

# Introduction

In this mid 1980's, I was absolutely sick of this world and I wanted something real. I had been a Christian for several years, but something was still missing. As I attempted to read my Bible, I began to realize what it was: *I didn't know God*. Sure, I had received Christ as my Saviour (1979), but I knew very little of God's character and plan. The Bible might as well have been written in a foreign language because I just didn't get it.

Then I prayed and asked God to teach me the Bible, and I was very serious about it. Over the next few years, the Lord brought me in contact with some of the best Bible teachers the world has ever known, and I began to really understand the Bible for the first time.

Since that time, God has enabled me to teach the entire Bible through in verse by verse exposition and to author well over one hundred tracts and booklets, and even two books. By far, my greatest joy is teaching others what God has taught me.

Since the mid 1990's, our church has offered a Bible correspondence course titled *Home Bible Studies*. Recently, I sat down and read the course through again, making revisions and corrections where necessary. Also, we wanted to make the course available to ministries, to be used by preachers and teachers everywhere and not only by our church. So, we made the course more "user friendly" by offering it in booklet form with seven lessons per booklet.

There is no "right" way to take this course. It has been prepared so that the student can work at his own pace, alone or with a group. The memory verses are *suggested* by us, but might be *required* by your course instructor, if you have one. Some instructors want the verses quoted, while others want them written off, sometimes even in different colors. We ask that you cooperate with your course instructor. He is taking the time (and maybe even the expense) to provide you with this learning opportunity.

Please show your appreciation and cooperate. You'll be glad you did, and God will bless you for it.

If you have no local instructor, you may send this booklet to our ministry after completing the lesson reviews. If your work is acceptable, we'll send the second book to you. After the course is completed, we will send you the standard signed and dated certificate.

May the Holy Spirit guide you into all truth (John 16:13).

JLM  
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## Lesson I

# How Do We Know God Exists?

One of the amazing things about the Bible is that it never attempts to prove the existence of God. His existence is just taken for granted. The first verse in the Bible simply says, "**In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.**" In fact, His existence is so obvious that He considers anyone a fool who doesn't believe in Him. Psalm 14:1 says, "**The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God...***" This may seem like an unfair action on God's part until one considers some of the obvious proofs for God's existence. The fool said "in his heart" that there is no God. He didn't say it in his head because he hasn't really thought it through. When a man claims to be an atheist, he is simply rebelling in his heart. A thinking person can easily see that God does exist:

### I. THE SCRIPTURAL PROOF

This is the fact that the Bible professes to be GOD'S revelation of Himself and that no one has ever proven otherwise. You say, "Well, I don't believe the Bible, so it isn't proof to me." You're wrong. Sooner or later, you will have to realize that you can't discard the Bible that easily. There are some stubborn facts that you must face if you're an honest person. It's only fair to allow the Bible to stand as a witness to God's existence if the Bible itself is proven to be a reliable source. So the issue is trust. Can we trust the Bible?

Well, there are millions and millions of Christians who *have* placed their trust in it and have found that it never let them down. There are millions who have found great joy and fulfillment by claiming its promises and obeying its commandments. Isn't that worth something? When you say, "I don't believe the Bible", you are saying that millions of Christians have lived a lie." Isn't it true that they found more joy and purpose in the Bible than you've found in anything else? Isn't that worth something?

A person who doesn't believe the Bible doesn't know enough about it to realize the foolishness of his unbelief.

Suppose I said, "I don't believe George Washington ever lived." Wouldn't that be rather foolish? The record of history proves that He did live, so I would be expressing my ignorance of American history. If you don't believe the Bible, please don't tell anyone, for you'll only be expressing your ignorance.

What do I mean by this? Friend, do you realize how accurate the Bible has been in the past? Take the life of Jesus Christ alone. Did you know that Genesis 3:15 prophesied the birth of Jesus Christ 4,000 years in advance? Did you know that Isaiah 7:14 prophesied His virgin birth 700 years in advance? Did you know that His nationality, His family, and the city of His birth were all foretold hundreds of years in advance? Did you know that His agony and death on Calvary was prophesied hundreds of years in advance? Did you know that Psalm 22:1 (1,000 B.C.) actually told us what Christ would say while on the cross? If you take all the prophecies about the life and death of Christ, and then figure the statistical probability of them all coming to pass, do you know what the chances are? Have you ever thought about it? One scientist stated that the chances are about 1 out of 10 to the 157th power! (10 followed by 157 zeros).

I'd say the Bible is a pretty reliable source. Wouldn't you? If the Bible proclaims the existence of God, then we should give it some serious consideration. After all, it has been right about everything else it has claimed.

## **II. THE PROOF OF NATURE**

Romans 1:20 says, "**For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse**".

Psalm 19:1-6 says, "**The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. *There is no speech nor language, where* their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, Which *is* as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, *and* rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth *is* from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.**"

Simply stated, these verses tell us that you can know that God exists by observing His creation. Since the universe is here, someone must have put it here. If there's a creation, then there must be a Creator.

Romans 1:20 says that you can see the invisible Creator by observing the visible creation. It says even His eternal power and Godhead. The Bible speaks of God being a Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Did you know that God has given us many pictures of the Trinity in nature? Take the sun for instance. It has three rays: alpha, beta, and gamma. Those are chemical rays, heat rays, and light rays, yet they're all from one sun. Take water for example. It can be a liquid, a frozen solid, or a vapor. Consider human beings. We have a spirit, a soul, and a body (I Ths. 5:23). Our soul pictures God the Father. Our body pictures Jesus Christ, Who was here in the flesh. Our spirit pictures the Holy Spirit. Three parts. The whole universe is laid out in threes. In fact, the universe has three parts: time, space, and matter. Time has past, present, and future. Space has length, breadth, and height. Matter has energy, motion, and phenomena.

Friend, the whole universe is made in God's image! There must be a designer behind every design. If you have a car that works, then it is because someone designed that car. Someone designed the engine. Someone designed the transmission. Someone designed the body style. Someone designed the brake system. Someone designed the air conditioning system. Someone designed the tires. It would be foolish to think that no one designed it, but that all the parts just came together from nowhere and work together accidentally. If there's a design, (and there are billions of them in this universe) then there must be a designer.

### III. THE PROOF OF CONSCIENCE

This is the undeniable fact that man has a moral conscience, unlike other life forms. Romans 2:15 says, "**Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;**)" There is a law written upon the heart of man which tells him that certain things are evil. There isn't any place on earth where people do not have a conscience about murder, theft, and rape. Anywhere you go, you

will find laws that men have established to deal with such crimes. Man knows instinctively in his heart that certain things are wrong and worthy of punishment. The law is written in his heart. Well, who wrote the law in his heart? If there's no God, who told man that it's wrong to steal, murder, rape, and commit adultery?

A good example of this can be found in Genesis 20:1-5. A heathen king named Abimelech takes Sarah, the wife of Abraham, to be his own wife. God appears to Abimelech in a dream at night and sharply rebukes him for this sin. Abimelech then tells the Lord that he didn't know she was Abraham's wife. He then repents of this sin.

Now think about that. Abimelech was a heathen who had no Bible, and no understanding of God and God's laws. Yet, he knew that adultery was evil. He didn't say, "Well, I don't understand. What's wrong with me having her for a wife?" He **KNEW** in his heart that he had sinned. He knew because of conscience. The law was written on his heart. Who wrote it there, if there is no God?

#### **IV. THE LIFE FROM LIFE PROOF**

Psalms 36:9 says, "**For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.**" Today, there are no new life forms being formed. All life comes from previous existing life. You came from your parents, and they came from their parents. No scientist has been able to produce life without getting it from other life. It just can't be done. Apple trees come from apple seeds, which come from apples, which come from apple trees. There is no question about which came first, the chicken or the egg. The chicken came first. Life comes from life. Dogs come from dogs. Cats come from cats. Rats come from rats, and bats come from bats. Since no one today can produce life without previous life, would it not stand to reason that life originally came from one all-powerful and all-living Life Source?

#### **V. THE PROOF OF CONGRUITY**

Congruity is the relation of agreement between things. Congruity is what you have when all the pieces of your puzzle fit together and give you one complete picture. In a 1000 piece puzzle, you may have 999 pieces together, but it isn't complete

without the last piece. When you pick up the last piece, and you can see that it fits, you are glad and satisfied that your project is complete. You have congruity. It all fits together.

Well, the acceptance of God as Creator works much the same way. Without God, nothing really makes sense. Evolution has too many problems to have congruity. It's only when we accept God's existence that things start adding up and making sense. When we accept God's existence and His revelation of Himself (the written word), the picture starts becoming clear. Evolution can't explain why people suffer, but God can. Evolution can't explain why men can't have peace, but God can. Evolution can't give you inner peace and promise you eternal joy, but God can. Evolution can't "even the score" and grant fairness to all men in the end, but God can.

When you really think about it, the existence of God is the most logical thing you could imagine. He has all the answers. He can solve all the problems. He can meet every need. God is the "missing link" that brings everything together and gives meaning to life. As the wise King Solomon so rightly said, "**Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.**" (Ecc. 12:13-14)

## Lesson Review

1. Where in the Bible would one turn to read that the invisible God can be seen and understood through His visible creation?
2. Fill in the blank: "The fool hath said \_\_\_\_\_ there is no God..."
3. Men who have never even seen a Bible or a preacher still have certain knowledge of good and evil because they do have a God-given \_\_\_\_\_.

4. The proof of congruity is:

- a. The fact that the Bible is the oldest book in existence
- b. The fact that God's existence cannot be disproven
- c. The fact that the existence of God provides the real answers in life.

5. Where does the Bible say, "For with thee *is* the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light"?

**Suggested Memory Verses:** Psalm 14:1, Romans 1:20

## Lesson II

# The Inspiration and Preservation of Scripture

In this lesson we will be dealing with the inspiration and preservation of scripture. This is an important lesson because it establishes a final authority for future studies. From where did the Bible come? How long has it been around? How do we know it's the word of God? Such questions must be answered if we are to really appreciate and understand the Bible.

The word "Bible" is from the Greek word "biblos", which means "book". When we say "the Bible", we are simply saying "the Book". That is, not just any book, but THE Book - the Book of all books - God's Book.

### I. THE INSPIRED WORD

The Apostle Paul tells us the following in II Timothy 3:16-17: "**All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**"

Notice in our text that Paul said all scripture is GIVEN by INSPIRATION OF GOD. The scriptures aren't the work of men,



as some suppose, but are rather given by inspiration of God. The pagan writings of such people as Plato, Aristotle, Buddha, and Mohammed are not given by inspiration of God. In fact, very few of them even *profess* to be inspired.

The word inspired means "God breathed". The scriptures are given by the breath of God. This means that the Bible is a LIVING book, because the first time God *breathed* in the Bible He created a LIVING SOUL (Gen. 2:7). Jesus said, "**...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**" (John 6:63) You may also consider Job 33:4, Ezk. 37:9, and John 20:22.

## **II. THE SPOKEN WORD**

Notice that Paul said the scripture is "*given*" by inspiration. He didn't say they were "written" by inspiration, but rather "*given*" by inspiration. That is, the words were inspired by God BEFORE they were reduced to writing.

II Peter 1:20-21 says, "**Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**"

This is called *Verbal Inspiration*. That is, the man of God would *speak by the Spirit of God*. This makes God the real Author. He was the GIVER of the spoken words. The inspiration occurred in the speaking, not in the writing. David once said, "**The spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.**" (II Sam. 23:2) God inspired the words! God only used David to pass His words on to others. God was the real Author. Notice Jeremiah's comments: "**Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.**" (Jer. 1:9) See that? They were GOD'S words, not Jeremiah's. God put the words into the prophet's mouth so others could hear, but they were not Jeremiah's words. Luke 1:70 says that, "**... he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:**"

You may also want to check Exodus 20:1, 25:1, Isaiah 1:2, Ezekiel 1:3, 3:4, Amos 1:1, Matthew 1:22, 2:15, and Mark 12:36.

### III. THE WRITTEN WORD

These inspired words that were spoken by the prophets were actually written down by *scribes* (II Sam. 8:17; 20:25; II Kings 19:2; 22:3; I Chr. 24:6; Ezra 7:6; Jer. 36:10, 12, 32; 37:15; Mat. 18:19; 15:1; 17:10; Luke 5:30; 11:44; Acts 23:9). It was the actual inspired words themselves that were written down, not just the general message. In Matthew 5:18, Jesus said, "**For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.**" Quoting from Deuteronomy 8:3, Jesus says in Matthew 4:4 that "**... Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**" How could we live by every word if the scribe only recorded the general message? Friend, God said that every word was inspired and recorded for you and I to read.

A fine example of this is found in Jeremiah chapter thirty-six. In this chapter the word of the Lord comes to Jeremiah, and Jeremiah speaks the words. Then Jeremiah's scribe, Baruch, writes down the words (vs. 4). Later, in verse eighteen, Baruch is questioned about the manner in which he produced this written copy of God's word. In no uncertain terms, he says, "**...He pronounced all these words unto me with his mouth, and I wrote them with ink in the book.**" Now that's clear! Some of the Bible may be hard to understand, but that's clear as crystal. The prophet spoke God's words, and the scribe wrote them down. That's what the Bible says about its own inspiration.

### IV. OTHER PROOFS OF INSPIRATION

Christians generally believe that the Bible is inspired, but very few are capable of offering any convincing proofs. It is important to not only know what we believe, but also to know *why* we believe. The following are some of the reasons why we believe the Bible to be God's inspired word.

#### **The Bible Is a Negative Book**

Why would man write a book to condemn his own race? From cover to cover the Bible is NEGATIVE toward man. It

utterly condemns man (Psa 39:5; Isa 64:6; Rom 3:10-18; John 3:18; Jer 17:9; Psa 51:5). Men everywhere speak highly of themselves, yet the Author of the Bible speaks of man as being a hopeless sinner. The Bible *HAD* to be inspired by someone other than man.

### **The Bible Is an Authoritative Book**

Most ancient writings do not even profess inspiration, but the Bible professes not only to be inspired, but to be the *ONLY* inspired writing (Isa. 8:20). The central character of the Bible, the Lord Jesus Christ, professes to be the *ONLY* way to Heaven. Unlike the ancient philosophers, the men of the Bible are men who speak with great power, certainty, and authority. Wouldn't you expect God to speak with power and authority?

### **The Bible Is an Infallible Book**

Although many have tried, and are still trying, no one has ever proven that there are mistakes in the Bible (KJV). All apparent errors and contradictions can be explained Scripture with Scripture and by closely studying the context.

### **The Bible Is a Prophetic Book**

While other ancient writings do not even attempt prophecy, the Bible attempts it and fulfills it. One only has to consider a few Old Testament prophecies about the life of Christ to see this (Num. 24:17-19; Gen. 49:10; Mic. 5:2; Isa. 7:14; Dan. 9:25; Hos. 11:1; Isa. 53; Zec. 9:9; Psa. 69:21; Psa. 34:20; Psa. 16:10; Psa. 41:9; Zec 11:12; Psa. 35:11; Psa. 22). How could man write such a book?

