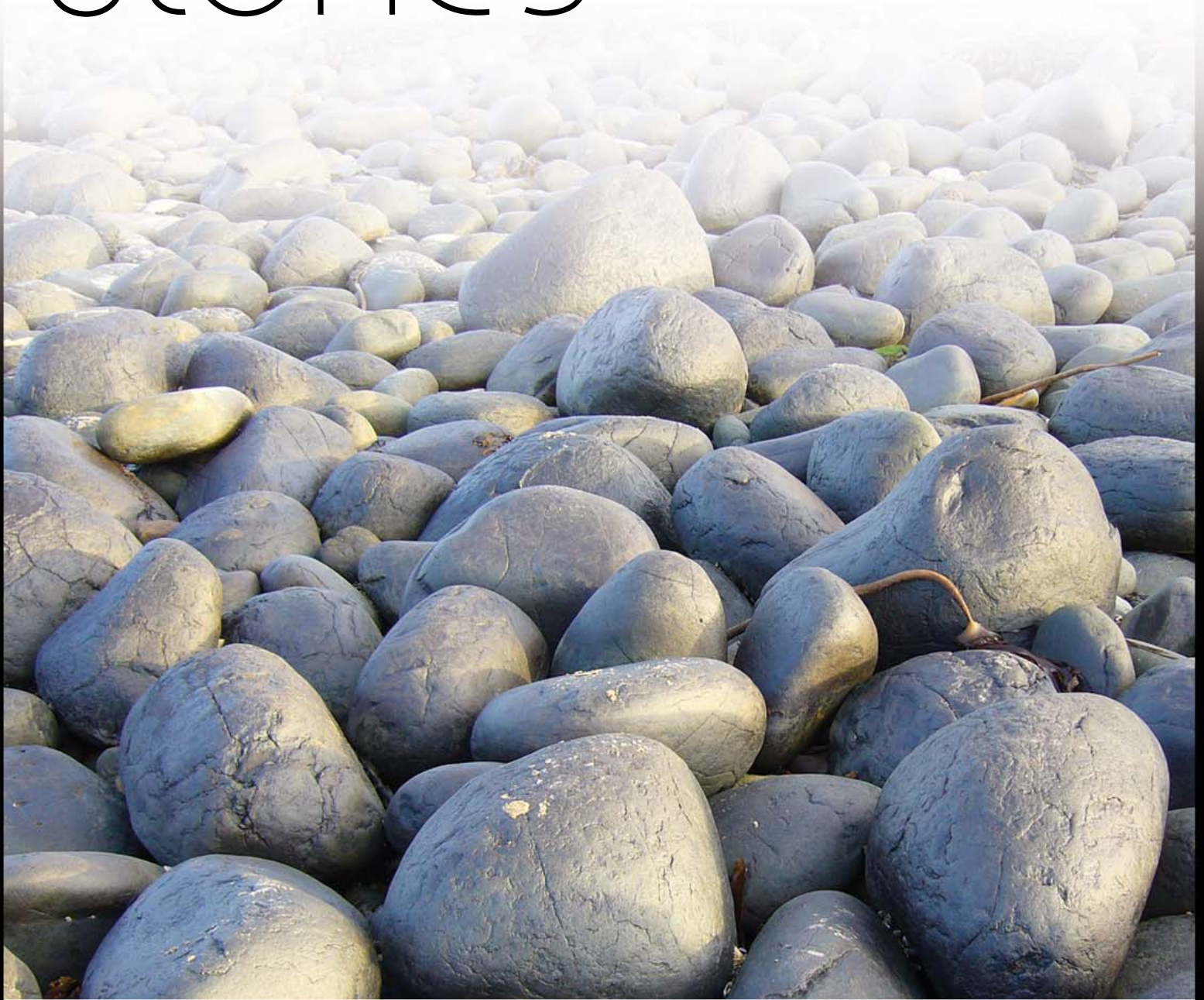


Foundation Stones



Presented by Pastor Peter Doseck

Foundation Stones

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LESSON ONE

SALVATION

Man's Original Relationship with God

Read Genesis 1:27

- ▶ God's creation of man in His image indicates that man was made to have a personal and intimate relationship with Him.

How does this relate to you?

- ▶ God designed man to be in communion with Him.

Describe communion with God:

Read Genesis 1:28-30

1. Man was delegated authority and given _____ over the earth.
2. Man was given the right to be blessed, to be fruitful and _____.
3. Man was given a spiritual authority that resulted in a physical rule.

The Fall of Man

Read Genesis 2:16-17

With the dominion and authority God had given man, only one commandment of restriction was put before them. What was it? _____

Read Genesis Chapter 3

- The serpent deceived Adam and Eve into partaking of the tree. At this moment sin entered the world, and when it did the authority of man was imparted to Satan. Sin became a separator between God and man. (Isaiah 59:2)
- The resulting separation is recorded in verses 8-9. In this passage God was not asking about their physical whereabouts, but asking why their hearts were not with Him. He knew there was a separation. Sin became the avenue of death, both physically and spiritually over all men. (Romans 6:23; 5:12-14; 3:9-23)

Jesus the Redeemer

Why was Jesus Sent to the World?

1. He came to reestablish a pure relationship between _____ and man. (2 Cor 5:19)
2. John the Baptist called Jesus the _____ of God. (Read John 1:29)
3. John 3:14-17 also spells out the purpose of Jesus clearly. What do you see?

Read Hebrews 9:22

- In the Old Testament and by the law, sins were remitted by the shedding of _____ through animal sacrifice. Jesus came to end this sacrifice once and for all.
- Read Philippians 2:8 and fill in the blanks:

“And being found in fashion as a _____, he humbled himself, and became _____ unto death, even the death of the _____”.

- Read 1 Peter 1:18-19 & Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 10:4-22

Read Romans 5:17; Romans 3:24-31; 2 Corinthians 5:21

1. By Adam’s sin all of mankind inherited a sinful nature, but by the work of Jesus all have the opportunity to regain true life.
2. Jesus took our place on the cross. It is a work of grace, giving us what we do not deserve.

What does this mean to you?

Confession and Forgiveness

You Must Realize the Following:

- Romans 3:23 *“For all have _____, and come short of the glory of God”.*
- John 14:6 *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the _____, the truth, and the _____: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”.*

Read Romans 10:9-17 (also 1 John 1:9 & Hebrews 8:12)

How does this relate to your life today?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17

➤ With the confession of Jesus as our Lord and the forgiveness of sins, we are made a new _____, with the old things _____.

➤ Read Ephesians 2:12-22

How were you brought near to God?

Read Philippians 2:12

⇒ It is then the believer's job to work out his or her own salvation.

⇒ You must work to become what God desires you to be in character, action, relationships, pursuits, etc.

Results of Salvation

An eternity in _____ is the everlasting benefit of your salvation.

List 2 verses where this is established.

1. _____
2. _____

Another benefit of salvation is freedom from the bondage of _____.

List 3 verses which confirm this principle.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Salvation makes you a child of God.

List 5 benefits of being a child of the living God with references:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Time to Review

Pick One:

_____ I am a new creation in Christ.

_____ I must work out my own salvation with fear and trembling.

_____ I have been given new life through the blood of Jesus.

_____ All of the above.

List Your Key Scripture Verse:

LESSON TWO

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Let's Begin - Read Romans 3:22-26

List 3 things you learned from this passage:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What we know...

- ✦ Righteousness was God's plan, purchased by blood through the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ on the cross and His glorious resurrection.
- ✦ It is freely given to all who call upon Him, and it is received by faith.
- ✦ Righteousness means a pardon from sin, its penalties, and effects. As it pardons and forgives, it places man in right standing with God, in a favorable, beloved position in Heaven as a son or daughter. It is complete and thorough as if the sin never happened.

Read some more - Ephesians 2:6; Galatians 4:7; Ephesians 1:4

Fill in the blanks:

And hath raised us up _____, and made us sit together in heavenly places in _____.

Wherefore thou art no more a _____, but a son; and if a son, then an _____ of God through Christ.

According as he hath _____ us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and _____ before him in love.

Dig Deeper - Read Hebrews 10:14-18

Describe what this passage means to you:

Who We Are in Him

1. We are as righteous as Jesus is. (Hebrews 2:9-11)
2. We are seated with Him in complete righteousness. (Ephesians 2:6)
3. We are joint heirs or equal heirs. (Romans 8:17)
4. We have access. (Ephesians 2:18-19)
5. We have prayer rights. (John 16:23; Hebrews 4:16)
6. We have authority. (Matthew 16:19)

What is a joint heir?

What About Sin?

Sin-consciousness – Read Hebrews 10:22-23 & Hebrews 10:1-2

1. Sin-consciousness = to be aware of, to think about past identity or situations, to dwell on something that may not exist anymore.
2. Sin-consciousness renders righteousness ineffective in the believer's life.

Sin-consciousness also...

- causes inoperative, dysfunctional faith; crippled or dead faith. (Hebrews 11:1; Romans 1:16-17; 2 Peter 1:1)
- closes access to the Kingdom & its power. (Hebrews 1:8)
- destroys faith, thus separates from grace. (Romans 5:2)
- dethrones the reigning life of authority over Satan. (2 Corinthians 2:17)
- dethrones the reigning life with Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:6)
- dethrones the life as a priest with prayer rights. (Revelation 1:5-6)
- dethrones the reigning life as a king. (Romans 5:16-18)

Write down one time in your life when sin-consciousness caused you to have feelings which were false and had no right to rule over you.

Beware! Sin-consciousness...

- drags you back and keeps you from going on and approaching the high call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14)
- produces anguish and despair, utter lack of hope, no expectancy, and mental torment. (Psalm 40:11-12; Matthew 27:3-5)
- produces shame and a feeling of deserving wrong; therefore, never resisting the enemy; a feeling of disappointment in self, and discouragement. (Ezra 9:5-7)
- produces fear, urge to separate from, to hide, not to ask for or seek help. (Gen 3:8-10)
- produces feelings of rejection. (Psalm 51:11)
- produces feelings of unworthiness, a loveless attitude; hearing but never embracing or doing the truth. (Luke 15:21)

No Condemnation!

Define Condemnation _____

What Does the Bible Say?

“There is therefore now no _____ to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” (Romans 8:1)

“Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh _____ for us.” (Romans 8:33-34)

Key Points

- ✓ God doesn’t remind us of our sins, past guilt, or penalties because it keeps us from faith (the substance that activates and allows God’s will, plan, and purpose to happen, and to be fulfilled in and through our lives.)
- ✓ We serve Him for others and go to the world.
- ✓ We receive all His promises.
- ✓ There is no voice from Heaven accusing you or reminding you of sin and guilt, so don’t listen to the enemy of your soul or the unredeemed. (1 Corinthians 14:10)
- ✓ God doesn’t have a condemnatory nature or spirit about Him, and neither should we. (Luke 17:3-5; John 8:1-11) A condemning spirit is not of faith and does not please God.

Time to Review

What did you learn?

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. God remembers my sin. | True | False |
| 2. I can live without condemnation. | True | False |
| 3. I am a child of God by faith in Jesus. | True | False |
| 4. I am too weak to be a joint heir. | True | False |
| 5. Righteousness means a pardon from sin. | True | False |

Record your key verse:

How will you live differently today than yesterday?

How can you help someone else understand righteousness?

LESSON THREE

RIGHTEOUS & JUSTIFIED

Righteousness Defined

- ✓ Righteousness means justified; pardoned from sin, guilt, and its penalties; placed in right standing with God with no mindfulness of the past or inadequacies. God is not mindful of them, nor should we be. (Romans 5:1-11)
- ✓ It is understood that the pardon is so perfect, your wrong and sin are never remembered. It is so complete, it's as if they never happened. (Hebrews 10:1-18)
- ✓ This righteousness is to be accepted by us as it is by God. We should stop thinking like people who were sinners and start thinking like children of God.

Read Romans 3:19-26

1. Righteousness is by _____, not of works.
2. Righteousness is of God, not of man or animal blood.
3. Righteousness is unto and upon all who want it.
4. Righteousness is free to us.

Blessings of Righteousness

- The believer's righteousness is the result of Jesus' substitutionary work for him, fulfilling the demands of justice. (Read Isaiah 53:4-5; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 5:19; Heb. 10:8-14; Rom. 3:25-26 & Rom. 4:25.)
- Righteousness pardons from _____, and places into right standing with God.
- As soon as you release faith, you are immediately pardoned and freed. (Read Rom. 10:9; 1 John 1:9; Rom 6:14; Heb 10:9-14; Rom. 3:22 & Isaiah 54:14)
- This righteousness brings peace with God, an assurance that you are united in sonship through Jesus. (Read Rom. 5:1; 8:14-17 & Gal. 4:1-5)
- You can be fearlessly content, knowing God is with you where you are & working for you in all things.

Stand in Grace & Faith (Read Ephesians 2:8)

Define grace _____

How does grace work in your life? _____

Glory in Tribulation – Read James 1:2-4

- We boast, rejoice, celebrate, declare, and shout victory knowing that when tribulation comes, patience works for us.
- The righteous have the confidence of knowing that when the hardships of life come and go, or when Satan attacks to destroy, hinder, and to overcome us, there are spiritual forces in action behind the scenes to bring us to victory.
- Instead of being destroyed and overwhelmed, we are empowered to dream, hope, and expect again and again. (Read 1 Peter 1:6-9; 1 Peter 5:8-10.)

Benefits of Righteousness

We have the love of God.

1. The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts for service to others, for choosing His will over ours. (John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:18-19)
2. The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts for a life of faith. (Galatians 5:6)
3. The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts for a life of giving. (John 3:16)

We have access to the infilling of the Holy Ghost.

- ✧ Read Luke 11:9-13 and Acts 19:1-6
- ✧ The Holy Ghost is given to:
 1. _____ and _____. (John 14:26)
 2. Give you the gifts of the _____. (John 14:12; 15:26; 1 Cor 12:4-11)
 3. Show you things to _____. (John 16:13)

We are saved from wrath.

- ✓ The wrath of man (Acts 23:10-16)
- ✓ The wrath of Satan (Isaiah 54:14-17)
- ✓ The wrath of God (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10)

We are reconciled.

1. We are restored to favor. (Ephesians 2:6)
2. God has ceased to be angry with us, and has restored us to our rightful place - robe, ring, shoes, and the fatted calf. (Luke 15:11-32)
3. We have obtained an inheritance. (1 Peter 1:4; 2 Peter 1:3-4)
4. We are saved by His life. (Hebrews 7:25)

We have been given joy.

- Joy is a celebrating spirit that expresses itself.
- Joy, when released, fills us with strength. (Nehemiah 8:10)
- Joy expresses itself in our words and beyond words. (1 Peter 1:8; Psalm 150)
- Joy expresses attitudes and produces actions that reflect them.

