

BUILDING CHRISTIAN MINISTERS

DIVISION I

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

LESSON ONE

GOD'S WORD

INTRODUCTION

Every Christian needs to know how to study the Bible. One of the greatest detriments to studying the Bible is just not knowing how. Christians tend to accept the teaching that you must have a college education or some special gift to understand the Bible. Division I, "How to Study the Bible" is designed to show the Christian how to study the Bible and help give him the confidence that what he learns is correct.

I. THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD.

- A. God gave Christians His Word. A Christian must accept the fact that the Bible is the Word of God.
- B. The Bible is inerrant. A Christian must believe in his heart that the Bible is correct and has no errors or need for correction.
- C. A Christian should study the English Bible not Greek or Hebrew. He must trust the Bible he is studying, not question if the version is correct.
- D. Study the Authorized King James Version of the Bible. There are not over 450 supposed translations of the Bible into English, and a Christian must determine which he will accept. Why is the King James Version of the Bible the correct one to study?
 1. It was translated from the Textus Receptus, (received text) manuscripts.
 2. The churches at the time accepted the King James Version and declared it to be from the Textus Receptus and the true Word of God.
 3. The Christians of the time stated that the manuscripts the King James version was translated from were the correct manuscripts. Christians should avoid the supposition that is found in many study Bibles which states "not found in the

most reliable manuscripts". There were millions of Christians that were² willing to die (and did die for these manuscripts). That should take precedent over some manuscript found in a cave. Who should determine which manuscripts are the most reliable?

E. Study the Bible as the Word of God.

1. God gave us His Word and assembled the Bible as it is, according to His will.
2. The Bible should be studied from a reverent attitude instead of one of criticism. Should Christians question God?
3. Understand that everything God wants the Christian to know is recorded in His book. A Christian should not spend his life trying to add to or take away from God's Word. Revelation 22:18-19.
4. Know that God's Word is Truth. John 17:17. Many philosophers ask, "what is truth?" John 18:38. Man seeks the truth but cannot find it because he looks to man, not God, to find truth.

II. THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD.

A. All scripture is given by inspiration (opposite of expiration) of God.

1. II Peter 1:20-21 The Holy Spirit moved men to speak the Word of God.
2. II Timothy 3:15-17 *All* scripture.

B. The Scripture (document) is the written Word of God.

1. Proverbs 30:5 Every Word of God is pure.
2. Ephesians 6:17 The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit.
3. Hebrews 4:12 The Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword.
4. Revelation 19:13 Jesus is the Word of God.

C. The Bible

1. Sixty-Six books.
2. Written by more than 40 people.
3. Written over a 2000 year span.
4. Historically correct.
5. Without contradiction.

III. SIXTY-SIX (66) BOOKS OF THE BIBLE (OLD TESTAMENT):

A. Pentateuch

1. Genesis - beginnings
2. Exodus - depart or going out; separation from wrong.
3. Leviticus - separation to right.
4. Numbers - in the wilderness.
5. Deuteronomy - Moses' address.

B. History

6. Joshua - possessing the land.
7. Judges - leadership by judges.
8. Ruth - other races and God.
9. I Samuel - government changes to Kings.
10. II Samuel - King David.
11. I Kings - Solomon and division of kingdom.
12. II Kings - divided kingdom and captivity.
13. I Chronicles - (historical account) History of David.
14. II Chronicles - (historical account) History of Kings.
15. Ezra - after exile; temple rebuilt.
16. Nehemiah - after exile; walls rebuilt.
17. Esther - struggle during captivity.

C. Poetry

18. Job - life of Job (probably Abraham's grandson).
19. Psalms - individual songs.
20. Proverbs - how to get wisdom.
21. Ecclesiastes - The preacher on vanity.
22. The Song of Solomon - love and marriage.

D. Major Prophets

23. Isaiah - before exile; evangelical.
24. Jeremiah - before exile; governor of the world.
25. Lamentations - the exile; funeral dirge (funeral march).
26. Ezekiel - during exile; a prophet declaring the restoration of Israel.
27. Daniel - during exile; times of danger and heroism.

E. Minor Prophets

28. Hosea - before exile; to bring repentance.
29. Joel - before exile; why catastrophe.
30. Amos - before exile; the cure, seek God and repent.
31. Obadiah - before exile; Day of the Lord.
32. Jonah - before exile; God's grace to the world.
33. Micah - before exile; captivity but deliverance.
34. Nahum - before exile; God's justice and promises.
35. Habakkuk - before exile; wickedness needs judgement.
36. Zephaniah - before exile; God not a respecter of persons.
37. Haggai - after exile; resume rebuilding.
38. Zechariah - after exile; rebuild temple.
39. Malachi - after exile; God will bless a remnant.

IV. SIXTY-SIX (66) BOOKS OF THE BIBLE (NEW TESTAMENT):

A. Transition

40. Matthew - Jesus the Messiah of Israel.
41. Mark - Jesus in ministry.
42. Luke - Jesus Christ the Divine Savior.
43. John - Jesus Christ Lord - God in the flesh.
44. Acts - transition - the early church.

B. Church

45. Romans - doctrine.
46. I Corinthians - church problems.
47. II Corinthians - ministry.

- 48. Galatians - Christians do not become Jews.
- 49. Ephesians - the local church is the body of Christ.
- 50. Philippians - Christian life.
- 51. Colossians - God's inheritance.
- 52. I Thessalonians - exhortation to holiness.
- 53. II Thessalonians - Christ is returning.
- 54. I Timothy - pastoral training.
- 55. II Timothy - fulfilling the ministry.
- 56. Titus - moral responsibility.
- 57. Philemon - a convert becomes a witness.

C. Hebrews

- 58. Hebrews - written to "us" using the Hebrews as our foundation.

D. Personal Books

- 59. James - pure religion.
- 60. I Peter - victory over suffering.
- 61. II Peter - apostasy revealed.
- 62. I John - love.
- 63. II John - personal walk.
- 64. III John - some reject.

E. Prophesy

- 65. Jude - contending for the faith.
- 66. Revelation - Jesus Christ the Lord.

V. RULES TO FOLLOW WHEN STUDYING THE BIBLE. II Timothy 3:16.

A. Study a verse in its context. II Peter 3:15-16.

B. All scripture has three applications.

- 1. Doctrinal - teaching - doctoring - what does the verse say, and to whom does it say it.
- 2. Inspirational - personal application - personal instruction - do not violate doctrinal.
- 3. Historical - time - place - person.

- C. Every verse is correct and where it should be.
II Timothy 2:15.
- D. Every word is inspired by God. Proverbs 30:5-6
- E. The Bible is not to be interpreted privately.
II Peter 1:20.
- F. The Bible has to be your basis of ethics.
- G. The Bible is written to three groups of people.
I Corinthians 10:32.
 - 1. Jews: James 1:1.
 - 2. Gentiles: Daniel 2:1-4; Romans 11:13;
Ephesians 1:1;3:1.
 - 3. Christians: Ephesians 1:1.
- H. Pay special attention to the words *like* and *as*.

V. STUDY THE BIBLE BY DISPENSATIONS. The Bible itself divides the Word of God into two dispensations--the New Testament and the Old Testament.

- A. Eternity past - created Heaven and Earth.
- B. Creation - creation to sin.
- C. Individual conscience - sin to written law.
- D. Law - written law to crucifixion.
- E. Church - crucifixion to rapture.
- F. Millennium - rapture to great white throne.
- G. Eternity - future.

HOMEWORK

Memorize all books of the Bible in order.

Read Hebrews

BUILDING CHRISTIAN MINISTERS

DIVISION I

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

LESSON TWO

THE HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

INTRODUCTION

Most of the modern translations of the Bible and many of the study Bibles insert disclaimers like "not in most reliable manuscripts" or "not in oldest manuscripts". One of the most debated issues among theologians today is "which Bible is correct?" Do Christians today have a totally reliable Bible? Does the Bible need correction by modern theologians or scholars? This lesson is written to establish in Christians' hearts and minds that they have a reliable, accurate and complete Bible. Most of this lesson comes from history rather than the Bible. It is important that Christians know how their Bible came to be what it is today.

I. SATANIC ATTACK ON WORD OF GOD.

- A. *Satan tried to be like God.* Isaiah 14:12-14. Satan's desire is to be like or greater than God. The only way for Satan to accomplish his goal is to destroy God. Since he can't destroy God, he seeks to destroy the reliability of His Word and discredit Him in the eyes of man. Since the things we know about God comes from His Word, Satan tries to twist and tear down God's Word, and cause the Christian to doubt or mistrust His Word.
- B. *Satan is crafty.* Satan led Eve to believe that God was a liar. Genesis 3:1-3. In Genesis 2:16-17, God told Adam *NOT* to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil because the very day he ate of it he *WOULD DIE*. No questions asked. But Satan came to Eve (Genesis 3:2-3) and challenged her about God's orders. He directly contradicted God saying, "Ye will not surely die." (God is lying). Satan tried to entangle Eve in the very same trap he is in by stating, "God knows if you eat it you'll be as gods". Satan tempted her to become a god.

- C. *Satan is deceptive.* II Corinthians 11:1-4; 14-15. As in the Old Testament, Satan is⁸ also at work in the New Testament. Paul warned the church at Corinth and scolded the church at Galatia for being so easily led away by false prophets into other gospels which pervert God's Word. Galatians 1:6-7. He also uses the traditions of man to make God's Word ineffective. Mark 7:13. Satan corrupts the scripture by substituting something in the place of God's Word. The lawyers in Luke 11:52 tried to take away the key of knowledge following Satan and his way.
- D. *Satan tried to confuse Christ.* Matthew 4:6. Satan told Christ to jump and the angels would rescue him if he really was the Son of God . But Christ rebuked Satan stating, "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."
Christians need to learn to follow and completely believe God's Word. Believing and trusting the Word of God is the only protection Christians have from Satan's confusion.

II. THE BIBLE. EVERY WORD IN THE ORIGINAL WRITINGS WERE INSPIRED.

- A. Review Lesson I
1. All scripture is given by inspiration (opposite of expiration) of God.
 - a. II Peter 1:20-21. The Holy Spirit moved men to speak the Word of God.
 - b. II Timothy 3:15-17 *All scripture* is given by inspiration of God.
 2. The Scripture (document) is the written Word of God.
 - a. Proverbs 30:5 Every Word of God is pure.
 - b. Ephesians 6:17 The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit.
 - c. Hebrews 4:12 The Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword.
 - d. Revelation 19:13 Jesus is the Word of God.
- B. Christians must accept that God gave them His Word and that the Bible is that Word.
1. God loved mankind enough to put His Word in writing.
 2. Every word that God put in the originals was exactly what He wanted, including every jot and tittle.

III. HISTORY.

A. Early Manuscripts. Following and during the time of the apostles, corrupt manuscripts were already being produced to corrupt the Word of God and defeat the churches of Jesus Christ. (II Corinthians 11:1-4, 14-17 and Galatians 1:6-7).

1. Early Problems.

- a. Within the first hundred years after the death of the apostles, Irenaeus said concerning Marcion, the agnostic: "Wherefore also Marcion and his followers have betaken themselves to mutilating the scriptures, not acknowledging some books at all; and curtailing the gospel according to Luke; and the epistles of Paul they assert that these alone are authentic, which they themselves shortened."
- b. Epiphanius in his treatise the "Panarion" describes not less than eighty heretical parties. In this way, each party planned to further their own ends. Those who were corrupting Bible manuscripts said they were correcting them. Corrupted copies were so prevalent that agreement between them was hopeless.
- c. Somewhere around the year 175 A.D., Tatian wrote a harmony of the four gospels which was called the Diatessaron. This was so notoriously corrupt that a bishop of Syria was compelled to throw out of his churches two hundred copies because church members were taking it for the true Word.
- d. Under the hand of Constantine around the year 331 A.D., a Bible was written which combined pure scripture with a number of conflicting revised versions in such a way as to give sanction to both Christian and pagan religions.

2. Origen And More Problems.

- a. Origen, one of the world's foremost theologians, (185-254 A.D.), taught that the "Logos" is "ktisma", meaning the Lord Jesus Christ is a created being, who did not have eternal existence as God. (See pages 900-902, Vol. 16, 1936 edition Encyclopedia Britannica). Eusebius was a great admirer of Origen, and a student of his philosophy and continued where Origen

left off.

- b. Eusebius (260-350 A.D.) edited Origen's writings and Constantine chose him to prepare 50 copies of these writings for him. These writings were the ones changed by Origen and then Origen's writings were changed again by Eusebius.
- c. Several textual authorities believe that the Sinaitic and Vatican manuscripts are two existing copies of the 50 Greek scriptures copied for Constantine by Eusebius in 331 A.D.
- d. The first appearance of the Vatican Manuscript is 1481 A.D., when it was discovered in the Vatican library. According to authorities, the date of its writing is placed within the years of 325 to 350 A.D. This date fits in with the conviction of those who claim that it is the product of Eusebius who was ordered by Emperor Constantine to make 50 copies of the scriptures in 331. The Sinaitic manuscript is said to have been discovered by Tischendorf in the monastery of St. Catherine at Mt. Sinai in 1844 A.D. The date of its writing is placed at around 340 A.D. For the most part, it is in agreement with the Vaticanus; therefore, from all indications it could have been written by Eusebius.
- e. Jerome wrote the Latin Vulgate in 382 A.D. and the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus were written around 331. Jerome's Vulgate is largely in agreement with these two manuscripts. In the fourth century, Helvidius, a great scholar of northern Italy, accused Jerome of using corrupt Greek manuscripts.
- f. There were plenty of Jerome's Latin Vulgates available in 1611. *The argument that the Sinaiticus and Vaticanus, not being available for the translators in 1611 seems very weak.* Other manuscripts like these were not considered part of the canon (the standard, that which everything else is measured by) and were discarded by the scholars who gave us the King James Bible.

