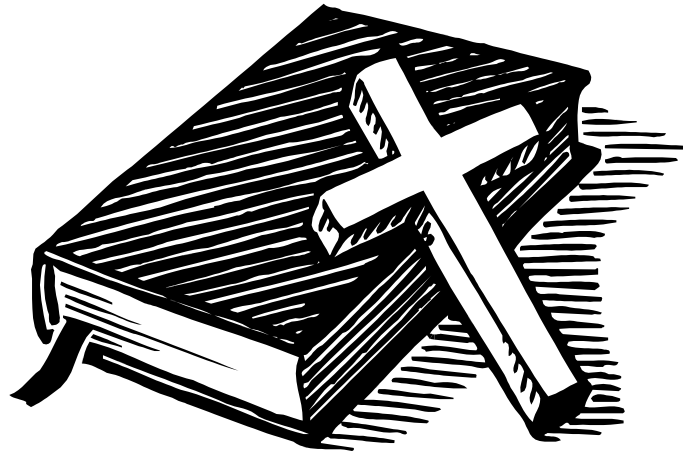


# **Steps To Christian Maturity**



**New Life Bible  
Baptist Church**

# BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP

## *INTRODUCTION*

You are beginning your new life in Christ, and it is our desire here at New Life Bible Baptist Church to help you grow into full Christian maturity. Our prayer is that through this study you will grow in your knowledge of God and the Bible. You will draw closer to God in your new relationship with Him, and enjoy intimate fellowship with Him, as God The Holy Spirit leads and directs in your life. It is a wonderful journey, and blessings await those who will take it seriously and truly receive His Word, Keep His Word, and Live His Word.

By accepting Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior, you have made the most significant decision you could ever make during your lifetime. Instead of being destined for hell, you will now spend eternity with the Lord Jesus Christ. No longer living life in vain, now you have a reason to live life with eternal results. The emptiness inside has been filled by Him.

The devil also knows of your new life in Jesus Christ. His desire for you to reject God's salvation is no longer in effect. However, he will now exert every effort to keep you from growing close to God and fulfilling God's plan for your life.

The steps to maturity will not come overnight. But just as a baby learns to turn over, crawl, walk and then run, so you too can mature in your walk with God. The amount of time you spend studying this program, the greater your opportunity for success in life. The program will help you communicate with God; understand the Christian life (walk); and understand your role in God's plan. Enjoy it, and please give us a call at 734-484-4463, or e-mail at [nlbbcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:nlbbcpastor@gmail.com) if you have any questions or comments.

Whether you just got saved or have been a Christian for years, understanding these principles will help establish a solid foundation in your life whereby you can learn to enjoy a victorious life in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Following each lesson, you should go to the workbook and answer the questions under each specific book. All of the answers are found in the lesson. If you are doing this with a mentor, turn the answers into your mentor for discussion. If you are doing it alone, you can give them to the Pastor.

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# Salvation

*“What Happened When I Got Saved  
And  
What is My Relationship to God?”*

## Introduction

Throughout history, God has given every individual a chance to accept His eternal plan of salvation (2 Peter 3:9; Romans 10:13). Sadly, most people have rejected it and will suffer forever in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10-15).

Your decision to trust in Christ saves you from eternal damnation and separation from God. You are now destined to a life now and forever spent with the Lord Jesus Christ. No longer living life in vain, now you have a reason to live life with eternal results. The emptiness inside has been filled by Him.

Your decision to trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior is the greatest decision you could ever make. Read Romans 10:9-10 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. However, it is very unlikely that you understand the true significance of what has happened in your life.

The purpose of this lesson is to explain briefly what took place and how your decision has affected your basic relationship to God.

- I. There are only two spiritual families in the world.
  - A. The devil's family
    1. John 8:44 speaks of a group of people who are “of their ***father*** the devil.” – See John 8:38
    2. You enter this family by birth through your physical father, who is ultimately a descendent of Adam. Genesis 5:3 shows that the descendent of Adam are born in Adam's image and likeness, which is that of a fallen sinner (Genesis 3)
    3. You inherited your sin nature from your father Adam. Roman's 5:12 states, “*Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*”

- 4 Romans 5:12 also states that as a result of your sin you were sentenced to die.
  - a. Romans 6:23: *“The wages of sin is death...”*
  - b. I Corinthians 15:22: *“...In Adam all die...”*

B. God’s Family

1. John 1:12 -13 says, *“But as many as received him (that is your decision to trust Jesus Christ as your Savior), to them gave he power to become the sons of God, (your entrance into the God’s family), even to them that believe on His name: which were **born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man (it is not a physical birth). But **of God**”* (it is a spiritual birth).
1. You also enter God’s family by birth, but it is a spiritual birth by your Heavenly Father. John 3:3 states, *“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*
2. This new birth puts you into God’s family in exactly the same way your physical birth puts you into your father’s family. You are now a son of God **by birth**.
3. As a result of your new birth, you have inherited God’s divine nature, and you now have eternal life.
  - a. John 6:47: *“He that believeth on me hath (present tense) everlasting life.”*
  - b. John 3:36: *“He that believed on the Son hath (present tense) everlasting life...”*
  - c. I John 5:12: *“He that hath the Son hat (present tense) life...”*  
(Read 1 John 5:11-13)

II. Being in God’s family separates (called sanctification) you from the devil’s family.

- A. Your body is now the temple of the Holy Ghost. God’s Holy Spirit lives inside you. I Corinthians 6:19; John 17:16-17
- B. II Corinthians 6:14-18 commands the believer to maintain a difference between himself and the unsaved. The “yoke” was placed on oxen when plowing to keep them plowing at the same speed and direction. It made two oxen work as one. Your friends should be those with the same Biblical beliefs and values as you.

- C. The new life is perfectly summarized for you in II Corinthians 5:17-18, *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ...”*

III. What is my relationship with God now?

- A. He is your Heavenly Father, and you are his child. I John 2:1 says, *“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”*
- B. Now that you are saved, God no longer deals with you as a sinner. He deals with you as a son. John 1:12; Galatians 3:26; Romans 8:14, 17

- C. That relationship is pictured by the earthly relationship between a father and his son.

1. A good father loves and cares for his son -- 1 Peter 5:7
2. A good father protects his son -- Matthew 18:6
3. A good father provides for his son -- Philippians 4:19
4. A good father guides and teaches his son -- John 14:26
5. A good father helps his son -- Psalm 46:1
6. A good father encourages his son -- Philippians 4:13
7. A good father disciplines his son -- Hebrews 12:5-11
8. A good father feeds his son -- Matthew 4:4
9. A good father has a plan for his son -- Romans 8:28-29

- D. A good father will **NEVER** do anything to purposely hurt his son. He will only do those things which will help him grow and mature into the young man he wants him to be. Your Heavenly Father operates the same way, only His ways are perfect. Unlike earthly fathers who sometimes err, God never makes a mistake in His dealings with His sons.

Matthew 7:11: *“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”*

IV. You did not lose your physical nature at the time of your spiritual birth.

- A. That is obvious because you are still alive! Romans 7:15-25; 1 John 3:9
- B. You now have two natures.
  1. Old nature- physical, sinful, in Adam’s image.
  2. New nature- spiritual, perfect in God’s image.
- C. Both natures are present constantly. The one that will control you is the one you feed the most.
  1. Colossians 3:5-10

2. II Corinthians 4:14-18

V. Basic questions

A. Will I sin after I am saved?

Yes, you still have your old nature -- Romans 7:25

B. How does my sin affect my relationship with my father?

God does not kick you out of his family. When you sin, He disciplines you as a son -- Hebrews 12:5-11

C. What I do when I sin?

Confess it and trust that the blood of Jesus Christ will cleanse you -- I John 1:6-10; Proverbs 28:13

Key memory verses:

Romans 5:12; John 3:3; I John 1:9

NOTE: In many churches today, some particular teaching are:

1. All mankind is part of one large family of God.
2. All mankind must earn their way to heaven.
3. All mankind can get to heaven through anyway they choose
4. If there is such a thing as sin, it must be confessed to another man or a church leader

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

GO TO THE WORKBOOK AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS UNDER "SALVATION"

## ETERNAL SECURITY

*“Now That I Am Saved,  
Can I Ever Lose My Salvation?”*

Now that you have settled the question of salvation as the Bible declares it – by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5) – it is imperative that you understand how that decision has affected your entire life.

In lesson one; we learned that there are only two spiritual families on this earth – God’s and the Devil’s. We learned that we were born into the Devil’s family at the time of our physical birth, and we are born into God’s family at the time when we received Jesus Christ as our Savior (John 1:12-13). In this lesson we will discuss the state of the new believer in God’s family, and from the Biblical facts, we will settle the question of the eternal security of the Christian

- I. Study the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself on this subject.
  - A. Jesus Christ Promises that, “...*him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*” (John 6:37). God will not cast you out of his family under any circumstances.
  - B. John 10:27-29 makes it clear that no man can cause you to lose your salvation, because God your Father is greater than all men; therefore, no man is able to pluck you out of His hand.
- II. Okay, God will not cast me out, and no man can pluck me out of His hand. What about myself? Can I do something to lose my salvation?
  - A. Salvation is by grace through faith, and not by works. It is a GIFT from GOD. NO man can lose his salvation on his own, because no man earned his salvation. Ephesians 2:8-9
  - B. Galatians 3:10 and James 2:10 tell us if we had to do anything to earn or keep salvation, we would lose it easily. Yet, II Timothy 1:12 assures us it is Jesus Christ who keeps us –not we ourselves.
  - C. Galatians 2:21 states clearly that if we could become righteous by anything we do then Jesus Christ’s death was a waste.
- III. Okay, God will not cast me out, no man can cause me to lose my salvation, and I cannot lose it myself; but is there anything else that can cause me to lose my salvation?

NO! Romans 8:38-39 says, “*For I am persuaded that neither:*”

  - A. “*Death*” – you cannot lose it when you die.
  - B. “*Life*” – you cannot lose it when you are alive.
  - C. “*Angels*” – they cannot take it from you.