### **The Bible Is a Unified Book**

The sixty-six books of the Bible were written by some thirty-five or forty different authors, on three continents, over a period of 1,900 years. These men came from all walks of life, differing greatly from one another, but their writings never contradict. These books *compliment* one another. Such an

accomplishment would be impossible if the Holy Spirit were not the Divine Author.

### **The Bible Is an Interesting Book**

Unlike other books, the Bible is read by all classes of people. A small remnant of people from all walks of life share an interest in the Bible. It is read by the educated and the uneducated. It is read by the rich and the poor, by the old and the young, by males and females, by all races, and in all places. What man-written book has such wide appeal to people?

### **The Bible Is a Best-Selling Book**

The Bible is by far the best-selling book ever published. The King James Bible alone has been selling for the past 400 years! Only God knows how many total copies have sold during that time, but no other book in the world would come close to the number. Just think for a moment. It's probably true that most people purchase a Bible at least once in life, or at least in developed, English-speaking nations, and some people purchase several Bibles in a lifetime. Yet, do they purchase several copies of other books? No. Is any other book as common among people as the Bible? No. You could walk up to the average American home and ask if the family owns a Bible, and you would usually hear a "Yes." Yet, if you asked if they owned a copy of Darwin's *Origin of the Species* or Marx's *Communist Manifesto*, they would likely say, "Of course not!" That would be the case not only in America, but in many nations, and for hundreds of years. There's just no comparison. The Bible is the best-seller because the Bible is God's word.

### **The Bible Is a Blessed Book**

It has changed more lives than any other book in world history. Eighty-eight percent of the colleges in America were founded for the purpose of teaching God's word and training missionaries. Many literary countries are the product of Bible-believing Christianity. Nations and individuals always prosper when Bible principles are followed. Is this a coincidence, or is this an indication that God blesses those who obey His word? If

the Bible is only *man's* words, then why do so many prosper through obeying it?

## **The Bible Is a Preserved Book**

If the Bible is only a man-written book, then why does it still exist? Satan has fought endlessly to rid the world of the Bible, yet it still exists today. Everything that man accomplishes eventually falls apart (the wonders of the ancient world, educational systems, governments, families, organizations, etc.), but the Bible lives on (Psa. 12:6-7; Mat. 24:35). How did the Old Testament survive the Babylonian captivity when God's people spent seventy years in a foreign land? How did the Bible survive the Dark Ages when Rome ruled the religious world with pagan tradition? The Bible must be a supernatural book, else man would have destroyed it long ago. We will consider this point further in the next section of the lesson.

## **V. THE PRESERVATION OF SCRIPTURE**

*When the dust of the battle dies down we shall hear all sixty-six books declare with the Apostle Paul, "Do thyself no harm, for we are all here!" (W.H. Griffith Thomas)*

God lives forever, so His Book shall live forever. In Ecclesiastes 3:14 Solomon said "**I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever; nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it: and God doeth it that man should fear before him.**" We've learned about the *inspiration* of Scripture. Now let's study the reasons and methods concerning the *preservation* of Scripture.

### **Reasons for Preservation**

The first reason for the preservation of Scripture is the *logical* reason. Just as it makes no sense that you would fool around and lose your birth certificate, your high school diploma, or your marriage license, it makes no sense that God would inspire and record His words and then lose them. This is totally against

His nature. As much effort as God has put into giving man His words, it would be foolish to lose them.

From the very beginning God has delighted in preserving various people, places, and things for His own glory. God preserved man through the fall in Eden. God preserved Noah and his family through the flood. God has preserved the Jewish people until this very day, in spite of their many captivities, servitudes and persecutions. God has preserved Jerusalem, in spite of the many aggressive attacks against her. It is *logical* to assume that God would preserve the Book that He inspired.

Another argument for the preservation of Scripture is the fact that preservation is *needful*. Jesus said, "**...if a man love me, he will keep my words.**" (John 14:26) How can you keep His words if God didn't preserve them for you? In II Timothy 4:2 Paul exhorts Timothy to "**Preach the word...**" How could young Timothy preach the word if the word hasn't been preserved? The Lord Jesus prayed in John 17:17 and said, "**Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**" Friend, you can't even be sanctified if God didn't preserve His word, because it is *the word* which sanctifies!

God's word can keep us from sinning (Psa. 119:11). God's word gives us wisdom and spiritual discernment (Pro. 22:17-21; I Cor. 2:12-14). The word brings success (Jsh. 1:8), and gives us light for the path of life (Psa. 119:105). Most of all, God's word is essential for a person to be born again! I Peter 1:23 says, "**Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.**" Friend, it has been *needful* for God to preserve His words.

Finally, the best reason for believing that God would preserve His words is *promise*. GOD SAID HE WOULD PRESERVE HIS WORDS. Note the following:

**"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."** (Psa. 12:6-7)

**"For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."** (Psa. 100:5)

**"As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's**

seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever." (Isa. 59:21)

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." (Mat. 24:35)

"For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." (I Pet. 1:24-25)

God never said once that man would preserve His words, but that HE would preserve them. Our responsibility is to be faithful and believe what God has said and ignore what the skeptics are saying. God promised to preserve His words, so He has preserved them.

### Method of Preservation

The Bible is GOD'S Book, so God can preserve it in any way He chooses. Since the very beginning, God has used MEN to carry out His work on this earth. It should surprise no one that God uses *His people* to preserve His words.

Many scholars agree that since Christians still have a sin nature (the flesh) that God cannot rely on them in matters of preserving His holy words. Well, God doesn't *rely* on anyone for anything. God, in His sovereign authority, chooses to *use* certain individuals to accomplish His will.

For example, Moses and David had a sin nature just like you and I, but Jesus Christ still considered their writings to be Scripture (Mat. 4:4; 19:4; Luke 24:44; 20:42). God wouldn't allow Moses to enter the promised land (Deut. 32:48-52; 34:4), but He still used him to write the first five books of the Bible. David committed adultery (II Sam. 11), sinned by numbering Israel (I Chr. 21), and acted like an idiot before the king of Gath (I Sam. 21), but God still used him to write over half of the the Psalms. Peter denied Christ three times and then went on to write two epistles. The one who penned the words of Romans 7:18 also penned a third of the New Testament (Paul). *If God could use only sinless people, then He would have to do everything Himself!*

The preservation of Scripture is GOD'S responsibility, and He is quite capable of overruling man's faults and sins in order to get the job done. Since most scholars worship their education

rather than God, they'll never understand or accept this important truth.

God's method of preservation is to use His people. Before the time of Christ the Scriptures were given to the Jews (Acts 7:38; Rom. 3:2). It was the priestly tribe of Levi that was responsible for the actual handling and copying of the Scriptures (Deut. 17:18; 21:5; Ezra 7:11; Neh. 8:7-13; II Chr. 29:30). Today (until our Lord returns) the Levites have been replaced with Christians, a *spiritual* priesthood (I Pet. 2:4-10). So the church now has the responsibility of handling and copying the Scriptures faithfully. In fact, we are given severe warnings about handling the Scriptures *unfaithfully* (Rev. 22:18-19). God's method of preservation is to use Spirit-filled believers in the body of Christ to faithfully copy and pass His words on to future generations.

In lesson four we will see why the King James Authorized Version is the product of faithful preservation, while modern versions are the product of Satan's attempts to destroy God's word.

## Lesson Review

1. What does the word *Bible* mean?
2. Where does the Bible say that all Scripture is given by inspiration?
3. What is meant by the words "inspiration of God"?
  - a. godly
  - b. God-breathed
  - c. holy given
4. True or False? God's word was first inspired when it was spoken.
5. Which of the following is NOT a proof of inspiration?
  - a. The Bible is a negative Book
  - b. The Bible is a unified Book
  - c. The Bible is a blessed Book
  - d. The Bible is a complex Book
  - e. The Bible is a preserved Book



6. Please list the three main reasons for preservation of Scripture:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

7. True or False? A person must be perfect before God will use them.

8. Please list two places in the Bible where God promised to preserve His words:

- 1.
- 2.

9. Where in the book of Revelation does God warn people about altering His words?

**Suggested Memory Verses:** II Timothy 3:16-17, Psalm 12:6-7

## **Lesson III**

# **Understanding God's Salvation Plan**

**"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one." (Rom. 3:10) "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23) "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Rom. 5:12) "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8) "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6:23) "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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the**

**mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Rom. 10:9-10 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Rom. 10:13)**

Only God knows how many dear souls have been led to the Lord Jesus Christ by the above verses of Scripture. These verses, commonly referred to as the "Roman's Road," are used worldwide by Christian workers in an effort to present God's Salvation Plan to the lost in a step by step fashion. The Roman's Road is wonderful for getting straight to the point and dealing with the primary issues of sin and salvation. Millions have come to know Christ after reading these verses (including myself), and it is our prayer that millions more will come to know Him in the future.

But there is a problem. Because of the habitual use of such quick and easy portions of Scripture, more and more Christians are developing a very shallow concept of New Testament salvation. Time and time again I find myself speaking with people who profess to be saved, and yet they aren't sure about their eternal destiny. Many of these people can tell of a specific time in their life when they prayed and asked the Lord to come into their heart and save them, but still today they live in a state of uncertainty. This should not be happening.

Then there are others who have never been saved and really do not understand the need to be saved. Someone says, "Well, they probably just don't care." Yes, that's often the case, but not always. I believe there are many people who would like to have a better understanding of Jesus Christ and the Salvation that He offers, and I believe that many such people will receive Christ once they truly understand their need for Him.

Friend, if you fit into one of these categories, this lesson is for you. This lesson will help you to UNDERSTAND New Testament salvation. Whether you're saved or lost, this lesson can help you, so please aside a little time and read the following pages, prayerfully and carefully. You will not be disappointed (Lk. 11:9-10).

## **I. GOD'S PERSONALITY**

There are many things that can be said about God in this study, but the one thing that must be said is that God is a HOLY

God. So often we hear of God's love for US, and we very seldom think of God standing alone without man in the picture. Let's first consider God Himself, without even thinking of mankind. Let's take a look at the personality of God Almighty.

Exodus 15:11 says, **"Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?"** The seraphims of Isaiah 6 praised God, crying **"Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."** If something is holy, then it is whole or complete. God is holy. He lacks nothing, for he is complete. God simply cannot be improved upon.

Someone has said, "God without man is God, but man without God is nothing." How true these words are. One who wishes to know God must IGNORE himself. It was God who created man. God existed first, without man in the picture. So, in order to really understand New Testament salvation, we must first focus totally upon the eternal God of Glory. We must know something of God's personality.

We must realize that God never has and never will do anything wrong for any reason. God has always been holy, and He always will be. He says in Malachi 3:6, **"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."** God never has and never will make one single adjustment within His person. His state of sinless perfection is eternal. If the entire universe were to turn against God, including all the hosts of Heaven, it would not change God. He would still be the eternal God of Glory. Consider these strong portions of Scripture from the Book of Isaiah:

**"All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity. To whom will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?"** Isa. 40:17-18.

**"I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images."** (Isa. 42:8) **". . . Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no god; I know not any."** (Isa. 44:8) **"I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no god beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me."** (Isa. 45:5) **"Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure."** (Isa. 46:10)

So let's first understand one great truth: with or without us, GOD IS GOD. He is the unchangeable, holy, and eternal God of Glory. Regardless of what else happens, this will always be true.

## II. GOD IN RELATION TO MAN

Genesis chapter one gives to us the account of the creation, including the creation of man. We read in Genesis 1:27, **"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."** Man was created in the image of God. That image, as we have already seen, was a HOLY image. God did not create man in a sinful condition. God created a sinless man in HIS OWN IMAGE. Luke 3:38 tells us that this first man, Adam, was actually **"the son of God."** No other man after Adam is called a son of God. But Adam was called this, because he was made in GOD'S IMAGE.

Being absolutely sinless, Adam was now ready to carry out God's plan. God is a SPIRIT (John 4:24), but He created a PHYSICAL earth. So He needed a physical being to rule over the earth. Genesis 1:28 tells us that God gave Adam DOMINION over the earth and over all of its inhabitants. "Why?" you may ask. Couldn't God manage to run things for Himself? Sure He could, but He wanted something more. God had a very special reason for creating man. Notice how clearly the reason is given in Isaiah 43:7: **"Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him."** Why did God create man? He did it to bring GLORY to Himself! All through the Bible we find that God wants to be GLORIFIED (Psa. 22:23; 50:15; Mt. 5:16; John 12:28; Rom. 15:6; I Cor. 6:20; etc.), and the beginning was certainly no exception. God wanted to form a living being out of the ground and have that being live in close fellowship with Him. God wanted His human creation to live in RIGHTEOUSNESS. God wanted to see His children prosper! He didn't want them to fail; He wanted them to prosper. This would bring honor and glory to His name. Just as any respectable father delights in watching his own children live right and succeed in life, God wanted the same for His children. Like any responsible father, God knew what was best, and He had a wonderful plan for His children.

So God created man and placed him in a perfect environment. Would man be obedient and fulfill God's will, or would he become disobedient? God had to put man to the test. He had to give man a choice. God could have FORCED Adam and Eve to always obey Him, but that would be against His nature. God wanted man to LOVE Him and ENJOY serving Him, so a choice was given.

Rather than populate the entire universe at once with newly created humans, God, in His infinite wisdom, placed one man and his wife in a garden and gave them a choice. You know the story. Adam and Eve chose to disobey God by eating of the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:1-6). Satan's way seemed more pleasant at the moment, so man fell into sin by disobeying God.

Worst of all, *man lost the image of God*. God was still holy, but man was now UNHOLY. Man was now a transgressor against God. Man had failed the test. In his sinful condition, Adam could not carry out God's divine plan. He was no longer qualified, for he was now a sinner.

At this point, God could have chosen to destroy His creation and start with a new one, or He could REDEEM the fallen creation. He chose to redeem fallen man. He chose to set forth a master plan that would allow man to become RIGHTEOUS once again. Being the merciful God that He is, God chose to work out a wonderful redemption plan for fallen man.

But wait! This will be no easy plan, because Adam and his wife aren't the only sinners. Every child born after Genesis chapter three has been born in Adam's SINFUL image (Gen. 5:3). All men are natural sinners upon being born into the world: **"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."** (Rom. 5:12) **"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."** (Psa. 51:5) **"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one."** (Rom. 3:10)

Men are no longer made in God's image. In fact, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself said **"Ye are of your father, the devil..."** in John 8:44. God is not a sinner, so sinners are not God's children. Sinners are natural-born children of the Devil. Paul writes in Ephesians 2:2 that lost sinners are **"children of disobedience."** Why? Because we naturally receive a SIN NATURE at birth.