What Righteousness Is

Read Ephesians 2:10

- ✓ You are God's workmanship.
- ✓ Righteousness is paid for by Him through the substitutionary work of Jesus Christ. (Read 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Cor.1:30; Heb.10:10; Gal. 3:13; Heb. 2:9-10; Isaiah 53:4-5)
- ✓ The promises concerning the righteous have been thought out and made by Him; therefore, they are good and can be claimed by the righteous. (Read Isaiah 54:17; Psalm 34:15; Psalm 5:12; Psalm 37:25)
- ✓ Righteousness was prophesied before it came. (Read Gen. 3:15; Acts 13:38-39)
- ✓ Righteousness comes by faith. (Read Romans 3:25; Ephesians 2:6-8)
- ✓ Righteousness is complete. (Read Hebrews 10:9-18; 2 Cor. 5:14-21)

What Righteousness Does

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

1. Righteousness produces a new _____, and a new identity.
2. Righteousness makes you the _____ of God, a saint (not a saved sinner). (See Romans 1:7.)
3. Righteousness sanctifies the church, the Body of Christ. (Read 1 Cor.12:12-13)
4. Righteousness calls you brethren. (Galatians 1:2)
5. Righteousness calls you delivered. (Galatians 1:4)
6. Righteousness makes you a saint & faithful, blessed, chosen, adopted, accepted, redeemed, forgiven, and wise. (Ephesians 1:1-8)
7. Righteousness frees you from Adam's transgression, death's rule, the curse, and Satan's throne over you. (Romans 5:12-14)
8. Righteousness is a free gift that gives life. It is God's plan, born out of love for you. (Romans 5:15; John 10:10)

9. Righteousness enthrones you to rule in life over circumstances, situations, sickness, and Satan's demons. (Ephesians 2:6; Romans 5:16)

Read Hebrews 10:9-22

- Righteousness grafts you into sonship. (Heb. 2:9-15; Titus 3:5-7; Gal. 4:1-5)
- Righteousness produces sonship and inheritance. The inheritance is every promise that's ever been spoken to or done for any other righteous man. (Titus 3:5-7)
- Sonship produces a new nature, the nature or character of God.

Righteousness Delivers

- ➔ _____ delivers from fear of death and gives birth to faith. (See 2 Peter 1:1; Hebrews 12:2.) Death is synonymous with Satan himself, demons, sickness, disease, need, and failure.
- ➔ _____ delivers from condemnation. (Rom 8:1; 5:16-18; John 3:16-17)
Condemnation means - sentence against, judgment against; to deserve a sentence; to cause to question, to give place to thinking; to have a remembrance of your past brought up in order to cause you to question your forgiveness or righteousness with God; to give you a thought that you aren't righteous in order to keep you from living in the Spirit.

What is Condemnation?

- Condemnation is not the chastising of the Lord, the convicting of the Holy Ghost, or the piercing of the Word. Chastising produces change, service, and fellowship. (Heb. 12:5-13; Acts 9:1-8; Acts 7:54)
- Sin, when hidden from God and not repented of, causes condemnation. (John 8:11)
- The devil seeks to destroy, separate and cause people to become faithless through condemnation. (Luke 22:61-62; John 21:15-19; Luke 22:31)
- Condemnation is a false feeling of guilt.
- Condemnation is a remembrance of former sinful acts that cause you to meditate on them. (Hebrews 11:13-16)
- Condemnation happens out of the conscience, and it affects emotions and feelings. (Philippians 3:9-14)

LESSON FOUR

THE GREAT EXCHANGE

Jesus Took our Punishment and Gave us Peace

Read Isaiah 53:1-5

What does it mean to you? _____

Read Isaiah 53:10

What does it mean to you? _____

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

“If any man be in Christ...”

- He is a new _____.
- _____ things are passed away.
- All things are _____.
- We are reconciled to God.
- Our trespasses are not imputed.
- We are ambassadors for Christ.
- Christ was made sin for us.
- We are (through Christ) the righteousness of God in Him.

Read Galatians 3:13-29

“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law.” So that...

- ⇒ The _____ of Abraham might come on the Gentiles.
- ⇒ We might receive the promise of the Spirit through _____.
- ⇒ The promise by faith in Jesus Christ would be given to all those who believe.
- ⇒ Now we are the children of the Most High.

What Jesus Gave Us

- Jesus was rich, but for our sakes He became _____, that through His poverty we might be _____. (2 Corinthians 8:9)
- Jesus is our righteousness and healing, and He bore our sins in His own body so we could live dead to sin. (2 Peter 2:24)
- Jesus is our prosperity and health; He prospers our souls. (3 John 2)
- Jesus tasted death for every man. (Hebrews 2:9)

What Have You Given Him?

→ _____
→ _____
→ _____
→ _____

Key Verse

Impact Life Change

● _____
● _____
● _____
● _____
● _____
● _____
● _____
● _____
● _____

LESSON FIVE

SIN-CONSCIOUSNESS

Much to Learn

Think About This

- ❖ Sin-consciousness is to be aware of, to think on or be reminded of, to be aware of a sin-identity and situations because you were under it; to be aware of something that does not exist anymore.
- ❖ Another word for sin-consciousness would be condemnation which means to remember the wrong you have done and the evidence of sin left behind, even though you have been pardoned from it. (Romans 8:1)
- ❖ It causes you feelings which are false (if you have repented of them), feelings of guilt or unworthiness, that you are forsaken & lonely, feeling like God is not there because of a wrong you did in the past.
- ❖ It steals or hinders the believer's true place with God & Christ, his worth, acceptance, and activity in Jesus.

Read Matthew 27:3-5

Explain how condemnation affects the lives of those living under it:

How to Deal with Condemnation

Read Leviticus 14:2-7

1. You sprinkle your conscience with the _____ of Jesus. Sprinkle means to release or scatter in small particles, something dispersed or scattered.
2. Find scriptures on the blood and forgiveness. When you find them, don't just look at them, but speak them over your life.

Reference _____

Reference _____

Reference _____

Find Your True Identity

- Find your true identity (not your religious one because the truth sets you free), and then refuse to accept, say, or think any other way about yourself. (Read Eph. 4:17-23; John 8:32-34; 2 Cor. 5:14; Phil. 3:12-15; Heb. 11:3)

Who are you now?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

- Break the old way of thinking. The devil conforms people as slaves. (Romans 12:2; Titus 1:15; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Ephesians 2)
- Don't let problems cause you to question. Problems can be created by Satan to take you away from God. (2 Timothy 2:23; Romans 8:4-8; 8:35; 2 Corinthians 5:7)
- Don't compare yourself with others. (2 Corinthians 10:12; 12:13)
- Stay away from things that convict you, personal convictions, or things that God has given you as personal boundaries. (1 Corinthians 8:7-13; Romans 14:5, 14-15, 20-23)
- Be careful of your associations, especially those that are constantly reminding you of your past or who refuse to accept your identity in Jesus.
- Read James 4:7; Matthew 4:4-10; Ephesians 6:18 & Hebrews 4:12
- Make restitution when possible, or at least apologize.

Wrap It Up

List Three Things You Learned:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Your Key Verse

LESSON SIX

REPENTANCE AND FAITH

(Used with permission from Dr. Robb Thompson)

What Are the Requirements for Salvation?

The Bible tells us that the devils believe, and they tremble.

Biblical repentance as preached by John the Baptist, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the apostles involves a change of mind toward God and sin that results in a change of life. (Acts 2:36-38)

Cut to the Heart

- ✓ To have an internal core change, from within the deepest part of a man, it starts in the heart and permeates into a man's entire being, which results in a transformed (changed) life. (Acts 26:20)
- ✓ The Bible says that God is *"longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to _____."* (2 Peter 3:9)
- ✓ There is no Bible example of people being saved who did not evidence a change in their lives. The Apostle Paul, reviewing his ministry before King Agrippa, noted that he went about preaching to Jews and Gentiles *"that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for _____."* (Acts 26:20; Acts 20:21)

Gospel Requirements

The gospel requires that the sinner exercise repentance toward God and faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Biblical repentance is a change of mind toward God and sin that results in a change of life. To say that it has nothing to do with one's attitude toward sin is to throw away the Bible and nineteen centuries of Bible-believing preaching.

Repentance in Scripture

1. Repentance was preached by John the Baptist. ~ Read Matthew 3:1-10.
2. Repentance was preached by Jesus Christ. His goal in dealing with men was not merely to lead them in a sinner's prayer, but to bring them to repentance and genuine salvation. ~ Read Matthew 4:17; 9:13; Luke 13:2-3 & Luke 15:10.
3. Repentance was preached by the Lord's disciples. ~ Read Mark 6:12.
4. Repentance was preached by Peter. ~ Read Acts 2:28; 3:19; 5:31 & 8:22-23.
5. Repentance was preached by Paul. ~ Read Acts 3:19.

What Biblical Repentance is Not

Repentance is not penance.

Many Catholic Bibles translate “repentance” as “do penance”, according to Catholic theology that replaces biblical repentance with a sacramental duty. Penance is a Catholic sacrament whereby sins “done after baptism” are absolved by the priest upon confession and good deeds of the penitent. The four parts of penance are confession, contrition, absolution, and satisfaction. This is not biblical repentance! Sinners are not commanded to go to priests for forgiveness, or to do good works with the hope that their sins will thereby be forgiven. All of the elements of penance are unscriptural.

Repentance is not just remorse for wrong actions.

The Bible tells us that men can be remorseful about their actions without exercising genuine repentance unto salvation. This is described as the “sorrow of the world” (2 Corinthians 7:10). There are key examples of this in the Old and New Testaments. King Saul is the prime Old Testament example. He was sorry that he got caught in various sinful acts, but he did not demonstrate repentance because his actions did not change. (1 Samuel 15:24; 1 Samuel 24:17; 1 Samuel 26:21)

Repentance is not only the confession of or acknowledgement of sin.

Repentance is also not mere acknowledgement of sin. Pharaoh did this, but he did not repent toward God, and his actions did not change. (Exodus 9:27) Judas is the fearful New Testament example of a man who was remorseful but did not repent toward God. Judas regretted his actions, but he did not turn to God. (Matthew 27:3-4)

Repentance and Faith

- Repentance is not the same as believing. (Read Hebrews 6:1 & Acts 20:21)
- In reality, repentance and faith are two different actions, though they are intimately connected and cannot necessarily be separated in time. To repent is to acknowledge one’s sins and rebellion against God, and to change one’s mind about sinning against God. Faith is to trust the finished work of Christ for forgiveness of sins.
- If repentance and faith are the same, why did all of the New Testament preachers proclaim repentance? (Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30; 26:20)

LESSON SEVEN

CIRCUMCISION OF THE HEART

What is Lordship?

- Lord means supreme authority, controller, ruler.
- The submission to Jesus as Lord is a willful surrender to the rule of our lives, to His cross, our ways to His ways. (Luke 6:46)
- Lordship is born out of a revelation of His love for us. (1 John 4:19; John 3:16)
- It is established because of our love for Him. (John 14:21; 1 John 4:19)

Signs of Lordship

- The hole in the servant's ear (see Exodus 21:1-6)
- The circumcision of the male foreskin - circumcision is to cut away, to curtail, to remove
- Both of these were outward signs of one's love for God, an outward sign of an inward heart condition. (Romans 2:25-29; Romans 4:1-12)

Name something that is a sign of the lordship of Jesus in your life:

The Sign of Circumcision

- ✓ Outward circumcision today is irrelevant as a covenant sign. It was instituted as a shadow of the true circumcision that was to come through Jesus Christ, which is of the heart, revealing the new creation and a life of faith born out of and expressed by love. (Read Galatians 5:1-6; Galatians 6:11-18)
- ✓ Christianity is not a religious performance, but a heart change that produces the fruit and the power of the Spirit. (Read Romans 2:29; Galatians 5:16-24; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119:102-105)

Circumcision in the Old Covenant (Joshua 5:1-9)

1. Joshua, symbolizing Jesus, brings a new circumcision born of faith and love for God. A circumcision of the heart took place before the circumcision of the flesh, as in our case.
2. That caused them to inherit the promised land, just as our circumcision of the heart causes us to inherit the new creation, the inheritance of the promises of God. (Read Galatians 3:20-29; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Hebrews 3:7-15; Acts 7:51-53)

By Works or By Faith?

✦ Read Genesis 17:1-14 and list the works of Abram:

- ✦ After Abraham = faith, not works or flesh
- ✦ Before Abraham's circumcision, he produced Ishmael by flesh and unbelief.
- ✦ After his circumcision, he inherited the promise, Isaac, an inheritance from God.
- ✦ The circumcision of the heart, which is born of our revelation of God's love for us and is established by an act of our love for Him by a faith life, experiences God's life and victory today, and eternity with him at the end of our race or course.

Circumcision of the Heart

1. The circumcision of the heart takes place at the confession of Jesus Christ as Lord, but that circumcision sets in motion an ongoing circumcision that brings the hidden man of the heart to the world, and brings us into the fullness of fellowship with God. (Ezekiel 44:7-9)
2. Circumcision of the heart is ongoing, expressing itself in circumcision of the lips. (Ex 6:12, 30; Is.6:1-7; Eph.4:24-32; Ps.12:1-4; 141:3; 118:1-3, 17; Heb.13:15; James 1:2-3; Rom. 4:18-21; Ps. 2:7; 119:13; John 12:49-50)
3. Circumcision of the heart is ongoing, expressing itself in circumcision of the ears. (Acts 7:51-53; Jeremiah 6:10; Psalm 119:23-24, 32-35; Psalm 119:51; Mark 4:11-12; Revelation 1:9-17; Rev. 2:7)
4. We never hear, we never see. We never hear, we never do. We never hear, we never know. We never hear, we never have faith. Unless you hear revelation, you'll never have a song of redemption. (Psalm 119:23-24, 32-35).

Make it Real

List 5 ways you can circumcise your heart:

Outward Signs of Circumcision of the Heart

- ✓ The outward circumcision of a Jew declared first an inward love creating a faith life and declaring submission to the lordship of Jehovah. (Genesis 17:1-14)
- ✓ That submission is a will surrender through a revelation of love by faith that caused the circumcision of the heart. (Romans 2:25; Romans 4:9-12)
- ✓ It is an ongoing work by word and spirit. (2 Cor 3:18; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119:9)
- ✓ It reveals and symbolizes a new headship, not seen by man but revealed by God. (Romans 2:25-29; 1 Peter 3:1-5)
- ✓ It is activated by love and faith. (Galatians 5:1-6)
- ✓ The lordship of Jesus is not a list of dos and don'ts, but a desire to please Him.

In what ways do you desire to please the Lord?

Circumcision of the Lips

- Read Exodus 6:12, 30; Psalm 141:3; Romans 4:18-21; Isaiah 6:1-7; John 12:49-50; Hebrews 13:15; Psalm 12:1-4; Psalm 2:7; Ephesians 4:17-27; Psalm 119:13
- Write down what circumcision of the lips means:

Circumcision of the Ears

1. A man speaks out of the abundance of his heart, but his ears fill it. (Acts 7:51-53)
2. The uncircumcised ears never hear, never receive revelation of His Word or way.
3. If we never hear, we never do. If we never hear, we never know. If we never hear, we never have faith. (Mark 4:11-12; Romans 10:17; Philippians 4:9)
4. Read Deuteronomy 1:26-29; Mark 5:21-43; Revelation 2:7

What is circumcision of the ears?

