

The Next Steps



Kingdom Principles

2007 Edition

A 12-day Quiet Time following "The Gospel Series"



Teaching them to obey all things I have commanded you...

Matthew 28:20 NKJV



 **LONG ISLAND
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Lesson 1

Title: "The Word of God"

The Word of God is the source of faith. Romans 10:17 says faith comes from hearing the Word of God. It is also called the truth (John 17:17) that sets men free (John 8:32). It is known as the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17) by which we can protect ourselves against false teachers and deceptive teachings. The Bible also allows us to learn of the true God and His will for us.

I. Read 2Timothy 3:14-17

1. From verse 15, what are the Scriptures able to make us wise for? _____.
2. Therefore, if a person wants to learn of how to be truly saved in Christ, to where should they go?
_____.
3. From verse 16, how much Scripture is inspired (breathed) of God? _____.
4. Therefore, should a person accept and believe every verse in the Bible? _____.
5. From verse 16, what are the Scriptures useful for?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
6. From verse 17, what will the Scriptures be able to do for the man of God?
_____.

II. Read 2Peter 1:19-21

1. From verse 19, should one pay attention to what the Scriptures have to say? _____.
2. According to verse 20, did Scripture come by a person's own interpretation? _____.
3. Therefore, are the Scriptures subject to personal interpretation? _____.

III. Read John 12:48

1. What will Christ use to judge those who reject Him and His words? _____.
2. Will God use the Scriptures to judge those who reject what it says? _____.

IV. Read Hebrews 4:12

1. Is the word of God dead or alive? _____.
2. What is it sharper than? _____.
3. What is the word of God able to judge? _____.
4. If a person response negatively towards any of God's teachings, is that person a true believer? _____.

V. Read Acts 2:36-47

1. After hearing the Word of God through Peter, the apostle of Jesus Christ, did these people response in a positive fashion? _____.

VI. Read Acts 5:29-33

1. After hearing the Word of God through Peter, the apostle of Jesus Christ, did these people response in a positive fashion? _____.

VII. Read Luke 8:11-15

1. According to verse 15, what type of heart welcomes the Word of God? _____.

So as you can see, depending on the heart of a person, the word of God will either be welcomed or rejected. As Hebrews 4:12 says, the Word of God is able to judge the attitude of a person's heart.

VIII. Read Mark 7:1-9

1. Did Christ's followers follow man-made religious traditions? _____.
2. According to verses 8 and 9, what did these spiritual leaders do? _____.
3. According to verse 6 and 7, those who practice man-made religious rules worship God in _____.
4. Therefore, if a preacher preaches something that is not found in Scripture, should we believe him? ____.

IX. Read Acts 17:10-11

1. What did the people of Berea (the Bereans) do that was commendable? They eagerly accepted the message and they _____.
2. Therefore, should we test what spiritual leaders say with Scripture? _____.
3. How often did these Bereans examine the Scriptures? _____.

X. Read Psalm 119:11

1. Why should we hide the Word of God in our hearts? _____.

XI. Isaiah 66:2

1. Does God esteem those who tremble at His word? _____.
2. Therefore, should we have utmost respect for God's Word? _____.

XII. Read 2Kings 5:10-12

1. Did Naaman get mad when he heard the truth as to what he needed to do to be healed? _____.
2. Did Naaman question what God said? _____.

Naaman got upset because of his preconceived ideas regarding God's ways. Preconceived ideas are a barrier to truth. We must allow the Word of God to shape and correct our beliefs. For as we learned in 2Timothy 3:16, the Scriptures are useful for correction as well as for teaching.

What has the Lord taught you in this Bible lesson?

Lesson 2

Title: "Faith"

The term "faith" comes from the Greek word "pistis," which means "to trust" or "to believe." There is a difference between "believing in God" and "believing God." A person who BELIEVES IN God acknowledges His existence. A person who BELIEVES God accepts what God says without question, and carries out God's commands.

I. Read Romans 10:17

1. Where does faith come from? _____.
2. Therefore, can a person have true faith without being familiar with God's Word? _____.

II. Read James 1:21-22

1. Is hearing (or reading) the Word of God enough? _____.
2. What must one do? _____.
3. Therefore, if a person has true faith, he/she will _____.

III. Read Joshua 6:1-20 and Hebrews 11:30

1. Did the people BELIEVE God? _____.
2. How did they show their belief? _____.
3. Did the walls fall before or after they obeyed the Word of the Lord? _____.
4. According to Hebrews 11:30, did the walls fall because they had faith in what God said? _____.
5. Therefore, what is true faith? _____.

IV. Read Genesis 12:1-5 & Genesis 22:17-18

1. Did Abraham believe God? _____.
2. According to Genesis 22:17-18, why did God bless Abraham? _____.
3. Did Abraham merely hear the word of God OR did he obey the word of God? _____.

V. Read Genesis 22:1-14

1. Did Abraham believe God? _____.
2. What was he ready to do? _____.
3. Did Abraham question God's command? _____.
4. Did Abraham delay in obeying God's command? _____.
5. Is your faith like the faith of Abraham? _____.

Romans 4:12 says we are to follow in the steps of the faith of our father, Abraham. Anyone could say "Jesus is Lord," living it is another story (see Matthew 7:21-27).

VI. Read James 2:14-26

1. According to verses 21-23, when was Abraham considered righteous? _____.
2. Did Abraham BELIEVE God? _____.
3. Abraham was called a _____.
4. A person who hears and obeys God's Word is considered to be God's _____ (*see John 15:14*).
5. According to James 2:24, is a person justified by "faith alone?" _____.
6. Therefore, if a person says: "We are justified by faith alone," are they speaking the truth? _____.
7. According to verse 22, what is true faith? _____.
8. According to verse 26, faith without deeds is _____.

