Ency.) But Chambers's Ency. gives the date 666. John Calvin says, "Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting of lamps and the restoration of the other shadows of the law."

OBJECTIONS CONSIDERED. There is no specific command for carpets, pews, pulpits and baptisteries and if it is not wrong to have these neither is it wrong to have instrumental music. If these were a part of the worship they would be equally wrong. It is wrong to do anything as worship to God which He does not command. The command to baptize implies a place. It can be in the river, creek, pond, bath tub, or a baptistery. Since the command is to baptize in water, it may be hot, cold, clear or muddy. But water is necessary to carry out the command. Playing an instrument is not necessary.

Let me say in conclusion that those who adopt this practice (of using the instrument in worship) are guided by the wisdom of men and not by God. They openly violate the plain and positive requirement of the Lord that His followers shall walk by faith.

2 DO YOU BELIEVE ONLY MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST ARE RIGHT OR WILL BE SAVED?

Nelson M. Smith

These are, in reality, two questions and can only be answered as such. As to being right it needs only be said that no man is right except as he follows the word of God.

As to the second, what I believe will affect no man's destiny but my own except to the extent another may follow my belief. But if the question be phrased, "Does the Bible teach that only members of the church of Christ will be saved?" that is a different thing. If all, in whose mind this question may be, will allow the New Testament to establish the concept of the church in their thinking there will be no difficulty in answering it satisfactorily.

Let us seek an answer to this question by asking more questions. Did Jesus intend to build a church? Yes. (Matt. 16:18.) Did he do it? Yes. First, he said the gates of hell would not prevail against it. (Matt. 16:18.) This certainly included the building of it as well as its perpetuity. Second, Paul speaks of it as an accomplished fact. "...which (church) he (Christ) hath (already accomplished) purchased with his own blood." (Acts 20:28.)

Of what or whom is the church composed? The saved. "The Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved." (Acts 2:47.) That is, the saved were added to the church. So the church is composed of the saved. Again, Christ purchased the church with His blood. (Acts 20:28.) Therefore the church is composed

of those bought with His blood. But we are saved by His blood. To this all agree. Again we see that the church is composed of the saved. Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mk. 16:16.) But all are baptized into one body (body is the church, Col. 1:18) according to 1 Cor. 12:13. Therefore, all the saved (they who believe and are baptized) become members of the church. Question: Whose church is this spoken of in the New Testament? If one believes the word of God the only answer is: Christ's.

Again, "...He is the savior of the body." (Eph. 5:23.) Remember, the body is the church. (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22, 23.) Whose body is this of which Christ is the savior? Can any deny that it is His body? His church? The Bible is plain in its teaching as to church membership. Our difficulty seems to be in not accepting the authority of God's word or having an unscriptural concept of the church.

In all fairness allow me to say that I do not believe that any one can be saved by being a member of a denomination, no matter what that denomination may call itself. But the Bible clearly teaches that one must be a member of the church that Jesus bought with His own precious blood. Remember, Jesus died on the cross that he might reconcile all men unto God in ONE BODY! (Eph. 2:16, the body is the church.) Can a man be saved without being reconciled to God?

3 WHEN, WHERE AND BY WHOM DID THE CHURCH OF CHRIST BEGIN?

Jimmy Dorris

Every religious organization was founded by some individual or group of individuals at some given place and at some given time. The church of the New Testament was built by Jesus Christ himself. Following Peter's confession of faith in Jesus as the Son of God, Jesus said, "And I say also unto thee that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matt. 16:18.)"

Since Jesus is the founder of the true church, this means that the true church was not founded by Abraham, Moses, John the Baptist or any other person. The very announcement of his plans indicates that he meant to build only one church. Later when thinking of all who would believe on him, Jesus prayed for their unity saying, "That they all may be one..." (John 17:21.)

When Jesus said, "I will build my church," he was not talking about any denomination, but about the undenominational kingdom of Christ, the spiritual body of Christ. This kingdom was not established during Jesus' personal ministry, but much was said about it being "at hand." Jesus taught his disciples for three years to prepare them to serve in his kingdom. Then the church or kingdom began "with power" on the Sunday or Lord's day called Pentecost, fifty days after the Sabbath when Jesus was in the tomb. In fulfill-

ment of prophecy such as Isaiah 2:2,3, we have the beginning of the New Testament church belonging to the Lord Jesus Christ. (Col. 1:18; Eph. 2:19-22.) Thus the church of our Lord came into existence in the city of Jerusalem on the first Pentecost following the resurrection, in the presence of "devout men out of every nation under heaven," under the inspired preaching of Simon Peter according to God's eternal plan. (Acts 2.)

These beginning events transpired in Jerusalem in Palestine. This city was also known as the "holy city" indicating the importance attached to it as a city. It was the capitol of the Hebrew world, the symbol of all the glory and power exhibited in the days of David and Solomon. Its main importance to the Christian however is that it was the beginning place of the church of Christ even as Isaiah foretold that "out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." Thus the first converts to Christ through the gospel were made in Jerusalem on that Sunday of Pentecost nearly 2,000 years ago. (Acts 2:47.)

From these considerations we note the answer to when, where and by whom did the church of Christ begin.

When: Sunday, the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus.

Where: The city of Jerusalem in Palestine.

By Whom: The Lord Jesus Christ.

4

"DOES THE CHURCH OF CHRIST TEACH THAT A PERSON MUST BE BAPTIZED TO BE SAVED?"