In addition to this, we must also realize that we cannot rid ourselves of this corrupt sin nature. We are "stuck" with a fallen

image of unrighteousness. Unless God works a miracle in our lives, we are absolutely hopeless--forever doomed to the eternal fires of Hell. We cannot earn our Salvation by performing righteous works, because our righteousness is no good. Isaiah 64:6 tells us that our righteousness is like "**filthy rags!**" Instead of being clean in the eyes of God, men are FILTHY, because of the sin nature in us all. God is holy, but we are unholy. He is Godly, but we are ungodly. He is righteous, but we are unrighteous. Our sin nature stands like a brick wall between us and God, separating us from His dear fellowship.

Now try comparing a HOLY God with unholy men. Contrast the two in your mind. You see, there must be a separation. Just as you keep your clean laundry separate from your dirty laundry, God must keep Himself separate from ungodly man. God is not a sinner, so He cannot fellowship with sinners. Unless sin is somehow removed from man, there is no hope. Unless man is somehow redeemed from his fallen nature, God has no choice but to sentence him to Hell forever. The sin debt must be paid so that man can regain his original righteous image and his fellowship with God. Someone must pay the price.

### III. GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION

There once was a king who had a very strong reputation for enforcing the law in his kingdom. He never compromised for anyone. If someone broke the law, a penalty was always required.

Then one day this king sat upon his throne hearing case after case, when suddenly a very shocking thing happened. A young man was brought in for judgment. He had been caught red-handed in theft. The whole kingdom stood in silence to hear the king's judgment. You see, this was no ordinary case: the young man was the king's son!

Being as broken hearted as he was, the king knew that he still must give judgment. Justice must be served. One hand would have to be severed. Then suddenly the king surprised everyone by ordering HIS OWN HAND to be cut off! He chose to pay the penalty himself.

This is precisely what God did for you and I. Notice these important words from Isaiah 53:5-6: "**But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the**

**chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."**

Just as the king suffered and fulfilled the law for his son, God came to this earth and fulfilled the law for us. Jesus Christ was God manifested in the flesh (I Tim. 3:16), He came to FULFILL the law (Mt. 5:17). The law demanded a payment for sin. Either man could spend eternity in Hell, paying for his sins, or God could make the payment Himself. God, because of His love for lost man, chose to make the necessary payment Himself. He gave His only begotten Son as a payment for our sins: **"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 3:16) **"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree."** (Gal. 3:13) **"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."** (II Cor. 5:21)

All men are born under **"the law of sin and death"** (Rom. 8:2). We are under a curse. But the Lord Jesus Christ came to our rescue by dying and paying for our sins. Hebrews 10:14 says, **"For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified."** It took only one offering to pay for our sins. Now that the payment has been made, all men can be "perfected" through Jesus Christ! Through Christ we can be set FREE from the law of sin and death! Through Christ, and Him alone, we can escape the curse! Through Christ, we can be saved!

After Jesus paid for the sins of the world and returned to Heaven, a very special gospel (good news) message is preached by the Apostles and early Christians: **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."** (Acts 16:31) **"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. 10:9) **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."** (Eph. 2:8-9)

As lost and doomed sinners, we must take God at His word and believe that Jesus Christ is our only hope for salvation. We must trust that His payment for our sins is sufficient. We must

STOP trying to "do good" that we might go to Heaven. Our good works cannot save us, as the above verses reveal. Only the good work of the Lord Jesus can save us. We are hopeless without Him. As a criminal sits upon death row awaiting the electric chair, we sit upon the death row of eternity awaiting hell fire.

#### **IV. GOD'S IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS**

While sitting upon the "death row" of eternity, our only hope is for God to *make* us righteous, for we cannot establish righteousness for ourselves (Rom. 10:3). We read in Romans 4:5 the following words: "**But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.**"

God's desire is to make us righteous by giving us *HIS* RIGHTEOUSNESS! This Scripture goes on to say: "**. . . Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.**" (Romans 4:7-8)

God has a way of cleansing us from our sins and giving to us HIS righteousness so that we may have eternal life. Referring to the Lord Jesus Christ, Colossians 1:14 says, "**In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins. . .**" The "blood" spoken of here is *God's* blood (Acts 20:28). The blood of the Lord Jesus was not natural human blood; it was PURE blood from the Father above. Remember, Mary was a Virgin; so the blood of Jesus Christ came from His heavenly Father. This blood was shed at Calvary to be an *ATONEMENT* for our sins. The atonement can make us "at one" with God, just as Adam was in the very beginning. Through the blood atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, we can have our sins washed away (Rev. 1:5), thus being placed back into God's righteous image.

All throughout the Old Testament, God required a blood sacrifice from His people. This blood was obtained from various animals such as bulls, goats, and lambs. Sacrifices were made daily, because people would sin daily. By offering to God a sacrifice, men were showing God that they were aware of their sin nature and desired forgiveness. Upon seeing this, God would then accept their sacrifice and forgive their sins. This is called *remission*. Hebrews 9:22 says, "**. . . without shedding of blood**



**there is no remission."** These many animal sacrifices served as a foreshadow or a *type* of the blood of the Lord Jesus that would eventually be shed at Calvary.

However, *forgiveness* of sin isn't enough. A penalty still must be paid. The law must be fulfilled. The record must be cleared. God could cleanse His people *temporarily* from their sins with animal sacrifices, but only the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ could *clear* their sin record forever. The Old Testament sacrifices were for forgiveness, but not for making a person *clear* from sin (Ex. 34:6-7). This is why Jesus had to come and clear the record forever. He came to wipe the slate clean for all eternity. When you receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, you receive a CLEAN RECORD! You receive HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, and since you are trusting Him alone for your salvation, God will not impute sin to you.

Suppose you receive Him as your Saviour. What then? Then you become a "son of God." John 1:12 says, "**But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.**" You RECEIVE Christ by BELIEVING on Christ. You can be "born again" SPIRITUALLY (John 3:3) by receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour. Once you truly turn to Christ alone, asking Him to wash away your sins, you are FORGIVEN and your sin record is CLEARED forever. Your soul has been made RIGHTEOUS through the blood of Jesus Christ. That's precisely why He came and died. Once you have been born again you will be in God's family for the first time in your life! God's human creation was lost in Genesis chapter three, but you, a part of that growing creation, can be FOUND and REDEEMED to God this very moment!

There once was a little boy who made for himself a toy sailboat. While playing in the stream one day, the boat drifted away. A few days later another boy found the boat. The first boy said, "Hey! That's my boat! I made it myself, and I want it back!" The second boy would not hand over the boat, but instead he offered to SELL it to the boy. So the original owner and maker of the toy boat reached into his pocket and gave all his money to pay for the boat. As he walked away, he held the boat to his chest and said, "You're mine! You're mine! You're mine TWICE! I MADE you, and then I BOUGHT you: YOU'RE MINE!"

Upon receiving Christ as Lord and Saviour, you will become God's property (I Cor. 6:19-20). You will become His child, His responsibility. You will become the property of God, for he BOUGHT you with his own blood (Acts 20:28). Nothing can ever change that.

Friend, if you've never really been born again, please repent of your sins right now and place your total trust in Jesus Christ to save you. Tell Him that you're sorry for your sins and that you want to live for Him. Tell Him that you want to have a new life in Christ (II Cor. 5:17). Aren't you tired of sin? Do you not want to please God? Repent of your sins right now and ask the Lord to save you. He said that He would save you, if you will call upon Him (Rom. 10:13). Why not call upon Him right now?

## V. GOD'S PROMISE OF ETERNAL SECURITY

Lord Palmerston, Queen Victoria's Prime Minister, was crossing Westminster Bridge one day when he came upon a little girl who had just dropped a jug of milk. The girl broke into tears as the glass jug shattered into pieces. Palmerston had no money with him at the time, but he was able to stop her crying by promising her that he'd return at the same time the next day and pay her for the jug and the milk. The following morning he was in the midst of a cabinet meeting when he suddenly remembered his promise to the girl. He stood up and rushed out to the bridge and paid the girl the money. You see, to him, a promise was a promise, and he had to keep it. Nothing was more important.

With or without us, God will always be God. He will carry out His wonderful plan, regardless of our actions. He never had to promise us eternal security, just as Lord Palmerston never had to make the promise to the little girl. But God CHOSE to promise us eternal security. It was a pure act of grace on His part. He chose to comfort and strengthen us by making the promise: **"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." (John 10:27-28) "Being confident of the very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Philip. 1:6) "Verily, verily I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." (John**

**5:24) "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." (John 6:37)**

We are told in Romans 8:38-39 that NOTHING can separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ, and the Lord tells us in Hebrews 13:5 that He will NEVER leave us or forsake us. Eternal Life is a PRESENT POSSESSION for the Christian. If you've received Jesus Christ as your Saviour, then you HAVE eternal life. You will not go to Hell, for you have been saved by believing on the record that God gave of His Son (I John 5:11-13, which see.). If you have received Christ as your Saviour, then you have received eternal life, because Jesus Christ IS eternal life (John 14:6; Col. 3:4; Rom. 6:23). He placed His Spirit within you to keep you and to preserve you (John 14:16-17; II Cor. 1:22); so you should be REJOICING in Christ, not WORRYING about losing Him.

You say, "But what if I sin after I've been saved? Won't I lose my salvation?" No, because it really isn't yours to lose. You are totally God's property. You didn't earn salvation by any good work of your own, and you can't lose salvation by any bad work of your own. Your salvation is based entirely upon the FINISHED work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Your conduct can affect your FELLOWSHIP with God, but not your RELATIONSHIP with Him. You're His son, if you're saved, and that's the way it's going to stay.

## **VI. GOD'S TREATMENT OF DISOBEDIENT CHRISTIANS**

What happens when a Christian sins? If God doesn't send us to Hell, then how does He deal with us about our sins after we've been saved? This subject becomes rather easy to understand when we fully realize that we are now God's CHILDREN. We have entered into a Father/son relationship with God. He will deal with us as a Father deals with a child, NOT as a judge deals with a criminal.

Christians need to understand that their BODIES have not been born again. Only our SOULS have been saved. Our flesh is still corrupt, and it will die one day. Paul said that in the flesh dwells no good thing (Rom. 8:18). Since the soul has been made righteous through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, God has found it necessary to separate the soul from the body. This is

called *spiritual circumcision*. Notice these important words from Colossians 2:11: **"In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ."**

Instead of being physically circumcised as the Old Testament Jews were, we have been spiritually by the Holy Spirit. Our flesh has been cut loose from our righteous soul. When you received Jesus Christ as your Saviour, your soul was SET FREE! The burden of sin was LIFTED, and the Holy Spirit of God came to live within your soul (not in your flesh). A Christian's flesh is still corrupt and sinful, so we are to live in the SPIRIT, not fulfilling the lusts of the flesh (Rom. 8:1-9; Gal. 5:16). In Matthew 26:41, Jesus Himself said, **"....the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."**

Since the soul has been made righteous, God sees us as righteous individuals. He does not see our sins, because Jesus PAID for our sins. Our souls are FOREVER PERFECT (Heb. 10:14). So, if I sin, I do so in the flesh, and God will deal with me in the flesh about it. He will NOT judge my soul, for it is sinless.

Let's take an example of a Christian who sins against God. For stronger emphasis, let's take an extreme case where the sin committed is a most horrible sin. Such a case is found in I Corinthians chapter five, where a man is charged with having his father's wife. That's pretty bad, is it not? Some would think that this man should go to Hell for this sin, but that's not what happens to him. Paul tells the Corinthians to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the FLESH, so that the spirit might be saved. What happened? God dealt with this man just as a Father would deal with a child. God did not disown the man, but He DID chasten him in order to get him back in fellowship.

To "chasten" is to punish or discipline. Revelation 3:19 tells us that God rebukes and chastens his children. He does NOT forsake them, but He does correct and instruct them. Hebrews 12:4-8 explains how that all of God's children are chastened of the Lord. In fact, Hebrews 12:8 actually says that you're a "bastard" if you're not chastened! So there are two kinds of people in God's sight: sons and bastards. He corrects His sons, but He doesn't worry so much about the bastards, because they're going to get their punishment in Hell. Notice these inspired words from I Corinthians 11:31-32: **"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are**

**chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world."**

You wouldn't send YOUR children to Hell, and God doesn't send HIS there. But He does discipline Christians in order to keep them in tune with His will. No one gets away with sin. No one has a "license to sin."

If you are a Christian, then you should always be conscious of the fact that YOU are not your body; you are INSIDE your body. Your soul has already been redeemed, but you are still waiting for the redemption of your body (Rom. 8:23). Your body is no good, for it is still under the law of sin and death. But remember, your SOUL has been made perfect by the blood of Christ.

Being a Christian, you are like a prisoner chained up in his cell. He is lonely and miserable. Then one day someone comes in and cuts his chains loose, allowing him to begin moving freely in his cell. He's no longer chained to the wall, but he is still in the cell until someone comes and frees him completely. Do you get the picture? You are no longer "chained" to your sins. You're free from them. Geographically speaking, you are still stuck in your corruptible flesh until the Lord calls you home to Heaven, but SPIRITUALLY speaking, you are IN THE BODY OF CHRIST. If you slip and fall, you'll do so IN CHRIST. You see, there is a difference between falling IN Christ and falling OUT of Christ, just as there is a difference between falling down IN an airplane and falling OUT OF an airplane. Spiritually, we are seated in Heavenly places IN CHRIST, according to Ephesians 2:6, and that's where we'll stay - FOREVER!

## **VII. GOD'S WILL FOR ALL NEW BELIEVERS**

In a future lesson we will deal with this subject in more detail, but for starters, the following are some of the more important duties of every new believer:

Get baptized. Find a Bible-believing church and tell the Pastor that you're a new believer in Christ and you need to be baptized. Baptism doesn't save your soul, but it is an ordinance commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ (Mat. 28:19) and observed by the early Christians (Acts 8:35-39).

Join a Bible-believing church and be a faithful member (Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:25). Start looking for a fundamental church that stands on the King James Bible, supports missionaries, preaches salvation by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9), and believes in the Deity of Christ, the Virgin Birth, the Blood Atonement, the Bodily Resurrection, and the literal Second Coming of Christ. Start having private devotions with God. Read your Bible, confess your sins, and pray on a daily basis (John 17:17; Psa. 119:11; Eph. 6:17-18; I Thes. 5:17; I John 1:9). Make a special time for your devotions, and remain faithful to them.

Be a Christian witness (Acts 1:8-9). Tell others what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for you. Ask God to direct you to those who are most needful of your witness, and then begin telling them how Christ can save them just as He saved you. Get some gospel tracts and give them to family members and friends. Work toward winning lost souls to the Lord (Prov. 11:30).

Live a holy life for God (I Pet. 1:16). You are a Christian now, which means you are supposed to be "Christ-like". You belong to God (I Cor. 6:19-20), so yield yourself to Him and serve Him by putting Him first in everything (Mat. 6:33; Rom. 12:1-3).