VII. Read Hebrews 5:9

1. Jesus saves those who _____.
2. Therefore, what does it mean to have faith in Christ? _____.

Faith comes from hearing the Word of God. True faith obeys God. Abraham believed God and obeyed God. Joshua believed God and obeyed God. A true believer will believe God's Word and obey God's Word.

What has the Lord taught you in this study?

Lesson 3

Title: “Grace”

The Greek word for “grace” is “*charis*,” which means, “*unmerited favor*.” A wage is something we earn; a gift is something we do not earn. Grace is the gift of God.

I. Read Romans 3:23 & Romans 6:23

1. According to Romans 3:23, who has sinned? _____.
2. According to Romans 6:23, the wages of sin is _____ but the gift of God is _____.
3. Since all have sinned, does anyone deserve salvation? _____.
4. Therefore, should anyone question God's plan of salvation, even if it goes against what they were taught? _____.

II. Read Ephesians 2:8-10

1. According to this passage, by what is one saved? _____.
2. According to the last part of verse 8, grace is the _____ of God.
3. Since grace comes through faith, and faith comes from hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17), and since James 1:22 tells us to obey the word, and not just hear it, therefore, in order to receive God's grace, we must _____ and _____ the word of God.
4. According to verse 10, for what are we created? _____.
5. Therefore, the grace of God leads us to do _____.

III. Read Titus 2:11-14

1. The grace of God teaches us to say no to _____.
2. The grace of God teaches us to _____.

IV. Read Jude 1:4

1. God will condemn those who change the grace of God into _____.
2. Therefore, does the grace of God promote sinful behavior? _____.

V. Read Romans 2:1-8

1. According to verse 4, God's kindness (grace) is supposed to lead men towards _____.
2. What is verse 6 saying to you? _____.
3. What is verse 7 saying to you? _____.

VI. Read 2Corinthians 6:1

1. Can the grace of God be received in vain? _____.
2. According to Jude 1:4, how can one receive God's grace in vain?
_____.
3. According to Hebrews 10:26-29, how can one receive God's grace in vain?
_____.

JUSTICE: Getting what we deserve!

We all deserve to be condemned to eternal hell. (Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23)

MERCY: Not getting what we deserve!

Because of God's mercy, He is willing to save us through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ! (1Corinthians 15:1-4)

GRACE: Getting what we do not deserve!

None of us deserve salvation. It is purely a gift. A gift to those who will receive it through faith! (Ephesians 2:8-9)

The grace of God comes through faith, which comes by hearing the Word of God. And what does the Word of God say? Jesus said...

1. Believe (John 3:16).
2. Repent (Luke 13:1-5).
3. Be not ashamed to confess Him before men (Matthew 10:32-33).
4. Be baptized (Mark 16:15-16).
5. Be faithful till death (Revelation 2:10).

Unfortunately, most people today want to hear “pretty words.” As ancient Israel told the prophets of old, many today say: “Speak to us pleasant words, Prophecy illusions!” (Isaiah 30:10 NASB). The sin of ancient Israel reigns today. For the Spirit warned in 2Timothy 4:3 that people will not put up with truth, but, instead, they will go to teachers that will tell them what they want to hear.

Seek truth, not “pretty words,” for Jesus said the truth will set us free (John 8:31-32).

Let us receive God's grace by His standards and let us allow His grace to instruct us to live a life that is holy and pleasing to Him!

What has the Lord taught you in this lesson?

Lesson 4

Title: “The Heart”

There are a lot of people in the world today who say we must judge things according to the feelings in our heart. They say “let your feelings be your guide.” They would have us judge someone as a very holy individual simply because that is the way they appear on the outside. There are people who believe their way is right simply because it seems to be right to them. Some would tell us that we must find our way from within ourselves. Are they right? Has God left us without a more specific guide? Is the heart to be trusted? Can we trust our feelings? What does the Bible say?

I. Read 1Samuel 16:6-7

1. Did Samuel judge Eliab to be God's anointed based on his appearance? _____.
2. Did God tell Samuel he shouldn't trust in outward appearances? _____.
3. Did God reject a person who appeared to be God's anointed? _____.
4. Does God look at people the way man does? _____.
5. What do people usually look at? _____.
6. What does God look at? _____.

II. Read Jeremiah 17:9, 10

1. How deceitful is the heart? _____.
2. Is the heart something good or wicked? _____.
3. Can a person understand the heart? _____.
4. Can we trust in something that is wicked? _____.
5. Who knows the heart of man? _____.
6. On what basis does God reward us? _____.
7. Therefore, does God reward us according to what feels right in our hearts? _____.

III. Read Jeremiah 13:1-10

1. From verse 10, what does God call people who walk in the stubbornness of their hearts? _____.
2. Are those who walk according to their hearts useful to God? _____.

IV. Read Jeremiah 10:23 & Proverbs 20:24

1. Can a man's way be found within himself? _____.
2. Who directs a man's steps? _____.

V. Read Proverbs 16:1-5

1. Are the plans of the heart from God or from man? _____.
2. Where do we get our answers from? _____.
3. What will happen to those who are proud in heart? _____.

VI. Read 2Kings 5:1-14

1. From verse 10, was Naaman told to do something very specific? _____.
2. Was Naaman very angry when he was told what to do in order to be healed by God? _____.
3. Did Naaman have his "own" thoughts on how God was going to heal him? _____.
4. Was Naaman healed prior to doing God's will? _____.
5. Therefore, must we do things God's Way in order to receive His blessings? _____.
6. When was Naaman finally healed? _____.
7. If Naaman would have gone to a different river, would he have been healed? _____.
8. If Naaman would have dipped 4 times, would he have been healed? _____.
9. Therefore, does a person have the right to change what God says in order to suit his or her own thoughts and beliefs? _____.
10. Should we, then, listen to the Word of God and not question it? _____.
11. What did this example teach you personally? _____.