- D. *“Principalities”* – the government cannot take it from you.
- E. *“Powers”* – the devil cannot cause you to lose it.
- F. *“Things present”* – nothing happening right now can take it away.
- G. *“Things to come”* – nothing in the future can make you lose it.
- H. *“Height”* – nothing above you.
- I. *“Depth”* - nothing below you.
- J. *“NOR ANY OTHER CREATURE shall be able to separate Us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

IV. Why is this?

- A. Because your relationship with God is not a father/son relationship by birth --John 1:12-13
- B. When you were born physically, there was a record made of your birth called a birth certificate. When you were born again, a record was made -- I John 5:11-13
- C. Your birth certificate was marked with a seal. Your spiritual birth is sealed by the Holy Spirit of God -- Ephesians 1:13; 4:30. You were redeemed, which is deliverance by payment of a price (the blood of Christ at Calvary\_ -- 1 Peter 1:18-19
- D. You will be your father’s son for eternity because you were born of his seed. You could leave the country, disown each other, change your name, and never see him, hear from him, or even think about him for the rest of your life; but it will never change the fact that he is your father. The same is true of your Heavenly Father. You can die, but you can never be unborn. Your birth is fixed forever, both physically and spiritually, and even God Himself will not change that fact. You are now His Ambassador, representing His Kingdom on earth – II Corinthians 5:20

V. Basic questions.

- A. How can I know for sure that I am saved?  
The epistle of I John is written for this purpose. I John 5:13 says, *“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that he have eternal life...”* As a new Christian, I John should be a primary focal point to help you grow.

- B. What if I do not feel saved? – Colossians 2:6, 13; Matthew 26:28
1. Your salvation is not based on feelings. It is based upon the truth of the Word of God
    - a. I John 3:20 says, *“For if our heart condemns us (we think or feel unsaved) God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.”* God knows if you are saved, even if you do not know.
    - b. Titus 1:2 says, *“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.”*
  2. **JUST BELIEVE WHAT GOD HAS SAID!**  
I John 2:25
- C. Why might I doubt my salvation?
1. Many people have a natural weakness in the areas of fear and doubt. It is natural, then, that this would have an effect in the area of eternal security. It is necessary for people in this group to work on these areas and to have victory through faith in the Word of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember, God has not given us the spirit of fear – II Timothy 1:7
  2. Many people experience doubts concerning their salvation because of unconfessed sin in their life. Sin affects our fellowship with God (not our relationship which is permanent by the second birth). When we keep confessed sin in our life, we no longer feel God’s presence in our life, and it is easy to misconstrue this as having lost our salvation. God is still our Father, but HE is displeased with our sin. Revelations 3:19 says that God chastens His children who continue in sin. But they are still His children. We must keep our sins confessed to God and our heart right before God to ensure having God’s in our heart concerning salvation.
- D. Is salvation a license to sin?
- ABSOLUTELY NOT!** Being secure in our salvation does not mean that we can sin if we want to. The Apostle Paul answers this in Romans 6:1-2. *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”* Remember, when we are saved, we receive a new nature (II Corinthians 5:17) It should not be our desire to sin, but to serve the Lord with purity of heart.

Key Memory Verses:

Ephesians 2:8-9; I John 2:25; I John 5:13

NOTE: In many churches today, some popular teachings are:

1. We must work to keep our salvation.
2. If we sin after we are born again, we can lose our salvation.
3. God punishes His children according to His own whim and pleasure.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

GO TO THE WORKBOOK AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS UNDER “ETERNAL SECURITY”

# BAPTISM

*“Now that I am Saved,  
Where do I start?”*

Virtually every religious denomination in existence teaches some form of baptism as part of their doctrine, and the diversities in their teachings are wide. This has caused much confusion, even among those who say they believe the Bible. This lesson is intended to give you the Bible’s clear and definite teaching on the subject so that you understand perfectly what God’s intention is regarding baptism.

- I. Why does God instruct us to be baptized?
  - A. Baptism is the first act of obedience in service to the Lord. Anyone can be baptized; it takes no special talents or efforts. God will not bless your life fully until you take this first step of obedience. He is waiting to see if you will submit to Him.
  - B. Jesus set the example Himself by submitting to baptism before He began His public ministry. Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22
  - C. In Matthew 3:13-15, it is clear that Jesus was baptized in obedience to God’s plan. In verse 15, he said, “...*Suffer (allow) it to be so now: for thus is becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.*” This point of submission and obedience is the single most important thing to realize regarding baptism.
  - D. Other Bible characters who submitted to baptism after salvation
    1. Ethiopian eunuch. Acts 8:36-39 (note: These were all saved first, then baptized. Verse 37 is missing in many false Bibles)
    2. The apostle Paul. Acts 9:18
    3. The Philippians jailer and his house. Acts 16:25-33
- II. What is the purpose of baptism?
  - A. Several realms of baptism are mentioned in the Bible. In each case, physical baptism is a picture of a spiritual truth. The important point to consider is the picture portrayed by baptism.
  - B. Romans 6:1-7 (specifically verses 3-4) shows the two purposes of baptism.
    1. It pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
    3. It is public testimony of the new convert’s indemnification with Jesus Christ through the death, burial, and resurrection, which is how he was saved. It identifies him with the Lord Jesus Christ.
    4. In New Testament times a person risked all, including their life, for being baptized and identifying with Jesus.

- III. Who should be baptized?
- A. The clearest case of an individual's baptism in the Bible is the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26-39. In verse 39, the eunuch asked, "...*what doth hinder me to be baptized?*" Phillip then answered with the condition of baptism in verse 37, "...*I believest with all thine heart thou mayest.*" Then the eunuch's response sealed the matter. "...*I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*"
  - B. The only requirements for baptism are the requirements for salvation found in Romans 10:9-10
    - 1. Heart belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
    - 2. Confession that He is Lord and Savior
  - C. There are NO cases of baptism in the Bible of anyone but believers.
  - D. Some other instances of baptism immediately after salvation include:
    - 1. Acts 8:12
    - 2. Acts 18:8
- IV. What is the method of baptism?
- A. The meaning of the Biblical word "*baptize*" is to completely immerse or dip.
  - B. Acts 8:26-39 gives the cleanest example. In verses 38-39, BOTH Phillip and the Ethiopian eunuch went down into the water and came up out of the water.
  - C. In Matthew 3:16, Jesus was baptized in the same manner
  - D. As seen previously, baptism is a picture of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. The only way to bury someone is to put them completely underground. The Biblical method of baptism is complete immersion. No one in the Bible was ever sprinkled because no one can be buried by sprinkling dirt on them.
- V. How important is it to be baptized?
- A. It is NOT essential for salvation. Ephesians 2:8-9 makes it clear that man is saved by grace through faith without works, including baptism.
  - B. It IS *essential* for service and spiritual growth. Matthew 28:19-20 (the "Great Commission") proves it is essential. Baptism is an integral part of the Great Commission and precedes teaching.
  - C. Before anyone can be taught to follow Jesus Christ, they must be willing to submit to the first act of obedience. If a person refuses to obey the Lord in the first point, he will not obey in the future points. Matthew 3:13-15

VI. Basic questions.

A. Where should I be baptized?

1. Baptism is an ordinance given to the local church. Your baptism should be done publicly under the authority of the local church. You are giving public testimony of your identification with the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Many times a local church does not have the facilities to baptize their converts. Under these circumstances, people are baptized in rivers, lakes or facilities at another church. The actual place of baptism is not as important as the public testimony and the authority of the local church in administering it.

Key Memory Verses:

Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:1-7

NOTE: In many churches today, some popular teachings are:

1. Man must be baptized in order to be saved.
2. Baptism by being sprinkled is just as meaningful as immersion.
3. Babies should be baptized into God's family or into the "the church"

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

GO TO THE WORKBOOK AND COMPLETE THE QUESTIONS UNDER "BAPTISM"

# THE WORD OF GOD

## *“What is the Significance of the Bible in My Life?”*

What separates Christianity from any “religion” in the world is its claim to an absolute written authority from God. Having the Word of God is essential to a Christian’s growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. The standards by which a Christian is to govern his life in every detail are found in the pages of the Word of God.

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint you with the basics of the Bible and how it relates to your everyday life, so you can begin to understand how its principles are to guide every facet of your walk with Jesus Christ.

- I. The Word of God is active in salvation.
  - A. Peter 1:23 says a man is born again “By *THE WORD OF GOD.*” The Word of God is the agent which brings about the new birth.
  - B. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, “*For by grace are ye saved through faith...*” Romans 10:17 says, “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing BY THE WORD OF GOD.*”
  - C. James 1:21 says the Word of God is “*...able to save your souls.*”
  - D. Paul’s summary of the gospel contains four parts in I Corinthians 15:1-4:
    - 1. Jesus Christ died for our sins
    - 2. Was buried
    - 3. Rose for the dead
    - 4. ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES
  - E. You must believe what the Bible says about your sin, your condition, and God’s plan of salvation in order to be saved.
- II. Since you are saved by the Word of God, it must be your absolute, infallible guide to tell you how to live. To illustrate:
  - A. Every major purchase (car, appliance, etc.) is accompanied by an owner’s manual which tells you how to operate it. If you don’t go by the book, it won’t work.
  - B. The Bible is God’s “owner’s manual” for your life. God would not save you and call you to service without clear, exact directions; but you must “go by the book” -- Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 3:5-6

- III. What is the purpose of the Word of God for a Christian?
- A. The Word of God equips you for service. *“That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*-- II Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 6:10-18
- B. The word of God sustains you. This is illustrated in the Bible as “spiritual food.” See Job 23:12 and Jeremiah 15:16. It is a complete and balanced diet.
1. Milk I Peter 2:2
  2. Honey Psalm 119:103; Proverbs 16:24
  3. Apples Proverbs 7:2; 25:11
  4. Bread Luke 4:4
  5. Water Isaiah 55:10-11; Ephesians 5:26
  6. Meat Hebrews 5:12-14; I Corinthians 3:1-2
  7. Vegetables Psalm 78:24
- C. The Word of God keeps you clean to please God -- Psalm 119:9-11; John 15:3
- IV. Is the Bible completely reliable?
- A. It is more sure than the audible voice of God. This is a very critical point. It must be understood that all “experiences” are to be judged by an infallible standard which is greater than any experience. Peter says the word of God is MORE SURE than the physical appearance and audible voice of God -- II Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9
- B. The universe was created by the spoken Word of God -- Hebrews 11:3; Psalm 33:6; Genesis 1:3.
- V. How do I learn the Bible?
- A. The Holy Spirit of God will lead and guide you into all truth. God may use other instruments to aid in teaching (books, CDs, DVDs, preachers, etc.) but ultimately, truth is revealed by the Holy Spirit; John 14:26; John 16:13-15
- B. The Bible is learned by comparing scripture with scripture, relying on God’s Spirit to teach you and not your own natural intellect. *“The natural man received not the things of the Spirit of God.”* -- I Corinthians 2:9-16
- VI. A brief history of the Bible.
- A. A total of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.



- B. Written through more than 40 men.
- C. Fits together perfectly as if written by one man, because the author of all 66 books is the Holy Spirit -- II Peter 1:21
- D. Written over a time span of 2,000 years.
- E. Totally accurate in matters of history, of prophecy and of every issue of life.
- F. Not one contradiction.

VII. Read this famous anonymous quote concerning the Bible:

“The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s charter.

Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given to you in life, will be open at the judgment and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its holy contents.”

