

# **WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES**

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## WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE CHURCH

### LESSON TWO

We have already learned that Jesus promised to build His church and that there is only one church talked about in the Bible.

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus promised to build His church and up until Acts 2 the church is talked about in the future. But in Acts 2 when the Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles and Peter preaches his wonderful sermon and 3,000 people are converted, then the church is no longer talked about in the future, but it is real and existing. And in Acts 2:47 the Lord adds to the church those that are being saved.

These scriptures teach us some important things about the church:

Acts 20:28	Jesus gave His blood for the church
Acts 8:1; 11:26	The church means the saved people, not a building
Colossians 1:18	Christ is the Head of the church, not any man on this earth
Ephesians 5:23	Jesus will save the church
1 Corinthians 12:13	We are baptized into the one body, or church

Because it was the plan for Jesus to build His church and there was only one church, there is no need for it to have a proper name. So usually it is simply called the church as in 1 Thessalonians 1:1.

It is also called:

Ephesians 2:9	Household of God
1 Corinthians 1:2	Church of God
1 Timothy 3:15	House of God, church of the living God
Romans 16:16	Churches of Christ

These scriptures show there was one church and that it belongs to God and His Son.

So, what are we called?

1 Corinthians 12:27	Members of the body, or church
Acts 11:26	We are called Christians
1 Peter 4:16	When we wear the name Christian, or suffer as a Christian, we bring glory to God and His Son.

So how do we know when we have found the church you read about in the Bible? One way is to see if it has the right name; see if the members are called only Christians; see if it has one Head, Christ; see if it teaches the "oneness" of the New Testament church.

## LESSON TWO, Cont.d

You might wonder, "Where does all this false teaching come from?" Why are there so many different churches? Why do they call themselves by other names than those found in the Bible? Why do they teach doctrines not found in the Bible, and some even claim they can perform miracles? The Bible warns us that false teachers will come:

Matthew 7:15-23

We are to beware of false prophets - not everyone that calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved, but he that does the will of the Father

2 Thessalonians 2:3-12

There will be a falling away, one will exalt himself as God, some will even show signs and wonders, but it is the working of Satan.

2 Peter 2:1

False teachers and prophets shall come.

## WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT FAITH

### LESSON THREE

Faith is the foundation of Christianity. It is believing in God, believing in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed or created by the word of God" (Hebrews 11:3). Through this same faith, we believe that the Bible, the holy scriptures, tell us how to be saved (2 Timothy 3:15,16).

The Bible definition of faith:

Hebrews 11:1      "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

To help understand this verse, let's look at some other translations of this same verse:

"Now faith means putting our full confidence in the things we hope for; it means being certain of things we cannot see." (Phillips)

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

"And what is faith? Faith gives substance (or assurance) to our hopes, and makes us certain of realities we do not see."

How do we get faith?

Romans 10:17      Faith comes from hearing the word of God

Other scriptures on faith:

Hebrews 11:6      Without faith we cannot please God

John 3:16          We must believe to have eternal life

Mark 16:15,16      We must believe to be saved

James 2:14,24,26   Faith alone will not save us

Hebrews 11:30      Bible faith saves after obedience

## LESSON FOUR

### WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT REPENTANCE

Bible repentance means a personal decision to forsake sin - to stop sinning - to turn away from sin - to be sorry for your sins - to change your opinion about sin - to make restitution for your sins - then to make a change for the better - to live a better and obedient life.

Restitution means restoring (or giving back) something to its rightful owner - or doing something good for someone you have hurt.

Example of repentance - Matthew 21:28-31:

*"What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' 'I will not,' he answered, but later changed his mind and went."*

*"Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go."*

An example of repentance that was not acceptable - Matthew 27:3-5:

*"When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. 'I have sinned,' he said, 'for I have betrayed innocent blood.' So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself."*

(Judas felt sorry for his sins, but it did not result in a change of mind and life for the better).

Compare Peter's repentance (Luke 22:54-62; Acts 2:14) with Judas' repentance (Matthew 27:3-5).

Other scriptures on repentance:

Luke 13:3            If we don't repent, we will perish or be lost

Acts 2:38            We must repent before we have remission of sins

Acts 17:30           Ignorance is no excuse for failing to repent

Acts 26:20           Shows that repentance is a turning to God, and doing works to show our repentance.

