

THE PATH OF THE NEW BELIEVER

**A Bible study to help the new believer grow
in his knowledge of Jesus Christ.**

Pictures by Cabe Pillette

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April 2026**

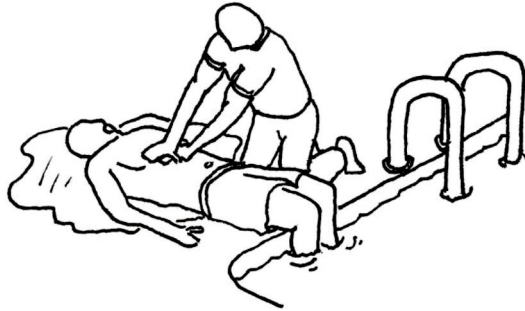
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Lesson 1

THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS



There is not a more desperate feeling than trying to revive a person who has drowned. Many come close to try to help, perhaps hoping the person will come back to life on their own. The truth is that if someone does not intervene to save them, they will die.

In the same way, according to the Bible, everyone is spiritually dead, drowned by sin and, as a consequence, sentenced to eternal death. But there is a way to be saved from this. As we study this lesson, we will see how a person can be certain that he will not suffer eternal death.

I. WE ARE ALL SINNERS

A. The origin of human evil (Rom 5:12).

1. Sin entered the world through _____ (Adam).
2. Death entered through _____.
3. Death spread to _____.
4. All men showed that they had inherited Adam's sinful nature because all _____.

B. The consequences of the entrance of sin into human life.

1. **Deceived:** The Fall affects how men perceive God.

- a. (Rom 1:21) Although they knew God, _____ as God _____, but became **futile** in their speculations, and their foolish heart was **darkened**.

b. (Rom 1:25) They exchanged the truth of God for a _____.

The lie is thinking that man is wise and good enough to manage his desires and instincts without taking the Designer into account. And this results in self-worship and serving one's immoral desires (Rom 1:24).

c. (Mark 7:6) This people honors Me with their _____,
but their heart is far away from Me.



2. Corrupt: The Fall affects how men act.

a. (Rom 3:12) **There is none** who does _____, there is
not even _____.

b. (Rom 3:13) Their throat is _____, with their tongues _____
_____. (Rom 3:14) Whose mouth is full of _____
_____.

3. Condemned: The Fall affects the destiny of every man.

a. (Rom 3:23) For **all** have sinned and _____ the glory of God.

b. (Rom 6:23) For the wages of sin is _____ (physical and eternal).

II. WE CANNOT REMOVE THE STAINS OF SIN

A. No one can obtain forgiveness of sins by keeping the Ten Commandments.

1. (John 7:19) Did not Moses give you the Law, and yet **none**
of you _____?

2. (Rom 3:20) By the works of the Law **no flesh** will be
_____ in His sight.

THE LAW



They did not keep it.

= CONDEMNED =

B. No one can present good works or offerings to erase sin.

1. He saved us, **not on the basis of** (Titus 3:5) _____ which we have done in
righteousness.

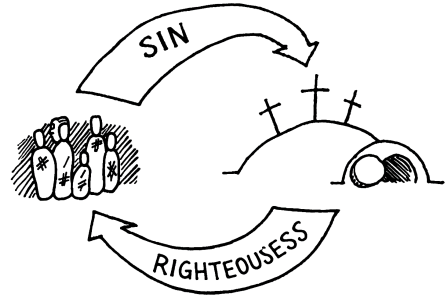
2. You were **not** redeemed with (1 Pet 1:18) _____
from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers.

III. ONLY JESUS CHRIST CAN RESCUE US

A. Jesus Christ took our punishment upon Himself.

1. (1 Pet 3:18) For Christ also _____,
the Just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God.

2. (2 Cor 5:21) He made Him who knew no sin
_____,
so that we might become the righteousness
of God in Him.



B. Jesus Christ is the only One who can take us to heaven.

1. (John 14:6) I am the way, and the truth, and the
life; **no one** comes to _____ but through _____.

2. (Acts 4:12) There is _____ in **no one else**; for **there is no**
_____ under heaven that has been given among men
by which we must be _____.

IV. BY BELIEVING IN CHRIST WE RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE

A. We must believe in Jesus Christ to avoid hell.

(John 5:24) He who _____ My word, and _____ Him who sent Me, has
eternal life, and **does not come into judgment**, but has passed out of death into life.

