

FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCIPLESHIP

Leader's Book

VVAPOR

Life is a vapor. Don't spend yours on the sidelines.

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1 JESUS IS GOD | PART 1

No man was ever born like Jesus, lived like Jesus, taught like Jesus, died like Jesus and arose like Jesus. Trying to understand Jesus on the basis of what He "said" or what He "did" is of little or no value if you first fail to understand who He "is".

A. Scripture teaches us:

1. That if God did not raise Christ from the dead, then Christianity is useless/empty/futile/worthless. I Cor. 15:12-19
2. In I John 4:3, anyone denying that Jesus has come in the flesh is promoting the spirit of antichrist.

Jesus is GOD by activity and attributes.

1. Jesus is God the **Creator**.
In Genesis 1:1 God is the Creator; yet Jesus said He is the Creator in John 1:1-3, 14; Col. 1:13-19; Eph. 3:9. Therefore, Jesus is God.
2. Jesus has **eternally existed** as God. Ps. 90:1, 2.
 - a. Jesus existed before He took the form (body) of a man.
 - Phil. 2:5-8
 - b. Jesus existed before His birth as the Word (Jn. 1:1, 14, 18) and the Word will always exist.
 - Rev. 19:13
 - c. Jesus existed before creation.
 - Col. 1:16, 17
3. Jesus is God the **Messiah** (Old Testament Messiah is New Testament Christ) Jn. 1:41. Three of the most important qualifications of the Messiah are Prophet, Priest and King. Jesus fulfills all three.
 - a. **Prophet**: Deut. 18:15, 18. Fulfilled in Christ. Acts 3:22-26
 - b. **Priest**: Gen. 14:12-24. Fulfilled in Christ. Heb. 7:1-28

- c. **King:** II Sam. 7:12-16. Fulfilled in Christ. Mt. 1:1-17, 20 (the name line through Joseph). Lk. 3:23-32 (the blood line through Mary).
- d. In John 5:31-47 there are six witnesses testifying that Jesus is the Christ. List them below:
- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. <u>Jesus</u> v. 31 | 4. <u>Father</u> v. 37 |
| 2. <u>John</u> v. 33 | 5. <u>Scriptures</u> v. 39 |
| 3. <u>His deeds</u> v. 36 | 6. <u>Moses</u> v. 46 |

PART 2

B. Jesus is God by title and type.

1. Jesus is the **I Am**.
 - a. OT "I Am" verses.
 - Ex. 3:14, 15
 - b. NT proof that Jesus is OT "I Am".
 - Jn. 8:24, 28, 58
2. Jesus is the **Lord**.
 - a. OT verses on "Lord".
 - Ex. 6:2, 3; Deut. 4:35, 39; Is. 45:5-6
 - b. NT proof that Jesus is OT Lord.
 - Jn. 20:25, 28; Acts 2:36; Phil. 2:9-11
3. Jesus is **Savior**.
 - a. OT verses on "Savior".
 - Is. 43:11; 45:15, 21, 22; Hos. 13:4
 - b. NT proof that Jesus is OT Savior.
 - Lk. 2:11; Tit. 1:3, 4; 2:10, 13; 3:4, 6; II Pet. 1:11; 2:20
4. Jesus is the **Lamb**.
 - a. OT verses on "Lamb".
 - Gen. 22:8, 14; Ex. 12:3-6; Is. 53:7
 - b. NT proof that Jesus is OT Lamb. Jn. 1:29; Acts 8:32, 33; Rev. 15:3, 4; 17:14

PART 3

C. Jesus is completely God.

1. Scripture demands it.
 - Jn. 1:1, 14; Col. 1:15; 2:9; Heb. 1:3
2. He Himself claimed it.
 - Jn. 6:51; 10:30; 14:1, 7-11
3. His birth demonstrated it.
 - Is. 9:6; Mt. 1:23; Lk. 1:34, 35
4. His miracles and wonders attest to it.
 - Jn. 20:30, 31
5. His sinless life authenticated it.
 - II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15
6. His resurrection and post-resurrection appearances affirmed it.
 - Lk. 24:25-27, 44, 45; Rom. 1:4; I Cor. 15:12-20
7. His forgiveness of sin demonstrates it.
 - Mk. 2:1-12

PART 4

D. Jesus emphatically and most definitely claimed to be God (Jn. 10:30; Rom. 9:5). Either He's a liar, or a lunatic, or He is Lord. For the rational, reasonable, and honest inquirer, the evidence is impacting, overwhelming and clear.

Who do you say He is?

- Mt. 16:15, 16; Acts 1:2, 3; 2:36; Rom. 1:1-4; Phil. 2:11; II Pet. 1:16-18.

Note: OT law of blasphemy (Lev. 24:16) required stoning to death. See John 10:30-33; also John 8:50, 59. They understood Jesus was claiming to be God and therefore charged Him with blasphemy.

