

Basics of Christian Faith¹
An Adult Bible Study Series
Prepared by Bob Young

Introduction

My purpose in preparing this study series for use in adult Bible classes is two-fold. First, Christians need to be reminded of their own journey of faith and understand and to be reassured that they have adequately responded to and are continuing to respond to God's love according to God's word and God's plan. This reminder often involves growing in understanding and faith, so that we reach new and fresh understandings of our past. Some of those new understandings reassure us and cement us more firmly in our faith. Some of those new understandings challenge us and encourage additional growth in faith. Faith is an ever-growing, ever-expanding dynamic in the Christian life. This study will help Christians discern the broad outlines of the shape of biblical faith, and encourage changes where needed.

Second, many Christians feel inadequate when it comes to sharing their faith and telling someone else why they have responded to God and the message of his word as they have. This study will help Christians identify and explain the fundamentals of the Christian faith. It will also prepare them by making them aware of an excellent tool which is available to study the Bible with friends, family, associates, and neighbors.

The materials presented in the lessons of this series are based on the "Quest for Truth" open Bible study series, currently available through "Christ's Ambassadors." I became familiar with the materials when they were part of the original "Search for Truth" open Bible study project. I have seen hundreds of people obey the gospel as a result of this Bible study and evangelism tool.

This series assumes that people have a generally positive view of the authority of the Bible. If one were talking to someone who does not share a Christian heritage, one would need other materials beyond those in this study to establish that God communicates his will through the Bible and through Jesus Christ. In our shrinking world, it is increasingly likely that one might meet someone without a strong Christian heritage. This is true for two reasons. First, immigration has brought more and more people to our nation, many of whom grew up in families whose religion was non-Christian. Second, Christianity is less and less practiced in our nation so that many of the younger generations who grew up in a family whose heritage is Christian are now two or three generations removed from Christian knowledge and practice.

¹ The materials included in this series are based on the "Quest for Truth" Bible studies, published by Christ's Ambassadors, 1992 copyright. The materials have been edited in some instances for clarity.

Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17), but how much of the word of God must be heard prior to obedience? How much must one know? Obviously, one doesn't have to know everything, but one must know something. Consider and discuss the following questions.

- What did those on the day of Pentecost know (Acts 2)?
- What did those in Acts 19 not know?
- What must people know today in order to make a valid decision about Jesus?
- What did you know when you became a Christian?
- How deep must one's understanding be? (a different question than knowledge)

There are many answers given to the question, "What must one know?" (Make a list of and briefly discuss some of the answers that are given today.)

A question that has been helpful to me in considering my own faith and what is essential to share with others is, "What does God want from his human creation?" The response I have developed as an answer to that question includes the following. A person should know enough to be able to....

- Recognize God for who he is
- Respect and reverence God's nature and purpose as demonstrated in biblical worship
- Respond to God's love
- Relate to God's family and children in the church
- Reflect God's glory in Christian living

A helpful grid from doctrinal (theological) studies lists eight basic areas.²

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Human nature | Anthropology (including beginnings) |
| • God | Theology |
| • Christ | Christology |
| • Holy Spirit | Pneumatology |
| • Sin | Harmatology |
| • Salvation | Soteriology |
| • Church | Ecclesiology |
| • Last Things | Eschatology |

There are, of course, other possibilities, but our question is not what one could know but what one must know. I do not believe that all of the above must be studied in detail, but likely there must be some basic understanding of these areas.

In this series, we will study the basics of faith in a series that reflects the areas in the list. The studies will be helpful in understanding our own faith, and in understanding how to help others toward a biblical faith. This is an effort to distill faith to some initial basic truths. The lessons in the series can be outlined as follows.

² I list eight basic areas here. A theology professor under whom I studied listed ten areas, including knowing (epistemology) and beginnings including questions of creation and evolution (an area which he called "ur-ology", from the German word for beginning, not to be confused with an area of medical studies).

- The identity of Jesus, the relationship between God and Christ
- Understanding the Bible
- Sin and Godly Sorry
- Salvation: Beginning and Continuing
- The Church
- Obeying the Gospel
- By Grace: Confidence in the Christian Life
- By Faith: Obedience is the Key

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Lesson 1

Some Principles of Bible Study

Note: while these are labeled “principles of Bible Study” in this lesson, these are in reality basic literary principles for reading any kind of literature.

- Who is speaking? To whom are the words spoken?
- What are the circumstances reflected in the context that might affect the meaning? Note that the “context” has several dimensions and dynamics.
- What is the nature of the literature and language? Is the literature narrative, poetry, history, apocalyptic....? Is the language to be understood in a literal sense or a figurative sense?
- Partial truth can lead to wrong conclusions. Correct understanding requires that all applicable texts about a theme or topic be considered as a whole.
- More difficult passages must be understood in a way that harmonizes (agrees) with less difficult passages.
- Bible study must be undertaken with an open mind, not prejudiced by preconceived ideas, personal biases, or opinions.

INTRODUCING GOD: Father, Son, and Spirit

John 3:16

Y N Did God the Father send his only begotten Son (Jesus) into this world?

Y N Did the Father send Jesus so you and I could live forever?

In one word, why did God give his only Son? _____

Y N Does God love you?

Do you know God loves you? Do you feel God loves you?

Do you love God enough to believe and do what he says in his word (the Bible)?

John 1:14

T F The Word, Flesh, and the Only Begotten all refer to Jesus.

T F The Word (Jesus) became a man and lived on earth among human beings (us).

John 1:1

T F In the beginning the Word (Jesus) was with God.

T F In the beginning the Word (Jesus) was God.

Y N Was Jesus God?

How would you explain this statement?

John 5:18; 10:26-33

Y N Did Jesus say that he and God the Father are one?

Y N Did Jesus believe he was spiritually equal with God (the Father)?

How do you feel about Jesus making this claim?

John 14:23, 24

- T F The words of Jesus are the same as the words of God the Father.
- Y N Do you personally want to obey whatever Jesus commands?
- Y N Is it possible for you to live by the words of Jesus if you do not know what they are?

