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Lesson 1: Church on the Rock
Who We Are & What We Do

“they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.”

- Acts 11:26 -

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LESSON ONE:

GOLDEN TRIANGLE CHURCH ON THE ROCK:

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

I. WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF GOLDEN TRIANGLE CHURCH ON THE ROCK?

History, Vision, and Mission of GTCOTR

Dr. R. L. Hammonds' first Sunday as Senior Pastor of GTCOTR was August 28, 1988. The first year saw the miraculous hand of God move on behalf of the church over and over again. By the end of the first year, the church had torn down the walls of the dilapidated two story structure adjacent to the old church building; sent children and youth to camp; taken 51 people on their first missions trip to Mexico to build an orphanage; paid off almost \$200,000 worth of notes, liens, and mortgages, developed a strong CARE (home fellowship) small groups ministry; and added over 100 members!

Our first service in our new building was July 15, 2001, with a dedication service on September 16, 2001.

We opened our new offices and education wing in January 2006.

Now, after more than 25 years of ministry, GTCOTR is a "mother" church to over 20 churches in our local area and internationally.

II. INTRODUCTORY WELCOME VIDEO

III. WHAT IS THE VISION, CALLING, AND MISSION OF GTCOTR?

Going into all the world preaching the gospel and making disciples of every nation are really the only marching orders that God gave the church (Matthew 28:19). To that end, our vision, calling, and mission as a church is centered in evangelizing the lost, discipling new believers and engaging as many as possible in the work the Lord gave us to do. We encourage everyone to tell others about Christ; to "make a living, make a life, and make a difference" with their lives by loving God and serving people.

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

Matthew 28:19, 20

"_____ therefore and make _____ of all nations, _____ them in the name of the Father and of the _____ and of the Holy Spirit, _____ them to observe all that I have _____ you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

IV. WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY?

Christianity is a _____ – between human beings and God.

- It is not merely a philosophy.

- It is not merely a code of conduct.
- It is a religion in the sense that it is named among the world religions, but religion is often expressed as man's work to obtain God's favor.
- Christianity can be broadly defined as God's work to reach mankind.

V. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT CHRISTIANS OR CHRISTIANITY?

(Fill in the Blanks)

- 1) Christians are called _____ (1 Timothy 4:12)
- 2) Christians are called _____ (Acts 24:14, Revelation 17:14)
- 3) Christianity is called _____ (Jude 1:3)
- 4) Christianity is called _____ (Acts 19:23)
- 5) _____ were first called "Christians" at Antioch (Acts 11:26)

VI. RU100%SURE?

Jesus said that in order for a person to see and enter the Kingdom of God, they must be born again. RU100%SURE? is an evangelism method (a way of easily sharing the Gospel) that we use and teach at GTCOTR. One of our aims in sharing it in this course is to make sure that each person attending has heard a clear presentation of the simple good news that Jesus died for their sins, was buried, and rose again the third day to give each person an opportunity to be born again through faith in Christ and also to teach this evangelism method.

Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." John 3:3-8 (NASB)

Key points to help you make sure you are a Christian:

Question: Are you 100% sure if you died right now you would go to heaven?

You need to be able to answer a definite "YES!"

Question: If you were standing before Jesus and He asked, "Why should I let you into My Kingdom?" What would you say?

Question: Can I tell you what the Bible says?

Romans 3:23 - All people have sinned.

Basically, this means we have all lied, cheated, stolen, or done things like them. I know I have done things wrong before. How about you?

Romans 6:23 - The payment for sin is death.

The payment for our sin is hell – which is a place of punishment, torment, and eternal separation from God.

Romans 10:13 - Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

There is good news, though. We can be saved from the punishment of hell by believing in what Jesus did for us through His suffering on the cross (His death), His burial and resurrection. Jesus shed His blood on the cross for our sins.

Romans 10:9, 10 - If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

The Closing Question: *Is there any reason why you would want to spend an eternity in hell?*

Simply ADMIT you are a sinner, BELIEVE that Jesus died for your sins, was buried and resurrected, and CONFESS Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.
(1 John 5:11, 12)

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him. (John 3:36)

VII. WHAT ARE FOUR COMMITMENTS TO THE VISION OF GTCOTR THAT MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE?

Four Commitments: *(Fill in the Blanks)*

1. Membership Commitment

is a commitment to _____ and _____.

“You are members of God’s very own family...and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.” Ephesians 2:19 (LB)

“We are all parts of Christ’s body, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other and need all the others.”
Romans 12:4-5 (LB)

2. Maturity Commitment

is a commitment to the _____ necessary for spiritual growth.

Continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
(2 Peter 3:18)

Take **the time and trouble** to keep yourself spiritually fit. (1 Timothy 4:7 Phillips)

3. Ministry Commitment

is a commitment to discovering and using my God-given gifts and abilities in _____ God and others.

“God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other...” 1 Peter 4:10 (LB)

“There are different kinds of service to God...together you form the body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:5, 27 (LB)

4. Missions Commitment

is a commitment to _____ the Good News with others.

...you will be my witnesses for me...to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8 (GN)

always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15)

VIII. PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF THIS LESSON – THE “TAKE AWAY”

- ***Becoming a Christian by believing in Christ*** is the most important thing I can do both now and for eternity.
- ***Being involved, faithfully attending, and serving the Lord in and through GTCOTR*** links me with a church committed to sharing Jesus with the world and a church that has an established, solid reputation in the local community and internationally.
- ***Making a lifelong commitment to the Lord*** and to a Bible Believing, Gospel preaching local church no matter where I live, will make an eternal difference in my life, in my family, and to others.

Answers:

Pg. 5 – Go, disciples, baptizing, Son, teaching, commanded, relationship

Pg. 6 – believers, followers, the Faith, the Way, Disciples

Pg. 7 – Christ, Church family, habits

Pg. 8 – serving, share

Finding the Rock LESSON 1 HOMEWORK

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

- 1) THE SCRIPTURE BELOW STATES ONE OF THE PRIMARY PURPOSES OR VISION OF GOLDEN TRIANGLE CHURCH ON THE ROCK...**

WRITE OUT MATTHEW 28:19, 20

- 2) WHAT IS PART OF THE VISION OF GTCOTR ACCORDING TO THE ABOVE SCRIPTURE?**

- 3) WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO FAITHFULLY ATTEND AND SERVE THE LORD IN A BIBLE BELIEVING, GOSPEL PREACHING CHURCH?**

- 4) WHAT DOES BEING BORN AGAIN OR SAVED MEAN TO YOU?**

5) ARE YOU 100% SURE THAT IF YOU DIED TODAY THAT YOU WOULD GO TO HEAVEN? WHY OR WHY NOT?

6) WHAT, IN YOUR PRESENT UNDERSTANDING, DOES IT TAKE TO BE SAVED – TO GO TO HEAVEN – HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?

7) WRITE OUT ROMANS 10:9, 10



Lesson 2: God & The Bible
Who He Is & What He Says

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with
God, and the Word was God.

- John 1:1 -

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LESSON TWO: GOD & THE BIBLE WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE SAYS

I. WHAT YOU WILL LEARN IN THIS LESSON

- God is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.
- There is only one true God.
- We believe in the Trinity: God is eternally existent in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- Each person is fully God - have the same nature and are one God.
- Jesus Christ is the “God-Man” – 100% God and 100% Man (yet without sin).
- The Bible tells us what God is like – His attributes.
- The Bible is God’s inspired Word.
- The Bible is the Christian’s source for faith and practice.
- The Holy Spirit gives a believer illumination or revelation of what the Scripture means.
- The Bible is reliable – We have more and older manuscripts of the Bible than any other copy of ancient literature.
- You will learn about the Bible’s structure in the Old and New Testaments

II. WHAT OR WHO IS GOD?

God is the _____ and _____ of the universe.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. (Psalms 33:6)

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. (Hebrews 11:3)

God is _____.

God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)

Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. (Acts 17:29)

God is _____.

By nature, and by the inner witness of man's conscious
the heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
(Ps. 19:1)

- Paul says that even for the wicked, "what can be known about God is plain to them,
because God has shown it to them" (Rom. 1: 19)

- By the written Word of God
- By the Spirit of God
- Ultimately in and through the Person of Jesus Christ

God is _____. (has 'aseity') (Psalm 115:3)

God is _____.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting
to everlasting you are God. (Psalms 90:2)

Other Attributes:

- God is holy – separated from sin - The LORD our God is holy. (Ps. 99: 9)
- God is love – So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us.
God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1
John 4:16)
- God is wise - For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God
is stronger than men. (1 Corinthians 1:25)
- God is righteous and just - Declare and present your case; let them take counsel
together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD?
And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none
besides me. (Isaiah 45:21)
- God is jealous - for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is
Jealous, is a jealous God (Exodus 34:14)
- _____ - all knowing - Matthew 16:21; Luke 6:8, 11:17; John 4:29
- Omnipotent - all powerful / all ruling - Matthew 28:20; Mark 5:11-15;
John 11:38-44
- Omnipresent - He is everywhere and sees all – Jeremiah 23:24; Proverbs 15:3

III. WHY DO CHRISTIANS REFER TO GOD'S NATURE AS BEING A "TRINITY?"

God is one, but eternally existent in three "persons": the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Each person is fully God - have the same nature and are one God.

The first to use the word "trinity" in respect to the nature of God was the early Church father
Tertullian - (Circa 165-220 AD). (terms: trinitas, persona, and substantia)

Plurality within the unity of the godhead is, at the very least, hinted at in the Old Testament, and
then is more clearly developed and revealed in the New Testament.

Old Testament "hints" of the Trinity:

*One of the Hebrew words translated "God" is a **plural** noun:*

God – (Elohim) – a **plural** noun (plural of ‘El’) that is, significantly, used mainly with **singular** verb forms and with **singular** adjectives and pronouns.

In the original creation – note the activity of the “Three in One”:

God creates

The Spirit of God moves or broods or hovers

The WORD of God is SPOKEN...God *said*... (Jesus is called “the Word” in John 1:1,14)

In the beginning **God** created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] upon the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God moved** upon the face of the waters. And **God said**, Let there be light: and there was light. (Genesis 1:1-3)

When God creates man, He uses the plural “us” to refer to Himself.

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” (Genesis 1:26)

God is referred to as a PLURAL “One.”

When speaking of God in Deuteronomy 6:4, the word for “ONE” (transliterated ...written in English characters.... as “*echād*”) is the word for a plural unity or diversity within unity. (Like *a bunch of grapes*.) Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is **one** (*echād*). (Deuteronomy 6:4)

IV. THE NEW TESTAMENT GIVES A FURTHER AND MORE COMPLETE REVELATION OF THE TRINITY

At the baptism of Jesus, all three members in the Trinity are displayed in separate activities:

The Father – speaks from heaven

The Son – is being baptized

The Holy Spirit – descends on Jesus as a dove, giving Him ability and power for His earthly ministry

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:16, 17)

Scriptures mention the Three in One together:

Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (Matthew 28:18–19)

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same **Spirit**. And there are differences of administrations, but the same **Lord**. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same **God** which works all in all. (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

May the grace of the _____, and the love of _____ and the fellowship of the _____ be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

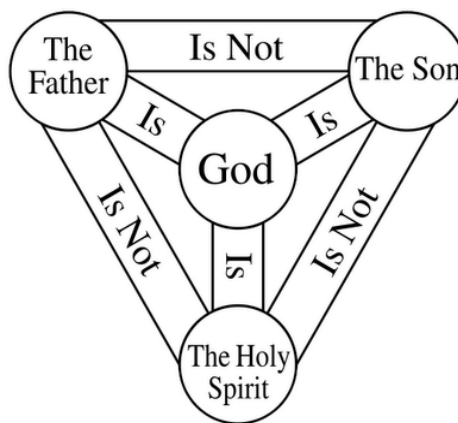
Each _____ in the _____ is _____ God.

Analogs of the Trinity from natural objects

Analogs are helpful, but they all break down at some point. One analogy/illustration of the Trinity is the egg. It is ONE whole egg, but consisting of three identifiable parts – the shell, the white and the yolk. Each of the parts is essential in order to be a complete egg. Each part is not the same as the other parts, yet each part is certainly “egg.” This analogy breaks down though, for in the Trinity, the Father, Son and Spirit share the same substance or essence, and each of the Persons is GOD fully and completely, and this is not the case with the egg parts. Each part does not consist of or make up a complete egg. Also each part of the egg has a different “nature” – not so in the Trinity.

Another analogy would be the three states of water – vapor (steam), solid (ice), and liquid. But again, this analogy breaks down at a certain level.

Here is a diagram that helps to illustrate some aspects of the relationship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit:



THE FATHER IS GOD

Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” (John 20:17)

yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. (1 Corinthians 8:6)

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17)

THE SON, JESUS, IS GOD

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel. (Matthew 1:23)

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form. (Colossians 2:9)

while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13)

But about the Son he says, Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. (Hebrews 1:8)

I and the Father are one. (John 10:30)

“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” (John 8:58)

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.
(Revelation 22:13)

Jesus is called “the Lord.” The Greek word for “Lord” (Kurios) in the N.T. is used over 6000 times in the Greek Old Testament (the Septuagint) to refer to “God” or the “LORD” (Yahweh). See (Luke 2:11, Luke 4:16-21 & Isaiah 61, Rev. 1:8 & Isaiah 41.4)

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

The LORD (Yahweh) and the Holy Spirit are one, making the Holy Spirit deity:

In the book of Isaiah, the LORD (Yahweh) is speaking to Isaiah and through him to the people.

Then said I, Woe [is] me! for I am undone; because I [am] a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the **LORD** of hosts. (Isaiah 6:5)

Acts 28:25 says that it was the Holy Spirit Who was speaking through Isaiah.

They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: **The Holy Spirit spoke** the truth to your forefathers when **he said** through Isaiah the prophet: (Acts 28:25)

The Holy Spirit (the Spirit of the LORD) is called “GOD” (the God of Israel)

- The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me; his word was on my tongue. (2 Samuel 23:2)
- The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me: When one rules over men in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God (2 Samuel 23:3)

The Holy Spirit is a Person

It is clear that the Holy Spirit has the same attributes as God and is Deity. Therefore, He is a Person, as God the Father and God the Son are Persons.

The Spirit HIMSELF... (Romans 8:16)

The Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for ME...’ (Acts 13:2) – note the use of the personal pronoun usage even though it is the Holy Spirit speaking.

Other Works of the Holy Spirit:

The Holy Spirit reveals truth (John 16:13; 2 Peter 1:21)

The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment to come (John 16:8)

The Holy Spirit witnesses to our spirit that we are God’s children. (Romans 8:16)

The Holy Spirit gives power to be a witness. (Acts 1:8)

The Holy Spirit teaches (John 14:26)

The Holy Spirit produces fruit of character and spiritual gifts in believers (Galatians 5:22, 1 Cor. 12)

The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit all share the same attributes.

Examples:

Eternal

The Father: “And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.” (John 17:5)

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” (Revelation 1:8)

The Son: “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” (Revelation 22:13)

The Spirit: “...how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.” (Hebrews 9:14)

Creator

For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. (Colossians 1:16)

but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. (Hebrews 1:2)

He also says, In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. (Hebrews 1:10) (Here the context is speaking about Jesus, the Son.)

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. (Psalm 33:6)

You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth. (Psalm 104:30)

JESUS CHRIST AND HIS INCARNATION

The Eternal Son of God, became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary in her virginity, and is 100% truly Man and 100% truly God. These two natures are joined in one person. (Matthew 1:23, 16:16; Luke 1:34, 35; John 1:14, 3:16, 17; Galatians 4:4; Philippians 2:6, 8; 1 Timothy 2:5; 3:16; Hebrews 2:14, 17).

The Son of God, Jesus Christ is one with the Father, but is not the same person as the Father and the Spirit.

I and [my] Father are one. (John 10:30)

“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” (John 8:58)

that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be

in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (John 17:21)

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. (Hebrews 1:3)

V. FOUR IMPORTANT POINTS ABOUT THE BIBLE, GOD'S WORD

1. As Christians, we base what we _____ and _____ on the Bible.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:32)

2. We look to the Holy Spirit for _____ of the meaning of the scriptures.

God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:10-16 (verse 10))

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. (John 16:13)

3. The Word and the Spirit always agree. God does not change and _____ does not change.

For I am the Lord, I do not change. (Malachi 3:6)

...the word of our God stands forever. (Isaiah 40:8)

4. The _____ is not going to disagree with God and His Word.

...He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak. (John 16:13)

SOME THINGS THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT ITSELF

The Word of God:

- is like _____ in your _____ (Ezekiel 3:3)
- can _____ in you _____ (Colossians 3:16)
- is a _____ for your _____ (illuminates your path) (Psalms 119:105)
- _____ your mind (Romans 12:1,2)
- is a _____ that burns in your heart (Jeremiah 20:9)
- is perfect and trustworthy (Psalms 19:7)
- penetrates your thoughts and _____ (Hebrews 4:12)

THE PHRASE “THE WORD OF GOD” IS ALSO USED TO REFER TO A PERSON: JESUS CHRIST

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and **his name is the Word of God**. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Revelation 19:11-16)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14 emph. added)

VI. THE BIBLE’S STRUCTURE

The word “Bible” means “book.” The Bible is a book that contains a collection of books.

It is divided into two main parts: the Old Testament (meaning; “covenant” or “will”), and the New Testament (Covenant or Will).

The Bible contains 66 “books” of different lengths. It was written by 40+ authors over about a 1500 year time span. It contains a wide range of literary genres. Some of the genres include poetry, prophetic oracles, letters, laments, and apocalyptic.

Some Bibles also contain an additional group of books called the Apocrypha (meaning “hidden”). None of the ‘standard’ Apocryphal books are directly quoted by Jesus or any of the authors of the New Testament, although there are possible allusions – such as from the book of Ben Sira (also known as “Ecclesiasticus” or the “Wisdom of Sirach”), and a few quotes from other works (such as in the book of Jude) – some known as pseudepigrapha. Most Protestant Bibles do not contain the Apocryphal books. The Apocryphal books are not recognized as being part of the Hebrew canon of scriptures, but can be useful for historical and cultural background.

Jesus generally described the Old Testament as being the accepted Hebrew canon in Luke 11:51 – “from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple...” (NKJV)

This statement paints the timeline of the Old Testament as being “bookended” from Genesis (where the story of Abel occurs) to 2 Chronicles (where the story of the death of Zechariah occurs – 2 Chronicles is the last book in the Hebrew Old Testament order of books.)

In other words, it is inclusive of all the books of the Hebrew canon (Genesis to Malachi) but does not include any of the Apocryphal books.

The Old Testament:

The Old Testament takes up about two-thirds of the Bible – in 39 books. The other third is the New Testament in 27 books. The Old Testament can be divided up into some basic sections:

- **Law:** The First five books, the Books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy – called the “Torah” (from Hebrew for ‘teaching’) or the “Pentateuch” (Greek for ‘five books’)
- **History: The Historical books** include Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.
- **Poetical and Wisdom: The poetic and wisdom writings** include Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.
- **Prophetic:** (Divided into “Major” – who wrote more and “Minor” – who wrote less.
Major Prophets - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel.
Minor Prophets - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

The words “Genesis,” “Exodus,” etc. are derived from the Greek names for the books in the Greek version (the Septuagint) of the Old Testament, which was translated from Hebrew between 300 and 200 B.C. The Hebrew names for the first five books are derived from the first words of each book. For example: Bereshit – Genesis, Schmot – Exodus, Vayikra – Leviticus

The Old Testament is also said to have three divisions: the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings.

A. New Testament Sections:

- **Gospels** – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- **Historical** – Acts
- **Pauline Epistles** – (Pastoral Letters)
 - **to churches:** Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians and 2 Thessalonians
 - **to individuals:** 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon
- **General Epistles** – Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude
- **Prophetic** – Revelation

NOTE: The Bible’s Chapter Numbers and Verse Numbers... are NOT inspired and are not part of the original text. They were first instituted about 1,000 years after the canon was established. The Hebrew Old Testament already had some basic divisions. Stephan Langton, the Archbishop of Canterbury from 1207-1228 A.D. divided the Bible into chapters. Robert Estienne (also known as Robert Stephanus) in the mid-16th century devised the basic verse numbering system – a version of which we use in today’s Bibles. He was the first person to print a Bible with verse numbers in each chapter. Chapter and verse numbers are useful for finding specific places in the Bible, but sometimes can be a hindrance if we fail to keep reading through a verse or chapter division to gain the complete context of what is being said.

(The following from: Paul E. Little, *Know What You Believe* – (Downer’s Grove, Ill.; Intervarsity Press, 2008), p. 19.)

The Bible		
	Old Testament	New Testament
Number of Books (Protestant Canon)	39	27
Major Groups	Law, Historical Books, Poetry, Wisdom, Prophets	Gospels, Acts, Epistles, Revelation
Years to Write	1100 years	100 years

VII. ABOUT THE WORD “CANON”

The word “canon” comes from the Greek word that means “a measuring rule” or “straight bar,” and possibly from a Hebrew word “qaneh,” which means “a rod.” In time, the word canon began to take on the meaning of an accepted list of scriptures.

The Hebrew Old Testament canon was settled prior to the coming of Christ. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in Israel in 1947 gave us copies of the Old Testament scriptures that were dated about 1,000 years earlier than copies that existed at that time. They revealed that the Old Testament copies were essentially unchanged throughout that whole period of time.

To be part of the accepted canon, the books had to be historically accurate and authoritative – that is, that God was speaking through the individual, or the individual was speaking for God, and in agreement with the other books.

The canon of the Old and New Testaments was recognized as being the only books to be read in the churches at the church council of Laodicea in 363 A.D.

Basically there were three primary criteria that had to be met in order for books to be recognized as authoritative:

1. Had to be written by an apostle, or someone directly connected or in contact with the apostles.
2. Had to conform to the “rule of faith” – basic orthodox Christian beliefs as practiced and accepted among the majority of the churches.
3. Had to be widely accepted and read continuously in the majority of the churches.

(See, for example: Carson, D.A., *Collected Writings on Scripture*, Crossway, 2010)

ASPECTS OF THE WORD OF GOD

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

In the scripture above, the Word of God:

Is a _____ Message – “the Word of God...not the word of men.”

Involves a _____ - _____ Partnership – God spoke through men.

Is an _____ Message – The Thessalonians accepted the Word through Paul as the Word of God.

Is a _____ Message – The Word “worked” in those who believed.

Is an _____ Message – again, because it is “working”...The truth of the Word of God is attested to by the Spirit – “the Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.” (Romans 8:16)

Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and **the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word** by the signs that accompanied it. (Mark 16:20 emph. added)

Reliability:

New Testament manuscripts are more in number and better preserved than other ancient writings. There are more than 5,800 Greek New Testament manuscripts in existence today.

If we were to compare the number of New Testament manuscripts to other ancient writings, we find that the number of New Testament manuscripts far outweigh the others in quantity.

There are more than 10,000 Latin manuscripts and another 5,000 manuscripts in other languages (Syriac, Coptic, etc.) In addition to this, there are thousands of citations of New Testament passages by the early Church fathers. Over **1,000,000** quotations by the Church fathers have been catalogued – ***enough to reconstruct the entire New Testament from these quotes alone!***

In contrast, the typical number of existing manuscript copies for any of the works of the Greek and Latin authors, such as Plato, Aristotle, Caesar, or Tacitus, ranges only from one to 20.

43% of extant (existing) New Testament manuscripts copies are dated within the first 100 years of the originals.

Conversely, the average gap of other ancient authors between the composition and the earliest copy of the writings is 1,000 years! The earliest copy in existence of the Iliad is dated about 500 years after it was written.

The earliest portion of the New Testament in existence is dated some to be around **29 years after it was written!** It contains John 18:31-33, 37-38. (P-52 – the John Ryland fragment at the John Ryland’s University Library, Manchester, UK.)

By comparison, we have just a few copies of these ancient historians:

<i>Histories</i>	<i>Oldest Manuscripts</i>	<i>Number of Man. Surviving</i>
Livy 59 B.C. – A.D. 17	4 th Century A.D.	Less than 20
Tacitus A.D. 56-120	9 th -11 th Centuries A.D.	3
Thucydides 460-400 B.C.	10 th Century A.D.	8
Herodotus 484-425 B.C.	10 th Century A.D.	very few

VIII. PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF THIS LESSON – THE “TAKE AWAY”

1. What you believe about the person of Jesus Christ is very important.

For example: Mormons believe that Jesus is the “spirit brother” of Lucifer, and that He is the literal offspring of a “heavenly” father and mother. They also believe that as man is, god once was, and that as god is, man may become. This means they believe that man can become God!

It bears repeating that what you believe about the person of Jesus Christ IS VERY IMPORTANT!

For example: Jehovah’s Witnesses believe that Jesus is not the same as God, but that Jesus is the first created being. This is the same heresy from the early church era called Arianism.

If you do not believe biblically concerning Jesus, you are not saved!

2. God speaks! He is a talking God. He is not a silent stone or wood carving. The transcendent Creator chooses to communicate with His creation. Even His creation says something about Him. God communicates with us by His Word and His Spirit. We should expect God to speak to us today.
3. Man is made in the image of God, and as such, we should reflect God’s nature in all we do.
4. Man is a created being, and as such we should find our purpose and place in God’s created order.
5. God is plurality within unity (the Trinity). As such, each Person in the Trinity honors and shares in mutual love for each other and acts in unity. Christians in the Church share in the love of God and should share that mutual love for each other and act in unity.
6. God is over and above and apart from His creation. He is not the creation. God is transcendent. Man is not. Man often attempts to “domesticate” the Almighty God by placing His person within the created order, such as in pantheism or panentheism, but God exists above and over all. Man was created to worship and serve the Creator, not the other way around!
7. Jesus Christ is the God-Man. God came to us, humbling Himself in the form of a servant, dying on the cross that He might reconcile us to Himself.

We should be humble servants, as Jesus was, serving God by telling others about Jesus Christ that they might be reconciled to God.

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and

every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
(Philippians 2:5-11)

8. The WORD is “spirit and life” to a _____.

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. (John 6:63)

9. We are told to study the Word of God.

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

10. The Word of God is _____ - _____ (inspired) and is profitable for certain purposes in the life of the believer.

and how from infancy you have known the holy scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:15-17)

11. The Old Testament scriptures are just as _____ as New Testament scriptures.

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. (1 Corinthians 10:11)

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

12. The Old Testament _____ of Christ.

Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. (Luke 24:25-27)

Jesus said (quoting the Old Testament) man was to _____ by the Word of God.

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4:4)

13. The scriptures were _____ by Holy men of God as they were moved or carried along by the Holy Spirit.

We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eye-witnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its

origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:16-21)

14. The objective truth in the Word of God is the standard for our lives, not our own feelings, societal norms and mores.

15. Meditating on God's Word will bring success in His purposes and work in your life.

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. (Joshua 1:8)

16. Teachers of the Word and the Word that they teach are NECESSARY in the life of a believer.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)

Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Timothy 4:15, 16)

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-15)

Answers:

Pg. 13 – Creator, Sustainer, Spirit, knowable

Pg. 14 – Independent, Eternal, Omniscient,

Pg. 15 – Lord Jesus Christ, God, Holy Spirit, Person, Trinity, fully

Pg. 19 – believe, practice, revelation, His Word, Holy Spirit, honey, mouth, dwell, richly, lamp, feet, renews, fire, attitudes

Pg. 22 – divine, human-divine, accepted

Pg. 23 – transforming, attested

Pg. 25 – believer, God-breathed, valuable, speaks, live, written

Finding the Rock LESSON 2 HOMEWORK

Name: _____

Date: _____

1) WRITE OUT 2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

THE _____ OF THE _____
_____ AND THE _____ OF _____, AND THE
_____ OF THE _____ BE WITH YOU ALL.

2) ACCORDING TO GENESIS 1:1-3, WHAT "ACTIONS" IN CREATION HINT AT THE DIFFERENT PERSONS IN THE TRINITY?

GOD (THE FATHER) _____

THE WORD (THE SON) _____

THE SPIRIT OF GOD _____

3) WRITE OUT ONE SCRIPTURE REFERENCE THAT SHOWS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS GOD.

4) LIST ONE SCRIPTURE REFERENCE THAT SHOWS THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD.

5) LIST OUT ONE SCRIPTURE REFERENCE THAT SHOWS THAT GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING.

6) WRITE OUT 2 TIMOTHY 3:16

7) GIVE A SCRIPTURE REFERENCE THAT SHOWS THAT JESUS IS ALSO CALLED “THE WORD OF GOD.”

8) HOW MANY BOOKS ARE THERE IN THE PROTESTANT BIBLE? (CIRCLE THE ANSWER)

39 66 27 72

**9) ABOUT HOW MANY COPIES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT MANUSCRIPTS ARE IN EXISTENCE TODAY?
(CIRCLE THE ANSWER)**

100 55 2500 5800

10) LIST THE BASIC “DIVISIONS” OF THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT:

11) EXPLAIN WHY THE BIBLE IS IMPORTANT TO YOU AS A CHRISTIAN. WHY SHOULD YOU READ AND STUDY YOUR BIBLE DAILY? CITE A SCRIPTURE TO SUPPORT YOUR STATEMENT.



Lesson 3: God Creates & Saves
Creation, The Fall, & Redemption

For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

- **Romans 5:15** -

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LESSON THREE:

GOD CREATES & SAVES

CREATION, THE FALL, AND REDEMPTION

I. WHAT YOU WILL LEARN IN THIS LESSON

- Your view of God and man as His creation affects deeply the way you live life.
- What does being created in the image and likeness of God mean?
- What are the purposes for which man was created?
- Men and women are created equal but have differing roles given by God.
- What is sin?
- Understanding sin as idolatry is an important and useful concept.
- How did the serpent lead Adam and Eve to sin?
- What are the results of the fall of man?
- How God Redeems and Saves mankind

II. GOD CREATES AND LOVES: WHY THE QUESTION OF HUMAN LIFE AND ITS ORIGIN IS IMPORTANT

To believe in God and to be saved through faith in the work of Christ means that at some point you also have believed that God's Word, the Bible, is true.

If you believe the Word of God is true, then you must accept the fact that the Bible declares that God is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

Man is therefore, as the Bible says, created by God and thus is different from God, his Creator, and the rest of creation.

How we view the creation of man affects nearly every area of life – philosophically, historically, and sociologically.

It affects our understanding of man's responsibility towards his Creator, the universe, and fellow man.

Biblical truth shows us that not only is God our Creator, but that we are responsible to Him. Biblical truth also declares that because God creates and loves His creation and calls it good, man is also to have a corresponding view of creation and fellow man.

III. A GENERAL SUMMARY STORY LINE OF THE BIBLE

God made everything and He made it good.
He made human beings in His image and likeness.
Human beings are a created race and thus we are accountable to God our Maker.
Human beings are a **FALLEN RACE**.
We rebelled against our Creator.
All have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.
The wages or payment for our sin is death.

The sin nature and rebellion was passed onto all mankind, and therefore, all men are guilty before their Creator and continue to act in rebellion and sin.

The result of our rebellion against God is physical death and spiritual death - eternal separation from God.

We are by our very nature deserving of wrath.

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (John 3:36)

Wrath is blazing, eternal fire - when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels, He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus, they will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power. (See 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9)

Mankind must be forgiven of sin, restored, and reconciled to God.

God is not only our creator but our Judge. His righteousness and holiness cannot allow sin in His presence.

The good news is that God didn't leave mankind without hope. The same God Who rightly stands over against us in pending judgment because of our rebellion is the One Who reaches out to us also in love! God chases after rebellious man to reconcile us to Himself.

Even in the garden of Eden, God promised that the offspring of Adam and Eve would crush the head of the serpent. He reaches out to mankind in what is called 'common grace' – giving sunlight and warmth and rain and food.

God demonstrated His covenantal, faithful love in calling out of mankind individuals like Noah and Abraham and Moses and specifically, a nation, Israel, (the descendants of Abraham) to clearly demonstrate His love. They were also to demonstrate the way for mankind to be restored to God and delivered from His wrath.

This was shown through Israel's worship:

- The priesthood – of which Jesus would one day be the High Priest.
- The sacrificial system – of which Jesus would one day be the ultimate Slaughtered Lamb, dying for the sins of all mankind.
- covenant – of which Jesus would be the Mediator of the new, final and better covenant between God and man.

— Tabernacle – of which Jesus is the ultimate Tabernacle of God with man.

It was also shown through Israel's Kingdom – a theocracy – a place of God's rule and reign – of which Jesus would be the ultimate King/Priest "David" on the throne of the universe.

The law of Moses was also given to show that it is impossible for man to live up to the Holy and Righteous standards of God's character.

Man needed a sacrifice for his sins and Someone who could fulfill the requirements of that Holy Sacrifice.

Therefore, as John Stott said, 'God Himself gave Himself to save us (man) from Himself.' Jesus Christ, God incarnate came as our Perfect Lamb, Sacrifice, and Substitute.

How can we be forgiven and spared judgment? The only thing that spares us from destruction under the wrath of God is the death, the holy sacrifice of Jesus, God's Son on the cross. Jesus Himself bore our sins and judgment in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness - by His wounds we have been healed.

Salvation from sin and eternal judgment, and access to God is available only through the finished work of Christ on the cross, given by God's grace, mercy and love, received solely by faith in Jesus Christ, excluding all human merit.

The gospel of the grace of God is that to effect salvation, Jesus lived a sinless life and died on the cross as the sinner's substitute, shedding his blood for the remission of sins, was buried, and rose again the third day for our justification.

In conversion, the believer is drawn by God to Himself, repents and turns from his sins, is redeemed, declared wholly righteous, born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life, is made alive in Christ as a new creation, reconciled to God, becomes a child of God, and receives the Holy Spirit through Whom he is empowered for a life of obedience.

All who confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in their heart that God raised Him from the dead, will be saved. (See, for example, Romans 10:9, 10.)

Perhaps one of the most important covenantal stories in the Bible, the Abrahamic covenant shows the three distinct promises by the LORD to Abraham in *descendants, land, and being a blessing to the nations (through the lineage of Messiah)*.

Genesis chapter 15 describes how the Lord confirms His promises to Abraham by laying out two rows of slain animals and the parties of the covenant walking between the rows. The idea would be that if the parties violated the covenant, they would end up like the dead animals.

THE AMAZING PART is that after Abraham set out the sacrifices to walk between them, the Lord PUT ABRAHAM INTO A DEEP SLEEP, AND THE LORD WALKED ALONE THROUGH THE ANIMALS.

IN OTHER WORDS, GOD HIMSELF AND ALONE MADE THE COVENANT, AND CURSED HIMSELF IF HE DID NOT FULFILL IT!

GOD HIMSELF BROUGHT OUR SALVATION IN CHRIST THROUGH THE SACRIFICE, RATIFIED THE COVENANT AND PROMISED US BLESSINGS, AND CURSED HIMSELF ON THE CROSS THROUGH THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST IF HE DID NOT KEEP THE COVENANT!

_____ – the covenant of God in choosing out a people who would be a *kingdom of priests* who would carry His light and name to the entire world, and reflect the glory of God, His nature, the moral law, the sacrificial nature of His ultimate covenant in the King/Priest Jesus Christ and the access and restoration of humanity through it. (Exodus 19:5, 6 with Revelation 1:5, 6)

The heart of the Old Covenant is not just the *MORAL* law. Much more is devoted to the Tabernacle (nearly 50 chapters), the Priesthood, the sacrificial system, and matters of corporate and individual worship.

It is vital to note that because the priestly structure was so foundational to the Old Covenant, it means that a change of priesthood would mean there must be a change of Covenant. Hence, Jesus is from the line of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7, Psalms 110), a “King-Priest.” That being the case means that the Old Mosaic Covenant had to be changed.

The Mosaic covenant teaches a number of important points such as:

- covenant relationship and fellowship with God is *possible*.
- man is unable in his own works of righteousness to attain relationship with God.
- a sacrifice and payment for sins must be made.
- only a high priest properly chosen with the right descent, under proper calling, anointing, order and commission, holy and righteous, can offer the blood of the sacrifice.
- God’s presence is holy and cannot be approached haphazardly.
- the blood of the sacrifice has to be from a pure lamb.

So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law. (Galatians 3:24-26)

Davidic – the covenant that God made with David that the Messiah would come through his lineage.

_____ **Covenant** – made possible and “ratified” by the blood of Jesus shed for us on the cross, in other words, His death, burial and resurrection.

Covenants are usually outlined as having promise, sign, seal, and fulfillment.

The New Covenant promise is found in scriptures like:

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD” (Jeremiah 31:31–32)

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT MAN’S CREATION?

We are created in the image and likeness of God – in general, the image and likeness of God could refer to the ability to think; make decisions; have dominion; live in society; communicate;

express emotion, moral purity, etc.

Others use similar language when they say that scripturally the image of God is shown in His ability to rule, relate, have intelligence; volition, morality and spirituality. Learning about the characteristics of God, His communicable attributes, gives us an understanding of what the Bible indicates is God's purpose for man.

Man was created in God's image and likeness – meaning he possesses qualities that are similar to God's, and that he was created to represent God.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." (Genesis 1:26)

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

This is the written account of Adam's line. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them "man." (Genesis 5:1, 2)

Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man. (Genesis 9:6)

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. (James 3:9)

Man is not identical to God, but carries His likeness and image in some aspects.

For example, in Genesis 5:3, Adam became the father of a son in his own *likeness* and *image*, and named him Seth.

Seth was not the same person as Adam, but was like him.

Caution needs to be exercised in speaking of man being "in God's image," as if this were referring to God having the same physicality as man – a head, feet, arms, etc. God is a Spirit and does not have a corporeal body. He may choose to reveal Himself in a number of different ways – but the use of anthropomorphic language should *not* be taken literally, any more than God has a body of "consuming fire" or "living water," is dressed as a warrior, or is a light, a torch, a hen, a lamb, a temple, a tower, or a shadow.

Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth. (Deuteronomy 4:15–18)

In essence, man is created to "image" God - show forth God's glory and to give God glory by bearing His characteristics and relating to His fellow man in ways that truly reflect the nature and character of God.

In contrast to nature and animals, Adam and Eve were "formed" by God - Adam from the dust of the ground, and Eve from one of Adam's ribs and God then breathed His breath or life into them. Then He blessed them and gave them dominion. This indicates that man is different and apart

from the rest of creation.

Only man possesses the qualities that indicate he is more like God than all the rest of creation.

It is important to distinguish God from His Creation. God is “transcendent” – above and separate from creation.

Current popular religious trends want to make God a part of the creation, or God is in everything, and that all religions lead to “God” – however you perceive Him to be.

This is vastly different than the biblical Christian view.

God made us for:

1. _____ to God. (theological)
2. Relationship to _____. (sociological)
3. Relationship to _____. (psychological)
4. Relationship to _____. (environmental)

(above four points excerpted from: <http://blog.marshillchurch.org/2008/04/20/image-god-loves/>
Doctrine Series by Pastor Mark Driscoll)

IV. MAN IS CREATED AS MALE AND FEMALE

This is the written account of Adam’s line. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them “man” (Genesis 5:1, 2)

Both man and woman, created together, are accorded the same status before God. They are equal. Both male and female are **blessed** by God. Both male and female bear the image of God. Man and woman are of _____ importance and _____ before God.

Man and woman display the image of God in the marriage relationship – they reflect the Trinity in some aspects – as a plurality of persons in unity as one. God even uses the term “Us” when He made man – “*Let US make man in our image*” – Genesis 1:26. Man and woman display the image of God in the Trinity as well by the ability to procreate – born out of their love for each other.

John 17:5, 24 indicates that there is love, communication, fellowship, sharing of glory, and giving of honor between the Father and the Son.

A true, godly _____ relationship correctly shows the image of God.

There is a _____ in the _____ of men and women, just as there are different roles displayed by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Biblically, the “first” of anything has a different role than the rest. For example, the “firstborn” had a right and privilege to the inheritance from his father that the other children did not have. (Genesis 25:27-34; 35:23; 38:27-30)

Adam was created first.

Paul uses this concept in 1 Timothy 2:13 to restrict certain roles in the church to men. Also, God spoke to Adam first after the fall; Adam represented all of the human race in the sin of the fall,

not Eve.

Eve was created as a _____ fit for Adam:

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” (Genesis 2:18)

The fall brought about a _____ and pain to the roles of man and woman:

thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return. (Genesis 3:18–19)

Eve would bring forth children in pain:

To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” (Genesis 3:16)

V. HOW DID SIN (THE FALL) AFFECT MAN AND HIS RELATIONSHIP TO GOD?

What is sin?

Traditionally, sin has been defined as “breaking God’s law.”

Another definition has been derived from the meaning of one of the New Testament words for sin: *hamartia*, which is traditionally defined as “missing or falling short of the objective or mark.”

Another overarching or broadly based concept is to see that the essence of sin is rooted in _____.

Scripture is replete with warnings about idolatry:

A quick Bible search reveals at least 119 verses containing the word “idol.”

The first two commands of the Ten Commandments directly address idolatry:

You shall have no other gods before me. (Exodus 20:3)

You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. (Exodus 20:4)

The tenth commandment could also be addressing the issue of idolatry when it states:

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s. (Exodus 20:17)

Another verse containing warning or pointing against idolatry is:

For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. (1 Chronicles 16:26)

Idolatry reverses God’s intended order – which is for man to worship God and to rule over things. In idolatry, man lives for himself, his own advancement, material possessions, and the like.

Idolatry is man worshipping _____ instead of _____.
Man will either worship and serve God or some created object – there is no in between.
A passage in Romans 1 reveals the relationship between the fall, sin, and idolatry:

The results of turning to idols:

1. _____ - they became servants of created things instead of ruling over creation
... and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator...(Romans 1:25)
2. _____...but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.
(Romans 1:21)
3. A Dulled Intellect and a Depraved Mind

In theological terms, this is called the “noetic” effects of sin. (from Greek *noētikos*, from *noein* to think, from *nous* the mind)

Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. (Romans 1:22–23)

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. (Romans 1:28)

VI. HOW DID THE SERPENT LEAD ADAM AND EVE TO SIN AGAINST GOD?

1. A Questioning or Denial of God’s Truthfulness – His Word.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “**Did God really say**, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” (Genesis 3:1)

2. Questioning God’s Goodness by Insinuating God was Actually Restrictive.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘**You must not eat from any tree** in the garden’?” (Genesis 3:1)

3. By Offering a False Sense of Autonomy.

“For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:5)

4. By Appealing to a Selfish Potential.

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. (Genesis 3:6)

- **APPETITE: Fleshly appeal for meeting a need for sustenance:**
She saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food
- **AFFIRMATION: Appealing to aesthetic pleasures outside of God:**
She saw the fruit was pleasing to the eye
- **AMBITION: Appealing to intellectual advancement and pride thereby:**
She saw the fruit was desirable for gaining wisdom

We note that the woman answered the serpent's queries correctly, but went on to UNDERSTATE and OVERSTATE God's word:

UNDERSTATEMENT: She did not repeat God's complete statement that they could eat from ANY tree in the garden with the exception of the one tree.

OVERSTATEMENT: She claimed that God had forbidden them even to TOUCH the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

She was deceived.

Adam chose to follow his wife rather than obey God.

THESE ARE THE SAME THREE TEMPTATIONS THAT JESUS WAS FACED WITH IN THE WILDERNESS. (Matthew 4) THEY ARE ALSO IDENTIFIED IN THE BOOK OF 1 JOHN:

For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. (1 John 2:16)

Some of the Results of the Fall:

1. We “de-God” God. Man began to be in the place of setting his own directives rather than following God's directives.
2. Exchanged God's glory for worthless idols, which included his own deluded intellect.
3. Man lost his relationship and righteousness with God and came under His wrath.
4. Adam's sin and sinful nature was passed to the whole human race.
5. Curses were pronounced on:
 - a. Adam
 - b. Eve
 - c. The Serpent
6. Man became subject to the:
 - d. _____ of Sin – eternal separation from God and eternal judgment
 - e. _____ of Sin – which brings death
 - f. _____ of Sin – his thoughts became only evil continually (Genesis 6:5)
7. The Fall reversed God's established order:
Instead of: God - Man – Creation, it became: Creation – Humanity – God

VII. WHY WAS IT NECESSARY FOR GOD TO BECOME A MAN?

Representative Obedience and Righteousness

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:18–19)

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the

people. (Hebrews 2:17)

Mediator

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, (1 Timothy 2:5)

As our example

But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. (1 Peter 2:20–21)

for redeemed / glorified bodies

Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. (1 Corinthians 15:49)

To sympathize as our High Priest

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Hebrews 2:17–18)

VIII. THE PRACTICAL “TAKE-AWAY” – APPLYING THE TRUTH

Man is created in God’s image – thus all men and women, no matter their status in life, race, gender, age, health; born or unborn; are valuable, loved by God, and should be loved and respected by man. Sin marred the image of God in man – he is still God’s image bearer – man can still do good, but man cannot do anything of spiritual good – he cannot attain to the righteousness of God in his own effort. As Christians, we need to ask ourselves, “What am I preaching, projecting, and saying with my life. Whose image am I portraying?”

The devil deceived Eve into making autonomous choices outside of God’s direction. Much of sin is couched within this display of essential idolatry. This concept is valuable for witnessing to the postmodern generation.

Adam made a willful choice to sin, and death and eternal judgment passed onto all mankind. Christ came to redeem us and save us from sin’s penalty, power, and presence. Man in his sinful state could not redeem himself, so God had to come. God became a man for a number of reasons, the chief of which was to be our sacrifice for sin.

The love of God is overwhelming when you meditate on the fact that the Almighty God condescended to man’s low estate.

The God-Man, Jesus Christ took the curse of sin upon Himself, bore our sins on the cross, effected our salvation for Himself.

It was important for Jesus Christ to live a sinless life. If all that was necessary was for Jesus to come and die, He could have done so as a one day old baby to effect salvation. He not only had to die, but LIVE sinlessly in order for His righteousness to be IMPUTED to those who believe and receive Him. Justification has TWO important elements: one, the forgiveness of sin; and two, the impartation of Christ’s righteousness.

Pg. 34 – Mosaic, New
Pg. 36 – relationship, one another, ourselves, creation, equal, value, marriage, difference, roles
Pg. 37 – helper, distortion, idolatry, things, God
Pg. 38 – slavery, deception
Pg. 39 – Penalty, Power, Presence, substitute sacrifice
Pg. 40 – pattern

Finding the Rock LESSON 3 HOMEWORK

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

1) WRITE OUT ONE SCRIPTURE THAT SHOWS THAT MAN WAS CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD.

2) EXPLAIN WHAT SIN IS FROM THE BIBLICAL STANDPOINT.

3) LIST 4 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNSAVED FROM ROMANS 1:18-32.

A) _____

B) _____

C) _____

D) _____

4) IN WHAT WAYS ARE YOU TEMPTED AS ADAM AND EVE WERE TEMPTED?

5) WHERE IN YOUR LIFE IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SPECIFIC REPENTANCE IN REGARD TO YOUR OWN SIN OR YOUR ATTITUDES TOWARD SIN?

6) HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO SIN IN YOUR OWN LIFE?

7) HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO SIN IN OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES?

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Lesson 4: Foundation Stones
Repentance, Faith, & Baptism

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and
does them will be like a wise man who built his
house on the rock.

- **Matthew 7:24** -

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LESSON FOUR:
FOUNDATION STONES:
THE GOSPEL, AND THE BENEFITS AND EFFECTS OF THE CROSS
REPENTANCE, FAITH AND BAPTISM

I. WHAT YOU WILL LEARN IN THIS LESSON

- You will learn about the Cross of Christ and the Gospel. You will learn the importance of having a foundational understanding of basic Biblical truths and practices like those enumerated in Hebrews 6, including: Repentance, Faith, and Baptisms.

II. THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS THE CENTRAL MESSAGE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

The four “Gospels” (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) are actually four re-tellings of the ONE Gospel of Jesus Christ. Someone has said that the four Gospels are actually all *passion narratives with long introductions*. (Passion is referring to death, specifically the “passion” or “death” of Jesus – think of a “Passion Play” – meaning, traditionally, an Easter drama telling of the death of Christ and His burial and resurrection.) The reason the Gospels are often characterized in this fashion is due to the seeming “rush” of the narratives to the climax of the story – namely the suffering of Christ on the cross; His death, burial, and resurrection; and the centrality of the event. (The life of Jesus is vitally important as well.)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16)

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:17, 18)

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (Galatians 6:14)

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. (1 Corinthians 2:2)

but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles (1 Corinthians 1:23)

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. (Acts 2:22-24)

III. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to

you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

The Gospel message, the preaching of the cross of Christ – His death for our sins, burial, and resurrection should not be confused with the various biblically oriented or backgrounded ways that we call people to respond to the Gospel. For example, we may tell or invite someone to “believe in Jesus,” or “repent and believe,” or “ask Jesus into their heart,” or “trust Jesus as their Lord and Saviour,” or to be “born again” – but these statements alone are NOT the essence of the Gospel message, according to the Bible, these are RESPONSES to the Gospel message.

Given that our culture is growing less and less knowledgeable about Christian “givens,” such as belief in God, the work of Jesus Christ, the lost estate of sinful man, and his need of relationship with God through faith in Christ, it is becoming more and more important that we lay out the basic facts and information necessary to convey the essence of the Gospel message.

IV. WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE FOR US?

The Scriptures reveal the many things Jesus accomplished in His death on the cross, and the purposes for His suffering and death, burial, and resurrection.

A. Man’s nature is sinful, due to the fall of Adam as a result of his sin in the garden. Adam’s sinful nature is passed on to all mankind.

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—... (Romans 5:12) (See also Ezekiel 18:20)

B. God’s nature is both _____ AND _____.

but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:15, 16)

1. Because God is HOLY, He cannot abide sin. He abhors sin.

You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong,
(Habakkuk 1:13a)

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.
(Romans 1:18)

But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: (Romans 2:5-6)

a. God’s _____ abides on all who do not believe in or receive Jesus.

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (John 3:36)

among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Ephesians 2:3)

b. God's will is that all men be saved, yet, while Jesus is the Saviour of all men, all who are saved must come to a knowledge of the truth, that is, they must respond to the Gospel. Forgiveness, eternal life, and the propitiation (satisfaction, making peace with) of the wrath of God through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross and His shed blood is only applied to those who believe, trust in, and rely on Jesus.

who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. (1 Timothy 2:4-6)

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. (1 Timothy 4:10)

2. Because God is JUST, He cannot FREELY FORGIVE sin without the penalty for sin BEING PAID. God Himself declared that the penalty for sin was death – both physical and spiritual death in eternal separation from God.

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. (1 Timothy 4:10)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

a. Scripture calls this death a result of a *righteous* decree that God made.

Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. (Romans 1:32)

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— (Romans 5:12)

b. God cannot violate His own _____ by merely foregoing the due and just penalty He set forth. His righteous judgment DEMANDS a verdict of "guilty" and DEMANDS a payment for that sin to be death.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. (Romans 5:6-10)

It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:26)

- c. Man in his sinful state is _____ to effect his own sacrifice for his sin to pay the penalty of death decreed by God, therefore God Himself in Christ paid the penalty.

that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:19)

As John Stott put it: “According to the Christian revelation, God’s own great love propitiated his own holy wrath through the gift of his own dear Son, who took our place, bore our sin, and died our death. **Thus God himself gave himself to save us from himself.**” *The Message of Romans: The Bible Speaks Today* (Leicester: InterVarsity, 1994), 114.

V. THE BENEFITS AND EFFECTS OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST

- A. The wrath of God against sin and the sinner is “_____” or *satisfied*. Our sins are covered and forgiven.

Propitiation answers the concept of atonement from the Old Testament. The blood of a slaughtered lamb slain on the Day of Atonement was brought by the High Priest into the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle of Moses once per year to cover the sins of the people.

The blood was sprinkled on the “mercy seat,” which was the top cover of the Ark of the Covenant. God ordained and required this act. It was the perfect picture of what the death of Christ, the ultimate Lamb of God, would accomplish.

Jesus, the Lamb of God, and our High Priest, shed His own blood on the cross, and is viewed as having been “sprinkled” on the heavenly mercy seat, which is part of God’s throne. It is through this blood of Christ that God’s righteous and holy wrath against sin and the sinner is satisfied.

he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (Hebrews 9:12-14)

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (Hebrews 9:22-28)

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:10)

whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. (Romans 3:25)

He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2)

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. (Romans 5:9-10)

B. The sacrifice of Christ on the cross also brings a *removal* of sins or “_____.” Christ is our “scapegoat.”

This answers to the Old Testament scapegoat. On the day of atonement, the priest would lay his hands on the goat and confess over it all the sins of the people of Israel. This goat was then sent away into the wilderness. The idea is that the goat, bearing the sins, guilt, and condemnation was sent away, cut off from the people of God forever. Jesus is also our scapegoat, Who through His sacrifice on the cross, “expiated” our sins, guilt, and condemnation, removing them from believers forever.

“And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat. And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness. (Leviticus 16:20-22)

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world... (John 1:29a)

For believers who sin after coming to Christ (we all do), this aspect of the scapegoat can be carried into an understanding of confession of sin in order to maintain fellowship with the Lord. Confessed sins to God are forgiven and “sent away” from us.

This also prevents the condemnation that comes from the devil from having any effect.

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. (Romans 8:33)

If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:6-10)

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. (Romans 8:34)

By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; (1 John 3:19-21)

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. (Revelation 12:10-11)

C. Redeemed from the curse of the law.

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— (Galatians 3:13)

D. Redeemed from the “slave market” of sin.

Words in the Greek New Testament often translated “redeemed” mean:

1. “to purchase out of the slave market” – transliterated as *exagorazo* (See Galatians 3:13 above for *exagorazo*)
2. “to ransom” – transliterated as *lutroo*

who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (Titus 2:14)

knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, (1 Peter 1:18)

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. (1 Timothy 2:5-6)

E. Victory over the devil.

He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. (Colossians 2:15)

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. (Revelation 12:10-11)

F. Justification before God and peace with God.

Justification in scripture carries two important concepts:

1. The forgiveness of our sins.
2. The imputation of Christ’s righteousness to the believer.

yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. (Galatians 2:16)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Peace with God – God’s just wrath no longer stands over against us in Christ – we have peace *with* God.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)

G. Example of suffering, dying to self.

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. (1 Peter 2:21-22)

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. (Mark 8:34-35)

I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! (1 Corinthians 15:31)

H. As Christ is our “Passover” (the fulfillment of the slaughtered Lamb at Passover), we are:

1. protected/passed over instead of receiving judgment
2. delivered from slavery to sin

See Exodus Chapter 12.

Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. (1 Corinthians 5:7)

I. We are _____ to God and others in Christ.

The cross is both vertical (man to God, God to man) and horizontal (man to man).

In the “vertical” aspect of the cross of Christ, we who as sinners were enemies of God and aliens from the covenants of promise, are now reconciled and at peace with God because of GOD’S WORK through Christ.

We forgive other believers because Christ forgave us. See Ephesians 4:31-5:2

J. The Cross is a demonstration of God’s supreme _____.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. (Isaiah 53:10-11)

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends
(John 15:13)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
(Romans 5:8)

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:9-10)

K. Christ died as our _____.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,
(1 Peter 3:18)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:24)

FOUNDATION STONES FOR THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Hebrews 6 tells us about the “basics.” The scriptures provide a good outline for several key doctrines that are central to Christian faith and practice. These key doctrines or teachings form a solid “foundation” on which to build a Christian life and from which to go on further in Christ to become more like Him.

Each of these important truths also helps define a number of associated biblical practices of believers in and through the local church.

Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits. (Hebrews 6:1-3)

A. _____ – Essentially a “change of mind” concerning your sin, your life, God, Christ and the world, often accompanied by sorrow for sin and accompanied by a definite commitment to a new life.

- **Repentance** could be said to occur on **three levels**:
 - 1. Initial repentance – when you first come to Christ**
 - 2. Repentance for sins committed as a believer**
 - 3. An ATTITUDE of repentance – walking with a humble, surrendered attitude towards God**

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30)

testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:21)

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

Note the expressions associated with true repentance in the verse below:

As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. (2 Corinthians 7:9-11)

- a) Sorrow
- b) Earnestness
- c) Eagerness
- d) Indignation (against sin)
- e) Alarm
- f) Longing
- g) Concern
- h) Readiness to see justice done

B. _____ toward God

Faith – a trust or reliance upon God. “Faith” could also be translated as “faithfulness.” The classic Bible definition for faith occurs in Hebrews 11:1 – in fact the Greek is actually using a construct similar to a legal definition.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
(Hebrews 11:1)

Faith is a necessary element.

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)

Faith is given by God.

For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, (Philippians 1:29)

“The FAITH” refers to the whole of Christian tenets and practice.

Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. (Jude 1:3)

It can be said that faith occurs on a number of levels:

- **No faith**

Those who are not born again do not have saving faith:
and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith.
(2 Thessalonians 3:2)

- **A measure of faith – believers in Christ are given a measure of faith**

For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith (Romans 12:3 NASB)

- **Faltering faith**

but I have prayed for you that your faith **may not fail**. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:32)

- **Little faith**

But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of **little faith!** (Luke 12:28)

- **Great faith**

When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found **such great faith.**” (Luke 7:9)

- **Gift of faith**

to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,
(1 Corinthians 12:9)

- **Growing in faith**

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
(Romans 10:17)

Contextually, this verse in Romans 10:17 is talking about how saving faith is brought to people hearing the preaching of the Gospel in an evangelistic setting, enabling them to trust in Jesus as their Saviour.

It is clear from other scripture that the teaching of the Word of God is an essential element to helping Christians grow:

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:5-8)

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. (2 Timothy 4:2)

Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Timothy 4:15-16)

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ (Ephesians 4:15)

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— (1 Peter 2:2)

Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. (Joshua 1:7-8)

C. _____

While the scripture in Hebrews 6 actually uses the term “washings,” perhaps referring more to the ritualistic washing practices of the Jews based in the Old Testament, baptism is still inferred, and we will use the concept as a starting point to address the truths regarding baptisms in the body of the New Testament.

Baptisms Chart			
Scripture	Who is Baptizing?	Into what are they Baptized?	What is the result and/or purpose?
1 Corinthians 12:13	The Holy Spirit	The Body of Christ	Born Again
Luke 24:44-48 John 1:33, Acts 1:5, 8	Jesus	The Holy Spirit	Ability to Witness
Colossians 2:11,12 Romans 6:3-6 Acts 10:45-48	Minister or other believer	Water	Identified with Christ in His death and burial and resurrection Witness / Testimony of Faith in Christ

A number of baptisms are mentioned in the New Testament:

- **Baptism into the Body of Christ** – the Holy Spirit places or immerses a believer into the Body of Christ. This happens the moment we are born again, trusting Jesus as our Savior.

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

- **Baptism in water** following salvation – a minister or other believer immerses new believers in water.

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. (Acts 8:35-39)

- **Baptism in the Holy Spirit** – Jesus immerses a believer in the Holy Spirit to give ability to be a witness of the gospel.

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” (Acts 1:4, 5)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

It can be said there is *one baptism of the Spirit and many fillings*. For example, believers received and were filled with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) but were also ‘filled’ at various times in the course of their ministry of the Gospel – (Acts 4:31, 7:55, 13:9)

- **Baptism of Suffering** – Primarily speaks of Jesus’ suffering on the cross, but also alludes to the suffering of believers in persecution.

Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?” They said to him, “We are able.” He said to them, “You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.” (Matthew 20:22-23)

I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! (Luke 12:50)

VI. WHAT’S THE PRACTICAL “TAKE AWAY?”

Belonging to *Christ* involves having a real relationship with Him. That relationship comes through repentance and faith in Him. Faith and trust in the work of Jesus on the cross, His death for your sins, His burial and resurrection for you. Real repentance and faith in Jesus unto salvation results in a changed life. That changed life is demonstrated outwardly by continuing growth in your knowledge of the Word of God, in being a witness for Christ by following Him in water baptism and receiving and walking in the power of the Holy Spirit, even when suffering persecution and trials for His name sake. Growth in Christ involves understanding how important and powerful the laying on of hands can be in the life of a believer – imparting gifts and anointing specific to your calling in the Lord. It also involves living with the eternal in view – having a “heavenly incentive for earthly living” (as Dr. David Shibley calls it in his book of the same title), knowing that we shall all appear before the judgment seat of Christ in the last day.

Pg. 48 – Holy, Just, wrath
Pg. 49 – character
Pg. 50 – unable, propitiated
Pg. 51 – expiation
Pg. 53 – reconciled, love
Pg. 54 – substitute, Repentance
Pg. 55 – Faith
Pg. 57 – Baptisms

Finding the Rock Lesson 4 HOMEWORK

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

1) LIST ONE OF THE BENEFITS OF THE CROSS THAT IS A PARTICULAR BLESSING TO YOU.

2) WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAVE COMMITTED SIN AS A CHRISTIAN? WHAT STEPS SHOULD YOU TAKE TO RESTORE YOUR FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD?

3) HOW WAS GOD’S WRATH AGAINST SINFUL MAN “PROPITIATED” OR FULLY SATISFIED SO THAT HE COULD FORGIVE SIN?

4) ARE YOU BORN AGAIN? HAVE YOU TRUSTED IN JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOUR AND RECEIVED THE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS BY TRUSTING IN WHAT JESUS DID FOR YOU ON THE CROSS? IS JESUS LORD OF YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW? PLEASE EXPLAIN, OR GIVE A BRIEF TESTIMONY ABOUT HOW YOU CAME TO FAITH IN JESUS.

5) ACCORDING TO 2 CORINTHIANS 5:19, WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN GOD AND MAN THROUGH THE DEATH OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS?

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6)

6) ACCORDING TO ISAIAH 53:6, WHAT WAS PLACED FROM US ONTO CHRIST?

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

7) ACCORDING TO 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21, WHAT WAS GIVEN FROM CHRIST TO US?

8) WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.” (Romans 6:3–6)

9) ACCORDING TO ROMANS 6:3-6, WHAT TRUTHS ARE EVIDENT IN OUR LIVES THROUGH BAPTISM?

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Lesson 5: Foundation Stones
Prayer, Resurrection, & Eternity

because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.

- Acts 17:31 -

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LESSON FIVE:

FOUNDATION STONES

PRAYER, RESURRECTION AND ETERNITY

I. WHAT YOU WILL LEARN IN THIS LESSON

- Continuing the study of some of the foundational truths of the Christian Faith, in this lesson you will learn about Prayer, Laying on of Hands, Resurrection and Eternal Judgment.
- Under “Eternal Judgment” in addition to the fact of a final judgment, you will learn what things Christians *can* judge!
- The Biblical Ministries and Functions of a New Testament Church will also be covered.
- Also, the ‘ordinances’ (regular, Biblically required practices) of the local church will be covered: baptism and the Lord’s Supper (Communion).

II. PRAYER

What is Prayer?

Prayer is personal communication from us to God. There are many expressions of prayer. Prayer can include confession of sin, requests, praise, worship, thanksgiving, etc.

Why Pray?

Since God already knows what we need before we ask, we might wonder why God wants us to pray.

Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. (Matthew 6: 8)

We pray in order to obey the command of the Word of God.

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. (Luke 18:1)

We are invited to communicate with God in prayer.

We pray because God wants us to participate with Him in His plans and purposes.

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

We pray in order to grow in our dependence on Him, our love for Him and for our relationship with Him to deepen. Jesus compares our prayers to a child asking his father for a fish or an egg (Luke 11: 9 – 12). As a child grows in trust, experience, and expectation that his parents will provide, so we also as we pray in faith, we grow in our knowledge and confidence that God will provide for us.

We pray in order to become a part of the larger work of God in the earth – something larger and greater than ourselves, with eternal impact, namely, the advancement of His rule and reign, and the expression of His nature, love and salvation to all mankind through Christ and His church for His glory. When we pray, God’s kingdom is advanced as his will is done “on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6: 10)

Prayer Works!

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (James 5:16)

God responds to prayer. Jesus said, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.” (Luke 11: 9 – 10)

One reason we don’t receive answers to prayer is *because we are not praying!*
“You do not have, because you do not ask” (James 4: 2)

The Bible gives many examples of prayer working:

Moses:

The Lord told Moses he would destroy the people of Israel for their sin. Moses prayed: “Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people” (Ex. 32:12). God answered, and the Bible says, “the LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people” (Exodus. 32:14).

Cornelius the Centurion:

(excerpted from sermon notes by Pastor Ron Hammonds...)

Acts 10 tells us that Cornelius was a good man. He was devout, feared God, led his family and servants to respect God, was a generous giver – helping the poor and needy, committed to prayer, but yet was not a Jew, nor a believer in Jesus as Messiah.

Yet God was impressed with him, not with his position in life, but with his heart of giving and HABIT OF PRAYER. As a result, God said that Cornelius’ prayers had been heard.

God sent Peter to tell Cornelius the Gospel, and as result, they all believed and received Jesus.

The Apostle Peter Set Free From Prison Through Answered Prayer:

A similar thing happened in Acts 12, when the Apostle Peter found himself in prison, guarded by four squads of soldiers, chained between two guards the night before his planned trial.

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. (Acts 12:5 NIV)

Verse 7 says that in response to the prayer, God sent an angel and delivered Peter from his captors.

Our Attitude in Prayer / How Should We Pray?

Faith

And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith. (Matthew 21:22)

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. (James 1:6)

Humility

And when he was in distress, he entreated the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. (2 Chronicles 33:12)

Willing obedience

Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. (Colossians 4:12)

Confidence/ Boldness

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

Endurance/Patience

And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (Hebrews 6:11–12)

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. (Romans 12:12)

According to God's will – the Word of God

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. (1 John 5:14)

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you (John 15:7)

If we don't know the specific will of God, or are asking for direction or confirmation, then we can pray in accordance with the general principles of the will of God as revealed in the Word of God, in faith, with the right heart attitude, until God directs more specifically with confirmation through wise counsel, confirming circumstances, and a distinct, peace and reassurance.

For What Should We Pray?

Confession of Sin

Praise and Worship

Laborers - bringing the gospel to the unsaved and workers in and through the local church

Deliverance from evil

Success of the gospel witness / open doors

For God's people

Self, Family, Friends and Co-Workers

Spiritual Leaders

Community Needs
Government Leaders
Direction/Leading of the Spirit
All People Everywhere!

A Model for Prayer

Prayer should be TO God, FOR something, IN THE NAME OF Jesus.

We can use the Lord's Prayer, (which is actually the "disciples prayer") as a model or pattern to follow in our prayer times.

Jesus actually instructed his disciples to pray in this manner:

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." (Luke 11:1)

Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (Matthew 6:8–13)

(The following outline on the Lord's Prayer is derived from a sermon by Pastor Ron Hammonds.)

1. Embrace A Relationship With God
 - * Our Father
2. Acknowledge God's Higher Perspective
 - * In Heaven
3. Properly Approach God In Prayer
 - * Hallowed be your name
4. Stick To The Purpose of Prayer, remembering it is for God's glory, not your comfort
 - * Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven
5. Pray For Provision
 - * Daily Bread
6. Pray For Forgiveness and Grace
 - * Forgive us as we forgive others
7. Pray For Guidance and protection from sinning and when we are in trials
 - * Lead us not into temptation
8. Pray For Divine Deliverance
 - * Deliver us from the evil one
9. Give Glory To God
 - * Yours is the glory

III. THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

The laying on of hands is mentioned in the New Testament in connection with:

- **Impartation / Receiving of the Holy Spirit and Gifts**

Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. (1 Timothy 4:14)

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. (2 Timothy 1:6-7)

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:14-17)

- **Prayer for the Sick**

It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. **And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him healed him.** (Acts 28:8 emphasis added)

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. (James 5:14)

And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, and **he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.** (Acts 9:11 emphasis added)

So Ananias departed and entered the house. And **laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."** And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened. (Acts 9:11-19 emphasis added)

- **Ordination of Elders / Pastors / Deacons**

Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. (Acts 6:3-6)

Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure. (1 Timothy 5:22)

- **Can be accompanied by Prophetic Ministry**

This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies

previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare
(1 Timothy 1:18)

Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. (1 Timothy 4:14)

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. (2 Timothy 1:6, 7)

- **Sending out of Missionaries**

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. (Acts 13:1-3)

- **Blessing / Dedication of Children**

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." And he laid his hands on them and went away. (Matthew 19:13)

And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation (Luke 2:26-30)

IV. RESURRECTION AND ETERNAL JUDGMENT

_____ of the Dead

- **A Central Doctrine to the Christian Faith**

We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:15-20)

And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." (Acts 17:2-3)

- **A Powerful Testimony**

And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. (Acts 4:33)

- **A Certain Promise for Believers**

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. (Romans 8:11)

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17)

- **There is a resurrection of Believers and another Resurrection for Unbelievers**

Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. (John 5:28, 29)

Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:4-6)

Eternal _____

- **One key element in the Holy Spirit's work is to convict of guilt in regards to coming judgment.**

And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me. (John 16:8)

- **Judgment day is coming for all – the righteous live eternally with God, the unrighteous are cast into the lake of fire, eternally separated from God.**

For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God (Romans 14:10b)

because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead. (Acts 17:31)

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (Hebrews 9:27-28)

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:10-15)

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom (2 Timothy 4:1)

and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10)

- **We are often told by unbelievers that since Jesus said “not to judge,” therefore no Christian should say anything to others in regard to their sin or their standing before God. In the view of modern culture, doing so shows that Christians are intolerant.**

However, Dr. D.A. Carson notes that “Still less does this verse forbid all judging of any kind, for the moral distinctions drawn in the Sermon on the Mount require that decisive judgments be made.” (*The Expositor's Bible Commentary Matthew & Mark*, 2010 Zondervan, p. 219).

Also, Jesus says in John 7:24, “Stop judging by mere appearances, and ***make a right judgment.***” (NIV, emphasis added.) In this context, He is telling them that they were to judge *in truth or true judgment, not on the basis of a self-justifying or self-righteous judgment.* The Jews were allowing circumcision on the Sabbath (which was not allowed by their tradition) while at the same time *judging* Jesus for healing a man on the Sabbath!

The scriptures say a number of things about “judging” that give a fuller picture than only one verse:

- Judge not, that you be not judged. (Matthew 7:1)
- Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; (Luke 6:37)
- And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? (Luke 12:57)
- For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? (1 Corinthians 5:12)
- Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? (1 Corinthians 6:2)

- Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life (1 Corinthians 6:3)
- Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! (1 Corinthians 6:5)
- But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. (1 Corinthians 11:31)

- **What Can Christians Judge?**

- False apostles – 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
- Unrepentant believers caught up in continuous, willful sin – 1 Corinthians 5:1-5
- People who blaspheme against the Lord and the local Church – 1 Timothy 1:20
- False teachers – Jude 11; Acts 20:26-28
- False teaching – Romans 16:17, 18
- Good and bad leadership character qualities and prerequisites for ministry – Titus 1:7-14; Titus 2:7, 8; 2 Corinthians 4:2
- Candidates for recognition and appointing as deacons – Acts 6
- Candidates for recognition and appointing as pastors or other ministry offices – 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1:5-9

Finding the Rock LESSON 5 HOMEWORK

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

1) WHAT KIND OF HEART ATTITUDES SHOULD WE HAVE AS WE PRAY?

2) WRITE OUT ONE SCRIPTURE THAT SHOWS THAT GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

3) IN WHAT WAYS DOES SIN HINDER OUR PRAYERS?

4) WRITE OUT HEBREWS 4:14-16

5) LIST TWO PURPOSES OF THE LAYING ON OF HANDS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment (Hebrews 9:27)

6) ACCORDING TO THE ABOVE SCRIPTURE, WHAT IS AWAITING MAN AFTER HE DIES?

7) ACCORDING TO 1 CORINTHIANS 15:15-20, LIST SOME OF THE CONSEQUENCES IF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST DID NOT OCCUR: (E.G. YOUR FAITH IS FUTILE ...ETC.)

8) LIST 4 THINGS CHRISTIANS CAN JUDGE:

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Lesson 6: The Local Church
Why You Need It & Why It Needs You

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers....And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

- Acts 2:42-47 -

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LESSON 6

THE LOCAL CHURCH

WHY YOU NEED IT AND WHY IT NEEDS YOU

The local Church is the expression of the presence and power of Christ in the world. More than 90% of references in the New Testament to the “church” are referring to a church in a specific locale.

While all true believers in Christ are part of His Church universal, all true believers in Christ should also belong to a local body of believers.

The benefits of local Church membership are many. The purposes for every believer ministering and fellowshiping to and with other believers are clearly spelled out in the scriptures.

I. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BIBLICAL MINISTRIES AND FUNCTIONS OF A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH?

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:41-47)

- Continuation of the work of Christ – continuing *to do what Jesus BEGAN to do and teach* (Acts 1:1)
- Evangelism – preaching the Gospel, planting churches, etc. (Matthew 28:19, 20; Luke 24:47, 48)
- Discipling new believers, teaching (Matthew 28:19)
- Worship
- Fellowship
- Ministry – serving / meeting needs

II. WHAT ARE THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH?

At Church on the Rock, we regularly participate in 2 ordinances (note: ordinances are sometimes called “sacraments”)

- A. _____ – Administered for believers only, by immersion, as the biblical witness to their salvation, and identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ – Romans 6; Colossians 2:11,12 – See the notes on baptism above. While we do pray for infants and young children a prayer of dedication to the Lord (like Hannah presented Samuel to the Lord or Jesus blessing the children by laying His hands on them), we do not baptize infants as there is no Scriptural basis for the practice.
- B. _____ or the Lord’s Supper – Communion was instituted by our Lord and is the practice of believers in Christ through partaking of unleavened bread and grape juice or wine.

At Church on the Rock, Communion is open to anyone who believes in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and desires to participate.

As Instituted by Christ:

And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. (Luke 22:13-20)

As explained by the Apostle Paul:

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. (1 Corinthians 11:23-32)

III. WHAT'S THE PRACTICAL "TAKE AWAY"?

There are certain practices and beliefs that are the basic foundation of Christian life and practice. The Bible not only teaches these doctrines but also demonstrates the ways these are worked out in the life of a believer.

These basic truths form the foundation upon which an effective, valued, rewarding Christian life that glorifies God can be lived.

All basic biblical *doctrines* (beliefs) must result in Bible-based *practice*. For example, if we have repented of our sins, we also need to *walk before the Lord with a humbled, repentant heart*. If you understand the importance of *worship* as a Christian, then you will also gather with other Christians in a local Church to worship. If you understand that all believers are commanded by Jesus to preach/tell/share the Gospel with all people everywhere, then you will find ways to witness to others. If you understand that all believers have certain gifts and graces and callings to serve the Lord, then you will be connected to a local Church in order to serve the Lord using your gifts, callings, and graces to serve Him in and through the local Church.

One of the most important attitudes all believers should carry in their hearts before God includes consistently searching for ways to live solely for God's glory and not for themselves. Jesus Christ did not die on the cross **only** to make our lives **happy**. He died on the cross so that all men might be saved. All are saved only through Christ, and they are only saved by hearing the Gospel from others. All our lives should be lived by finding the best way we can serve God in bringing the Gospel to all mankind, across the world, and around the corner. It is only in serving Him that we find true peace and rest. We live for His pleasure and serve at His pleasure.

Belonging to Christ means full participation in the life and work of the local church, including participating in the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper, and appropriating the truths associated with them to our lives. We continue serving the Lord by fellowshiping with other believers, by witnessing for Christ – telling the Gospel to others, praise and worship, receiving and giving teaching of the Word of God, and ministry to the poor and needy in all walks of life.

Finding the Rock LESSON 6 HOMEWORK

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

1) LIST SOME OF THE BIBLICAL MINISTRIES AND FUNCTIONS OF A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH:

2) LIST THE TWO ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH:

3) ACCORDING TO ACTS 2:41-47, WHAT ARE SOME OF THE REGULAR PRACTICES OF A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH?

4) WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO YOU TO BELONG TO AND ATTEND A LOCAL CHURCH?
