

Bible Basics

A simple study of “things most surely believed among us” (Luke 1:1)

**by
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Introduction

The following material was designed as a bulletin insert to assist the members of the Eubank Church of Christ (Eubank, KY) as we studied basic Bible concepts that should be foundational to all believers. So many favorable comments were made by members who enjoyed viewing it as their “weekly homework,” that I decided to publish the finished work for the benefit of others.

I can see several possible uses for this material:

1. The concise and simple presentation allows for personal home Bible studies to fortify the faith of Christians. Many folks are looking for something to help structure their personal Bible studies, and this could supply that need.
2. This series would especially be a good study for new converts. It covers many of the topics of “*the milk of the word*” (I Peter 2:2) that can assist in early spiritual growth. Many of these topics answer questions for young believers and equip them to answer inquiries and challenges that they may face early in their walk with Jesus.
3. Not only would this study help in the context of a New Converts Class, but it would also be helpful in a Teen or Young Adult Bible Class. Young people need assistance in facing false doctrines and challenges thrown at them by a seductive world. It is hoped that this material would help supply a good foundational knowledge base.

NOTE: Scripture references are from the King James Version.

BIBLE BASICS **Lesson One**

Setting Priorities

Introduction

1. Becoming a Christian Involves setting some new priorities. Prior to baptism we were servants of _____. (Rom. 6:17)
 - A. We did what WE wanted to do.
 - B. We made decisions that would advance ourselves instead of glorifying God.

C. Like pigs wallowing in the mire, we enjoyed “the _____ of sin” (Heb. 11:25) without fear of consequences.

2. The lies we told, the immorality we practiced, vices in which we participated (gambling, drugs/alcohol, swearing, etc.) were all acts of unrighteousness or _____. (I Jn. 5:17).

3. Spiritually, we were “dead in _____ and _____” (Eph. 2:1).

A. Things Changed When We Became a Christian

1. Our baptism was for the remission (forgiveness) of our _____. Acts 2:38.

2. _____ washes away our sins. (Acts 22:16)

3. It is not a physical washing away, but we are cleansed by the _____ of Christ (I Pet. 1:18-19), and it is in the act of baptism that the operation of cleansing takes place and God _____ us of all our trespasses (sins) (Col. 2:12-13).

4. Because we obeyed from the _____, we are no longer the servants of sin; we became the servants of _____. (Rom. 6:17-18).

B. We Are Now New Creatures

1. Just as a butterfly leaves the caterpillar stage and the cocoon behind to emerge as a beautiful butterfly, after baptism we become _____ creatures, Christians! (II Cor. 5:17)

2. Now we are ready to assume the duties that God decreed for man. As Solomon said, “_____ God and keep his _____ for this is the whole duty of man” (Eccl. 12:13).

C. We Now Live For Christ

1. I am now a _____ of Christ. (I Cor. 11:1)

2. Life is no longer about ME. – “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live: yet not I, but _____ liveth in me: and the _____ that I now live in the _____ I live by the _____ of the Son of God, who _____ me, and _____ himself for _____” (Gal. 2:20).

3. I have become a purchased servant (slave) to Christ who purchased me with his _____. (Acts 20:28; I Pet. 1:18-19).

4. We have turned control over to Christ. “...ye are not your _____? For ye are _____ with a _____: therefore _____ God in your _____, and in your _____, which are _____” (I Cor. 6:19-20).

5. We must do this with a “_____ mind” (II Cor. 8:12).

D. Now We Have New Priorities

1. In obeying the gospel, we were purified. (I Pet. 1:22). Now, our job is to “Keep thyself _____” (I Tim. 5:22). Avoid committing sin!

2. Do not become obsessed with pointing out the faults of others. Jesus said, “first cast out the _____ [sin] out of thine own eye” (Matt. 7:5).

3. If you are at odds with others, if at all possible “be _____ to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift” (Matt. 5:21-24). We are to strive to “live _____ with all men” (Rom. 12:18).

4. We are to _____ for all men including those in authority. (I Tim. 2:1-2)

5. We are to “seek _____ the kingdom of God, and his _____” (Matt. 6:33). This means:

a. Attend regularly. “not _____ the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is” (Heb. 10:25)

b. Give as you have been _____. (I Cor. 16:2).

c. _____ your Bible often. (II Tim. 2:15)

d. Be diligent in serving God. “a peculiar people, _____ of good works” (Tit. 2:14).

e. Use your _____ well. Eph. 5:16; Psm. 90:12

E. You Are A Part of the Church.

1. The Lord added you to it when you were _____. Acts 2:47

2. In all things we are to _____ God. “unto him be _____ in the _____ by Christ Jesus throughout all ages” (Eph. 3:21).

3. As a Christian, we must put first things first. We should take advantage of all chances to “_____ in grace and in the _____ of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (II Pet. 3:18).

BIBLE BASICS LESSON TWO

SPIRITUAL SECURITY (1)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. After accepting the evidence that Jesus is the Son of God, we committed ourselves to becoming His disciples when we were baptized for the remission of our sins. A disciple is a learner. Now, we need to embark upon the path of learning the ways of Jesus.

Peter says that there are certain traits we must add to our lives to insure our spiritual security – “*give diligence to make your calling and election _____: for if ye do these things, ye shall never _____*” (II Pet. 1:10). Growing spiritually is essential. We now are to “_____ in grace, and in the _____ of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (II Pet. 3:18).

II. Things We Are To Add or Develop

A. Faith is the essential starting point.

“*But without _____ it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must _____ that he is, and that he is a _____ of them that diligently seek him*” (Heb. 11:6)

1. We acted in faith when we were baptized.
2. Many folks have never made it to this point and still reject Jesus as the “_____ and _____ of our faith” (Heb. 12:2).
3. Faith was not just purely the result of an exciting emotional response due to an exciting religious experience. “*Faith comes by _____, and hearing by the _____ of God*” (Rom. 10:17). We learned how to become a Christian by hearing what the Bible was teaching about it.
4. Christians learn how to “*walk by _____, not by _____*” (II Cor. 5:7).

B. Virtue is having the courage to practice and defend our faith.

Holding on to our faith may be costly. Friends and family may not agree with our decision.

1. Many will “*think it _____ that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking _____ of you*” (I Pet. 4:4).
2. The world may approve of sin (homosexuality, drugs/alcohol, sexual immorality, etc), but we must not endorse such. “*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye _____, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you*” (II Cor. 6:17).

A. Knowledge of God’s word is important!

1. We cannot know how to please God if we do not know right from wrong.
2. The prophet lamented, “*My people are _____ for a lack of _____*” (Hosea 4:6).

3. Knowledge comes from studying the Bible. “_____ to shew thyself _____ unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, _____ dividing the word of truth” (II Tim. 2:15).

4. We should WANT to learn more! “*As newborn _____ desire the sincere milk of the _____, that ye may _____ thereby*” (I Pet. 2:2).

B. We must also add **temperance** to our knowledge.

1. Temperance is defined as self-control.
2. “*And every man that striveth for the mastery is _____ in all things*” (I Cor. 9:25).
3. We must control what we think about. “*whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are of _____ report: ... _____ on these things*” (Phil. 4:8).
4. We must control what we say. “*If any man among you seem to be religious, and _____ not his _____, ...this man’s religion is _____*” (Jas. 1:26).
5. We must control what we do. “*Awake to _____, and _____ not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame*” (I Cor. 15:34).
6. “*Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him _____ himself, and take up his _____ and follow me*” (Matt. 16:24).

BIBLE BASICS LESSON THREE

SPIRITUAL MATURITY (2)

I. INTRODUCTION

Thus far, we have established that Christians walk by faith (II Cor. 5:7), and we are to add certain characteristics to that faith. We trust in God to lead us (through His Word), and the Scriptures command that we grow (II Pet. 3:18). By studying II Pet. 1:5-10, we

have discovered areas of growth to add to our lives, and that if we do this “*ye shall never fall.*” Previously, we studied faith, virtue, knowledge, and temperance. Let’s look at some other traits.

II. Additional Traits We Are To Add or Develop

A. We must work diligently to add **Patience**.

1. Patience is a combination of endurance, persistence, and sometimes an element of longsuffering.
2. It is a critical element needed to handle all the challenges of life.
3. Patience does not come easily! It involves weathering the trials of this life. James says, “*My brethren, count it all _____ when ye fall into divers _____; knowing this, that the _____ of your _____ worketh _____.* But let _____ have her perfect work, that ye may be _____ and entire, wanting nothing” (Jas. 1:2-4).
4. Patience helps us achieve spiritual maturity or to be “perfect” (or perfected).
5. James cited the story of _____ as an example of patience (Jas. 5:11).
6. We may not know why bad things befall us, but we know that those trials will work together for _____. (Rom. 8:28).
7. Our challenge is to “*run with _____ the race that is set before us, looking unto _____ the author and finisher of our _____*” (Heb. 12:1-2).

B. We are also to add **Godliness**.

1. I have heard this defined as “God-likeness.”
2. We are to “*Abhor that which is _____; cleave to that which is _____*” (Rom. 12:9).
3. Right and wrong are determined by God’s word, not the shifting values of society.
4. God has given us absolute truth. It is always right and right always. (The right thing to do in all situations.) Knowing the truth will “*make you _____*” (Jn. 8:32).
5. We are to have the mind of _____ (Phil. 2:5). How would He handle this challenge?

C. To these traits we are also to add **Brotherly Kindness**.

1. Simple kindness seems to be a disappearing trait today!
2. We need to get to know one another in our spiritual family and feel a closeness with them. That makes kindness easier!

3. Solomon said, “*a man that hath friends must show himself _____*” (Prov. 18:24).
4. We are to “*_____ one another with a pure heart _____*” (I Pet. 1:22).
5. We can learn to be kind, even when we disagree.
6. Paul said, “*be ye _____ one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another ...*” (Eph. 4:32).

D. To all these traits we are to add **Charity (Love)**.

1. Christians have a loving compassion, care, and concern for others. We are a loving people. Jesus said, “*Thou shalt _____ the Lord thy God with all thy _____, and with all thy _____, and with all thy _____. ... Thou shalt _____ thy neighbor as thyself*” (Matt. 22:37-39).
2. He also said, “*_____ your _____, bless them that curse you, do _____ to them that _____ you, and _____ for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you*” (Matt. 5:44).
3. We are to love: a. _____ (Matt. 22:37), b. _____ (Matt. 22:39), c. _____ (Matt. 5:44), and d. _____ (Eph. 5:25; Tit. 2:4).
4. It is an even more powerful force that the miraculous demonstration of spiritual gifts (I Cor. 12:31 – 13:1-8).
5. We learn to love and grow in it. Paul said that it is vital we do so. “*And above all things put on _____ (love) which is the bond of perfectness*” (Col. 3:14)

III. Conclusion

We must strive to grow and mature spiritually! (II Pet. 3:18)

BIBLE BASICS LESSON FOUR

Walking in the Light

1. Paul said that as new Christians, we now “*walk in _____ of life*” (Rom. 6:4). We have chosen to follow Jesus and live according to His instructions.
2. Prior to our baptism, we learned of the need to _____ (or turn from) sinful living. (Acts 2:38; 17:30).

