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# **LESSON 1:**

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

(Based on New King James Version)

### **God is omnipotent (all powerful):**

#### **Revelation 19:6**

<sup>6</sup> And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God **\*OMNIPOTENT\*** reigns!

#### **Matthew 19:26**

<sup>26</sup> But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God **\*ALL\*** things are **\*POSSIBLE\***."

### **God is perfect and always right:**

#### **Romans 3:4**

<sup>4</sup> Certainly not! Indeed, let **\*GOD\*** be true but every man a **\*LIAR\***. ...

#### **Deuteronomy 32:4**

<sup>4</sup> He is the Rock, His work is **\*PERFECT\***; For all His ways are justice, A God of **\*TRUTH\*** and without injustice; Righteous and **\*UPRIGHT\*** is He.

### **God cannot lie, or make mistakes:**

#### **Titus 1:2**

<sup>2</sup> in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot **\*LIE\***, promised before time began,

#### **Psalms 33:4**

<sup>4</sup> For the **\*WORK\*** of the LORD is **\*RIGHT\***,  
And all His work is done in **\*TRUTH\***.

- 1) Is God able and powerful enough to write a book if He wanted to? **\*YES\***
- 2) If God attempted to write a book, which of the following would He do:
  - a) Make mistakes and contradictions all through it.
  - b) **\*MAKE A PERFECT VOLUME FREE FROM ERRORS.\***

## THE BIBLE

God did write a book: **the Bible**.

### **2 Peter 1:21**

<sup>21</sup> for prophecy never came by the will of **\*MAN\***, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy **\*SPIRIT\***.

- 1) What kind of men did God use to record His words on paper?  
**\*HOLY MEN\***
- 2) Did these men write invent the stories and laws which they wrote? **\*NO\***

### **Jeremiah 36:4**

<sup>4</sup> Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah; and Baruch wrote on a scroll of a book, at the **\*INSTRUCTION\*** of Jeremiah, all the words of the **\*LORD\*** which He had spoken to him.

### **Ephesians 3:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> how that by **\*REVELATION\*** He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly **\*WRITTEN\*** already,

<sup>4</sup> by which, when you **\*READ\***, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),

- 1) How was the "mystery" made known? **\*BY REVELATION\***
- 2) What did Paul do with the information God revealed to him? **\*WROTE IT DOWN\***

- 3) What were Christians expected to do with these words Paul wrote down?

**\*READ AND UNDERSTAND\***

When these "holy men of God" recorded God's word on paper, those words were just as inspired and just as authoritative as if God had used His own hand to write with.

### **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> **\*ALL\*** Scripture is given by **\*INSPIRATION\*** of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,  
<sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be **\*COMPLETE\***, thoroughly equipped for **\*EVERY\*** good work.

"Inspiration" means "God breathed." The Scriptures are as authoritative as if God spoke directly to us with His own breath (voice).

- 1) Is there anything we need that is not contained in the Scriptures? **\*NO\***

### **2 Peter 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> as His divine power has given to us **\*ALL\*** things that pertain to **\*LIFE\*** and **\*GODLINESS\***, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

- 1) How many things pertaining to *life* are supplied by the Scriptures? **\*ALL THINGS\***
- 2) How many things pertaining to *godliness* are supplied by the Scriptures? **\*ALL THINGS\***

### **Matthew 4:4**

<sup>4</sup> But He answered and said, "It is **\*WRITTEN\***, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **\*EVERY\*** **\*WORD\*** that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

### **1 Corinthians 14:37**

<sup>37</sup> If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the **\*COMMANDMENTS\*** of the **\*LORD\***.

- 1) How much of the Holy Scriptures are inspired? **\*ALL\***
- 2) Is there any part of the Scriptures that is not inspired? **\*NO\***

- 3) If a man disobeys the Scriptures, who is he really disobeying? **\*THE LORD\***

## ONCE FOR ALL DELIVERED

God revealed His word once for all time:

### **Jude 3**

<sup>3</sup> Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the **\*FAITH\*** which was **\*ONCE\*** for **\*ALL\*** delivered to the saints.

- 1) Does God have the ability to preserve His word and protect it from errors if He wanted to? **\*YES\***

God did indeed preserve His word and keep it free from errors:

### **Matthew 24:35**

<sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but My **\*WORDS\*** will by no means pass **\*AWAY\***.

### **1 Peter 1:23-25**

<sup>23</sup> having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the **\*WORD\*** of God which lives and abides forever,  
<sup>24</sup> because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away,  
<sup>25</sup> But the word of the LORD **\*ENDURES\*** forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

- 1) Did God promise to preserve and protect His word? **\*YES\***
- 2) Which of three following items best describes the revelation and transmission of the scriptures?

1st Century		20th Century
a) The Bible was <i>imperfect</i> when first written,	Therefore ⇒	The Bible is <i>imperfect</i> today.
b) The Bible was <i>perfect</i> when first written,	But ⇒	Was not preserved and is therefore <i>imperfect</i> today.
<b>c) The Bible was <i>perfect</i> when first written,</b>	<b>And ⇒</b>	<b>God protected it thru the ages so that it is still <i>perfect</i> and reliable today.</b>

3) If the Bible has errors and contradictions today, which of the following statements is true:

- a) It was not preserved by God.
- b) It was not perfect to begin with.
- c) **Possibly both of the above.**

4) If the Bible was perfect when first written, and God did preserve it like He said He would, then:

- a) Would it contain no errors? **\*NO\***
- b) Would it contain no contradictions? **\*NO\***
- c) Is it authoritative? **\*YES\***

If the Bible was perfect when first written, and God preserved it like He said He would, then: if two passages seem to contradict each other, it is because we do not understand those passages.

**NOTE:** The problem is in our reasoning, **not** in the Scriptures.

## BIBLE WARNINGS

The Bible gives many warnings about tampering with the written Scriptures.

- 1) Nothing other than the written word can be preached in the Lord's church:

### **Galatians 1:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> But even if **\*WE\***, or an **\*ANGEL\*** from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be **\*ACCURSED\***.

<sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again, if **\*ANYONE\*** preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be **\*ACCURSED\***.

- 2) Nothing can be added, or taken away from the written word:

### **Revelation 22:18-19**

<sup>18</sup> For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone **\*ADDS\*** to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

<sup>19</sup> and if anyone **\*TAKES\*** **\*AWAY\*** from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

- 3) No man can be elevated above the written word:

### **1 Corinthians 4:6**

<sup>6</sup> Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think **\*BEYOND\*** what is **\*WRITTEN\***, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

- 1) May the Pope, any man, or any council of men teach anything different than the written word? **\*NO\***

- 2) May the Pope, any man, or any council of men add anything to the written word, or take anything away? **\*NO\***
- 3) May the Pope, or any man disobey the written word? **\*NO\***



## **LESSON 2:**

### **HOW TO INTERPRET THE BIBLE**

(Based on New King James Version)

**ILL:** Teacher announces on Monday morning there will be an exam on Friday. She explains what questions students should expect. She goes even further and explains the answers to the questions.

1) If a student is not ready for the exam on Friday, who's fault would it be?

**\*THE STUDENT'S FAULT\***

2) Can the teacher be blamed if a student is unprepared? **\*NO\***

#### **Revelation 20:12-15**

<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and **\*BOOKS\*** were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their **\*WORKS\***, by the things which were written in the **\*BOOKS\***.

<sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

<sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the **\*SECOND\*** death.

<sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of **\*FIRE\***.

Much like a teacher announcing that students must prepare for an exam, this passage is announcing that all men must prepare to be examined on Judgment Day.

1) Each person will be judged according to his **\*WORKS\***.

2) Will the books of the Bible be used in this "exam" that's coming? **\*YES\*** If so, which verse so indicates? **\*VERSE12\***

3) If a person's works correspond with what is written in the books of the Bible, his name will be recorded in another book called the **\*BOOK\*** of **\*LIFE\***.

- 4) Those who have not lived according to the books of the Bible will be sentenced to what?  
**\*LAKE\*** of **\*FIRE\***

## HAS GOD SHOWN US?

Has God told us how to interpret and apply His word???

If God <b>has not</b> told us how to interpret and apply His word, He must be out to get us!	If God <b>has</b> told us how to interpret the Bible, then we must interpret and apply the Scriptures in the way He has told us!
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We believe that if God went to so much trouble to reveal His word, He would surely go to the added trouble of explaining how to understand and interpret it. Let us see how God has instructed us to interpret His word.

## THE MAJOR DIVISION

First, we must recognize that God has placed a major division in the Bible:

### **2 Corinthians 3:6-14**

<sup>6</sup> who also made us sufficient as ministers of the **\*NEW\*** covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

<sup>14</sup> But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the **\*NEW\*** Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.

1) According to this passage, what are the two major divisions of the Bible?

- a) **\*OLD TESTAMENT\***
- b) **\*NEW TESTAMENT (COVENANT)\***

### **Hebrews 8:6-13**

<sup>6</sup> But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a **\*BETTER\*** covenant, which was established on better promises.

<sup>7</sup> For if that **\*FIRST\*** covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a **\*SECOND\***.

<sup>13</sup> In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to **\*VANISH\*** away.

- 1) How many covenants, or testaments are mentioned in this passage? **\*TWO\***
- 2) Is one better than the other? **\*YES\*** If so, which one is better?  
**\*NEW TESTAMENT\***
- 3) Did the Old Testament have faults? **\*YES (VERSE 7)\***
- 4) If the Old Testament was complete and perfect and could get men to heaven all by itself, would we have needed a New Testament? **\*NO\***
- 5) What is the Old Testament ready to do? **\*VANISH AWAY (VERSE 14)\***

### **Colossians 2:14**

<sup>14</sup> having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the **\*CROSS\***.

- 1) Who took the Old Testament out of the way? **\*JESUS\***
- 2) When was this done? **\*WHEN HE DIED ON THE CROSS\***

### **Hebrews 9:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the **\*DEATH\*** of the testator.

<sup>17</sup> For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator **\*LIVES\***.

- 1) According to this passage, what is a testament like? **\*A WILL\***
- 2) When does a "will" come into force? **\*AFTER A MAN DIES\***
- 3) Which testament did Jesus live under: the Old Testament, or the New Testament?  
**\*OLD TESTAMENT\***
- 4) When did the New Testament come into force? **\*AFTER JESUS DIED\***
- 5) Which part of the Bible shall we go to in order to know God's will for us today?  
**\*NEW TESTAMENT\***

## THE GOSPELS

The first four books of the New Testament are:

- a) **\*MATTHEW\***
- b) **\*MARK\***
- c) **\*LUKE\***
- d) **\*JOHN\***

The first three Gospels are called "*synoptic*." "*Synoptic*" is a compound word: syn (same) + optic (to see). In other words, the first three Gospels see the story of Jesus in the same basic way with the same basic outline.

John's Gospel story is different and fills in gaps that were left out by the other three writers. There was a reason that God gave three books telling the same story in the same way.

### **2 Corinthians 13:1**

<sup>1</sup> This will be the third time I am coming to you. "By the mouth of **\*TWO\*** or **\*THREE\*** witnesses every word shall be established."

- 1) Is one witness enough to establish truth in a court of law? **\*NO\***
- 2) If there were two, or three witnesses to an event and they all testified concerning the same thing, would this be valid evidence in a court of law? **\*YES\***
- 3) Do you think God gave three witnesses (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) to verify the truthfulness of the events they wrote of? **\*YES\***

**John 20:30-31**

<sup>30</sup> And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

<sup>31</sup> but these are written that you may **\*BELIEVE\*** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have **\*LIFE\*** in His name.

- 1) Why were these Gospel accounts written?  
**\*SO WE MIGHT BELIEVE IN JESUS\***

**THE GREAT ASSIGNMENT**

At the close of the Gospels is a "Great Assignment" given by Jesus to His apostles.

**Matthew 28:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and **\*MAKE\*** **\*DISCIPLES\*** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

- 1) According to this passage, what two things are necessary for a person to become a disciple of Jesus?
  - a) **\*BE BAPTIZED\***
  - b) **\*OBSERVE ALL THINGS JESUS COMMANDED\***

2) Can a person be saved today without being a disciple of Jesus? **\*NO\*** (See Luke 14:26-27 and Acts 11:26).

3) According to this passage, will Jesus be with people who are not disciples?