2 Peter 3:9           The Lord wants all to come to repentance

**2 Corinthians 7:10 Godly sorrow brings repentance; sorrow of the world brings death**

**Conclusion:** When a person repents, he changes his mind about sin which leads him to turn from sin and live for God by obeying His commands, making whatever restitution is necessary.

## **LESSON FIVE**

### **WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT CONFESSION**

Dictionary definition of confession: "To tell, or make known."

Bible definition of confession: "To acknowledge or make known publicly our faith and loyalty to Jesus, the Son and to God, the Father. This confession then leads us to change our life or conduct and shows we have surrendered our will to God's will as revealed in the Bible.

The Bible teaches that we must confess our faith or belief in God to be saved

Scriptures to study:

Matthew 10:32,33	If we confess Him before men, He will confess us before the Father in heaven, but if we deny Him before men, He will deny us before the Father.
Romans 10:9,10	Confession is made unto salvation.
Philippians 2:11	Every tongue should confess that Jesus is Lord.
Acts 8:36-38	An example of a man confessing his faith.
John 12:42,43	An example of believers who would not confess.

We understand from these verses that we must confess our faith to be saved and then continue to confess and acknowledge Him throughout our lives if we want Jesus to confess our names before God as sons and daughters. We must never deny our faith by word or deed.

Discuss how we can confess or deny our faith in every day life.

(Confession of sins will be discussed in a later lesson).



**LESSON SIX**  
**WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT BAPTISM**

What is Bible baptism? - The word "baptism" means to "dip, plunge, immerse."

Scriptures:

Mark 16:15,16 Matthew 28:18-20	It is commanded by the Lord
Acts 2:38	Baptism preached by Peter
Acts 2:38	Baptism if for remission of sins
Romans 6:3-5	A burial
Acts 8:38,39	A burial in water
Galatians 3:27	The way to get "into" Christ
Acts 22:16	Washes away sins
1 Corinthians 12:13	Baptized into the body, or church
1 Peter 3:21	Baptism saves us

Some examples of baptism: Acts 8:38,39; 2:37-47; 16:25-34; 22:6-16.

We must be baptized before we are saved, before our sins are forgiven and before we are added to the church (Acts 2:47). It is a burial in water representing our death to sin and our arising to walk in newness of life.

then we begin our Christian life with God as our Father and Jesus as our Lord. We are truly born of water and of the Spirit as taught in John 3:5

## LESSON SEVEN

### WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

John 4:24 - "God is spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth."

This verse teaches that we must worship from the heart with our feelings and in truth as revealed in the Bible. We can't worship as it pleases us, but as God teaches us to do in the Bible.

The Bible teaches us that we are not to miss the services of the church. This is a command from God and we must be very careful to obey it.

Hebrews 10:25: "Not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is; but, exhorting one another; and so much the more, as you see the day approaching."

We need to encourage one another to be faithful to all the services.

#### **I. TEACHING AND PREACHING is a part of worship.**

Acts 5:42                They ceased not to teach and preach Jesus.

Acts 20:7                Paul preaches to the group

#### **II. PRAYER**

1 Corinthians 14:15                Pray with the spirit and the understanding

1 Thessalonians 5:17                Pray without ceasing

Acts 12:5                The church prayed for those having problems

James 1:5,6                We must ask, pray, in faith, not doubting

James 5:16                Pray for one another

#### **III. SINGING**

1 Corinthians 14:15                Sing with the spirit and the understanding

Ephesians 5:19,20                Sing spiritual songs making melody in our hearts

Colossians 3:16,17                Teach one another with these songs - singing with grace in our hearts to the Lord.

## LESSON SEVEN, Cont'd

### IV. **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

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|------------------------|--|
| Acts 20:7              | We learn that the custom was for the early Christians to meet and take the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week  |
| Matthew 26:26-29       | Here we see Jesus teaching the apostles to take the Lord's Supper  |
| 1 Corinthians 10:16,17 | The cup and the bread represent the blood and body of Jesus  |
| 1 Corinthians 11:23-29 | We see the reason for the Lord's Supper - to remember the Lord's death and we are warned to examine ourselves and to think of the Lord's body and sacrifice as we partake. |

### V. **GIVING**

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1 Corinthians 16:1,2 | We are to give on the first day of the week                               |
| 2 Corinthians 9:7    | We must purpose in our hearts how much we will give with a cheerful heart |

## LESSON EIGHT

### THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

The organization of the church is very simple.

