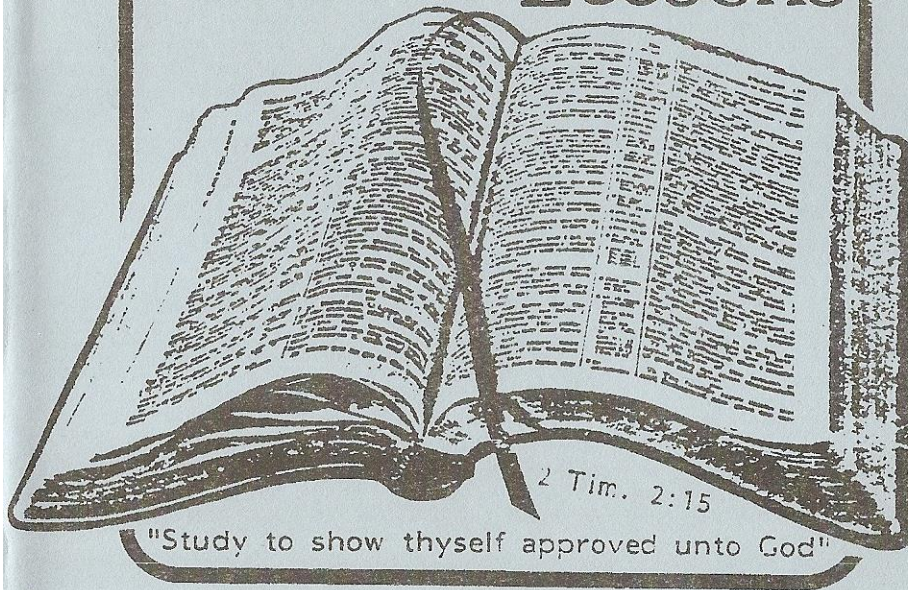


Bible Study Lessons



For Sabbath School Classes

For Teens and Adults

RESTORATION

TRUTHS

This lesson was written by Pastor Saunders.

Small editorial changes and some comments "Editor's notes" were added by Elder Clyde Senger, May 2019.

Note: The Lesson Readings, are meant to be read at home, not necessarily at Sabbath School.

LESSON 1

DATE _____

SOUND DOCTRINE

LESSON READING: Matt.24:1-14; Acts 20:17-32; 1 Tim.4:1-16; 2 Tim.2:4-21; 4:1-8

MEMORY VERSE: "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Jude 3

INTRODUCTION: Webster's Dictionary defines "Doctrine" as, "That which is taught; a principle or body of principles, in any branch of knowledge; tenet; teaching; principle of faith."

In the minds of many people in our modern society the word "doctrine" seems to connote some kind of a bondage, a legalism; in fact, to some people "doctrine" is almost a "dirty" word. They do not want to hear anything about "doctrine" because it might disrupt their manner of living.

Well, there may be some truth in that, but really, "doctrine" simply means, as the dictionary defines it, a teaching. And any concept or philosophy is a teaching. There is nothing wrong with the word, but we must be careful to understand how the word is used and what it represents in each case.

In Paul's admonition regarding watchfulness with respect to a "departing from the faith" he tells of the introduction of "doctrines of devils". These are false teachings that have been introduced into the "Christian Church". The Bible declares that if the doctrines do not conform to "the Law and the Testimony" they have no truth in them. So we see that the criterion for testing doctrine is the Word of God.

The Bible is replete with warnings and admonitions regarding the danger of false doctrine. Jesus said "Many false prophets shall arise and shall deceive many." Paul warned of the "Falling away from the faith," etc.

If, as some people say, it doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you believe that Jesus is the Saviour, why all the warning about false teachings?

Why are we admonished to. "Prove all things and hold fast to that which is good." You see, what one believes is important because it will determine his manner of conduct. Furthermore, a man's belief will also determine whether he understands God's plan of salvation and thus his eternal destiny.

Satan, the enemy of all truth, has set out to dilute God's truth with error, thus preventing man from understanding God's plan for man's salvation and the restoration of all things that were lost through the entrance of sin.

Therefore, it is important for us to be able to identify error and to reject it. It is just as important to seek to know all the truth which has been revealed and preserved in the Bible. Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

May the Spirit of God, the Author of truth, lead and guide us into all truth!

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. What is the meaning of the word, "Doctrine"?
2. Does it make any difference what we believe? Prov.23:7; Acts 18:24-26; Rom.10:17
3. Were the believers in the Early Church particular about what they believed? Acts 17:11

4. What was Paul's admonition regarding what we believe? 1 Thess.5:21
5. What did Peter say about what we believe? 1 Peter 3:15
6. What did Jesus say about the same thing? John 5:39
7. Did Paul consider it important to teach doctrine?
8. How are we to interpret the meaning of the Bible passages? 2 Tim.2:15
9. Is it important that the doctrines we believe are scripturally sound?
Titus 1:9; Rom.6:17; 1 Tim.1:10
10. What does the Bible say about false prophets and false doctrine? Matt.24:11; 2 Cor.11:13-15; 2 John 7;
Acts 20:29,30; 2 Thess.2:3; 1 Tim.4:1,2; 2 Tim.4:2-4
11. Are we at liberty to believe only certain portions of the Bible and can we add doctrines that are not in the Bible? Deut.4:2; Rev.22:18,19
12. How is the true church described? Eph.5:25-27; Rev.14:12; 19:7-9
13. DOES HISTORY PROVE THAT THERE WAS A FALLING AWAY FROM-THE PURE TEACHING OF THE BIBLE?
Ans. From "The Growth of the Christian Church" by R. H. Nichols, p. 87 we quote the following: "Thus within the Church there was a great mass of paganism, or pagan ideas about religion and morals, and pagan ways of action, carried over by these people who were Christians only in name and form.
"Saint worship is the chief example of this tendency. The saints became to be regarded as something like lesser deities whose intercession availed God. Places connected with their lives were considered especially sacred. Pilgrimages to such places naturally followed. To venerate relics or maternal objects connected with the saints, parts of their bodies or properties, and to believe that in them was the power to perform miracles came easily to these in whom superstition still remained." Ibid. p , 61
"The distinction between clergy and laymen, unknown in the first century, was gradually marked. The office of the bishop was magnified and authoritative power was centralized at the imperial capital, Rome. Ibid. p. 41
"More liturgies and forms of prayers were produced. Church buildings became larger and more decorative... Church walls were covered with paintings and mosaics and embroideries. Dignity and impressiveness was sought in the services as well as stately ritual and solemn music." Ibid. p. 59,60.
"In worship, the central feature was the mass, as the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was now usually called. Christianity became a religion of fear, the world was thought to be full of devils who sought to injure men's bodies and souls.
"Thus charms became to be worn and an awful sanctity was attributed to church buildings, the Mass, Relics, and the persons of the clergy. Stories were told and believed how disrespect to the clergy was followed by calamity and death. Christianity took such a form that was far removed from the simplicity and spirituality and joyful trust of the religion of Jesus." Ibid. p. 93.
"In the first century the churches were independent; there was no government having authority over more than one church. In the second century also there was no such government. But by the third quarter of this century there had arisen what was called the Catholic Church, "catholic" meaning universal. This was a federation or association of churches which were bound together by agreement in three formal ways. The churches that did not have the form of government just described.. were regarded as heretical." Ibid. p. 40