B. We must trust in Jesus Christ to receive forgiveness and eternal life.

1. (Acts 10:43) Everyone who _____ receives **forgiveness of sins**.

2. (1 John 5:11) God has given us **eternal life**, and this **life** is in His _____.

(1 John 5:12) He who has the _____ has the **life**.

C. We must believe that **we contribute nothing** to the gift of salvation.

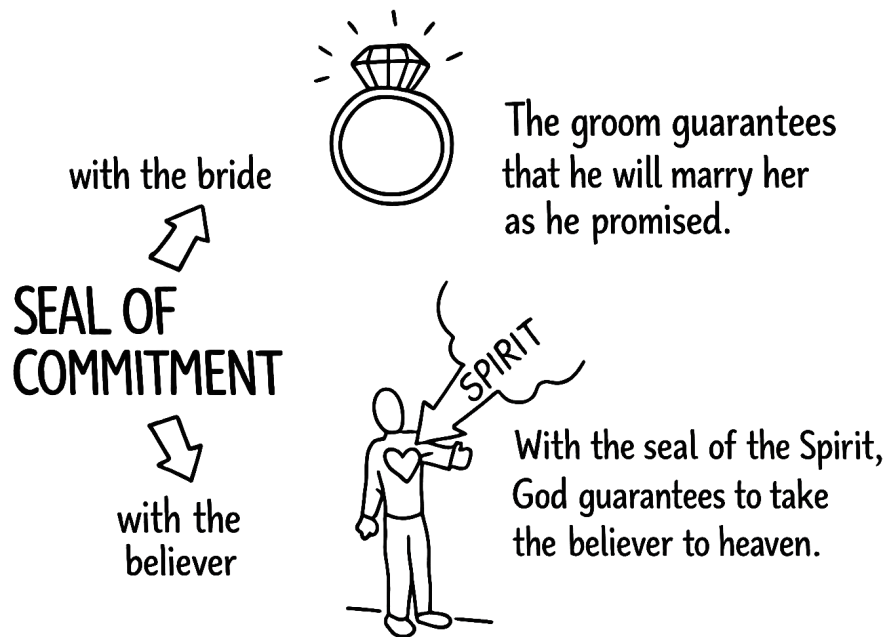
(Eph 2:8-9) For by grace (undeserved favor) you have been saved through faith; and that _____, it is the _____; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

V. THE BELIEVER WILL NEVER LOSE HIS SALVATION

A. (John 6:39-40) This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me _____, but raise it up on the last day.

B. (John 10:28-30) I give eternal life to them, and _____; and **no one** will _____ them out of My hand.

C. (Eph 1:13) After listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, having also believed, you were _____ (safeguarded) in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a **pledge of our inheritance** (eternal life).



Lesson 2

THE BEGINNING OF BEING A NEW PERSON



When someone leaves his hometown to visit another country, he experiences a very different environment and sees many new and striking things. But after a short time, he begins to miss his food, his language, his music, and his people. It is obvious to everyone that he is not from there because his accent, his clothing, and his manner of conduct are different.

In the same way, the person who receives Jesus Christ suddenly feels like a stranger in this world. The new believer begins to have another "accent" or way of speaking, thinking, and behaving. Others notice this difference in him and often are not very pleased with his new way of life.

I. UPON RECEIVING CHRIST ONE BECOMES A NEW CREATURE

A. New believers receive the nature of their new Father.

1. (1 John 5:1) Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is _____.
2. (Rom 8:15-17) You have received _____ as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are _____, and if children, heirs also.

Having received the Spirit of Christ (Rom 8:9), the new believer can sense that he is truly a child who has loving ties with his new Father. Therefore, it is natural for him to call God his "Father" with emotion and to speak with Him using his own words instead of memorized prayers.

3. Being children of the same Father, believers call one another “brothers” and love one another with brotherly love.

(1 John 3:14) We know that we have passed out of death into life, because

_____ the _____. (1 Peter 1:22-23)

B. New believers leave their former life and receive a new way of living.

1. (Phil 3:20) For our _____ is in _____,
from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because of the change in values, goals, and destiny, the new believer begins to feel like a stranger just passing through (1 Pet 2:11-12), because life here is centered on what is physical, superficial, and temporary (Heb 11:24-26). When someone clings to Jesus Christ, unbelievers can sense that he is no longer one of them (John 15:18-19).