John 14:25, 26

- T F Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as “whom” (a person) and not “it” (a thing).
- T F The Holy Spirit and Jesus both were sent by God the Father.
- T F The words of the Father are the same as the words of the Son and were given to the apostles by the Holy Spirit.

John 16:13

Jesus said the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into SOME—ALL truth.

What do the words “all truth” in this verse mean to you?

In what three ways did Jesus say that God (the Holy Spirit) would help the apostles?

Teach them _____ things.

Remind them of _____ that Jesus had taught them.

Guide them into _____ truth.

- Y N Does God make mistakes?
- T F Since God himself guided the writing of the Bible, it cannot contain any mistakes or contradictions.
- To go to heaven what information do we need besides the inspired writings (Bible)?

WHO WILL GO TO HEAVEN, AND WHY?

Matthew 7:13, 14

- T F Few people will go to heaven; many will not.
- Y N Will you enter the narrow gate if you follow the majority of people?

Matthew 7:15

- T F False teachers (or prophets) may seem to be harmless, but they are very dangerous.
- Y N Should you believe religious teachings that cannot be found in the Bible?

Matthew 7:21-23

- Y N Will everyone who calls Jesus “Lord” enter the kingdom of heaven?
- Y N Will everyone who does good works in the name of Jesus go to heaven?
- T F Many people’s religious beliefs and practices are wrong.

Matthew 7:26, 27

If a person hears but does not obey the words of Jesus he is _____.

What does Jesus want you to do with his words? _____

How do you feel about making Jesus Lord of your life and obeying his words?

Matthew 10:34-38

- T F Following Jesus can result in families being divided.
- Y N Should you follow Jesus even if it means being rejected by members of your own family?
- Y N If your family's religious beliefs are different from what the Bible teaches, should you reject those religious beliefs?
- Y N Does Jesus expect you to put him FIRST in your life, even ahead of spouse, parents, and children?
How do you feel about putting Jesus before your family?

Galatians 1:8, 9

- T F Not even an angel from heaven is allowed to change Bible teaching.
- T F Those who teach a "gospel" contrary to that found in the Bible will be condemned.
- Y N If you found that your minister, pastor, or best friend teaches something different from the Bible, should you reject that teaching?
How can you find out if a preacher or religious teacher is teaching the truth?

Matthew 28:18

- Who has ALL authority in religious matters today? _____
- If you believe Jesus has all authority in religious matters today, how will that affect your life?*

Philippians 2:5-7

- T F Before Christ Jesus became a man he existed in the form of God.
- Y N Do you personally believe that Jesus was God as well as man?
- Y N Does Jesus deserve your love, trust, and obedience?

REVIEW AND SUMMARY

- T F Because God loves you and me, he sent his son (Jesus) into the world.
- T F Jesus is God (but not God the Father).
- T F Jesus has all authority today both in heaven and on earth.
After Jesus left the earth, the Holy Spirit came to...
- T F Teach the apostles ALL things
- T F Remind them of ALL that Jesus had taught them.
- T F Guide them into ALL truth.
- T F We can trust what the inspired writers wrote because it is both accurate and complete.
- T F Religious teaching adding to or subtracting from the Bible cannot be trusted.
- T F If I found that some of my religious beliefs or practices were different from Bible teaching I would reject them.
- T F Many people will not go to heaven.
- T F I personally will not go to heaven unless I learn and do what Jesus commanded.
- T F I want to learn and do what Jesus commanded.

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Lesson 2

Review of Previous Lesson

- T F It is a good feeling to know that God loves me.
- T F I must beware of false teachers.
- T F Jesus is God (divine) and he has all authority.
- T F I want Jesus to have complete control over my life.
- T F If my family's religious beliefs are different from what the Bible teaches, I should reject those beliefs that are different from the Bible.
- T F I am ready to learn more about Christ's will for me today.

ARE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ABOLISHED? SHOULD I KEEP THE TEN COMMANDMENTS?

John 1:17

Grace and truth came through _____ .
The law came through _____ .

Exodus 34:27, 28

To whom was the Lord speaking in these verses? _____
God made this covenant (Ten Commandments) with Moses and the nation of _____ .

- Y N Do these verses say that God made this covenant (Ten Commandments) with Christians?

Galatians 3:16-19

The law was given until the _____ should come.
The seed referred to _____ .

- T F God intended for the Law he gave to Moses and the Jews to last only until the time of Christ.

Luke 16:17; Matthew 5:17, 18

- T F Jesus came to fulfill the law.
- T F Jesus said the Law would not pass away until all was fulfilled (accomplished).
- T F It would have been easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for the law to pass away before its time.
- Y N Did Jesus say the Law would never pass away?
- Y N Did Jesus say the Law would pass away when heaven and earth passed away.
- T F Jesus said the Law would pass away when all was accomplished (fulfilled), not before.

John 19:28-30

- T F All was accomplished (fulfilled) when Jesus died on the cross.
- T F Therefore, the Law passed away when Jesus died on the cross.

Ephesians 2:11-16

- T F The law of commandments was a wall of partition (hostility or enmity) between Jews and non-Jews (Gentiles).
- T F When Jesus gave his flesh (body) and shed his blood on the cross, he abolished the law of commandments that formerly had been a barrier between Jews and Gentiles.
- T F All people (Jews and non-Jews) can now have peace with each other and with God through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, not through the Ten Commandments.

Romans 7:1-4

- Y N Would it please God for a woman to have two husbands at the same time?
- Y N Would it please God for a Christian to try to live by the Old Testament law and the New Testament at the same time?

Romans 7:7

- T F The law said, "You shall not covet."
- T F "You shall not covet" was one of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:17).
- T F The Law, therefore, included the Ten Commandments.