B. English Translations.

1. Wyclif Bibles (Oxford)

(Catholic manuscripts, translated from Latin Vulgate). 1380-1383. Revised

twice. In 1397 a copy of the English Bible was owned by a royal duke.¹¹
The 1408 convocation at Oxford forbid the owning of an English Bible without license from the Bishop.

2. Tyndale New Testament.

By the time a person could get a license from the Bishop, Wyclif's English was obsolete. In 1524 Tyndale went to London to work with Bishop Cuthbert Tunstall. He was not accepted by the Bishop because he wanted to translate from the Greek manuscripts and not from the Latin Vulgate. Tyndale went to Hamburg and translated the Bible on his own. In 1525 3,000 copies were printed. Tyndale did not translate the Bible for just the upper class but for all classes. Tyndale violated the mandates of the Roman Catholic church when he used the Greek manuscripts which resulted in his death. He was martyred in May 1535.

3. Coverdale (Catholic manuscripts). Printed 1535.

Title page "The Bible, that is the holy Scripture of the Old and New Testaments faithfully and truly translated out of Douay and Latin to English."

4. Matthew's Bible (Greek manuscripts). May 1535.

Tyndale's Bible was edited and finished by John Rogers (a disciple of Tyndale). He used the alias, Thomas Matthew, because Tyndale's Bible was outlawed. But since it did not bear Tyndale's name, it was accepted by the bishops and licensed by the King. During the nineteen years 1541-1560 Bible Printing was outlawed.

5. Geneva Bible (Greek manuscripts). 1560.

Conrad Badius/Whittingham. Two main features:

- a. Division into verses and chapters.
- b. Italics.

6. Bishops' Bible (Catholic manuscripts). 1568.

- a. A number of Bishops translated the Bible.
- b. In 1572 a struggle began between the Catholic bishops with their Bible and the Protestants with their Geneva Bible. The great question that had to be settled was which Bible was correct? This struggle led to the King James Version of the Bible being translated.

C. Modern Translations.

1. Textus Receptus manuscripts were used exclusively for nearly 300 years by all Baptist churches and most protestant churches, but are being challenged today as accurate. Nearly all of the questions and doubts can be traced to the action of two men, Westcott and Hort.
 - a. In 1870 Bible scholars in the Church of England decided that something should be done to bring the English reader nearer to the original Bible languages. So in February, 1870, Bishop Wilberforce, of the Convocation of Canterbury, Southern Province of the Church of England, arranged for a committee to confer with any committee which might be appointed by the Convocation of the Northern Province (York), to report on the desirability of a revision of the Authorized Version of the Old and New Testament. They wanted to revise the marginal notes and all passages where plain and clear errors could be found in the text, whether in the Hebrew or Greek basic texts, or in the translation made from them. The convocation of the Northern Province refused to take part in the proposed Bible revision, stating that they were in favor of correcting certain blemishes in translation, but would "deplore any recasting of the text." They did not favor tampering with the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts; *THEREFORE THEY APPROVED THE TEXTUS RECEPTUS*.
 - b. Bishop Wilberforce chose to go ahead with his plans to correct the Bible but the well arranged plans of the English Revision Committee were soon overthrown by the ulterior motives of two leading personalities, Westcott and Hort.
 - c. The Revisers of 1881 followed the guidance of Westcott and Hort, who were constantly at their elbows, and whose RADICAL Greek New Testament, deviated the farthest from the Received Text (Textus Receptus). Their Greek New Testament is for all intents and purposes the Greek New Testament followed by the Revision Committee. (Samuel Hemphill,

History of the Revised Version, pp. 54-55). This Greek text, in the¹³ main, follows the Vatican and Sinaiticus manuscripts. (Core, New Commentary, Part 3, p. 72).

- d. Ellicott, in submitting the Revised Version to the Southern Convocation in 1881, declared that they had made between eight and nine changes in every five verses, and in about every ten verses three of these were made for critical purposes.(Ellicott, Submission of Revised Version to Convocation, p. 27).
- e. Westcott's statement. Westcott himself says: "The value of the revision is most clearly seen when the student considers together a considerable group of passages, which bear upon some article of faith." Westcott is introducing the concept that the *idea* is what God inspired, not the words.
- f. Today, there are over 5,300 surviving Greek manuscripts of the New Testament in existence. The Greek text of Westcott and Hort (1881) is the private enterprise of two men from a very limited and select number of manuscripts. (H.S. Miller, General Biblical Introduction, p. 308). It has been acknowledged, even by some enemies, that nineteen-twentieths of these 5,300 manuscripts are in accord with the Received Text (The Textus Receptus). Yet, Westcott and Hort turned away from all this testimony, and elevated the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus to the chair of authority. (Kenyon, Recent Developments, p. 71).
- g. Religious beliefs of Westcott and Hort. Westcott writes from France to his fiancée in 1847: "After leaving the monastery, we shaped our course to a little oratory which we discovered on the summit of a neighboring hill...Fortunately, we found the door open. It is very small, with one kneeling-place; and behind a screen was a 'Pieta' the size of life (i.e. a Virgin and dead Christ)...Had I been alone, I could have knelt there for hours." (Life of Westcott, Vol. 1, p. 51). Hort writes to Westcott, October 17th, 1865: "I have been persuaded for many years that Mary-worship and Jesus-

worship have very much in common in their causes and their¹⁴ results." (Life of Hort, Vol. 2, p. 50).

2. A different Bible instead of a revised version.
 - a. A version is that which is translated, or rendered from one language to another. The Textus Receptus is not a version. *It is compiled copies of the Greek and Hebrew manuscripts* from which the King James Bible was made. So you see, in the case of the Bible, it is the translation only that is subject to revision. If the Revisers of 1881 had lived up to this rule, all would have been well. Instead of giving us a Revised Version, they have given us a different Bible *constructed upon a different foundation*. The Greek text of Westcott and Hort changed the reading of the Greek Textus Receptus in 5,337 places.
 - b. The Revision of 1881, the American Standard Version of 1901; The Revised Standard Version, The Amplified, Expanded, and Paraphrased Bibles are in no true sense a revision of the King James of 1611. If they were, they would follow the same Greek text, the Textus Receptus. It is not from the Textus Receptus that the so-called Revised Version Bibles have come.
3. The King James Version. There are basically only two lineages of the Bible and, consequently, only two Bibles. One was the lineage that produced the Catholic Bible, of which Westcott and Hort followed. The new versions of today follow these corrupt manuscripts. The other is the Textus Receptus (Received Text), from which the King James Version of the Bible was translated. The problem with today's modern Bibles is not the translations, but the source.

HOMEWORK

Complete learning the books of the Bible

Read Matthew Chapters 1-14

BUILDING CHRISTIAN MINISTERS

DIVISION I

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

LESSON THREE

APPLICATION OF STUDY

INTRODUCTION

When most people try to study the Bible, they violate good study principles. When they study any other book, they study it based on the author, subject and the purpose. When a person studies the Bible, it is essential that he applies the same study principles. This lesson is designed to assist the Christian in learning to study the Word of God.

I. STUDY THE BIBLE BY PUNCTUATION AND WORDING.

A. Punctuation marks are very important in writing. The Christian should understand what punctuation marks mean to properly understand the Bible.

1. Period (.) - The end of a declaration.
2. Question mark (?) - The end of a direct question.
3. Comma (,) - Separates words, phrases and clauses in the same sentence.
4. Semicolon (;) - Is stronger than the comma and signifies a greater break or longer pause between elements in the same sentence.
5. Colon (:) - Expectation or addition. Pay attention to words following.
6. Apostrophe (') - To show possession.
7. Italics - *same as underlining*. Foreign words or phrases or specific references or emphasis. The translators of the Bible italicized the words they added to show reverence to the Word of God. This does not mean they are not part of the Word of God, but shows translation instead of transliteration. Transliteration is when you write or spell words in the corresponding characters of another alphabet.

- B. When a Christian reads the Bible with correct understanding of punctuation, he¹⁷ will divide the Scripture by punctuation instead of verse numbers. Remember from Lesson Two that verse numbers and chapter divisions were not added to the Bible until 1560. Verse numbers and chapters were added, not as study tools, but for referencing when teaching or preaching to a group.
- C. It is very important for the Christian to understand that words or phrase are placed in the Bible as God intended. The meaning of the words or phrases has to be determined by the sentence and context. Any time a word or phrase is used outside of God's placement, it will lead to heresy.
- D. The Bible should always be used *first* in determining the meaning of a word. Pay special attention to the first time a word is used in the Bible.
- E. The Bible should be taken literally unless it is impossible to do so. Each Christian should pay particular attention to the words "LIKE" and "AS". These words show comparison.

II. NUMBERS ARE IMPORTANT WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT EACH NUMBER REPRESENTS. Numbers have a specific implication, but these connotations should not be used to establish absolutes unless the Bible specifically puts a meaning to a number.

- A. One (1) Union or united.
- B. Two (2) Division.
- C. Three (3) Complete or Entire.
- D. Four (4) Earth, Creation.
- E. Five (5) Death.
- F. Six (6) Man.
- G. Seven (7) Perfection.
- H. Eight (8) Start over.
- I. Nine (9) Conclusion.
- J. Ten (10) Completion or Circle.
- K. Eleven (11) Disorder.
- L. Twelve (12) Rule or govern.
- M. Thirteen (13) Rebellion.
- N. Forty (40) Testing.

III. BASIC FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH.

- A. Deity (God) of Christ. Colossians 2:9, John 10:28-30. Jesus Christ was and is God. Any time there is a reference to Jesus, remember that He is God.
- B. God is a Trinity. (three in one). I John 5:7, John 1:1,14. It is very difficult to understand how God can be three and one at the same time. God is only one, but has three offices.
- C. The Bible is God's Word. II Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 4:12. Every time the Bible is studied, the Christian should remember it is the Word of God and it should be revered.
- D. Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ. Matthew 1:18, Isaiah 7:14. Jesus was born of the virgin Mary and did not have an earthly father. If Jesus had an earthly father, he would have had a sin nature and would not have qualified to be our savior. Jesus' Father was and is God.
- E. Salvation is only through the death (shed blood) of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:7, Ephesians 2:13, Colossians 1:14. It is essential that each person understand there is no salvation at any time except through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.
- F. Indwelling of the Holy Spirit. John 14:17, John 15:26. The Holy Spirit of God dwells within each saved person, giving him eternal security and access to God.
- G. The Local Church. I Timothy 3:15, I Corinthians 12:14-27. The body of Christ is revealed through local New Testament churches. When studying the Bible, a church should be seen as Christ's body, not just individual members.
- H. Second Coming. I Thessalonians 4:16-17. Just before Jesus left the Earth, He promised his apostles that he would return for them. John 14:1-4.
- I. Eternal Security of the saved person. Romans 8:38-39, Ephesians 4:30. God has secured the saved person by writing down his name in Heaven and sealing him with the Holy Spirit of God.

- J. God created Heaven and Earth. Hebrews 11:3, Psalm 33:6-9. God spoke the world into existence by His power.

IV. PERSONAL APPLICATION.

- A. In Psalm 119, "thy Word" is used 34 times.
1. Psalm 119:9 - how a young man cleanses his ways.
 2. Psalm 119:11 - the Word was hid in his heart to prevent sin.
 3. Psalm 119:42 - trusted in "thy Word".
 4. Psalm 119:89 - thy Word is settled in Heaven.
 5. Psalm 119:105 - thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
 6. Psalm 119:133 - steps ordered by thy Word.
 7. Psalm 119:162 - rejoiced at thy Word.
- B. In his book entitled *Reality Living*, Pastor Jeff Adams lists fourteen basic principles of Bible study:
1. Effective Bible study depends upon a correct heart attitude (Ezekiel 14:1-5).
 2. All Scripture is to be understood within its proper context (II Peter 1:20, Isaiah 28:10).
 3. All Scripture is to be rightly divided. (II Timothy 2:15).
 4. The individual words of Scripture are the keys to correct understanding (Proverbs 30:5,6).
 5. Understanding the Bible is not a matter of private interpretation (II Peter 1:20).
 6. The Bible must be understood by the normal and literal meaning of the words in the context in which you read them.
 7. The Bible must be understood in the light of God's consistency (I Corinthians 14:40).
 8. Never violate a clear passage of Scripture with one that is more obscure.
 9. The invisible things of God are understood by seeing them illustrated in God's creation (Romans 1:20).
 10. Never base a doctrine on a question or rhetorical or hypothetical statement (I Corinthians 13:1, I Corinthians 15:29).
 11. Never base a doctrine on a single verse of Scripture (II Corinthians 13:1, Isaiah 28:9,10).
 12. Understanding the Scriptures comes in time through spiritual growth

(I Corinthians 2:11-16).

13. Always give the Bible the benefit of the doubt - innocent until proven guilty (Ezekiel 14:1-11, Isaiah 29:9-14).
14. God teaches us through the use of similitude and pictures (John 15:5).

HOMEWORK

Know the ten fundamentals of the faith.

Read Matthew chapters 15-28.

Write or type the book of Titus.

