

ESTABLISHED IN THE FAITH

“And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.” Acts 16:5

By Keith Piper

www.answersbook.org

3rd Edition

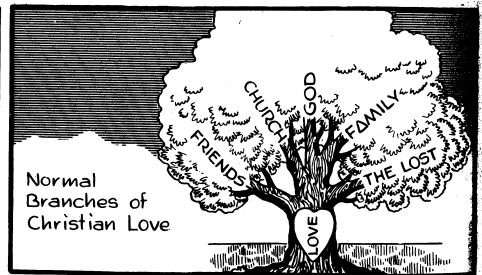
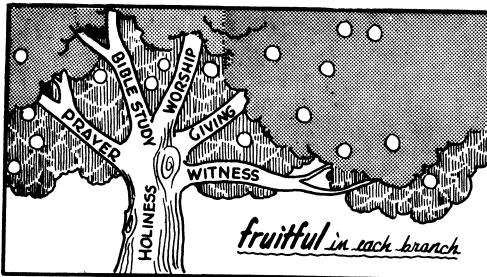
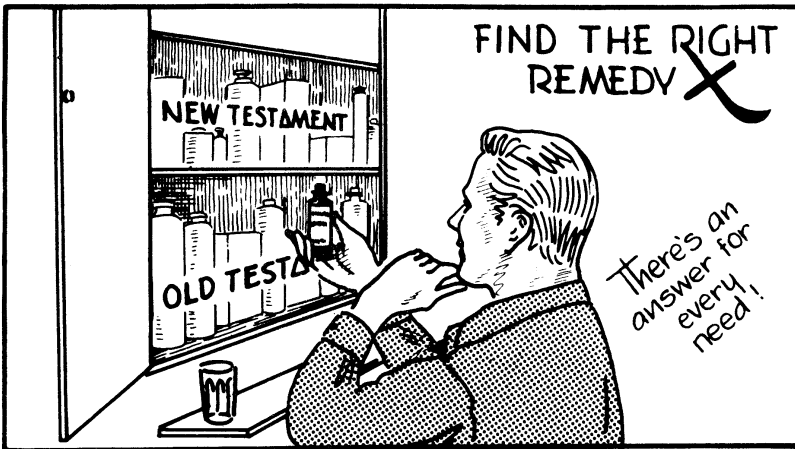


Basic Bible Studies for All Christians

How well do you know the basics of Biblical Christianity?

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18

“As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” 1 Peter 2:2

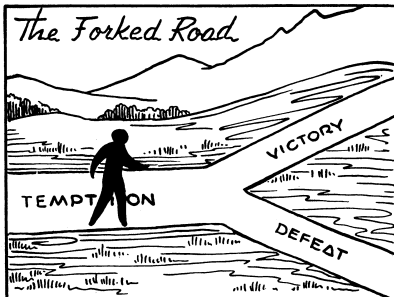


the Secret of JOY and Blessing

Jesus first - (to His glory)

Others next - (that they may be saved.)

You last - (a stronger Christian.)



SIN At salvation, God wants to change the **S** into **0**.

Only when **S** becomes ZERO is sin taken over by the

SON OF GOD !

-This is Victory in Christ

This book is designed for:

1. Newer Christians to become grounded in the basic truths of the Bible and Christian living.
2. Those who have been Christians for a while but have missed some of these truths.
3. Older Christians who want to help newer Christians become established in the Bible. These studies are meant to be simple yet thorough enough to ground people so they are ready to learn, apply and teach more advanced Bible truths.

This book aims to help people think as God thinks on all issues of life.

If you want more advanced Bible studies, obtain a copy of the book called "ANSWERS" by K. Piper, from PO Box 188, Cherrybrook, NSW, Australia, 2126; or phone 02-9875-4321, or fax 02-9980-7830, or visit the website, www.answersbook.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Assurance of Salvation	1
2.	Security of the Believer	2
3.	Confess with Your Mouth the Lord Jesus	3
4.	Seven Dispensations	3
5.	What Does God Give Us When We Receive Christ as Our Saviour?	4
6.	Church	5
7.	Confess all Known Sins to God Immediately	6
8.	Bible Reading: Reasons for Reading God's Word	6
9.	Our Acceptance in Christ	6
10.	Prayer	7
11.	The Nature of God: What is God Like?	9
12.	Why Christians Should do Soul-Winning	11
13.	Rewards	12
14.	Baptism	15
15.	Twenty Objectives to Raise Godly Children	16
16.	Heaven	17
17.	Angels	19
18.	Temptation	22
19.	Satan's Opposition to Christians	23
<u>Chart</u> :	Historical Background of the Old Testament	25
20.	Four Questionable Issues	27
21.	The Judgment Seat of Christ: How It Will Change Our Behaviour	29
22.	Guidance: How to Find the Will of God	31
23.	Be Filled with the Holy Spirit	33
24.	Grow in Grace	37
25.	Statement of Faith of Liberty Baptist Church (Independent)	41
26.	Studies in John's Gospel about Jesus Christ	47

Question 1: Which of these subjects interests you?

Question 2: Would it be possible for us to get together sometime in the next few days to look at them?

Question 3: When would suit you?

1. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

God wants people to be sure of going to heaven and of His continual love and presence with us. One of man's greatest needs is to know for sure that we will be reunited after death with our loved ones. God does not want us to "sorrow" as others who have no hope. The main assurance verses are:

i) "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God." (John 1:12).

Question: If we receive Jesus Christ as Saviour, what do we become? _____

ii) "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved". (Romans 10:13).

Question: If we call on the Lord Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, what are we promised? _____

iii) "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. . . . that ye may know that ye have eternal life". (I John 5:11-13).

iv) Jesus said, "If thou knewest (a) the gift of God, and (b) who it is that saith to thee, give me to drink, thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water". (John 4:10).

Question: What 2 things must we know to get eternal life? _____

Question: How do we get eternal life? _____

v) "Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out." (John 6:37).

Question: What does Jesus promise to those who come to Him for salvation? _____

vi) "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17).

vii) "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth". (Isaiah 45:22).

Getting saved is as easy as the snake-bitten Israelites in the wilderness being cured of snake-bite by looking at the brass serpent on a pole (Numbers 21:5-9). This pictures sinners calling on Christ to save them (John 3:14,15) and being born again (John 3:3).

viii) "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." (I John 3:1-3)

Question: What will happen to us when Jesus Christ returns? _____

Question: What does this lead us to do? _____

ix) "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death." (I John 3:14)

Question: How do we know that we have passed from death to life? _____

x) "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." (John 5:24)

Question: What 3 things are true (past, present and future) for those who hear Jesus Christ's word and receive Him as Saviour? _____

Old Testament pictures of salvation showing how we claim salvation:

i) **Abel's** blood sacrifice pictured Christ's future blood sacrifice that Abel believed would save him. God accepted Abel's blood sacrifice and rejected Cain's bloodless vegetable sacrifice. (Gen 4:1-5).

ii) The Israelites in Egypt on the **Passover** night had to kill a spotless lamb and apply its blood on the doorpost and lintel of their homes or their firstborn would have died. (Exodus 12:1-13,21-23). We apply Christ's blood sacrifice to ourselves by calling on Christ to save us.

iii) **Snake-bitten Israelites** who looked at the brass serpent on a pole, were instantly healed of their snake-bites. (Numbers 21:5-9). So it is that when any sinner comes to Christ, calling on Him to save him, the sinner is then saved.

2. SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

When we receive Jesus Christ as our Saviour, He keeps us saved forever. Note: If Jesus Christ is 100% responsible for saving us (not by our good works or religion), then Jesus Christ is 100% responsible for keeping us saved. He won't fail in this task. Verses teaching this are given below:

- i) "Jesus said, I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish". (John 10:28).

Question 1: What does "never perish" mean? _____

- ii) "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation . . ." (I Peter 1:4.5).

Question 2: State 5 things from I Peter 1:4,5 showing that Jesus Christ will keep us saved forever.

1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____ 5) _____

- iii) "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord". (Romans 8:38,39).

Question 3: In Romans 8:35, what 7 things cannot separate us from the love (salvation) of Christ? _____

For a born again believer to be lost, he must somehow be separated from the love of Christ and become an object of God's wrath. Paul says that this is impossible. (II Timothy 4:18)

- iv) "The Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom".

- v) "This is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life". (I John 2:25).

Question: What has God promised those who receive Jesus Christ as Saviour? _____

Question: What is a promise? _____

- vi) "And am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day". (II Timothy 1:12). Paul committed the keeping of his soul to Christ to his heavenly kingdom.

- vii) "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." (Luke 15:10). If we could lose salvation, angels would not rejoice until we entered heaven.

Question: Why is there joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents? _____

- viii) Six times God says that we can KNOW we have eternal life.

- a) "Do ye not KNOW that the saints shall judge the world? . . . KNOW ye not that we shall judge angels?" (I Corinthians 6:2,3).

- b) "Be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye KNOW that your labour is not in vain in the Lord". (I Corinthians 15:58). If we led a person to Christ, then they lose salvation tomorrow, our labour would have been a waste of time. However, our labour is not in vain, because God keeps them saved, even if they backslide.

- c) "KNOWING that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise us up also by Jesus, and shall present us with you". (II Corinthians 4:14).

- d) "We KNOW that . . . we have . . . an house . . . eternal in the heavens." (II Corinthians 5:1).

- e) "We KNOW that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him". (I John 3:2).

- f) "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God: that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life". (I John 5:13).

Question: What 4 things do we know for sure if we are saved? _____

- ix) Believers are predestined (or guaranteed by God) to be conformed to the image of Christ in heaven. This means that there is no possibility of believers losing salvation. "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son". (Romans 8:29).

- x) Ten things that "SHALL BE", prove that Christ keeps us saved:

- a) "Then shall ye also appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:4)

- b) "Being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him". (Romans 5:9)

- c) "They which receive . . . the gift of righteousness shall reign in life". (Romans 5:17).

- d) "He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies". (Romans 8:11).

- e) "The glory which shall be revealed in us". (Romans 8:18).

- f) "Who shall also confirm you unto the end". (I Corinthians 1:8).

- g) "We shall all be changed". (I Corinthians 15:51).
- h) "Shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you". (II Corinthians 4:14).
- i) "When he shall appear, we shall be like him". (I John 3:2).
- j) "Know ye not that we shall judge angels?" (I Corinthians 6:3).
- xi) Jesus promises believers: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).
- xii) Believers are members of Christ's body: "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular". (I Corinthians 12:27).

Question 4: Will Christ permit His body to be dismembered? Never!

Objection: Does this mean that believers can go out and sin as much as they want knowing that they can't lose their salvation? **Answer:** No! Because:

- a) God will discipline us now on earth if we sin continually. (Hebrews 12:5-8). Being chastened by God proves the permanence of salvation. "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons". (Hebrews 12:7).
- b) Earthly consequences of sin are that we lose our joy, peace, a clear conscience and our good name, and others mistrust us.
- c) Eternal consequences of sin are loss of rewards in heaven (I Corinthians 3:15), loss of Christ's approval (II Cor 5:9), and being ashamed at Christ's second coming (I John 2:28).

3. CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH THE LORD JESUS

One lie that the devil may put into our minds is that we are not saved because we may not have been honest enough when we called on Christ to save us. **Question:** How do we know if we were honest enough to be truly saved when we called on Christ to save us? **Answer:**

- i) Romans 10:9 gives us two tests to discover the reality of our salvation. These tests are:
 - a) "if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and
 - b) shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved".
 If you believe that God raised Christ from the dead, you have already satisfied the second condition. What does the first condition mean: to "confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus"? It means that, if you can tell someone that you have "received the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour", this proves you really meant it and are truly saved. Can you tell a friend this?
- ii) If we confess Christ before men, then Christ will confess us before God the Father: "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven". (Matthew 10:32,33).
- iii) If we confess Christ before men, then Christ will confess us before the angels of God: "Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God: But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God". (Luke 12:8,9).

Question: From ii) and iii) above, what 2 things will Jesus do for us, if we confess Jesus Christ to be our Saviour before men?

Challenge: Have you told somebody that you have received the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour?
 Their name: _____ Date: _____

4. SEVEN DISPENSATIONS

In order to understand the Bible, we must summarize the main events and when they occurred. From the chart on the back cover, entitled "God's Plan for the Ages", notice the following:

1. Human history is divided into 7 time periods called dispensations. (Ephesians 1:10).
2. In each dispensation, God gives man a responsibility. Man fails. Each dispensation ends in judgment.
3. Two resurrections. Saved people are raised in 3 stages: After Christ's resurrection (firstfruits), at Christ's return (harvest), and at Christ's glorious appearing (gleanings).
 Unsaved people are raised at the end of the 1000 years (Tares).
4. Dates: Creation (4074 BC), Flood (2418 BC), Abraham (2000 BC), Mosaic Law (1500 BC), Christ's crucifixion (33 AD), Romans destroyed Jerusalem (70 AD), Israel becomes a nation (1948 AD).
5. We are now living shortly before Christ's return. The main sign of Christ's return is Israel being regathered to their land.

5. WHAT DOES GOD GIVE US, WHEN WE RECEIVE CHRIST AS OUR SAVIOUR?

- 1) We become **sons of God**. "But as many received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God." (John 1:12). This means:
- 2) We get **born again**. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3). "Ye must be born again." (John 3:7). We were born many years ago physically into our parent's family. When we receive Christ as our Saviour, we are adopted or born into God's family as His sons, with full rights to all the privileges of being in God's family (Romans 8:15).
- 3) We are **saved** from the **penalty** of sin, which is hell and the Lake of Fire.
We are saved from the **power** of sin as we yield obediently to Christ's Word.
We are saved from the **presence** of sin when we get to heaven. "For whosoever..." (Romans 10:13)
- 4) We get **eternal life**, living with God forever. "He that hath the Son hath life." (1 John 5:12).
- 5) We are **reconciled** to God by the death of Christ. (Romans 5:10). God has removed the barrier of sin, producing peace between God and us.
- 6) "We are **justified** by faith in Jesus Christ as our Saviour." (Romans 5:1).
This means that we are declared righteous, pardoned and all our sins are removed. We are entitled to all of God's promised blessings. It is just as if we had never sinned.
- 7) We are 100% **acceptable** to God because of Jesus Christ. We do not need to perform perfectly in order to win God's acceptance. "He hath made us accepted in the beloved (Christ)." (Ephes. 1:6).
- 8) We are **forgiven** all trespasses. (Colossians 2:13). Forgiveness is the legal act of God where He removes all the charges held against a sinner because Christ has made proper payment for his sins.
- 9) We are **redeemed**. This means that we are bought by Christ out of the slave market of sin, set free from sin's bondage, we now belong to Christ, and we are Christ's servants to do God's will. We are not to live a life of selfish ease, but to be useful to God's purposes.
"... ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (I Corinthians 6:19,20).
- 10) We are **indwelt** and **led** by the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit now lives in us permanently. We must not disobey His leading. "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." (Romans 8:9).
"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Romans 8:14).
- 11) We will receive a new, young, **resurrected body** that will never die. (Romans 8:11).
"His flesh shall be fresher than a child's: he shall return to the days of his youth." (Job 33:25).
"This mortal must put on immortality." (I Corinthians 15:53).
- 12) We are **new creatures** with a **new Divine nature**.
"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: ... all things are become new." (II Corinthians 5:17).
- 13) God gives us many **exceeding great** and **precious promises** in the Bible for us to claim to guide and help us in life. By these we become partakers of the Divine nature. (II Peter 1:4).
- 14) God has given us **all things** that pertain to **life** and **godliness**, through the **knowledge** of him that has called us to glory (in heaven) and virtue (now). (II Peter 1:3).
- 15) "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1).
"Peace I leave with you, my **peace** I give unto you." (John 14:27). "Peace of God." (Philippians 4:7).
- 16) We are **servants** of God. "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ." (Romans 1:1).
"... being made free from sin, and become servants to God." (Romans 6:22).
- 17) "We are **ambassadors** for Christ." (II Corinthians 5:20). We are God's representatives on earth with God's message of salvation to mankind.
- 18) We are given many Christian **brothers** and **sisters** to **help** and **care** for us.
"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you." (John 13:34)
- 19) We have a **home** and **mansion** in **heaven**. (II Corinthians 5:1,8).
"In my Father's house are many mansions: ... I go to prepare a place for you." (John 14:2).
- 20) We are now **friends** of God. "I have called you friends". (John 15:15).
"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." (John 15:14).
- 21) We can lay up for ourselves **treasures** in **heaven** which we cannot lose. (Matthew 7:20).
Our response to God, giving us so many good things now and in eternity, is to love Him and obey Him. "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15).

Question: Name 10 things that God gives us when we receive Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

6. CHURCH

Come to a soul-winning, Bible-believing church weekly. Why should we come to a good church?

1) **God commands us to come to church** in Hebrews 10:24,25 for 5 reasons:

- i) "And let us consider one another
- ii) to provoke unto love and to good works
- iii) not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is
- iv) but exhorting one another
- v) and so much the more as ye see the day approaching"

i) God wants believers to unselfishly consider one another's welfare because we thus obey Jesus' command. "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:34,35).

Before we were saved, we mostly thought only about ourselves, not caring much about God or others. After salvation, we should love God and love fellow believers. This proves our salvation. "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren". (I John 3:14). Coming to God's house proves our love for other believers.

ii) Coming to church inspires and provokes other believers to more love and good works. This helps them reach a greater potential for God.

iii) It's a command. Don't follow the bad example of some who have forsaken God's house.

iv) Exhort, teach and speak encouraging words to others. (II Corinthians 7:6).

v) As we see world events fulfilling Bible prophecies of Christ's return, this reminds us of how we will have to give account of our service to Christ when He returns. How will you explain to Jesus why you neglected coming to church?

2) **To rescue people from hell**. (Luke 16:23,24).

One goal of church is to win the world to Christ so they don't go to hell. If you are happy you are not going to hell, why not work with other believers at church to help rescue multitudes from hell?

3) **To learn how to lead others to Christ**. "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19)

4) **To send out missionaries and pastors**. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest". (Matthew 9:37-38)

5) **To rescue Australia from sin**, false religions, and the suffering that wickedness brings.

6) **To learn the Bible better**. To get the specific message that God has for you through the preacher.

7) **To find God's will for your life**.

8) **To teach your children the importance of Church**. God, the Bible, winning the lost and to raise up godly descendants who will impact the world for Christ. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9.) "Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children." (v 7).

9) **To lay up treasures in heaven**. "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." (Matthew 6:20).

10) **To get an abundant entrance** (a glorious grand welcome) into heaven. (II Peter 1:11).

11) **To worship and thank God publicly** for all His goodness to us. (Psalm 116:12-19). "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?" (v 12)

12) **To discover sins and weaknesses in your life** that harm you, confess them to God, and to become a better person. The Holy Spirit reveals these to us through the preaching. (Ecclesiastes 12:9-12). To cultivate Christlike qualities. "The church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth". (I Timothy 3:15).

13) **To set up a multiplying network of disciples** that may lead millions of people to Christ. "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." (II Timothy 2:2).

14) **To get involved with Christ's program**. Jesus showed that His plan to reach the world is through local churches. "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it". (Matthew 16:18).

Challenge: Will you promise God that you will commit yourself to serving God by coming to Church?

7. CONFESS ALL KNOWN SINS TO GOD IMMEDIATELY

Another lie the devil tells believers is that, when we sin as a Christian, God hates us. The devil tells us this lie in order to put a wedge between us and God, so that we will keep our distance from God.

Question: Can sin separate us from God?

Answer: (Romans 8:35-39). Nothing shall "be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (v 39) This means that God still loves us when we sin and wants our fellowship to be restored. It is like there are two threads joining the believer to God. A thick unbreakable rope called "salvation" and a thin thread called "fellowship" which can be broken by sin, but rejoined by confession. God promises complete forgiveness and restoration of fellowship when we confess our known sins to Him. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness". (I John 1:9).

God promises to forgive us for the sins we confess, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness due to the sins we may have forgotten about. The benefits to us are freedom from guilt, a good conscience, a fresh start, acceptance with God, close friendship with God, and a role model to forgive those who wrong us.

Note: This is not a license to sin, because sin still has bad consequences, e.g. if a believer robs a bank, he will still go to jail, even though God has forgiven him.

When David committed adultery and murder, God forgave him, but he still had to suffer the earthly consequences of his children following his example by committing incest, adultery and murder.

A second aspect of this doctrine is that, if God regularly (daily) forgives us our sins and restores us to love and acceptance, then surely we must forgive those who sin against us and ask forgiveness: "Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him". (Luke 17:3,4).

