

CLASS NOTES - FIRST PRINCIPLES

Taught By Robert Stapleton



**COPIES OF THIS MATERIAL MAY
ONLY BE MADE WITH
PERMISSION BY AUTHOR**

CLASS INSTRUCTIONS FIRST PRINCIPLES
Robert Stapleton

CLASS DESCRIPTION:

1. This class will provide a study of matters important to getting on the right “road” once one has become a Christian.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Outline book is to be read at least twice during the quarter with a reading log kept.
2. Instructions concerning reading log.
 - A. Keep a typewritten log of your reading, with dates and chapters read.
 1. Your log should be submitted to instructor no later than the beginning of class day during the finals week.
 - B. Your log will count for 10% of your total course grade.
3. Tests:
 - A. Two scheduled tests will be administered.
 1. Each will account for 45% of your total score.
 2. Any additional credit will be at the instructor’s discretion.
4. Memory Verses:
 - A. The following verses are to be committed to memory (or, at least, be familiar where they are):

Matthew 16:18, 19
Mark 16:15, 16
John 8:32
John 12:48
Acts 2:38
Romans 1:16
1 Corinthians 16:1, 2
Galatians 1:6-9
Ephesians 5:19
Philippians 1:21
Colossians 3:16
2 Timothy 2:15
2 Timothy 3:16, 17
Titus 2:11
Hebrews 4:14
Hebrews 10:25
James 1:22
James 2:19
1 Peter 2:2
2 Peter 1:3
1 John 2:15-17
2 John 9
Jude 3

- B. Memory work should be done in the ASV, ESV, KJV, or NKJV unless the instructor grants permission to use another version.

5. Class Studies:

A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST	p. 3
THE BIBLE, GOD’S WORD	p. 5
HOW TO STUDY AND UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE	p. 7
THE TWO COVENANTS	p. 10
PATRIARCHAL DISPENSATION	p. 12
JUDAISM	p. 15
CHRISTIANITY	p. 20
HOW TO IDENTIFY THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH	p. 23
WHAT THE CHURCH IS	p. 26
WHAT THE CHURCH IS NOT	p. 28
MAN'S PERVERSION OF GOD'S PLAN	p. 30
WORSHIP IN THE CHURCH	p. 32
THE LORD'S SUPPER	p. 34
SINGING	p. 36
PRAYING	p. 39
GIVING	p. 41
THE WORK OF THE CHURCH	p. 43
DISCIPLINE IN THE CHURCH	p. 46
ELDERS IN THE CHURCH	p. 48
DEACONS IN THE CHURCH	p. 50
THE PREACHER AND HIS MINISTRY	p. 52
THE CHRISTIAN HOME	p. 53
CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES	p. 55
THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST AND ETERNITY	p. 60

A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Robert Stapleton

INTRODUCTION:

1. When one becomes a Christian his or her life changes.
 - A. They will have a totally new way of looking at certain things.
2. It is well to study these things in order to better understand where you now are and where you will soon be headed as far as your spiritual life is concerned.

BODY:

1. A NEW CREATION

- A. You have become a new creation in Christ - 2 Corinthians 5:17.
 1. But how did you get into Christ and what does it mean to be in Christ?
- B. We are baptized into Christ - Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:1-9.
- C. We have put to death the old "man" of sin and have taken on a newness of life.

2. WE HAVE HAD A NEW BIRTH

- A. Jesus taught of the necessity of the new birth - John 3:1-6.
 1. The new birth is simply we have been born again.
 2. How?
 - A. 1 Peter 1:23
 - B. Matthew 13:18-23
 - C. John 3:5
- B. Examples of the new birth:
 1. Acts 2:14-41; 8:5-8, 12; 26-40; 9:1-18, 22:16; 10:34-48; 16:14, 15; 23, 34
- C. When born again we change our spiritual condition, relationship and state in life.
 1. We have been saved from a lost condition to a saved condition - Luke 15:3-32; Matthew 15:24; 2 Corinthians 4:3.
 2. Our relationship has been changed from that of an alien to a child of God - Colossians 1:20, 21; Romans 5:8-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Colossians 1:19-22; Hebrews 2:17.
 - A. Therefore our state of life has changed to now being a child of the King.

3. SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD

- A. The "world" belongs to Satan and is therefore contrary to the will of God.
- B. To hold on to it is to lose Christ; to hold onto Christ is to lose the world - Matthew 6:24-34.
- C. We must be willing, if need be, to forsake all for Christ - Mark 10:17-22.
 1. There is no middle ground.
 - A. We are either for him or against him - Romans 6:14-22.
- D. There is no middle ground in regards to serving sin for we are either free from it or we are servants to it - Romans 6:14-22.
- E. We either work for Christ or against him - Matthew 12:30.
- F. We must be willing to lay aside every weight and master every weakness in the race we are to run - Hebrews 12:1, 2.
- G. We cannot allow the affairs of this life to engross us too deeply - 2 Timothy 2:4.
- H. Our surrender to Christ must be so complete that we will forsake all for Jesus - Matthew 10:37.

- I. We must present a holy life unto God - Hebrews 12:14.
- J. We must separate ourselves from the world - John 17:14, 15.
 - 1. This does not demand that we destroy friendships, etc., unless those “friendships” are going to lead us into sin - 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.
 - 2. If we persist to be friends to the world then we become enemies to God – James 4:4.

THE BIBLE, GOD'S WORD

INTRODUCTION:

1. How does man know that the Bible is the only true revelation of God?
2. The Christian's belief that the Bible is the divine word of God is based upon strong evidences.
 - A. This belief is not a blind faith.
 - B. God has not left man without a witness - Acts 14:17.
3. This lesson deals with some selected evidences found both within and without the Bible which support this belief.
 - A. The Bible claims to be inspired of God.
 - B. The word used of "inspired" (2 Timothy 3:16) literally means "God breathed" - Genesis 2:7.
 1. In other words, "inspiration of God" means that influence which God exercised through the Holy Spirit over the minds of Biblical writers to make them infallible in receiving and recording of His will.

BODY:

1. AMAZING UNITY BEYOND MAN'S POWER

- A. The unity of the Bible overwhelmingly proves that the Bible is the word of God.
 1. It was written by about 40 different authors from various backgrounds, over a period of about 1600 years.
 2. It was written in three languages:
 - A. Aramaic, Greek, and Hebrew.
 3. It was written on three continents:
 - A. Africa, Asia, and Europe.
 4. It covers a period of about 4,000 years, and is composed of 66 books of which there is not one **valid** contradiction found.
 5. It was written on varied and profound subjects, for example:
 - A. God, Man, Morals, and Redemption.
 6. There is complete corroboration of:
 - A. Science **S**
 - B. History **H**
 - C. Archaeology **A**
 - D. Natural Law **N**
 - E. Typography **T** (Printing with types, arrangement, style of printed matter)
 7. Old Testament prophecies fulfilled.
 8. Not one writer took credit for their writings.

B. Therefore we see ample proof that the Bible is indeed the word of God.

2. FUTURE FOREKNOWLEDGE BEYOND MAN'S POWER:

- A. Biblical prophecy and its fulfillment are convincing evidences that the Bible is God's word.
 1. The word "prophecy" is used to mean "to speak for or on the behalf of God."
 - A. It can also mean "to predict future events under the influence of divine guidance."

2. There are “rules” given in the Bible pertaining to the prophet and falsehood – Deuteronomy 18:11, 12, 18-22; Jeremiah 28:9; Isaiah 41:22-24.
- B. There are over 300 prophecies concerning Christ that had their fulfillment in the N.T.
 1. For example:
 - A. **PROPHECY** - Micah 5:2; Isaiah 7:14; Psalm 22:18.
 - B. **FULFILLMENT** - Matthew 2:3-8; Matthew 1:18; John 19:23, 24.
 - C. **PROPHECY** - Isaiah 2:3; Joel 2:28.
 - D. **FULFILLMENT** - Acts 2.
 - C. These prophecies prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Bible is the Word.
- 3. AMAZING INSIGHT INTO MAN'S INNER NEED**
 - A. The Bible fulfills the needs of man like no other book can.
 1. It answers man's basic questions: “Who am I?”, “Where did I come from?”, and “Where am I going?”
 - B. It gives positive assurance of the truth in a world of uncertainty - John 7:17; 8:32; 17:17; 1 John 5:10.
 - C. It gives comfort at the times when we need it most - Psalms 103:13, 14; 119:67, 71; John 14:1-3; Romans 8:18, 28.
 - D. It meets the desire for inner purity.
 - E. It satisfies the need to love and to be loved - Mark 12:31; 1 John 4:19.
 - F. It satisfies the need to live responsibly - 1 Thessalonians 3:7, 8; 4:10-12.
- 4. AMAZING PURPOSE DISPLAYED**
 - A. It serves as a lamp to guide us - Psalm 119:105.
 - B. It serves to make man free - John 8:32.
 - C. It serves to make us wise - 2 Timothy 3:15.
 - D. It serves to perfect us - 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.
 - E. It serves to save us - James 1:21.
 - F. It serves to purify us - 1 Peter 1:22.
- 5. IMPORTANT BASIC PRINCIPLES**
 - A. Do not go beyond - 2 John 9.
 - B. There is only one gospel - Galatians 1:6-9.
 - C. Do not add nor take from - Revelation 22:18, 19.
 - D. Scriptures are to judge in the last day - John 12:48.
- 6. DURATION OF THE BIBLE**
 - A. Forever - 1 Peter 1:24, 25.
- 7. REASONS AS TO WHY GOD INSISTS UPON MAN FOLLOWING HIS WRITTEN WORD**
 - A. Man's way may be wrong - Proverbs 14:12.
 - B. Man's thoughts are often wrong - Isaiah 55:8, 9.
 - C. Man's heart not a dependable guide - Proverbs 28:26.
 - D. Man cannot direct his steps - Jeremiah 10:23.
 - E. God's written word is the only sure way - 2 Timothy 3:16.

HOW TO STUDY AND UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

INTRODUCTION:

1. Study of God's Word is an important part of the Christian's daily activities.

BODY:

1. THE PURPOSE OF STUDYING THE WORD OF GOD

- A. To know God - 2 Thessalonians 1:8.
- B. To be saved from sin - John 20:30, 31; James 1:21.
- C. To learn how to live in this temporal life - Colossians 1:9, 10.
 1. Five levels of learning:
 - A. Recognition
 - B. Memory
 - C. Restatement
 - D. Application
 - E. Internalization (to adopt the beliefs, values, and attitudes of others)

2. WHAT SHOULD ONE'S ATTITUDE BE AS HE STUDIES THE WORD OF GOD?

- A. We should set aside the following attitudes which are hindrances to studying God's word.
 1. Prejudice
 2. Pre-conceived ideas
 3. Wishful thinking
 4. Over-simplification
 5. Faith in human authority
 6. Faith in popular beliefs
 7. Pride
- B. We should adopt the following attitudes.
 1. Hunger for truth - Matthew 5:6; 6:33; Acts 17:11; 1 Peter 2:2.
 2. Confidence that you can understand the Bible - John 8:32; Colossians 1:6.
 3. Honesty - Luke 8:15; James 1:23-25.
 4. Humility - James 4:6.
 5. Patience in learning.
 6. Desiring to be saved through Christ - Acts 17:10, 11; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 1:7.
 7. Learning to live for Christ with heaven as a goal - Galatians 2:20; 2 Timothy 4:7, 8.
 8. Praying for wisdom - James 1:5.

3. WHEN SHOULD ONE STUDY?

- A. The Christian will want to study God's word daily - Acts 17:11.
- B. It is wise to study during the morning hours or at other times when you are rested and alert.
- C. Understanding God's word is a process that should continue through life.

4. PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR BIBLE STUDY

- A. Choose a quiet, private place that is comfortable and well lighted.
- B. Use a bookmark.

5. SOME SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHAT TO STUDY

- A. The whole Bible.
- B. Section by section.
 - 1. Paragraph by paragraph.
 - 2. Chapter by chapter.
 - 3. Book by book.
 - 4. Division by division.
 - A. Old Testament.
 - 1. Genesis through Deuteronomy are books of law.
 - 2. Joshua through Esther are books of history.
 - 3. Job through Song of Solomon are books of poetry.
 - 4. Isaiah through Daniel are books of the major prophets.
 - 5. Hosea through Malachi are books of the minor prophets.
 - B. New Testament.
 - 1. Matthew through John are accounts of the gospel.
 - A. Keep in mind there is only one gospel.
 - 2. Acts is a book of history.
 - 3. Romans through Jude are general epistles.
 - 4. Revelation is a book of prophecy.
 - 5. Testament by testament.
- C. Topics (Grace; Love, Sin, Church, Marriage, etc.).
- D. Churches (Jerusalem, Rome, Philippi, seven churches of Asia, Ephesus).
- E. Conversions (The cases of conversion accounts in Acts).
- F. Biographies (God, Christ, Satan, Paul, Jude, Moses).
- G. God's plan of redemption in the Old and New Testaments.
- H. Chronology of the Bible.

6. HERMENEUTICAL RULES TO REMEMBER WHEN INTERPRETING GOD'S WORD

- A. Always interpret the passage in harmony with the context.
 - 1. Who is the author of the epistle?
 - 2. What is the place of writing?
 - 3. Who were the original readers?
 - 4. What was the relationship between the author of the epistle and the original readers?
 - 5. What was the date of the writing?
 - 6. What is the historical setting?
- B. Always apply the passage according to its time period.
 - 1. Patriarchal - Genesis 1 - Exodus 18.
 - 2. Mosaical - Exodus 19 - Acts 1.
 - A. Specifically to the death of Christ – Colossians 2:14.
 - 3. Christian - Acts 2 – Revelation.
- C. Questions to ask yourself as you read:
 - 1. Who is the speaker?
 - 2. To whom is he speaking?
 - 3. Why did he say it?
 - 4. When did he say it?