2. (2 Cor 5:17) Therefore if anyone is in Christ, _____;
the _____ passed away; behold, _____ have come.
3. (Eph 5:8) For you were formerly _____, but now you are _____
in the Lord.
4. (Col 3:9-10) Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the _____.

with its evil practices, and have put on the _____ **who is being renewed**
to a true knowledge.

Upon receiving the new nature, the believer will have new relationships and a new way of life. Although the new believer will continue to struggle against sin until death, his new inclination will nonetheless be to please Christ (Eph 5:10), and to be guided by His Spirit (Rom 8:14) and to follow His word (1 Pet 1:22-25).

One of the first steps the new believer takes to declare himself a new creature in Christ is to be baptized.

II. BY BEING BAPTIZED ONE AFFIRMS THAT HE IS A NEW PERSON

A. Through baptism, the new believer declares that Jesus Christ has already given him new life.

1. The biblical order is to hear the message, believe in Christ, and be baptized.

a. (Acts 8:26–39) The Ethiopian eunuch **heard** Philip who preached (Acts 8:35)

_____ to him. He **believed** in (Acts 8:37) _____ and was **baptized** in water (Acts 8:38).

b. (Acts 18:8) Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his

household, and many of the Corinthians **(1)** _____,

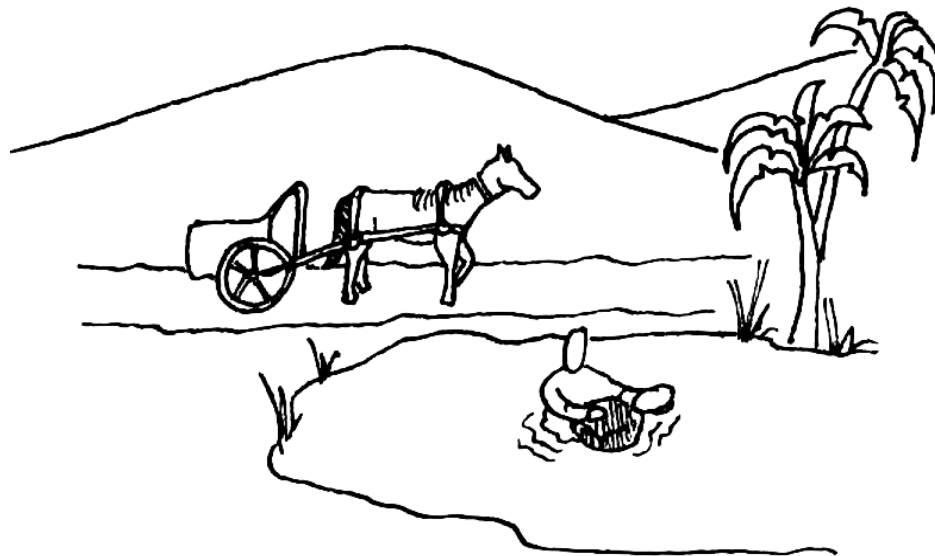
(2) _____ **(3)** and _____.

It is clear that all those who were baptized fully understood the message about Jesus Christ, believed wholeheartedly and thus willingly and with joy were baptized. They were baptized in order to proclaim that they had just come to believe in Christ.

2. The biblical way of baptism is immersion in water (Acts 8:38–39).

a. (Acts 8:38) They both _____ into _____, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

b. (Acts 8:39) When _____ of the _____ ... and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.



B. In being baptized, **one only symbolizes** what happened at the moment he believed.

1. Baptism illustrates that one **has already** received the Spirit and the forgiveness of sins.

When Cornelius and others had believed, Peter said, (Acts 10:47-48) "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the

_____?" And he ordered them _____ in the name of Jesus Christ.

*When someone is baptized in water, he is symbolically showing that the Holy Spirit has washed away his sins and purified his heart (Acts 15:8-9; 22:16; Titus 3:5). But this washing does not occur during baptism; it occurs at the moment of believing. **Baptism only reflects what Christ has already done beforehand** in the one who has believed.*

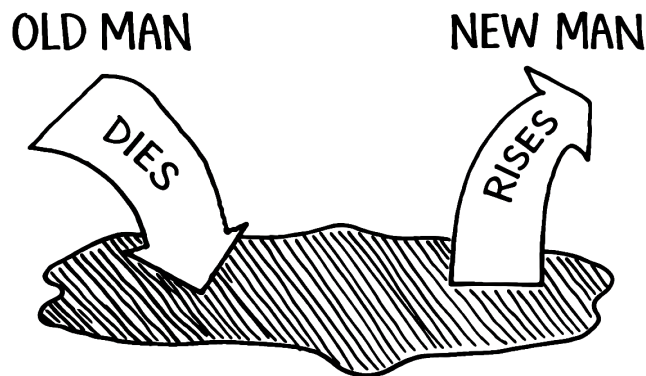
2. Baptism symbolizes the death of the old man and the resurrection of the new.

a. By **being immersed in water**, one symbolizes that he has died to his former life (Rom 6:4).