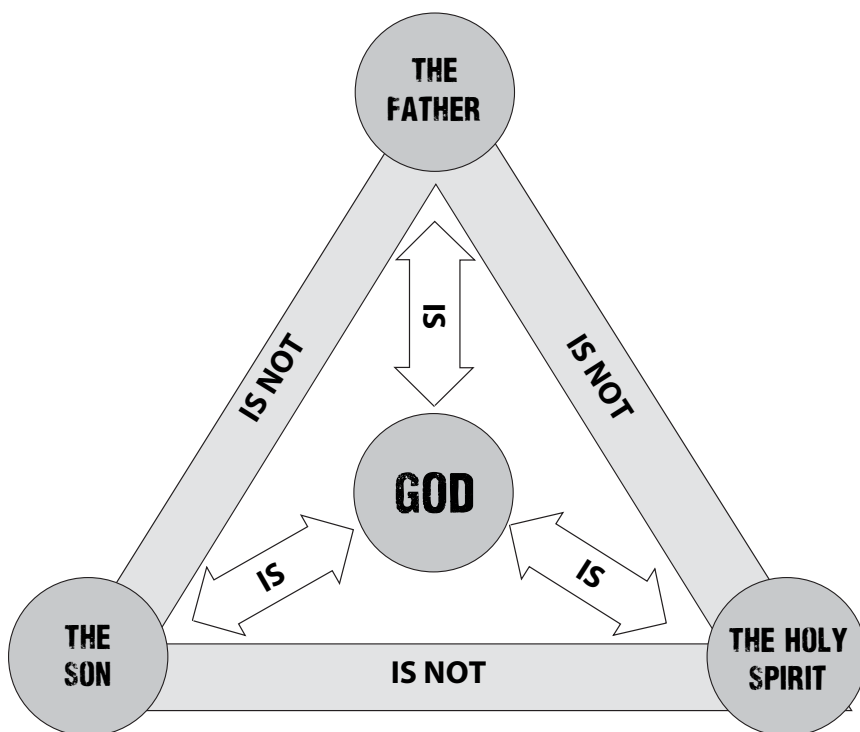
Deity Expressed in the Trinity

Deity - God or Supreme Being; the collection of attributes which make up the nature of God; divinity; godhead.

We believe that the bible teaches us of a singular God who exists in three distinct persons.

(Father – 1st Person of Trinity, Son – 2nd Person of Trinity, Holy Spirit – 3rd Person of Trinity)

- Equal in Essence (Permanent State of Being)
- Distinct in Person (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
- Subordinate in Function



2 SALVATION | PART 1

A. Let us consider some thinking of mankind that needs to be corrected on how we get to heaven.

1. Some believe that heaven is reached by “just” being sincere, zealous, fervent.

Gods answer:

- Rom. 10:2-4

2. Others believe that heaven is obtained through doing whatever each individual thinks is right in their own eyes.

God’s answer:

- Deut. 12:8; 29:19
- Jer. 3:17; 7:23, 24; 11:8; 13:10; 16:12; 17:5, 9; 18:12; 23:17

3. Still others believe that heaven is theirs by “just believing” (head belief) in God.

God’s answer:

- Mt. 7:21-23
- James 2:19, 20
- I Jn. 2:3, 4

4. While others believe that heaven is theirs by wisdom (their own wisdom).

God’s answer:

- I Cor. 1:18-21
- I Cor. 3:18-20

5. While still others believe that they will enter heaven by good works, being worthy or obtaining worthiness, or by their effort.

God's answer:

- Rom. 3:10-23; 4:4, 5
- Eph. 2:8, 9
- Tit. 3:5
- Ex. 20:24, 25 (OT Picture)

PART 2

B. The Deceiver, Satan, taught "the Lie" while rejecting "the Truth".

1. Genesis 3:4, 5 tells us of Satan's deception (known as "the Lie")!
 - a. You shall not die. (Reincarnation, no life after death, etc.)
 - b. You shall be like God. (Humanism, Hinduism, selfism)
2. In Romans 1:24-26 men exchanged "the Truth" for "the Lie".
Therefore, God **gave them over to their vile passions**.
3. If men refuse to believe God's truth, then according to II Thessalonians 2:10-12, they will believe what is **false**.
4. In John 14:6 Jesus claimed to be the one and only truth, and we see in John 8:32 knowing the truth will set you free.

PART 3

C. Watch out for the counterfeit!

1. According to Galatians 1:6-10, how many true gospels are there?

ONE And whose gospel is it? God's.

- Gal. 1:11-14
- I Thes. 2:13
- I Cor. 15:1-3

2. Consider II Cor. 11:3, 4. See also v. 13-15. **KIS – keep it simple.**

Since there is only one true gospel for all men everywhere, why are so many people ignorant of this gospel?

3. In Ephesians 4:17-19 we learn that men are ignorant (without facts) because they have given themselves over.

4. In I Timothy 4:1-4 we learn that counterfeit teachings include **forbidding marriage, abstaining from foods, deceiving spirits, lies**

PART 4

5. According to II Peter 2:1-3; 18-22, those who promise liberty (freedom) will make you a slave.

6. What is one test of genuineness? I Jn. 4:1-6

Test the spirits. See if they are of God.

7. According to II Pet. 3:3-7 it is important to watch out for false teachers/teaching.

Therefore, if your belief system is based on God's Word, then you will have the base for strong faith.

What is the belief system that you put your faith in, i.e., self, education, money, sex, drugs, or the Word of God?

We believe that this singular God is the creator of all the universe, hence, He has tremendous compassion and care for His creation, and that is why He died in our place.

3 THIS IS THE WAY | PART 1

notes

A. Jesus claimed to be the only way for men to get to heaven.

1. He claimed He was the Way, the Truth, the Life, and that no one could come to the Father but by Him.
 - Jn. 14:6
2. He claimed that He was the one and only Mediator between God and man.
 - 1Tim. 2:5
3. He claimed that He was the Door of the sheep.
 - Jn. 10:7-9
4. He claimed that there is no Salvation in any other.
 - Acts 4:12
5. Then according to His own claims, you would have to say that Jesus claimed to be the only way to heaven. Is. 45:21, 22
True X False _____

PART 2

6. Some might ask, "But how about those whom 'have never heard or read' the gospel?"

Note first that the Bible teaches that man is fully accountable on the basis of the "general revelation" alone, i.e., the minds (conscious), the bodies, creation.