VII. Read Isaiah 55:7-9

1. Is it necessary to us to forsake our ways and thoughts in order to receive mercy from God? _____.
2. Does God pardon freely those who forsake their own way? _____.
3. From verse 8, are our thoughts the same as God's thoughts? _____.
4. Are our ways the same as God's ways? _____.

VIII. Read Proverbs 28:26

1. What does God call those who trust in their heart? _____.
2. Who will be kept safe or delivered? _____.

IX. Read John 12:48

1. Will we be judged according to how sincere we were or by the Word of Christ? _____.

X. Read Proverbs 16:25

1. Can a man's way seem right to him? _____.
2. Can that way lead to death? _____.
3. Therefore, can a person who thinks he's doing right be actually doing wrong? _____.

XI. Read Galatians 1:13-15 & Acts 26:9-15

1. Was Paul a faithful follower of Judaism? _____.
2. Did Paul persecute the church of God and try to destroy it? _____.
3. Was Paul zealous for what he thought was right in God's sight? _____.
4. However, was Paul wrong in persecuting the Christians? _____.
5. Although Paul sincerely thought he was doing right, was he wrong in the sight of God? _____.
6. Was Paul actually persecuting God? _____.
7. Therefore, does being sincere automatically make you right with God? _____.

There is an old saying that says: "The road to hell is paved with good intentions."

XII. Read Luke 8:4-15

1. From verse 15, those with a noble (honest) and good heart will hear and retain the _____.

XIII. Read Hebrews 4:12

1. Is the Word of God able to judge the heart? _____.

A person who really loves the Word of God will accept what it says without fighting it and getting mad. How a person response to the Word of God determines whether or not they believe God.

The Bible clearly says that we are to love the Lord with all our hearts (Deut. 6:5). We are to trust God and His word “with our hearts,” and not put our trust “in our hearts.” It isn't 'in the heart' a man believes, resulting in righteousness; it is “with the heart” man believes, resulting in righteousness (Rom. 10:10).

What has the Lord taught you in this study?

Lesson 5

Title: “Discipleship”

The term “Christian/Christians” appears a total of three times in the New Testament. On the other hand, the term “Disciple/Disciples” appears over 270 times in the New Testament. A disciple “disciplines” himself/herself under the teachings of another. In this case, a disciple of Christ disciplines himself/herself under the teachings of Christ.

I. Read Acts 11:25-26

1. Which term is used mostly in the world today: Disciple or Christian? _____.
2. The disciples were first called _____ by the people of Antioch.
3. Since a disciple is a Christian and a Christian is a disciple, can a person be a true Christian and not be a disciple? _____.

II. Read Matthew 28:18-20

This passage is known as “The Great Commission.” In verse 19, the Greek word used there is “*methetes*,” which translates into the word “*disciple*.” Literally, Jesus is saying: “Go and disciple all nations...” A disciple is a student. In fact, the word “disciple” means “student.”

1. According to verse 19, Jesus wants everyone to become His _____.
2. According to verses 19-20, a disciple is made by:
 - a. _____ and
 - b. _____.

III. Read Mark 16:15-16

This is Mark's rendition of the Great Commission. This passage gives us greater detail as to what must be shared if one is to “go and make disciples.” In verse 15, the Greek word used there is “*euggalion*,” which translates into the word “good news” or “gospel.”

1. According to verse 15, what must be preached to all people? _____.
2. What do you think the Gospel (good news) is? _____.

IV. Read Luke 9:23-26

1. If anyone wishes to come after Jesus and be His true disciple, what three things must they must be willing to:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____.
2. What does “he must deny himself” mean? _____.
3. Therefore, a true disciple lives to please _____.
4. What does “he must take up his cross” mean? _____.
5. Is being a disciple more valuable than gaining all the riches of the world? _____.
6. If any one is ashamed to take about Jesus and His words, Jesus will be _____.

V. Read Matthew 7:21-27

1. If a person calls Jesus "Lord," does that automatically means he/she is saved? _____.
2. From verse 21, who will enter the kingdom of heaven? _____.
3. The wise will hear the word of God and _____.
4. The foolish will hear the word of God but _____.

VI. Read John 8:31-34

1. Jesus' true disciples are those who _____.
2. According to verse 32, if a person follows the word of God, he/she will know the _____.
3. The truth will set that person _____.

VII. Read 1John 2:4-6 (First John is near Revelation)

1. If a person claims to know Christ, yet does not do what He commands, that person is a _____ and _____.
2. According to verses 5 and 6, who are His true disciples? _____.

VIII. Read Luke 6:46

1. If a person is going to make Jesus "Lord" of his/her life, he/she must _____.

IX. Read Hebrews 5:9

1. Jesus saves those who _____.

X. Read Luke 14:25-34

The Greek word for "hate" is "*miseo*," which means "to love less." People tend to be influenced by those whom they love the most. Unfortunately, many people are influenced more by their family, friends, or preachers than the Word of God itself.

1. According to verse 26, must a disciple love Jesus more than his closest relationships? _____.
2. According to verse 33, must a disciple give up everything to follow Christ? _____.
3. Does Luke 14:26, 27 and 33 describe you? _____.

XI. Read Matthew 7:13-14 & Luke 13:23-24

1. How many will enter the gate to eternal life? _____.
2. Today, many preachers teach a watered-down message of salvation, but according to Jesus, is the road to eternal life easy? _____.
3. According to Jesus in Luke 13:24, what must a person do? _____.
4. Will many enter the narrow gate? _____.

Today, many, loosely, use the term “Christian.” However, Jesus calls those who wish to be saved to become His disciples. A disciple is one who is being disciplined under the teachings of Christ. A disciple's goal is to live for Jesus and to please Him (2Cor. 5:9-10; 1Peter 4:1-2) and teaches others to do the same (Matthew 28:19-20). True Bible Christianity is a cross-carrying, path of self-denial. Few seek to be disciples. Many people would rather hear lessons that are comfortable and less challenging. Paul said in 2Timothy 4:3 that in the last days, people will not put up with sound doctrine (teaching), but will seek teachers that will tell them what they want to hear. Seek the way of the Lord, not the way that is easy!