Circumcision of the Eyes

✕ Read Matthew 7:1-6; 5:28; John 8:38; 5:19; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; Numbers 13; John 4:34-38; Matthew 14:22-31; John 4:34-38

✕ Write down what circumcision of the eyes means:

Circumcision of the Thoughts

➤ Read Proverbs 23:7; Romans 12:2; Matthew 6:25; Philippians 4:8; Isaiah 55:8-9; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; James 1:19-22; Ephesians 4:29-32; Colossians 3:5-14

➤ How do you circumcise your thoughts?

Circumcision of Doing

▪ Read John 5:17; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Matthew 5:13-16

▪ How do you circumcise what you do?

Your Key Verse

LESSON EIGHT THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST

Lordship Defined

1. Lord means supreme _____, controller, ruler, God.
2. He is in our life all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present.
3. He is all of these, but as we acknowledge Him, so He responds to us.
4. Read Exodus 21:1-6
5. This submission, willful surrender to the rule of another, is born out of love.
6. The lordship of Jesus Christ is much the same in the believer's life.

Why Lordship?

- ✓ It is born out of a revelation of God's love for us. (1 John 4:9-10, 19; John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 1:17-19; Ephesians 2:1; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Colossians 1:13)
- ✓ We were enslaved by sin; now we are enslaved by love through choice.
- ✓ Lordship is established because of our love for and faith in Him. (Eph 3:14-19; Gal 5:6)

Signs of the Covenant

1. Exodus 21:5 was a sign of a covenant of free will, or of the lordship of another. The surrender to a hole or mark that shed blood expressed outward witness of one's free choice.
2. Another sign of a covenant by surrender, born out of love, is found in Gen 17:9-14.
3. (Joshua 5:1-4) Outward circumcision was a sign of willful submission to God, His will & His ways, and to service to Him. It was established out of the individual's love for God, and reflected heart, soul, and body service to God.

How do you show your love for God through service to Him?

Establishing Lordship ~ Read 1 John 4:19

- How is the Lordship of Jesus Christ established in your life?

- It bears a sign that is born out of a circumcised heart. (Exodus 21:5; Jeremiah 4:1-4; Deuteronomy 10:12-19; Romans 2:27-29)

1 Peter 3:2

- The circumcised heart produces first an obedient spirit as a covenant sign, born out of love for Him.
- Read 1 John 3:16-18; Romans 2:25-26; John 14:21; Luke 6:46; John 8:31-32

How are you obedient out of love?

Signs of His Lordship

- The life of faith (Galatians 5:6; Hebrews 11:6; Luke 5:2-8)
- The life of love (1 John 4:7-21; John 13:34-35; Matthew 5:43-48)
- The life of sacrifice (Matthew 6:19-24; Malachi 3:8; Mark 10:40-46)
- The life of priorities (Matthew 6:31-34)
- The life of service to others (James 1:26-27; Matthew 5:13-20)
- The life of separation from sin (2 Corinthians 6:14)

Jesus is Lord!

- Read Romans 10:9-13.
- The confession of faith that brings salvation is an open declaration that Jesus Christ is Lord = supreme _____, controller, God, all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present with me, over me, my personal Lord and Savior.

Three Part Revelation

1. Man is born in and ruled by sin. (Romans 5:12)
2. Only by the blood of Jesus Christ can one be redeemed from his sins.
3. Read Romans 3:24; Ephesians 1:4-8; Galatians 1:4-5; 1 Peter 1:16; John 14:6.
4. We are not our own. (1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Colossians 1:13)

Prisoners of Christ

- We have been freed from sin to become prisoners of our liberator and redeemer, one Jesus Christ. We become His prisoner because of the revelation of His act of love on our behalf. (Romans 5:6)
- We are freed from sin and its bondage that we may be bound to the Lord. (Ephesians 3:1; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Philippians 1:1,9)

Glory to Glory

- We are in the process of changing from glory to glory. (2 Corinthians 3:18)
- We are being transformed by the renewing of our minds. (Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:17-24; Colossians 3:1-17)
- The old man is dying daily, and the inward man is being renewed. That doesn't mean that Jesus saves but is not Lord; it means that Jesus is Lord over one's life based upon the revelation of His will, plan, purpose, Word, & His likeness.

How do you die daily?

Lord of All

- ✗ Some have said that Jesus can be Savior but not Lord of our lives. I disagree with this statement.
- ✗ Some have said they are a follower of Jesus but not a Christian. I disagree with such statements.
- ✗ It has also been said that Jesus is either Lord of all or not Lord at all. Scripture agrees with this statement. (Matthew 10:37-40 = surrender)

On His Terms

- ✓ Jesus is Lord of our lives on His terms, not ours. (John 8:31-34; Luke 6:46)
- ✓ When we come to the knowledge of Jesus' will, plan, purpose, and Word, we must decide to obey or disobey, to enthrone Jesus or to dethrone Him, to submit or rebel. (Matthew 7:21-23)

Three Reasons Jesus is not Lord in a Life

1. By ignorance (Romans 10:9-17)
2. By rejection (Acts 13:42-52)
3. By rebellion

Right of Access

- Jesus being Lord over one's life goes much deeper than just being good stewards over money and things, Sunday gatherings and worship services. It has to do with these things, but lordship is from and of love for Him because of love from Him. (Luke 6:46-49; Matthew 12:46-50)
- The lordship of Jesus means that He has access or right of disposal over all that one has, not just goods. Jesus is Lord over our lives on His terms, not ours! (Luke 11:42; Luke 6:46)

LESSON NINE JESUS IS LORD BY DEMONSTRATION

Jesus is Lord!

- Read Romans 10:9-13
- Explain the lordship of Christ

Lordship

1. Jesus is Lord on _____, not ours. (Matthew 4:19)
2. The lordship of Christ is not to fit into or be ordered by your world. Your world is to fit around His lordship.
3. His lordship is not measured by desire, confession, church attendance, or giving only. All are a part, but not the fullness. (Luke 6:46)
4. It is doing the Word that establishes the lordship of Jesus in one's life. (John 14:23)
5. The lordship of Jesus Christ is as strong and as complete as our commitment to living the Word, not just on shout days, but on conflict and disappointment days.
6. Any place that the Word doesn't rule, Jesus is not Lord over it. (Psalm 27:7-8)

Bound to Him

- The ear was marked as a sign of surrender to the master. (Exodus 21:1-6)
- Paul was fully persuaded to go despite the problems. (Acts 21:10-14)

How are you bound to Him?

Doing the Word

- A disciple is not only a taught one, but a doing one.
- One may be taught of the Lord, but lordship is established by doing. (Joshua 1:7-9; Luke 6:46)
- Doing the Word consists of finding, then hearing, implementing (Phil 4:9), sacrificing (Acts 20:22-25), resisting (Matt 4:1-11; 1 Pet 5:8-9), and continuing (Heb 10:35).
- Sacrifice sometimes takes an aggressive attitude against all that you know or opportunities you may have.

Conformed

- X The lordship of Jesus Christ is not in word only, but in a conformed life = in acts of service, fruitfulness, confession, deed, and truth.
- X The lordship of Jesus Christ is born out of a revelation of His love for us. (Ephesians 3:14-19)
- X It is established by our love for Him. (1 John 3:16-19; John 14:15)
- X We must be doers of the Word.

How do you “do the Word?”

Read Luke 5:1-8

As we allow Jesus to be Lord of our lives we can turn bad things into good things, hurt into ministries, offenses into relationships. (James 1:2; Matthew 26:19-30; John 20:24-28; Psalm 27:1-3)

Your Key Verse

Jesus is Lord of:

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LESSON TEN

CHRIST'S COMMANDMENTS

(Used with permission from Dr. Robb Thompson)

"If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments" – Jesus (John 14:15-16)

- God has a training school for life. This training school has a curriculum that will ensure you an overcoming life and a powerful legacy. This curriculum is taken from "the teachings of Christ", and these teachings can be divided up into 49 different commandments.
- If you are able to practice these commandments, then the true love of God will be expressed through you, and you will be the salt and light of this world.

Commandment – "Judge Not"

"Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?" (Matthew 7:1-3)

- This commandment requires me to recognize the difference between what is good and evil in order to make wise decisions, not to judge.
- I am unqualified to correct another until I first judge myself. I must be willing to deal with my problems first.
- Read Proverbs 11:1; 1 Corinthians 11:31.

Where do you judge?

Commandment – "Do Not Cast Pearls"

"Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you." (Matthew 7:6)

- ➔ This commandment requires me to use wisdom to avoid damaging attitudes, words, and actions, and to give insightful counsel to those who do not know the truth.
- ➔ You will suffer both the consequences and the rewards of those that are closest to you.
- ➔ Read 1 Corinthians 15:33-34.

What are pearls? _____

Commandment – “Ask, Seek, Knock”

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8)

- This commandment requires me to depend on and trust God to meet my every need; to press into my relationship with God with a surrender to do His will and not my own.
- I will never get an answer unless I ask; I will never find the truth and right way to go unless I seek; and God can never open a door I do not knock on. The requirement is humility.
- Read James 4:10; James 4:3-4; Jeremiah 33:3.

Are you a humble asker? _____

Commandment – “Do Unto Others”

“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 7:12)

- This commandment requires me to consider others before I act or speak, and to surrender any selfish motive.
- Read Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:4; 1 Corinthians 10:24; Galatians 6:10
- Remember, in doing to others as you would have them do to you, there is no promise that they will return your kindness or goodness. We must be resolved that our obedience to this scripture is pleasing God, as He is our rewarder.
- Read Hebrews 6:10; 11:6.

What can you “do unto” someone today?

Commandment – “Choose the Narrow Way”

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14)

- Read Proverbs 4:18.
- This commandment requires me to evaluate each decision of my life, based on God’s way; to make God’s Word my standard, and not to make my own opinions or the opinions of others my standard.
- Make no mistake – not everyone who calls themselves a Christian is one. If I live however I feel or like, then I have indeed elevated myself as God and the lord of my own life.
- Read Matthew 7:26-27; Matthew 7:22-23

- Will I choose to practice godliness and grow in my walk with God, or will I ignore God’s Word and live life however I want to?

Commandment – “Beware False Prophets”

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?” (Matthew 7:15-16)

- ✓ This commandment requires me to make right in my life so that I am not drawn to false teachings, and to remain free from guilt that would cause me to distort the truth.
- ✓ Read 2 Timothy 3:13-14; Romans 16:17.
- ✓ As you read these scriptures, take inventory of your life. Are you deceiving yourself by not obeying the truth you know? Are you listening to gossip or the gossipier that sways the opinions of others? Remember, we need to be free from guilt so we ourselves do not distort the truth of God’s Word.
- ✓ Watching out for false teachings and false prophets is simple – be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only. (James 1:22-25)

Choose today to be a doer of the Word, walking on the narrow way and protected from the teachings and deceptions of distorted truth.

Commandment – “Love Your Enemies”

“But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.” (Matthew 5:44)

- ✚ Read John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:11-18.
- ✚ Love is an action and does not exist when no action is taken. (1 John 4:6-21)
- ✚ 1 John 1:4-7 – The absence of love in the life of the believer is the same as the presence of darkness – it breaks fellowship with God the Son and opens the door to sin. (1 John 2:7-11)

Do you have an open door?

How would you close it?

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of _____ from dead works, and of _____ toward God, of the doctrine of _____, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit. (Hebrews 6:1-3)

I. Repentance From Dead Works

A. Defining Repentance

- Definition = to change one's mind, to turn from.
- Repentance is an act of the will based on faith which comes from hearing God's Word concerning man's sinful state and God's remedy for sin.
- Repentance is a sincere change of one's mind and will cause a turning from former ways of acting, responding, speaking, and doing.
- It consists of surrendering one's life to God through Jesus Christ as complete ruler; thus, we turn from in order to turn to.
- Isaiah 55:7; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; Acts 26:18
- Repentance is not a work to receive salvation, but it does create works after having been forgiven. (Luke 3:7-14)

B. The Benefits of Repentance

- ✧ It is the only way into the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 4:17)
- ✧ It is the only way to escape the corruption, dominion of sin, and evil in this world. (Galatians 1:4)
- ✧ Corruption, sin, and evil are all synonymous with Satan and his kingdom.
- ✧ When we truly repent we enter the Kingdom of God, its protection, joy, benefits, and privileges, and we come out of Satan's kingdom. (Colossians 1:13-15)

Describe true repentance:

C. Who Can Benefit From Repentance?

- † It is God's will that all come to repentance through preaching, teaching, and hearing God's Word. (Romans 10:13-17; 2 Peter 3:9)
- † A refusal to repent leads to eternity without God. (2 Peter 3:7-12; Matthew 11:20-24)
- † Repentance is granted to sinful man because of God's love for him. (John 3:16-21)
- † Love offers repentance which produces salvation, but it still requires personal acceptance of it, though it is offered to all. (Romans 10:13-15)

D. A Life of Repentance

- ☑ Repentance includes a turning from all superstitions, religions (man's ways to righteousness), and devotions. (Acts 17:16-34)
- ☑ As believers we are accepted, holy, blameless, and perfect. (Ephesians 1:4-8)
- ☑ But Satan is still tempting us as he did Adam and Eve, and Jesus Himself. Sometimes we stumble or fall into temptations that come. When we do, God in His love convicts us of that sin and calls us to repentance. (Hebrews 12:5-11; 1 John 2:1-2; 1 John 1:9)
- ☑ Repentance is to be quick. If not, you can quench the Holy Spirit, or grieve Him, become stiff-necked and resist Him. (2 Corinthians 7:8-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; Ephesians 4:30; Acts 7:53; Genesis 6:3)
- ☑ Repentance keeps man cleared from sins that separate us from Him. (Isaiah 59:2)
- ☑ Lack of repentance gives Satan authority over us. (Isaiah 8:34)

E. Repentance Transforms

- ⇒ Repentance is ongoing, as is our transformation into the likeness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:17-24)
- ⇒ As we walk with God we make mistakes, not on purpose, but we do make them. And when we do, we should not become condemned, but we should become convicted. Condemnation is the devil's reminder to you about your sin in an attempt to drive you away from God. (Hebrews 12:5-10; 1 John 1:9)
- ⇒ Don't become disappointed in your failures or shortcomings, but keep your hands to the plow, and keep on keeping on. Don't listen to Satan or man, but do listen to God's voice because He loves you, and He is working for you and in you. (Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 2:12-16)
- ⇒ Be sincere and honest with yourself and with God, and seek the scriptures for answers.