"The central feature of worship was the greatest of the sacraments, the mass. This was celebrated, in the case of high mass, with much splendor. By imposing ceremonies, striking vestments, and solemn music, seen and heard in great, beautiful churches, a powerful impression was made on the spirit through the senses. In the thirteenth century, after it had long been believed that the bread and wine of the sacrament was miraculously changed into the flesh and blood of Christ, the church adopted as one of its dogmas an explanation of this belief in the teaching of transubstantiation. So the sacrament was an actual repetition of the sacrifice of Calvary. Every time it was celebrated, Christ's body was broken and His blood was shed for the sins of men." Ibid. p. 135

LESSON 2

DATE _____

SALVATION BY FAITH IN CHRIST

LESSON READING: Eph.2:1-22; John 3:1-21; Acts 8:5-40; 1 John 5:1-21

MEMORY VERSE: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior" Titus 3:5,6

INTRODUCTION: Inasmuch as "MAN" is a sinner by birth as well as by the transgression of God's law, and the "wages of sin is death", the question of salvation from sin is of prime importance to the whole human race. This being true, it should be readily conceded that Satan, God's enemy, has directed special attention to perverting the truth regarding God's remedy for man's sinful condition. He has invented many subtle counterfeit "gospels" in order to keep man under the penalty of death yet promising him false hopes and security.

In fact Satan does not mind if people are religious and very scrupulous to observe countless rites, rituals, ceremonies, ordinances and sacraments as long as he can succeed in hiding the truth of God's simple plan of salvation.

And so, we have the great variety of beliefs concerning salvation, conversion and the forgiveness of sins. Here are the major erroneous teachings regarding this subject:

A. SALVATION BY WORKS. In the book, "My Catholic Faith" Page 161, we find this statement, "Sins may be remitted or forgiven by various means, according to the kind and gravity of the sin: by Baptism, by Penance and by Good Works." This same organization also teaches that most people must go through the fires of PURGATORY to have all their sins forgiven. Furthermore, the doctrine of "Transubstantiation" teaches a continual sacrifice of Christ in the performance of the "Eucharist"- the changing of the bread and wine into the actual body and blood of Jesus.

B. There are many other varieties of gaining salvation by "works". One of these is the Jehovah's Witnesses' teaching that you can be saved by believing their doctrine and standing on the street holding the "Watchtower" for so many hours. Included in this category are those "legalists" (both Sabbath-Keepers and Sunday-keepers) who base their salvation on the observance of laws.

C. Then there is the teaching that one cannot know he is saved until Jesus comes. This is a very subtle teaching because there seems to be some truth in it inasmuch as the Christian does commit sins even after conversion and must confess those sins. However, the important point this teaching overlooks is that when one confesses his or her sins, those sins are totally wiped out and that person stands before God cleansed from sin and is a "saved" person.

D. One other very dangerous doctrine in reference to salvation is which is called “Divine Election and Reprobation” and the “Eternal Security” theory. Simply stated this means that God chooses only certain people for salvation and that these cannot lose their salvation by any means whatsoever while the rest of mankind is doomed to eternal hell fire. What does the Bible teach regarding the above errors? Let us see!

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. How does man acquire genuine salvation? Eph.2:8,9
2. How does one obtain faith? Rom.10:17
3. What will faith in God’s promise for forgiveness prompt us to do? Rom.10:10
4. What else besides confession are we to do to obtain forgiveness? Acts 2:38
5. What is another requirement for total absolution of wrong doing? Luke 19:8,9
6. If we truly repent and confess our sins, will we be fully forgiven? Col.1:14; 1 John 1:9
7. What is the measure of God’s mercy and forgiveness? Ps.103:11; Isa.55:7
8. How completely does God absolve us from our guilt and sin? Micah 7:19; Ps. 103:12
9. What do we have dwelling within us when we accept God’s provision for forgiveness and cleansing?
1 John 5:11,12; John 3:36; 5:24
10. Can we know of a certainty that we have been saved from our sins and have eternal life within us? 1 John 5:13
11. What does Paul mean when he says we are to “work, out our own salvation”? (Phil.2:12) See 2 Cor.7:1; Heb.6:1,2; 2 Pet.3:18

John Newton describes God’s marvelous grace in these immortal words:

“Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found.
Was blind, but now I see!

LESSON 3

DATE _____

WATER BAPTISM

LESSON READING: Matt.3:1-17; Acts 2:1-42; Acts 8:1-40; Rom.6:1-23

MEMORY VERSE: “And he commanded the chariot to stand still; and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”

Acts 8:38

INTRODUCTION: Water Baptism is one of the major doctrines of the Christian Church, although it was not practiced in Old Testament times. It is therefore a New Testament ordinance, Jesus Himself setting us an example when He commanded John, the Baptist, to baptize Him that He might "fulfil all righteousness.

So we find that John, the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus, began the practice of water baptism. His ministry was one of preaching repentance as a prerequisite work for the New Testament water baptism. However, John's baptism was only preparatory for the New Testament water baptism, not practiced until the Day of Pentecost. At that point in time, Peter commanded water baptism to be done in the Name of Jesus Christ. Thus all subsequent water baptisms were done in the Name of Jesus Christ and by immersion as a consequence of Repentance, Confession and conversion.

When the APOSTASY began, new modes of water baptism were introduced, in fact, some began to teach that water baptism had only a spiritual meaning and therefore it was not necessary to perform the physical act. Such organizations as the Salvation Army and the Unitarian Church take this position.

Other religious organizations also began to teach a new method of baptism, that is, they contended that it was not necessary to immerse the candidate, that "sprinkling" was sufficient and that this method should be used not only for adults who became converts, but that it was mandatory to "baptize" (sprinkle) infants. This was done for absolution from "original sin". Then when the infant reached an accountable age, it was necessary to have them "confirmed".

But what does the Bible say about this matter? Let us see.

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. What commission did Jesus give His disciples just before He ascended to heaven? Matt.28:19,20

2. What is the meaning of the word "Baptism"?

Ans. Our English word "baptism" comes from the Greek word "*baptizo*" meaning "to completely immerse, to dip under." "Sprinkling" is not a baptism, it is a perversion of the true meaning of the term.

3. Who was the first one to use this ordinance in connection with the remission of sins? Mark 1:4

4. Did Jesus recognize baptism as a necessary part of Christian duty? Matt.3:15

5. What was the form of Jesus' baptism? Verse 16

6. How does Paul describe baptism? Rom.6:4

7. Were the people commanded to be baptized after the resurrection of Christ? Acts 2:38

8. In reply to his enquiry concerning salvation, what was the Philipian jailor told to do? Acts 16:31

9. What followed immediately after the jailor accepted Christ? Acts 16:33

10. How many of the converts in Samaria were baptized? Acts 8:12

11. What question did the Ethiopian eunuch ask Philip? Acts 8:36

12. What condition did Philip make as a prerequisite for water baptism? Verse 37

13. What form of baptism did Philip use? Verses 38,39

14. Were the Gentile converts required to be baptized? Acts 10:47,48
15. In Whose Name were the disciples commanded to baptize? Matt.28:19; Acts 2:38
16. In obedience to this command, what name did the disciples employ when they performed the ordinance of baptism? Acts 8:16; 10:48; 19:5
17. According to the requirements for baptism, should infants be baptized? (One must believe, repent, confess and forsake sin before being baptized)
18. What happens to the old man of sin at water baptism? Rom.6:3-6
19. What life does one put on after water baptism? Gal.3:27; Rom.6:11-13
20. Therefore, what does Peter declare baptism to be? 1 Peter 3:21

LESSON 4

DATE _____

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

LESSON READING: Joel 2:1-32; John 14:15-31; John 16:1-13; Acts 2:1-39; 1 Cor.12:1-31

MEMORY VERSE: "And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever." John 14:16

INTRODUCTION: The subject of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit has been a controversial issue in the Christian Church right from the day the Holy Spirit was poured out on that memorable day of Pentecost almost two thousand years ago. On that day, orthodox Judaism rejected the experience, and called those who were endued with the power of the Spirit, "drunken men". The masses of Christendom today hold the same opinion.