By: Darrell E. Beard

In answering this question let us point out that the church of Christ has no governing body or agent which decides the faith or practice of the church. Our plea is for man to look to the Bible, the only standard of authority, and follow its teachings in every particular.

The moot (discussion) question then is not: "What do you or I teach about baptism?" but "Does the Bible command baptism in order to salvation?"

DOES THE BIBLE COMMAND BAPTISM

In sending out His apostles with the Great Commission Jesus said, "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

In discharging their duties, the inspired teachers of the first century commanded their hearers to be baptized. Concerning Peter the scriptures say, "And he commanded them (household of Cornelius) to be baptized in the name of the Lord" (Acts 10:48.) When Ananias came to Saul of Tarsus he told him to "arise, and be baptized" (Acts 22:16). When the people of Samaria believed the preaching of Philip, they were baptized (Acts 8:12). In Philippi there was a woman named Lydia who "gave heed unto the things which were spoken by Paul. And ...she was baptized..." (Acts 16:14, 15). When the same apostle preached in Corinth "many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized" (Acts 18:8).

We can see that baptism was commanded, but is it necessary in order to obtain forgiveness of past sins?

DESIGN OR PURPOSE OF BAPTISM

A person must be baptized:

1. To have remission of his sins. "Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:38).
2. To have his sins washed away. "Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on his name" (Acts 22:16).
3. To be saved. "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth now also save us..." (I Peter 3:21).
4. To be a son of God, to be in Christ, to put on Christ. "For ye are all the sons of God, through faith, in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ" (Galatians 3:26, 27).
5. To obey in a form the doctrine of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. (Romans 6:17, 18 cf. vs. 3-6.)

Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned" (Mark 16:16). Some argue that because He did not say, "He that believeth not and is not baptized shall be condemned," baptism is non-essential. But observe that this is not necessary, for if a person doesn't believe he won't be baptized. In every case of New Testament conversion baptism stands between a man and salvation.

The Bible teaches that a person must be baptized in order to be saved.

WHERE GOD PLACES BAPTISM

Every creature (Mk. 16:16.)	believe	<u>baptized</u>	shall be saved
Jews on Pentecost (Acts 2:38, 47.)	repent	<u>baptized</u>	remission of sins added to church
Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:35-39.)	confess	<u>baptized</u>	rejoiced
Saul -Paul (Acts 22:16.) (cont'd on page 7)		<u>baptized</u>	wash away sins
Galatians (Gal. 3:26, 27.)	faith	<u>baptized</u>	put on Christ
Romans (Rom. 6:3-6.)		<u>baptized</u>	walk in new life

(Note: Peter writes that baptism does also now save us. Read 1 Peter 3:21.)

5 WHAT IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

C. W. Bradley

In response to Peter's confession, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God," our Savior expressed his purpose to build his church, "Upon this rock I will build my church." (Matt. 16:18.) A few years later, the Apostle Paul wrote a letter to the Romans, in which he said, "All the churches of Christ salute you." (Rom. 16:16.) Thus we have full assurance that the Lord fulfilled his purpose.

Since Christ is both the builder and owner of his church, then is it not logical to turn to his word for enlightenment concerning the church of Christ? Study carefully the following plain facts regarding the church that Jesus built:

1. The church of Christ is the body of Christ over which he rules. "He is the head of the body, the church." (Col. 1:18.)
2. The church of Christ is very precious in the mind of him who built it. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it." (Eph. 5:25.)
3. The church of Christ is that which Christ saves. "For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, being himself the saviour of the body." (Eph. 5:23.)
4. The church of Christ is that to which the Lord adds all the saved. "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47.)

What is the church of Christ? It is the body which Christ loves, for which he died, over which he rules, to which he adds all the saved. THE CHURCH IS THE SAVED. When a sinner had met the requirements of the Lord to have his sins forgiven, he is added to the church of Christ. Since the Lord does the adding, no mistakes are made. Salvation from sin and membership in Christ's church are brought about at the same time. The church doesn't save; the church is the saved.

The word, "church," in our English N.

T. comes from the Greek word, "Ecclesia," which means "the called out." The church is a "called out" group of people. Peter expressed this idea when he wrote, "But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:9.) The churches of Christ are those people who have been called out of darkness into God's marvelous light. God's method of calling is through the gospel, "Wherefore he called you through the gospel." (2 Thess. 2:14.) The gospel is God's power to save. (Rom. 1:16.) Christ charged his apostles, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15.) Whenever and wherever sinners hear the gospel of Christ, believe and obey it, they become a part of this "called out" group, which is the church of Christ.

From this brief study, we must conclude that the church of Christ is completely undenominational. It is composed of all the saved in all the world, and it is against the will of the Lord for these people to be divided into denominational groups. Today when much is being said about religious unity, men need to open their New Testaments and learn what the church of Christ is. When we study the book of Acts to observe the spread of the church in the first century, we cannot get the idea that Peter preached in Jerusalem, establishing a certain denomination, that Paul established a different kind in Ephesus, and that Philip started still a different one in Samaria. These congregations were of the same faith and practice.

Much of the confusion that exists today in the field of religion results from a false definition and understanding of the church. Let us forsake the doctrines of men and return to God's way of making the church. In this way we can have a New Testament church in our town today.

6

WHERE ARE THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, AND HOW CAN IT EXIST AND CARRY ON ITS WORK WITHOUT A GOVERNING BOARD, CONFERENCE OR CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS?