Romans 7:6

- T F Jews were released (delivered) from the Law (Ten Commandments).
- T F Christians were never bound by the Law (Ten Commandments).
- Y N Should you try to obey the Law (including the Ten Commandments) which God has abolished?
- T F If I sincerely believe in God and try to keep the Ten Commandments, I will probably go to heaven when I die.
- T F The Old Testament law intended when Jesus died on the cross.
- T F I am not obligated to obey the Ten Commandments which have been abolished.
How do you feel about the Ten Commandments being abolished?

Hebrews 8:6, 7

- T F Through the ministry of Jesus we (Jews and Gentiles) have a better covenant (testament).
- T F God made the first (Old) covenant with the Jews only.
- T F If the first covenant (Old Testament) had been perfect, there would have been no purpose for the second covenant (New Testament).

Hebrew 9:15-17

- T F A covenant (testament or will) becomes effective when the one who make it dies, not before.
- T F Jesus is the mediator of the new covenant (testament or will).

- T F The New Testament became effective when Jesus died on the cross.
- T F Under the New Testament (covenant) there is the promise of an eternal inheritance. *How do you feel about receiving the gift of eternal life as an inheritance from Jesus?*
- Y N Can one receive the inheritance if one does not comply with the terms of the will (covenant)?
- T F In order to receive the eternal inheritance made possible through the death of Jesus, we must obey his New Testament.

Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:1-11

- T F Even though the “law” has been abolished, we can still learn from the Old Testament Scriptures.
- T F God wants us to learn from the mistakes of those who lived under the Ten Commandments.
- T F Their examples serve as lessons for us today.

Acts 17:30, 31

- Y N Does God excuse ignorance today?
- T F The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is God’s proof that He will judge the world through Jesus.
- Y N Do you believe Jesus was raised from the dead and that a Day of Judgment is coming?

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

What is the punishment for those who do not know God and those who do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ? _____

- Y N Would you want to spend eternity separated from God?
- Y N If a person is sincere does that mean he is right?
- Y N Does a person’s sincerity determine whether he is right or wrong?
- T F Whoever is sincere and does good works will go to heaven.
- Y N Do you want to be prepared for the coming Judgment Day?
- Y N Are you interested in knowing more about how to inherit eternal life?

John 14:6, 15

- T F Jesus is the ONLY WAY to the Father who is in heaven.
- Y N Can you obey the commandments of Jesus if you do not know what they are?

REVIEW AND SUMMARY

- T F The Ten Commandments were abolished when Jesus died on the cross.
- T F The New Testament of Jesus went into effect when He died on the cross.
- T F I will not go to heaven by being sincere and keeping the Ten Commandments.
- T F I can still learn from the Old Testament today.
- T F The Day of Judgment is coming.
- T F Jesus said there is only ONE WAY to heaven.
- Y N Should you follow Jesus even if it means being rejected by members of your own family?
- T F I would like to know more about the commandments of Jesus.

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Lesson 3

Review of Previous Lesson

- T F I express my love for Jesus by obeying his commands.
- T F The Old Testament law ended when Jesus died on the cross.
- T F I am not obligated to obey the Ten Commandments which have been abolished.
- T F The Old Testament helps us understand the New Testament of Christ.
- T F Jesus was resurrected from the dead.
- Y N I want to be prepared for the Judgment Day that is coming.
- Y N I would like to give Jesus total authority over my life.
- Y N Do you feel that you have been saved?
If "yes", in what year? _____
In what manner? _____
- Y N Have you been baptized?
If "yes", in what year? _____
In what manner? _____
For what purpose? _____
If you feel that you have already been saved, were you saved **BEFORE** or **AFTER** your baptism?
Do you feel **GOOD**, **BAD** or **UNSURE** about your present relationship with Jesus?

John 8:21

- Y N Is a person who dies in his or her sin separated from God?
- Y N Can a person who dies in her or his sin go to heaven?

James 4:17; 1:13-15

- When I refuse to do what I know is right I commit _____.
- Y N Could an infant be guilty of this type of sin?
When I do what is wrong I commit _____.
- Y N Could an infant be guilty of this type of sin?
These verses teach that lust (evil desire) leads to sin, which results in _____.

James 2:26

- In physical death the spirit of man is separated from the _____.
- T F Death is a separation.
In spiritual death man's soul is separated from God because of _____.
- Y N Do these verses teach that sin is something we inherit at birth?

Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 6:23

Y N Was sin passed on from one generation to another?

What are the "wages" of sin? _____

Are wages something **EARNED** or **INHERITED**?

Are the wages of sin something we have **EARNED** or **INHERITED**?

Y N Based on the Bible, were you born with inherited original sin?

When I personally committed sin I earned the wages of sin which is spiritual
_____.

Romans 1:24-32

Write some sins from these verses that you feel are still being committed today:

How do you feel about your sins?

How do you think God feels about your sins?

Write some of your sins. _____

How do you feel about having been separated from God through your own personal sins?

Romans 2:4-6

God's kindness (goodness) will lead me to _____.

T F If I am stubborn and refuse to repent I will give an account to God on the Day of Judgment.

Matthew 21:28-30

Y N In this example of repentance, did one of the disobedient sons have a change of heart (mind) and then obey his father?

When one repents, does he change his **ATTITUDE**, his **ACTIONS**, or **BOTH**?

One of my sins is _____.

The way for me to repent of that sin is _____.

Acts 26:20

T F Repentance involves a change of heart (mind) towards God and away from sinful deeds.

T F Repentance involves change, not just feeling sorry.

2 Corinthians 7:10

Repentance is caused by _____.

GODLY or **WORLDLY** sorrow is being sorry that your sins hurt God.

T F Godly sorrow produces repentance which leads to salvation.

Repentance **IS** or **IS NOT** the same as godly sorrow.

Repentance **IS** or **IS NOT** the same as salvation.

T F Salvation involves more than sorrow and repentance.

Ephesians 1:7

T F In order to be redeemed (brought back to God) you must be forgiven of your sins by the blood of Jesus.

Romans 5:8, 9

T F The blood that Jesus shed in his death for me, a sinner proves how much God loves me.
How does that make you feel?