VII. Basic questions.

A. Where should I start reading?

As a young Christian, focus on the primary places which deal with your new relationship with your Heavenly Father. The Gospel of John, the Epistle of I John, and Psalms 119 are excellent places to begin.

1. The Gospel of John is written that you might believe on the Lord Jesus Christ -- John 20:31
2. The Epistle of I John is written that you might have complete assurance of salvation -- I John 5:13
3. Psalm 119 is the greatest chapter in the Bible on a man’s love for the word of God.

- B. What if I find something I don't understand?
1. Don't get upset about it, God will reveal it to you in time – when you are ready -- John 16:12
  2. Be sure you live what you do understand. God will not give you more than you are capable of handling. As you put into practice the things you are learning. God will entrust you with more.
  3. Attend all services of your church, including mid-week services and Sunday School. Come with a notebook and pen to take notes and write down questions. If appropriate (Sunday School), ask questions when you do not understand. Contact your Pastor or Teacher regarding things you do not understand.
  4. Have a good Bible Dictionary (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance is excellent) to help with word meaning. Remember, what a word meant when the Bible was written may not be what it means today.
  5. This is why you should stay with the King James Version 1611 (not the New King James Version). Many words in these other Bibles have been deleted or changed and give the wrong meaning. The King James Version is God's preserved Bible for us today in the English language as it is the only one taken solely from the copies of the original manuscripts accepted by the first church. For more information on this please go to [www.newlifebc](http://www.newlifebc) and from the Home Page watch "Why we use the KJV"

Key memory verses:

II Peter 1:21; Psalm 119:9; II Timothy 3:16-17

NOTE: In many churches today, some particular teachings are:

5. The Bible is just another religious book written by men.
6. The Bible can only be understood by the "clergy" or by years of formal education.
7. In order to understand the true meaning of the scripture, you must study Greek and Hebrew.
8. It does not matter what version of the Bible you use

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

GO TO THE WORKBOOK AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS UNDER "THE WORD OF GOD"

# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## *“What Are the Functions and Attributes? of the Holy Spirit in My Life?”*

The day you received the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, the Holy Spirit of God took up permanent residency inside your body. This third person of the Trinity is perhaps the most misunderstood and ignored part of Christ’s relationship with God.

The purpose of this lesson is to give you a basic understanding of what the Holy Spirit of God does in your life.

- I. Where do I find the Holy Spirit?
  - A. The Holy Spirit of God lives on this earth inside your body if you are saved. He came in at moment of salvation and took up permanent residency -- I Corinthians 6:19-20 is the definitive passage.
  - B. See also: John 14:17, Galatians 4:6, Ephesians 2:22
- II. What is the function of the Holy Spirit?
  - A. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin -- John 16:8-9
    1. In the unsaved, He convicts of sin to bring them to salvation.
    2. In the saved, He convicts of sin to keep them clean and show them how to live of Jesus Christ.
    3. You must understand the difference between convictions and guilt.
      - a. Conviction is God pointing out something that is wrong so that you can make it right -- Isaiah 1:18
      - b. Guilt is the devil accusing you of being unworthy to receive God’s blessings -- Revelation 12:10
  - B. The Holy Spirit creates and regenerates.
    1. The Holy Spirit is active in creation.
    2. In Jesus Christ, you are a new creature – born again by the Holy Spirit -- John 3:3-8
  - C. The Holy Spirit seals you once you are saved -- Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30
  - D. The Holy Spirit bears witness to you of your salvation -- I John 4:13; Romans 8:16

- E. The Holy Spirit teaches you the Bible -- John 14:26; 16:13-15; I Corinthians 2:9-10
- F. The Holy Spirit intercedes in prayer for you -- Romans 8:26-27; Ephesians 2:18
- G. The Holy Spirit comforts you in time of need -- John 14:15-18, II Corinthians 1:3-4; II Timothy 1:7
- H. The Holy Spirit empowers you to serve God -- Zechariah 4:6; Ephesians 3:16; II Corinthians 4:7

III. What is the result of the Holy Spirit in my life?

A. The Holy Spirit of God produces a set of character qualities as you give your life to Him and walk in His power. This set of character qualities is called the fruit (singular) of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. It is singular because ALL of these qualities are produced at the same time by a close fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

B. The fruit of the Spirit consist of the following.

<u>Put On</u>	<u>Put Off</u>
1. Love	Hate & bitterness
2. Joy	Discouragement
3. Peace	Spiritual War / Worry
4. Longsuffering	Impatience
5. Gentleness	Harshness
6. Goodness	Unrighteousness
7. Faith	Unbelief / Doubt
8. Meekness	Pride / Arrogance
9. Temperance	Anger

IV. Basic questions.

- A. What is “Being filled with the Spirit” and how can I accomplish this?
1. When we are saved we get all of the Holy Spirit we can get (100%). However, the Holy Spirit does not get all of us. There are areas in our life we must give (or yield) to Him. As we study and apply the Word of God (Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16), our fellowship with the Holy Spirit deepens and we are more controlled by the Spirit (filled with the Spirit means to have the Holy Spirit living through you).
  2. Simply WALK in the Spirit. Walking is a steady, consistent, natural process of growth. Galatians 5:16-18, 25, Romans 8:1
  3. Allow God to control your life. The filling of the Holy Spirit is NOT you getting more of the Holy Spirit. Let the Holy Spirit have more of you – thoughts, actions and desires.

4. BE PATIENT AND CONSISTENT! Being controlled by the Holy Spirit does not happen overnight. It is a lifelong process of spiritual growth.
  5. Understand the need for daily attention.
    - a. Confess your sins daily to keep your heart clean with the Lord – 1 John 1:9
    - b. Ask the Lord to fill you with His Spirit as you cleanse your heart from sin – Psalm 139:23-24
- B. What are the “Gifts of the Spirit?”
1. A number of specific “gifts” were given by the Holy Spirit to individuals in the church in the intermediary period from Pentecost to the compilation of the New Testament. With the emergence of the New Testament, the need for these “gifts” diminished. These “gifts” included prophecy, healing, tongues, interpretation of tongues, etc. These gifts are no longer God-given to individuals in the church today. They are ceased because the New Testament replaced them as the substantiation of Jesus Christ and His claims -- I Corinthians 12:7-11; I Corinthians 13:8-10
  2. Today, the Spirit gives us any number of “gifts” or special talents to use in our service to Him. It is our responsibility to use these “gifts” or talents to God’s glory in our daily service and ministry for Him -- Romans 12:3-8. Contact NLBBC if you would like to take a Spiritual Gifts Test.

Key memory verses:

I Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 5:22-23; Galatians 5:16

NOTE: In many churches today, some popular teachings are the following:

1. A Christian does not get all of the Holy Spirit as salvation.
2. The Holy Spirit can leave you if you sin.
3. A Christian must receive an early New Testament gift, such as “healing”, “tongues”, in order to be saved or filled with the spirit.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

GO TO THE WORKBOOK AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS UNDER “HOLY SPIRIT”

# PRAYER

## *“How Important is Prayer in My Life?”*

Someone once said that a Christian is only as strong as his prayer life. There is a great deal of truth in this because prayer is simply your direct communication to God. When you read the Bible, God speaks to you; when you pray, you speak to God. Your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ cannot grow without proper communication. It has also been said, “Little prayer, little power; much prayer, much power”. Prayer provides power in you life.

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint you with the basics of a proper prayer life so that these lines of communication can be open and effective in your life.

- I. What is the purpose of prayer?
  - A. It is NOT to move God for you or change His mind for you to get your way; it is for you to be conformed to His will – Philippians 2:5; James 4:3
  - B. A proper prayer life results in peace of heart and mind -- Philippians 4:6-7
  - C. To draw you close to God so that He can prove His sufficiency for every need – 1 Peter 5:7
    1. God is a living God, not a statue, and is active in every detail of your life, knowing exactly what you need even before you ask -- Matthew 6:8
    2. God allows needs to come into your life so that He can draw you to Him to meet with Him -- Psalm 50:15; Psalm 42:1,2; Psalm 63:1, 5-8
    3. The most dangerous time in your life is when every single need is met, and you have need of nothing ---including God. Revelation 3:16-17
    4. God uses those needs to draw you to a place where He can bless you and reveal to you that your only real need is simply the Lord Jesus Christ and His grace. The classic example of this tremendously important principle is Paul’s thorn in the flesh -- II Corinthians 12:7-10; also Matthew 7:7; James 1:5
    5. This is why it is absolutely essential to give thanks for everything, including and especially the needs and difficult times in your life. I Thessalonians 5:18
    6. That is also why it is absolutely essential to develop a consistent prayer attitude where your first reaction in a difficult moment is to go to God in prayer. I Thessalonians 5:17

- II. How do I pray?
- A. First, Romans 8:26-27 makes it clear that we do not always know how to pray or what to pray for. That is why the Holy Spirit who lives inside you intercedes for you in prayer.
- B. But there are some basic guidelines.
1. Pray always – develop a lifestyle of prayer -- I Thessalonians 5:17, Luke 18:1; John 16:23-27; Hebrews 4:16; 1 John 5:14
  2. Do not repeat the same words over and over -- Matthew 6:7 – Matthew 6:9-13 is the “model prayer”, much like instructions with something you purchase. The true Lord’s Prayer is John 17.
  3. Talk to the Lord as a friend. He is your friend! John 15:13-14, Exodus 33:11, Proverbs 18:24
  4. Realize that you have DIRECT access to God personally. You do not need to go through any man to talk to God -- I Timothy 2:5, Ephesians 2:18
- C. Be sure to keep your basic relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ proper. There are some things in your life which will hinder your prayers.
1. Unconfessed sin -- Isaiah 59:1-2, Psalm 66:18
  2. Unforgiving spirit -- Matthew 6:14-15
  3. Bitterness toward your mate (as well as others) -- I Peter 3:7
  4. Not asking -- James 4:2
  5. Not praying in faith – James 1:5-8
  5. Asking with selfish or other wrong motives --James 4:3, Proverbs 21:13
  6. Insensitivity to the Word of God -- Proverbs 28:9; 1 John 5:14-15
- III. There are four basic types of prayer. I Timothy 2:1
- A. Supplication – specific requests. Philippians 4:6 says to “...*let your request be made known unto God.*” Too many prayers are wasted because they are so general. For example:
- “God, please give me a blessing”*  
 God would undoubtedly reply: *“Which one? How do you want me to bless you?”*
- B. Prayers – this is the summation or term used to classify all communication with God. Prayer means “worship”.