Expose yourself to as much sound Bible teaching and preaching as possible. Pay close attention to your pastor and teachers. At church services, sit close to the front, take notes, and mark your Bible. Saturate your home with good Christian literature and tapes. Seize every opportunity to grow in your knowledge of God's word. The more you know about God's word, the more useful you will be in His service, and *nothing* is more important in your Christian life than *GOD'S SERVICE*.

## Lesson Review

1. Which New Testament book contains the traditional "road" of handy salvation verses?

- a. Galatians
- b. Romans
- c. John

2. The fact that man was originally created in God's image comes from:

- a. Gen. 5:3
- b. Gen. 1:27
- c. Isa. 43:7

3. True or false? Men today are not born in God's image.

4. Which Bible chapter tells us of the fall of man?

5. Where in the Bible are we told that "death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"?

6. Ephesians 2:2 says that lost people are:

- a. children of this world
- b. children of the devil
- c. children of disobedience

7. Fill in the blanks: "But he *was* \_\_\_\_\_ for our \_\_\_\_\_, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of us all." (Isa. 53:5-6)

8. Galatians 3:13 says that Christ was made:

- a. a substitution for us
- b. a curse for us
- c. a blessing for us

9. Does the Bible ever say that Jesus Christ was made SIN for us?

10. Fill in the blanks: "And they said, \_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Acts 16:31)

11. Where does the Bible say that salvation is "the gift of God: Not of works?"

12. Through Jesus Christ, God offers to GIVE you His righteousness, because you are an unrighteous sinner. This is called:

- a. remission of sins
- b. imputed righteousness
- c. self-righteousness

13. ". . . without \_\_\_\_\_ there is no remission."

14. True or false? John 1:12 states that you can RECEIVE Jesus Christ by REPENTING of all your sins.

15. True or false? Once you've been born again, Jesus will pluck you out of His hand if you still sin.

16. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and \_\_\_\_\_ on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is \_\_\_\_\_ from death unto life." (John 5:24)

17. The Holy Spirit separates the Christian's soul from his flesh through a spiritual operation called:

- a. redemption
- b. circumcision
- c. regeneration

18. When a Christian sins, God will:

- a. take vengeance on them
- b. record their sin in the book of life
- c. chasten them

**Suggested Memory Verses:** Romans 3:23, Romans 10:13, John 1:12, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 4:5



## Lesson IV

# How We Know the King James Bible Is God's Word

Many preachers and teachers across our land talk about "preferring" and "using" the KJV, but not near enough of them speak about BELIEVING it. Many prefer it and use it because that's what their congregations prefer and use, but they do not BELIEVE it to be the infallible words of God. Many of them are taught in college to use, prefer, and recommend the KJV, but they are not taught to believe it. Most "Christian colleges" teach that the King James Bible is only a translation, and that NO translation is infallible. Consequently, the average minister today uses a Book which he doesn't even believe.

Now, I thank God that I don't have that problem. I don't have to play make-believe with anyone about the word of God. I believe it. I believe the King James Bible is the preserved and infallible words of God. It doesn't merely "contain" the word of God: *it IS the word of God*. This lesson has been prepared to teach you WHY we believe and use only the King James Bible.

### I. GOD PROMISED TO PRESERVE HIS WORDS

Psalm 12:6-7 says, "*The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.*" We read in Psalm 100:5 that ". . . his truth endureth to all generations," and Jesus said in John 17:17 that God's WORD is truth.

These words state very clearly that God's preserved word MUST be available to us today, because God PROMISED to preserve it for us. There MUST be an infallible Book somewhere.

You say, "But ALL translations are God's word, not just one." That's impossible, because the various translations contain different readings, and God is not the author of confusion (I Cor. 14:33). Besides, if all of the versions are the word of God, then where are the "corrupt" and "perverted" versions that we are warned about in II Corinthians 2:17 and Jeremiah 23:36? If

everyone is innocent, then where are those who are said to be GUILTY of subtracting from and adding to the word of God (Rev. 22:18-19)? God wouldn't have warned us about Bible perversion if it wasn't going to be a reality. According to the scriptures, there must be a single Book that is the word of God, and there must be MANY which are involved in CORRUPTING the word of God.

Now, if the Authorized Version isn't the infallible word of God, then WHAT IS? There has to be a Book somewhere in "**all generations**" which is God's word; so what book is it? Those who "use" the new versions believe that these are good and reliable translations, but they do not believe these to be INFALLIBLE translations. However, I know many people who believe the King James Bible to be an infallible Book. Why? Because they know that the One True God has ONE TRUE BOOK. He promised to preserve His words, and we believe that He has done just that. Jesus said, "**Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away**" (*Matthew 24:35*). If His words didn't pass away, then where are they? I want to read them. There has to be a perfect volume somewhere. I know the King James Bible is the word of God because God promised to preserve His words.

## **II. TRANSLATED UNDER A KING**

The main subject of the Bible is the kingdom which God intends to give to His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who will be crowned "**KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS,**" according to Revelation 19:16. Ecclesiastes 8:4 says, "**Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?**" Unlike the modern versions, the KJV was translated under a king. In fact, the king's name was "James," which is the English word for "Jacob," the man whom God renamed "Israel" because he had power with God and with men (Gen. 32:28).

The new versions have been translated in America, which is not a monarchy. God's form of government is a theocratic monarchy, not a democracy. Therefore, it makes sense that His word would be translated for the English speaking people under a monarchy with an English king. I know the King James Bible is the word of God because it was translated under a king.

### **III. NO COPYRIGHT**

The original crown copyright of 1611 does not forbid anyone today from reprinting the Authorized Version. It was only copyrighted then for the purpose of allowing the printer to finance the publication. Millions, perhaps even billions, of copies of KJV's have been published without requesting permission from anyone and without paying royalties to anyone. This cannot be said of any of the new translations.

The new "bibles" are the work of MEN, but the KJV is a divine work of the Holy Spirit. The term "Authorized" has traditionally been applied to the King James Version alone, for this is the one Book which the Holy Spirit has blessed and used for so long. The fact that it bears no copyright allows printing ministries throughout the world to print millions of copies each year for the mission field. I know the King James Bible is the word of God because it has no copyright.

### **IV. GOD TRANSLATES PERFECTLY**

The words "translate" and "translated" occur three times in the Bible, and GOD is the Translator each time. The scholars insist that the KJV cannot be infallible, because it is "only a translation." Do you suppose that such scholars have checked II Samuel 3:10, Colossians 1:13, and Hebrews 11:5 to see what GOD has to say about translating?

In II Samuel 3:10 we are told that it was God Who translated Saul's kingdom to David. We are told in Colossians 1:13 that Christians have been translated into the kingdom of Jesus Christ, and Hebrews 11:5 tells us that God translated Enoch that he should not see death. God was the One doing the translating each time! What's the point? The point is that a translation CAN be perfect, if God is involved in the translating.

When the New Testament writers would quote the Old Testament (Mt. 1:23; Mk. 1:2; Lk. 4:4; Jn. 15:25; Acts 1:20; 7:42; I Cor. 2:9; Gal. 3:13, etc.), they had to TRANSLATE from Hebrew to Greek, because the Old Testament was written in Hebrew, but THEY wrote in Greek. So, if a translation cannot be infallible, then EVEN THE NEW TESTAMENT IN THE "ORIGINAL GREEK" ISN'T INFALLIBLE, because it contains translations from the Hebrew text.

Obviously God assisted them in their translating by the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and He assisted the King James translators as well. The scholars will never understand this, for most of them have quenched the Holy Spirit in their own lives by looking to higher education for truth, rather than seeking the Lord's leadership (John 16:13).

The Holy Spirit Who inspired the word of God through "*holy men of God*" (II Pet. 1:21) is quite capable of guiding His servants to keep the words which Jesus told us to keep (John 14:23). In essence, the KJV translators were merely *instruments* which God used in translating and preserving His word. In fact, they said this themselves in the Dedicatory to the Authorized Version: ". . . *because we are poor instruments to make God's holy truth to be yet more and more known to the people. . .* "

I know the King James Bible is the word of God because God is very capable of using anyone He pleases as His very own instruments of righteousness in order to preserve His word.

## V. THE KJV IS FRUITFUL

The Lord Jesus said that every good tree will bring forth good fruit, and we can know them *by* their fruits (Mt. 7:17-20).

God had the KJV translated for the purpose of bringing forth fruit, and it has been very obedient to the call. The greatest preachers of the past four centuries have been King James Bible believers. Billy Sunday is said to have led over one million people to Christ, and he was a KJV believer. Spurgeon, Moody, Whitfield, and Wesley were all KJV men, and the list goes on. God has richly blessed the ministries of such men as these because they stayed busy OBEYING His word rather than questioning its authority.

The KJV produces good fruit. I was led to Christ with a King James Bible. Nearly every Christian I know was led to Christ with a KJV. Why? Because it produces good fruit.

The new translations produce EVIL fruit. The modern perversions of scripture are producing infidels who do not even know what the word of God is, much less where to find it. The new translations produce spiritual babies who are totally incapable of discussing Bible doctrine. The new versions produce newer versions, which produce *money* for the publishers, and I Timothy 6:10 tells us that the love of money is the root of all EVIL.

The Holy Spirit doesn't bear witness to the modern translations, but He DOES bear witness to the King James. I've always believed the KJV to be God's word, even before I was saved. No one ever told me to believe this, but the Holy Spirit just bore witness to the King James--not the others. After being saved, I spent several years of my Christian life not being aware of the big debate going on these days between King James Bible believers and New Age Version believers. The whole time I believed only ONE BOOK to be God's word, and even then I was suspicious of the new versions, although no one had told me to be. When I discovered that most "Christian" schools in our nation do not believe the KJV to be the word of God, I was shocked.

How is it that one comes to believe the KJV naturally, but must be *educated out* of his belief in it? Why is it that King James believers are accused of following men when GOD is the One Who led them to believe it? Why do opponents of the KJV accuse us of following men, when THEY are the ones who allowed MEN to talk them out of believing the KJV?

The KJV produces good fruit because the Holy Spirit bears witness to it like no other book in the world. It's easier to memorize than any new version, and the beautiful old English language gives the reader the impression that he is reading a Book very different and far superior to the rest. It reads different because it *is* different, and it *is* different because it has a different Author. We shall know them "*by their fruit*", and I know the King James Bible is the word of God because it produces GOOD fruit.

## **VI. THE KJV TRANSLATORS BELIEVED** **THEY WERE HANDLING THE VERY WORDS OF GOD**

One can see this truth by reading the Prefatory and Dedicatory remarks in the Authorized Version. These men didn't believe they were handling "God's message" or "reliable manuscripts." They believed they were handling the very words of God Himself. As the Bible says in I Thessalonians 2:13, they "*. . . received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*"

Like the serpent of Genesis 3:1, modern translators approach the scriptures in skepticism, saying, "*Yea, hath God*

*said?"* This was the first recorded sin in the Bible, and it is still prevalent in the hearts and minds of most scholars and new version promoters.

God has always allowed such people to be DECEIVED because of the IDOLS in their hearts (Ezek. 14:1-9; II Ths. 2:10-12; I Kings 22). A man who lacks faith in God's word is in no condition to translate it. This eliminates every revision committee in the past one hundred years, because these committees have consisted mostly of highly educated men who were heady, high-minded, and proud, thinking that their intelligence qualified them to tamper with the pure words of God.

The KJV translators were not like this. Their scholarship *far exceeded* that of modern translators, yet they remained humble and allowed God to use them in order to produce an infallible masterpiece. They didn't set out to "judge" and "correct" the word of God. Their purpose was to translate God's word for the English speaking people, as they were told to do by their king. I know the King James Bible is the word of God because the KJV translators believed it themselves.

## **VII. THE TRANSLATORS WORKED HONESTLY**

The critics of the KJV enjoy making a fuss about the words in italics, which were added by the translators, but the argument is entirely unnecessary and unfair.

The italic words in the KJV actually prove that the translators were honest in their work. When translating from one language to another, the idioms change, thus making it necessary to add certain words to help the reader grasp the full meaning of the text. When the KJV translators added such words they set them in italics so that we'd know these words were added, *unlike* we find it in so many new versions today, which do not use the italics.

Besides, no one has ever PROVEN that the italic words are not the words of God because no one has "the originals" to check them with. In fact, we know for sure that the translators were led by the Holy Spirit to add at least some of the italicized words.

One good example of this is found in II Samuel 21:19. When the translators came to this verse in the Hebrew text, they noticed that an exact translation would give Elhanan credit for

slaying Goliath, but we know from I Chronicles 20:5 that he actually slew *the brother of* Goliath. So the KJV translators added the words "*the brother of*" to II Samuel 21:19. If the Lord had not led them to do so, then II Samuel 21:19 would contradict I Chronicles 20:5 (as it DOES in the New World Translation!).

Another fine example is I John 2:23. The last half of the verse was missing at the time, but the KJV translators inserted it anyway (in italics), feeling that it was necessary. This naturally disturbed many people, but since that time new manuscripts have been found which CONTAIN the last half of I John 2:23. The translators were right in adding the italicized words.

One last example of the Holy Spirit's guiding influence on the KJV translators is found in Psalm 16:8, which says, "***I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.***" As you can see, the words "*he is*" are in italics. According to many scholars they should be omitted, but according to the Apostle Peter they should *not* be omitted. Peter quotes Psalm 16:8 in Acts 2:25 and he USES the italicized words! How did the translators know this if the Lord didn't lead them?

The italics in the King James Bible are the marks of an *honest* translation for no one added these words to mislead us or to change the word of God. They added the words to help us, and they set the words in italics so we'd know they were added. That's honesty. I know the KJV is the word of God, because the translators were more honest in their work than any of the modern Bible translators.

## **VIII. THE NEW PERVERSIONS COMPARE THEMSELVES TO THE KJV**

The new versions do not compare themselves to one another near as much as they compare themselves to one Book: the King James Bible. This fact alone proves that there is something very special and unique about the KJV.

Why does everyone line up in opposition AGAINST the King James Bible? Why not attack one another? That's easy: Satan has no desire to divide his own kingdom (Mt. 12:26). His desire is to discredit the word of GOD, not himself; so he attacks only one Book, God's Book, the KJV.

Those who oppose the KJV are unsure of themselves, for they have no Final Authority; so they despise those of us who DO

have an Authority. They're unstable, insecure, dishonest, and very inconsistent. They're all terrified of One Book, the KJV, and they'll stop short of nothing in their efforts to rid the Body of Christ of that Book.

I know the KJV is the word of God, because it's the standard which all others use for comparison.

## **IX. THE TIME OF ITS TRANSLATION**

The King James Bible was not translated during the apostate and lukewarm Laodicean church period, like the new translations. The Laodicean period is the last church period before the Second Coming of Christ. It is the last of the seven church periods in Revelation chapters two and three. One can clearly see that we are living in the Laodicean period today by simply comparing modern churches to the church of Revelation 3:14-22. This lukewarm period began toward the end of the 1800's and will continue until Christ returns. The new versions fit well into the lukewarm churches because they are lukewarm "bibles."