By: James A. Davis

AN OFT REPEATED QUESTION

When someone asks, as people often do, "Where is the headquarters of the church of Christ?" and the answer is given, "It has no earthly headquarters anywhere!" there follows in utter amazement the next question, "Well how can it exist and carry on its work without a central conference to direct its affairs?" There are so many people who simply cannot imagine any organization being able to function and grow without some central coordinating headquarters. These questions proceed from a lack of understanding that churches of Christ are not organically connected because in following the plan of organization given in the N.T. they are autonomous. This simply means that each congregation is a self-contained unit in so far as government and direction of affairs are concerned. Yet, churches of Christ are the same the world over because of their loyalty to the common tie which binds them together; they accept the N.T. as an all-sufficient guide which is authoritative in all matters concerning the church.

THE NEW TESTAMENT PATTERN OF ORGANIZATION

In **Ephesians 1:22, 23**, we learn that Christ is the supreme Head "over all things to the church, which is his body." Acting under the direct authority of Christ, (**Matthew 28:18-20**), the apostles went into the whole world and established churches, organizing them according to the commands of Christ. From **Acts 14:23** we get the approved apostolic example of ordaining elders in every church. "And when they had ordained them elders in every church..." The qualifications of these elders, and the nature of their work, is given in **I Timothy 3:1-7**; **Titus 1:1-9**. There is no other office in the church which is superior to the eldership, and Peter admonished elders in **I Peter 5:1-4** to be diligent in their work as spiritual shepherds and the younger members he admonished to be subject to them. (**I Peter 5:5**.) The qualifications of deacons are given in **I Timothy 3:8-13**. These men are to serve under the direction of the elders and to assist them in their work.

The inspired Paul recognized this pattern of organization in **Philippians 1:1** when he addressed the saints, bishops (elders), deacons of the church in Philippi. In all the N.T. there is no deviation from this divine pattern, and nowhere is there any indication that one congregation had any jurisdiction over another. In their work of restoring the New Testament church, the churches of Christ today follow this same pattern of organization and maintain complete independence of one another in government and authority. In every fully organized church of Christ the elders oversee the work of deacons, evangelists, teachers and all other Christians.

ANOTHER QUESTION

Following the above explanation there is always another question, "Does not this complete independence of one another isolate the individual churches to such an extent that their power and influence is shackled?" Actually the very opposite is true. Churches of Christ are growing rapidly throughout the world today and the centuries have proved that the N. T. pattern of organization is quite practical. It is most important to understand that in following the divine pattern there is not a lack of organization at all, but rather a very efficient and smooth working arrangement which is superior to any system of control that

men might devise. And, be it understood that complete autonomy does not prohibit full fellowship, and voluntary cooperation of churches of Christ in the all-important work of saving the lost and nurturing the saved.

N. T. examples show that the early churches shared with one another the burdens, responsibilities and glories of Christ's cause on earth. **I Corinthians 16:1-3** reveals that they cooperated in relieving the sufferings of their poor. Paul commended the Philippian church for supporting him financially while he preached in Thessalonica. **(Philippians 4:16.) Acts 11:22** shows that the Jerusalem church was vitally interested in the cause at Antioch and sent Barnabas there to strengthen and encourage the new church in that city. There are many modern day instances of mutual cooperation and fellowship based on these scriptural examples.

AUTONOMY A SACRED TRUST

The work of restoration is not finished until the autonomy of the local congregation is established and maintained. The great apostacy, begun in the first century, was consummated in a complete change in church government, and Paul warned that souls would be lost by corruption of leadership. **(Acts 20:28-31.)** This autonomy of the N. T. church is a sacred trust of every Christian. **I John 1:7** urges us, "...walk in the light as he is in the light and we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Christ cleanseth us from all sin."

7 WHAT DENOMINATION IS IT? WHAT DENOMINATION DID IT BRANCH OUT OF?

Bill G. Smith

"The most general use of 'denomination' is for a body of persons holding specific opinions, usually religious, and having a common name, or for the various 'sects' into which members of a common faith may be divided. 'Denominationalism' is thus the principle of emphasizing the distinctions, rather than the common ground, in the faith held by different bodies professing one sort of religious belief." (Enc. Britannica, Vol. 7, p. 217.)

We do not hear of denominationalism until the Protestant Reformation at which time the Lutheran Church was started by man in 1530 with its own creed and set of rules. After this more divisions occurred and the result was the Presbyterian Church in 1536, Baptist 1611, Methodist 1739, Episcopal 1789 and on and on until today we have 300 different religious denominations. With this type of confusion and division we can see why a person would ask the above question.

The Bible teaches unity when it comes to the matter of the church, for example note Amos 3:3, "Shall two walk together, except they have agreed?" Paul states in Eph. 4:3-6, "Giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all." Read also Eph. 1:22, 23.

In writing to Corinth, Paul condemns division and the practice of using man made

names. 1 Cor. 1:10 states, "Now I beseech you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment." Paul was beseeching these people to be one in Christ. He said it's wrong to be divided (verses 12, 13), "Now this I mean, that each one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized into the name of Paul?" People who are promoting denominationalism should stop and consider prayerfully the question of Paul, "Is Christ divided?" The answer of course is, "NO," which puts Christ in opposition to the theory of "many churches."

In fact, Jesus prayed in John 17:20, 21 for unity. "Neither for these only do I pray, but for them also that believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us: that the world may believe that thou didst send me."