Therefore we have been _____ with Him through baptism into death.

b. By **coming out of the water**, one symbolizes that he has risen to new life (Rom 6:4).

So that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in _____.



C. Baptism does not save nor does it mean that one is more holy or that he hardly sins.

1. Believing in Jesus Christ is what saves, not being baptized in water.

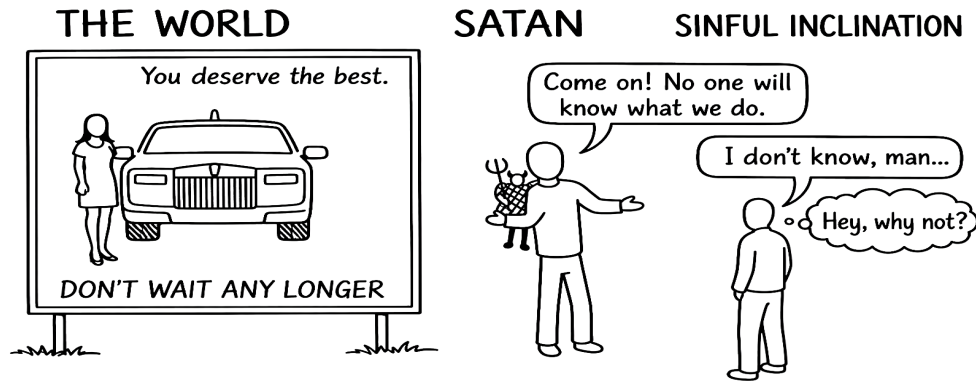
(Acts 16:30-31) _____ in the _____ and you will be saved.

2. Baptism is not postponed until the believer has corrected all his faults.

At that very hour of the night (and before conducting himself uprightly for some years), the jailer immediately was (Acts 16:33) _____, he and all his household.

Lesson 3

THE FORCES AGAINST THE NEW BELIEVER



When a young woman gets married, she begins a new stage, enjoying the pleasant changes that come from being with the man she loves. But she might mistakenly think that by getting married all the wounds of the past will be healed, that she will become a less selfish person, and that life will feel like paradise. Before long she will realize that many influences will come (in-laws, parents, the desire to earn more money) that could harm her marriage if she is not firm and disciplined in growing in marital love.

In the same way, the new believer enters with joy into a new relationship with Jesus Christ. But she may mistakenly think that she will easily leave her bad habits and that her life will be like paradise. Soon she will realize that she will need firmness and discipline to overcome the attacks that will come (from the world, from the inclination to sin, and from Satan) to try to weaken her and make her a defeated or mediocre Christian.

I. THE WORLD OFFERS THE “GOOD LIFE” WITHOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS

A. The world promotes immorality, materialism, and pride. (1 John 2:15-17)

The world is fallen society that offers a prosperous life without God and without His principles. The world, influenced by Satan, promotes living only for the moment.

1. What are the three things in the world that do not come from the Father? (1 John 2:16)

- a.** The lust or desires of the _____ (distorted appetites).
- b.** The lust or desires of the _____ (coveting what is visible and superficial).

c. The _____ of life (an attitude of superiority because of one's achievements).

2. What must the believer do to avoid this influence?

a. (1 John 2:15) Do not _____ the world nor the things in the world.

b. Remember this: (1 John 2:17) The world _____, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

B. The world promotes popular and insincere religion.

1. (Titus 1:16) They _____ God, but by their deeds they deny Him.

2. What must the believer do to avoid religion that is acceptable to the world?

(James 1:22) Prove yourselves _____

of the word, and not merely _____ who delude themselves.



C. The world offers a wisdom that produces confusion and conflict.

1. (James 3:15-17) This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is

_____ . For where _____

and _____, there is _____ and every evil thing.

2. What must the believer do to avoid worldly and popular wisdom?

(James 1:5) But if any of you lacks wisdom, _____ of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

II. THE SINFUL INCLINATION INCITES A PERSON TO SIN

A. Where do quarrels and conflicts among you come from?

(James 4:1-2) Is not the source your _____ that wage war **in your members**? You lust and ... You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel.

