

# Studies in THE CHURCH OF THE BIBLE

## 2

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR THIS STUDY IN THE CHURCH OF THE BIBLE**

The Bible tells us everything we need to know about Christianity. In your first study, you learned that the Bible has a lot to say about the New Testament church and the Bible is still the best way to find out what the truth is regarding the church.

In this second, and final, study of the CHURCH OF THE BIBLE, you will be using your bible again to let it teach you other aspects of the New Testament church. Again, scriptures from all of the Bible will be used to help us understand the Bible's teaching and **we will not teach anything that is not taught in the Bible**. Thanks for your time and for your interest in spiritual things. The instructions are the same as in the previous lesson, but here they are again:

1. The King James translation of the Bible is used in this study, however you can use your preferred translation.
2. Please read each lesson section, then answer the test questions.
3. When you complete the test questions, return them to us for grading. The lesson material is yours to keep for future review.
4. As with all of the "Home Bible School" studies, there is no charge. Please do not send money.

God bless you as you study your Bible – it is time well spent.

**HOME BIBLE SCHOOL**  
Internet Bible Education Program  
4314 Dasher Rd.  
Valdosta, GA, 31601

## THE CHURCH OF THE BIBLE - PART 2

### LESSON ONE – ENTERING THE CHURCH

How does a person get into the church? Is he born into it? Does he join it? Is he baptized as a baby into it? Should he even be a part of a church? Should he have the American flag waved over him to get in?! **You can get about as many answers today as you can find churches!**

#### JESUS, YES; THE CHURCH, NO?

Some folks say, “**Jesus, yes! The church, no.**” Do you know **why** they say this thing? Well, there is so much confusion in religion that these folks believe Christ would not be pleased with all the mess we call American Religion.

These folks are **right**. Jesus established his church and it is perfectly revealed in the pages of the New Testament. But, for yes, people have just simply ignored the teachings of the New Testament on the church and went about doing their own thing.

But those “Jesus, yes” folks are also **wrong**. When we study the New Testament, we discover that the church is Jesus’ body, he is the head of the church and you just can’t separate the body from the head, can you?!

The church of the New Testament is absolutely **necessary** for us today because:

1. Jesus wouldn’t die for something that is not important
2. To deny the church of the New Testament is to deny the blood of Christ and
3. To say a person can be saved outside the church is to deny the wisdom of God and the cross of Christ.

#### HOW DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACH THAT WE ENTER THE CHURCH?

Acts 2:47 shocks a lot of people when they read it: “*And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*” What we hear today is, “Well, I’m going to join a church”, but what the Bible teaches is that **the Lord** adds saved people to the church! Think about that as we study how to enter the church.

We do puzzles and know how frustrated it can be when a piece is missing. The thing is not complete! We look high and low for that missing piece because we like things to be complete. Studying the New Testament to see how God wants us to enter the church is like that missing-piece puzzle. **If you leave something out, it’s just not complete!**

→ **If we leave out the grace and love of God, our membership is not complete.** Ephesians 2:8-9: “*For by **grace** are ye saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.*” **Why?** “*For the **grace** of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world*” (Titus 2:11,12).

Mankind didn't deserve the salvation of God, but his grace was sufficient to provide all these spiritual blessings for us – and all because he loved us.

→ **If we leave out faith in Christ, our membership is not complete.** “**But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him**” (Hebrews 11:6).

Faith is **trust in God that he will keep his word** because “*Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God*” (Romans 10:17). **The Bible says it; that settles it and you can believe it.**

And please don't be like the people James spoke about when he said, “*..as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also*” (James 2:26).

→ **If we leave out repentance, our membership is not complete.** Christ died to save sinners and if we still stay in our sins while belonging to some church, what good does that kind of membership do? Not one whit!!

Repentance is a change of **mind**, change of **heart**, change of **direction** and change of who will be our **master**. Our real master, Christ, taught us: “*I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish*” (Luke 13:3).

→ **if we leave out baptism, our membership is not complete.** Baptism is not just something you do to get into a church, **it puts us into Christ!** Galatians 3:27: “*For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*”

Some folks get real upset and say “You mean I have to be baptized to be saved and get into the church?” The apostle Peter thought so when he taught: “*The like figure whereunto **even baptism doth also now save us** (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ*” (1 Peter 3:21)

The whole point of learning what God wants us to do to enter the church is simple: Just like a puzzle is completed when all the pieces are there, so it is with our salvation and entrance into the church. **When something is left out, everything is incomplete.**

**As a matter of fact, if we leave anything out, we don't even have membership in the Lord's church!**

Our savior is Christ and the saved are in the church, but the church does not save us, only Christ does that. “*...Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body*” (Ephesians 5:23). Since he adds only the saved to the church, then the church is made up of only those who have been saved.