**\*NO\***

### **Mark 16:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "Go into all the world and **\*PREACH\*** the gospel to every creature.

<sup>16</sup> He who believes and is **\*BAPTIZED\*** will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

1) According to this passage, what two things are necessary for salvation?

a) **\*BELIEVE\***

b) **\*BE BAPTIZED\***

2) In the form of a math equation, fill in the missing blanks below using words from verse 16:

**\*BELIEVE\*** + **\*BE BAPTIZED\*** = saved

3) According to this passage, can a person be saved without believing in Jesus?

**\*NO\***

4) According to this passage, can a person be saved without being baptized?

**\*NO\***

## **THE BOOK OF ACTS**

The Book of Acts was written to show whether or not the apostles fulfilled the "Great Assignment" which Jesus gave them. Did they go into all the world? Did they preach to everyone who would listen? Did they teach men to believe and be baptized in order to be saved? The Book of Acts answers all of these questions.

### **Acts 2:38**

<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be **\*BAPTIZED\*** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- 1) What two things, according to this passage, were required of everyone present?
  - a) **\*REPENT\*** \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) **\*BE BAPTIZED\*** \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) According to Mark 16:16 Peter was supposed to preach that men should believe in Jesus before they could be baptized. Did he preach this to these people? (See Acts 2:36).  
**\*YES\*** \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Would you say Peter did what Jesus commanded in Mark 16:16? **\*YES\*** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Acts 8:12**

<sup>12</sup> But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were **\*BAPTIZED\***.

- 1) Did these Samaritans both believe and get baptized? **\*YES\*** \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Were they saved as a result of obeying what Philip preached? **\*YES\*** \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Would you say Philip did what Jesus commanded in Mark 16:16? **\*YES\*** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Acts 8:35-39**

<sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.

<sup>36</sup> Now as they went down the road, they came to some **\*WATER\***. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?"

<sup>37</sup> Then Philip said, "If you **\*BELIEVE\*** with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

<sup>38</sup> So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he **\*BAPTIZED\*** him.

<sup>39</sup> Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

- 1) What kind of baptism is under consideration in this passage? Water baptism? Holy Spirit baptism? Or some other kind of baptism? **\*WATER BAPTISM\***
- 2) Before the eunuch could be baptized, what did he have to do first? **\*BELIEVE\***
- 3) Was this eunuch saved before, or after being baptized? **\*AFTER\***
- 4) Is there anything in this passage that indicates baptism is an immersion in water? **\*YES - BOTH MEN WENT DOWN INTO THE WATER\***

### **Acts 9:18**

<sup>18</sup> Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was **\*BAPTIZED\***.

### **Acts 22:16**

<sup>16</sup> And now why are you waiting? Arise and be **\*BAPTIZED\***, and wash away your **\*SINS\***, calling on the name of the Lord.'

These two passages describe how a man was converted to Christ. Both passages are about the same man.

- 1) Who was this man? **\*SAUL\***
- 2) Did this man believe in Jesus before being baptized? **\*YES\***
- 3) When were his sins "washed away"? Before he was baptized, or after he was baptized? **\*AFTER\***

### **Acts 10:47-48**

<sup>47</sup> "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

<sup>48</sup> And he commanded them to be **\*BAPTIZED\*** in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

- 1) What gave Peter the right to command people to be baptized in water? **\*THIS IS WHAT JESUS COMMANDED IN MARK 16:16\***
- 2) Can people refuse to obey commands given by Christ and His apostles and still expect to be saved? **\*NO\***



### **Acts 16:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

<sup>15</sup> And when she and her household were **\*BAPTIZED\***, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

- 1) Did this woman believe in Jesus before being baptized? **\*YES\***

### **Acts 16:30-33**

<sup>30</sup> And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

<sup>31</sup> So they said, "**\*BELIEVE\*** on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

<sup>32</sup> Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

<sup>33</sup> And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were **\*BAPTIZED\***.

- 1) What was the first thing this man was told to do in order to be saved? **\*BELIEVE\***
- 2) Was this the only thing he was told? **\*NO\***
- 3) Was he told to be baptized? **\*YES\***
- 4) According to verse 25 of this same chapter, what time of the night did this occur? **\*MIDNIGHT\***

### **Acts 18:8**

<sup>8</sup> Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, **\*BELIEVED\*** on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were **\*BAPTIZED\***.

- 1) What two things did these Corinthians do in order to get saved?
  - a) **\*BELIEVE\***
  - b) **\*BAPTIZED\***

### **Acts 19:5**

<sup>5</sup> When they heard this, they were **\*BAPTIZED\*** in the name of the Lord Jesus.

- 1) According to the first four verses of this chapter, had these people already been baptized once before? **\*YES\***
- 2) If a person has been baptized incorrectly, is it necessary to be baptized again? **\*YES\***
- 3) After reading all these accounts of conversion in the Book of Acts, would you say the apostles fulfilled the "Great Assignment" which Jesus gave them? **\*YES\***

## **THE EPISTLES**

After the Book of Acts we find there are twenty-one epistles, or letters. Write the names of these books on the following lines. (Note: Abbreviate and put "twin" books on the same line. For example, 1 & 2 Cor. would go on the same line.)

**\*ROM\***

**\*1 & 2 COR\***

**\*GAL\***

**\*EPH\***

**\*PHIL\***

**\*COL\***

**\*1 & 2 THESS\***

**\*1 & 2 TIM\***

**\*TIT\***

**\*PHILEMON\***

**\*HEB\***

**\*JAMES\***

**\*1 & 2 PET\***

**\*1, 2, 3 JN\***

**\*JUDE\***

These epistles were written to Christians - people who have already been "born again" of the "water and Spirit" (John 3:5). These books contain information on how to live after conversion.

## **1 John 1:9**

<sup>9</sup> If we **\*CONFESS\*** our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- 1) Is this telling an alien sinner <sup>1</sup> how to get saved, or it is telling a Christian <sup>2</sup> how to get forgiveness? **\*A CHRISTIAN\***
- 2) When a Christian sins, does he get forgiveness by praying, or by being baptized again? **\*CONFESSION AND PRAYER\***

## **2 Peter 1:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

<sup>6</sup> to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,

<sup>7</sup> to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

<sup>8</sup> For **\*IF\*** these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>9</sup> For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election **\*SURE\***, for **\*IF\*** you do these things you will never stumble;

- 1) Is there any work for a Christian to do after conversion? **\*YES\***
- 2) Is a Christian's calling and election by God a "sure thing", or does a Christian have to do something to make his call and election sure? **\*HE MUST DO SOMETHING\*** What verse indicates the correct answer? **\*VERSE 10\***
- 3) Is it possible for a Christian to "stumble" or "fall" from grace? **\*YES\*** (See also Galatians 5:4)

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<sup>1</sup> An "alien sinner" is someone who has never been saved before.

<sup>2</sup> A Christian is a "disciple" of Christ (Acts 11:26) and one must be (a) baptized and (b) observe all things commanded in order to be a disciple (Matthew 28:19-20).

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

The last book of the New Testament is the Book of Revelation. Many people think this is a book of clues so men can determine when the world will end, or when Jesus shall return, but this is not the case. Notice carefully the following passages:

### **Mark 13:32**

<sup>32</sup> "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but **\*ONLY\*** the Father.

- 1) Does Jesus know when the world will end? **\*NO\***
- 2) Who is the only one that knows? **\*THE FATHER\***
- 3) Would it be possible to read the Book of Revelation and figure out when the world will end? **\*NO\***

### **2 Peter 3:10**

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come as a **\*THIEF\*** in the night, ...

- 1) Does a thief usually give any warning signs that he is coming? **\*NO\***
- 2) If the end of the world comes "like a thief in the night", will there be any warning that it's coming? **\*NO\***

This final book is written to encourage Christians to stay faithful even to the point of death.

### **Revelation 2:10**

<sup>10</sup> Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be **\*FAITHFUL\*** until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

### **Revelation 3:5**

<sup>5</sup> He who **\*OVERCOMES\*** shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

- 1) According to these passages, will all your problems in life go away when you become a Christian? **\*NO\***
- 2) According to these passages, who is the one that will be saved in heaven?  
***\*THE ONE WHO REMAINS FAITHFUL\****

## LESSON 3:

# WILL GOOD PEOPLE FROM EVERY CHURCH BE SAVED?

(Part 1)

(Based on New King James Version)

This question assumes that there are "good" people in every church.

**Q:** What if there were no "good" people in any church?

### **Matthew 19:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

<sup>17</sup> So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? **\*NO\*** **\*ONE\*** is **\*GOOD\*** but One, that is, **\*GOD\***. ...

Is there a "good" person in any church according to this passage? **\*NO\*** \_

## ABSOLUTE "GOODNESS"

This brings us to an important concept: There are only two kinds of "good."

- **Absolute** goodness
- **Declared** goodness

**1<sup>st</sup>) Absolute goodness.**

This means a person has always been good.

- As far back as one could research, this person is good.
- He has never ever done anything wrong.
- He has never ever done anything foolish.
- This person is absolutely flawless.

Jesus said there is no one like this except **\*GOD\***.

The scriptures teach that if a person was absolutely good (flawless), they would go to heaven, not because God was being merciful and gracious to this person, but because this person **\*DESERVES\*** to go to heaven.

If a person was inherently good:

- They could "**\*BOAST\***" that they were in heaven because they never ever sinned. (See Rom 4:2 below.)
- They could "boast" that they **deserved** heaven.
- They could "boast" that they **merited** heaven.

**NOTE:** "Merit" means to earn and deserve something.

A boy scout "earns" **merit** badges. He works for these badges. He deserves them because he did what was required and he earned them.

### **Romans 4:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?

<sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by **\*WORKS\***, he has something to **\*BOAST\*** about, but not before God.

**"If Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God" –** Abraham could boast in front of me and you, but he couldn't boast in front of God, because God is flawless and greater than Abraham.

Abraham might be able to boast in front of other humans, but there is no boasting by anyone in the presence of God almighty!

## ABRAHAM NOT "GOOD"

But Abraham was not "good."

In other words, he was not absolutely **\*FLAWLESS\***. He will be in heaven, but he won't be there because he deserved heaven.

- Abraham **\*LIED\*** twice about his wife Sarah – saying she was his sister (Gen 12:13; 20:2).
- He wanted his servant **\*ELIEZER\*** of Damascus to be his heir (Gen 15:2).
- He slept with **\*HAGAR\*** and produced a son rather than trusting in God to give him a son by Sarah (Gen 16:3-4).

Since Abraham was not absolutely flawless he was not "good." The very best person you know is not absolutely flawless. There is no one (of an accountable age) who is:

- Deserving
- Flawless
- Able to merit salvation

If the preacher stood up at the funeral of any of us and said, "*This person deserves to go to hell,*" he would be telling the truth.

(It would make people mad, but it would be the truth.)

## WHY?

**Q:** *Why* would each accountable person deserve hell?

**A:** They deserve hell because of who God is.



God is:

- The Creator (Scripture: **\*GEN 1:1\***) (Many other verses will work here)
- The great Provider
- Faithful (Scripture: **\*1 COR 10:13\***) (Many other verses will work here)
- Sovereign
- Holy (Scripture: **\*1 PET 1:16\***) (Many other verses will work here)
- Just
- Glorious
- Righteous
- Flawless
- Sinless (Scripture: **\*1 JN 1:5\***) (Many other verses will work here)

God deserves the very best we can offer.

- He doesn't deserve good service.
- He deserves flawless service.

God deserves:

- Constant praise.
- Constant obedience.
- Constant service.

**Psalms 1:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is the man  
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,  
Nor stands in the path of sinners,  
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;  
<sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
And in His law he meditates **\*DAY\*** and **\*NIGHT\***.

Jesus is the only One who ***always*** did what he should have done all the time.

Jesus is the only One who ***always*** refrained from evil all the time.

### **Romans 3**

<sup>9</sup> What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are **\*ALL\*** under **\*SIN\***.

<sup>10</sup> As it is written:

"There is **\*NONE\*** righteous, no, not **\*ONE\***;

<sup>11</sup> There is none who understands;

There is none who seeks after God.

<sup>12</sup> They have all turned aside;

They have together become unprofitable;

There is none who does good, no, not one."

<sup>23</sup> for **\*ALL\*** have sinned and fall **\*SHORT\*** of the glory of God,

Because everyone has fallen short of the glory of God, everyone deserves eternal punishment in hell. There is no one "good" – absolutely good.