(Leave out the chapter divisions and the verse numbers.)

BUILDING CHRISTIAN MINISTERS

DIVISION I

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

LESSON FOUR

APPLICATION OF STUDY (PART TWO)

INTRODUCTION

When a person reads a book, many times there are words that he does not know or understand. There is no difference when an individual reads the Bible. When a Christian reads or studies the Bible, he should understand the words or wordings of the scripture with the same meaning God intended when the Bible was written. This lesson is designed to assist the Christian by giving him some "tools" to assist him when studying the Word of God. Proper use of these tools will greatly enhance an individual's confidence about studying and learning the Bible.

I. USING THE DICTIONARY AND CONCORDANCE.

A. Concordance

1. Type - Strong's Exhaustive. This is what the concordance contains:
 - a. A list of all the words used in the Bible with their Bible reference along with part of the verse in which it was used.
 - b. After each use of the word a number is given that represents the Hebrew or Greek word from which the English word was translated.
 - c. In the back of the concordance is a Hebrew and Greek dictionary of the original words from which the English words were translated. This section in the concordance shows more of an application usage of a word than an actual definition of a word.
2. How to use.
 - a. Look up a specific word and find the verse in which it appears. Then look at all the other uses of the word in the Bible and cross-reference to find other verses dealing with the same subject. Look to the right

of the verse and get the number of the Hebrew or Greek word from which the word was translated.

- b. Turn to the back of the concordance and in the appropriate section (Hebrew for Old Testament, Greek for New Testament) find the Hebrew or Greek word by using the number found to the right of the verse.
- c. Study the word usage explained in the concordance and the other English words translated from this same original word. This will help isolate the application of the word being studying and its other uses in the Bible. Remember that the concordance is a teaching aid, not the Word of God.

B. Dictionary and Thesaurus.

1. Type: Abridged--to cut short by using fewer words; Unabridged--large, extensive, complete; Thesaurus--a list of words with interchangeable words
2. How to use.
 - a. Find the word in the alphabetical listing of the dictionary.
 - b. In the dictionary a word may have several different definitions listed. Find the specific definition that applies to the word as it was used in its biblical context. Isolate which definition is correct by the application found in the concordance. Use the definition found in the dictionary, not the application found in the concordance. The English use of the word is how others will define it and apply it to their understanding. Always remember that Americans speak English, not Hebrew or Greek.

II. GOD USED THE VISIBLE TO EXPLAIN THE INVISIBLE. Romans 1:18-20, Job 12:7-10. God uses the things of this Earth as examples to help those who study the Bible to know His intent and application. The following are some of the ways God uses the visible to explain the invisible.

- A. The ant is used to explain work ethics. Proverbs 6:6.
- B. The eagle is an example of strength. Isaiah 40:31.
- C. Stars are an example of angels. Revelation 1:20.

- D. Planets are used to explain differences in glory.
I Corinthians 15:39-49.
- E. Fishing illustrates evangelism. Matthew 4:19.
- F. Food represents partaking of the Word of God.
 1. I Corinthians 3:2 (Milk, not with meat)
 2. Hebrews 5:12-14 (Milk, not strong meat)
 3. I Peter 2:2 (Desire the sincere milk)
 4. I Corinthians 10:17 (Bread)
 5. I Corinthians 11:26 (Lord's supper)

III. USING TYPES TO STUDY THE BIBLE.

Words and phrases have a greater understanding and application when "types" are used to picture, illustrate, or represent another event, person, place or thing. There are many types in the Bible. However, be cautious and do not use types to teach absolute doctrines unless the Bible specifically states it is a type. One of the best ways to determine if it is a type is to look for words "like" or "as".

- A. Wine is a type of blood.
 1. Revelation 14:18-20. The winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress.
 2. Isaiah 49:26. They shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine.
- B. The Word of God has many types.
 1. I Peter 1:23; Luke 8:11. Seed.
 2. Psalm 119:105. Light and lamp.
 3. Jeremiah 23:29. Fire and hammer.
 4. I Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12-14. Milk
- C. The tongue is symbolized as different things.
 1. Psalm 64:3. Sword.
 2. Psalm 140:3. Serpent.
 3. James 3:6. Fire.
 4. James 3:3-5. Bits, helms.

- D. The Holy Spirit is pictured like a dove.
1. Matthew 3:16. Descended like a dove.
 2. Mark 1:10. Descended upon Him.
 3. Luke 3:22. Descended in a bodily shape like a dove.
 4. John 1:32. Descended from heaven like a dove.
- E. Mankind is illustrated as sheep.
1. Isaiah 53:6. All we like sheep have gone astray.
 2. Matthew 9:36. They were scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd.
 3. Mark 6:34. They were as sheep having no shepherd.
 4. John 10:11,14. The good Shepherd will give His life for the sheep.
- F. Christ is depicted by many names.
1. John 1:29. Lamb
 2. Revelation 5:5. Lion
 3. Isaiah 53:7. Lamb and a sheep
- G. Trees depict a type of man.
1. Psalm 1:1-3. Like a tree planted by the rivers of water.
 2. Daniel 4:4-22. It is thou, O King, that is the tree.
 3. Mark 8:24. I see men as trees walking.

HOMEWORK

Read Titus ten times (following pages)

Each time should be without interruption

Circle and look up words you don't understand

Read Mark

TITUS

Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; in hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; but hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour; to Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour. For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are alway liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth. Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; that they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that

cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, to speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men. But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself. When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or Tychicus, be diligent to come unto me to Nicopolis: for I have determined there to winter. Bring Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that nothing be wanting unto them. And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful. All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

BUILDING CHRISTIAN MINISTERS

DIVISION I

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

LESSON FIVE

MYSTERIES AND BAPTISMS

INTRODUCTION

A mystery is a story or book where the ending is not known or understood or the true answers are not known until the very end. However, the author of the book knows the end while he is writing it. The Bible contains many mysteries and is actually a mystery itself to those who are lost. In I Corinthians 4:1 the Bible tells Christians to be stewards of the mysteries of God, which means they are to teach them as God instructs. It is the responsibility of the New Testament churches to teach the mysteries because the world will never understand them or the end results unless someone tells them. To be good stewards of the mysteries, it is essential that Christians know what the mysteries are. There are fourteen mysteries listed in this lesson that are found in the New Testament.

I. MYSTERIES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

- A. Mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew 13:11 The Kingdom of Heaven is when Heaven is on Earth. Heaven is where God Himself lives.
- B. Mystery of the Kingdom of God. Luke 8:10, Mark 4:11 The Kingdom of God is the spiritual Kingdom with God at its head. It is spiritual and not physical; consequently, the physical world cannot understand this mystery.
- C. Mystery of Israel restored as a nation. Romans 11:25 1.Gen 12:2. God promised Abraham that he would make of him a great nation.
 2. Exodus 4:22-23. God established Israel as His son.
 3. Isaiah 50:1, Jeremiah 3:8-14. God divorced the nation of Israel because of her fornication.

4. John 1:11-12. Israel was given a chance at the first coming of Jesus Christ to follow Him.
 5. Hosea 6:1-3. After two days God will restore Israel as His nation.
- D. Mystery of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Romans 16:25-27.
- E. Mystery of the rapture of the church.
I Corinthians 15:51.
1. I Corinthians 15:23. The order of the rapture.
 2. I Thessalonians 4:14-18. The description of the rapture.
 3. Three times souls taken up to Heaven.
 - a. Matthew 27:52-53, Ephesians 4:9-10. Christ and the Old Testament saints.
 - b. I Thessalonians 4:13-18. Body of Christ (church).
 - c. Revelation 11:12. The two witness during the tribulation.
- F. Mystery of His will. Ephesians 1:5-10. His will is for Jesus Christ to adopt children.
- G. Mystery of the grace of God. Ephesians 3:1-9. This mystery was hid in God from the beginning of the world.
- H. Mystery of Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:22-32. Christ is on the Earth today in visible form.
- I. Mystery of Christ in you, the hope of glory. Colossians 1:26-27. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit of God in the saved person. John 14:17, Colossians 2:1-3, Colossians 4:3-4.
- J. Mystery of iniquity. II Thessalonians 2:7. Satan and his forces on present on the Earth today.
- K. Mystery of faith. I Timothy 3:9. The ability to believe in what can't be seen. Hebrews 11:1.
- L. Mystery of God in the flesh. I Timothy 3:16.
1. Isaiah 9:6-7. A child is born who is God.
 2. Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18-25. Born of a virgin. Did not have an earthly father.
 3. Luke 2:40-52. Grew into an adult man.

4. Mark 15:39. Died in the flesh. I Peter 3:18.
 5. Romans 1:4. Rose from the dead.
- M. Mystery of the seven stars, the angels of the seven churches. Revelation 1:20.
- N. Mystery Babylon the Great. Revelation 17:1-18 The great whore who seduces mankind into her adultery against God. The Bible gives instructions about how to be the stewards of the contents of the Bible. Christians are to speak the wisdom of God even if it is a mystery. I Corinthians 2:7. In Ephesians 6:19, Paul asked for prayers that he might have boldness to speak the mystery of the gospel. God also states in I Corinthians 13:2, that if Christians do understand all the mysteries but do not have charity, they are nothing.

II. BAPTISMS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

The word baptize means to place in or to put under. There is much confusion about baptisms in the Bible due to the fact that many people recognize only one baptism. In Hebrews 6:1-2 the Bible tells us to leave the foundation of repentance and doctrine of baptisms. Notice here that baptisms is pluralized showing that there is more than one. The following is a list of the baptisms found in the New Testament.

- A. Baptism of Moses. I Corinthians 10:1-4. This event took place in Exodus 14, but was never referred to as a baptism until I Corinthians 10.
- B. Baptism into death. Matthew 20:20-23, Mark 10:38-39. Christ made reference to His death, and the Christian is referred to as being baptized into His death. Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12.
- C. Baptism of John the Baptist (repentance). Matthew 3:1-12, John 1:19-34. John's baptism was to prepare a people for Jesus Christ. He was preaching that the Messiah (Christ) had come and that people should turn to Him.
 1. Mark 1:4, Luke 3:3. Baptism for the remission of sins.
 2. Luke 3:16, John 1:33. John baptized with water in preparation for the one who would baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire.

3. Mark 1:9, Luke 3:21-22. Jesus was baptized by John to show identification with the preparation John had done.
 4. Acts 19:2-3. After the Holy Ghost came, there were many who still baptized with the baptism of John. Acts 13:24. In Acts 18:25-19:7, there were apostles of John still preaching repentance to the Jews and didn't even know there was a Holy Spirit. These Jews had to turn (repent) to Jesus Christ, *accept* Him, show their acceptance (water baptism), and then receive the Holy Ghost. In Acts 2:38-41, the Jews had to repent (turn from self to Christ) and show acceptance (water baptism) before they could receive the Holy Ghost. The Gentiles did not have to turn to Christ and be baptized to receive the Holy Ghost because they *had not rejected Him*. When the Gentiles got saved, they immediately received the Holy Ghost and then they were baptized. The Gentiles did not receive Christ and the Holy Ghost until Acts 8.
- D. Baptism of the Holy Ghost. I Corinthians 12:13
1. Acts 1:5. John baptized the apostles with water but Christ baptized them with the Holy Ghost.
 2. Ephesians 4:1-5. Those who accept Christ are baptized into one body by the Holy Spirit.
- E. Baptism of Fire. (By Jesus Christ) Matthew 3:11-12. This baptism is not the baptism of the Holy Ghost as described in Acts 2:3. This fire is the fire of the Judgment of Christ against those who do not accept Him. Hebrews 12:29.
- F. Baptism by water. Acts 10:44-48. This baptism is a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I Peter 3:21. This is the baptism associated with taking the gospel to the world in Matthew 28:18-20.

CONCLUSION

In the Bible, there are many terms that apply to more than one thing. For instance, the same word can be used with a physical, spiritual, and mental application. A single word can also have several different meanings. In studying the mysteries and baptisms it shows that the same word is used with many different applications. Be cautious when studying the Bible to look at a word's application in its context. Do not assume that every time a word appears it is the same.

HOMEWORK

Write out what God has given you from studying Titus

Read Luke

BUILDING CHRISTIAN MINISTERS

DIVISION II

TEACHING

LESSON SIX

BIBLICAL MANDATE TO TEACH

INTRODUCTION

Teaching has been the primary method of preserving and propagating the Word of God throughout history. Jesus was recognized as a teacher by Nicodemus in the book of John, chapter three. God also gave teachers to the churches and recognized them as an authority in church leadership. I Corinthians 12:28. God also listed teachers along with pastors in the responsibility of maturing the saints. Ephesians 4:11. Teachers and teaching is mandated by the Bible and is absolutely necessary to accomplish what God has instructed. This lesson should help Christians understand the necessity of becoming involved in teaching others.

I. WHO SHOULD BE TAUGHT?

A. Sinners should be taught.

1. Psalm 25:8. The Lord teaches sinners. The saved should be taught, but sinners should also be taught the things of God. This is not the legalism of forcing sinners to adhere to God's ways and laws, but showing and teaching them, so the lost will see why they should be saved.
2. Psalm 51:13. The Psalmist said, "I will teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted." (How are the lost lead to Christ?) This is an absolute statement, not just a thought. David said that when the transgressors are taught ways of God, they will be converted. Is there any thing greater than teaching others to come to Christ?