### **WHAT ABOUT BABIES?**

Why baptize a baby? It has no sin of which to repent. It cannot confess Christ as the son of God because its vocal cords are not developed. It cannot repent because its understanding does not include recognition of sin at birth. It cannot have faith because it hasn't developed the ability to read or hear and decide. So, why baptize a baby?

Baby baptism is something that men have added to what the Bible teaches and has no place in the teaching, work and worship of the Bible church. Babies aren't **saved**, they're **safe**.

### TODAY'S MISSING PUZZLE PIECE

The "phone book" religion practiced today does a lot of good works and there are good people who believe strongly in what they're practicing. As a general rule, they usually have been told what to believe and the Bible is a stranger to anyone in their church who is not a leader. Faith is taught, repentance is taught, the church is taught, but there is a missing piece of their puzzle that we must look into now.

That piece is baptism.

Most good and sincere religious people have been taught that baptism has nothing to do with their salvation. Baptism **is** taught in the New Testament, so let's let the New Testament teach **us**!

- ✓ 1 Peter 3:21: "*The like figure whereunto even **baptism doth also now save us** (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a **good conscience toward God**,) by the **resurrection of Jesus Christ**."* Baptism has something to do with our salvation.
- ✓ Acts 2:38: "*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the **remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*" Baptism follows repentance and comes before forgiveness (remission) of sins and the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ Acts 22:16: "*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and **wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord**.*" Baptism **does** have something to do with our salvation.
- ✓ Galatians 3:27: "*For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ have put on Christ**.*" Baptism has something to do with getting into Christ and living the Christian life.
- ✓ Romans 6:1-4: "*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are **dead to sin**, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were **baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death**? Therefore we are **buried with him by baptism into death**: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in **newness of life**.*" Baptism **does** have something to do with getting into Christ. It has something to do with getting into his death, where he shed his blood. It has something to do with living a Christian life.

So, what does all this mean?

It means the salvation of our immortal soul is the most important thing in this world. That's why Jesus died and is the savior of the body, the church, and the saved are in the church. One Christian cannot save another, but they are in the same body, outside of which are sinners who will be lost eternally.

**We cannot leave any part of God's plan for salvation out of our lives.**

## LESSON TWO: THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

Noah built the ark out of gopher wood (Genesis 6) exactly as God told him. If he had not obeyed God, the entire human race would have totally been destroyed in the flood. It's important for human beings to do exactly as God commands.

Moses built the ark and tabernacle exactly as God had told him (Exodus 25,26; Hebrews 8). What if Moses had made the tabernacle one foot longer than God had instructed him? Would the Jews' worship be acceptable to God? No and, as a matter of fact, the two oldest sons of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire to God (Leviticus 10) and they lost their lives because they didn't do exactly what God, through Moses, had commanded.

God has never allowed lying to be a part of his people's lives. When Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5) sold their possession to help the saints, what if they had told the truth about the sale? They wouldn't have lost their lives because they lied. They would have lived if they had done exactly as God had commanded.

So, throughout the Bible, we are told that God wants us to stay right with his commandments. The Old Testament phrase is "*go not to the right nor to the left*", meaning, stay right with what God has said and we'll please him. We do know that God "*....knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain*" (1 Corinthians 3:20).

When it comes to the worship of the new Testament church, we have the same principle: **go not to the right nor to the left**, but do exactly what God has commanded and that is what the New Testament church did.

The church worships God "*in spirit and in truth*" (John 4:24), but what is worship? **It is the humble acts of obedience that Christians do when they assemble as a body to please God.** Our worship is guided by the principle found in Colossians 3:17: "*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him*".

"In **word**" means what we say and "in **deed**" means what we do. What the Bible teaches is what we must teach and what the Bible commands is what we must do. Our worship must be right in **fact, act** and **intention**. The New Testament teaches there are three kinds of worship.

1. **Ignorant worship.** Paul was in Athens and when he saw all the idols around him, he said: "*For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.*"

These people worshipped God ignorantly because they didn't know any better. That's why Paul was there to teach them that "*God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things*" (Acts 17:24,25).

Today, millions of people in the world still bow down to idols and many more are following religious practices that are not "in word or deed" according to the New Testament. When people do not know how to please God, anything they do is done in ignorance.

2. **Vain (or empty) worship:** *“But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men”* (Matthew 15:9). The first century Jews’ worship was empty (vain) because the clear teachings of God were replaced by the unclear teachings of men.

People today, may worship in the name of the Lord, but if it is not worship done “in **deed**” (according to the teachings of the New Testament), their worship is empty. Another word for “vain” is “**void**” because only the word of God can be our guide in worship. Any worship not according to the New Testament is vain.