- Deut. 4:15-19, 26; Job 31:26, 28; 32
- Ps. 18:7-9, 13, 15; 19:1-4; 65:8
- Prov. 24:11, 12; Jer. 51:15-18; Ezek. 3:17-19; Jn. 1:9; 16:8, 9

- Acts 14:11-17; 17:26-31; Rom. 1:16-25; 2:12-16

What does Rom. 1:18-25 say can be known about the Father through His creation of the world? (Two specific attributes in v. 20)

Eternal Power

Godhead

- Ps. 19:1-4; Rom. 10:18; Col. 1:5, 6, 23; Tit. 2:11

It is because of that knowledge of God clearly seen in creation that Rom. 1:20 says they are **without** **excuse**.

PART 3

B. The Bible tells us that God calls all men everywhere to *repent*.

Repent - to have a change (about face) of mind (thinking) and heart (feeling), which leads to a changed life (behavior, character)

- Ez. 18:30-32.

1. Biblical definition of sin: mankind going his "own" way, not submitting to the authority of God. Is. 53:6.

2. Scripture shows in II Peter 3:9, that God is not willing that any should perish but that **all** should come to repentance.

3. Also, in Acts 17:30 shows God **calls** all men everywhere to repent.

4. We see in Luke 24:47 that Jesus instructs that repentance should be preached to **everyone**.

5. **Grace**, by definition, is God *giving us what we do not deserve*. You see, God gives the lost what he does not deserve, and that is "time to repent"; and now for the saved, God's grace is the ability to endure.

- Rom. 2:4
- II Pet. 3:15, 18
- Tit. 2:11

- Rom. 5:18-21
- Eph. 2:4, 5, 8

Mercy, by definition, is God not giving us what we do deserve, i.e. hell. So grace works through mercy and produces glory. Thank you, Jesus!

PART 4

C. Rom. 10:9-11 teaches us that we must believe in Jesus to be saved.

Since believing in Jesus is of such vital importance for our future destiny, what does it mean to believe?

1. **Belief** is the factual accumulation of truths that you hold to be accurate (or head knowledge).

- Jn. 20:30, 31
- II Pet. 1:16
- I Jn. 5:13

2. According to Romans 4:20 and 21, faith is the amount of trust you put into that belief system (or heart commitment).

3. Is a definite decision for Christ necessary or important? (Jn. 3:3, 5 and Acts 4:12) Yes

Life or death, heaven or hell hinge upon your decision. Our eternal destiny is dependent on our response to Jesus.

That is why we stress the need of a clear belief into a concrete act of accepting Christ. We are told in the Bible to call, to receive, to be born again, to believe, to be saved.

Have you made a definite decision? (II Cor. 13:5)

1. If Jesus were to ask you, "Why should I let you into heaven?", what would you say?
2. Are you willing to turn from your sin and trust in Christ as Savior and Lord?

If you have received Christ, the bible says you are a part of God's family! The Word of God promises eternal life to everyone who turns from their sinful, self-centered ways and trusts only in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Memorize Jn. 3:36; Rom. 10:13; I Jn 5:13 *Salvation is instant, the results last forever.*

4 OBEDIENCE | PART 1

A. The first lesson a child of God must learn is obedience. The Bible teaches that there are two primary motives for obedience. See if you can name them.

1. **Fear** and **love**

- Ex. 20:20
- Deut. 6:1-5, 13; 28:58
- II Kgs. 17:25-41
- Ps. 2:11
- Ecc. 12:13, 14
- Jn. 14:15, 21, 23, 24
- Ps. 33:8.

2. Review Deuteronomy 10:12, 13 and list the things the Lord our God required of Israel because of His great love for them.

 Fear Him, love Him, walk in His commandments

3. Notice that the latter part of verse 13 states that obedience is for their **good** .

Obedience to God is not optional, but the very essence of new life in Christ (Heb. 5:9).

4. According to Deuteronomy 28:1 and 2, when Israel expressed their love in obedience to God, then they became the recipients of God's **blessings** .

5. Not carefully observing God's commandments will bring natural and supernatural consequences. Name some.

- Lev. 26:1-46 Panic
 Disease
- Deut. 28:15; 58-63 Heartache
 Defeat

PART 2

B. Obedience does not just happen, but is the diligent process of applying sound biblical principles. It is rooted in the believer's relationship with Christ and aided by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

The union of Christ with a believer establishes the foundation for obedience.

- Rom. 6:11-18; 8:1-14
- Col. 3:1-16
- Rom. 12:1, 2
- II Cor. 3:18; 4:16-18
- Phil. 3:20, 21

The believer walks in the Spirit of God and not in his old ways.

- Rom. 8:1-14
- Gal. 5:16-25
- Phil. 3:19

PART 3

The Replacement Principles

With new life in Christ, a believer begins a process of replacing old ways with new. The bible says the old is set aside, making room for the new.

Set your heart: Rom. 8:9-14; II Tim. 2:12; I Jn. 5:13. "Know the facts".

Principle 1: Know that you are a new creation, that the old man is dead.

- Rom. 6:11
- II Cor. 5:17
- Col. 3:5

Set your mind: Rom. 6:10-12; Eph. 4:23, 24. "Fully affirm the facts."