- C. Intercessions – prayers for others. This is important to keep your motives pure and keep your selfish eyes off yourself.
  - D. Giving thanks – Psalms 100:4 makes it clear that we enter the presence of God through thanksgiving and praise.
- IV. Keep track of your prayer requests.
- A. Making a list will help you remember what to pray for. Otherwise your prayer life may not be consistent.
  - B. Keeping a list of answered prayers is tremendously important to reinforce our faith in God’s ability to answer prayer.
- V. Basic questions.
- A. Does God answer all my prayers?  
Yes, but not always the way you may want or at the time you may want. As learned in lesson 1, God is your Heavenly Father and all His ways are perfect. There will be times when in His infinite wisdom, the best answer to prayer will be “NO” or “NOT YET.” In those times, simply trust Him.
  - B. How important is it to pray for others?
    1. Paul prayed for others continually (Romans 1:9), and requested prayer on many occasions -- Hebrews 13:18, II Thessalonians 3:1
    2. Samuel said it was a sin against God not to pray for others -- I Samuel 12:23
    3. An example of effectual prayer for others is how a preacher from England named George Mueller prayed for the salvation of several people for up to 60 years. When he died, some were still unsaved. However, there were some saved at his funeral and many others were saved in the next year – James 5:16
    4. Keep at it. The full results of your prayers will never be known completely in this life.

Key memory verses:

I Timothy 2:5, Psalm 66:18, I Thessalonians 5:18

NOTE: In many churches today, some popular teachings are the following:

1. Many should pray to idols, saints, or other men.
2. If you pray long enough or hard enough, God will change His mind and do what you want.



3. The best prayers are those that have been written by others and are just “said” by you.
4. Prayer must be at a set time in a set format.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

GO TO THE WORKBOOK AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS UNDER “PRAYER”

# THE WILL OF GOD

## *“How do I Find God’s Will For My Life?”*

A famous preacher once said that a successful man is a man who finds out what God wants him to accomplish with his life and then fulfills it. That is a very profound statement. The true measure of a man’s success is not his social status or bank account, or his influence and fame. It is simply doing what God wants him to do.

The purpose of this lesson is to give you a clear understanding of what the will of God is, as revealed in the Bible, so that you can begin to accomplish those things God would have you to accomplish.

- I. What the will of God is NOT:
  - A. The will of God is not physical, but spiritual. It is never connected with a set of rules, a geographical location, or a specific ministry.
  - B. The will of God is not to be confused with the plan of God for your life. God has a specific plan for your life individually, and only God can give you all the details regarding it because it is His plan for you, not any man’s. God’s plan is revealed to us as we follow His will. His plan may change in our life, but His will never changes – John 21:15-22
- II. There are two aspects to the will of God: His permissive will and His directive will.
  - A. The permissive will of God.
    1. It must be clearly understood that God allows things to happen He does not approve of in order to accomplish some larger purpose. Examples are abundant, both in and out of Scripture.
      - a. Paul’s trip to Jerusalem – Acts 21:4-14. God warned him three times not to go, but then allowed him to teach him obedience, and to get him to Rome.
      - b. Hitler – God certainly did not approve of him murdering 6 million of His chosen people, but allowed it as the beginning of the restoration of the Jews and to return them to their homeland.
      - c. I Peter 3:15-18 – God allows suffering in the lives of His children to perfect them although He would clearly prefer that they not have to suffer.
    2. Man has free will. God will not force anyone to do anything. God offers salvation and lays down the principles of a Godly life. However, if a man exercises the free will God has given him and rejects it, God permits that man’s free will to be exercised, and the man suffers the consequences.

B. The directive will of God.

1. There are certain things God specifically wills.
  - a. II Peter 3:9 – God is not willing that any should perish. All unsaved people are out of the will of God regardless of what else they may do.
  - b. I Thessalonians 5:18 – We are to give thanks for everything.
  - c. I Peter 2:13-15 – We are to submit to every ordinance of man. However, this must be balanced by the next point.
  - d. Romans 12:1-2 – We are not to be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds. (Submission to the ordinance of man is to maintain a proper testimony to win them; while at the same time, your life is to be transformed to live by a higher standard to please God.) This is God’s act of renovation – II Timothy 1:1; Acts 13:36
  - e. I Thessalonians 4:3-7 God desires our sanctification. This means to be set apart. It should be reflected in the things we do, watch, say and desire.
  - f. Ephesians 6:5-8 – Our service is to be from the heart, with pure motives, as if we were serving Jesus Christ.
  - g. Ephesians 5:15-17 – We are to redeem the time. Quit wasting time! Make use of the small amount God has given you.
2. Summarizing God’s will for your life: The will of God is the same for every person on earth – to be conformed to the image of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - a. Romans 8:28-29
  - b. John 17:20-23
  - c. Ephesians 4:13-15

III. Where can I find the plan of God for my life?

You will never find the will of God or the plan of God outside of the Word of God. You find God’s will and plan by renewing your mind. (Romans 12:1-2) you renew your mind by letting “... *this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.*” (Philippians 2:5) You must replace carnal thoughts with God’s thoughts by immersing yourself in the Word of God. (II Corinthians 10:5)

- IV. How does God reveal His plan for my life?
- A. You must be in conformity to the will of God before He will reveal His plan to you. Your priority should be to fulfill the general will of God in your daily life, and then trust Him to guide you in the detailed plan.
1. Allow your will to be broken – Exodus 6:1
  2. Delight to find God’s will – Psalm 40:8
  3. Pray – Psalm 143:10
  4. Give whole heartedness – Ephesians 6:6; 1 Thessalonians 2:4
- B. God is infinitely more interested in your being the type of person He wants you to be than in your doing for Him all the “mighty works.” Be what He wants you to be, and He will show you what to do.
- V. Basic questions.  
Why does not God reveal His plan for me now?
- A. It would overwhelm you before you got started.
- B. You may not be equipped to handle it yet.
- C. You may not be the type of person God wants you to be yet.
- D. God will reveal what you can handle when you can handle it.
- E. This is illustrated by the old question asked of children, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” If all the five year olds in America were surveyed on this question, then forced to stick with their answer, in 20 years the would be nothing but firemen, policemen, and nurses. As time goes on and you grow spiritually, your interest, talents, and desires will grow and change. Be patient and wait on God while fulfilling His specific will for your life.
- VI. Benefits of Living God’s Will in Your Life
- a. You will know doctrine – John 7:16-17
  - b. God will hear you – John 9:31
  - c. It creates the right fellowship with God – Mark 3:35
  - d. It brings joy and refreshment – Romans 15:32
  - e. It provides a prosperous journey – Romans 1:10; Joshua 1:8
  - f. It makes you perfect (mature) and complete – Colossians 4:12

g. It will silence the critics – 1 Peter 2:13-16

Key memory verses:

Romans 12:1-2, I Peter 3:17, II Peter 3:9

NOTE: In many churches today, some popular teachings are the following:

1. The will of God is different for every individual.
2. The will of God has to do with specific, physical matters.
3. God has predetermined what will happen (fate) and man's free will has no bearing on the matter.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

GO TO THE WORKBOOK AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS UNDER "GOD'S WILL"

# THE LOCAL CHURCH

## *“What is the Purpose of My Involvement in a Local Church?”*

God has established three major institutions on this earth: the family, civil government, and the local church. It is the local church which has been commissioned by God to carry out His purposes in reaching the lost and perfecting the saved. Therefore, God’s plan for a Christian will always be fulfilled best when connected with the local church.

The purpose of this lesson is to you the central role which the church should play in your everyday life.

- I. What is the local church?
  - A. It is NOT a building.
    1. We worship God in spirit and truth – John 4:24
    2. Our bodies are the temple of God -- I Corinthians 6:19
  - B. It is NOT a denominational group of congregations.
  - C. A local church is a body of men and women who have been saved and called by God to serve in a specific area. The church is the body of Christ.
    1. In I Corinthians 12:27, Paul said to the saved members of the local church in Corinth, *“ye are the body of Christ”*
    2. Paul compares the church body to the human body – I Corinthians 12:14-27
      - a. Each member has a different function. vs.14-20
      - b. No member can function alone. vs.21
      - c. Each member’s contribution is important. vs. 22-24
      - d. A properly functioning body operates as a single unit. vs. 25-27
- II. What is the function of the local church?

The function of the local church is two-fold.

  - A. The local church is to fulfill the Great Commission. Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15. Luke 24:47
    1. The local church should be a soul winning church -- Proverbs 11:30; Matthew 4:19; Jude 23
    2. The local church should minister to the needs of the people -- James 2:15-16; James 1:27

3. The local church is an organization of believers – 1 Corinthians 14:33
  4. The local church is for fellowship between and among believers – Hebrews 10:25; Romans 1:12; 1 Corinthians 12:14-27; Galatians 6:2
  5. The local church is to teach believers – Matthew 28:19-20
  6. The local church is to provide opportunity for group worship – Hebrews 10:25
  7. The local church is a place to use your spiritual gifts serving God and His church – I Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4; Romans 12
- B. The local church is to edify (build up, teach, strengthen) the saints -- Ephesians 4:11-16; Acts 2:41-47
1. A place for saved people to worship the Lord -- Acts 2:47; Luke 24:53
  2. A place for saved people to fellowship with other saved people -- Acts 2:42, I John 1:7
  3. A place for saved people to be taught from the Word of God -- Acts 2:42; Ephesians 4:12-15
  4. A place for saved people to observe the two ordinances that were given to the local church. These were Baptism and the Lord's Supper -- Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 11:23-30
- III. How do I function in the church body?
- A. During your Christian life, you should grow through three broad, general stages.
1. Observe and learn – Your first priority should be to submit to the teaching of the Word of God to learn to be the man or woman God wants you to be. Matthew 11:28-30
  2. Participate – In time, you will naturally grow to the point where you can begin to serve and take on some of the basic functions through the already established ministries of your church. Matthew 4:19; James 1:22-25
  3. Lead – As your growth continues, you should reach the point where you can begin to minister to others in the same way you have been ministered to -- II Timothy 2:2
- B. These three stages can be roughly compared to the states of growth physically: childhood, youth, adult.
- C. BE PATIENT! This process takes time. Just be sure to remain faithful to God's established institution, the local church.