3. **True worship:** Again, we read John 4:24: *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in **spirit** and in **truth**.”* To worship God “in **spirit**” means in **humility** within our own hearts. To worship God “in **truth**” means by the **instructions** given in the New Testament. *“Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshiper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth”* (John 9:31). This verse teaches that being a true worshiper of God depends upon doing the will of God. Our spirits (hearts) must be taught and guided by the New Testament.

### WHAT IS BIBLE WORSHIP?

**STUDYING THE BIBLE.** The New Testament church assembled to **study the word of God**. *“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15).

In the first century, the word of God was spoken directly by the holy Spirit to men in the local congregations called “*prophets*.” This is spoken of in 1 Corinthians 13:8-10: *“Charity never faileth: but whether there be **prophecies**, they shall fail; whether there be **tongues**, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.”* Prophesying was “*in part*”, but would pass away (fail) when that “*which is perfect is come*.”

2 Timothy 3:16,17 teaches: *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”* The Scriptures make us perfect, so therefore they must be perfect (**complete**). The completion of the writing of the New Testament is “*that which is perfect*.” There are no prophets today so, when we preach, teach and study, it is from the word of God.

**PRAYER.** The New Testament church **prayed** when they worshiped God. *“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers”* (Acts 2:42). The events in Acts 2 happened on the day of Pentecost, 33 AD, and since Pentecost was fifty days after the Passover, this day was the first day of the week. Passover was celebrated on a Saturday. Christians pray publicly and privately.

**SINGING AS MUSIC.** In the new Testament, these early Christians **sang** praises to God. *“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord”* (Ephesians 5:19).

Singing is the type of music God wants because it comes from the human heart and not from something made by man.

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Colossians 3:16). The word of Christ dwells in our hearts, not in something man has made. **“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (Colossians 3:17). Christians do not pray mechanical prayers and they do not sing mechanical songs.***

**THE LORD’S SUPPER.** The early church assembled to take the **Lord’s Supper**. *“And upon the first day of the week, **when** the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them...” (Acts 20:7).*

*“And as they were eating, Jesus took **bread**, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my **body**. And he took the **cup**, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my **blood of the new testament**, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matthew 26:26-28). Christians eat the bread to remember Christ’s body and Christian drink the fruit of the vine to remember the blood of Christ shed on the cross. And this is to be done on Sunday and **every** Sunday.*

**GIVING OUR MONEY.** The New Testament church assembled and **gave of their money** as part of their worship. *“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come” (1 Corinthians 16:2). There must be a reason why the early Christians gave their money on the first day of the week, the same day they ate of the Lord’s Supper. That reason is: giving of our money is a **part of our worship**.*

### **A WARNING**

The early church was warned: *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25). Christians do not want to miss the services of the church!*

Now, we can see from a simple study of these scriptures that the worship of the New Testament church was **simple** and to the **point**. Today people want to complicate something that God has made so simple!

Some repeat prayers over and over and over and think it’s worship and some make their worship long and drawn out with a lot of formality that’s not even in the New Testament.

Even more sadly, some **add** things like incense, cymbals and five-piece bands. Some **subtract** things like the Lord’s Supper. **It is not given to man to change the worship of God.**

## LESSON THREE – THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

The church is made up of people who have been called out of the world by the gospel “...to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thessalonians 2:14). **Whatever the church does is to the glory of Jesus Christ.** The church has no business getting into the secular business world! Such activities may do some good, but the honor does not go to Christ, does it?

### ① THE CHURCH SOWS GOD’S SEED, THE GOSPEL

Jesus told the apostles, “*The seed is the word of God*” (Luke 8:11). It is the main work of the church to **preach** and **teach** the **word** of God, the **gospel** of Christ. **It is only through the teaching of the word of God that the world can be changed.**

Jesus commanded: “*All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world*” (Matthew 28:18-20),

Paul taught Timothy to “*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine*” (2 Timothy 4:2). This is what the early church did: they preached the word of God, which teaches:

- 1) Christ is the son of God
- 2) what a person must do to be saved,
- 3) the importance of the church,
- 4) how to worship God in spirit and in truth and
- 5) the importance of living the Christian life.

Without Christ, people are lost. “*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*” (Romans 3:23). The mission of the church is to reach the lost with the gospel of Christ for “...*the truth shall make you free*” (John 8:32b).

### ② THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH HELPED THE POOR

One of the first things the first church in Jerusalem did was they “...*sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need*” (Acts 2:45). They were taught “*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith*” (Galatians 6:10). The “**household of faith**” is another way of saying “**the church.**”

Paul went to Jerusalem “...*to minister unto the saints*” (Romans 15:25) because “*it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem*” (Romans 15:26).

The brother of the Lord, James, even said that “*Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world*” (James 1:27). If the church does not help the poor and those in need, it ceases being the church of Christ.