Principle 2: Set your mind on things above, spiritual things, the Word of God.

- Rom. 8:5; 12:1, 2
- Col. 3:2

Principle 3: Put off, put away, put to death the old nature.

- Gal. 4:9
- Eph. 4:22, 25
- Col. 3:5, 8, 9

Principle 4: Put on, be renewed, be filled, be transformed.

- Rom. 12:1, 2
- II Cor. 3:18

- Eph. 4:23, 24
- Col. 3:10, 12, 14

PART 4

Set your walk: Rom. 6:13-19; Eph. 4:25-32. "Faithfully follow the facts."

Principle 5: Walk in/by the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

- Rom. 8:1-5, 13, 14
- Gal. 5:16-25
- Col. 3:1-16
- I Jn. 1:6, 7

Principle 6: Present and pursue the Spirit with the same vigor and hunger and drive you once pursued the flesh.

- Rom. 6:15-23
- Heb. 12:1-4

Principle 7: Rely completely upon the aid, comfort, counsel, power, and enablement of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

- Jn. 14:15-18
- Acts 4:7, 8, 10, 31
- Rom. 8:2, 11

- II Cor. 3:4-6
- Gal. 3:3
- Eph. 1:17-23
- Heb. 13:20,21
- I Jn. 2:20,27

Obey in all that you can - and then God will do what only He can do!

Someone who claims to know God and love God but does not obediently follow Him is a (I Jn. 2:3-6) Liar. See also Rom. 2:7-10.

5 BAPTISM | PART 1

(Immerse in water)

A. According to Revelation 1:5, who and what washes away sin?

Jesus His shed blood

B. In I Peter 3:21 it is clear that Christ is the one who saves us, not the washing of water. Through baptism, believers outwardly identify with the work of Christ flesh.

C. According to what we have just read, what washes away our sins?

The blood of Jesus? Yes X No

The water of baptism? Yes No X

D. Can a believer who is not water baptized go to heaven?

Yes X No

- Lk. 23:39-43

E. If salvation is based on faith alone, does water baptism have saving merit at all?

Yes No X

- Jn. 6:29
- Eph. 2:8, 9
- Tit. 3:5, 6

PART 2

F. Then what is baptism for?

1. Act of obedience.

- Mt. 28:19

- Acts 10:47, 48
2. Three pictures (likenesses), or an outward picture of an inward act.
- a. **Identification** - Romans 6:3-5 shows us that we identify with the belief that Christ died and was buried and rose again for us.
- I Cor. 15:12-20
 - Col. 2:12
- b. **Separation** - Romans 6:6 teaches us that we are separated from sin (the death of our old sin nature), our old nature was buried in Christ's blood and our new nature was raised by His cleansing.
- II Cor. 5:17.
- c. **Union** - Ephesians 2:19-22 shows us that baptism identifies a believer as being united with other Christians as a part of God's family.
- Eph. 2:19-22; 4:4-6
 - I Cor. 6:11; 12:12, 13
 - Tit. 3:5
 - Mt. 28:19, 20
 - Acts 2:40, 41, 47

Look at the pattern of the early church in Acts 2:

1. The Word of God was preached.
2. People repented.
3. They were baptized.
4. They were added to the church.

PART 3

G. Baptism, means to immerse:

The Greek *baptizo* = to immerse/put under/dunk/bury. These pictures (likenesses) can only be biblically accurate when one is totally immersed.

Col. 2:12. Examples:

- > Jesus was immersed (Mt. 3:16; Mk. 1:9, 10).
- > The Ethiopian eunuch was immersed (Acts 8:36-39).
- > John the Baptist baptized by immersion (Mt.3:6; Jn. 3:23).

H. Remember, the inward act of believing saves, not the outward expression of that act in baptism.

- Acts 10:47, 48

I. Biblically, baptism always *followed* one's salvation.

Since biblical baptism is an act of obedience by an already "born again" child of God, to baptize an unbeliever or a baby violates scripture and dangerously leaves the unbeliever and/or the baby (when they grow up and are told) with the belief that they will one day inherit salvation on the basis of their baptism.

We have already learned that water baptism, *before* one is saved, has no saving merit and does no more than remove the filth of the flesh (I Pet. 3:21). Baptism that follows one's conversion is an act of obedience. Therefore, baptism always biblically did and must now follow one's salvation.

6 PRAYER/COMMUNION | PART 1 WITH OUR FATHER

notes

A. For the believer, prayer is an opportunity to communicate with God and grow closer to Him.

1. In Luke 11:1, what were the disciples requesting to learn from Jesus?

_____ **Teach** _____ **us** _____ **to** _____ **pray** _____

2. Prayer is a spiritual discipline recognizing the access that believers have to come boldly to God through Christ.

- Heb. 4:14-16

B. In John 9:31 we see that there must be union (man brought back to God in salvation) before there is communion.

1. God communicates through His word to believers.

- 1 Pet. 1:23-25

2. Prayer is the believer's way of communicating with God.

- Ps. 4:1-3

PART 2

C. Let's discover some of the ways others prayed in the bible.

Take note: out of sixteen verses that Daniel prayed, thirteen verses involved confession and intercession, while only three involved supplications.

1. Daniel 9:4a _____ **Confession** _____ (acknowledgment of my sin.)

2. Daniel 9:18 _____ **Supplication** _____ (to humbly make

personal requests to God.)