What has the Lord taught you in this study?

Lesson 6

Title: “The Gospel”

In Lesson One, “*The Word of God*,” we learned of the people of Berea (the Bereans) and how they searched the Scriptures daily to make sure what they were being taught was true (Acts 17:10-11). We must be like the Bereans and test everything we hear with Scripture. We also learned that true faith involves hearing, believing and obeying the Word of God. A person who has faith will readily accept what the Word says.

In Acts 8:12, Philip preached to the people regarding the good news of the Kingdom of God and the good news of Jesus Christ. In Lesson Eight, we will learn of the Kingdom of God, but first, let's start with the good news of Jesus Christ...

I. Read 1Corinthians 15:1-4

The word “*gospel*” comes from the Greek word “*euaggelion*,” which means, “*good news*.”

1. According to verses 3-4, what three events make up the gospel (good news)?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

II. Read 2Thessalonians 1:7-10

1. According to verse 8, when Jesus comes again, who will He punish? Those who do not know God and those who do not obey the what? _____

III. Read Mark 16:15-16

1. What did Jesus command His disciples to do? Go and preach the what? _____
2. According to verse 16, who will be saved? He who _____ and is _____
3. Therefore, how does one obey the gospel (good news)? _____

IV. Read Ephesians 1:7

1. What redeems us to God and forgives us of sin? _____.

Since Christ shed His blood at His death, let us see how we get into Christ and into His death...

V. Read Romans 6:3-4

1. According to verse 3, how does one get into Christ? _____.
2. The blood of Christ redeems us to God and forgives us of sin. Christ shed His blood at His death. According to verse 3, how does one get into Christ's death? _____
3. According to verse 4, a person is buried with Christ into His death through _____.
4. Afterwards, that person rises up from the waters of baptism to walk in _____.

Baptism is a burial, not a sprinkling or a pouring. True Bible baptism is when a person, who believes the good news (gospel), is buried in water.

VI. Read Colossians 2:11-12

1. According to verse 12, at what point does Jesus circumcise (cut away) a person's sins? When they are buried with Him in what? _____

It is good to note that most church groups today teach that a person comes into Christ and is circumcised by Him by praying Jesus into them. But as you can see, the Bible teaches differently.

VII. Read John 3:3-5

1. In order for a man to be born again, he must be born of _____ and _____ to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

VIII. Read Matthew 16:13-19

1. After Peter confessed Jesus as being the Christ, the Son of the Living God, what did Jesus give to Peter in verse 19? The keys of the _____
2. Generally speaking, what are “keys” used for? _____
3. Judging from John 3:5, the “keys to the kingdom” involves both _____ and _____.
4. Since Jesus gave Peter the “keys of the Kingdom,” who will be the first to tell people how to specifically enter the Kingdom? _____.

Let us see if the Bible is consistent...

IX. Read Acts 2:36-41

1. When the people wanted to be saved, what did Peter, the man given the keys of the Kingdom, tell them to do to be saved? _____ and be _____.
2. The word “repent” comes from the Greek word “*metanoeo*,” which means “*think differently*”” A change in mind leads to a change in action. Therefore, a person who truly repents will leave the life of sin and follow the ways of God. Peter then tells the people to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness (or remission) of sins (born of water) and they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (born of Spirit). Do you see the consistency between John 3:5, Matthew 16:19 and Acts 2:38? _____
3. According to this verse, give the two reasons why a person is to be baptized?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

Note: The reason why baptism is for the remission (forgiveness) of sins is because, as Colossians 2:11-12 indicates, Jesus circumcises a person when they are buried with Him in baptism.

4. Does Acts 2:38 say, “repent and be baptized as a public demonstration of faith?” _____.
5. Does Acts 2:38 say, “repent and be baptized as an outward sign of an inward grace?” _____.

NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES OF CONVERSIONS

Note: Asking Jesus to come into one's heart to be saved is commonly taught in most churches today. It is called the Sinner's Prayer. Is this what the Bible teaches? Let us see if it does...

X. Read Acts 8:12, Acts 8:26-38 & Acts 16:25-33

1. What did you notice in all these examples of conversions? What did they do immediately upon hearing and believing the gospel? _____
2. Did any of these examples show people saying a prayer, asking Jesus to come into their hearts? ____.
3. Do all these examples of conversions match up to what Jesus said in Mark 16:15-16? _____.

XI. Read Acts 19:1-5

1. After Paul explained the purpose of John's baptism, what did these do? _____.
2. Therefore, does it matter what baptism we receive? _____.
3. Acts 2:38 says be baptized for the remission (forgiveness) of sins. If a person was NOT baptized for the forgiveness of sins, should they get re-baptized as these in Acts 19:1-5 did? _____

XII. Read Matthew 4:3-9

Jesus used Scripture to refute Satan. The Word of God destroys the lies and “half truths” of Satan. In verses 6-7, Satan tried to use Scriptures against Scripture, causing Jesus to say, “Again, it is written...” or “it is ALSO written...” We must do the same. Whenever a person tries to use Scripture against Scripture, simply do what Jesus did and say, “It is also written...” then quote another passage, such as Acts 2:38 or Mark 16:16.

XIII. Read Acts 22:16

1. According to this verse, a person calls on the name of the Lord when they are _____.
2. What is the Lord telling you to do here? _____.

What has the Lord taught you in this Bible lesson?

For further information regarding baptism, go to the following Internet link: www.bebaptized.org

Lesson 7

Title: “Synecdoche”

Have you ever heard of the term “synecdoche” before? In fact, you are probably having a hard time pronouncing it. It is pronounced: “sin - neck - tah - key.”