Y N Can you be justified without the blood of Jesus?

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Y N Can you be saved without accepting the gospel?

T F The gospel includes Christ's death for our sins, his burial and his resurrection three days later.

Y N Do you personally believe and accept the gospel of Jesus Christ?

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

Those who do not obey the gospel will suffer **TEMPORARY** or **EVERLASTING** punishment.

The gospel is the _____, _____, and _____ of Jesus.

Are you **SURE** or **UNSURE** that you have obeyed the gospel (death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus)?

Romans 6:1-4

T F To obey the gospel I must die to sin (repent), be buried (baptized) into Christ's death and be resurrected (raised) to live a new life.

All my sins separating me from God are removed by the blood of Jesus **BEFORE** or **DURING** my burial by baptism into Christ's death.

I am raised to walk in newness of life **BEFORE** or **AFTER** my burial by baptism into Christ's death.

Acts 2:36-42, 47

T F When these people became aware of their sin, they experienced godly sorrow (were cut, pierced to the heart).

T F When these people became aware of their guilt, they wanted to do something about it. They were told to repent and be _____ for the _____ of their sins.

Y N Did some of these people obey the gospel?

They were buried into Christ's death **BEFORE** or **DURING** their baptism.

T F They were saved from their sins when they were baptized, not before.

At their baptism these people were saved and _____ by the _____ to his group of followers (the church).

Y N Did the Lord add to his church those who did not obey the gospel?

These saved people assembled together regularly and devoted themselves to:

REVIEW AND SUMMARY

- Y N Is it your desire to repent of all sin in your life?
- Y N Is it your desire to assemble regularly with other Christians who have obeyed the gospel?
- Y N Do you believe that baptism is for the remission (forgiveness) of sins?
- Y N Have you personally obeyed the gospel?
What decision do you feel you should make at this time?

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Lesson 4

Review of Previous Lesson

- T F Jesus has all authority both in heaven and on earth.
- T F I cannot love Jesus without obeying him.
- T F I cannot obey Jesus without obeying his New Testament.
- T F Like all other persons, I have sinned and been separated from God.
- T F I can get back to God only through Jesus.
- T F To be saved I must believe in Jesus, repent of my sins, confess Jesus before men and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins.

WILL ALL CHRISTIANS GO TO HEAVEN?

John 20:24-29

Jesus is Lord and he is _____.

- T F Since Jesus is both Lord and God, his commands must be obeyed.
- T F I personally acknowledge Jesus as Lord and God, and I want to obey his commands.

Matthew 6:24; 7:21-23

How many masters can you serve? _____

- Y N Will all those who do good works in Jesus' name go to heaven?
- Y N Will all those who are sincere go to heaven?
- Who has the assurance of heaven? _____

Luke 6:46

- Y N Will you please Jesus by calling him "Lord" but not obeying his New Testament?
- Who do you personally mean when you call Jesus "Lord"?

Luke 9:23-26

Anyone who follows Jesus must deny _____ and take up his cross.

- T F A cross was used for putting people to death.
- Each Christian must take up his cross WEEKLY -- DAILY.
- T F To take up the cross daily means to die to self daily.
- T F A Christian should put his job or worldly gain first in his life.
- Jesus will be ashamed of me if I am ashamed of _____ and his _____.
- T F As I follow Jesus I will grow spiritually by dying to self, sin, security of the world and shame.
- Y N Will you give Jesus complete control of your life?

Luke 14:15-24

What three excuses did those in this parable make?

How does Jesus feel about people who make excuses for not following him and doing his will?

How would Jesus feel if you began to make excuses for not doing his will?

Luke 14:25-27

T F We should love mother and father more than Jesus.

T F To be a follower of Jesus I must love him more than anything or anyone, including my own self.

Y N Should you stop doing the will of Jesus when it becomes inconvenient for you?

Y N Should you follow the religious beliefs of your parents, friends or spouse if they are contrary to the New Testament of Christ?

Y N Can you be a disciple of Jesus if you do not take up your cross and put Jesus first in everything?

Luke 14:28-35

A builder, before building, and a king, before going to war, will count the _____.

T F Those who would be disciples of Jesus must count the cost.

T F Jesus compares his disciples to salt.

Salt that has become tasteless and disciples who do not put Jesus first are good for _____.

What does it mean to give up all your possessions? How? Why?

1 Peter 5:8; James 4:7, 8

Y N Is the devil real?

Y N Is the devil actively seeking to keep you from following Jesus?

The power to resist the devil and make him flee from you comes by _____ and _____ to God.

T F Regular Bible study, prayer, the breaking of bread and assembling with other faithful Christians will help you draw near to God and grow spiritually.

2 Peter 1:5-11

T F Growing Christians will add to their faith moral values, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and Christian love.

Discuss how each of these virtues would apply in your everyday life.

T F As long as you practice these things you will never fall.

2 Peter 2:20-22

Y N Is it possible for a Christian to be entangled again in the world?

T F It would have been better if they had never known the way of righteousness.

For a Christian to become unfaithful is like a sow (pig) return to _____.
For a Christian to become unfaithful is like a dog returning to its own _____.
How do these descriptions of a Christian's becoming unfaithful make you feel?

Y N Does the Bible teach (as many believe) that once a person is saved he can never again be lost?

2 Peter 3:16-18

T F Some people misuse, abuse and distort the Scriptures to their own destruction.

T F A Christian must be on guard against false teachers and unprincipled men.

A Christian is to grow in _____ and _____ of our Lord.

How would you feel about a person who commits himself to Jesus, is baptized into Christ, and then neglects to come to the regularly scheduled worship and Bible classes?

1 John 5:13

T F You can know that you have eternal life by the things that are written.

T F You can know that you have eternal life by the way you feel.

T F Neither feeling nor opinion is a safe guide to eternal life.

1 John 1:5-10

T F God is light and darkness is sin.

Y N If you are walking in darkness (sin), can you have fellowship with God?

T F To walk in darkness (sin) is to be lost (out of fellowship with God).