3. Psalm 50:14 _____ **Thanksgiving** _____ (giving thanks and being thankful to God for what He has done, is doing and will do.)
4. Hebrews 13:15 _____ **Praise** _____ (honoring God for who He is and expressing our adoration in words)
5. Daniel 9:20 _____ **Intercession** _____ (to make request to God on behalf of others) "Intercession"
6. In I Timothy 2:1 Paul instructs Timothy that supplications , prayers , intercession , and giving of thanks be made for all men.

PART 3

D. Believers have the opportunity to experience the power of God through prayer. Look up the following verses that describe how a believer may pray.

1. I John 5:14, 15 tells us to be confident when we pray, if we pray _____ **according to His** _____ will.
2. Matthew 6:7 says that the heathen ask in _____ **repetitions** _____.
3. I John 3:22 says "Whatever we ask we receive from Him because we _____ **keep His commandments** _____.
4. Matthew 7:7, 8 gives us three principles (present perfect - we are to keep on praying). See if you can name them.
 - a. **Ask** _____
 - b. **Seek** _____
 - c. **Knock** _____

E. Prayer is the privilege of believers. Look up the following verses and list things that may hinder prayers from being answered.

1. Psalm 66:18 _____ **Iniquity in one's heart** _____

2. Isaiah 59:1, 2 **Iniquities/sins**

3. James 4:3 **One asks amiss**

James 5:16: "Confess your trespasses one to another...the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

It is clear from this study that prayer is for believers who have the privilege to petition God in many forms and can confidently expect God to answer, if we ask for that which is in agreement with His known will, we ask believing, and we ask through Christ who is our great High Priest.

Remember, prayer reaches the *heart* of God.

7 BIBLE STUDY | PART 1 READING WITH A PURPOSE

Believers are instructed to *study* the Bible. We read novels, but we *study* God's Word. II Tim. 2:15. How important do you consider your bible study time?

_____ _____ _____ _____
not very fairly very absolute necessity

A. We should study the bible to grow spiritually.

1. What does I Peter 2:1-3 say we should lay aside and desire in order to grow?

a. lay aside (verse 1) malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy

b. desire (verse 2) milk of the Word

Why? that you may grow

2. In Psalm 119:105 we learn that the word is a lamp and light.

3. According to Psalm 119:11, hiding the word in our heart keeps us from sinning.

4. Looking at Proverbs 30:5 and 6 we find that God's word is pure and that we are not to add to it.

PART 2

B. We should study the bible to prepare for service.

1. In II Timothy 3:16 and 17 studying God's word makes a man equipped for every good work (verse 17).

2. I Peter 3:15 tells us to always be ready to give an answer for the hope in us.

D. We study the bible to correct our incorrect thinking.

1. There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death (Prov. 14:12 ; 16:25).
2. In fact, in Jeremiah 17:5, the Bible informs us that the man who trusts in man will be cursed.
3. Read and discuss Romans 3:9-18.

See also Is. 59:7, 8

E. We study the bible so that we might rightly divide the Word of Truth.

- *Context* - author, historical setting, culture, background, to whom, for whom, by whom, what is written before and after. It is important for a reader to know where a passage fits into redemptive history.
- *Content* - language structure, grammar, verbs, linking subject with the direct object; the original intent of the author; when plain sense makes common sense, look for no other sense - that's nonsense!
- *Concept* - the totality of all comparable and parallel passages combined will give the reader of scripture the consistency that is required in knowing God's original intent in any singular passage; to isolate one against another creates erroneous conclusions. Always seek complete and full disclosure in any and all passages. Always interpret the obscure by the clear.

See also Is. 28:9, 10, 13.

F. We study the bible because all Scripture points to Christ.

- Lk. 24:27
- Is. 53:1-12

8 SHARING MY FAITH | PART 1

notes

A. One of the most exciting privileges a born again child of God has is to be a part of the mission of multiplication through the Great Commission.

1. In Matthew 28:19 and 20 we are commanded to go into the world and make disciples.
2. According to John 20:21 we are sent the same way as Jesus was.
3. Psalm 126:6 tells us to go weeping and bearing precious seed.
4. Jesus says to follow Him and He will make us fishers of men (Mt. 4:19).
5. In Luke 5:10b, Jesus says we will not only fish for men, but we will catch men.

PART 2

B. Sharing our faith is not only a privilege, but a very important responsibility, therefore...

1. We should study to show ourselves approved (II Tim. 2:15).
2. And we should always be ready (I Pet. 3:15).
3. I Cor. 3:7-10 reminds us that we should remember it is God who gives the increase (verse 7), and it is God's field (verse 9), so be careful how we build (verse 10).
4. Believers have been given the great opportunity to be ambassadors for Christ.
 - II Cor. 5:11, 14, 18-20
 - Jms. 1:23

- Heb. 11:7

5. In Matthew 10:16 we are told to be as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves.

PART 3

C. Look at Colossians 4:2-6 and see how Paul instructs us on sharing our faith.

v. 3 God states that His part is to open to us a door, while

v. 3-6 states that our part in declaring the mystery of Christ is to,

v. 4 make it clear as I ought to speak,

v. 5 walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeem the time.

v. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to respond to each one.