IV. Basic questions.

- A. How do I find the particular local church that God wants me to serve through?
1. Pray about it. Ask God to show you which church to associate with - James 1:5
  2. Observe the qualities of a particular church and compare them with the Biblical requirements of a proper church.
    - a. Does the church have its doctrine based on the Word of God? Titus 1:9, 2:1
    - b. Does the church perform the necessary church function? (II A. and B)
    - c. Does the church practice Biblical separation from the world? John 15:19; I John 2:15
    - d. Does the church practice Biblical separation from other “churches” or “outreaches” that are false in doctrine and practice? II Thessalonians 3:6; I Timothy 6:3-5
- B. How often should I go to church?  
The believer that truly loves the Lord and desires to serve Him will be at all the church services that he possible can be. The Word of God expects this -- Hebrews 10:25, Luke 24:53

Key memory verses:

Ephesians 4:11-12; I Corinthians 12:27; II Timothy 2:2; Matthew 28:19-20

NOTE: In many churches today, some popular teachings are the following:

1. In order to really learn the Bible, you need to go to a Bible college.
2. The primary purpose of a local church is to be a social or political organization.
3. The local church is primarily for weddings, funerals, and religious holidays.
4. Only the “leadership” of the church is charged with any responsibility of meeting people’s spiritual needs.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

GO TO THE WORKBOOK AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS UNDER “THE LOCAL CHURCH”



## OTHER CHRISTIANS

### *“What is My Relationship to Other Christians?”*

As we learned in lesson one, when you got saved you moved from the devil’s family to God’s family. Spiritually, you now have a new family with many brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

We saw how the church is likened to a body in the previous lesson, and in this lesson, we will study the special relationship which you now have with your spiritual family. This lesson is designed to give you a clear understanding of how the body of Christ operates as a family unit.

- I. How am I related to other Christians?
  - A. They are your brothers (sisters) in Jesus Christ. Be sure to understand; only those in Jesus Christ (saved people) are your brothers, regardless of any other factors. Likewise, those **NOT** in Jesus Christ (unsaved people) are not your brothers regardless of any other factors. Romans 8:29; I John 3:13; Romans 9:8; Hebrews 2:9-12
  - B. They are your fellow laborers in service for Jesus Christ, no one is more important, nor should we compare ourselves to others -- I Corinthians 3:5-10
- II. What are my responsibilities toward other Christians?
  - A. We are to pray for each other. Almost every one of Paul’s letters opens with a prayer for those to whom he is writing -- I Thessalonians 1:2-3; II Timothy 1:3
  - B. We are to minister to each other.
    1. Physically – Do good to each other -- Galatians 6:10; Romans 12:13
    2. Spiritually – Restore each other -- Galatians 6:1-2; Romans 15:1-2; Hebrews 13:3
  - C. We are to encourage and edify one another -- I Thessalonians 5:11
  - D. We are to serve one another -- Philippians 2:3-4 Matthew 20:25-28
- III. What should be my attitude toward other Christians?
  - A. It should primarily be to love them -- I John 3:14-16; I Peter 4:8
  - B. Be patient with them -- Romans 15:5-7
  - C. Be sensitive to their needs -- I John 3:17-18; James 2:15-16
  - D. Be forgiving of each other -- Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13

- IV. What is “fellowship?”
- A. “Fellowship” is a term commonly used by Christians generally referring to getting together for activities or times of sharing common interests. However, this is only a small part of true fellowship. It is true that to fellowship is to share things, but true Biblical fellowship goes FAR BEYOND just a meal or an activity. It is the sharing of life through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ with another believer.
- B. The essential elements of true Biblical fellowship are not physical matters such as social status, friendship, common interests, etc.; but are spiritual requirements of personal character toward each other.
- |    |             |                                    |
|----|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. | Humility    | Philippians 2:3-8                  |
| 2. | Honesty     | Ephesians 4:25; II Corinthians 4:2 |
| 3. | Love        | John 13:35; Galatians 5:13-15      |
| 4. | Hospitality | Titus 1:8; Acts 2:42, 46-47        |
- C. The areas of true fellowship include the following:
- |    |           |                                     |
|----|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Prayer    | II Corinthians 1:11                 |
| 2. | Faith     | Romans 1:12                         |
| 3. | Ministry  | II Corinthians 8:4; Galatians 2:9   |
| 4. | Suffering | Philippians 3:10; I Peter 4:13; 5:1 |
- D. True Biblical fellowship is based on the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. You MUST LEARN to have fellowship with Him personally before your fellowship with other believers will be proper -- I John 13:7

V. Basic Questions.

What if another Christian offends me?

Unfortunately, this will probably happen to you if you spend any time with your brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. There will be times of offense, hurt, and disagreement within the body of Christ, just as in our physical family. If and when this happened, if it is serious enough the Bible gives a definite a progression of principles to deal with the matter. How should you respond in such a case?

- A. Take the offense directly to the other party first, privately, and try to settle it between yourselves -- Matthew 18:15
- B. If the matter is not resolved privately, take it to a leader in your church to attempt to mediate the situation -- Matthew 18:16; Corinthians 6:1-5
- C. Do NOT go to the unsaved to settle a problem with in the body of Christ -- I Corinthians 6:6
- D. If this matter still cannot be resolved:
- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | Personally accept the wrong -- I Corinthians 6:7-8 |
|----|--|

2. Commit the situation to the Lord Jesus Christ. He will handle it justly -- I Peter 2:19-23
3. Forgive your brother -- Colossians 3:13
4. Pray for your brother -- Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:14

Key memory verses:

Ephesians 4:32; I John 3:14-15; I John 1:7

NOTE: In many churches today, some popular teachings are the following:

1. Our fellowship with other Christians can be complete without developing our fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. “Fellowship” must be centered around a meal or an activity.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

GO TO THE WORKBOOK AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS UNDER “OTHER CHRISTIANS”

# GIVING

## *“What is the Meaning of Giving And What are my Responsibilities in this Area?”*

Giving is an extremely important subject in Christianity today largely due to the immensity of the work needing to be done by the local church in accomplishing the Great Commission and edifying believers. Before you can understand God’s principles in giving, you must understand that it includes far more than just your money or resources.

This lesson will deal with your responsibilities as a Christian in the stewardship of your life as well as your resources. It will also show that God’s principles in giving are to help the believers and not because God needs our money.

- I. We must be as willing to give of ourselves as we are to give of our money.
  - A. God bought you with a price (His blood), and you belong to Him. Although salvation is a gift and free to us, it was a large price for God -- I Corinthians 6:19-20
  - B. God commands you to present your body as a living sacrifice, not just your pocketbook -- Romans 12:1-2
  - C. A willing mind and heart with a life committed to service to God is just as important as financial giving in receiving the blessing of God – II Corinthians 8:3-5, 12
  - D. You must realize that the giving begins with your life. Yet it also includes your resources. If God has control of your life, he will have control of your resources.
- II. What is the reason for my giving?
  - A. Giving proves the sincerity of your love for Jesus Christ. You can’t serve two masters – Matthew 6:24; II Corinthians 8:8
  - B. Giving develops an attitude of grace for other works. It takes no special talents or abilities to give - only grace -- II Corinthians 8:6-7, 9:8 – God’s sufficiency will provide all things.
  - C. Giving is an investment in eternal riches and gets your eyes off of earthy riches, which will fade away -- Philippians 4:17, Matthew 6:19-21, 33-34
  - D. The person who benefits most from your giving is YOU.

- III. Where am I to give?
- A. Your primary responsibility is to your local church. All giving in the New Testament is done within the context of a local church ministry. I Corinthians 16:1-3
  - B. Obviously, anyone is free to give to causes outside the local church, and God may even use and bless it. However, it is the local church which is central in God's plan. Any giving outside of it should never be done at the expense of what God would have you do in your church. This is equally true of time and service, as well as money.
- IV. What does my money go for?
- A. The support of the leaders of the church -- I Corinthians 9:13-14; Galatians 6:6; I Timothy 5:17-18
  - B. Other works of God are supported through your church -- Philippians 4:15-16
  - C. Support of those within the church body who are UNABLE to support themselves, and who are FAITHFUL to the church -- Acts 6:1; I Timothy 5:9-10, 16
  - D. To meet general needs as determined by the leadership of your church -- II Corinthians 8:4, Acts 11:27-30
- V. How much am I supposed to give?
- A. Understand that all giving is to be done willingly and cheerfully (II Corinthians 9:7), and giving benefits the giver as well as the one given to. Remember, God does not need your money. He wants you to give so He can bless you. It is a matter of faith and trust that God wants you to learn.
    - 1. Seeing others helped
    - 2. Seeing ministries prosper by bearing spiritual fruit
    - 3. Having your own finances better organized
  - B. Biblical terms for giving
    - 1. "Tithe" – By definition and practice is 1/10 or 10% of your gross income
      - a. First seen before the law with Abraham -- Genesis 14:20
      - b. Continued with Jacob -- Genesis 28:22
      - c. Continued with the institution of the law -- Leviticus 27:30; Numbers 18:21
        - 1.) Carried on in time of the kings -- II Chronicles 31:5

- 2.) Carried on in the time of Nehemiah -- Nehemiah 10:38; 12:44
- 3.) Carried on through the prophets -- Malachi 3:10
- d. The principle continued in a broad discussion by Paul to the Corinthians -- I Corinthians 9:7-9

God established early in creation that He designates certain things to Himself (Genesis 2:17). With Abraham, it is designated by God as a tenth (tithe) of his earning. In the law, the Lord designated His part (tithe) to go to the Levites and the Temple. In the New Testament, the Lord designates His part (tithe) to go to the local church. It is our responsibility to give one tenth or a tithe of all our income to our local church.

2. “Offering” – New Testament principles -- II Corinthians 9:7 – over and your tithe
  - a. *“As a man purposeth in his heart.”* Give as much as the Lord gives you grace to give.
  - b. *“Not grudgingly”* Selfishness will ruin your blessing from God
  - c. *“or of necessity.”* You are not bound in your giving above the tithe.
  - d. *“FOR GOD LOVETH A CHEERFUL GIVER.”* – God wants you to love giving to His ministry

In addition to the tithe, you have the opportunity to give an offering to any area of ministry in the local church that the Lord directs.

- C. General principles in giving.
  1. Give as God has prospered you. Do not worry about out-giving everyone; just give according to the amount that God has blessed you with -- I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 8:12
  2. Give beyond your power to give. The grace of giving is maximized in your life when you sacrifice in order to give -- II Corinthians 8:3; II Samuel 24:24
  3. Remember at all times the law of sowing and reaping -- II Corinthians 9:6; Galatians 6:7-9

In addition to the tithe, we should exercise these principles in the area of giving.

IV. Basic questions

How can I be sure that I am giving the right things and that my money (and time) is being used as God would have it?