T F If you are walking in the light, you do not deny your sins but you acknowledge them.
When a Christian is walking in the light the blood of Jesus is cleansing him of **SOME** or **ALL** sin.

Y N Does a Christian commit sin while walking in the light?

T F While walking in the light a Christian has unbroken fellowship with God because he is being cleansed of all his sins by the blood of Christ.

Romans 6:1-4

How does one first come into contact with the cleansing blood of Christ which he shed in his death? _____

Baptism is a **SPRINKLING** -- **POURING** -- **BURIAL**.

Y N If you have never been buried by baptism, is the blood of Christ cleansing you of your sins?

Acts 19:3-5

Y N Were these people baptized more than once?

Y N Did these people properly understand the gospel when they were first baptized?

Y N If a person's understanding of the gospel is not correct, can his or her baptism be valid?

Y N Does God expect you to live the same way after baptism as you lived before baptism?

Y N Do you want to change (repent of) everything if your life which is contrary to God's will (the New Testament of Christ)?

Y N If you have never been validly baptized, do you feel that you understand the gospel well enough to be baptized now?

REVIEW AND SUMMARY

- T F Being a Christian means committing myself completely to Jesus Christ.
- T F Being a Christian means following (obeying) Jesus until death.
- T F Being a Christian means walking in the light of God's word.
- T F Walking in the light does not mean that I will never again commit a sin.
- T F Walking in the light includes repentance and confession (acknowledgement) of my sins.
- T F If I walk in the light I can rest assured that the blood of Jesus is cleansing me of all my sins.
- T F The blood of Christ cleanses only those who are walking in the light after having initially contacted the blood in valid baptism.
- T F Baptism is the beginning of a new life.
- T F Those who have been "baptized" without first understanding the gospel must be baptized again.

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Lesson 5

Review of Previous Lesson

- T F When we are validly baptized we are buried into the death of Christ where he shed his blood.
- T F When we are validly baptized we rise to walk in newness of life.
- T F If we walk in the light after baptism, the blood of Jesus continues to cleanse us of our sins.

THE CHURCH – THE PEOPLE OF GOD

John 17:20, 21

- T F Jesus prayed that his followers would be divided into several splinter groups.

1 Corinthians 1:10-12

- Y N Was God pleased that these followers of Jesus were divided?
- T F Division is caused by following men instead of Jesus.
In light of these verses, how do you think Jesus feels about all the differing churches today?
- T F To please God, we must be of the same mind.

Romans 6:17

- To be of the same mind, followers of Jesus must obey from the heart the _____ of teaching (doctrine).
- T F I want to follow Jesus.
- T F The key to religious unity for all followers of Jesus is to obey from the heart the FORM or PATTERN of New Testament doctrine (teaching).

Matthew 16:18

- T F Jesus promised to build one church.
- Y N Does Jesus have all authority today?
- Y N If everyone submitted to the authority of Jesus and obeyed the same PATTERN of teaching, would there be many differing churches today?
- Y N Is it possible to submit to the authority of Jesus but not follow his words?
To identify the church that belongs to Jesus we must go to the _____ Testament.

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 and 1 Timothy 4:1-3.

Discuss the fact that people can depart from God.

Ephesians 1:22, 23; 4:4; 5:23

Christ is the head of the church, which is his _____.

T F There is one body, the church.

T F Christ is the Savior of the one church, which is his body.

Y N Could you be saved as a member of a church that Jesus neither heads nor saves?

John 4:23, 24

T F True worshipers must worship God "in spirit and in truth."

What does the word "must" mean to you?

T F Only by following the New Testament teaching (pattern) can we worship in truth.

Mark 7:6-9

T F Worship according to the doctrines of men is false and worthless.

T F To worship "in spirit and in truth" we must follow the New Testament pattern.

Matthew 26:17, 26-29

T F Jesus used unleavened bread and fruit of the vine in his last supper.

T F Those who follow the New Testament pattern will use unleavened bread and fruit of the vine in the Lord's Supper.

Acts 20:7

T F True worshipers came together on the first day of the week (Sunday) to break bread (eat the Lord's Supper).

T F Churches today that break bread (take communion) monthly or quarterly are following the New Testament pattern.

Ephesians 5:19

T F Singing is a part of the New Testament pattern in worship.

T F If the New Testament does not authorize the use of mechanical instruments of music in worship they cannot be used to worship "in truth".

T F We can trust what the inspired writers wrote because it is both accurate and complete.

Matthew 23:8-10

T F Leaders in the Lord's church are called "Father".

Titus 1:5-9

T F Elders (bishops, overseers) in the one church of Christ must meet specific qualifications.

T F God commanded that bishops in his church must be men who are married and have children.

How do you feel about all the different churches today?

1 Timothy 2:8-12

- T F Men are to teach and pray in public.
- Y N Do these verses say that women are permitted to take a public lead in church?
- T F The true church will have women preachers today.

Galatians 3:26, 27

- T F When a person is properly baptized he is baptized "into Christ".
- Y N If you have not been properly baptized, are you "in Christ"?
- Y N If you have not been properly baptized, has the Lord added you to his church?
- Y N Can you be saved outside the Lord's church?
- T F Regardless of your social or religious background, you have the opportunity to be one with all others who are "in Christ".

Hebrews 10:23-26

- T F The New Testament pattern specifically forbids Christians to forsake the assembling of themselves together.
- Y N Would you please God if you were born again in baptism but did not remain faithful?
- Y N Would Jesus want you to worship with a church that does not observe his Supper each Sunday?
- Y N Would Jesus want you to assemble with a church that believes and teaches that one is saved before baptism?
Christ's church in this area assembles each week at the following times: _____

- Y N As a member of Christ's church, should you deliberately and unnecessarily be absent at any of the above times?

REVIEW AND SUMMARY

The New Testament pattern concerning salvation includes the following:

- T F Belief in Jesus, the Son of God.
- T F Repentance of sin.
- T F Confession of Jesus before men.
- T F Baptism by immersion in water for the remission of sins.
- T F Walking in the light.