Many of us may not be familiar with the term “synecdoche” but we use it often in the English language. A synecdoche is a figure of speech by which a part is used to represent the whole. For example: The phrase: “I like your new set of wheels” means “I like your new car” The “wheels” (the part) represent the car (the whole). The phrase: “Let's do a head count” means “Let's count the people.” The “head” (the part) represents the person (the whole).

The word of God uses synecdoches as well. When the New Testament writers speak of being saved by believing, they are using the term “believe” as a synecdoche – “believe” (the part) represents all of Jesus' teachings (the whole).

This lesson will be based off John 3:16, which says, “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*” (John 3:16 NASB)

John 3:16 is a “life-and-death” passage. A “life-and-death” passage is a passage that uses terms like “saved,” “damned,” “life,” “death,” “live,” “perish,” etc.

Main Text: “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*” (John 3:16 NASB)

I. Read Luke 13:1-5

1. According to Jesus, is repentance optional? _____.
2. From verses 3 and 5, if a person does not repent, he/she will _____.
3. Therefore, does “believing in Him” involve repentance? _____.
4. Therefore, if a “*life-and-death*” passage does not mention “repentance,” does that mean repentance is not essential to salvation? _____.
5. Therefore, to “*believe in Him*” involves repentance. Do you agree? _____.

II. Read Matthew 10:32-33

1. According to Jesus, is confession optional? _____.
2. If a person confesses Christ before men, He will confess that person before His _____.
3. If a person denies Christ before men, He will deny that person before His _____.
4. Therefore, if a “*life-and-death*” passage does not mention “confession,” does that mean confession is not essential to salvation? _____.
5. Therefore, to “*believe in Him*” involves confession. Do you agree? _____.

III. Read Mark 13:13 & Revelation 2:10

1. According to Jesus, is faithful-endurance optional? _____.
2. Those who remain faithful to Christ to the very end shall be _____.
3. Therefore, if a “*life-and-death*” passage does not mention faithful endurance, does that mean faithful endurance is not essential to salvation? _____.
4. Therefore, to “*believe in Him*” involves faithful endurance. Do you agree? _____.

IV. Read Mark 16:15-16

1. According to Jesus, is baptism optional? _____.
2. According to Jesus in verse 16, those who _____ and are _____ shall be _____.
3. Therefore, if a “*life-and-death*” passage does not mention baptism, does that mean baptism is not essential to salvation? _____.
4. Therefore, to “*believe in Him*” involves baptism. Do you agree? _____.

As you can see, the Bible uses synecdoches all the time. Unfortunately, many fall into the wrong conclusion that if a passage fails to mention a certain command, then that command is not essential to salvation. But as you can see, to “believe” means to accept and apply all the words of Jesus. Psalm 119:160 (NASB) says, “The sum of Your word is truth...” Every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God is true. A person cannot pick and choose what they want to believe. They must believe everything God has to say. A person must also realize that God's Word uses synecdoches. When the Bible speaks of “belief,” it is implied that repentance, confession, baptism and faithful endurance is included in “belief.”

What has the Lord taught you in this Bible lesson?

Lesson 8

Title: “The Kingdom”

In Matthew 6:33, Jesus tells His disciples to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. What is the Kingdom of God? Some say the Kingdom of God is Heaven, others say the Kingdom of God will be established when Jesus returns to set up an earthly throne, etc. Does the Bible give a definitive answer as to what the Kingdom of God is? Let us see...

OLD TESTAMENT PREDICTIONS of the KINGDOM

I. Read Isaiah 2:1-3

1. When will God establish His Mountain? _____.
2. Who will stream to His Mountain? _____.
3. According to verse 3, from what city will all this take place? _____.

II. Read Daniel 2:25-45

The prophet Daniel interprets king Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon.

1. According to verse 38, who is the head of gold? _____.

Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon. He represented the gold head of the statue. According to verses 39-40, the other elements (silver, etc.) were other kingdoms that were to come after his kingdom.

According to history, after Babylon, came the Medo-Persian Kingdom, followed by the Grecian kingdom, followed by the Roman Kingdom. The breakdown is as follows:

- a. Head of gold = Babylonian Kingdom (Nebuchadnezzar)*
- b. Arms and chest of silver = Medo-Persian Kingdom (Darius and Cyrus)*
- c. Thighs of bronze (brass) = Grecian Kingdom (Alexander the Great)*
- d. Legs of iron = Roman Kingdom (Caesars)*
- e. Feet and toes of iron and clay = The divided Roman Kingdom*

2. According to verses 35 and 44, the rock that became a huge mountain represents the _____ of God.
3. Therefore, the mountain spoken in Isaiah 2:2 was referring to the _____ of God.
4. According to verses 40-44, during the days of which kings will God set up His kingdom: Babylon (gold), Medo-Persia (silver), Greece (bronze/brass) or Rome (iron)? _____. (*Hint: Where did the rock strike?*)

III. Read Daniel 7:18

1. Who will possess the kingdom of God? _____.

NEW TESTAMENT PREDICTIONS of the KINGDOM

IV. Read Matthew 4:17

1. According to Jesus, what was at hand, in other words, what was near? _____.

Note: Jesus was preaching during the time when the kingdom of Rome (Iron) was in power. Daniel predicted that God would set up His Kingdom during the days of the "iron" or "Roman" kings.

V. Read Mark 9:1

1. According to Jesus, how was the kingdom going to come? _____.
2. Jesus said some of those standing there with Him (including His apostles) will not taste death until they see the kingdom come with power. In other words, the kingdom was going to come during the lifetime of His apostles. Do you see that from this passage? _____.

VI. Read John 3:3-5

1. According to verse 5, how is the kingdom to be entered? _____ and _____.

VII. Read Matthew 16:16-19

1. According to verse 19, what did Jesus give to Peter? _____.
2. What are keys for? _____.
3. Therefore, the "keys of the kingdom" allows a person to enter into the _____.