It seems that it did not take long after the apostles went off the scene of action, many changes began to take place in the teachings and worship of the church. Rites, rituals and ceremonies, unknown to the Early Church which was so mightily used of God through the power of the Holy Spirit, gradually took the place of the simple, yet powerful message of those early Christians. As the church grew in numbers and riches, so did the power and influence of the bishops who took more and more control of the whole program and worship of the church. The power and presence of the Holy Spirit became less evident as carnal men, greedy for power and the fleshly comforts and pleasures of the world assumed the role of religious dictators.

Soon the whole structure of the church was transformed into a political system with men contending and striving for higher office until we see the formation of the apostate Roman Church with a human head centered in Rome, the Imperial city.

The masses of Christendom today still reject the supernatural experience of the infilling of the Spirit with the accompanying signs and gifts of the Spirit. But about the turn of the twentieth century, there broke out a mighty revival of the power of the Spirit Of God. Many received the infilling of the Spirit of God with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

The nominal churches fought back. but there was no stopping this powerful move of the Spirit of God. However, for some years, this experience was basically confined to what we call the "Pentecostal" churches. But of recent years, many believers within and without the denominational churches began to receive this experience.

We are not unaware of the excesses and extremes and even of the counterfeit manifestations that are prevalent today, but the basis of our belief in any Biblical teaching is not what we see in the world, but rather, what the Bible teaches. We must do as Paul admonishes us: "Prove all things and hold fast to that which is good."

QUESTION FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. What prophecy did John the Baptist utter regarding a future experience for all who believe in Jesus? Matt.3:11
2. With what words did Jesus substantiate this prophecy? Acts 1:5
3. Had the Holy Ghost been given while Jesus was here? John 7:39; 14:26; 15:26; 16:7
4. How many are eligible for this experience today? Joel 2:28,29
5. What command did Jesus give His disciples before He went away? Luke 24:49
6. How did Jesus further express the importance of this experience? Acts 1:6-8
7. When did these prophecies have their initial fulfillment? Acts 2:1-4,16
8. Did this experience end with the disciples? Acts 2:38,39
9. What did the apostles do that the Samaritan converts should receive the Holy Ghost? Acts 8:14-17
10. Were these people really converted before this? Verses 5-8,12
11. Had they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit at the time of their conversion and water baptism? Verses 15,16
12. Then, what was done that they might receive this experience? Verse 17
13. What other two places do we see a similar scenario? Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:1-6
14. What spiritual phenomena do we read about in the following scriptures that are available to every believer? Mark 16:17,18; Joel 2:28,29
15. Name the nine gifts of the Spirit as Paul records them in 1 Cor.12:8-10
16. Should one seek the gifts of the Spirit? 1 Cor.12:31 (first part); 1 Cor.14:1
17. What is the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit? 1 Cor.12:7,25,26; 1 Cor.14:3,26,31
18. Who decides what gift one is to have and use? 1 Cor.12:18,28
19. Is it necessary to be concerned about the gifts? Rom.12:6-8; 1 Tim.4:14; 2 Tim.1:6

BODY MINISTRY AND THE FIVE FOLD MINISTRY

LESSON READING: 1 Cor.12:11-31; 1 Cor.14:1-33; Rom.12:3-16; Eph.4:1-16

MEMORY VERSE: "And He gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Eph.4:11,12

INTRODUCTION: The New Testament church consists of believers from all nations and races and each one is to be considered a "fellowheir" and partaker of the promise of "Christ in you, the hope of glory".

Each member, therefore, is to be a "lively" stone in the "temple", which is the "Body of Christ". Jesus Christ is the Chief Corner Stone. (Eph.2:20) All the building is to be "fitly framed together". (V.21), called the "Habitation of God" through the Spirit. (V.22).

The relationship that should exist between the members is compared to the members of the natural body. Even though each member performs a specific function, yet they are all interdependent.

As God bestows the gifts of the Spirit upon various members, that gift should function in Body Ministry, each ministry gift complementing and enhancing the effectiveness of the other gifts. Thus each member becomes active- the church then is a living organism, not just an organization.

When the churches began introducing man-made doctrines and programs, the spiritual gifts were gradually supplanted and eventually displaced by a "form of godliness that denied the power of God". The pastor became the lone minister. Consequently, the other ministries were neglected and even rejected and the members of the body became inoperative. Thus the spirituality of the church in general declined, and in most cases, the ministry in the church became a "social gospel" with the supernatural element totally absent. But thank God, body ministry is being restored today!

However, this is only happening in churches that believe in the Biblical baptism in the Holy Spirit and the subsequent operation of the gifts of the Spirit in the living Church of God. And many people today are "jumping denominational fences" to find the "green pastures" of living waters among those who are moving with God in this end-time message of total restoration of all things spoken of by Jesus and the apostles. Yes, Praise God, the APOSTOLIC MESSAGE is reaching around the world and spreading like brushfire not even religious dictators are able to stop its heavenly, Holy Ghost anointed, sin-consuming, devil- destroying, supernatural thrust into every strata of human society. PRAISE GOD. RESTORATION DAYS ARE HERE!

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. To what is each member in the church compared? 1 Cor.12:27,12-17
2. Who bestows the gifts of the Spirit that makes each member unique and distinctive? Verse 18
3. Is it proper to say we do not need some of the gifts? Verses 19-26
4. In view of the above, what does Paul say regarding each members responsibility in body ministry?
1 Cor.14:26
5. What should be the supreme purpose in the operation of the gifts of the Spirit? 1 Cor.14:12
6. What other ministry gifts has God given to the church? Eph.4:11