3. As Christians, we strive to walk righteously or “walk in the _____” (I Jn. 1:7).
 4. Paul said, “Know ye not that the _____ shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not _____: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners shall _____ the _____ of God” (I Cor. 6:9-11).
 5. We are challenged to do all that we can to avoid sin in our lives. James said we are to be “_____ from the world” (Jas. 1:27).
 6. Worldliness is an ever-present danger for the Christian. This is when we develop more of a love for this world and the “here and now” instead of focusing on things above. John said, “Love not the _____, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the _____ is not in him” (I Jn. 2:15).
 7. Examples of worldliness would include immorality, drugs & alcohol, pornography, immodesty, filthy dancing & language, but it can also encompass things that are right within themselves UNLESS we obsess over them to the neglect of spiritual things. John says that “all that is in the world [is] the lust of the _____, and the lust of the _____, and the _____ of life” (I Jn. 2:16). These are things Satan uses to draw us back to him.
 8. We are to “set your _____ on things above, not on things on the _____” (Col. 3:2).
 9. Christians do not engage in nor support sinfulness -- “...know ye not that the _____ of the world is _____ with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4).
 10. Our interests should move to spiritual things. Our closest friends should be ones that build us up in the faith. We are distinct from the world. Jesus said, “No man can serve two _____ ... Ye _____ serve God and mammon (things of this world)” (Matt. 6:24).
 11. Popularity and acceptance by the world often drive Christians to make poor choices. Paul said, “...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your _____ service. And be not _____ to this world: but be ye _____ by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom. 12:1-2).
 12. We can have friends that are not Christians, but we cannot allow them to draw us into sin and spiritual weakness. This may cause challenges. John wrote, “Marvel not, brethren, if the world _____ you” (I Jn. 3:13). Peter said, “Wherein they think it _____ that you run not with them in the same excess of riot, speaking _____ of you” (I Pet. 4:4).
 13. When the cares of this world dominate us, we become _____. (Matt. 13:22)
 14. We must live in this world, but we are not to be like the worldly. Paul said that God wants us to “come out from among them, and be ye _____, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will _____ you” (II Cor. 6:17).
 15. There is no disputing that there is pleasure in sin (Heb. 11:25), but Jesus said. “If any man will come after me, let him _____ himself, and take up his _____, and _____ me” (Matt. 16:24).
 16. If we want Heaven as our eternal home, we must understand that “the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and _____ lusts, we should live soberly righteously, and _____ in this present world” (Tit. 2:11-12).
 17. This does not mean our lives are boring and without joy! John wrote “_____ [happy] are they that do his commandments” (Rev. 22:14). The whole duty of man is to _____ God and keep His _____ (Eccl. 12:13-14).
- We have purpose and direction in ordering our lives to follow Christ. We either choose to follow Him and inherit eternal life, or we choose to follow the ways of the world which lead to eternal _____ (Rom. 6:23).

BIBLE BASICS

LESSON FIVE

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FAITHFUL? (1)

1. The Lord said, “be thou _____ unto death, and I will give thee a _____ of life” (Rev. 2:10). What does that mean?

2. Paul exhorted the Corinthians to be “*steadfast, unmoveable, always _____ in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in _____ in the Lord*” (I Cor. 15:58).

I. We must be faithful in worshipping God.

- A. The early Christians “*continued _____ in the apostles’ doctrine, and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers*” (Acts 2:42). They were there when the saints assembled to worship!
- B. The Hebrew writer said, “*Not _____ the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but _____ one another: and so much the more as we see the day approaching*” (Heb. 10:25).
- C. This worship must be in the right frame of mind and in accordance with the truth of God’s instruction. “*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must _____ him in _____ and in _____*” (Jn. 4:24).

II. There are 5 special acts of worship that are to be practiced.

- A. **The Lord’s Supper** is to be observed on the _____ day of the week (Acts 20:7).
1. Every week has a first day, so it is a weekly observance. When Jesus instituted this memorial, what elements did He use? (Matt. 26:26-28)
- a. _____
- b. _____
2. We do this “*in _____ of me [Jesus]*” (I Cor. 11:24-25). We are to focus on Jesus’ death as we partake.

B. We also give financially to support the Lord’s work.

1. What day are we to have this collection (I Cor. 16:2)?

2. It is to be preplanned as to what we give – “*according as he _____ in his heart*” (II Cor. 9:7).
3. No set percentage has been set in the New Testament, but “*God _____ a _____ giver*” (II Cor. 9:7).

C. Another act of worship is the preaching/teaching of the Word of God.

Paul said, “*... it pleased God by the foolishness of _____ to save them that believe*” (I Cor. 1:21).

1. We are to “*Preach the _____*” (II Tim. 4:2) not opinions and human wisdom.

2. We are to “*speak the truth in _____*” (Eph. 4:15).

3. We are to strive to declare “*_____ the counsel of God*” (Acts 20:27).

D. Another act of worship is prayer (Jn. 15:16).

1. We should always have a prayerful disposition. “*Pray without _____*” (I Thess. 5:17).
2. This is our conversation to God. “*... if we ask anything according to his _____, he _____ us*” (I Jn. 5:14).
3. This is not a waste of time. “*... the effectual _____ prayer of a righteous man availeth _____*” (Jas. 5:16).
4. God is always ready to listen.

E. We are also commanded to sing. (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).

- a. No musical instruments are mentioned.
- b. In singing we “*_____ and _____ one another*” (Col. 3:16).
- c. “*By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of _____ to God continually, that is, the _____ of our _____ giving thanks to his name*” (Heb. 13:15).
- d. We may not be great singers, but we can make a “*joyful _____*” (Psm. 66:1; 95:1-2).

III. Being faithful also means being morally pure. Paul told Timothy, “*keep thyself _____*” (I Tim. 5:22). He told Titus, “*Denying ungodliness and worldly _____ we should live soberly, righteously, and _____ in this present world*” (Tit. 2:12).

- a. We are to “*Abstain from all _____ of evil*” (I Thess. 5:22).

BIBLE BASICS

LESSON SIX

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FAITHFUL? (2)

Introduction

Being faithful to the Lord entails our being faithful in our worship of God. We must worship Him in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24) – as He has directed -- and do all the acts of worship outlined in the New Testament: (1)

singing, (2) praying, (3) teaching / preaching, (4) giving of our means, and (5) observing the Lord's Supper. Being faithful also involves our living as a Christian by being morally pure in the world of immorality in which we must live (I Tim. 5:22; Tit. 2:12). We must strive to purge sinfulness out of our lives (Col. 3) and resist the works of the flesh (Gal. 5). Another area of faithfulness is our bearing fruit for the Lord.

Bearing Fruit

1. Jesus said, *"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear _____ of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much _____: for without me ye can do nothing"* (Jn. 15:4-5).
2. **One means of bearing fruit is to bring others to Christ.** Jesus told us to *"preach the gospel to every _____"* (Mk. 16:15).
3. Paul said, *"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to _____ men, who shall be _____ to teach others also"* (II Tim. 2:2).
4. **4. Another way to bear fruit is to restore Christians who have gone back to the ways of the world.** James said, *"Brethren, if any of you do _____ from the _____, and one convert him: Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his _____ shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins"* (Jas. 5:19-20).
5. **5. Paul said, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a _____, ye which are spiritual, _____ such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted"** (Gal. 6:1).
6. Their plight is so sad! (II Pet. 2:20-22)
7. **We also bear fruit by living righteously.** We are to bear the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. *"But the _____ of the Spirit is love, _____, peace, _____, _____, _____, faith, _____, temperance..."* (Gal. 5:22-23).
8. The Scriptures define and demonstrate these fruits as they were manifested in the lives of different Bible characters.
 - a. _____ was a man of peace as he refused to quarrel with the Philistines over water. Gen. 26:17-33

- b. _____ was *"very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth"* (Num. 12:3)
- c. _____ was a *"was a good man, and just"* (Lk. 23:50).

9. **We bear fruit by letting our light (example) shine before the world.** We are to be *"...zealous of good _____"* (Tit. 2:14). Jesus said, *"Let your _____ so shine before men, that they may see your good _____, and glorify your Father which is in heaven"* (Matt. 5:16).
 - a. Prior to becoming a Christian, we frequently did good things that improved our standing in the eyes of the world. Our motivation was to selfishly glorify self to "get ahead" in this life.
 - b. Now, as a Christian, the motivation for our good works is to show Christ living in us, to glorify God, and to *"lay up for yourselves treasures in _____"* (Matt. 6:20).
10. **We also bear fruit by doing all that we can to assist in the work of the church.** We all have _____ (abilities) that we need to use (Matt. 25:14-30).
 - a. Every member is a part of the *"_____"* that supplies something to the success of the church. (Eph. 4:16; I Cor. 12:12-14).
 - b. As a hymn says, "There is work that we all can do."

BIBLE BASICS

LESSON SEVEN

The Importance of Bible Study

I. Introduction

The Bible, the inspired Word of God, contains essential information for the salvation of man. Unfortunately, we can neglect to *"hunger and thirst"* after its contents.

II. Lesson

1. The Bible is the most important book on earth. Paul said, “*When ye _____, ye may understand my knowledge of the _____ of Christ*” (Eph. 3:4). We need to read it.
2. Paul told Timothy, “_____ *to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be _____, rightly dividing the word of truth*” (II Tim. 2:15).
3. Jesus said, “*Ye shall know the _____, and the truth shall make you _____*” (Jn. 8:32). We must study to know truth.
4. Studying is more than casual reading. It is diligent study to understand context, meaning, and application of what the Bible says. It is a challenge. Solomon said, “*much _____ is a _____ of the flesh*” (Eccl. 12:12).
5. However, studying promotes growth, and we are to “_____ *in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord*” (II Pet. 3:18).
6. We should “_____ *the sincere milk of the _____ that ye may _____ thereby*” (I Pet. 2:2).
7. The scriptures are profitable for: (A) _____, (B) _____, (C) _____, and (D) _____ (II Tim. 3:16-17).
8. By studying and understanding the scriptures we learn “*all things that _____ to life and _____*” (I Pet. 1:3).
9. Studying helps us to recognize false doctrine. Many things are taught that are untrue. “*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but _____ the spirits whether they are of God: because many _____ prophets are gone out into the world*” (I Jn. 4:1).
10. Why did Paul say the Bereans were “*more noble*” than the Thessalonians? (Acts 17:11) _____

Some Rules for Bible Study

Context is vitally important in understanding the Scriptures!