- A. Build your giving (time, service, and money) around the local church. It is God's ordained institution of this age.
- B. In most churches, a group of men are entrusted with the responsibility of handling the financial matters of the body. If you have prayerfully sought God's leadership in choosing a local church, and you have followed the principles in His Word in doing so, then you ought to trust the leaders of the church to handle this matter properly. If you have a good reason to believe that the church's resources are not being used Scripturally. Then speak to the individuals with that responsibility. If the matter is not answered to your satisfaction, then perhaps you should consider praying about seeking another church -- II Corinthians 8:20-21

Key memory verses:

II Corinthians 9:7; Matthew 6:21; II Corinthians 8:9

NOTE: In many churches today, some popular teachings are the following:

- 1. Christians do not have to tithe in these New Testament times.
- 2. Christians do not have to give their tithe to the local church.
- 3. Tithing is the most that God could require from any Christian

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

GO TO THE WORKBOOK AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS UNDER "GIVING"

## MONEY AND POSSESSIONS

### *“What Should Be My Attitude Toward Money and Possessions?”*

One of the greatest temptations we face as Christians in America is the tremendous materialism in our culture. We are geared to think that success is measured by the abundance of our material wealth; when in reality, a man’s success is measured by fulfilling God’s plan for his life as we saw in a previous lesson – Joshua 1:8

The Bible has a great deal to say about our attitudes toward physical possessions. The object of this lesson is to determine how God would have you deal with this matter in light of Biblical principles

- I. You do NOT have to be poor to please God!
  - A. This is very important to understand. Spirituality is NOT measured by either the abundance OR lack of material goods. Nowhere in the Bible does God specifically condemn anyone simply for having money. Instead he deals with their attitude.
  - B. The Bible does NOT say that money is the root of all evil. It says “.. *the LOVE of money is the root of all evil...*” I Timothy 6:10
  - C. Many Godly Bible characters were wealthy.
    1. Solomon was the wealthiest man in history, yet observe his conclusion of this matter -- Ecclesiastes 1:2-4; 12:13-14
    2. Job was the wealthiest man of his day (Job 1:3). Yet when all his wealth was gone, observe his attitude -- Job 1:20-21
    3. Even the Lord Jesus Christ was accompanied by a group of wealthy women who provided for Him materially -- Luke 8:1-3; John 12:3
- II. At what point does money interfere with my fellowship with God?
  - A. When you trust in it rather than trusting in God -- Mark 10:23-27; Proverbs 11:4, 28
  - B. When your affections are set on your earthly possessions instead of your heavenly possessions -- Matthew 6:19-21; Colossians 3:1-4
  - C. When you think your own spirituality, another man’s spirituality or God’s blessings can be measured by material possessions -- Luke 12:15; I Samuel 16:7
  - D. When your objective in life becomes to earn as much money as possible -- Proverbs 23:4; Ecclesiastes 5:10-12



- E. When you think that you provide for your own needs instead of God providing for them -- Philippians 4:19; Deuteronomy 8:10-18
- III. What are the proper attitudes I should develop towards physical possessions.
- A. First and foremost, BE CONTENT with what you have. Understand – to be content is not grudgingly resigning yourself to accept your situation, but to rest satisfied in God’s provision. Realize that whatever you have been given is a blessing.
1. We are to be content with our possessions. Don’t covet (want or desire) what someone else possesses -- Hebrews 13:5; I Timothy 6:8
  2. We are to be content in whatever state (situation) we find ourselves. We should be resting in the Lord Jesus Christ -- Philippians 4:11 – Note: Paul wrote these words while in jail for preaching the Gospel!
- B. Realize that there are many things which are far more important than money, which money cannot buy.
1. Wisdom Proverbs 16:16
  2. A righteous life Proverbs 28:6; 16:8; Psalms 37:16
  3. A good night’s sleep Ecclesiastes 5:12
  4. God’s Word Psalm 119:14, 72, 127
  5. Good health Luke 8:43
  6. Quietness and peace Ecclesiastes 4:6; Proverbs 15:16; 17:1
- C. When God blesses you physically, do not forget Him, and thank and praise Him -- Deuteronomy 6:10-12; Proverbs 30:7-9; Revelation 3:17
- D. Realize that if God takes all your wealth away, it should not affect your relationship or your fellowship with Him -- Job 1:20-21
- E. Do not be envious of someone else’s wealth. It will be left behind when we die. Also for some, great wealth can create many other problems -- Psalm 49:16-17; Exodus 20:17
- F. Stay away from “get rich quick” schemes -- Proverbs 20:21; 28:20, 22
- G. Finally realize that our culture, through the media advertising, has a tremendously negative materialistic influence on you. Guard yourself. Make sure your major desires are spiritual instead of physical.

- IV. You must strike a proper balance in your attitude toward money and possessions.
- A. Proverbs 11:1 says, “*a false balance is abomination to the Lord...*”
1. The same Bible that says not to worry about your physical provisions in Matthew 6:25-34, also says that if a man does not provide for his family, he is worse than an infidel -- I Timothy 5:8
  2. The same Bible that says “*...the love of money is the root of all evil...*,” also says “*...the laborer is worthy of his reward.*” I Timothy 5:17-18
- B. These are not contradictory statements, but balancing principles to show you how to handle physical possessions.
- V. Basic questions  
What will God provide for me?
- A. God promises to provide your NEEDS -- Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:25-34
- B. Those NEEDS will be physical as well as spiritual.
- C. You must discern between NEEDS and WANTS. This is a very difficult thing to do, especially in our society. Compare the following verses on needs and wants.
1. Needs – James 2:15-16; Hebrews 4:15-16; Mark 2:25
  2. Wants - Psalms 23:1; Proverbs 13:25; James 1:4; Philippians 4:11

Key memory verses:

Philippians 4:11; Philippians 4:19; Colossians 3:2

NOTE: In many churches today, some popular teachings are the following:

1. If you get enough material wealth you will be satisfied.
2. God must be pleased with rich people for Him to have blessed them so much.
3. A rich person must have violated God’s law to obtain his wealth.
4. Your worth as a person is measured by your material wealth.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

**GO TO THE WORKBOOK AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS UNDER “MONEY AND POSSESSIONS”**

## DEALING WITH SIN

### *“How Do I Overcome Sin in My Life?”*

A famous preacher once said that when a saved person begins to battle sin in his own life, he enters a combat so intense it makes World War II look like a Sunday School picnic. This truth is not evident to a young Christian; but as you grow, you will realize further the intensity of the struggle

As we saw very briefly in lesson one, when you got saved, you became two persons. Your old man in Adam’s image has a sinful nature, and your new man in Christ Jesus has God’s image. This lesson is designed to help you combat the sin nature of the old man – I John 3:9

- I. What is sin?
  - A. Sin is breaking God’s law -- I John 3:4—The Law was given to show man’s sinful nature – James 2:10
  - B. Sin is any unrighteousness -- I John 5:16, 17
  - C. Sin is anything done apart from faith -- Romans 14:19-23
- II. Why do I sin?
  - A. You sin because you inherited a sinful nature from Adam -- Romans 5:12; I Corinthians 15:45-50
  - B. You sin because your old nature draws you into sin -- James 1:13-14; Romans 7:14-25; I John 3:8-9
  - C. You sin as a result of temptation in three major areas which are outlined in I John 2:15-16. Jesus was also tempted in these three areas, yet without sin as stated I Hebrews 4:15
    1. The lust of the flesh – Eve was tempted in this point in Genesis 3:6 when she saw that the tree was “*good for food*” Jesus was tempted in this point in Matthew 4:3 when the devil tried to get Him to turn stones into bread.
    2. The lust of the eyes – Eve was tempted here when she saw the tree was “*pleasant to the eyes*” Jesus was tempted when the Devil showed Him all the Kingdoms of the world and promised to give them to Him in exchange for worship – Matthew 4:6
    3. The pride of life – Eve fell to the temptation “*to be desired to make one wise*” Jesus overcame the temptation to cast Himself down to prove the angels would take care of Him – Matthew 4:8

- II. How does God look at my sin?
  - A. Your sin, past, present and future was judged by God at Calvary -- II Corinthians 5:21
  - B. If you continue in sin, God will chastise you as a father chastises his son -- Hebrews 12:5-11
  - C. God will allow you to reap according to what you have sown -- Galatians 6:7-8
  
- IV. What things can I do to overcome sin?
  - A. Your sin is your own fault, not anyone else's. You must accept responsibility for your sin. You will never correct anything until you face up to responsibility -- Proverbs 28:13
  - B. Do not allow sinful thoughts to control your mind. This includes times of idleness while watching television or on the internet -- II Corinthians 10:5
  - C. Do not make provision for the flesh -- Romans 13:14; Colossians 3:9-10
  - D. Realize that you are dead to sin in Jesus Christ and dead men cannot sin -- Romans 6:6-13; Colossians 3:1-10
  - E. Judge your sin, agreeing with God that it is sin -- I Corinthians 11:31-32
  - F. Confess your sins to God -- I John 1:9
  - G. Hide God's Word in your heart to battle sin.
    - 1. I Corinthians 10:13 says that God has made a way of escape from temptation.
    - 2. The way of escape is found in Psalm 119:9-11. It is the Word of God.
    - 3. Jesus Christ overcame His temptation by quoting Scripture -- Matthew 4:1-9
    - 4. The only sure way of overcoming sin in your life is through the power of the Word of God as you hide it in your heart and apply it to your life. Memorize as much scripture as you can.
  - H. Trust God's promises to cleanse you and to fight your battles for you. II Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 4:15-16
  - I. Walk in the power of the Holy Spirit -- Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 8:1-8

V. Basic questions

How do I keep the influences of a sinful world from affecting me?

- A. Do not involve yourself with sinful activities. Of course you must “rub shoulders” with unsaved people in order to try to win them, but do not get involved with their sin. This is called Biblical Separation – 2 Corinthians 6:17. There is a spiritual war raging, and you must protect your mind, body and soul -- Ephesians 5:5-12
- B. Avoid things that could lure you into sin such as improper T.V. viewing, improper music, poor publications, internet sights, certain games, etc -- Proverbs 4:1-4
- C. Separate yourself from the ways of the world and follow the Lord Jesus Christ -- II Corinthians 6:14-18; James 4:4
- D. Realized that “separation” is also a positive thing. Not only are you to be separate from the world, but you are to separate yourself UNTO the Gospel -- Romans 1:1

Key memory verses:

Psalms 119:11; Hebrews 4:15; Romans 6:11

NOTE: In many churches today, some popular teachings are the following:

- 1. There are “big sins” and “little sins”.
- 2. Sometimes you have to sin because someone else forces you to.
- 3. Our sins can be forgiven by other men if we confess to them.
- 4. If I sin bad enough, I can lose my salvation.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

**GO TO THE WORKBOOK AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS UNDER “DEALING WITH SIN”**

## LIBERTY IN CHRIST

*“Since All My Sins Are Forgiven, Am I Free to Do As I Please?”*

The New Testament is very clear that we are saved by grace through faith and not by the deeds of the law. Many people, however, take this as opportunity to sin, thinking they are free to do as they wish.