7. What is the purpose of the Five Ministry Gifts? Verse 12
8. When one speaks or ministers under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, how is he to speak? 1 Peter 4:11
9. How many gifts do we find in Rom.12:3-8
10. How many do we find listed in 1 Cor.12:8-10,28-30?
11. How many do we find in Eph.4:11?
12. Are women allowed to minister in the gifts of the Spirit?
1 Cor.14:5,23-26,31; 1 Cor.11:5
13. What is the office of an apostle? In the case of Peter? Matt.10:5,6; Gal.2:7,8; 1 Peter 1:1. In the case of Paul? Acts 9:15,16; Rom.11:13
14. What is the calling of an apostle? Matt.10:1,7,8
15. Name the duties of an apostle as given in the following passages:
 - A. Acts 19:1-6
 - B. Rom.1:11; Acts 8:14-17
 - C. Acts 14:22; 15:41
 - D. Titus 1:5
16. In contrast to the gift of prophecy, which is available to every believer, (1 Cor.14:1,24,31), what does Paul say with regard to the office ministry of the prophet? 1 Cor.12:29
17. Were there prophets in the New Testament church other than the 12 Apostles? Acts 11:27,28; 13:1; 15:32; 21:8-11
Note: The prophet is the "ministerial monitor" of the people. His work is:
Reformative, Counseling, Warning, Instructing, Exhorting, Rebuking.
18. What are the duties of the prophet as set forth in the following scriptures?
 - A. Eph. 4:12,13
 - B. Acts 13:1-3
 - C. Jude 14
 - D. Jer.23:28-32
 - E. Ezek.37:1-14
19. What part of the Great Commission would embody the ministry of the evangelist? Mark 16:15-18
20. When Philip, the Evangelist, went down to Samaria, what kind of gospel did he preach? Acts 8:5-8
21. What Biblical terms besides "Pastor" are used in applying to the same office? Eph.4:11; Titus 1:5; Acts 20:17,18; 1 Peter 5:1
22. Note the significance of the shepherd's (Pastor's) ministry in the following passages:
 - A. Isa.40:11; John 21:16; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2

B. Psalms 23; 1 Sam.17:34-37

23. In the operation of the Gift of Teaching, what is the motivating power that makes the gift supernatural? 1 Cor.2:13

24. Did Jesus employ this gift? Matt.5:2; 13:53,54

25. When Barnabas was sent out by the Jerusalem church to Antioch, whom did he seek out and what did they do for one whole year at Antioch? Acts 11:22-26

26. What are some of the things that need to be taught? Titus 2:12

LESSON 6

DATE _____

CHURCH ORGANIZATION

LESSON READING: Ephesians 2; Galatians 1; 1 Peter 5; Acts 13:1-5,13-16,42-52; Acts 20

MEMORY VERSE: "And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt.16:18

INTRODUCTION: From, "The Growth Of The Christian Church" by R. H. Nichol, Vol.I, Page 25, we find this data, "All the earliest churches were independent and self-governing. The Christians held that they all belonged to one universal church for all were one in Christ. But there was no General Organization having control over the scattered churches. Each congregation managed its own affairs in freedom."

From, "Robinsons Researches" Chapter 8, we read. "There was among primitive Christians uniform belief that Jesus was the Christ and a perfect harmony of affairs. When congregations multiplied so that they became too numerous to assemble in one place, they parted into separate companies...but there was no schism. On the contrary, all held a common union and a member of one company was a member of all. One company never pretended to inspect the affairs of another, nor was there any dominion over the consciences of any individuals."

From, "Mosheim's History, Part 2 Chapter 2. we read, "But in process of time all the Christians churches of a province was formed into one large ecclesiastical body which, like confederate states, assembled at certain times, in order to deliberate about the whole. This institution had its origin among the Greeks, with whom nothing was more common than the confederation of independent states. To these assemblies, in which the deputies of several churches consulted together, the names of SYNODS was appropriated by the Greeks; and that of COUNCILS by the Latins; the laws that were enacted in these general meetings were called CANONS, i.e., rules. These councils...changed the whole face of the church and gave it a new form; for by them the ancient privileges of the people were considerably diminished, and the power and authority of the bishops greatly augmented. These pious prelates asserted at length that Christ had empowered them to prescribe to his people authoritative rules and manners.

Another effect of these councils was the gradual abolition of that perfect equality which reigned among all the bishops in the primitive times. For the order of these assemblies required that someone of the provincial bishops, met in council, should be invested with a superior degree of power and authority; and hence the rights of the METROPOLITANS derive their origin. The universal church had now the appearance of one vast Republic, formed by a combination of a great number of states.

This occasioned the creation of a new ORDER OF ECCLESIASTICS, who were appointed in different parts of the world as HEADS of the church, and whose office it was to preserve the consistence and union of that vast body. Such was the nature and office of the PATRIARCHS, among whom, at length, ambition formed a new dignity, investing the BISHOP OF ROME and his successors with the title and authority of PRINCE OF THE PATRIARCHS.”

Thus we see that the whole system of human church organization and federation is derived from the Greeks, who patterned the church, after their governmental system. We still have this Greek system with us in the multiplicity of sects and denominations. However, there are many sincere Bible-believing people today who have been enlightened on the teaching of Bible organization and the result has been that there are many independent groups who are free from the apostate system of ecclesiastical dictatorship and yet have a harmony and unity in the Spirit that is motivated in the love of God.

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. What did Christ say about the establishment and continuity of the church? Matt.16:18
2. Upon what foundation is the church to be built? Eph.2:20
3. What place must Christ have in the building of the church? 1 Peter 2:6; Eph.1:22; Col.1:18
4. In referring to the Church Universal, does the Bible single out any one denomination? Eph.4:1-4; Gal.3:26
5. What constitutes membership in the church? 1 Cor.12:13; 2 Cor.5:17; Acts 2:38,41,47
6. Is there a General Assembly and where is the record kept of membership? Heb.12:23
7. In this General Assembly or Church Universal with Headquarters in Heaven are there any local, self-governing groups on earth? 1 Cor.1:2; Gal.1:2; Eph.1:1
8. What type of organization did the Early Church have? Acts 2:41-47; 11:19-26; 13:1-4
9. Were Apostles and Evangelists credentialed by a world headquarters and then sent out? Gal.1:15-19; Acts 13:1-4
10. What was the custom of Paul and Barnabas in ordaining Elders in the churches? Acts 14:21-27; Titus 1:5
11. What precaution must those in authority take? Mark 10:42-44; 1 Peter 5:1-4
12. Did Pauls' support come from a "General Treasury"? Phil.4:11-16
13. When a dispute arose in the Gentile churches regarding circumcision and the observance of the law of Moses, Paul and Barnabas and others went to Jerusalem to discuss this matter with the apostles and elders. See Acts 15:1-35. Does this prove that Jerusalem was the World Headquarters for the Church of God? Note: It must be noted that this trouble originated with "certain men which came down from Judea" (V.1). These men were of the sect of the Pharisees, which believed or, in other words, they had accepted Christ as the Messiah, but were adamant in imposing the law of Moses on Gentile believers. It was therefore needful for the brethren to go to Jerusalem to settle this question. We have already shown that the Jerusalem church was not consulted in the ordination of Elders and Evangelists, this was done by the direction of the Holy Spirit which was still in command in those early churches.

14. Although each local church is to be an independent unit in itself, what spirit should prevail between all the churches? John 13:34,35; 1 Cor.12:24-26; Acts 11:29,30; Rom.15:25-28; 1 Cor.16:1-5; 2 Cor.9:1-7

15. In Revelation, the messages are sent to the seven churches in Asia. (Rev.1:11,12) Was this a letter originating in an earthly headquarters?

Ans. No. This is evidence that God recognized the sovereignty of each local church, thus the Spirit of God disclosed the various needs of each church.