Note: We don't confess our sins to a priest or to Mary but only to God through Jesus Christ because "He" in I John 1:9 is God. Peter confessed his sin to Christ and was forgiven. Judas confessed his sin to the priests, was not forgiven and so he hanged himself.

8. BIBLE READING

Reasons For Reading God's Word

- 1) It increases our faith. (Romans 10:17).
- 2) It produces the new birth. (I Peter 1:23; James 1:18).
- 3) It gives us truth. (Acts 17:11). "Thy word is truth." (John 17:17).
- 4) It gives us victory over sin. (Psalm 119:9,11).
- 5) It gives us joy. (Jeremiah 15:16).
- 6) It will build us up in spiritual growth. (Acts 20:32; Luke 4:4; I Peter 2:2).
- 7) It gives us assurance of salvation. (I John 5:13).
- 8) It cleanses us from sin. "Ye are clean through the word." (John 15:3)
- 9) It gives us patience, comfort and hope. (Romans 15:4; I Thessalonians 4:18).
- 10) It will make us disciples of Jesus Christ. "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed." (John 8:31).

How to read the Bible:

- 1) Pray: "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law". (Psalm 119:18).
- 2) Start at Matthew or John because these describe Jesus Christ's life, teachings and work.
- 3) Underline or mark the margin of any verses that God speaks to you about.
- 4) Ask your pastor or Bible study leader what difficult verses mean.
- 5) Write outlines in a notebook. Take notes from sermons in this notebook so you can teach others.
- 6) Obtain a King James Bible, preferably an old Schofield Reference Bible because of its headings.

9. OUR ACCEPTANCE IN CHRIST

"... he hath made us accepted in the beloved". (Ephesians 1:6).

Many of us have experienced rejection at home, at school, or at work. We learn from life that if we perform well we are accepted: if we fail to perform, we are rejected. With God this is not the case.

Because we have received Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we don't need to perform perfectly to win God's love and acceptance. We already have it. God accepts us 100% as we are, because of Christ. The effects of this are:

- a) It allows us to accept ourselves as God made us and have victory over self-condemnation.
- b) Because God is patient with us while we learn and grow, we can accept ourselves as progressing in God's school and to accept others who are at different stages of spiritual growth.
- c) This teaches us to love and accept our children as God loves and accepts us. God's acceptance is our role model.

God does not accept our sinful behaviour, but requires us to confess and forsake our sins (Proverbs 28:13,14), or He will discipline us to bring us back to obedience (Hebrews 12:5-15).

We are personally accepted by God because of Christ, but we labour that our service may be accepted of Christ (II Corinthians 5:9). At the judgment seat of Christ, believers will be rewarded according to our works (Revelation 22:12). Our acceptance positionally in Christ is no excuse for laziness.

10. PRAYER

"Men ought always to pray, and not to faint". (Luke 18:1).

"As he (Jesus) was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples". (Luke 11:1).

Jesus then taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer. (Luke 11:2-4).

I. Why pray? What benefits does prayer achieve?

- 1) Fullness of joy when we get our requests. "Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full". (John 16:24)
- 2) Relief from burdens. "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you". (I Peter 5:7).
- 3) A humble, right attitude. "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time". (I Peter 5:6).
- 4) Alert to Satan's devices. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." (I Peter 5:8).
- 5) "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus". (Philippians 4:7).
- 6) Heal our land. "If my people . . . shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land". (II Chronicles 7:14).
- 7) Power in the spiritual, angelic realm and knowledge to give victory. (Daniel 10:12-14).
- 8) God will draw near to us. "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you". (James 4:8).
- 9) Strength to resist temptation. "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation". (Matt 26:41).
- 10) Sends forth labourers, pastors, missionaries. (Matthew 9:36-38). "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest". (v 38).
- 11) Gives wisdom. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God... it shall be given him"(James 1:5)
- 12) Relieves affliction and can cure sickness. (James 5:13-15).
- 13) Turn rain on and off. (James 5:17,18).
- 14) Saves sinners. "... thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water". (John 4:10).
- 15) Fills us with the Holy Spirit for service. "I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man". (Ephesians 3:14-16).

II. Prayer List What we should pray for:

- 1) Adoration. "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." (Matt 6:9-13).
- 2) Confession. Lord, I forgive those who've wronged me.
Lord, I confess my sins of (I John 1:9).

3) **Thanks and Praise.**

Thank you Lord for my family _____, my church, my Pastor _____, my friends _____ for supplying my needs of food, clothing, shelter _____; for a free country to serve you, for the Bible, a job, for fellow workers, health, your love and faithfulness to me. (I Thessalonians 5:18).

4) **Supplication - Others' Needs**

Help my spouse and myself to be the best example of Christian marriage to everybody and to be greatly used to have a great impact on the world for Christ.

- a) Give Pastor _____ encouragement, wisdom and strength to guide and teach the church God's way.
- b) Give these missionaries Pastor's hearts, make them preach the gospel to many people, do the work of an evangelist, see many saved, many disciples and many churches started. Give them many good, faithful workers to help them. Keep Satan out of all our churches, Bible colleges and ministries. Let the word of God have free course, be glorified and multiplied. Let us and them be delivered from wicked and unreasonable men. (II Thessalonians 3:1).

List the missionaries names: _____

- c) Pray for people and workers in your church _____
- d) For kings, Prime Ministers, Presidents and for all in authority: that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. Prime Minister/President _____ Premier/State Governor _____ (II Timothy 2:1,2).
- e) For all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.
- f) Lord, "the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few". I pray You, the Lord of the harvest, that you will "send forth labourers into the harvest". (Matthew 9:37-38). "Here am I; send me". (Isaiah 6:8).
- g) Lord, I pray for the peace of Jerusalem. (Psalm 122:6). Bring all Israelites to call on Jesus Christ for salvation. (Zechariah 13:9). Turn all Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Roman Catholics to be saved by faith in Jesus Christ.
- h) Lord, relieve the suffering of believers being persecuted for their faith in you. (Hebrews 13:3).
- i) Father, revive our hearts and bring revival to Australia. (II Chronicles 7:14). Lord, we humble ourselves, pray and seek your face and turn from our wicked ways. Hear from heaven, forgive our sin, heal our land.

5) **Supplication - My Needs**

- a) "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10). Keep me possessing the joy of my salvation. Help me to be disciplined and efficient in my time and service to you. Don't let me put things off. Give me a field that I can fully exploit for you. Through us, raise up people who are wholehearted, single-minded and with a fighting spirit.
- b) Lord, make me a man after your own heart who shall fulfil all your will. (Acts 13:22).
- c) Lord, fill me with your Holy Spirit today, produce the fruit of the Spirit in me today and lead me to people that I can tell how to be saved.
- d) "Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him (Jabez) that which he requested." (I Chronicles 4:10).
- e) Lord, give me a band of mighty men and women as went with David and Saul, whose hearts you have touched to fulfil all your will. (I Samuel 10:26).
- f) Lord, give me your wisdom to decide right in all situations:
 - win souls continually and bring them to church,
 - defeat Satan's temptations,
 - teach many Christians so they can teach others also,
 - visit and do soul-winning better,
 - study your word, understand it and know it very well,
 - build and organise many new churches in Australia and overseas,
 - teach my wife and children to be powerful servants of God.

11. THE NATURE OF GOD - WHAT IS GOD LIKE

Bible Reading: Psalm 139

Aim: To understand and know God better, resulting in us loving and obeying God.

Introduction: Man is born spiritually blind and out of fellowship with God.

How can man regain his spiritual sight and understanding of God?

By (a) Being born again, and (b) Understanding God's nature and character.

Question: What is God like?

I. NATURAL ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

1) **Omniscience** = infinite knowledge. God knows Himself and all things whether actual or possible, whether past, present or future. He knows perfectly and from eternity. He knows the best ways to attain His desired ends. "He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. . . . his understanding is infinite." (Psalm 147:4,5) "The very hairs of your head are all numbered" (Matt 10:30)
Effect on us:

a) God knows completely and perfectly all our problems and needs before our birth.

b) We can be confident of God's love, ability and desire to meet our needs.

2) **Omnipotence** = infinite power. God is able to do whatever He wills that is in harmony with His nature. God cannot (a) lie (Hebrews 6:18); (b) commit sins (James 1:13); (c) look on sin (Habakkuk 1:13); (d) deny Himself (II Timothy 2:13). "There is nothing too hard for thee." (Jeremiah 32:17). Because God is Almighty, "With God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26).

Three categories of God's will are His (a) Perfect will; (b) Permissive will; and (c) Overruling will.

God limits Himself to some extent by the free will of man.

That is why - God did not keep sin out of the universe. (God permitted man to choose to sin).

- God does not save anyone by force.

Effect on us is that God "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." (Ephesians 3:20).

3) **Omnipresence** = infinite in space. God is everywhere present and active. He possesses full knowledge of all that transpires in every place. (Psalm 139:7-12). "Whither shall I flee from thy presence?" (v 7) "Even the Son of man which is in heaven?" (John 3:13).

Effect on us: a) Comforts believers,

b) Warns, restrains, and subdues unbelievers who can not escape God.

4) **Eternal** = infinite in time. Eternal is used:

a) figuratively = an existence which may have a beginning, but no end eg: angels, human soul.

b) literally = an existence which has no beginning or end eg: God, "Whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." (Micah 5:2). "From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." (Psalm 90:2). Revelation 1:8.

Effect on us is to: (a) Realise people will live forever in heaven or hell; (b) Understand the greatness of Jesus Christ; (c) Use our time most efficiently to win people to Christ.

5) **Unchangeable** = God never changes His nature or character.

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." (Hebrews 13:8).

"The Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (James 1:17).

Effect on us: (a) God is reliable and can be trusted to keep His word.

(b) We should be changeless by keeping our word, and always be faithful to God.

6) **Trinity** = is composed of 3 united Persons without separate existence, so completely united as to form one God. The divine nature exists in 3 distinctions as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. While God is One, He exists as 3 equal persons, each having the same attributes, yet differing in certain properties. The Father sends the Son, and the Son sends the Holy Spirit. (Doctrine of Procession).

The Trinity is not one God manifesting Himself in 3 ways or modes of existence, nor are they 3 separate gods. The Trinity is seen in: (a) The Baptismal formula. (Matthew 28:18-20),

(b) The Apostolic Benediction (II Cor. 13:14). (c) The 3 Heavenly Witnesses (I John 5:7,8),

(d) Each has the same Attributes of God, (e) Each raises Jesus, creates the world, and saves man.

II. MORAL ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

7) **Truth** = God's knowledge and declarations always conform to reality. God's faithfulness leads Him to fulfil all His promises and keep His Word. He is the 'Lord God of Truth.' (Psalm 31:5).

8) **Holiness** = God is absolutely pure and free from all defilement, evil and sin.

- i) Bible Proofs: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts." (Isaiah 6:3). Revelation 4:8. "The high and lofty one that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy." (Isaiah 57:15). "Holy Father." (John 17:11). "Be ye holy: for I am holy." (I Peter 1:16) Habakkuk 1:13.
- ii) Manifestations of God's holiness are:
 - The Tabernacle's Most Holy Place where the High Priest entered once a year.
 - The 10 Commandments and Mosaic laws of impurity (Leviticus 11-15).
 - The bounds set on Mt Sinai when God came down to give the 10 Commandments.
 - The Old Testament offerings required to approach God.
 - Israelites being isolated in their land, and commanded not to adopt pagan practices.
 - "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." (Isaiah 59:2).

The cross shows how much God loves holiness. Christ died not merely for our sins, but to provide us with righteousness and holiness of life, which God loves.

Effect on us:

- (a) We should approach God with "reverence and godly fear" (Hebrews 12:28), not as the men of Bethshemesh (I Samuel 5.6);
- (b) We will have right views of sin, when we have right views of God's Holiness, eg. Isaiah, the holiest man in Israel, was cast down on seeing his sin, after seeing God's Holiness (Isaiah 6:5-7):
- (c) The approach to the Holy God must be through the merits of Christ's righteousness.

9) **Righteousness and Justice** = virtuous, upright.

"For the Lord our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth." (Daniel 9:14).

Righteous = God has instituted a moral government in the world, and imposed just laws and penalties.

Justice = God executes His laws, rewards the righteous, and punishes the wicked. God is entirely correct and just in all His dealings with humanity. His justice acts in accordance with His law.

God's righteousness and justice are seen in His:

- a) Punishing the wicked,
- b) Rewarding the righteous (Psalms 58:11)
- c) Forgiving sins of the repentant,
- d) Keeping His promises to Christians (Nehemiah 9:7.8),
- e) Rescuing His people from their enemies (Esther 9:24.25).
- f) Believers preaching righteousness (Psalm 40:9,10).

10) **Goodness** = all the qualities an ideal person would have, including love, benevolence, mercy, grace.

"O taste and see that the Lord is good . . ." (Psalm 34:8).

- a) **Love** of God = fondness, a constant interest and warm affection towards the spiritual and physical welfare of His creatures, leading God to make sacrifices beyond human comprehension to reveal that love to mankind. God reveals His love by:
 - Linking His name with love. "God is love." (I John 4:8,16). Heathen gods hate and are angry.
 - Making an infinite sacrifice for the salvation of men. (I John 4:9,10).
 - Remembering us in all circumstances of life. (Isaiah 63:9: 49:15.16).
 - Giving us richly all things to enjoy. (I Timothy 6:17; Psalm 145:9.15.16: Matthew 5:45).
- b) **Benevolence** of God = the affection God feels and shows to mankind.
- c) **Mercy** of God = God's goodness shown to those in guilt, misery, distress (James 5:11: Ephesians 2:4). God is merciful to Israel (Psalm 102:13), to the Gentiles (Romans 11:30-32), to all that fear Him (Luke 1:50), and to all that seek His salvation (Isaiah 55:7). He seeks our temporal and eternal needs.
- d) **Lovingkindness** of God = God's bestowment on His obedient children His continual and best blessings. "He that spared not.." (Romans 8:32). The mercy and loving kindness of God is seen in the father's loving welcome to his prodigal (wasteful) son. (Luke 15:11-32: Psalm 63:3).
- e) **Grace** of God = God's goodness to the ill deserving. God's grace is shown in delaying punishment for sin, providing salvation, comfort of the Bible, Christian influence, the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, saving and uplifting sinners from a sinful life, etc.

Conclusion: Let us love (Deuteronomy 6:5), obey (I Samuel 15:22), serve (John 12:26), know (Philippians 3:10), praise (Psalm 107:8), study (II Timothy 2:15) and worship (John 4:23) God according to His attributes.

12. WHY CHRISTIANS SHOULD DO SOUL-WINNING

It is good that you are saved and on your way to heaven. Do you know anyone who is not yet saved, to whom we can present God's plan of salvation so they too can go to heaven? We must learn soul-winning by learning how to use the STOP tract, as we hear other more experienced soul-winners use it in door-knocking or open air preaching.

Definition: Soul-winning is starting a conversation with an unsaved person, and sharing God's plan of salvation with him from the Bible so that he clearly understands HOW he may receive Jesus Christ as his Saviour and have eternal life. It is leading a person to call on Christ to save him.

Question: Why should we do soul-winning?

- 1) God commands us to. "Go . . . and preach the gospel to every creature". (Mark 16:15).
- 2) That is why Christ came. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost". (Luke 19:10).
- 3) We must ALL appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ to receive REWARDS for faithfully serving Christ. (II Corinthians 5:10).
- 4) Because of HELL - "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men". (II Cor 5:11). Hell is HOT, Heaven is SWEET, and JESUS SAVES". (See Luke 16:19-31; Mark 9:42-48.)
- 5) THE LOVE OF CHRIST compels us. (II Corinthians 5:14).
- 6) People are BLESSED by being saved, and by becoming a new creature. (II Corinthians. 5:17).
- 7) God has given us the MINISTRY (Job) of Reconciliation (II Corinthians 5:18). This job is to bring God and man together.
- 8) We are AMBASSADORS for CHRIST. (II Corinthians 5:20).
- 9) So Christ will say to us: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:21).
- 10) Soul-winners are the BEST Christians. (Matthew 4:19).
- 11) Soul-winners will shine as the stars forever. (Daniel 12:3).
- 12) So that we won't be ashamed before Christ. (I John 2:28).
- 13) There is a great need, but few labourers (soul-winners). (Matthew 9:36-38).
- 14) JESUS was a soul-winner. (John 4; Luke 19:10).
- 15) Not to have BLOODY HANDS. (Ezekiel 3:17,18).
- 16) We have very little time to do soul-winning (John 9:4). We can't do soul-winning in heaven.
- 17) Soul-winning and disciple-making is the only hope to save Australia from sin, judgment and bad government. (Ezekiel 22:30).
- 18) We'll PERISH without a VISION of soul-winning and disciple-making. (Proverbs 29:18).
- 19) Soul-winning glorifies Christ. When people get saved, they praise God.
- 20) Soul-winners are WISER, know the Bible BETTER, and have LESS FEAR.
- 21) GIVE (the gospel), "and it shall be given unto you". (Luke 6:38). Look after God's interests and He'll look after yours.
- 22) To plant and build soul-winning churches all over the world.
- 23) To HURT SATAN and to make heaven rejoice. (Luke 15:3-7).
- 24) It's a PRIVILEGE that angels don't have. (Acts 10:3-8).
- 25) Those you win to Christ will thank you in heaven, and love you always.
- 26) God gives greater opportunities for service (in this life and the next) to those who are faithful in little things such as soul-winning. (Matthew 25:21).
- 27) It's great to see God use you.
- 28) If we don't win them to Christ, the world or cults will win them for Satan.
- 29) "WOE is unto me, if I preach NOT the gospel". (I Corinthians 9:16). Luke 12:47.
- 30) Soul-winning is the most exciting way to spend your life.
- 31) You set a MULTIPLICATION CHAIN going that may have millions of people in it. (II Tim 2:2).
- 32) JESUS is COMING SOON!!
- 33) Soul-winning increases your love for people and for God.
- 34) Example of Christians in the past eg. martyrs. (Revelation 17:6).
- 35) It is the BEST WAY to MAKE FRIENDS.
- 36) It makes you HAPPY and brings UNITY in your church.
- 37) You may win a great person to Christ.

13. REWARDS

God's Word teaches us that salvation is a free gift given to us by God. We do not work for it (Ephesians 2:8,9,10), we just receive it and it becomes ours. Once we have received it, we cannot lose it. (John 10:28).

Question: Does this mean I can go out and sin, now that I'm saved, without any bad consequences?

Answer: No, because: a) God will discipline us now, and we will be sorry.
b) We will lose our rewards later on in heaven.

I. STATEMENTS OF REWARDS IN HEAVEN

- "And, behold, I come quickly; and **my reward** is with me, to **give** every man **according** as his work shall be". (Revelation 22:12).
- "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men: knowing that of the Lord **ye shall receive the reward** of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall **receive** for the **wrong** which he hath done". (Colossians 3:23-25).
- "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; That every one may **receive** the things done in his body, **according** to that he hath done, whether it be **good** or **bad**". (II Corinthians 5:10)
- "Knowing that whatsoever **good thing** any man doeth, the same shall he **receive** of the Lord". (Ephesians 6:8).
- "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"(Philippians 3:14)
- "... Moses had respect unto the recompence of the **reward**". (Hebrews 11:26).
- "Lay up for yourselves **treasures in heaven** . . .". (Matthew 6:19,20).
- To have an **abundant entrance** into the everlasting kingdom. (II Peter 1:11).
- "So then everyone of us shall **give account of himself** to God". (Romans 14:12).

Christ will come to judge the works of believers and to distribute rewards. The believer will not be judged with regard to his sins (John 5:24). Christ received that judgment on our behalf on the cross (II Corinthians 5:21) and we will not again be called to account for them at Christ's return. During this life, however the believer is disciplined for the sins that he commits (Hebrews 12:7-11). But when Christ returns, believers will be judged as to how well we have used the **talents** (Matthew 25:14-30), the **pounds** (Luke 19:11-27), and the **opportunities** (Matthew 20:1-16) that God has entrusted to us. Salvation is a free gift of God (Romans 6:23) and comes from the grace of God (Ephesians 2:8). When James says that we are saved by works (James 2:24), he means by faith that produces works (2:22,26). Paul says that while we are saved by grace, we are saved to do good works (Ephesians 2:8-10). The Lord has given believers an opportunity to lay up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:20), and so to have an abundant entrance into God's everlasting kingdom (II Peter 1:11).