What denomination is it? It is not a denomination. The church of Christ was established long before the Protestant Reformation. (See other article, "When the church started.") What denomination did it branch out of? None, for the church existed long before the first denomination had its beginning.

Let us study, pray and work together to become one in Christ Jesus.

8 IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST SIMILAR TO THE CHURCH OF GOD?

O. P. Baird

This question would not have been asked in New Testament times. It is an outgrowth of the confused denominational system of modern times, which is of human origin. The New Testament does not speak of one church as the "church of Christ" and a different church as the "church of God." There was one church and it was referred to by both of these terms and by a number of other terms. The idea of there being two churches, one belonging to Christ and the other belonging to God, is absurd and certainly not found in the word of God.

In the New Testament the one church is called the "body of Christ" and also the "house of God." (Eph. 1:22, 23; 1 Tim. 3:15.) Congregations today that are generally known as "churches of Christ" also acknowledge all other Bible terms designating or describing the church which Jesus purchased with His blood. (Acts 20:28.) When they speak of the "church of Christ" or the "church of God" they have reference, not to one of the many denominations, all of which were started by men, but rather to the church Jesus was talking about when He said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." (Matt. 16:18.) That is the same church Paul was talking about when he spoke of "the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." (1 Tim. 3:15.) All Christians, the children of God, wherever they are, belong to that one church. When we speak of a local congregation as a "church of Christ" or a "church of God" we mean a congregation made up of people who are just Christians, who meet together regularly for worship

and work together in serving God. The people of such a congregation strive, individually and collectively, to follow all that God teaches them in the N. T. They could not correctly be designated except as the N. T. designates such congregations.

The question we are considering arises because there are now a number of denominations of the "Holiness" order that go by the name "Church of God." It takes more than the name to make a church a true church of Christ or church of God. These "Holiness" denominations are different from each other and all of them differ from the churches of Christ which are not a denomination. These churches of Christ are made up of Christians who are connected with no denomination. They do not have any headquarters on earth as denominations do, and have no intercongregational organization and no law-making body or governing body of men over all the congregations. These churches accept all scriptural designations of the church.

Sometimes someone says to me, "The Church of Christ--is that the same as the Church of God?" I answer, "Yes, certainly Christ's church is the same as God's church. It was in the world in the days of the apostles and that was a long time before any of the denominations were started by men, including the 'Holiness' denominations which wear the name 'Church of God.' The churches of Christ which have no denominational connection and are striving to follow the Bible as their only guide are not of the so-called 'Holiness' order. I think I am safe in saying they are as unlike those 'Holiness' denominations as they are the other denominations."

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST AND THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH?

By: Ray D. Fullerton, Jr.

There are, in reality, three major groups, not two, to be dealt with in the context of this article: the Disciples of Christ denomination, the so-called Christian Church and churches of Christ. Historically, these three groups, now widely divergent, were once united. As one invincible body with a plea irresistible to men of that day it moved in force toward one common goal: Christian unity based on the full restoration of first Century, New Testament undenominational Christianity. That was the Restoration Movement before schism broke the body and thus largely destroyed for a time the glory of its plea. Then they believed that Christian unity could and would be had when men took their stand together on the Bible as the Word of God. "No creed but Christ, no book but the Bible, no name but the Divine." This and other Reformation slogans expressed their common sentiment, their common ideals for the attainment of the sought-after goal. But by 1906 the movement was shattered. One group became officially the Disciples of Christ; another, "churches of Christ," and another retained, generally, the name "Christian Church."

Disciples of Christ churches "have fellowship with the International Convention of the Disciples of Christ and the multiple organizations making up the United Missionary Society. This is a confessed denomination ... In theology it has abandoned the plea of restoration... This group over the period of the last seventy-five years has adopted the extreme positions of liberal, old-line modernism and for them the Scriptures long since ceased to be a standard of authority in religion." (J. W. Roberts, "Gone to the Christian Church", Restoration Quarterly, Vol. 3 No. 2, p. 80.)

They not only use the musical instrument and do their missionary work through the U. C. M. S. (which were the two original major sources of friction which resulted in the ultimate split) and otherwise submit local autonomy to the higher ecclesiastical organization, but have adopted, as indicated above, many other human innovations. For a group following the modernistic theological line (denial of the inspiration of the Scriptures and their teaching on the virgin birth, miracles, the resurrection, heaven, hell, etc.), this is logical. In many regards they now follow Rome. They practice open membership in many areas. Many members are yet unaware of what is really taking place among their leaders and still believe they are the prime force in the Restoration Movement. Their liberal theological schools are seeing to their general re-education, however.

"...the Christian Church...fits a somewhat heterogeneous group...it generally describes those who stand half-way between the Restoration Movement of the early nineteenth century...and the (modern-day) Disciples' Denomination...around the turn of the century many of them realized the direction of events and broke with the united organ (U. C. M. S.) which was headed toward denominationalism. These people generally resisted (modernism) and at present continue to hold forth the Bible as the Word of God and the New Testament as a pattern of authority for a restoration of the church. ...they scorn denominationalism and are autonomous..." (ibid., p. 81). They particularly scorn their liberal brethren in the Disciples movement. On the other hand, they resent the rejection by their "anti-organ brethren" of the instrument and of the type of fellowship they frequently practice. They are sometimes banded together in a general convention with less authority than the U. C. M. S., sometimes retain the "independent Christian Church" nomenclature. All use the instrument and do not intend to give it up, think it has nothing to do with fellowship and some claim it is simply an expedient. Some use the name "Church of Christ," others, "Christian Church." They are conservative and not to be confused with the Disciples churches nor with "churches of Christ" such as are described in articles of this magazine.