16. What harm is there in a Denominational setup with a world headquarters?

Ans. First and foremost, it is not Scriptural, and therefore it is not God's plan for the church. Also, it robs the local church of divine guidance and leadership by the Holy Spirit. History speaks very forcibly of the dangers and pitfalls of highly organized and federated church denominations. This was one of the first downward steps the church took in its long slide into apostasy. It establishes a man-made system with edicts and jurisdictional decrees being enforced upon all members alike with no regard to local conditions or circumstances. It sets men over others with dictatorial powers. It becomes a political system and often degenerates into a clique: at the helm and disallows spiritual growth. It hinders the leadership of the Spirit and has prevented people from accepting truth and thereby has led the church into bondage both spiritual, mental and oftentimes, physical. It has stopped the flow of the restoration of all the truth as taught by Jesus and the apostles. The Bible injunction to us is, "Come out of her, my people." God calls us to freedom to worship Him in Spirit and in truth!

LESSON 7

DATE _____

WORSHIP AND PRAISE

LESSON READING: Ex.15:1-21; Neh.8:1-12; 2 Chron.5:1-14; Psalms 147,148,149,150

MEMORY VERSE: Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him, and bless His Name!" Ps.100:1,2,4

INTRODUCTION: Another Bible teaching being restored today is true Biblical praise and worship. Many are discovering new strength and victory when they rejoice in the Lord and praise Him for all His wonderful acts to man.

When the church fell into apostasy, man-made rituals and dry ceremonies void of the Spirit of God were introduced with solemn, pious, dead methodical worship stereotyped for all assemblies. Worship became highly sophisticated and engineered by man, but it was lacking the presence and power of the Spirit of God.

When Israel returned from captivity and the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt, Ezra, the scribe, stood upon a pulpit of wood and read all the words of the law. The people stood up, and when Ezra blessed the Lord (praised Him), all the people answered, "Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands." (Neh.8:4,6) As Ezra continued reading the law of God, the people began to mourn and weep. Then he said unto them, "Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy unto the Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength." (Neh.8:9,10)

We are living in a day when God is again restoring Biblical Praise and Worship. The admonition of Ezra and Nehemiah is applicable today. The church needs to rise above pious conformity to rituals and ceremonies. The old mournful dirge of fallen Christianity will never produce the fruits and gifts of the Spirit. This day is "Holy" for this is the day the Lord is bringing back to the church the GLORY of His presence. The power of God is not present in a requiem mass or a grief-stricken rite.

The Bible says the Lord inhabits the praises of His people. (Ps.22:3) So we must rise above the old conventional forms and ceremonies to a new status of victory and joy and praise. The church today needs to shake off the dust of the bondage and enslavement that was enforced upon the laity by the religious hierarchy of the apostate church. Too long have the false shepherds held dominion over God's heritage. The born-again Christian is not to be enslaved to the regimented, stereotyped forms and rituals of man-made traditions. It is time to declare freedom to God's people. We need to "break forth" (Isa.52:1,2) into singing (Isa.49:13). We need to be liberated from fear, doubt, inhibition, discouragement, frustration and fruitlessness, and we shall become as "trees planted by the waters." (Isa.44:4).

In the rebuilding of the spiritual temple, the material we must use when we construct the "gates" is "PRAISE" "AND THE WALLS, SALVATION" (Isa.60:18). When we break forth into joy and praise we open the gates of the "Sanctuary" and let the people into the presence of the Lord. Where there is no joy, there is no praise. Where there is no praise, there is no faith. Where there is no faith, there is no power. No power, no healings, no miracles. It is just that simple. Faith is born of JOY. When we rejoice in the Lord, our faith becomes active. Activated faith will produce the miraculous. Hallelujah!!

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. What is one of the signs of the backslidden state of the modern church? 2 Tim.3:5
2. What is the condition of people when "joy is withered away?" Joel 1:12; Deut.28:47,48
3. What brings spiritual strength to the believer? Neh.8:9,10
4. What is some of the material we should use in building the spiritual temple? Isa.60
5. Does God desire men to worship Him and how? John 4:24
6. What call to worship does David make and what should be our attitude when we come into His presence? Ps.29:2; 95:6
7. What else are we to do in worshipping the Lord? Ps.95:1,2; 100:2-4
8. Is it permissible to use musical instruments in public worship? Ps.92:1-3; 150:3-5
9. How did David feel when he had the privilege of going to church? Ps.122:1; 84:2,10
10. What admonition does Paul give regarding assembling for worship? Heb.10:25
11. How many should there be before we can have such worship? Matt.18:20
12. What does David say further regarding habitual church attendance? Ps.27:4; 84:4
13. What part does our gifts and offerings have in worship? Ps.96:7-9; 76:11
14. What day of the week is given to man for worship? Lev.23:3; Ex.20:8-11; Isa.58:13,14; Luke 4:16; Acts 13:42-44
15. How many of the worshippers can take part in the services of the church? 1 Cor.14:26

16. When the temple was rebuilt under Ezra, how did the people worship and praise God? Ezra 3:10-13

LESSON 8

DATE _____

THE SEVENTH DAY SABBATH

LESSON READING: Gen.2:1-3; Ex.16:23-30; 20:8-11; Isa.56:1-7; Luke 4:16-21;
Acts 13:42-44; 18:1-4; Heb.4:4,9-11

MEMORY VERSE: "And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. And the next Sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the Word of God." Acts 13:42,44

INTRODUCTION: The APOSTASY changed the true Biblical Sabbath from the seventh day to Sunday, the first day of the week. (Quote) "It was the Catholic Church (which by the authority of Jesus Christ) that transferred this rest to Sunday..." (Catholic Press, Sydney, Australia, Aug.25,1900). Dr. Wm. Domville, in his "Examination of Six Texts" (Church of England) said, "Not any ecclesiastical writer of the first three centuries attributed the origin of Sunday observance either to Christ or His disciples...Centuries of the Christian era passed before Sunday was observed by the Christian church as the Sabbath. History does not furnish us with a single proof or indication that it was at any time so observed previous to the Sabbatical edict of Constantine in A.D. 321."

This change of the seventh day Sabbath to Sunday the first day of the week, was foretold in Bible prophecy. In Daniel 7:25 we read these words, "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time." History identifies this power as being the Roman Catholic church whose head, the Pope, assumes the place and authority of God Almighty, changing Biblical laws and establishing his own man-made laws, one of which is Sunday observance.

In Schaff-Herzog's "Encyclopaedia of Religious Knowledge" p. 2165 (1883 Ed.) we find these words, "Since the institution of the Sabbath at the close of creation...there has been an unbroken line of God-loving men who have kept the seventh day of the week...None question that it was observed by Christ and His Apostles, and by Christians generally during the apostolic period. It had no rival day in the church until about the middle of the second century, when Sunday began to be observed as a festival day...along with Wednesday, Friday and numerous other festival days of the LATIN CHURCH, THEN BEGINNING TO DRIFT UPON THE FIRST GREAT WAVE OF ITS APOSTASY...(Capitalization mine) while the GREEK CHURCH steadfastly observed it as a day of holy delight in the Lord. In the western church the seventh day continued to be observed quite generally until the fifth century. In the ABYSSINIAN, ARMENIAN and NESTORIAN churches, the seventh day has not yet been supplanted by the first day of the week."