- 5. What did he say?
- 6. Does that apply to me?
- D. Love the truth.
- E. Scripture should not be interpreted according to man's own opinion –
1 Corinthians 14:33; 2 Peter 1:20.
- F. The most simple and obvious meaning is usually the correct one.
- G. Allow the author's explanation to stand.
- H. Each passage must be interpreted in harmony with other passages on the topic.
- I. One passage will often explain another.
- J. Interpret literally unless the context insists upon a symbolic interpretation.
- K. Do not elevate one Biblical truth above another.
- L. Know the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences.

THE TWO COVENANTS

INTRODUCTION:

1. In this lesson we will study the relationship of the two covenants to God's people in two separate time periods.
 - A. The purpose and passing of the first and the establishment of the second will be discussed.
2. The word covenant means “an agreement by two or more parties to do or refrain from doing some act.”
 - A. In any covenant, benefits are promised and conditions are stipulated.
 - B. The old covenant was an agreement between God and a nation.
 - C. The new covenant is an agreement between God and Abraham – Genesis 15:12-18.
 1. Or conditional, as between God and Israel - Exodus 19:5, 6.

BODY:

1. THE OLD COVENANT

- A. Made between God and Israel, when the Israelites were brought out of Egypt to Mt. Sinai - Exodus 19:1-5; 24:1-8.
- B. Was a national law, given only to Israel - Exodus 20:1, 2; 31:12-17; 34:27, 28; Deuteronomy 5:1-6.
 1. It included no other people.
- C. Given for a definite time, “till the seed should come,” - Galatians 3:19.
 1. This seed was Christ - Galatians 3:16.
- D. New Testament writers speak of “the law”.
 1. Paul in Galatians 4:21 is speaking of Genesis 16:15.
 2. Romans 1:17 has reference to Habakkuk 2:4.
 3. Matthew 22:35-39 refers to Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18.
 4. Matthew 12:5 speaks of Numbers 28:9, 10.
 5. John 10:34 refers to Psalm 82:6.
 6. 1 Corinthians 14:21 quotes Isaiah 28:11.
- E. The law was fulfilled and taken out of the way.
 1. We do not live under that covenant today.

2. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- A. Those who keep the Sabbath today make a distinction between “moral” and “ceremonial” parts of the law and contend that the Ten Commandments were not removed.
 1. God makes no such distinction.
- B. God speaks of the “ten commandments” as “the covenant” – Exodus 34:27, 28; Deuteronomy 4:13; 9:9-11; 1 Kings 8:9, 21.
- C. Therefore, if the covenant was fulfilled and removed, then the “ten commandments” is not now the covenant we live under.
 1. Jehovah has made a new one.

3. THE PASSING OF THE OLD COVENANT

- A. About 597 years before Jesus came to earth, one of God's prophets, Jeremiah, told of a new covenant - Jeremiah 31:31-34.

1. It should be “new,” “different,” “of the spirit.”
2. Under this covenant “all should know Him” and “sins would be remembered no more.”
- B. Jesus came to fulfill the first - Matthew 5:17, 18.
 1. He declared He had done this - John 19:28-30.
- C. The Holy Spirit declared that the first had been fulfilled and taken away - Ephesians 2:14-16; Colossians 2:14-16.
 1. The new was now in force - Hebrews 8:6; 9:15; 10:9-10; Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 13:20.
 2. The second could not have been established until the first was removed. - Hebrews 7:12; 9:15-17.
- D. The apostle Paul in the letter to the Romans tells us we are not under the law (Romans 6:15); we are dead to the law (Romans 7:4); discharged from the law - Romans 7:6.
 1. This law contained the Ten Commandments - Romans 7:7.
- E. The law, written on stones, and all the rest were done away in Christ - 2 Corinthians 3:6-17.
- 4. THE NEW COVENANT - THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST**
 - A. Christ has all authority - Matthew 28:18-20.
 1. There is no authority for anyone before Him and no one after Him.
 - B. All nations are included in this new covenant - Mark 16:15, 16; Luke 24:46-49.
 - C. The new is the fulfillment of the promise Jehovah made to Abraham – Galatians 3:6-29.
 1. Under it - in Christ - all are “new creatures” - 2 Corinthians 5:17.

CONCLUSION:

1. In the New Covenant, not the Old, the sinner today comes to God.
 - A. In it are found the terms of pardon for sins and the conditions of fellowship with the Father and eternal life.
2. In this New Covenant are the promises of God to us.
 - A. Guaranteed by the blood of God's own Son.

PATRIARCAL DISPENSATION

INTRODUCTION:

1. The first period of human history is known as the patriarchal age because God dealt directly with the leaders of each family.
 - A. The father in each family was known as the patriarch.
2. This period lasted from Adam until the time when God gave the written law to Moses on Mt. Sinai.
3. In this lesson we will study a few selected events from the Patriarchal Age which will show how God was preparing the world for the coming of Christ Jesus.

BODY:

1. THE TIME PERIOD FROM ADAM TO NOAH - GENESIS 1-11

A. Important Events:

1. The Fall, which brought sin into the world - Genesis 3:6.
2. The Promise of Redemption, which brought hope into the world – Genesis 3:15.
3. The Flood - Genesis 7:11, 12.

A. Carefully note that only those who obeyed God were saved.

B. Persons.

1. Adam, with whom we associate the Fall, and the Promise of redemption
2. Noah, with whom we associate the Flood

C. God provided forgiveness of sins.

A. God instructed man to offer animal sacrifices - Leviticus 17:11; 5:17, 18; Hebrews 9:22.

B. God was just in granting men forgiveness, as He knew that Jesus would eventually come to the earth in order to pay the full price for sin by dying on a cross - Hebrews 9:13, 14.

2. THE TIME PERIOD FROM NOAH TO THE CALL OF MOSES - GENESIS 11 – EXODUS

A. During this period Abraham was called to be the father of a chosen nation.

1. Abraham and his descendants were chosen, not because God loved them more than others, but because through them He was to bless the world.

A. Events.

1. The Dispersion at Babel in Chaldea - Genesis 11:9.

2. God chose Abraham.

A. God promised Abraham that through his offspring would come one who would bless all nations - Genesis 12:1-3.

1. This offspring was Christ - Galatians 3:16; Matthew 1:1-17.

B. Abraham was 100 years old when the angels appeared to him and promised him a son - Genesis 18:2-16.

1. Abraham trusted God even to the point of being willing to sacrifice his son Isaac - Genesis 22.

2. Because of Abraham's great faith, he is known as the father of faith - Romans 4:16-21; Galatians 3:7.

3. God renewed to Isaac the promises He had given to Abraham - Genesis 21:2, 3; 26:1-5.
 4. God renewed to Jacob the promises He had given to Abraham - Genesis 28:3-4, 13, 14.
 - A. Jacob's name was changed to Israel - Genesis 32:28.
 1. From him we get the name Israelites.
 - B. Jacob had twelve sons - Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin. - Genesis 35:22-26, 49.
 1. These sons and their descendants became the twelve tribes of Israel.
 5. God saved His chosen nation from famine through Joseph - Genesis 37-50.
 - A. Jacob was partial to Joseph and gave him a coat of many colors - Genesis 37:3.
 - B. Joseph's brothers were jealous and sold him into slavery.
 1. He was taken to Egypt - Genesis 37:4-36.
 - C. Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams - Genesis 41.
 - D. Joseph was made Governor over Egypt - Genesis 41:40-45.
 - E. Jacob and his family came to Egypt - Genesis 45, 46.
 1. Before Jacob's death God promised that Christ would be a descendant of the tribe of Judah - Genesis 49:9.
 - F. Joseph died at the age of 110 years and requested that his body be taken to the Promised Land when the Israelites left Egypt - Genesis 50:24-26.
 6. God chose Moses to lead His people out of Egyptian slavery.
 - A. A king who did not know Joseph made slaves of the Israelites - Exodus 1:8.
 - B. This Pharaoh commanded that all male babies to be murdered - Exodus 1:22.
 - C. Moses was hidden by his mother, but he was found by Pharaoh's daughter who raised him in the royal palace - Exodus 2:5-10.
 - D. Moses, at the age of forty years, killed an Egyptian - Exodus 2:11, 12.
 - E. Moses spent forty years in Midian - Exodus 2:15.
 - F. God called Moses through a burning bush - Exodus 3:1-5.
 - G. Aaron and Moses returned to Egypt to free the people of God - Exodus 4:27-5:5.
 - H. God sent plagues upon the Egyptians - Exodus 7-10.
 - I. The last plague took the life of the eldest son from every family that did not have blood on its door post and lintels - Exodus 11.
 - J. Pharaoh's first-born son died, and he let the Israelites go - Exodus 12.
 - K. The children of Israel were led through the Red Sea and to Mt. Sinai where God gave them the Mosaic Law - Exodus 14-20.
- B. Persons.

1. Abraham, the man who was called to leave home - Genesis 12:1.
2. Joseph, the greatest of the twelve sons of Jacob.
3. Moses, who led the Israelites out of Egyptian slavery.

JUDAISM

INTRODUCTION:

1. The second period of human history is known as the age of Judaism.
 - A. God used Moses as the lawgiver - John 1:17.
 1. This period lasted from the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai until the time when it was nailed to the cross - Colossians 2:14; 2 Corinthians 3:3-11.
2. By the miraculous hand of God the Israelites were delivered from bondage.
 - A. Unbelief on the part of many brought heartaches and misery which caused God's people to wander in the wilderness forty years before reaching the promised land.
3. During this time we see the stories of the Kings of Israel.
 - A. How the kingdom became divided.
 - B. And the prophets who told of the coming Savior.
4. This age ended with the establishment of the church on the day of Pentecost.

BODY:

1. GOD MADE A COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

- A. God led the Israelites to Mt. Sinai where He made a covenant with them.
 1. The covenant was given only to the children of Israel - Exodus 19:1-6; 20:1-17.

2. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW, SINCE GOD PROMISED TO SAVE MAN THROUGH FAITH AND NOT THROUGH WORKS OF THE LAW?

- A. The law was necessary.
 1. The law was added because of man's disobedience - Galatians 3:19; 1 Timothy 1:8-10.
 2. The law showed the need of a Savior - Romans 3:20, 23; 7:24; Galatians 3:10.
 3. The law was a tutor to guide the Israelites to the coming Messiah – Galatians 3:23, 24.
 4. The law was the instruction to prepare Israel for bringing Christ into the world - Acts 3:25, 26; Romans 11; 1 Peter 1:10-12.
 5. The law was a shadow of the real things to come - Hebrews 10:1, 2.
- B. The law was insufficient.
 1. Justification for sin did not come from the law - Galatians-2:21; 3:10, 11; Hebrews 10:1-4.
 2. The law was not intended to be a law for all times and all ages.
 - A. It was a covenant only with Israel - Exodus 19:1-5; Psalm 147:19, 20.
 - B. God promised to give a new covenant, which would not be like the ten commandment law - Jeremiah 31:31, 32.
 - C. The law was temporal because its use was not to save man – Hebrews 8:7, 8; Romans 7:4, 6.

3. GOD CARED FOR THE ISRAELITES DURING THE FORTY YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS - EXODUS 16:1-5; 17:1-6

4. GOD ENABLED THE ISRAELITES TO CONQUER AND SETTLE THE

LAND PROMISED TO ABRAHAM – GENESIS 12:7; JOSHUA 2:24; 21:43-45; 23:15-16; 1 KINGS 4:21

5. GOD GAVE ISRAEL JUDGES AFTER THE SETTLEMENT OF CANAAN IN ORDER TO KEEP THEM HOLY FOR GOD'S USE - JUDGES 2:16; ACTS 13:20

6. GOD RENEWED THE SPIRITUAL PROMISE GIVEN TO ABRAHAM – 2 SAMUEL 7: 12-14; PSALM 89:3-7

A. Christ was a descendant of David - Romans 1:3; Matthew 1:17, 18.

1. David was a physical king over physical Israel.

2. Christ is a physical descendant of David, yet He is a spiritual king over a spiritual kingdom, the church - Psalm 132:11; Colossians 1:13.

7. GOD IN HIS ANGER DISCIPLINED THE DISOBEDIENT TRIBES BY ALLOWING THEM TO BE TAKEN INTO FOREIGN CAPTIVITY

A. The captivity of Judah is discussed in 2 Chronicles 36:17-21 and Nehemiah 1:8-10.

B. Israel's captivity is discussed in 2 Kings 17:1-41.

8. GOD ALLOWED THE TRIBE OF JUDAH TO RETURN FROM BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY - ISAIAH 1:9; 10:20-24; 11:11

A. The Christ was to come through the tribe of Judah - Genesis 49:9, 10.

9. GOD SENT PROPHETS TO INSTRUCT ISRAEL AND JUDAH IN HIS WILL AND TO SPEAK OF THE COMING MESSIAH – HEBREWS 1:1; LUKE 24:44

10. 400 YEARS OF PROPHETIC SILENCE

A. The writings of the Old Testament closed with the prophecy of Malachi, who was contemporary with Ezra and Nehemiah, about 432 B. C.

1. From Malachi to the beginning of the New Testament, a period of a little more than 400 years, no inspired writer appeared.

2. This period is very appropriately called the “Period of Prophetic Silence”.

A. For facts relating to the Jews during this time reliance must be placed upon Greek and Latin historians, Josephus, and books called the Apocrypha (regarded as uninspired).

11. GOD SENT JOHN, THE SON OF ZECHARIAH, TO PREPARE THE NATION OF JUDAH FOR CHRIST AND HIS KINGDOM – MATTHEW 3:1-12; ISAIAH 40:3

A. He told the Jews to repent of their sins, and he baptized them in the river Jordan for the forgiveness of their sins – Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3.

1. John's baptism, although for the remission of sins, was not a baptism into Christ - Acts 2:38; 20:28; Matthew 16: 18, 19.

2. John baptized Jesus in order to fulfill all righteousness - Matthew 3:15.

A. Jesus did not have any sin – Hebrews 4:15.

12. GOD SENT HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON TO REDEEM MAN FROM SIN

A. Christ existed as deity before His birth - John 1:1, 14; 17:5; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Colossians 1:15-20.

B. Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth.

1. His birth was a sign and a fulfillment of prophecy - Luke 24:44.

2. Christ was born of a virgin - Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-23; John 5:17, 18.

3. Christ was born of the tribe of Judah - Genesis 49:9, 10; Revelation 5:5.
4. Christ was a descendant of Abraham - Genesis 12:3; Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38.
5. Christ's birth was foreordained – 1 Peter 1:20.
- C. The birth of Christ was significant.
 1. It proved that the son of God became flesh - Matthew 1:23; John 1:14; Romans 1:3, 4.
 2. It demonstrated the deity of Jesus - Luke 1:35; Galatians 4:4, 5; John 1:1.
 3. Jesus came into the world to be the savior of mankind - 1 Timothy 1:15; Matthew 1:18-21; Luke 2:11.
 4. The birth of Christ brought great joy to the world - Luke 2:10, 13, 14.
- D. Why was Christ born?
 1. Christ was born to reveal God to the world - John 1:18.
 - A. Christ revealed the nature of God.
 1. God is infinitely holy and will put away sin.
 2. God is just and will punish sin.
 3. God is merciful and will forgive sin.
 4. God loves and will forgive the sinner - 1 John 4:8-12.
 - B. Christ revealed the will of God.
 1. It is God's will that mankind should know the truth - John 8:31, 32.
 2. It is God's will that mankind should be saved through hearing and obeying the gospel - Romans 1:16.
 2. Christ was born to save the world from sin.
 - A. Christ came to save sinners - Matthew 1:21; 9:10-13; Luke 19:10; John 10:10; 12:47; 1 Timothy 1:15.
 - B. Christ saved the world.
 1. He atoned for sin - Hebrews 2:5-10; Matthew 26:2.
 2. He gave the gospel - Mark 16:15, 16.
 3. He demanded faith and obedience - John 3:16; Romans 6:17.
 3. Christ was born to conquer death – Hebrews 2:14-16.
 - A. He conquered death by His resurrection - 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 50-57; John 14:19.
- E. Christ devoted Himself to the mission that God sent Him to do.
 1. He preached that He was sent by God to redeem man from his sins – John 5:17, 18; 10:30; 14:10, 11; 19:7; Luke 19:19.
 2. Jesus taught people to repent and that the kingdom of heaven was at hand - Matthew 4:17.
 3. Jesus promised to build His church - Matthew 16:18.
 4. He taught that the kingdom would come with power while some of the disciples were still living - Mark 9:1.
 5. Jesus instructed the apostles to tell the people that the kingdom was at hand - Matthew 10:5-7.
 6. The seventy disciples were instructed to preach that the kingdom of God had come near - Luke 10:1, 8, 9.
 7. At the end of Christ's personal ministry the disciples were still looking for the kingdom - Luke 22:18; 19:11; Mark 15:43.

8. The kingdom had still not come at the time the Lord ascended - Acts 1:6-9.
9. Christ selected and prepared the twelve apostles to whom He promised the Holy Spirit.

A. The Holy Spirit revealed unto them all truth - John 16:13.

13. THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST - LUKE 23

14. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

- A. The tomb was empty on the third day after the crucifixion - Matthew 28:1-7; Mark 16:1-7; John 20:1-9.
 1. "They found not the body of the Lord Jesus." - Luke 24:3.
 2. Both the Bible and history affirm that Jesus was crucified and that on the third day after the crucifixion, His tomb was empty.
- B. How may we account for the empty tomb?
 1. The enemies of Christ did not steal His body.
 - A. The tomb was guarded by Roman soldiers - Matthew 27:62-66.
 - B. When the resurrection was reported, they bribed the soldiers to report that the disciples had stolen the body - Matthew 28:11-15.
 - C. On Pentecost, would they not have produced the body of Jesus and refuted Peter's claim that God had raised Him?
 2. The disciples of Jesus did not steal His body.
 - A. They did not expect the resurrection at first.
 - B. When it was reported, they did not believe it - Mark 16:11, 13; Luke 24:11.
 - C. Jesus scolded them for their slowness in accepting the resurrection and had to give them special proof of it - Mark 16:14; John 20:19-29.
 - D. If they had stolen the body of Jesus, they would not have spent the remainder of their lives preaching the resurrection and finally dying for their faith in Jesus.
 3. God raised Jesus from the dead.
 - A. "He is not here, for He is risen" - Matthew 28:6.
 - B. "Whom God hath raised up" - Acts 2:24, 32.

15. THE APPEARANCES OF JESUS

- A. His first appearance was to Mary Magdalene - Mark 16:9; John 20:11-18.
- B. His second appearance was to the other women - Matthew 28:9, 10.
- C. His third appearance was on the road to Emmaus to two disciples - Mark 16:12, 13; Luke 24:13-35.
- D. His fourth appearance was to Peter - Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5.
- E. His fifth appearance was to all of the apostles except Thomas - Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-24; Mark 16:14.
- F. His sixth appearance was to Thomas - John 20:24-31.
- G. His seventh appearance was to His disciples at the Sea of Galilee - John 21:1-25.
- H. His eighth appearance was to disciples on a mountain in Galilee - Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15, 16.
- I. His ninth appearance was to disciples at Jerusalem - Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8.
- J. The other appearances of Jesus are recorded in 1 Corinthians 15:5-9; Acts 9:1-20.

16. THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST

- A. The ascension of Christ is an important Christian doctrine.

1. It was foretold by the prophets.
 - A. Compare Psalm 68:18 with Ephesians 4:8-10, and compare Psalm 110:1 with Acts 2:33-36.
2. It was taught by Christ - John 6:62; 7:33; 13:33; 14:3, 12, 28; 16:5, 28.
3. It was preached by the apostles - Acts 2:33-36; 5:31; Ephesians 4:8-10; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 3:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 1 Peter 3:22.
- B. Christ's ascension was necessary.
 1. Christ ascended in order to resume His place at the right hand of God – John 17:1-5; Hebrews 2:6, 7.
 2. Christ ascended in order to become the Lord of mankind - Acts 2:33-36; Psalm 110:4.
 3. Christ ascended in order to offer His blood to God as a sacrifice to redeem mankind eternally - Hebrews 9:11, 12, 24-28; Leviticus 16.
 4. Christ ascended in order to make possible the forgiveness of sins – Acts 5:29-32.
 5. Christ ascended in order to establish His kingdom - Daniel 7:13, 14.
 - A. The church was established after Christ ascended.
 - B. Compare Acts 1:6-11 with Acts 2:1-47.
 6. Christ ascended in order to become the head of His church – Ephesians 1:19-23.
 7. Christ ascended so that the Spirit could descend on the apostles – John 16:7-13; 14:26; 15:26.
 8. Christ ascended in order to become our high priest - Hebrews 8:4; 4:14; 7:26; 9:24; Romans 8:34.
 9. Christ ascended in order to make His second coming possible – John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11.

CHRISTIANITY

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Christian era began on the day of Pentecost when the church was established and will be concluded when Christ returns to judge the world.
 - A. The Christian Age is an age of life (Romans 6: 11) and of reconciliation – Romans 5:10.
 1. Jesus died on the cross in order to reconcile God and man.
 2. He paid the penalty for our sins on the cross.
 3. Salvation is now available to all those who will accept God's forgiveness and who will serve Him obediently - 1 John 4:9, 10; Acts 17:30; 1 John 5:1-3.
2. In this lesson we will discuss the beginning of Christ's church and the blessings that we can have through Christ.

BODY:

1. THE DISPENSATION OF LIFE REPLACED THE DISPENSATION OF DEATH

- A. "For as in Adam all died, so in Christ shall all be made alive" – 1 Corinthians 15:22.
- B. "So you must also consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus" - Romans 6:11.

2. GOD IS LOVE:

- A. God offers through Christ life and forgiveness to all mankind - 1 John 4:9, 10; Acts 17:30.
- B. Christ died to pay the price for our sins - Romans 4:25.

3. GOD IS JUST:

- A. Men who refuse life and forgiveness will be separated from God and will receive everlasting torment - 2 Thessalonians 1:8, 9; Romans 6:23; Luke 12:5.

4. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH

- A. The church in preparation:
 1. The work of John the Baptist - Malachi 3:1; Matthew 3:1, 2.
 - A. He was to prepare the people for the coming of Christ - Mark 1:2, 3; Luke 1:17.
 2. The personal ministry of Christ.
 - A. Jesus taught people to repent and that the kingdom of heaven was at hand. - Matthew 4:17.
 - B. Jesus promised to build His church - Matthew 16:18.
 - C. He taught that the kingdom would come with power while some of the disciples were still living - Mark 9:1.
 - D. Jesus instructed the apostles to tell the people that the kingdom was at hand - Matthew 10:5-7.
 - E. The seventy disciples were instructed to preach that the kingdom of God had come near - Luke 10:1, 8, 9.
 - F. At the end of Christ's personal ministry the disciples were still looking for the kingdom - Luke 22:18; 19:11; Mark 15:43.

G. The kingdom had still not come at the time the Lord ascended –
Acts 1:6-9.

B. When did the church begin?

1. Christ said that the kingdom would come with power - Mark 9:1.
 - A. This power came with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost - Acts 1:8.
2. The church was established on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem in the year 33 A.D. - Acts 2.
3. When the Holy Spirit was poured out, the apostles received power to preach by divine guidance.
 - A. They preached that Christ Jesus had been crucified, buried, and raised again, and that this was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.
 - B. The apostles convinced many of the Jews who heard them preach.
 1. When the Jews asked what they should do, they were told to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins; and they were told that they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit - Acts 2:38.
 2. It is recorded in Acts 2:41 that “they that gladly received his word were baptized.”
 3. In Acts 2:47 we read, “And the Lord added to them day by day such as should be saved.”
 4. Christ is the head of the church - Ephesians 1:22; 5:23; Colossians 1:18; Matthew 28:18-20.

5. HOW CAN ONE BECOME A MEMBER OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

- A. Here are several steps involved in becoming a member of Christ's church.
1. One must hear the “good news” - Romans 10:17; John 20:30.
 2. One must have faith - Hebrews 11:6; Mark 16:15; John 8:24; Romans 3:28; Ephesians 2:8-10.
 3. One must repent of his sins - Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9; Acts 17:30; Acts 2:38.
 4. One must confess that Jesus Christ is the son of God - Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:10; Philippians 2:10; 1 John 4:15.
 5. One must be baptized for the forgiveness of his sins - Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27; John 3:5.
 - A. Baptism is total immersion in water - John 3:23; Acts 8:38; Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12.
 6. Jesus Christ is man's savior - John 14:6; Acts 4: 12; 1 Corinthians 3:11; Matthew 15:13.
 7. One must obey God - Matthew 6:24; 7:21; James 2:17, 19, 26; 4:17; Hebrews 5 :9; 1 Peter 4: 17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; 1 John 2:3.

6. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BLESSINGS IN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST?

- A. No condemnation - Romans 8:1, 2; 1 John 1:7.
- B. Forgiveness of sins - Colossians 1:13, 14.
- C. Spiritual fellowship with the Father, Christ, and other believers –
1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:23; 1 John 1:3.
- D. New life – 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- E. Spiritual blessings - 2 Peter 1:3.
- F. Gift of the Holy Spirit - Galatians 5:25; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20; Ephesians 1:13, 14.

- G. Assurance of the resurrection - 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; Romans 8:11.
- H. Assurance of heaven, a home beyond this temporal life - John 14:1-3;
Romans 6:22; 1 John 3:1-3.
- 7. GOD PROVIDED LEADERSHIP AND INSTRUCTION FOR THE FIRST CENTURY CHURCH THROUGH THE INSPIRED MESSAGES AND LETTERS OF THE APOSTLES - GALATIANS 1:11, 12; 1:8, 9; 2 TIMOTHY 3:16, 17; 2 PETER 3:16; ROMANS 6:17; JOHN 20:30-31; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-20**
- 8. TODAY GOD WORKS IN THE LIVES OF CHRISTIANS THROUGH THE WRITTEN WORD**
 - A. In Christ man is no longer a slave of sin – Romans 6:17.
 - 1. Nor is he under condemnation - Romans 8:1, 2.
 - B. Rather man is a new creation - 2 Corinthians 5:17.
 - 1. Bearing fruit for God - Romans 7:4.
 - 2. Such changes are evidences of God's work in us - Philippians 2:13.
- 9. GOD WILL SEND HIS SON FOR THE SECOND TIME TO SAVE THOSE WHO ARE EAGERLY AWAITING HIS COMING**
 - A. His coming is so certain that it will be an appointment that none will miss – Hebrews 9:27; 2 Peter 3:3-10; Philippians 2:10.

HOW TO IDENTIFY THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

INTRODUCTION:

1. In the world today there are many different religious groups, each claiming to be the Lord's church.
 - A. However, all of them teach and practice different things.
2. How can one who is honestly seeking the truth identify the one true body of Christ?
 - A. The Lord has revealed a pattern for His church in the New Testament.
 - B. With an understanding of these distinguishing marks, one can determine whether he is a member of Christ's body or a member of a man-made organization.
3. Below are some central identifications of Christ's church described in the New Testament.