### **MISCONCEPTION #1**

(About being "good")

There are several misconceptions about being "good."

#### **Misconception #1: I can compensate for my lack of service tomorrow.**

Some think they can compensate tomorrow for the sin they committed today and then they'll be "good." But no one can do this. The law of God says:

### **Mark 12:30**

<sup>30</sup> And you shall love the LORD your God with **\*ALL\*** your **\*HEART\***, with **\*ALL\*** your **\*SOUL\***, with **\*ALL\*** your **\*MIND\***, and with **\*ALL\*** your **\*STRENGTH\***. This is the first commandment.

If a person does this, there is no "extra" left over. You cannot love God tomorrow more than with all your heart.

**Example:** Suppose you gave God only 90% of the service He deserves today. Tomorrow, you cannot give God 110% (100% for the day + 10% extra to make up for yesterday). You cannot be so good today that you can compensate for your lack of service yesterday.

## CATHOLICISM

Roman Catholicism teaches the church has a "**treasury of merits**" (Ferguson, *New Dictionary of Theology*, p. 422). They teach that sometimes men and women can do good deeds "*above and beyond the call of duty*." When they do this, they are canonized as "*saints*." "*Saints*," according to this doctrine, are people who not only had enough good deeds to tip the scales in their favor, but they had even a few extra good deeds to spare.

These spare/excess good deeds go into a "**treasury of merits**" and can be applied to other less-worthy Christians thru indulgences.

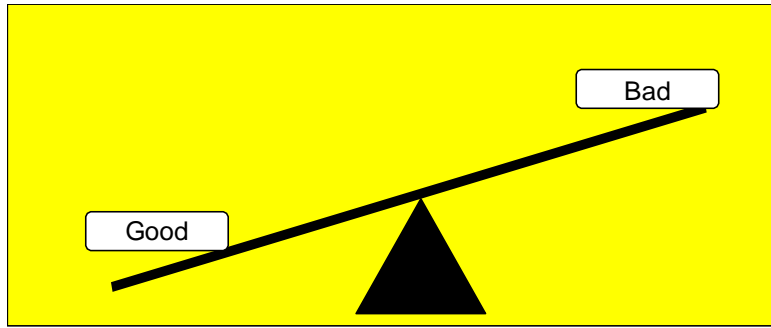
The Reformers strongly (and rightfully) opposed this doctrine because no one can do more than is required of them. Gritting our teeth and trying harder tomorrow will not make up for the fact we failed today.

## MISCONCEPTION #2

(About being "good")

**Misconception #2: I'll just be more good than I am bad and that makes me "good".**

The Islam and Jewish religions of today truly believe in "*salvation by works*." They believe in a "*balance scale*" system wherein all the good deeds of a man are placed on one side of the scales and all the bad deeds are placed on the other side.



The idea is that if the "**\*GOOD\***" outweighs the "**\*BAD\***," the person is saved and goes to **\*HEAVEN\***.

This belief goes beyond the Islam and Jewish religions. Many people unknowingly embrace this belief.

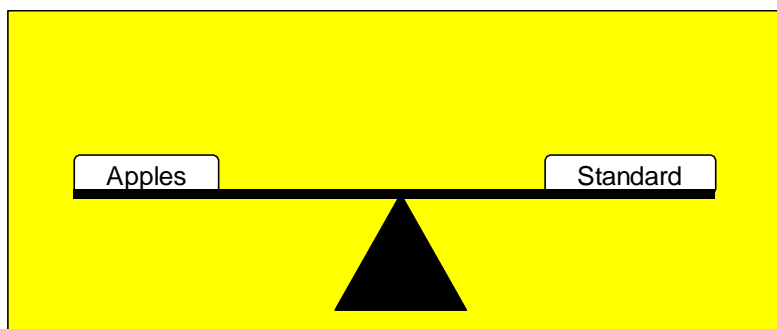
**ILL:** When worthless uncle dies, someone weeps over his casket saying, "He was a good man. He didn't go to church, but he had a good heart and would do good things for others."

In other words, this uncle "deserves" to be saved. His good deeds "merited" salvation though he never obeyed God.

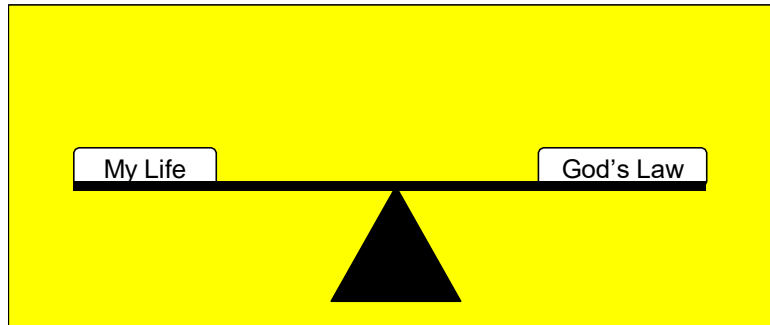
The problem with this idea is there is no consideration given for **a standard**.

**ILL:** When I go to the store to buy apples, I don't get to put something on both sides of the scales.

My apples are put on one side and **a standard**, by which to judge the apples, is put on the other side.



On Judgment Day all our deeds (our whole life) will be placed on one side and a standard (God's **\*LAW\***) will be placed on the other side.



The only way these scales can remain balanced is if I do **\*ALL\*** that the law says **\*ALL\*** the time. If I should ever fail a single time, the scales become unbalanced in favor of the **\*LAW\***.

### **Galatians 3:10**

<sup>10</sup> For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "**\*CURSED\*** is everyone who does not **\*CONTINUE\*** in **\*ALL\*** things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."

This verse was written to Galatians who were thinking about quitting the church and going into Judaism. This would be rejecting Jesus and attempting to be saved without Christ.

- If one rejects Christ, all he has left is **\*LAW\***.
- If all one has is law, he must keep that law **\*FLAWLESSLY\***.

## **SUMMARY**

We are asking the question: **Will good people from every church be saved?**

There are only two kinds of goodness:

- **\*ABSOLUTE\*** goodness (righteousness)
- **\*DECLARED\*** goodness (righteousness)

No person from any church is going to go to heaven because of **\*ABSOLUTE\*** goodness.

- There is no good person in any church in all of the world in the sense of absolute goodness.

Furthermore:

- No one can do enough work to become good on their own.
- No one can grit their teeth and compensate tomorrow for their lack of service today.
- No one can be more-good-than-bad and find any hope in that system.

## LESSON 4:

# WILL GOOD PEOPLE FROM EVERY CHURCH BE SAVED?

(Part 2)

(Based on New King James Version)

We are asking the question: **Will good people from every church be saved?**

There are only two kinds of goodness:

- **\*ABSOLUTE\*** goodness (righteousness)
- **\*DECLARED\*** goodness (righteousness)

In the last lesson we learned there is no one with **\*ABSOLUTE\*** goodness except **\*GOD\*** (Mt 19:17).

## DECLARED GOODNESS

Now we consider the other kind of "goodness" called "declared goodness."

### **2<sup>nd</sup>) Declared goodness.**

The only hope for anyone is to be **declared** good (righteous) by God.

If a person is declared good by God, it means God **\*FORGIVES\*** that person's sins and it's **as if he were good and had never sinned to start with.**

### **Romans 4:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?

<sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to **\*BOAST\*** about, but not before God.

<sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham **\*BELIEVED\*** God, and it was **\*ACCOUNTED\*** to him for **\*RIGHTEOUSNESS\***."

Abraham was declared righteous (good). God was willing to forgive Abraham of all his past sins and view him **as if** he had never sinned at all.

**Q:** Was Abraham absolutely good? **\*NO\***

**Q:** What did Abraham have to do for God to declare him righteous? **\*BELIEVE (TRUST)\***

Rather than trusting in his **\*WORKS\*** to save him, Abraham trusted in **\*GOD\*** and His grace to save him.

- Abraham was smart enough to know that his works were not perfect and that God deserves flawless works.
- Instead of trusting in his works, he trusted in God and His grace.

### **ROMANS 4:4-5**

#### **Romans 4:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> Now to him who **\*WORKS\***, the wages are not counted as **\*GRACE\*** but as debt.

<sup>5</sup> But to him who does not **\*WORK\*** but **\*BELIEVES\*** on Him who justifies the ungodly, his **\*FAITH\*** is accounted for righteousness,

These verses are explaining Abraham's justification. The "works" under consideration have two qualities:

- They are "works" which would allow for **\*BOASTING\*** (v2).
- They are "works" which would put God into **\*DEBT\*** to a person (v4).



Q: What sort of works produce boasting and put God in debt?

**\*FLAWLESS WORKS\***

**"But to him who does not work but believes on Him"** (Rom 4:5) – stop. Here is a man who is "not **\*WORKING\*** ." What does that mean in this context?

- It means he is not trusting in his flawless, meritorious **\*WORKS\*** to save himself.
- He's not trusting in flawless works because he doesn't have any.
- He's trusting in something else to save him.

Now, look at the word "*believes.*" This means "*trust.*"

This verse is contrasting two attitudes:

- A trust in **\*WORKS\***
- A trust in **\*GOD\***

## TRUSTING IN WORKS

Some men trust in their own works to save them. They foolishly think if their works are placed on the scales, the beam will balance.

### **Deuteronomy 8:11-18**

<sup>11</sup> "**\*BEWARE\*** that you do not **\*FORGET\*** the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today,

<sup>12</sup> lest — when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them;

<sup>13</sup> and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied;

<sup>14</sup> when your heart is lifted up, and you **\*FORGET\*** the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

<sup>15</sup> who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock;

<sup>16</sup> who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end —  
<sup>17</sup> then you say in your heart, **\*MY\*** power and the might of **\*MY\*** hand have gained me this wealth.'  
<sup>18</sup> "And you shall remember the **\*LORD\*** your **\*GOD\***, for it is **\*HE\*** who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

## 1) **Here are people trusting in themselves rather than in God.**

They have an attitude.

- Being a sinner is bad enough.
- Being an arrogant sinner with an attitude is even worse.

Over and over God's people were taught to not trust in themselves – their own power, their own strength.

### **Psalms 20:7**

<sup>7</sup> Some **\*TRUST\*** in chariots, and some in horses;  
But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

### **2 Chronicles 16:12**

<sup>12</sup> And in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet, and his malady was severe; yet in his disease he did not seek the **\*LORD\***, but the physicians.

### **Isalah 31:1**

<sup>1</sup> Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help,  
And rely on horses,  
Who **\*TRUST\*** in **\*CHARIOTS\*** because they are many,  
And in **\*HORSEMEN\*** because they are very strong,  
But who do not look to the **\*HOLY\* \*ONE\*** of Israel,  
Nor seek the **\*LORD\***!

When Rom 4:5 speaks of one who "does not work," this does not mean one who does not obey God. It means someone who is not trusting in their own works to save themselves.

## 2) Trusting in God requires obedience.

### **Deuteronomy 8:11**

<sup>11</sup> "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not **\*KEEPING\*** His **\*COMMANDMENTS\***, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today,

We must be careful to observe every command which God has given us.

- One cannot truly obey God without trusting in Him.
- Nor can one truly trust in Him without obeying Him.

Abraham was accounted righteous when he trusted in God enough to obey what God said.

## **TRUST AND OBEY**

For Abraham, trusting God meant:

- Leaving Ur of the Chaldees and moving to the land of **\*CANAAN\***.
- Patiently waiting for God to give him a son thru **\*SARAH\*** – not some other woman.
- Offering **\*ISAAC\*** up in sacrifice.

### **James 2:21-24**

<sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by **\*WORKS\*** when he offered **\*ISAAC\*** his son on the altar?

<sup>22</sup> Do you see that **\*FAITH\*** was working together with his **\*WORKS\***, and by works faith was made perfect?

<sup>23</sup> And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham **\*BELIEVED\*** God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

<sup>24</sup> You see then that a man is justified by **\*WORKS\***, and not by faith **\*ONLY\***.

The scriptures describe two different kinds of works.

- Works which do not save are described in Rom 4:1-5.
- Works which do save are described in Ja 2:14-26.

Works which do not save = **works of merit**.

These are works which men do foolishly thinking they merit (earn) salvation.

Works which do save = **works of humble obedience**.

These are works which men do in humble obedience while trusting in God.

