

FUNDAMENTALS OF CHRISTIANITY

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Judg 2:10

After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers,
another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what
he had done for Israel.

Psa 1:1

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked
or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

Psa 1:2

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he
meditates day and night.

Psa 1:3

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit
in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does
prosper.

Psa 119:103

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my
mouth!

Psa 119:104

I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every
wrong path.

FUNDAMENTALS OF CHRISTIANITY

I. Faithfulness

1. A Review - "Becoming a Christian"
2. Understanding Discipleship (What does it mean to be a Christian)?
3. Remaining Faithful (Some guidelines)

II. Bible Survey

1. The Bible
2. The Old Testament
3. The New Testament
4. Understanding Bible Authority

III. Worship

1. Worship (What is it)?
2. The Lord's Supper
3. Singing
4. Prayer
5. Bible Study
6. Giving

IV. The Church

1. Church of Christ - Not A Denomination
2. Characteristics of the New Testament Church
3. Organization of the New Testament Church
4. Elders
5. Deacons/Evangelists
6. New Testament Discipline

V. Christian Living

1. Standards Of A Christian Life
2. Conduct Worthy Of The Gospel (2 Peter 1:1-10)

VI. The Christian Life

1. Responsibility To Teach Others
2. Benevolence
3. Encouragement (Building up; Overcoming sin; Looking toward Heaven)

THE LESSONS SHOULD CONTAIN:

1. The purpose of each individual lesson
2. Charts
3. Illustrations
4. Questions over each lesson
5. Some essay questions
6. Some homework
7. Reading assignments
8. Recommended books for home library with each lesson
9. Definitions
10. Some memory work

A certificate for completion of this course (optional)

LESSON ONE

"BECOMING A CHRISTIAN"

PURPOSE OF THIS LESSON:

1. To instill appreciation for what you have become - the past.
2. To instill appreciation for what you have received upon your obedience to the gospel - the present.
3. To inspire you to fulfill your responsibility as a Christian - the future.

THOUGHT QUESTIONS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (Write out your answers in the space provided).

1. What person, or persons, influenced you the most in your decision to become a Christian?
2. How, or in what way, did they influence you?
3. What did you do to become a Christian?
4. How do you feel about sharing this process with someone else?
5. Where do you feel you would be today if the person who influenced you had not done so?

USE YOUR BIBLE TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

1. List at least four (4) scriptures that show the necessity of **hearing**, or of being **taught**, the word of God in order to become a Christian.

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

2. List at least four (4) scriptures that show the necessity of ***faith***, or ***believing***, in order to become a Christian.

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

3. List at least four (4) scriptures that show the necessity of ***repentance*** in becoming a Christian.

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

4. List at least four (4) scriptures that show the necessity of ***confessing Christ*** in becoming a Christian.

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

5. List at least four (4) scriptures that show the necessity of being ***baptized*** in becoming a Christian.

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

6. What does "confession" mean?

7. What does "baptism" mean?

NOTE: When you were baptized into Christ you became a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). Your sins were washed away (Acts 22:16), and the Lord added you to His church (Acts 2:47). However, the Christian life which you have begun, is to be a life of growth and service (2 Peter 3:18). Really, you have just begun your journey.

There are at least three (3) questions you should ask yourself as you walk the path laid out before you. They are:

- (1) "Now that I am a Christian, what have I received?"
- (2) "Now that I am a Christian, what am I?"
- (3) "Now that I am a Christian, what should I be doing?"

The next exercise should help you in answering these three questions.

Using your Bible, read the following scriptures, and then supply the answer in the spaces provided.