10 WHY DO YOU NOT REFER TO PREACHERS AS REVERENDS OR PASTORS?

Johnny C. Sewell

WHAT SHALL WE CALL THE PREACHER? It has come to be a most common practice to address preachers with such titles as "reverend" and "pastor." Most often these expressions are used in an attempt to show respect or courtesy to preachers - but in reality these titles go far beyond that. To some, the words "reverend" and "pastor" are simply regarded as synonymns; that is, meaning the same as and used interchangeably for "preacher," but such is not proper New Testament usage. We must follow the Bible in all that we do religiously. (Deut. 4:2.) This forbids us to improperly use the words "reverend, pastor," et. al.

The word "reverend" is used only once in the entire English Bible (Psa. 111:9), and there it has reference to God. Even in this verse the word is not used as a title, but rather as a word of description. The Hebrew word, YARE, from which the English "reverend" comes, in its various forms is used 366 times in the Old Testament. Its Greek equivalent is used in the New Testament 143 times. But notice this: It is never used as a religious title for preachers! Because the Bible does not use this word as a title for preachers and because we seek to follow the Bible in all we do, we do not call preachers "reverend!" Neither should you!

To give such titles to a limited group of men tends to elevate them above their brethren, and this violates a Bible principle. The mother of James and John (Matt. 20:20-28) requested of Jesus that

he bestow upon her sons the honor of sitting on his right and left in the kingdom. Jesus rebuked her by saying that in the church the person that would become great would have to be servant of all. He specifically stated that lording it over the flock was wrong! In the church of Christ there is no clergy as contrasted with the laity, no reverends as contrasted with the non-reverends. We all are to be brethren serving the Lord.

In Matt. 23 Jesus criticized the Jews for loving chief places, peculiar clothing and titles such as father, rabbi and master. Today there are still those who love the same type of thing and desire to be called in the streets "reverend." Such was not right then; such is not right now. Vainglorious titles are un-Christian.

People often misuse the term "pastor" because of a misunderstanding of the organization of the church. Many appear to think that any preacher who resides in the community and is minister to a congregation is automatically the pastor of that church. This is not a Bible definition of pastor. The word should not be used in reference to such a person on this basis.

In the N. T. each congregation was an independent unit, governed under Christ by a plurality of qualified men (1 Tim. 3:1-10) of equal authority. They were variously called elders or presbyters (presbuteros), overseers or bishops (episkopos), pastors and shepherds (poimenas). By close examination of the scriptures (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1, 2; Eph. 4:11) it can be seen that these words are used

interchangeably to refer to the qualified rulers (Heb. 13:17) within the congregation. They have no right to change anything the Lord has commanded. Their work is to see that the will of God is done within the congregation of which they are members. Only to these men, in the official sense, can the word "pastor" be applied. (1 Tim. 3:1.)

We have in the church's organization a different group than the above called deacons (diakoneo). They are special servants or ministers to the church, serving under the direction of the aforementioned leaders.

Then there are the evangelists (2 Tim. 4:

5), ministers of the gospel (Rom. 15:16) or preachers (1 Tim. 2:7). In one sense of the word, anyone who serves is a minister, but here we refer to those who minister or proclaim the word. Although the teaching of the minister's guides, tends and shepherds the flock, they are not called in the N. T. either pastors or shepherds and they should not be so addressed because of this fact. The qualifications of pastors (elders) and preachers (ministers) are different and the positions in the church which they occupy are different.

Let us do Bible things in Bible ways. Let us call Bible things by Bible names.

Lesson #36 & #37
"VISITING CAN BE EVANGELISTIC!"

Without doubt one reason why so many people fail in their efforts at visitation is that they simply do not understand what it means to visit. Many think that they visit when they do not. They just make social calls. VISITING IS NOT SIMPLY MAKING SOCIAL CALLS.

As proof, witness the two good sisters who make a call on the afternoon that another sister has returned home from the hospital following surgery. She is confined pretty closely to her bed for several days. She cannot clean the house, cook the meals, wash the dishes, and is having difficulty even watching after the children. These two "visiting" sisters waded through the mused up living room where the weakened post-operative patient is forced to sit through thirty minutes of delightful conversation ranging anywhere from the size of kidney stones to a discussion of the people they know who never recovered from the same type of operation the sick sister has just had. Then they arise, bid a fond farewell with these gracious words, "If there is anything we can do, just let us know." Upon that they pivot and proceed once again past the dirty dishes, the empty TV dinner cartons, the dirty living room, to their car where they drive home full of the satisfaction of having visited as the Lord commanded. THEY HAVE NOT VISITED!!! They, in fact, may well have done more harm than good.

The words visit, visitation, and visiting are found frequently in the Bible. Young's Analytical Concordance says that the literal meaning of these words is "to look over, look after, to inspect."

As one reads the New Testament passages that use these terms, the definite impression grows that without exception the words indicate the act of looking after the needs of others ... ministering to their needs. No passage in the New Testament uses the words to indicate merely the act of making a social call. Note some examples:

Matthew 25:36 - "I was sick and ye visited me." Obviously a social call is not the primary consideration here. Note the context. Everything under consideration relates to ministering to needs ... "hungered ... gave me meat, thirsty ... gave me drink, stranger ... took me in, naked ... clothed me, sick ... visited me."