II. FOR WHAT WILL WE BE REWARDED IN HEAVEN?

- 1) **Faithfulness** to **God** and to his **work** in using our talents, pounds and opportunities will be rewarded. If we sow sparingly, we reap sparingly. If we sow bountifully, we reap bountifully. "It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." (I Corinthians 4:2).
- 2) **Reaping the harvest of souls** for Jesus Christ. "He that reapeth receives wages". (John 4:35,36,37).
- 3) **Patiently enduring suffering** and affliction brings heavenly rewards. "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." (II Corinthians 4:17).
- 4) They that **turn many** to **righteousness** will shine as the stars forever and ever. (Daniel 12:3).
- 5) In **keeping of them** (God's commandments) there is a **great reward**. (Psalm 19:11).
- 6) When we are **persecuted** for righteousness sake. (Matthew 5:10). When people revile you and **say all manner of evil against you falsely for Jesus Christ's** sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for **great** is your **reward** in heaven. (Matthew 5:10-12).
- 7) Giving **money** secretly. (Matthew 6:4).
- 8) **Praying** secretly. (Matthew 6:6).
- 9) **Fasting** secretly. (Matthew 6:18).
- 10) **Hospitality**. Receiving, helping or welcoming a prophet or a righteous man. (Matthew 10:41).
If you receive or help a prophet or righteous man, you get a prophet or righteous man's reward.

- 11) If you give a **cup of cold water** to a disciple, you will not lose your reward. (Matthew 10:42). God notices all the little acts of kindness that we do, and promises to reward us for each of them.
- 12) If people **hate** you, and **separate** you from their company, and shall **reproach** you, and shall **cast out** your name as evil for the Son of man's sake, Rejoice and leap for joy, for your **reward is great in heaven**. (Luke 6:22,23).
- 13) Your **reward** shall be **great** if you do as in Luke 6:27-31,35:
 - a) Love your enemies.
 - b) Do good to them that hate you.
 - c) Bless them that curse you.
 - d) Pray for them that despitefully use you.
 - e) To him that smites thee on the cheek, offer the other.
 - f) If he takes your cloak, offer your coat.
 - g) Give to every one that asks thee.
 - h) Of him that takes away thy goods, ask them not again.
 - i) Do to men as ye would have them do to you.
 - j) Lend, hoping for nothing again. As sufferers in an evil world, we will be rewarded for endurance. "If we suffer, we shall also **reign** with him". (II Timothy 2:12).
- 14) If we **plant the gospel** and **water it** in people's lives. "He that planteth (Paul) and he that watereth (Apollos) are one: and every man shall **receive his own reward** according to his own **labour**". (I Corinthians 3:8).
- 15) If we have **eternal values**. If we build on the foundation of Christ, by using gold, silver, precious stone type **works** of eternal value. (I Corinthians 3:11-15).
If our work abides, we will receive a **reward**. (3:14).
If any man's life work shall be burned, he shall suffer **loss**, but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. (v.15). The quality of our life's work will be rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
- 16) If I **preach the gospel willingly**, I have a **reward**. (I Corinthians 9:16,17).
- 17) **Meekness** in serving Christ. Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5)
The reward is real estate ownership in the Millennium.
- 18) "Cast not away therefore your **confidence**, which hath great recompence of reward." (Heb 10:35).
- 19) How we **treat other believers**. "God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints and do minister". (Hebrews 6:10).
- 20) How we exercise our **Pastoral ministry** to others. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that **must give account**, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you". (Hebrews 13:17).
- 21) How we **use** our **God-given abilities**. "Thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities". (Luke 19:17).
- 22) How we **use our money**. "Charge them that are rich in this world . . . that they be . . . ready to distribute . . ." (I Timothy 6:17-19). "**Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come**". (I Timothy 6:19).
- 23) How much we **suffer** for Jesus Christ.
"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory". (II Corinthian 4:17). Romans 8:18; I Peter 4:12,13; II Timothy 2:12.
- 24) How we **run the race** that God has **chosen** for us. "So run, that ye may obtain". (I Corinthians 9:24).
- 25) How well we **control sin**. "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible." (I Corinthians 9:25,26,27).
- 26) How we react to **temptation**. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life". (Revelation 2:10).
- 27) How much we **love the Lord's appearing**. "Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that **love His appearing**". (II Timothy 4:8).
- 28) **Doing everything heartily**, as unto the **Lord**. "Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." (Colossians 3:23,24).

29) How **faithful** we are to the **Word of God**, and to **feed the flock**. "Feed the flock of God . . . when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." (I Peter 5:2-4)

III. WHAT WILL OUR REWARDS BE?

The Christian's reward is sometimes mentioned as a "prize" (I Corinthians 9:24) and sometimes as a "crown" (I Corinthians 9:25). Five Crowns may be won:

- 1) **Incarnable** crown - for those who discipline the body, as an athlete to achieve great things for God. (I Corinthians 9:25-27).
- 2) **Rejoicing** - for those who win people to Christ. (I Thessalonians 2:19,20).
- 3) **Life** - for those who love Christ enough to endure temptation. (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10).
- 4) **Righteousness** - for those who love Christ's second coming. (II Timothy 4:8).
- 5) **Glory** - for pastors and teachers who faithfully feed the flock of God. (I Peter 5:2-4).
- 6) Our Lord's **approval** - "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things." (Matthew 25:21).
- 7) **Ruler over many things**. "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him." (II Timothy 2:12). "They shall reign for ever and ever." (Revelation 22:5).
- 8) **Authority over 10 cities, 5 cities etc.** "Thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities." (Luke 19:17).
- 9) **Inherit all things**. "He that overcometh shall inherit all things". (Revelation 21:7). We may sit with Christ in His Throne. (Revelation 3:21). He has made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. (Revelation 5:10).
- 10) His servants shall **serve Him**. "They shall see his face". (Revelation 22:3,4).

IV. HOW MAY WE LOSE OUR REWARDS?

Can someone who has earned rewards, lose them through sinful living? These verses imply "yes":

- 1) By **Backsliding**, not holding fast which thou hast. "Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown". (Revelation 3:11).
- 2) By **following Deceivers**. "For many deceivers are entered into the world". (II John 7).
- 3) By **not looking to ourselves**, to check our behaviour. "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we **receive a full reward**". (II John 8).
- 4) By **worshipping angels**. "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, . . . And not holding the Head . . ." (Colossians 2:18,19).
- 5) By **not expecting Christ's return**. "Say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming". (Matt 24:48).
- 6) By **doing wrong**. "He that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done." (Col 3:25).
- 7) By **not abiding in Christ**. Faithfulness in our service here to Christ will result in privileged service in eternity. Our works from salvation to the grave will be on display as a painting, so that all believers and angels can see the results of our life's work for Christ. "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have **confidence**, and **not be ashamed** before him at his coming". (I John 2:28).

Question: Will you have confidence or be ashamed at Christ's coming?

V. THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD FOR THESE REASONS:

- i) Its **Unity**. The Bible was given by God to 40 writers, over 1600 years, in 66 books. It contains history, prophecy, science, law, doctrine, morality, origins and human biographies, yet we never see any disagreement between any writer on any subject. If you ask 40 of your friends to discuss their opinions on the past, the future, morality, origins, law, philosophy, you will find very great disagreement and difference of opinion. The Bible, however, agrees 100% on every subject it discusses, strongly proving that it comes from the mind of God.
- ii) **Scientific accuracy**. The Bible has over 26 scientific facts that were unknown until after 1800AD.
- iii) **Archaeology**. No archaeological findings ever contradict the Bible, but prove it to be true.
- iv) **Fulfilled prophecies**. Christ fulfilled over 45 OT prophecies. 40 prophecies are fulfilled since 1940.
- v) **Jesus Christ** called it the word of God (John 10:35; Mark 7:13; Luke 8:11: "Seed . . . word of God")
- vi) It has **infinitely superior teachings** over any other book. The Bible is nothing but truth.
 - All other books have truth mixed with error, like jewels mixed with mud.
 - The Bible contains all truth. Every proven moral truth is found in the Bible.

14. BAPTISM

God commands all believers to be baptized as soon as possible after salvation.

Don't be like the Pharisees and lawyers who rejected God's counsel "being not baptized". (Luke 7:30).

Baptism is one area that we can be 100% obedient or 100% disobedient to Christ. Which will you be?

1) MEANING OF BAPTISM

- a) Baptism comes from the Greek word "baptizo" meaning "to overwhelm, make fully wet, dip, cover wholly with a fluid". Baptism never means "sprinkle" (Greek = rhanizō), nor does it mean "pour" (Greek = ekcheō).
- b) Baptism means identification with a person, a group, a message or an event. For example:
 - Christian baptism (by immersion in water after salvation) means identification with the message of the gospel, the person of Christ as Saviour and with the group of believers and their beliefs.
 - Moses' baptism = identification under Moses' leadership in bringing the Israelites out of Egypt (1 Corinthians 10:2).
- c) Baptism pictures and publicly declares that we believe that:
 - We are saved by the gospel of Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
 - As we enter the water, we identify with Christ's death on the cross and death to our old way of life.
 - As we go under the water, we identify ourselves with Christ's burial in the tomb, and burial of our old man (the old sin nature, the old sin habit pattern and the old sin lifestyle). (Romans 6:6).
 - As we rise up out of the water, we identify ourselves with Christ's bodily resurrection, and we declare that we are now rising to a new way of life with Christ ("newness of life"), and that we will one day rise from the dead at Christ's return. (Romans 6:1-6) "Like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life". (v 4).

2) CONDITIONS OF BIBLE BAPTISM ARE:

- a) Right candidate - believers, not babies. (Acts 8:36,37).

The Eunuch asked, "What doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. He answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God". (Acts 8:36,37). A baby cannot believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. This scripture disqualifies infant "baptism". If you were sprinkled as a baby, you need to get saved, then Biblically baptized.
- b) Right method - immersion. (Mark 1:9-11).

The Ethiopian eunuch was immersed: "when they were come up out of the water". (Acts 8:39). Jesus was immersed: "Coming up out of the water". (Mark 1:10).
Question: If Jesus was immersed, why do you reject Jesus' example and choose Catholic sprinkling? Do you know better than Jesus?
Question: Find one Bible verse where a baby was immersed or sprinkled? Nobody has found one yet. If you continue to hold to infant sprinkling, it shows that you love church tradition more than Jesus Christ and the Bible. Repent of this error.
- c) Right Motive - obedience to Christ's command. Jesus said: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19,20).

Bible baptism is a test of our love for Christ. Baptism does not save us from hell or sins, only the blood of Christ can do this, not water.
- d) Right authority - local church with sound doctrine. (Acts 2:41-47)

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. (v.41). And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine (v.42) . . . and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (v.47). If you were baptized in a church that teaches false doctrine (Mormons, JW's, SDA) or obsolete doctrine (Acts 19:1-5), you should get baptized again to break the association with a false church and to publicly identify with the true Lord Jesus Christ of the Bible and a church teaching the apostles' doctrine.

3) WHY SHOULD BELIEVERS BE BAPTIZED?

- a) Jesus was baptized by immersion to fulfil all righteousness (Matthew 3:13-17), meaning that it was an example for us to follow as part of living righteously.
- b) Christ approved of his disciples baptising (John 4:1,2).

- c) Christ commanded that people be baptized (Matthew 28:18-20) promising His presence with us to the end of the world.
- d) The early church gave an important place to baptism, never thinking of a believer remaining unbaptized eg. 3000 at Pentecost (Acts 2:38,41); Samaritan believers (Acts 8:1-13); Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:36-39); Paul (Acts 9:18); Cornelius' household (Acts 10:47,48); Lydia and the Philippian jailer (Acts 16:15, 83); Crispus and the Corinthians (Acts 18:8); John's disciples were rebaptized (Acts 19:5).
- e) It proves that we love and want to obey Jesus Christ and the Bible, rather than men and vain human sprinkling tradition. (I Peter 1:18).
- f) The doctrine of Baptism is a foundational principle of the Doctrine of Christ. (Hebrews 6:1,2). It is not unimportant. It is as important as repentance from dead works, faith towards God, resurrection and judgment.
- g) Everyone baptized in the New Testament was a saved adult who could say, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God". (Acts 8:37). Babies cannot believe or say this. (I Peter 3:21).
- h) To have a good conscience. Only immersion is the answer of a good conscience towards God.
- i) Only immersion pictures the death of Christ for our sins, burial of our sinful ways, and our rising to a new life with Christ.
- j) Only immersion was the method of baptism up to 300 AD as recorded by early church writers. The Roman Catholic church changed it.

4) BIBLE PASSAGES TO READ ON BAPTISM:

Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:13-16; Mark 1:9-11); 3000 believers at Pentecost (Acts 2:37-47); Samaritans and Simon (Acts 8:1-25); Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40); Paul (Acts 9:1-31); Cornelius' family and friends (Acts 10:1-48); Lydia and her household (Acts 16:12-15); Philippian jailer and his household (Acts 16:16-40); John's disciples were rebaptized (Acts 19:1-7); Crispus' household and many Corinthians (Acts 18:1-11; Romans 6:1-13; I Cor 1:10-17; Heb 6:1-2).

Conclusion: Will you be baptized God's way or by Satan's counterfeit way? All believers were baptized immediately after they were saved. If you were baptized before salvation, you just went in a dry sinner and came out a wet sinner. This does not qualify as Bible baptism.

If you have been saved and not yet baptized, you are disobeying Christ's command.

Please tell your pastor today that you wish to follow Christ's example by being baptized by immersion.

15. TWENTY OBJECTIVES TO RAISE GODLY CHILDREN

- 1) Show each child how to be sure of their salvation. (Romans 10:13; I John 5:11-13; John 1:12).
- 2) Encourage each child to dedicate their life to do God's will. (Romans 12:1,2).
- 3) Help each child to accept themselves as God made them. (Ephesians 1:6).
- 4) Guide each child to get under the protection of God's authority. (Ephesians 6:1-4).
- 5) Work with each child to gain a clear conscience. (I Timothy 1:19).
- 6) Show each child how to have a forgiving spirit. (Ephesians 4:32).
- 7) Show each child how to respond to irritations. (I Peter 2:23; 3:16).
- 8) Show each child how to conquer moral impurity. (Psalm 119:11).
- 9) Show each child how to meditate on God's Word. (Psalm 1:2,3; Joshua 1:8).
- 10) Show each child how to share the gospel with their friends. (Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:13).
- 11) Show each child how to have a daily Bible reading program. (Acts 17:11).
- 12) Get each child to read challenging biographies of great Christians. (Jeremiah 5:5).
- 13) Show each child how to have God's standard for dating. (I Corinthians 7:1).
- 14) Show each child how to tithe and apply God's principles of finances. (Malachi 3:8-12).
- 15) Show each child how to establish an effective prayer life. (Matthew 6:5-15).
- 16) Show each child how to make right friends and avoid wrong friends. (Psalm 1:1; Proverbs 1:10).
- 17) Show each child how to stand alone against evil. (Daniel 1).
- 18) Show each child how to discover and develop their spiritual gifts. (II Timothy 2:15).
- 19) Show each child how to become an active and loyal church member. (Hebrews 10:24,25).
- 20) Show each child how to see their spiritual purpose in life. (Esther 4:14).

Conclusion: Lead your children in Bible study on these 20 goals tonight.

16. HEAVEN

Memory verse: "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth". (Colossians 3:2).

- Aim:**
- a) To see what great things await us in heaven.
 - b) To comfort us about those who have gone there.
 - c) To tell people how to get to heaven.

In view of this world's difficulties and heaven's treasures, we should always live for heaven and eternity.

a) NAMES of Heaven. "Ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance". (Hebrews 10:34).

"In my Father's house are many mansions . . . I go to prepare a place for you". (John 14:2).

"Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven". (Matthew 6:20).

b) When we die, where do believers go?

- **At death**, the spirits and souls of believers go immediately to heaven. The body "sleeps" in the earth until Christ's second coming, when we will be caught up to rejoin our spirits and souls.

"To be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord". (II Corinthians 5:8).

"Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring **with him**". (I Thessalonians 4:14).

"To an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled . . . reserved **in heaven** for you". (I Peter 1:4).

"For the hope which is laid up for you **in heaven**." (Colossians 1:5).

"But now they desire a better country, that is, an **heavenly**." (Hebrews 11:16).

"Knowing in yourselves that ye have **in heaven** a better and an enduring substance" (Heb 10:34)

"I heard a great voice of much people **in heaven**." (Revelation 19:1).

"Lay up for yourselves treasures **in heaven**." (Matthew 6:20).

"**Where I am** (heaven), **there** shall also my servant be." (John 12:26).

"I go and prepare a **place** for you . . . that **where I am** (heaven), there ye may be also" (John 14:3).

"We know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved (physical death), we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the **heavens**." (II Corinthians 5:1).

- **At Christ's glorious return to earth**, believers will return to earth with Christ.

"The Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee". (Zechariah 14:5).

- **After Christ's 1000 year rule on earth**, God will destroy the first earth with fire. He will then create a new heaven, a new earth, and a new Jerusalem city which will be 1500 miles high, wide and long. This will be our home with God forever. (Revelation 21:1-3).

c) What will heaven be like?

i) Heaven is where God's Throne is. "Our Father which art in heaven." (Matthew 6:9).

ii) It is a sinless Holy Place. "He will hear him from his holy heaven." (Rev. 21:27; Psalm 20:6).

iii) Beautiful and clean. "The street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass." (Rev 21:21)

iv) River of Life, and tree of life. (Revelation 22:1,2).

v) Angels reside there. "The voice of many angels about the throne in heaven." (Revelation 5:11).

vi) Father, Son and Holy Spirit reside there. "They shall see his face." (Revelation 22:4).

vii) Place of reward. "Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven." (Mat 5:12).

viii) Place of separation from the Wicked. (I Cor. 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 22:14,15).

ix) Believers reside there. " . . . an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." (II Cor. 5:1).

x) We return to the days of our youth, in resurrected, youthful, immortal bodies. "This mortal must put on immortality." (I Corinthians 15:53). "His flesh shall be fresher than a child's; he shall return to the days of his youth." (Job 33:25).

xi) Place of joy and happiness. "Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." (Isaiah 35:10; Matthew 25:21).

xii) All good earthly gifts come from God in heaven. "A man can receive nothing except it be given him from heaven." (John 3:27). "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights . . ." (James 1:17).

Question: Do you acknowledge God as having given you everything good?

xiii) God assigns angels in heaven to each child who is born, in order to bring that person to hear the gospel, so that they will receive Christ as Saviour and have eternal life. (Matthew 18:10).

xiv) God's Word which we have in our hands is settled forever in heaven. It is without error. We can confidently build our life on it. "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." (Psalm 119:89).

xv) The permanence of heavenly possessions comforts us when we lose earthly possessions. (Heb 10:34)

xvi) An inheritance reserved in heaven for you, that fades not away. (I Peter 1:4,5).

- xvii) Saved people from every kindred, tongue, people and nation will be there. (Rev 5:9). We will be reunited with saved friends and relatives, children who have died, Jesus Christ and angels.
- xviii) We shall have a glorified body like Christ. "We shall be like him." (I John 3:2). This is Christ likeness. Our new body will not be subject to laws of gravity, time and ageing. (John 20:19).
- xix) Heaven is eternal, an "eternal inheritance." (Hebrews 9:15).
- xx) A place of memory. **Question:** Will we know one another in heaven? Yes, David will meet his son. (II Sam 12:22,23).
We shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 8:11).
- xxi) Satisfaction of all our needs. (Revelation 7:16,17).
- xxii) Sharing in Christ's glory. "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory". (Colossians 3:4).

d) What will we do in Heaven?