1. Consider who is speaking.
 - A. Who said “*curse God and die*”? (Job 2:9) _____
 - B. Who said, “*Thou shalt not surely die*”? (Gen. 3:4) _____
2. Consider who is being spoken to.
 - A. What people were given the Ten Commandment Law? (Ex. 19:4-6) _____
 - B. Who was commanded to practice circumcision? (Gen. 17:9-13) _____
3. Learn what the writer was trying to accomplish.
 - A. What did Haggai try to motivate the people to do? (Hag. 1:4-8, 14) _____

- B. Why did John write his gospel? (Jn. 20:30-31) _____

4. Consider the setting of the passage. What is the context?
 - A. To what church was Paul writing in I Cor. 1:2? _____
 - B. Would Paul’s instructions apply to Noah or Abraham? _____
5. Read and study ALL that God has said on a given subject.
 - A. Is ALL the Plan of Salvation found in Rom. 10:13? _____
 - B. Can that passage be added as additional information to Acts 17:30 and Mark 16:16? _____
 - C. What steps are included in a summary of God’s plan of salvation for man today? (1) _____, (2) _____, (3) _____, (4) _____, (5) _____
6. Respect the silence of the scriptures.
 - A. We must abide in what? (II Jn. 9) _____
 - B. Does any New Testament passage (i.e. Eph. 5:19) mention using a mechanical instrument of music to accompany our singing of praises to God in our assemblies? _____. Respect the silence.
 - C. Could we add cake and ice cream to the Lord’s Supper? (Matt. 26:26-28) _____. Respect the silence.
7. Recognize figurative language (symbolic language).
 - A. Is Heaven actually made of gold and precious gems (Rev. 21:10-27)? Maybe so, but probably not. However, it will be a _____ place.
8. Know the proper divisions of the Bible and the books of the Bible.
 - A. Are we living under the Old or New Testament? (Col. 2:14) _____

BIBLE BASICS

LESSON EIGHT

Our Responsibilities

I. Introduction

When we take on a new job, we must learn what duties and responsibilities go with the position. These are important if we expect to keep the job. As a new creature in Christ – a Christian – there are new responsibilities as well.

II. Lesson

1. Christians understand our purpose in life. *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. _____ God, and keep his _____: for this is the whole _____ of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing whether it be good, or whether it be evil"*(Eccl. 12:13-14).
2. We will be held accountable for how we handled the responsibilities of living as a Christian. *"So then every one of us shall give _____ of himself to God"* (Rom. 14:12).

Responsibilities to God

- A. God is not just a "grandpa in the sky" that spoils us with blessings. We need to get to **know God** and His disposition and expectations. *"That I may _____ him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death"* (Phil. 3:10).
- B. Due to His power and awesome greatness, we need to also **Fear God**. He holds our eternal destiny in His hands. *"In every nation he that _____ him, and worketh righteousness is accepted with him"* (Acts 10:35)
 1. As members of His kingdom, *"let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with _____ and godly _____"* (Heb. 12:28).

We must also learn to **keep His commandments**. Obedience to God's commandments is essential. It is not about "me" it is a matter of doing what God has commanded. *"Blessed are they that do his _____, that they may have right to the tree*

to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Rev. 22:14). *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the _____ of my Father which is in _____"* (Matt. 7:21).

- C. Because of His love, grace, and mercy, we need to learn to **love God**. After all, He first loved us even while we were rebellious sinners (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8).
 1. Jesus said, *"Thou shalt _____ the Lord thy God with all thy _____, and with all thy _____, and with all thy _____". This is the first and great commandment"* (Matt. 22:37-38).

Our Responsibilities to Others.

- A. We are to **teach others** the truth of the Gospel. *"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to _____ others also"* (II Tim. 2:2). *"Go ye into all the word, and _____ the gospel to _____ creature"* (Mk. 16:15).
- B. We have also got to develop the capacity to **love others**. What did Jesus say was the second commandment (Matt. 22:39)? _____
- C. We are to look out for each other and **restore those who fall away**. *"if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are _____ restore such an one in the spirit of _____"* (Gal. 6:1). *"Brethren, if any of you do _____ from the truth, and one _____ him; Let him know, that he which converted the sinner from the _____ of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins"* (Jas. 5:19-20).
- D. We are also to **visit and care for others**. Jesus taught the importance of this in Matt. 25:41-46. How did James define pure and undefiled religion (Jas. 1:27)? _____
- E. We are also to **encourage others**. *"But _____ one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the _____ of sin"* (Heb. 3:13).

Responsibilities to Self

- A. Take _____ to thy self and unto the _____. I Tim. 4:16
- B. _____ self. II Cor. 13:5
- C. Keep thy self _____. I Tim. 5:22
- D. _____ thy self. I Tim. 4:16; Acts 2:40

BIBLE BASICS LESSON NINE

THE HOME AND FAMILY

I. Introduction

God created man as the crowning jewel of His creation and made him *"in our image"* by giving us an immortal soul (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7). The home is the first unique institution God set in order for man. Sadly, the

home as God created it is under attack, and man's attempted redefinition of it has created many perversions.

The Home Defined

1. God saw that it was *"not good that man should be _____"* (Gen. 2:18), and He created _____ from the rib of man (Gen. 2:20-22). God created Eve, not Steve, to be his helpmeet.
2. Jesus affirmed that God *"at the beginning made them _____ and _____, and said, ... they twain shall be one flesh"* (Matt. 19:4-5). The home as GOD designed it is for a man and woman.
3. The Hebrew writer said, *"Marriage is _____ in all, and the bed undefiled; but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge"* (Heb. 13:4). Same-sex marriages do not meet the biblical definition.

The Ceremony – the point of commitment to the relationship

1. Marriage involves the vows between the man and woman – *"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be _____ unto his _____, and they two shall be one flesh"* (Eph. 5:31), but God is also a witness to the union – *"the Lord hath been _____ between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously"* (Mal. 2:14). Man may choose to terminate a marital relationship, but God does not release those bonds so casually.
2. Marriage is a good thing! Solomon said, *"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the _____"* (Prov. 18:22). This is God's plan.

The Purpose of Marriage

1. The man and woman complement each other in the marital relationship. They each have unique roles and responsibilities. *"Nevertheless neither is the _____ without the _____, neither the _____ without the _____, in the Lord"* (I Cor. 11:11).
2. Marriage provides for the lawful expression of sexual attraction and intimacy. As God said, *"Be fruitful and _____ and replenish the earth"* (Gen. 1:28). Children are to be brought up in the *"nurture and _____ of the Lord"* (Eph. 6:4). This should result in the children growing up to be faithful Christians.
3. Marriage keeps the human race morally pure. Paul said, *"Nevertheless, to avoid _____, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own _____"* (I Cor. 7:2). Adultery and fornication (unlawful sexual relations) are sinful works of the _____ which will keep us out of heaven (Gal. 5:19-21). Our sexual activity is regulated by God.

Permanent Commitment

1. Jesus said, *"Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another committeth _____; and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth _____"* (Lk. 16:18). That is the rule – one man with one woman for a lifetime. Monogamy is the way God intended for marriage to work.
2. However, there are two reasons which will allow one to be married more than once:
 - A. The _____ of one's spouse. (Rom. 7:1-3; I Cor. 7:39)
 - B. The innocent party has the right to remarry when a companion commits "_____" (Matt. 19:9). Divorce is the marriage break-up due to sin. It is the exception, not the rule!

Mutual Responsibilities

Husbands, wives, and children have unique roles and responsibilities, but there are mutual responsibilities shared by all.

1. God said that it is not good for man to be alone. We are social creatures. **Companionship** is a major responsibility within the family. Husbands are to _____ their wives, and wives are to _____ their husbands (Eph. 5:33). Children are to _____ their parents (Eph. 6:1). This requires TIME together and personal interactions.
2. Husbands and wives are to _____ each other with all that entails (i.e. physical intimacy, supportive interactions, respect, patience, cooperation) – Tit. 2:4; Eph. 5:25-33; I Cor. 13:4-8.

The home is for the _____ of children (Prov. 22:6). Spiritual instruction (Eph. 6:4), character development, proper social interactions, and respect are all nurtured in the home environment. Moms, dads, and siblings all are a part of this.

BIBLE BASICS LESSON TEN

Responsibilities Within the Family

HUSBANDS/FATHERS

1. God placed the husband as the _____ of the family (I Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:23). This does not make him an authoritarian dictator, but his decisions should be honored by all the family.
2. He is to know and understand his wife and *“dwell with her according to _____, giving _____ unto the wife”* (I Pet. 3:7). His decisions consider her point-of-view.
3. A failure to do so is a hindrance to the effectiveness of his _____ (I Pet. 3:7). God is watching!
4. The husband carries the ultimate responsibility of being the _____ for his family. I Tim. 5:8
5. The husband is to be the _____ of his family and be willing to give himself for them as Christ did for the church (Eph. 5:25). Love, commitment, honor, and bravery all go with his care for his family. They are his to protect.
6. The father is to lead in the spiritual development of the children in helping them to grow *“in the _____ and _____ of the Lord”* (Eph. 6:4). Spiritual instruction is not just “mom’s job.”
7. He will also have a role in the _____ of the children (Prov. 13:24; 19:18; 29:15-17). Good parenting takes both a father and mother who need “to be on the same page.”
8. The husband is to meet the physical needs of his wife. *“Let the husband render unto the wife due _____”* (I Cor. 7:3; Eph. 5:28). Both the husband and the wife have sexual needs that need to be met. A failure to do so can lead a spouse to seek gratification elsewhere. The home is God’s place for this intimacy.

WIVES/MOTHERS

1. Wives are not to be the head over their husbands (I Cor. 13:3) because *“_____ was first formed, then _____. And Adam was not _____, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression”* (I Tim. 2:13-14; Gen. 3:16). This does not make her a lesser person! She is vital to the family, but she has a different role; not domination.
2. She has a powerful influence that teaches volumes. *“Likewise, ye _____, be in _____ to your own husbands;*

that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives” (I Pet. 3:1).

3. If possible, bearing _____ is an important role of the wife (I Tim. 2:15)
4. She is to *“_____ the house”* (I Tim. 5:14). Her care/influence will leave a lasting impression on her children and her husband. *“Her children arise up and call her _____; her husband also, and he _____ her”* (Prov. 31:28).
5. The aged women are to be *“_____ of good things”* (Tit. 2:3). They can give counsel to help younger women to love their _____ and _____” (Tit. 2:4). Manifesting love entails many things!
6. Wives are also to be *“_____ at home”* (Tit. 2:5).
7. Wives are to meet the needs of their _____ physically (I Cor. 7:3-5).
8. See Proverbs 31 for a discussion of a virtuous woman.