B. What must the believer do to overcome his sinful inclination?

(Eph 5:17-18) So then do not be foolish, but _____ what the _____ of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine ... but be _____.

To be filled with the Spirit is to be filled or controlled by the word of Christ (Col 3:16).

III. SATAN DECEIVES AND MISLEADS MAN

A. Satan encourages people to follow what is easy and fashionable.

(Eph 2:2-3) You formerly walked according to the _____, according to the prince of the power of the air (the devil).

B. The devil deceives with a false imitation of the true way.

(2 Cor 11:13-14) No wonder, for even Satan

_____ as _____

_____.

C. Satan promotes lies.

(John 8:44) Whenever the devil speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the

father of _____.



D. What must the believer do to avoid the deception of the adversary?

1. (Eph 6:11) Put on the full _____ of God so that you will be able to _____
_____ against the schemes of the devil. (1 Pet 5:8)

2. What does the armor of God consist of? (Eph 6:14–17)

a. Gird your loins with _____.

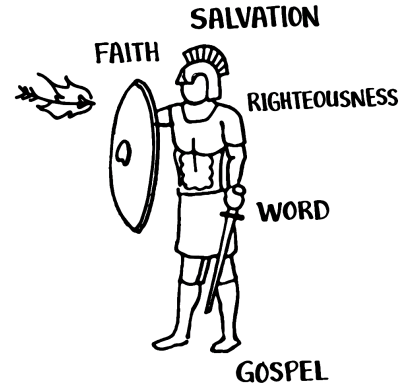
b. Put on the breastplate of _____.

c. Having shod your feet with the preparation of
the _____.

d. Take the shield of _____.

e. Take the helmet of _____.

f. Take the sword of the _____, which is the word of God.



IV. THE BELIEVER WHO SINS CONFESSES IT AND RISES AGAIN

A. When the believer sins, he must accept the Lord’s correction (Heb 12:5–6,11).

My son, do not regard lightly the _____ of the Lord, nor faint when you are
_____ by Him. For those **whom the Lord loves** He _____.

God corrects us through His word, through other Christian friends, through difficult circumstances, and through a troubled conscience.

B. Instead of justifying himself, the believer must admit that he sinned (1 John 1:9–10).

If we _____ our sins, He is faithful and righteous to _____ our sins
and to _____ us from all unrighteousness. If we say that _____,
we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

“Confess” means “to agree” with God that He is right when He says that an action is sin. Confession of sin is directed to God (Psalm 32:5).

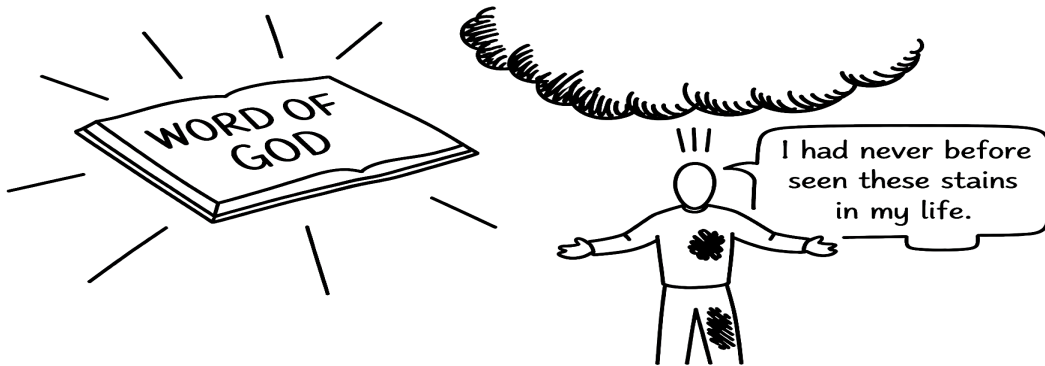
C. After receiving forgiveness, the believer must move forward (Phil 3:13-14).

But one thing I do: _____ what lies behind and _____

to what lies ahead, _____ toward the goal.

Lesson 4

THE BIBLE: GOD SPEAKS TO US



From the beginning of his life a child hears the voice of his parents. They communicate their love, their comfort, their correction, and instructions on how to take his first steps. The child does not understand everything he hears, but he feels loved and protected. Little by little, he begins to grasp and respond more and more to the instructions of his parents.