The purpose of this lesson is to help you understand just what your responsibilities in Jesus Christ are, and what lines need to be drawn in this life in relation to your actions as a child

- I. When we get saved, we are free from the bondage of sin so that we can serve God.
  - A. Negative -- We are free from the bondage of sin -- Romans 8:2, 21; 2 Corinthians 3:17 – You no longer need to be a slave to sinful habits.
  - B. Positive -- We are freed so that we can serve God -- Romans 6:17-18; 1 Corinthians 7:20-23; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 – We are a servant of Christ.
  - C. Christ is a better master than sin. It is better to serve Christ than it is to serve sin. Matthew 5:17; Matthew 11:28-3 – Need to turn all areas (habits, etc.) over to Christ. The yoke of the law was heavy and burdensome. Christ’s yoke is easy.
- II. How does my freedom from sin affect me personally?
  - A. You are free to make your own choices, but if you choose sin, you should be aware of the consequences.
    1. You will not bear fruit -- John 15:1-8
    2. God will chasten you as His son -- Hebrews 12:5-11
    3. God will allow you to reap as you have sown -- Galatians 6:7-8
  - B. God will get the glory from your life one way or another – either as a vessel of honor or a vessel of dishonor. The choice is yours -- II Timothy 2:20-21
- III. How does my freedom from sin affect those around me?
  - A. Your life will be a testimony for good or for bad whether you want it to be or not -- Romans 14:7
  - B. You are to avoid things which could cause a weaker Christian to stumble in this faith -- Romans 14:13-15; I Corinthians 8:8-13
  - C. You are to avoid things which appear wrong even though they may not be wrong. Think in terms of “does this glorify God” rather than if it is “right or wrong” -- Romans 14:16; I Thessalonians 5:22
    1. For the sake of your own testimony in Christ

2. For the sake of the unsaved that they may see Christ in you
  3. For the sake of weaker Christians that they may draw closer to Christ.
- D. You are to have a good testimony towards both saved and lost people -- Romans 14:18
1. To the saved -- Acts 6:1-3; 16:1-2
  2. To the lost -- Colossians 4:5; I Timothy 3:7
  3. The purpose of this is to influence them for good in the Lord Jesus Christ -  
- Acts 11:22-24; I Corinthians 9:19-23
- IV. Now that you are free from sin, you should build up walls of separation to keep you free from the bondage of sin.
- A. Stay free from sin, and by following God's commandments of separation -- Psalm 119:45
- B. The key to staying free from sin is to avoid the circumstances in which you do sin. This is why Scripture gives us standards and walls of separation so that we stay free from sin to serve God. Understand we all have one area of sin that the Devil knows can bring us down. Know it and avoid it – Hebrews 12:1-2
- C. These standards include the areas of where we go, what we do, what we allow ourselves to see, as well as other areas.
- D. Follow these 8 steps:
1. Don't underestimate the seriousness of your sin – 1 Peter 5:8
  2. Purpose in your heart not to sin – Daniel 1
  3. Be suspicious of your own spirituality – 1 Corinthians 10:12; Philippians 3:3; Jeremiah 17:9
  4. Resist the first hint of evil desire – James 1:15
  5. Meditate on the Word – Psalm 37:30
  6. Be instantly repentant over your sin – Matthew 26:75; 1 John 1:9
  7. Continually watch and pray – Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 4:2; Matthew 26:41
  8. Be an active part of a church with other believers who hold you accountable – 1 Corinthians 10:13; Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 3:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Galatians 6:1

- V. How do I know where to exercise standards and separation?  
 There are some “gray areas” in dealing with certain areas of Christian living. What we need to remember is that there are no gray areas with God. It is our responsibility to make sure that what we do is sanctioned by God. In this case, ask yourself the following questions:
- A. Am I being brought under the power of something that should not be controlling my life? -- I Corinthians 6:12
  - B. Am I edifying myself or others?  
I Corinthians 10:23
  - C. Can I ask God to bless it with a clear conscience? -- Colossians 3:17; Acts 24:16; Acts 28:1
  - D. If the Lord returned at this moment, would I be ashamed? Would I take Christ with me to the places I go?-- I Corinthians 1:8; I Thessalonians 5:23
  - E. Would it cause a brother to stumble?  
Romans 14:13-15, 15:1-2
  - F. Would it be cause for an unsaved person to reject the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior?  
I Corinthians 10:31-33
  - G. Does my conscience convict me for it?  
I Peter 3:16; Hebrews 13:18; I Timothy 1:1-5

VI. Basic questions

Are we legalists for having standard or exercising separation?

- A. A legalist is someone who adds works to salvation. It has nothing to do with the issue of standards and separation, though some would like to think so.
- B. We are not legalistic or guilty of violating Scripture when we recognize the fact that God has given us standards and walls of separation for Christian living. It is our responsibility to follow these Scriptural standards.

Key memory verses:

Galatians 5:13; Romans 15:1; I Corinthians 10:31

NOTE: In many churches today, some popular teachings are the following:

1. There are not definite areas in the Christian life in which God expects standards and separation to be exercised
2. You are free to do whatever you want regardless of how it affects other people.
3. What you do has not real influence on other people.



From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

GO TO THE WORKBOOK AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS UNDER “LIBERTY IN CHRIST”

## MY JOB AND MY EMPLOYER

### *“What Should Be My Attitude Toward My Job and My Employer?”*

Since the Bible is the final authority in everything you will ever encounter in life, it is no surprise that it has a great deal to say about how you are to conduct yourself on your job. We spend about one fourth of our adult life on the job, and it is essential to our growth to learn how the Lord Jesus Christ would have us look at this area of responsibility. If you intend to be an effective servant of God, you must do so with all your life.

This lesson is designed to help you be the type of employee (or employer) that God would have you to be.

- I. ALL saved people are called to “full-time Christian service.” There are no part time soldiers in God’s army.
  - A. Ephesians 4:1 says your vocation is to serve Jesus Christ.
  - B. The Bible is very clear that EVERY saved person is an integral part of the body of Christ. Each member’s contribution is important. God expects every Christian to be involved in the Lord’s work -- I Corinthians 12:12-27, Ephesians 4:11-16
  - C. Your service for God is to be at all times, not just when you go to church -- I Peter 3:15; II Timothy 4:2
- II. The primary purpose of your job is to support your ministry – 2 Corinthians 5:18-20
  - A. Of course, your first ministry is to your family -- I Timothy 5:8, 3:5
  - B. Your second ministry is two-fold
    1. To your church family -- Galatians 6:10
    2. To reach the lost. II Corinthians 5:20
  - C. As we saw in a previous lesson your resources should be yielded to God’s service. Those resources are to be used to glorify God through the above areas.
- III. What should be my attitude toward my job?

You should view your job as a ministry opportunity, not just as job.

  - A. For the most Christians, your fellow workers are the greatest exposure you have to unsaved people,
  - B. Your life may be the only true witness of the Lord Jesus Christ they ever see.
    1. You are a light representing Jesus Christ -- Matthew 5:14-16
    2. Your life should reflect the Bible -- II Corinthians 3:2

- C. You will have a much greater influence on those with whom you spend the most time. Although total strangers are surely an opportunity for witness, those who see a consistent testimony of a Christian's life are much easier to win.
- IV. What attitudes should I have toward my superiors and the company for which I work?
- A. Serve as if the Lord Jesus Christ is your employer -- Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-24
  - B. Respect the authority of their position. Obviously, no employer will be correct in every point, and you certainly can disagree with them, however you are to submit to their leadership, using it as an opportunity to show them testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ – Titus 2:9-10
  - C. Respect your company's property; it does not belong to you -- Leviticus 19:11
  - D. Respect your company's time – do eight hours of work for eight hours of pay. If you are going to witness or share a Bible verse, make sure it does not interfere with your work -- II Corinthians 8:21; Colossian 3:22; Galatians 6:7
  - E. You are to do the very best you can to help the company succeed and make your employer look good -- Romans 12-11; I Corinthians 10:24; Proverbs 10:4, 18:9, 21:25, 22:29. Example of Joseph Genesis 39-50 (50:20)
  - F. Mind your own business and do not allow someone else's laziness to affect you -- I Thessalonians 4:11-12; II Thessalonians 3:10-13
- V. The Bible also shows the employer or supervisor how to relate to those under his leadership.
- A. Do I treat my people justly and equally? Do I set standard for them which I refuse to keep myself? -- Colossians 4:1; Ephesians 6:9
  - B. Am I consumed with my own self-interests without considering the needs of those around me? -- Philippians 2:2-3
  - C. Am I trying to be a leader over too many things? Remember to consider the following points whenever a promotion or transfer opportunity presents itself:
    1. A great Bible principle is the following: "*He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much...*" (Luke 16:10). Be sure you can handle what you have now.
    2. Realize the more responsibility you have, the more potential is there is for problems to arise – James 3:1; Ecclesiastes 8:9

3. Realize that the more responsibilities you have, the more time and energy is demanded. Be sure your new responsibilities will not hinder your service for God. Our goal is to please God, not get entangled in this life – II Timothy 2:4

D. Even in a position of leadership, you should always maintain the attitude of a servant -- Mark 10:42-45

E. Psalm 75:6-7

## VI. Basic questions

A. What if my job conflicts with spiritual matters?

1. There will always be some conflict of priorities between church activities and your work schedule. You should not quit your job or take off from work because of a few minor conflicts. Remember, your job is a ministry opportunity. However, you must not use your job as an excuse to neglect your responsibilities to your church. You **MUST** maintain balance in this area.
2. When your job responsibilities are contrary to Bible principles, then you must draw a line.
  - a. Refuse to lie or steal for your employer or to violate other clear commandments of God.
  - b. Guard against temptation on the job.
  - c. Do not be influenced by sinful activities around you.

B. How do I handle “persecution” on the job?

1. Most “persecution” in our culture is a result of the Christian’s own ignorance or lack of personal commitment to the Lord. If you are being “persecuted”, it is for one of two reasons: Your behavior is improper, or your proper testimony is an offense to someone -- I Peter 3:16-17
2. Expect a certain amount of adversity from the world if you are truly serving Jesus Christ -- II Timothy 3:12
3. Learn to commit that adversity to the Lord -- I Peter 2:18-23

C. What should I consider when looking for an employer?

1. Have you taken the matter to God in prayer? -James 1:5, Philippians 4:6-7
2. Will the new responsibility destroy what God is trying to build in your life? This is a complex question. Do not be afraid to seek wise counsel in these areas from another brother in Christ that you respect.

3. If you are being asked to move to another city, is there a church there which can continue to provide for your spiritual needs? This is an extremely critical point! Remember, the Devil will do anything to pull you away from your ministry and your church.
4. In looking for a change of jobs, are you running away from something that you should be facing and trying to correct?

Key memory verses:

II Timothy 2:4; Mark 10:44-45; Colossians 3:23

NOTE: In our society today, some common beliefs are the following:

1. Your job is just a paycheck.
2. Your job status is the most important measure of your success.
3. Your employer must always take a back seat to any church activities.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

GO TO THE WORKBOOK AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS UNDER “MY JOB AND EMPLOYER”

## THE UNSAVED WORLD

### *“As a Christian, How Do I Relate to the Unsaved World?”*

The Bible is very clear that the present world system is contrary to God’s eternal purpose. The Word of God commands His children to be separate from this world’s system; yet at the same time, to reach the lost men, women and children who live in it for Jesus Christ.