When the church helps the poor, The New Testament teaches that there are some restrictions as these expenditures. . Not every one who asks for money is allowed to receive it. In 1 Timothy 5, we read that a person can be helped: **1)** If he cannot help himself **2)** When he has no relative who can help him and **3)** If he is a faithful Christian. The Lord's money must be used wisely.

The money for this work comes from the first day of the week giving which is part of worship. *“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come”* (1 Corinthians 16:1,2).

### ③ THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH BUILDS ITSELF UP (EDIFIES ITSELF)

Another work of the church is that of **edification**. The word “**edify**” means to “**build up, to strengthen, to encourage.**” The church of today also edifies itself. Read these scriptures:

Acts 9:31	Romans 14:19
1 Corinthians 8:1	1 Corinthians 14:26
2 Corinthians 12:19	Ephesians 4:12
1 Thessalonians 5:11	

The building up of the local church is a work of the local church and it surprises some that this can be done without an earthly headquarters! The Lord's way is the best way.

**Preaching** the gospel, **helping** those in real need and **building** up of the members are the works of the church and they all point to our responsibility to sow “*the seed which is the word of God.*”

## LESSON FOUR – THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH

We have used the phrase “**Phone Book Christianity**” to highlight that there is a lot of division in the religious world today. “**Join the church of your choice**” or “**If you don't like it here, start your own church**” or “**Come be with us: you don't even have to believe in God!**” It sounds like modern man has put Christianity on the auction block!

Also in today's religious world, there is more concern than ever for unity and the reason for this desire is simple: People are tired of religious division.

You can read your Bible and find much teaching about what God's will is: **unity in the church.**

■ **1 Corinthians 1:10:** “*Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment*”. Division can be stopped when all Christians teach just what the Bible says and **agree upon the Bible.**

■ **Proverbs 6:16-19:** “*These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren*”. Division among God's people is **hated** by God.

■ **John 17:20,21** “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me”: When we are divided religiously, we **disobey** this word of Christ himself.

■ **Romans 16:17,18:** “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause **divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine** which ye have learned; and **avoid** them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple” Religious division results when men love to hear the sound of their own doctrines (fair speeches) rather than the teachings of the Bible. “Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition” (Mark 7:9). When man refuses to hear the word of God, he rejects that which will judge him. (John 12:48)

■ **Colossians 2:20-22**“Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) **after the commandments and doctrines of men?**” Those who are “dead with Christ” are those who have been baptized (Christians) as we read in Romans 6:3,4. Christians should not “live in the world”, that is, let the world into their lives. The “commandments and doctrines of men” refer to those religious teachings that are not from God, but from man. Christians are to leave such things alone and do just what the Bible teaches.

These things cause religious division, which God hates:

1. The teachings of men
2. The doctrines of men
3. The commands of men
4. Exalting men
5. Accepting and following books other than the Bible

On the other hand, **unity** can be had and enjoyed when people follow Christ and his word. Paul teaches in Ephesians 4:1-6 about unity: “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the **unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all**”.

Most sincere religious people say there is only one God, only one Christ, only one Holy Spirit and only one hope. **Why is it then that many of those same people say there are two baptisms, many bodies and many faiths?** Let’s take just what the Bible says and do it.

The Bible never pictures the church as being a body made up of all religious people with different religious beliefs and practices. It does picture the body as being one (united) with Christ as its head and comprised of the saved. Let’s be part of the one body (church) that Jesus built because...

**One is one and two (or more) can never be just one!**

## LESSON FIVE – THE CREED OF THE CHURCH

What does the church believe? Some churches have books called “creeds”, which are statements of what they believe and what you must believe if you want to be part of that church.

As mentioned before, the word “*creed*” comes from an old Latin word “*credo*” which means “**a belief, a formula of religious belief; a summary of principles or opinions adhered to.**” When people hear the word “creed” today they think of the “Apostles Creed” or the “Nicene Creed”, neither of which is found in the Bible, but which began with the Roman church. Other names for “creeds” we find in the religious world are, “manual, discipline, confession of faith” and others. Some religious groups even write their own Bible or translate their own doctrines into “their” Bible!

These creeds cause division because they **add to the Bible** or **take away from some of the Bible’s teachings**. “*For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book*” (Revelation 22:18,19).

**When we study the New Testament and its teachings about the Lord’s church, we find something startling. There is no “creed” written there, but the Bible itself is the Christian’s creed!**

This statement from Peter tells us why: “*Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*” (2 Peter 1:20,21). God used the Holy Spirit to write the Bible. Any person today claiming to be led by the Holy Spirit and who teaches anything not in the Bible is not moved by the Holy Spirit but by some other spirit!