In the same way, God the Father speaks to us through His Word, the Bible. At first we do not understand everything we hear or read, but we feel loved and protected. Soon we want to respond to the wise counsel of our Father and take the steps He encourages us to take.

I. GOD SPOKE THROUGH FAITHFUL MEN

A. The Bible was formed book by book from the year 1400 B.C. until the year A.D. 95.

1. The first part is the **Old Testament** (the history of Israel before Christ). [39 books]

a. The books written by Moses (creation of the world and the formation of Israel).

1) Genesis 3) _____ 5) _____

2) _____ 4) _____

The Ten Commandments are found in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5.

b. The books of the history of Israel (their failures and their need for the Messiah).

1) _____ 5) _____ 9) 2 Chronicles

2) Judges 6) _____ 10) Ezra _____

3) Ruth 7) 2 Kings 11) Nehemiah _____

4) 1 Samuel 8) 1 Chronicles 12) _____

Some of these books speak of famous kings, such as David and Solomon.

c. The wisdom books (advice for handling life in a fallen world).

- 1) Job _____ 3) _____ 5) _____
2) _____ 4) _____

In the wisdom books we find, among many other things, counsel (1) for those who suffer 'unjustly', (2) for prayers seeking help and giving thanks, (3) for parents who want to raise their children well, (4) for those who struggle with the apparent emptiness of their lives, (5) and for those who want to know more about marital love.

d. The books of the prophets (judgment on Israel and the coming of Christ).

- 1) Isaiah _____ 6) Hosea _____ 11) Micah _____ 16) Zechariah _____
2) _____ 7) Joel _____ 12) Nahum _____ 17) _____
3) Lamentations _____ 8) _____ 13) Habakkuk _____
4) Ezekiel _____ 9) Obadiah _____ 14) _____
5) Daniel _____ 10) Jonah _____ 15) Haggai _____

1,400 – 400 B.C.



The Savior will come.



45 – 95 A.D.



The Savior came, died,
rose and will return



THE BIBLE
(‘Book’)

2. The second part is the **New Testament** (Jesus’ earthly life and the church). [27 books]

a. The Gospels (the first coming of Christ, His life, death, and resurrection).

- 1) Matthew _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____
Tax collector Friend of Peter Doctor and non-Jew Fisherman

b. The history of the church (the spread of the message through Peter and Paul).

After the four Gospels we find: The _____ of the Apostles.

c. The letters to churches and coworkers (teaching and exhortation).

- 1) Romans _____ 8) 1 Thessalonians _____ 15) James _____
2) 1 Corinthians _____ 9) 2 Thessalonians _____ 16) 1 Peter _____
3) 2 Corinthians _____ 10) 1 Timothy _____ 17) 2 Peter _____
4) _____ 11) _____ 18) _____
5) Ephesians _____ 12) Titus _____ 19) 2 John _____
6) Philippians _____ 13) Philemon _____ 20) 3 John _____
7) Colossians _____ 14) Hebrews _____ 21) Jude _____

Paul wrote the first 13 letters. We do not know who wrote the letter to the Hebrews. The last seven letters were written by James, Peter, John, and Jude.

d. The prophecy of the end (world judgments, the return of Christ, and His kingdom).

John wrote the last book of the New Testament: It is called _____.

In total, the Bible has 66 books written by some 45 authors. But the Catholic Bible includes seven additional books (Tobit, Judith, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, and Baruch). These seven books were written by Jews around 200 BC, but no Jew considered them part of their Scriptures (the Old Testament). And although Jesus and the apostles quoted almost all the books of the Old Testament, they never once quoted one of these seven books because they did not consider them divinely inspired.

B. The Bible comes from God without error even though He used imperfect men.

1. Chosen and faithful men wrote exactly what God wanted to say.

a. All Scripture is (2 Tim 3:16) _____.

"Inspired by God" means "given by the breath of God".

b. For no prophecy was ever made by an (2 Pet 1:21) _____,

but men _____.

The prophet did not invent the revelation or the explanation of a vision or a sign. God Himself gave him the vision and also gave him its meaning. The prophet only wrote what God told him. Furthermore, no writer of the Bible could introduce their own erroneous opinions into what they wrote because the Holy Spirit oversaw the entire process.