THE FULFILLMENT: THE KINGDOM COMES

VIII. Read Acts 2:1-4

1. The day of Pentecost had come. In Mark 9:1, Jesus said the kingdom was to come with power. Do you see a powerful event happening here in Acts 2:1-4? _____.

IX. Read Acts 2:5

1. Isaiah 2:2 spoke of all nations streaming to God's Mountain. According to Acts 2:5, who were present: devout men from where? _____.
2. Isaiah 2:3 spoke of God's Mountain (or Kingdom) originating from Jerusalem. According to Acts 2:5, from what city was this powerful event taking place? _____.

X. Read Acts 2:14-17

1. Jesus said in Mark 9:1 that some standing in His presence would see the kingdom come with power. We see here Peter and the 11 other apostles present during this powerful event. Do you see that from this passage? _____.
2. Isaiah 2:2 said God was going to establish His Mountain during the last days. According to verse 17, was this powerful event taking place in the last days? _____.

Note: The term “last days” is simply referring to the days of the New Testament. We have been in the last days since the start of the New Testament. This explains why passages like Hebrews 1:1-2 and James 5:1-3 refer to the current time as the “last days.”

XI. Read Acts 2:36-38

In John 3:5, Jesus said a man must be born of water and Spirit to enter the kingdom and in Matthew 16:16-19, Jesus gave Peter the keys of the Kingdom.

1. Peter, the man given the “keys of the kingdom” tells the people to repent and be _____ (born of water), and they will receive the gift of the _____ (born of Spirit).

XII. Read Colossians 1:13-14

1. Paul told the Colossian church that they had been rescued from the dominion of darkness and brought into the _____.
2. Therefore, those in the church are in presently in the _____.
3. Therefore, the church is the _____.

XIII. Read Romans 1:7, Ephesians 1:1 & Philippians 1:1

1. Daniel 7:18 says the saints will possess the kingdom of God. The letters of Romans, Ephesians and Philippians were written to churches. What were these church members addressed as? _____.

XIV. Read Acts 2:42

1. Those in the Kingdom devote themselves to:
 - a. _____,
 - b. _____,
 - c. _____,
 - d. _____.

XV. Read Matthew 6:33

1. What must a true disciple of Jesus seek first? _____.

The Kingdom of God is the Church. Those who are born of water and Spirit have entered into the Kingdom (John 3:5; Acts 2:38). The Kingdom of God is not a physical, man-made kingdom like that of Babylon or Rome; it is a spiritual kingdom (John 18:36) where Jesus is King, Christians are His subjects, and the Word of God is the governing law. Those in Christ are called “saints” (Romans 1:7) and the Kingdom belongs to them (Daniel 7:18).

What has the Lord taught you in this Bible lesson?

Lesson 9

Title: “The Church” (Part 1)

In the Kingdom study, we learned that the Kingdom of God is the Church. Jesus said the Kingdom is entered by water and Spirit (John 3:5). There are many churches claiming to be the church of the Bible. Yet, many of churches today teach different things and often oppose each other. How can we recognize the church that truly goes by the Bible? This study will help answer that question...

I. Read Colossians 1:18

1. According to this passage, who is the Head of the Church? _____.
2. And the Church is Jesus' _____.

II. Read Ephesians 4:4

1. How many bodies (churches) are there? _____.
2. Therefore, how many churches did Jesus establish? _____.
3. Yet, how many conflicting denominations and church groups are there today? _____.

III. Read 1Corinthians 12:20-27

1. According to verse 27, is the Body of Christ made up of individual people or conflicting denominations? _____.

IDENTIFYING THE CHURCH OF THE BIBLE

IV. Read Acts 2:37-41

1. According to verse 38, what must one do in order to receive the forgiveness (remission) of sin and the gift of the Holy Spirit? A person must _____ and be _____.
2. If a church group teaches differently than what we see in Acts 2:38 in terms of how one is to be saved, are they the true Body of Christ? _____.

V. Read Mark 16:15-16

1. According to Jesus in verse 16, those who believe the good news (gospel) and are _____ will be saved.
2. If a church teaches differently than what Jesus said in verse 16, are they the true Body of Christ? _____.

VI. Read 1John 4:1 (First John is near Revelation)

1. Should we believe every spirit (preacher/pastor)? _____.
2. Should we test every spirit? _____.
3. Why should we test every spirit? _____.

VII. Read Romans 16:17

1. Should we keep away from those who teach things that are not in harmony with Scriptures? _____.

VIII. Read Matthew 15:13-14

1. What do you think Jesus meant by the term “plant”? _____.
2. What will happen to those "plants" that God, the Father, has not planted? _____.
3. What happens if the blind follow the blind (false teachers)? _____.

THE WORSHIP PATTERN OF THE CHURCH

IX. The Lord’s Supper (Communion)

1. Read Corinthians 11:23-26

- a. What does the bread represent? _____
- b. What does the drink represent? _____
- c. Each time we take the Lord’s Supper, who do we remember? (vv. 24-25) _____
- d. Each time we take the Lord’s Supper, what are we proclaiming? (vs. 26) _____

2. Read Acts 20:7

- a. How often did they break bread (take the Lord’s Supper)? _____
- b. Therefore, how often does the Church of the Bible take the Lord’s Supper? _____

X. Music

1. Read Ephesians 5:19

- a. What was each member of the Church of the Bible commanded to do? _____

2. Read Colossians 3:16

- a. The songs of the Church of the Bible should be designed to _____ and _____

3. Read Hebrews 2:12

- a. How do members of the Church of the Bible declare praises to God? _____

4. Read James 5:13

- a. What is singing a sign of? _____

Each of these passages speaks of singing. This is why the Church of the Bible does not use musical instruments in the worship assemblies. As Ephesians 5:19 states, each member is commanded to sing and make melody with their hearts to God.