Acts 15:36 - "And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do." Wonder if Paul and Barnabas told the brethren, "Now if there is anything we can do just let us know," or wonder if they set about finding out what needed to be done, and went to it? Note the phrase, "and see how they do." This indicates an attitude of looking into their needs, and ministering to them, not stopping by for coffee and donuts!

James 1:27 - "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." Would anyone seriously suggest that visit the fatherless and widow here refers to a social call? Obviously it has reference to ministering to their needs.

From these few scriptures we can see that visiting involves far more than ringing doorbells ... it involves action. It obligates the Christian to investigate and to act.

Since the needs of people vary greatly, the way to visit must vary with each. What are the needs of people? Some have a need for companionship, clothing, medicine, housing, etc. Some, like the post-operative patient, needs someone to wash the dishes, cook some meals, care for the children. Many need spiritual assistance of various kinds, and not a few need to be left alone. This brings about the interesting situation that the best way to visit some people is to leave them alone! That is not a misprint. Since visit means minister to the needs of people, and since some people, especially the sick, need to be left alone, it follows that the best way to visit them (minister to their needs) is to leave them alone for a while.

Lesson #38
"BUILDING AN EVANGELISTIC CHURCH"

Every day 165,000 people die and 343,000 are born, making a net increase of 178,000 souls every 24 hours. These souls need to hear the Gospel (**Hebrews 11:6; Romans 10:17**).

This is the responsibility of each of us, as well as the total church. Those who follow Christ must be fishers of men (**Mark 1:16, 18**). Fruit bearing is producing more Christians (**John 15:1-8**).

There are certain qualities needed in each of us to be soul winners.

1. We must be dedicated to the cause and have the right attitude.
 - a. Attitude toward the Gospel (**Acts 11:14**).
 - b. If we entertain the thought that a person can somehow be saved in ignorance or by moral sincerity, we never become soul winners.
 - c. Our message is that man apart from Christ is lost and condemned to hell. Our message is that the Gospel is the power unto salvation (**Romans 1:16**).
2. Knowledge - we can't share that which we don't have.
 - a. **II Timothy 2:15**
 - b. Give an answer for the hope that is within us.
3. Learn to hate the sin and love the soul.
 - a. We must have the right attitude toward others.
 - b. We must see that men are lost, but yet worth saving.
 - c. **Mark 8:36**
 - d. **John 4:35; Matthew 9:37**
4. We must have an humble attitude about ourself.
 - a. It must include a "PROCLAMATION" - telling people what God has done for them. The key to success in any organization is personal dedication of its members. This is especially true of the Lord's Church. Regardless of other factors such as programs, building, grounds, and equipment, PERSONAL COMMITMENT is essential in an effective program.

A. IN ORDER TO BUILD AN EVANGELISTIC CHURCH, WE MUST BEGIN WITH SELF.

HOW PEOPLE ARE WON

2-3%	attracted by some church program
3-4%	attracted by the Bible School
5-8%	simply walked in off the street
9-10%	come through invitation of ministers
70-80%	come through friends and loved ones

This confirms that the best evangelists in the church are the members themselves. That's the way it worked 2000 years ago, and it will today.

When the church in Jerusalem was edified, it multiplied (**Acts 9:31**).

There were additions daily (**Acts 2:47**).

The number of men alone soon grew to 5,000 (**Acts 4:4**).

They went everywhere preaching the Word (**Acts 8:4**).

B. IN ORDER TO BUILD AN EVANGELISTIC CHURCH, IT MUST BE BUILT ON THE WORD OF GOD.

We can offer the world love, peace, hope; but without the pure Word of God, we give them nothing (**Acts 3:6**).

C. IN ORDER TO BUILD AN EVANGELISTIC CHURCH, IT MUST HAVE LEADERS WHO ARE CONCERNED OVER LOST SOULS.

You cannot lead people where you have not been. Leaders must be men of vision (**Proverbs 29:18**). Every second 4 people die unprepared to meet the Lord.

D. IN ORDER TO BUILD AN EVANGELISTIC CHURCH, IT MUST HAVE BALANCE.

We must not have a one phase congregation with only one or two programs and neglect all others (**Luke 2:52**).

1. Bible School, Teacher Training Classes, Special Classes
2. Personal Work Program, Training Classes
3. Youth Ministry, Singles, etc.
4. Foreign Missions
5. State-side Missions
6. Telephone Evangelism
7. Letter and Card Ministry
8. Bus Evangelism
9. Life Groups - Special Needs Groups, Young at Hearts, etc.
10. Prison Ministry
11. Benevolent Outreach
12. Radio, TV Programs

E. IN ORDER TO BUILD AN EVANGELISTIC CHURCH, IT MUST HAVE EVANGELISTIC SERVICES.

In the New Testament times the church was able to convey to the world an atmosphere of love and care and concern that was so genuine and powerful that it melted the heart. The idea that the New Testament church had the atmosphere of the cemetery and the funeral home is DEAD.