The Authorized Version, however, was translated long *before* the Laodicean churches appeared. It was translated during the Philadelphia church period, which is the best church period of all. In fact, it was this church that the Lord Jesus commended for *keeping His word* (Rev. 3:8-10)!

In 1611, when the King James Bible was completed, the scourge of lukewarm Laodicea had not yet swept over the world. There was no "scientific" crowd around in 1611 to put pressure on the translators. There was no civil rights movement going on at this time to influence the work of these men. The women were not screaming for "equal rights," and the humanists and socialists had not yet taken control. The "politically correct" crowd would not appear for another four centuries. The massive army of liberal and modernistic preachers had not yet been assembled. The open public denial of God's word and the Deity of Christ was practically unheard of among ministers. It wasn't until the twentieth century that professing Christianity became flooded with lukewarm preachers who would be willing to compromise the word of God for self gain.

The greatest missionary work in church history occurred between 1700 and 1900, so it makes sense that God would have a



Bible ready for this great work, and He did - the KJV. Unfortunately, the new translations appeared a bit LATE on the scene! Think about that. ALL NEW BIBLE TRANSLATIONS COMPLETELY *MISSED* THE GREAT MISSIONARY WORKS OF THE 1700'S AND 1800'S! I know the KJV is the word of God because of the time in history in which it was translated.

## **X. NO ONE HAS PROVED THAT THE KJV IS NOT GOD'S WORD**

Has any scholar actually PROVED that there are errors in the King James Bible? No. Enemies of the KJV delight in *ignoring* the facts about the Authorized Version, while never *proving* anything. All apparent "errors" in the KJV can be explained through prayer and a careful study of the scriptures, but the opponents of the KJV aren't interested in looking for truth; they're interested attacking God's word, while never proving anything. I know the KJV is the word of God because, after four hundred years, no one has proven otherwise.

## **XI. THE MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE**

Only a very deceived individual could believe that the new versions are equal to the King James Bible. Ninety-five percent of all evidence *supports* the text of the King James Authorized Version. The new versions are supported by the remaining five percent evidence.

The new "bibles" are supported by two very corrupt fourth century manuscripts, known as "Vaticanus" and "Siniaticus." These manuscripts are filled with many text alterations to meet the demands of Roman Catholic tradition. They also include the Apocrypha, which the Lord Jesus Christ *excluded* from the Old Testament in Luke 24:44. All new versions contain readings from these corrupt manuscripts, and all new versions use their tiny five percent evidence to attack the ninety-five percent majority text of the King James Bible.

The Textus Receptus (received text) from which the King James Bible came can be traced clear back to Antioch, Syria, where the disciples were first called Christians and where Paul and

Barnabas taught the word of God for a whole year (Acts 11:26). The other "bibles" do not come from Antioch. They come from Alexandria, Egypt, and from Rome. We don't need an Egyptian version, for Egypt is a type of the *world* in the Bible. God called His people *out of Egypt* (Exod. 3-14), and God called His Son out of Egypt (Hos. 11:1 with Matt. 2:13-15). Why, the Bible says that "*every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians*" in Gen. 46:34, and the Lord Jesus Christ is called a SHEPHERD in John chapter ten. Alexandria, Egypt, is associated with *superstition* in Acts 28:11, and Aquilla and Pricilla had to set an Egyptian straight on his doctrine in Acts chapter 18. Alexandrians are also found *disputing with Stephen* in Acts 6:9. So we don't need a "bible" from Alexandria, Egypt.

Then there's the Roman text, also called the "Western Text." We can also do without a Roman "bible", because it was *Roman* soldiers who nailed our Lord to the cross. The harlot of Revelation 17 is a near perfect description of the Roman Catholic Church, which has persecuted true Christians throughout church history. Romans persecuted the Christians in Acts 18:2, and in 70 A.D. the Romans destroyed Jerusalem. Rome is the "dreadful and terrible" beast of Daniel chapter seven, and Christ will destroy the "Revised Roman Empire" at the Second Coming (Dan. 2; 7; Rev. 13). It has been estimated that Rome is guilty of the blood of some 200 million people who have rejected her corrupt system. A "bible" from Rome is another thing we can live without.

There's only one line of manuscripts that we can trust, and this is the line from Antioch, called the "Syrian" or "Byzantine" type text. The word of God speaks *positively* of Antioch, and *negatively* of Rome and Egypt. We should take the best and dump the rest! I know the King James Bible is the word of God because of the manuscript evidence.

## **XII. THE KJV EXALTS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**

Jesus said, "*Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: And they are they which testify of me.*" (John 5:39)

A real Bible will testify of the Lord Jesus Christ. The true word of God will always exalt Jesus Christ, and it will never attack His Deity, His Virgin Birth, His Blood Atonement, His Bodily Resurrection, His Glorious Second Coming, or any other

doctrines concerning His Person. However, the new versions attack all of the fundamental doctrines concerning the Lord Jesus Christ at one time or another.

By perverting the many important verses of scripture which deal with the fundamental doctrines of Christ, the new "bibles" have a continuous attack launched against our beloved Saviour, and this is *not* an overstatement! His Virgin Birth is under attack in Isaiah 7:14, Luke 1:34, and Luke 2:33. His Blood Atonement is under attack in Colossians 1:14, Acts 20:28, Ephesians 1:7, and Revelation 1:5. The Bodily Resurrection is under attack in Acts 1:3, Luke chapter 24, and the last twelve verses of Mark. His Deity is under attack in Acts 10:28, John 9:35, and I Timothy 3:16. The new versions attack the Second Coming in Revelation 11:15, and Titus 2:13, and the list goes on because the new versions have an extreme bitter *hatred* toward the Authorized Version and the way it gives the Lord Jesus Christ the preeminent place.

If the reader doubts this, we challenge you to take whatever version you want and compare the above verses in it to the same verses in the King James Bible. The new "bibles" have a very consistent record of attacking the Lord Jesus Christ; so they cannot possibly be "the scriptures" that He said would testify of Him in John 5:39. They testify AGAINST him.

The King James Bible never attacks our Lord. More than any book in the world, the Authorized Version of the Protestant Reformation EXALTS the Lord Jesus Christ. If we had no other reason for receiving the Authorized Version as the word of God, this reason alone should be enough to convince any true believer, for how could we not become suspicious of the new versions for making such changes? I know the King James Bible is the word of God because it always exalts the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Lesson Review

1. In which period of church history was the King James Bible translated?

- a. Philadelphia
- b. Laodicean
- c. Sardis
- d. Ephesus

2. In which period of church history were the new versions translated?

- a. Philadelphia
- b. Laodicean
- c. Sardis
- d. Ephesus

3. Whom must one contact for permission to print King James Bibles?

- a. Thomas Nelson Publishers
- b. Oxford University Press
- c. Cambridge Press
- d. No one

4. True or False? Only the Living Bible has produced more good fruit than the King James Bible.

5. What percentage of all manuscript evidence supports the readings in the King James Bible?

- a. 36%
- b. 82%
- c. 95%
- d. 66%

6. The King James Bible is supported by the majority readings found in the:

- a. Vaticanus
- b. Textus Receptus
- c. Siniaticus

7. Which of the following is NOT a city associated with manuscripts?

- a. Rome
- b. Jerusalem
- c. Antioch
- d. Alexandria

8. From which of the above cities do the best manuscripts come?

**Suggested Memory Verses:** I Thessalonians 2:13, II Timothy 2:15

## Lesson V

### Your Spirit, Your Soul, and Your Body

In this lesson we will be studying a subject that modern-day psychiatrists and psychologists know nothing about, yet these very people profess to be authorities on human nature and human behavior. Imagine going to a doctor so he can help you get well and *he doesn't even know what you are!*

The Bible says that you are a SPIRIT, a SOUL, and a BODY. Before you can understand who you are and how you are supposed to get anywhere in life, you must get acquainted with the doctrine of spirit, soul, and body. This lesson is written from the standpoint that God knows more about us than we do (since He created us) and that God's word can shed more light on human behavior than any man has ever written. You won't be very popular or very recognized for believing the forthcoming pages, but you will be *right*.

**"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Ths. 5:23)**

Now, there it is. Paul said that you have a spirit, a soul, and a body. You are a three-part being. You do not have just a body, and you do not have just a body and a soul. You have spirit, a soul, and a body. As we shall learn in a later lesson, God is a trinity consisting of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. So, He has made man a trinity also. In fact, your soul pictures God the Father, your body pictures Jesus Christ Who was once here in the flesh, and your spirit pictures the Holy Spirit. God is a trinity, so He has made man a trinity.

Think of the sun for a moment. The sun gives off light rays, chemical rays, and heat rays, yet it is still just one sun. Three rays, but one sun. You are three parts, but one person.

A football is also a good example. It has the outward leather which you see. Then there's an inner tube which you cannot see. Then there's the air inside the inner tube. A football is three parts, but one football. You are three parts, but one person. You are a spirit, a soul, and a body.

Notice how it all began in Genesis: "**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.**" (Gen. 2:7) First, God formed a BODY from dirt. Then He breathed a SPIRIT into the body, and then man became a living SOUL. That "breath of life" is the spirit. Ecclesiastes 12:7 says, "**Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.**" He gave it in Genesis 2:7. That word for "spirit" in the New Testament is "pneuma", which can be translated "breath", "breeze", "a current of air", "life", "mind", "ghost", or "spirit." When God breathed into Adam's lifeless body a LIFE was formed. A complete man was made, which had a spirit, a soul, and a body.

## I. YOUR SPIRIT

What good is a football without air? It's no good, for it's just a dead ball. What good is man without God's Spirit? He is NO GOOD. So, God made man in his own image *with a spirit*, a soul, and a body. Notice Genesis 1:26: "**And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.**" He said "in our image." That's the Trinity: *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*.

God made man in a perfectly sinless image and placed him in a perfect paradise with a simple command: "**And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**" (Gen. 2:16-17) Man was told that he would DIE for eating of the forbidden fruit, but this cannot be *physical* death, because Genesis chapter five tells us that Adam lived hundreds of years beyond the day of his sin. Man was made a "living soul" when he received God's Spirit, so man "died" spiritually when he sinned and *lost* God's

Spirit. When Satan said, "Ye shall not surely die" (Gen. 3:1), he was being very deceitful. Man DIDN'T die physically, but he DID die spiritually. When Adam sinned he lost God's Spirit, and he lost God's IMAGE. Adam was made in God's image, but when he had children they were born in ADAM'S image with a sin nature. Notice Genesis 5:3: **"And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:"** Adam was the only man in the Old Testament to have the image of God, and he had it only for a short time. It isn't until Jesus Christ comes and pays for the sin of the world that we read again about a man having God's image. Colossians 3:10 says, **"And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"** Notice Hebrews 1:3: **"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;"** Jesus Christ is the image of God, and no one can be born in God's image until they are BORN AGAIN (John 3:3). Then, and only then, can a person have God's image. **"And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."** (I Cor. 15:49)

Since life produces life, it takes life for someone to receive God's image through Christ. The new birth is a supernatural birth where the eternal life in Christ gives spiritual birth to a fallen man. First, one must hear the living word. Hebrews 4:12 says, **"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."** The word of God is ALIVE (quick). Jesus said, **"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."** (John 6:63) The word of God is a living book with living words, which has the power to bring about a new birth. Notice I Peter 1:23: **"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."** If you've been saved, then it's because you once had a dead spirit, and then upon receiving Christ as your Saviour you received a new nature, a new image, and a new Spirit. Ephesians 4:30 says you are *sealed* with the Holy Spirit. You

were DEAD spiritually, but God raised you up. Ephesians 2:1 says, "**And you *hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins:***" Why were you dead? You lost God's image and God's Spirit in Genesis, and you had to wait for Jesus Christ to give it back to you.

Think of this. Everyone on earth is either in Adam or in Christ. "**For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**" (I Cor. 15:22) There is no third dwelling. Either you are a sinner in Adam, or you are a saint in Christ. There are no other options. If you're in Adam, then your spirit is dead because it was made in Adam's image which was also dead. If you're in Christ, then you've been born again and sealed with God's Spirit, in God's image. Everyone has a spirit, but not everyone has a *living* spirit in the eyes of God.

## II. YOUR SOUL

Your soul is the real you which dwells inside your body until the moment you die. When you die, your soul *departs* from your body and goes to be with the Lord or goes to suffer in Hell. In Genesis 35:18, we read about the death of Rachel: "**And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.**" When was her soul in departing? It departed when she died. In II Timothy 4:6, Paul said, "**For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.**" Did his *body* depart when he died? No, his body was buried. His *soul* departed. In II Corinthians 5:8 Paul says, "**We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**" According to God's word, when a person dies their soul departs from their body and moves to its eternal home.

"**And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:**" (Rev. 6:9) So then a soul has a *bodily shape* which can be seen. You and I cannot see it today, but it *can* be seen, if we are to believe Revelation 6:9. John said he *saw* the souls. Now consider Luke 16:23-25: "**And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may**



**dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented."** There's a man who has died and went to Hell. His body was buried, and then he lifted up his *eyes* in Hell and asked for water to cool his tongue. This man's original eyes were still in his dead body in the grave, as well as his tongue, but his soul, which had a bodily shape, was now in Hell. His soul had eyes, a tongue, and a brain to make them function. While his body lay dead in the grave, this man's soul suffered in Hell with all of his senses, a central nervous system, and a memory.

Some teach that Hell is the grave and that the soul only goes to the grave at death. This just won't do. In fact, there are three very good reasons why this cannot be true:

1. There is no FIRE in the grave, but the Bible declares that there is fire in Hell (Deu. 32:22; Mat. 5:22; Mark 9:43-48; Jas. 3:6)
2. Hell must be much worse than the grave because Jesus said it's better to enter the kingdom blind or crippled than to go to Hell (Mat. 18:8-9). Hell, unlike the grave, must be a place of suffering.
3. In Genesis 49:33-50:5, Jacob dies and is "gathered unto his people" (49:33). However, his body isn't buried until seventy days later (50:3-5). What was gathered unto his people? It was his *soul*. Like Rachel, Jacob's soul departed when he died. His soul went to be with his people while his body awaited burial.

When you received Jesus Christ as your Saviour, it was your *soul* that was saved. This soul is in invisible bodily shape which dwells inside of you until the day you die, or until the Lord returns. When your soul leaves your body, it will be either present with the Lord or tormented in Hell fire.

### **III. YOUR BODY**

Paul said that if any man be in Christ he is a new creature (II Cor. 5:17), but there is certainly nothing new about your body. Your old dead spirit has been regenerated, and your soul has been washed in the blood of the Lamb, but your flesh is still just as vile

as ever. You may think much of your flesh, but the Bible comment is that your flesh is one of your worst enemies: **"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."** (Mat. 26:41) **"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."** (Rom. 8:13) **"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:"** (I Pet. 1:24)

Your flesh is still just as carnal and corrupt as ever. Your salvation hasn't changed your flesh. You have *two natures* now, and the one you feed will win the battle in your life. Notice Galatians 6:8: **"For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."** As a Christian, you can sow grass seed and reap worthless grass, or you can sow good seed and reap a good harvest. You can pile up junk on this earth, or you can lay up treasure in Heaven.