D. Every living thing produces after its own kind. If you are really a living child of God, bear fruit!

1. In Matthew's gospel (3:10) we are told that every tree that does not bear fruit is cut down and then thrown into the fire. Also see:

- Mt. 7:19; 10:9 and following; 12:36, 37
- I Cor. 3:12-15

2. Would you want to be able to stand before God and say what Paul said in Acts 20:26, 27? Yes X No _____

3. Mark 8:34-38; Mt. 10:16

v. 34 True disciples deny self and take up His cross and follow Him.

v. 35 Trying to save our lives (way of life) we will lose it.

v. 36 What will it profit if a man gains the whole world but loses his own soul?

v. 37 What will a man give in exchange for his soul?

v. 38 What does the Lord think of a person who is ashamed of Him? Christ is ashamed of him

Believers must redeem the time by bringing others to the Lord Jesus Christ. Ninety per cent (90%) or higher of all supposed believers never lead one person to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This is incredibly unfortunate!

Let us strive for our lives and conversations to be saturated with the gospel. As those who have been redeemed, Christians should find joy in the opportunity to share Christ with others. It is a special privilege (I Pet. 2:9; II Cor. 5:20) and obligation (Rom. 1:14, 15) that God gives only to those who trust in Him for salvation.

9 CONFESSION | PART 1 RESTORING FELLOWSHIP

Salvation brings sonship (I Jn. 3:1, 2) and confession brings restored *fellowship* (I Jn. 1:9; see verse 3).

A. Although we believers have been *washed* (Tit. 3:5), *given new natures* (Col. 3:10), *redeemed* (Gal. 3:13), *set free* (Rom. 6:18), *justified/ sanctified* (I Cor. 6:11), *sealed* (Eph. 4:30), and our *old nature* (sin nature) was *crucified* that we should no longer be slaves to sin (Rom. 6:6)...

we still sin! (I Jn. 1:8, 10).

1. According to I John 1:5-2:2, when believers allow **sin** in their heart, then fellowship is broken.

2. God has called us into **fellowship** of His Son (I Cor. 1:9).

Sin breaks fellowship, but not sonship.

3. Then how does a believer who is out of fellowship regain fellowship?

Answer:

- Prov. 28:13
- I Jn. 1:9
- Psalm 32:1-5

Confession in Greek is **homologeō**

homo - same

logos - to speak

4. How about the thoughts of my mind or the lusts in my heart?

- See II Cor. 10:5, 6
- I Jn. 2:15-17

PART 2

B. Does sin in a believer's life mean that he or she needs to be saved again or reconverted? If they died with unconfessed sin would they go to hell? Work through 1- 4 below, then answer. Yes _____ No X

1. First, the Bible teaches that all believers sin.

- II Chr. 6:36
- I Jn. 1:8, 10; 2:1, 2

2. Second, salvation is everlasting the very moment we are saved.

- Jn. 3:16, 36; 10:28-30
- Rom. 8:1
- Eph. 4:30
- Heb. 13:5
- I Jn. 5:13

3. Third, believers are sealed by the Holy Spirit to the day of redemption.

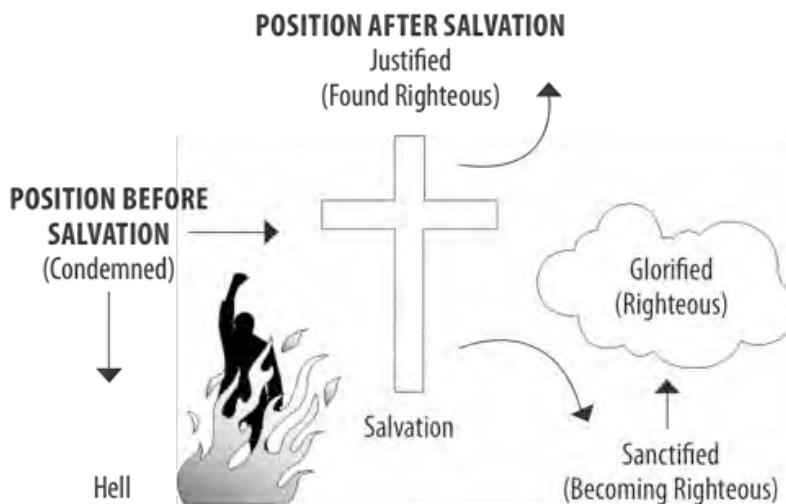
- II Cor. 1:22; 5:5

4. Fourth, your salvation is kept by the power of God and reserved in heaven for you. It cannot be corrupted and will not fade away.

- I Pet. 1:3-5, 9

PART 3

5. Fifth, the difference between *sinning* and being a *sinner* is *practice* and *position*.



C. Scripture teaches that there is one salvation (Eph. 4:4-6) but many confessions for continued fellowship (Ps. 32:1-5; 51:1-19).

1. Remember, a Christian can sin but a true Christian cannot live in sin.

- Rom. 6:1-3

2. God has promised that He will conform us to His Son's image.

- Rom. 8:29; 12:2.

10 THE PENALTY, POWER | PART 1 AND PRESENCE OF SIN

notes

Penalty of sin

A. The unregenerated man (unsaved) is under the penalty of sin (hell) and needs to be justified (declared righteous) in order to inherit eternal life (heaven).

1. In Romans 3:10 we are told that there is none righteous, no not one. (Also see Is. 64:5,6)
2. Galatians 2:16 emphatically states that by the works of the law no one can be justified (declared righteous).
True X False _____
3. Romans 3:22-24 says we are taught that all who believe (accept Christ's payment for their sins) (v22) are justified (declared righteous) v24.
4. We learn in Romans 3:26 that God is both the just and the justifier. It is eternally important that you understand that only the one who is just (without sin) can justify (declare righteous) others. The Bible declares there is none who is righteous, no, not one. Therefore, no human being who has ever lived can ever justify anyone else. All the world is guilty before God (Rom. 3:19) and every mouth must be stopped. But the good news is Romans 10:13: whoever calls upon Him will be saved (declared righteous).