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Q: What's the difference between: (a) works of merit and (b) works of obedience?

Q: What's the difference between: (a) trusting in works to save and (b) trusting in God to save?

A: **Attitude.**

### **Luke 17:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'?

<sup>8</sup> But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'?

<sup>9</sup> Does he **\*THANK\*** that servant because he did the things that were **\*COMMANDED\*** him? I think **\*NOT\***.

<sup>10</sup> So likewise you, when you have done **\*ALL\*** those things which you are **\*COMMANDED\***, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our **\*DUTY\*** to do.'"

Here is a servant who has been (a) plowing and (b) tending sheep. He has put in a full day's work.

**Q:** According to Jesus, does this servant deserve a break? **\*NO\***

**Q:** According to Jesus, does this servant deserve a reward? **\*NO\***

**Q:** What does the servant deserve? **\*NOTHING\***

Look carefully at v10 again. After you have done everything the Lord commanded:

- Lived a pure life.
- Went to church every Sunday.
- Visited the sick.
- Brought others to church.
- Encouraged others.
- Sacrificed your time and money.

After all this, you are to say: **"We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our **\*DUTY\*** to do."**

If you begin to complain about what's required of you, you're trusting in your works to save you – not the Lord.

**Attitude** – it makes all the difference.

### **Matthew 20:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius.

<sup>10</sup> But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive **\*MORE\***; and they likewise received each a denarius.

<sup>11</sup> And when they had received it, they **\*COMPLAINED\*** against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.'

<sup>13</sup> But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?'

These men feel deserving of better. They feel cheated when the Lord didn't give them what they thought they deserved.

## "BY GRACE, THROUGH FAITH"

### **Ephesians 2:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> For by **\*GRACE\*** you have been saved through **\*FAITH\***, and that not of **\*YOURSELVES\***; it is the gift of God,  
<sup>9</sup> not of **\*WORKS\***, lest anyone should **\*BOAST\***.

Every man who was ever saved was saved by grace thru faith. No one was ever saved "by works."

In other words, no one was ever saved because they performed flawless works and deserved to be saved.

**In answer to the question: Will good people from every church be saved?**, the answer is no simply because there are no "good" people in any church.

## FORGIVEN PEOPLE

The only people saved will be those who are **"declared good"** (righteous) – no one is inherently good.

### **Romans 4:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> But to him who does not work but **\*BELIEVES\*** on Him who justifies the ungodly, his **\*FAITH\*** is **\*ACCOUNTED\*** for righteousness,  
<sup>6</sup> just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:  
<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are **\*FORGIVEN\***,  
And whose sins are **\*COVERED\***;  
<sup>8</sup> Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute **\*SIN\***."

Because we are guilty, we must be forgiven.

To have our *"lawless deeds forgiven"* we must obey the terms of forgiveness:

- **Believe** (Mk 16:16)
- **Repent** (Acts 2:38)
- **Confess** (Rom 10:10)
- **Baptism** (Acts 2:38)

Only forgiven people will be saved.

When people ask the question, "*Will good people from every church be saved?*", they are assuming one of two things:

- There are people who are truly good enough to deserve salvation.
- OR, there are forgiven people in every church.

But there are not forgiven people in every church. Forgiven people are found only in the Lord's church:

### **Acts 2**

<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, "**\*REPENT\***, and let every one of you be **\*BAPTIZED\*** in the name of Jesus Christ for the **\*REMISSION\*** of **\*SINS\***; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>41</sup> Then those who gladly received his word were **\*BAPTIZED\***; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

<sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the **\*CHURCH\*** daily those who were being saved.

## **CONCLUSION**

All saved people are added by the Lord Himself to His own church (Acts 2:47). Every single one. There is not one saved person left outside the Lord's church.

- Men cannot invent their own plan of salvation and then think the Lord is obligated (indebted) to save them in heaven.
- If anyone is saved, it will be on the Lord's terms.

His terms are clearly revealed (Believe, Repent, Confess, Baptized).

After having done all of these things, you cannot boast – you have merely done "*what was your duty to do*" (Lk 17:10).



## **LESSON 5:**

# **IS THE CHURCH NECESSARY FOR SALVATION?**

(Based on New King James Version)

**Q:** Do you believe the church is necessary to go to heaven?

Many people do not feel the church is necessary to go to heaven. What does the Bible say about this subject?

**Jesus said He would build His own church:**

### **Matthew 16:18**

<sup>18</sup> And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My **\*CHURCH\***, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

- 1) How many churches did Jesus promise to build? **\*ONE\***
- 2) Would anything prevent Him from accomplishing this goal? **\*NO\***

**Jesus died for the church He built:**

### **Acts 20:28**

<sup>28</sup> Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the **\*CHURCH\*** of God which He purchased with His own **\*BLOOD\***.

- 1) How much did Jesus have to pay in order to "purchase" the church?  
**\*HIS OWN BLOOD\***
- 2) Would Jesus have died for something that was not essential for man's salvation?  
**\*NO\***

### **Ephesians 5:25**

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and **\*GAVE\*** Himself for her,

- 1) How much did the Lord love his church? **\*ENOUGH TO DIE FOR IT\***

### **Jesus views His church as being His bride:**

### **Ephesians 5:23-32**

<sup>23</sup> For the husband is head of the **\*WIFE\***, as also Christ is head of the **\*CHURCH\***; and He is the Savior of the body.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

<sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the **\*CHURCH\***.

- 1) Does the Lord expect His church to submit to His authority? **\*YES\*** If so, what verse indicates this? **\*VERSE 24\***
- 2) If a congregation refuses to submit to the Lord's commands, can that church truly claim to be the Lord's church? **\*NO\***

### **The church is the "pillar and ground of the truth":**

### **1 Timothy 3:15**

<sup>15</sup> but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the **\*CHURCH\*** of the living God, the **\*PILLAR\*** and **\*GROUND\*** of the truth.

- 1) What is another name for the "house of God"? **\*THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD\***
- 2) How many houses, or churches does God own according to this passage? **\*ONE\***

- 3) If a congregation refuses to obey certain commands of Jesus, can it truly claim to be the "pillar" (support) of the truth? **\*NO\***

### **When men were saved Jesus added them to His church:**

#### **Acts 2:38-47**

<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be **\*BAPTIZED\*** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of **\*SINS\***; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>41</sup> Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were **\*ADDED\*** to them.

<sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the **\*CHURCH\*** daily those who were being saved.

- 1) What two things did men have to do to be saved according to these verses?
- a) **\*REPENT\***
  - b) **\*BE BAPTIZED\***
- 2) How many people were baptized on this occasion? **\*3000\***
- 3) How many people were added by the Lord to His church? **\*3000\***
- 4) How many un-baptized people were added to His church? **\*0\***
- 5) Were any baptized people left out? **\*0\***

### **The church is the body of Jesus:**

#### **Ephesians 1:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

<sup>23</sup> which is His **\*BODY\***, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

- 1) What is the church being compared to in this passage? **\*A BODY\***

- 2) How many bodies does Jesus have? **\*ONE\*** (See also Ephesians 4:4)

**When Jesus comes again He will save His church:**

**Ephesians 5:23**

<sup>23</sup> For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the **\*SAVIOR\*** of the **\*BODY\***.

- 1) According to this, what is Jesus the Savior of? **\*THE BODY\***
- 2) What is His body? **\*THE CHURCH\***
- 3) If we want to be saved when Jesus returns, is it necessary to be a member of His body?  
**\*YES\***

**The church was designed by God to make all men one body:**

**Ephesians 2:11-16**

<sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that you, once **\*GENTILES\*** in the flesh — who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands —

<sup>12</sup> that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

<sup>15</sup> having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself **\*ONE\*** new man from the two, thus making peace,

<sup>16</sup> and that He might reconcile them both to God in **\*ONE\*** **\*BODY\*** through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

- 1) During the Old Testament days, the scriptures separated all men into two groups. What were those two groups? (See also Romans 3:29).
  - a) **\*JEWS\***
  - b) **\*GENTILES\***
- 2) Did God intend that there be two churches - one for each group? **\*NO\***
- 3) Was it God's intention that there be just one church for all men? **\*YES\***
- 4) According to this passage, do you think God approves of all the different churches and divisions we have in the world today? **\*NO\***

## WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Let's review what all these passages say about the Lord's church:

Matthew 16:18 – Jesus **\*BUILT\*** His own church

Acts 20:28 – Jesus **\*DIED\*** for His church

Ephesians 5:23-25 – The church is Jesus' **\*BRIDE\***

1 Timothy 3:15 – The church is the "pillar and ground of the **\*TRUTH\***"

Acts 2:38-47 – The Lord adds the **\*SAVED\*** to His church

Ephesians 1:22-23 – The church is the **\*BODY\*** of Christ

Ephesians 5:23 – Jesus will **\*SAVE\*** only His church when He returns

Ephesians 2:13-16 – The church makes all men **\*ONE\*** body"

According to the information contained in all of these passages, which definition below best describes the Lord's church:

- a) A building
- b) A group of people
- c) A group of people who believe in Jesus
- d) A group of people who believe in Jesus and are baptized for the remission of sins
- e) ***\*A group of people who believe in Jesus, are baptized for the remission of sins and have banded together to worship God regularly according to the Scriptures\****

## IDENTIFYING THE LORD'S CHURCH

The scriptures give a simple test in order to identify the Lord's church and His people.

### **1 John 2:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His **\*COMMANDMENTS\***.

<sup>4</sup> He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a **\*LIAR\***, and the truth is not in him.

<sup>5</sup> But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we **\*KNOW\*** that we are in Him.

- 1) If a church does not teach and practice all the commands of Jesus, are they really the Lord's church? **\*NO\***
- 2) In view of all the scriptures studied so far, if a church does not claim to be necessary for salvation, is it the Lord's church? **\*NO\***

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

What should your response be now that you have learned these things about the Lord's church?

### **Matthew 15:9-14**

<sup>9</sup> And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of **\*MEN\***."

<sup>13</sup> But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.

<sup>14</sup> **\*LET\* \*THEM\* \*ALONE\***. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

- 1) Does the Lord advise men to continue following religious leaders who teach man-made religious laws? **\*NO\***
- 2) Does verse 14 indicate that people should discontinue their membership in man-made churches? **\*YES\***
- 3) If a person is sincerely following what his preacher says, will he be spared from destruction if the preacher was wrong? **\*NO\***

### **2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

<sup>14</sup> Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

<sup>15</sup> And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

<sup>16</sup> And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

<sup>17</sup> Therefore **\*COME\* \*OUT\*** from among them And **\*BE\* \*SEPARATE\***, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

<sup>18</sup> "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

- 1) According to verse 17, what should we do if we find ourselves in a church that refuses to believe what Jesus taught? **\*COME OUT AND BE SEPARATE\***
- 2) Does the Lord advise us to stay in man-made religious groups? **\*NO\***
- 3) Is it possible to be a child of God and hold to false doctrine at the same time? **\*NO\*** What verse above could you cite for your answer? **\*VERSE 18\***

- 4) If a congregation is not teaching, or practicing everything Jesus said, should a person continue his membership there for a little while longer in hopes of teaching the people the truth? **\*NO\***

**Ephesians 5:11**

<sup>11</sup> And have no **\*FELLOWSHIP\*** with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

- 1) How much should we participate in religious practices which are not taught in the scriptures? **\*NO FELLOWSHIP (PARTICIPATION)\***

**BECOMING A MEMBER OF  
THE LORD'S CHURCH**

To become a member of the church Jesus built you must take the following steps:

- 1) **Believe in Jesus**

**Mark 16:16**

<sup>16</sup> He who **\*BELIEVES\*** and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

- 2) **Repent**

**Acts 2:38**

<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, "**\*REPENT\***, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.



3) Confess your belief

**Romans 10:10**

<sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth **\*CONFESSION\*** is made unto salvation.

4) Be baptized

**Acts 2:38**

<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be **\*BAPTISED\*** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

5) Remain faithful in attendance and service

**Hebrews 10:25**

<sup>25</sup> not forsaking the **\*ASSEMBLING\*** of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

**Hebrews 10:38**

<sup>38</sup> Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone **\*DRAWS\*** **\*BACK\***, My soul has no pleasure in him."