Suppose you own two big dogs, a black one and a white one. For thirty days you feed the black dog the best possible diet, but you barely give the white dog enough food to stay alive. Then one day the two dogs engage in a fight. Which dog do you suppose will win? Naturally, the winner will be the one you've been feeding.

How much should we feed the flesh? As little as possible. Paul says in I Timothy 6:8, **"And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."** Paul writes in Philippians 4:11, **"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content."** Your flesh will *never* be content. God knows this to be true. God knows that your flesh is corrupt and that it is capable of doing great damage to your testimony. For this reason He says, **"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."** (Rom. 8:13) To "mortify" is to KILL. What does God say about your flesh? He says KILL, OR BE KILLED! If you live after the flesh ye shall die spiritually, so MORTIFY (kill) the flesh before it kills you.

No, we aren't advocating suicide, or at least not *physical* suicide. We are dealing with a *spiritual* battle in a spiritual war that must be fought with spiritual weapons. Jesus said, **"...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his**

**cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23)** Your flesh isn't going to follow Christ. Your flesh wants to eat, drink, and be merry. Your flesh wants to go to the movies, go shopping for the latest styles, read dirty books and magazines, listen to worldly music, and hang out with worldly people. Your flesh wants to keep Jesus Christ in the closet about ninety-five percent of the time. Jesus Christ wants to keep your flesh mortified (dead) most of the time.

How can this be done? How can a person stay spiritual when they are trapped in a physical body? Paul gives some good advice in Ephesians 6:10-18:

**"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"**

Did you notice Paul's emphasis on the word *STAND*? We live in a weak and compromising generation when people do not have the guts to *STAND* for anything because everyone lives in the flesh, which is *weak*. God's people are supposed to be different. We have an infallible printed authority which tells us right from wrong, and God expects us to read His word, establish convictions, and *STAND* on it! Like it or not, friend, you are on the battlefield of good and evil, and there is no neutral ground.

Apart from the protective armour that Paul mentions, there are two items that we can classify as *offensive weapons*: the word of God and prayer. Through the written word God speaks to you, and you speak to God through prayer. That's communication. The more you commune with God the more like God you will become.

You will grow spiritually. By contrast, the less you commune with God the less like Him you will be. You will *shrink* spiritually.

David said in Psalm 119:11, "**Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.**" Psalm 119:9 says, "**Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.**" In John 15:3 the Lord Jesus Christ says, "**Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.**" Friend, if you plan to stay clean for God, then you *must* feed on His word. As John Bunyan said, "*This Book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this Book.*"

In Matthew 26:41, Jesus said, "**Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**" Notice the contrast. The flesh is opposed to prayer. You've spent more time eating today than you have praying. Why? The flesh is weak. It is weak and it will quench your spiritual power unless you *STAND* against it with God's word and prayer. When you don't want to pray, just pray anyway, because that's when you need prayer the most.

In I Corinthians 15:33, Paul said, "**Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.**" If evil communications corrupt good manners, then GOOD communications corrupt evil manners! If you want to see the Holy Spirit mortify (kill) the influence of your flesh, just stay in close communion with God. Pray and read God's word daily. The Spirit will stay "stirred up" and the flesh will be over-powered.

In your flesh dwells no good thing (Rom. 7:18). Your flesh is your enemy, and it will remain your enemy for the rest of your life. *Don't let the enemy win. STAND and FIGHT.*

Will the flesh ever be righteous? Will the flesh ever be saved like the soul? Yes, it certainly will. There is coming a day when the saints of God will be given new glorified bodies. We will be given immortal bodies that can never sin and never die. Speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ, Paul says, "**Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.**" (Philip. 3:21) Jesus Christ is now in a glorified body (Rev. 1), and those who follow Him will receive one as well. Romans 8:23 says that we are waiting for "**the redemption of our body.**" The Christian's soul has been redeemed, but his body still awaits redemption.

Notice these words of comfort from I Corinthians 15: "So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.....In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.....Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (I Cor. 15:42-44, 52-53, 58)

In closing, think of it this way. The subject of spirit, soul, and body has to do with the *penalty*, the *power*, and the *presence* of sin. In the PAST, my SOUL was saved from the PENALTY of sin. In the PRESENT, (day by day) my SPIRIT is saved from the POWER of sin, because I have God's Spirit to be my guide and comfort. In the FUTURE, my BODY will be saved from the PRESENCE of sin.

## Lesson Review

1. Fill in the blanks: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."
2. The above verse is found where?
3. True or false? Since God is the Creator of all men, everyone is created in God's image.
4. In Genesis 3, man died:
  - a. emotionally
  - b. in type
  - c. spiritually
  - d. spiritually and physically

5. Which of the following references do NOT speak of Jesus Christ as being the image of God:

- a. John 6:63
- b. Heb. 1:3
- c. Col. 3:10

6. In Hebrews 4:12, what is meant by the word "quick"?

7. Fill in the blank: "And it came to pass, as her \_\_\_\_\_ was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin."

8. Does a person's soul have a bodily shape?

9. In Luke chapter 16, the rich man's body went to the \_\_\_\_\_, but his soul went to \_\_\_\_\_.

10. Where in the Bible does Jesus say that the flesh is weak?

11. We need to take up our cross and follow Jesus:

- a. when we are saved
- b. daily
- c. when we serve God

12. The Christian's armour includes two offensive weapons. What are they?

13. Where does Paul speak about the "redemption of our body"?

14. In the past your soul was saved from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.

15. In the present your spirit is saved from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.

16. In the future your body is saved from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.

**Suggested Memory Verse:** I Thessalonians 5:23

## Lesson VI

### What Does God Expect of Me?

**"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23) "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (I Cor. 6:19-20)**

Technically, God expects *nothing* of you. Jesus said in John 15:5, **"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.** He said, *"nothing."* A branch is no good without the vine. A branch by itself will die and become useless. God expects all believers to *deny* themselves and acknowledge their need to allow Jesus Christ to work *through* them, just as a vine produces fruit through its branches. By simply obeying God's word a Christian serves God and glorifies Him. Jesus said, **"...I do always those things that please him."** (John 8:29) Every Christian is supposed to be a FULL TIME SERVANT. Our Christian duty is to follow Jesus and please our Heavenly Father. God's word gives us all the instructions we need to live a Christ-honoring life and to lay up great treasures in Heaven. This lesson presents some of the more important duties of every Christian.

#### I. SUBMIT TO BELIEVERS' BAPTISM

**"Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. 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 8:35-39)

Notice the proper order of events: (1) The eunuch heard the Gospel. (2) He was told that he must BELIEVE with all his heart before he could be baptized. (3) He confessed Jesus Christ openly. (4) Phillip baptized the man by immersion in water. (5) The eunuch then rejoiced.

Scriptural New Testament baptism is for believers only, and the only mode of baptism is total immersion. Baptism saves no one, but it does serve as a perfect opportunity to be openly identified with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. If baptism were for salvation then Jesus would not have been baptized, because He needed no salvation. Baptism pictures the death, the burial, and the resurrection of Christ. Jesus said in Matthew 28:19, **"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"** A sinner is *saved* by grace through faith in Christ (Eph. 2:8-9), but an obedient Christian will submit to our Lord's will and be baptized. God expects you to be baptized.

## **II. FEAR GOD**

Psalms 111:10 says, **"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever."** Solomon said, **"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."** (Ecc. 12:13-14)

To fear God is to simply *reverence* Him--to highly respect His power and authority over you. A person who fears God is a person who always considers God's word and God's will. This is something that modern America knows very little about. As Paul wrote in Romans 3:18, **"There is no fear of God before their eyes."** A person who fears God is a person who lives a humble and obedient life before God, always being mindful of the fact that God is HOLY and He will not overlook sin. According to Proverbs 15:16, **"Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith."** No matter how educated



or wealthy a man may be, if he doesn't fear God he is FOOLISH and POOR.

In Matthew 10:28, Jesus said, "**And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**" A man who fears God has no one else to fear, but a man who fears not God has everyone to fear. Putting God first and fearing Him above all is the key to a happy and fulfilling life. Also see Psalm 118:6 and Proverbs 29:25.

### **III. READ AND STUDY GOD'S WORD**

**"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."** (II Tim 2:15) Paul tells us here to STUDY God's word that we might be APPROVED by God. A Christian who doesn't spend adequate time in God's word is a disobedient Christian. This world is filled with sin and ungodly elements, and only through God's word can we find true spiritual refreshment to keep us clean and set apart for God's service. David said, "**Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.**" (Psa 119:11) God's word will keep a Christian clean! God's word is like a spiritual bar of soap which the Christian uses DAILY to be a sweet smelling savor to God. Speaking of the church in Ephesians 5:26, the Apostle Paul said, "**That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.**" Psalm 119:9 says, "**Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.**" Jesus said, "**Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.**" (John 15:3) It's all through the Bible, friend, a Christian CANNOT stay clean without God's word!

**"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."** (Jsh. 1:8-9) That's God's promise. A DAILY habit of spending time in God's word will guarantee a prosperous and successful life. David said, "**O how love I thy**

**law! it is my meditation all the day.** (Psa 119:97) Is this true in your life? It should be. Every Christian should love God's word and meditate on it often.

#### **IV. PRAY ALWAYS**

Jesus said that , "**...men ought always to pray, and not to faint.**" (Luke 18:1) God speaks to us through Bible reading, but we speak to Him through prayer. Every Christian needs a special time each day (perhaps more than once per day) when he gets alone with God in prayer. Mark 1:35 says, "**And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.**" Jesus realized the need to pull away for a while and get alone with His Father in prayer. In our fast-paced society this is sometimes hard, but it's very necessary and well worth the effort.

If you're really trusting God for your daily needs and the needs of others, then you will naturally go to Him in prayer to make your requests known. When a child is really depending on a father to do something, he won't quit talking to the father about it until it's done. In fact, that's one thing that moves the father to get it done sooner! God expects us to come to Him on a regular basis to simply "empty" ourselves by laying all our wants and needs in His hands.

Paul said, "**Pray without ceasing**" in I Thessalonians 5:17. Prayer is to be continual, because our relationship with God is continual. Many Christians wait until they've become loaded down with sins and many burdens before they pray, but this isn't God's will. God commands us to pray ALWAYS so we'll never become over-loaded with problems. He wants us to carry a LIGHT load. Jesus said, "**For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**" (Mat. 11:30).

The subjects of prayer are many. *Thanksgiving* is an important part of prayer (Mark 8:6; John 6:11; I Tim. 4:4-5). We are told to pray for *forgiveness* (I John 1:9), for *personal needs* (Mat. 6:9-13; Philip. 4:6, 19), and for *wisdom* (Jas. 1:5-7). We are told to remember *others* in prayer (Rom. 1:9; Jas. 5:13-16), to remember our *government leaders* (I Tim. 2:1-2), and to pray for our *pastors, churches, and missionaries* (I Ths. 5:25; II Ths. 3:1; Jas. 5:16).

Everyone needs to take timeout each day for such physical needs as bathing, eating, and sleeping. Likewise, every Christian needs a special time each day for Bible reading and *prayer*.

## **V. PRAISE GOD**

The word "praise" is found 248 times in the Bible. God desires to be praised by His people! Psalm 22:3 says, "**But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.**" God INHABITS the praises of His people! Psalm 150:6 says, "**Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.**"

Hebrews 13:15 instructs us on *how* to praise our God: "**By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.**" The key words here are "LIPS" and "THANKS". It is your Christian duty to use your *LIPS* to let God know and to let others know that God is a great God and that you are THANKFUL for His blessings.

This can be done in normal conversation or by singing. In Acts 16:25, Paul and Silas were in jail, yet they *sang praises unto God* in the presence of others. Romans 10:11 says, "**...Who-soever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**" God expects us to praise Him. When you love someone you speak highly of them. If you love God, you'll speak highly of Him by praising Him.

## **VI. BE AN INVOLVED CHURCH MEMBER**

Just as a soldier belongs in the military service, a Christian belongs in a Bible-believing church. It is your Christian duty to be an active member of a local New Testament church. Hebrews 10:25 says, "**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.**" I Corinthians 16:2 and Acts 20:7 designate the first day of the week (Sunday) as the proper day for Christians to meet together for preaching and fellowship.

God expects Christians to assemble together on a regular basis to worship Him and to exhort one another. A true Christian will get tired of this world and its ways throughout the week, so

God has established the local church for our exhortation and edification.

Actually, the local church has three functions: (1) the *salvation* of sinners, (2) the *edification* of saints, and (3) the *glorification* of the Saviour. NEVER join a church that isn't striving for these three goals (*and plenty of them aren't!*). The church is God's army on this earth, and God expects every Christian to be a *good soldier*. II Timothy 2:3-4 says, "**Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.**" Friend, a soldier is a man who has been disciplined and trained to work together with other soldiers in a fight against an enemy. The local church is not your enemy. *Satan is your enemy* (I Peter 5:8), so God wants you on *HIS* team so you can fight the good fight against the Devil (II Tim. 4:7). Paul fought a good fight, and he did so by being *involved with* and *helping* local churches all of his Christian life.

Read your New Testament. The whole thing is about churches. Even the last book of the Bible is written to *seven churches*. The words "church" and "churches" are found over one hundred times in the New Testament. Friend, God is very interested in the work of the church. In fact, the church is the *BRIDE* of Jesus Christ (Eph. 5:23-32; Rev. 21:2, 9). How could you really be close to Jesus Christ and not care for His bride? Friend, God wants YOU involved in a *local Bible-believing church*. Television and radio evangelism may have some good to offer, but that isn't a church. A church is a *called-out group of believers* in Jesus Christ.

You say, "*Well, there are too many hypocrites down there.*" That's *THEIR* problem, and God will deal with *THEM* about their sins, but YOU will give account for yourself (Rom. 14:12). God's word never gives us a good reason for not being involved in a local church ministry. Even with all their problems, Paul never advised the Corinthian Christians to get out of church. He taught them to deal with their problems and grow as Christians (Read I and II Corinthians). Our Lord loved the church and gave Himself for it (Eph. 5:25), and in Matthew 16:18 He said, "**...I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**" The church is God's winning team. If you want to be a

winning Christian for your Saviour, then join a good church, and support the pastor and members.

## **VII. GIVE TO GOD**

In Luke 6:38 Jesus said, "**Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.**" This world is packed full of wicked and selfish people. God expects His people to be different. Anyone can be a **TAKER**, but it takes self discipline to be a good **GIVER**.

II Corinthians 9:7 says, "**...so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.**" Just giving isn't enough to please God. He expects us to give *cheerfully*. There are basically three ways to give to God. You should give of your *time*, give of your *talents*, and give of your *treasures*.