Additionally, there are **no revelations** going on today. There are **no extra Bibles** being written. There is **no inspired book but the Bible**. When men write creeds and extra “Bibles”, this is the source of religious confusion. Remember, God hates those that sow discord among brethren (Proverbs 6:6-9). **The creed of the church of the New Testament is Jesus Christ and the New Testament.** Besides these, there are no others.

## LESSON SIX – THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

The church was established in Acts 2 in Jerusalem in the year 33 AD with about 3000 being baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38-41). The Lord had told the apostles to “*go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature*” (Mark 16:15). From Jerusalem, the apostles and early Christians did indeed take the gospel to the whole world as we read in Colossians 1:23: “*If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister...*”.

In the first century, people were ready for the message of the gospel and the church spread rapidly. Horrible persecution from the Jews caused the first Christians to be "...scattered abroad (and they) went every where preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). As time went by, the Romans blamed the Christians for many of Rome's internal problems and they punished the Christians in their gladiator arenas and throughout the Roman world.

Paul himself was finally imprisoned and, on his second trip to Rome, was put into prison and put to death. Tradition tells us that all the apostles except John were murdered for the cause of Christ. People who are killed for causes are called "martyrs." In spite of the persecution, the church grew, but **it was not persecution that harmed the church. It was false teachers, false teachings and a "falling away."**

Paul teaches, "*Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. **Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness**" (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12).*

Notice Paul said this evil was already in the world. He also taught that people who believe false teaching will believe a lie and be strongly deluded (fooled). They also would be condemned if they continue following false teachers. The "man of sin" is anyone who is a false teacher.

Paul also taught: "*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth*" (1 Timothy 4:1-3).

A "seducing spirit" comes from the "father of lies", the devil. False teachers are lying hypocrites. Do you know a religious organization that forbids people to marry? Paul further tells us where this great apostasy (falling away from the truth) will come from.

*"Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. **For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.***

*For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.” (Acts 20:26-31).*

The great apostasy would come from elders, bishops, pastors, presbyters and overseers, terms which refer to church leaders. Leaders and teachers have a great responsibility to be loyal to the word of God (James 3:1).

The Lord’s plan was that each congregation would be independent of other congregations. Each congregation was to have its own elders and deacons; but, as time passed, many of these congregations began to put one elder over the others and he was called “the bishop.” As more time passed, the church permitted one of these “bishops” to rule over several congregations and eventually a “universal bishop” was appointed over the entire world wide church and his headquarters were in Rome, Italy.

This “falling away” (departure) from the New Testament pattern did not happen overnight; it took many years. By 606 AD, the first “universal bishop” became the head of the earthly church and he was called the Pope (Papa).

**But what happened to the Lord’s church during this time?** The faithful few continued to be loyal to the New Testament and were persecuted. Remember that the Lord promised that his kingdom (church) would stand forever and it has done just that.

The apostate church dominated the religious world and even dominated worldly affairs. The period of history known as the “Dark Ages” lasted for several hundred years and is called “dark” for one reason, the common people were not permitted to read the Bible for themselves; they had to have it interpreted for them from Rome.

During this period of darkened time, even the apostate church divided into the Roman and Greek branches. Their division was caused by teachings such as sprinkling for baptism and instrumental music in worship. As time passed even more, the apostate church, through her councils (assemblies of bishops), added many other doctrines and teachings to her system, such as the worship of Mary, the infallibility of the Pope, etc.

In the early years of the 1500s, a man by the name of Martin Luther, himself a Roman priest, attempted to reform the apostate church. He was excommunicated (kicked out) and went on to teach and practice what he thought was right. During his life, he never wanted to establish another church, but after his death, the Protestant Reformation took full flight and most modern denominations came from this Reformation Movement.

In the 1700s and 1800s, there were denominational people in Europe and America who were tired of division and confusion. They began to leave religious error and return fully to the Bible. They did not want to start a new church, but wanted to go all the way back to the Bible and **be members of the church Jesus built**. They succeeded.

Since that time, the **plea for New Testament Christianity has been heard around the world**. Millions have left the teachings of men to simply be Christians and members of the Lord’s church with the Bible – and the **Bible only** – as their guide.

In our century, Christians have gone into all parts of the world and discovered groups of people in Africa, India, Russia, Poland and other places who were wanting to be “Christians only.”

The seed which is the word of God (Luke 8:11) was planted into the hearts of people and, when that seed brought forth fruit, it did so after its own kind. The Bible **only** makes Christians **only** and this has happened many times. When the Bible is followed, those who follow it are the Lord’s church!

## LESSON SEVEN – THE LORD’S CHURCH TODAY

**The New Testament church was established almost 2000 years ago and it exists today just as it did then.**

“How can this be possible?” a person may ask. There are people today who want to plant just the seed of God (the word of God) into people’s hearts because they know that it will bring forth Christians only. These people today know that it is not necessary to trace the historical roots of the church back to Pentecost, but simply to plant the word of God into the human heart.