## **LESSON 6:**

### **IDENTIFYING THE LORD'S CHURCH**

(Based on New King James Version)

Jesus promised His disciples He would build His own church:

#### **Matthew 16:18**

<sup>18</sup> And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build **\*MY\***  
**\*CHURCH\***, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

- 1) Whose church did Jesus promise to build? **\*HIS OWN\***
- 2) How many churches did Jesus promise to build? **\*ONE\***
- 3) Would anything prevent Jesus from building His own church? **\*NO\***

Although Jesus built only one church, men have substituted their own. To find the Lord's church today we must look for a congregation that follows the commands which the Lord gave His church.

#### **1 John 2:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> Now by this we know that we know Him, **\*IF\*** we keep His **\*COMMANDMENTS\***.

<sup>4</sup> He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a **\*LIAR\***, and the truth is not in him.

<sup>5</sup> But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we **\*KNOW\*** that we are in Him.

- 1) The only way men can **know** if they are saved is if they keep the Lord's **\*COMMANDMENTS\***.
- 2) What does the Bible call a church, or a man that calls himself saved, yet does not keep the Lord's commandments? **\*LIAR\***
- 3) How many of the Lord's commandments must we keep? **\*ALL OF THEM\***
- 4) If a commandment seems to be insignificant, are men free to ignore it? **\*NO\***

- 5) Can a church have the wrong name, wrong practices and wrong teachings and end up being the right church? **\*NO\***

## THE RIGHT NAME

To be the Lord's church, a congregation must have the right name:

### **Ephesians 5:23-25**

<sup>23</sup> For the husband is head of the **\*WIFE\***, as also Christ is head of the **\*CHURCH\***; and He is the Savior of the body.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and **\*GAVE\*** Himself for her,

- 1) What does this passage compare the church to? **\*A WIFE\***
- 2) What name does a bride wear? **\*HER HUSBAND'S\***
- 3) What name should the church wear? **\*CHRIST'S NAME\***
- 4) Would we honor Christ by putting another name on His church? **\*NO\***
- 5) What does this passage say Christ is the savior of? **\*THE BODY\***
- 6) What is the body according to Ephesians 1:22-23? **\*THE CHURCH\***
- 7) If He is the savior of the church, must men be members of His church to be saved? **\*YES\***
- 8) What did Christ do for His church? **\*HE DIED FOR IT\***
- 9) Is the church of Christ essential for salvation? **\*YES\***

### **Romans 16:16**

<sup>16</sup> Greet one another with a holy kiss. The **\*CHURCHES\*** of **\*CHRIST\*** greet you.

- 1) What does this passage call the Lord's church? **\*THE CHURCH OF CHRIST\***
- 2) What does the expression "church of Christ" mean?  
**\*THE CHURCH THAT BELONGS TO CHRIST\***

## **THE RIGHT PRACTICES**

There are five items of worship mentioned in the New Testament: singing, praying, teaching, communion and giving. Let's examine each item separately.

### **SINGING**

#### **Psalms 68:25**

<sup>25</sup> The **\*SINGERS\*** went before, the **\*PLAYERS\*** on **\*INSTRUMENTS\*** followed after;  
Among them were the maidens playing timbrels.

- 1) What are the two kinds of music mentioned in this Old testament passage?
  - a) **\*VOCAL SINGING\***
  - b) **\*MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS\***

#### **Ephesians 5:19**

<sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **\*SINGING\*** and making melody in your **\*HEARTS\*** to the Lord,

- 1) Of the two kinds of music mentioned in the Old Testament, which kind of music does this New Testament passage require? **\*SINGING\***

- 2) What is the melody of a song? **\*THE TUNE\***
- 3) Where does God want this melody to be made? **\*IN THE HEART\***
- 4) If God is silent about making the melody on mechanical instruments, would it be wrong to add them without His authorization? **\*YES\***
- 5) According to this passage, the kind of music God wants is: **\*VOCAL SINGING\***

## PRAYING

### **John 14:13**

<sup>13</sup> And whatever you ask in My **\*NAME\***, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

### **1 Timothy 2:5**

<sup>5</sup> For there is one God and **\*ONE\*** Mediator between God and men, the Man **\*CHRIST\*** Jesus,

- 1) Whom should men pray thru? **\*JESUS\***
- 2) Who is the only mediator between God and man? **\*JESUS\***
- 3) Would it be wrong for Christians to pray thru the virgin Mary, or some other saint? **\*YES\***
- 4) Is it necessary to find a "Priest" or "Pastor" in order to pray to God? **\*NO\***

## TEACHING

### **1 Corinthians 14:23-35**

<sup>23</sup> Therefore if the **\*WHOLE\*** church comes **\*TOGETHER\*** in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

<sup>24</sup> But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all.

<sup>34</sup> Let your women keep **\*SILENCE\*** in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says.

<sup>35</sup> And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is **\*SHAMEFUL\*** for women to **\*SPEAK\*** in church.

- 1) How many places did the church come together in? **\*ONE\***
- 2) According to this passage, did the Lord's church divide into Sunday school classes for the teaching of the Scriptures? **\*NO\***
- 3) According to this passage, are women allowed to teach, ask questions, or lead prayer in the worship assembly? **\*NO\***
- 4) Are these commandments that the Lord required, or were they merely suggestions that no longer apply? **\*COMMANDMENTS\*** (See verse 37)

## COMMUNION

### **Luke 22:17-20**

<sup>17</sup> Then He took the **\*CUP\***, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves;

<sup>18</sup> for I say to you, I will not drink of the **\*FRUIT\*** of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

<sup>19</sup> And He took **\*BREAD\***, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

<sup>20</sup> Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new **\*COVENANT\*** in My blood, which is shed for you.

- 1) How many loaves of unleavened bread did Jesus take? **\*ONE\***
- 2) How many bodies did Jesus have? **\*ONE\***
- 3) What did the loaf represent? **\*JESUS' BODY\***
- 4) How many cups did Jesus use? **\*ONE\***
- 5) What did the cup represent? **\*NEW COVENANT\***
- 6) How many New Covenants did Jesus give to the world? **\*ONE\***

- 7) What was in the cup? **\*FRUIT OF THE VINE\***
- 8) Does the grape vine produce fermented wine, or grape juice?  
**\*GRAPE JUICE\***
- 9) What did the fruit of the vine represent? **\*JESUS' BLOOD\***

### **Acts 20:7**

<sup>7</sup> Now on the **\*FIRST\*** day of the week, when the disciples came together to break **\*BREAD\***, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

- 1) What day did the Lord's church have communion? **\*FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK\***
- 2) How often did the Lord's church have communion? **\*EVERY WEEK\***

## **GIVING**

### **1 Corinthians 16:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning the **\*COLLECTION\*** for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:

<sup>2</sup> On the **\*FIRST\*** day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

- 1) What day did the Lord's church take up a collection? **\*FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK\***
- 2) What was the collection used for? **\*THE SAINTS\***
- 3) How much money should Christians put into the weekly collection?  
**\*AS THEY MAY PROSPER\***

## THE RIGHT TEACHING

In order to identify the church of Christ today we must find a congregation that teaches what Christ taught about salvation.

### **Mark 16:16**

<sup>16</sup> He who **\*BELIEVES\*** and is **\*BAPTIZED\*** will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

### **Acts 2:38**

<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, "**\*REPENT\***, and let every one of you be **\*BAPTIZED\*** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

### **Acts 8:38**

<sup>38</sup> So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the **\*WATER\***, and he baptized him.

- 1) What kind of baptism are these passages discussing? **\*WATER BAPTISM\***
- 2) According to these verses, is baptism sprinkling, or immersion? **\*IMMERSION\***
- 3) According to these verses, what two things must be done before baptism?  
(a) **\*BELIEVE\*** (b) **\*REPENT\***
- 4) Can men be saved without believing in Jesus, or repenting of their sins? **\*NO\***
- 5) Can men be saved without being baptized correctly? **\*NO\***

## CONCLUSION

Suppose a man, or woman discovers that his church is not the church of Christ, what should they do? The Bible gives the answer:



## **2 Corinthians 6:14-17**

<sup>14</sup> Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

<sup>15</sup> And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

<sup>16</sup> And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

<sup>17</sup> Therefore "**\*COME\* \*OUT\*** from among them And be **\*SEPARATE\***, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

- 1) Should people remain in a church that does not teach, or practice like Jesus commanded?  
**\*NO\***
- 2) What should they do? **\*COME OUT AND BE (REMAIN) SEPARATE\***

## **LESSON 7:**

### **ESTABLISHING AUTHORITY**

(Based on New King James Version)

**Authority** – *"the right to command and enforce obedience or administer punishment"*

Authority comes in two forms:

- Primary authority
- Delegated authority

#### **PRIMARY AUTHORITY**

##### **1) God the Father constitutes primary authority.**

###### **1 Corinthians 11:3**

<sup>3</sup> But I want you to know that the head of every **\*MAN\*** is **\*CHRIST\***, the head of **\*WOMAN\*** is **\*MAN\***, and the head of Christ is **\*GOD\***.

There is no one above God. He answers to no one.

#### **DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

Since God has all authority, He can, if He wants to, delegate (give) some of that authority to someone else. That's what He did.

## 2) Jesus has delegated authority.

### **Matthew 28:18**

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All **\*AUTHORITY\*** has been **\*GIVEN\*** to Me in heaven and on earth.

**Q:** Who gave (delegated) this authority to Jesus? **\*GOD THE FATHER\***

### **Matthew 11:27**

<sup>27</sup> All things have been **\*GIVEN\*** to Me by My **\*FATHER\***, ...

Since Jesus has all authority, He can, if He wants to, delegate (give) some of that authority to someone else. That's what He did.

## 3) The apostles have delegated authority.

### **Matthew 16:18-19**

<sup>18</sup> And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

<sup>19</sup> And I will **\*GIVEN\*** you the **\*KEYS\*** of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

**"keys"** – symbolize **\*AUTHORITY\***.

**"will be bound ... will be loosed"** – perfect, passive, participle: *"shall have already been bound ... shall already been loosed."* (ESV footnote).

**NOTE:** The apostles were not making laws. **They were revealing** and enforcing laws previously made in heaven.

## AMBASSADORS

Jesus is an official representative of the Father's authority (Jn 14:9). The apostles are official representatives of Jesus' authority:

### **2 Corinthians 5:20**

<sup>20</sup> Now then, we [apostles] are **\*AMBASSADORS\*** for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: **\*WE\*** implore **\*YOU\*** on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

- "we" = the **\*APOSTLES\***.
- "you" = the **\*CORINTHIANS\***.

Ordinary Christians are not "ambassadors."

### **1 John 4:6**

<sup>6</sup> **\*WE\*** [apostles] are of God. **\*HE\*** who knows God hears **\*US\***; **\*HE\*** who is not of God does not hear **\*US\***. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Again, there are two groups here: **"We"** and **"he."** The **"we"** are the apostles.

## ESTABLISHING AUTHORITY

Our study is entitled **"establishing authority."**

This means for everything we teach or practice we must **"establish"** the fact that we have authority for doing it.

### **Colossians 3:17**

<sup>17</sup> And **\*WHATEVER\*** you do in **\*WORD\*** or **\*DEED\***, do **\*ALL\*** in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

**"whatever"** = **\*ANYTHING; EVERYTHING\***

**"in word"** – things we **\*SAY / TEACH\***

**"in deed"** – things we **\*DO / PRACTICE\***

**"do all"** – corresponds with **\*"WHATEVER"\***

**"in the name of the Lord Jesus"** – i.e. by the authority of Jesus. (cf. Acts 4:7, 10, 12)

To have authority from Jesus means:

- Either **\*Jesus\*** authorized it
- Or **\*THE APOSTLES\*** authorized it.

## **WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION**

Authorization must be in written form. No one may say:

- "I feel the Lord is leading me to do a certain thing" – as though **feelings** and premonitions authorized anything.
- "Jesus told me to do a certain thing" – as though Jesus were still **revealing** things today.

The authorization from Jesus or His apostles must be in written form (NT scriptures).

### **John 16:13**

<sup>13</sup> [Jesus said to His apostles] when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide **\*YOU\*** into **\*ALL\*** truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

- If the Spirit would reveal "all truth" to the apostles,
- **And if** the apostles wrote down all which the Spirit revealed
- **And if** that revelation was preserved,
- **Then** there would be no further need for revelation.