B. Children should be taught.

1. Deuteronomy 11:19. Children should be taught when they are sitting in their houses, and when they are walking by the way, when they lay down, and when they get up. The greatest need for teaching is for parents to teach their own children. Each person teaches children whether they know what they are doing or not. The greatest influence in everyone's life was their parents (or whoever raised them). Since parents have this great teaching opportunity, why not use it to teach the things of God.
2. Isaiah 28:9. The Bible says that children should be taught knowledge from the time they "are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts." A child is born with the instinct to survive and they learn quickly to survive in their environment. Knowledge should be taught from the time they are weaned because their lives will change from living by instinct to living by knowledge. It is crucial to teach them the knowledge of God because later in life they will follow their teachings, especially what they are taught during their pre-school years.

C. Just men should be taught.

1. Proverbs 9:9. "Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning." Christians should never stop learning and being taught. A wise teacher once said that a person is never old until he stops learning; but is old when he stops learning, no matter what physical age he is. A just man is easy to teach, because he wants to learn.
2. II Timothy 2:2. "Faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." Faithful men want to learn and need to learn in order to teach others. One of the greatest drives that causes Christians to learn is realizing that they will teach others whether they want to or not.

II. WAYS AND EXAMPLES OF HOW TO TEACH.

A. Job 12:7. "Ask now the beasts, and they shall teach

thee." Use animals to teach Christians about God and His creation. When animals

are studied they become good examples of the things of God. Not only can the animals be teachers, but also the birds, as stated in this verse.

- B. Job 12:8. "Speak to the Earth, and it shall teach thee." Look at the way the Earth itself functions and see the infinite details of God's greatness. With all the sophisticated instruments in existence today, they still have to be corrected. Men are sent into space to learn more about how the Earth works and the scientists are amazed at the Earth's precision. Christians should learn from what the Earth teaches and use it to teach others.
- C. Job 12:8. "The fishes of the sea shall declare that God created all." Anything that God created can be used to teach others the things and ways of God.
- D. I Corinthians 11:14. "Doth not even nature itself teach you?" The natural world becomes a great teacher to those who know it functions as God created it to function. Many times teaching is simply stating what is the best thing to do ("common sense").
- E. Proverbs 6:6. "Go to the ants." Even the bugs can teach the things of God.

III. THE PROPER ATTITUDE ABOUT LEARNING.

- A. Psalms 25:9. "The meek will he teach his way." The word meek implies a yielding of oneself to the teacher. In Proverbs, there are many negative references to a proud person. A person who is puffed up with pride will not submit himself to teaching. Many think they know it all and become unteachable. When teaching, a teacher must understand that a person has to *want* to learn before he can be taught.
- B. Psalms 25:12. "The person that fears the Lord will be taught by the Lord." Proverbs teaches that the beginning of wisdom is to fear God. Teachers and students must respect God and know that He is in charge. If a person does not fear the Lord, he will never be saved, nor learn the things of God.

IV. WHAT SHOULD BE TAUGHT?

- A. I Samuel 12:23. The good and the right way. Teachers should understand that they teach more than just what the Bible says. They should also teach the good and right way to God's children and if possible everyone on the Earth. It is never wrong to teach others (even the lost) to follow the way of God because it is the right way and it does work.

- B. Job 27:11. That which is with the Almighty. The only things that are permanent are the things that God preserves. Everything else that is taught will perish with the using. A man once said, "Only one life, 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last."
- C. Luke 11:1. Teach others to pray. The apostles desired that Jesus teach them to pray. They did not say, teach us how to pray, but *to pray*. The greatest need in the life of any person is to learn to pray. Teachers should teach how to do the works of God, but they should also dedicate their lives to teaching others to *do* the works of God.
- D. I Timothy 4:10-11. Teach others to trust in God, the Savior of all men. The world wants everyone to trust in anything but God. It teaches that people should trust in education, medication, psychology, money, government, family, and many other "things". Teachers of God should always teach others to trust in God.

V. WHERE TO TEACH?

- A. Acts 5:42. In every house. Teaching is not just a program called Sunday School, but a continual life of sharing with others the Word of God. A teacher teaches all the time. Each time a person comes in contact with another person he teaches by everything he says and does. Teaching is not just something that is planned and outlined, but a way of life.
- B. Matthew 11:1. Jesus taught in the cities. Almost every Christian has some form of contact with the world on a daily basis. A saved person should be sharing with others the wisdom and knowledge he has gained from God, understanding that God wants all the world to know His ways.
- C. Mark 4:1. Jesus taught by the seaside. During the times that Jesus traveled He also taught. A teacher should never take a vacation from teaching. This doesn't mean he shouldn't take a vacation, but when a teacher goes on a family vacation he continues to teach. Teach family members and as many others as possible the ways of God. A good teacher is one who lives Christ at all times.

- D. Mark 6:2. Jesus taught in the synagogue, the place of worship. The primary place to teach the things of God is at church. The reason for this is because people come to church to be taught the things of God.
- E. I Corinthians 4:17. Everywhere in every church. The biblical instructions to Christians is to teach every where in every church. If people are not taught in church, the greatest opportunity for teaching the Word of God has been missed. Some churches are known for their music, their fellowships, their activities, or many other things. The greatest testimony a church can ever receive is that it is a church that teaches the Word of God.

VI. QUALIFICATIONS TO TEACH.

- A. I Corinthians 14:19. Teach with understanding. A teacher should never attempt to teach something that he does not understand or has not applied to his personal life.
- B. II Timothy 2:24. The servant of the Lord must be apt to teach. To be a teacher one must be a servant of Jesus Christ and willing to teach at anytime. This is not just in a classroom, but anywhere and anytime.
- C. Hebrews 5:12. A teacher should be mature. In Hebrews, God made application that they should be teachers, but still needed to be taught. There are two types of people in the world: those who teach and those who need to be taught. Every Christian should grow and become mature, enabling him to teach others.

HOMEWORK

Write a testimony about someone who taught you and what specifically they taught you.

Read Proverbs Chapters 1-15

BUILDING CHRISTIAN MINISTERS

DIVISION II

TEACHING

LESSON SEVEN

LEARNING TO TEACH

INTRODUCTION

It is important to realize when teaching, no matter what age group is being taught, that some material will fit all ages. There are others, whether children or adults, who may not understand what is being taught because they do not comprehend some of the words or statements used by the teacher. They may not understand because they have not attended church in the past, or they have been in another religion which teaches different doctrine and they apply those teachings to the words. Teachers sometimes use words and terms that are "Baptist" in nature which are unfamiliar to other denominations. An effective teacher will teach on a level that communicates to his class so he can be understood by everyone in attendance. To quote D. L. Moody, " Put all the cookies on the bottom shelf".

I. BASIS FOR TEACHING.

- A. II Tim 2:2. Four generations may be effected by a person's teaching. There are four generations of disciples given in this verse--teacher, student, faithful men, other men--who became disciples through teaching. By the year 300 A.D. the whole world had heard about Christ as a result of faithful teachers.
- B. The word "teach" is used in the Bible 109 times. The following verses are some of the times the 'teach' is used in the Word of God.
 - 1. Deuteronomy 4:1. Teach statutes and judgments.
 - 2. Deuteronomy 4:9-10. Teach sons and grandsons.
 - 3. Deuteronomy 6:1. God commanded the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments to be taught.

4. Deuteronomy 6:7. Teach the commandments diligently.
 5. Psalms 25:4. The Lord will teach His paths.
 6. Psalms 25:5. The Lord will teach truth.
 7. Psalms 25:8. He will teach sinners in the way.
 8. Psalms 25:9. The meek will He teach His way.
 9. Psalms 25:12. He will teach those who fear the Lord.
 10. Matthew 5:19. Warning against teaching others to break the commandments.
- C. Matthew 11:1. Jesus was the best teacher that has ever been because He *did* the action and *then* He taught what He had done. Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:1. Teaching is imparting knowledge, but a person can't teach what he doesn't know. He must personally possess the lesson before he can effectively teach it to others. I Corinthians 4:17. Paul spent many years studying before he taught others; he knew it before he taught it. To become an elder in the church, a Christian has to "be" and then teach. I Timothy 3:2 "apt to teach".
- D. Judges 2:7-11. Grandchildren did not know the Lord because one generation was too busy to teach them. Generations will be lost to apostasy if the children and grandchildren are not taught.
- E. Deuteronomy 6:4-9. One of the best chapters emphasizing teaching in the Bible is Deuteronomy Six. God's ways should be taught at all times. The Jewish people used phylacteries, mezuzahs, and other things to teach their beliefs in the one true God. (Phylacteries were small leather cases used to hold slips inscribed with Scripture passages. Mezuzahs were small pieces of parchment inscribed with the Shema. They were rolled and put into a case and attached to the doorpost of the home.)
- F. Deuteronomy 6:20-23. People are inquisitive by nature and ask questions. When someone asks a Christian a question about God he should be ready and give him an answer--teach him. The nation of Israel has lasted for over 4,000 years because they practiced teaching.

II. GUIDELINES TO TEACHING

- A. Importance of teaching. Matthew 28:19-20 commands that Christians teach the Bible. There is so much in the Bible to teach, and as long as it is taught right, God will use it. Only one book is needed, THE BOOK.
- B. Guidelines to follow when teaching.
 - 1. Be impartial. Teachers must not be prejudiced or show favoritism to the individuals being taught.
 - 2. Be patient. Impatience leads to anger. Learn to control anger.
 - 3. Limit joking. Keep joking or jesting to proper context when teaching. There's a place for everything. If it makes the point better, use it; don't go overboard with humor or it will distract from the lesson.
 - 4. Be encouraging. Always encourage individuals being taught; never discourage. Do not talk down to anyone.
 - 5. Speak the truth about sin. Teach sin to be evil and repulsive.
 - 6. Punish all wrongdoing (when dealing with children). Do not make empty threats. Follow through with the promised consequences and they will respect the teacher.
 - 7. Fulfill all promises. When a teacher says or promises they are going to do something, they should **always do it**.

III. PREPARING TO TEACH

- A. Luke 14:28-33. Count the cost. Christians should not start something unless they finish it. This is a bad testimony and others will suffer loss. Before a person becomes a teacher he needs to understand it will cost him time, personal life, and worldly freedom. A teacher is a teacher twenty-four hours a day.
- B. Commit to spiritual disciplines. It is essential that teachers apply themselves to discipleship, prayer, study, and faithfulness to church. Remember teachers can't give what they don't have, and those being taught will do what the teacher *does*, not just what the teacher *says*.

- C. Cultivate friendships with students. Teachers need to know something about their students and the only way they can know them is to spend time with them. A teacher should thank God that he has the privilege of being used by God to influence others' lives. Instead of just hurrying to finish the teaching duties, a teacher should visit with the students and love them to Jesus.
- D. Choose to work with another effective teacher. Team teaching is the greatest way to train and encourage teachers. Experienced teachers should work with new teachers so everyone learns, including the teachers.

IV. INFLUENCES OF A TEACHER

- A. There are two kinds of influences teachers have: Voluntary (intentional, purposeful, well-planned) and involuntary. When a teacher practices voluntary influence on others, he should plan to influence the students and be clear in his mind about how it will be accomplished. Have a specific aim and goal to work towards (example of guiding a ship). A person has to know where he is going and then use a compass to show him the direction to go. Also, the more a person knows, the better equipped he is to teach. A ship steers better with cargo than without, and so does a teacher. A teacher must have something inside before it can come out.
- B. Involuntary is influencing others by the things a person does without thinking or planning. These things are also noticed and copied by the students. The following are some examples:
 1. How the Bible is held. Is the Bible held with reverence or just thrown around?
 2. How God is talked about. Is God talked about with insincere politeness or heartfelt reverence?
 3. How the body is moved. Body language has more influence than knowledge. The life of Christ that lives within the Christian should be seen by his outward actions. A teacher must be cautious because his outward action shows others his real life. A teacher has more influence by what he is seven days a week than by what he says one day a

week.

4. How the life is lived. Christianity is judged by what others see in a Christian's life. The best gauge a Christian has in determining his influence on others is his degree of genuineness.
5. How Christ is shown. Christians are to be the "lights" of the world, not "lightning".
6. How a person's life is remembered. A teacher's life will be remembered much longer than his lessons. The things a teacher does in class, that he might not even be aware of, has a great influence on the students.

V. QUALIFICATION OF A GODLY TEACHER

- A. Saved and baptized.
- B. Committed to Jesus Christ.
- C. Committed to the Bible. Understand it *is* the Word of God.
- D. Concerned for others.
- E. Available for service.
- F. Honest and dependable.
- G. Willing to teach. Everyone has the ability to tell stories.
- H. Committed to ministry. Having a willingness to work for the duration, or until God changes the direction.

VI. INDICATIONS OF A GOOD TEACHER

A teacher is not just a title but a person committed to ministry. It takes a lot of work and time to prepare. A teacher needs to start studying for the next lesson a week in advance if he wants to be successful and effective.

- A. Interest. A person will learn if he is interested. A good teacher should spot the levels of attention of the students.
- B. Participation. A good teacher will get the students to participate in the class.
- C. Attendance. A good teacher is faithful in attendance by his choice. A person who attends voluntarily learns, but habitual absenteeism shows there are problems.

- D. Activity. A good teacher is a success when his students are doing what they are taught.
- E. Flexibility. A good teacher is always ready to teach no matter what the time or location.
- F. Realism. A good teacher shows others that Jesus is real and alive within and helps students understand the reality of Christ.
- G. Purpose. A good teacher has specific goals and follows a predetermined direction.
- H. Problem-solving. A good teacher helps others by transferring knowledge to his students to help them with life's problems.
- I. Behavior. A good teacher will have evidence of his good work when his students give up bad habits and resist temptations.