CHILDREN

1. Children are to _____ and _____ their parents. *“Children _____ your parents in the Lord for this is right. _____ thy father and thy mother* (Eph. 6:1-3).
2. Under the Old Law, children who were *“stubborn and rebellious”* and *“will not obey the voice of”* his parents were to be _____. Duet. 21:18-21. Obedience is important!
3. Learn to work and contribute to the family. *“It is good for a man that he bear the _____ in his _____”* (Lam. 3:27).

BIBLE BASICS

Lesson Eleven

Beware of False Prophets

Introduction

Jesus warned his disciples in His Sermon on the Mount that we must *“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but*

inwardly they are ravening wolves” (Matt. 7:15). There is MUCH false teaching that is going on in the realm of religion today, and we must be prepared to recognize and refute it. In the next few lessons we will consider some common misconceptions that you may encounter. It is our responsibility to “...believe not every spirit [teacher] but try the spirits whether they are of _____; because many _____ prophets are gone out into the world” (I Jn. 4:1).

Discussion

1. False teachers are not always easy to recognize. Paul said, “*For such are _____ apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of _____. And no marvel; for _____ himself is transformed into an _____ of _____, therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of _____: whose end shall be according to their _____*” (II Cor. 11:13-15).
2. In order to recognize and refute false teaching, we must “*_____ to shew thyself approved unto God, a _____ that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly _____ the word of truth*” (II Tim. 2:15).

Children Are Born Sinners

Some people believe and teach that children inherit the sin of Adam and/or their parents. They are born in sin and should be baptized as infants. This is sometimes referred to as Original Sin.

Jesus said little children were in a safe state: “*But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little _____ to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the _____ of God*” (Lk. 18:16).

1. Ezekiel said, “*The soul that _____ it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the _____, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the _____: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him*” (Ezek. 18:20).
2. The Bible teaches that each person is responsible for their own conduct. (Col. 3:25; II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:12).

3. There is no command, apostolic example, or necessary conclusion to authorize infant baptism. It was not practiced in the early church.

- A. Prior to baptism, Jesus said that one must _____. Mk. 16:16
- B. Prior to baptism, a person must be able to _____ of their sins (Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30)
- C. Prior to baptism, a person must _____ the name of Jesus. (Rom. 10:10; Matt. 10:32-33; Acts 22:16)

AN INFANT CAN DO NONE OF THESE THINGS!

4. In response to the preaching of Philip, _____ and _____ were baptized, not children. (Acts 8:12).

THEREFORE:

Babies do not need to be “christened” or baptized for they have no sins laid to their account. Later, when children reach an age where they know right from wrong (an “Age of Accountability”) they are then held accountable before God for their actions.

BIBLE BASICS

Lesson Twelve

Beware of False Prophets (2)

Introduction

Paul warned the Ephesian elders to beware *“For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves [false teachers] enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise speaking _____ things, to draw away _____ after them”* (Acts 20:29-30). False teachers have been around since the church was established trying to corrupt the work and worship of God’s people. You may encounter various false doctrines that are being taught among religious groups. Paul warned Timothy about them – *“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall _____ from the _____, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of _____; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats ...”*(I Tim 4:1-3). Enticing, seductive doctrines will be taught, and the teachers of them are beyond reasonableness or feeling for they are sure they are enlightened and right. Let’s continue looking at some of these doctrines of men.

Predestination

Some believe that God has chosen certain ones to be lost or saved, without involving their choice. Even before they were born, God had decided their eternal fate, and there is nothing they can do about it. This idea originated with a reformer named John Calvin, and those who accept his ideas are sometimes referred to as Calvinists. In broad terms John Calvin taught:

Total Depravity – Man is totally corrupt and stained with the guilt of Adam’s Original Sin. There is nothing man can do to affect His salvation. It is all up to God’s choice. However, Jesus told Saul of Tarsus – *“... go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must _____”* (Acts 9:6). Peter exhorted the Jews on Pentecost to *“_____ yourselves from this untoward generation”* (Acts 2:40). Jesus said, *“He that _____ and is _____ shall be saved”* (Mk. 16:16). Man has a part to play in his salvation. It is called obedience.

Unconditional Election – If God chooses to save you, you will be saved regardless of your actions, and ONLY the elect will be saved. However, John 3:16 says, *“God so loved the _____ that he gave his only begotten Son, that _____ believeth in him should not perish; but have everlasting life.”* God’s invitation for salvation is to all – *“And _____ will, let him take the water of life freely”* (Rev. 22:17).

Limited Atonement – Christ died for the sins of man, but only the sins of the elect. They will be cleansed, and they will be saved. The non-elect shall all

perish. Peter told Cornelius this was not the case – *“Of a truth I perceive that _____ is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that _____ him, and worketh _____ is _____ with him”* (Acts 10:34-35). Jesus tasted *“death for _____ man”* (Heb. 2:9). Irresistible Grace -- No man can resist God’s decision. Election and damnation are predetermined by God. However, God does not want **anyone** to perish – *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, ... but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should _____ but that _____ should come to _____”* (II Pet. 3:9). Perseverance of the Saints – Simply put, this means “once saved, always saved.” The Calvinists (and others who have copied part of these beliefs) maintain that once you are saved, nothing can change that. Paul told the Galatians that if one tried to be justified by the Law of Moses instead of the Law of Christ *“ye are _____ from _____”* (Gal. 5:4). You cannot fall from something you were never in. These Galatians turned back to binding the Law of Moses and thus fell away. Jesus said, *“If a man abides not in me, he is _____ forth as a branch and is withered; and men gather them and cast them into the _____, and they are burned”* (Jn. 15:6). The Hebrew writer said, *“Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an _____ heart of unbelief, in _____ from the living God”* (Heb. 3:12). In the Parable of the Sower some seed sprouted and started to grow, but then it withered away and brought forth no fruit (Matt. 13:18-23). In order to gain our eternal, heavenly reward the scriptures say, *“be thou _____ unto death, and I will give thee a _____ of life”* (Rev. 2:10). The promise of Heaven is conditioned upon our remaining faithful in serving God. Peter said if we turn back to the ways of the world, *“the latter end is _____ than the beginning”* (II Pet. 2:20).

Forms of Calvinism are found in many churches. Some baptize babies due to “Original Sin;” many believe in “once saved, always saved.” Beware!

BIBLE BASICS

Lesson Thirteen

Beware of False Prophets (3)

Introduction

Just as the New Testament predicted, there are a host of false doctrines that are taught within the ranks of what the world defines as “Christian religions.” Thus far, we have discussed:

1. **The doctrine of Original Sin** which teaches that babies are born in sin and churches should practice infant baptism. Since babies cannot meet the terms of pardon (belief, repentance, & confession) AND they do not yet know right from wrong, they have no sins to be forgiven of. As Jesus said, *“of such is the kingdom of heaven”* (Matt. 19:14). We do not inherit sin (Ezek. 18:20).
2. **The doctrine of Predestination** which advocates that God randomly chooses who will be lost or saved, and man can do nothing about it. “Once saved, always saved” is one part of this doctrine. However, Paul said we can *“fall from grace”* (Gal. 5:4), and Peter agreed as well (II Pet. 2:20-22).

The Direct Operation of the Holy Spirit

There are many churches in our community that are referred to as “holiness” or “Pentecostal” churches. They sometimes refer to themselves as “Full Gospel” churches. Since Jesus and the apostles performed miracles to validate their teaching, these folks believe in the need for Christians today to perform miracles. Spiritual gifts and miracles were performed in the early days of the church, so they believe that such should be happening today. To their view, that is embracing the “Full Gospel” or evidence of their being like the “Pentecostal” church described in the Book of Acts.

1. In the early days of the church, folks did not have Bibles to refer to for it was literally in the process of being written down. To prove that Jesus, the apostles, and other inspired teachers were from God, they were empowered by the Holy Spirit to perform miracles and use other spiritual gifts to validate their teaching and create faith. _____ saw Jesus was *“a teacher come from God: for no man can do these _____ that thou doest, except God be with him”* (Jn. 3:2).
2. Some expect the Holy Spirit to suddenly overwhelm them, come into their heart, and save them. The story of their experience becomes their “testimony” of what God did to save them. Paul said, *“he called you by our _____, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (II Thess. 2:14). Further he said, *“I am not ashamed of the _____ of Christ: for it is the power of God unto _____”* (Rom. 1:16).

3. Christianity is a learned religion in which we understand what Jesus did for us and what we must do to obtain forgiveness of sins. Jesus said, *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the _____ to every creature”* (Mk. 16:16).
4. The Holy Spirit dictated through the Scriptures what man must DO to be saved (Acts 16:30). It is NOT just some emotional moment. The Scriptures are given by *“the _____ of God”* (II Tim. 3:16).
5. Before the Bible was completed, those with spiritual gifts used them to validate their message. *“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him: God bearing them witness, both with _____ and _____, and with divers _____, and _____ of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will”* (Heb. 2:3-4).
6. **HOWEVER**, as Paul wrote to the Corinthian church about the use of spiritual gifts (I Cor. 12-14), he said, *“yet, shew I unto you a more _____ way”* (I Cor. 12:31). The way of love or *“_____”* (KJV) *“never _____”* (I Cor. 13:8). It will always abide (I Cor. 13:13), but he names some spiritual gifts and says they shall cease/fail and *“_____ away”* (I Cor. 13:8).
7. **When will this occur? When will the spiritual gifts no longer be needed?** Paul say, *“But when that which is _____ is come, then that which is in part shall be done _____”* (I Cor. 13:10).
8. James defines what is *“that which is perfect”* – *“But whoso looketh into the perfect _____ of liberty”* (Jas. 1:25). The Bible is our “perfect law of liberty.” Some try to say that the spiritual gifts should continue until Jesus – the perfect Son of God – should come. However, Jesus is a “WHO” not a “THAT.” Paul would have said. “when HE that is perfect is come” if he meant that gifts would continue till Jesus returns. Paul was making the point that when the Scriptures were completed, we would have the record of all we needed to know, confirmation of truth was recorded, and as Paul said, *“Whereby, when ye _____, ye may understand my knowledge of the mystery of Christ”* (Eph. 3:4). Paul said, *“take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the _____ of God”* (Eph. 6:17). The Scriptures are all sufficient now without spiritual gifts (II Tim. 3:16-17).