2. The Word of God is truth without any contamination.

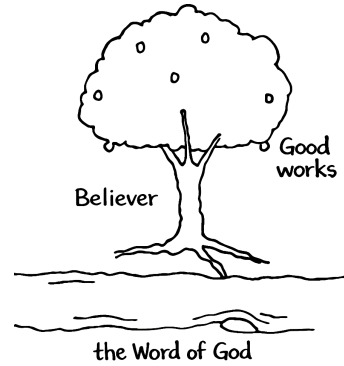
(John 17:17) Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is _____. (Ps 12:6)

II. THE BIBLE ILLUMINATES MAN AND GIVES HIM DIRECTION

A. The Word of God protects the believer from evil and guides him in what is right.

[Write below what the Bible does to benefit and prosper man.]

1. (Ps 1:1-3) The one who meditates in His law day and night: He will be like a _____ by streams of water, which yields its _____ in its season.



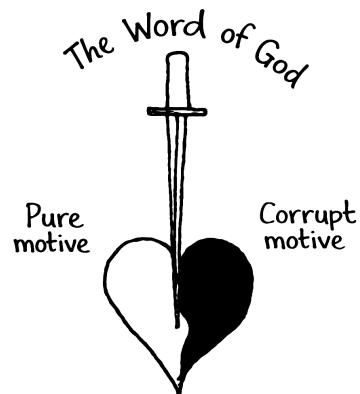
2. (Ps 19:7) It _____ the soul. It makes _____ the simple.

3. (Ps 119:9-11) Your Word I have treasured in my heart, so that I may not _____ against You.

4. (2 Tim 3:16-17) It is profitable for _____, for _____, for _____, for _____ in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

5. (Heb 4:12-13) The Word is able to _____ the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Upon reading all these passages, we see that the believer does not need anything from modern psychology or counseling to be mentally healthy and useful.



The Word of God is sufficient to repair the damage caused by sin.

B. The Word motivates the believer to share the truth with others.

1. (2 Tim 4:2,5) _____ **the Word**; be ready in season and out of season.
(Matt 28:19-20; 1 Cor 15:1-4)
2. Always being (1 Pet 3:15) _____ to make a _____
to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with
gentleness and reverence. (Col 4:2-6)

C. For the Word to have effect in our lives, what must we do with it?

1. (Acts 17:11) _____
2. (2 Tim 2:15) _____
3. (James 1:22) _____
4. (Rev 1:3) _____

Lesson 5

PRAYER: WE SPEAK TO GOD



God speaks to us through His Word: He comforts us, guides us, teaches us, rebukes us, and assures us of His love. He also gives us His perspective and His evaluation of the human situation and clarifies what His values and principles are.

When we pray, we are responding to what He has communicated in the Bible. We praise Him for what we have seen of His character. We give thanks because He fulfills what He promises in the Scriptures. We ask for help to understand His Word and we ask forgiveness when we do not obey Him. Therefore, prayer is seeking reinforcement to think and act according to what God has expressed in His Word.

I. WE PRAY ONLY TO THE FATHER AND TO HIS SON

A. Prayer is directed to the Father with childlike love and without superficiality.

(Mat 6:9b) Our _____ who is in heaven (we feel close ties with You) hallowed be Your name (we want You to be honored and treated as special).

In our prayers we should ask that the Lord work to establish His righteousness (Matt 6:10) in our life now, and later in the world when He comes the second time. We should also express our dependence on God to sustain physical life (Matt 6:11). And it is necessary to recognize the need to ask forgiveness and to forgive others (Matt 6:12). After having enjoyed undeserved forgiveness for our enormous debt, we as a new man should be encouraged to forgive the smaller offenses of others. Finally, we should ask protection so as not to fall into the deceptions of the evil one (Matt 6:13; 26:41).

Taking into account the prohibition against repeating memorized prayers, such as religious unbelievers are given to making, it is clear that the "Lord's Prayer" is only an example of how to pray (Matt 6:7-8). Therefore, using the Lord's Prayer as a guide, we should pray to the Father in our own words.

B. Prayer is made “in the name of Jesus Christ”.

Whatever you ask of the Father in (John 15:16) _____.

The “name” means the “person,” including His reputation and character. When we ask something in “the name of Jesus,” we mean that our request agrees with the character or values of Christ. At the same time we recognize that we have the right to enter the presence of the Father because of the relationship we have with the Son. Although it is not required, sometimes we say “amen” (“yes” or “so be it”) to affirm that we strongly agree with what someone else—or we ourselves—have just prayed.