VII. TEACHING IS A SPECIALIZED FUNCTION.

Teachers should build strong Christian character to help their students learn and live what they are being taught. If a pupil does not learn, he is not taught. In Colossians 1:9-10, Paul points out a teaching-learning experience.

- A. Know the facts of God. "...be filled with the knowledge of His will".
- B. Understand the use or significance of facts. "...in all wisdom and spiritual understanding".
- C. Use what has been taught. "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing".
- D. Serve. "...being fruitful in every good work".

HOMEWORK

Pick a lesson topic and make a lesson plan.

Read Proverbs Chapters 16-31

BUILDING CHRISTIAN MINISTERS

DIVISION II

TEACHING

LESSON EIGHT

THE ART OF TEACHING

INTRODUCTION

A recent study on the amounts of time given to different areas of a person's life showed that the church only has contact with a child three percent of the time. Each week contains 168 hours and a church only has five hours a week to influence a child's life. A teacher *must* use that time wisely and never waste it because time is the most valuable asset there is. Presidents and kings do not have any more time than anyone else. People may have more money or more influence but they do not have more time. Some people just use it more wisely than others because they recognize its value. Each time a teacher meets with his students, he should use every possible means to be effective because time is so limited. Teachers, please do not waste the time God has given you!

I. USING AUDIO AND VISUALS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE TEACHING

The purpose of using teaching aids is to get students to realize that Jesus Christ is the Lord and for them to understand the biblical message being taught. God used many visuals in the Bible to teach; such as the burning bush, the coin in the fish's mouth, the storm on the Sea of Galilee, and Lazarus in the tomb. The Bible was written nearly two thousand years ago and God has provided numerous modern aids enabling teachers to better teach the truths of the Bible. **SEE, HEAR, SAY, DO = 90% RETENTION.**

A. Audio - Students retain **20%** of what is heard.

1. A teacher should use his own voice, instead of tapes, to teach stories from the Bible and how to apply them.
2. Cassette tapes can be used but they are not as effective.

- B. Visual - Students retain **30%** of what is seen.
1. A teacher should use objects to teach stories from the Bible and how to apply them.
 2. The first visual is the teacher himself. How a teacher looks and his attitude determines as much as anything whether what he is teaching is good or not. A teacher needs to always represent Jesus Christ by his appearance when teaching.
- C. Performance - Students retain **40%** of what is put into action (hands-on experience; touch, taste, take apart). A teacher's presentation should allow the students to participate in learning God's word.
1. Illustrate by arrangement: Jumble up the order of words or events and then put them back in order.
 2. Re-enact the story: Let the students be different characters. A teacher can hold the attention of a two year old for twenty or twenty-five minutes on the same subject if he lets them see it, say it, hold it, and play with it.
 3. Put on plays: Let the students act out stories.
 4. Put puzzles together: Teach the story, empty out a puzzle, then ask questions about the story that was just taught. Each time a correct answer is given put a piece of the puzzle in place until the puzzle is completed.
 5. Repetition: One of the greatest teaching aids is repetition. **SEE, HEAR, SAY, DO = 90% RETENTION.**

II. HOW TO TELL STORIES BY OVERCOMING FEAR OF AUDIENCE

- A. A teacher should present the story he is teaching as if it is a gift he wants to give away. When teaching, make sure the gift is not kept inside but given away.
- B. Move towards the audience and it will eliminate most discipline problems. The students do not know what the teacher is going to do when he walks around. A teacher should not stand behind anything when he is teaching. He should become a part of the students and they will be more comfortable.

- C. The teacher should be the authority on the material he is teaching. The teacher should know the lesson and be comfortable with it. If the teacher is not comfortable with the lesson, he should change it in order to teach what he is comfortable with. Sometimes the Holy Spirit will change the lesson at the last minute. Be flexible and prepared.
- D. A teacher should relax somewhere before he teaches and allow his mind to concentrate on what he is going to do. A teacher can teach his lesson in front of a mirror or repeat it outloud. Practice gestures. Stories are impressive: **SEE, HEAR, SAY, DO = 90% RETENTION**

III. VISUALS TO USE

- A. Puppets.
- B. Table top toys - Use them when sitting around a table.
- C. Things from home. Children are use to them.
- D. Visual boards: Chalk, dry erase, magnetic, flannel.
- E. Non-projected graphics: Flat pictures, flash cards, maps.
- F. Projected graphics: Slides, transparencies.
- G. Video tapes and television: Use updated equipment; keep the action going, and give students what they are accustomed to so they will pay attention.
- H. Modernize Bible stories so the students can relate. Example: The prodigal son (living on the streets in a modern city). Be careful not to lose anything in the translation. Students will watch if the story is visualize before their eyes and they will remember **90%** of what they **SEE, HEAR, SAY, AND DO**. This is very important since the church only has them five hours out of a week. Put the work into it! It takes time to be effective.

IV. PREPARING TO TEACH

- A. Examination: A teacher should study a lesson thoroughly, remembering the Bible is the guide.

- B. Meditation: A teacher should ask God to show him what He would have taught.
- C. Information: A teacher should gather all the information he possibly can from the scriptures. He should start early!!! When teaching children it is very important to use correct words because they retain exactly what you say. They don't re-evaluate the words and focus on what the teacher "really meant to say". A teacher needs to study just as hard for a three year old class as the pastor does for the whole congregation. Children are sponges and they take in everything that is said. Educational studies says that children obtain 50% of their knowledge by the time they are four and 75% of their knowledge by the time they are seven. Everything they learn after seven is job-related knowledge.
- D. Incubation: A teacher should reflect on what he has learned and what he wants to communicate. He should think of the best ways to illustrate the lesson and how to make it interesting.
- E. Assimilation: A teacher should get everything together and assembled in preparation for the class. He should get to class on time and be ready to start early!
- F. Verification: A teacher should go over his lesson again and make sure he is ready to teach.
- G. Plan and outline: When a teacher plans his lesson and puts it all together, it makes it easier to start and finish on time and hit all the points in between.
 - 1. A teacher should make sure he aims at his purpose and determines the direction in which he is going in order to get there. When traveling, a person needs a map to determine his direction and when teaching a teacher needs an outline to determine his direction.
 - 2. A teacher should list his visuals, his Bible story and everything else needed to reach his destination.
 - 3. A teacher should know what he plans to do to get his students to commit to the action or purpose of the lesson.
 - 4. A teacher should apply the Bible study to his life and bring it home to his students' lifestyle.

5. A teacher should always use scripture verses when teaching because the Bible is what should be taught.

When a teacher finishes his class he should always be thankful to God that he was allowed to teach God's Word to someone else. If a Christian is teaching others, he is doing what God wants him to do.

HOMEWORK

Write out your personal testimony of salvation.

Read Jude and Revelation

BUILDING CHRISTIAN MINISTERS

DIVISION III

EVANGELISM

LESSON NINE

THE MINISTRY OF EVANGELISM

INTRODUCTION

The dictionary defines evangelism as "the winning or revival of personal commitment to Christ." In the Bible, an evangelist is one who declares the good news of Jesus Christ. In Ephesians chapter four, the Bible lists evangelists along with apostles, pastors and teachers for the purpose of maturing the saints. The first step in discipleship is when a person accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. It is impossible for a person to become a disciple until he is saved. Many times a Christian spends his whole life trying to get lost people to be disciples of Christ. This problem occurs in churches, in homes, and around the whole world. This lesson will help the Christian understand his need to become personally involved in leading others to Christ.

I. THE PERSON WITHOUT CHRIST.

A. A person who is not saved is dead (separated from God).

1. Romans 5:12. Sin came by one man, Adam, and because of his sin, God separated Himself from mankind. Every descendent of Adam is separated from God because of the sin inherited from Adam.
2. Romans 6:20-21, 10:3. The lost are ignorant of the righteousness of God and try to establish their own righteousness. The reason it is so difficult to lead sinners to Christ is because they have established their own righteousness and believe they are okay. They are separated from righteousness.
3. James 1:15, I Corinthians 15:56. Death is the result of sin. Many times people will question whether God will send a person to Hell because He is a

God of love. God does not send a person to Hell because He hates him, but because He owes it to him as the price of sin.

4. Revelation 20:13-14. The final destination for the lost is the lake of fire. Not only will the lost person be separated from God, but he will also spend eternity in the lake of fire, with its pain and suffering.

B. Seeing the person through the eyes of God.

1. I John 4:16. God loves the lost man and so should each Christian. God seeks to give His love to each person no matter how much he has sinned. God wants to have a loving relationship with him, but can only do so through Jesus Christ. A saved person should always be ready and willing to share Jesus Christ with the lost.
2. Luke 19:10. Christians should realize that the person without Christ is lost and needs someone to show him the way. As Christ stated to His disciples, He came to seek and to save that which was lost. When the Christian has the right attitude about evangelism, he will seek those who are lost and try to lead them to Christ.
3. Romans 1:20. The Christian should see, as God does, that there is no excuse for sin. Each person who sins does it by choice and will answer to God for his sin. Once the Christian realizes that there are no exceptions or excuses, he will become more diligent in leading others to Christ.

II. THE MESSENGER (EVANGELIST).

A. The evangelist must have the message of salvation.

1. I Corinthians 15:1-4, Romans 10:9. The gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. To lead someone else to Jesus Christ, the only thing a Christian must know and understand is the gospel. If a person believes in his heart the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ he will be saved.

2. Ephesians 4:17-24. Every Christian has a testimony of some kind and should be ready to give it at all times. A good way for Christians to establish their testimony is to write it out and practice relating it to others.
 3. II Corinthians 4:7. It is important for each Christian to understand that the message or treasure of Christ is the main issue, not the vessel that carries it.
- B. The evangelist must be willing to be a messenger.
1. I Corinthians 7:23-24. God bought each saved person and paid the price in full. The most important part of being a messenger is to recognize that a Christian is a servant. A Christian should not become involved in evangelism because of rewards or benefits, but simply because he is yielded to the Lord.
 2. II Corinthians 8:3-5. Even though a Christian is bought and paid for, it is still necessary to willingly give himself to Christ. A Christian should take action by presenting himself to Christ for service.
 3. Acts 1:8. After a Christian is submitted to Christ as a servant, the power to lead others to Christ does not come from his own power, but from the power of the Holy Ghost.
- C. The evangelist must know the power of the message.
1. II Corinthians 4:3-4. The gospel is hid to the lost because of the god of this world. For a lost person to see the light, the light must be taken to him. The message is light to the blind.
 2. Ephesians 1:12-14. The gospel is the only way of salvation. The power of God is in the gospel and the only way a person can have the Holy Spirit is through salvation.
 3. Galatians 1:6-9. There is no other gospel and anyone who teaches there is another gospel is to be cursed.

CONCLUSION

God chose evangelism as His way of reaching out to mankind. The Bible tells the Christian that salvation comes through other Christians. I Corinthians 1:18-21. Evangelism is the first and most essential manifestation of a Christian submitting himself to Christ. What causes evangelism to become effective is not a program, but a submitted life. The reason a Christian leads others to Christ is because God tells them to, not because of the lost. If a Christian becomes involved in evangelism because of the lost people in the world, he will become a servant to the lost world. Romans 6:16. The Christian is God's servant and should submit himself to God and do what He tells him, including evangelism. A Christian's motive should always be Jesus Christ, not the world.

HOMEWORK

Read Acts

Memorize Romans 5:12 and Romans 3:23

Pray that God will give you an opportunity to share Christ.

BUILDING CHRISTIAN MINISTERS

DIVISION III

EVANGELISM

LESSON TEN

EVANGELISM IN ACTION

INTRODUCTION

The "Great Commission" was given to the disciples by Christ in Matthew 28:18-20. Just before Christ left the earth and went to Heaven, He commissioned the apostles to take the gospel to the whole world. There are four verbs found in the Great Commission which give instructions for action. The instructions are to **GO** ye (because all power was given to Christ), **TEACH** all nations, **BAPTIZING** them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and **TEACHING** them to observe all things whatsoever Christ commanded them. The apostles were given the responsibility to go into *all* the world, not just Israel and the Mid-East.

- A. Every Christian is saved because the apostles fulfilled this Great Commission by passing it down from one generation to the next. This same Great Commission is still every Christian's responsibility--going with the power of Christ into all the world. The saved should never sit back and think the lost world will come to them for salvation, but they should go to the lost proclaiming the gospel unto salvation.
- B. Christians are not only to "go", but are also to "teach" all nations. In Mark 16:15, the Bible uses the word "preach" instead of teach, indicating that the gospel is to be communicated any way it can. Romans 10:15 asks the question "how shall they preach except they be sent", and in I Corinthians 1:21, the Bible says it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. In Romans 10:14, there are three questions asked that form the basis for evangelism.
 1. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?

2. How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?
3. How shall they hear without a preacher?

It is still the responsibility of the Christian to teach and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- C. The apostles were to go, teach, and to baptize. Baptism is the outward display of a person's acceptance of the gospel and proclamation of Jesus Christ as personal Savior. In the Great Commission, a person is to publicly acknowledge his faith in Christ, giving evidence of his salvation. Today, Christians still have the mandate, as given to the apostles, to teach them to observe all the things Christ commanded them. There are two New Testament commandments--to love the Lord, and to love each other. To simplify, this statement means to make disciples. The Great Commission consists of going to the lost world (Christ gave Christians His power in order to represent Him), teaching them the gospel of Christ, leading them to Christ (evangelism), baptizing them into a local New Testament church, and teaching them the Word of God. This lesson is designed to equip each student for evangelism by teaching them how to lead someone to Christ.