PART 2

B. Therefore, justification is the act of God the Father declaring sinners righteous the moment they believe, thereby removing the penalty of their sin and changing their standing with God (from a sinner to a saint).

- Rom. 4:6, 22; 5:1, 2; 8:1-3

1. God justifies (declares righteous) a repentant sinner and removes the penalty of their sin forever (Is. 43:25).
2. When that happens His word tells us that those sins are put away from that sinner as far as the east is from the west (Ps. 103:12) and as far as the depths of the deepest sea (Mic. 7:19; Is. 38:17).

Power of sin

A. The regenerated man (saved) will progressively mature and become more conformed to Jesus Christ. This is the *sanctifying* work of the Holy Spirit by which He works to make a believer to be what God the Father declared him to be (righteous) at salvation, or the action of making a saint saintly.

1. Sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit and has the meaning of *set apart, separate, to free*.
2. The Holy Spirit works to set believers apart *from* something and *to* something.

- II Cor. 2:14

- Col. 2:13-15.

a. Believers are set apart from **sin** _____.
Rom. 6:17, 18.

b. Believers are **alive** _____ to God.
Rom. 6:11.

PART 3

B. Just as *justification* changed our standing or position, sanctification effects change in our practice.

- I Cor. 1:2; 6:11

- Eph. 2:8-10; 4:17-24

- 1 Thes. 5:23, 24
- Tit. 3:5-8
- Heb. 2:11

Believers in Christ:

- Have been – justified
- Are being – sanctified
- Will be - glorified

Presence of sin

A. The believer who was declared righteous when justified, made to become righteous while being sanctified, is one day going to be completely righteous when glorified. This can only happen upon the believer's death or rapture.

- Rom. 8:29, 30
- 1 Jn. 3:1-3

11 GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE | PART 1

Authorship, Revelation, and Inspiration

We believe that the Bible (66 Old and New Testament books, written over 1400 years by 40 different authors) is:

1. *inerrant* (without error),

- Ps. 33:4
- Rom. 3:4

2. *infallible* (incapable of being wrong), and

- Ps. 100:5
- Tit. 1:2, 3

3. *complete* (plenary; every part is there).

- Jn. 16:12-15
- II Tim. 3:16, 17

PART 2

A. The authorship is by revelation and inspiration of God Himself.

1. **Authorship** - prophets and apostles and those selected by God

- II Pet 1:20, 21

2. **Revelation** - God making Himself and His truth (will) known to mankind

- I Cor. 2:8-16
 - v. 8, 9- confluency (join together)
 - v. 10, 11- revelation
 - v. 12, 13- inspiration
 - v. 14-16- illumination

General revelation – minds (conscious)/bodies/creation

- Ps. 19:1-4
- Rom. 1:19, 20; 2:15

Special revelation – miracles/Jesus/the Bible

- Jn. 20:20-31; Heb. 1:1-3

3. **Inspiration** - God's selecting the author and breathing out the Holy Spirit upon that author so that when that author wrote down God's words they were inerrant, infallible and complete.

- Num. 22:18-20
- Jer. 26:2; 36:17-28
- Mt. 10:19-20
- I Cor. 2:8-13
- Gal. 1:12
- I Thes. 2:13
- II Tim. 3:16, 17
- I Pet. 1:12

PART 3

B. Let's look at how authorship (God), revelation (His truth), and inspiration (divinely chosen men) were put into practice.

Prophets - the ones selected by God to tell-forth and foretell

1. Moses, chosen by God (Ex. 3:1-14; 4:1, 8-17, 28-31), wrote the first five books, known as the books of the law.

- Lk. 24:44
- Ex. 34:27
- Jn. 5:46

a. Then he (Moses) was to put the Book of the Law by the ark for safekeeping.

- Deut. 31:9, 24-26

b. All future writers of scripture had to be in agreement with Moses' writing. Read the following verses and answer the question below.

- Deut. 13:1-10; 28:14
- Ex. 17:14
- Josh. 8:32; 24:26

True **X** False See Deut. 13:5-10 for inclusion family and friends.

PART 4

c. All future writers of scripture could not **add to** or **take away** .

- Deut. 4:2; 12:32

d. All future writers of scripture had to pass the 100% test of a true prophet (see Deut. 18:18-22):

- be 100% right (verse 22)
- 100% of the time (verse 22)
- tell 100% of what God gave them to tell (verses 18, 20)

2. Future writings (after Moses) were to be in agreement with Moses' writings and to be received along with Moses' writings as God-breathed scripture.

- Ex. 17:14
- Josh. 1:5-8; 8:32; 24:26
- Deut. 17:18-20

- II Chr. 34:15, 30, 31

- Lk. 24:25-27

notes

12 GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE | CONT'D

PART 1

Completion, canonization, preservation and illumination

A. Proof that the Bible is complete

1. The Holy Spirit guided the New Testament writers in *all* truth, bringing *all* things to their remembrance that Jesus had taught them, and *all* future things to come.

- Jn. 14:26; 16:13
- Rom. 16:25
- I Cor. 2:10-15

So...nothing can ever be added, because nothing was left out!