1. Christ is Head over the church - Ephesians 1:22,23
2. We are all members of one another - 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 4:25. We are to obey our elders - Hebrews 13:7,17.
3. Elders are the overseers of the congregation, examples to the congregation, and they are to feed the flock which means they are to teach and instruct the congregation in God's word.

1 Peter 5:1-4	Feed the flock, take the oversight
Acts 20:17,28	Take heed to self and to the church
Acts 14:23	Elders ordained or appointed in every church
Philippians 1:1	This letter is addressed to all the saints (members) and the elders and deacons
1 Timothy 5:1	Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father
1 Timothy 5:17	To be given double honor

4. Deacons are servants of the church under the oversight of the elders - 1 Timothy 3:10

### QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS

Cf. 1 Timothy 3:1-7

1. Blameless (above reproach) - cannot bring charges against him
2. Husband of one wife - showing he should be married having only one wife
3. Temperate - Well balanced, self-controlled
4. Sensible - sober; discreet; uses good sense
5. Dignified - orderly; seemly; well mannered behavior
6. Hospitable - receives guests with love and kindness
7. Able to teach - qualified to teach
8. No drunkard - not addicted to wine or strong drink
9. Not violent, but gentle - not to settle arguments with fists

## LESSON EIGHT, Cont'd

10. Not quarrelsome - not always arguing
11. Must not love money - some elders are paid a salary, and are warned not to be an elder for money's sake
12. Rules, or manages, his own household well - if his wife and children are obedient and respectful, then this would encourage the congregation to do the same. He must be worthy of respect.
13. Not a novice - must not be a recent convert, but must be spiritually mature, or grown up.
14. Must be well thought of by outsiders - have a good reputation

### **QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS**

Cf. 1 Timothy 3:8-13

1. Serious - respectful; dignified
2. Not be double tongued - he must mean what he says; not speak one thing and mean another; in other words he must not lie, but tell the truth.
3. Not addicted to wine - not given to drinking wine or strong drink.
4. Not greedy for gain - must not love money (1 Timothy 6:10).
5. Hold the mystery of the faith - must be loyal to the faith in all good conscience.
6. Tested - must be qualified and examined to see if truly faithful.
7. Husband of one wife (as stated before).
8. Manages his household well.

### **QUALIFICATIONS OF PREACHERS**

Preachers are ministers of the word and preach everywhere (2 Timothy 4:1-5).

Teachers teach everyone the word (Hebrews 5:12-14).

## LESSON EIGHT, Cont'd

### Qualifications of preachers - 1, 2 Timothy and Titus

1. Student of the Bible
2. Live good moral life
3. Be courageous
4. Serve faithfully
5. Sacrifice and pray daily
6. Watch ones words
7. Fight the good fight of faith
8. Finish the course
9. Fulfill his ministry
10. Qualify leaders

### Qualifications for Bible teachers - Hebrews 5:12-14; James 3:1,2

1. Grow in knowledge
2. Live what is taught
3. Be faithful
4. Sacrifice daily
5. Pray often

LESSON NINE  
WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE  
OLD LAW (OLD TESTAMENT) AND  
THE NEW LAW (NEW TESTAMENT)

The Old Testament - to the Israelites

Exodus 24:1-10; 25:1,2  
 Deuteronomy 5:1,2



The New Testament - world

Matthew 28:18-20  
 Mark 16:15,16

Scriptures to study showing that the old law has been taken away and the new law established:

Romans 15:4	Old law written for our learning
Hebrews 1:1,2	In times past spoken by the prophets, in the last days are spoken by Jesus
Hebrews 8:8,13	A new covenant made, old will vanish away
Hebrews 9:15-17	New covenant comes at the death of one who made it
Hebrews 10:9,10	Takes away the first to establish the second
Ephesians 2:11-18	Made both (Jew and Gentile) one through Christ's death
Colossians 2:14	Nailed it to the cross
Romans 7:4-6	Died to the law - serve in new life
Galatians 5:4	If you go back to the old law, you are fallen from grace.