II. FAITH TOWARD GOD

A. Faith is...

- ◆ Confidence, assurance, a fullness of persuasion that God exists, that the Bible is His voice and will to and for every man and woman, and that He will do what He said, as we do what He asks.
- ◆ A persuasion that the Bible is unchangeable, inerrant, and perfect, and it contains absolute truth.
- ◆ An act of humility and total dependence upon God.
- ◆ A separating from pride, which is faith in self and your own ways.
- ◆ The basis of all confidence that there is a God, He had a Son, there is a Heaven - but there is also a devil and a hell if we do not have faith which comes from scripture.
- ◆ The basis of rejecting all other forms of worship and trust.
- ◆ The basis of our full surrender, submission, and sacrifice to Jesus Christ. (Luke 5:1-11; 7:36-50)

B. What Faith Does

- ✓ When one has faith he accepts God's Word as the way of life, the way of the righteous ones, the way of holiness, and the way of handling things God's way at all costs to self. We know that as we meet its conditions, God performs His Word and brings His promises to pass.
- ✓ Faith lives the Word (does and speaks it) in every area of life, not just a few.
- ✓ Faith is the brother to obedience - obedience to every Word of God = the life of faith
- ✓ Faith keeps us from Satan's temptation to live by pride, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eye. (1 Peter 5:6-9; 1 John 5:4-5)
- ✓ Faith makes us whole as in Luke 7:48-50.
- ✓ Faith is given to bring us victory and to make us conquerors over Satan and his kingdom. (1 John 5:4-5)

Describe how faith and obedience work in your life:

C. How Faith Comes

- Faith comes by hearing the Word of God, not having heard it in the past. It comes from hearing and hearing and hearing. (Romans 10:17)
- Hearing comes in three major ways: through the ears, through the eyes, through the mind (thinking).

III. Doctrine of BAPTISMS - PLURAL

A. Water Baptism

- Water baptism is an outward sign of an inward work of grace.
- Jesus was baptized, and we are to follow his example. (Matthew 3:13-17)
- The word "baptism" comes from a Greek word – baptizo – which means to immerse. It never indicates a mere sprinkling. (Matthew 3:16-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:16-18; John 1:29-34)
- Water baptism is a part of the Great Commission. (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16)
- The apostles preached it as inseparable from repentance and salvation. (Acts 2:38-41; 8:12; 1 Corinthians 10:1-3)
- Water baptism does not bring salvation, but it is an act of obedience after salvation, giving us a clear conscience before God. (1 Peter 3:21)
- It is an act of obedience (submission to God's will) that displays our faith to the world.
- It is an outward symbolism of an inward work that is already done. (Ezekiel 11:18-21)
- The believer, who is dry, is immersed in water, a symbolism of death to sin, burial in water in Christ, and resurrection into a new man in Christ, coming up wet.

Obedience to the Word

- Jesus commanded us to be baptized, fulfilling the great commission. (Matthew 28:16-20).
- Baptism reveals our obedience to Jesus' teachings. Disobedience in one area makes it easy to disobey in others; therefore, leave no room for disobedience. (Matthew 28:20)
- The early church was baptized in water. We are still part of the New Testament church and should do likewise. (Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-38)

Who Should be Baptized?

- ✓ People who have repented of sins and are now born again. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)
- ✓ Those who have been backslidden and returned to Christ, showing their recommitment to Him. (Ezek 3:20; Ezek 18:24; Ezek 33:13; Rev. 2:4-5)
- ✓ Baptism helps to reinforce and strengthen our faith, giving us a memorial.

The Spiritual Significance of Water Baptism

- ✧ It signifies a total commitment to Christ. (Romans 6:3-4)
- ✧ It visibly demonstrates your faith before a Christian community and the world. (Matt 28:19; Acts 19:5)
- ✧ It shows that you belong to Christ; you're not your own. (Galatians 3:27; Acts 2:38)
- ✧ It signifies that you have a share in Christ's life and Spirit. (Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 3:26-4:7)

Symbolism

- ❖ Water baptism portrays the union of the believer with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. (Romans 6:1-11; Colossians 2:11-12)
- ❖ The old man died and the new man arose.
 - *Death:* (Romans 6:3-4, 7, 10, 12; Colossians 3:3-14; Romans 6:10)
 - *Burial:* (Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12)
 - *Resurrection:* (Romans 6:4-5, 11; Colossians 2:12-13; Romans 6:4-5, 8; Galatians 2:20)

The Formulation for Baptism:

- ☞ "We baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, according to the authority and command of Jesus Christ our Lord as an act of faith, surrender, and obedience to Him." (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:38)

B. Spiritual Baptism

- ❑ Water baptism is only symbolic of the first baptism, which is a spiritual one.
- ❑ This spiritual baptism is the work of the Holy Spirit. Its result is the new birth, which produces sonship (Titus 3:5).
- ❑ When you are born again, you are supernaturally baptized (immersed into) the Holy Spirit who causes a divine regeneration, a renewing, and a reconstruction of your human spirit.
- ❑ In water baptism, when you went into the water you were dry, but when you came up out of the water you were different; you were wet. In the same way when you are baptized into the Spirit you go in dead, but when you come up out of spiritual baptism you are a new creature in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- ❑ Spiritual baptism was revealed by John the Baptist as that which would be done through the Holy Spirit because of faith in Jesus Christ. (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:7-8; John 1:29-34)
- ❑ Read 1 Corinthians 12:13. Many Christians have the mistaken notion that they received the infilling of the Holy Spirit when they got saved, when in reality they received the work of the Holy Spirit, which is the new birth. This is the spiritual baptism that places us into the Body of Christ and makes us members one of another. (1 Corinthians 12:12-25; Romans 6:3-5)

New Wineskin

- ✓ In spiritual baptism you are covered with the Holy Spirit (immersed in Him), but you are not yet filled with the Holy Spirit. It is a work of the Spirit, not the receiving of Him. Remember, baptism = immersion. When you were baptized in water you did not drink the water, but you were covered by it. Spiritual baptism is not an intake of the Spirit, but a covering by Him. (John 1:33)
- ✓ This spiritual baptism prepares you for the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Its result is salvation, separation, and sonship whereby you cry “Abba Father!” (Galatians 4:4-9; Romans 8:14-17; 2 Corinthians 5:16-18)
- ✓ Spiritual baptism is the old wineskin becoming the new in order to receive the new wine, which is symbolic of the infilling of the Holy Spirit, and this new wine which brings the evidence of an unknown tongue. (Matthew 9:16-17)
- ✓ In Bible days, wine was stored in wineskins which were made from the hides of animals. The hide was carefully tanned and prepared for use, and once the preparation cycle was completed the skin would be sown into a pouch shape, and new wine would be poured in.
- ✓ Wine expands with age, and so the wineskin had to be flexible to handle the change. Wineskins would expand until the fermentation process was finished, and then they would hold their shape from that point on.
- ✓ This is why Jesus said you could never put new wine into an old skin, or it would burst. If you took an old, used wineskin that had been stretched out over time, and you tried to put new wine in it, the expansion of the new would tear the old wineskin, and you would lose your wine. Instead, they preferred to put new

wine into new skins so that the wine and the skin could expand together, and the wine could be kept safe.

- ✓ After the new birth, brought about by the Spirit's baptism, the child of God is now ready to receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, if he or she asks. (See Acts 2:1-4 ~ filled the room, then filled them. Read Luke 11:11-13 ~ Notice you must be a child of God to ask your Father for the infilling of the Holy Spirit.)

- ✗ So what can we do, we who are old, beaten, and stretched out by the world? We can be remolded, just as old wineskins were sometimes refurbished to be used again. This refurbishing is a perfect picture of spiritual baptism.
 - † Jesus was the only perfect new wineskin to ever walk the earth, but thank God there was a second way a skin could be used for wine. They could take an old wineskin and make it new again by soaking it in water and oil until it could be reshaped and remolded into a useable form once again.
 - † No matter how stretched out, abused, worn out, or disjointed we are when we come to Christ, the Spirit of God remakes us at the new birth by soaking us in the water of spiritual baptism, making us new again (renewed, recreated) in the image of Jesus.
 - † Just as you cannot fill an old, stretched out wineskin with new wine, you cannot fill a dead spirit with the holiness, newness, and power of the Holy Spirit. An old, dead spirit cannot handle the Holy Spirit; only a recreated spirit made in the image and likeness of Jesus can receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit.
 - † The remaking of an old wineskin was a slow process, just as the divine change of a child of God is also a slow process. Our salvation is instant, and yet it is also ongoing (2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 1:17; Colossians 3:10; Philippians 2:12).

C. Baptism of Fire

1. It is a work of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:11-12)
2. It is for the purpose of sanctification. (Exodus 3:1-31; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4)
3. It is a process involving the Word. (John 17:17; Ephesians 5:26)
4. The Word is called fire. (Jeremiah 20:9)
5. Fire brings cleansing. (Jeremiah 17:27; 21:4; Psalm 105:30-32)

- ✓ Investigate on your own and see what else you can find!

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of _____, and of _____ of the dead, and of eternal _____. And this will we do, if God permit. (Hebrews 6:1-3)

I. LAYING ON OF HANDS

A. In the Life of Jesus

- Jesus demonstrated this doctrine throughout His life and ministry. (Matthew 8:1-3; 8:14-15; 9:20-26; 9:27-29)
- Jesus commissioned the church to use this method. (Mk 16:17-18; Acts 9:10-12)
- It is accompanied by oil as a type of the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

B. In the Church Today

- ▶ It is used to receive the Holy Spirit's infilling. (Acts 8:17-19; 9:17-18; 19:1-7)
- ▶ It is used to impart authority, recognize five-fold ministries, and for impartation of the gifts. (1 Tim 1:6; 4:8; Acts 6:1-6; 13:1-3; Joshua 27:18-23; 34:9)
 - These are only done when one has proven himself. (1 Timothy 5:22)
 - And when God has directed. (Acts 13:1-3)

How has laying on of hands been used in your life?

How have you used it for others?

C. Three Old Testament Examples to Establish Doctrine

1. Genesis 48:14 – guidelines for imparting blessing
2. Numbers 27:18-23 & Deut. 34:9 – imparting or transmitting of spiritual things
3. 2 Kings 13:15-17 – acknowledgement of appointment as a leader

D. New Testament Examples

✂ Read 2 Timothy 1:6 and write down what you learn:

- ✂ The function of laying on of hands is to be done with great caution – 1 Timothy 5:22
- ✂ Healing is ministered to unbelievers – Mark 16:17-18
- ✂ Healing is ministered to believers – James 5:14-15
- ✂ The infilling of the Holy Spirit– Acts 8:18; Acts 9:17-20; Acts 19:1-7
- ✂ Spiritual gifts by God’s direction – 1 Timothy 1:18
- ✂ Commissioning of ministers – Acts 13:1-4
- ✂ Appointed leadership – Acts 6:1-6; Acts 14:21-23

II. Resurrection of the Dead

A. The Foundation of Our Faith

- ⇒ Romans 1:3-4; 1 Corinthians 15:12-22
- ⇒ It was the confirming act of verification of the deity of Jesus and His eternal nature, His omnipotence, and all powerful existence. (Matthew 16:1-4)
- ⇒ All men are appointed to die and then face judgment. This reveals to us a required resurrection. (Hebrews 9:27)

B. Basics of Doctrine

- ⇒ Christians will be raised from the dead. They are with Christ now, but will be united with their bodies, which then will be glorified. This is our Christian hope. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:44-54)
- ⇒ Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15
- ⇒ Sinners will also be resurrected. We all live our lives for one moment in time – to be accepted into Heaven or to be cast into an eternal lake of fire. The choice is up to every individual. Choose you this day whom you will serve. (Rev. 20:11-15)

Notes:

III. Eternal Judgment

A. When Judgment Occurs

- ✓ Judgment takes place at the resurrection of the saint and sinner. We must live a life of holiness every day, working out our own salvation with fear and trembling. (Philippians 2:12)
- ✓ Read also Hebrews 12:14 & 1 Peter 4:17-18

B. Christians ~ Judged but Not Condemned

- ▶ John 3:18; Isaiah 43:25 & 44:22
- ▶ 1 John 2:12 & Romans 8:1

C. Christians ~ Suffer Loss and Yet Be Saved

- ✗ 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10
- ✗ Romans 11:23 – Christ’s judgment seat will be a seat of mercy, while the sinner’s judgment seat will be one of wrath, rejection, destruction, and hopelessness.
- ✗ Christians should judge themselves daily. (1 Corinthians 2:14-16)

D. Nations Judged

- ▶ Matthew 25:31-33; Joel 3:1-2
- ▶ Israel will be judged by tribulation. (Zechariah 12:3; 9-10; Zechariah 14:2-4; Ezekiel 20:37-38)
- ▶ Israel will be saved by fire if they endure.

E. The Sinner Judged

- ✗ Revelation 20:11-15

F. What did you learn?

LESSON 13

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22-24

“But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”

- ↪ The fruit of the spirit is the fruit of the recreated human spirit, not the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- ↪ The fruit of the spirit is the voice (or proof) of your conversion. The fruit of the spirit identifies who you are in Christ.
- ↪ The fruit of the spirit is the fruit of sonship, the fruit of the Christ-like nature in you after you are born again.
- ↪ The fruit of the spirit declares that you are a Christian, one who crucifies the flesh and lives a holy life.

Read Matthew 7:15-20

- Notice the word fruit. When you are saved and have the fruit of the spirit abiding in you, you will be holy as He is holy.
- If you have areas where you need help, God will chasten you according to Hebrews 12:5-14, and the work of that chastening will be the peaceable fruit of holiness.
- The fruit of the spirit produces holiness, and it is by this fruit that believers are known.
- Matthew 7:21 - You develop the fruit of the spirit so that you can live eternally with God.
- Matthew 7:22-23 - In other words, you cannot expect to go to Heaven without a life filled with fruit, no matter what works you have done.
- Every believer’s motive, everything that he or she does, should be fruit of the spirit motivated; in other words, love-based. No matter what you do – using your faith, operating in the gifts of the Spirit - it will profit you nothing when you face judgment in eternity unless it is accompanied by the evidence of the fruit of the spirit.

The Fruit of the Spirit in Seed Form

- ➔ It grows and is developed in individuals in different ways and at different rates because of personal background, personalities, etc. (Romans 5:8)
- ➔ It grows by the individual’s faith and use.
- ➔ God has given us promises, that when accessed by faith, develop the fruit and produce godly lives. (2 Peter 1:3-4)
- ➔ You are empowered by faith and the Word to defeat the flesh and produce the fruit of the spirit. (Romans 8:11-13)
- ➔ The fruit of the spirit enables us to imitate our Heavenly Father, and Jesus, the light of the world. (Ephesians 5:1-2)

- The fruit of the spirit produces motives that reflect in all we do and how we do what we do. When the fruit of the spirit is developed, sin is hindered in our lives.
- The fruit of the spirit is the basis of a life controlled by the Spirit. (Galatians 5:16-23)

Identify the Fruit of the Spirit in Your Life

Love _____
Joy _____
Peace _____
Longsuffering _____
Gentleness _____
Goodness _____
Faith _____
Meekness _____
Temperance _____

Key Verse

Life Change

LESSON 14

AWAITING LIFE AFTER DEATH

What is Death?