## 1) Peter confirmed all truth was revealed:

### 2 Peter 1:3

<sup>3</sup> as His divine power has given to us **\*ALL\*** things that pertain to **\*LIFE\*** and **\*GODLINESS\***, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

- **"life"** – one's personal, private life as he relates to other **\*HUMANS\***.
- **"godliness"** – one's religious duties toward **\*GOD\***.

The writings of the apostles contain revelation concerning our private lives – not just church matters.

## 2) Paul confirmed all truth was revealed and *WRITTEN* down in scripture form:

### 2 Timothy 3:16-17

<sup>16</sup> All **\*SCRIPTURE\*** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,  
<sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, **\*THOROUGHLY\*** equipped for **\*EVERY\*** good work.

## EXPLICIT – IMPLICIT

Everything the Bible teaches is taught in one of two ways:

- Explicitly
- Implicitly

1) **Explicit** – *"fully and clearly expressed; leaving nothing implied"* (American Heritage)

### **1 Timothy 4:1**

<sup>1</sup> Now the Spirit **\*EXPRESSLY\*** says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

Explicit means I can find a NT passage that says word for word what I need to be doing.

2) **Implicit** – *"implied or understood though not directly expressed"* (American Heritage)

### **Mark 12:26-27**

<sup>26</sup> But concerning the dead, that they **\*RISE\***, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the burning bush passage, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I **\*AM\*** the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'?

<sup>27</sup> He is not the God of the **\*DEAD\***, but the God of the **\*LIVING\***.  
You are therefore greatly mistaken."

In the burning bush passage God taught two things indirectly:

- That Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are still alive – though their bodies are dead.
- That there will be a resurrection from the dead.

God did not explicitly say any of these things in that passage. He **\*IMPLIED\*** them.

**NOTE:** To "establish authority" I must be able to point to a scripture where (a) Jesus or (b) apostles either explicitly or implicitly authorized what I'm doing or teaching.

## SILENCE

***If the scriptures are silent*** about what I'm teaching or doing, I am forbidden to teach or do that thing because ***silence does not authorize***.

**Q:** What is silence?

In order to answer this question, recall the two ways the Bible teaches:

- **\*EXPLICITLY\***
- **\*IMPLICITLY\***

Silence means the absence of all **\*EXPLICIT\*** and **\*IMPLICIT\*** teachings.

When God is silent about something, it means God did not **\*EXPLICITLY\*** say something about the matter and He did not **\*IMPLY\*** anything about the matter.

### **Leviticus 10:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had **\*NOT\*** **\*COMMANDED\*** them.

<sup>2</sup> So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

This "profane fire" offered by Aaron's sons was not authorized by God.

- God said nothing explicitly about it.
- God did not imply it.
- God was **\*SILENT\*** about this fire.

Lev 10:1-2 shows that when God is silent, people are forbidden to act.



### **Acts 15:23-24**

<sup>23</sup> They wrote this, letter by them:

The apostles, the elders, and the brethren,

To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia:

Greetings.

<sup>24</sup> Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, "You must be circumcised and keep the law" — to whom we gave **\*NO\*** such **\*COMMANDMENT\*** —

- 1) Did the apostles explicitly teach Christians to be circumcised for salvation? **\*NO\***
- 2) Did the apostles imply Christians were to be circumcised for salvation? **\*NO\***
- 3) Were the apostles silent about Christians being circumcised for salvation? **\*YES\***
- 4) Does silence allow or forbid? **\*FORBIDS\***

### **EXAMPLE: MUSIC**

### **Ephesians 5:19**

<sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **\*SINGING\*** and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

- 1) According to this passage is singing authorized? **\*YES\***
- 2) Does Eph 5:19 explicitly authorize mechanical instruments? **\*NO\***
- 3) Does Eph 5:19 implicitly authorize mechanical instruments? **\*NO\***
- 4) Is Eph 5:19 silent about mechanical instrument? **\*YES\***
- 5) Is Eph 5:19 the only passage in the New Testament about praising God? **\*NO\***
- 6) Is it possible some other passage in the New Testament might authorize mechanical instruments? **\*YES - IT IS POSSIBLE\***

- 7) Is there any New Testament passage authorizing the use of mechanical instruments in worship to God? **\*NO\***
- 8) If there is no passage in the New Testament authorizing mechanical instruments, would you say the New Testament was *silent* about praising God with instruments? **\*YES\***
- 9) If the New Testament is silent about praising God with mechanical instruments, would it be wrong to use them in praise to God? **\*YES – IT WOULD BE WRONG\***
- 10) Are uninspired people allowed to choose for themselves how to worship God? **\*NO\***

**Matthew 15:9**

<sup>9</sup> And in **\*VAIN\*** they worship Me,  
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of **\*MEN\***."

**Matthew 15:13**

<sup>13</sup> But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be **\*UPROOTED\***."

**"THOU SHALT NOT"**

Sometimes people ask, "*Where does the Bible say, 'Thou shalt not play a piano in worship to God?'*"

To answer this, let us review:

**Colossians 3:17**

<sup>17</sup> And **\*WHATEVER\*** you do in **\*WORD\*** or **\*DEED\***, do **\*ALL\*** in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Look at the two questions below and place an "x" next to the question people ought to ask:

- Where does the Bible say, "Thou shalt not play a piano in worship to God?"
- \*Where does the New Testament authorize the use of a piano in worship to God?\***

More examples:

- Rather than asking, "Where does the Bible say, 'Thou shalt not gamble?'" Christians should ask, "Where does the New Testament **\*AUTHORIZE\*** gambling?"
- Rather than asking, "Where does the Bible say, 'Thou shalt not dance in worship?'" Christians should ask, "Where does the New Testament **\*AUTHORIZE\*** dancing in worship?"
- Rather than asking, "Where does the Bible say, 'Thou shalt not clap-hands in worship?'" Christians should ask, "Where does the New Testament **\*AUTHORIZE\*** hand-clapping in worship?"

## CONCLUSION

- 1) According to Col 3:17, everything we **\*TEACH / SAY\*** and **\*DO / PRACTICE\*** must be authorized by Jesus.
- 2) **\*JESUS\*** Himself or His ambassadors, the **\*APOSTLES\***, must authorize everything we say or do.
- 3) The word-for-word method of teaching is called **\*EXPLICIT\*** teaching.
- 4) The indirect, not-specific method of teaching is called **\*IMPLICIT\*** teaching.
- 5) When God **\*IMPLIES\*** something, He is not being silent.
- 6) When God is truly silent about something, Christians are **\*FORBIDDEN\*** to act.

## **LESSON 8:**

### **"RELIGIOUS COMPETITION"**

(Based on New King James Version)

In the world there are thousands of churches, all claiming to follow Christ, who compete with each other for members. Is this right? Is this what the scriptures teach and is it what God wants?

To illustrate "*religious competition*" let us first study competition in secular business.

#### **COCA-COLA CORPORATION**

- 1) How many *Coca-Cola* corporations exist in the world? **\*ONE\***
- 2) Although there is only one *Coca-Cola* Corporation, how many branch offices does this corporation have? **\*MANY\***
- 3) Do these branch offices promote, market, or distribute anything different than the main office? **\*NO\***
- 4) *Coca-Cola* has several competitors. Can you name any?  
**\*PEPSI\***  
**\*R C COLA\***  
**\*SAM'S COLA\***
- 5) These competitors produce products similar to *Coca-Cola*, but are they exactly the same? **\*NO\***
- 6) These competitors are continually trying to convince the public that, although their products are slightly different, they're just as **\*GOOD\***, or perhaps a little **\*BETTER\*** than "the Real Thing"!

- 7) What is the purpose of these competitors?
  - a) To help and assist the *Coca-Cola* Corporation.
  - b) ***\*To work against and steal customers away from the Coca-Cola Corporation.\****
  
- 8) Every time a consumer buys a product from the competitors, what is that consumer doing?
  - a) Being loyal to the *Coca-Cola* Corporation.
  - b) ***\*Being disloyal to the Coca-Cola Corporation.\****
  
- 9) If enough people stop buying *Coca-Cola* products, what will happen to the *Coca-Cola* Corporation? ***\*IT WILL GO OUT OF BUSINESS\****
  
- 10) In conclusion, those who compete with the *Coca-Cola* Corporation are actually:
  - a) Friends and promoters of "*the Real Thing*"
  - b) ***\*Enemies and hindrances of "the Real Thing"\****

## THE "CHURCH OF CHRIST"

Let's now apply these principles to the Lord's church.

### **Matthew 16:18**

<sup>18</sup> And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My ***\*CHURCH\****, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

- 1) How many churches did Jesus promise to build? ***\*ONE\****
- 2) Whose church did Jesus promise to build? ***\*HIS OWN\****
- 3) Would it be logical and scriptural to call this church the "church of Christ"? ***\*YES\****

### **Ephesians 1:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> And [God] put all things under [Jesus'] feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the **\*CHURCH\***,  
<sup>23</sup> which is His **\*BODY\***, *the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

- 1) According to this passage, what is the "body" of Christ? **\*THE CHURCH\***
- 2) If the "church" is the "body" of Christ, then how many churches is Christ the head of? **\*ONE\***

### **Ephesians 4:4**

<sup>4</sup> There is **\*ONE\*** **\*BODY\*** and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

- 1) According to this passage, how many "bodies" does the Lord recognize? **\*ONE\***
- 2) What is the "body"? **\*THE CHURCH\***
- 3) Are these passages teaching only one church is right? **\*YES\***

## **"BRANCH OFFICES"**

Just like the *Coca-Cola* Corporation has many branch offices, the "church of Christ" has many branch offices called "congregations."

In the New Testament six cities that had "branch offices," or "congregations," of the Lord's church received letters of instruction from the apostle Paul. Beginning with the Book of Romans, list all these congregations who received a letter from Paul.

- \*ROME\***
- \*CORINTH\***
- \*EPHESUS\***
- \*PHILIPPI\***
- \*COLOSSE\***
- \*THESSALONICA\***

In the New Testament there was one country that had several "branch offices," or "congregations," of the Lord's church which also received a letter from Paul:

**\*GALATIA\***

- 1) Were all these "branch offices," or "congregations" exactly alike? Did they all "promote, market and distribute" the same product, or were they all a little different? **\*ALIKE\***

**1 Corinthians 4:17**

<sup>17</sup> For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach **\*EVERYWHERE\*** in **\*EVERY\*** church.

- 1) Did the apostle Paul teach the same things to every congregation he visited? **\*YES\***
- 2) Would it be reasonable to think that all these congregations worshiped in the same way? **\*YES\***
- 3) Would it be reasonable to think that all these congregations taught the same doctrines? **\*YES\***

**1 Corinthians 1:10**

<sup>10</sup> Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the **\*SAME\*** thing, and that there be no **\*DIVISIONS\*** among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the **\*SAME\*** mind and in the **\*SAME\*** judgment.

- 1) Is religious division God's desire? **\*NO\***
- 2) Does the Lord want all His people in every congregation teaching and practicing the same things? **\*YES\***

**Galatians 1:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any **\*OTHER\*** gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be **\*ACCURSED\***  
<sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again, if **\*ANYONE\*** preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

- 1) According to this, does the Lord offer men choices of what to believe? **\*NO\***
- 2) Does He offer choices of what can be practiced? **\*NO\***

## "RELIGIOUS COMPETITION"

Let us now take the principles we learned about business competition and apply them to religion.

### THE "CHURCH OF CHRIST"

- 1) How many "*churches of Christ*" exist in the world? **\*ONE\***
- 2) Although there is only one "*church of Christ*," how many branch offices does it have? **\*MANY\***
- 3) Do these branch offices promote, market, or distribute anything different than the main office? **\*NO\***
- 4) The "*church of Christ*" has several competitors. Can you name any?  
**\*BAPTIST CHURCH\***  
**\*PENTECOSTAL CHURCH\***  
**\*METHODIST CHURCH\***
- 5) These competitors worship in similar ways and teach doctrines similar to the "*church of Christ*" but are they exactly the same? **\*NO\***
- 6) These competitors are continually trying to convince the public that, although they are slightly different, they're just as **\*GOOD\***, or perhaps a little **\*BETTER\*** than "*the Real Thing*"!
- 7) What is the purpose of these competitors?
  - a) To help and assist the "*church of Christ*"
  - b) **\*To work against and steal customers away from the "church of Christ"\***



- 8) Any time a person worships with one of the competitors, what is that person doing?
- Being loyal to the "church of Christ"
  - \*Being disloyal to the "church of Christ"\***
- 9) If enough people stop attending the "church of Christ," what will happen to the Lord's church?  
**\*IT WILL GO OUT OF BUSINESS\***
- 10) In conclusion, those who compete with the "church of Christ" are actually:
- Friends and promoters of "the Real Thing"
  - \*Enemies and hindrances of "the Real Thing"\***

## WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

**QUESTION:** What should we do in regard to "competitors" who offer different kinds of worship services and different kinds of doctrines?