BODY:

- 1. THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH WAS BUILT BY JESUS CHRIST**
 - A. "...my church..." - Matthew 16:16-18.
 - B. "...which He purchased with His own blood." - Acts 20:28.
 - C. Any church that is not built by Christ is not the one true church.
- 2. CHRIST IS THE FOUNDATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**
 - A. "...foundation...which is Jesus Christ." - 1 Corinthians 3:11.
 - B. "...Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone" - Isaiah 28:16; Acts 4:11; Ephesians 2:20.
- 3. THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH WAS JERUSALEM**
 - A. "...Jerusalem" - Isaiah 2:3.
 - B. "...beginning at Jerusalem." - Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8.
- 4. THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH**
 - A. The Kingdom of God was to come with power - Mark 9:1.
 - B. When was this power to be received? - Acts 1:8.
 - C. When did the Holy Spirit come? - Acts 2:1-4.
 1. On the first day of Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ, the apostles received power when the Holy Spirit came upon them.
 - A. In Mark 9:1 we learned that the Kingdom of God was to come with this power.
 - D. On the day of Pentecost the gospel was preached for the first time, and many people were baptized into Christ - Acts 2:41.
 - E. From this time on we read of the church as being in existence - Acts 2:42, 47; 5:11; 8:1; 9:31.
 - F. The birthday of the New Testament church was the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ (approximately 33 A.D.).
- 5. THE TRUE CHURCH CAN ALSO BE IDENTIFIED BY ITS NAME. HERE ARE A FEW BIBLICAL EXAMPLES**
 - A. "the church of God" - 1 Corinthians 1:2.
 - B. "church of the living God" - 1 Timothy 3:15.
 - C. "church of God" - Acts 20:28.
 - D. "churches of Christ" - Romans 16:16.

- E. "church" - Matthew 16:18, 19.
- 6. THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH CAN BE IDENTIFIED BY ITS RULE OF FAITH AND PRACTICE, THE BIBLE**
- A. Scripture is sufficient - 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.
 - B. Christ has all authority - Matthew 28:18.
 - C. The church is subject only to Christ - Ephesians 5:24.
 - D. The gospel is God's power to save - Romans 1:16.
- 7. THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH**
- A. What was the mission of Christ? - Luke 19:10; 1 Timothy 1:15.
 - B. Christ has given his disciples a great mission command - Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15, 16; Acts 1:8.
 - C. The church is also to help those in need - Acts 6:1-6; Galatians 6:10.
- 8. THE ONE TRUE CHURCH TEACHES AND PRACTICES GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION**
- A. God's action:
 - 1. God sent Christ because He loved us – John 3:16; 1 John 4:8, 10.
 - 2. Christ came to seek and save the lost - Luke 19:10.
 - 3. Christ became man's only sacrifice for sin - Isaiah 53:4-6, 10; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18.
 - 4. Christ was raised from the grave for man's justification - Acts 2:22-24.
 - B. Man's response:
 - 1. Hearing - Romans 10:17.
 - 2. Faith - Mark 16:15, 16; Hebrews 11:6.
 - 3. Repentance - Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30; 2 Peter 3:9.
 - 4. Confession - Matthew 10:32, 33; Romans 10:10.
 - 5. Baptism - Acts 2:38; 22:16.
- 9. THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH CAN BE IDENTIFIED BY ITS WORSHIP**
- A. The Lord's Supper which is observed on the first day of every week - Acts 20:7.
 - B. Singing - Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16.
 - C. Prayer - Acts 2:42.
 - D. Giving to support the mission of the local congregation - Galatians 6:6, 7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.
 - E. Study of God's word - Acts 2:42, 47; 2 Timothy 2:15.
- 10. THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH CAN BE IDENTIFIED BY ITS ORGANIZATION**
- A. Christ is the head of the church - Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22, 23.
 - 1. He has all authority, judicial, legislative, and executive - Matthew 28:18-20.
 - B. Each congregation is ruled by a group of qualified elders - Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1.
 - C. The early church had a group of men called deacons - Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
 - D. Only qualified elders and deacons should be selected.
 - 1. If there are no qualified men, then a congregation cannot select elders and deacons.

- A. A congregation can be without elders and deacons and still be the Lord's church.

11. THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS KNOWN BY ITS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS' LIVES

- A. Christians abound in the virtues of faith, character, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love - 2 Peter 1:5-9.
- B. Christians should do only what is authorized by Christ - Colossians 3:17.
- C. Their lives should show their faithfulness even unto death - Revelation 2:10.
- D. They experience newness of life - 2 Corinthians 5:17.

12. THE CHURCH'S DESTINATION IS HEAVEN – 1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-18.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. If people claiming to be the body of Christ do not identify with the teachings in the New Testament concerning the church, then they stand responsible before God.
 - A. Unity in the fullest sense (fellowship in spirit, judgment, teaching of the church, plan of salvation, organization, etc.) is possible among all who would profess to be Christians provided they all follow the word of God.
 - 1. The failure or refusal to follow this pattern set forth in the New Testament explains the present confusion and division among those who claim to be followers of Christ.

WHAT THE CHURCH IS

INTRODUCTION:

1. The question of what the church is is of utmost importance, although many seem to care little at all about dealing with the issue.

BODY:

1. IT IS THE CHURCH WE READ ABOUT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. What about the Old Testament?
 1. It is inspired by God and written for our instruction - 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Romans 15:4.
 2. The purpose of the Old Testament Law was to show man that he needed a savior and to lead man to Christ - Romans 3:19-20; Galatians 3:24.
 3. We are no longer under the Old Law - Galatians 3:25, 26; Romans 7:4-6.
- B. It is in the New Testament where we learn about Christ and His church – Matthew 16:13-18; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Hebrews 9:15.
- C. In the New Testament the word “church” means “a called out assembly.” – 2 Thessalonians 2:14.
 1. When one becomes a member of the church he becomes part of a group of people who have been called out of something.
 - A. Called out of sin into holiness of living - 1 Peter 1:14, 15.
 - B. Called out of darkness into light - 1 Peter 2:9.
 - C. Called out of the world into Christ - Colossians 1:13.
 2. What does God expect of His called out group of people? - Ephesians 4:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 1:11, 12; Matthew 5:48.

2. THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS DESCRIBED AS A KINGDOM - COLOSSIANS 1:13

- A. Descriptive terms used in the New Testament:
 1. “Kingdom of God” - Mark 1:15; 9:1; Luke 22:14-16; John 3:3, 5.
 - A. This term is used to show that God is the originator of the Kingdom.
 - B. The Kingdom is from God.
 2. “Kingdom of heaven” - Matthew 3:2; 13:31-46; 16:13-19.
 - A. Consider John 18:36 in view of this.
 3. “Colossians Kingdom of Christ” - Colossians 1:13.
 - A. Christ is the King or ruler of His Kingdom.
 - B. Christ is the head of the church.
 - C. Christ is the builder of the church - Matthew 16:18.
- B. Characteristics of a kingdom
 1. A kingdom must have a King.
 - A. Christ is the King over His kingdom - Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22; Hebrews 12:23-28.
 2. A kingdom must have subjects or citizens - Colossians 1:13, 14; Acts 2:38; John 3:5; Ephesians 2:19-22.
 3. A kingdom must have a law.
 - A. The church is not under the Old Testament Law but under a new Law - Romans 8:2; Galatians. 6:2; James 1:25; 2:8.

- B. This new Law is the Law of Love - Luke 10:25-28; Romans 13:8-10.
 - 1. How can one obey the Law? - John 14:15; 1 John 5:3; 4; Matthew 25:31-40.

3. THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS DESCRIBED AS THE BODY OF CHRIST - EPHESIANS 1:22, 23

- A. The church is that body of people who belong to Christ.
 - 1. There is only one body - Romans 12:4, 5; Ephesians 4:4.
 - 2. It is a body of many members - Romans 12:4, 5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.
 - 3. Christ is the head of the body, and all members are subject to His authority - Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22, 23; Colossians 2:9, 10.
 - 4. As a husband is head over his wife, so Christ is head over the church - Ephesians 5:23.
- B. Why is it important to be a member of the body of Christ?
 - 1. Christ is the savior of the body - Ephesians 5:23.
 - 2. We are reconciled unto God through Christ in His body - 2 Corinthians 5:18; Ephesians 2:16.
 - 3. All spiritual blessings are enjoyed in Christ - Ephesians 1:3.
 - 4. Salvation is in Christ - 2 Timothy 2:10; 1 John 2:24, 25; 5:11.

4. THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS DESCRIBED AS THE FAMILY OF GOD

- A. The church is God's family.
 - 1. Paul spoke of the church as the "house of God" - 1 Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 2:19.
 - 2. The term "house" is used to mean family - Joshua 24:15; Luke 1:27; Hebrews 11:7; Acts 10:2; 1 Peter 2:5.
 - 3. God is our Father - Ephesians 3:14; 4:6; Matthew 23:9; 1 Corinthians 8:6.
 - 4. Christ is son over God's house - Hebrews 3:6; Matthew 28:18.
 - 5. Christians are children of God - Romans 8:14-16; Galatians 3:26; 4:7.
- B. The blessings of being in God's family:
 - 1. We can approach God as our Father through Christ - Matthew 6:9; Ephesians 3:11, 12; Hebrews 4:14-16; Ephesians 2:17, 18.
 - 2. God's children have the Holy Spirit to lead and help them - Romans 8:26, 27; Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:16; 4:6.
 - 3. God provides for His children - Romans 8:32; James 1:17; Matthew 6:8, 33, 34; 7:7-11.
 - 4. We have the protection of God - 1 Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 4:6, 7.

5. THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS DESCRIBED AS THE PILLAR AND SUPPORT OF THE TRUTH – 1 TIMOTHY 3:15

- A. What is the truth? - John 17:17.
- B. How important is the truth?
 - 1. Knowledge of the truth makes men free - John 8:32.
 - 2. Obedience to the truth purifies the soul - 1 Peter 1:22.
 - 3. Jesus spoke of Himself as the truth - John 14:6.
- C. The church is just as important as the truth because the church is the pillar and support of the truth.
 - 1. The church is that which holds up the truth to the world.

WHAT THE CHURCH IS NOT

INTRODUCTION:

1. The question of what the church is not is of equal importance to the question of what the church is.

BODY:

1. THE CHURCH IS NOT A MAN MADE INSTITUTION

- A. The church was part of the eternal purpose of God - Ephesians 3:10, 11; Isaiah 2:1-4.
- B. Christ had to die to make the church possible - Ephesians 1:7; Acts 20:28.
- C. The church is a divine institution - Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22, 23; 5:29, 30; Hebrews 12:22-24.

2. THE CHURCH IS NOT CONFINED TO ANY ONE NATION

- A. The Gospel is to be preached to the entire world - Mark 16:15, 16; Matthew 28:18-20.
- B. People become members of the church by obeying the gospel – 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 6:1-4; Acts 2:37, 38, 47.
- C. The church is for all people of every nation - Isaiah 2:1-4.

3. THE CHURCH IS NOT PRIMARILY AN INSTITUTION DESIGNED TO IMPROVE SOCIAL CONDITIONS

- A. The church is to be concerned with helping the needy - Matthew 25:31-46; James 1:27; 1 John 3:17, 18; Galatians 2:10.
- B. The church is to help the needy so that they might be led to Christ – Matthew 5:16.
- C. The church is primarily an institution to save the souls of men and women who are lost in sin.
 1. Every person's greatest problem is sin and only Christ can cleanse a man from his sins - Romans 3:23; Acts 2:47; 1 John 1:7, 8, 10.
- D. To improve a man's social condition is useless unless that man can also be saved from his sins - Mark 8:36.

4. THE CHURCH IS NOT A MEETING HOUSE OR TEMPLE

- A. The church is not a man-made building - Acts 5:11.
- B. The meeting house is not holy or sacred - 1 Corinthians 6:19; 1 Peter 1:15, 16.
- C. God no longer dwells in man-made buildings - Acts 7:48; 17:28.
- D. God dwells in Christians - 1 John 3:24; Ephesians 2:22; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; Romans 8:9.

5. THE CHURCH IS NOT A DENOMINATION

- A. A denomination is a religious group that was started by men - Acts 20:29, 30; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:3, 4.
- B. The Lord's church was started by Christ himself - Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 2:20.
- C. Jesus did not want division - John 17:20-22.
- D. Division causes unbelief - John 17:21.
- E. Division implies that Christ is divided, which is not true - 1 Corinthians 1:10-15.
- F. Division is a work of the flesh - Galatians 5:19-21.
- G. God hates division - Proverbs 6:15-19.

6. THE CHURCH IS NOT ITS OWN LAWMAKER

- A. Christ is the head of the church - Ephesians 1:22; 5:23.
- B. Christ is the only Lawgiver and Judge - James 4:12.

MAN'S PERVERSION OF GOD'S PLAN

INTRODUCTION:

1. God has given us all things in His word that pertain to life and godliness - 2 Peter 1:3.
 - A. In 2 Timothy 3:16, 17 we read that the scriptures will make a man complete for every good work.
 - B. Christ tells us that in the last day we will be judged by the words that He spoke - John 12:48.
2. Consequently we must contend for the faith that was delivered once for all times. - Jude 3.
 - A. God in His foreknowledge knew that some men would not endure sound doctrine and that they would depart from the teachings of Christ and follow the teachings of men - 1 Timothy 4:1-4.
 1. For this reason God told us clearly that the Bible contains everything we need in order to be saved and to live the Christian life.
3. In this lesson we will study some of Christ's warnings against apostasy and also try to understand why there are so many different beliefs in Christianity.

BODY:

1. **GOD TOLD US THAT MEN WOULD DEPART FROM THE TRUTH – 1 TIMOTHY 4:1-4; GALATIANS 1:6-9; 2 TIMOTHY 4:3-5**
2. **WHAT CAUSES MEN TO DEPART FROM THE TRUTH?**
 - A. Ignorance of God's word - 1 Peter 3:15; Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Timothy 4:16.
 - B. Loyalty to false evil teachers - 2 Peter 2:1-3; Acts 20:28-30; 1 Timothy 4:1-4.
 - C. Loyalty to false sincere teachers - Acts 18:24-28.
 - D. Desire for a new doctrine - 2 Timothy 4:3-5.
 - E. Lack of love for the truth - 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12; 2 Timothy 4:4.
 - F. Pride - 2 Timothy 3:2-9; 1 Timothy 3:6.
 - G. Love for money - Titus 1:10, 11.
 - H. Laziness - Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Corinthians 15:58.
 - I. Failure to examine one's faith - 2 Corinthians 13:5.
 - J. Loyalty to human creeds and traditions - Galatians 1:6-12; James 4:12.
 - K. The belief that only the preacher in the church can interpret the scriptures – 1 Peter 2:9; 3:15.
 1. Since all Christians are priests, each one should be able to tell others about Christ - Acts 8:1-4.
3. **WHAT DOES GOD TELL US ABOUT MEN WHO DEPART FROM THE WORD?**
 - A. God will not accept worship if it is according to the doctrines and precepts of men - Matthew 15:9.
 - B. If a person does not abide in the teachings of Christ, he is accursed – Galatians 1:6-9.
 - C. When a person departs from Christ's doctrines, he then also departs from God – 2 John 8, 9.
 - D. God will only accept those into heaven who are obedient to His word – 1 John 2:4-5; Matthew 7:21-23.