Remember Daniel 2:44: “*And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a **kingdom, which shall never be destroyed**; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and **it shall stand for ever**.*” The true kingdom of God (church) will never be destroyed and will stand forever.

**The New Testament church exists wherever the New Testament exists, provided that those who read the New Testament will simply do what it says, without addition or subtraction.**

God has always given his people a pattern to follow. Remember, he gave Noah a pattern for the ark (Genesis 6), Noah did exactly what God instructed and the ark floated. Also remember, he gave Moses a pattern for the tabernacle with the warning, “...*See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount*” (Hebrews 8:5b).

When we follow the **pattern** God has given for the church in the New Testament, we will have the church of the New Testament with us because all the marks of **identification** of the church are clearly laid out in the New Testament. We have seen in these studies about the church that the Lord tells us **what** the church is, **who** built it, **when** it was built, **where** it was started, the **name** of it, the names of its **members** and he tells us how to **become** a member of his church and what its **worship** and **work** are.

The blessings of following God’s pattern is shown in the fact that the Lord’s church may be found anywhere and everywhere in the world. It is growing and spreading because it follows the **Bible only**. It is the church you read about in the New Testament which stands against the evils of division and is not a denomination or a combination of denominations. It is not Jewish, Catholic or Protestant – **it is simply the Lord’s church**. That’s all.

“*Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up*” (Matthew 15:13). It is scripturally true that those people and those churches not “*found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire*” (Revelation 20:15).

**The plea which is from heaven is for pure New Testament Christianity which is accomplished by a return to the word of God.**

Let the Bible be your guide; know it and then you will know the truth. Do what it says and you will be saved. When you're saved, you'll be added to the Lord's church.

THIS FINISHES YOUR STUDY OF  
THE CHURCH OF THE BIBLE

PLEASE FILL OUT THE TEST QUESTIONS AND RETURN THEM FOR GRADING  
PLEASE RETURN ONLY THE QUESTIONS.  
THE LESSON MATERIAL IS YOURS TO KEEP FOR FURTHER STUDY

***HOME BIBLE SCHOOL***  
Internet Bible Education Program  
4314 Dasher Rd.  
Valdosta, GA, 31601

**YOUR NAME:**

**YOUR ADDRESS:**

**CITY/STATE/ZIP**

**TEST QUESTIONS  
THE CHURCH OF THE BIBLE  
PART - TWO**

**LESSON 1: Entering the church**

**TRUE/FALSE (Check the correct answer)**

- |   |         |         |
|---|---------|---------|
| 1. A sinner gets into the church anyway he wants to           | T _____ | F _____ |
| 2. A sinner gets into the church by doing what the Bible says | T _____ | F _____ |
| 3. Faith is trust in God that he will keep his word           | T _____ | F _____ |
| 4. Jesus wouldn't die for something that is not important     | T _____ | F _____ |
| 5. Jesus died for the church                                  | T _____ | F _____ |
| 6. All human beings deserve the grace of God                  | T _____ | F _____ |
| 7. Baptism puts us into Christ                                | T _____ | F _____ |
| 8. Babies can be baptized                                     | T _____ | F _____ |
| 9. We can choose how we want to be saved                      | T _____ | F _____ |
| 10. The Lord adds saved people to the church                  | T _____ | F _____ |

**FILL IN THE BLANKS**

- 1 Peter 3:21: "The like figure whereunto even \_\_\_\_\_ doth also now \_\_\_\_\_ us (not the putting away of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the flesh, but the \_\_\_\_\_ of a good \_\_\_\_\_ toward God) by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.
- If we leave New Testament teaching out, we do not have \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_.
- Acts 2:47: "And the \_\_\_\_\_ added to the \_\_\_\_\_ daily as should be \_\_\_\_\_."
- Titus 2:11,12: "For the \_\_\_\_\_ of God that bringeth \_\_\_\_\_ hath appeared to \_\_\_\_\_ men, \_\_\_\_\_ us that denying ungodliness and worldly \_\_\_\_\_, we should live \_\_\_\_\_, righteously and \_\_\_\_\_, in this present world."
- Repentance is a change of \_\_\_\_\_, change of \_\_\_\_\_ and change of \_\_\_\_\_ and change of who will be our \_\_\_\_\_.
- Hebrews 11:6: "But without \_\_\_\_\_ it is impossible to please \_\_\_\_\_ for he that cometh to \_\_\_\_\_ - must \_\_\_\_\_ that he is and that he is a \_\_\_\_\_ of them that \_\_\_\_\_ seek him."