"Now that I am a Christian, **"What have I received?"**"

1. Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21
2. Acts 2:38; 3:19
3. Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 1:22,23; Revelation 1:5,6
4. Ephesians 1:13,14; 4:30; Galatians 4:6
5. John 8:32
6. Acts 8:39,40; 16:30-34

"Now that I am Christian, **"What have I become?"**"

1. 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:22,23; Colossians 1:18,24
2. John 3:5; Matthew 16:18,19; Hebrews 12:22-28

3. 1 Timothy 3:15; Acts 10:2; Galatians 3:26,27
4. Matthew 20:1ff; 1 Corinthians 3:9; 15:58
5. 1 Corinthians 3:16,17; 1 Peter 2:5-9; Revelation 1:5,6
6. Romans 7:4; Revelation 21:9; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25-33

"Now that I am a Christian, **"What should I be doing?"**"

1. Romans 6:1-7; 1 John 3:9; Acts 3:19; Matthew 12:41
2. 1 Peter 1:22-2:3; 1 Peter 4:16
3. Acts 2:41,42; 1 Corinthians 15:58; 16:13
4. Colossians 3:1,2; 2:12
5. Mark 16:15,16; Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:46,47
6. 2 Peter 2:20-22

NOTE: Many people have not obeyed the gospel of Christ as you have. Why do you think that is, and what can you do to help those who are lost?

Doing the following exercise will help you answer these questions. They will help you understand more fully why many do not obey the gospel.

1. Read John 3:36; 6:29. These people lacked _____.
 - (1) Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 2 Corinthians 4:3-5. Unless a person believes the _____, he cannot be saved.
 - (2) Some do not obey because they have not _____ the gospel.
 - (3) How do you feel about this?
2. Read 1 Peter 4:4; 1 Peter 4:16. These people had _____.
 - (1) They fear their families, and their jobs, and their weaknesses.
 - (2) How can these fears be overcome?

- (3) What fears did you have about the Christian life before you became a Christian?
3. Many do not obey the gospel because they think they have lots of time. These people are _____ people.
- (1) Read 2 Corinthians 6:2
- (2) Read Acts 24:25
- (3) What would you tell a person who feels that he has "lots of time" to become a Christian later?

NOTE: "One cannot reject the _____ of Jesus Christ without paying the _____ for doing so." (Romans 6:23; 1 Peter 4:12; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)

The following questions are to be used in the class period for further discussions, edification and help. Please answer every question to the best of your ability.

1. What must a person do before he can have faith in God?
2. Why is teaching of the New Testament necessary?
3. What scriptures give us the "Great Commission?"
4. Write a good definition of Biblical faith.
5. Why is faith necessary in becoming a Christian?
6. How is faith obtained?
7. How is faith shown?
8. Define "repentance."
9. How do you know if you have repented?
10. According to Matthew 10:32,33 what do we confess? (Cf. Mark 8:38)
11. What does it mean to confess Christ?
12. Why is Acts 8:37 placed in footnotes in some translations?

13. Show that baptism is a burial. Will any other kind (sprinkling; pouring) be pleasing to God? Why?
14. How does Christ's blood wash us from our sins? (Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 6:17; Romans 6:1-7; Revelation 1:5)
15. Why do some people not obey the gospel, and thus become Christians?
16. What can you do to help them overcome these ideas?
17. What are some blessings we enjoy as a Christian?
18. How do we offer spiritual sacrifices? (Read Hebrews 13:15, 16; Philippians 4:18; Romans 12:1,2).

Mark and memorize the following scriptures:

Romans 10:17
Acts 2:38
Luke 13:3
1 Peter 3:21
Mark 16:15,16
Romans 6:3,4

LESSON TWO

UNDERSTANDING DISCIPLESHIP

PURPOSE OF THIS LESSON:

1. To discover the meaning of "discipleship."
2. To understand more fully what is involved in "discipleship."
3. To clarify areas in our lives that need changing in order to conform to the "image of Christ." (Romans 8:29)

INTRODUCTION:

Not long ago an exclusive jewelry store featured a sale on crosses. Neatly arranged in the window was an array of unusually beautiful necklaces, bracelets, and other jewelry, each with a cross as its central theme. Polished crosses, gold crosses, silver crosses, some emblazoned with precious gems, some even set with diamonds. In one corner of the display window a neat little sign said, "EASY TERMS AVAILABLE."

One wonders if this is not what modern religion has done to the cross of Christ. Have we turned it into a fashionable trinket, an adornment, available to everyone on "EASY TERMS?"

Jesus did not promise mankind an "easy" road. On the contrary, He called men to selfless service and to daily sacrifice. He dared ask men to forsake all and come and follow Him.