XI. Other Forms of Worship

1. The reading and teaching of God’s Word (1Timothy 4:13)
2. Prayer (1Timothy 2:1-2)
3. Financial Giving (1Corinthians 16:1-2)
 - a. Giving is considered an offering to God (Philippians 4:15-18)
 - b. Giving should be done cheerfully and willingly (2Corinthians 9:7)

Many claim to follow the Bible. However, God tells us in 1John 4:1 to test the spirits because many false prophets (preachers) have gone into the world. If what we are taught does not match the Scriptures, we must stay away from such teachers.

What has the Lord taught you in this Bible lesson?

Lesson 10

Title: “The Church” (Part 2)

In Lesson Nine, “*The Church (Part 1)*,” we learned about the Church being the Body of Christ, of which, Christ is head (Col. 1:18). We also learned that Christ established one church (Ephesians 4:4), and that all true Christians are members of that one church (1Cor. 12:27). We also learned that the church established by Jesus teaches that a lost sinner receives forgiveness of sins in Christ when he or she repents (i.e., changes his/her mind) and is baptized (Acts 2:38). Let's take a look at other aspects of the church of the Bible...

I. Read Acts 2:42-47

a. What 4 things do the members of the Church of the Bible devote themselves to?

1. _____ (Bible study).
2. _____ (gathering of disciples).
3. _____ (the Lord's Supper).
4. _____ (speaking to God).

b. According to Acts 2:44-47, do the members of the Church of the Bible help, care and treat each other like family? _____

II. Read Hebrews 10:24-25

a. According to verse 24, what should the members of the Church of the Bible encourage each other to do? _____

b. According to verse 25, should we get into the habit of missing church services? _____

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

III. Read Ephesians 4:11-12

1. According to Ephesians 4:11, what 5 offices did God give to the Church?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

IV. Read 1Timothy 3:8

1. According to this passage, what's another office of the Church? _____
2. Did the Bible mention anything about the office of Reverend? _____
3. Did the Bible mention anything about the office of Father? (*See Matthew 23:9*) _____
4. Did the Bible mention anything about the office of Pope? _____
5. Did the Bible mention anything about the office of Senior Pastor? _____
6. Did the Bible mention anything about the office of Junior or Youth Pastor? _____

V. Read 1Timothy 2:11-12 & 1Corinthians 14:34

1. According to these passages, are women allowed to speak in the churches? _____
2. Therefore, are women allowed to be preachers or pastors in the churches? _____
3. If a group teaches that it is OK for women to speak in the church, are they a true Body of Christ?

NAMES USED TO DESCRIBE THE CHURCH

VI. Read 1Corinthians 12:27

1. What is the Church called here? _____

VII. Read 1Corinthians 1:2

1. What is the Church called here? _____

VIII. Read Romans 16:16

1. What is the Church called here? _____

There are thousands of churches today, each claiming to follow the Bible. But the only way to identify the Church of the Bible is to ask questions like: "How is one saved?"; "Do you take the Lord's Supper each Sunday?"; "Do you believe women can be preachers in the church?" etc. We are called to test the spirits because many false prophets have gone into the world (1John 4:1). If it doesn't match up with Scripture, then it is not the church of the Bible. The Church of Christ is a church whose desire is to simply go by the Bible alone. We are simply Christians and Christians alone. Our desire is to be simply disciples of Christ. Our goal is to speak where the Bible speaks and to be silent where the Bible is silent. Why not visit the church of Christ in your area?

Simply click on the blue link below and in the rectangle, type in your home town followed by a comma (,) and your state initials. For example, "Chicago, IL" or plug in your zip code in the rectangle provided. A list will appear of all the churches of Christ in your area. Call the church and speak to the preacher or elder or teacher there and ask the following questions to make sure they are teaching truth:

1. What must one do to be saved? Compare his answer to Acts 2:38 and Mark 16:16.
2. Do you take the Lord's Supper each first day of the week? Compare his answer to Acts 20:7.
3. Do you sing a cappella (pronounced 'ah-cah-pel-lah' which means, 'without instruments') or do you use musical instruments in the Church? Compare his answer to Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16.
4. Do you allow women to teach and preach at church services? Compare his answer to 1Timothy 2:11-12.

If all four answers line up with the Scriptures provided, then go and visit.

Go to this link to locate a church of Christ near you: www.churchzip.com

What has the Lord taught you in this Bible lesson?

Lesson 11

Title: “Identifying False Teachers”

In Matthew 7:15-16 (NASB), Jesus warned, “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they?”

What are the fruits that Jesus speaks of by which we may identify false prophets? Matthew 7 doesn't tell us what the fruit is, but Luke does. In Luke 6:44-45 NASB, it says: “For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush. The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.” The fruit of the false teachers is revealed by what he teaches.

False teachers dress themselves as “ministers of righteousness” (2Cor. 11:14-15). They claim to be followers of Jesus; they sing songs of praises to God; they profess to be Christians; with their mouths they say: “Jesus is Lord!” (See Matthew 7:21-23); they even claim to believe and follow the Bible. They can be sincere, well-liked, friendly, social and even fun to be with. However, the more you study the Word of God, the more the Lord's Word will give you insight into how to recognize the “wolves in sheep's clothing.”

I. Read 1Timothy 4:1-2

1. This passage is dealing with the future state of Christianity. From verse 1, what will happen in later times?
 - a. People will _____ the faith.
 - b. They will pay attention to _____.
2. What does the term “hypocrite” mean? _____.
3. From verse 2, such “teachers” are hypocrites and _____.
4. These “teachers” have consciences that have been _____.

II. Read Luke 6:26

1. What's an identifying mark of false teachers? _____.
2. Do they tend to be popular? _____.
3. Are they likely to have a large following? _____.