- i) Intimate fellowship with God for all eternity. "That where I am there ye may be also." (John 14:3). "They shall see his face." (Revelation 22:4).
- ii) Rest from hard labour. "They may rest from their labours." (Revelation 14:13). One of the results of sin was the curse of toil and the sweat of hard work. When we arrive in heaven, we will continue to work, but the agony of labour will be gone.
- iii) Exciting service. "His servants shall serve him." (Revelation 22:3).
"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." (Luke 16:10).
- iv) Ruling. "Because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities." (Luke 19:17). "We shall reign on the earth." (Revelation 5:10). "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him." (II Timothy 2:12).
- v) Worship. "The 24 elders . . . worship him that liveth forever and ever." (Revelation 4:9,10,11).
"The Father seeketh such to worship him." (John 4:23). We will be so amazed with the greatness of God, heaven and eternity that we will respond in worship.
- vi) Singing. "They sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy." (Revelation 5:9). "The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads." (Isaiah 35:10).
- vii) Eating. "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna". (Revelation 2:17).
- viii) Marriage supper of the Lamb. "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." (Revelation 19:9).

e) What will NOT be in heaven? The "no-mores" in heaven are:

- i) No more sea. (Revelation 21:1).
- ii) The first heaven and the first earth were passed away. (Revelation 21:1).
- iii) No more tears. (Revelation 21:4).
- iv) No more death.
- v) No more sorrow.
- vi) No more crying.
- vii) No more pain.
- viii) No more sun or moon. (Revelation 21:23).
- ix) No temple, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. (Revelation 21:22).
- x) No more insecurity. "The gates of it shall not be shut at all by day." (Revelation 21:25).
- xi) No night there." (Revelation 21:25).
- xii) No sin will enter. "There shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie" (Revelation 21:27).
- xiii) No more sickness. "Leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." (Revelation 22:2).
- xv) "No candle neither light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever." (Revelation 22:5).
- xvi) No more thirst, hunger or heat. (Revelation 7:16).
- xvii) No one who adds or takes away from the Bible. (Revelation 22:18,19).
- xviii) Outside are dogs, sorcerers, whoremongers, murderers, idolaters, and liars. (Revelation 22:15).

Question: How may we enter heaven?

Answer: We must humble ourselves as children, and receive or ask Christ to be our Saviour. (Matthew 18:1-6; John 1:12)

Question: Are you really sure of going to heaven? Are you really living for Christ and eternity? Are you working to get lost people saved and into heaven?

17. ANGELS

Q1: Is there intelligent life apart from man in the universe? Yes.

Q2: Are they friend or foe? They are both.

Q3: Is their civilization older than ours? Yes.

Q4: Will we ever communicate with them or meet them? Some already have.

Q5: Who are these extraterrestrials? Angels.

The main tasks of angels are to:

- i) Deliver messages from God to man. (Daniel 9:21-23).
- ii) Encourage and minister to people's needs. (Hebrews 1:14; I Kings 19:1-8).
- iii) Oppose the work of Satan and his evil angels. (Daniel 10:20).

Benefits of studying the doctrine of angels are:

- i) They constantly watch our lives (Daniel 4:17). Hence we will improve our conduct.
- ii) They protect us, hence we understand God's care for us (Hebrews 1:7).
- iii) As we see their great strength and authority as they humbly perform small tasks, we learn to serve God with humility also.
- iv) As God created many holy, powerful angels who worship Him, so we are encouraged to worship God (Revelation 22:8,9).
- v) Understanding the angelic conflict helps us to be more committed to winning the spiritual war for people's souls.
- vi) As God opposes and judges wicked angels, so He will oppose and judge us if we fall into sin.
- vii) Much evil in this world is from evil angels. This helps us to understand human affairs.
- viii) We will be more cautious to watch for the deception of evil angels.
- ix) As angels deliver us from danger, so we can trust our lives to God who sends them (Heb 1:14).
- x) As angels are completely devoted to God and ready to serve Him, so should we follow their example. Their unceasing service should motivate us to more devoted service to God.

What are some names of good angels?

- a) _____ (Revelation 12:7-12).
- b) _____ (Luke 1:10-20).
- c) _____ (Ezekiel 10:20, 21).
- d) _____ (Isaiah 6:1-3).

How do good angels minister to believers?

- i) Revealing God's will and word to men. Much of the books of Daniel and Revelation were given through angels.
- ii) Guiding and directing people to win others to Christ. An angel directed Philip to go south from Samaria to the Gaza desert to win the Ethiopian eunuch to Christ. (Acts 8:26). Notice that the angel gave the general direction, but the Holy Spirit pointed out the exact person (Acts 8:29). An angel directed Cornelius to send for Peter who would tell him how to be saved. (Acts 10:1-8; 11:13,14). Note that the Holy Spirit gave Peter specific instructions (Acts 10:19; 11:12).
- iii) Providing physical needs such as food and water. For example:
 - a) To Hagar and Ishmael in the desert (Genesis 21:17-20).
 - b) God providing manna known as angels' food to Israel in the wilderness (Psalm 78:23-25).
 - c) When Elijah had fled from Jezebel and laid down to die, an angel awoke him and provided him with "a cake baked on the coals, and a cruse of water." (I Kings 19:5,6,7).
 - d) Angels ministered to Christ after His 40 day fast and temptation by Satan in the wilderness. (Matthew 4:11).
- iv) Protecting or guarding believers from physical danger.
 - a) God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths when Daniel was thrown into the lions' den. (Daniel 6:20-23).
 - b) God sent an angelic army to surround and protect Elisha and his servant at Dothan from the Syrian army. Elisha said, "Fear not: for they that be with us (angels) are more than they that be with them." (II Kings 6:16-17)/
 - c) God sent an angel to kill 185,000 Assyrians who were laying siege to Jerusalem. (Isaiah 36,37).
- v) Delivering believers from harm:
 - a) When the Jewish leaders imprisoned the apostles, an angel opened the doors, led them out and told them to keep preaching. (Acts 5:17-20).

- b) Peter was delivered from prison by an angel who caused his chains to fall off, opening the prison doors and leading him out. (Acts 12:5-10).
- c) God delivers from harm, by sealing the 144,000 Israelite witnesses in the Tribulation so they are preserved to complete their job of preaching the gospel to the world.
- vi) Strengthening and encouraging believers to continue preaching and serving God:
 - a) After setting the apostles free from prison, an angel encouraged them to continue preaching. (Acts 5:19-20).
 - b) An Angel appeared to Paul at sea in a storm predicting that he would be preserved from death at sea so he could preach at Rome. (Acts 27:23-25).
- vii) Sent in answer to prayer:
 - a) Daniel prayed for Israel's restoration to the land and an angel came to instruct him and answer his prayer. (Daniel 9:20-24).
 - b) Daniel prayed and fasted, so God sent an angel to give him the detailed history of the next 400 years. (Daniel 10:10-12).
 - c) When Herod imprisoned Peter, the church prayed for his release without ceasing, and God sent an angel to deliver him. (Acts 12:1-17).
- viii) Carrying believers to heaven: Angels carried Lazarus' spirit to paradise at death (Luke 16:22). Michael disputed with Satan over Moses' body (Jude 9).
Scripture shows that the ministry of the Holy Spirit differs from that of angels as follows:

<u>Angels</u>	<u>Holy Spirit</u>
1. External and physical.	1. Internal and Spiritual.
2. Minister for us.	2. Minister in us.
3. Guard our bodies and pathway.	3. Guards our spirits and guides us in the right way.
4. May be agents to answer prayer.	4. The Prompter and Director of our prayers (Rom 8:26,27).
- ix) Angels observe believers. Angels learn and develop from observing the work of God and men on earth in this church age. (Luke 12:8,9; I Corinthians 4:9; 11:10). "I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, . . . doing nothing by partiality." (I Timothy 5:21).
- x) Angels execute judgment on unbelievers and nations. For example: Herod was eaten of worms (Acts 12:23); Sodomites were blinded and destroyed (Gen 19:11,13).
- xi) Future work of angels. They will gather the elect when Christ returns. (Matthew 24:31). They will separate the saved from the lost at Christ's coming. (Matthew 13:39,49,50).

What do Angels observe?

- i) Salvation. They aim to learn more about God as they observe the operation of salvation in people, "Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, . . . which things the angels desire to look into." (I Peter 1:10-12). As angels learn and develop, they can worship and serve God with more understanding and devotion.
- ii) Worship. Angels observe worship in a local church, looking for evidence of woman's subjection to man. "For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels." (I Corinthians 11:1-10). A woman's long hair (v.15) or head covering evidenced her submissive condition of heart, as she worshipped God. (v.3).
- iii) Work and witness. Angels observe the ministry of each believer in any local church. Paul charges Timothy before God and the holy angels to administer his church impartially, "I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality." (I Timothy 5:21). Paul describes the Apostles and all believers as a public spectacle involved in a life and death struggle with Satan over the souls of men. God, Satan, man, good and evil angels, watched the Apostles and believers fighting daily for the souls of men. "We are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men." (I Corinthians 4:9).

When a sinner understands the gospel and repents, the angels rejoice from their "grandstand" in heaven. (Luke 15:10). Angels will hear Christ confessing or denying people who confessed or denied Him on earth before men (Luke 12:8,9). Angels will witness the rewarding of believers. (Matthew 16:27). Since angels observe us, we should walk soberly in dedication, in obedience, and in dependence on Christ.

How do evil angels oppose believers?

Under Satan's control are a great number of evil spirit beings known as demons, authorities, principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, etc. These are symbolised in Scripture by:

- 1) Fowls of the air. (Matthew 13:4,19).
- 2) Unclean and hateful birds in a cage. (Revelation 18:1-3).
- 3) Unclean frogs (Revelation 16:13,14).
- 4) Locusts from the bottomless pit. (Revelation 9:1-10).

Demon spirits' work is: "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, . . . kill, . . . destroy." (John 10:10).

These spirits attack mankind spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically and morally. Examples are:

- 1) They oppose God's servants by taking away the Word that was sown. (Matthew 13:19).
- 2) They hinder the gospel: "but Satan hindered us". (I Thessalonians 2:18).
- 3) They take people captive "who are taken captive by him at his will". (II Timothy 2:26).
- 4) They blind unbelievers' minds. (II Corinthians 4:4).
- 5) They sow tares (children of the devil) among wheat (believers in a local church), to destroy its outreach. (Matthew 13:39).
- 6) They seduce people to believe error so as to stop them achieving God's plan for their lives. They seek to lead astray, tempt, corrupt, and to cause people to be obsessed with false ideas. (I Timothy 4:1; Mark 13:22; I John 2:26).
- 7) They trouble people, as in the case of Saul (I Sam 16:14). The Hebrew word for "trouble" means "to terrify, to make fearful or afraid." It means agitation of mind, perplexing and uneasiness.
- 8) They oppress people: "healing all that were oppressed of the devil." (Acts 10:38). "Oppress" means to "overburden in body or mind."
- 9) They vex people, meaning "to suffer at the hands of another, to harass, to mob, to experience pain". "Vexed with unclean spirits". (Acts 5:16; Luke 6:18).
"My daughter is grievously vexed with a devil." (Matthew 15:22).
- 10) They bind people: "whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years." (Luke 13:16).
This means "to tie up, confine, to fasten by binding cords around".
- 11) They deceive people: This is a sign of Christ's return. (Matthew 24:4,5,11,24).
- 12) They possess people. They occupy, own and indwell a person, sometimes causing lunacy, blindness, and dumbness. (Matthew 4:24).
- 13) They buffet people, meaning "to hit with blow after blow, to punch, slap, to fight against." (II Corinthians 12:7)
- 14) They resist people, meaning they stand up against, act as an adversary and oppose." (Zechariah 3:1-3).
- 15) They torment people (Revelation 9:1-11; 16:13-14).
- 16) They wrestle against us (Ephesians 6:12), seeking to pin us to the ground so we achieve nothing for God, or to throw us out of the ring or race of life for people's souls.

What do we have to oppose evil angels and to defend ourselves?

The Lord has given the believer mighty spiritual weapons to defeat the attacks of Satan:

- 1) The Word of God. Satan's power to deceive is due to people's ignorance of God's Word. God's people are often destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). Jesus used the Word of God when He said, "It is written" to defeat Satan (Matthew 4:1-10).
- 2) The Whole Armour of God. (Ephesians 6:10-18). Truth, righteousness, gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of the Spirit, praying and watching.
- 3) Jesus Christ living in us. At salvation, Jesus Christ, the Father and the Holy Spirit indwell the Christian. "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." (I John 4:4).
- 4) The Filling and Power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit-filled believer has the power to withstand, fight and conquer all the power of the enemy. "But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, . . . first bind the strong man . . . and then he will spoil his house." (Matthew 12:28,29).
- 5) Fellow believers in a local church. "Nevertheless, God that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus." (II Corinthians 7:6). A reason for coming to church is for comfort, as believers use their spiritual gifts to help each other.
- 6) Good angels ministering to us.
- 7) The Name of Jesus Christ. (Acts 16:18).
- 8) The Blood of Jesus Christ cleansing us from sin. (Revelation 12:11).

18. TEMPTATION

Bible Reading: I Corinthians 10:1-13.

1) Source of Temptations.

- i) The World (I John 2:15-17), ii) The Flesh (James 1:14), iii) The Devil (Matthew 4:1-11).
- iv) Evil Associates (Proverbs 1:10). v) Christian Friends (Matthew 16:22,23).

2) Methods of Temptation.

- i) Discouragement (Psalm 42:11). ii) Worldly glory (Matthew 4:8-10; Numbers 22:17).
- iii) Anger at other peoples' actions eg. David and Nabal (I Samuel 25:21-32).
- iv) Poverty (Proverbs 30:8,9). v) Satisfy our needs unrighteously (Matthew 4:3,4).
- vi) Prosperity (Proverbs 30:9).
- vii) Advice of others, eg. Job's wife (Job 2:9 "Curse God and die") and friends' bad advice.

3) Types of Temptation.

- i) To disbelieve God's Word. Satan asked Eve, "Yea, hath God said . . . ?" (Genesis 3:1).
- ii) To presumption - that God would rescue us.
In Matthew 4:6. Satan tempted Jesus to presume that the angels would rescue Him.
- iii) To worship the god of this world. (Matthew 4:9).
- iv) To pride, eg. Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:30); Satan (Isaiah 14:12-16).
- v) To pleasure, eg. Moses (Hebrews 11:25).
- vi) To quit serving God, eg. Demas (II Timothy 4:10).
- vii) To power and popularity, eg. Simon Magus (Acts 8:19).
- viii) To possessions, eg. Achan. (Joshua 7:1-24).
- ix) To money, eg. Judas (Matthew 26:14-16); Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11).
- x) To sex, eg. David (II Samuel 11:2-4); Solomon (Nehemiah 13:26).

4. How to get victory over temptation.

- i) By hiding God's Word in our heart (Psalm 119:9). By using God's Word as a sword (Eph 6:17).
- ii) By personal prayer of yourself (Matthew 26:41) and of others. (I Samuel 12:33).
- iii) By Christ's intercession for us (Luke 22:31,32) and Holy Spirit's intercession for us (Rom 8:26,27).
- iv) By God's faithfulness to us (I Corinthians 10:13).
- v) By fleeing (II Timothy 2:22; I Corinthians 6:18; I Timothy 6:11; Proverbs 4:14,15).
- vi) By resisting the devil (James 4:7).
- vii) By looking for and accepting the way of escape (I Corinthians 10:13).
- viii) By getting busy serving God, rather than being idle (II Samuel 11:1).
- ix) By drawing near to God (James 4:8).
- x) By keeping our bodies in subjection (I Corinthians 9:27).
- xi) By knowing, reckoning and yielding our members as instruments of righteousness (Rom 6:6-19).
- xii) By having close godly friends (Prov 27:17) as we attend all our church services (Heb 10:24,23).

5. Load Limit of Temptations

"But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Corinthians 10:13).

- i) God sets the time limit of our temptations.
- ii) God sets the time of arrival of the temptation to come when we are mature enough to handle it.
- iii) God guides the stress or pressure during the temptation.

6. Reasons for temptation. i) Test our faith. (James 1:2,3). ii) Test our obedience. (Genesis 22:1). God tests men to know the depth of our love for Christ and the sincerity of our obedience to God's Word.

7. Results of Temptation.

- i) If yielded to, temptation becomes sin. (I Timothy 6:9).
- ii) If resisted, the Lord is glorified, and we grow stronger to resist other temptations.
- iii) Patience, perfect and entire wanting nothing. (James 1:2-4).
- iv) We receive a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory in heaven if resisted. (II Cor. 4:17).

8. Bible Characters who were tempted. Name a few. What do you learn from each?

Conclusion: Temptations are common to all men, so let's expect them. Beware of yielding to sin. To fall is easy, to get forgiveness from God by confession of sin is easy, but scars often remain. Be aware of the importance of immediate restoration of fellowship with God by confession and repentance.

19. SATAN'S OPPOSITION TO CHRISTIANS

How does Satan seek to defeat believers in their personal life and service to Christ?

Some of Satan's tactics that we must know and guard against are:

- i) **Warring** against Christians. What appears to be human opposition may really be Satan's attacks. We are not wrestling against "flesh and blood", but against spiritual forces of wickedness in high places (heavens). We must put on the whole armour of God to counter these attacks. (Eph 6:10-18).
- ii) **Accusing and slandering Christians**. (Revelation 12:10). As the "devil" means slanderer, so he accuses us before God for our sins and imperfections. He slanders one believer against another, causing break in fellowship due to imagined wrongs of another believer. This is done to get believers out of good, soul-winning, missionary-minded churches, and hence to weaken the gospel outreach in the world. He also works on Christians with untaught consciences to engulf them in continual guilt and fear in order to cause them to hate the preacher for preaching against sin, when all they need to do is to confess and forsake their sins to remove their guilt.
- iii) **Planting doubts**. Satan seeks to get us to:
 - Doubt God's goodness
 - Doubt God's Word
 - Doubt God's concern for us
 - He emphasises God's restrictions as unjust (Genesis 3:1)
 - He claims that God's warnings and Word are untrue. (3:4)
 - He claims God's interests as selfish and limiting to man's development. (3:5).Hence, he maligns God's character and challenges God's authority.
- iv) **Tempting us to sin**:
 - a) To lie (Acts 5:3). Satan is the father of lies, and he tempts others to lie. To lie is to tell a falsehood in whole or in part for personal gain, and to the loss and hurt of another.
 - b) To sex sins. (I Corinthians 7:5; 6:13-20). Satan presents a philosophy of the priority of bodily satisfaction. Fornication, adultery, homosexuality or masturbation comes from a preoccupation with bodily needs and false self-gratification. God has provided marriage for normal expression of sexual needs.
 - c) To occupation with this world. (I John 2:15-17; 5:19). The world is Satan's system built on self-promotion. Its philosophy and practice are anti-God. Satan seeks to influence and defeat us through "the lusts of the flesh" (pleasures), "the lusts of the eyes" (possessions), and the boastful "pride of life" (self promotion). These attitudes affect all of us to some extent, knowingly or unknowingly. Some, such as Demas (II Timothy 4:10) have fallen for it.
- v) **Relying on human strength and wisdom**. (II Chronicles 21:1-8). Satan tempted David to have confidence in the number of his soldiers, and Peter to resist Jesus on the basis of his human wisdom. He moved the Corinthians to judge Paul's message and ministry according to human wisdom as being foolish and weak (I Cor 1:18-25). Satan tries to get us to rely on our strength and wisdom because he can easily defeat what is purely human, since it is not based on God's word or power.
- vi) **Pride in spiritual matters**. (I Timothy 3:6). Satan attacks church leaders in order to destroy congregations. Paul urged novices not to be pastors, lest being lifted up in pride, they fall. Any spiritual ability carries the danger of self-satisfaction and self-confidence which gives Satan an opportunity.
- vii) **Discouragement**. (I Peter 5:6-10). Satan would have us occupied with our difficulties and overcome with our cares. Peter tells us to cast all our cares upon Christ, for He cares for us. He then tells us to beware of Satan walking about as a roaring lion seeking to devour us. (I Peter 5:7-8). Persecution, rejection, lack of appreciation, physical and spiritual difficulties may lead us to discouragement, despair and to defeat.
- viii) **Persecution**. "The devil shall cast some of you into prison." (Revelation 2:10).
- ix) **Preventing service**: (I Thess 2:18). Satan once thwarted Paul from coming to help the Thessalonians.
- x) **Infiltrating local churches** through:
 - a) false teachers - test all things by God's Word.
 - b) false disciples - Satan sows evil seed.
- xi) **Promoting division**. Strife and anger give the devil a chance to promote division (Eph 4:26,27).