The New Testament pattern concerning the church includes the following:

- T F Jesus is the head and Savior of only one church.
- T F No one can join the church of Christ, but one is added by the Lord when properly baptized.
- T F Bishops (elders) in the one church must be married men with children.
- T F Men, not women, are to take the lead in public prayer and teaching.
- T F Religious titles such as "Father" or "Reverend" are condemned by Jesus.

The New Testament pattern concerning worship includes the following:

- T F The Lord's Supper is observed every Sunday, not daily, monthly, or quarterly.
 - T F Unleavened bread and fruit of the vine are used, no more and no less.
 - T F The music in worship is singing, not playing.
- T F Only the church which conforms to the New Testament pattern could be the one church Jesus established.
- Y N Would you want to be a part of a group or church which violates the New Testament pattern in any way?

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Lesson 6

Review of Previous Lessons

- T F Sin causes spiritual death (separation from God).
- T F Sin is committed, not inherited.
- T F Infants are guilty of sin.
- T F Only with forgiveness of my sins will I be ready for the coming Judgment Day.
- T F To have my sins forgiven I must first repent of them.
- T F Repenting involves changing both my attitude and my actions regarding sin.
- T F Godly sorrow for my sins will lead me to repent of them.
- T F Sins are forgiven at baptism, not before.
- T F My sins are forgiven when I am properly baptized.
- T F After baptism, I must assemble on the first day of every week to break bread.

OBEYING THE GOSPEL

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

Jesus will condemn forever those who do not know God and do not _____ his _____.

- T F I want to obey the gospel.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

We are saved by the _____.

What is the punishment for those who do not know God and those who do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ? _____

- T F I want to be saved by the gospel.

The gospel preached by the Apostle Paul was that Christ _____ for our sins, was _____, and was _____ from the dead.

Romans 6:3-6

We are _____ by _____ into the _____ of Christ and _____ to walk in a new life.

How do you get into the death that Christ died for your sins? _____

- Y N Will Christ's death benefit you personally if you are not buried into his death?
- Y N Can you be buried into Christ's death by keeping the Ten Commandments?
- Y N Can you be buried into Christ's death by asking him into your heart as your personal Savior?
- T F To obey the gospel (death, burial, and resurrection) of Christ I must die to self, be buried by baptism, and rise to walk in newness of life.

John 19:32-34

T F Jesus shed his blood in his death.

Revelation 1:5; Ephesians 1:7

We can have redemption and forgiveness of our sins (trespasses) only through the _____ that Jesus shed in his _____.

Y N Can you have your sins forgiven without the blood of Jesus?

The only way to contact the blood that Jesus shed in his death is to be buried by _____ into his death.

T F If a person has never been baptized, he has never contacted the saving blood of Jesus. Are you SURE – UNSURE that you personally have contacted the blood of Christ in order to be saved (have your sins forgiven)?

T F If a person has never been baptized, he has never obeyed the gospel.

Y N If a person has never been baptized, he has never had his sins forgiven.

1 Peter 3:20, 21

Y N Is one “saved” at baptism?

T F Does one get “forgiveness of sins” at baptism?

Y N Being “saved” and “forgiveness of sins” both occur at baptism.

Y N Can anyone be saved before he has his sins forgiven?

Y N Could you be saved before baptism?

Romans 10:17; Acts 16:25-34

Does faith come BEFORE or AFTER hearing the word of Christ?

Did this household believe BEFORE or AFTER they were taught the word of the Lord?

T F In order to believe, one must first be taught.

Y N Can infants believe?

Y N Are infants guilty of sin?

Y N Were there any infants included in this reference to his household?

Give two Bible reasons why infants need not and should not be baptized:

Y N Were the people in this household baptized in the middle of the night? Why did they not wait for a more convenient time?

Acts 8:35-39

Philip preached _____ to him.

Y N When you preach Jesus to someone, should you also teach about water baptism?

Y N When you preach Jesus to someone, should you teach “faith only”?

Y N Did this person want to be baptized immediately?

Y N Was this man baptized in water?

T F Bible baptism is a burial in water for the forgiveness of sins.

Y N Does the water remove the sins?

Explain how and why sins are removed in water baptism. If necessary, study the passages and questions above again.

Y N Do you believe and accept the Bible teaching on baptism?

Ephesians 4:5

There is _____ Lord.

There is _____ faith.

There is _____ baptism.

T F Jesus is the only way to the Father who is in heaven.

What does Jesus want you to do with his words? _____

Colossians 2:11, 12

T F The “one” baptism of the Bible is a burial.

Y N Is sprinkling or pouring the “one” baptism?

Compare the Bible teaching on baptism with what you have been taught in the past.

Acts 19:3-5

Y N Were these people baptized more than once?

Y N Did these people properly understand the gospel when they were first baptized?

Y N If a person’s understanding of the gospel is not correct, can his/her baptism be valid?
In Lesson 3, did you circle that you were saved BEFORE or AFTER you were baptized?

Y N If you circled BEFORE, did you properly understand the gospel at the time of your baptism?

Y N If you were baptized (immersed) without the proper understanding, should you be immersed again?

Y N After studying the Bible teaching on baptism, do you believe you were baptized in the correct manner (burial in water)?

Y N Do you believe you were baptized for the correct purpose (forgiveness of sins)?

Y N Do you believe you are saved?

Galatians 3:27, 28

How do you get “into Christ”? _____

Y N Can you be saved outside of Christ?

T F Regardless of your social or religious background, you have the opportunity to be one with all others who are “in Christ”.

How do you feel about making Jesus Lord of your life and obeying his words?

What questions do you have about baptism?

If you have any doubts about your previous baptism, what should you do?

2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 John 1:7

T F All things in Christ are new.

T F When you are properly baptized “into Christ” you are a new creature.

If you walk in the light after baptism, the blood of Christ continues to cleanse you of _____ your sins.

How do you feel about having a NEW LIFE in Jesus?