I. ESTABLISHING THE LOST PERSON'S CONDITION.

- A. Ask the lost person being dealt with if he were to die tonight, does he *know* for sure that he would go to Heaven. There are many questions that could be asked, but over the years, this one has been the best. There are two types of religious people in the world--those who depend on their works to go to Heaven, and those who depend on Jesus Christ alone. Anyone who applies works to salvation will never be able to answer yes to this question, because they never know when they have sufficient works to obtain salvation.
- B. Ask the lost person if he believes the Bible is the Word of God. Do not get involved in the issue of translations or whether it contains errors or not. Establish his acceptance of the authority of the Bible and what it says about going to Heaven. If he

rejects the authority of the Bible, this does not mean evangelism cannot proceed, but the job will be more difficult. Communicate to him that Christianity is based on the Bible and that Christians believe it to be the Word of God. Ask the person if it is okay to use the Bible to show him what it says he has to do to go to Heaven.

- C. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Romans 3:23. To establish the condition of the lost person, it is absolutely *essential* that he recognizes he has committed sin. The foundation of leading someone to Christ is the need. If a person does not believe he needs to be saved, he will never be lead to Christ. He must first see the need. Romans 3:10; John 3:18.
- D. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" Romans 5:12. "For the wages of sin is death;" Romans 6:23a. It is very important that the lost person know that because of his sin, he is condemned to death (separation from God).
1. The *wages* of sin is death. A wage is the pay for service or work done for someone else. In this verse, the Bible refers to the wages of sin. Who is owed for the sins committed? Who owns all the Earth? Who owns every human being, whether saved or lost? If God owns everyone, then everyone will give an account to Him for everything they have done. If each person has committed sin, then God *owes* each one the pay he has earned for the sins he has committed (the wages of sin is death). Why would a loving God send anyone to Hell? He owes it to those who commit sin. God always pays His bill--and on time.
 2. The wages of sin is *death*. What is death? Death does not mean to cease to exist, but to be separated from. When a person dies physically, he is separated from the living here on the Earth, and when a person dies spiritually, he is separated from God. Revelation 20:13-15. There will be a time in the future when God will cast into

the lake of fire those who are separated from Him because of sin. The payment for sin is very great, and God must pay his debt because He is God and must fulfill His promises. If all have sinned, and God condemns everyone because of their sin, then how does anyone go to Heaven?

II. PRESENTING THE GOSPEL.

- A. "But the gift of God is *eternal life*." Romans 6:23b. The opposite of death is life, and God said He would give eternal life (life without end) as a gift. If a person has eternal life, then he will never die or be separated from God. How then does a person get this eternal life?
- B. Eternal life is a *gift* from God. There are two things about a gift that must be understood for salvation to be clear.
1. A gift must be paid for. Anytime someone gives another person a gift, it must be paid for. Who must pay for it? The person giving the gift has to pay the price and the receiver pays nothing. If God gives a person His gift of eternal life who must pay for it? God!!! If God does not pay for this gift, then the receiver would have to pay the price by some action on his part. What was the price God had to pay for the gift of eternal life? The price was paid "through Jesus Christ our Lord." God sent His only begotten son to the Earth where He lived for approximately thirty three and one-half years, suffering the same hardships as other men, yet without sin. The price that had to be paid was death, or separation from God. Jesus died a horrible death on the cross, was separated from God in Hell (Act 2:31), and suffered the pain of death and Hell. God could have rescued Him, but the price *had* to be paid.
 2. A gift must be received. Even though a gift is bought and paid for, it

still is not a gift until it is accepted. Jesus was the price that was paid for salvation, but only those who accept this gift have it. A person still has the freedom to reject the gift of eternal life, even though God bought it for him.

3. Forgiveness. God forgives those who accept His plan of salvation, paid for by Jesus Christ. The word forgive means "paid in full". If a person owes someone a debt and cannot pay it, the person owed can choose to forgive the debt, but this requires two things.
 - a. He must have the means to pay the debt himself. If he cannot afford the expense, then he is not able to pay the debt. When forgiveness takes place, the one to whom the debt is owed, pays the price for the one who owes it.
 - b. He must be willing to pay the debt himself. If he does not want to forgive the debt, he does not have to. It is his choice.
4. God met both of these qualifications when the blood of Jesus Christ was shed on the cross. His death was the means to pay for every sin of every man who has ever lived upon the face of the Earth, (Romans 5:8) and He is not willing that any should perish. II Peter 3:9.

III. CHECKING THE QUALIFICATIONS.

- A. Who is qualified to be saved? Romans 10:9-10. There are certain qualifications that must be met before a person can be saved. If a person does not meet these qualifications, it is impossible for him to be saved. If, at a later time, he does meet the qualifications, he can then be saved.
 1. The lost person must confess with his mouth that Jesus Christ is the Lord. Most of the people in the United States believe there was a man that lived on the Earth named Jesus. However, many do not believe that He was the Lord.

It is very important that the lost person confess with his mouth that Jesus Christ is the Lord.

2. The lost person must believe in his heart that God hath raised Jesus from the dead. Only the person himself knows what is in his heart, and that is why confession with the mouth is so important. He must share what is in his heart.
- B. Anyone who recognizes his lost state and is willing to trust Jesus Christ as his personal Savior can be saved.

IV. ACTION UNTO SALVATION.

- A. Believing is essential to salvation, but just believing is not enough. (the devils also believe) James 2:19. There are many people who believe that Jesus is real who are not saved (salvation requires action). For a person to be forgiven for his sins, he must *accept* God's gift or it is never his.
- B. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13. A lost person must take action for salvation to take place. The action is asking Jesus Christ to save him and give him eternal life, as promised in the Bible. No matter what a person believes, if there is no action, there is no salvation.
- C. Lead the person in prayer, and ask him/her to pray out loud. A person does not have to pray out loud, but when he does, the Christian leading him becomes a witness to his action. Later during discipleship, it is very beneficial for the individual to know there was a time and place for salvation. Most of those who did not record the time and place of salvation, and did not have a witness, have greater doubts or question about assurance of salvation.

V. ASSURANCE THAT SALVATION TOOK PLACE.

- A. The Christian who leads the person to Christ should ask the person if they prayed the prayer to God. This helps them recognize the importance of the prayer they prayed. Ask them if God saved them. Most of the time they will say "I don't know". Ask them if God is a liar. When they respond no, ask them if God said He would save them if they asked Him. Romans 10:13. Make sure they base the assurance of

salvation on the Bible--not on feelings or experience.

- B. Show them that nothing will separate them from the love of God and that their salvation is in God's hands.

Romans 8:38-39

HOMEWORK

Know how to lead someone to Christ.

Be prepared to demonstrate leading someone to Christ.

Read Psalms Chapters 1-50.

REVISED DECEMBER 1996

BUILDING CHRISTIAN MINISTERS

DIVISION IV

PRAYER AND PRAISE

LESSON ELEVEN

PRAYING TO GOD

INTRODUCTION

In Luke 11:1-4, the disciples came to Christ and asked Him to teach them to pray. They did not ask Him to teach them **how** to pray, but **to** pray. One of the greatest deficiencies, in the life of any Christian, is failing to pray. As the disciples did with Christ, Christians need to be seeking the same; "Lord teach us to pray".

I. PRAYER AND CONFESSION Psalm 139:23-24.

A. I Corinthians 11:31. "For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged." Christians should recognize their own sin actions and deal with them.

1. A Christian is to judge his own sin **actions** to cause his life to become what God directed it to be. In other places in the Scripture, God forbids the Christian from judging **himself** because that is for God to do. I Corinthians 4:3-4.

a. I Corinthians 11:32. "But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world." A Christian should judge his own **actions** to prevent being judged by the world.

b. Romans 14:13 "Let us **not** therefore **judge** one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way." A Christian should judge his own actions for the purpose of correcting wrong actions.

2. Confession of sin is for a lost man and is part of the action of salvation. God cannot forgive sin except through the blood of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:7. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;" Hebrews 7:25-27, Hebrews 9:7, 11-14, Hebrews 10:4, 9-12. **It is the blood of Jesus that provides forgiveness, not any action that man takes. His forgiveness is permanent and lasts forever.**

B. I John 1:7-10. Forgiveness.

1. Forgiveness is when the person who is owed, pays the debt of the one who owes it, causing the debt to be **paid in full**. Jesus Christ is the Lord. Every sin that is committed is against Him. Everyone owes Him for every sin they have committed. Jesus paid the price for all sin and when a person accepts the action of Christ (the Gospel) his debt is forgiven.
2. After a person is saved and then has some action of sin, how will this sin affect his life? The Bible states, in I John 1:7, that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses all sin. When a Christian has a sin action, he feels guilty and dirty, allowing the sin to keep him from having proper fellowship with God. In I John 1:9, the Bible tells everyone that if they have **confessed their sins**, He was faithful and just to (1) forgive their sins. Christians need to be reminded that He is faithful and just and has **already forgiven sins at the time of salvation**. This enables the saved person to proceed with his life and be a servant to the Lord. No where in the New Testament does the Bible tell the **saved** person to ask God for forgiveness, yet many Christians ask and beg God to forgive them. They do this because they want to feel better or get relief from the sins they have committed, which enables them to maintain their pride. They do not actually repent (turn from their sin actions to God) and restore their fellowship with God by renewing their mind. Romans 12:2.
3. In I John 1:9 the Bible also states that God has **cleansed** the saved person

from **all** unrighteousness. There is no sin greater than the grace of God and grace comes only by the application of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. **The key to understanding this passage is relationship verses fellowship.** A Christian's relationship with God is based on being born into His family. A Christian's fellowship with Him is based on his feelings regarding the actions that have been committed.

C. Old Testament examples of confessions.

1. Job 42:1-6. There is only one way to deal with the guilt of sin - the forgiveness of God.
2. II Samuel 24:10. David confessed the wrong of numbering the people. Psalms 32 & 51 - David confessed to God his sins of adultery and murder.
3. Daniel 9:3-11. Daniel does not have a single sin he committed mentioned in the Bible, yet he confessed to God.

In the Old Testament the blood of Jesus Christ had not yet been applied and the law was not yet eliminated. In the New Testament there is no law to condemn the saved person, consequently, there is no need for dealing with condemnation. Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation in them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

II. PRAYING WITHIN GOD'S AUTHORITY

A. I John 5:14-15. God promised Christians that if they would ask anything according to His will he would hear them. In Discipleship One, we studied the will of God verses the plan of God. God's will and plan is:

1. God's will is that all be saved.
2. God's will is that every saved person be conformed to the image of Christ.
3. God's will is that every saved person be transformed to the image of Christ by renewing their mind.
4. God's will is that every saved person be filled with the Holy Spirit. (yield control)
5. God's plan is for every saved person to follow the direction of the Word of God.

6. God's plan is that every saved person listen to the Holy Spirit.
7. God's plan is for every saved person to pay attention to the circumstances of life.

Praying in the will of God is knowing that what a Christian is praying for is under the authority of God and is something God wants the Christian to have. God answers the Christian's prayer when it better enables him to glorify Christ.

- B. James 4:3. The Bible tells Christians that they do not get their requests from God because they ask it for their own selfish desires. When Christians pray outside of God's authority, they are asking amiss (asking in a wrong way) and God will not violate His established authority.
- C. Luke 22:42. Jesus Christ submitted Himself to the authority of God when He gave His life for the penalty of sin. God couldn't make an exception for Jesus, so what makes anyone think He will make an exception for them. The first major step in getting prayers answered is to *know* the authority and will of God and pray within it.
- D. Matthew 6:10. When Christ explained prayer to His disciples He told them to pray "Thy will be done" indicating that submission to God's authority is essential when praying.
- E. Romans 8:26-27. A Christian should never pray "if it be Thy will" when asking God for something. He should first find out what God's will is, submit himself to God's authority, and then make his request to God. A Christian must remember that God's will is that Jesus Christ be glorified. Each Christian should be able to determine before he prays if it is in God's will by making sure he is under the authority of God. The Bible is the determining basis for all prayer.
- F. Psalms 32:8, 37:23-24, Proverbs 3:5-6. God will direct the paths of Christians when he walks in the light of God's word, and prays according to God's direction. God's authority is established by the Word of God.
- G. II Peter 3:9. When praying for a lost person, remember that God is willing that all be saved.

III. PRAYING IN FAITH.

- A. Hebrews 11:1 "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen". Faith is knowing something *is* before it becomes tangible. Salvation is the

best example of faith. The saved prayed and accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and God promised the saved eternal life in Heaven, but the saved person is not in Heaven yet, and has not seen Heaven yet. He knows he is saved and has eternal life by faith. Faith is simply taking God at His word.

B. Some examples of Faith.

1. Genesis 6-8. Noah believed it was going to rain and that a flood was coming when rain had never been seen before.
2. Romans 4:19-21. Abraham believed he and Sarah were going to have a son when he was old and Sarah was past the age of producing children.

C. Mark 11:24. Faith is essential in prayer and is a condition to getting prayers answered. If a Christian does not believe that God will give him what he wants, then he shouldn't waste his time praying. When Peter was walking on the water and began to sink, it was due to lack of faith. Matthew 14:25-33. Even when his faith slipped and he began to sink, he still called out to Christ for safety, again exercising faith.