7. Galatians 3:27: "For as many of you as have been \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ have put on \_\_\_\_\_."
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ of our immortal soul is the most \_\_\_\_\_ thing in the world.
9. Babies aren't \_\_\_\_\_; they're \_\_\_\_\_.
10. When we study the New Testament, discover that the \_\_\_\_\_ is Jesus' body, he is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church and we cannot separate the \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_.

## LESSON 2: The worship of the church

### MULTIPLE CHOICE: (Circle the correct answer)

1. If Noah had made the ark out of pine wood **A** The ark would have floated **B** The ark would have been eaten with worms **C** The ark would have sunk.
2. To worship God "in spirit" means to worship him **A** In humility in our own hearts **B** As our own spirit requires **C** As we are told by our own consciences
3. To worship God "in truth" means to worship him **A** According to the bylaws of our church **B** by the instructions of the New Testament **C** As our preacher tells us
4. Which one of the following is not part of New Testament worship? **A** The Lord's Supper **B** Singing **C** Washing feet **D** Prayer
5. The three kinds of worship the New Testament talks about are: **A** Vain, ignorant and stupid **B** Vain, ignorant and true **C** Vain, ignorant and exciting
6. Moses made the ark and tabernacle **A** Exactly as God told him **B** Exactly like Aaron told him **C** Exactly like he wanted
7. Singing is the type of music God wants in the church because **A** It's how the word of Christ can richly dwell in Christians **B** It comes from the human heart **C** Both of these
8. On Sunday, planned giving from our money is **A** Part of our worship **B** For the preacher **C** For the diocese
9. When worship times are scheduled **A** We attend if we want to **B** We attend if we're made to **C** We don't want to miss worship
10. Religious people today **A** Cannot add to the Bible **B** Cannot subtract from the bible **C** both of these

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Colossians 3:16: "Let the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ dwell in you richly in all \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ one another in psalms, and hymns and \_\_\_\_\_ songs, \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ in your hearts to the Lord."
2. 2 Timothy 3:16,17: "All \_\_\_\_\_ is given by \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_"
3. Acts 20:7: "And upon the \_\_\_\_\_ day of the week, \_\_\_\_\_ the disciples came together to \_\_\_\_\_ bread, Paul preached unto them..."

4. 1 Corinthians 16:2: "Upon the \_\_\_\_\_ day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in \_\_\_\_\_, as God hath \_\_\_\_\_ him, that there be no \_\_\_\_\_ when I come.
5. Acts 2:42: "And they continued \_\_\_\_\_ in the apostles' \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, breaking of \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_."
6. Matthew 15:9: "But in \_\_\_\_\_ do they \_\_\_\_\_ worship me, teaching for \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of men."
7. John 4:24: "God is a \_\_\_\_\_ and they that \_\_\_\_\_ him must worship him in \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_."

### LESSON THREE: The Work of the Church

#### MULTIPLE CHOICE (Circle the correct answer)

1. The work of the church is: **A** Be a social club, eat hot dogs **B** Have showers, perform weddings and play music **C** preach the gospel, help the poor and edification
2. The Lord's way as taught in the New Testament is **A** A matter of opinion **B** The best way **C** a matter of what we choose
3. The seed of God is **A** Purchased in TyTy **B** The word of God **C** Designed to make perfect crops
4. The church has no business getting into **A** Secular business **B** Entertainment **C** Sports **D** All of these
5. We can't preach the word of God without preaching **A** How to worship God right **B** What a person needs to do to be saved **C** The importance of the church **D** All of these

#### TRUE FALSE (Check the correct answer)

- |  |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|
| 1. Paul only preached, but never helped the poor                           | T _____ | F _____ |
| 2. The gospel went to every creature in the first century                  | T _____ | F _____ |
| 3. Christians in the first century gave money as worship on the Lord's day | T _____ | F _____ |
| 4. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God                      | T _____ | F _____ |
| 5. The church does things for the glory of itself                          | T _____ | F _____ |

### LESSON FOUR: The Unity of the Church

#### FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. 1 Corinthians 1:10: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the \_\_\_\_\_ thing, and that there be no \_\_\_\_\_ among you; but that ye be \_\_\_\_\_ jointed together in the same \_\_\_\_\_ and in the same \_\_\_\_\_."

2. John 17:20,21: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall \_\_\_\_\_ on me through their \_\_\_\_\_; that they \_\_\_\_\_ may be \_\_\_\_\_; as thou, father, art in me and I in thee, that they also may \_\_\_\_\_ in us; that the \_\_\_\_\_ may \_\_\_\_\_ that thou hast sent me."
3. One is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (or more) can \_\_\_\_\_ be just one!
4. In today's religious world, there is more \_\_\_\_\_ than ever for \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Romans 16:17: "Now I beseech you, brethren, \_\_\_\_\_ them which cause \_\_\_\_\_ and offences contrary to the \_\_\_\_\_ which ye have learned and \_\_\_\_\_ them."