- xii) **Counterfeiting**. When Satan said, "I will be like God", he meant he wanted to be worshipped as God. Thus he set up a rival religion, a complete imitation of all that God does, as seen in counterfeits:
- Satan has a throne (Revelation 2:13).
 - Satan has doctrines of devils (I Timothy 4:1).
 - Satan has a synagogue (Revelation 2:9 and 3:9).
 - Satan has a cup of devils and a communion table of devils (I Corinthians 10:21).
 - Satan has a counterfeit fellowship with devils (I Corinthians 10:20).
 - Satan transforms himself into an angel of light (II Corinthians 11:14).
 - Satan has ministers that appear as ministers of righteousness (II Corinthians 11:15).
 - Satan has false apostles (II Corinthians 11:13), and false prophets (II Peter 2:1).
 - Satan has a Kingdom (Matthew 12:26).
 - Satan does counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders (Revelation 16:14).
 - Satan has a harlot church, Mystery Babylon, to counterfeit the bride of Christ. (Revelation 17:5).
 - Satan and his demons seek to be worshipped (I Corinthians 10:20; Matthew 4:8-10; Rev 9:20).
 - Satan counterfeits the Holy Trinity, with his unholy trinity of Satan, Antichrist and the False Prophet.
 - Satan wants to live in human bodies as the Holy Spirit does (John 13:27; I Corinthians 6:19).
 - Satan seals his followers with a name in their forehead which is the counterfeit of God's Name on His peoples' forehead. (Revelation 13:16 with 7:1-3).
 - Satan counterfeits believers baptism by immersion with infant sprinkling.
 - Satan counterfeits the preserved Authorized Bible with many modern Bible versions.
 - Satan counterfeits the true filling of the Holy Spirit with Charismatic tongues and Toronto nonsense.
 - Satan counterfeits the true gospel of faith in Christ with those teaching works for salvation.
 - Satan counterfeits true bible-believing churches with many churches teaching false doctrines.
 - Satan counterfeits creation by God in 6 days 6000 years ago with evolution over millions of years.

How may we have victory over Satan? We must:

- 1) Receive Christ as Saviour. In Christ there is the position and power for deliverance.
- 2) Confessing sins to God. A person must judge his personal involvement in occult practices as rebellion against God and as the sin of siding with Satan. (I John 1:9). They must confess family occult sins even back to grandparents. (Daniel 9:4-6; Nehemiah 1:5-6).
- 3) Remove occult objects, books, music and images. Godly King Asa "took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and broke down the images, and cut down the groves: And commanded Judah to seek the Lord God . . . and to do the law and commandment. . . . the Kingdom was quiet before him." (II Chronicles 14:3-5). Ephesian converts destroyed their occult books (Acts 19:17-20). Many occult objects have a demon invoked curse on them, and open the door for Satan's influence. Occult friendships should be broken because they will try to pull you back.
- 4) Submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you (James 4:7). Christ promises forgiveness and deliverance to those who call upon His name for deliverance from the occult. Be confident about our position and authority in Christ.
- 5) Cultivate your Christian life and gospel presentation. Get busy serving God. The devil finds great opportunity to tempt us if we are doing nothing for God. David gave into temptation when he should have been on the battlefield. (II Samuel 11:1,2). We must be filled with the Holy Spirit daily.
How?
 - a) Studying the Word of God daily brings growth and defence against Satan. (I Peter 2:2)
 - b) Prayer achieves God's purposes as we ask and receive.
 - c) Christian fellowship at church brings encouragement and stability as we learn of God, praise God and encourage each other.
 - d) Sharing the gospel with the unsaved will strengthen our faith and knowledge, as well as actively warring against Satan. Unselfish dedication to God's work will assist in Satan's defeat. "And they loved not their lives unto the death." (Revelation 12:11).
 - e) We must put on the whole armour of God (Ephesians 6:10,18). When we do these things, we will resist Satan in God's power and take his strongholds in people's lives (II Cor 10:3,4).

20. FOUR QUESTIONABLE ISSUES

1) Television in the Home

Question: What are the consequences when parents allow their children to watch television at home?

Answer: "I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me." (Psalm 101:2,3).

When parents let their sons and daughters watch wrong, wicked and unbiblical things on television, the following evil consequences enter your children:

- i) It establishes the practice of **tolerating evil to enjoy, some good**.
"A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." (I Corinthians 5:6 and Galatians 5:9).
- ii) It **lowers their resistance to evil**, by getting them to **laugh at sins** like **lying**, **stealing**, **cheating**, and **rebellious**. "the heart of fools is in the house of mirth." (Ecclesiastes 7:4).
- iii) It provides **continued access to the world** and **its wrong values**.
"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." (I John 2:15).
- iv) It **weakens** and **sears their consciences** by **exposing them to ever-increasing lows of immorality**: "that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck." (I Timothy 1:18,19). "Even their mind and conscience is defiled." (Titus 1:15).
- v) It teaches them to **look up to** and **relate to evil individuals** whom you would never allow into your home. "A companion of fools shall be destroyed." (Proverbs 13:20).
- vi) It **wastes large amounts of time** which could be spent in many other useful activities such as Bible study; soul winning; disciple-making; helping parents with housework; study or work.
"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Ephesians 5:16).
- vii) It **weakens their creativity** by drowning out the warnings of Scripture and their conscience.
"Quench not the Spirit." (I Thessalonians 5:19).
- viii) It ultimately **makes them the enemies of God**.
"Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." (James 4:4).

2) "Christian" or Worldly Rock Music

Question: What are the consequences when parents allow their children to listen to rock music?

Answer: "It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the **song of fools**." (Ecclesiastes 7:5).

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." (Ephesians 5:19). "Sing unto the **LORD**; for he hath done excellent things." (Isaiah 12:5). When parents let their children listen to rock music, these consequences will poison your children:

- i) It will **tune them in** to the **spirit of this world**. "Now we have received not the spirit of the world (worldly music), but the spirit which is of God (Godly ways and music); that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God." (I Corinthians 2:12).
- ii) It will **dull the sensitivity of their conscience** as it opposes this worldly music.
"Quench not the spirit." (I Thessalonians 5:19).
"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." (Galatians 5:17).
- iii) They **admire ungodly** and **wicked, fornicating heroes**. The greatest form of admiration is **imitation**, as seen by teens wearing black T-shirts with their rock star heroes on them. "But (God's people) were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works (eg: rock music). And they served their idols (rock star idols): which were a snare unto them." (Psalm 106:35-36).
- iv) They have accepted the **"do your own thing, satisfy yourself"** philosophy of false religion.
"For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, . . . who mind earthly things". (Philippians 3:18-19).
- v) They are now **more vulnerable to worldly exploitation in other areas** (eg: rock music is closely associated with drugs, fornication, rebellion, witchcraft, alcohol, immoral crowd, etc).
- vi) They have made rock music **more important than living for Christ**, especially by causing Christians who have left the rock music scene to stumble.

3) Alcohol

Question: What are the consequences on children when parents allow alcohol in their home?

Answer: Every alcoholic started off as a social drinker.

- i) It **places your approval** on a product that brings **death, destruction** and **misery** to millions of people. "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine: they that go to seek **mixed wine**." (Proverbs 23:29,30).
- ii) It places people in **addiction and bondage**, so that many become alcoholics. "when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again." (Proverbs 23:25). "I will not be brought under the power of any." (I Corinthians 6:12).
- iii) It **disobeys God's command** not to look at wine. "Look not thou upon the wine when it is red . . . At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." (Proverbs 23:31,32).
- iv) It causes a **weaker brother to stumble and sin**. "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby they brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak." (Romans 14:21).
- v) It is a **bad example** to your children that you (their role model) think it is OK to drink alcohol. They follow your example, go to the pub and meet wicked people who destroy their lives.
- vi) Alcohol **lowers people's inhibitions** and **moral standards**. "Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things." (Proverbs 23:33).
- vii) Alcohol is the **devil's counterfeit substitute** for the filling of the Holy Spirit. "And be not **drunk** with wine wherein is **excess**, but be filled with the Spirit." (Ephesians 5:18).

4) Pornography and Sensual Literature

Question: What are the consequences when parents allow their children to look at pornography at home?

Answer:

- i) It **teaches others** to fornicate by your example.
- ii) It teaches the children that it is **OK to disobey God's warnings** against looking at **nakedness** of women. "Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of a woman . . . it is wickedness." (Leviticus 18:17).
- iii) It **dulls our spiritual senses** and **grieves the Holy Spirit**. "The flesh lusteth against the Spirit, . . . these are contrary the one to the other." (Galatians 5:17).
- iv) It promotes humanism that **man's pleasure** is the **main goal in life**. "Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." (II Timothy 3:4).
- v) It **increases crime and wickedness** in society. "A whore . . . a strange woman . . . increaseth the transgressors among men." (Proverbs 23:27,28).
- vi) It is **mental adultery** and weakens (dilutes) your marriage. "whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." (Matthew 5:28).
- vii) It sends you into an **unreal world of fantasy** by bringing you to see all women as sex objects rather than people with other needs. "Having eyes full of adultery." (II Peter 2:14).
- viii) Pornography is **addictive**. It **enslaves men** so they cannot break free from looking at it. "Having eyes full of adultery, and that **cannot cease from sin**." (II Peter 2:14).
- ix) Pornography produces a **guilty conscience**: "their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another." (Romans 2:15).
- x) Pornography **lowers moral standards** in the home and in society.
- xi) Pornography **tempts men** to commit adultery and prostitution. "Whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul." (Proverbs 6:32).
- xii) It **financially supports/encourages** its producers to stay in business and destroy others' lives.

Why Reject Sex Before Marriage?

- i) **Sex before marriage prevents other aspects of the relationship from developing.** Trust, honesty, respect, openness, deep friendship and spiritual intimacy take time and effort to develop.
- ii) **Sex injects fear and guilt into the relationship.** (Hebrews 13:4). Men get sex without commitment.
- iii) **Sex lays a foundation of distrust and lack of respect.** Sleep around before marriage, easy to after.
- iv) **Sex causes you to compare one person with previous partners.**
- v) **Sex deceives you into thinking you are in love.** It can cause you to overlook his bad qualities.
- vi) **The facts are against you.** Pre-marital sex tends to break up couples before marriage takes place.

21. The JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST- How It Will Change Our Behaviour

Bible Reading: II Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10-12; I Corinthians 3:10-15; Colossians 3:23-25.

Aim: To let the Judgment Seat of Christ change our behaviour now.

Introduction: One day after the Rapture, every Christian must give an account to God of the way he has lived since his salvation. Our Christian lives will be "on display" (made manifest). This will determine not our salvation, but the amount of rewards we will receive when we get to heaven.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth, . . . But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven."
(Matthew 6:19,20).

The Judgment Seat of Christ will be a place of:

1) **Review** - of our life from salvation to death.

It will show if we have lived for Christ and others, or for self.

Question: When Jesus returns, will I have a grudge against a friend?

Question: Will I have left my love for Jesus Christ, the Bible, souls, or the local church?

Question: If Christ came today, how many of the 19 commands in I Thessalonians 5:1,11-22 would I be obeying? "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming." (I John 2:28). It is as if God gives us a block of land (foundation of salvation in Christ (3:11) in heaven, but we build the house (v 12) by our work after salvation.

2) **Reward**

The Judgment Seat of Christ in Greek is "Bematos tou Xristou" (II Cor 5:10) known as the Bema Seat.

i) The **Meaning** of the Bema Judgment: It was a raised platform in the middle of an Olympic arena where the judge sat. After the contests were over, the winners would assemble before the Bema seat to receive their rewards from the judge. It was not a condemning seat, but a reward seat. Losing the race didn't mean execution, it only meant no reward. The Christian life is a race, and the divine umpire is watching every contestant. After the Church Age has finished at the rapture, Christ will gather every Christian before the Bema Seat to examine our life's work and to give the proper rewards to each.

ii) The **Fact** of the Bema Judgment.

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (II Corinthians 5:10).

iii) The **Purpose** of the Bema Judgment.

- not to determine whether one enters heaven.

- not to punish believers for sins committed before or after salvation.

(See Psalm 103:10-12; Isaiah 38:17; 44:22; Micah 7:19; Hebrews 8:12).

- to give account to Jesus Christ of how we used our abilities, opportunities and responsibilities from the moment of our salvation. Hence:

a) In the past, God dealt with us sinners. (Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 5:6-8).

b) In the present, God deals with us as sons. (Romans 8:14; I John 3:1,2; Hebrews 12:5-11).

c) In the future, God will deal with us (at the Bema Seat) as stewards. (I Corinthians 3:11-15).

iv) The **material** to be tested at the Bema Judgment.

At salvation, Christ becomes our foundation. (I Corinthians 3:11).

After salvation, we must build on this foundation. (I Corinthians 3:12-15).

God classifies believers' works into two groups:

a) Those of indestructible and eternal value described as:

- gold = the trial of our faith (I Peter 1:7).

- silver = wisdom gained, favour with God (Proverbs 2:4; 3:14; 8:10; 22:1; Malachi 3:3).

- precious stones = souls won to Christ (Malachi 3:16,17).

b) Those destructible and useless activities of no eternal value are described as wood, hay and stubble. (I Corinthians 3:12-15).

Question: For what actions will we be rewarded at the Bema Judgment Seat of Christ?

(1) How well we treat other believers. (Hebrews 6:10; Matthew 10:41,42).

(2) How well we submit to authority and exercise authority over others (Hebrews 13:17; James 3:1)

(3) How well we use our God-given abilities. (I Peter 4:10; Luke 19:11-26; Matthew 25:14-29)

- (4) How well we use our money. (I Timothy 6:17-19).
 - (5) How much we suffer for Jesus. (Matthew 5:11,12; 10:29,30; 1 Peter 4:12,13; II Corinthians 4:17; Romans 8:18).
 - (6) How well we use our time. (Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5; 1 Peter 1:17).
 - (7) How well we run the particular race God chooses for us. (Phil 2:16; 31:13,14; 1 Cor 9:24).
 - (8) How well we control the old nature. (I Corinthians 9:25-27).
 - (9) How many people we witness to and win for Christ. (Proverbs 11:30; I Thessalonians 2:19,20; Daniel 12:3).
 - (10) How well we react to trials and temptations. (Revelations 2:10; James 1:2,3).
 - (11) How much we love the doctrine of Christ's return. (II Timothy 4:8).
 - (12) How faithful we are to God's Word and to feeding the flock of God. (I Peter 5:2-4).
- v) The **Results** of the Bema judgment:
- a) Some will receive rewards. (I Corinthians 3:14). Five crowns may be abilities we receive to glorify Christ.
 - b) Some will suffer loss. (I Corinthians 3:15).
- vi) **What determines** whether we receive a reward?
- a) QUALITY: "of what sort it is." (I Corinthians 3:11-15 - especially v.13).
Would you prefer a handful of gold or a truckload of hay?
 - b) MOTIVE: Jesus may ask, "Why did you serve Me?" To be seen of men (Matthew 6:1,2,5) or for: - Love for Christ. (II Corinthians 5:14,15). - Love for others. (II Corinthians. 5:11). - Our works are to be judged. (II Corinthians 5:10).
 - c) We will be rewarded for WHAT WE ATTEMPTED. (Matthew 25:21).
Did you invite anyone to church? Did you tell anyone how to be saved?
God calls us to be obedient and faithful.

3) **Re-evaluation** = to calculate the value of my life's effort again. Many things that seem big and important to us now, will seem small and worthless in heaven.

eg. The widow who gave 2 mites (2 x ¼ cents) gave more than the rich man.

"for unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required." (Luke 12:48).

You are talented. God expects you to use your talents, not waste them.

4) **Recognition** = Many nobodies on earth now, will be somebodies in heaven.

Many somebodies on earth now, with be nobodies in heaven.

The rich man and the beggar Lazarus were reversed in status in eternity.

5) **Regret** of a life misspent and of opportunities wasted. If you don't abide in Christ you'll be ashamed. (I John 2:28). "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward." (II John 1:8).

"Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." (Revelation 3:11).

The worldly-minded, lazy, selfish Christian at the Judgment Seat of Christ will be very regretful.

6) **Rejoicing** of great rewards received by some. (I Thessalonians 2:19,20).

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." (Matthew 16:27). "Behold I come quickly; and my reward is with me to give every man according as his work shall be." (Revelation 22:12).

Challenge:

- a) Christian: Have you been living for Christ? Have you got sin or resentment in your life that you'd be ashamed of if you saw Christ today? Raise your hand if you need to get right with God?
- b) Lost: Maybe you're not sure you are saved. You're not sure you'd go to heaven. You're not sure you know Christ as your Saviour and Friend. You will have no reward except hell, because the wages of sin is death. If you'd like to be saved, raise your hand and come out in the invitation so you can see how you may be saved.

I Corinthians 3:14-17 has 3 kinds of builders:

- i) The wise builder (3:14) = the studying, soul-winning, Spirit-filled Christian.
- ii) The worldly builder (3:15) = the carnal Christian.
- iii) The wicked builder (3:17) = the unsaved.

Question: To which group do you belong?

22. GUIDANCE - HOW TO FIND THE WILL OF GOD

Bible Reading: I Thessalonians 5:12-23.

Aim: As Christians, we must renounce our will and be committed to doing God's will all of our life. A problem every Christian faces is how to find God's will in daily decision making. Jesus Christ always fulfilled God's will for His life. "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." (John 17:4). "I come to do thy will, O God." (Hebrews 10:9).

As Jesus was assigned a specific task to perform on earth, so each Christian is also assigned a special task. It is our responsibility to find and obey God's plan for our life.

I. GOD HAS A PLAN FOR EACH LIFE.

- 1) This plan is **suit**ed to our **talents**, personalities, needs, potential and environment.
"For we are his **workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10).
- 2) There is a **different plan** for each one of us. Paul said, "I have finished my course."
(II Timothy 4:7). "Let us run with patience the race that is set before us." (Hebrews 12:1).
"The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know His will." (Acts 22:14).
God wanted Paul (and us) to know God's particular will for our lives. "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." (Psalm 32:8).
- 3) God's plan is **very detailed**, step-by-step. "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord."
(Psalm 37:23). God doesn't always reveal the distant future, but leads us step-by-step, day-by-day.
- 4) God's plan is **continuous**. "The Lord shall guide thee continually." (Isaiah 58:11).
- 5) God's plan is **definite** and specific. "Thine ears shall hear a word behind thee saying, this is the way, walk ye in it." (Isaiah 30:21). The Lord guides us by His Holy Spirit through His Word.
- 6) God wants us to **enquire** about His plan and its daily details.
"Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk." (Psalm 143:8).
- 7) The will of God for you is always **good, acceptable** and **perfect**.
"that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:2).

II. GOD'S PLAN CAN BE MISSED.

Sadly, it is possible for us to miss God's plan in our selfish and stubborn ways to do our own will. "O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river." (Isaiah 48:18)

III. GOD'S PLAN ALWAYS INCLUDES CERTAIN FEATURES.

- 1) **Sanctification** and **separation** from sin unto holiness. "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification." (I Thessalonians 4:3). God is holy and He wills us to be holy.
- 2) **Supplication**, prayer and thanksgiving. "Pray without ceasing." (I Thessalonians 5:17).
- 3) Be **Spirit filled**. "Quench not the spirit." (I Thessalonians 5:19).
- 4) Be **submissive** to the Word of God. "Despise not prophesyings." (I Thessalonians 5:20).
- 5) Be **saying thanks**. "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thessalonians 5:18).
- 6) Be **sexually pure**. "This is the will of God . . . that ye should abstain from fornication."
(I Thessalonians 4:3).
- 7) Be **sober**. "But let us . . . be sober." (I Thessalonians 5:8).
- 8) Be **serene**. "Comfort one another." (I Thess 4:18). "be at peace among yourselves." (I Thess 5:13).
- 9) Be **suffering**. "We told you before that we should suffer tribulation." (I Thessalonians 3:3,4).
- 10) Be **surrendered**. "That ye would walk worthy of God." (I Thessalonians 2:12).
- 11) Be **well doing**. "For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men." (I Peter 2:15).
- 12) Be **saved**. "Not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (II Peter 3:9).

IV. METHODS OF GUIDANCE.

Question: How do we find God's will for our life in any situation?

How does God reveal His will to the seeking individual? God's methods are:

- 1) The **Bible**. **Ask:** "What Bible verses relating to this question do I need to apply?"
Saturate yourself with the Word of God so that God can bring relevant verses to your mind.
God's will is never contrary to the Bible.