D. How does a Christian strengthen weak faith?

1. Romans 10:17. Study the Word of God. A Christian cannot have strong faith unless he knows the Word of God, because it is the basis of all faith toward God.
2. James 1:2. A Christian should count it all joy when he falls into temptations because it is the trials that make him strong. Remember the song "Through it All"
3. Romans 6:11. A Christian should see himself as dead (reckon) and stop spending his life worrying and praying about carnal things. Instead, he should dedicate his life to living for Christ with his new life, given to him by God.
4. A Christian should use the faith he has. He should not get consumed with anxiety because he is not where someone else is, or even where he thinks he should be. He should just function where he is.

IV. PRAY WITH IMPORTUNITY. Importunity is pressing, urgent in request or demand, persistent in solicitation, a refusal to be denied.

- A. Luke 11:1-9. When Jesus was teaching His disciples to pray, he used importunity in

showing them to go to God with a consuming drive to get what they needed from God. Many times when a Christian goes to Christ with a prayer, it is half-hearted and he is not expecting God to fulfill it.

- B. Luke 18:1-8. Jesus used a parable to teach His disciples to faint not when they pray. God may not fulfill a prayer the instant He is asked, but He will if a Christian continues to pray. Children understand importunity better than most Christians and can be used as good examples. What happens when a child is on a trip and asks for something to drink?
- C. Biblical examples of importunity.
1. Genesis 18:23-33. Abraham asking the angel of God to spare Sodom and Gomorrah.
 2. Genesis 32:24-29. Jacob wrestling with the Angel of the Lord and would not let Him go until he got what he wanted.
 3. Nehemiah 1:4. Nehemiah mourned, wept, fasted, and prayed certain days.
 4. Esther 4:15-17. Esther fasted and prayed three days.
 5. Daniel 10:2,3,12. Daniel prayed three weeks seeking God's direction.
 6. I Thessalonians 5:17. Paul instructed Christians to pray without ceasing.
 7. Matthew 6:7. Importunity is not necessarily lengthy praying and definitely not vain repetition.
- D. The promise of God in regard to importunity.
1. James 4:2. "Ye have not because ye ask not."
 2. Jeremiah 33:3. "Call upon me and I will show you great and mighty things."
 3. Luke 11:9. "Ask and it shall be given you."

Many times prayers are not answered at the time because God knows the person praying could not handle what he asked for. (you do not give a small child a loaded shotgun.)

V. PRAYING WITH FERVENCY.

- A. James 5:15-18. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elijah prayed for it not to rain and it did not for three years and six months, and then he prayed for rain and it rained. I Kings 17.
- B. A lot of times Christians pray just to be praying, not because it is a life or death

matter. If a Christian was to pray tonight and ask God to not let it rain for three years, and his ministry was at stake, how fervent would he pray? Christians need to learn to pray with fervency.

C. Biblical examples of fervent praying.

1. Genesis 15:1-3. Abraham asked God for a child.
2. Exodus 32:30-32. Moses asked God to forgive the nation of Israel.
3. Romans 9:1-3. Paul was willing to give up his salvation for the salvation of Israel.
4. Hebrews 5:7. Jesus prayed fervently.

VI. PRAY TO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

- A. John 14:13-14. Pray in Jesus' name. Everything a Christian does should be for the glory of Jesus Christ and everything he asks God for should be for the same purpose.
- B. John 15:4-7. Jesus is the vine and Christians are the branches. Christians can do nothing unless Jesus provides it. Christians have to abide in Christ and not in the world. When Christians pray carnal prayers, they are not glorifying Christ. In II Corinthians 5:17, states that if any man be in Christ he is a new creature and old things have passed away.
- C. I John 3:22. When Christians submit themselves to the authority of God and follow His instructions they are placing themselves in a position to enable God to give his blessings to them.

VII. PRAYER IS ASKING.

- A. Matthew 7:7-11. Ask and it shall be given you. For every one that asks--receives. God the Father shall give good things to them who ask Him. John 15:24.
- B. Matthew 21:22. Whatsoever a Christian ask in prayer, believing, he shall receive it.
- C. John 14:14. If a Christian ask anything in the name of Christ, He will do it.
- D. Mark 11:24. When a Christian desire something, he must pray.

CONCLUSION

Learning to pray is essential in ministering to others. If a Christian does not pray for others, and for himself in working with them, he will never be an effective minister. A Christian's ability to minister will be greatly contingent on his prayer life. When another person knows God is answering his prayers, they will respect him.

HOMEWORK

Make a written prayer list and begin to record answers.

Read Psalms Chapters 51-100.

BUILDING CHRISTIAN MINISTERS

DIVISION IV

PRAYER AND PRAISE

LESSON TWELVE

PRAISE IS GLORIFYING GOD

INTRODUCTION

Praise is defined as "the expression of approval." The Bible has much to say about praise, particularly in regard to praising God. There are over two hundred verses in the Bible that refer to praising God. One of the greatest acts of Christianity is to praise or express approval for God. Many Christians question God and do not approve His actions. This causes weakness and stunted growth for the Christian. It is essential that those who minister to others understand the significance of praise. Christians should practice praise or approval of God's actions, with a sincere heart, knowing that God is worthy at all times.

I. PRAISE GOD THROUGH MUSIC

A. Psalms 150:1-6. Praise ye the Lord. The greatest way there is to praise God is to praise Him through music.

1. God instructed Christians to praise Him with all the musical instruments. II Chronicles 5:13, Psalms 33:2. Musical instruments are simply devices that produce sound. In themselves they are not holy or unholy. It is what man does with them that determines whether the sounds praise God or someone else. Much of today's music is generated to praise people, Satan, movements, and even religion. A lot of what is called Christian music does not praise Christ or God but things of God. This does not mean it is wrong or sinful but ministers need to understand the difference. Christians should praise God in the church services and they should praise God in their private lives. If a Christian can play a musical instrument, he should use it to glorify Jesus Christ. He deserves it!!!!

2. He also said to let everything that has breath praise the Lord. God wants Christians to praise Him with their singing. I Chronicles 16:9, Psalms 7:17, I Corinthians 14:15. Singing is one of the best ways to express to God approval for the works He has done in the lives of Christians.
- B. Psalms 40:3, 144:9, 149:1-3. "He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto God." When a person gets saved, God puts a new song in his heart. There are many things that change when a person gets saved, but one of the main changes is music. When a person knows he is saved, he has something to sing about.
 - C. Ezra 3:10-11. The people sang and praised God when the foundation of the temple was laid in the restoration.
When the people saw that God was doing a work, they praised Him. When Christians today see the works that God has done they should also praise Him.
 - D. Psalms 47:1-9. Sing praises to God because He is the King of all the Earth. It is evident that God appreciates music, particularly songs and music of praise to Him. He is King of the Earth and worthy to be praised.
 - E. Judges 5:2-3. Israel sang praises to God before all the kings of the Earth, showing identification with the Lord. Israel was making an absolute statement by their music. They were willingly offering themselves to God and giving Him all their praise. They were showing their approval of God as their Lord and King. Today when Christians praise the Lord they are identifying with Jesus Christ.

II. PRAISE GOD FROM THE HEART

- A. Psalms 9:1, 109:30, 111:1. "Praise God with your whole heart and mouth." Christians should tell and show God's marvelous works in the congregations and among the people. When Christians show forth the action of praising God but don't believe in their heart that God provided everything, they are not praising God and their praise is an act of vanity.
- B. Psalms 34:1, 44:8, 71:8, 86:12. Praise God continually. It is a blessing to God when Christians express to others, as well as to Him, their identification with His actions. Christians should be in a continual state of praise, no matter what the circumstances, knowing that God is their Lord.

- C. Psalm 42:4. When Christians remember the works God has done in the past, it will bring praise to their hearts. The Bible tells Christians that hope comes from experience and after they see God work, praising Him is easy. It also causes them to understand what He is doing today, enabling them to continue to praise Him, even in the midst of life's events.
- D. Ephesians 5:19. "Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord". Christians should always have a song of praise in their heart to God.

III. PRAISE GOD BECAUSE OF HIS ACTIONS

- A. Luke 2:13-20. The heavenly host praised God when Christ was born. The shepherds also praised God upon seeing the birth of the Lord. The only time the heavenly host were seen on Earth praising God was at the birth of Jesus Christ. The heavenly host recognized that all the promises that God made in the Old Testament were being fulfilled. They recognized His actions.
- B. Psalms 107:8,15,21,31; "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" Pay attention when God repeats himself. Deuteronomy 10:21, II Chronicles 7:3. God wants His children to recognize His goodness and give Him praise.
- C. Psalm 118:21. "I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation." Every time the saved remember that it is Christ that saved them from going to Hell and gives eternal life with Him, they should express their approval. By showing praise, Christians are recognizing that Jesus Christ is the only way.
- D. Psalms 48:1, 63:3, 106:1. Praise God for his holy characteristics. God is holy, with loving kindness, and all His actions are good. Once Christians understand the character of God and know He will never sin or do anything that is unprofitable for them, praise comes easy. Christians may not understand why a particular event took place in their lives, but when they realize that God's actions are always holy, they will praise Him.

IV. PRAISE GOD WITH OUR GIVING

- A. Leviticus 19:24, Psalm 72:15, Psalm 22:25,

II Chronicles 31:2. Giving offerings to God is an act of praise. One way to praise God is by singing, another is by giving. A person who does not give is one who does not truly recognize the actions of God. A person who does not give is selfish and is praising himself.

- B. II Corinthians 9:7. God loves a cheerful giver. Giving is not only an act of love towards God but also an act of praise. When Christians do not give to God they are failing to recognize that God provided the material things and fail to approve His actions.
- C. I Chronicles 23:30, Psalms 35:18, 100:4. Praise God with giving of thanks. Giving of thanks is recognizing what God has done and is saying "thank you." For all practical purposes thanksgiving is the same as praise. Giving thanks is not just saying "thank you," but really being thankful in your heart.

V. RESULTS OF PRAISING GOD

- A. II Samuel 22:4, Psalm 18:3. Praise rescues the children of God from their enemies. One of the evidences of trusting God is praising Him for every thing in life. If Christians step out on their own, without God's leading, they end up where they shouldn't be and away from God's protection. It is crucial that Christians stay in the path that God laid out for them and continually praise Him.
- B. Psalm 56:4. Praising God takes away fears. Every time Christians praise God, it reminds them that He is in charge and consequently removes the fear that is associated with this world.
- C. Psalm 22:26. Those who seek God shall praise him and live forever. It is very difficult for Christians to seek God unless they recognize Him for who He is, and when they do they are expressing their approval.

VI. SPECIFIC PEOPLE COMMISSIONED TO PRAISE GOD

- A. I Chronicles 16:4. Selected Levites. "And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel." God gave instructions that specific people have the

responsibility of praising God for the entire group. There should be specific people in the church today who assume the responsibility of praising God.

- B. II Chronicles 20:21. Singers. "And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever." II Chronicles 29:30. "Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the LORD with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped." There were musicians and singers that were appointed to praise God. In the church today there are people who are talented with music and should assume the same responsibility of singing and playing praises to God.

VII. WHO SHOULD PRAISE GOD

- A. Psalms 117:1. *All the nations*. "O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people."
- B. Psalms 69:34. *Heaven and Earth*. "Let the heaven and earth praise him, the seas, and every thing that moveth therein." Psalms 89:5. "And the heavens shall praise thy wonders, O LORD: thy faithfulness also in the congregation of the saints."
- C. Psalm 74:21. *Poor and needy*. "O let not the oppressed return ashamed: let the poor and needy praise thy name."
- D. Psalms 113:1. *God's servants*. "Praise ye the LORD. Praise, O ye servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD."
- E. Psalm 67:3,5. *All the people*. "Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee."
- F. Psalms 102:18. *All the generations*. "This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the LORD."

CONCLUSION

If Christians fail to praise God they fail to recognize the Lordship of Jesus Christ. If a Christian plans to grow to maturity, he must praise God. When ministers are working with others, it is essential that they help those they are working with understand the workings of God and the application of praise to all lives. If Christians do not praise God, they are condemning their own lives to failure.

HOMEWORK

Write out the words of a song that causes you to praise God.

Read Psalms chapters 101-150.

BUILDING CHRISTIAN MINISTERS

DIVISION V

FAMILY

LESSON THIRTEEN

GOD INSTITUTED THE HOME

INTRODUCTION

A great preacher once said "As the homes go, so goes the churches." Others have said "As the homes go, so goes the nation." The home is the foundation upon which any society is based. When the institution of the home breaks down, the whole society will follow. In the United States today the greatest reason for the deterioration of ethics is the deterioration of the home--its values, its structure, and its function. Many descriptive terms which describe these deteriorating homes, have become a part of our vocabulary, like dysfunctional home, single parent home, abusive homes, socially retarded homes, and others.

Almost all governmental agencies recognize that the homes are the problem, but they do not know how to correct the problems. Most religious organizations recognize the problem, but they also do not have the answer. Some say get them saved and that will cure all the problems; others say impose more rules and regulations and that will cure the problem. From the previous studies in Discipleship One and Two, it is evident that salvation alone is not enough and rules alone definitely will not work. Proper discipleship will enable Christians to live the way God wants them to live resulting in their homes being changed into Godly homes.