This lesson is designed to show you how to live a balanced and consistent life in order to influence people for the Lord Jesus Christ, without the word influencing them for evil.

- I. You must realize that if you live for Jesus you will encounter opposition from the world.
  - A. You will be opposed because Jesus Christ was opposed -- John 15:18-21
  - B. You will be opposed only if you live for Him. If you go along with the world, they will not oppose you -- II Timothy 3:12
- II. From what areas will this opposition come?
  - A. Your primary opposition will come from those closest to you who know you best – friends, family, fellow workers, and acquaintance -- Matthew 10:35-36; John 1:1, Mark 6:4
  - B. From unsaved people in general. The two spiritual families have NEVER gotten along and never will -- Galatians 4:29
  - C. From society in general. The nature and course of this present world system is against God. This opposition is communicated subtly through the media, (literature, television, radio, internet, etc.) You must judge those things by the Word of God -- I John 2:15-17; James 4:4
  - D. Of course, the master behind this opposition is Satan.
    1. He is your adversary -- I Peter 5:8
    2. He is currently at work in unsaved people -- Ephesians 2:2
- III. How can I overcome this opposition?
  - A. Give a soft answer. Avoid arguments whenever possible -- Proverbs 15:1; Romans 12:18
  - B. Please God with your life -- Proverbs 16:7
  - C. Have faith in God -- I John 5:4-5

- D. Love your enemies and help them. Jesus Christ loved His enemies enough to die for them when He did not have to do it. The world cannot understand the type of love, and those who are seeking the truth will be drawn to it – Romans 5:8; Romans 12:14, 20, 21
  - E. Pray for your enemies and pray with pure motives -- Matthew 5:44
  - F. Keep good company. Associate with people who love God and want to serve Him -- Proverbs 13:20; I Corinthians 15:33
  - G. Immerse yourself in the Word of God -- Romans 12:1-2
- IV. How should the unsaved world view me as a Christian?
- A. They should know that you love God. NOT by your mouth as much as your life - - I Corinthians 8:3
  - B. Your lifestyle should separate you from the world, and your behavior should be peculiar, or Biblical, to them -- II Corinthians 6:14-18; I Peter 2:9
  - C. They should see you as being open and honest in all matters -- II Corinthians 8:21; Romans 12:17
  - D. They should see a living testimony of the grace of God -- Philippians 2:14-15
  - E. Generally, you should be of “good report.” -- I Timothy 3:7; Colossians 4:5-6
- V. How should I view the world?
- A. You are a pilgrim in a strange land -- Hebrews 11:13; I Peter 2:11
  - B. Your home is in heaven -- Ephesians 2:6; Philippians 3:20
  - C. This world is a “mission field” to reach the lost for Jesus Christ -- Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15
- VI. Basic questions
- What are my responsibilities to my government?
- A. Government is one of three institutions ordained by God, the other two being the family and the church. Most governments are controlled by Satan (Luke 4:5-6) and, therefore, are essentially against God. However, you are still to submit to the ordinance of God -- Romans 13:1-2 – Remember God is in control of all things.
  - B. If you do what is right, you have no reason to fear, God will honor you for doing right -- Romans 13:3-5

- C. Render to the government what is due by law -- Romans 13:6-7; Matthew 17:24-27, 22:15-22
- D. Submit to their ordinances -- I Peter 2:13-15 – Your first submission comes to the Word of God and God’s ordinances.
- E. Honor those in authority, even the wicked, without partaking of their wickedness. Commit any adverse situation to God and let Him handle them -- I Peter 2:17-23 – When Peter wrote these words Nero was king, perhaps the most wicked king Rome had ever had.

Key memory verses:

II Timothy 3:12, I John 2:15-16, I Corinthians 8:3

NOTE: In our society today, many have these popular teachings regarding Christians:

1. Christians are to be totally separate from the unsaved people.
2. I should do anything to keep people from being upset.
3. The best way to fight opposition is with an aggressive approach.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

GO TO THE WORKBOOK AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS UNDER “THE UNSAVED WORLD”



# THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

## *“Is There a Judgment Day for Christians and for What Will I Be Accountable?”*

The Christian life is a series of paradoxical truths. The Bible says God’s ways are not our ways because man looks on outward physical matters, while God looks at the heart attitude and operates in the spiritual realm. If you are going to serve God effectively, you must take your focus off of physical matters and concentrate on the spiritual. Your life will only make sense, have purpose, and meaning as you live in the spiritual realm, focused on eternal matters.

This lesson is designed to keep your focus on these eternal matters by detailing your final accountability to the Lord Jesus Christ as His servant.

- I. What is the “Judgment Seat of Christ?”
  - A. This phrase refers to the Bema Judgment Seat of the old Greek and Roman Games. Contestants in the sporting events would be judged for their performance by these judges. Winners would receive rewards, those not winning would receive nothing, nor would they be punished for not winning. In the spiritual realm therefore, this judgment is only for the believer in Christ and what you have done since you have been saved.
  - B. God will judge every human being who has ever lived -- Proverbs 29:26, Hebrews 9:27 - The unsaved will receive final judgment at the Great White Throne Judgment in Revelation 20:11-15.
  - C. God judged the sin of the world at Calvary. By placing your faith in Jesus Christ, you do not have to fear judgment of your sin because He took your judgment upon Himself -- I Peter 2:24; II Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13
  - C. Your (the Christian’s) judgment will be for your service to the Lord Jesus Christ after your salvation. This event is called the “Judgment Seat of Christ.” -- II Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10
- II. What will I be judged for at the Judgment Seat of Christ?
  - A. You will be judged for your work as a servant of Jesus Christ -- I Corinthians 3:11-15
  - B. Your work will be judged for the MOTIVE behind it and the quality as opposed to the quantity.
    1. *“Of what SORT (what kind) it is.”* -- I Corinthians 3:13
    2. Heart attitudes will be more important than actual works. If the proper attitudes are developed, the proper works will come naturally -- I Thessalonians 2:4; Ephesians 6:6

- III. What are the negative consequences of this judgment?
- A. Paul said in II Corinthians 5:11 when speaking of the Judgment Seat of Christ that it is the *“Terror of the Lord”*. A Christian should never fear going to hell, but there are some things to beware of in relation to the final judgment. Some Christians will be found:
1. Ashamed for not living for the Lord Jesus Christ at His appearing -- I John 2:28
  2. Suffering loss because their works were temporal (for earthly gain) and not eternal -- I Corinthians 3:11-18
  3. Losing rewards because they lived in sin rather than for Jesus Christ -- II Corinthians 5:10; Galatians 6:7-8
- B. Remember that appearances are many times very deceiving.
1. Do not be fooled by outward appearances in your own life as well as the lives of others. Many people only APPEAR to be servants of the Lord -- Luke 16:15; I Corinthians 1:27-31
  2. Be sure to invest in heavenly rewards instead of earthy rewards. The real servants of the Lord will be revealed at the Judgment Seat of Christ -- Matthew 6:19-20; Colossians 3:1-4
- IV. What rewards are obtainable?
- The rewards obtainable at the Judgment Seat of Christ can be seen by studying the five crowns in the New Testament.
- A. The Crown of Righteousness – given to those who love the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ --II Timothy 4:8
1. The Bible closes with *“Even so, come, Lord Jesus”* Revelation 22:20
  2. Your overriding desire should be, at all times to be with the Lord -- Philippians 1:23-24
- B. Crown of Life – given to those who endures trials and tribulations -- James 1:12
1. Also seen as the martyr’s crown -- Revelation 2:10
  2. The two are the same because you overcome temptation by dying to self -- Romans 6:6-11
- C. Incorruptible Crown – given to those who have victory of the old nature in running the “race” through temperance -- I Corinthians 9:25
1. The context of I Corinthians 9:18-27 deals with temperance or moderation in all matters (physical, spiritual, and mental) to be a testimony to others.

2. This is balanced by remembering that some have infirmities for the purpose of glorifying God. Paul is a great example -- II Corinthians 12:7-10
- D. Crown of Rejoicing – the soul winner’s crown -- I Thessalonians 2:19
- 1 Given to those who win people to Christ --Philippians 4:1
  2. It is named this because it produces rejoicing in heaven when someone gets saved -- Luke 15:7
- E. Crown of Glory – the shepherd’s crown -- I Peter 5:4
1. This is given to those who pastor or shepherd people in the Word of God.
  2. The New Testament is very clear that ALL saved people are to be actively teaching someone the Word of God, not just preachers -- Ephesians 4:11-16; Matthew 28:18-20
  3. It requires great wisdom which can only be obtained through the Word of God -- Proverbs 4:7-9

V. Basic questions.

- A. What should I regard the Judgment Seat of Christ?
1. Focusing on the doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ’s return is one of the most practical ways to help yourself in everyday living in the Bible. Notice in the following verses how many practical character qualities are produced by focusing on the Lord Jesus Christ’s return.
    - a. Patience James 5:7-8; II Thessalonians 3:5
    - b. Peace I Thessalonians 4:13-18
    - c. Joy I Thessalonians 2:19
    - d. Holiness I Thessalonians 3:13; I John 3:1-3
    - e. Confidence Philippians 1:6; I John 2:28
    - f. Diligence in service II Timothy 4:1-8
    - g. Righteous living Titus 2:11-14
    - h. Faith even in difficult times I Peter 1:5-7
  2. The rewards that you receive on earth are all temporal and will perish. The rewards you receive at the Judgment Seat of Christ are eternal and will never perish -- II Corinthians 4:17, 5:4

3. By constantly focusing on the Judgment Seat of Christ, you will naturally develop a desire to please God rather than men. Developing this attitude is the surest way to handle criticism and opposition -- II Corinthians 5:6-9; I Corinthians 7:23
- B. What will I do with my rewards?
1. You will cast them at Christ feet -- Revelation 4:10-11
    - a. The 24 elders are symbolizing the church in this passage
    - b. We give our rewards to Christ because He is the one who enabled us to earn them. He is the only one who is worthy of them.
  2. Do you want to be found in that day with no reward to give to the Lord? "Must I empty handed by when I last My Lord I see?"

Key memory verses:

II Corinthians 5:8-9, I John 2:28, Luke 16:15

NOTE: In many churches today, some popular teachings are the following:

1. God is going to judge Christian's for their sin.
2. Christians will be judged for what they have done without regard to their motives.
3. Our rewards and losses are all received in this life.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

GO TO THE WORKBOOK AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS UNDER "THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST"