

Teacher's Guide & Overhead Masters

BIBLE BASICS

13 lessons to help you grow in your Christian faith

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INTRODUCTION

These thirteen lessons will help to ground honest inquirers in the basics of the Christian faith. Whether they have been a Christian for years, are just starting out in their walk with the Lord, or are not yet a Christian but are seeking spiritual answers, these lessons will be beneficial for them.

Although these lessons are basic, they are not lightweight. Meeting once weekly, over the course of three months the teacher will lead their class to discover some of the foundational truths about God, His creation, and our place in it. Both teacher and student will be challenged and enlightened as they study God's Word together.

This study guide contains thirteen lessons, as well as sixteen charts, diagrams, and tables to complement what is being taught in class. Each lesson in the Student Guide has fill-in-the-blanks where students are encouraged to take notes as they go through each session. The charts, diagrams, and tables are designed to be additional study aids for the student that chooses to research a subject in more depth. The following pages can be copied onto overheads to aid the students as they follow along in the lesson. The Teacher is encouraged to take this basic outline and add their own illustrative material.

Most of all, this guide is intentionally practical. It is hoped that it will be used to bring skeptics and other non-Christians to a commitment of faith, and to build upon the faith present in those who are already believers.

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Lesson 1 - The Bible

[See page 50, Messianic Prophecies Fulfilled Chart for further study]

1. Some Basic Facts About the Bible:

- The word Bible means BOOK (biblos)
- The Bible is the OLDEST book in the world.
- The Bible is the all-time BEST - SELLER.
- The Bible is the most widely distributed book in the world.
- The Bible is the most TRANSLATED book in the world.
- The complete Bible can be found in 275 languages.
- Portions of the Bible have been translated into close to 2,000 languages.

2. The Divine Origin of the Bible

A. Internal Evidence - The Bible claims GOD as its author.

1) The Old Testament Claims to Divine authorship (not exhaustive)

- (2 Sam 23:2) "The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me; his word was on my tongue.

- (Jer 1:9) Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth.

a) In Genesis chapter 1 the words "God said..." appears 9 times.

b) In Malachi "Thus saith the Lord..." appears 23 times.

c) In one form or another "God said..." appears in the Old Testament 3,808 times.

2) The New Testament Claims to Divine authorship (not exhaustive)

- (Gal 1:11-12) I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. {12} I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, *I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.*

- (1 Th 2:13) 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.

3) The names the Bible uses to describe itself point to a Divine origin.

- 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:23 -- "Word of God"

- Acts 7:38 - "living words"

- Romans 3:2 - "very words of God"

- Romans 1:12 - "Holy Scriptures"

4) The Unity of the Bible

- Bible is made up of 66 books. 27 New Testament 39 Old Testament
- Bible is written in three languages: HEBREW; ARAMAIC; GREEK.
- Writing of the Bible covers a 1,500 year time span.
- Bible was written on 3 different continents.
- Bible had at least 40 human authors.
- None of these authors, writing in different languages, over a large span of time, from differing backgrounds and geographical locations, disagree on any point and never contradict each other.
- This diversity and unity can only be explained by DIVINE Revelation.

B. External Evidence - Outside Proofs that the Bible is Divine

1) Fulfilled Prophecy

- There are over 300 Old Testament Prophecies concerning Jesus that have been fulfilled! (see end of this lesson for detailed list).
- 29-33 prophecies were fulfilled on the day of Jesus' crucifixion.
- Many other prophecies have been fulfilled that are too numerous to mention here.

2) Scientific Accuracies

- SPHERICAL shape of the earth.

- (Isa 40:22) He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.
- Earth is suspended in nothing
 - (Job 26:7) He spreads out the northern *skies* over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing.
- STARS are innumerable
 - (Gen 15:5) He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars--if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."
- The Hydrologic Cycle.
 - (Job 26:8) He wraps up the waters in his clouds, yet the clouds do not burst under their weight.
 - (Job 36:27-28) "He draws up the drops of water, which distill as rain to the streams; {28} the clouds pour down their moisture and abundant showers fall on mankind.
 - (Eccl 1:6-7) The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course. {7} All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again.
- Concept of ENTROPY
 - (Psa 102:25-26) In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. {26} They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded.
- Nature of Health, Sanitation, and Sickness (Lev. 12-14)

3. The Value of the Bible

- A. The Bible tells us about Christ and reveals the way of SALVATION.
- B. The Bible is the AUTHORITY for right and wrong.
- C. The Bible is the FOOD and STRENGTH for the Christian.
 - (Mat 4:4) Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"
 - (Acts 20:32) "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

- (1 Pet 2:2) Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

D. The Bible is the Christian's HOPE.

- (John 14:1-3) "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. {2} In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. {3} And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Lesson 2 - God the Father

[See pages 54-58 for further study on the Godhead]

1. Descriptive Names for God (Note: see end of this study for more complete list)

A. YAHWEH (or JEHOVAH) Translated LORD in our English Bibles. Means *Self-Existent One; Eternal One*.

B. ELOHIM Translated God in our English Bibles. Means *Strong One; Powerful One*.

C. ADONAI Translated Lord in our English Bibles. Means *Lord; Master*.

2. Evidence for God

A. The BIBLE reveals that there is a God.

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

- (Psa 14:1) For the director of music. Of David. The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

B. NATURE proves it.

- (Psa 19:1) The *heavens declare* the glory of God; the *skies proclaim* the work of his hands.

- (Rom 1:20) For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--*have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse*.

C. INTUITION requires it.

- (Gen 2:7) the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

3. The Nature of God (Note: see end of this study for a brief look at the Trinity)

A. God is a PERSON

1) God THINKS

- (Psa 139:17) How precious to me are *your thoughts*, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

- (Rom 11:33) Oh, the depth of the riches of the *wisdom and knowledge* of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

2) God has EMOTIONS

- (Exo 4:14) Then the *Lord's anger* burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and his heart will be glad when he sees you.

- (Psa 103:13) As a father has compassion on his children, so the *LORD has compassion* on those who fear him;

- (John 3:16) "For *God so loved* the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

3) God has a WILL

- (Mat 6:10) your kingdom come, *your will be done* on earth as it is in heaven.

B. God is HOLY (= set apart; consecrated; sanctified; pure)

- (Lev 19:2) "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.

- (Isa 6:3) And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

- (Mat 6:9) "This, then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

- (1 Pet 1:14-16) As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. {15} But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; {16} for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

C. God is LOVE

- (1 John 4:8) Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

- (Rom 5:6-8) You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. {7} Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. {8} But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- (1 John 3:1) How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

- (Isa 38:17) Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish. In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins behind your back.

- (1 John 4:11) Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
- (1 John 4:19) We love because he first loved us.

4. Biblical Answers to the Question: *Who Is God?* (You'll have to look these up on your own!)

1. God Is One - *Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:4*
2. God Is Truth - *Psalms 117:2; Jeremiah 10:10*
3. God is Light - *1 John 1:5*
4. God is Love - *1 John 4:8, 16*
5. God Is Infinite - *Jeremiah 23:24; Psalm 147:5*
6. God is All Knowing - *1 John 3:20*
7. God is Everywhere - *Psalms 139:7-12*
8. God is All Powerful - *Jeremiah 32:17,27*
9. God is Unequaled - *Isaiah 40:13-25*
10. God Is Perfect - *1 Kings 8:27; Psalm 139*
11. God Is A Most Pure Spirit - *John 4:24*
12. God Is Invisible - *1 Timothy 1:17*
13. God Does Not Have A Human Body - *Luke 24:39; Deuteronomy 4:15-16*
14. God Does Not Change - *Numbers 23:19; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17*
15. God Is Without Limit - *1 Kings 8:27; Jeremiah 23:23-24*
16. God Is Eternal - *Psalms 90:2; 1 Timothy 1:17*
17. God Is Incomprehensible - *Romans 11:33; Psalm 145:3*
18. God Is The Almighty One - *Revelation 1:8, 4:8*
19. God Is Most Wise - *Romans 16:27; Jude 25*
20. God Is Most Holy - *Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8*
21. God Is Most Free - *Psalms 115:3*
22. God Is Most Absolute - *Isaiah 44:6; Acts 17:24-25*
23. God Works According To His Will - *Ephesians 1:11; Romans 8:28*
24. God Receives Glory - *Romans 11:36; Revelation 4:11*
25. God Is Most Loving - *1 John 4:8-10*
26. God Is Gracious - *Exodus 33:19; 1 Peter 2:3*
27. God Is Merciful - *Exodus 34:6; Psalm 67:1; James 5:11*
28. God Is Long-suffering - *Psalms 86:15; 2 Peter 3:15*
29. God Abounds In Goodness - *Psalms 31:19; 52:1; Romans 11:22*
30. God Is Forgiving - *Daniel 9:9; Ephesians 1:7; Psalm 86:5*
31. God Rewards Those Who Seek Him - *Hebrews 11:6*

- 32. God Is Just In All His Judgments - *Nehemiah 9:32-33; 2 Thess. 1:6*
- 33. God Hates Sin - *Psalms 5:5-6; Habakkuk 1:13*
- 34. God Is the Creator - *Isaiah 40:12, 22, 26*
- 35. God Is Shepherd - *Genesis 49:24*

Lesson 3 - God the Son
[See pages 59-65 for further study on Jesus]

1. Jesus is the CREATOR

- (John 1:1-3) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. {2} He was with God in the beginning. {3} Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

- (Col 1:15-17) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. {16} 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. {17} He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

- (Gen 1:26) 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."

2. Jesus is Uncreated (see texts directly above).

3. Jesus is GOD in flesh

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

- (John 1:14) 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 8:58) "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"

- (Exo 3:14) God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

- (Phil 2:5-8) Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: {6} Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, {7} but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. {8} And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

- (Col 2:9) For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,

- (Heb 1:8) 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.

4. Jesus' Incarnation and His Deity

A. Jesus has TWO natures in ONE Person

- He was not half God and half man. He is both Human and Divine. He was completely God and completely man. This is the correct position concerning His two natures (see Col. 2:9; Phil. 2:5-8; John 8:58 and Ex. 3:14).

B. Jesus was born of the VIRGIN Mary (Matt. 1:18; Luke 1:35).

C. Jesus is Worshiped - (Matt 2:2,11; 14:33; 28:9; John 9:35-38).

1) Jesus is PRAYED to - (Acts 7:59-60; Ps 18:6; 116:4; Zech. 13:9 with 1 Cor. 1:1-2).

2) Jesus is called God

- (John 20:28) Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God"

- (Heb 1:8) 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. [notice that this is God the Father speaking here]

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

D. Jesus is the EXACT representation of the nature of God.

- (Heb 1:3) 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.

5. Jesus' Death and the Atonement

A. Jesus bore the sins of the world in His body on the cross.

- (1 Pet 2:24) He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

- (1 John 2:24) See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.

B. Jesus ATONED.

1) He made right that which was wrong between us and God.

2) His shed blood is what cleanses us from sin.

- (Lev 17:11) For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

- (Rom 5:9) Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

3) He removed the enmity between God and Man (Rom. 5:10).

- (Rom 5:10) For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

4) Jesus Died for EVERYONE

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

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

6. The Resurrection of Christ (see 1 Cor. 15:1-4 also).

- (John 2:19-22) Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." {20} The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" {21} But the temple he had spoken of was his body. {22} After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

A. Jesus rose in the SAME body that He died in (Luke 24:36-43).

- (Luke 24:36-43) While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." {37} They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. {38} He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? {39} Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." {40} When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. {41} And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" {42} They gave him a piece of broiled fish, {43} and he took it and ate it in their presence.

- Jesus' body is resurrected. We do not know exactly what His body is like, but the nature of the resurrected body is discussed by Paul in 1 Cor. 15.

B. Right now Jesus is in heaven, still as, and eternally to be both God and man.

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

7. The ASCENSION of Christ (Acts 1:1-11).

A. After the resurrection Jesus appeared to His disciples during a period of forty days. He completed His message to them then.

B. He ascended in full view of the apostles who wrote of what they saw.

8. Jesus is Coming Again!

- (1 Thess. 4:15-18) According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede

those who have fallen asleep. {16} For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. {17} After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. {18} Therefore encourage each other with these words.

Lesson 4 - God the Holy Spirit
[See pages 66-67 for further study on the Holy Spirit]

Jesus' Promise: (John 14:16-17) "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- {17} the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."

Four Points in Jesus' Promise:

- 1) The Holy Spirit is ANOTHER Counselor (or Comforter, Helper).
- 2) The Holy Spirit is to be with us FOREVER.
- 3) The Holy Spirit is not KNOWN or ACCEPTED by everyone.
- 4) Since the Apostles knew JESUS they knew the Holy Spirit.

1. The Holy Spirit, like Yahweh (Father), and Jesus (Son) is a PERSON.

A. Personal Pronouns are used of the Holy Spirit.

- (John 16:8) When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:

B. The Holy Spirit SPEAKS as a Person.

- (John 16:13) 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.

2. The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.

A. The Holy Spirit was active in CREATION

- (Gen 1:2) Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

- (Gen 1:26) 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."

B. In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit came upon SPECIFIC people God had chosen, not upon the masses.

- (Num 11:25) Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took of the Spirit that was on him and put the Spirit on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied, but they did not do so again.

- (Num 11:27-29) A young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." {28} Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' aide

since youth, spoke up and said, "Moses, my lord, stop them!" {29} But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!"

- (Judg 3:10) The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, so that he became Israel's judge and went to war. (Othniel)

- (Judg 6:34) Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon,

- (Judg 11:29) Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah.

- (Judg 13:25) and the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him while he was in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

3. The Holy Spirit in the New Testament (Today)

A. The gift of the Holy Spirit is promised to EVERY saved person.

- (Acts 2:38) Peter replied, "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 5:32) We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

- (Luke 11:13) If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

- (1 Cor 6:19-20) Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; {20} you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

B. The Holy Spirit Ministers in a variety of ways.

1. He TESTIFIES of Christ.

- (John 15:26-27) "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. {27} And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

2. He Gives LIFE

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

3. Makes the Unknown KNOWN

- (1 Cor 2:10) but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

4. He INFLUENCES us through the INSPIRATION of the Word.

- (John 14:26) But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

- (1 Cor 2:13) This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

- (2 Tim 3:16-17) All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, {17} so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

5. He Intercedes for us when we PRAY.

- (Rom 8:26) In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

6. We are commanded to be FILLED with the Holy Spirit.

- (Eph 5:18) Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

- Being Filled with the Holy Spirit does not mean we receive more of the Holy Spirit, but that we give more of ourselves over to His control!

Lesson 5 - The Church

NOTE: The English word *Church* is translated from the Greek word *Ecclesia* which means "called out ones".

1. The Formation of the Church

A. Jesus Promised that the Church would be built upon the foundation of Peter's confession, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16ff).

B. The Church is APOSTOLIC

- (Eph 2:20) built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

C. The Church was actually established in JERUSALEM on the Day of PENTECOST in A.D. 30 when 3,000 believed Peter's message and were baptized.

- (Acts 2:41) Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

2. The Nature of the Church (the following are all NT descriptions of the church)

A. The body of CHRIST

- (1 Cor 12:27) Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

- (Eph 1:22) And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,

- (Col 1:18) And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

1) This phrase describes the Church UNIVERSAL

2) It also stresses the Unity of the Church, the interdependence of its members, and their vital relationship with the Head, Jesus Christ.

B. The TEMPLE of the Holy Spirit

- (1 Cor 3:16) Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

- (Eph 2:21) In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

C. The New (or "Heavenly") Jerusalem

1) In the NT the Church is seen to be the spiritual counterpart of Jerusalem.

- (Heb 12:22) But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly

2) In the OT Mount Zion was the place where Israel's worship was centered, and Jerusalem was regarded as the place of the Divine Presence.

D. The New ISRAEL

- (Gal 3:29) If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

- (1 Pet 2:9) But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

NOTE: The New Israel knows no racial barriers but embraces all those who truly belong to Christ!

E. The PILLAR and FOUNDATION of the Truth.

- (1 Tim 3:15) if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

1) The Church is the guardian and defender of God's Truth.

2) The Church is grounded of the Truth and is the stronghold of it.

F. The FAMILY(or "Household") of God.

- (Gal 6:10) Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

G. The BRIDE of Christ.

- (Rev 19:7) Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

3. The Characteristics of the Church

A. UNITY

- John 17:1-26

- (Gal 3:28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

- (Eph 4:1-6) As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. {2} Be completely humble and gentle; be patient,

bearing with one another in love. {3} Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. {4} There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- {5} one Lord, one faith, one baptism; {6} one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

B. HOLINESS

- (1 Pet 1:15-16) But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; {16} for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

C. CATHOLICITY (= universal nature)

1) In the Christian Church believers constitute one organic whole.

2) The Church is Meant to Embrace all NATIONS

- (Mat 28:19) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

3) The Church is to TEACH Obedience to Christ's Commands.

- (Mat 28:20) and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

4. The Ordinances of the Church (NOTE: We will deal with both of these in later lessons)

A. Lord's Supper (or Eucharist)

B. Baptism (or Immersion)

5. MEMBERS of the Church

A. Includes all those who have confessed faith in Christ and been baptized.

- (Gal 3:26-27) You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, {27} for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

B. CHILDREN of God

- (1 John 3:1) How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

C. Saints

- (Rom 1:7) To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

D. SERVANTS

- (1 Pet 2:16) Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.

Lesson 6 - Faith
[See page 68 for a Chart on Faith]

(Hebrews 11:1) "*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*"

"Faith" = Greek noun *pistis*; "I have faith, trust, believe" = Greek verb *pisteuo*

1. Faith - Usage and Definitions

A. The word *faith* is used in THREE specific ways in the NT.

1) As a term for CHRISTIANITY in general

- (Acts 6:7) So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to *the faith*.

- (Phil 1:25) Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in *the faith*,

- (Jude 1:3) Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for *the faith* that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

2) As a description of the Christian's LIFESTYLE

- (Rom 1:17) For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by *faith* from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will *live by faith*."

- (2 Cor 5:7) We *live by faith*, not by sight.

3) As a CONDITION for coming into a relationship with Christ.

- (John 3:16) "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever *believes* in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- (Acts 16:31) They replied, "*Believe* in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household."

- (Rom 10:9-10) That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and *believe* in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. {10} For it is with your heart that you *believe* and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

- (Eph 2:8-10) For it is by grace you have been saved, through *faith*--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- {9} not by works, so that no one can boast. {10} For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

• Notice what it is we are called on to believe: Jesus is Lord; and Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

B. Some Definitions of Faith

- (Heb 11:1) Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
- Faith is a reasoning trust, a trust which reckons thoughtfully and confidently upon the trustworthiness of God (John R.W. Stott)
- Faith is the refusal to panic (D. Martin Lloyd-Jones)
- I believe though I do not comprehend, and I hold by faith what I cannot grasp with the mind (Saint Bernard of Clairvaux)
- Faith is a living, daring, confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times (Martin Luther)

2. Obtaining and Developing Faith

A. The WORD of God is the BASIS of our faith

- (Rom 10:14) How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?
- (Rom 10:17) Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

B. Faith is Developed through OBEDIENCE

- (Rom 1:5) Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.
- (Eph 2:10) For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- (James 2:26) As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Faith and obedience are bound up in the same bundle; he that obeys God trusts God; and he that trusts God obeys God. He that is without faith is without works, and he that is without works is without faith - Charles Spurgeon

3. BLESSINGS of Faith

A. Salvation

- (see Eph. 2:8-10 above)

B. Knowledge that we are PLEASING God

- (Heb 11:6) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

C. Power to OVERCOME

- (Gal 2:20) I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, *I live by faith in the Son of God*, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Lesson 7 – Repentance

"Repentance" translated in the NT from the Greek word *metanoeo* = to change the mind, will.

- (Isa 55:7) Let the wicked *forsake* his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

- (Mat 3:2) and saying, "*Repent*, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

- (Mat 4:17) From that time on Jesus began to preach, "*Repent*, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

- (Luke 13:3) I tell you, no! But unless you *repent*, you too will all perish.

- (Luke 15:10) In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who *repents*."

- (Luke 24:46-47) He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, {47} and *repentance* and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

- (Acts 2:38) Peter replied, "*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.

1. Repentance is...

A. Some Definitions:

1) *To change one's mind for the better, heartily to amend with the abhorrence of one's past sins* -Thayer's Greek Lexicon

2) *Repentance is a change of WILL, caused by a SORROW for sin, and leading to a REFORMATION of life* - J.W. McGarvey

B. A Biblical Illustration:

- (Luke 15:13-20) "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. {14} After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. {15} So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. {16} He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. {17} "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! {18} I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. {19} I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' {20} So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

1) The Son ACKNOWLEDGED his Sin (vss. 17-18)

2) The Son Makes a RESOLUTION (vs. 18)

3) The Son TAKES ACTION (vs. 20)

2. Repentance Must Be PRECEDED By...

A. A Proper Knowledge of Sin

- (Rom 7:7) What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."

- (Acts 2:36-37) "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." {37} When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

- (Hosea 4:6) my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.

B. A SORROW for Sin

- (2 Cor 7:10) *Godly sorrow* brings *repentance* that leads to *salvation* and leaves no regret, but *worldly sorrow* brings *death*.

1) Worldly sorrow leads to death - this is sorrow that results from being caught or because your actions have resulted in undesired consequences.

2) Godly sorrow leads to repentance and life. It is a true sense of guilt for having displeased the Lord.

- (Mat 26:75) Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

C. A LOVE for God

- (Rom 2:4) Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that *God's kindness leads you toward repentance*?

- (1 John 4:19) We love because he first loved us.

3. Repentance Must Be Followed By...

A. OBEDIENCE

- (Acts 2:38) Peter replied, "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 26:20) First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent *and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.*

B. A Changed LIFE

- (2 Chr 32:26) Then Hezekiah repented of the pride of his heart, as did the people of Jerusalem; therefore the Lord's wrath did not come upon them during the days of Hezekiah.

- (Mat 3:8) Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

- (Rev 2:5) Remember the height from which you have fallen! *Repent and do the things you did at first.* If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

4. The IMPORTANCE of Repentance

A. It is Essential for FORGIVENESS

- (Acts 8:22) Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart.

- (1 John 1:9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

B. It is Necessary to Avert the WRATH of God

- (Luke 13:5) I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

- (Amos 4:6-12) "I gave you empty stomachs in every city and lack of bread in every town, yet you have not returned to me," declares the LORD. {7} "I also withheld rain from you when the harvest was still three months away. I sent rain on one town, but withheld it from another. One field had rain; another had none and dried up. {8} People staggered from town to town for water but did not get enough to drink, yet you have not returned to me," declares the LORD. {9} "Many times I struck your gardens and vineyards, I struck them with blight and mildew. Locusts devoured your fig and olive trees, yet you have not returned to me," declares the LORD. {10} "I sent plagues among you as I did to Egypt. I killed your young men with the sword, along with your captured horses. I filled your nostrils with the stench of your camps, yet you have not returned to me," declares the LORD. {11} "I overthrew some of you as I overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. You were like a burning stick snatched from the fire, yet you have not returned to me," declares the LORD. {12} "Therefore this is what I will do to you, Israel, and because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel."

C. It is Needed to PLEASE God

- (Psa 51:16-17) You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. {17} The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

- (Prov 28:13) He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

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

Lesson 8 - Baptism

(Gal 3:26-28) You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, {27} for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. {28} There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

1. The ACTION of Baptism

A. The Scriptures clearly indicate water consistent with immersion.

- (John 3:23) Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, *because there was plenty of water*, and people were constantly coming to be baptized.

- (Acts 8:38) And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch *went down into the water* and Philip baptized him.

- (Col 2:12) having been *buried* with him in baptism and *raised* with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

- (Rom 6:4) We were therefore *buried* with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was *raised* from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

B. As seen directly above, baptism is pictured as a BURIAL and RESURRECTION.

C. The very word *Baptism* (Greek = baptizo) according to ALL Greek Lexicons means DIP, IMMERSE, or PLUNGE.

D. The Greek words *rantizo* (= sprinkle) and *ekcheo* (= pour) are never used of water baptism.

E. *Baptize* is a Greek word. The Greeks have always understood it to mean immersed and to this day Greek Churches immerse.

2. The PURPOSE of Baptism

A. Baptism is into Christ, or into His Name

- (Mat 28:19) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them *in the name* of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

- (Rom 6:3) Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized *into Christ Jesus* were baptized into his death?

- (Gal 3:27) for all of you who were baptized *into Christ* have clothed yourselves with Christ.

B. Baptism into Christ's BODY (the Church)

- (1 Cor 12:12-13) The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. {13} For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

C. Baptism and the FORGIVENESS of sins

- (Acts 2:38) Peter replied, "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 22:16) And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

- (1 Pet 3:21) and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ

D. Baptism and the HOLY SPIRIT

- (John 3:5) Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of *water and the Spirit*.

- (See Acts 2:38 Above)

3. The REQUIREMENTS for Baptism (these exclude infants/small children)

A. FAITH and REPENTANCE are the conditions upon which baptism is performed

- (Acts 2:38) Peter replied, "*Repent* and be baptized"...

- (Acts 2:41) Those who *accepted his message* were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

- (Acts 8:12) But *when they believed* Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, *they were baptized*, both men and women.

- (Acts 18:8) Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him *believed and were baptized*.

- (Acts 19:4-5) Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to *believe* in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." {5} On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

B. Small Children are Innocent and Have No Need of Baptism

- (Mat 18:1-3) At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" {2} He called a little child and had him stand among them. {3} And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

- (Mat 18:10) "See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

4. The SYMBOLISM of Baptism

- (Rom 6:3-5) Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? {4} We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. {5} If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

A. Baptism is a picture of Christ's Death, Burial, and Resurrection.

B. Baptism is a picture of a BELIEVER'S Death, Burial and Resurrection.

C. Baptism Symbolizes:

- A Significant PAST ↔ Christ Died for our Sins
- A Significant PRESENT ↔ We appropriate saving Grace
- A Significant FUTURE ↔ Point to the Day of Resurrection

Lesson 9 - The Lord's Supper

(Mat 26:26-30) While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." {27} Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. {28} This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. {29} I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom." {30} When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

1. Biblical Names for this Ordinance

A. The Lord's Supper

- (1 Cor 11:20) When you come together, it is not the *Lord's Supper* you eat

B. The Lord's TABLE

- (1 Cor 10:21) You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both *the Lord's table* and the table of demons.

C. COMMUNION (KJV) or SHARING (NRSV) or PARTICIPATION (NIV)

- (1 Cor 10:16) Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?

D. The BREAKING of Bread

- Matthew 26:26-27 (above)
- (Acts 2:42) They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the *breaking of bread* and to prayer.

E. EUCCHARIST from *eucharisteo*, translated "thanks" in Matthew 26:27.

2. Similarities Between the Passover and the Lord's Supper

A. SACRIFICIAL Meal

- The Passover consisted of both a sacrifice and a meal and was the most important of all the sacrificial meals. A lamb was sacrificed as an atonement for sin. The lamb was then roasted and eaten at a meal with unleavened bread - Exodus 12:1ff.

- (1 Cor 5:7-8) Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast--as you really are. For Christ, *our Passover lamb*, has been sacrificed. {8} Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.

- (1 Pet 1:18-19) For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, {19} but with the precious blood of Christ, *a lamb without blemish or defect*.

B. SEAL of the Covenant

- As a commemoration, Passover was also an affirming of the covenant between God and Israel strengthening their allegiance.
- Jesus speaks of the cup as a sign of the covenant which was about to be ratified through His sacrificial death.
- (Luke 22:20) In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the *new covenant* in my blood, which is poured out for you.

C. Only for BELIEVERS

- (Exo 12:43) The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "These are the regulations for the Passover: "No foreigner is to eat of it.
- (1 Cor 11:29) For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

3. What the Lord's Supper Represents

A. Christ's DEATH

- (Luke 22:19-20) "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me..."This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.
- (1 Cor 11:26) For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's *death* until he comes.

B. The UNION of the Believer with the Crucified Christ

- As we look upon the symbols, we are reminded of Christ's death for our sins. As we partake of these symbols we are reminded of our spiritual union with Christ.
- This union is expressed in the language of Paul, when he refers to the church as the body of Christ, each of us being members of that body.
- Properly partaking of communion, however, does more than remind us of our union with Christ, but in the act of remembrance and commemoration, actually strengthens and deepens that relationship.
- (1 Cor 10:16-17) Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? {17} Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

C. The Union of Believers with One ANOTHER

- See 1 Corinthians 10:17 above
- The loaf of bread symbolizes Christ's body, not only His physical body, broken for us on the cross, but also His mystical body, the church.

- The act of believers partaking of one loaf symbolizes the unity of the body of Christ which is nourished by Christ, the Bread of Life.

4. The Significance of the Lord's Supper

A. It depicts Christ's death as the SEAL of the New Covenant

- (Exo 24:6-8) Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he sprinkled on the altar. {7} Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey." {8} Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

- (Mat 26:28) This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

- (Luke 22:20) In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

B. It is a MEMORIAL Feast

- (Luke 22:19) And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in *remembrance* of me."

C. A PROCLAMATION for the Present

- (1 Cor 11:26) For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

D. A PROPHECY for the Future

- See 1 Corinthians 11:26 above

5. Participation in the Lord's Supper

A. Normally on the First Day of the Week (Sunday)

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

- (Acts 20:7) On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.

Note: We are not limited to Sunday as the following passage points out, but this is the norm.

- (1 Cor 11:25) In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, *whenever* you drink it, in remembrance of me."

B. EVERY First Day of the Week

- Acts 20:7 (above) would indicate every first day of the week.

- "During the first two centuries the practice of weekly communion was universal and it was continued in the Greek Church until the seventh century. Such as neglected it three weeks in succession were excommunicated" - Robert Milligan

C. Participation should not be taken lightly

- (1 Cor 11:23-31) For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, {24} 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." {25} In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." {26} For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. {27} Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. {28} A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. {29} For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. {30} That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. {31} But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.

- We Should Partake:

1) With THANKFULNESS

2) With THOUGHTFULNESS

3) With Self-Examination and REPENTANCE

Lesson 10 – Prayer
[See pages 71-72 for A Plan of Prayer]

1. Elements of Prayer - A.C.T.S

A. ADORATION - praising God for who He is

- (Psalm 8:1-4) O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. {2} From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. {3} When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, {4} what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

- (Psalm 95:6-7) Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; {7} for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

- (Luke 1:68-75) "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. {69} He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David {70} (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), {71} salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us-- {72} to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, {73} the oath he swore to our father Abraham: {74} to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear {75} in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

B. CONFESSION - admitting our transgressions to God

- (Psalm 25:18) Look upon my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins.

- (Isa 6:5) "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

C. THANKSGIVING - expressing our gratitude to God

- (Psalm 103:2) Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits--

- (Eph 1:3) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

- (1 Thess. 5:18) give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

D. SUPPLICATION - requesting from God

- (Mat 6:11) Give us today our daily bread.

- (Phil 4:6) Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

- (James 1:5) If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

2. Hindrances to Prayer

A. False MOTIVES

- (James 4:3) When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

B. SIN

- (Isa 59:1-2) Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. {2} But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

C. IDOLATRY

- (Ezek 14:3) "Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all?

D. STINGINESS

- (Prov 21:13) If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.

- (Luke 6:38) Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

E. UNFORGIVING Spirit

- (Mark 11:25) And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

F. Wrong RELATIONSHIP Between Husbands and Wives

- (1 Pet 3:7) Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

G. UNBELIEF

- (James 1:5-7) If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. {6} But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. {7} That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;

3. Praying Effectively

A. Pray with a THANKFUL heart

- (Heb 13:15-16) Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name. {16} And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

B. Pray with a lifestyle of OBEDIENCE

- (1 John 3:22) ...receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.

C. Pray in HARMONY with God's will

- (Mat 26:39) Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

- (1 John 5:14) This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

D. Pray in FAITH

- (Mark 11:24) Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

- (Heb 11:6) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

- (James 1:6-7) But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. {7} That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;

E. Pray in Jesus' NAME - by His authority

- (John 16:23-24) In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. {24} Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

4. Praying for Others (Intercessory Prayer)

- (Phil 1:3-4) I thank my God every time I remember you. {4} In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy

- (Col 1:3) We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,

- (1 Thess 1:2) We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers.

- (James 5:14-15) Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. {15} And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

Lesson 11 - Giving Financially

(2 Cor 9:6-7) Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. {7} Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

1. The MOTIVATION for Giving

A. OBEDIENCE

- (1 Cor 16:1-2) Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. {2} On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

B. LOVE and Gratitude

- (2 Cor 8:24) Therefore show these men the proof of your love and the reason for our pride in you, so that the churches can see it.

- (1 John 3:16-17) This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. {17} If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?

- (2 Cor 9:7) Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

C. DUTY (giving back to Him who has given us so much)

- (John 3:16) "For God so loved the world that *he gave* his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. The PURPOSES for Giving

A. To Finance the work of God's KINGDOM

- (Phil 4:15-16) Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; {16} for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need.

- (Rom 10:13-15) for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." {14} How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? {15} And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

- (2 Cor 11:8) I robbed other churches by receiving support from them so as to serve you.

B. To Help the Poor

- (Acts 24:17) "After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings.

- (Rom 15:26) For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

- (Gal 2:10) All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

- (Prov 19:17) He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.

- (Gal 6:9-10) Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. {10} Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

C. To Help us Grow SPIRITUALLY

- (Mat 6:21) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- (Luke 16:10-12) "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. {11} So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? {12} And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

D. To Demonstrate our DEVOTION to the Lord

- (2 Cor 8:1-5) And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. {2} Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. {3} For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, {4} they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. {5} And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.

3. The NATURE of Giving

A. It is a means of Demonstrating GRACE

- (2 Cor 8:7) But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us --see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

B. It is an act of WORSHIP

- (Deu 16:16-17) Three times a year all your men must appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles. No man should appear before the LORD empty-handed: {17} Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.

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

- (1 Cor 16:2) On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

C. We are to give on a regular basis (see above)

4. The AMOUNT we are to Give

A. We are to give GENEROUSLY

- (Rom 12:8) if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

- (2 Cor 9:6-7) Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. {7} Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

B. We are to give a TITHE/TENTH of our income

- (Mat 23:23) "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. *You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.*

- The principle of the tithe actually precedes the law. Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek long before the Law was given to Moses (Gen. 14:20). Jacob also confirmed the godly practice long before the law (Gen. 28:22). In the passage above, Jesus challenges the Pharisees' failure to observe judgment and mercy in the law; whereas, on the other hand, He affirms their practice of tithing even insignificant garden vegetables. The full revelation of God in the N.T. reveals that we are to practice one hundred percent stewardship (see 2 Cor. 8; 9). All we have belongs to God and should be used for His glory and according to His dictates.

- Tithing is only the BEGINNING place of Christian stewardship, not the end. God does not want you to give less than a tithe, but He may want you to give so much more through His enabling grace.

Some Suggestions

1. Give God the first of your paycheck, not what you have leftover.
2. Thank God for allowing you the privilege of giving back to Him.
3. When you give do it as an act of worship, just as if you were praying or partaking of the Lord's Supper.

Lesson 12 – The Mission of the Church
[See page 73 for Suggestions on Sharing your faith]

- (Mat 28:18-20) Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. {19} Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, {20} and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- (Acts 1:8) "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

1. The Mission of the Church is EVANGELISM

A. The last words of Jesus to the church (above) were commands to witness.

B. The Mission is Four-Fold:

1. GO
2. Make DISCIPLES
3. Baptize
4. Teach OBEDIENCE

C. Note: The commission of Jesus was to the whole church in every age. The imperative word in the commission is "make disciples of all nations." However, the baptizing and teaching ministries have the force of a mandate because they follow logically the imperative "make disciples." Matthew concludes his Gospel with the blessed promise of our Lord's presence as we endeavor to carry the gospel to all people.

2. The EXTENT of the Church's Mission

A. Notice the use of "all" in Matthew 28:18:20

- All AUTHORITY; All NATIONS; All THINGS ("everything"); Always

B. Acts 1:8 explains the Geographical and Ethnical extent of evangelism

Geographically	Ethnically
Jerusalem	Jews
Judea	Jews - Acts chps. 1-7
Samaria	Half Jew - Acts 8 - Half Gentile
Ends of the Earth	Full Gentile - Acts 10ff

C. What should be the extent of our Geographical and Ethnical evangelism?

- Evangelism begins where we are PRESENTLY and extends to all of humanity.

3. Church Growth through Evangelism is the NORM. Consider the church in Acts:

- (Acts 1:15) In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty)

- (Acts 2:41) Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

- (Acts 2:47) praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- (Acts 4:4) But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

- (Acts 5:14) Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.

- (Acts 6:1) In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

- (Acts 6:7) So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

- (Acts 9:31) Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

- (Acts 11:21) The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

- (Acts 16:5) So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

4. Effective Ways to Carry Out the Church's Mission

A. PERSONAL Evangelism

- (Acts 8:35-36) Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. {36} As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"

- (John 1:41) The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).

B. SMALL Groups

- (Rom 16:5) Greet also the church that meets at their house. Greet my dear friend Epenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in the province of Asia.
- (1 Cor 16:15) You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints. I urge you, brothers,
- (1 Cor 16:19) The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house.
- (Acts 16:32-33) Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. {33} At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.
- (Acts 18:7-8) Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. {8} Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.
- (Acts 20:20-21) You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. {21} I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

C. Church Meeting CORPORATELY

1) Note that only those who are believers can truly worship God.

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

2) But...WORSHIP can be a powerful witness to non-Christians.

- (Psa 40:3) He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.
- (Psa 57:9) I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples.
- (Psa 126:1-2) When the LORD brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed. {2} Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."
- (1 Cor 14:23-25) So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who do not understand or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? {24} But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner

and will be judged by all, {25} and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"

Lesson 13 - The Second Coming of Christ [See pages 74-82 for Millennial Views Chart]

(Acts 1:11) "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

1. IMPORTANCE of the Second Coming of Christ

A. Biblical Emphasis

- 17 Old Testament Books give prominence to the Second Coming
- 23 of 27 New Testament Books refer to the Second Coming
- 318 verses of the New Testament refer to the Second Coming
- For every 1 prophecy concerning the First Coming there are 8 prophecies concerning the Second Coming
- 4 of the Lord's parables deal with the Second Coming
- Paul closes every chapter of 1 Thessalonians with a reference to the Second Coming

B. Connected with the Major Doctrines of Christianity

1) The DEITY of Christ

- (Mat 26:63-64) But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." {64} "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

2) ATONEMENT

- (Heb 9:28) so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

3) Our ADOPTION as God's Children

- (1 John 3:1-2) How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. {2} Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

4) RESURRECTION

- (1 Cor 15:20-23) But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. {21} For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. {22} For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. {23} But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

5) Final JUDGMENT

- (2 Tim 4:1) In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

2. The CERTAINTY of His Coming

A. Testimony of the Angels

- (Acts 1:11) "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

B. Testimony of the Apostles

1) *Peter* - (Acts 3:19-21) Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, {20} and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you--even Jesus. {21} He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

2) *Paul* - (1 Tim 6:14) to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

3) *John* - (Rev 1:7) Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

- (Rev 22:20) He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

C. Testimony of the LORD

- (Mark 14:61-62) But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" {62} "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

- (John 14:1-3) "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. {2} In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. {3} And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

3. MANNER of His Coming

A. Jesus will come PERSONALLY

- (1 Thess 4:16) For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

B. Jesus will come literally and visibly

- (Rev 1:7) Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

C. Jesus will come in GLORY

- (Mat 25:31) "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.

D. Jesus will come in POWER

- (Mat 24:30) "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.

E. Jesus will come with the ANGELS

- (see Matthew 25:31 above)

F. Jesus will come SUDDENLY

- (Mat 24:27) For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

- (Luke 12:40) You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

- (Rev 22:7) "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."

4. EVENTS of His Coming

A. The TIME of Jesus' Return is Not Known

- (Mark 13:32) "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

B. Four Things that will Occur when the Lord Returns

1) Christ will RECEIVE His own

- (Mat 24:31) And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

- (John 14:3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

2) Judgment with Christ as Judge

- See Matthew 25:31-46

3) RESURRECTION

- (1 Cor 15:20-23) But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. {21} For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. {22} For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. {23} But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

- (1 Thess 4:16-17) For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. {17} After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

4) New HEAVENS and New EARTH

- (2 Pet 3:10-13) But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. {11} Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives {12} as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. {13} But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

5. REACTIONS to His Coming

A. From the PHYSICAL World

- (Mark 13:25) the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'

- (Luke 21:25) "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.

- (Rev 6:12) I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red,

B. From WICKED People

- (Luke 21:26) Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.

- (Rev 6:15) Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains.

C. From the CHRISTIAN

1) He/She will be living a RIGHTEOUS LIFE

- (Luke 21:34) "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.

- (Titus 2:12-13) It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, {13} while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

- (2 Pet 3:11) Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives

2) He/She Will be WATCHING

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

3) He/She Will be WORKING

- (Mat 25:21) "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

(Chart adapted from Holman Bible Dictionary)

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT		
PROPHECY	OT REFERENCES	NT FULFILLMENT
Seed of the woman	Gen 3:15	Gal 4:4; Heb 2:14
Through Noah's sons	Gen 9:27	Luke 6:36
Seed of Abraham	Gen 12:3	Matt 1:1; Gal 3:8, 16
Seed of Isaac	Gen 17:19	Rom 9:7; Heb 11:18
Blessing to nations	Gen 18: 18	Gal 3:8
Seed of Isaac	Gen 21:12	Rom 9:7; Heb 11:18
Blessing to Gentiles	Gen 22:18, 26:4	Gal 3:8, 16; Heb 6:14
Blessing through Abraham	Gen 28:14	Gal 3:8, 16; Heb 6:14
Of the tribe of Judah	Gen 49:10	Rev 5:5
No bone broken	Exod 12:46, Num 9:12	John 19:36
Blessing to firstborn son	Exod 13:2	Luke 2:23
Serpent in the wilderness	Num 21:8-9	John 3:14-15
A star out of Jacob	Num 24:17-19	Matt 2:2; Luke 1:33, 78; Rev 22:16
As a prophet	Deut 18:15, 18-19	John 6:14; 7:40; Acts 3:22-23
Cursed on the tree	Deut 21:23	Gal 3:13
The throne of David established forever	2 Sam 7:12-13, 16, 25-26; 1 Chr 17:11-14, 23-27; 2 Chr 21:7	Matt 19:28; 21:4; 25:31; Mark 12:37; Luke 1:32; John 7:4; Acts 2:30; 13:23; Rom 1:3; 2 Tim 2:8; Heb 1:5, 8; 8:1; 12:2; Rev 22:1
A promised Redeemer	Job 19:25-27	John 5:28-29; Gal 4:4; Eph 1:7, 11, 14
Declared to be the Son of God	Ps 2:1-12	Matt 3:17; Mark 1:11; Acts 4:25-26; 13:33; Heb 1:5; 5:5; Rev 2:26-27; 19:15-16
His resurrection	Ps 16:8-10	Acts 2:27; 13:35; 26:23
Hands and feet pierced	Ps 22:1-31	Matt 27:31, 35-36
Mocked and insulted	Ps 22:7-8	Matt 27:39-43, 45-59
Soldiers cast lots for coat	Ps 22:18	Mark 15:20, 24-25, 34; Luke 19:24; 23:35; John 19:15-18, 23-24, 34; Acts 2:23-24
Accused by false witnesses	Ps 27:12	Matt 26:60-61
He commits His spirit	Ps 31:5	Luke 23:46
No broken bone	Ps 34:20	John 19:36
Accused by false witnesses	Ps 35:11	Matt 26:59-61; Mark 14:57-58
Hated without reason	Ps 35:19	John 15:24-25
Friends stand afar off	Ps 38:11	Matt 27:55; Mark 15:40; Luke 23:49
"I come to do Thy will"	Ps 40:6-8	Heb 10:5-9
Betrayed by a friend	Ps 41:9	Matt 26:14-16, 47, 50; Mark 14:17-21; Luke 22:19-23; John 13:18-19
Known for righteousness	Ps 45:2, 6-7	Heb 1:8-9

His resurrection	Ps 49:15	Mark 16:6
Betrayed by a friend	Ps 55:12-14	John 13:18
His ascension	Ps 68:18	Eph 4:8
Hated without reason	Ps 69:4	John 15:25
Stung by reproaches	Ps 69:9	John 2:17; Rom 15:3
Given gall and vinegar	Ps 69:21	Matt 27:34, 48; Mark 15:23; Luke 23:36; John 19:29
Exalted by God	Ps 72:1-19	Matt 2:2; Phil 2:9-11; Heb 1:8
He speaks in parables	Ps 78:2	Matt 13:34-35
Seed of David exalted	Ps 89:3-4, 19, 27-29, 35-37	Luke 1:32; Acts 2:30; 13:23; Rom 1:3; 2 Tim 2:8
Son of Man comes in glory	Ps 102:16	Luke 21:24,27; Rev 12:5-10
"Thou remainest!"	Ps 102:24-27	Heb 1:10-12
Prays for His enemies	Ps 109:4	Luke 23:34
Another to succeed Judas	Ps 109:7-8	Acts 1:16-20
A priest like Melchizedek	Ps 110:1-7	Matt 22:41-45; 26:64; Mark 12:35-37; 16:19; Acts 7:56; Eph 1:20; Col 1:20; Heb 1:13; 2:8; 5:6; 6:20; 7:21; 8:1; 10:11-13; 12:2
The chief cornerstone	Ps 118:22-23	Matt 21:42; Mark 12:10-11; Luke 20:17; John 1:11; Acts 4:11; Eph 2:20; 1 Pet 2:4
The King comes in the name of the Lord	Ps 118:26	Matt 21:9; 23:39; Mark 11:9; Luke 13:35; 19:38; John 12:13
David's seed to reign	Ps 132:11 2 Sam 7:12-13, 16, 25-26, 29	Matt 1:1
Declared to be the Son of God	Prov 30:4	Matt 3:17; Mark 14:61-62; Luke 1:35; John 3:13; 9:35-38; 11:21; Rom 1:2-4; 10:6-9; 2 Pet 1:17
Repentance for the nations	Isa 2:2-4	Luke 24:47
Hearts are hardened	Isa 6:9-10	Matt 13:14-15; John 12:39-40; Acts 28:25-27
Born of a virgin	Isa 7:14	Matt 1:22-23
A rock of offense	Isa 8:14-15	Rom 9:33; 1 Pet 2:8
Light out of darkness	Isa 9:1-2	Matt 4:14-16; Luke 2:32
God with us	Isa 9:6-7	Matt 1:21,23; Luke 1:32-33; John 8:58; 10:30; 14:19; 2 Cor 5:19; Col 2:9
Full of wisdom and power	Isa 11:1-10	Matt 3:16; John 3:34; Rom 15:12; Heb 1:9
Reigning in mercy	Isa 16:4-5	Luke 1:31-33
Peg in a sure place	Isa 22:21-25	Rev 3:7
Death swallowed up in victory	Isa 25:6-12	1 Cor 15:54

A stone in Zion	Isa 28:16	Rom 9:33; 1 Pet 2:6
The deaf hear, the blind see	Isa 29:18-19	Matt 5:3; 11:5; John 9:39
King of Kings, Lord of Lords	Isa 32:1-4	Rev 19:16; 20:6
Son of the Highest	Isa 33:22	Luke 1:32; 1 Tim 1:17; 6:15
Healing for the needy	Isa 35:4-10	Matt 9:30; 11:5; 12:22; 20:34; 21:14; Mark 7:30; John 5:9
Make ready the way of the Lord	Isa 40:3-5	Matt 3:3; Mark 1:3; Luke 3:4-5; John 1:23
The Shepherd dies for His sheep	Isa 40:10-11	John 10:11; Heb 13:20; 1 Pet 2:24-25
The meek servant	Isa 42:1-16	Matt 12:17-21; Luke 2:32
A light to the Gentiles	Isa 49:6-12	Acts 13:47; 2 Cor 6:2
Scourged and spat upon	Isa 50:6	Matt 26:67; 27:26, 30; Mark 14:65; 15:15, 19; Luke 22:63-65; John 19:1
Rejected by His people	Isa 52:13-53:12	Matt 8:7; 27:1-2, 12-14, 38
Suffered vicariously	Isa 53:4-5	Mark 15:3-4, 27-28; Luke 23:1-25, 32-34
Silent when accused	Isa 53:7	John 1:29; 11:49-52
Crucified with transgressors	Isa 53:12	John 12:37-38; Acts 8:28-35
Buried with the rich	Isa 53:9	Acts 10:43; 13:38-39; 1 Cor 15:3; Eph 1:7; 1 Pet 2:21-25; 1 John 1:7, 9
Calling of those not a people	Isa 55:4-5	John 18:37; Rom 9:25-26; Rev 1:5
Deliver out of Zion	Isa 59:16-20	Rom 11:26-27
Nations walk in the light	Isa 60:1-3	Luke 2:32
Anointed to preach liberty	Isa 61:1-3	Luke 4:17-19; Acts 10:38
Called by a new name	Isa 62:1-2	Luke 2:32; Rev 3:12
The King cometh	Isa 62:11	Matt 21:5
A vesture dipped in blood	Isa 63:1-3	Rev 19:13
Afflicted with the afflicted	Isa 63:8-9	Matt 25:34-40
The elect shall inherit	Isa 65:9	Rom 11:5, 7; Heb 7:14; Rev 5:5
New heavens and a new earth	Isa 65:17-25	2 Pet 3:13; Rev 21:1
The Lord our righteousness	Jer 23:5-6	John 2:19-21; Rom 1:3-4; Eph 2:20-21; 1 Pet 2:5
Born a King	Jer 30:9	John 18:37; Rev 1:5
Massacre of infants	Jer 31:15	Matt 2:17-18
Conceived by the Holy Spirit	Jer 31:22	Matt 1:20; Luke 1:35
A New Covenant	Jer 31:31-34	Matt 26:27-29; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:15-20; 1 Cor 11:25; Heb 8:8-12; 10:15-17; 12:24; 13:20
A spiritual house	Jer 33:15-17	John 2:19-21; Eph 2:20-21; 1 Pet 2:5
A tree planted by God	Ezek 17:22-24	Matt 13:31-32
The humble exalted	Ezek 21:26-27	Luke 1:52
The good Shepherd	Ezek 34:23-24	John 10:11

Stone cut without hands	Dan 2:34-35	Acts 4:10-12
His kingdom triumphant	Dan 2:44-45	Luke 1:33; 1 Cor 15:24; Rev 11:15
An everlasting dominion	Dan 7:13-14	Matt 24:30; 25:31; 26:64; Mark 14:61-62; Acts 1:9-11; Rev 1:7
Kingdom for the saints	Dan 7:27	Luke 1:33; 1 Cor 15:24; Rev 11:15
Time of His birth	Dan 9:24-27	Matt 24:15-21; Luke 3:1
Israel restored	Hos 3:5	John 18:37; Rom 11:25-27
Flight into Egypt	Hos 11:1	Matt 2:15
Promise of the Spirit	Joel 2:28-32	Acts 2:17-21; Rom 10:13
The sun darkened	Amos 8:9	Matt 24:29; Acts 2:20; Rev 6:12
Restoration of tabernacle	Amos 9:11-12	Acts 15:16-18
Israel regathered	Mic 2:12-13	John 10:14, 26
The kingdom established	Mic 4:1-8	Luke 1:33
Born in Bethlehem	Mic 5:1-5	Matt 2:1; Luke 2:4, 10-11
Earth filled with knowledge of the glory of the Lord	Hab 2:14	Rom 11:26; Rev 21:23-26
The Lamb on the throne	Zech 2:10-13	Rev 5:13; 6:9; 21:24; 22:1-5
A holy priesthood	Zech 3:8	John 2:19-21; Eph 2:20-21; 1 Pet 2:5
A heavenly High Priest	Zech 6:12-13	Heb 4:4; 8:1-2
Triumphal entry	Zech 9:9-10	Matt 21:4-5; Mark 11:9-10; Luke 20:38; John 12:13-15
Sold for thirty pieces of silver	Zech 11:12-13	Matt 26:14-15
Money buys potter's field	Zech 11:12-13	Matt 27:9
Piercing of His body	Zech 12:10	John 19:34, 37
Shepherd smitten— sheep scattered	Zech 13:1, 6-7	Matt 26:31; John 16:32
Preceded by Forerunner	Mal 3:1	Matt 11:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 7:27
Our sins purged	Mal 3:3	Heb 1:3
The light of the world	Mal 4:2-3	Luke 1:78; John 1:9; 12:46; 2 Pet 1:19; Rev 2:28; 19:11-16; 22:16
The coming of Elijah	Mal 4:5-6	Matt 11:14; 17:10-12

The Names of God the Father

Old Testament (The Hebrew Scriptures):

EL: Translated *God*. (mighty, strong, prominent) used 250 times in the OT See Gen. 7:1, 28:3, 35:11; Nu. 23:22; Josh. 3:10; 2 Sam. 22:31, 32; Neh. 1:5, 9:32; Isa. 9:6; Ezek. 10:5. Equivalent to the Moslem "Allah," but not referring to the same God Islam proclaims today by any means.

ELOHIM: Translated *God* (a plural noun, more than two, used with singular verbs, the dual form Eloah is used in Job); Elohim occurs 2,570 times in the OT, 32 times in Gen. 1. God as Creator, Preserver, Transcendent, Mighty and Strong. Eccl., Dan. Jonah use Elohim almost exclusively. See Gen. 17:7, 6:18, 9:15, 50:24; I Kings 8:23; Jer. 31:33; Isa. 40:1.

EL SHADDAI: Translated *God Almighty* or "*God All Sufficient*." 48 times in the OT, 31 times in Job. First used in Gen. 17:1, 2. (Gen. 31:29, 49:24, 25; Prov. 3:27; Micah 2:1; Isa. 60:15, 16, 66:10-13; Ruth 1:20, 21) In Rev. 16:7, "Lord God the Almighty." The Septuagint uses Greek "ikanos" meaning "all-sufficient" or "self-sufficient." The idols of the heathen are called "sheddim."

ADONAI: Translated *Lord* in our English Bibles (Capitol letter 'L', lower case, 'ord') (Adonai is plural, the sing. is "adon"). "Master" or "Lord" 300 times in the OT always plural when referring to God, when sing. the reference is to a human lord. Used 215 times to refer to men. First use of Adonai, Gen. 15:2. (Ex. 4:10; Judges 6:15; 2 Sam. 7:18-20; Ps. 8, 114:7, 135:5, 141:8, 109:21-28). Heavy use in Isaiah (Adonai Yahweh). 200 times by Ezekiel. Ten times in Dan. 9.

YAHWEH (or Jehovah): Translated *LORD* in our English Bibles (all capitals). **Yahweh** is the covenant name of God. Occurs 6823 times in the OT First use Gen. 2:4 (Yahweh Elohim). From the verb "to be", havah, similar to *chavah* (to live), "The Self-Existent One," "I AM WHO I AM" or "I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE" as revealed to Moses at the burning bush, Ex.3. The name of God, too sacred to be uttered, abbreviated (. . .) or written "YHWH" without vowel points. The tetragrammaton. Josh., Judges, Sam., and Kings use Yahweh almost exclusively. The love of God is conditioned upon His moral and spiritual attributes. (Dan. 9:14; Ps. 11:7; Lev. 19:2; Hab. 1:12). Note Deut. 6:4, 5 known to Jews as the Sh'ma uses both Yahweh and Elohim to indicate one God with a plurality of persons.

YAHWEH-JIREH: Translated "*The Lord will Provide*." Gen. 22:14. From "jireh" ("to see" or "to provide," or to "foresee" as a prophet.) God always provides, adequate when the times come.

YAHWEH-ROPHE: Translated "*The Lord Who Heals*" Ex. 15:22-26. From "rophe" ("to heal"); implies spiritual, emotional as well as physical healing. (Jer.

30:17, 3:22; Isa. 61:1) God heals body, soul and spirit; all levels of man's being.

YAHWEH-NISSI: Translated "*The Lord Our Banner*." Ex. 1:15. God on the battlefield, from word which means "to glisten," "to lift up," See Psa. 4:6.

YAHWEH-M'KADDESH: Translated "*The Lord Who Sanctifies*" Lev. 20:8. "To make whole, set apart for holiness."

YAHWEH-SHALOM: Translated "*The Lord Our Peace*" Judges 6:24. "Shalom" translated "peace" 170 times means "whole," "finished," "fulfilled," "perfected." Related to "well," "welfare." Deut. 27:6; Dan. 5:26; I Kings 9:25 8:61; Gen. 15:16; Ex. 21:34, 22:5, 6; Lev. 7:11-21. Shalom means that kind of peace that results from being a whole person in right relationship to God and to one's fellow man.

YAHWEH ELOHIM: Translated "*LORD God*" Gen. 2:4; Judges 5:3; Isa. 17:6; Zeph. 2:9; Psa. 59:5, etc.

YAHWEH-TSIDKENU: Translated "*The Lord Our Righteousness*" Jer. 23:5, 6, 33:16. From "tsidek" (straight, stiff, balanced - as on scales - full weight, justice, right, righteous, declared innocent.) The God Who is our righteousness.

YAHWEH-ROHI: Translated "*The Lord Our Shepherd*" Psa. 23, from "ro'eh" (to pasture).

YAHWEH-SHAMMAH: Translated "*The Lord is There*" (Ezek. 48:35).

YAHWEH-SABAOTH: Translated "*The Lord of Hosts*" The commander of the angelic host and the armies of God. Isa. 1:24; Psa. 46:7, 11; 2 Kings 3:9-12; Jer. 11:20 (NT: Rom. 9:29; James 5:24, Rev. 19: 11-16).

EL ELYON: Translated "*Most High*" (from "to go up") Deut. 26:19, 32:8; Psa. 18:13; Gen. 14:18; Nu. 24:16; Psa. 78:35, 7:17, 18:13, 97:9, 56:2, 78:56, 18:13; Dan. 7:25, 27; Isa. 14:14.

ABHIR: "*Mighty One*", ("to be strong") Gen. 49:24; Deut. 10:17; Psa. 132:2, 5; Isa. 1:24, 49:26, 60:1.

KADOSH: "*Holy One*" Psa. 71:22; Isa. 40:25, 43:3, 48:17. Isaiah uses the expression "the Holy One of Israel" 29 times.

SHAPHAT: "*Judge*" Gen. 18:25

EL ROI: "*God of Seeing*" Hagar in Gen. 16:13. The God Who opens our eyes.

KANNA: "*Jealous*" (zealous). Ex. 20:5, 34:14; Deut. 5:9; Isa. 9:7; Zech. 1:14, 8:2.

PALET: "*Deliverer*" Psa. 18:2.

YESHA: (Y'shua) "*Savior*" Isa. 43:3. Jesus is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew "Joshua." The latter is a contraction of Je-Hoshua. ("Christ", the anointed one is equivalent to the Hebrew Maschiah, or Messiah).

GAOL: "*Redeemer*" (to buy back by paying a price). Job 19:25; For example, the antitype corresponding to Boaz the Kinsman-Redeemer in the Book of Ruth.

MAGEN: "*Shield*" Psa. 3:3, 18:30.

EYALUTH: "*Strength*" Psa. 22:19.

TSADDIQ: "*Righteous One*" Psa. 7:9.

EL-OLAM: "*Everlasting God*" (God of everlasting time) Gen. 21:33; Psa. 90:1-3, 93:2; Isa. 26:4.

EL-BERITH: "*God of the Covenant*" Judges 9:46.

EL-GIBHOR: *Mighty God* (Isa. 9:6)

ZUR: "*God our Rock*" Deut. 32:18; Isa. 30:29.

MELEKH: "*King*" Psa. 5:2, 29:10, 44:4, 47:6-8, 48:2, 68:24, 74:12, 95:3, 97:1, 99:4, 146:10; Isa. 5:1, 5, 41:21, 43:15, 44:6; 52:7, 52:10.

THE TRINITY

God is a trinity of persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Father is not the same person as the Son; the Son is not the same person as the Holy Spirit; and the Holy Spirit is not the same person as Father. They are separate persons; yet, they are all the one God. They are in absolute perfect harmony consisting of one substance. They are co-eternal, co-equal, and co-powerful. If any one of the three were removed, there would be no God. A further point of clarification is that God is not one person, the Father, with Jesus as a creation and the Holy Spirit as a force (Jehovah's Witnesses). Neither is He one person who took three consecutive forms, i.e., the Father who became the Son who then became the Holy Spirit (United Pentecostal). Nor is the Trinity an office held by three separate Gods (Mormonism). The chart below should help you to see how the doctrine of the Trinity is derived from Scripture. The list is not exhaustive, only illustrative. "I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides Me there is no God" (Isaiah 45:5).

THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE TRINITY

	Father	Son	Holy Spirit
Called God	Philippians 1:2	John 1:1,14	Acts 5:3-4
Creator	Isaiah 64:8; 44:24	Colossians 1:15-17	Job 33:4,26:13
Resurrects	1 Thessalonians 1:10	John 2:19, 10:17	Romans 8:11
Indwells	2 Corinthians 6:16	Colossians 1:27	John 14:17
Everywhere	1 Kings 8:27	Matthew 28:20	Psalms 139:7-10
All knowing	1 John 3:20	John 16:30	1 Corinthians 2:10-11
Sanctifies	1 Thessalonians 5:23	Hebrews 2:11	1 Peter 1:2
Life giver	Genesis. 2:7	John 1:3; 5:21	2 Corinthians 3:6,8
Fellowship	1 John 1:3	1 Corinthians 1:9	2 Corinthians 13:14
Eternal	Psalms 90:2	Micah 5:1-2	Romans 8:11
A Will	Luke 22:42	Luke 22:42	1 Corinthians 12:11
Speaks	Matthew 3:17	Luke 5:20; 7:48	Acts 8:29
Love	John 3:16	Ephesians 5:25	Romans 15:30
Searches the heart	Jeremiah 17:10	Revelation. 2:23	1 Corinthians 2:10
We belong to	John 17:9	John 17:6	
Savior	1 Timothy 1:1; 2:3	2 Timothy 1:10	
We serve	Matthew 4:10	Colossians 3:24	
Believe in	John 14:1	John 14:1	
Gives joy		John 15:11	Romans 14:17
Judges	John 8:50	John 5:21,30	

THE TWO NATURES OF JESUS

Jesus is God in human flesh. He is not half God and half man. He is fully God and fully man. At the incarnation He added to His divine nature the nature of man. Thus He has two natures: divine and human. He is both God and man at the same time. He is not merely a man who "had God within Him" nor is he a man who "manifested the God principle." He is God, second person of the Trinity. "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word" (Heb. 1:3, NIV). Jesus' two natures are not "mixed together," nor are they combined into a new God-man nature. They are separate yet act as a unit. This is called the Hypostatic Union.

The following chart should help you see the two natures of Jesus "in action":

GOD	MAN
He is worshipped (Matt. 2:2,11; 14:33; 28:9)	He worshipped the Father (John 17)
He is prayed to (Acts 7:59; 1 Cor. 1:1-2)	He prayed to the Father (John 17:1)
He was called God (John 20:28; Heb. 1:8)	He was called man (Mark 15:39; John 19:5).
He was called Son of God (Mark 1:1)	He was called Son of Man (John 9:35-37)
He is sinless (1 Pet. 2:22; Heb. 4:15)	He was tempted (Matt. 4:1)
He knew all things (John 21:17)	He grew in wisdom (Luke 2:52)
He gives eternal life (John 10:28)	He died (Rom. 5:8)
The fullness of deity dwells in Him (Col. 2:9)	He has a body of flesh and bones (Luke 24:39)

One of the most common errors that non-Christian cults make is not understanding the two natures of Christ. For example, the Jehovah's Witnesses focus on Jesus' humanity and ignore His divinity. The Christian Scientists, on the other hand, focus on the divine nature and ignore the human.

For a proper understanding of Jesus and, therefore, all other doctrines that relate to Him, His two natures must be properly understood and defined.

The Bible is about Jesus (John 5:39). The prophets prophesied about Him (Acts 10:43). The Father bore witness of Him (John 5:37, 8:18). The Holy Spirit bore witness of Him (John 15:26). The works Jesus did bore witness of Him (John 5:36, 10:25). The multitudes bore witness of Him (John 12:17). And, Jesus bore witness of Himself (John 14:6, 18:6).

Other verses to consider when examining His deity are, John 1:1,14; 5:18; 20:28; Rom. 9:5; Phil. 2:5-8; Tit. 2:13; Heb. 1:6-8; and 2 Pet. 1:1.

1 Tim. 2:5 says, "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." Right now, there is a man in heaven on the throne of God. He is our advocate with the Father (1 John 2:1). He is our Savior (Titus 2:13). He is our Lord (Rom. 10:9-10). He is Jesus.

EVIDENCE THAT JESUS IS GOD

"You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me" (Isaiah 43:10).

JESUS	IS	GOD, "YAHWEH"
<p>John 1:3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.</p> <p>Col. 1:16-17 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. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.</p>	Creator	<p>Job 33:4 The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.</p> <p>Isaiah 40:28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.</p>
<p>Rev. 1:17 "When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.'"</p> <p>Rev. 2:8 "To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again."</p> <p>Rev. 22:13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."</p>	First and Last	<p>Isaiah 41:4 "Who has done this and carried it through, calling forth the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD -- with the first of them and with the last -- I am he."</p> <p>Isaiah 44:6 "This is what the LORD says -- Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God."</p> <p>Isaiah 48:12 "Listen to me, O Jacob, Israel, whom I have called: I am he; I am the first and I am the last."</p>
<p>John 8:24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am <i>He</i>, you will die in your sins." (NKJV)</p>	I AM "ego eimi"	<p>Exodus 3:14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"</p> <p>Isaiah 43:10 "You are my</p>

<p>John 8:58 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"</p> <p>John 13:19 "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am <i>He</i>."</p>		<p>witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me."</p> <p>See also Deut. 32.39</p>
<p>2 Tim. 4:1 "In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge..."</p> <p>2 Cor. 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."</p>	Judge	<p>Joel 3:12 "Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side."</p> <p>Rom. 14:10 "You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat."</p>
<p>Matthew 2:2 "...Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."</p> <p>Luke 23:3 So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.</p> <p>See also John 19:21</p>	King	<p>Jeremiah 10:10 "But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King. When he is angry, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure his wrath."</p> <p>Isaiah 44:6-8 "This is what the LORD says -- Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God."</p> <p>See also Psalm 47</p>
<p>John 8:12 "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."</p> <p>Luke 2:32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your</p>	Light	<p>Psalm 27:1 "The LORD is my light and my salvation -- whom shall I fear?"</p> <p>Isaiah 60:20 Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end.</p>

people Israel." See also John 1:7-9		1 John 1:5 "God is light; in him there is no darkness at all."
1 Cor. 10:4 "...for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ." See also 1 Peter 2:6-8.	Rock	Deut. 32:4 "He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he." See also 2 Sam. 22:32 and Isaiah 17:10.
John 4:42 "They said to the woman, 'We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.'" 1 John 4:14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.	Savior	Isaiah 43:3 "For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior" Isaiah 45:21 "...And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me."
John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Hebrews 13:20 May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, See also John 10:14,16; 1 Pet. 2:25	Shepherd	Psalms 23:1 Psalm 23 A psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. Isaiah 40:11 He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

100 TRUTHS ABOUT JESUS

1. Jesus claimed to be God - *John 8:24; 8:56-59 (see Exodus 3:14); 10:30-33*
2. Jesus created all things - *John 1:3; Col. 1:15-17*
3. Jesus is before all things - *Col. 1:17*
4. Jesus is eternal - *John 1:1,14; 8:58*
5. Jesus is honored the same as the Father - *John 5:23*
6. Jesus is prayed to - *Acts 7:54-60*
7. Jesus is worshipped - *Matt. 2:2,8,11; 14:33; 28:9,17; John 9:35-37*
8. Jesus is called God - *John 1:1,14; 20:28 Col. 2:9; Tit. 2:13*
9. Jesus is omnipresent - *Matt 28:20*
10. Jesus is with us always - *Matt. 28:20*
11. Jesus is our only mediator between God and ourselves - *1 Tim 2:5*
12. Jesus is the guarantee of a better covenant - *Heb. 7:22; 8:6*
13. Jesus said, "I AM the Bread of Life" - *John 6:35,41,48,51*
14. Jesus said, "I AM the Door" - *John 10:7,9*
15. Jesus said, "I AM the Good Shepherd" - *John 10:11, 14*
16. Jesus said, "I AM the Way the Truth and The Life" - *John 14:6*
17. Jesus said, "I AM the Light of the world" - *John 8:12; 9:5;12:46; Luke 2:32*
18. Jesus said, "I AM the True Vine" - *John 15:1; 15:5*
19. Jesus said, "I AM the Resurrection and the Life" - *John 11:25*
20. Jesus said, "I AM the First and the Last" - *Rev 1:17; 2:8; 22:13*
21. Jesus always lives to make intercession for us - *Heb. 7:25*
22. Jesus cleanses from sin - *1 John 1:9*
23. Jesus discloses Himself to us - *John 14:21*
24. Jesus draws all men to Himself - *John 12:32*
25. Jesus forgives sins - *Matt. 9:1-7; Luke 5:20; 7:48*
26. Jesus gives eternal life - *John 10:28; 5:40*
27. Jesus gives joy - *John 15:11*
28. Jesus gives peace - *John 14:27*
29. Jesus has authority - *Matt. 28:18; John 5:26-27; 17:2; 3:35*
30. Jesus judges - *John 5:22,27*
31. Jesus knows all men - *John 16:30*
32. Jesus opens the mind to understand scripture - *Luke 24:45*
33. Jesus received honor and glory from the Father - *2 Pet 1:17*
34. Jesus resurrects - *John 5:39; 11:25-26; 6:40,44,54*
35. Jesus reveals grace and truth - *John 1:17 see John 6:45*
36. Jesus reveals the Father - *Matt. 11:27 Luke 10:22*
37. Jesus saves forever - *Matt 18:11; John 10:28; Heb. 7:25*
38. Jesus bears witness of Himself - *John 8:18; 14:6*
39. Jesus' works bear witness of Himself - *John 5:36; 10:25*
40. The Father bears witness of Jesus - *John 5:37; 8:18; 1 John 5:9*
41. The Holy Spirit bears witness of Jesus - *John 15:26*
42. The multitudes bear witness of Jesus - *John 12:17*
43. The Prophets bear witness of Jesus - *Acts 10:43*

44. The Scriptures bear witness of Jesus - *John 5:39*
45. The Father will honor us if we serve Jesus - *John 12:26* see *Col. 3:24*
46. The Father wants us to fellowship with Jesus - *1 Cor 1:9*
47. The Father tells us to listen to Jesus - *Luke 9:35; Matt. 17:5*
48. The Father tells us to come to Jesus - *John 6:45*
49. The Father draws us to Jesus - *John 6:44*
50. Everyone who's heard & learned from the Father comes to Jesus - *John 6:45*
51. The Law leads us to Christ - *Gal. 3:24*
52. Jesus is the Rock - *1 Cor. 10:4*
53. Jesus is the Savior - *John 4:42; 1 John 4:14*
54. Jesus is King - *Matt. 2:1-6; Luke 23:3*
55. In Jesus are the treasures of wisdom and knowledge - *Col. 2:2-3*
56. In Jesus we have been made complete *Col. 2:10*
57. Jesus indwells us - *Col. 1:27*
58. Jesus sanctifies - *Heb. 2:11*
59. Jesus loves - *Eph. 5:25*
60. We come to Jesus - *John 5:40; 7:37; 6:35,37,45,65*
61. We sin against Jesus - *1 Cor. 8:12*
62. We receive Jesus - *John 1:12 Col. 2:6*
63. Jesus makes many righteous - *Rom 5:19*
64. Jesus is the image of the invisible God - *Heb. 1:3*
65. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit - *John 15:26*
66. Jesus abides forever - *Heb. 7:24*
67. Jesus offered up Himself - *Heb 7:27; 9:14*
68. Jesus offered one sacrifice for sins for all time - *Heb. 10:12*
69. The Son of God has given us understanding - *1 John 5:20*
70. Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith - *Heb. 12:2*
71. Jesus is the Apostle and High Priest of our confession - *Heb. 1:3*
72. The Son of God has given us understanding - *1 John 5:20*
73. Jesus cleanses us from our sins by His blood - *Rev. 1:5; Rom. 5:9*
74. Jesus is the Light of the world - *John 9:5*
75. Jesus has explained the Father - *John 1:18*
76. Jesus was crucified because of weakness - *2 Cor. 13:4*
77. Jesus has overcome the world - *John 16:33*
78. Truth is in Jesus - *Eph. 4:21*
79. The fruit of righteousness comes through Jesus Christ - *Phil. 1:11*
80. Jesus delivers us from the wrath to come - *1 Thess 1:10*
81. Disciples bear witness of Jesus Christ - *John 15:27*
82. Jesus died and rose again - *1 Thess. 4:14*
83. The Christian dead have fallen asleep in Jesus - *1 Thess. 4:15*
84. Jesus died for us - *1 Thess. 5:10*
85. Jesus tasted death for everyone - *Heb. 2:9*
86. Jesus rendered the devil powerless - *Heb. 2:14*
87. Jesus is able to save completely - *Heb. 7:25*
88. Jesus was a ransom for many and to serve - *Matt. 20:28*

89. Jesus came to be a high priest - *Heb. 2:17*
90. Jesus came to save - *John 3:17; Luke 19:10*
91. Jesus came to preach the kingdom of God - *Luke 4:43*
92. Jesus came to bring division - *Luke 12:51*
93. Jesus came to do the will of the Father - *John 6:38*
94. Jesus came to give the Father's words - *John 17:8*
95. Jesus came to testify to the truth - *John 18:37*
96. Jesus came to die and destroy Satan's power - *Heb. 2:14*
97. Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets - *Matt. 5:17*
98. Jesus came to give life - *John 10:10,28*
99. Jesus came to taste death for everyone - *Heb. 2:9*
100. Jesus came to proclaim freedom for believers - *Luke 4:18*

NAMES & TITLE OF JESUS

1. Jesus = Savior. "Joshua" is a synonym for Jesus.
2. Christ = Messiah

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Trinity. He is fully God. He is eternal, omniscient, omnipresent, has a will, and can speak. He is alive. He is a person. He is not particularly visible in the Bible because His ministry is to bear witness of Jesus (John 15:26).

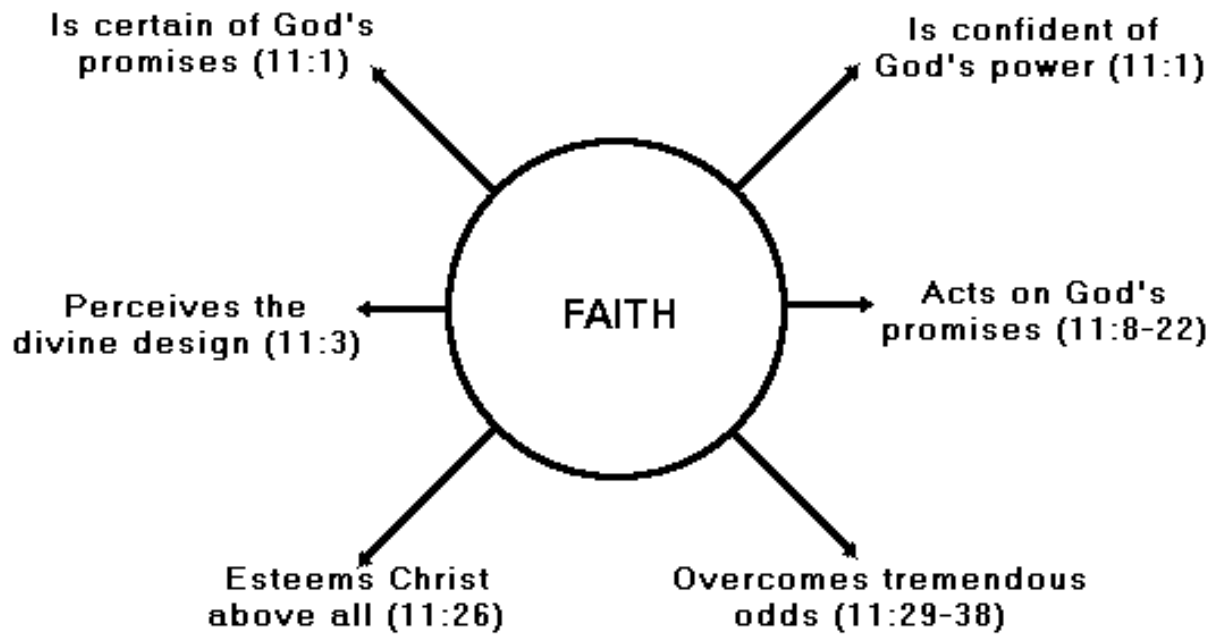
His Names	His Attributes	Symbols of	Sins Against	Power in Christ's Life
God Acts 5:3-4	Eternal Heb. 9:14	Dove Matt. 3:16	Blasphemy Matt. 12:31	Conceived of Matt. 1:18:20
Lord 2 Cor. 3:18	Omnipotent Luke 1:35	Wind John 3:8	Resist (Unbelief) Acts 7:51	Baptism Matt. 3:16
Spirit 1 Cor. 2:10	Omnipresent Psalm 139:7-10	Fire Acts 2:3	Insult Heb. 10:29	Led by Luke 4:1
Spirit of God 1 Cor. 3:16	Will 1 Cor. 12:11	*****	Lied to Acts 5:3	Filled with Power Luke 4:14,18
Spirit of Truth John 15:26	Loves Rom. 15:30	*****	Grieved Eph. 4:30	Witness of Jesus John 15:26
Eternal Spirit Heb. 9:14	Speaks Acts 13:2	*****	Quench 1 Thess. 5:19	Raised Jesus Rom. 8:11

THE WORKS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Access to God - <i>Eph. 2:18</i>	Inspires prayer - <i>Eph. 6:18; Jude 20</i>
Anoints for Service - <i>Luke 4:18</i>	Intercedes - <i>Rom. 8:26</i>
Assures - <i>Rom. 8:15,16; Gal. 4:6</i>	Interprets Scripture - <i>1 Cor. 2:1,14; Eph. 1:17</i>
Authors Scripture - <i>2 Peter 1:20-21</i>	Leads - <i>Rom. 8:14</i>
Baptizes - <i>John 1:32-34; 1 Cor. 12:13-14</i>	Liberates - <i>Rom. 8:2</i>
Believers Born of - <i>John 3:3-6</i>	Molds Character - <i>Gal. 5:22-23</i>
Calls and Commissions - <i>Acts 13:24; 20:28</i>	Produces fruit - <i>Gal. 5:22-23</i>
Cleanses - <i>2 Thess 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2</i>	Empowers Believers - <i>Luke 24:49</i>
Convicts of sin - <i>John 16:9, 14</i>	Raises from the dead - <i>Rom. 8:11</i>
Creates - <i>Gen. 1:2; Job. 33:4</i>	Regenerates - <i>Titus 3:5</i>
Empowers - <i>1 Thess. 1:5</i>	Seals - <i>Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30</i>
Fills - <i>Acts 2:4; 4:29-31; 5:18-20</i>	Strengthens - <i>Eph. 3:16; Acts 1:8; 2:4; 1 Cor. 2:4</i>
Gives gifts - <i>1 Cor. 12:8-11</i>	Teaches - <i>John 14:26</i>
Glorifies Christ - <i>John 16:14</i>	Testifies of Jesus - <i>John 15:26</i>
Guides in truth - <i>John 16:13</i>	Victory over flesh - <i>Rom. 8:2-4; Gal. 4:6</i>
Helps our weakness - <i>Rom. 8:26</i>	Worship helper - <i>Phil. 3:3</i>
Indwells believers - <i>Rom. 8:9-14; Gal. 4:6</i>	

FAITH IN HEBREWS 11

(From the Believer's Study Bible)



100 QUALITIES TO PRAISE GOD FOR

1. Love	21. Wrath	41. Lord of Hosts	61. Christ-like	81. Protector
2. Power	22. Holy/Pure	42. Rock	62. Owner	82. Truth
3. Wisdom	23. Designer	43. Triune	63. Filler	83. Goodness
4. Grace	24. Historian	44. Courageous	64. Beautiful	84. Life Planner
5. Mercy	25. Majestic	45. Life Giver	65. Satisfying	85. Lord
6. Kindness	26. Chastener	46. Potter	66. Writer-Author	86. Slave Maker
7. Patience	27. Male-like	47. High-tower	67. City Builder	87. Seeing
8. Presence	28. Intimate	48. Reward	68. Source of Variety	88. King of all the earth
9. Father	29. Cannot Fail	49. Understanding	69. Revealer	89. For us
10. Eternal	30. Desires Relationship	50. All Powerful	70. Hate	90. Covenant Maker
11. Unchangeable	31. Honey Giver	51. Spirit	71. Fire	91. Reverend
12. Justice/Judge	32. Opportunity Maker	52. Joy	72. Speaker	92. One
13. Sovereign	33. Peace	53. Intelligence	73. Sender	93. Generous
14. Creator	34. Preacher Maker	54. Lonesome	74. Righteous	94. Healer
15. Ruler	35. Harvester	55. Shepherd	75. Social Being	95. Hope
16. Complete	36. End Maker	56. Sanctifier	76. Strong	96. Husband
17. Listener	37. Liberty Maker	57. Redeemer	77. All Present	97. Shield
18. Music-Maker	38. Hearing	58. Savior	78. Employer	98. Light
19. Source of Faith	39. Reigning	59. Forgiver	79. Always Interested	99. I Am
20. Personally Interested	40. Faithful	60. Cleanser	80. Light-giver	100. All Knowing

100 SINS TO CONFESS TO GOD

1. Lying	21. Slander	41. Disobeying Parents	61. Coarse Joking	81. Disbelief
2. Stealing	22. Harshness	42. Judgment of others	62. Empty words	82. Praying to be seen
3. Gossip	23. Idleness	43. Dishonor Parents	63. Their god is their stomach	83. Prayerlessness
4. Lewd Thoughts	24. Wrong for wrong	44. Evil suspicions	64. Their glory is their shame	84. Keeping Jesus outside
5. Profanity	25. Grieving the Spirit	45. Impatience	65. Hollow philosophy	85. Fornication
6. Hatred	26. Quenching the Spirit	46. Lose heart	66. Tradition for truth	86. Uncleaness
7. Anger	27. Pride in what is seen	47. Callousness	67. False humility	87. Forgetting our cleansing
8. Wrath	28. Grumbling	48. Unforgiving	68. Worship of angels	88. Denying our Lord
9. Railing	29. Faultfinders	49. Perverseness	69. Carnality	89. Seeking justification by the law
10. Shameful speaking	30. Flattering	50. Meanness	70. Rudeness	90. Arrogant
11. Passion	31. Scoffing	51. Factions	71. Easily angered	91. Faithless
12. Covetousness	32. Pride of possessions	52. Envy	72. Keeping a record of wrongs	92. Seared conscience
13. Sexual Immorality	33. Despise authority	53. Drunkenness	73. Failing to discern the body	93. Loss of first love
14. Idolatry	34. Lording it over others	54. Orgies	74. Luke-warmness	94. Love of money
15. Witchcraft	35. Haughty eyes	55. Hardening of heart	75. Stinginess	95. Unkindness
16. Jealousy	36. Insult for insult	56. Continual lust	76. Loving to have pre-eminence	96. Divorce
17. Selfish Ambition	37. Immodesty	57. Deceit	77. Shepherds who feed only themselves	97. Filthiness
18. Fits of Rage	38. Retaliation	58. Bitterness	78. Stumbling block	98. Unmerciful
19. Dissensions	39. Threatening	59. Greed	79. Disrespect	99. Unyieldingness
20. Malice	40. Homosexuality	60. Foolish talk	80. Fearfulness	100. Always right

A PLAN OF PRAYER

[Following is another good method for prayer taken from William Sangster's book Teach Me To Pray, copyright 1959 by *The Upper Room*]

1. MORNING PRAYER

Scheme for fifteen minutes as a minimum in the morning, and as early as possible. Here is a rule of prayer I have found helpful myself.

Adoration: Think on the greatness of God - the incredibility of it that He should hear us at all. Does not the wonder of it almost strike you dumb? Praise be to God that God is the God that God is!

Thanksgiving: Go over your mercies. They are more than you know. Thank Him for health, home, love, work, friends, books, a night's rest...If you lack health, or home, or sleep, there are other great mercies to mention. Think of them till you grow with gratitude.

Dedication: you are already dedicated to God with wholelife vows. Nonetheless, follow the lead of the hymn writer: "That vow renewed shall daily hear". You are not your own. Nothing you have is your own. You are a *given* man or woman.

Guidance: Ask God for guidance all through the day. Forethink and foresee your day with Him. In imagination go over every task which you know the day has in store for you and meet it with Him. Even the things you cannot foresee will be better met because of this discipline.

Intercession: Pray for others. Have a prayer list. Praying without method is not serious prayer. When you get to heaven and realize all that prayer did on this earth, you will be ashamed that you prayed so ill. The casual recollection of people in need, or prayers only for one's dear ones, or prayers too general - common weaknesses as these are - can all be overcome by a prayer list kept up to date and daily used.

Petition: Some masters of prayer have no place for personal petition. Clement of Alexandria had none. He and many like him were content to leave God to give them what was good. Yet Jesus taught petition - and that is enough. But keep petition in a minor place. Nothing more reveals the juvenility of our prayers than praying with persistence and passion only when we want something for ourselves.

Meditation: It is a good thing to conclude prayer, as well as begin it, with meditation: deep brooding on love, wisdom, beauty, joy, peace, power, freedom, and holiness. A hymn may help you here.

2. EVENING PRAYER

Scheme for ten minutes as a minimum at the end of the day.

Review the day: Run over it backwards in the recollected presence of God, and you will almost certainly have a double need.

Confession: Things will come to your mind which will not be pleasant to recall. A failure here; a bit of posing there; something not strictly truthful; exaggeration; and missed opportunities for doing good...Deal with each separately. Itemize your sins. Do not bundle your beastliness or pettiness together in one of those all inclusive phrases, "Forgive me all my sins"; but blush over them in their separateness, claiming forgiveness and a greater wariness in the future. Make restitution where you can.

Thanksgiving: Every evening will bring its occasion for gratitude to God for morning prayers answered and for help through the day. Let the day close with a warm, inward awareness that God has, indeed, been with you "all through the day".

Before sleeping: Commit yourself to God again. "Father into Thy hands I commend my spirit."

*Be my last thought, how sweet to rest
For ever on my Savior's breast.*

Last thoughts often color our dreams; and we, like the Christians of the eighteenth century, have need to pray: "O God, make my dreams holy."

SUGGESTIONS FOR SHARING YOUR FAITH

(taken from The Master's Plan for Making Disciples)

1. Be sensitive to the spiritual needs and receptivity of those in your extended family. Skills of listening, empathy, of identification, or relating the Gospel and the church to relevant needs will be of great value in knowing how and when to share the Good News. Asking questions will help you determine where your friends are in their spiritual journey.
2. Be open to the Holy Spirit's direction. In most cases the Holy Spirit uses people to bring other people to faith. Isn't it exciting that He has chosen you to be a witness of His eternal grace? Isn't it affirming that He believes in you enough to open doors where you can communicate the faith? Closing yourself off to His leadership is unproductive. Opening yourself by saying, "Here I am Lord, send me" is the door that leads into enlarged ministry, usefulness, blessing and joy.
3. Be able to verbalize the reasons for "the hope that is within you". You should be able to testify clearly to your own faith. Describe the events that brought you to repentance, faith, and the church. Be confident in expressing "why" and "how" Jesus is Lord in your life. Some people find help in writing out their testimony and memorizing it. Others rehearse it with a friend. Whatever means you use, be able to share your personal experience clearly, concisely, and in words understandable to a non-Christian.
4. Know the "kerygma" - the Gospel of the Kingdom. Be on solid speaking terms with the basics of your faith - man's sin, Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection; repentance; faith; etc. The more appropriate scriptures you know, the more comfortable you will feel. While proclaiming the Gospel is more than simply reciting Bible verses, having a grasp of Scriptures concerning His love and how one enters into the Kingdom of God is an important part of the process.
5. Identify your own spiritual gifts, then supplement yours by using other gifts in the body. The apostle Paul understood this great truth when he said, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God causes the growth...Now, he who plants and he who waters are one, but each will receive his own reward according to his labor." The Bible is clear that God gives gifts to His Church - His people - and that their use is to build up the Body...
6. Realize that evangelism is not complete until the person is incorporated into the Body. The end goal of effective evangelism is that the new Christian becomes a disciple and responsible member of the church. As you think of your extended family members, your disciple-making plan will include incorporation into the Body. Incorporation goes beyond just formal membership. Effective incorporation has a wide variety of dimensions; but the end result is that people are active parts of God's family, using their gifts joyously in His service.

(The Following Chart is taken from the Holman Bible Dictionary - The Author of this Study Guide is basically in agreement with the Amillennial Viewpoint)

MILLENNIAL PERSPECTIVES ON REVELATION				
POINT OF VIEW	AMILLENNIAL	HISTORICAL PREMILLENNIAL	DISPENSATIONAL PREMILLENNIAL	POSTMILLENNIAL
Description of View	Viewpoint that the present age of Christ's rule in the church is the millennium; holds to one resurrection and judgment marking the end of history as we know it and the beginning of life eternal	Viewpoint that Christ will reign on earth for a thousand years following His second coming; saints will be resurrected at the beginning of the millennium, nonbelievers at the end, followed by judgment	Viewpoint that after the battle of Armageddon, Christ will rule through the Jews for a literal thousand years accompanied by two resurrections and at least three judgments	Viewpoint that Christ will return after a long period of expansion and spiritual prosperity for the church, brought about by the preaching of the gospel; the Spirit's blessing; and the church's work toward righteousness, justice, and peace. The period is not a literal thousand years but extended time of spiritual prosperity.
Book of Revelation	Current history written in code to confound enemies and encourage Asian Christians; message applies to all Christians	Immediate application to Asian Christians; applies to all Christians throughout the ages, but the visions also apply to a great future event	"Unveiling" of theme of Christ among churches in present dispensation, also as Judge and King in dispensations to come	Written to encourage Christians of all ages, but the visions also apply to a great future event
Seven candlesticks (1:13)	Churches		Churches, plus end-time application	Churches
Churches addressed (chaps. 2-3)	Specific historical situations, truths apply to churches throughout the ages; do not represent periods of church history		Specific historical situations and to all churches throughout the ages; shows progress of churches' spiritual state until the end of the church age	Specific historical situations, truths apply to all churches throughout the ages; do not necessarily represent periods of church history
Twenty-four	Twelve patriarchs and	Company of angels who help	The rewarded church; also	Symbolizes all the

elders (4:4, 10; 5:8, 14)	twelve apostles; together symbolize all the redeemed	execute God's rule (or elders represent twenty-four priestly and Levitical orders)	represents twelve patriarchs and twelve apostles	redeemed
Sealed book (5:1-9)	Scroll of history; shows God carrying out His redemptive purpose in history	Contains prophecy of end events of chapters 7-22	Title deed to the world	Portrays God carrying out His redemptive purpose in history
144,000 (7:4-8)	Redeemed on earth who will be protected against God's wrath	Church on threshold of great tribulation	Jewish converts of tribulation period who witness to Gentiles (same as 14:1)	Redeemed people of God
Great tribulation (first reference in 7:14)	Persecution faced by Asian Christians of John's time; symbolic of tribulation that occurs throughout history	Period at end time of unexplained trouble, before Christ's return; church will go through it; begins with seventh seal (18:1) which includes trumpets 1-6 (8:2-14:20)	Period at end time of unexplained trouble referred to in 7:14 and described in chapters 11-18; lasts three and a half years, the latter half of seven-year period between rapture and millennium	Symbolic of tribulation that occurs throughout history
Forty-two months (11:2); 1,260 days (11:3)	Indefinite duration of pagan desolation	A symbolic number representing period of evil with reference to last days of age	Half of seven-year tribulation period	A symbolic number representing an indefinite time and evil influence
Woman (12:1-6)	True people of God under old and new covenants (true Israel)		Indicates Israel, not church; key is comparison with Gen 37:9	True people of God under old and new covenants
Great red dragon (12:3)	All views identify as Satan			
POINT OF VIEW	AMILLENNIAL	HISTORICAL PREMILLENNIAL	DISPENSATIONAL PREMILLENNIAL	POSTMILLENNIAL
Manchild (12:4-5)	Christ at His birth, life events, and crucifixion,	Christ, whose work Satan seeks to destroy	Christ but also the church (head and body); caught up on throne indicates	Christ at His birth, life events, and crucifixion, whom Satan sought to

	whom Satan sought to kill		rapture of the church	destroy
1,260 days (12:6)	Indefinite time	Symbolic number representing period of evil with special reference to last days of age	First half of great tribulation after church is raptured	Indefinite time
Sea beast (13:1)	Emperor Domitian, personification of Roman Empire (same as in chap. 17)	Antichrist, here shown as embodiment of the four beasts in Dan 7	A new Rome, satanic federation of nations that come out of old Roman Empire	Roman Empire
Seven heads (13:1)	Roman emperors	Great power, shows kinship with dragon	Seven stages of Roman Empire; sixth was imperial Rome (John's day); last will be federation of nations	Roman emperors
Ten horns (13:1)	Symbolize power	Kings, represent limited crowns (ten) against Christ's many	Ten powers that will combine to make the federation of nations of new Rome	Symbol of power
666 (13:18)	Imperfection, evil; personified as Domitian	Symbolic of evil, short of 777; if a personage meant, he is unknown but will be known at the proper time	Not known but will be known at the proper time	Symbol of evil
144,000 on Mount Zion (14:1)	Total body of redeemed in heaven		Redeemed Jews gathered in earthly Jerusalem during millennial kingdom	Redeemed people of God
River of blood (14:20)	Symbol of infinite punishment for the wicked	Means God's radical judgment crushes evil thoroughly	Scene of wrath and carnage that will occur in Palestine	Symbol of judgment on the wicked
Babylon (woman - 17:5)	Historical Rome	Capital city of future antichrist	Apostate church of the future	Symbol of evil
Seven mountains (17:9)	Pagan Rome, which was built on seven hills	Indicate power, so here means a succession of	Rome, revived at end-time	Pagan Rome

		empires, last of which is end-time Babylon		
Seven heads (17:7) and seven kings (17:10)	Roman emperors Augustus to Titus, excluding three brief rules	Five past godless kingdoms; sixth was Rome; seventh would arise in end time	Five distinct forms of Roman government prior to John; sixth was imperial Rome; seventh will be revived Roman Empire	Roman emperors
Ten horns (17:7) and seven kings (17:10)	Vassal kings who ruled with Rome's permission	Symbolic of earthly powers that will be subservient to antichrist	Ten kingdoms arising in future out of revived Roman Empire	Symbolic of earthly powers
Bride, wife (19:7)	Total of all the redeemed		The church; does not include Old Testament saints or tribulation saints	Total of all the redeemed
POINT OF VIEW	AMILLENNIAL	HISTORICAL PREMILLENNIAL	DISPENSATIONAL PREMILLENNIAL	POSTMILLENNIAL
Marriage supper (19:9)	Climax of the age; symbolizes complete union of Christ with His people	Union of Christ with His people at His coming	Union of Christ with His church accompanied by Old Testament saints and tribulation saints	Union of Christ with His people
One on white horse (19:11-16)	Vision of Christ's victory over pagan Rome; return of Christ occurs in connection with events of 20:7-10	Second coming of Christ		Vision of Christ's victory
Battle of Armageddon (19:19-21; see 16:16)	Not literally at end of time but symbolizes power of God's word overcoming evil; principle applies to all ages	Literal event of some kind at end time but not literal battle with military weapons; occurs at Christ's return at beginning of millennium	Literal bloody battle at Armageddon (valley of Megiddo) at end of great tribulation between kings of the east and federation of nations of new Rome; they are all defeated by blast from Christ's mouth	Symbolizes power of God's word overcoming evil forces

			and then millennium begins	
Great supper (19:17)	Stands in contrast to marriage supper		Concludes series of judgments and opens way for kingdom to be established	Stands in contrast to marriage supper
Blinding of Satan (20:2)	Symbolic of Christ's resurrection victory over Satan	Curbing of Satan's power during the millennium		Symbolic of Christ's resurrection victory over Satan
Millennium (20:2-6)	Symbolic reference to period from Christ's first coming to His second	A historical event, though length of one thousand years may be symbolic, after Armageddon during which Christ rules with His people	A literal thousand-year period after the church age during which Christ rules with His people but especially through the Jews	A lengthy period of expansion and spiritual prosperity brought about by the preaching of the gospel
Those on thrones (20:4)	Martyrs in heaven; their presence with God is a judgment on those who killed them	Saints and martyrs who rule with Christ in the millennium	The redeemed ruling with Christ, appearing and disappearing on earth at will to oversee life on earth	Saints and martyrs who rule with Christ
First resurrection (20:5-6)	The spiritual presence with Christ of the redeemed that occurs after physical death	Resurrection of saints at beginning of millennium when Christ returns	Includes three groups: 1) those raptured with church (4:1) 2) Jewish tribulation saints during tribulation (11:11) 3) other Jewish believers at beginning of millennium (20:5-6)	The spiritual presence of the redeemed with Christ
Second death (20:6)	Spiritual death, eternal separation from God			
New heavens and earth (21:1)	A new order; redeemed earth			
New Jerusalem (21:2-5)	God dwelling with His saints in the new age after all other end-time events			