2. Once *all* truth and *all* things were recorded, God's Word was completed.

- Jude 3

3. Heb. 1:1, 2 and 2:3, 4 declare how this completed record came about.

1st Old Testament = Fathers/Prophets (1:1)

2nd Gospels = Christ (1:2)

3rd Acts to Revelation = Apostles/Disciples (2:3, 4)

4. According to Deuteronomy 4:2 and Revelation 22:18, no one is to add or take away, not even an angel or a "so called" apostle.

- Gal. 1:6-8

Deuteronomy 4:2 – *that which is presently being given*

Revelation 22:18 – *that which is already given in Revelation*

PART 2

B. The canon is the rule or measure by which books were judged, making up the exclusive 39 Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament.

1. The New Testament refers to the Old Testament as scripture Mt. 23: 35; Lk. 24:27, 44, the equivalent of saying "from Genesis to Malachi"; Mt. 21:42; 22:29; Jn. 5:39; II Tim. 3:15).
2. Apostlicity *Was the book written or backed by an apostle?*
3. Content *Was it of sufficient spiritual character?*
4. Universality *Was it widely accepted?*
5. Inspiration *Did it give internal evidence of inspiration*
6. Agreement *Was it in doctrinal agreement with the total teaching of scripture? I Tim. 4:16*
7. Disagreement *Was there any disagreement with previously accepted books starting with Moses? Deut. 13:1-6*
8. Life Changing *Does the book supernaturally change lives? Ps. 119:9*

PART 3

C. The Bible was given over a period of 1,400 years and has now been preserved for almost 2,000 years.

The process of preservation:

1. Moses wrote the first five books and instructed that all future authors must be in agreement with his writings. Then he placed the testament in the Ark of the Covenant and the Book of the Law beside the Ark.
 - Ex. 25:16
 - Deut. 31:9, 24-26

2. Then all future writers who met the test established by God through Moses had their writings added to that which Moses had written.

- Ex. 17:14
- Neh. 8:1-3; 9:1-3
- Josh. 1:8; 24:25, 26
- I Sam. 10:25
- Ezra 6:18

3. Jesus states that once this completed Word was delivered, it would not pass away.

- Ps. 12:6, 7; 119:89, 152, 160
- Prov. 30:5, 6; Is. 40:8
- Jer. 36:11-32
- Mt. 5:17, 18; 24:35
- Jn. 10:35; II Tim. 2:19
- I Pet. 1:23-2:3
- Jude 3
- Rev. 22:18, 19

PART 4

D. *Illumination* - The Holy Spirit takes the Word and makes it understandable and viable to the reader.

- Is. 59:21
- I Cor. 2:13-15

- II Cor. 4:6

- I Jn. 2:20, 21, 27

- *Inspiration* how scripture came

- *Observation* what it says

- *Illumination* what it means

- *Application* what I should do

13 MY LOCAL CHURCH | PART 1

A. The church is of utmost importance in carrying out the purpose of God in the world.

1. The church is the goal of God's redemptive plan.

- Gen. 2; 12:3
- Rev. 21:1-3

List the practices of the church that may be identified in Acts 2:40-47?

2. The church is the revelation of God's wisdom. Ultimately, it is intended that God is glorified through His church.

Eph. 3:10, 21

3. The church is the reason Christ died and rose again.

- Mt. 16:18
- Eph. 5:25-27
- Titus 2:14

PART 2

B. Those who are in Christ are part of a faith family. Believers are members of a body, each one necessary and important to the work of the Lord. See Hebrews 10:24, 25.

1. The husband is joined to the wife in the same way that Christ is joined to the church.

- Eph. 5:23

2. What kind of marriage would you have if you only visited your wife when you felt like it? Yet that's how some treat Christ's church.

3. Therefore, you can see how each and every believer is vitally important; to continually miss church is to be like a husband who neglects his family, a military person who does not fulfill their responsibilities, or a body without one of its member.

- I Cor. 12:14-27

4. We can know we belong (to Christ) when we love others.

- I Jn. 3:14

What does that say about someone who says they love the Lord but don't love His church?

PART 3

C. Let's find out *why* the church was formed.

The imperative of the church is to make disciples. Believers are called to be equipped to:

1. Share the Word so others so others will receive it.

- Rom. 10:14-17

2. Show the Word so others will follow it.

- Phil. 2:1-11

- I Jn. 3:16

3. Teach the Word so others will spread it.

- II Tim 2:2; 4:2

4. Serve the World to demonstrate the Word to the lost and least.

- Luke 10:25-37

- Gal. 6:10

PART 4

D. Let's find out *how* the church was formed.

1. In Ephesians 2:20 we are taught that there is one chief cornerstone.

Name Him: Jesus Christ

(See also: Acts 4:10, 11)

2. We are also told that a "foundation" was built on the chief cornerstone and that foundation is the apostles and prophets.

- Eph. 2:20

3. Then all the saints in history past were added, causing growth.

- Eph. 2:21

4. And now we, who are presently being saved, are also being built together.

- Eph. 2:22
- Col. 2:19

5. In Ephesians 4:16 we are taught that when every member of the body of Christ uses their spiritual gifts, then what happens?

The body grows/it builds itself up in love

In other words, the "church" is alive, growing, and bears much fruit!

ESTABLISHING

SELF-SUSTAINING

OUR MISSION

CENTERS FOR

HUMANITARIAN AID

ESTABLISHING

& DISCIPLE MAKING

SELF-SUSTAINING

CENTERS FOR

IN THIRD-WORLD

HUMANITARIAN AID

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ENVIRONMENTS

IN THIRD-WORLD

ENVIRONMENTS