4. HOW CAN WE PREVENT AND REMOVE RELIGIOUS DIVISION?

- A. Accept the Bible as the only rule for faith, teaching, and practice –
1 Corinthians 4:6; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.
 - 1. Christians must speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent.
- B. Study the word of God skillfully - 2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 20:28-32.
- C. Be able to discern God's word from man's teachings - John 7:17; Acts 17:10, 11.
- D. Keep the commandments of God from a heart of love - 1 John 2:3-6; John 14:21.
- E. Do not accept or fellowship any religious group as the New Testament church which does not have Christ and the teachings of the apostles as its foundations? - Ephesians 2:19, 20; 1 Corinthians 3:11.
- F. Avoid those who cause division - Romans 16:17, 18; 2 John 10, 11; 2 Peter 3:15-17; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; Titus 3:10, 11; Matthew 18:15, 17.
- G. Make the New Testament plea for unity among believers your constant prayer and work - John 17:10-11; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 2:2; Ephesians 2:13-16.
- H. Restore yourself to the New Testament pattern of doctrine and life –
2 Timothy 1:13, 14.
- I. Teach the whole counsel of God's word - Acts 20:27.
- J. Teach others who do not teach or live according to the truth - Titus 1:13, 14; 2 Timothy 4:2-4; Acts 18:24-28.

WORSHIP IN THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION:

1. Only Christians have access to God through Jesus Christ - John 14:6; Ephesians 2:18.
 - A. It is the Christian's greatest privilege to be able to approach God in worship, and God wants His children to worship Him 1 Peter 2:4, 5; Hebrews 13:15.

BODY:

1. WHAT IS WORSHIP?

- A. Worship is an act of reverence toward God.
- B. Worship is a spiritual sacrifice of a person's life to God - Romans 12:1; Titus 2:11, 12.

2. THE OBJECT OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP IS GOD - MATTHEW 4:10

- A. Christians worship a living God - John 6:57; 1 Timothy 4:10; Psalm 41:1, 2.
- B. God knows all things knowable - Psalm 147:5; 139:1-6; Acts 15:8.
- C. God is always everywhere that God can be - Psalm 139:7-12; Acts 17:28.
- D. Only the living God is worthy of worship - John 4:23, 24.

3. THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHES THE WAYS IN WHICH CHRISTIANS SHOULD EXPRESS THEIR WORSHIP TO GOD

- A. In Acts 2:42 we read what the early Christians did when they came together to worship God on the first day of the week.
 1. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship.
 2. We can follow their example by meeting together with other Christians to read and study God's word.
- A. This is an act of reverence toward God.
- B. We learn also from Acts 2:42 that the early Christians devoted themselves to the breaking of bread and prayer - Acts 20:7.
- C. Christians are also commanded to worship God by singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs – Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16.
 1. God wants His people to worship Him with music.
 2. Music has always been an important part of Christian worship.
 - A. But God does not want just any kind of music.
 - B. The kind of music God wants is singing.
 1. God says nothing in His word about any other kind of music in the worship of the New Testament church.
 2. Mechanical instrumental music, for example, is not the kind of music God wants in the worship of the church.
 - A. The only kind of music God tells us to use in Christian worship is singing; therefore, it is the only kind of music God wants.
 - B. Consider the following scriptures:
 1. 1 Corinthians 14:15
 2. Acts 16:25
 3. Ephesians 5:19
 4. Colossians 3:16
 5. Hebrews 2:12
 6. James 5:13

- D. The Bible also teaches that when Christians come together, they are to worship God by giving a part of what they have to support the work of the church.
 - 1. Giving is an act of worship to God - Philippians 4:10-18.
 - 2. The church must assist those who preach the truth - 1 Timothy 5:18.
 - A. If a preacher comes to a congregation to preach the gospel, then it is the duty of the congregation to provide for his needs with whatever they have to give.
 - 3. The church must also help other Christians who are in need.
 - A. In the time of the apostle Paul, the Christians in Jerusalem were very poor and in need of help - Romans 15:25, 26.
 - B. Because of this great need Paul commanded the Christians in Corinth to take up a collection among themselves, on the first day of each week, for the needs of the Christians in Jerusalem - 1 Corinthians 16:1-3.
 - 1. This teaches us that each congregation must take up a collection on the first day of the week to support the work of the church.
 - 2. Consider 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:1-15 on this also.
- E. We must remember that these acts of worship are merely the proper acts through which we can express our worship to God.
 - 1. These acts in themselves are not worship.
 - A. Worship is a condition of the heart and outward acts may or may not indicate the true attitude of the inward man.
 - 2. A person may go through the acts of worship and not really worship at all.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INTRODUCTION:

1. The supper instituted by the Lord gives an expression for worship.
 - A. It is a communion in which each individual eats and drinks with the Lord.
 - B. It is a monument to the body and blood of Jesus Christ, given in death for the remission of our sins.

BODY:

1. THE INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- A. Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-25; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.
 1. Its place: "In the kingdom" - Luke 22:29, 30.
- B. Who should eat?
 1. The table would be in the kingdom - Luke 22:19.
 2. Those born of water and of spirit should be in the kingdom - John 3:3-5.
 - A. He who partakes must be a citizen of the kingdom.
- C. Its origin and authority.
 1. The practice of the early church - Acts 20:7.
 2. Taught by the apostles - Matthew 28:18-20.
 3. Paul received it from the Lord - 1 Corinthians 11:23.
- D. Instituted by Christ and delivered to the apostles - Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19, 20.

2. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SUPPER

- A. It is a commemoration of a new deliverance from sin - 1 Corinthians 11:26.
- B. A three-fold significance is seen in the New Testament.
 1. A commemoration or memorial - 1 Corinthians 11:25-33.
 2. A proclamation designed to proclaim Christ's death for the sins of the world - 1 Corinthians 11:26.
 3. An examination - 1 Corinthians 11:28-32.
 - A. Christians are to partake worthily, that is, discerning (discriminate or look through an eye of faith at Christ's spiritual body, the church) the Lord's body and the significance of the emblems used in the supper.
 - B. Must be observed in peace and harmony of Christian fellowship – 1 Corinthians 10:17.
 - C. We are to examine self, not each other - 1 Corinthians 11:28.
 1. This is done in order to verify we are properly observing the supper, not that we are "worthy" to do so.

3. THE DESIGN OF THE SUPPER

- A. Anticipation, hope – "Till he come" - 1 Corinthians 11:26.
- B. Obedience to the request of Christ made in the very shadow of the cross - Matthew 26:26-29.
- C. To eat regularly and worthily is to maintain spiritual vigor – 1 Corinthians 11:29-32.
- D. Declares the death of the Lord - 1 Corinthians 11:26.

4. THE DAY AND FREQUENCY OF ITS OBSERVANCE

- A. The apostles' teaching (Acts 2:42) included "breaking bread" (Acts 20:7) and a coming together upon the first day.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 11:18 – "come together" in the church, i.e. congregation, assembly.
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 11:20 – "come together" to eat supper.
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 14:26 – "come together" unto edifying.
- B. Hence (Hebrews 10:25) - Don't forsake the assembling together.

5. THE ELEMENTS TO BE USED

- A. The bread of the Passover-unleavened - Deuteronomy 16:1-8.
 - 1. The Lord initiated the Lord's Supper at the Passover feast - Matthew 26:26-29.
- B. The fruit of the vine - Matthew 26:29.
 - 1. Grape juice was used-whether fermented or not.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. The Lord's Supper is an act of Christian worship on the first day of the week.
- 2. It is a proclamation that Christ lives.
- 3. We Christians must realize our responsibility to it: what it is and its frequency.
- 4. With this, we proclaim our Lord's death until He comes again.

SINGING

INTRODUCTION:

1. Music “is an act of expressing ideas or truths by music or sound.”
 - A. It may be good or bad.
2. The scriptures reveal that God authorizes only vocal music.
 - A. In the Old Testament, instrumental music is found - 2 Chronicles 5:13, 14; Psalm 150.
 - B. The instrument was also used in pagan forms of worship.
 - C. The silence of the apostles and prophets concerning the instrument is a strong evidence against the use of it.
 1. The apostles and prophets wrote from a Jewish background, which had used the instrument, yet made no mention of it in the early church.

BODY:

1. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

- A. Consider the following New Testament passages: Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26; Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12; James 5:13.
 1. As Christians, we are to sing by faith, for it is commanded - Romans 10:17.
- B. To sing is to “utter words or sounds in succession with musical modulations of the voice.” - New Century Dictionary.
 1. Although this definition does not give a true biblical definition.
- C. In singing, we use our lips, our tongues, our hearts, and our spirits, our understanding; as we praise God, and teach and admonish one another.
 1. An instrument made by man cannot do these things.
 2. Making sounds, to the exclusion of words, likewise, cannot do these things.
- D. The Christian walks by faith - Hebrews 10:38; 11:6; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 10:17.
 1. An instrument is not of faith.

2. THE PURPOSE OF SINGING

- A. Teach - Colossians 3:16.
- B. Admonish - Colossians 3:16.
- C. Praise - James 5:13.

3. BY SINGING, THE CHRISTIAN

- A. Makes melody with the heart to the Lord - Ephesians 5:18, 19.
- B. Sings with grace in the heart to God - Colossians 3:16.
- C. Sings with the spirit - 1 Corinthians 14:15.
- D. Sings with the understanding - 1 Corinthians 14:15.

4. POSITIVE COMMANDS

- A. Truthful songs - Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16.
 1. We should neither tell nor sing a lie.
- B. What to sing:
 1. Psalms - written by David or others.
 2. Hymns - written by men.

3. Spiritual songs - songs of spiritual nature.
- 5. THE MANNER IN WHICH WE SING**
 - A. In spirit and truth - John 4:24.
 - B. "In heart" - Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16.
 - C. To God - Colossians 3:16, 17.
 - D. To one another in order to try to influence others.
- 6. ADDING THE INSTRUMENT CONSTITUTES WILL WORSHIP**
 - A. It is as "strange fire" - Leviticus 10:1, 2.
 - B. It violates these principles:
 1. Acting by faith - 2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 10:17.
 2. God's command to sing - Music is generic but God specifies "sing" which eliminates all other music.
- 7. IS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC REALLY WRONG?**
 - A. It is not taught by Christ.
 1. Acts 1:1, 2 - The New Testament contains the record of all that Jesus began to "do and teach."
 2. He did not teach the use of instrumental music.
 3. Therefore, it is not the doctrine of Christ - 2 John 9.
 - B. Not taught by apostles.
 1. Matthew 28:18-20 - "All things."
 - A. Instrumental music was never taught!
 - B. Therefore, it is no part of the "apostles' doctrine" in which we should steadfastly continue - Acts 2:42.
 2. 1 Timothy 1:3 - "Teach no other doctrine."
 - A. Luke 10:16 - Hear Christ if we hear apostles.
 - B. 1 John 4:6 - "We are of God: He that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth us not."
 3. John 17:8, 14; 2 Corinthians 3:6 - The word came from God to Christ, to the apostles, then to us in the New Testament.
 - A. If we hear not the apostles concerning the kind of music in worship, we have a "spirit of error" - 1 John 4:6.
 - C. Not taught by the Spirit.
 1. John 16:13 - "Guide into all truth."
 - A. Reference to the apostles being guided.
 2. John 14:26 - "Teach all things, bring to remembrance."
 - A. Same point as per above.
 3. The Spirit did not guide them to use mechanical instrumental music in worship, did teach it, nor bring it to their remembrance.
 4. Since we are not led of the Spirit in the same fashion as the apostles, no one is led by the Spirit to use it in worship.
 - D. Not found in truth.
 1. John 1:17 - The truth by which we are guided came not by Moses-but by Christ.
 2. The Spirit was to guide apostles into "all truth."
 3. Does not contain instrumental music in worship.

- A. Therefore, it is not a matter of truth.
- 4. “True” worship (John 4:24) must be confined to items of worship contained in truth - John 17:17.
- 8. MUSIC IN HEAVEN**
 - A. Revelation 14:1-3.
 - 1. John heard one thing.
 - 2. That was singing.
 - A. This singing was as:
 - 1. Many waters – rhythm.
 - 2. Great thunder – volume.
 - 3. Harpers – melody.
 - 3. This was not in the church but in heaven.
 - A. If he had said there are literal harps in heaven, it would not be right to use them until we get there.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. God's people-since deliverance from Egypt's bondage have expressed their gratitude to and admiration of God in song.
 - A. God has selected it as a means of worship for His church.
 - B. Christians should make a joyous noise to the Lord and produce melodious sounds together with the lips expressing the desire of the heart.

PRAYER

INTRODUCTION:

1. There is a universal tendency to pray, recognized among all races in all ages.
 - A. Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple takes for granted that any stranger from anywhere on earth is likely to be a praying man – 2 Chronicles 6:32, 33.
 - B. Paul, in his sermon on Mar's Hill, recognized this universal tendency – Acts 17:22-29.

BODY:

1. WHAT PRAYER IS

- A. Prayer is man talking to God.
 1. It is the heart's desire expressed to God - Romans 10:1.
- B. Prayer is:
 1. Supplication - an earnest entreaty.
 2. Petition - wishing toward
 3. Intercession - place in behalf of another
 4. Thanksgiving - 1 Timothy 2:1, 2.
- C. Prayer should be from the heart, the outgrowth of fellowship and intimacy with God "Our Father" - Matthew 6:9-15; 7:7-12.