### **Romans 16:17**

<sup>17</sup> Now I urge you, brethren, **\*NOTE\*** those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and **\*AVOID\*** them.

- Should we ignore the competitors and just act they don't exist? **\*NO\***
- Should we visit their services from time to time to promote goodwill? **\*NO\***
- Should we take notice of these divisive competitors and avoid them? **\*YES\***

### **2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

<sup>14</sup> Do not be unequally yoked **\*TOGETHER\*** with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

<sup>15</sup> And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

<sup>16</sup> And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

<sup>17</sup> Therefore "**\*COME\* \*OUT\*** from among them And be **\*SEPARATE\***, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

<sup>18</sup> "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

1) What are we instructed to do when any man, or church competes with the Lord and His church?

a) **\*COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM\***

b) **\*REMAIN SEPARATE\***

2) Would it be wrong for the "church of Christ" to steal members from a competitor?

**\*NO\***

3) Would it be wrong for a competitor to steal away members from the "church of Christ"?

**\*YES\***

## **LESSON 9:**

### **OBEYING GOD**

(Based on New King James Version)

Satan was the first person to teach that obedience to God was unnecessary and that there were no consequences for disobedience.

#### **Genesis 3:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has **\*GOD\*** indeed **\*SAID\***, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

<sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

<sup>3</sup> but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

<sup>4</sup> Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will **\*NOT\*** surely die.

<sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

<sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

- 1) Was Satan questioning the necessity of obeying God? **\*YES\***
- 2) What harm did he say would come from disobedience? **\*NO HARM\***
- 3) Did he imply that God had been unfair with the man and woman by restricting their lives? **\*YES\***
- 4) Did the woman believe Satan or did she know he was lying? **\*SHE BELIEVED HIM\***

There are several popular doctrines that nullify the need of obedience. Like the serpent with Eve these doctrines teach that no harm will follow disobedience.

- a) The "grace of God covers all" theory.
- b) The Calvinistic theory of predestination.

- c) The "once saved, always saved" theory.
- d) The "no hell" theory.
- e) The "second chance" theories (purgatory, Mormons).
- f) The "faith only" theory.

All of these theories in essence say, "Men don't really have to obey God to be saved."

## THE NEED FOR OBEDIENCE

Let's begin by studying the need for obedience.

### **Matthew 7:21**

<sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who **\*DOES\*** the **\*WILL\*** of My **\*FATHER\*** in heaven.

- 1) Is calling Jesus "Lord" enough to save men? **\*NO\***
- 2) What must men do in order to be saved? **\*THEY MUST DO THE WILL OF THE FATHER\***

Look up the following passages of Scripture and write down the benefit described that accompanies obedience.

Rev 22:14 (see also Jn 8:51; Rom 6:17-18; 1 Jn 2:17)

a) **\*HAVE RIGHT TO TREE OF LIFE\***

Dt 7:9 (see also Ps 25:10; 103:17-18)

b) **\*RECEIVE MERCY FROM GOD\***

Mt 12:50 (see also 1 Jn 3:24)

c) **\*BECOME BROTHERS OF JESUS\***

Lk 11:27-28

d) **\*BLESSED BY GOD\***

Jn 14:15,23

e) **\*SHOW LOVE FOR JESUS\***

1 Jn 3:22

f) **\*OUR PRAYERS ARE HEARD\***

1 Sam 15:22

g) **\*OUR WORSHIP IS ACCEPTED\***

Ps 119:6

h) **\*KEEPS US FROM SHAME\***

Ps 119:104

i) **\*GAIN UNDERSTANDING\***

- 1) In view of all these passages, would you say obedience is necessary and essential for salvation? **\*YES\***
- 2) Any doctrine that says in essence, "Obedience is not necessary," would be true or false? **\*FALSE\***
- 3) Any interpretation of Scripture that says in essence, "Obedience is not necessary," would be true or false? **\*FALSE\***

### IS OBEDIENCE POSSIBLE?

Since we must obey God to be saved, the next logical question is: Is it possible to obey God in the way that He wants us to? What do you think?

There are two types of obedience:

- Flawless perfection
- Continuous obedience

- 1) Which of these two is not possible for man to perform? **\*FLAWLESS PERFECTION\***
- 2) Does God require this of any man? **\*NO\***
- 3) Does God require continuous or habitual obedience? **\*YES\***

#### **1 John 3:6-10**

<sup>6</sup> Whoever **\*ABIDES\*** in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

<sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one deceive you. He who **\*PRACTICES\*** righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

<sup>8</sup> He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

<sup>9</sup> Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed **\*REMAINS\*** in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

<sup>10</sup> In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not **\*PRACTICE\*** righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

- 1) Which word in this passage indicates continuous action? **\*PRACTICE\***
- 2) In this passage a man who **\*PRACTICES\*** righteousness is being contrasted with a man who practices **\*SIN\***.

Here is the difference between a Christian and a sinner:

Christian	Sinner
For him sin is like an intruder.	For him sin is a permanent resident.
Sin is an accident.	Sin is a way of life.
Sin is a painful mistake.	Sin is a welcome experience.
Steps are taken to remove the sin.	Steps are taken to repeat the sin.

### WHAT CONSTITUTES TRUE OBEDIENCE?

There are four ingredients that make up true obedience.

#### Doing GOD'S will.

#### **John 5:30**

<sup>30</sup> I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek **\*MY\*** **\*OWN\*** **\*WILL\*** but the will of the **\*FATHER\*** who sent Me.

(See also Mt <sup>26:39</sup>)

1) What two "wills" are being contrasted here?

**\*OUR OWN WILL\***

**\*THE FATHER'S WILL\***

2) Did Jesus do as he pleased? **\*NO\***

3) Was Jesus ever tempted to do as he pleased? **\*YES\***

4) Did he ever give in to the temptation to "rule his own life"? **\*NO\***

### Doing ALL of God's will.

#### Read Mk 10:17-22

1) Was this young man doing any of God's will? **\*NO\***

2) Was he doing his own will in everything? **\*YES\***

3) When he refused to obey one of God's commandments, what did he demonstrate?  
**\*HE WOULD HAVE DISOBEYED ANY COMMAND\***

#### **James 2:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> For whoever shall keep the **\*WHOLE\*** law, and yet stumble in **\*ONE\*** point, he is guilty of all.

<sup>11</sup> For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a **\*TRANSGRESSOR\*** of the law.

1) When a man chooses which law he will obey and which law he will violate, who's "will" is he following? **\*HIS OWN WILL\***

#### **Luke 16:10**

<sup>10</sup> He who is faithful in what is **\*LEAST\*** is faithful also in **\*MUCH\***; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.

(See also Mt 5:19)

- 1) Is it necessary to obey commandments that seem little and insignificant? **\*YES\***
- 2) Are we free to pick and choose which of God's commands we shall obey? **\*NO\***

**Doing all of God's will ALL THE TIME.**

### **Psalms 106:3**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed are those who keep justice,  
And he who does righteousness at **\*ALL\*** times!

- 1) Is God here asking for flawlessness or continuous obedience?  
**\*CONTINUOUS OBEDIENCE\***

### **Proverbs 28:13**

<sup>13</sup> He who covers his sins will not prosper,  
But whoever **\*CONFESSES\*** and **\*FORSAKES\*** them will have mercy.

- 1) Does God know we will make mistakes? **\*YES\***
- 2) When we do make mistakes, what two things does God expect from us?

**\*CONFESS THE SIN\***

**\*FORSAKE THE SIN\***

**Doing all of God's will all the time AT ALL COST.**

### **Matthew 10:37-39**

<sup>37</sup> He who loves **\*FATHER\*** or **\*MOTHER\*** more than Me is not worthy of Me.  
And he who loves **\*SON\*** or **\*DAUGHTER\*** more than Me is not worthy of Me.

<sup>38</sup> And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

<sup>39</sup> He who finds his **\*LIFE\*** will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.



- 1) Suppose your father or mother would disown you for obeying God, what would you do?
- 2) Suppose your life was in danger and you had to choose between obeying God or dying, what would you do? (This is an argument used to justify abortion. See Rev 12:11)
- 3) Suppose the lives of your children were in danger if you obeyed God, what would you do? (As in the case of Iraqi soldiers during the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Men's families were threatened if they would not go fight for Saddam Husein.)

## CONCLUSION

True obedience consists of:

Doing **\*ALL\*** of **\*GOD'S\*** will all the **\*TIME\*** at all **\*COST\***.

## **LESSON 10:**

### **DEATH AND THE JUDGMENT**

(Based on New King James Version)

The Bible is the only book that explains the origin, mission, and destiny of man. According to Genesis 1-3 man came from God. According to Isaiah 43:7 our mission while on earth is to glorify God. In this study we will focus on the destiny of man. What will happen to man when this life is over?

The Bible teaches that every man is destined to die.

#### **Hebrews 9:27**

<sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed for men to **\*DIE\*** once, but after this the **\*JUDGMENT\***,

Thought questions:

- a) What is death?
- b) Are people unconscious at death or do they continue on in a conscious state out of the body?
- c) On what basis will men be judged on the Judgment Day?

### **WHAT IS DEATH?**

First, let's begin by asking, "*What is death?*" Death according to the Bible is a separation.

#### **James 2:26**

<sup>26</sup> For as the **\*BODY\*** without the **\*SPIRIT\*** is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

- 1) What two things are being separated from each other at death?
  - a) **\*THE BODY\***
  - b) **\*THE SPIRIT\***
- 2) According to this passage, is the body dead without the spirit in it? **\*YES\***
- 3) According to this passage, is the spirit dead when it leaves the body? **\*NO\***

### **2 Corinthians 12:2-4**

<sup>2</sup> I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago — whether **\*IN\*** the **\*BODY\*** I do not know, or whether **\*OUT\*** of the **\*BODY\*** I do not know, God knows — such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

<sup>3</sup> And I know such a man — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows —

<sup>4</sup> how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

- 1) Is it possible for a man to see, hear, and experience things outside of his body?  
**\*YES\***
- 2) If the man "caught up to the third heaven" was "out of the body," which part of the man was hearing "inexpressible words"? **\*HIS INNER MAN (SPIRIT)\***
- 3) If this man's spirit was in Paradise, what must have happened to his physical body?  
**\*IT DIED\***
- 4) If his spirit returned to his body, what happened?  
**\*HE BECAME ALIVE AGAIN\***

### **1 Kings 17:20-23**

<sup>20</sup> Then [Elijah] cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?"

<sup>21</sup> And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, I pray, let this child's soul **\*COME\*** **\*BACK\*** to him."

<sup>22</sup> Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the **\*SPIRIT\*** of the child came back to him, and he revived.

<sup>23</sup> And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son **\*LIVES\***!"

- 1) When the child's spirit was separated from his body, what condition was he in? **\*HE WAS DEAD\***
- 2) When the spirit returned to the body what condition was he in? **\*HE WAS ALIVE\***

Death, then, is not a time when men become unconscious and unaware of their surroundings, but it is a state of existence in which the spirit is separated from the body. (See also Lk 8:54-55)

### **Ecclesiastes 12:7**

<sup>7</sup> Then the dust will return to the earth as it was,  
And the **\*SPIRIT\*** will return to **\*GOD\*** who gave it.

- 1) What happens to the body at death? **\*IT RETURNS TO THE EARTH\***
- 2) What happens to the spirit at death? **\*IT RETURNS TO GOD\***

## **WHERE DOES THE SPIRIT GO?**

The next question is, "*When the spirit of man returns to God, what does He do with it?*" According to scripture, He places the spirit in "*Hades*" to await the Judgment Day.

### **Acts 2:29-34**

<sup>29</sup> "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both **\*DEAD\*** and **\*BURIED\***, and his tomb is with us to this day.

<sup>30</sup> Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne,

<sup>31</sup> he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His **\*SOUL\*** was not left in **\*HADES\***, nor did His **\*FLESH\*** see corruption.