Some differences in the Old and the New Law:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Burning of Incense (Exodus 25:6)          | 1. Prayers of the saints (Ephesians 6:18)                          |
| 2. Tithing (Deuteronomy 14:22)               | 2. Give as prospered (1 Corinthians 16:1,2<br>2 Corinthians 9:6,7) |
| 3. Sabbath worship<br>(Deuteronomy 5:1-3,15) | 3. First day of the week (Acts 20:7;<br>1 Corinthians 16:1,2)      |
| 4. Instrumental music (Psalm 150:3)          | 4. Singing (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians<br>5:19)                    |
| 5. Animal sacrifices (Exodus 20:24)          | 5. Bodies a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1,2)                       |

LESSON TEN  
WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT  
FALLING FROM GRACE

Scriptures to study:

Galatians 5:4	Teaches that you can fall from grace
1 Corinthians 9:27	Paul realized that he could be lost
1 Corinthians 10:12	Take heed, or be careful, lest you fall
2 Peter 2:21,22	A person can turn away from the holy commandments
Acts 8:13-22	Simon sinned after he was converted, and Peter told him that he was condemned unless he repented



LESSON ELEVEN  
WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT  
FALSE TEACHERS

Scriptures to study:

Matthew 7:15, 21-23

False teachers will come in sheep's clothing, but are like ravening wolves. Must do the God's will

2 Peter 2:1

There shall be false prophets among us

2 Timothy 4:3

There are some who want false teachers

1 Timothy 4:1-3

Some shall depart from the faith speaking lies

LESSON ONE  
THE BIBLE TEACHES  
UNITY (ONENESS)

God wants His people to be united, to speak the same thing, perfectly joined together, no divisions among them.

Denominationalism divides us - it does not unite. Therefore, it is not pleasing to God.

A verse to memorize:

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

Other verses to study and learn:

John 17:20,21	Jesus' prayer for unity that the world may believe.
Romans 15:4-6	Be like-minded, or of one mind
Romans 16:17,18	Mark them that cause divisions
Galatians 1:6-10	Any other gospel is a perverted gospel

LESSON ONE  
THE BIBLE TEACHES  
ONE CHURCH (ONENESS)

The Bible teaches that Jesus built His church and that it is called His body. Jesus has only one body, or church, and as we learned above, it is to be united, and not divided.

A verse to memorize:

*"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."* (Ephesians 4:4-6)

Verses to learn and study:

Matthew 16:18	Jesus said, "I will build My church."
Ephesians 1:22,23	Jesus is Head over the church which is His body
1 Corinthians 12:12,13,20	Many members, but one body
Romans 12:4,5	Many members, but one body
Acts 2:47	Lord added to the church

CONCLUSION: It is God's plan and the Lord's desire that we should all be one.

### SALVATION

#### HEAR

Rom. 10:17

#### BELIEVE

Heb. 11:6

John 3:16

John 8:24

Mark 16:15-16

Acts 16:31

James 2:24 - not faith only

#### REPENT

Luke 13:3

Acts 2:38

Acts 17:30

#### CONFESS

Matt. 10:32-33

Rom. 10:9-10

Acts 8:36-37 - example

#### BAPTISM

Mark 16:15-16

Acts 2:38

Acts 22:16

I Peter 3:21

Eph. 4:5

Rom. 6:3-4

Mk. 1:9-10

### CHURCH

Matt. 16:18 - Jesus' promise

Acts 2:47 - church in existence

Acts 20:28 - gave his blood for

Col. 1:18 - Christ - head

Col. 1:24 - church same as body

Eph. 4:4 - one body (church)

Eph. 5:23 - will save church

I Cor. 12:13 - baptized into the  
body (church)

### WHAT ARE WE

I Cor. 12:27 - members

Acts 11:26 - Christians

I Pet. 4:16 - glorify God in the  
name Christian

### NAME

II Thess. 1:1 - the church

I Cor. 1:2 - church of God

Rom. 16:16 - churches of Christ

### BEING FAITHFUL

Rev. 2:10

#### STUDY

2 Timothy 2:15

#### ASSEMBLING

Hebrews 10:25

#### PRAY

I Thess. 5:17-18

Eph. 6:18

I Cor. 14:15

#### SING

Col. 3:16

Eph. 5:19

#### LORD'S SUPPER

Acts 20:7

I Cor. 11:27-28

Matt. 26-26-29

#### GIVE

I Cor. 16:1-2

II Cor. 9:7

### CAN FALL FROM GRACE

Gal. 5:4

I Cor. 9:27

I Cor. 10:12

II Peter 2:21-22

### UNITY

I Cor. 1:10

John 17:20-21

### FALSE TEACHERS

Matt. 7:15, 21-23

II Pet. 2:1

II Tim. 4:3

I Tim. 4:1-3

### NARROW WAY

Matt. 7:13-14

### WHO WILL BE LOST

II Thess. 1:5-8

### WOMEN

I Tim. 2:9-12

Titus 2:3-5