### **Give of Your Time**

Since you are bought with a price (I Cor. 6:19-20), you really have no time of your own. You have 168 hours per week, and God owns them all. You will give account for every wasted minute, and you will be rewarded for every minute that was well spent. Notice Paul's instruction from Ephesians 5: "**See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.**" (Eph. 5:15-17) We are told to **REDEEM** the time. Make the most of every minute. Someone once said, "*You cannot kill time without injuring eternity.*"

### **Give of Your Talents**

I Peter 4:11 says, "**If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**"

When I was in grammar school my teachers often conversed with my parents about my progress. I had the idea that I was doing well enough as long as I passed. My teachers would tell my parents, "*James is doing okay, but he is ABLE to do a lot better.*" God isn't just monitoring our Christian service: He is also comparing our service to our ABILITY. You may very well be living a much more honorable Christian life than your neighbor, but *are you doing your BEST?* Are you using all of your God-given talents for His honor and glory? If you have a special talent, start praying that God will show you how to use it for Him. Bob Jones Sr. once said, "*It's always a sin to do less than your best.*"

### **Give of Your Treasure**

A common practice among Christians is *tithing*. To *tithe* is to give a *tenth*. The first occurrence of tithing in the Bible is in Genesis 14:20 where Abraham gives God a tenth of his possessions. Jacob also vows to tithe in Genesis 28:22. Tithing was also a requirement under the Mosaic law (Lev. 27:30-32; Num. 18:21-28; Deu. 14:22). A tenth of all income was to be given over to the Levitical priesthood for their living and for the maintenance of the Lord's service. The blessings of God were promised to those who were obedient to His laws of tithing. Malachi 3:8-10 says, "**Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.**"

Today, although we are no longer under the Mosaic law, Bible-believing Christians still practice tithing because God accepted tithes even *before* the law of Moses. If an Old Testament Jew, whose sins had not yet been cleansed, can give a tenth of his income to the Lord, how much more should we be willing to give, whose sins *have* been washed away in the blood of Christ?

Most Bible-believing churches consider tithing a *minimum* gift, which goes into a general fund to finance the basic expenses of the church, while special love offerings and missions are considered separate offerings altogether.

## VIII. LIVE A HOLY LIFE

God is holy, so He expects His children to be holy. I Peter 1:16 says, "**Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.**" To be "holy" is to be *whole*, to be pure and blameless before God. It is to lack nothing in God's sight. A Christian is not just a "sinner saved by grace," as some teach. A Christian in the Bible is a *disciple*. "**...And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.**" (Acts 11:26) A disciple of Jesus Christ is one who has been *disciplined to FOLLOW Jesus Christ*. *We have been called to live HOLY LIVES, just as our Lord lived a holy life.* Notice these instructive words from II Corinthians chapter six:

**"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."** (Vss. 14-17)

God demands HOLINESS. He is glorified when we live above sin and His light of holiness shines through us. We cannot be too careful. Paul said that we should "**Abstain from all appearance of evil.**" (I Thes. 5:22) Even things that may LOOK evil can scar our Christian testimony, so God expects us to be watchful and live holy lives. He expects us to stay unspotted by this wicked world.

## IX. ESTABLISH GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIPS

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

The last thing you need as a Christian is a bunch of worldly friends to hinder your spiritual growth. Amos 3:3 says, "**Can two walk together, except they be agreed?**" There's no point in having close friends who aren't spiritual. Acquaintances and distant friends are fine, but your closest friends should be

God-fearing Christians. Keep praying for your old friends and witnessing to them, but make some new friends who are *God's* friends. A Christian's friends should be saved people who love God and understand His purpose and plan in life. They'll be a great encouragement and comfort to you in life.

## **X. LEARN TO GET ALONG WITH GOD'S PEOPLE**

**"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."** (Eph. 4:1-3)

The best way to get along with people is to *want* to get along with them. Satan delights in reaching our hearts through our old nature and causing us to look for sins and faults among God's people. Remember, it is Satan who accuses the brethren, not you (Rev. 12:10). A sensitive and touchy spirit that is easily offended by others is *not* the Holy Spirit. **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."** (Gal. 5:22-23) We need to work hard and really try to get along with the brethren. Consider these fourteen items from God's word:

1. Love one another - John 15:12, 17
2. Confess faults to one another - Jas 5:16
3. Pray for one another - Jas 5:16
4. Prefer one another - Rom 12:10
5. Receive one another - Rom 5:7
6. Admonish one another - Rom 15:14
7. Serve one another - Gal. 1:3
8. Forbear one another - Eph. 4:2
9. Forgive one another - Eph. 4:32
10. Edify one another - I Ths. 5:11
11. Consider one another - Heb. 10:24
12. Exort one another - Heb. 3;13
13. Care for one another - I Cor. 12:25
14. Comfort one another - I Ths. 4:18

As someone has said, *"You're going to live forever with God's people; so you may as well learn to get along with them!"* I



have learned that I can get along with *anyone* whom I *want* to get along with.

## XI. SUBMIT TO AUTHORITIES

The Bible is filled with instruction on how Christians are to respect and obey their appointed authorities. These authorities fall into four general categories: the home, the government, the employer, and the church.

In the home, wives are told to submit to their husbands (Eph. 5:22-25), and children are told to obey their parents (Eph. 6:1-3). The "times" may have changed, but God and His words have not changed. The ideal Christian home is a home where everyone fears God under the leadership of a God-honoring Christian man.

The government is also an appointed authority of God. Romans 13:1-4 says, "**Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.**"

Governments were ordained of God, and He often deals with men through governments. It is our Christian duty to respect those who lead our local, state, and national governments. Sometimes we cannot honestly respect the people in office, but we can still respect the *position* that they hold and we can pray for them. Paul writes these words to Timothy: "**I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.**" (I Tim. 2:1-2) Christians need to behave themselves by obeying their leaders and praying for them (Tit. 3:1; Jude 1:8; II Pet. 2:10-11; I Pet. 2:13-17), because it was GOD Who made them leaders. We honor God by honoring our leaders.

God also expects us to submit to our employers and not be trouble makers. I Timothy 6:1-2 even commands servants to submit to their masters. John the Baptist preached that the Roman soldiers should be content with their wages (Luke 3:14). Unless an employer requires an employee to violate God's law, he is to be content, remain humble, and submit. If he isn't willing to submit, then he can always look for a new job.

Then there are authorities within the church. Hebrews 13:17 says, **"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."** We are to honor God by showing true respect for our spiritual leaders. Your pastor, your deacons, and elders are men whom God has ordained to serve as church leaders. Remember to honor God by praying for them and respecting their authority. If you cannot honestly respect your church leaders, then find a new church. NEVER rebel against God's authorities! Don't start trouble. Just quietly behave yourself and find a new church. God always blesses those who submit to authority, because *all authority comes from God*.

## **XII. BE A CHRISTIAN WITNESS**

**"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8)**

A *witness* is a person who tells what he knows. Our job is to tell lost people what we know about the Lord Jesus Christ and His saving grace. A religion worth having is a religion worth propagating. If you are saved, it's because someone took the time to witness to you. Well, YOU should witness to others. Tell others what Jesus has done for you, and what He can do for them. Learn some good salvation verses from your Bible and tell others!

We will deal with this subject in much greater detail in our next lesson, *Leading Others to Christ*.

## Lesson Review

1. Where in the Bible does Jesus say for you to take up your cross and follow Him?

2. The eunuch had to believe on Christ before he could be baptized. This is found in:

- a. Acts 16
- b. Acts 8
- c. Acts 2

3. "The \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever." (Psa 111:10)

4. How often are God's people supposed to meditate on God's word?

5. "**...men ought always to pray, and not to faint.**" These words are found in:

- a. Mark 1:35
- b. John 6:37
- c. Luke 18:1

6. True or False? Peter said we should pray without ceasing.

7. How do we praise God?

- a. with our hearts
- b. by obeying Him
- c. with our lips
- d. with true prayer

8. What verse in Hebrews says that we should not forsake the assembling of ourselves together?

9. What are the three ways to give to God?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

10. Give one Scripture reference on tithing?

11. I Peter 1:16 speaks about:

- a. giving to God
- b. forgiving others
- c. being honest
- d. being holy

12. Where does the Bible say for us to abstain from all appearance of evil?

13. Where does the Bible speak of the fruit of the Spirit?

14. "the powers that be are \_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_\_...."

15. What are the three main authorities that God has ordained upon the earth?

16. Hebrews 13:17 says:

- a. pray for them that have the rule over you...
- b. obey them that have the rule over you...
- c. resist them that have the rule over you...

17. True or False? A witness is a person who leads others to Christ.

**Suggested Memory Verses:** Luke 9:23, Psalm 119:11, I Thessalonians 5:17, Luke 6:38, I Peter 1:16, II Corinthians 5:17

## Lesson VII

### Leading Others to Christ

Proverbs 11:30 says, **“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.”** It is the duty of every Christian to work toward winning others to Christ. In Acts 1:8, our Lord Jesus Christ told His followers, **“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”** It is our duty to witness to the lost about Jesus Christ and His saving grace. This lesson has been prepared to help you be more equipped to deal with lost people with the word of God.

Unfortunately, most of the witnessing that you do in your Christian life will not lead a person to Christ. Most witnessing will simply be a matter of you letting someone know that they are a sinner, Christ died for them, and He wants to save them. You may do this verbally, or you may simply leave someone a tract or write a letter. Either way, most people will ignore you for the most part and reject Christ. Regardless, it is still our duty to be a WITNESS. A witness is not a person who wins others, but simply a person who TELLS WHAT HE KNOWS. That’s our duty--to tell the lost what we know about Jesus Christ and His saving grace. This point is well made in Ezekiel 3:17-19: **“Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.”** It is not our duty to win everyone, but it is our duty to WARN them. Paul said in Acts 20:26-27 that he was pure from the blood of all men because he had declared unto them the whole counsel of God. That’s our job--*to tell the world about Jesus Christ.*

Jesus compared this to fishing in Matthew 4:19 when He said, **“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”** Now immediately we learn three things from this command: (1) Most

men will never “bite”, (2) some will “get away,” and (3) we will “catch” some.

If I choose to go fishing, I surely know that most of the fish in the lake will never bite my hook. I’d be a fool to think that every fish is out there just waiting for my hook and bait to hit the water. I just accept the fact that most won’t care to “bite.”

Now some will bite, and I can expect that. But I cannot expect to *catch* each fish that bites. Some, perhaps even most, will get away. They will steal my bait, and I’ll have to bait my hook again and keep trying. I’d be foolish to get discouraged and quit fishing just because some fish got away.

A fisherman *will* catch some fish. A quitter may never catch any, but a person who fishes regularly *will* catch some fish. There is simply no way you can fish every day and never catch a fish. You say, “I haven’t caught a fish all year.” That’s because you haven’t been fishing every day. You’ve went a few times, perhaps several times, but not every day. If you fish every day you *will* catch fish.

The same is true in witnessing. If you consistently witness and pray, you *will* lead people to Christ. You may not always be the person to open the Bible and deal with them from the Scriptures, but you will see souls saved through your continual witness. Sometimes you may be the person to tell them about Christ, show them the Scriptures, and pray with them as they call upon the Lord for salvation. It is at these moments that Satan fights the hardest, so a good knowledge of God’s word will do wonders. There’s nothing like taking a Bible and seeing a person’s eyes light up as they begin to really understand what you show them about salvation.

## **I. CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE WITNESSING**

Take your Bible and read Acts 8:26-40. This is the story of the Ethiopian eunuch who became a Christian after Phillip witnessed to him about Christ. This story offers several good points about effective witnessing. First, we’ll consider some points from the standpoint of Phillip, the Christian witness. Then we’ll consider three points from the eunuch’s standpoint. Thirdly, we’ll examine this event from the standpoint of the Holy Spirit. When all is considered, we will have studied an ideal situation for effective witnessing.

## From Phillip's Standpoint

### **He responded to the Holy Spirit's leadership**

In verse 26, the Holy Spirit told Phillip to **“arise and go.”** Then in verse 27 Phillip **“arose and went.”** Rather than wiggle out of the opportunity, Phillip simply obeyed God's lead. He asked no questions, and he made no excuses. He **“arose and went.”**

When God speaks to your heart about witnessing to a person, then **ARISE and GO.** You say, **“Well, how do I know it's God speaking to me?”** Well, who else would it be? Do you think *Satan* wants you to witness to someone about Christ? Follow God's lead!

### **He proceeded tactfully**

Notice the wisdom that Phillip used in verse 30. He didn't run up to the chariot and yell **“You're going to Hell if you don't repent!”** This wasn't the time and place for that. Phillip used some godly wisdom by taking advantage of the moment. The eunuch was already reading his Bible, so Phillip stepped in real casual and smooth and simply said, **“Understandest thou what thou readest?”** Now a conversation had been opened.

### **He used the Scriptures**

In verses 32 through 35 we see that the eunuch was reading Isaiah 53, so Phillip used Isaiah 53 to teach this man about Christ. He didn't go into long-winded stories about his own **“religious experience.”** Phillip simply took God's word and gave this man the answer he was seeking. No man-made method can beat the Scriptures. Just learn the Book and use it (Heb. 4:12).

### **He presented the Lord Jesus Christ**

Verse 35 says that Phillip **“preached unto him Jesus.”** Phillip stuck to the subject at hand, Jesus Christ, and avoided discussions that weren't relevant to this man getting saved. Jesus told us to be witnesses *unto Him* (Acts 1:8). We should always stick to the subject and preach Jesus.

## **He followed through to completion**

In verses 36 through 39 we see that Phillip stayed there until the Holy Spirit led him away. He didn't just witness and then leave. Phillip wanted RESULTS. He wanted to see this man trust Christ as Saviour, so he stayed right on through the end.

If you find yourself making some real progress with a lost person, STAY THERE and keep giving them the word! Stick with the subjects of sin and the Saviour, and watch God soften that heart and bring them to a genuine conversion.

## **From the Eunuch's Standpoint**

### **He was open to the truth**

This man had come to Jerusalem to worship (vs. 27). From this we can see that he was *looking for truth*. Why didn't he stay home and worship the gods of North Africa? He knew there was more. He knew there was a true God, and he sought to know more about Him. To really be effective with a person, that person must be seeking for the truth. Jesus said *seek* and ye shall find (Mat. 7:7).

### **He needed to understand the word**

In verses 30 and 31, Phillip wants to make sure that this man understands the Scripture. Just reading a few verses isn't enough. We need to do our best to help the lost *understand* New Testament salvation. Too many "soul-winners" have a neat little system of selected Bible verses that they use on people without ever making sure that these verses are really understood. The "Roman's Road" is fine, but make sure the lost person *understands* it. It may be necessary to present many other portions of Scripture just to properly explain the Roman's Road.