- ✎ Death means “a termination of existing in a state, but never extinction.”
- ✎ Read James 2:26
- ✎ Death is a separation from life in physical form, but not an end to existence or awareness.
 - a. John 11:21-26
 - b. Exodus 3:4-9
 - c. Luke 16:19-31
 - d. 2 Timothy 4:6-8
 - e. Philippians 1:21-23
 - f. 2 Corinthians 5:6-11

Physical Death is a Door

- ➔ Physical death - separation of body and spirit (this includes the soul) of man - is only a door to an eternal state that is a result of decisions made while alive or in the physical body of an individual. (Luke 16:19-31)
- ➔ Physical death is a divine appointment for every man because of the entrance of sin. (Hebrews 9:27-28)
- ➔ Physical death leads man toward two other divine appointments that cannot be escaped - judgment and then reward or punishment - eternity with no change of its results. Once it is said, it is said forever without chance of change of one’s decision. (Psalm 89:34; Psalm 119:89; Matthew 25:31-46; 2 Corinthians 5:8-11)

Many Question Life after Death

- ✎ No one questions death, but many question life or existence after death.
- ✎ The Bible teaches life after death.
- ✎ The question has been asked, “If I don’t believe in life after death, do I still live, or do I just cease to exist?” You still live according to Hebrews 9:27 & Romans 3:3-4.
- ✎ False teachings deny life after death, not knowing the scriptures and with no knowledge of God’s power. (Matthew 22:23-33; Acts 23:6-8)
- ✎ Error in this truth leads to other errors in other truths.

Jesus Taught Life after Death

- 📖 Read Matthew 22:23-33
- 📖 Read John 11:21-26, 41-44
- 📖 Read Matthew 17:1-4 (Jesus revealed life after death to His disciples.)
- 📖 Read John 20:26-29 (Jesus proved life after death to His disciples.)

Paul & Others Taught Life after Death

- ✂ Stephen preached life after death to Paul. (Acts 7:51-56)
- ✂ Jesus preached life after death to Paul, and Paul got saved. (Acts 9:3-6)
- ✂ Paul preached life after death. (Acts 23:6-8; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Phil.1:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:6-11; 2 Tim. 4:6-8)
- ✂ The belief in life after death causes some to fear, some to serve with great dedication, and some to even sacrifice their lives. (Acts 7:51-56)
- ✂ Believing in life after death brings a revelation of reward for faith, and punishment for a lack of it.

Life after Death is a Foundation Doctrine

- ✍ It is a foundation to the Christian faith that promotes and gives birth to a life of purity and service. (1 Corinthians 15:11-20; Exodus 3:3-9)
- ✍ Our preaching concerning Jesus is founded on life after death. (Romans 10:9-17)
- ✍ If there is no faith in life after death, a life for Jesus is a life in vain. (1 Cor 15:14-17)
- ✍ A life without faith in life after death is a life of misery. (1 Corinthians 15:19)

Three Types of Death

✂ **Spiritual death** = separation from God = what took place in Eden.

- a. Genesis 2:15-17 This was not the promise.
- b. Genesis 3:1-10 Physical death - Adam lived 930 yrs after his sin (Gen. 5:5)
- c. Romans 5:12-14 Spiritual death passed upon all men
- d. Isaiah 59:2; Eph. 2:1-12; Col. 2:12-13; Jude 12; 1 Timothy 5:6; Luke 15:11-32

✂ **Physical death** = separation of spirit (soul incl.) and body = the body is dead.

- a. James 2:26; Philippians 1:21-24; John 19:28-42
- b. All men will experience this death whether saint or sinner, except those who are alive when Jesus returns for His church. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

✂ **The second death** = the final death.

- a. The second death is experienced only by those who are not saved, and those who have once known Jesus but have been overcome by the tempter or backslidden willfully, turned back, and established sinful lives again. (2 Peter 2:20-22; Revelation 2:10-11)
- b. Rev. 21:7-8; Rev. 20:10-15

Immortality of Soul & Spirit

- Immortal means - not subject to death, lasting forever, imperishable, endlessly alive.
- Luke 16:19-31 The soul & spirit have senses and feelings, thoughts.
- 2 Cor. 5:6-9; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Philip. 1:20-23; Luke 23:43; Matt. 10:28; 22:29-32; 2 Tim. 4:6-8

Death & Resurrection

- ✘ James 2:26; Genesis 3:19; Revelation 20:12
- ✘ The body dies, but does not cease to exist. It ceases as we know it, but will last forever in an immortal state in Heaven or hell. (Matt 10:28; Rev 20:12; 1 Thess 4:13-18)
- ✘ The body is resurrected with the soul & spirit before judgment. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; Matthew 10:28)
- ✘ Jesus was reunited with His body at the resurrection. (Luke 24:36-40)
- ✘ It is not the same body of flesh and blood. It is not an angelic body, but your body changed into a spiritual one. (1 Corinthians 15:37-50)
- ✘ The resurrected body is never to die again and never to become extinct, never to be separated from soul and spirit again, but it has been changed into an incorruptible and immortal body.

Christians do not become angels, nor do babies. (And sinners do not become demons.) Some have taught that demons are the spirits of unjust men or unsaved men. Their souls and spirits are in hell, not in men. (Luke 16:19-31)

False Teachings

- ✘ **False** - *Intermediate states of the souls and spirits of men after death.* Read James 2:26 - The Bible does not teach total extinction of the wicked in eternity, soul sleep, or unconsciousness after death until judgment, nor does it teach all will receive a second chance for salvation.
 - a. Read Luke 16:19-31
 - b. Luke 23:43 - Jesus said He would be in Paradise, not asleep.
 - c. Matthew 17:1-3 Moses and Elijah talked to Jesus. They were not in the grave, nor had they ceased to exist, nor were they unconscious or unaware.
 - d. Revelation 6:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- ✘ **False** - *Purgatory as a waiting place.* Some believe purgatory is a place in which the souls of those who have died in grace must expiate their sins before attaining Heaven; a place or condition of suffering or remorse; a place where guilt and sin can be removed by a mediation - a priest. Comes from the word purgative - tending to purge or cleanse.
 - a. After death, all states are final. (Luke 16:19-31; Rev 22:11; 1 John 5:12; John 8:21-24; Ezekiel 18:19-32; Heb 10:26-31; Zech 13:9; Matt 12:32)

- b. The Christian has no need for purgatory as he is holy, accepted, redeemed, and forgiven. (Eph 1:4-7; I John 1:7-9; Col 1:21-23; Rev 14:13; 2 Cor 5:6-8; Phil 1:21-23; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Heb 10:17)
- c. Salvation is personal and not sustained by another's prayers or church membership. (Ephesians 2:8; Romans 10:9; Mark 16:15)

Questions

- ✈ What about babies, children, the insane & the handicapped? Read Romans 5:13; 2 Samuel 12:19-23.
- ✈ What about baby baptism? Read 1 Peter 3:20-22.
- ✈ What about a sinner's child that dies? Read Ezekiel 18:19-20.
- ✈ What kind of body is the resurrected body? Read Luke 24:39.
- ✈ Where is the earthly body? See Noah's flood.
- ✈ Do people turn into angels after death? No!

Hell is Real

- ✈ Hell is a place of punishment and torment. (Luke 16:19-31)
- ✈ The real tragedy of hell is no one needs to go there. It should be empty, but isn't.
- ✈ Hell is translated "Gehenna" from the Greek word which means the "Valley of Hinnon".

In the Valley of Hinnon, the Cannanites worshiped Baal and the fire god Molech by sacrificing their children in a fire that burned continually. In the time of Jesus, the Valley of Hinnon was used as the garbage dump of Jerusalem. Into it were thrown all the filth and garbage of the city, including the dead bodies of animals and executed criminals. To consume all this, fires burned constantly. Maggots worked in the filth. When the wind blew from that direction over the city, its awfulness was quite evident. At night wild dogs howled and gnashed their teeth as they fought over the garbage. Jesus used this awful symbol of hell. In effect He said, "Do you want to know what hell is like? Look at the valley of Gehenna." So hell may be described as God's "cosmic garbage dump." All that is unfit for Heaven will be turned away into hell.

- ✈ Hell is a place that Jesus told us to avoid, a place where there are no second chances. (Luke 13:24-25; Luke 16:19-31)
- ✈ Hell is a place that we labor for God to escape. (Matthew 25:19-30)
- ✈ Hell is a place we live holy to escape. (Matthew 5:27-30)
- ✈ Hell is a place separated from God's presence. (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9)
- ✈ Hell is a place without mercy. (Revelation 14:10)
- ✈ Hell is a place for the wicked, not the righteous. (Matt 13:41-42; Jude 6-13; 2 Pet 3:6-9)
- ✈ Hell is not the eternal abode of the wicked, the lake of fire is. (Revelation 20:10-14; 21:7-8) This happens at the end of Jesus' 1000 year reign when death gives back the bodies, and hell gives up the souls. (Rev. 20:1-9; Luke 8:28-29; Matthew 8:29)
- ✈ All demons go to the lake of fire - not all are in hell today - some are.

- ✗ Hell is separation from God and His mercy operating for salvation. (Ephesians 2:4-8; Luke 16:19-31; Luke 13:25; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)
- ✗ The exterior regions of darkness. (Matt 22:13; 2 Pet 2:4&17; Jude 6&13)
- ✗ Hell is:

Eternal or unquenchable fire (Matthew 18:8; Mark 9:43)
 Called a furnace (Matthew 13:37-42)
 Eternal contempt (Daniel 12:2)
 Everlasting torment (Luke 16:19-31)
 Eternal punishment (Matthew 25:46)
 Everlasting destruction & ruin (2 Thess 1:8-9; Phil 3:18-21; Matthew 7:13)
 Where the worm dieth not (Mark 9:44)
 A place of wrath (Romans 2:5-8; Revelation 14:10-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:10)
 A place of retribution for evil (Gal 6:7-9; 2 Cor 11:14-15; 2 Tim 4:14; Rev 22:12-15)
 The final destruction of men who refuse Christ as Savior and Lord, for Satan and fallen angels (Revelation 20:10-15)

Different Compartments or Areas of Hell

- ➔ “Everlasting chains under darkness” - “the deep” - It’s never revealed that Jesus sent any demons there, but they were aware of it. (Luke 8:31; 2 Peter 2:3-4; Jude 6-7) No human being or demon enters into this place. They are held there until Rev 20:10.
- ➔ Hell had two areas
 - a. Luke 16:19-31 One a place of torment, and the other known as Paradise.
 - b. One is where the wicked went; the other the righteous until Jesus conquered hell and death. (Lk 23:43; Eph 4:7-10; Is 53:7-12; 1 Pet 3:19)
 - c. Jesus went to Paradise, and it was then emptied, and the righteous go there no more. (Rom 1:18; Col 2:15; Heb. 2:14; 2 Cor. 5:6-10; Philippians 1:20)

Heaven is Home!

- 📖 In the beginning, God created the heavens, then divided it in two. (Genesis 1:6-8, 14-22)
- 📖 Paul saw Heaven. (2 Corinthians 12:1-6)
- 📖 Three types of heavens (Genesis 1:3-8; Genesis 1:29-30; Genesis 7:23)

- a. **1st - Clouds or atmospheric heavens** - that which encompasses the earth, retained by gravitational field. This heaven is where man and creation can dwell. Oxygen sustains life. Law of gravity & lift. (Psalm 77:17-18)
- b. **2nd - Expanse of space** - this is between the first and third heaven - (Genesis 1:14-19) – The space of heaven where the sun, moon, stars, and other galaxies are. (Psalm 136:9; Ephesians 6:12; Daniel 10:10-14, 20; Luke 10:18-20)
- c. **3rd - The place where God dwells, where His throne is** - (2 Cor. 12:1-4; Heb.12:20-23; Rev. 21:1-6; Isaiah 14:12; Isaiah 66:1) - Also called the Father’s house. (John 14:1-3)

- 📖 The 3rd Heaven is the present dwelling place of Jesus until His 1000 year reign on earth. (Acts 7:56; Phil 3:20; Eph 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)
- 📖 The 1st and 2nd heaven will be new. (Rev. 21:1-5; 2 Pet. 3:10-18; Isaiah 65:17) This takes place after the battle of Armageddon - (Jude 14; Matt. 25:31-34; 13:24-30; 2 Thess. 1:7) - which takes place well after the rapture of the church. (1 Thess. 1:9-10; 4:13-18; John 14:1-3)
- 📖 Heaven is the present dwelling of the righteous who have died, including children. These also make up the invisible church. (2 Sam 12:23; Heb 12:20-23; 1 Thess 4:13-18)
- 📖 Physical people live there - Enoch (Genesis 5:24) has been there for over 5000 years, and Elijah (2 Kings 2:11) has been there for 3500.
- 📖 You can go there physically and live - Paul did, Enoch & Elijah did.
- 📖 It is the dwelling place of angels. (Hebrews 12:22; Hebrews 1:14; Matthew 18:10) Angels behold the face of God and His throne is in Heaven. (Isaiah 66:1)
- 📖 It's the place of dwelling for the raptured church and those who have been rejoined with their bodies for 7 years during the great tribulation, known as the 7 weeks of Daniel, which will be a time of wrath, but also of revival. (1 Thessalonians 1:10; Romans 5:8; Jude 14; Matthew 24:29-31)
- 📖 It is the place of reward for the righteous during the 7 year period. (2 Corinthians 5:10-11; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 1 Peter 1:4)
- 📖 It is a place of identity. (Luke 16:19; Acts 7:56; Matt 17:1-6) At the mount of transfiguration the disciples knew Moses and Elijah.
- 📖 Heaven has:
 - Cities. (Rev 21)
 - Mansions. (John 14:1-3)
 - Trees, rivers, and a sea of glass. (Revelation 22:1-3)
 - Food. (Psalm 78:25; 1 Kings 19:5-8; Revelation 4:6; 7:14-17)
 - Animals. (Revelation 19:11-14)
 - Singing. (Rev. 5:8-9; 14:1-5)
 - Worship. (Rev. 5:8-9; 4:9-11; 7:10-13)
 - Musical instruments. (Rev. 8:2 - Worship is there; so instruments would be.)
 - Fullness of joy. (Psalm 16:11)
 - No more tears, death, sorrow, crying, or pain. (Rev. 21:4; 7:17)

Who Needs to Know About Heaven and Hell?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

LESSON 15

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Jesus' End Time Message

Are We in the Last Days?

- ⇒ We are not waiting for the last days to come. They are here and have been upon us for some time. (Acts 2:14-21; Joel 2:28-32)
- ⇒ Is it the beginning of the end? No, but we are nearer the end of our world and time as we know it.

Matthew 23:34 - 24:3

- ✓ Jesus was asked four questions by His disciples in verse three.
 - a. When will the blood be avenged?
 - b. When will the temple be destroyed?
 - c. What are the signs of your coming?
 - d. What are the signs of the end of the world?
- ✓ The first two questions are a result of a warning and a rebuke in Matthew 23:34-39, and a statement Jesus makes concerning the temple in Matthew 24:1-2. These two questions were answered at the same time at about 70 AD when Jerusalem was surrounded and destroyed by the Romans, led by a man named Titus. At the same time Israel was scattered. The temple was the Temple of Herod and was about 500 cubits of white marble.
- ✓ The last two questions will be answered in this lesson.

What Shall be the Sign of His Coming?

- ⌘ This is understood to be the return of Christ for His church - Matthew 24:14; John 14:1-3.
- ⌘ This is Jesus coming for His church, or what we know to be the rapture, or catching away, to ever be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
- ⌘ This brings an end to the church age as we know it, and sets into motion a great tribulation of great trouble which leads to the end of the world, that time period which begins in Matthew 24:15-31.
- ⌘ So the rapture of the church is the beginning sign of the end of the world.

Does this give you fear or make you rejoice?

Signs of the Times

- There are 40 signs that warn us and should awaken us to Jesus coming for His church, or the end of what we know as the church age.
- Signs are given so we can become aware of a coming event. Jesus coming for His church was never to be a surprise to us, but to be a time of preparation for us. (1 Thess 5:1-4)
- Matthew 25:1-13 (connected with Matthew 24:43-51) tells the story of 10 virgins that awaited the bridegroom's return for them. Five were ready, but five were not. Signs should prepare us for His coming and make us like the first five.

Forty Signs of Christ's Return

Matthew 24:1-14

1. Deceptions
2. Rise of false Christs or false truths, false light, false ways of salvation, false redemptions
3. Wars and rumors of wars
4. Famines - Though we have more food, produce more, and have more technology to do it better, we have more hunger than ever before in human history.
5. Pestilence = disease, plagues - We have greater medical knowledge than ever before, have made more medical advancements and increased length & quality of life, but we are still dealing with plagues of diseases.
6. Earthquakes - In 1970 we had 4,139 reported. In 1996 we had 19,996 reported, an increase of over 15,000 in less than 30 years.
7. Nation against nation = Race against race, ethnic group against ethnic group.
8. Kingdom against kingdom = Government against government
9. Persecution of believers for their faith
10. Hatred toward Christians
11. Many offended or forsaking the faith
12. Betrayal one of another
13. Hatred among the brethren
14. False prophets
15. Lawlessness abounding; increase in iniquity
16. Coldness of love for Christ and His people

1 Timothy 4:1-3

17. Increase of people, nations & denominations forsaking the faith - not a decline in church attendance, but a departure from God's commands and ways, His character and nature, and a life of faith, dependency, and trust in Him.
18. People giving heed to seducing spirits or a turning to astrology, witchcraft, spiritualism, occult practices. (Deuteronomy 18:9-14)

19. Doctrines of devils = New “revelations” will increase that defy spiritual balance, sound doctrine and truth, even denying the trinity or Godhead of Father, Son & Holy Ghost; doctrines such as you don’t have to go to church to be a Christian (Hebrews 10:25).
20. Speaking lies in hypocrisies, saying and not doing, an unliveable faith.
21. Seared conscience = no conviction of sin as it creeps in and abounds in our lives, homes & business practices.
22. Forbidding to marry = Traditions of men will rise that directly oppose the Word of God and will be accepted as holy, godly, even honored as inspired from God, yet they are not.

2 Timothy 3:1-8

23. Lovers of themselves = selfishness
24. Covetous = worship money & things, the desire of more and more.
25. Boasters = of self-power and self-worth without God
26. Proud
27. Blasphemers
28. Disobedient to parents and other authority rule
29. Unthankful = “owe me” attitude
30. Unholy = lacking reverence for God and man
31. Without natural affection = a rise in homosexuality, lesbianism, perversion, pornography
32. Truce breakers
33. False accusers = slanderers and hearers without evidence
34. Incontinent = uncontrolled appetites & passions
35. Fierce = uncivilized, driven by lust of mind & body
36. Despisers of good men = unfriendly to good people, savage-like
37. Heady = hastiness, reckless about decisions without counsel
38. Lovers of pleasures
39. Forms of godliness - will rise but not be God; false believers in churches will increase
40. Deniers of God’s power

What to Do - Matthew 24:3 & 14; John 14:1-3

- It’s not a time to be intimidated or afraid; it’s a time to draw nigh and live by faith.
- Don’t fear him that can destroy the body. (Matthew 10:28)
- Don’t fear needs. (Matthew 6:25-33)
- Don’t fear the times you live in. (Psalm 91:1-16)
- Don’t fear men. (Hebrews 13:5-6)
- 2 Corinthians 13:5
- Hebrews 10:25 - Stay in church!

How do you feel now?

LESSON 16

THE GREAT CATCHING AWAY & APOSTASY

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Write out this passage:

- 📖 “Caught up” in the Greek means - to seize, to pluck, pull, take, to take for oneself.
- 📖 “Caught up” in Latin means - the state of being transformed, **rapture**.

Rapture = The Great Catching Away

- ↪ There will be two types of people taken when the rapture occurs:
 - a. The dead in Christ, or those who sleep, will rise first.
 - b. The people who are alive in Christ will be caught up together with them in the air.
- ↪ The rapture will be a surprising, sudden event, and it will be for the church only.
- ↪ Jesus said He would come back for us. (John 14:1-3)
- ↪ Whether we sleep or wake, we shall be with Him. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-10)
- ↪ It is our escape from the things to come. (Hebrews 9:28; 1 Thessalonians 5:9)
- ↪ We shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.

Write out 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

What the Rapture is Not

- ⇒ Not the end of the world. (Matthew 24:1-3)
- ⇒ Not the beginning of the battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19:11-21)

Apostasy

- Apostasy means: a falling away; to reject faith in God and His Word; to abandon the truth and ways of God; to renounce devotion to something. (2 Thessalonians 2:1-5)
- Revelation 12:12
- The time we now live in will be intensified against us.
- 2 Timothy 3:1 - last days; 2 Timothy 3:13 - evil men.

Apostasy is Caused by Deception and Will Bring More Deception

- ✓ Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. (1 Timothy 2:14)
- ✓ Satan is a deceiver, and he will multiply his deceptive measures during the time we are in. (2 Timothy 3:1)

Nothing New

- ⇒ Apostasy is nothing new. It happened in the garden and all through the history of Israel as early as Exodus 32 (the golden calf).
- ⇒ Judas defected from the faith, abandoned Jesus, and renounced his discipleship for money. (Acts 1:25)
- ⇒ Paul had it in his day. (2 Timothy 2:18-19)

Recognizing the Signs of Apostasy

1. Rebellious people
2. Sinful people; evildoers
3. Insecurity-laden people
4. Corrupted tongues pollute others. (Isaiah 1:2-4)

How Does Apostasy Happen

- ↻ Through hardness of heart (Hebrews 3:7-13; Luke 6:46; Luke 8:13)
- ↻ By quenching the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19; Romans 14:1-6)
- ↻ Through quarreling (Ephesians 4:30)
- ↻ Through lovelessness; a lack of giving to God and others, as well as a lack of service to both (Matthew 24:12; Hebrews 10:25)
- ↻ Through unbelief - We reject certain truths and take others, leading to ungodly intake and damnable heresies whereby we compromise our faith. (2 Pet 2:1-2; 2 Pet 2:15; 2 Peter 2:20-22)

LESSON 17

BLOOD REALITIES AND COMMUNION

The Passover Celebration

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and Luke 22:15-20

- The Passover celebration used four cups of wine.
 - a. The first was taken with an opening benediction over the Passover day asking God to bless the proceedings. May include a hymn or song.
 - b. The second was taken after the explanation of the Passover and the singing of the first part of the Hallel. (Psalm 113-114)
 - c. The third was taken following the meal.
 - d. The fourth was taken following the conclusion portion of the Hallel.
- Luke refers to two cups. It seems likely that the second cup mentioned (Luke 22:20) is the third Passover cup.
- When Jesus said, “This is My body,” He inaugurated a new Passover by confirming that His body, symbolized by the bread, was the fulfillment and replacement for the Passover lamb (See 1 Corinthians 5:7). The first Passover lamb was for a nation. Jesus was the Passover lamb for the world. His death provided deliverance for the world (John 1:29).
- When Jesus said, “This is the new covenant in My blood,” they were probably partaking of the third cup, after the meal. Covenants in the Old Testament were ratified with a blood sacrifice - (Genesis 15:9-10; Exodus 24:8). Jesus’ death inaugurated the new covenant predicted in Jeremiah 31:31-34. (See also Hebrews 8:6 -10:23.) This was fulfilled on Pentecost through the new birth (Acts 2:1-4).

Passover Symbolisms

- The wine was used as a symbolism of the blood; wine is called the blood of the grape.
- The grape is bruised, crushed, and destroyed beyond recognition as it becomes something it wasn’t before, and it’s “blood” is poured forth - in the same way as Jesus. He was bruised, broken, became sin for us, and was destroyed beyond recognition. (Gen 3:15; 1 Cor 11:24; 2 Cor 5:21; Isaiah 52:14-15; 53:1-12)
- The Passover to Israel looked back to the Exodus from Egypt (Galatians 3:1-25; Colossians 2:16-17; Exodus 12:13-14) and forward to God’s salvation through the Messiah. The Lord’s Supper looks back to the cross, to the new birth at salvation, and forward to the coming of Jesus for His church. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
- The blood is life. (Lev 17:10-12) Throughout the scriptures the blood declares life. The blood proclaims physical life of course, but also proclaims the spiritual life.
- The blood also symbolizes God’s grace toward man.

The Blood of Jesus Speaks to Four Major Areas

Read Hebrews 12:22-24 ~ The four areas the blood speaks to:

1. To God - of a redeemed people
2. To you - of your legal rights as redeemed by the blood = cleansed from your sin
3. To angels - (Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 34:7)
4. To Satan & demons - (Exodus 12:22-23)

Released by Faith

- ✓ The realities of the blood will never be released in your life without faith. (Hebrews 4:1-2; James 1:22; Luke 6:46-49)
- ✓ Faith is released in the blood realities by action and declaration. (Rom 10:9-10)
- ✓ So we put blood realities into our hearts by hearing, meditation, and studying the Word, but we release faith in them by declaring and acting on them. (Rev. 12:11; Psalm 107:1-8; Isaiah 43:25-26; 2 Corinthians 4:13)
- ✓ Declare means to show forth, recount, show the count, state the record.

Plead the Blood

- ✗ To plead = to state the record of the offering of the blood of Jesus and its results.
- ✗ State it during problems, needs, and battles, and as you approach the Father.

Redemption by Blood

1. Redemption means ransom in full, a releasing from, a liberation, deliverance from.
2. The blood of Jesus has released us from Satan's rule, kingdom, plans, bondages, demons, and influence. (Colossians 1:13-14)
3. The blood has freed us from the rulership of the flesh and mind that work in the children of disobedience. (Romans 6:14)
4. Sin should not have dominion over you. You are freed from its power, desire, and reward.
5. Faith releases the powers that cause you to believe in the freedom given. (Romans 2:4)

The Forgiveness of Sins

- Atonement, the forgiveness of sins (Leviticus 17:11)
- Freed from sin-consciousness (Hebrews 9:9-14)
- God by compassion subdues our iniquities and casts our sins into the depths of the sea through our faith in the blood. (Micah 7:19)
- We are justified, acquitted of all sins, unable to be tried again. (Romans 3:24-25)
- We are made new. (Revelation 5:9-10)
- We are justified, made holy, pure, and innocent; and being holy we are made righteous, and the benefits of the righteous are ours.

List 3 benefits of righteousness bought by the blood of Jesus:

Boldness to Access by the Blood

- ✓ The blood gives us a real boldness to access heavenly provision. (Heb 10:19-23)
- ✓ We have boldness to enter and stand, hold fast.
- ✓ His blood was shed only once; we may enter at will. (Lev. 16:2; Heb. 4:16; Jn 16:23)

Mercy is Granted by the Blood, Released by Faith

1. Read Mark 10:46-52 and list who received mercy _____
2. Read Psalm 23:6 and list 2 things that follow you _____
3. Read Psalm 52:8 and list what you trust in _____
4. Read Psalm 59:10 and list what goes before you _____

Hold Fast by the Blood

- ❖ The blood of Jesus gives us faith to stand fast. Accusations against a just God may fly, but we will hold fast to our confession of the blood realities.
- ❖ We won't waver, cave in, or give up, but we will overcome by the blood of the lamb & the word of our testimony and declaration of faith. (Rev. 12:11)

Saved From Wrath by Blood

- ➡ We are saved from _____ (Romans 5:8-10; Hebrews 13:5-6)
- ➡ Saved is from "sozo" which means deliver, protect, preserve, do well, be made whole.
- ➡ Three types of wrath we are saved from:
 - _____ (Acts 23:10-16)
 - _____ (Revelation 12:12)
 - _____ (Genesis 19:14-15, 24; Exodus 8:22-9:26)

The Blood Protects

- The blood delivers and protects from natural catastrophes.
- Joseph going to Egypt - famine; Paul in the storm in Acts 27:21-26

Blood Joins Us to God, Making Us Partakers with the Righteous

- The commonwealth of Israel is provision & blessing. (Eph 2:11-19; Exodus 6:1-8)
- Destined to win, destined to prosper, impossible to curse or overcome (Eph 1:3; 1 John 5:4-5; 1 John 3:2; Gen 12:3; Gal 3:13-14; 1 Cor 3:20-23; Phil 4:19; Phil 4:6; Psalm 105:37; 1 Peter 5:6)
- Delivered from tradition – (1 Peter 1:17-19)
 - a. Vain conversation = your religious rituals of no power.
 - b. Delivered from life before the blood (Ephesians 2:1-3; Ephesians 4:17-18; Hebrews 13:11-12; Genesis 2:15, 19; Romans 1:5-6)
- Given purpose (Jeremiah 1:5; Galatians 1:15; Psalm 139:13-18)
- A sin-free life; not mistake-free (1 John 5:16-17; Galatians 6:1; Hebrews 10:26-30)
- On-going holy life, continuing sanctification.
- Not sin-ruled (John 8:32; 1 John 1:7-9; 1 John 2:1-2)
- Physical healing & continued health (1 Peter 2:24; Psalm 105:37)

Communion ~ Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

- ⇒ Communion means fellowship, partnership, participation, sharing.
- ⇒ Paul received the instruction and revelation of the Lord's Supper, the sacraments of the church, the communion table from Jesus Christ for the Gentile church.
- ⇒ The disciples received it from Jesus personally.
- ⇒ The Passover was a type and shadow of the true. (Matt. 26:18-29; Mark 14:13-25; Luke 22:10-20)
- ⇒ The communion table of Jesus Christ is to the church what the Passover feast was to Israel. (Exodus 12:1-28)
- ⇒ It was a time to remember and celebrate redemption provided by God. (1 Corinthians 5:7-8; 1 Corinthians 11:26)
- ⇒ *Do this in remembrance of Me ...* It is not the actual receiving of the person of Jesus Christ, but a remembrance of our receiving Him by faith. Not actually receiving Jesus as savior, His literal body & blood, but the bread & the wine are symbolisms. (Exodus 12:14, 22-27; Romans 10:9; Ephesians 2:6-8; Acts 15:19-20; Genesis 9:4)

- ⇒ This memorial is to be carried out by faith till the Lord comes for His church. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57)
- ⇒ The believers will then eat it with Jesus Christ himself in the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 26:29; Revelation 2:17, 19:9)
- ⇒ It is to be carried out by choice instead of as a yearly ordinance as in Israel. (1 Corinthians 11:26; Exodus 12:1-3; Exodus 12:16-18)
- ⇒ It is not subject to any discretion of leadership. There is leadership in the church, but not concerning the partaking of the Lord's Supper. It is up to the individual's discretion, as long as the conditions are met by the party or parties receiving it.
- ⇒ The Passover lamb was carried out by the authority of the household of a family, not of the Levitical priesthood or the high priest.

Take it Worthily

- † Communion should be taken by worthy or fit people. (1 Corinthians 11:27-32)
- † To take communion unworthily is to bring damnation on oneself and give power to Satan over your life.
- † It is to be the place of personal judgment, a time where we search our lives and hearts for sin, offenses, disobedience, unbelief, malice, wickedness, worldliness, lust of other things, deceitfulness of riches, cares of this life. (1 Corinthians 5:6-13; Exodus 12:15)
- † Unworthy means unfit:
 - a. Don't receive communion with sin in your life.
 - b. Don't receive communion with unforgiveness, offense toward others.
 - c. Don't receive communion without being obedient and willing in all.
 - d. Don't receive communion without being busy in your call.
 - e. Don't receive communion without faith.

Remembrance

Remembrance means to bring into the present time. Remembrance of our redemption and our salvation feeds our faith. (1 Corinthians 11:24-25)

- ✧ Remembrance keeps godly purpose before us.
- ✧ Israel had memorials, places of remembrance such as the Passover.
- ✧ Remembrance gives birth to persuasion which is the foundation of strong faith, singleness of mind, the strength to resist. (Rom 4:18-21; Deut. 6:12; 4:9; 2 Tim 1:5)
- ✧ We are able to stand against the wiles, strategies, and attacks of Satan and man as we take time to remember the work of God through Jesus Christ and the result of it. (1 Timothy 1:18)
- ✧ Remembrance stirs, brings back to full flame. (2 Timothy 1:6)
- ✧ The communion table is a place to remember we are bought with a price.

Benefits & Bestowments of Ability Because of the Blood

1. Galatians 1:3-4 _____
2. Psalm 103:1-5 _____
3. Galatians 3:13-14 _____
4. Romans 8:14-15 _____
5. Romans 8:31-32 _____
6. 2 Corinthians 1:20-22 _____
7. 3 John 2 _____
8. 1 Peter 2:24 _____

LESSON 18

THE TRINITY

Old Testament and New Testament Compared

- ✓ The Old Testament is a hidden revelation of God in shadow form; His will, His purpose, His plans. (2 Corinthians 3:7-8)
- ✓ The New Testament is an unveiling of the Old Testament; God's will, His purpose, His plans. (Isaiah 28:9-16)

Elohim (God) is plural, meaning three in one or Trinity, revealing the Trinity, even in Genesis 1 at creation.

1. God the Father is involved. (Genesis 1:26-27; Hebrews 1:2-3; Isaiah 63:16)
2. God the Holy Spirit is involved. (Genesis 1:2-3)
3. God the Son (Jesus) is involved. (Eph 3:9; Col 1:16; Heb 1:2-3; Psalm 45:6-7)

➤ Other examples (Genesis 3:22; 11:6-7; Isaiah 6:8; 48:16; 61:1; Psalm 110:1)

The Trinity or God-Head

- † As it is known in the New Testament, is made up of three persons.
- † They are distinguishable as individuals, yet inseparable one from another and equal in power. (1 John 5:7-8; John 14:22-26; John 1:32-34)
 - a. God the Father
 - b. Jesus the Son of God
 - c. Holy Spirit the Comforter

The Son Prays, the Father Hears and Answers, the Holy Spirit Comes

- John 14:16-17; John 16:23-28
- Luke 4:18; Acts 1:4-8
- Matthew 28:18-20
- 2 Corinthians 13:14
- Ephesians 4:4-6; Ephesians 2:18

Examples of Trinity

- ✓ Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19; 11:27
- ✓ 1 John 5:7-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6
- ✓ Ephesians 2:18; 4:4-6
- ✓ The Holy Spirit applies salvation. (Matthew 3:11-12; John 3:16)
- ✓ God sends His Son to bring the effects of salvation. (Ephesians 1:7)

LESSON 19

THE GREATEST AMONG YOU

(Used with permission from Dr. Robb Thompson)

**Allow me the grace, if you would, of asking one simple question:
Have you ever received a gift that you did not want?**

We spend most of our lives giving people what we want them to have, not giving them what they want. We become indispensable when we can become consistent in giving people what they desire. It is a joy of mine to know that I may yield myself as a servant, as a slave to God, a son of God, and to find that His service is my highest liberty. My greatest freedom is not to live for myself, but for those whom God has called me to serve.

The measure of a servant is not in how active he is, but in how productive his activity is.

- ✘ What did Samson, David, Solomon, and Joseph have in common? They were all descendents of Abraham, the father of our faith.
 - All had God-fearing parents.
 - All had God's hand upon them.
 - All had visions of being great.
 - All were in positions of leadership when they were tempted.
 - All were listed in God's hall of faith.

- ✘ What was different about the hearts of each one of them?
 - ☑ Samson had the heart of a strong man. He relied on his strength to deliver him from his often self-inflicted problems.
 - ☑ David had the heart of a shepherd. (Psalm 78:70-72)
 - ☑ Solomon had the heart of a leader. (1 Kings 3:8-10) When Solomon's back was against the wall he relied upon his own wisdom to deliver them.
 - ☑ Joseph had the heart of a servant. Joseph was the only one who did not fall into immorality, and he was the only one who had real reasons. (He was taken from his parents, surrounded by heathens, living in a hedonistic society, had never read the ten commandments, was rejected by his brothers, and he was a slave and was ordered around for 13 years.)

What are the characteristics of a servant's heart?

1. He desires to do great things for those he serves. (Jeremiah 45:5)
2. He concentrates on being profitable. (Matthew 25:19-21)
3. He maintains a joyful attitude. (Nehemiah 2:1-2; Genesis 40:6-7; Gen. 50:20)

Here are four principles to help you cultivate the heart of a servant.

- Greatness comes alive the moment you choose to develop the heart of a servant, but you must refuse the temptation of the pressure to become great with men. (Mark 10:43-45; Mark 9:33-37)
- The genuine servant welcomes the opportunity to prove his authenticity. (Psalm 139:23-24; Matthew 25:14-19)
- A servant is never defined by his willingness to serve, but by the execution of his service. Starters are a dime a dozen, but finishers are a rare breed. (Luke 14:27-30; 2 Corinthians 8:11-12; Proverbs 20:6; Luke 19:12-23)
- The greatest pleasure that any man will ever experience is to know that he has brought pleasure to another. There are two types of people: Those who do what makes you happy, and those who want you to be happy with what they do. (John 8:29; Philippians 2:20-22; Colossians 3:22-24)

Your Key Verse

Life Change?

LESSON 20

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Let's Begin

Jesus anticipated that people would become slack in their prayers.

- ➔ Parable of the persistent widow – that we might always pray. (Luke 18:1-7)
- ➔ Wondering if He would find faith on earth when He returned. (Luke 18:8)

Paul frequently exhorted Christians to be diligent in their prayers.

- *Praying always with all prayer and supplication...* (Ephesians 6:18)
- *Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving...* (Col. 4:2)
- *Pray without ceasing...* (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Examples of the Power of Prayer

There is forgiveness from God.

- The Christian can find forgiveness through the blood of Christ. (1 John 1:7-10)
- Thus the erring Christian is told to repent and pray. (Acts 8:22)

There is peace from God.

- ✓ The antidote to anxiety is to pray. (Philippians 4:6)
- ✓ The Christian will find his heart and mind guarded by the peace of God. (Phil 4:7)

There is strength from God.

- ✗ Paul prayed that the Ephesians might be strengthened in the inner man. (Ephesians 3:14-16, 20)
- ✗ When we need to be strong, we as Christians can likewise pray for ourselves!

There is opportunity from God.

- Paul realized that God provided him opportunity to teach others. (1 Cor. 3:5)
- He knew that the Lord often opened doors for such opportunities. (1 Cor. 16:9; 2 Cor. 2:12)
- He therefore requested prayer that such opportunities would continue. (Colossians 4:3)

What opportunities do you desire in your life?

What promise do you have for each one?

_____	Ref _____
_____	Ref _____
_____	Ref _____

There is boldness from God.

- ✓ When the apostles needed boldness, they prayed and God delivered. (Acts 4:23-31)
- ✓ When Paul needed boldness, he asked for prayers on his behalf. (Eph. 6:19-20)

There is wisdom from God.

- Wisdom is not knowledge, but insight that makes the best use of the knowledge one has.
- The Christian is promised wisdom through prayer without doubt. (James 1:5-8)

There is healing from God.

- Those who are sick should ask the elders to pray for them. (James 5:14-15)
- Those who have sinned should confess, and we should pray for one another. (James 5:16)

There is tranquility from God.

- ➡ The scriptures proclaim God has ultimate control over the nations. (Daniel 4:17; Romans 13:1-7)
- ➡ Thus we are commanded to pray for our rulers, that we may lead a quiet (tranquil) and peaceable life. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Define the peace that passes understanding and reference the verse:

Prayer Benefits

The power of prayer can be a blessing...

- To the one who prays in faith.
- For those for whom prayers are offered.

There is help in time of need from God.

- ✓ We have a wonderful High Priest who understands our problems. (Hebrews 4:14-15)
- ✓ Thus we can at any time approach God boldly in prayer, to obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much (James 5:16).

- = “can accomplish much” (NASB)
- = “has great power” (ESV)
- = “is powerful and effective” (NIV)

Define effective fervent prayer:

Do we believe in the power of prayer?

- ❖ Then let us pray always.
- ❖ Let us continue earnestly in prayer.
- ❖ Let us pray without ceasing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

LESSON 21

THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER

Let Us Pray!

In the “Power of Prayer”, we saw that prayer can provide:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Forgiveness from God. | 5. Boldness from God |
| 2. Peace from God | 6. Opportunity from God |
| 3. Strength from God | 7. Healing from God |
| 4. Wisdom from God | 8. Tranquility from God |

The privilege of prayer is not available to all who pray; for some:

- Their prayers will be an abomination to God.
- Their prayers will fall on deaf ears.
- Their prayers will be hindered.
- Their prayers will not be answered the way they want.

Prayer is Not a Privilege for...

Those who will not heed God’s Word

- Read Proverbs 28:9 and 2 Timothy 4:3-4

Is this you? Yes NO!

Those whose sins separate them from God

- Read Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 6:23 & John 9:31

Is this you? Yes NO!

Those who fail to treat others justly

- Read Psalm 41:1-3; Malachi 2:13-14; 1 Peter 3:7; Matthew 5:23-24 & 18:21-35

Is this you? Yes NO!

Those who pray without faith

- Read Hebrews 11:6 & James 1:5-8

Is this you? Yes NO!

Prayer is a Privilege for...

The sinner seeking truth and righteousness

1. This we learn from the example of Cornelius. (Read Acts 10:1-2; 4, 31; 11:14)
2. Cornelius was not saved by praying per se.
 - a. He needed to hear the words by which he would be saved. (Acts 11:14)
 - b. It is the gospel that is the power of salvation. (Romans 1:16)
 - c. Saul was still a sinner though he prayed. (Acts 9:11; 22:16)
3. God heard Cornelius because
 - a. He was hungering and thirsting for righteousness. (Matthew 5:6)
 - b. He was asking, seeking, knocking. (Matthew 7:7-8)
 - c. He was provided an opportunity to hear and obey the gospel of Christ.

The Christian with Jesus as High Priest

- Read Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16; 7:25; 1 John 2:1; 1 Timothy 2:5; Romans 8:34 & Galatians 3:26-27
- List why you as a Christian can come to Jesus as your High Priest based on what you have read:

Wrap it Up!

The ears of the Lord are open to the prayer of the righteous. (1 Pet 3:12)

- ✓ We must submit to the righteousness of God offered in Christ. (Rom 10:1-4)
- ✓ We must respond to the gospel of Christ. (Romans 1:16-17)

How? _____

If we desire the privilege of prayer, then we must be either:

- A faithful child of God through obedience to Jesus Christ.
- A sinner with a good and noble heart, seeking after truth and righteousness.

LESSON 22

THE PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

Dig Deeper!

In “The Privilege of Prayer” we saw that few truly benefit from prayer:

- ✘ Children of God who became such through obedience to Jesus Christ.
- ✘ Sinners seeking after truth and righteousness who will be heard in that God will provide them opportunity to hear and obey the truth.

The full benefit of prayer comes only as the principles of prayer are observed.

- Principles laid down by Jesus and His inspired apostles
- Principles that determine the final outcome of our prayers

We Must Pray in Faith

Prayer Requires Faith

- Read Matthew 21:22 & James 1:5-8
- Explain these scriptures and how they pertain to your life:

Faith in God

- Read Hebrews 11:6 & Romans 10:17
- What does this mean to you?

We Must Pray with Humility

Humility Before God

- Read Isaiah 57:15; 66:1-2; Psalm 34:18 & Proverbs 3:3-4
- Write out Proverbs 3:3-4 and make it personal:

Humility in Life

- Read Luke 18:9-14; Luke 18:14 & James 4:10
- How does humility work in your life?

We Must Pray in Harmony with God's Will

God's Will and Our Prayers

- ✓ Read 1 John 5:14 & James 4:3
- ✓ What is God's will?

His Will and His Word

- ✓ Read Matthew 6:9-10; Luke 22:42; John 4:34
- ✓ How is God's will done on earth?

We Must Pray with Thanksgiving

Prayer and Thanksgiving

- Read Ephesians 5:20; Philippians 4:6; Colossians 4:2 & 1 Thess 5:17-18
- How can you be thankful daily?

The Attitude of Gratitude

- Read Psalm 100:4; Colossians 3:15; Romans 1:21 & 2 Timothy 3:2
- List 2 things you can be grateful for:

We Must Pray in the Name of Jesus

Praying in the Name of Jesus

- ✗ Read John 14:13-14; 16:23 & Ephesians 5:20
- ✗ Read John 14:6; Hebrews 7:24-25 & John 14:13

What Did You Learn?

We must:

1. Pray in _____
2. Pray with _____
3. Pray in harmony with the _____ of God
4. Pray with _____
5. Pray in the _____ of Jesus.

LESSON 23

THE PERSISTENCE OF PRAYER

Here We Go!