I. THE FIRST HOME

- A. Genesis 2:21-25. God established the first home by marriage. When God created Adam and Eve they were referred to as man and woman, but in verse twenty-five God refers to them as the man and his wife. The marriage was performed by God and the first home was established.

- B. Genesis 5:1-2. God created the human race male and female according to His plan. Man has tried to improve on God's plan, but has never made it better. Man's way will temporarily appear to work, but in time it will fail; don't try to come up with a new or better way than God's perfect way. God chose the home as the institution He wanted for men and women to live in.
- C. Genesis 1:27-28. God created male and female and gave them dominion over the Earth. God did not give the dominion to just **him** but to **them**. God said that when a man and woman marry they become one. Probably the greatest cause of failure in homes today is the separation of man and woman in their function, failing to follow God's plan. As long as a husband and wife work together, they will have the strength to control circumstances; but when they separate and try to function separately, they will fail. Even when a couple is not saved, but still functioning as a single unit, they are still doing it God's way.

II. GOD GAVE THE HOME ORDER.

- A. Genesis 2:21-25, Ephesians 5:31. Principle of leave and cleave. The word cleave means to glue or stick together. Cleaving is not the sex act but a prerequisite to the sex act or becoming one. When you see the term "becoming one" in regard to marriage, it is sexual relationship. I Corinthians 6:16. Before a sexual relationship, marriage should take place, which is cleaving, or joining, as it is translated in Ephesians 5:31.
- B. Ephesians 5:21-25. The husband is the head of the home with God-given authority and he will answer to God for his leadership. Being the head does not in any way indicate dictatorship. God will hold each husband accountable for every action and decision he makes in leading the home God gave him the stewardship over. There is much preaching about wives obeying your husband (which is not in the Bible) and not enough on husbands doing or being what God instructed. The biggest problem with homes today is not women failing to submit, but husbands failing to lead. When a husband takes away his wife's free will, he has destroyed the strength God intended the home to have. When the husband and wife are what God wants them to be, they

will have a godly home and the world will never destroy it.

- C. Hebrews 13:17. Submission verses obedience. A wife is told to submit to her husband in the New Testament, which eliminates the law of obeying her husband.
1. Obedience - "To carry out instructions or orders." When a person obeys, they have to have an external power that gives orders or instructions. God does not put the husband in this power position. 2. Submission - "Yielding yourself to the action or control of another." Ephesians 5:21 tells Christians to submit themselves to each other. Submission requires an internal "want to" motivation when doing what someone else asks. When a wife is submitted to her husband, she does what he asks because she wants to, not because she has to (obedience). Many problems occur when the husband fails to be the person his wife can submit (yield) to. A wife that is right with God will submit to a godly husband.
- D. I Corinthians 11:1-16. The proper function of a husband and a wife in a home. Verse three is the definitive verse explaining that God is the head of Christ, and Christ is the head of the man, and the man is the head of the woman. When studying these verses, make sure verse three is used to define the positions of authority. "Head" in these verses deals with authority, not rule.
1. Verse four: The man should never cover his head (Christ) or he will dishonor his head (Christ). When the man is what God wants him to be, he will always show off Christ by his actions and appearance.
 2. Verse five: The woman should never uncover her head (husband) or she dishonors her head (husband). When a woman tears down or exposes her husband, she is destroying his authority and his ministry. Many times a woman destroys her husband's authority and then complains because he is not the proper Christian leader he should be. She has told everyone who will listen about his faults and problems and then wonders why he is not respected.
 3. Verse seven: The man is the glory of God and the woman is the glory of the man. When a woman is tearing down the glory of her husband, she is tearing

down the glory of God. When a man is tearing down the glory of his wife, he is tearing down his own glory. The quickest way there is for a man to destroy his Christian leadership is to tear down his wife. When a home is what God intended it to be, Christ is glorified by both the man and his wife.

III. THE RELATIONSHIP GOD GAVE TO HUSBANDS AND WIVES

A. I Corinthians 7:1-5.

1. Verse two: Marry to avoid fornication. Fornication is any sexual activity between two people that God did not intend for His children. Today there is much encouragement for young people to practice "safe sex" without marriage. Many times even Christians discourage their children from getting married, using education or profession for reasons not to marry, but God said to avoid fornication ***get married***. When a Christian studies marriage in the Bible, he will find the reason to get married is because one person is sexually attracted to another person of the opposite sex and desires a physical relationship with that person.
2. Verse three: In marriage render due benevolence. (conjugal duty), (marital joining together), (sex). After a couple is married, God gives them strict instructions to take care of their spouse's sexual needs. Christians need to understand that their spiritual strength and abstinence from sin includes their spouses. Realize that what is done in the privacy of the bedroom determines a person's spirituality as much as anything else.
3. Verse four: The spouse has the power over the partner's body. God established a drive within each individual, called the sex drive, which attracts them to a person of the opposite sex. No matter what the world and psychology teaches, it is unnatural for a person to be sexually attracted to a person of the same sex. Romans 1:26-32. When a man and a woman become husband and wife, they gain the control of each others' bodies by sexual activity. When a married couple realizes that this is God's plan and it is pure and godly, it gives them the freedom to also glorify God in their physical

relationship.

4. Verse five: When a spouse withholds a physical relationship from their partner, God calls it fraud. (To take another person's property by trickery, cheating, or deception.) A Christian must understand that they have the control over their spouse's body and withholding themselves from a proper sexual relationship is taking what belongs to their spouse and destroying what God has established. The Bible also states in this verse that Satan will tempt Christians when they do not have control of their sex drive (incontinent). When married couples do not fulfill what is intended, it leads to numerous sins from adultery to self love.

IV. CHILDREN

- A. Ephesians 6:1-3. Children are to obey their parents. When the Bible refers to children, they are not told to submit but to obey. Obedience requires rule and control from parents, not giving the children the right to make independent decisions that disregard or go against the parents.
- B. Colossians 3:20. Children obeying their parents is pleasing to God.

CONCLUSION

There are many instructions in the Bible about the home and we have covered only a few basic ones. The purpose of this lesson is to help ministers know how to have a home that is pleasing to God. Any time there is a question, a Christian should ask himself what would Jesus Christ do if He were in his place. This lesson's intent is for Christians to know that the home is where true Christianity will be determined. A Christian should understand that if he is considered for an elder's position in the church

his spouse and children will be the first to determine his qualifications.

HOMEWORK

Write one page on what your home means to you.

Read Ruth

BUILDING CHRISTIAN MINISTERS

DIVISION V

FAMILY

LESSON FOURTEEN

MINISTERING TO FAMILY MEMBERS

INTRODUCTION

In I Samuel, Chapter 1, the Bible records the story of Hannah giving birth to Samuel and how she presented him to the Lord. In verse eleven she promised God she would give Samuel to Him and after Samuel was born she fulfilled that promise. Many times the Christian fails to understand that everyone belongs to God, including family members. God loves everyone, including the lost, but the Christian often forgets God's love when dealing with family members. When a Christian's heart is burdened for a lost family member, he is experiencing, to a small degree, the same feelings God has for that person. "God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." II Peter 3:9.

A Christian should submit himself to the Lord and follow His direction when dealing with family members. It is easy for a Christian to violate God's Word and miss God's will by allowing a burden to dictate his action instead of the Bible. A Christian should show others his love for God at all times. The Christian's actions toward others may determine the lost person's response to God. Remember, God wants to save the lost more than anyone on this Earth, including family members. If a person dies without salvation, it hurts God deeply because He loved that person enough to die to save his soul. John 15:13. This lesson should help the Christian to learn how God wants them to deal with family members, both lost and saved.

I. DEAL WITH FAMILY MEMBERS FROM STEWARDSHIP, NOT OWNERSHIP.

When a Christian assumes ownership of a family member he becomes responsible for him and violates the Lordship of Christ. When a Christian recognizes stewardship he realizes his family belongs to God and that God is responsible for them. A Christian should follow God's instructions and let God produce the desired results.

- A. Family members belong to Christ.
 - 1. Genesis 22:1-14. Abraham, the father of faith, was tested to see if his son belonged to him or God. When God instructed Abraham to take Isaac's life he was willing.
 - 2. I Kings 3:16-28. Two women claimed the same child. The king determined to take the life of the child. The mother who loved the child with the love of God was willing to give up the child to save his life.
- B. Represent Christ.
 - 1. Romans 5:8-10. Christ gave His life to save sinners but did not allow His life to be controlled by the actions of others. When dealing with the lost, the Christian should realize the lost are without God and going to Hell but that God loves them. God does not condemn them now; He reserves damnation until judgment day. II Peter 2:9. If Christians are not careful, they condemn the lost before God does, before they die, and give them "Hell on Earth".
 - 2. Ephesians 4:26-32. Follow Biblical instructions when dealing with others, including family members. When a Christian does not represent Jesus Christ he grieves the Holy Spirit. Sometimes a Christian will have anger for a family member and maintain it for years. This inhibits the Christian's spiritual growth and prevents him from ever becoming what God designed for his life. A lost person cannot show the attributes of Christ because he does not have them. His life is doomed to selfishness controlled by his own self will. A Christian should have pity towards the lost, not anger, because they are going to Hell.
 - 3. I John 4:9-11. God manifested His love to the world by the death of His Son on the cross and provided salvation to all who accept Him. After becoming a Christian, many still adhere to the conditional love of the old life (the world's) instead of following the new love that God gave. Sometimes a Christian deals with his lost family members by reacting to their lost carnal actions instead of acting from God's love. A Christian should always manifest Christ when dealing with others.
 - 4. I Thessalonians 3:12-13. God instructed the Christian to abound in love to all men. Many times a Christian will show love to strangers more than he does his own family members. If the Christian knew as much about the stranger's

life as he knew about his family member's life would he treat them the same?
A Christian should never allow his life to be controlled by anything external but should always be controlled from within.

5. Ephesians 5:1-2. The Christian is to walk as God's child and represent His family. God gave the saved person a new family and he should live by its rules and purposes and not be controlled by his earthly family. The hardest place to live this new life is with family members because the earthly attachments were there first. Many times the old relationships remain dominant and the new family relationship suffers loss.
- C. Family members deserve the same rights as others
1. Romans 13:9-10. The Bible instructs the New Testament Christian to love his neighbor, and family members deserve the same treatment as neighbors. The Christian should not love friends and other Christians with the love of God and then revert back to earthly love when dealing with family members.
 2. Ephesians 4:25. The Christian should always deal with his neighbors with truth and not lies or pretention. A Christian should deal with his family with the same truth. It is never right with God to deceive and lie to others including family members. Sometimes, a Christian will do this without realizing they are lying. Their intent is usually good but the end results are carnal.
 - a. "If you don't do what I tell you the 'boogie' man will get you."
 - b. "If you're not good Santa won't come to see you this year."
 - c. "If you sin God will not love you any more."
 - d. "If you do that again I won't love you any more."
 - e. "I'm going to kill you."
 - f. "I hate you"

It is very easy for the Christian to do things the same way the world does without realizing he is disobeying God.

II. DEAL WITH FAMILY MEMBERS WITH LOVE, NOT GUILT.

- A. A Christian should base his actions toward others on what Christ did, not what he did in the past. Every person has done things in the past he regrets and family members

know about most of them. Sometimes a Christian tries to correct all the wrong he did before he got saved. He should never let guilt control his new life. A Christian should do everything with Christ as his motive and never allow his old sinful life to become the motive.

1. II Corinthians 5:17. In Christ a saved person is a new creature and old things are passed away.

Occasionally, a Christian will use their family members' sins as an excuse to sin themselves. Children blame parents, brothers and sisters blame each other, parents blame children, grandma blames grandpa, and on and on. After a person is saved he should live his new life and never use his old life of sin as an excuse to sin and fail.

2. Ephesians 6:7-8. A Christian should not live his life with the past in control but with the future. The saved person is going to Heaven, and that is where his actions should be directed. The Christian should know that what good thing he does, he shall receive the same from the Lord.
3. Romans 6:4. Walk in newness of life. God gave the saved person a new life. He should live it. It's a whole lot more fun than the old one!

B. Paul's heart desire for Israel was that they be saved.

1. Romans 10:1. Paul's desire was that his family, Israel, be saved. Paul was willing to give his life if that was what it took for them to be saved.
2. John 1:11. Jesus went first to His own family, and only after they rejected Him was the gospel given to the Gentiles.

III. DEAL WITH FAMILY MEMBERS BY BEING, NOT JUST DOING.

- A. Proverbs 23: 7. "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee." A Christian's family knows who he really is and so does Christ. He needs to understand that it is his personal choice that causes him to sin, not his family's.

- B. I John 1:8. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." The most destructive action in the life of any Christian is to show or declare sinless perfection. One of the greatest reasons for family destruction is parents pretending to be perfect and sinless. A Christian should not claim to be perfect. When a Christian sins before his family, he should confess his sin and correct it by following Christ.
- C. God's instruction to being, not doing.
1. Philippians 2:3. A Christian should esteem others better than himself.
 2. Philippians 2:4. A Christian should look on the things of others, not on his own things.
 3. Philippians 2:14-15. A Christian should shine as a light in the midst of this crooked nation.

CONCLUSION

It is very important that Christians have a burden for their earthly families and their relationship with God, but not to the exclusion of God's instruction and will. The Word of God must be the authority and the instruction guide. Christians should always treat their family members as Christ would treat them and not revert back to their old earthly, carnal nature. Real Christianity is from the heart and shows up first at home. Christians represent Christ everywhere they go and especially at home.