**MULTIPLE CHOICE (Circle the correct answer)**

1. Christ prayed that his followers (the church) must be A One B Divided C Always fussing
2. The Bible pictures the church as being A Many bodies B One body C Organized with men as the head
3. When we study the Bible, we A Cannot add or subtract from it B Can believe it any way we want to C Can always take the word of a preacher about it
4. Prophecy (written words) in the scripture A Cannot be understood B Has not come to pass C Cannot be interpreted privately.
5. God hates A Mankind B He that sows discord among the brethren C Nothing

**LESSON FIVE: The Creed of the Church**

**TRUE FALSE (Check the correct answer)**

- |  |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|
| 1. Men write creeds, but God's creed is the Bible only                     | T _____ | F _____ |
| 2. Creeds (man made statements of belief) help people understand the Bible | T _____ | F _____ |
| 3. There are no extra Bibles being written today                           | T _____ | F _____ |
| 4. Creeds add to, or subtract from, what the Bible teaches                 | T _____ | F _____ |
| 5. The creed of the church is the New Testament                            | T _____ | F _____ |
| 6. The Apostles Creed is found in the New Testament                        | T _____ | F _____ |
| 7. We can interpret the scripture anyway we want to                        | T _____ | F _____ |
| 8. We cannot interpret the scripture anyway we want to                     | T _____ | F _____ |
| 9. There is no God-inspired book but the Bible                             | T _____ | F _____ |
| 10. Old Testament prophets spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit     | T _____ | F _____ |

**LESSON SIX: The history of the Church**

**FILL IN THE BLANKS**

1. The church was \_\_\_\_\_ in Acts \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ in the year \_\_\_\_\_ AD with about \_\_\_\_\_ being baptized for the remission of their \_\_\_\_\_.

- The great \_\_\_\_\_ would come from \_\_\_\_\_, bishops, \_\_\_\_\_, presbyters and overseers, terms which refer to church \_\_\_\_\_.
- When the \_\_\_\_\_ is followed, those who follow it \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_.
- Millions have left the \_\_\_\_\_ of men to simply be \_\_\_\_\_ and members of the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ and the Bible \_\_\_\_\_ as their guide.
- Mark 16:15: "Go ye into all the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ to every \_\_\_\_\_."

### TRUE FALSE (Check the correct answer)

- |  |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|
| 1. Falling away from the Bible comes when men add to the Bible               | T _____ | F _____ |
| 2. The church will always be on earth as long as there is the Bible on earth | T _____ | F _____ |
| 3. Faithful-to-the-Bible Christians will be persecuted                       | T _____ | F _____ |
| 4. The apostate church divided into the Roman and Greek branches             | T _____ | F _____ |
| 5. Satan is the enemy of the church  | T _____ | F _____ |

### LESSON SEVEN: The Lord's Church Today

#### MULTIPLE CHOICE (Circle the correct answer)

- Everything that is not of God in religion will be **A** Rooted up **B** Ignored by God **C** Tolerated by God
- The Lord's church is found **A** Revealed in the Bible **B** Anywhere in the world **C** Both of these
- When Noah made the ark, he **A** Used many different kinds of wood **B** Did exactly what God told him to do **C** Didn't believe it would float anyway.
- When Moses made the tabernacle, he **A** Did exactly what God told him to do **B** Listened to the people's ideas **C** Did what he thought was wise
- When we let the Bible be our guide **A** We will be confused **B** We can believe anything we want to **C** We will know the truth

#### FILL IN THE BLANKS

- Daniel 2:44: "And in the days of those kings shall the \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven set up a \_\_\_\_\_ which shall never be \_\_\_\_\_; and the \_\_\_\_\_ will not be left to other people, but shall \_\_\_\_\_ in pieces and \_\_\_\_\_ all these kingdoms and it shall \_\_\_\_\_ forever."
- We will have the New Testament church today because the Bible teaches all the marks of \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ tells us \_\_\_\_\_ the church is; \_\_\_\_\_ built it, \_\_\_\_\_ it was built, \_\_\_\_\_ it was started, the \_\_\_\_\_ of it, and he tells us how to \_\_\_\_\_ a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ and what

its \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are.

4. Matthew 15:13: "Every \_\_\_\_\_ which my heavenly father hath \_\_\_\_\_ planted, shall be \_\_\_\_\_ up."

5. Let the \_\_\_\_\_ be your \_\_\_\_\_; know it and then you will know the \_\_\_\_\_. Do what it \_\_\_\_\_ and you will be \_\_\_\_\_ and when you're \_\_\_\_\_, you'll be added to the \_\_\_\_\_ church.

***HOME BIBLE SCHOOL***  
Internet Bible Education Program  
4314 Dasher Rd.  
Valdosta, GA, 31601