III. Read 2Timothy 4:3

1. Why do people tend to flock to such “teachers”? _____.

IV. Read Romans 16:17-18

1. According to verse 17, should one keep away from false teachers? _____.
2. According to verse 18, how do false teachers deceive people?
_____.
3. Therefore, false teachers love to spend time talking about things that are _____ to the ears.
4. Although these “teachers” may “appear” to be serving Christ, according to verse 18, they are really serving their _____.

V. Read 2John 1:9-11 (Second John is near Revelation)

In Lesson One, “*The Word of God*,” we learned of the importance of the Word of God. The Holy Scriptures contain the “teaching” or “doctrine” of Christ. We learned in Lesson Five, “*Discipleship*,” that those who continue to abide by the teachings of Christ are true disciples (John 8:31).

1. Do false teachers stray from the teaching of Christ? _____.
2. Should we welcome such “teachers” into our homes? _____.
3. According to verse 11, if we welcome such teachers, then we are _____.
4. Let's take a look at an example of Christ's teachings: Read Mark 16:15-16.
 - a. According to Jesus in Mark 16:16, who will be saved? He who _____ and is _____.
 - b. If a teacher teaches differently from what Jesus said in Mark 16:16, is he abiding in the teaching of Christ? _____.

VI. Read Matthew 24:24

1. Will there be false teachers that will be able to do great signs and wonders to deceive people? _____.
(See Matthew 7:21-23)

VII. Read 2Peter 2:1-3

1. According to verse 3, what do false teachers do to others? _____.

VIII. Read Jude 1:4

1. According to this passage, false teachers turn the grace of God into _____.

IX. Read Matthew 4:3-9

1. False teachers are influenced by Satan. Jesus refuted Satan by using the Scriptures. We must learn from the Master. What did Jesus use to refute Satan? _____.
2. From verses 6 and 7, did Satan try to use Scripture against Scripture to establish a false teaching? ____.

False teaches, like Satan, do the same. They use passages to reject passages. For example: they will set John 3:16 against Mark 16:16. They will run to Romans 10:9 and run away from Acts 2:38. They will show you Ephesians 2:8, yet deny Acts 22:16. Psalm 119:160 (NASB) says, “The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.” Every word that comes out of God's mouth is true.

False teachers are men-pleasers (Galatians 1:10; 1 Thess. 2:1-4). They preach more to please the ear than to profit the soul: “Who say to the seers, 'You must not see visions'; and to the prophets, 'You must not prophesy to us what is right; Speak to us pleasant words. Prophecy illusions’” (Isaiah 30:10 NASB). “An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule on their own authority; and My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it?” (Jeremiah 5:30-31 NASB). False teachers are hell's greatest enrichers. Such smooth talkers are sweet soul-poisoners.

What has the Lord taught you in this Bible lesson?

Lesson 12

Title: “Judgment Day”

The Bible says God “...has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead” (Acts 17:31 NASB). The Bible goes on to say that “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2Corinthians 5:10 NASB).

What does the Bible say regarding the fate of those who do not follow Christ? What will happen to those who do not believe? What will the outcome be for those who have given up on Christ or have lived in hypocrisy?

I. Read 2Thessalonians 1:5-10

1. According to verse 8, when Jesus returns, who will He punish? Those who _____ and those who _____.
2. According to verse 9, these will be punished with _____.
3. In Lesson Six, “*The Gospel*,” we learned that the gospel is the good news of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (1Corinthians 15:1-4). According to Mark 16:15-16 and Romans 6:3-4, how does one obey the gospel? _____.

II. Read Ephesians 5:5-6

Keep in mind that this passage is addressing the believers.

1. According to verse 5, what will happen to those "believers" who live in such a manner? _____.
2. From verse 6, must we be careful not to be taken by the smooth talk of false teachers who try to say there is no danger in practicing these things as a Christian? _____.
Note: We learned in Lesson Ten that false teachers turn the grace of God into a license for immorality.
3. According to verse 6, the wrath of God will fall on the _____.

III. Read Hebrews 10:26-29

This passage uses the “we” pronoun. It is addressing the believers, not those outside of Christ.

1. According to verse 26, what will happen if a believer continues to willfully and deliberately sin? _____.
2. According to verse 29, what are those who continue to willfully sin doing? _____.
3. According to verse 27, what will happen to such people? _____.

IV. Read Matthew 25:31-46

1. According to verses 34-40, the “sheep” are the righteous ones who _____, _____, _____, _____, _____ and _____ the brothers and sisters of Christ.
2. Therefore, whatever a person does to any of Christ's true followers, they are doing it to _____.
3. Who are the “goats?” _____.
4. According to verse 46, the “goats” will go into _____ while the “sheep” will go into _____.

V. Read Matthew 7:21-27

There are many people who call Jesus “Lord.” Here, Jesus gives us a picture of what will happen at Judgment Day.

1. According verses 21-23, why were these souls denied access into Heaven? _____.
2. Therefore, who will enter the kingdom of Heaven? _____.

VI. Read John 15:1-9

1. According verses 2-6, what will happen to the fruitless disciple? _____.
2. According verse 9, what is the sign of a true disciple? _____.

VII. Read Romans 2:7-8

1. To whom will God grant eternal life? _____.
2. Who will suffer wrath? _____.

VIII. Read Revelation 20:13-15 (cf. Romans 2:6)

1. From Revelation 20:13, how will people be judged? _____.

IX. Read Revelation 21:8

1. What will happen to those who live in such a way? _____.

X. Read James 1:12

1. According to this passage, those who make it through the trials will _____.

There is an old hymn that goes like this: "Judgment is surely coming, coming to you and me, we will be judged that morning for all eternity; some will go into Heaven, others will be denied; will you be in that number standing outside?"

Unbelief, ungodliness, hypocrisy and unfruitfulness -- if not truly repented of -- will cause a soul to be denied by the Lord. So let us do as Jesus said and “*strive to enter by the narrow door for many...will seek to enter and will not be able.*” (Luke 13:24 NASB)

What has the Lord taught you in this Bible lesson?