F. IN ORDER TO BUILD AN EVANGELISTIC CHURCH, WE MUST GET ... OFF THE SEATS AND ON THE STREETS...

FORREST PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHRISTIAN LIFE GROUPS

8 or more teams

Objectives:

- Weekly accounting of absentees
- Ministry in illness, death, cards on birthdays, illness, etc.
- Monthly study - devotional - fellowship meal
- Special projects, field trips, picnics, softball, etc.
- Visit newcomers and prospects, set up studies as often as possible
- Strengthen weaker by the stronger
- Involve new converts immediately

1. Divide membership families into 8 teams with two active leaders.
2. Two teams per week meet for fellowship and/or meal/study/devotional or sing. Make definite efforts at 100%.

1st week Groups 1 & 2

3rd week Groups 5 & 6

2nd week Groups 3 & 4

4th week Groups 7 & 8

*If there is a 5th week, no Groups will meet.

3. On a monthly basis the leaders will receive absentee cards in a designated box (with your names on it) to be picked up on Monday afternoons. Cards should be returned to your boxes or office, along with any special notes.
4. From time to time some cards will be for visiting new members or visitors to our services, etc. Our goal is to set up studies with prospects. Motivate your group members to find new prospects and be host of studies even if they cannot teach.
5. New members and new converts will immediately be assigned to a group. Notification will be placed in your box.
6. This program is family oriented, including all young people.
7. These Christian Life Groups are asked to minister to each other's spiritual and fellowship needs.
8. If there is a yellow dot on a visitation card, please give special recognition and make sure visit is made.
9. Group leaders need to report chronic problems to the eldership, whether within their group or from visits made, such as absenteeism, spiritual crisis, etc.

THOSE TO VISIT WEEKLY

1. Sick
2. Shut-ins (Special program - contact weekly - take gift on special occasion - ask one or two to call - one or two to visit.)
3. New residents (take packet).
4. Visitors to services.
5. Negligent and lukewarm members
6. Prospects (to be converted - to place membership)
7. Dissatisfied, discontented, disgruntled
8. Recently placed membership
9. New converts
10. Members you do not know. (If possible, have someone in your home monthly you never had before - also visit someone you have never visited before.)
11. Those fallen away
12. Bereaved
13. Widows
14. Absentees

WHAT TO SAY:

- A. Baptisms and restorations
 1. Congratulate, commend, welcome
 2. Let them know your interest and concern.
 3. Offer assistance - make it genuine.
- B. New members
 1. Social, get-acquainted visit
 2. Answer questions about congregation, explain procedures, classes, tell about our programs of work, encourage Wednesday night attendance (be enthusiastic).
 3. Offer assistance in other areas: doctors, shopping centers, etc.
- C. Sick and shut-ins, bereaved
 1. Make visit brief - 15 minutes.
 2. Maintain pleasant attitude, encourage and edify.
 3. Offer assistance - be genuine.
 4. Determine specific needs.
 5. Pray with them.

D. Visitors to our services

1. Social, get acquainted visit
2. Express appreciation for their visit.
3. Answer questions about congregation, explain procedures, classes, tell about some of our programs of work.
4. Be alert - get information - make mental notes.
5. Invite to come again to worship.
6. Confine the visit to about 30 minutes.

E. New residents

1. Social, get acquainted visit
2. Welcome them to our city or neighborhood.
3. Offer assistance in other areas: doctors, shopping centers, etc.
4. Be alert - get information - make mental notes.
5. Determine, if possible, prospects (whether another visit would be profitable).
6. Invite to our classes and worship. Make sure they know the time - leave card.

F. Prospects for placing membership.

1. Much of topic "D" would apply here.
2. Encourage them to go ahead and identify with this congregation.
3. Explain advantages of doing so and how to do it.

G. Members not known

1. Social, get acquainted visit
2. Be friendly, make friends.

(Use this space for personal notes on this program.)

GUIDELINES FOR AN EFFICIENT VISITATION PROGRAM

1. Devote your assigned visitation week to making your visits.
2. Start early (more hindrances come along later in the week).
3. Additional time can be taken due to sickness, working schedules, out-of-town, etc.
4. Be sure you know where the street is located before you leave home. Get you a map or call your team captain.
5. Do not call your party before going even though they may not be at home. There can be exceptions to this rule.
6. Do not "over-visit" or "under-visit." Do not run in for five or ten minutes just to make your assignment. Do not stay too long. Twenty-fourty minutes should be sufficient, especially on your first call.
7. If the party is not at home, sign and leave your calling card in the door.
8. Make additional visits on your own and report these along with your assigned visits.
9. Immediately upon returning home (lest your forget) make the proper notations on your assigned cards. We need any "extra" information you can give us.
10. Bring all the cards the next time you come to the church building. The sooner we get them, the better it will be.
11. Report all visits you make.
12. Go out two by two.
13. Know your purpose for the visit.
14. Know basic information about visit.

SOME REASONS MEMBERS CHANGE TO OTHER CONGREGATIONS

(Some reasons are legitimate and desirable, and some of them are not.)