### **He had to believe**

Notice in verse 36 the eunuch desired to be baptized. No doubt, many preachers today would have went right ahead and baptized him without asking any questions, but not Phillip. Phillip knew that mere baptism couldn't save anyone, so in verse 37 he



made sure that this man BELIEVED. He had just preached to him from Isaiah 53 (the crucifixion), and now he wanted to know if the eunuch believed, if he accepted his message. The eunuch confessed that Jesus Christ was the Son of God.

We need to make sure that the lost believe on Christ, and *mental* belief isn't enough (James 2:19). Before a man can be saved, he must believe FROM THE HEART. Romans 6:17 says, **“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.”** We need to make sure a person really means business. We need to make sure they *really believe* (Acts 16:30-31; John 1:12; Rom. 10:9-10; I Cor. 1:21).

### **From the Holy Spirit's Standpoint**

#### **He led Phillip to the right place**

Notice in verse 29 that God knew exactly *where* Phillip needed to be. God didn't tell him why, but He did command Phillip to go to the chariot. Phillip had no idea that a man was about to be saved, but he still obeyed God and trusted His leadership.

#### **He led Phillip to the right man**

God made arrangements for Phillip and the eunuch to have this conversation. He knew that the eunuch needed the Gospel and that he was ready to receive it. We need to pray that God will lead us to those who are most ready. Some are already being dealt with by the Holy Spirit, and these are often the best people to speak to about Christ.

#### **He led Phillip to the right Scripture**

Certainly, it was God's plan for Isaiah 53 to be already opened right there in the chariot. Phillip didn't have to plan everything and rehearse all of his words. The Holy Spirit led the way, and Phillip followed His lead.

## He led Phillip to the right result

In verse 39, we have a man saved and rejoicing. That's the work of God. Only God can give true inner joy. Romans 14:17 says, **“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”** When a man is really saved, he has joy because he has peace with God.

## II. AN IDEAL CONVERSION

In this section we're going to “listen in” on an ideal conversation between a lost person and an experienced Christian witness. Tim is a lost man, while Don is an experienced student of the word. Pay close attention to how Don uses God's word in piercing Tim's heart.

DON: Tim, let me give you something to read when you get a chance.

TIM: What is it?

DON: It's a Gospel tract. It tells you about Jesus Christ and how He paid for your sins on Calvary. By the way, are you a Christian?

TIM: Yeah, I guess so.

DON: Well, let me ask you this. *If you died right now, are you 100% sure that you wouldn't go to Hell?*

TIM: Well, of course not! No one can be 100% sure of that!

DON: Let me show you something from God's word. Do you believe God's word?

TIM: Sure, I believe the Bible.

DON: Ok, this is I John 5:13--already highlighted for you. Would you read it out loud?

TIM: It says, **“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”**

DON: Did it say you can KNOW that you have eternal life?

TIM: Well, I don't think anyone can KNOW.

DON: What did the verse say?

TIM: But, how can you KNOW before you die? That's impossible!

DON: I thought you *believed the Bible, Tim?*

TIM: Well, I do, but...

DON: What do you mean "BUT"? Either you believe it or you don't. Here, read II Timothy 1:12.

**TIM: "...I know Whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."**

DON: Did Paul say that no one could know for sure?

TIM: Well...uh...no.

DON: Then why do you say that? God never told you to say it, so why do you say it?

TIM: I just don't see how....

DON: That's the trouble, Tim. You're trying to understand God without God's word. It cannot be done. God's word reveals God's will and His plan for you and I. That plan includes knowing Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour. Tim, has there ever been a time when you really received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour?

TIM: Yeah, I've been a church member for years, since I was a kid.

DON: That's not what I'm asking. Here, read this verse, John 3:3.

**TIM: "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."**

DON: Did Jesus say anything about joining a church or being a good person?

TIM: Well, no.

DON: Tim, salvation is a NEW BIRTH. It's a SPIRITUAL birth in Jesus Christ. Just as you were once born physically, you must also be born *spiritually*.

TIM: But why? Why is that even necessary?

DON: Well, let me show you why from God's word. Here, read Romans 5:12.

TIM: **"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"**

DON: You see, because of Adam's sin in Eden (Gen. 3) he received a sin nature. He lost fellowship with God. In fact, since that day, every human being born into this world has been born with a sin nature (except for Jesus Christ), because everyone is a child of Adam (Genesis 5:3; I Cor. 1:22).

TIM: So, everyone is born a sinner because of Adam's sin?

DON: Exactly! What does Romans 3:10 tell you?

TIM: **"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:"**

DON: That's right. Now read verse 23.

TIM: **"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"**

DON: Sin has separated man from God. Because of sin we are not children of God (John 8:44; I John 3:10). Our righteousness is no good. Romans 10:3 says, **"For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."** Isaiah 64:6 says that your righteousness is as **"filthy rags."** Tim, God isn't wanting you to establish *your own* righteousness! He wants you to FORSAKE your own righteousness and turn to Jesus Christ!

TIM: But what about good people like Ghandi or the Pope?

DON: What did Romans 3:23 say? Did it not say that ALL have sinned and come short of God's glory?

TIM: Yes.

DON: Then even these men must be born again. There are no exceptions. Jesus said ye **MUST** be born again. But here is the good news. Read Romans 5:8-9.

**TIM: “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”**

DON: God knew your hopeless condition, so He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to shed His sinless blood to **PAY** for your sins. **YOUR SIN DEBT HAS BEEN PAID!** You couldn't pay it, so Christ paid it for you! All you have to do is **REPENT** of your sins (Luke 13:3) and trust Christ to save you.

TIM: But, still, I don't see how that can happen. I mean, you're still the same person no matter what you do.

DON: No, you're still the same **PHYSICALLY**, but spiritually, a Christian is a “new creature” in Christ (II Cor. 5:17). Here, read John 1:12.

**TIM: “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”**

DON: See, when you really **BELIEVE** on Christ you **RECEIVE** Him. That is, in your heart, you totally trust Him alone to save you. You reject everyone else, and you reject yourself. Only Christ can save you (John 14:6). Once you believe on Christ you become a son of God, a member of God's family. Here, this is I John 3:2. Read it, please.

**TIM: “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”**

DON: You see, those who have **RECEIVED** Jesus Christ by **BELIEVING** on Him have been **BORN AGAIN** into God's family as God's **SONS**.

TIM: Well, what about baptism? Don't you have to be baptized too?

DON: Jesus commanded baptism (Mat. 28:18-19), but not for salvation. Baptism is for **BELIEVERS** only (Acts 8:37). What does Paul say in Ephesians 2:8-9?

**TIM: “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”**

DON: Many important things should follow one’s salvation, such as baptism, church membership, Bible reading, prayer, and clean living, but none of these can SAVE you. You are saved by FAITH in the finished work of Christ.

TIM: That’s it, just FAITH in what Jesus has already done?

DON: That’s it! You’re saved just like the dying thief was saved. He simply called upon the Lord for salvation, and Jesus saved him (Luke 23:39-43). Here, read Romans 10:9-10:

**TIM: “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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”**

DON: Earlier in the book of Romans, in chapter 4, verse 25, Paul said that Jesus was **“...was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.** He was RAISED for our justification, so in 10:9-10 Paul speaks of BELIEVING that God raised Him. Why? Because He can JUSTIFY you if you will believe. Would you like to receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour right now?

TIM: Right now? Shouldn’t I wait till Sunday and do it at church?

DON: No, II Corinthians 6:2 says, **“...now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)** The fact that God is showing you the truth TODAY is proof that He wants to save you today. Besides, you could be dead before Sunday! You could be in Hell before sundown, Tim, so RIGHT NOW is the time to turn from sin and turn TO Jesus Christ! How about it? Would you like to pray right now, and receive Christ as your Saviour?

TIM: Well, I don’t want to go to Hell!

DON: Jesus doesn’t want you to go to Hell either (II Peter 3:9), so why not call upon Him right now. Here, read Romans 10:13.

**TIM: “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”** Well, how do I call upon Him? What do I say?

DON: You simply pray in your own words and tell God that you know you are a sinner, you know you can't save yourself, and you believe that Jesus Christ is your only hope for Salvation. Then ask him to cleanse you from all sin, and make you one of His own.

TIM: Will I be saved then?

DON: If you really mean it. You have God's promise that if you really BELIEVE in your heart you will be saved. Would you like to be saved?

TIM: Yes, for the first time in my life, this really makes sense. Yes, I want to be saved.

DON: Ok, let's pray. Father, I thank you for the opportunity to present the Gospel to Tim. We've read your word and we your promises. Lord, I thank you for opening Tim's eyes that he might understand the simplicity of true salvation, and I thank you that he realizes his lost condition and that he wants to be saved--he wants to be a child of God and live for you. Tim, while we pray, do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that he shed His blood on Calvary's cross to pay for your sins?

TIM: Yes.

DON: Do you believe that He rose from the grave and that He sits in Heaven right now, and that He can save your soul?

TIM: Yes

DON: Do you believe that anyone in this world can save you other than Jesus Christ?

TIM: No.

DON: Then, in your own words, tell the Lord right now that you know you're a sinner, and ask Him to come into your heart and wash away all your sins. Ask Him to give you the new birth and make you a new creature in Christ.

TIM: Lord, I know I'm a sinner, and I know that Jesus alone can save me. Lord, come into my heart and wash away all my sin. Make me a child of God. Make me a part of your family--a new creature in Christ. Help me to be a good Christian and serve you faithfully. In Jesus name, Amen.

DON: Did you really mean that?

TIM: Yes, I really meant it.

DON: Then you are now a member of God's family. You've done what God told you to do, and God has done what He promised. He just washed your sins away. He no longer sees you as a sinner, but as His own child, in fellowship with Him.

TIM: That's amazing. I feel all different inside!

DON: That's because YOUR SINS ARE GONE, and God's Spirit has moved in to stay (Eph. 4:30). Let me ask you something. *If you died right now, are you 100% sure that you wouldn't go to Hell?*

TIM: Absolutely!

### **III. SOME SCRIPTURE "TOOLS"**

Every Christian should be familiar with a good many verses of Scripture that deal with sin and salvation. Some of these you should be able to quote from memory to anyone at anytime, while others you should at least be able to find in the Bible to show someone.

#### **The Roman's Road**

Romans 3:10: **"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:"**

Romans 3:23: **"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"**

Romans 5:12: **"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"**

Romans 5:8: **"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."**

Romans 6:23: **"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."**



Romans 10:13: **”For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”**

Romans 10:9-10: **“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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”**

### **Believing**

John 3:16: **“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 5:24: **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”**

Acts 16:31: **“And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”**

John 1:12: **”But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”**

John 11:25-26: **“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?”**

John 3:36: **“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”**

John 3:18: **“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”**

### **Works Can't Save**

Romans 4:5: **“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”**

**Ephesians 2:8-9: “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast”**

**Titus 3:5: “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”**

**Romans 11:6: “And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.”**

**Galatians 2:16: “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”**

## **Repentance**

**Luke 13:3: “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”**

**Acts 17:30: “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:”**

**II Peter 3:9: “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”**

**Mark 6:12: “And they went out, and preached that men should repent.”**

## **Hell**

**Luke 16:23: “And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.”**

**Mark 9:44: “Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.”**

**Matthew 25:41: “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:”**

Revelation 20:15: **“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”**

Matthew 13:42: **“And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”**

### **Eternal Security**

Ephesians 4:30: **“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”**

John 10:28-29: **“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.”**

Philippians 1:6: **“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:”**

John 6:37: **“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”**

Romans 8:38-39: **“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

### **The Blood of Christ**

Revelation 1:5: **“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,”**

Revelation 5:9: **“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;”**

Colossians 1:14: **“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”**

Romans 3:25: “**Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;**”

Hebrews 9:14: “**How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**”

### **The Five Facts of Life**

In closing, always remember that there are *five basic truths* that a sinner needs to realize, and the Scripture already presented can be used to get these truths across. No matter how you do it, make sure the following facts are well understood:

1. You are a sinner.
2. You will die a sinner.
3. You will be judged a sinner.
4. You will be condemned a sinner.
5. Your only hope is the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **IV. Following Salvation**

Once a person has received Christ as Saviour, they should be encouraged to follow God’s commands. The material covered in Lesson VI should be used to show the new Christian what God expects of them. Baptism, church membership, Bible reading and prayer should be highly emphasized.

A good way to interest a new Christian in God’s word is to encourage them to take a good Bible course, such as this one, with you being their instructor.

### **Lesson Review:**

1. Where in the Bible did Jesus say that we are to be “witnesses” unto Him?
2. Who in the Bible said that he was pure from the blood of all men?

3. Where do we read about the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch?
4. What was the subject of Phillip's message to the eunuch?
5. How do we see the Holy Spirit's leading in the story of the eunuch?
6. If you witness to someone who gives a shallow Christian testimony, what is a good question to ask?
7. Does I John 3:13 tell us that we can KNOW that we are saved?
8. Where does the Bible say that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God?
9. What are the seven portions of Scripture which make up the Roman's Road?
10. Please give two New Testament references on repentance.
11. Please give two New Testament references on the Blood.
12. Please give two New Testament references on Hell.
13. Please give two New Testament references on Eternal Security.
14. Please give two New Testament references on Believing on Christ.

15. What are the five basic facts that you need to get across to any lost person?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

**Memory Verses:** Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30, Eph. 4:30; Heb. 9:14; Rev. 20:15

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To proceed to Lesson VIII, please have all of the Lesson Reviews in this booklet completed. Then see your course instructor. If you have no local course instructor, send this booklet to BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH, P.O. BOX 383, MARTIN, TN 38237. We will review your work and send you the next booklet, if your work is acceptable. Please do NOT mail this booklet to Bible Baptist Church, if you have a local course instructor. Allow your instructor to review your work and discuss your progress with you. He can help you far more in person that we can through the mail.

# The Sound Doctrine Bible Course

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## Book I: Lessons I – VII

Lesson I:

*How We Know God Exists*

Lesson II:

*The Inspiration and Preservation of Scripture*

Lesson III:

*Understanding God's Salvation Plan*

Lesson IV:

*How We Know the King James Bible Is the Word of God*

Lesson V:

*Your Spirit, Your Soul, and Your Body*

Lesson VI:

*What Does God Expect of Me?*

Lesson VII:

*Leading Others to Christ*

There are 14 lessons in the Sound Doctrine Bible Course.

The second book contains the following lessons:

*The Doctrines of Heaven and Hell, The Fundamentals of Jesus Christ, The Judgments of the Saved and the Lost, The Holy Trinity, Basic Bible Prophecy, The Seven Dispensations, and Rightly Dividing the Word*

Additional copies of this booklet may be ordered from  
**Bible Baptist Church, P.O. Box 383, Martin, TN 38237.**  
A \$1.00 donation per copy is appreciated, but not required.

*The*  
**Sound Doctrine  
Bible Course**

**Book I**



**Seven Bible-Believing  
Lessons by James L. Melton**