BIBLE BASICS

Lesson Fourteen

Beware of False Prophets (4)

Instrumental Music in Worship

I. Introduction

The religious world is “alive with the sound of music” to borrow a phrase from a familiar musical. It is no longer a matter of simply using a piano or organ to enhance the singing of a choir or congregation. Nowadays, it has moved to praise bands, a rock ‘n roll tempo, and instruments so loud that the words cannot be understood. Musical entertainment has become a cornerstone of worship services that are more production/entertainment oriented instead of the teaching function it was originally designed to fulfill.

II. Background

It can be proven historically that the early church did not use instruments of music in its worship services.

“Leave the pipe to the shepherd, the flute to the men who are in fear of gods and intent on their idol worshipping. Such musical instruments must be excluded from our wingless feasts, for they are more suited for beasts and for the class of men that is least capable of reason than for men” ---Clement of Alexandria, 190 AD *The Instructor, Fathers of the Church*, p. 130.

“Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting of lamps, and the restoration of the other shadows of the law” — John Calvin, *Commentary on Psalms* 33.

“Pope Vitalian is related to have first introduced organs into some churches of Western Europe about 670 AD.” *American Encyclopedia*, Vol. 12., p. 688.

III. Old Testament References

- A. _____ used instruments in Old Testament worship. II Sam. 6:5
- B. However, the Old Law was _____ to the cross of Jesus. Col. 2:14
- C. The Old Law “*waxeth old [and] is ready to _____ away*” Heb. 8:13
- D. The Old Testament (is, is not) the law we are under today.

IV. The New Testament never authorizes the use of instrumental music in the worship services.

- A. There is no direct command to use it.
- B. There is no apostolic example of it being used.

- C. There is no necessary conclusion to be drawn that it must be used.
- D. Using instruments of music in worship is to do so without authority!

V. What does the New Testament say? There are about ten N.T. verses that address music in the church here on earth today.

- 1. Before they left the upper room used to observe the Passover meal, they “_____ a hymn, [and] they went out into the mount of Olives” (Matt. 26:30; Mk. 14:26) [An example of singing only].
- 2. Acts 16:15 – “*And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and _____ praises unto God*” [Another example of singing only].
- 3. Rom. 15:9 – “*...as it is written, For this cause I will confess thee among the Gentiles, and _____ unto thy name.*”
- 4. I Cor. 14:15 – “*What is it then? ...I will _____ with the spirit, and I will sing with the _____ also.*”
- 5. Eph. 5:19 – “*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, _____ and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*” The melody is made in the heart, not on an instrument.
- 6. Col. 3:16 – “*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; _____ and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, _____ with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*” The song lyrics are to “teach and admonish.”
- 7. Heb. 2:12 – “*Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I _____ praise unto thee.*”
- 8. Heb. 13:15 – “*By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of _____ to God continually, that is, the fruit of our _____.*”
- 9. Jas. 5:13 – “*...is any merry? Let him _____ psalms.*”

VI. Conclusion

- A. That is the sum total of the examples and references to using music in praise to God here on earth in the New Testament.
- B. The Old Testament and what occurs in a heavenly setting do not affect us here and now in our practice in the church.
- C. Nowhere does it say, “sing and play.” It just says “sing,” and we cannot add to that. It is not a matter of what WE like but rather what does GOD like and what HE has authorized us to do.

BIBLE BASICS

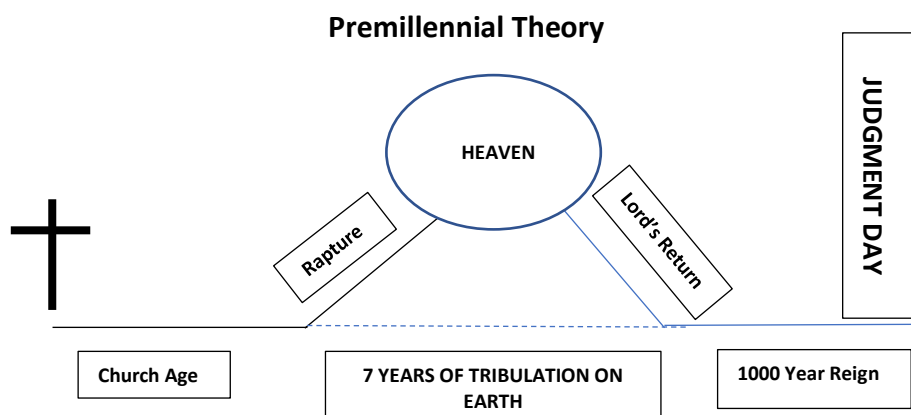
Lesson Fifteen

Beware of False Prophets (5)

Premillennialism

I. Introduction

One very popular, fascinating doctrine invented by men is the doctrine of Premillennialism which holds that after the fulfillment of many signs or indicators, Jesus will return to earth and literally reign over the entire earth for 1000 years during which there will be universal peace. All this will occur before the Final Judgment Day. There are many variations of this theory, but here is a diagram of the general concept.



1. Believing that the Jews stopped Jesus from His mission of establishing His kingdom, Jesus created the church as His "Plan B."
2. At some point in time (which will be preceded by "signs") Jesus will come back and sweep all the righteous off the earth in a great "Rapture."
3. Seven years of Great Tribulation will occur on earth among the wicked, but the Jews will repent and accept Christ. They will preach Christ to all.
4. The wicked will attack the stronghold of the righteous, and Jesus will suddenly come back to give victory in the Battle of Armageddon.
5. He will then set up His physical kingdom with His throne in Jerusalem and reign for 1000 years in a perfect utopia here on earth.
6. Soon thereafter will come the final Judgment Day.

II. The Errors of Premillennialism

1. The rejection of Christ as the Messiah was part of the "_____ of God" (Acts 2:23). His death was part of the "_____ purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Eph. 3:11). He was sacrificed so

- that he "should taste _____ for every man" (Heb. 2:9) and should be "crowned with _____ and _____" as a result (Heb. 2:9).
2. Jesus came to build "my _____" (Matt. 16:18). It was all planned.
 3. The word "Rapture" or such an event is NOT mentioned in the Bible at all. Before the Lord's return, even the skeptics will say "Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things _____ as they were from the beginning of the creation" (II Pet. 3:4). No unusual event such as a "rapture" will have occurred before the Lord's REAL return.
 4. Tribulation has always been inflicted on Christians. Peter said, "If any man _____ as a Christian, let him not be ashamed" (I Pet. 4:16) and John said he was "your brother and companion in _____" (Rev. 1:9).
 5. No scripture says that Jesus will ever set foot on the earth again. We will "meet him in the _____" (I Thess. 4:17). In fact, when the Lord returns, "the earth also and the works that are therein shall be _____ up" and "all these things shall be _____" (II Pet. 3:10-11).
 6. The prophets spoke of a coming kingdom (Dan. 2:44), but Jesus' kingdom is a spiritual one, not a physical one – "The _____ of God cometh not with observation: ... the kingdom of God is _____ you" (Lk. 17:20-21).
 7. Jesus said His kingdom would come during the lifetime of some in His audience and "the kingdom of God [will] come with _____" (Mk. 9:1). That power came with the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles on the day of Pentecost and the church (kingdom) was established (Acts 2; Matt. 16:18-19). The Colossians had been "translated into the _____ of his dear Son" (Col. 1:13), and John said he was "in the _____" (Rev. 1:9). The kingdom/church is here now and will remain until His return (Matt. 16:18) – "and the gates of hell shall not _____ against it."
 8. Armageddon is mentioned in Rev. 16 in a figurative section that talks of the coming destruction of the Roman Empire for its persecution of Christians. The primary context of Revelation is about "things which must _____ come to pass" (Rev. 1:1) as hope is given to persecuted Christians.
 9. There will be no forewarning of the Lord's return and only the Father knows the time (Matt. 24:36). It will "come as a _____ in the night" (II Pet. 3:10) or as a total surprise. When He comes, the dead shall be raised, judgment will take place, the earth shall be destroyed and all will go to Heaven or Hell (Matt. 25:31ff; II Thess. 2:7-10).
 10. Don't let intriguing perversions of prophecy and speculation fool you!

BIBLE BASICS

Lesson Sixteen

Controlling Our Attitudes

I. Introduction

As new creatures in Christ, we learn to think and feel differently about life and its challenges. We understand that this world is not our permanent home, and we are eventually going to a better place (Jn. 14:1-3). Seeing ourselves as sojourners here lessens the intensity of the daily grind for one day this will all pass away for something far better. However, that shift in thinking and change of attitude takes time and effort.

II. Where we were

- A. Before becoming a Christian, we “walked according to the course of this _____, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of _____” (Eph. 2:2).
- B. We did what WE wanted to do. We may or may not have seen ourselves as being that “bad” in our choice making, but we were “the servants of _____” (Rom. 6:17). Spiritually, we “were _____ in trespasses and _____” (Eph. 2:1) because our “_____ have _____ between you and your _____” (Isa. 59:2).
- C. We walked around, breathed air, and were physically functioning, but we lacked direction and purpose in life and carried regrets for mistakes that we could never fix. We lived a life of coping, but not a life of joyful expectation for the fear of death signaled the end. We had many attitudes and opinions that we used to justify ourselves.

III. The Attitude Adjustment

- A. Solomon said, “For as a man _____ in his _____ so is he” (Prov. 23:7). Our thoughts are important!
- B. Christians are no longer striving to do good just to be esteemed by men. We let our light shine so others “may see your _____ works and _____ your Father which is in Heaven” (Matt. 5:16).
- C. Our #1 goal is now going to _____. (II Tim. 4:6-8)
- D. Our negative, critical, skeptical attitude must be changed as we “set our _____ on things _____” (Col. 3:2).

IV. Areas of Attitude Change

- A. A Christian now can have a different attitude toward life itself.

- 1. We can be thankful we are here and have something to live for. “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose _____, that both thou and thy seed may live” (Deut. 30:19). Peter said, “For he that will _____ life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile” (I Pet. 3:10).
- 2. God gave us life (Gen. 2:7) and Jesus said, “I am come that they might have _____, and that they might have it more _____” (Jn. 10:10). See Eccl. 12:13.
- 3. But life here is only temporary. It is like “a _____, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (Jas. 4:14).
- B. We now learn to abhor sin for we know its consequences.
 - 1. “For the wages of sin is _____; but the gift of God is eternal _____ through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).
 - 2. God sees and knows all for “neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are _____ and opened unto the _____ of the Lord with whom we have to do” (Heb. 4:13). Every transgression and disobedience will receive a “_____ recompense of _____” (Heb. 2:2).
- C. Our attitude toward work changes as we see it as a chance to have to give to others. “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him _____, working with his hands the thing which is good that he may have to _____ to him that _____.” (Eph. 4:28)
 - 1. As Paul told the Thessalonians, “that if any would not work, neither should he _____” (II Thess. 3:10).
- D. Christians also rethink their personal importance. “For I say, ...; to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more _____ that he ought to think” (Rom. 12:3). See Phil. 2:3-5.
 - 1. But we can have self-confidence because we can “do all things through _____ which _____ me” (Phil. 4:12).
 - 2. Self-denial is also vital. Jesus said, “If any man will come after me, let him _____ himself, and take up his _____ and follow me” (Matt. 16:24). It is about His will, not mine.
- E. The Christian has a different attitude toward death. We know it is “appointed unto men once to _____, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27). We live our lives in view of that fact.