Luke 8:11-15

How many different kinds of hearts are there? _____

Which heart do you want to have? _____

T F Satan wants to take away the word of God so you will be lost.

What is your responsibility in this matter?

Acts 22:16

In baptism, sins are _____ away by the blood of Jesus.

Y N Was this person told to delay baptism?

Y N If you believe in Jesus and are willing to repent of your sins, should you put off being baptized?

When would Jesus want you to be baptized? _____

How do you feel about your present relationship with Christ?

REVIEW AND SUMMARY

T F I want to go to heaven.

T F I want Jesus to be my Lord and Savior.

T F I want to repent of all my sins.

T F I want to have all of my sins forgiven.

T F I want to assemble every Sunday with other Christians to break bread.

T F I want to be baptized into Christ immediately.

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Lesson 7

Review of Previous Lessons

- T F Only the Bible can be relied upon for religious truth. [Lesson 1]
- T F Few people will go to heaven. [1]
- T F I, myself, will go to heaven only if I learn and do the will of Jesus (God). [1]
- T F The New Testament of Christ is God's will for me today. [2]
- T F I have sinned and my sins have separated me from God. [3]
- T F I can have forgiveness of all my sins only through all of the following:
Believing in Jesus [1]
Confessions Jesus before men [2]
Repenting of my sins [3]
Being buried in water for the remission of sins [3-6]
- T F I can remain saved after baptism only by being a faithful disciple of Jesus. [4]
- T F Being a faithful disciple of Jesus includes regularly assembling to worship God properly with his one church. [5]
- T F If I walk in the light after baptism, I have unbroken fellowship with God because the blood of Jesus continuously cleanses me of all my sins. [6]
What thoughts or questions do you have about anything we have studied so far?

John 5:24; 1 John 5:13

- T F A faithful disciple of Jesus has eternal life now.
- Y N As a faithful follower of Jesus, do you need to fear judgment.
You can know you have eternal life by **YOUR FEELINGS** or **GOD'S WRITTEN WORD**.
- Y N If no one believed the Bible, would it be any less true?

John 10:27-29; Romans 8:31-39

- Y N As a faithful follower of Jesus, do you need to worry about perishing?
Who can separate you from God the Father? _____

Galatians 3:27; Romans 8:1

- Y N If you have been validly baptized, are you "in Christ"?
- Y N If you are "in Christ" do you need to fear condemnation?

Romans 8:26-28

- T F When you are a Christian, the Holy Spirit intercedes for you in your prayer life.
How does that make you feel?
For a faithful disciple God causes **SOME** or **ALL** things to work together for good.
- Y N Do you believe that God can make everything work together for good?

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

T F Regardless of your past, if you are now in Christ you have been washed, sanctified and justified.

How do you feel about your past?

Y N If you are a faithful disciple "in Christ", is there any reason for you to still feel guilty for sins have committed in the past?

Y N Do you believe that God would forgive all your sins?

Philippians 3:8-14

T F We as Christians need to forget that which is behind and press on for the goal.

T F Christians can look forward to the resurrection from the dead.

T F You should keep your eyes on Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1:3

T F If you are in Christ, you are a new creature and old things have passed away.

What practical benefits do you see in this truth?

If you are not in Christ, how can you get "into Christ"? _____

How many spiritual blessings are "outside of Christ"? _____

Y N Can you think of one good reason to remain "outside of Christ"?

What can you do to help others who are not yet in Christ?

1 Peter 1:3, 4; Hebrews 9:15

Where is your inheritance reserved for you? _____

Your reward of the inheritance will come from **MAN** or **GOD**.

Y N Is your inheritance perishable?

Y N Do you know of any other inheritance that will never perish?

Hebrews 4:14-16

Y N Does Jesus understand your weaknesses and temptations?

How could this help you remain a faithful disciple of Jesus?

By drawing near to the throne of grace we can receive _____ and find _____ in time of need.

Y N Does God really care about you personally?

Ephesians 3:20; Philippians 2:12, 13

Y N Can God work in you beyond all that you ask or think?

What does this tell you about the nature of God?

Y N Can God help you overcome bad habits?

What changes would you like God to help you make in your everyday life?

T F If you submit to God, He will work in you for His good pleasure.

How do you feel about turning your life completely over to God for his purposes?

Ephesians 1:7-14; 3:1-11

- T F From the very beginning God's purpose for us was to make us his heirs.
- T F A Christian (disciple) has redemption through the blood of Christ.
- T F As a disciple of Christ you are forgiven of all your trespasses.
- T F If you have been properly baptized into Christ, you have already obtained an inheritance.
- T F As a Christian, you have been sealed with the Holy Spirit as a ledge of your eternal inheritance.
- Y N Can one receive the inheritance if one does not comply with the terms of the will?

Ephesians 2:12

Those who are separate from Christ have **LITTLE** or **NO** hope.
How would you like to go through life with NO HOPE?

1 Thessalonians 4:13, 14

How would you like to face death with NO HOPE?

1 Corinthians 15:50-56

- Y N Does a faithful disciple of Jesus need to be afraid of dying?
How do you feel about your present relationship with God?

Colossians 2:8-13; 1:21-23

- T F When a person is forgiven of all his transgressions (sins), he is "made alive."
Before being "made alive" you were **WEAK** or **DEAD** in your transgressions.
You were "made alive" when you **BELIEVED** or **WERE BURIED IN BAPTISM**.
Before becoming a disciple of Jesus you were **ALIENATED FROM** or **RECONCILED TO**
God.

If you have been properly buried in baptism for the remission of sins, you are now
ALIENATED FROM or **RECONCILED TO** God.

*What are some of the differences between man-made tradition and Bible teaching on
the subject of baptism?*

- Y N Do you think most people believe Bible teaching on the subject of baptism?
- Y N Will most people go to heaven?
- Y N Will you go to heaven?
What are some doubts, fears or feelings you have concerning your salvation?
- T F As a disciple of Jesus, you now have hope.
- Y N Is it possible to move away from the hope of the gospel?
As a disciple of Jesus you can continue to have hope if you _____
_____ firmly and established.
- Y N Is that what you personally want to do?