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. For whom did Christ say the Sabbath was made? Mark 2:27
2. When was the Sabbath made? Gen.2:1-3
3. Which day only did the Lord bless, hallow and sanctify? Same Verses
4. Of what Law is the Sabbath a part? Ex.20:8-11
5. Has this law ever been changed or abrogated by God? Matt.5:17,18; Rom.3:31

6. Did Abraham know about this law? Gen.26:5
7. What evidence is there that Israel knew about the Sabbath at least one month before they came to Mount Sinai where it was reiterated and given in written form? Ex.16:4,23,28,29
8. Was the Sabbath given only for the Jews? Isa.56:6,7; Mark 2:27
9. Did Christ keep the Sabbath? Luke 4:16,31
10. Did the believers in Jesus day keep the Sabbath after His death? Luke 23:56
11. Did Christ recognize the sanctity of the Sabbath after His death? Matt.24:20
Note: Christ was speaking here of the destruction of Jerusalem, which occurred in 70 A.D. telling His disciples to pray that they should not have to flee on the Sabbath.
12. What was Paul's practice on the Sabbath? Acts 17:2; 18:4 .
13. When Paul and Silas came to Philippi, what did they do on the Sabbath day? Acts 16:12,13
14. When the Jews at Antioch rejected the gospel, on what day did the Gentiles ask Paul to come and preach to them? Acts 13:42. What was the response? Verse 44
15. Is there a Sabbath rest still for God's people? Heb.4:9,10
16. When we cease from our own works as God did from His, on what day should we do this? Heb.4:10
Note: The Scripture speaks of spiritual rest as well as physical rest. Notice the word "also" in verse 10. Spiritual rest is rest from our sins. Since God did not sin, He did not rest from sin. He rested from His creative works, not because He was tired, but to leave us an example that we should do as He did. See Matt.3:15; 1 Pet.2:21; Heb.4:9 (The English word "rest" in this scripture is from the Greek word "*Sabbatism*", literally meaning, "a keeping of a Sabbath")
17. Since the Sabbath is a part of the Law of God, can we disregard its claims and still be without fault and guiltless? James 2:10-12; Phil.2:15,16
18. How should we keep the Sabbath? Isa.58:13; Luke 4:16; Acts 17:2

LESSON 9

DATE _____

THE CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

LESSON READING: Jonah 1; John 19; Matt.12:38-40; 28:1-6

MEMORY VERSE: "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Matt.12:40

INTRODUCTION: One of the grievous errors brought in by the Apostasy was the teaching that Christ was crucified on Friday and resurrected on Sunday. This error was introduced at the time that pagan customs were merged with Christianity, Friday being the day dedicated to "Freya" the goddess of FERTILITY, the symbol of her fertility being the fish, and Sunday, the day dedicated to the sun god.

The Bible teaches that Christ was crucified "in the midst of the week" (Dan.9:27) which prophecy not only has a symbolic application (Christ died in the middle of the last "week" of the 70 week prophecy), but also applies to His death in the middle of the literal week (Wednesday). He was resurrected "In the end of the Sabbath" (Matt.28:1) before the first day of the week "dawned". The word "dawned" in this passage does not mean early morning but rather the beginning of a new day, which, according to Bible reckoning, would be at sunset. Please note the literal word for word translation of this text as we find it in George R. Berry's "Interlinear Greek-English New Testament: "Now late on Sabbath, as it was getting dusk toward the first day of the week..." It is obvious, therefore, that Christ rose from the dead before the first day of the week began. "Good Friday" and Easter Sunday celebrations therefore, have no Biblical foundation, but have their roots in the pagan idolatrous practices. God is not pleased if we mix Christianity with pagan worship. He is calling for restoration of Biblical teaching and practice.

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. What sign did Jesus give as evidence of His Messiahship? "Matt.12:38-40
2. Was Jonah really three days and three nights in the fish's belly? Jonah 1:17
3. How long did Jesus say that He would be in the grave? Matt.12:40
4. What day did Jesus rise from the grave? Matt.28:1-6
Note: This visit was made to the tomb "in the end of the Sabbath". The Sabbath ends at sunset (Lev.23:32). Jesus had already risen when the two Marys came "to see the sepulchre" (They did not come to anoint His body because it was still Sabbath)
5. On every subsequent visit, did the disciples find the body of Jesus? Mark 16:1-6; Luke 24:1-3; John 20:1,2
6. Did they believe that He had risen from the dead? Luke 24:11,16,22,37,41
7. Do you think then that when the disciples were gathered together on the first day of the week they were celebrating the resurrection? John 20:19
8. Is it not plainly stated that Jesus was resurrected on the Sabbath and crucified on the Jewish preparation day? Matt.28:1-6; John 19:42
9. What day followed this "preparation day? John 18:28; 19:31
10. Was the second day of the Passover a Sabbath, no matter on which day of the week it came? Lev.23:5-8
Note: Jesus was crucified on the PREPARATION DAY of the PASSOVER SABBATH not the WEEKLY SABBATH. (Editor's note: This was the first day of Passover and the preparation day for the high day Sabbath, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is on the fifteenth day of Nisan (Abib). See Lev.23:5-8.)
11. When did they buy the spices to embalm His body? Mark 16:1 (See the Revised Version)
12. When did they prepare the spices? Luke 23:54,55
Note: Mark tells us that they BOUGHT the spices AFTER the Sabbath and Luke tells us that they prepared the spices BEFORE the Sabbath. How could they prepare the spices before the Sabbath and not buy them until after the Sabbath if there was only one Sabbath day in that week?

Answer: They bought and prepared the spices AFTER the PASSOVER SABBATH (Editor's note: the fifteenth of Nisan.) and the day BEFORE the WEEKLY SABBATH, which would be our present Friday. This clears up the apparent contradiction and also gives us the day of His crucifixion.

13. When was Jesus crucified, then? Dan.9:27; Matt.27:45; Mark 15:25; John 19:14

14. When was He placed in the tomb? Matt.27:45,46,50,57-62; John 19:42

15. Therefore, how long was Christ in the grave?

Ans . Jesus was betrayed and crucified on Wednesday, the middle of the week, was placed in the tomb just before Thursday when the Passover Sabbath began; He remained in the tomb exactly three days and three nights according to His own prophecy, and rose in the end of the (weekly) Sabbath". Thus He fulfilled all prophecy and became the "firstfruits from the dead" (1 Cor.15:20)

16. Is it important that we understand the truth about Christ's crucifixion and resurrection?

Ans. In regard to His crucifixion, the only sign Jesus gave to the Jews proving His Messiahship was the three days and three nights that He was in the grave, and since Christ did not rise on Sunday, this removes the main support for Sunday observance. The resurrection on the Sabbath day is significant in that the quickening of His body is symbolic of the ministry of the Spirit in quickening the "Body of Christ" (the Church) on the Sabbath days through worship, praise and the preaching of the Word on God's Holy Day!

17. What about Good Friday and Easter Sunday?

Ans. Both of these festivals are based on erroneous interpretation of scripture and have their roots in paganism, passed into the Catholic church, from them into most Protestant churches.

LESSON 10

DATE _____

THE LORD'S SUPPER AND FOOT WASHING

LESSON READING: John 13:1-30; Matt. 26:14-30; Luke 23:1-23; 1 Cor.11:17-30

MEMORY VERSE: "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." John 13:14,15

INTRODUCTION: Another very vital teaching of Christ and the apostles that has been perverted by the apostate church is the ordinance of foot washing and the Lord's Supper. The example that Jesus gave in foot washing- how we should humble ourselves and be willing to serve one another has been rejected and discarded by most Christians, and the ordinance of the Lord's Supper has been changed into many various meanings and practices.