- 2) **Circumstances - open or closed doors.** God, by circumstances, closes one door and opens another. "A great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries." (I Corinthians 16:9). "I have set before thee an open door." (Revelation 3:8). Nothing happens to Christians by accident. Each item is planned by God. We accept circumstances as guideposts in His leading. In driving, red lights are equally valuable as green lights. When we get a stop sign, we must wait patiently for God.
- 3) **Prayer.** "Ye have not, because ye ask not." (James 4:2).
- Don't worry: be careful for nothing.
 - Pray about everything: by prayer and supplication.
 - Be thankful for past and present blessings: with thanksgiving.
 - Let your requests be made known unto God.
 - Results:** "The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6,7).
- 4) **Peace of God** must be sought before acting. How do we get the peace of God?
- Be filled with the Spirit, then you'll exhibit the fruit of the Spirit of love, joy, peace.
 - Occupation with Christ. "For he is our peace." (Ephesians 2:14).
 - "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:3).
 - Be crucified to the world, and glory in the cross. "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. . . . as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy . . ." (Galatians 6:14,16).
 - Preach the gospel of peace. "Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." (Ephesians 6:15).
 - Prayer brings "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding". (Philippians 4:6,7).
 - Think on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtue and praise, "and the God of peace shall be with you". (Philippians 4:8,9).
 - Be content. "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." (Philippians 4:11).
 - Put on mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing and forgiving one another. Put on charity. Be thankful. "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts". (Colossians 3:12-15).
 - Esteem the pastor very highly in love for his work's sake. "And be at peace among yourselves." (I Thessalonians 5:13). If church members all submit to the pastor as the pastor walks with the Lord, you'll have peace in your church.
 - "Live peaceably with all men." (Romans 12:18).
 - Don't have fights with people. (Revelation 6:4).
- 5) **Good Advisors** - "In the multitude of counsellors there is safety." (Proverbs 11:14 and 24:6).

V. QUESTIONS TO ASK TO DISCOVER GOD'S WILL.

- Q1: Will it hinder my service to God? Is it a weight? (Hebrews 12:1).
- Q2: Does it advance God's plans for my life?
- Q3: Am I yoking up with unbelievers? (II Corinthians 6:14-18). Unbelievers' goals are to make money for themselves. Your goal is to serve God. Don't ever enter a business partnership or marriage with an unbeliever! You will lose and have a fight.
- Q4: Am I listening to the advice of the ungodly or unbelievers? (Psalm 1:1).
- Q5: Is someone telling me a lie? Can I trust them? How do I know? How well do I know them? Are they experienced over many years in their field?
- Q6: What future problems will this action lead to? (eg. Who can stop my project, or extort money).
- Q7: Why must I decide now? Wait up to one week after gaining all the facts to make your decision if it will bind you, so that you can reflect, get more information and ask more people. Keep your options open. Try to make the deal less binding rather than more binding.
- Q8: Is this decision going to bind me in some way to other people who can hurt me? For example, they may get me over a barrel and extort money out of me, or do evil things to me.
- Q9: Are people putting pressure on me to decide quickly to their advantage? Why?
- Q10: Is it the voice of my desires, or is it what God wants me to do?
- Q11: What other options exist?
- Q12: Have I discussed this with three other expert advisors?
- Q13: If in doubt, DON'T!!!! Wait on God. You might find a better opportunity shortly.

23. BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

Bible Reading: Ephesians 5:18.

What is the meaning and the conditions of being filled with the Holy Spirit?

The filling of the Holy Spirit is the source of all vital spiritual experience in life.

Every day can be a day of victory through the power of the Holy Spirit.

When you received Christ as Saviour, the Holy Spirit came to live in you.

The Holy Spirit makes it possible for every Christian to live a fulfilled, joyful life.

I. FACTS ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The Holy Spirit is God. "The Lord is that Spirit." (II Corinthians 3:17).

The Holy Spirit speaks. "Hear what the Spirit **saith**." (Revelation 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22).

The Holy Spirit gives us power to live the Christian life. (Galatians 5:22,23).

The Holy Spirit gives us power to witness for Christ. (Acts 1:8).

The Holy Spirit is more powerful than any other Spirit. (I John 4:1-4).

The Holy Spirit is called "the Comforter". (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7; Lamentations 1:16).

The Holy Spirit authored the Bible. (II Peter 1:21).

The Holy Spirit holds back and limits Satan's full power. (II Thessalonians 2:7-14).

The Holy Spirit convicts people of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. (John 16:8-11).

The Holy Spirit builds local churches.

The Holy Spirit led, anointed, empowered and raised Jesus Christ. (Romans 8:11).

The Holy Spirit has five ministries in believers' lives:

- 1) He regenerates us. "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit . . ." (John 3:5).
- 2) He baptizes us. "By one Spirit are we all baptized into one body." (I Corinthians 12:13).
- 3) He indwells us. "Know ye not that . . . the Spirit of God dwelleth in you." (I Corinthians 3:16).
- 4) He seals us. "Sealed us, and given us the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts." (II Corinthians 1:22).
- 5) He fills us. "Be filled with the Spirit." (Ephesians 5:18).

The Holy Spirit does these things in our lives:

- 1) Prays for us. "the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered". (Romans 8:26).
- 2) Guides us. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Romans 8:14).
- 3) Teaches us. "The same anointing teacheth you of all things . . ." (I John 2:27).
- 4) Empowers us for soul-winning. "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come." (Acts 1:8)
- 5) Imparts the love of Christ to us and through us. "Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts." (Rom 5:5)
- 6) Gives us liberty. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty." (II Corinthians 3:17).
- 7) Conforms us to the image of Christ. "Changed into the same image by the Spirit." (II Cor 3:18).
- 8) Strengthens our new nature. "Strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man." (Eph 3:16).
- 9) Reveals Bible truths to us. "God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit." (I Corinthians 2:10).
- 10) Assures us of salvation and service. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit." (Rom 8:16).
- 11) Fills our mouth with appropriate things. "It is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost." (Mark 13:11).
- 12) The Holy Spirit gives gifts to individual believers:

Seven temporary gifts that ceased by 96 AD:

- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| (1) Apostles. | (2) Prophets | (3) Miracles. | (4) Healing. |
| (5) Tongues. | (6) Knowledge. | (7) Interpretation of tongues. | |

Eleven permanent gifts:

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| (1) Wisdom. | (2) Discerning of Spirits. | (3) Giving. |
| (4) Exhortation. | (5) Ministering. | (6) Mercy. |
| (7) Administration. | (8) Faith. | (9) Teaching. |
| (10) Evangelism. | (11) Pastor/Teacher. | |

- 13) The Holy Spirit gives us the fruit of:

- (1) **Souls** being saved: "Gather fruit unto life eternal". (John 4:35,36).
- (2) **Christlikeness**: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." (Galatians 5:22,23).

II. THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE.

1) **UNSAVED person** without Christ:

- a) Jesus is outside his life.
- b) Self is on the throne.
- c) This person is under the judgment of God.



2) **SPIRIT-FILLED Christian:**

- a) Jesus lives within this person.
- b) Christ is on the throne, and Christ controls this person's life.
- c) This Christian now lives to serve Christ.



3) **SELF-CENTRED Christian** - Carnal (I Corinthians 3:1-3):

- a) Jesus Christ is still his Saviour and is in his life.
- b) Self is on the throne, controlling his life.
- c) The Holy Spirit does not have full control of his life. The self-centred Christian cares more about pleasing himself, than about pleasing God. He is like a baby who wants his own way.



Symptoms of the self-centred Christian are:

Often he:

- does not fully trust God.	- has sinful thoughts.
- disobeys God's Word.	- has little interest in the Bible.
- has a poor prayer life.	- does not help others come to Christ.

He may:

- feel guilty.	- be discouraged.
- be jealous.	- judge others harshly.
- worry.	- be angry.

Question: Which kind of person are you like?

III. FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT contrasted with spiritual maturity.

Christians are encouraged to "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ". (II Peter 3:18).

This is **gradual growth** over time to spiritual maturity.

However, any Christian may be filled with the Holy Spirit by meeting the conditions.

A newborn believer may be filled with the Holy Spirit, but immature.

A mature believer may lack the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Only Christians **YIELDED TO GOD** are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Here the Holy Spirit works in people in entire freedom from hindrance.

Filling of the Holy Spirit means that the **Holy Spirit** has more of us.

It does not mean that "we have more of the Holy Spirit", because we get all of the Holy Spirit at salvation.

Old Testament filling of the Holy Spirit was temporary for a special purpose.

New Testament filling of the Holy Spirit is the universal experience of all yielded believers.

IV. THE COMMAND TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.

"Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit". (Ephesians 5:18).

"Be filled" is 'plerousthe' in the Greek language. Its tense indicates a **continuous command to keep being filled with the Holy Spirit.**

- a) **Filling** of the Holy Spirit is a **moment by moment relationship**, that may be hindered by sin.
- b) **Baptism of the Holy Spirit**, in I Corinthians 12:13, is in the 'aorist' tense, meaning an action which takes place **once and for all.**

Regeneration, indwelling, sealing, and baptism of the Holy Spirit are accomplished once and for all at the time of salvation.

Filling ("PLEROO") of the Holy Spirit is like:

- 1) **Water filling a glass.**
- 2) **Wind filling a sail** and carrying a ship along. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be moved along in our Christian life by God Himself. Writers of the Bible were "moved along by the Holy Spirit".
- 3) **Salt permeating meat** to flavour and preserve it. God wants the Holy Spirit to permeate our lives so that all we say, think and do reflects God's presence.
- 4) **Total control.** For example, a person filled with sorrow (John 16:6) is no longer under his own control, but is totally under the control of sorrow. The same is true for one who is filled with fear (Luke 6:11), filled with faith (Acts 6:5) or Satan (Acts 5:3). He is no longer under his own control, but is controlled by that which dominates him. Being filled with the Holy Spirit detaches us from the desires, standards, aims and fears of the world.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit makes all else that is NOT God's will of secondary importance.

V. HOW TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

If you **want** God's Spirit to direct your life and give you power to live:

- 1) You must **WANT** the Holy Spirit to fill you.
"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness." (Matthew 5:6).
- 2) **CONFESS YOUR SINS.** Agree with God that you have sinned. Thank God for forgiving you because of Christ's death for you. Turn away from your sins and choose to obey God. (1 John 1:9).
- 3) **GIVE THE THRONE** of your **LIFE** to **JESUS CHRIST**. "Yield yourselves to God."
(Romans 6:13). To live the Spirit-filled life, you must be willing to let Jesus Christ control everything you do, eg. your money, free time, work and relationships with family and friends.
- 4) We are **filled with the Holy Spirit** by **FAITH** as we **ASK FOR IT IN PRAYER**.
Tell God now: "Lord Jesus, I have been controlling my life.
I agree with you that this is sin.
Please take control of my life, as I yield to you.
I want to obey you. Thank you for forgiving me.
I now trust you to fill me with your Holy Spirit.
Thank you for filling me as you promised."
- 5) **STAY FILLED.** Every time you take control of your life through sin, disobeying God in thought, word or action, **breathe spiritually**:
 - i) **EXHALE-** Confess your sin (1 John 1:9). Thank God for forgiveness. Turn from the sin.
 - ii) **INHALE-** Ask Jesus Christ to take again the throne of your life (Yield- Rom 6:13). Trust the Holy Spirit to fill you again. Remember the command of Eph 5:18 and the promise of 1 John 5:14,15. Note: Breathe spiritually every time the Holy Spirit shows you sin, and you will have a joyful and victorious life that honours God. Let the Holy Spirit keep controlling your life.
- 6) **FILL OURSELVES WITH GOD'S WORD.**
"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Colossians 3:16).
God's thoughts then become our thoughts. (Ephesians 5:18,19).
- 7) **QUENCH NOT the SPIRIT.** (1 Thessalonians 5:19).
Don't suppress, stifle, resist or oppose the Holy Spirit's will. Don't say "No" to the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit leads us to do something, don't pour water on (ie. quench) the Holy Spirit. Be yielded to the will of God as the rule of our life. Quench means refusal to follow the evident leading of the Holy Spirit. Yieldedness to the Holy Spirit includes:
 - i) Submission to the plain teaching of the Word of God.
 - ii) Obedience to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, eg. soul-winning, Bible reading, prayer.
 - iii) Acceptance by faith of the acts of God, eg. suffering. (Luke 22:42).
- 8) **GRIEVE NOT the SPIRIT.** (Ephesians 4:30). Sin in our life grieves the Holy Spirit and involves:
 - i) Quenching the Holy Spirit - refusing to follow the Holy Spirit's leading and resisting His will.
 - ii) Loss of fellowship with God.
 - iii) Loss of fruit of the Spirit.

Spiritual darkness then descends on the person. The Christian is given time for self-judgment and confession of sin. If this is neglected, God intervenes and chastens the Christian by trials.

- 9) **WALK IN THE SPIRIT**, and ye shall not fulfil the lusts of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16). This means to walk daily by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within and involves:
- i) **Reckon** ourselves dead to the **sin** nature. Christ's death not only atones for the guilt of sin, but Christ's death also has power to deliver us from the bondage of sin. HOW?
 - As we know our old man **dead with Christ** (Romans 6:6).
 - As we reckon ourselves **dead to sin's habit pattern** left from the old man, and reckon ourselves alive to Christ (Romans 6:11).
 - As we yield ourselves to God, as those that are alive from the dead (living in resurrection power), and yield our members as instruments of righteousness unto God (Romans 6:13).
 - ii) Love each other as Christ loves us. (John 13:34).
 - iii) Every thought must be brought to the obedience of Christ. (II Corinthians 10:5).
 - iv) We must be longsuffering towards all. (I Thessalonians 5:14).
 - v) Always follow that which is good. (I Thessalonians 5:14,15).
 - vi) Comfort and edify each other. (I Thessalonians 5:11).
 - vii) Know them (appreciate and respect Pastors) who work to the point of weariness . . . and be esteeming them most highly with a divine and self-sacrificial love because of their work. (I Thessalonians 5:12,13).
 - viii) Be at peace among yourselves. (5:13).
 - ix) Warn them that are unruly (ie. soldiers who desert). (5:14).
 - x) Don't render evil for evil to any man, but always follow good. (5:15).
 - xi) Rejoice evermore. (5:16).
 - xii) Pray without ceasing. (5:17).
 - xiii) In everything give thanks. (5:18).
 - xiv) Quench not the Spirit, ie. stop stifling and suppressing the Spirit. (5:19).
 - xv) Despise not prophesying, ie. don't get restless during preaching. (5:20).
 - xvi) Prove (test) all things. (5:21).
 - xvii) Held fast that which is good. (5:21).
 - xviii) Abstain from all appearance of evil. (5:22).
 - xix) Pray for us, and each other. (5:25).
 - xx) Greet all the brethren. (5:26).

Question: Is it wrong to preach that we must DO, WORK or STRIVE?

Answer: No. We "do" as we "yield" constantly to Christ: "**Do** all things . . ." (Philippians 2:13,14). "Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, . . . to supply your lack of service". (Phil 2:30). "So have I strived to preach the gospel." (Romans 15:20). "**Strive** for masteries." (II Timothy 2:5).

Question: What if I don't feel like going soul-winning and feel condemned and guilty?

Answer: If we think something should be done, check if it is God's will for me at the time, eg. to sleep, or phone people, or go soul-winning or Bible study.

I may not feel like doing God's will. (This is sin and disobedience).

I must confess it to God and regain fellowship. I then claim the filling of the Holy Spirit. I then go and do God's will in the power of the Holy Spirit by yielding to God.

VI. RESULTS OF BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

As you continue growing in Jesus Christ, God will continue to change your life.

As you let the Holy Spirit lead and control your life every day,

- 1) Your life will show the fruit of the Spirit more and more. (Galatians 5:22,23).
- 2) Your prayers will be more effective. (James 5:16).
- 3) Your understanding of the Bible will increase. (II Timothy 3:16,17).
The teaching of the Holy Spirit warns us against error.
- 4) You will have greater power to witness. (Acts 1:8).
- 5) You will have God's power to defeat temptation and sin, and to live a life of victory. (I Cor 10:13).
- 6) You will be guided to apply Bible truths to life's problems. You'll have less self-inflicted trouble.
- 7) You will worship God in thanks and praise, which is the fruit of a life lived in fellowship with God.

Conclusion: A Christian can only live a Spirit-filled life by faith. Are you filled with the Holy Spirit?

24. GROW IN GRACE

"But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (II Peter 3:18).

Aim: To give some general instructions to young Christians as to how to grow in grace, be strong in the Lord and to avoid backsliding.

Introduction: To grow as a Christian one must:

- a) Methodically - Study and obey the Bible; Pray; Obey God; Attend church and do soul-winning.
- b) Cultivate Spiritual Graces and a quality Christlike lifestyle.

Let us see some things that the Holy Spirit wants to cultivate in our lives and check if we are listening to Him and acting on His voice.

I. "GROWING IN GRACE" DEFINED

Grace is used in two senses: a) in GOD - it is God's enabling and undeserved favour.

b) in MEN - it is holiness.

Therefore, to grow in grace is to grow in holiness, to be more like God, to govern our conduct more and more by the same principles that God does.

God wants to glorify Himself and to fill the Universe with holiness and happiness.

Growing in grace is not gradually giving up sin. We must, at salvation, give up sin instantly and wholly.

II. HOW TO GROW IN GRACE

- 1) Be saved and love Jesus Christ with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. (Matthew 22:35-40).
- 2) Repent of all known sin.
- 3) Make a full surrender and consecration to God of everything we are, have, desire and love.
- 4) An intense desire to learn more of God's ways through the Bible and the Holy Spirit's leading.
- 5) Keep up with our convictions of duty and with our growing knowledge of God's will. (John 14:15).
- 6) An increasing and confident faith in God's character, so that we'll trust Him in the dark as well as in the light, whether we understand why or why not He deals such with us. (John 10:27 like sheep).
- 7) A deeper personal acquaintance with Christ. (John 14:21).
Christ has promised to manifest himself personally to those who love and obey him.
- 8) Watch against besetting sins such as levity (foolishness). (Hebrews 12:1).
If you yield to temptation once, it's easier to yield again.
- 9) Pride - thinking that you are greater than other people.
"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (I Corinthians 10:12).
- 10) Anger and Temper with workmates, neighbours, the government or events.
"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away . . ." (Eph 4:31).
- 11) Selfishness - don't act from selfish motives. Think of what God wants first, then put others second.
- 12) Sloth and Laziness - How many young Christians stop and backslide through laziness, as if there were no work to do. (Proverbs 6:6-11).
- 13) Envy - If you see others going ahead of you in prosperity, in influence, in talents and in the Lord's work, examine your feelings and see if they please you. If the sight gives you pain, beware!
- 14) Impure Thoughts. Make a covenant with your eyes, ears and all your senses, or they'll prove the inlet of temptation and sin. If you find yourself in danger, turn your thoughts away instantly and think of something else, such as Scripture, people's needs or Christ's example.
- 15) Maintain great firmness of purpose and decision of character to be undeviating in the performance of secret duties (prayer and Bible reading) and in obeying the truth no matter what others may say or think (I Corinthians 15:58).
- 16) Meekness is patience under injuries. When you are reviled, learn not to revile again. If persecuted, don't threaten back. (I Peter 2:21-23).

III. PROOF OF GROWTH IN GRACE

What will a Christian be like when he is growing in grace?

- 1) He does things, less because he feels like it, and more because it is right.
For example, "I don't feel like praying" - do it anyhow; "I don't feel like church" - do it anyhow.
- 2) More love to God resulting in a growing veneration for all the commands of God.

"Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6).

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." (Psalm 111:10 and Proverbs 9:10).

- 3) More love to men. As young Christians grow in Godliness, they feel more and more a desire that all the world should be converted to God. They have more heart-breaking agony at the dreadful state of men in their sins. (I Samuel 17:45-47).
- 4) They have greater humility and self-abasement. (James 4:10; I Peter 5:5,6; Isaiah 66:2).
- 5) An increased abhorrence of sin, feeling less disposed to compromise with sin.
"Ye that love the Lord hate evil." (Psalm 97:10).
- 6) Less love for the world. (I John 2:15,17).
He seeks wealth and honour only to glorify God, and of doing good to men.
He is less desirous of worldly company and carnal conversation. He will love to read the most spiritual books and will love the company and conversation of the most spiritual Christians. He will love attending the most pungent, searching spiritual preaching.
- 7) An increased delight in fellowship with saints. (I John 3:14).
- 8) He finds it more easy to exercise a forgiving spirit and to pray for his enemies. He easily gets over injuries. "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32).
- 9) He becomes more ready to bestow property, being willing to give all that is in his power to extend Christ's Kingdom. (Luke 6:38).
- 10) His time, talents, property and life itself have value only in relation to Christ's kingdom and eternity. (Matthew 6:19-21). He lives by eternal values.
- 11) He is more willing to confess faults to men. (Matthew 5:23,24).
- 12) He regards less and less either the good or bad opinions of men and is less influenced by what "other people say" and popular opinion.
- 13) He will expect frequent and agonising conflicts with Satan.
Spiritual Christians are doing Satan a vast injury and therefore he sets himself against them.
"be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might." (Ephesians 6:10).
- 14) A growing peacefulness under sudden and crushing disasters.
"Love, joy, peace" (Galatians 5:22). "For he is our peace". (Ephesians 2:14).
- 15) A growing realisation and confidence in the wisdom, goodness and providence of God. He develops a state of mind that sees God's hand in everything. (Romans 8:28).
- 16) A growing jealousy for:
a) the honour of God.
b) the purity and honour of His church.
c) the rights of God and all men. "Is there not a cause?" (I Samuel 17:29).