Attitudes of a “New Creature”

I. Introduction

Paul said, “*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). In our last lesson we noted that Christians have new attitudes:

- **Toward life.** We see it as a gift from God, but our time here is brief.
- **Toward sin.** We recognize the deceptive “pleasures” in sinful behavior and realize that sin can keep us out of Heaven.
- **Toward work.** Life is not just about amassing personal wealth. It is about being empowered to care about and help others.
- **Toward self.** Life is not all about “me.” Christians want to do good for others so that God can be glorified through us.
- **Toward death.** Christians understand that life is temporary and expires like a vapor. Our duty is to “*fear God and keep His commandments*” (Eccl. 12:13) so that we are ready when our time comes to depart this earth and enjoy the promised inheritance.

II. Other Attitude Changes

A. Christians develop a hunger to **study God’s Word – the Bible**. Many of us are not inclined to enjoy reading and academic study, but there are many avenues open for us to learn what God has said:

1. Jesus said, “*Blessed are they that _____ and thirst after _____; for they shall be _____*” (Matt. 5:6).
2. There is no better way for us to learn the Bible than **to read and study for ourselves**. “_____ to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, _____ dividing the word of _____” (II Tim. 2:15).
3. However, we often find ourselves in the plight of the Ethiopian. He read but did not understand. Philip asked, “_____ thou what thou _____? And he said, *How can I, except some man should _____ me*” (Acts 8:30-31). That is why we offer **Bible classes** to teach and enhance understanding.
4. **Preaching** is also vital. Paul said, “_____ comes by _____” (Rom. 10:17) and “*how shall they hear without a _____*” (Rom. 10:14). We need to be present for it!

B. Christians develop a greater capacity for **love**.

1. We are to “_____ the Lord thy God ... and thou shalt love thy _____ as thyself” (Matt. 22:37-39).

2. Among the many attributes of love in I Cor. 13 we see:

- a. “*Love suffers long, and is _____*” (vs. 4)
- b. “*Love _____ not*” (vs. 4).
- c. “*Love _____ not itself, is not puffed up*” (arrogant) (vs. 4).
- d. “*Love does not behavior itself _____*.” (vs. 5)
- e. “*Love seeketh not her _____*” (not selfish) (vs. 5)
- f. “*Love is not easily _____*.” (vs. 5).
- g. “*Love thinketh no _____*.” (Believes the best)
- h. “*Love rejoices not in _____, but rejoices in the _____; _____ all things, _____ all things, _____ all things, _____ all things*” (vs. 6-7).
- i. “*Love never _____*” (vs. 8).
- j. What a difference increased love will make in all our human relationships and in our relationship with God! We would be kinder to others, less envious, not arrogant or selfish, and we would develop an optimistic attitude instead of a critical, cynical one. We would look for the good in others instead of the _____.

C. Another major attitude change is to develop a spirit of **submission**.

1. We must acknowledge AND ACCEPT that _____ is our head in all things. Speaking of Jesus, Paul said, “*And he is the _____ of the body, the church: ... that in _____ things he might have the _____*” (Col. 1:18).
2. We are to “_____ yourselves therefore to God” (Jas. 4:7).
3. “*The head of every man is _____*” (I Cor. 11:3)
4. “*Wives, _____ yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord*” (Col. 3:18).
5. We are to submit to the leaders of the church. “*Obey them that have the _____ over you, and _____ yourselves: for they watch for your souls*” (Heb. 13:17).
6. We are to be law-biding citizens so long as the law aligns with God’s Word. “_____ yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake” (I Pet. 2:13).
7. “*Likewise, ye _____, submit yourselves unto the _____ . Yea, all of you be _____ one to another and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble*” (I Pet. 5:5).

These attitude changes make us better people and stronger Christians.

The One True Church (1)

I. Introduction

Jesus promised to build *“my church”* (Matt. 16:18) signifying only one. Since we are surrounded with all kinds of religious groups today that call themselves churches, our challenge is to identify the one that Jesus built. Satan has created many counterfeits. The New Testament is filled with the specifics about *“the church.”*

II. One means one.

- A. Paul said, *“There is _____ body”* (Eph. 4:4). He also identified that one body to mean the church. *“...and gave him to be head over all things to the _____, which is his _____”* (Eph. 1:22-23).
- B. The concept of denominationalism is that all churches are part of the whole universal church Christ established – like coins are various denominations of a dollar. Therefore, one church (though different from others) is as good as another. Such a concept is totally foreign to the Scriptures. Paul said we are to *“...be perfectly joined together in the _____ mind and in the _____ judgment”* (I Cor. 1:10).
- C. As Jesus prayed for future believers, He said, *“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be _____; ... that they also may be _____ in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me”* (Jn. 17:20-21).

III. The definition of “church”

- A. The word “church” means “a called out assembly.” The church is not a building, it is the group of saved people meeting together. The church is composed of those who are _____. (Acts 2:47). The Lord adds all the saved to it.
- B. In the New Testament the word “church” sometimes refers to all the saved all over the world – the universal church (Matt. 16:18), or a local congregation (I Cor. 1:2).

IV. The Church in Prophecy

- A. The church did not just “happen.” It was part of the *“_____ purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Eph. 3:11). The prophets talked of its coming.
 - 1. Joel 2:28-32 – The Holy Spirit would be poured out then.
 - 2. Isaiah 2:2-4 – All nations would flow into it.
 - 3. Micah 4:1-2 – It would begin in Jerusalem.
 - 4. Micah 4:1-2 – It would be in the *“last days.”*
 - 5. Dan. 2:36-45 – It would begin during the Roman Empire.
 - 6. Mark 9:1 – It would come during the lifetime of Jesus’ first disciples.
 - B. Any church which began at another time and place is the wrong one!
 - C. Prior to Acts 2, the church was spoken of as being in the future. [*“I will build...”* (Matt. 16:18).] After Acts 2 (around 33 A.D.), the church was a reality (Acts 2:47). The rest of the New Testament talks of its spread throughout the world.
- ### V. The Name of the Church
- A. Different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to this one church, but all reflect its ownership by Jesus Christ:
 - 1. Church of God. I Cor. 1:2)
 - 2. Kingdom of God (Rom. 14:17)
 - 3. House of God (I Tim. 3:15)
 - 4. Church of the firstborn (Heb. 12:23)
 - B. Collectively, Paul called them *“the _____ of _____”* (Rom. 16:16).
 - C. Any of these names could be considered appropriate, but for expediency in our country the term “churches of Christ” is most commonly used. We want to speak as *“the oracles of God”* (I Pet. 4:11) and use Bible terminology.
 - D. Using made-up, man-made names is not authorized. Many names are used for churches which do not show the ownership of Christ but rather reflect the influence of the men engineering them.
 - E. The members of the New Testament church were simply called _____ Acts 11:26; I Pet. 4:16; Acts 26:28

The One True Church (2)

I. Introduction

The one, true church that Christ died to establish (Matt.16:18; Acts 20:28) can be difficult to find amidst all the man-made churches that cover the countryside. Not every religious group that calls itself a church meets the identifying marks of the first century church. Thus far, we have noted:

- Jesus only promised to build one church. Matt. 16:18
- The church is a “called out assembly,” not just a building. The term “church” can mean one congregation or all of them.
- The church was part of the “*eternal purpose*” of God. Time, place, and setting were all defined in prophecy in the O.T.
- Several names were used to refer to this one, true church, but Paul referred to them collectively as “*the churches of Christ*” (Rom. 16:16).

II. The church is important, and our involvement with it is critical.

Many today have an aversion to “organized religion” and discount the importance of their involvement with it. However, the church is VERY important to Christ and should be to us as well.

- A. Christ purchased it with His _____. Acts 20:28
- B. Jesus is the sole _____ of it. Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18.
- C. The church is Christ’s _____. Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18
- D. Jesus gave Himself for the _____. Eph. 5:25
- E. Jesus is the _____ of the church. I Cor. 3:11
- F. All the _____ are added by the Lord to His _____. Acts 2:47. If we are not in it, we are among the unsaved.

III. The organization of the Lord’s church. (Phil. 1:1)

- A. There is no formal organization for the universal church. Each local congregation is independent of all others and runs its own affairs.
- B. Paul ordained _____ in every church. Acts 14:23

1. They are _____ of the local flock. Acts 20:28
2. We are to “_____ them that have the rule over you, and _____ yourselves” (Heb. 13:17).
3. Each congregation is to have a plurality of _____. I Pet. 5:1
4. Their authority is not to make laws, but to implement the laws of _____. Gal. 6:2
5. Their authority is limited to the congregation “_____ you.” (I Pet. 5:1-2)

- C. Likewise, there are qualifications for _____ who are servants of the church. I Tim. 3:8-13

IV. The worship of the church.

- A. Christians are to not forsake “*the assembling of ourselves* _____” (Heb. 10:25). When the church assembles, all are to be there if at all possible.
- B. Everything we do is to be done “*in the* _____ *of the Lord Jesus*” [or by His authority] (Col. 3:17).
- C. The 1st century church was led by the apostles to have five acts of worship when assembled on the first day of the week:
 1. Eph. 5:19; Heb. 2:12 _____
 2. I Cor. 16:1-2 _____
 3. I Thess. 5:17; Acts 12:5 _____
 4. Acts 20:7 _____
 5. Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11:23-26 _____

V. The work of the church is also defined.

- A. **Evangelism.** We are commanded to preach the gospel to the lost. “*Go ye into all the _____, and _____ the _____ to every creature*” (Mk. 16:15)
- B. **Edification.** We are to “keep the saved, saved” by strengthening and teaching each other. “*He gave some apostles; and some prophets; and some, evangelists: ... for the _____ of the body of Christ*” (Eph. 4:11-12).
- C. **Benevolence.** We are to help needy members. “*Neither was there any _____ them that lacked...and distribution was made unto every man according as he had _____*” (Acts 4:34-35).

The Bible – The Inspired Word of God

I. Introduction

The Bible has been under continual attacks throughout the ages by those who want to discredit its teachings. In our age it is our children who are being subjected to all kinds of skepticism and criticism for believing its content. All of us need to be equipped to face these false assumptions and accusations about the Bible.