2. WHOSE PRAYER GOD HEARS

- A. Only God's child can address Him as Father - Matthew 6:9.
- B. The basis of this Father-son relationship is Jesus Christ (John 14:6); established by His blood - Hebrews 2:9-11; Ephesians 2:14-19.
- C. Therefore, God hears:
 1. The righteous - James 5:16; 1 Peter 3:12.
 2. The obedient - 1 John 3:22.
 3. His children who do His will - Matthew 6:9.

3. PRAYING IN THE NAME OF JESUS

- A. Three times in His last discourse with the disciples Jesus emphasized praying in His name - John 14:13, 14; 15:16; 16:24, 26.
 1. To ask in Jesus' name is not just a talisman tacked to a prayer.
 2. It is praying "in Him," with His endorsement, backed by all that He is, and as claimant of all the blessings He has procured for us.

4. MOTIVES IN PRAYING

- A. Not as hypocrite, but approaching God.
- B. We should avoid:
 1. Seeking men's praises - Matthew 6:5-8.
 2. Vain repetition - Mark 14:39.
 - A. This passage shows that we can have repetition without having vain repetition.
- C. We should practice:
 1. Trust
 2. Private prayer

- 3. Awareness - Hebrews 4:16.
- D. Learning to pray:
 - 1. Model prayer - Matthew 6:9, 10.
 - 2. Prayer should be specific.
 - A. Thanksgiving for our food - 1 Timothy 4:3.
 - B. For the sick - James 5:13, 14.
 - C. Around the Lord's table - 1 Corinthians 11:23, 24.
 - D. Intercessory prayer - John 17:20, 21; 1 Timothy 2:1; 1 John 5:16.
 - E. Hindrances to our prayers - James 4:3; Mark 11:25, 26; James 1:6, 7.
- 5. PERTAINING TO CHRISTIANS**
 - A. Pray always - Luke 18:1.
 - B. Without ceasing - 1 Thessalonians 5:17.
 - C. Pray for rulers of all lands - 1 Timothy 2:1-7.
 - D. Pray for strength in temptation - Matthew 26:41.
 - E. Pray for all the saints, and for the victory of the word in lives of hearers - Ephesians 6:18, 19; Colossians 4:2-4; 2 Thessalonians 3:1, 2.
 - F. When prayer seems unanswered, the Christian should not be discouraged.
 - 1. The prayer may have been contrary to faith or God may have something else in store for him instead of that for which he prayed.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Today, miracles have ceased as their purpose has been accomplished.
 - A. However, God still rules the church and in the lives of His people.
 - B. He answers prayer through his providential care.
 - C. Through God's word we know that when we bend our will to his and ask for his guidance, he works things out for our good and to his glory – Romans 8:28.

GIVING

INTRODUCTION:

1. Giving is an important sign of one's commitment to another.
 - A. Thus, the Christian may show his love and commitment to the Lord in his giving to the Lord.

BODY:

1. GOD'S OWNERSHIP IS COMPLETE AND INDISPUTABLE

- A. Heaven and earth are His, and the fullness of each - Genesis 14:19, 20; Deuteronomy 10:14; Psalms 24:1; 89:11.
 1. All are His by virtue of creation - Genesis 1:1.
- B. The land was His, Israelites were stewards (Leviticus 25:23); therefore the Sabbatical and Jubilee years - Leviticus 25.
- C. Every beast is His - Psalm 50:10-12.
 1. Silver and gold belong to Him - Haggai 2:8.
- D. By right, all souls belong to Him (Ezekiel 18:4); by purchase, all Christians belong to Him - 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20.

2. CONSEQUENTLY, ALL LIFE IS A STEWARDSHIP

- A. Christians are stewards, trustees or caretakers of that which belongs to another - Luke 16:1-13.
 1. Must be faithful as good stewards (1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 4:1, 2); not wasting goods - Luke 16:1.
 2. Must render account of stewardship - Romans 14:12.
 3. God demands a "first-fruit offering" - Leviticus 23:9-14; Matthew 6:33.

3. FELLOWSHIP-MUTUAL PARTICIPATION

- A. In love - 1 Peter 1:22, Colossians 2:2.
- B. In suffering - Galatians 6:2.
- C. In service - Galatians 2:9, 10; Philippians 1:5.
- D. In finance - "Let each one of you" (1 Corinthians 16:1, 2), "According to his ability" - 2 Corinthians 8:12), "Equality" - 2 Corinthians 8:13-15.
 1. Equality in bearing the financial burden of the church does not mean one giving as much as another (2 Corinthians 10:12), but each one giving according to his ability.
 2. Individual ability is the basis of personal responsibility - Matthew 25:41-44.
 3. One cannot be in "full fellowship" until he is doing his part - Mark 12:41-44.

4. LOVE, CONSECRATION OF SELF-THE BASIS OF GIVING

- A. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 8:8-24.
- B. Cannot serve both God and Mammon - Luke 16:13-15.
- C. Giving is proof of "the sincerity" of our love - 2 Corinthians 8:8, 9.
- D. Giving is voluntary, not compulsory - 2 Corinthians 8:12.

5. CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW TESTAMENT GIVING

- A. Regularly (1 Corinthians 16:1, 2) - First day of the week.
- B. Systematically (1 Corinthians 16:1, 2) - Lay by in store.
- C. Individually (1 Corinthians 16:1, 2) - Each one of you.

- D. Liberally - 2 Corinthians 8:1-4.
- E. Purposefully (2 Corinthians 8:12-15) - Not haphazardly.
- F. Cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7) - God loves a cheerful giver.
- G. Readily (2 Corinthians 8:12) - Whatever his gift may be.

CONCLUSION:

1. The church is engaged in the greatest mission under heaven.
 - A. Money is absolutely essential in carrying on its work.
2. Thus, the proper use of money assumes an important place in the Christian's life.
 - A. Christians in making money must take “thought for things honorable in the sight of all men” and using the money we make must have the glory of God in mind.
 1. Let us learn that giving is a stewardship; and stewardship is exacting.
3. There will be a calling to account.
 - A. It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful - 1 Corinthians 4:1, 2.

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION:

1. The church was instituted by God to perform the work that He has set before her.
 - A. In this lesson we want to consider three areas of work.

BODY:

1. THE WORK OF EVANGELISM

- A. Evangelizing the world is the most important work of the church.
 1. The primary purpose of the church is to preach the gospel to those who are lost in sin.
 - A. Only the gospel of Christ has the power to save those who believe. - Romans 1:16.
 - B. But how can people believe and obey the gospel if they never hear about the story of Christ?
- B. God expects each member of the church to share the gospel of Christ with others.
 1. This is not just the work of preachers.
 2. Telling the story of Christ is the work of every member of the Lord's church.
- C. All those who are old enough to believe yet who are not in Christ are lost in sin – Romans 3:23; 6:23.
 1. The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes - Romans 1:16.
 - A. The gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ – 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.
 2. One must obey the gospel in order to escape eternal destruction – 2 Thessalonians 1:8, 9.
 3. How does one obey the gospel? - Romans 6:3-11.
- D. How can a person believe and obey the gospel if he has never heard about the story of Christ?
 1. Members of the Lord's church must tell others about the gospel.
- E. The great mission command.
 1. Christ commanded His disciples to go into the entire world and preach the gospel - Mark 16:15, 16.
 - A. God sent Christ into the world to “seek and save the lost” - Luke 19:10.
 - B. Then Christ said to His disciples, “...as the Father has sent me, I also send you” - John 20:21.
 - C. Christ has given a mission command, and that command is to go to the lost and tell them the story of Jesus.
 2. The preaching of the gospel leads to a spiritual new birth.
 - A. This new birth involves:
 1. Faith - Mark 16:16.
 2. Repentance - Luke 24:47.
 3. Obedience in baptism - Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16.
 4. The forgiveness of sins and salvation - Luke 24:47; Mark 16:16.
 3. The mission command also involves teaching - Mark 16:15, 16.
 - A. Christians must go and make disciples and then teach those disciples all

that Christ has commanded - Matthew 28:19, 20.

- B. Among the things that Christ commanded is the command to go and tell others about the gospel.
- C. Every new Christian must be taught how to share Christ with others.
- 4. The church was busy evangelizing the world in the first century.
 - A. The preaching of the gospel began in Jerusalem when the church was first established - Acts 1:8; Acts 2:14-41.
 - B. When persecution came upon the Jerusalem church the Christians went everywhere preaching the word - Acts 8:4.
 - C. Philip preached Christ in the city of Samaria (Acts 8:5) and also to the man from Ethiopia - Acts 8:26-40.
 - D. The brethren in Thessalonica sounded out the word of the Lord – 1 Thessalonians 1:2-8.
- 5. The gospel was taught publicly and privately - Acts 20:20; Acts 20:24, 27; Acts 5:42.
 - A. We must do the same today.
- 6. Every member of the church should study the Bible and within a reasonable period of time be able to teach others - Hebrews 5:12-14; 2 Timothy 2:15; 2:2.

2. THE WORK OF TEACHING

- A. There were teachers in the church at Antioch - Acts 13:1.
- B. Timothy was told to teach other Christians who would then be able to teach others - 2 Timothy 2:2.
- C. The teachers in the church will receive a heavier judgment - James 3:1.
- D. Those who have been in the church for a long time should be able to teach others. - Hebrews 5:12.
- E. What is the purpose of teaching?
 - 1. The purpose of teaching is to prepare Christians for service - Ephesians 4:12.
 - 2. The purpose is to build up the body of Christ - Ephesians 4:12; Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11.
 - 3. Christians are to be strong in the Lord - Ephesians 6:10.
 - 4. Christians are to be rooted and grounded in the faith - Colossians 2:6, 7; 1 Corinthians 16:13.
 - 5. Christians need to set their minds on heavenly things - Colossians 3:1-3.
 - A. This happens when Christians come together to study and worship.
 - 6. Christians need to be taught how Jesus lived so that they can follow in His steps - 1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 2:6; Philippians 2:3-8.
 - 7. Christians must grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ - 2 Peter 3:18.
 - 8. Christians must be taught to be doers of the word and not hearers only – James 1:22-25.
 - 9. Christians must be taught how to share the gospel with those who are not Christians.
 - A. Every Christian should learn how to tell others about the story of Christ - Colossians 4:6; 1 Peter 3:15.

3. THE WORK OF HELPING THOSE IN NEED

- A. The church is to help those who are in need.
- B. What does the Bible say?

1. The Bible teaches that Christians should work so they will be able to help the needy - Ephesians 4:28.
 2. Dorcas made clothes for widows - Acts 9:36, 39.
 3. Consider James 1:27.
- B. The church in the first century was busy helping those in need.
1. Some Christians sold their possessions and divided their money with the poor - Acts 2:45; 4:34, 35.
 2. The church in Antioch helped the needy in Judea - Acts 11:27-30.
 3. Congregations are commanded to give to those in need - 1 Corinthians 16:1-5.

CONCLUSION:

1. As Jesus was busy doing the work of Him that sent him (John 9:4), we, too, must be steadfast in the work of the Lord – 1 Corinthians 15:58.

DISCIPLINE IN THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION:

1. The church is the family of God, and every member of the church is a child of God.
 - A. God wants His children to obey Him and to live good lives so that when others see His children, they will give glory to God the Father - Matthew 5:14-16.
 - B. Paul said that Christians should do all to the glory of God - 1 Corinthians 10:31.
2. If a Christian does not glorify God by his actions, then that Christian should be corrected so that God and His church will not be dishonored - Galatians 6:1.
 - A. As we study what the Bible teaches, we will see that discipline is necessary for the growth, development, and purity of the church.

BODY:

1. **GOD DISCIPLINES HIS CHILDREN BECAUSE HE LOVES THEM AND WANTS THEM TO BE SAVED - HEBREWS 12:5-11**
2. **WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR DISCIPLINE?**
 - A. Discipline will cause one to be sound in the faith - Titus 1:13.
 - B. Discipline will cause one to be ashamed - 2 Thessalonians 3:14, 15.
 - C. Discipline will maintain the purity of the church - 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, 13.
 - D. Discipline will cause one to produce fruits of righteousness - Hebrews 12:11.
 - E. Discipline will cause the rest of the congregation to stand in fear – 1 Timothy 5:20; Acts 5:5.
 - F. We should discipline and be disciplined because God commands it – 2 Thessalonians 3:6; Titus 3:10, 11.
3. **EXAMPLES OF DISCIPLINE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**
 - A. Timothy was sent to discipline some members of the church in Ephesus - 1 Timothy 1:3, 4; 3:14, 15; 2 Timothy 2:14-18, 4:2.
 - B. There was an immoral man in the Corinthian church, and Paul instructed them to discipline such a man - 1 Corinthians 5:1-13.
4. **WHO SHOULD BE DISCIPLINED?**
 - A. Those who cause division - Romans 16:17, 18; Titus 3:10, 11.
 - B. Those who will not work to support their families - 2 Thessalonians 3:6-14.
 - C. Those who are immoral - 1 Corinthians 5:1-5.
5. **HOW TO DISCIPLINE**
 - A. Study Matthew 18:15-17.
 1. Keep in mind that this relates specifically to personal issues between brethren.
 - B. An offender should be talked to, prayed for, and pleaded with patiently and tenderly.
 1. If he does not repent within due time, then the congregation should have nothing to do with him fellowship wise until he repents – 1 Corinthians 5:4, 5; Galatians 6:1; James 5:19, 20; 1 Timothy 5:20.
 - C. The unrepentant offender should be delivered to Satan - 1 Corinthians 5:5; 1 Timothy 1:20.
 - D. We are to have no company with him in such a way as to indicate spiritual acceptance - 2 Thessalonians 3:14.

- E. Do not even eat with the one who has been withdrawn from in such a way that would indicate fellowship - 1 Corinthians 5:9-11.
- F. We are not to treat him as an enemy but rather to admonish him as a brother – 2 Thessalonians 3:15.