IV. EVIDENCES OF BACKSLIDING

How do you detect backsliding in yourself or another?

- 1) Being weary of giving money or time to promote the kingdom of Christ.
- 2) Stops coming to church.
- 3) Reluctant to converse on spiritual matters. Young Christians delight to discuss spiritual issues.
If you leave your first love, watch out.
- 4) Less interest in private and public prayer; less Bible reading and drawing away from God.
- 5) More delight in public meetings than in secret communion with God.

V. HOW TO ESCAPE FROM BACKSLIDING

Backsliding is very hard to recover from because you resist what other Christians say and you avoid meeting with other Christians. The solution to recover from backsliding is:

- 1) ADMIT that you are backsliding.
- 2) APPLY and take God's REMEDY for your sin.
- 3) FIND your CAUSE of backsliding and give it up. God will hold you at arms-length and will frown upon you when you pray unless you search out and remove the cause of backsliding. Give up your idols.
- 4) Apply to the Lord Jesus Christ for PARDON and peace with God, as a guilty sinner.
Confess your sins fully, forsake them, return to God, and

He will have mercy on you. He will heal your backslidings and will remember your iniquities no more. Backsliding is why revivals cease.

VI. SOME THINGS WHICH SHOULD BE TAUGHT TO YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Aim: To know how to help and teach young Christians. "Feed my lambs." (John 21:15).

Introduction: Why do Christians backslide? Because they aren't being fed or taught Bible doctrine and are not applying it to their lives. **What ought to be taught?**

GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

1) **Attending Church is Raising a Standard against the Devil.**

"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." (Isaiah 59:19).

Today as the tide of evil increases, there is a greater-than-ever need for God's people to pull together by joining a sound church immediately they are saved. DON'T WAIT!

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24,25).

If you set out in your Christian life by waiting, most likely you will always be waiting and never do anything to much purpose. Never wait when God has pointed out your duty.

"the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth". (I Timothy 3:15).

Usually a young Christian's character through life is moulded according to how they are dealt with when first converted. When they are first brought in, their minds are soft and tender, and easily yield to the truth. They may then be taught easily. If you don't disciple them immediately, they'll be harder to disciple later on.

2) However dull your feelings may be, **if duty calls, DO IT.**

Distinguish between emotion and principle in your Christian thinking.

Do it because it is right. Don't wait until you feel like it.

KNOW, RECKON, and YIELD your members to God. (Romans 6:6,11,13).

3) **Teach them to cultivate a tender conscience.** (I Timothy 1:5,19). Don't resist your conscience.

When they see a "Thus saith the Lord", they'll be always ready to obey it, come what may.

4) **"YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN"**. (I Corinthians 6:19,20). Know that all your time, property, influence, faculties, body and soul belong to God. When you submitted to God, you made a full surrender of all to Him. If you don't do this, don't call yourself a Christian, because the very idea of a Christian is to renounce self, and become entirely consecrated to God.

"purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2:14).

5) **Pray without ceasing.** (I Thessalonians 5:17).

Keep a watch over your minds and be all the time in a prayerful spirit. Pray always or you'll get far from God. When your conscience presses you, go to Christ, confess your sin fully, and pour your heart out to God. The Holy Spirit will lead you in prayer and the dark clouds of guilt will go away.

6) **Don't adopt a false standard** in your Christian life. Don't keep older Christians as a standard of holy living, but always look at Christ as your model. "Looking unto Jesus". (Hebrews 12:2).

Aim at being HOLY. Seek to be as perfect as God.

7) **Don't aim at comfort**, but at usefulness in your Christian life.

Don't spend your time in seeking to be happy or on a spiritual high, but spend time in agonising prayer for sinners and in pulling people out of the fire. Consider how the apostles travailed for souls and laboured in weariness, painfulness and in death to save sinners. Don't calculate on a life of joy and triumph. You may be called on to go through fiery trials.

a) Seek to go forward and be useful, not happy;

b) Talk about duty, not comfort;

c) Talk about triumph, not flights of joy;

d) Seek for righteousness, not entertainment; and

e) Seek how to know the will of God and do it. You'll be happy enough in heaven.

- 8) You must **learn to say NO to wrong activities of old friends**. If you go with them once, it will be easier to go with them again. Then you'll start to backslide. Learn to resist the beginnings of temptation. "Be sober, be vigilant." (I Peter 5:8,9).
- 9) **Be Strictly Honest**. "Let us walk honestly, as in the day." (Roman 13:13).
Be straight in everything, so that God's pure eyes can see that your mind is perfectly upright. "Whatsoever things are honest." (Philippians 4:8). "Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles, that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation." (I Peter 2:12).
- 10) Christianity is not high flights of feeling, but **obedience to God** from the heart and voluntary submission to His will.
- 11) Christianity is **SELF DENIAL**. (Mark 8:34-37; Matthew 16:27).
 - a) Christ exercised Self Denial to save sinners.
 - b) The Father exercised Self Denial in giving His Son and in sparing us.
 - c) The Holy Spirit exercises Self Denial in striving with unholy men to bring us to God.
 - d) Angels exercise Self Denial in watching over the world.
 - e) The Apostles exercised Self Denial in planting Christianity among many nations. Is it too much for us to exercise some Self-Denial daily for Christ, the gospel and to build this church?
- 12) Be **temperate** (self controlled) in all things.
- 13) Show just as much Christianity, holiness and sincerity in all your **daily activities** as on Sunday.
- 14) **Aim at being perfect**. Live entirely to God. Obey all His Commandments. Sin should be the exception in our lives. Be holy as God. Seek not to sin at all. "Be ye holy; for I am holy." (I Peter 1:16).
- 15) **Exhibit your light** to the world or it will go out.
God won't go to the trouble of keeping a light burning that is hidden. You'll backslide. God may put you on the shelf. (I Corinthians 9:27). "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16).
- 16) They should be **taught HOW to win souls for Christ**. Live for this as the great purpose of life. The reason why we are left in the world is to pull sinners out of the fire. If you don't do this you are better off dead. Teach this immediately they are saved. "woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" (I Corinthians 9:16).

VII. SOME EVILS OF DEFECTIVE INSTRUCTION

- 1) If not fully taught, they'll never be fully grounded in right principles.
- 2) If rightly taught, they'll take the right side on all great issues that come to the church. You can depend on them and the church will be stronger.
- 3) If they are not well taught, they will inevitably backslide and disgrace Christ.

VIII. HOW YOUNG CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE TREATED BY THE CHURCH

- 1) Older Christians should greatly help and teach younger Christians, or they'll never grow.
- 2) Put young Christians to work in the church. Keep them looking to God. We are saved to serve.
- 3) They should be watched over by the church and warned of their dangers.
Young Christians don't know the dangers that surround them, such as:
 - a) the devices of Satan.
 - b) the temptations of the world.
 - c) the power of their own passions and faults.
 If not properly watched and warned, they will run right into danger.

Conclusion:

- 1) If churches had properly trained young Christians, the world would have been converted long ago.
- 2) They should be trained to work for Christ, just as carefully as young soldiers are trained for war.
- 3) Train young Christians to be intelligent, single hearted, self-denying, working Christians.
Train them:

- how to <u>pray</u> .	- how to <u>talk</u> to people about their souls.
- how to <u>win souls</u> to Christ, and	- how to <u>disciple</u> people.

Pray now, surrendering yourself to God concerning all these issues.

25. STATEMENT OF FAITH of LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH (Independent).

"... where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." (II Corinthians 3:17).

I. NAME. The church shall be known as Liberty Baptist Church (Independent).

II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.

The purpose and programme of this church is to obey the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

(Matthew 28:19-20). The practice by Pastors and people of soul-winning, discipleship, baptism, Bible teaching, fellowship and edification of the church are the reasons for this church's existence.

The church's aim is to show forth Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour in all things.

Excessive administration will be avoided as will any social or secular activity that tends to divert the church from its God-given responsibilities. The financial and physical resources of this church are to be constantly focused on fulfilling the Great Commission.

III. COVENANT (Mutual Agreement).

As members of Liberty Baptist Church, we accept the following agreement:

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and upon our public profession of our faith in Him, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ. We promise that we will watch over and counsel one another in the spirit of brotherly love (Galatians 6:1,2), that we will remember one another in our prayers (James 5:16), and that we will help one another in sickness and in distress.

We further agree, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love (John 15:12); to strive for the growth of this church in grace, knowledge, holiness and comfort of Christ (II Peter 3:18); to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to give it a sacred pre-eminence over all institutions of human origin (Ephesians 5:26,27); and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor (James 1:27) and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We further covenant to maintain family and private devotions (Deuteronomy 6:4-25); to educate our children in the Word of God; to seek the salvation of our family and acquaintances; to live carefully in this present world (II Timothy 2:22-26; Titus 2:12); to be just in our dealings, faithful in our responsibilities, and exemplary in our behaviour (I Timothy 4:12); to avoid all gossip, backbiting and excessive anger (Titus 2:6-8); to abstain from everything that will cause our brother to stumble (Romans 14:13; 15:3), or that will bring reproach upon the cause of Christ (I Thessalonians 5:22); and to strive to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, that amidst evil and good report we will humbly and earnestly seek to live to the honour and glory of Him who loved us and gave himself for us (I Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Philippians 2:3,4,14-16,20,21).

We agree that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with a church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word (Hebrews 10:24,25).

IV. DOCTRINAL STATEMENT.

Members of this church shall hold as an essential part of their profession of faith these doctrines:

1) The Scriptures.

We believe that the Holy Bible is God's infallible, inerrant Word, supernaturally and verbally inspired in totality, through holy men of old, such that the actual words were God's words without error or contradiction. The Bible, therefore, is and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to men (II Timothy 3:16,17); the true basis of Christian union and the supreme and only standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried. The Word of God has been preserved in the vast majority of the manuscripts from which the Authorized Version (King James Version) has been translated.

- a) By "the Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written and preserved to today does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but IS the very Word of God.
- b) By "Inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally

and verbally inspired and free from all error and omission as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired (II Peter 1:19-21; II Timothy 3:16; Matthew 24:35; Rev. 22:18,19).

2) **The True God.**

We believe that there is only one living and true God, the Creator and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; perfectly holy; worthy of all possible honour, confidence and love, who is the Upholder, Redeemer and Saviour of mankind. In the unity of the Godhead, there are three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, equal in every Divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. (Matthew 28:19; I Peter 1:2; II Corinthians 13:14).

3) **The Deity of Jesus Christ.**

Jesus Christ is the second person of the Godhead. He is co-existent, co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father of whose person and glory He is the exact expression. This absolute deity of Jesus Christ is indissolubly combined with His perfect humanity in one Person. He is the one and only Mediator between God and man. (I Timothy 2:5; 3:16; John 20:28; Philippians 2:6; Colossians 2:9,15-19; Hebrews 1:2,3; John 1:1-4).

4) **The Holy Spirit.**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, equal with God the Father and God the Son, and of the same nature. The Holy Spirit was active in the creation (Genesis 1:2); in relation to the unbelieving world, He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled (II Thessalonians 2:6, 7). He convicts the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment (John 16:8-11). He bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony. He seeks to glorify Christ in all things (John 16:14,15). He is the agent in the new birth (John 3:3-8). He seals, endues with power, guides into all truth (John 16:13), teaches, witnesses to our salvation (I John 3:24), sanctifies and helps the believer. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to the church for mutual edification (Ephesians 4:7-16). The temporary, miraculous sign gifts (for example, tongues, interpretation of tongues, miracles, apostleship, prophecy, knowledge and healing) were intended to be transitional and foundational. These ceased when Israel finally rejected the gospel (I Cor. 13:8-13; 14:21,22; Mark 16:17-20).

5) **Creation.**

We believe the Genesis account of creation is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively. Man was created directly in God's own image (Genesis 1:26,27) and after His own likeness. Man's creation was not a matter of evolution (atheistic or theistic), by change of species by developments through periods of time from lower to higher forms, but that all life was made directly by God. God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind".

6) **Fall of Man.**

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of God, but, by voluntary transgression, fell from his sinless and happy state (Genesis 3:1-24), in consequence of which, all mankind are now sinners (Romans 5:12) by nature and by choice, therefore being under just condemnation without defence or excuse (Romans 1:18-20).

7) **Virgin Birth.**

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of a woman. Mary is not an object of worship or prayer, but just a chosen vessel (Luke 1:46,47). Jesus Christ is both the Son of God and God the Son (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Luke 126-38; Matthew 1:23).

8) **Salvation.**

a) **The Purposes of God.**

Election and predestination are according to God's foreknowledge of man's response to the conviction of the Spirit of God. (I Peter 1:2). All men are called to salvation, convicted of sin and enlightened. They, therefore, are able to exercise faith in Christ. It is God's desire that all men without exception should be saved (II Peter 3:9), though He knows beforehand that many will reject His free offer of mercy. People are not predestined or ordained to believe, but those who of their own free will exercise faith in Christ, in God's fore-

knowledge are appointed to eternal and heavenly blessing and they are eternally secure from the moment of conversion. (Romans 8:29; I Timothy 2:4-6; Ezekiel 18:23).

b) Christ's Atonement for the Sins of Mankind.

The sinner is able to be redeemed from the guilt, penalty and power of sin through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In His death, Christ is the sinner's representative and substitute (II Corinthians 5:21). Something happened to Christ and, because it happened to Christ, it need not happen to us. ie. Because Christ died for our sins, we need not die for them if we accept His sacrifice. The sinner is reconciled to God and justified, not by human merit, but by Divine grace and by faith alone in what Christ has done (Ephesians 2:8,9,10). This atonement is sufficient for the whole world (Hebrews 2:9), but efficient only for those who personally believe in Christ as their Saviour. Christ honoured God's law by His sinless obedience (Hebrews 4:15), and by His death made a full atonement for our sins (Colossians 2:14-17). His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by his death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree. Having risen from the dead for our justification (Romans 4:25), He is now enthroned in heaven (Hebrews 1:8), and in His perfection is in every way qualified to be a suitable (Hebrews 7:25), compassionate (I Peter 5:7), and completely sufficient Saviour (I John 2:2).

c) Freeness of Salvation.

We believe that the blessings of Salvation are made free to all by the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16), that it is the duty of all to accept salvation freely, being sorry for their sins and having an obedient faith (Acts 2:37). Nothing holds back the Salvation of the greatest sinner on earth (John 6:37), except his own desire to sin (John 3:19,20) and his willing refusal of the gospel (Acts 13:46). This refusal puts a man in a very great judgment (Revelation 14:11; Matthew 25:46). Repentance is a sincere and thorough changing of the mind and disposition in regard to sin, involving a sense of personal guilt and helplessness, apprehension of God's mercy, a strong desire to escape or be saved from sin, and a desire to abandon it.

d) Repentance and Faith.

We believe that repentance and faith are solemn duties (Luke 13:3) and also graces that cannot be separated (Hebrews 6:1), worked in our souls by the Spirit of God (John 16:8). Therefore, being deeply convicted of our guilt (Luke 5:8), danger (Jude 23) and helplessness (Luke 23:42), and of the only way of salvation being through Jesus Christ (John 14:6; Romans 10:9), we turn to God with true sorrow (Romans 10:10), confession and asking for mercy (Luke 18:13); at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Saviour (Hebrews 10:10,12,14). Faith is produced by the Word of God (Romans 10:17) showing our need, stating the promises and conditions, and pointing out the blessings of salvation. Saving faith begins with intellectual belief of the Word of God, that Christ is available as our Saviour. Prayer is the means to faith, where we claim the promise of Christ as Saviour. Having done this, we are then saved by faith in Jesus Christ.

e) Regeneration.

We believe that to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again (John 3:3) (a change of state). Regeneration means getting a new mind (I Corinthians 2:15,16), a new nature (II Peter 1:4) and becoming a new creature (II Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:24). A new governing power has come into the regenerated man's life, by which he is enabled to become holy in experience. All this is done in a way above our understanding, by the power of the Holy Spirit working with God's Truth (I Peter 1:23). The results of regeneration can be seen in our lives in the fruit of the Spirit and in newness of life (Romans 6:4).

f) Justification.

Justification is the judicial act of God, whereby those who put faith in Christ as Saviour are declared righteous in God's eyes and free from guilt and punishment due for their sin. (In effect, it is **just as if** I've never sinned). It is a change of position before God (Romans 5:1,2). We have acceptance with God on account of Christ's righteousness (II Corinthians 5:21).

Justification includes the forgiveness of sin (Romans 4:7.8) and the imputation of the righteousness of Christ (Romans 4:20-25). It brings us into peace and favour with God.

g) Sanctification.

Sanctification is living a life separated from a sinful world and dedicated to God. Each believer is free from sin's guilt, but needs deliverance daily from sin's power. The Old Man (the Old Human Spirit which has produced a habit pattern or way of life in the soul - Romans 6:6) has been crucified, but the principle of sin still operates in the believer's members (Romans 7:17), and will continue to do so until the redemption of the body at the coming of Christ for His Saints. Victory over sinful tendencies is the privilege of every believer, by the Holy Spirit's control and filling. Victory is appropriated by faith (Romans 6:6; 7:21-25; 8:2). Sanctification, therefore, is the way by which we are made to share God's Holiness (Hebrews 10:10,14). It is a progressive process (Psalm 119:9), commencing when one is born again (II Corinthians 5:17), and is carried on in the heart of the believer, by the Holy Spirit (John 16:13-15), through the Word of God (Colossians 3:16), self-examination (I Corinthians 11:31), self-denial (Luke 9:23), watchfulness (Revelation 16:15; Matthew 24:42,44,46) and prayer (Luke 18:1).

h) Security of the Believer.

We believe that, once a person has been born again into the family of God by faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour, it is impossible for him to lose his salvation. He is kept saved by the power of God unto eternal salvation. (I Peter 1:4,5; John 10:28).

9) Church.

The church is the body of Christ composed of true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. She has her visible form in the local assembly which is responsible for fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19,20), ministry and mutual fellowship. The church is built on the foundation of the apostles (New Testament) and the prophets (Old Testament). (Ephesians 2:19-22). Evangelists, pastors and teachers are given in our time to teach and lead. (Ephesians 4:11-13). Jesus Christ is the only Head and Founder (Matthew 16:18) of the church, by which all the saved are directed as members of His body (Ephesians 4:15; 5:23). The gifts of the Spirit are given to the church for her edification. (Ephesians 4:12).

10) Offices.

The only offices in a true church are Pastors (also called Bishops - in I Timothy 3:1 - Elders and Overseers), and Deacons (servants), who are appointed by the church for spiritual leadership and service. These are to be fit men according to I Timothy 3:1-12; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-4; Acts 6:1-8.

11) Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

- a) We believe that Scriptural Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water (Acts 2:41; John 3:23; Mark 1:9-11), in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). It is a public declaration of a person's faith in Jesus Christ as their Saviour, symbolizing the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection as the means of salvation, with its effect in our death to sin, burial of our Old Man, and resurrection to a new way of life. (Romans 6:1-6; Acts 8:38).
- b) The Lord's Table is to be a constant reminder of the sufferings of Christ, His broken body and precious blood by which salvation is purchased and heaven opened. (Acts 20:28). The elements of the supper are unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine/ (Matthew 26:26-29). In the Lord's Supper, the believer remembers the Lord Jesus Christ till He comes again. (I Corinthians 11:26). The taking of the elements does not impart forgiveness, but should be an occasion for solemn self-examination and putting right any division which may occur within the Body of Christ. All true believers of the Lord Jesus are invited to the Table. This ordinance shall be observed on a regular and frequent basis. (I Corinthians 11:23-29).

12) The Resurrection of the Dead.

Christ arose bodily "the third day according to the Scriptures" (I Corinthians 15:4); that He ascended "to the right hand of the throne of God", and that He alone is our "merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God". After death, the bodies of men return to dust, but their spirits and souls return immediately to God (Ecclesiastes 3:21), the righteous to be with Him in heaven (II Corinthians 5:8), and the unrighteous to be reserved for the judgment (Hebrews 9:27).