II. Popular Attacks Against the Bible

- A. “It is just an old book of myths and legends.”
 - 1. Archaeology and history are great friends to the Bible. The places and nations discussed in the Bible have been documented to really have existed, and biblical prophecies about them were fulfilled.
 - 2. In most instances we read eyewitness accounts of what transpired, not made up stories.
- B. “It is filled with contradictions.”
 - 1. Nothing of doctrinal importance is contradicted. When taken in context, the Bible presents a coherent picture of the plight of man and God’s plan for man’s redemption through the ages.
 - 2. Most “contradictions” are simply cases of differences in detail regarding literal numbers vs. approximations, points of emphasis by the author, or failures to respect the context of cited passages. Supposed “contradictions” are explainable.
 - 3. The Bible **could not** have been written by uninspired men for over 40 authors wrote over a span of 1600 years and, they did not contradict each other. Where are the flaws?
- C. “It has been changed or revised so many times that we cannot accept it as the authentic Word of God.”
 - 1. The Bible is the best preserved book from antiquity. In the museums of the world we have over 20,000 copies of all or part of the ancient manuscripts from which the Bible was translated. In contrast, some of our ancient “classics” have less than 20 copies in existence.

Modern languages change, but the content of the ancient manuscripts is still there to provide authentic references.

III. To Christians, the Bible is Very Special.

- A. It contains internal claims of its inspiration. Inspiration means “God-breathed.” God, through the Holy Spirit, told the writers what to say. We call that verbal, plenary inspiration. II Tim. 3:16-17 – “*All Scriptures are given by _____ of God. ... That the man of God may be _____ thoroughly furnished unto all _____ works.*”
- B. II Pet. 1:21 – “*For the _____ came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the _____.*”
- C. Paul affirmed that the apostles were inspired to speak as they did. – (I Cor. 2:5-16 (Jn. 16:13). “*Now we have received...the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we _____ not in the _____ which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth...*” (I Cor. 2:12-13)).

IV. We Accept the Bible as God’s Instruction to Man

- A. We are commanded to study it. “*_____ to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly _____ the word of _____*” (II Tim. 2:15).
- B. It enlightens man as to how to live in a godly manner. “*Thy _____ is a _____ unto my feet, and a light unto my _____*” (Psm. 119:105). “*Thy _____ have I hid in mine heart, that I might not _____ against thee*” (Psm. 119:11).
- C. We need to cultivate a love of studying it. “*I will _____ in thy precepts and have respect unto thy ways. I will _____ myself in thy statutes: I will not _____ thy word*” (Psm. 119:15-16).

- V. **It Is Our Standard of Authority.** “*And whatsoever ye do in _____ or _____, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus*” (Col. 3:17). “*Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the _____ of Christ, hath not _____*” (II Jn. 9).

The Bible – The Inspired Word of God (2)

I. Introduction

The Bible contains the revelation from God to man and is the basis of our faith. Thus far, we have established:

- The Bible writers were inspired or instructed by the Holy Spirit as to what exactly they were to write. (II Tim. 3:16-17)
- The Bible IS NOT filled with contradictions, but any variations can be explained. There are NO doctrinal contradictions at all.
- Copies of the ancient manuscripts still exist to double check for assurance that the content of the Bible is still consistent with the original writings. It has not been revised in content. Some translations are more accurate than others.
- The Bible is our standard of authority in religion.

II. **Contrary to popular perception, the Bible is compatible with true science. It is man's unproven theories pretending to be science that causes differences and conflict.**

- A. The Bible is not a book of science but implanted in it are scientific truths that scientists did not discover till thousands of years later.
1. The design of the universe necessitates an Intelligent Designer – God. Gen. 1:1 – *“In the beginning _____ created the heavens and the earth.”* The Bible is built on that premise. God exists. *“He that cometh to God must believe that He _____”* (Heb. 11:6). The Designer (God) knew and revealed to inspired writers that:
 - a. The earth is round. Isa. 40:22
 - b. Ocean currents exist. Psm. 8:8
 - c. Life is in the blood. Lev. 17:11
 2. Man's dating methods are flawed for they are built on the premise that nothing exceptional has happened.
 - a. God created the earth with age already installed. Adam and Eve were created as adults, not babies. Gen. 1:27-28
 - b. The Great Flood story is embedded in the cultural histories of civilizations all over the world. Gen. 7:17-24
 - c. Scoffers disagree with the Flood story. II Pet. 3:3-6

III. **The UNITY of the 66 Bible books (written by about 40 authors over a span of 1600 years) attest to its inspiration.**

- A. It is not filled with contradictions.
- B. History and archaeology back up the events recorded.
- C. No doctrinal points are inconsistent.
- D. Man COULD NOT have produced such a work without Divine Assistance.

IV. **FULFILLED PROPHECY is one of the strongest arguments for the inspiration of the Bible. Without Divine help, man could not predict events with such accuracy years in advance.**

- A. This is why a study of the Old Testament is so important.
 1. We need to be able to cite O.T. prophecies and their fulfillments.
 2. Example: Isaiah named the King who would free Israel from its Exile 200 years in advance! Who was he?
_____ (Isa. 44:28)

V. **How well do you know your Bible?**

- A. The Bible has how many major divisions? _____
- B. In the Old Testament the books can be organized into 4 groups. List the books in each (Abbreviate):
 1. Law (5) _____
 2. History (12) _____

 3. Poetry & Wisdom (5) _____
 4. Prophets (17) – Major (5) _____
Minor (12) _____

- C. The New Testament books can be organized into 4 groups:
 1. Gospels (life of Christ) (4) _____
 2. History (1) _____
 3. Epistles (21) – Instructions to congregations (9) _____
Letters to individuals (6) _____
General Letters (6) _____
 4. Prophecy (1) _____

BIBLE BASICS

Lesson Twenty-two

The Bible – The Inspired Word of God (3)

I. Introduction

Having discussed how the Bible is the inspired word of God and the importance of studying it, let's see how much you know of its contents.

II. What does the Bible say?

- A. The Bible is divided into how many testaments? _____
 1. Those testaments cover three dispensations of time.
 - i. The Patriarchal Age (Creation to the Ten Commandments)
 - ii. The Mosaic Age (Mt. Sinai to the death of Christ)
 - iii. The Christian Age (Death of Christ to the End of the World)
- B. The **Patriarchal Age** was an era of family-center religious service to God.
 1. Creation to the Flood (Gen. 1-5)
 2. After the Flood (Gen. 6-11)
 3. Journeys of the Patriarchs (Gen. 12-50)
 4. Egyptian Bondage (Ex. 1-11)
- C. The **Mosaic Age** followed giving detailed commands of God for a national religion for the Jews.
 1. Wilderness Wanderings (Ex. 12 – Deut. 34)
 2. Conquest of Canaan (Joshua)
 3. Judges (Judges 1 – I Samuel 8)
 4. United Kingdom (I Sam. 9 – I Kgs. 11)
 5. The Divided Kingdom (I Kgs. 12 – II Kgs. 25)
 6. Captivity (II Kgs. 25)
 7. Restoration (Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther)
 8. Between the Testaments (No writing for 400 years)
 9. Life of Christ (Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John)
- D. The **Christian Age** of universal religion until the Lord comes.
 1. Church (Acts – Revelation)

Prophets

III. What do you know?

1. "in the beginning _____ created the heavens and the earth"
2. Who were the first man and woman? _____
3. The first sin occurred when _____ ate the Forbidden Fruit.
4. _____ built an ark to save his family from the Great Flood.
5. How many people survived the flood waters? _____
6. _____ was the Father of the Jewish nation.
7. _____ had to flee from sinful Sodom before God destroyed it.
8. _____ was the father of the 12 tribes of Israel.
9. Jacob's son, _____, was sold into slavery in Egypt.
10. _____ was called by God from a Burning Bush to lead Israel out of Egyptian bondage.
11. How many plagues did God bring on the Egyptians? _____
12. The Israelites crossed the _____ Sea to freedom.
13. The Law of Moses included the _____ Commandments given by God on Mt. Sinai.
14. The later celebration of the last plague where _____ was put around the doors was called the _____.
15. The Jewish house of worship in the wilderness was a tent-like structure called The _____.
16. The strongest man of the Bible was a judge named _____.
17. King _____ was a man "after God's own heart."
18. The wisest man in the Bible was King _____.
19. _____ was a Syrian leper healed by a prophet.
20. _____ was a righteous man who suffered much patiently.
21. _____ was a prophet swallowed by a whale.
22. _____ was a prophet thrown into the lions' den.
23. _____ was a forerunner of Jesus who ate locust and wild honey and preached repentance.
24. Jesus was born of a virgin named _____ in the town of _____.
25. Jesus preached a famous sermon called the Sermon on the _____.
26. Jesus chose _____ apostles as ambassadors to the world.
27. _____ was the apostle who betrayed the Lord.
28. Jesus died by hanging on a _____. (Crucifixion)
29. The _____ occurred 3 days later when He arose.
30. The _____ was established in the city of Jerusalem (Acts 2).
31. The first Christian to be a martyr was _____.
32. _____ was the first Gentile convert to Christianity.
33. Paul made how many missionary journeys? _____

BIBLE BASICS

Lesson Twenty-three

The Importance of Being A Servant

I. Introduction

We live in a culture where everyone has the chance to work to improve their lot in life or their social position. Education, job skill training, apprenticeships, etc. help us see avenues in which we can succeed and provide better lives for ourselves and our families. Inherent in that, however, is the realization that some succeed more than others and there is the ever present tendency for us to compare ourselves to others. We tend to rejoice in our success and to be critical of others thinking "they just did not try hard enough." That may be true or it may be false. We do not know the true circumstances of others, and the world's standards for success are far different than the way God sees things.

II. The danger of comparisons

- A. Paul said, "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or _____ ourselves with some that _____ themselves: but they measuring themselves by _____, and _____ themselves among themselves, are not _____." (II Cor. 10:12)
- B. James teaches against favoritism in James 2:1-9. If we show partiality to the "rich guy," "Are ye not then _____ in yourselves, and are become _____ of _____ thoughts?" (vs. 4). If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt _____ thy neighbor as _____, ye do well. But if ye have _____ of persons, ye commit _____, and are convinced of the law as _____." (vs. 8-9).
- C. Jesus condemned the thirst for greatness in His own apostles when they had strife over it. "he that is _____ among you, let him be as the _____; and he that is _____, as he that doth _____" (Lk. 22:26).

III. Christians want to be the best they can be in every respect, but we can never lose the value of humility.

- A. Paul told the Philippians, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in _____ of mind let each _____ other _____ than themselves" (Phil. 2:3).
- B. In talking to the Ephesians Paul said, "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all _____ and _____, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love" (Eph. 4:1-2).