6. THINGS TO REMEMBER

- A. Let God's Word decide what is right and wrong.
- B. Remember that the purpose of discipline is to cause one to repent of his sin and be saved - 2 Corinthians 2:6-8.
- C. Remember that some men's sins are not evident - 1 Timothy 5:24.

ELDERS IN THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Bible teaches that the elders of a local church are those qualified men who are chosen to lead the congregation in the ways of Christ.
 - A. A man is not qualified to be an elder of the church just by his age.
 - B. An elder is a man who has been a Christian for a long time and who knows the ways of Christ.
 - C. An elder is a man who has studied the Bible for many years and who is able to teach the word of God to others.

BODY:

1. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS:

- A. Note carefully: 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
 1. Desire for the office - 1 Timothy 3:1.
 - A. Elders must work hard, and each man must want to do the work.
 2. Blameless; without reproach - 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6.
 - A. These words describe a man who has lived a faithful Christian life for many years.
 - B. Such a man is respected by those who know him, and he is looked to as an example of a good Christian man.
 1. Such a man is kind, helpful, and honest in all his dealings.
 - C. The husband of one wife - 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6.
 1. An elder must be married and have only one wife.
 - D. He is to be temperate - 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8.
 - E. He must be sensible - 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8.
 - F. He must be respectable and well-behaved - 1 Timothy 3:2.
 - G. He must be hospitable - 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8.
 - H. He must be able to teach - 1 Timothy 3:2.
 - I. He must be able to exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who are in error - Titus 1:9.
 - J. He must not be a drunkard - 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7.
 - K. He must not be violent - 1 Timothy 3:3.
 - L. He must be gentle - 1 Timothy 3:3.
 - M. He must not be quarrelsome - 1 Timothy 3:3.
 - N. He must not be a lover of money - 1 Timothy 3:3.
 - O. He must not be fond of dishonest gain - Titus 1:7.
 - P. He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control - 1 Timothy 3:4, 5.
 - Q. He must have children who believe - Titus 1:6.
 - R. He must not be a new convert - 1 Timothy 3:6.
 - S. He must have a good reputation with those outside the church – 1 Timothy 3:7.
 - T. He must not be arrogant or stubborn - Titus 1:7.
 - U. He must not be one who is easily angered - Titus 1:7.
 - V. He must love what is good - Titus 1:8.

- W. He must be fair or just - Titus 1:8.
- X. He must be devout - Titus 1:8.
- Y. He must be self-controlled - Titus 1:8.

2. THE DUTIES OF ELDERS

- A. 1 Peter 5:1-5
- B. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15
- C. The elders are to guard the church against false teachers - Acts 20:28-31; Hebrews 13:17.
- D. The elders must be able to exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who are in error - Titus 1:9-11.
- E. The elders are to visit the sick and pray for them - James 5:14.

3. THE DUTIES OF THE MEMBERS TOWARD THE ELDERS

- A. The members are to obey the elders - Hebrews 13:17.
- B. The members must know the elders - 1 Thessalonians 5:12.
- C. The members must love them for their work - 1 Thessalonians 5:13.
- D. The members must consider the elders worthy of honor - 1 Timothy 5:17, 18.
- E. The members must not receive an accusation against an elder unless it is verified by two or three witnesses - 1 Timothy 5:19.

4. HOW TO APPOINT ELDERS

- A. The whole congregation comes together to study the qualifications and work of elders - 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9.
- B. After the congregation has studied the qualifications, they should be able to see if there are any qualified men in the congregation who could serve as elders.
 - 1. If the congregation sees that there is only one man qualified, then the congregation CANNOT appoint him as an elder.
 - 2. The New Testament teaches that there must always be more than one elder over a congregation – Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5.
 - A. There must never be one elder over any congregation.
- C. If the congregation sees that there are no qualified men, they cannot appoint elders.

DEACONS IN THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION:

1. The deacons of the church are those qualified men who have been chosen by the congregation to serve the church in special ways as directed by the elders.
2. The word “deacon” means “one who serves under another.”
 - A. Deacons are the servants of the church, and they are to do the things that the elders ask them to do.
3. The Bible teaches that deacons must be qualified to do their work.

BODY:

1. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS

- A. 1 Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6:1-6.
 1. A deacon must be serious - 1 Timothy 3:8.
 2. He must not be insincere - 1 Timothy 3:8.
 - A. He must not say one thing and mean another.
 3. He must not be a drunkard - 1 Timothy 3:8.
 4. He must not be greedy for gain - 1 Timothy 3:8.
 - A. He must not be one who tries to get money in dishonest ways – 1 Timothy 6: 10.
 5. He must “hold the mystery of the faith in a clear conscience” 1 Timothy 3:9.
 - A. What is “the mystery of the faith?”
 1. 1 Timothy 3:16; Ephesians 1:9, 10; Romans 16:25, 26.
 2. The “mystery” has been revealed in the gospel.
 - B. Deacons are to hold to the gospel of Christ which God has revealed to us in the Bible - Jude 3.
 1. To “hold the mystery of the faith in a clear conscience” is to know God's will and to always strive to do His will in daily Christian living.
 6. Before a man can become a deacon, he must be tested; then if he proves himself blameless, let him serve as a deacon - 1 Timothy 3:10.
 7. He must be the husband of one wife - 1 Timothy 3:12.
 - A. This means that he must be married and have only wife.
 8. He must manage his children and his household well - 1 Timothy 3:12.
 - A. What is the husband's responsibility to his family?
 1. See Ephesians 5:25-33; 6:1-6.
 9. A deacon must be of good report - Acts 6:3.
 - A. He must be respected by Christians and also by those outside the church.
 10. A deacon must be full of the Holy Spirit and full of wisdom - Acts 6:3.
 - A. What is the fruit of the Spirit? - Galatians 5:22-26.
 - B. Wisdom is the proper application of knowledge.

2. THE DUTIES OF DEACONS

- A. The Bible does not tell us exactly what the duties of deacons are.
 1. But we can learn something from the word “dea” as it is used in the New Testament.
- B. We have already learned that the word “deacon” means “one who serves under

another.”

1. The deacons are the elder's helpers.
2. The deacons serve under the elders.
 - A. If the elders need something done that they themselves do not have the time to do, the elders should give the job to one of the deacons.
3. The duties of deacons are given to them by the leaders; and if there are no elders, then there should be no deacons.
- C. The book of Acts may well give us an example of the work of deacons – Acts 6:1-6.
 1. We learn from this passage that the deacons were selected to help the needy.
- D. The deacons are to help wherever they can under the direction of the elders.

3. WOMEN WHO SERVE

- A. New Testament examples:
 1. Phoebe - Romans 16:1.
 2. Dorcas - Acts 9:36-41.
 3. Unnamed women - Philippians 4:2, 3.
- B. What can women do?
 1. They can help the needy.
 2. They can help the church in its work.

4. THE SELECTION OF DEACONS

- A. Deacons should be selected in the same way as elders are selected.
- B. Principles to follow in selecting elders and deacons:
 1. The whole congregation should study what the Bible teaches about elders and deacons.
 2. It is not a matter of voting.
 3. It is not a matter of personal friendships.
 4. Christians should pray about it.
 5. They should consider the good of the church.
 6. Remember, that a man should not be selected if he is not qualified.
 7. Remember, that where there are no elders it is not expedient to have deacons.

THE PREACHER AND HIS MINISTRY

INTRODUCTION:

1. In the New Testament we read of two young men who were preachers in local congregations.
 - A. These two men were Timothy and Titus.
 1. Timothy preached in Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3), and Titus preached in Crete - Titus 1:5.
2. We learn from these two scriptures that Timothy and Titus were sent to these places to help strengthen the congregations.
 - A. The apostle Paul wrote two letters to Timothy and one letter to Titus, and it is from these letters that we can learn much about the preacher and his work.

BODY:

1. THE PREACHER AND HIS WORK

- A. A preacher is one who does the work of an evangelist - 2 Timothy 4:5.
 1. What is the work of an evangelist?
 - A. Philip was an evangelist (Acts 21:8), and we read of his work in Acts 8:5, 12, 26-40.
 - A. An evangelist is one who preaches the gospel to the lost.
 2. Paul told Timothy to do the work of an evangelist – 2 Timothy 4:5.
- B. A preacher is one who teaches the brethren - 1 Timothy 4:6, 11, 13, 16.
 1. He must be able to teach – 2 Timothy 2:2.
- C. A preacher is one who is an example to the brethren - 1 Timothy 4:12.
- D. A preacher is one who warns the congregation against false doctrines – 1 Timothy 1:3; 4:1-6.
- E. A preacher is one who preaches Christ - 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.
- F. A preacher is one who declares the whole counsel of God.
 1. Paul was a preacher (1 Timothy 2:7), and this is what he did - Acts 20:27.
- G. Study 2 Timothy 2:1-5 and Titus 1:13.
 1. From these two scriptures we learn that preachers are to teach the brethren what the Bible forbids and what the Bible commands so that the brethren will be sound in the faith.

2. THE PREACHER AND HIS ATTITUDE

- A. “The Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, able to teach, patient, correcting his opponents with gentleness” - 2 Timothy 2:24, 25.
- B. He is to do nothing from partiality - 1 Timothy 5:21.
- C. He must not work for the purpose of receiving glory from men – 1 Thessalonians 2:6; Galatians 1:10.

3. THE GOAL OF A PREACHER

- A. To save himself - 1 Timothy 4:16.
- B. To save others - 1 Timothy 4:16.

4. FAITHFUL GOSPEL PREACHERS SHOULD BE ASSISTED BY THE BRETHREN

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:3-14

THE CHRISTIAN HOME

INTRODUCTION:

1. God instituted three “organizations.”
 - A. The home was the first.
2. Numerous passages in the Scriptures are given in order for man to understand what God intends the home to be.

BODY:

1. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT THERE IS PURPOSE IN MARRIAGE

- A. Marriage is the beginning of a new home - Genesis 2:24.
 1. It was the first divine institution.
- B. Marriage provides needed human companionship - Genesis 2:18;
1 Corinthians 11:9, 11, 12.
- C. Marriage fulfills the desire for children - Genesis 1:28.
- D. Marriage fulfills and satisfies the physical desires - 1 Corinthians 7:2-5;
Genesis 2:24.
- E. Marriage develops and nurtures an atmosphere of love in which children can be developed in the nurture and admonition of the Lord - Ephesians 6:4.
- F. A proper marriage relationship will help each partner to develop spiritually - Ephesians 5:22, 23; 1 Peter 3:7.

2. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN MAN?

- A. The Christian man in preparation for marriage:
 1. Preparation of the person - Ephesians 5:26-29.
 2. Preparation of the potential provider - 1 Timothy 5:8.
 3. Preparation for marriage by remaining pure - 1 Timothy 4:12;
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; 7:9.
- B. The Christian man as leader and provider:
 1. Order of creation implies leadership - 1 Timothy 2:13; 1 Corinthians 11:8.
 2. The nature of the woman reflects man's role as leader - Genesis 2:20.
 3. Woman is subjected to her husband - Ephesians 5:22, 23; Colossians 3:18;
Titus 2:5.
 4. Man is an able provider - 1 Timothy 5:8.
- C. The Christian man as a companion:
 1. He loves his wife - Ephesians 5:23-25.
 2. He represents his wife in public worship assemblies - 1 Corinthians 14:34.
- D. The Christian man as a sexual partner:
 1. God created the sexes - Genesis 1:26; 2:21-23.
 2. The two shall be one - Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:5.
 3. He should give his wife her conjugal rights - 1 Corinthians 7:3-5;
Ephesians 5:28-31.
- E. The Christian man as a father:
 1. He is to teach his children the word of God - Deuteronomy 6:6, 7; 32:46, 47;
Proverbs 22:6.
 2. He is to discipline his children - Hebrews 12:5, 7; Ephesians 6:4.
 3. He comforts and exhorts them - 1 Thessalonians 2:11.

4. He pities his children's suffering - Psalm 103:13.
5. He grieves at their folly - Proverbs 17:25.
- 3. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN WOMAN?**
 - A. The Christian woman in preparation:
 1. Preparation in person - Proverbs 31:10, 30.
 2. Preparation of premarital purity - 1 Timothy 2:9, 10; 4:12.
 - B. The Christian woman as homemaker:
 1. She is to rule the household - 1 Timothy 5:14.
 2. She is to work at home - Proverbs 31:27; Titus 2:5.
 3. She is a help meet - Genesis 2:20.
 - C. The Christian woman as a companion:
 1. She is the man's help meet - Genesis 2:18.
 2. She subjects herself to him - Ephesians 5:22.
 - D. The Christian woman as a sexual partner:
 1. The two shall be one - Genesis 2:24; 3:16.
 2. She should give to her husband his conjugal rights - 1 Corinthians 7:3, 4.
 - E. The Christian woman as a mother:
 1. She is to bear children - 1 Timothy 5:14.
 2. She is to train up her children - Proverbs 22:6; Deuteronomy 6:6, 7.
 3. Solomon gives the portrait of a godly mother - Proverbs 31:13-21, 27.
- 4. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT CHILDREN?**
 - A. Children are a blessing to their parents - Psalm 127:3.
 - B. What are their responsibilities?
 1. They are to honor their father and mother - Ephesians 6:2, 3.
 2. They are to obey their parents - Ephesians 6:1.
 - C. What is the Christian youth's responsibility if his non-Christian parents object to his faith? - Acts 5:29.
- 5. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE?**
 - A. What is God's plan concerning marriage?
 1. Male and female shall become one - Genesis 2:24.
 2. They are bound to each other until death - Matthew 19:6; 1 Corinthians 7:39.
 - B. What does the Bible teach about divorce? - Matthew 19:3.
 1. "male and female created he them." - Genesis 1:27.
 2. "the two shall become one flesh." - Genesis 2:24.
 3. "what therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." – Matthew 19:6.
 4. "...from the beginning it was not so." - Matthew 19:7, 8.
 - C. What does the Bible teach concerning remarriage?
 1. When is the marriage bond broken in God's sight?
 - A. When a mate dies – Romans 7:1-4; 7:39.
 - B. When a mate commits fornication - Matthew 19:9.
 2. Whom should the innocent person remarry?
 - A. Someone who is a Christian - 1 Corinthians 7:39, 2 Corinthians 6:14.
 - B. Someone who is not an adulterer - Matthew 5:32.

CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES

INTRODUCTION:

1. This lesson includes only a few of the basic principles that Christians must have in their lives.
 - A. There are many more principles which are taught in the Bible that are just as important as the ones discussed in the lesson here.

BODY:

1. LOVE

- A. Love is defined as a person's character and attitude of good will and kindness.
 1. It is recognizing how valuable, priceless, and precious an object is.
 - A. God is love - 1 John 4:7-12, 16.
 2. God's love is shown to us in His redemption plan.
 - A. Jesus died as a sacrifice on the cross for our sins - Ephesians 2:4-7; Romans 8:32.
 3. Real love is expressed in service.
 - A. It requires action rather than just saying I love - 1 John 3:18.
 4. Real love lasts forever and never ends - 1 Corinthians 13:7, 8.
 - A. Nothing can separate us from God's love - Romans 8:33-39.
 5. Jesus gave a new commandment that we love one another even as He has loved us - John 13:34, 35.
- B. How is our love for God measured?
 1. Our love for God is measured by our obedience to God's word – John 14:15, 21, 24; 1 John 5:3; 2 John 1:6.
 2. Our love for God is measured by how much we love our brother and fellow man - 1 Peter 2:17; 1 John 3:10; 4:7, 8, 11, 20, 21.
- C. Why should I love other people?
 1. I should love other people because God first loved me and gave Christ to die for my sins - John 3:16-21; 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15; 8:8, 9; 1 John 4:9, 10, 19.
 2. Without love for other people, anything else we do is vain and worth nothing. - 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.
 3. Without love we cannot abide in God - 1 John 4:16, 17.
 4. Without love we cannot be followers of Christ - John 13:31-35; 15:12-17; Romans 8:28.
 5. If we do not love our neighbor or brother, we cannot love God – 1 John 4:20, 21.
 6. Love causes us to seek good for our neighbor - 1 Corinthians 10:24.
- D. Who is my neighbor? - Luke 10:29-37; John 4:7-10.
 1. My neighbor is not just the person who lives in the house next to me.
 2. My neighbor is not just a person who lives in my own city.
 3. My neighbor is anyone I meet in need whom I can help.
 - A. My neighbor is the man sick and in need whom I can help.
 - B. My neighbor is the orphan or widow in need whom I can help.
 - C. My neighbor is my enemy when he is hungry, thirsty, or in need.
 1. Christ tells us to love our enemies at all times - Romans 12:20;

Matthew 5:43-48.

4. Love will not let me hurt other people - Romans 13:8-10.
- E. We are to love our enemies - Matthew 5:38-46; Luke 6:27-37; Romans 12:14-21; Proverbs 19:11; 24:17, 29; 25:21, 22.
 1. If we love our enemies, we will forgive them and not hold grudges against them - Luke 6:27-37; Matthew 5:7.
 2. Christ showed a forgiving attitude even as His enemies were killing Him - Luke 23:34.
 3. Stephen showed a forgiving attitude even as his enemies were killing him - Acts 7:54-60.

2. HUMILITY

- A. Humility is defined as the absence of haughtiness or pride of spirit.
 1. A humble person is not puffed up with self-importance.
- B. Humility means to be willing to become the servant of other people – Matthew 23:11, 12; Mark 9:33-35.
 1. Jesus did not come to earth to please Himself - Romans 15:1-3.
 2. Jesus became a servant and obeyed God - Philippians 2:3-8.
 3. Jesus served His disciples and washed their feet - John 13:1-17.
 4. Jesus became a servant so that we could have all spiritual blessings - 2 Corinthians 8:9.
 5. We should be servants to other people - 1 Corinthians 9:18-23.
 6. We should do good to all men - Galatians 6:10.
 7. For us to be first or great in God's kingdom or church today, we must be servants of other people – Matthew, 20:26, 27; Mark 10:43.
- C. Humility is unselfishness.
 1. It seeks to do good to other people, not just to seek pleasure and good things for ourselves - 1 Corinthians 13:4, 5; Romans 12:10.
- D. Why should a man be humble?
 1. God is against the proud but is in favor of the humble - 1 Peter 5:5, 6; 3:8; James 4:6-10; Proverbs 3:34.
 2. God hates pride in a man - Proverbs 8:13; 6:16-19; 16:5; Psalm 12:3, 4; 73:1-28; 101:5.
 3. Pride will destroy a man - Proverbs 18:12; 1 Corinthians 10:12.
 4. Pride is a sin - 2 Timothy 3:2-9.
 5. Pride will cause a man to teach things that are not in God's word, the Bible – 1 Timothy 6:3-10.
 6. We are not to puff ourselves up, be high minded, or think of ourselves as being better than other people - Romans 12:3-19; 1 Corinthians 4:6, 7; 5:2, 6; 10:12, 13, 17, 18.
 - A. In God's sight we are all equal - Acts 10:34, 35; Colossians 3:25.

3. FORGIVENESS

- A. Forgiveness means pardon.
 1. When one forgives, he stops feeling anger, resentment, or hatred against a man.
 - A. He forgets about the harm someone has brought to him and gives up any

desire to punish the wrongdoer.

B. He does not hold a grudge against the one whom he has forgiven.

B. Why should I forgive other people?

1. I should forgive other people because God has forgiven my sins – Acts 5:31; 26:18; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 1:13, 14; 3:13-15; 1John 1:9.
2. I should forgive other people because God will not forgive my sins unless I forgive others - Matthew 6:12-15; 18:21-35; Mark 11:25, 26; Luke 6:37; 7:36-50; 11:4; 17:3, 4.
3. If I do not forgive others, I cannot be pleasing to God when I worship - Matthew 5:23, 24.

C. How many times should I forgive someone who sins or commits wrong against me? - Matthew 18:21, 22; Luke 17:3, 4.

1. There is no limit to how many times I should forgive someone.
2. I must be willing to forgive someone every time he sins when he repents.
 - A. When a person sins, he must repent for God to forgive him.
 1. God is willing to forgive.
 2. We must be willing to forgive also.

D. We need to treat other people as we want them to treat us.

1. We must forgive others in the same way that we want them to forgive us when we sin against them - Matthew 7:12; 1 Peter 3:9-12.

E. Here are some examples of forgiveness in the Bible.

1. Joseph forgave his brothers even after they had sold him into slavery - Genesis 37:1-36; 45:1-15; 50:15-21.
2. David forgave Saul who tried to kill him - 1 Samuel 17:17-58; 18:1-12, 28-29; 19:8-10; 24:1-22; 26:1-25.
3. Jesus forgave His enemies who killed Him – Luke 23:34; Acts 2:41.
4. Stephen was willing to forgive the people who killed him - Acts 7:54-60.

4. HONESTY

A. To be honest means to be fair, trustworthy, truthful, free from trickery, or false sayings.

1. An honest person will not steal, cheat, or lie - Romans 12:17; 13:13; Philippians 4:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Hebrews 13:18.

B. In what ways are we to be honest?

1. We are to be fair and truthful in business dealings and in trading – Proverbs 20:10; Luke 6:31; 2 Corinthians 8:21.
2. Christians do not steal.
 - A. God commands us to work, not to steal - Romans 2:21; Ephesians 4:28.
 - B. We cannot go to heaven if we steal - Matthew 15:18, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:8-10.
 - C. A thief has disobeyed God - 1 Peter 4:15, 16.
 - D. We need to treat other people as we want them to treat us - Matthew 7:12.
3. Christians do not lie.
 - A. Satan is the father of all lies - John 8:44.
 - B. God cannot and does not lie - Titus 1:1-3; Hebrews 6:18.
 - C. People who lie lead others away from God - 1 Timothy 4:1, 2.
 - D. We should speak the truth to one another - Ephesians 4:25, 29;

Colossians 3:9-11.

- E. Lying is listed with many other great sins.
 - 1. We will be punished by God if we commit any of these sins – 1 Timothy 1:9, 10.
- F. People who lie cannot go to heaven.
 - 1. They will be punished by God - Acts 5:1-10; Revelation 21:8, 27; 22:14, 15.
- G. It is better to be poor and truthful than to be an untruthful rich man - Proverbs 19:22; 21:6.
- H. God hates lying - Proverbs 6:16-19.
- C. Examples of people in the Bible who were dishonest:
 - 1. The Devil lied to Eve in the Garden of Eden - Genesis 3:4, 5.
 - 2. Peter lied, saying he never had known Jesus.
 - A. Peter was an apostle of Jesus - Matthew 26:69-75.
 - 3. Ananias and Sapphira lied about their money.
 - A. They were punished by death - Acts 5:1-10.
 - 4. Men lied about Jesus when they killed Him - Matthew 26:59-61; Mark 14:54-59.
- D. Christians must exercise honesty in matters of employment.
 - 1. We must be honest and fair to our employees - James 5:4.
 - 2. When someone employs us to work for him, we should be honest, offering good work for the pay we receive - Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31; Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:23.
- E. We must be honest with God's word.
 - 1. Do not teach false things about the Bible or change what the Bible says.
 - A. Be honest and teach what the Bible says.
 - B. God will punish us if we change His word - 2 Corinthians 4:1, 2; Galatians 1:6-9.

5. GIVING

- A. God showed His love for us by giving His only Son so that we could be saved - John 3:16.
 - 1. Christ gave His life on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven – Ephesians 5:1, 2.
 - 2. Christ showed His love for God for man by giving.
 - 3. We also as Christians show our love for God and for Christ by giving of that which we have.
 - A. Christianity is a life of giving - Romans 12:1.
- B. Examples of giving:
 - 1. A poor widow gave all her living - Mark 12:41-44.
 - 2. The Christians in Jerusalem gave their possessions and goods - Acts 2:45.
 - 3. The Macedonian Christians gave - 2 Corinthians 8:1-5.
 - A. They were deep in poverty but gave what they could - vs. 2.
 - B. They gave beyond their ability and of their own accord - vs. 3.
 - C. They saw the opportunity to help in the Lord's work by giving - vs. 4.
 - D. They first gave themselves to the Lord - vs. 5.
- C. What can we give?

1. God has given us all that we have, and we are to use what we have in God's service.
 - A. God owns all things - Deuteronomy 10:14; Psalms 24:1; 50:10; 1 Corinthians 10:26.
 - B. We are to use what God has given us in His service – Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 4:1-2; 1 Peter 4:10.
2. Like the Macedonians, we must first give ourselves to the Lord.
 - A. This means that we must give our whole life in service to God.
 1. As Christians we are instruments of righteousness which God uses to bring others to Him - Romans 6:13.
 - B. We can give God our time to study His word, to tell others about Christ, to pray, to worship, and to do good things for others.
 - C. We honor God by giving of what we have to Him - Proverbs 3:9.
- D. How should Christians give?
 1. The early Christians gave as they were prospered on the first day of the week when they came together for worship - 1 Corinthians 16:2.
 2. Christians should give of a willing mind - 2 Corinthians 8:12.
 3. We should purpose in our own hearts how much to give - 2 Corinthians 9:7.
 4. We should give cheerfully - 2 Corinthians 9:7.

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST AND ETERNITY

INTRODUCTION:

1. The subject of the second and final coming of Jesus is one fraught with several false ideas.
 - A. It is important for the Christian to sort through all that is said, and come to a proper understanding of this subject.

BODY:

1. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

- A. Christ is coming in order to judge mankind - Hebrews 9:27, 28; Philippians 3:20, 21; 1 John 3:1-3.
- B. Jesus promised that He would return, and this is guaranteed by His resurrection. - Acts 17:30, 31; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Revelation 1:7.
- C. No man knows when Christ will return - Mark 13:32; Matthew 24:36-44; 25:13; Acts 1:7.
- D. Jesus will return in the clouds - Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.

2. THINGS THAT WILL TAKE PLACE WHEN JESUS RETURNS

- A. The dead will be raised - John 5:28, 29; 6:40, 44, 54; Revelation 20:12, 13; 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52.
- B. All men will be judged - Matthew 25:31-46.
- C. Christians will be glorified - Colossians 3:4; 1 John 3:2; Philippians 3:20, 21; 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52.
- D. The wicked will be punished - 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.
- E. The present order will pass, and Christians will live in heaven - 2 Peter 3:4-13.
- F. The kingdom will be delivered up to the Father - 1 Corinthians 15:20-28.

3. THE JUDGMENT

- A. All men and women of all ages will be judged - Matthew 25:31-46; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10-12.
- B. Jesus Christ will be the judge - John 5:22, 27; Acts 10:42, 43; 17:30, 31; 2 Timothy 4:1.
- C. All men and women will be judged by the Word of God - John 12:48.
 1. The Jews who lived under the law will be judged by the law - Romans 2:12.
 2. All men since Christ will be judged by the gospel - Romans 2:16; John 12:48.

4. HELL

- A. Jesus knew of a burning hell and taught concerning it - Mark 9:47, 48; Matthew 5:29, 30; 10:28.
- B. Hell is a place of everlasting punishment - Matthew 25:46.
- C. Those whose names do not appear in the book of life will be cast into a lake of fire - Revelation 20:15.
- D. The devil and his angels will be cast into hell for everlasting torment - Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10.

5. HEAVEN:

- A. We should lay up treasures in heaven - Matthew 6:19-21.
- B. Christ went to heaven in order to prepare a place for his disciples - John 14:1-4.
- C. The Christian's citizenship is in heaven - Philippians 3:20.

- D. Christians should seek those things that are above - Colossians 3:1, 2.
- E. After this earth passes away, there will be a new heavenly home for the faithful of God - Revelation 21:1-4.

NOTE: The material included in this outline book has been gathered over the years. I make no claim that all the material is original with me.