There will be two resurrections: the saved will be resurrected at the first resurrection (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:4-6; Matthew 27:51-54) and the unsaved at the second resurrection. (Revelation 20:11-15; Acts 24:15; I Corinthians 15:1-58).

13) The Return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe in and accept the Sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their face and full value. At the end of this age, according to His promise (John 14:3), Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in His glory to the earth. (Mark 8:38). The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits His return. He will appear in the air (I Thessalonians 4:16,17) and He will bring His saints with Him (I Thessalonians 4:13). "The dead in Christ shall rise first" (v 16) and the living saints "shall be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye." (I Corinthians 15:51,52). The time of this event is known by no man. (Matthew 24:44). Following this event, will be a time of very great trouble on the earth, called the Tribulation. (Matthew 24:21,22). This Tribulation will see the death of many on the earth and only those who have Jesus Christ as Saviour have any hope of being delivered from this great trouble. (I Thessalonians 5:9). Christ will therefore come initially to the air as the Heavenly Bridegroom to receive His church before the Tribulation, and later come as King of Kings after the Great Tribulation when He will judge the nations and reign over all the earth for 1,000 years. (Revelation 20:1-7; Matthew 24:3-31; 25:31-34).

14) The Righteous and the Wicked.

We believe that there is a basic and important difference between the righteous and the wicked. (Matthew 25:31-33). Only those with faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, are justified. They are, therefore, truly righteous in God's sight (Romans 3:24-26), because their sins have been judged in Christ. At the first resurrection, believers receive rewards for faithful service. (II Corinthians 5:10; I Corinthians 3:11-15; Romans 14:10; Revelation 22:12). All others, being unbelievers, are under the wrath of God (John 3:36) and, immediately upon death, enter the literal fire and torment of hell. (Luke 16:19-31). They remain there until the end of the 1,000-year-rule of Christ, where they are resurrected bodily to stand before the Great White Throne to be judged according to their works. They will then all be consigned to a literal lake of fire where they will suffer everlasting punishment. (Revelation 20:11-15; 14:10,11).

15) Satan.

Satan is a created angelic being, who was once holy and enjoyed heavenly honours, but through pride and rebellious ambition to be like the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels who now make up the demon hordes. He is now the evil prince of the power of the air, the unholy god of this world, man's great tempter, the enemy of the Godhead, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power behind the present apostasy, the force behind the Antichrist and the chief of all the powers of darkness. He is destined to final defeat at the hands of God the Son, and to the punishment of an everlasting justice in the lake of fire, a place prepared for him and his angels. (Matthew 25:41; Ezekiel 28:1-19; Revelation 12:4; 20:10).

16) Civil Government.

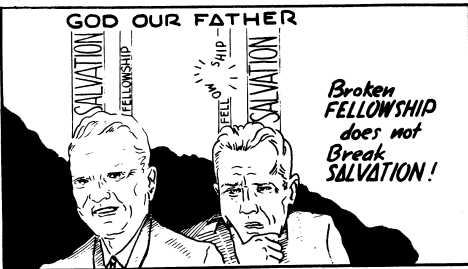
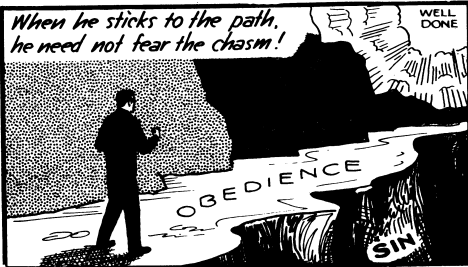
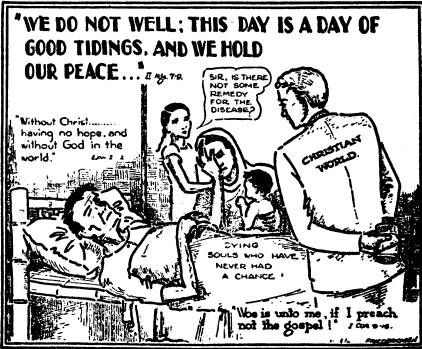
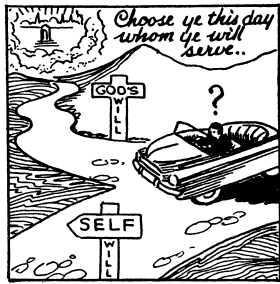
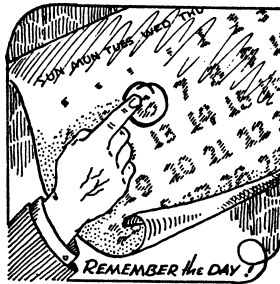
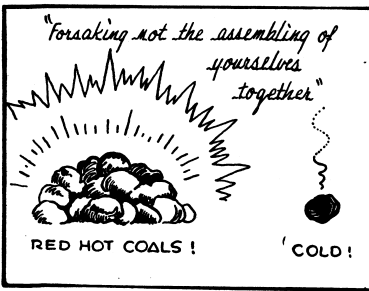
We believe that civil government is of divine appointment (Romans 13:1-7) for the interest and good order of human society. Rulers are to be prayed for (I Timothy 2:1-3), conscientiously honoured (Matthew 22:21) and obeyed (Matthew 17:24-27; Romans 3:31), except in matters clearly opposed to the will of Almighty God (Acts 4:19) who is the only True King and Lord of Heaven and Earth. (Revelation 19:16).

17) Missions.

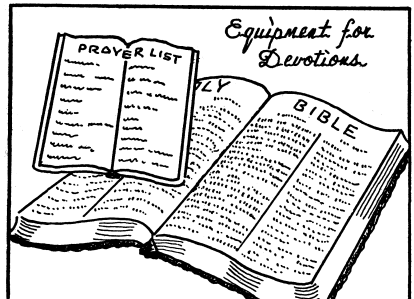
We believe that the command to give the gospel to the World is clear and unmistakable and that this commission is given to the churches. (Acts 1:8; 13:1-5).

Having read the Statement of Faith of Liberty Baptist Church (Independent) and finding myself in agreement with the doctrines, principles and practices contained herein, I hereby apply for membership of this church and agree to conscientiously work towards the achieving of its goals as stated above.

Signed Date



Neither shall any pluck them out of MY HAND...or MY FATHER'S HAND



26. STUDIES IN JOHN'S GOSPEL ABOUT JESUS CHRIST.

Each chapter in John's Gospel portrays some aspect of Jesus Christ's character and work.

Question 1: Who is Jesus Christ shown to be in each of these passages?

- 1:1,14 W _____ and G _____
 1:3,10 The C _____ of the W _____
 1:9 The T _____ L _____ which _____
 1:29 The L _____ of G _____ which _____
 1:34 The S _____ of G _____
 1:41 The M _____, the C _____
 1:49 The S _____ of G _____, the K _____ of I _____
 1:51 The S _____ of M _____
 3:2 T _____ from G _____
 3:13 The S _____ of M _____ which _____
 3:29 The B _____
 3:31 A _____
 4:10 The giver of L _____ W _____
 4:25,26 The M _____
 4:29 The C _____
 4:42 The S _____ of _____
 5:18 E _____ G _____
 5:23 All men should _____ even as _____
 6:14 That P _____ (Deuteronomy 18:15-22).
 6:35,48 The B _____
 8:12 The L _____
 8:24,58 If _____ (Exodus 3:14,15).
 9:5 The L _____
 9:35-37 The S _____
 10:7 The D _____
 10:11,14 The G _____
 10:33 Thou _____
 10:36 The S _____
 11:25 The R _____
 12:13 The K _____. From Isaiah 44:6, who is Jesus? _____
 13:14 Your L _____ and M _____
 14:6 The W _____, the T _____, the L _____
 14:9 He that _____
 15:1,5 The T _____ V _____
 19:19 Jesus of Nazareth, the _____
 20:28 My L _____ and my _____

Question 2: What great things did Jesus do?

- 1:3 All _____
 1:9 L _____
 1:12 P _____
 1:14 W _____
 1:17 G _____ and T _____
 1:18 D _____
 1:29 T _____
 1:33 B _____
 2:18-21 R _____
 3:2 M _____
 3:17 S _____

3:34 S _____
 4:10 G _____
 4:14 N _____
 4:29,39 T _____
 4:34 F _____
 6:19 W _____
 6:33 G _____
 6:40,44 I will _____
 6:51 I will _____
 7:31; 11:47 Many _____
 7:39 G _____ to those who _____
 9:1,14,32 O _____
 10:10 I am come that _____
 10:15 I _____
 10:28 I _____
 11:44 He _____
 13:1 He _____
 14:18 I will not _____
 14:27 P _____
 15:2 Every _____
 15:3 Ye are _____
 15:13 L _____
 15:16 I have _____
 15:26 I will _____
 17:4 I have _____
 17:8 I have _____
 17:14 I have _____
 19:30 It _____
 20:8,9 R _____
 20:20 He _____

Question 3: What great words did Jesus say or are said about Jesus?

1:1 In _____
 2:5 Whatsoever _____
 2:17 The z _____
 2:19 Destroy _____
 3:3 Except _____
 3:7 Ye _____
 3:16 For God _____
 3:18,36 He that _____
 3:19 Men _____
 3:27 A man _____
 3:30 He _____
 3:31 He _____
 4:10 If _____
 4:14 Whosoever _____
 4:23 True _____
 4:32 I have _____
 4:35 Lift _____
 4:42 This _____
 5:14 Sin _____

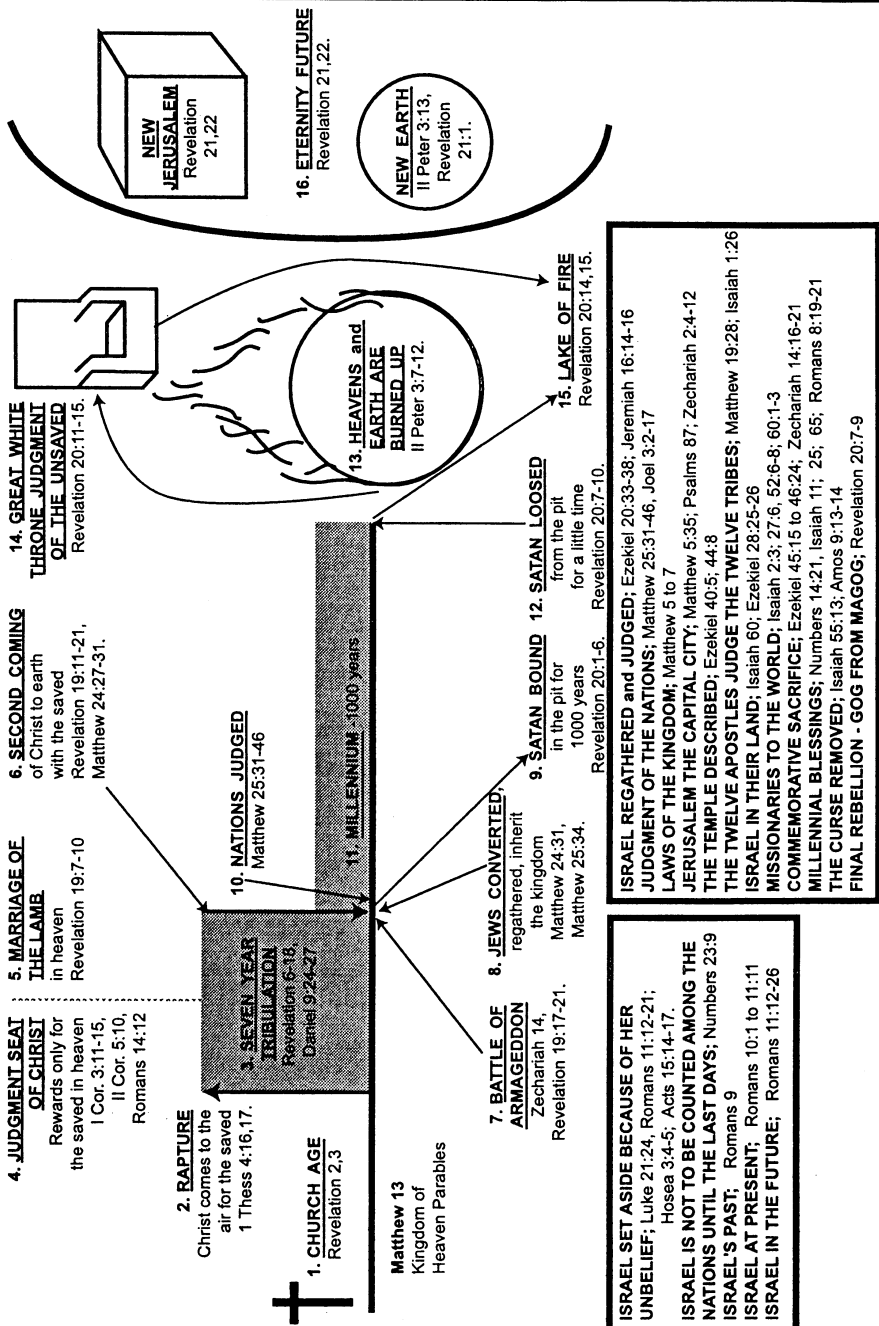
5:23 He that _____
 5:24 He that _____
 5:34 These things I say that _____
 5:33-39 Fourfold witness to Jesus: _____
 6:29 This is the work of God, that _____
 6:37 Him _____
 6:40 This is the will of Him that sent me _____
 6:47 He that _____
 6:51 I am the _____
 6:68 Peter said, _____
 7:24 Judge not _____ but judge _____
 7:37 If _____
 7:46 Never _____
 8:7 He that _____
 8:11 Go _____
 8:12 He that _____
 8:23 I am _____
 8:24 If ye _____
 8:31 If _____
 8:32 Ye shall know _____
 8:34 Whosoever _____
 8:36 If _____
 8:46 Which _____
 8:47 He that _____
 8:58 Before Abraham _____
 9:4 I must _____
 9:31 If _____
 9:32 Since _____
 9:35 Dost thou _____
 9:38 He said, “ _____”
 10:18 No man _____
 I have _____
 10:29 No man _____
 10:30 I _____
 11:25,26 I am _____
 11:44 He _____
 12:21 Sir _____
 12:24 If _____
 12:26 If any man serve me, _____ If any man serve me _____
 12:32 If _____
 12:43 They _____
 12:45 He _____
 12:46 Whosoever _____
 12:47 I came _____
 12:48 The word _____
 13:14 If _____
 13:17 If _____
 13:20 He that _____
 13:34 A new _____
 13:35 If _____
 14:2 In _____
 14:3 If _____

14:6 I _____
 14:9 He . _____
 14:15 If _____
 14:17 He _____
 14:18 I will _____
 15:4 Abide _____
 15:5 He that _____
 15:7 If _____
 15:12 This _____
 15:14 Ye are _____
 15:16 I have chosen you that _____
 15:20 If _____
 16:2 Whosoever _____
 16:8 i) He will _____
 16:13 ii) He will _____
 16:13 iii) He shall not _____
 16:13 iv) He will _____
 16:14 v) He shall _____
 16:14,15 vi) He shall _____
 16:24 Ask _____
 16:33 In _____
 17:17 Sanctify _____
 18:36 If _____
 18:37 Every one _____
 19:4,6 Pilate said, _____
 19:37 They shall _____
 20:21 As _____
 20:29 Blessed _____
 20:31 These are written that, _____
 21:15 F _____ 21:16 F _____
 21:19 He said, F _____
 21:21 What _____

In John's Gospel, Jesus Christ is portrayed as follows:

Chapter 1: The Son of God (v 14) and God the Son (v 1).
 Chapter 2: The Son of Man at the Cana marriage social activity (v 1-12).
 Chapter 3: The Divine Teacher teaching a "master teacher of Israel" (v 1-5,10).
 Chapter 4: The Soul Winner leading the Samaritan woman at the well to salvation (v 10,14,15).
 Chapter 5: The Great Physician healing the impotent man (v 1-15).
 Chapter 6: The Bread of Life that truly satisfies our hunger (v 35,48).
 Chapter 7: The Water of Life satisfying the thirsty heart (v 37).
 Chapter 8: The Defender of the Weak woman about to be stoned for adultery (v 3-11).
 Chapter 9: The Light of the World by giving light to one born blind (v 32).
 Chapter 10: The Good Shepherd watching over His flock and giving His life for the sheep (v 11,15,16).
 Chapter 11: The Resurrection and the Life by raising Lazarus from the dead (v 43,44).
 Chapter 12: The King riding into Jerusalem to offer Himself as King to Israel (v 12-15).
 Chapter 13: The Humble Servant washing His disciples feet (v 4,5).
 Chapter 14: The Consoler of Disciples, preparing a place, sending the Comforter and giving peace (v 1)
 Chapter 15: The True Vine as the source of all spiritual fruit (v 1-17).
 Chapter 16: The Sender of the Holy Spirit (v 7-15).
 Chapter 17: The Great Intercessor.
 Chapter 18: The Model Sufferer (v 11). Chapter 20: The Resurrected Conqueror of Death.
 Chapter 19: The Uplifted Saviour (v 18). Chapter 21: The Restorer of the Repentant Peter (v.15-17).

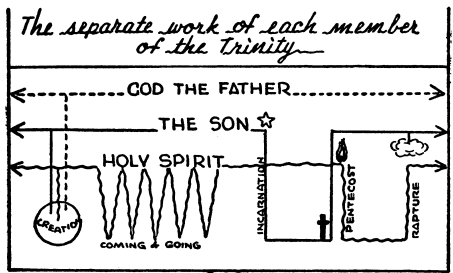
WHAT ARE THE ORDER OF EVENTS IN GOD'S PROGRAM?



Power over nature
 Power over creation
 Power over sickness
 Power over death
 Power over demons

PROOF that CHRIST is GOD

HIS REASON
 FOR WORKING MIRACLES
 (while He was here on earth before the N.T. was written)



WHEN GOD TIES THE KNOT - IT IS SURE

PERSON OF GOD
 PROVISION OF GOD
 PROMISES OF GOD
 PLAN OF GOD
 PRAYER OF GOD
 PRESENCE OF GOD
 POWER OF GOD

The 7-fold Cord !

ATTACK FROM THE BACK !

SATAN'S DEMONS
 REBELLIOUS LOST
 BACKSLIDERS

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper:

Confess and forsake them... I HAVE SINNED !

SELF EFFORT

SIN

GOD'S COMPLETE CLEANSING

YOU CAN'T DO IT YOURSELF !
 why not use the washer ?

GO ON HOME !

SPRING CLEAN !

GOSSIP
 CRUDGES
 SECRET VICES
 UNCLE TOM'S CABINET
 BAD HABITS
 COVETOUSNESS
 SIN

This makes a graduate —

This announces the graduate to others

DIPLOMA
 Course Completed

Salvation is by faith in Christ —

Baptism is the public testimony

The Armor of God

SALVATION.
 RIGHTEOUSNESS.
 WORD OF GOD.
 TRUTH, FAITH.
 MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL.

EPH 2:2



There are 7 dispensations in the outworking of God's overall eternal purpose (Ephesians 1:9,10). In each, man is given a specific test or responsibility: each ends in failure and this brings judgment. Overall, the dispensational tests shows that man is utterly *sinful and lost* (Romans 3:10,23)

We are now living in *46: Grace or Church Age*. This dispensation will end with the return of Christ. He will first return *in the clouds* to resurrect the DEAD IN CHRIST, to change the LIVING IN CHRIST and RAPTURE or receive them up together to Himself. (John 14:1-3; 1Thessalonians 4:16,17) This event MAY BE SOON - *notice the reaping of Israel* - (SUDDEN!) (1 Corinthians 15:52) and a SEPARATION of the saved (born-again, in Christ; John 3:6,7; Romans 8:1,9) from the unsaved.

Those who reject Christ to theapture shall enter the Tribulation. (2 Thess 2:10-12, John 14:6) The Tribulation will be God's wrath on this Christ-rejecting world and men will beg the mountians to *fall on them* and they will be killed (Rev 6:12-17). There will be wars and *terrors* and the 2nd world's population will be killed (Rev 6:48; 9:18) Men will be scorched with *fire*, there will be *great earthquakes* and *100 pound hail*. Cities will fall and *every mountain and island will disappear*. (Rev 3:10;16:8,9 and 21).

At the end of the 1,000 years, the Great White Throne Judgement will be God's final judgment on all who have rejected His GRACE-BY-FAITH salvation. They will be resurrected from all ages, judgment, then cast into the Lake of Fire forever (Revelation 20:11-15).

1. If the Rapture comes today, will you be taken?
2. Would you like to KNOW you will be with Christ?

return to the earth IN HIS GLORY with His saints to