IV. The world's false standard.

- A. The world marks success by one's riches and power, and it breeds arrogance and pride. If we become carnally minded and obsess for those things, we lose our spirituality. John said, "_____ not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man _____ the world, the _____ of the _____ is not in him" (I Jn. 2:15).
- B. When servants thirst to become masters, they forget the example of Jesus as a servant as they chase the dollars. As Paul told Timothy, "For the love of _____ is the root of all _____: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many _____" (I Tim. 6:10).
- C. The money itself is not wrong. Being rich, like Abraham, does not damn one's soul unless the money takes control. "Charge them that are _____ in this world, that they be not _____, nor trust in uncertain riches but in the living God who giveth us richly all they to enjoy" (I Tim. 6:17).
- D. We may see ourselves as poor, but when compared to the living standards in the rest of world, we must see that we are more toward the rich end of the spectrum. Jesus said, "For unto whomsoever _____ is given, of him shall be much _____: and to whom men have committed _____, of him they will ask the more" (Lk. 12:48).

V. We are to be simply humble servants of God.

- A. "_____ yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall _____ you up" (Jas. 4:10)
- B. "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be _____; and he that shall _____ himself shall be exalted (Matt. 23:12)
- C. In the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican (Lk. 18:9-14). Who went home justified? _____ Why? _____
- D. We have nothing to glory of for "we are unprofitable servants; we have done that which was our _____ to do" (Lk. 17:10).

BIBLE BASICS

Lesson Twenty-four

The Death and Resurrection of Jesus

I. Introduction

The “key to the arch” – the piece that holds the whole thing together – when discussing Christianity is the death and resurrection of Jesus. The empty tomb is the symbol of victory as Jesus arose from dead and paid the price for man’s redemption from sin. Christianity is the only world religion that is based upon empty tomb – there are no remains left behind of a founder. “He is Risen!” as the angel declared (Matt. 28:6).

II. Prophecy

God unfolded His plan for man’s redemption piece by piece. Using the Old Testament prophets, God revealed that a Messiah would one day come, suffer, and die. Over 300 prophecies gave the details and were written over more than 400 years in advance. Here are a few of them:

1. Gen. 12:3; 18:18 _____ would have a descendant through which all families of the earth would be _____.
2. Gen. 49:10 – The Messiah would be of the tribe of _____.
3. Isa. 7:14 – The Messiah would be born of a _____.
4. Mic. 5:2 – The Messiah would be born in _____.
5. Isa. 53:3-9 – He would be _____ of men and _____ “cut off out of the land of the living”).
6. Isa. 53:12 – He would be crucified with _____.
7. Isa. 53:9 – He would be buried with the _____.

III. Fulfillment

Every detail of the life, death, and resurrection occurred precisely as God planned and the prophecies foretold. Jesus came to do “His Father’s _____” (Jn. 6:38).

- A. Jesus was the son of a virgin named _____. Matt. 1:18-25
- B. Jesus was born in the city of _____. Matt. 2:1
- C. The Jewish leadership rejected Him and planned to _____ Him. Matt. 26:3-4
- D. Jesus said, “Ye know that after two days is the feast of the Passover, and the Son of man is _____ and _____” (Matt. 26:2). Who was the betrayer? (Mk. 14:10-11) _____
- E. He was crucified with two _____. Matt. 27:38

IV. Many other details were prophesied and fulfilled.

- A. He would be mocked as He died (Psm. 22:7-8) – “All they that see me _____ me to _____: they shoot out the lips, they shake the head saying, He _____ on the Lord that he would _____ him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.”

Read Matt. 27:39-43.

- B. They would gamble {“cast lots”} for His _____. Psm. 22:18; Mk. 15:24
- C. No _____ would be broken. Psm. 34:20; Jn. 19:32-33, 36

V. Jesus foretold that He would arise on the third day following His death.

- A. He would repeat deliverance on the third day like _____, the prophet. Matt. 12:38-40
- B. His temple (body) would be rebuilt in _____ days. Jn. 2:18-22
- C. Jesus was buried on _____ (Mk. 15:42) and arose on _____ “the first day of the week” (Matt. 28:1-6). [three days later].

VI. The Burial

- A. _____ went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Matt. 27:57-58
- B. _____ helped him. Jn. 19:39
- C. They wrapped the body in fine _____ cloth “And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid” (Mk. 15:46-47).
- D. They “laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulcher and departed” (Matt. 27:59). Whose tomb was it? _____
- E. For fear of the apostles stealing the body and claiming a false resurrection, the priests and Pharisees asked _____ to put soldiers at the grave for three days. He agreed. “So they went, and made the sepulcher sure, _____ the stone, and setting a watch” (Matt. 27:62-66).

VII. Sunday Morning

- A. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb early on “on the first day of the week” and there was a great _____ and the stone was rolled away from the door by an angel. (Matt. 28:1-2)
- B. The angel said, “He is not here: for he is risen” (Matt. 28:6)
- C. _____ and John ran to the tomb and found it empty (Jn. 20:2-10).
- D. That evening, Jesus appeared to the _____ apostles. Mk. 16:14

BIBLE BASICS

Lesson Twenty-five

One Day It Will All Be Over

I. Introduction

If the Lord tarries in His coming, we all will meet our appointment with _____ (Heb. 9:27), but at some point, the Father will determine that the time of this Earth has expired. *"Then cometh the _____, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to _____, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power"* (I Cor. 15:24).

II. There will be no warning signs.

- A. It will be a surprise like the coming of a "_____ in the night" (II Pet. 3:10).
- B. Life will be proceeding as normal. *"But as the days of Noah were so shall also the coming of the _____ of _____ be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were _____ and _____, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark. And knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so shall also the _____ of the Son of man be"* (Matt. 24:38-39).
- C. Only the Heavenly Father knows when that time will come. *"But of that day and hour knoweth _____ man, no, not the angels of _____, but my Father _____"* (Matt. 24:36).

III. Jesus promised to return.

- A. In comforting His apostles He said, *"In my Father's house are many _____; ... I go to prepare a place for you ... I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be _____"* (Jn. 14:2-3).
- B. The Hebrew writer said, *"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that _____ for him shall he appear the _____ time without sin unto salvation"* (Heb. 9:28).
- C. Paul taught the Thessalonians that *"the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a _____; ... Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the _____ to meet the Lord in the _____"* (I Thess. 4:16-17). No Scriptures says Jesus will ever set foot on this Earth again.

IV. What will happen?

- A. This Earth will be burned up. *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent _____, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be _____ up"* (II Pet. 3:10).
- B. It will happen quickly – *"in a moment, in the twinkling of an _____, at the last trump ... we shall be changed"* (I Cor. 15:52). There will be no time for last minute preparations we have put off.
- C. All the dead will be resurrected. *"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming in the which _____ that are in the graves shall hear his voice. And shall come _____; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of _____; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of _____"* (Jn. 5:28-29).
- D. The living will be caught up to meet the Lord as well. *"we which are alive and remain shall be _____ up together with them in the _____ to meet the Lord in the _____"* (I Thess. 4:17).
- E. We will be given new immortal bodies that are not described in the Scriptures in any detail. *"And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be ... But God giveth it a _____ as it hath pleased him"* (I Cor. 15:37-38). *"and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be _____ him; for we shall see him as he _____"* (I Jn. 3:2). *"the dead shall be raised _____, and we shall be _____"* (II Cor. 15:52).
- F. All men that have ever lived will be judged. John saw *"the dead, small and great, stand before _____"* (Rev. 20:12). The books will be opened that contain a record of the lives each has lived. *"and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of _____: and the dead were judged out of those things which were _____ in the books, according to their _____"* (Rev. 20:13). All will have to give an account for their actions. *"For we must _____ appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things _____ in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be _____ or _____"* (II Cor. 5:10). Each person will be judged individually based upon their actions. *"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then _____ one of us shall give account of himself to God"* (Rom. 14:11-12).

BIBLE BASICS

Lesson Twenty-six

Eternity

I. Introduction

Trying to wrap our minds around the “new normal” of eternity is really impossible for us to fully comprehend on this side of life. God gave us a perfect world once when He *“saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good”* (Gen. 1:31). However, man soon “messed it up” with sin – *“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). God cleansed the earth with a Great Flood, but we can testify to the rampant sin of our generation to know that the majority of people today are on the broad way *“that leded to destruction”* (Matt. 7:13).

In our last lesson we looked at the events of the Lord’s return. Only God, the Father, knows when that time will come. Jesus will return, and we will all be changed to meet the Lord in the air. This earth and everything on it will be burned up, all the dead will be resurrected and given new bodies for eternity. The record book will be opened and the book of life, and every individual will be judged *“out of those things written in the books, according to their works”* (Rev. 20:12-13).

II. The Unrighteous

- A. *“And whosoever was not found written in the book of _____ was cast into the lake of _____”* (Rev. 20:15)
- B. Hell is a very real eternal destination that is prepared for *“the _____ and his _____”* (Matt. 25:41)
- C. This is not a temporary condition. All the disobedient *“shall go away into _____ punishment”* Matt. 25:46.
- D. It will not end. *“Where their worm _____ not, and the _____ is not _____”* (Mk. 9:46).
- E. To the Rich Man (Lk. 16:19-31), the torment was so great that he asked that Lazarus might *“dip the tip of his _____ in _____ and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame”* (Lk. 16:24).

- F. Paul said, *“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming _____ taking vengeance on them that know _____ God, and that _____ not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; Who shall be punished with everlasting _____ from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power”* (II Thess. 1:7-9).
- G. Eternity for the damned will be worse than anything we can imagine!

III. The Saved

- A. Jesus said, *“In my Father’s house are many _____; ... I go to prepare a place for you ... and I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, ye may be also”* (Jn. 14:2-3). Jesus promised to return for the faithful!
- B. The saved will enjoy *“the gift of God [which] is _____ life through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Rom. 6:23). In Heaven,
- C. God *“will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God _____ shall be _____ them and be their God. And God shall wipe away all _____ from their eyes; and there shall be no more _____, neither _____, nor _____, neither shall there be any more _____; for the former things are passed away”* (Rev. 21:3-4).
- D. Before Jesus ascended, he said, *“All _____ is given unto me in _____ and in _____”* Matt. 28:18
- E. Jesus *“is gone into _____, and is on the _____ hand of God; angels, and _____ and powers being made _____ unto him”* (I Pet. 3:22).
- F. The kingdom of the righteous (church) will be delivered up to God one day. *“Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the _____ to God, even the Father, when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power”* (I Cor. 15:24). We need to be a citizen in that kingdom!
- G. Heaven will be the perfect reward. The saved will *“meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we _____ be with the Lord”* (I Thess. 4:17). It cannot be better than that! We should join with John in saying, *“Even so, _____, Lord Jesus”* (Rev. 22:20).