In "The Principles of Prayer" we discovered we must:

1. Pray in _____
2. Pray with _____
3. Pray in harmony with the _____ of God
4. Pray with _____
5. Pray in the _____ of Jesus

Persistence in Prayer

Parable of the Persistent Friend

- Told in connection with a request for teaching on prayer (Luke 11:1)
- Following instruction providing a model for prayer (Luke 11:2-4)
- Easy to understand (Luke 11:5-8)
- Followed by an emphasis on being persistent in asking, seeking, knocking (Luke 11:9-10)

Parable of the Persistent Widow

- ✓ Told that men ought always to pray and not lose heart (Luke 18:1)
- ✓ Illustrates the value of persistent requests (Luke 18:2-5)
- ✓ God will certainly heed His chosen who cry out day and night. (Luke 18:6-8)
- ✓ Followed by concern for whether such faith will be found when He returns (Luke 18:8)

The Teachings of Paul

- Read Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2
- Ephesians 6:18 & 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Examples of Persistence in Prayer

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

- When deeply distressed over His impending suffering (Matthew 26:36-39)
- While His closest disciples slept, He prayed three times. (Matthew 26:40-44)
- In which He received the necessary help to face what lay ahead. (Matthew 26:45-47; Luke 22:41-44; Hebrews 5:7)

Paul and His Thorn in the Flesh

- ✕ Paul endured the infirmity of persecution. (2 Cor. 11:30-33; 12:7-10)
- ✕ He prayed three times that it might be removed. (2 Cor. 12:8; 2 Cor. 12:9-10)

The Prayers of the Early Christians

- ↻ Read Acts 2:42; Colossians 4:12; Acts 12:5-12; 1 Timothy 5:5 & Luke 2:36-37
- ↻ List your persistent prayers of the past:

What was the outcome of each?

What would you do differently today?

Your Key Verse

LESSON 24

THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

How to Pray

The Model Prayer

1. Jesus was asked by His disciples how to pray. (Luke 11:1)
2. In response Jesus offered a model, a guide for learning to pray. (Luke 11:2-4)
 - a. Commonly called the Lord's Prayer. (See also Matthew 6:9-13.)
 - b. It was intended to serve as a model. ("In this manner..." – Matthew 6:9)

The Proper Prayer

- Addresses God the Father ("Our Father in Heaven") – Matthew 6:9.
- Expresses reverence toward God ("Hallowed be Your name") – Matthew 6:9.
- Includes supplication for things such as:
 - God's purposes ("Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.") – Matthew 6:10
 - Our physical needs ("Give us this day our daily bread") – Matthew 6:11
 - Our spiritual needs ("And forgive us our debts") – Matthew 6:12
 - The spiritual needs of others ("As we forgive our debtors") - Matt 6:12
 - Guidance and help in our struggle against sin and Satan ("And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one") – Matthew 6:13
- Praises God ("For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever") – Matthew 6:13
- In teaching on prayer, Jesus stressed the importance of:
 - a. Simplicity in prayer (Matthew 6:7-8)
 - b. Forgiving others (Matthew 6:14-15)
 - c. Persistence in prayer (Luke 12:5-10)

When to Pray

Scheduled Prayers

- Having set times to pray can help develop a habit of prayer.
- Consider the practice of great men:
 - ✓ David, a man after God's own heart (Psalm 55:17)
 - ✓ Daniel, a man greatly beloved of God (Daniel 6:10)
 - ✓ These men made it a practice to pray at set times during the day.
 - ✓ It would not hurt to imitate them - praying three times daily: morning, noon, evening
- At least make time each day to pray.

Spontaneous Prayers

- ✗ Prayer should not be limited to set times.
- ✗ Read Luke 6:12-13; Acts 16:25; Nehemiah 2:4-5 & 1 Chronicles 5:20

What did you learn in these scriptures?

Pray Without Ceasing

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17 and make it your goal:

“I will _____”

- ❖ Scheduled times of prayer will develop an experience in prayer.
- ❖ Spontaneous prayer will develop a disposition to pray in every circumstance.

Praying Alone and With Others

Praying Alone

- Read Matthew 6:5-6 ~ What is “thy closet?”

- Private prayer forms a close union and fellowship with your Heavenly Father.
- Private prayer is a true test of your sincerity and devotion.
- Private prayer is not seen by men, but is rewarded by God.

Praying with Others

- Read Matt 18:19-20; Rom 8:34; Acts 4:23-24; 12:5-12; 16:25; 20:36; 21:5

Explain how corporate prayer encouraged fellowship and a sense of strength in the early believers:

Pray for What?

For That Which is Revealed in Scripture

1. Self (Matthew 6:11; Colossians 1:9-12)
2. Family (Ephesians 6:4)
3. Community (Jeremiah 29:7; 2 Chronicles 7:14)
4. Church (John 13:35; 17:20-21; Philippians 1:9-11; 2 Thessalonians 3:1)
5. Nation (Psalm 33:12; Proverbs 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:2)
6. Non-believers (Romans 10:1; Ephesians 6:18-20)
7. The sick (James 5:14-16)
8. The poor and oppressed (Proverbs 29:7)

Using a Prayer Strategy

- On Monday – pray for _____
- On Tuesday – pray for _____
- On Wednesday – pray for _____
- On Thursday – pray for _____
- On Friday – pray for _____
- On Saturday – pray for _____
- On Sunday – pray for _____

Your Key Verse

LESSON 25

PATTERNS OF PRAYER

Prayer: A Heavenly Connection

The Importance of Prayer

- Prayer is the connecting point that releases God to do what He desires to do in the world. When the connection of prayer is broken, the will of God, the changing of nations, hearts, families, etc. becomes very limited.
- Unless we make a connection of prayer, God’s will cannot come to pass or be released into the earth.
- We must not be a church (Body of Christ) without prayer, but we must be a praying church.
- Instead of always trying to reverse the release of the curse in our lives by prayer, we should be raising banners and bulwarks against the curse by prayer, thus releasing God to fight our battles for us.
- If we pray, God will heal our land; but we need to be a praying people.
(2 Chronicles 7:14)

How important is prayer to you?

What Jesus Said About Prayer

Read John 16:23 – A covenant of prayer

- ✘ “That day” is now. Jesus made a prayer connection for His disciples, but now we have the same prayer privileges Jesus had.
- ✘ This is a prayer guarantee. We do not live by personal experiences, but we live by faith.
- ✘ Read Daniel 10:1-14 God always sends the answer, but sometimes it takes time for it to get from Heaven to earth, which is why we need to be steadfast and persistent, never giving up.

How can you be steadfast and persistent while you wait for answered prayer?

Read Luke 6:9-13

- ⇒ Jesus taught the disciples to pray “after this manner”, the model prayer.
- ⇒ Jesus showed them 5 things about prayer:
 - ✓ We should connect with God through worship – “Hallowed be Thy name”
 - ✓ God’s will is always superior to our will – “Thy will be done”
 - ✓ God is interested in and waiting to respond daily to our needs – “Give us this day”
 - ✓ There is an adversary – “Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil”
 - ✓ The devil is not greater than God – “For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory”

God’s Will for Prayer

Read 1 John 5:14-15

- ➔ God wants you to be stable and unmovable in prayer because you base your prayers on His will.
- ➔ 1 John 3:22-23 ~ When we ask, we receive because we keep His commandments.

Read Hebrews 4:16

- ⇒ We must pray boldly.
- ⇒ Describe a “bold” prayer:

- ⇒ Luke 11:1 ~ Prayer is a learned manner of life.
- ⇒ Hebrews 5:12-13 ~ We become successful in prayer as we exercise ourselves in it. *You* can become skillful in prayer.
- ⇒ Proverbs 29:18 ~ We need a vision (a pattern) for prayer, otherwise we will fail. A vision is a guideline, a blueprint, a roadmap, a boundary, a course of action. (Habakkuk 2:2)

Patterns of Prayer

The Purpose of Patterns

- ✓ When we follow a pattern, we will know when we reach our goal.
- ✓ When we do not have a pattern (a course of action), we will fall back to old habits. Without direction in our prayer life, we will end up prayerless.
- ✓ Only praying when led is a sporadic and ineffective prayer life. Paul was headed to Bithynia when God intervened and sent him to Macedonia. He was following the

pattern of scripture, “Go ye into all the world...”. He was busy doing something, following a pattern, and God was able to lead him in another direction. You can follow a pattern and still be led!

- ✓ We pray as we have strategically laid out a map to accomplish purpose. This is what following a pattern will do.
- ✓ Patterns do not eliminate inspiration in prayer. You may begin in the pattern, but veer from that pattern on a given day as you are led to worship or intercede for an individual. We are not our own; we have been bought with a price.

Patterns in the Scripture - Ephesians 1:17-19

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power.”

1. This is what Paul prayed for the church. We can build a prayer for ourselves and for others based on this prayer.

2. Build your own prayer based on this scripture passage:

Read Colossians 1:9-11

Build your own prayer based on this scripture passage:

Other Patterns

- ❖ Look up Ephesians 3:16-19; Psalm 1:1-3; Luke 6:9-13; Psalm 25:4-7; Philippians 1:9-11; Psalm 37:3-7.
- ❖ Get a notebook and build more prayer patterns from these passages.

The Word is the Basis of Every Pattern of Prayer

- ✓ Read Ephesians 6:17-18 The Word and prayer are inseparable. You cannot have a successful prayer life without a foundation of God's will behind you. God's Word is His will. Any prayer and any promise in the Bible can become a pattern of prayer.
- ✓ Read Isaiah 43:26 Give God a basis for your approach to the throne of grace, and He will give grace and mercy in time of need. But if you come opposing God's will by inaccurate prayers, you will not succeed. God is not seeking to fulfill our will, but His.
- ✓ Read John 16:23 The "whatsoever" has been formed by a righteous relationship with Christ, and a righteous man's attitude has been exchanged to join and be one with a righteous God's attitude.
- ✓ Read 1 Corinthians 2:9-13 ~ Prayer is based on God's wisdom.

How to Build a Prayer Pattern

Pray for a Weary Saint - Read Psalm 51:9-12; Luke 4:18; Exodus 17:6 & John 7:38

Sample prayer: "God, I ask You to hide Your face from any failures, shortcomings or sins that _____ may have committed. I ask that You by the grace and mercy of the blood of Christ will blot those things out from before Your eyes. I ask that You would create in _____ a clean heart, and renew in them a right spirit. I pray that You would not take your Spirit away from _____, not allowing access to Your presence, but that You would instead bring _____ close to You and cast them not off. I ask You to restore the joy of _____, and renew their joy and expectancy as they were the first day that they came to know You as Lord and Savior. I ask that You would uphold _____ by Your Spirit, not by their own faith."

"God, You anointed Jesus to heal the broken-hearted. I ask You to restore the brokenness that this weary (brother or sister) has been experiencing. You have caused water to come out of the rocks in the desert for Your people, Israel. I ask that you would strengthen _____ with fresh rivers of living water. I ask that you would feed them according to Exodus 16 with fresh manna from Heaven. Not a bread from this earth, but God begin to nourish them."

"I ask that You would bring a refreshing as You did in Acts 3:19 that comes from Your presence. That God, according to Job 33:14, You would allow them to dream a dream that will encourage them in Your victory and Your love for them."

As in Psalm 85:6, I ask You to revive them, that their song of rejoicing would return. As in Psalm 138:7, I ask that You turn their troubles into victories. Cause the wrath of their enemies to stop, and let them see peace in their life. I ask that according to Psalm 34:8, You would let them taste and see that You are good. And based on Psalm 89:5, I thank You, God, that You are faithful to answer my call.”

Pray for the Unsaved

Read Acts 16:31; Matthew 16:19; 2 Peter 3:9; Matthew 9:31; John 3:16-17; John 6:44; Romans 2:4; John 16:23; 2 Corinthians 4:4

“Lord I pray _____

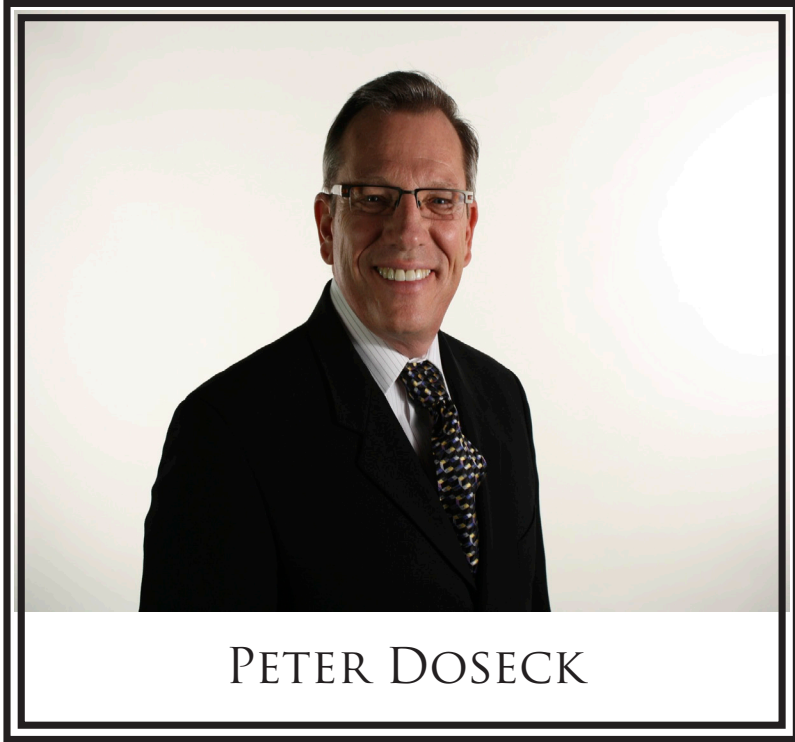
Pray for the Sick

Read James 5:14-16; Psalm 107:20; 1 Peter 2:24; Exodus 15:26; Psalm 103:1-3; Jeremiah 1:12

“Lord I pray _____

Conclusion

- Patterns of prayer do not do away with the basic meaning of prayer. Prayer can be:
 - Thanksgiving
 - A drawing near or supplication
 - Praise
 - An asking or desiring
 - A confession
 - Consecration
 - Worship



About Peter Doseck

Peter Doseck believes in the Word of God. It is his life-sustaining connection to Heaven, and it provides wisdom, direction, and purpose for his every move on earth.

Peter Doseck also believes in the contemporary, continuing outpouring of the Holy Spirit whose gifts and anointing empower believers to do the works that Jesus did, and greater works than these.

He adheres to the purity of the salvation message and proclaims the fullness of the gospel which is manifested in signs, wonders, and miracles.

For the past 27 years Peter Doseck has faithfully and zealously declared the message of faith in Christ with demonstration to the four corners of the earth. International Miracle Crusades have resulted in over 1.6 million salvations, and countless healings and miracles. Peter Doseck Ministries (PDM) has also touched more than 33,000 pastors around the world with dynamic teaching and impartation of the miraculous.

PDM is dedicated to changing lives through the uncompromising message of a man who believes steadfastly in the present day manifestation of the power of God. "Peter Doseck has a vision and anointing, and it is an honor to know and love this man of God," says Oral Roberts.

Peter Doseck is a noted author whose books have impacted countless lives, and he is also founder and senior pastor of Only Believe Ministries Christian Center (OBMCC) in Botkins, Ohio. Arising from a dirt floor garage in 1982 with only one member, today OBMCC is blessed with a growing congregation whose primary focus is winning the lost.

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