The Roman Catholic Church has invented the theory of Transubstantiation in which they teach that the bread and the wine actually change into the body and blood of Jesus when the priest offers prayer so that when the bread is eaten and the wine is consumed by the priest, Jesus is crucified over again.

Others say that the ordinance need not be observed at all because it only has a spiritual meaning. Furthermore, some observe it every Sunday morning, others, once a month, or every three months.

Let us see what the Bible teaches about these things.

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. Are there certain ordinances that we should observe? 1 Cor.11:1,2

2. What new ordinance did Jesus institute when He was on earth? John 13:4,5
3. What indicates that this ordinance has a spiritual significance? Verses 7,8,12
4. Why did Jesus set this example? Verses 13-17
5. What is the meaning of this ordinance? Verses 16,17; 1 Peter 5:5; 1 Tim.5:10
6. What ordinance did John receive from the Lord and pass on to the church? 1 Cor.11:1,2,23-26
7. When was this first instituted? 1 Cor.11:23; Luke 22:7,8,14-20
8. Did Jesus call this the Lord's Supper or the Passover? Luke 22:8,15
9. How often was the Jewish Passover celebrated? Ex.13:10
10. When was it celebrated? Deut.16:6; Ex.12:6

Note: The Passover lamb was killed "in the evening" or, as the marginal reading renders it "Between the two evenings". According to Jewish reckoning, "between the two evenings" is from twelve o'clock noon until nightfall. (See Jewish Encyclopedia, Vol.9,P.553, Art. "Passover"). Bible times were reckoned on the basis of four watches in the night (Matt.14:25), and twelve hours in the day (John 11:9). The first hour of the day would correspond with our 6 O'clock in the morning (Matt.20:3- 6). Jesus died the ninth hour of the day (Matt.27:45,46) which is 3:00 P.M. our time and was also the time of the day that the Passover Lamb was slain.

11. Who now is our Passover Lamb? 1 Cor.5:7
12. What is the Lords Passover (Lord's Supper) a memorial of? 1 Cor.11:26
13. How often should it be observed? Ex.13:10; 1 Cor.11:23-26

Note: The word "often" as used here means a yearly observance" as the high priest went "often" into the Holy place (Heb.9:24-26). The celebration of any person's birthday or great even is kept yearly at the proper time. So we should do with Christ's death otherwise it loses much of its meaning.

14. At what time of the day is it to be observed? Matt.26:20; 1 Cor.11:23

Note: The reason the New Testament Passover is called the Lord's Supper is because it was observed at supper time. It is not the Lord's breakfast or the Lord's dinner, as some people observe it in the morning, etc.

15. On what night in relation to the Jewish Passover did the Lord institute the Lord's Supper?
1 Cor.11:23; John 18:1-13,28; 19:14,31,42

Note: Bible evidence is that Jesus was betrayed the night BEFORE the Passover lamb was slain. The Jews had not yet eaten the Passover lamb (John 18:28) when Jesus was taken to be tried and condemned to death. (Editor's note: John 18:28 only says they had not yet eaten the Passover, not which day it was.) But Jesus had already eaten the Passover supper with His disciples. So then, since Paul says that we are to observe this ordinance "the same night that Jesus was betrayed", the proper time to keep it would be at the beginning of the fourteenth of Nisan (Abib), which is after sunset of the 13th.

The Jewish religious year began in the Spring, the first month Nisan (Abib) corresponds to the latter part of March or, in some cases, the first part of April. The Jewish months were regulated by the moon (lunar months), the first month beginning the day after the New Moon following the Vernal Equinox. (See the Jewish Encyclopedia: Art. "Calendar") So the way to determine the time to observe the Lord's Supper is to locate the first new moon after the Vernal Equinox, the day following would be the first day of Nisan; the 13th day AFTER sunset would then be the proper time for the Lords Supper.

(Editor's Note: The Jewish method of determining the start of a new year is a complex one and the above method of determining the date for the Lord's Supper will not always give a date that coincide with the Jewish Passover period. Since the original Lord's Supper was connected to the Passover, one might prefer to use the Jewish Passover date for determining the appropriate date.)

Church history proves that the early Christians continue to observe the Lord's Supper once a year and was reckoned by the time the Jews had their Passover. (See Neander's Church History, Vol.I, p.13). It was the apostate church that introduced all the false teaching about the Lord's Supper.

LESSON 11

DATE _____

LITERAL, PERSONAL RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST

LESSON READING: Matt.24:1-14,23-44; Luke 21:25-36; 1 Thess.4:13-18; 5:1-11; Acts 1:1-14

MEMORY VERSE: "Behold He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also that pierced Him; and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen!" Rev.1:7

INTRODUCTION: The true Biblical teaching regarding the literal, personal return of Jesus Christ has also been adulterated with many false theories such as, a total rejection of Christ's return, that He will come secretly to catch the church away, some claim for seven years while others say it will be three and one half years, after which He will return visibly for those who have been saved out of the "great tribulation". Some teach that He has already returned and is ruling "in the heavens" while others say His return is only spiritual, by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the believer.

QUESTION FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. What promise did Jesus make regarding His return to the earth again? John 14:1-3
2. With what words did the angels substantiate Jesus' words? Acts 1:9-11
3. What ancient prophet spoke concerning this event? Jude 14,15
4. Did Job understand and believe in the second coming of Christ? Job 19:25-27
5. How did David speak of His coming? Ps.50:3; 96:13
6. What expression of hope did Paul make regarding Jesus' return? Phil.3:20; Titus 2:13
7. Who else bore testimony of Christ's return? 2 Peter 1:16
8. Will Christ's return be literal and real? Rev.1:7; Acts 1:11
9. How many will see Him coming? Rev.1:7; Matt.24:27

10. Will His coming be secret? 1 Thess.4:16; Matt.24:27
- 11: Will Jesus come alone? Matt.25:31
12. What is the promise of His coming? Matt.25:31-34; 1 Cor.15:25
13. What represented Christ's kingdom in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar? Dan.2:35,44
14. What does this stone kingdom do to all other kingdoms? Same scripture
15. When is this kingdom established? Dan.2:35,44; Rev.11:15
16. When does Jesus take the throne of His Father David? Luke 1:32; Matt.25:31-34
17. Was David's throne in heaven or on earth? 2 Sam.5:3-5
18. Therefore, where does Jesus set up His throne when He comes? Matt.25:31; Zech.14:4,9
19. Who, will reign with Jesus during this time? Matt.25:34; Rev.20:6
20. What glorious event takes place at His coming? 1 Thess.4:13-18; 1 Cor.15:51-55
21. How will the saints welcome the Lord's appearance? Isa.25:9
22. Has the exact time of Christ's coming been revealed? Matt.24:36
23. In view of this, what did Christ tell us to do? Verse 42
24. What warning did Jesus give of false teaching regarding His return? Matt.24:23-26
25. How many will be rewarded at His coming? Matt.16:27; Rev.22:12

LESSON 12

DATE _____

RESTORATION OF THE KINGDOM ON EARTH

LESSON READING: Daniel 2; Luke 1:26-33; Matt.25:31-46; 1 Cor.15:12-26; Revelation 20

MEMORY VERSE: "And the kingdom and the dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High. whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him." Dan.7:27

INTRODUCTION; Regarding the restoration of the Kingdom on earth, many false doctrines have arisen over the centuries since Christ ascended to heaven.