REVIEW AND SUMMARY

- T F God cares for me personally?
- T F As a disciple of Jesus I am forgiven of all my sins.
- T F With Jesus I have hope, without him I have none.
- T F A faithful disciple of Jesus has eternal life and does not come into judgment.
- T F Every spiritual blessing is “in Christ”.
- T F There is no condemnation for me if I am “in Christ”.
- T F If I am not in Christ, I can be baptized into him.
- Y N Are you “in Christ”?
- Y N If not, do you want to be?
- Y N Do you want to be washed, sanctified and justified through Jesus Christ?
- Y N Do you want to be baptized into Christ right now?
- T F After baptism you can continue to have hope by continuing in the faith, firmly established and steadfast.

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Lesson 8

John 3:16; 8:24

- Y N Can anyone have eternal life without believing in Jesus?
- Y N Can anyone be saved without having faith in Jesus?
- Y N If you do not have faith in Jesus will you die in your sins?
- T F Faith in Jesus is essential to having eternal life.
- T F If I do not have faith in Jesus, I will die in my sins and I will not spend eternity with God.

John 6:27-29

Believing in Jesus is a FEELING or WORK.

James 2:17

- Y N Is there such a thing as dead faith?
- Y N Can anyone be saved by this kind of faith?

James 2:18-20

- Y N Is there such a thing as useless faith?
- Y N Can anyone be saved by this kind of faith?

James 2:21-22

- T F Faith is perfected (completed) by works.
- Y N Is there such a thing as imperfect (incomplete, dead) faith?
- Y N Can anyone be saved by this kind of faith?
- Y N Whenever the concept of "faith" appears in the Bible, does it always mean exactly the same thing?

James 2:23

- Y N Are we justified by faith only?

John 12: 42, 43

- Y N Did these people have faith in Jesus?
- Y N Did they have the kind of faith that led them to confess Jesus?
- Y N Did they have the kind of faith that led them to obey Jesus?
- Y N Did they have the kind of faith in Jesus by which people are saved?
- Y N Can a person have faith in Jesus and still NOT be saved?
Discuss how SAVING FAITH differs from the other kinds of faith we read about in the Bible?

Romans 1:5; 16:26

Saving faith is faith that is **EMOTIONAL** or **OBEDIENT**.

Romans 10:17; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Saving faith is faith that comes from **MAN'S WISDOM** or **GOD'S WORD**.

"Repent and be baptized everyone one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" is **MAN'S WISDOM** or **GOD'S WORD**.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and join the church of your choice" is **MAN'S WISDOM** or **GOD'S WORD**.

Only to "Accept Jesus as your personal savior in order to be saved" is **MAN'S WISDOM** or **GOD'S WORD**.

Only to "Ask Jesus into your heart and he will cleanse you" is **MAN'S WISDOM** or **GOD'S WORD**.

Philippians 2:17; Ephesians 2:8-10

Saving faith involves works of **MERIT** or works of **SACRIFICE AND SERVICE**.

John 14:15; 1 Corinthians 7:19; Galatians 5:6

Saving faith involves works of **MERIT** or **OBEDIENCE** motivated by love.

Hebrews 11:6-8

By _____ Noah obeyed God.

Without obedience Noah's faith would have been **PERFECT** or **USELESS**.

By faith Abraham _____ God.

Compare the faith of Noah and Abraham with the other kinds of faith we read about in the Bible.

What will you need to do in order to have a faith like Noah or Abraham? _____

Mark 16:14-16

T F Those who believe the gospel will be baptized.

T F Those who disbelieve the gospel will not be baptized.

Those who claim to believe in Jesus but refuse to be baptized have the kind of faith that **WILL** or **WILL NOT** save them.

Y N Has your faith in Jesus led you to obey him in baptism?

2 Peter 1:5-9

Y N After your faith leads you to purification of your sins through baptism does God expect you to continue in your faith?

Discuss how we can apply the seven qualities God wants us to add to our faith.

Y N Will continued Bible study help you add these Christian virtues to your faith?

Y N Will regular assembly for worship with other Christians help you add these qualities to your faith?

1 Peter 2:1, 2

- Y N If you have not yet been born again in baptism for the remission of sins, will your faith in Jesus lead you to do so at this time?
- Y N If you are a “newborn babe” in Christ, does God want you to “grow up” spiritually?
- Y N Is this what you want to do?
- Y N Is it your desire to assemble regularly with other Christians for worship?
- Y N Is it your desire to assemble regularly with other Christians for continued Bible study?

REVIEW AND SUMMARY

- T F Belief (faith) has more than one meaning in the Bible.
- T F Belief (faith) in Jesus is absolutely necessary in order to be saved from sin.
- T F Only obedient faith in Jesus will save me from my sins.
- T F Without the proper kind of faith in Jesus I will not be saved from my sins.
- T F Therefore, without the proper kind of faith in Jesus I will not go to be with God in the next life.
- T F Without salvation from my sins I will not go to be with God in the next life.
- T F The kind of faith that saves is completed or perfected by works.
- T F God does not require works of merit by which we earn salvation from our sins.
- T F God does require works of obedience as a condition for receiving the gift of eternal life (salvation from sins).
- T F Some people in the Bible believed in Jesus but they would not confess him.
- T F Faith alone without obedience, no matter how seemingly sincere or heartfelt, does not by itself save anyone.
- T F The only people in the Bible who were saved by faith were those led by their faith to do all of the following:
Confess Jesus;
Repent of their sins;
Be buried in water (baptized) for the remission of their sins;
Be added by the Lord to his church (group of people);
Rise from the water of baptism to walk in newness of life;
Continue steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine, fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer;
Walk in the light after baptism as the blood of Jesus continued to cleanse them of their sins;
Grow into spiritually mature adults after having been born again in baptism.
- Y N Would you like to study a different type of Bible study?