Today, Jesus still challenges men to *"come, take up the cross and follow Me."* This is still a call to service, a call to spend and be spent - a call to sacrifice. It is not available on *"easy terms!"*

BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR STUDY, ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS:

1. Do you consider yourself a disciple of Christ? YES NO MAYBE
2. How would you define the word "disciple?"

CLASS EXERCISES: (Read the following scriptures and respond to each question that follows the scripture reading).

I. Read LUKE 9:23-26.

1. What does it mean to ***YOU*** to "deny self?"

2. What was the purpose of a cross?
3. Why did Jesus use this in describing discipleship?
4. What is the most valuable possession you have?
5. How valuable is it? Why is it so valuable?
6. What do you learn about discipleship from these verses?

II. Read **LUKE 9:57-62**

1. What is involved in following Jesus?
2. What happens when we look back?
3. Why does this make us unfit for service in God's kingdom?
4. How do you feel about these verses as they apply to your life?
5. What may it cost you to be a disciple?

III. Read **LUKE 14:25-33**

1. What are we to do before becoming a disciple? (John 8:31)
2. What characterizes a disciple of Christ? (John 13:34,35)
3. How do you feel about these verses? (John 15:8)
4. How do we show ourselves to be disciples?

OUR CHALLENGE

1. In view of these passages just read, what ***new commitments*** do you feel you need to make in your life?
2. Are you willing to make them now? YES NO MAYBE DON'T KNOW
3. What would Jesus want you to do about making new commitments?
4. Why do you think Jesus wants high standards for His disciples?

NOTE: There are at least three areas of life that we strengthen as we grow as Christians. They are: (1) Discipline; (2) Diligence; (3) Development.

In the following section of study, answer the following questions by reading the selected scriptures.

1. Read **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**. What is involved in running the Christian race?
2. Read **Hebrews 12:1,2; Galatians 5:7-10**. What hinders us in running this race? In what ways does the life of Christ motivate you to run the race?
3. Read **2 Timothy 2:3-6**. To what three types of people are Christians compared? How does their lifestyle represent the Christian life?
4. Read **Hebrews 6:11,12**. How does this passage relate to being a disciple of Christ?
5. Read **Philippians 3:12-15**.
 - (1) What attitudes would characterize a mature Christian?
 - (2) What attitudes would characterize an immature Christian?
 - (3) What are some areas in your life in which you should be exercising diligence and discipline?
 - (4) How are you going to do it?

NOTE: In the development of good habits there are four areas of life required: (1) Desire; (2) Decision; (3) Determination; (4) Discipline.

How do these four areas work together to create a mature Christian?

NOTE: Read **MATTHEW 11:28-30**. The yoke is a symbol of submission. Therefore, a disciplined life is one submissive to the authority of Jesus Christ. It involves all of our life under the control of Christ. It is total discipline demanded.

Read the following scriptures and write the "gist" of each to see how much discipline is required. Make application of the four items mentioned in the DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD HABITS to each scripture.

1. Read **2 Corinthians 10:4,5**
2. Read **Matthew 4:4**

3. Read **Matthew 12:35,36**
4. Read **Luke 9:23**
5. Read **1 Thessalonians 5:18**
6. Read **Philippians 3:13,14**
7. Read **Luke 11:34**

CLASS EXERCISE AND DISCUSSION. Read **Revelation 2, Revelation 3.**

1. List the seven churches of Asia to whom John wrote.
2. Beside each one, write their characteristics.
3. After discussion the characteristics of these seven churches, which church represented would you say best characterizes the one you are attending?
4. Why do you feel that particular congregation fits your congregation?
5. What are some practical ways you can work to bring about the necessary changes?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How many masters can you serve properly?
2. Describe the people of Matthew 7:21-23. Which ones will be saved, and which ones will be lost?
3. Why will they be lost?
4. Who do you know personally that will be lost? Why are they lost?
5. What are your feelings toward those who are lost?
6. How do we die to self?
7. What are some ways we put other things first in our life instead of putting Christ first?
8. What are some ways we can use to grow spiritually?