Some teach that the saints will be taken to heaven for the one thousand years after Christ's coming and then return to earth. Others teach that the righteous go to heaven at death, while others teach that there will be two classes of saved people- one a heavenly and the other an earthly.

Some say that the earth will be a desolation for 1000 years while others say the righteous will build houses, plant vineyards and continue to reproduce children during the "Millennium" Let us see what the Bible says.

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. What term has been ascribed to the 1000 year period of time after Christ's return?

Ans. The "MILLENNIUM"

Note: The word "millennium" comes from two Latin words "*mille*", meaning one thousand and "*annus*", meaning year. The word "Millennium" is not found in the Bible but is used in reference to the thousand year period between the two resurrections when the saints will reign with Christ. This will be the 7th thousand millennial rest for the world, preceding the New Earth state. Rev.21:1-7

2. Where do we read of this thousand year period? Rev.20:4

3. What events immediately precede and follow this period? John 5:29; Rev.20:6,5

4. When does the reign of Christ and the saints begin? Dan.2:35,44; Rev.11:15

5. What do the saints inherit at that time? Dan.7:27; Micah 4:8; Matt.25:31-34

6. Upon what throne does Christ sit then? Luke 1:32; Matt.25:31; Jer.23:5,6

7. What great battle precedes Christ's reign on the earth? Zech.14:1-4; Rev.16:16-21

8. Will the saints be taken to heaven for the thousand years? Rev.5:10; 20:6

Note: There is no scripture that tells us that the saints will spend the thousand years in heaven, but there are many scriptures that indicate clearly that this earth will be the inheritance of the saints and that they receive their inheritance at the coming of Christ. There is no third coming of Christ.

9. What will be the meeting place of the saints and Christ, the King? 1 Thess.4:15-17

Note: Some take this scripture to mean that the saints will go to heaven, but nothing is said here of going to heaven; it only says we will meet Him in the air.

10. Did Jesus promise to take His saints to heaven in John 14:1-3?

Note: Jesus only promised that when He comes again His disciples will be with Him forever wherever He is. The above scriptures prove He is coming to the earth to reign.

11. When do we inherit the "mansions" which He has prepared? John 14:1,2 Rev.21:1-11

Note: Some understand the "mansions" to refer to a literal city with streets of gold, etc. being 1500 miles in breadth and height and length (Rev.21:16) while others understand this to have a symbolic meaning inasmuch as the "City" is said to be the "Bride, the Lamb's wife" (Verse 9), while still others believe the "mansions" refer to the "abiding place" of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, which is in the heart of every believer. The two words "mansions" and "abode" in John 14:2,23, are translated from the same Greek word "*monē*" meaning, "an abiding place" for the Father and the Son through the Holy Spirit. See verse 16 also.

12. How long does Christ reign on David's throne? 1 Cor.15:25; now read vs. 24,28

13. What happens to Satan during the millennium? Rev.20:1-3
14. What happens to Satan at the end of the millennium? Verse 7
15. What other event takes place? Rev.20:5 first part and verse 13
16. What will Satan's purpose be then? Verse 8
17. What judgment is then set? Verses 11,12
18. What will be the fate of the wicked? Verses 9,10,14,15; Mal.4:1-3; 2 Peter 3:10-13
19. What kind of bodies will the saints have when Jesus comes? Matt.22:30; 1 Cor.15:42-49
20. What happens to the wicked when Jesus comes? 2 Thess.2:8; 1:7-10. Also see question 7

LESSON 13

DATE _____

THE STATE OF THE DEAD THE HELL QUESTION AND THE ETERNAL JUDGMENT

LESSON READING: Job 14; Mal.4:1-3; 1 Cor.15:1-28; 1 Thess.4:13-18; Rev.20:7-11,14,15

MEMORY VERSE: "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." Eccl.12:7

INTRODUCTION: The APOSTATE CHURCH has introduced many variations of this subject. Many teach that at death the "soul" immediately goes either to heaven or hell and that it is conscious in every aspect that a person is in this present state; that the "soul" is immortal and "hell" is some subterranean abode of departed souls suffering eternal anguish in fire. Others teach an intermediary place called "purgatory" where souls are cleansed in hell fire and finally, through intercessory prayer by a priest, are delivered and go to heaven. Still others believe there is no place of punishment; that the wicked die as an animal and there is no resurrection of the wicked for judgment.

The EARLY CHURCH believed death to be a state of "sleep" until the resurrection (1 Thess.4:13-17). The word "hell" is translated from "*sheol*" in the old Testament and "hades" in the New Testament, simply meaning the grave. Another word in the N. T. used by Jesus was "*Gehenna*", translated "hell". This referred literally to the garbage dump on the outskirts of Jerusalem where the fire was kept burning constantly. This word is used figuratively to describe the place of punishment and destruction of the wicked.

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. How does the Bible speak of the state of the dead? 1 Thess.4:13; 1 Cor.15:18,20
2. Where is the resting place of the dead? Dan.12:2; Eccl.3:20; 9:10; Job 17:13
3. How long will the dead remain in the graves? Job 14:12,14; John 5:28,29
4. Is there any consciousness of anything to those who are dead? Job 14:6,21; Ps.146:4; Eccl.9:5
5. Are the dead now in heaven praising the Lord? Ps.115:17; Acts 2:34; Isa.26:19

6. If there was no resurrection, what hope would there be for the dead? 1 Cor.15:16-18

7. How did Jesus describe the condition of the dead? John 11:11-14

8. What is the natural state of man in this life? Job 4:17; Ps.8:5

9. Who only hath immortality? 1 Tim.6:16

10. When will man become immortal? 1 Cor.15:51-53

11. How was man made a "living soul"? Gen.2:7

Note: Man himself became the living soul by the union of the dead body and the breath of life which God breathed into man. See also Job 27:3

12. What then happens at death? Eccl.12:7

Note: The breath of life, also called the "spirit" and "soul" in some instances, returns to the Creator, and the body returns to the dust.

13. What must man receive in order to have eternal life? 1 John 5:12; Rom.8:11

14. What is the reward of the wicked? Rom.6:23 James 1:15

15. Will the wicked live forever in "hell"? Ezek.18:4,20; Ps.37:20; Mal.4:1-3

16. What did Jesus say would happen to the wicked and the disobedient? Matt.10:28; 25:33,41; Luke 13:3

17. Does this mean that the fire will burn them forever?

What example is given us regarding the nature and endurance of "everlasting fire"? Jude 7; 2 Pet.2:6

18. How will this world be cleansed of sin and sinners? Matt.13:41,42; 2 Pet.3:7-12

19. When will this be done? Rev.20:5,1st part and verses 9,14,15

Note: The expression, "forever and ever" in verse 10 is incorrectly translated; literally, from the Greek, it is rendered "the ages of the ages" and simply means this destruction will take place at the end of the ages- thus there is no contradiction in the scriptures.

Note: "Everlasting punishment" is NOT everlasting punishing just as everlasting salvation is not endless saving (Heb.5:9); everlasting redemption (Heb.9:12) is not endless redeeming. "Forever and ever" when applied to a condition or state ("*aionois*") refers to the natural time limit of the noun. For example see Ex.21:6. So the result of man's destruction will be eternal. Hence "hell" (*gehenna*) is a place of total annihilation. Jesus took our place, our punishment, but He is not being punished perpetually.

PRAISE GOD FOR TRUTH!