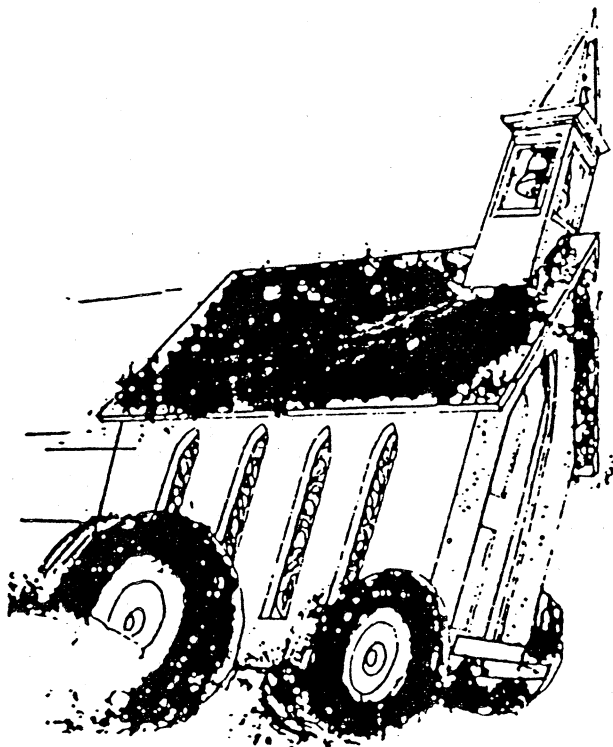
1. Moving out of town requires a change, as a rule.
2. Age and other handicaps make it desirable to move to a nearer church.
3. Change to be with a friend in another congregation.
4. To be with one's children in another congregation.
5. Move when an old preacher friend accepts another congregation in the city.
6. The person may think he can be of greater worth to another congregation by teaching a class, leading singing, preaching occasionally, and for leadership and influence in his community.
7. His economic condition presents a contrast and he is ill at ease.
8. He doesn't like changes in custom, such as envelopes, purpose cards, order of worship, etc.
9. Emphasis on giving will move some people elsewhere.
10. Personality clashes with a member move some.
11. Dissatisfaction of his children with teacher, classroom, or a student.
12. Dissatisfaction with the teaching program in general.
13. Different views on methods and incidental items.
14. Some move because annoyed by visits of elders, preachers and others.
15. Pressure to do a certain job move some, will not accept responsibility.
16. Some make their moves because of elders, some because of a preacher.
17. We can expect some to change for no reason. They have to be on the go.
18. Never know why some move -- maybe fear of withdrawal because someone else was disciplined, private weakness or skeleton mentioned in sermon, class.
19. The church is unfriendly.
20. Rather be with a small church.
21. Some use the weakness of a member or a hypocrite.
22. Some came to be served and entertained and did not get it.
23. Came from other congregations because of some of the above reasons; it can be expected they will move again for the same reason.

Lesson #39
"LOOKING BACKWARD - LOOKING FORWARD"

- A. Paul was a great worker for the Lord.
 - B. In spite of persecutions, he did great things.
 - C. At the end of the way he looked "Backward and Forward."
 - 1. **II Timothy 4:6-8**
- I. BACKWARD
- A. He looked back to his faithfulness.
 - 1. **II Timothy 4:7**
 - B. He had been a good soldier.
 - 1. **"I have fought a good fight."**
 - 2. Greatest enemy (**Ephesians 6:11-13; I Timothy 6:12**)
 - 3. The world (**Galatians 6:14**)
 - 4. Battled the flesh (**Romans 7:23, 24**)
 - C. He had been a good runner.
 - 1. **"I have finished the course."**
 - 2. His running involved seeking souls (**Hebrews 12:1, 2**).
 - 3. His eyes were on Jesus as he ran.
 - 4. **Philippians 3:12-14**
 - D. He had been a good steward.
 - 1. **"I have kept the faith."**
 - 2. He had not preached the wisdom of men.
 - 3. **Galatians 1:11, 12**
 - 4. He was not ashamed of preaching the Gospel (**Romans 1:16**).
 - 5. He defended the true Gospel (**Galatians 1:6-8**).
- II. FORWARD
- A. Paul looked forward to the crown (**II Timothy 4:8**).
 - B. It was a personal crown "laid up for me."
 - 1. All must face God to give account (**Romans 14:10-12; II Corinthians 5:10**).
 - 2. He did not fear answering to God.
 - 3. Paul did not look forward with selfishness.
 - 4. **"All that love his appearing" (II Timothy 4:8)**

**Building
An Evangelistic Church
Through
Total Evangelism**

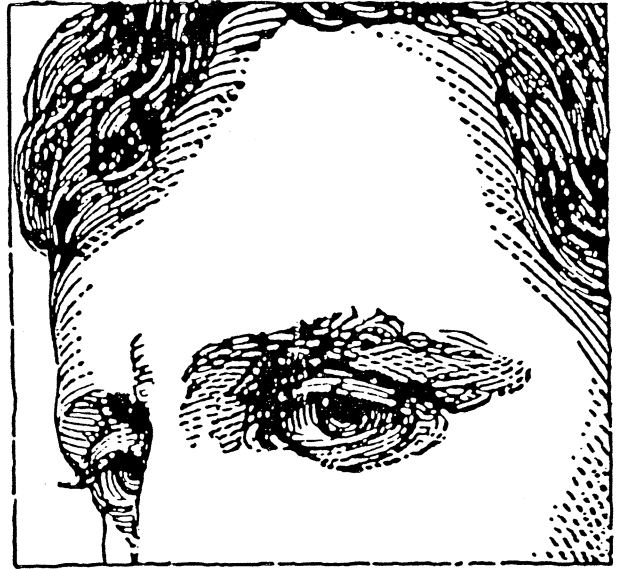
...OFF THE SEATS



AND ON
THE STREETS

LOOKING TO JESUS

Hebrews 12:1-2



- Some See Only The Baby Jesus
- Some See Only A Savior On The Cross
- We Must Also Look To Jesus As Our Lord
- One Day We Will Look To Jesus As Our Judge