<sup>34</sup> "For David did not ascend into the **\*HEAVENS\***, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand,

- 1) What happens to the flesh of man when he dies? **\*IT SEES CORRUPTION\***
- 2) Where did the spirit of David and Christ go when they died?  
**\*INTO HADES\***
- 3) Did David's spirit remain in Hades? **\*YES\***
- 4) Did the spirit of Christ remain in Hades? **\*NO\***
- 5) Do the spirits of good men go immediately into the heavens? **\*NO\***

**Read Luke 16:19-31**

- 1) Name the two divisions of Hades:
  - a) **\*ABRAHAM'S BOSOM (PARADISE)\***
  - b) **\*TORMENTS\***
- 2) What exists between these two divisions of Hades? **\*A GREAT GULF\***
- 3) If a person finds himself in the "torments" division, what can he do to get out?  
**\*NOTHING\***
- 4) If a person is in the "paradise" division (see Lk 23:43), is it possible for him to "fall from grace" and be cast out? **\*NO\***

**THE RESURRECTION**

When it is time for the world to end, Jesus will come again. At that time everyone who has died will resurrect from the grave to stand before God in judgment.

**John 5:28-29**

<sup>28</sup> Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which **\*ALL\*** who are in the graves will hear His voice

<sup>29</sup> and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of **\*LIFE\***, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of **\*CONDEMNATION\***.

- 1) How many dead people will resurrect when Jesus returns? **\*EVERYONE\***
- 2) Will lost people be offered a second opportunity to obey the Lord and be saved? **\*NO\***
- 3) Is the destiny of each man sealed and permanent at the point of death? **\*YES\***

## THE JUDGMENT DAY

### **Matthew 25:31-46**

<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

<sup>32</sup> **\*ALL\*** the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

<sup>33</sup> And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

<sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the **\*KINGDOM\*** prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

<sup>41</sup> "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting **\*FIRE\*** prepared for the devil and his angels:

<sup>46</sup> And these will go away into everlasting **\*PUNISHMENT\***, but the righteous into eternal **\*LIFE\***."

- 1) What are the two eternal destinies of man?  
**\*ETERNAL PUNISHMENT\***  
**\*ETERNAL LIFE\***
- 2) Was hell originally prepared for man? **\*NO\***
- 3) What may be some reasons Jesus used sheep and goats to illustrate what will happen on Judgment Day?

<b><u>Goats</u></b> Stubborn (must be driven) Independent	<b><u>Sheep</u></b> Submissive (they follow) Dependent
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- 4) Will the joys of heaven last longer than the punishment of hell? **\*NO\***
- 5) Will the pain and sorrow of hell ever end? **\*NO\***

### **Revelation 20:12-15**

<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their **\*WORKS\***, by the things which were written in the **\*BOOKS\***.

<sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his **\*WORKS\***.

<sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

<sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

- 1) Will the judgment of God depend on how He happens to feel on the Day of Judgment? **\*NO\***
- 2) If the judgment will not be based on how God feels on Judgment Day, what will it be based on? **\*WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE\***
- 3) Is this a changeable or an unchangeable standard? **\*UNCHANGABLE\***

## **WHAT IS HELL LIKE?**

The Bible uses many graphic terms to describe hell.

### **Revelation 20:10**

<sup>10</sup> The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of **\*FIRE\*** and **\*BRIMSTONE\*** where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be **\*TORMENTED\*** day and night forever and ever.

1) Will lost men be cast into this same lake of fire? **\*YES\***

2) Will there be any moment of relief from suffering in hell? **\*NO\***

### **Matthew 22:13**

<sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be **\*WEEPING\*** and **\*GNASHING\*** of teeth.'

1) Is there any joy in hell? **\*NO\***

2) What word in this passage indicates there will be a loss of all freedom in hell?  
**\*BIND HIM HAND AND FOOT\***

### **Matthew 25:30**

<sup>30</sup> And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer **\*DARKNESS\***. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

1) How much light exists in hell? **\*NONE\***

2) If surrounded by evil and wicked men, would you prefer the lights to be on or off?  
**\*ON\***

## **WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE?**

Heaven is just the opposite of hell.

### **Revelation 14:13**

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may **\*REST\*** from their labors, and their works follow them."

### **Revelation 21:4**

<sup>4</sup> And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more **\*DEATH\***, nor **\*SORROW\***, nor **\*CRYING\***. There shall be no more **\*PAIN\***, for the former things have passed away."



**Revelation 22:5**

<sup>5</sup> There shall be no **\*NIGHT\*** there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them **\*LIGHT\***. And they shall reign forever and ever.

Write the words that show the contrast between heaven and hell.

Hell	Heaven
No rest day or night	<b>*REST*</b>
Tormented	<b>*NO PAIN*</b>
Weeping, gnashing teeth	<b>*NO SORROW / CRYING*</b>
Outer darkness	<b>*LIGHT*</b>

## **LESSON 11:**

### **MIRACULOUS POWER**

(Based on New King James Version)

In order to understand what the Bible teaches about miracles, it is first necessary to understand exactly what a "miracle" really is. Some people call everything a "miracle" (the sun rising; birth of a baby; etc.). While there are many amazing things that occur in our world, not every amazing thing is a Bible "miracle."

#### **THE NATURE OF MIRACLES**

A true miracle is something that violates known, natural laws. For example, when Jesus walked on top of water, the known, natural law of gravity would not allow this to happen. In order for this miracle to occur, the natural law of gravity had to be suspended, or violated.

##### **John 3:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

<sup>2</sup> This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these **\*SIGNS\*** that You do unless **\*GOD\*** is with him."

- 1) What did the miracles performed by Jesus prove?

**\*THEY PROVED HE CAME FROM GOD\***

##### **Matthew 7:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who **\*DOES\*** the **\*WILL\*** of My Father in heaven.

<sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not **\*PROPHESIED\*** in Your name, cast out **\*DEMONS\*** in Your name, and done many **\*WONDERS\*** in Your name?'

<sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

- 1) According to this passage, are all miracle workers from God? **\*NO\***
- 2) When a miracle is done, is it proof that the miracle worker is from God? **\*NO\***
- 3) Did these miracle workers think they were working on behalf of God? **\*YES\***
- 4) What was wrong with these miracle workers? What had they failed to do?  
**\*THEY FAILED TO DO THE FATHER'S WILL\***

### **Acts 4:16**

<sup>16</sup> saying, "What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is **\*EVIDENT\*** to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot **\*DENY\*** it.

- 1) Were true Bible miracles visible? **\*YES\***
- 2) Could true Bible miracles be denied by opponents? **\*NO\***
- 3) Were true Bible miracles matters of public record, or were they hidden, isolated events known only by a select few? **\*MATTERS OF PUBLIC RECORD\***

## **THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES**

### **Hebrews 2:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was **\*CONFIRMED\*** to us by those who heard Him,  
<sup>4</sup> God also **\*BEARING\*** **\*WITNESS\*** both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

- 1) What was God doing when empowering men to work miracles?  
**\*CONFIRMING THE MESSAGE SPOKEN\***

### **Mark 16:17-20**

<sup>17</sup> And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

<sup>18</sup> they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."  
<sup>19</sup> So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.  
<sup>20</sup> And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and **\*CONFIRMING\*** the **\*WORD\*** through the accompanying signs. Amen.

Because the apostles were bringing a new religion to the world, they needed some way of convincing men that their new teaching was from heaven. Miracles were used to do this. (See Ex. 4:1-9)

### MIRACULOUS POWER WAS LIMITED

Not everyone had the ability to work miracles:

#### **1 Corinthians 12:29-30**

<sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are **\*ALL\*** workers of **\*MIRACLES\***?  
<sup>30</sup> Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with **\*TONGUES\***? Do all interpret?

Miraculous power was given, not for the benefit of individual men, but for the good of the entire church:

#### **1 Corinthians 12:7**

<sup>7</sup> But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of **\*ALL\***:

If the entire church did not benefit from the working of a miracle, then no miracle was performed. Often Christians were left sick and suffering because healing them would not have benefited the entire church.

- a) Timothy had stomach problems (1 Tim 5:23).
- b) Trophimus was left sick (2 Tim 4:20).
- c) Paul was left sick (2 Cor 12:7-10).

- d) Jesus Himself could not use miraculous power to feed Himself when He was hungry (Mt 4:4).

Miraculous power was not given just so Christians would not be sick, or suffer. It was not given for the private benefit of individual men.

## **A WRITTEN RECORD WAS MADE**

After miracles were performed, a written record was made for the benefit of future generations:

### **John 20:30-31**

<sup>30</sup> And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not **\*WRITTEN\*** in this book;

<sup>31</sup> but these are **\*WRITTEN\*** that you may **\*BELIEVE\*** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

This written record of miracles gives a permanent effect to miracles. In other words:

- a) Moses does not have to come to earth every year and work miracles again to prove to men today that God was with him!

*We have the written record!*

- b) Jesus does not have to come to earth every year and work miracles again to prove to men today that God was with Him!

*We have the written record!*

- c) The apostle Paul does not have to come to earth every year to work miracles and prove to men today that God was with him!

*We have the written record!*

## THE APOSTLES

The apostles of Christ received the Holy Spirit in a miraculous way and for a special purpose:

### **John 14:25-26**

<sup>25</sup> "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you.

<sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will **\*TEACH\*** you **\*ALL\*** things, and bring to your **\*REMEMBRANCE\*** all things that I said to you.

Had the apostles relied upon their own memories when writing and preaching, they might have forgotten, or inaccurately told the story, but with the aid of the Holy Spirit they told the story perfectly.

### **John 16:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

<sup>13</sup> However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will **\*GUIDE\*** you into **\*ALL\*** truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will **\*TELL\*** you things to come.

## MIRACLES WOULD END

Miracles would not always be around.

### **1 Corinthians 13:8-12**

<sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will **\*FAIL\***; whether there are tongues, they will **\*CEASE\***; whether there is knowledge, it will **\*VANISH\*** away.

<sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

<sup>10</sup> But when that which is **\*PERFECT\*** has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

11 When I was a **\*CHILD\***, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I **\*PUT\*** **\*AWAY\*** childish things.  
12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

The church began as a child. Miraculous power was like a childish toy that is eventually put away when maturity is reached.

### **Ephesians 4:7-15**

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.  
8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."  
9 (Now this, "He ascended" — what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?  
10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)  
11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,  
12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,  
13 **\*TILL\*** we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a **\*PERFECT\*** man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;  
14 that we should no longer be **\*CHILDREN\***, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,  
15 but, speaking the truth in love, may **\*GROW\*** **\*UP\*** in all things into Him who is the head — Christ —

Verse 13 points out that the church would become a **\*PERFECT\*** man" just like 1 Cor 13:10 taught.

Once the church was completely established and matured and once she received her complete training and instructions (scriptures), miraculous power was taken away.

### **Jude 3**

3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was **\*ONCE\*** **\*FOR\*** **\*ALL\*** delivered to the saints.

## SUMMARY

Miraculous power did several things:

- a) Proved that Jesus was the Son of God.
- b) Proved the apostles were inspired in what they wrote and spoke.
- c) Proved to the world that the "church of Christ" was of divine origin, not an invention of men.

Once these things were proven they were recorded permanently in the written record. There was no further need for miracles.

If the church needs miracles today to prove to men its divine origin, then:

- Jesus would have to come back to the earth and work miracles again to prove He is the Son of God!
- The apostles would have to come back to the earth and work miracles again to prove they were inspired!

### **GOD CAN WORK IN OTHER WAYS**

Not everything that God does is a miracle. God cannot be limited to working thru just miracles. Sometimes He operates thru natural means.

#### **Matthew 6:11**

<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily **\*BREAD\***.

How does God answer this prayer? Does He miraculously "pop" a loaf of bread on our tables? Not at all. God answers this prayer thru natural means:

#### **2 Thessalonians 3:10**

<sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not **\*WORK\***, neither shall he eat.



When God gives us the strength and resources to earn a living, He is providing bread for us thru natural means.

- When Christians are sick they should pray to God for healing. If God decides they should recover He will heal them thru natural means – thru the medicine they take (1 Tim 5:23).
- When Christians are hungry, they should pray for God to feed them. If God decides they should eat, He will feed them thru natural means – providing them means to earn a living (2 Th 3:10).