C. Although the norm is to pray to the Father, one may also pray to the Son.

Stephen said: (Acts 7:59) “Lord _____ receive my spirit”. (1Thess 3:11-13; Rev 22:20)

D. It is not permitted to pray to an image or to another being, no matter how saintly he or she might be.

1. (Ex 20:4) You shall not make for yourself

_____ (a carved image).

(Ex 20:5) You shall not _____

or _____ (nor pray to them asking a favor).



For someone to hear silent prayers made by thousands of people everywhere in the world (all at the same time), that person would have to be like a powerful little god who is present everywhere and who also sees the thoughts of all men. But God is the only being in the universe who has such supernatural abilities (Isa 44:6–7; Matt 6:8). Furthermore, it is forbidden to speak to the dead (Deut 18:10–11; Isa 8:19).

2. Let your requests be **made known to (Phil 4:6) _____.**

3. The Spirit (Rom 8:26) and Jesus Christ (Rom 8:34) _____ for us.

Only the Father, the Son, and the Spirit (the Trinity) handle our prayers.

II. WE PRAY TO PRAISE, GIVE THANKS AND MAKE REQUESTS

A. The believer expresses appreciation to God for His character, power, and righteous deeds.

(Ps 145:1,8) I will _____, my God, O King, and I will _____ Your name forever and ever. The Lord is _____ and _____.

B. The believer requests help, wisdom, forgiveness, and protection, both for himself and for others.

1. (Ps 31:1-2) Incline Your ear to me, _____ quickly.
2. (Ps 32:5) I said, “ _____ my transgressions to the Lord”. (Ps 51:1-2,10)
3. (Ps 119:33-34) Give me _____, that I may observe Your law and keep it with all my heart.
4. (James 5:13a) Is anyone among you _____? Then he must pray.

C. The believer gives thanks to God for what He has done and provided.

(1 Thess 5:18) In everything _____; for this is God’s will for you.

III. THE PRAYER THAT PLEASURES AND REACHES GOD

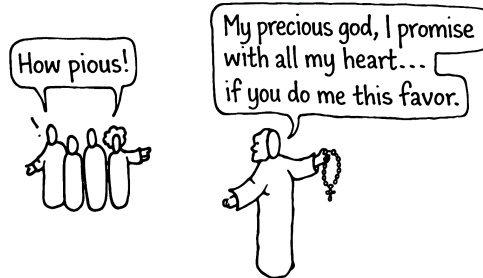
A. (Prov 15:29) He hears the prayer of the _____.
(Ps 66:18; Prov 28:9; 1 Pet 3:7,12)

B. (Eccl 5:1-2) Let your words be _____.
(no manipulating with many promises).

C. (Matt 6:5) Do not pray to be _____ by men.

D. (Matt 6:7) Do not use _____ as the Gentiles do.

E. (James 4:3) Do not ask with wrong motives: to spend it on your _____.



F. (1 John 5:14) Ask anything according to _____.

If the Word is transforming us and we love God with all our heart (Ps 37:4; John 15:7), we can pray trusting that God will give us good judgment to take the correct step in any situation.

IV. FREQUENCY, POSTURE, AND PLACE FOR PRAYER

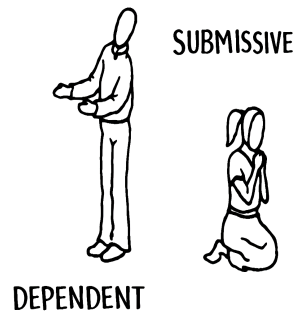
A. Prayer is frequent, but one adapts his prayer time according to his circumstances.

1. Pray without (1 Thess 5:17) _____.
2. Jesus prayed in the (Mark 1:35) _____.
3. Paul and Silas prayed at (Acts 16:25) _____.

B. Body posture is not crucial, but it may express the condition of the heart.

[Write the kind of posture used when praying.]

1. (Matt 26:39) _____
2. (Luke 18:11) _____
3. (Luke 22:41) _____
4. (John 11:41) _____
5. (1 Tim 2:8) _____



C. There is no “holy” place that makes prayer more effective.

[Write down some of the places where people prayed.]

1. (Mark 1:35) _____
2. (Acts 10:9) _____
3. (Acts 12:12) _____
4. (Acts 16:24–25) _____
5. (Acts 21:5) _____
6. (Acts 27:35,39) _____

V. ASKING WITH FAITH DOES NOT GUARANTEE AN AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER

A. (Matt 26:38–39) Without lacking faith in His Father, Jesus asked not to suffer on the cross.

Did the Father grant this request to Jesus? Yes _____ No _____

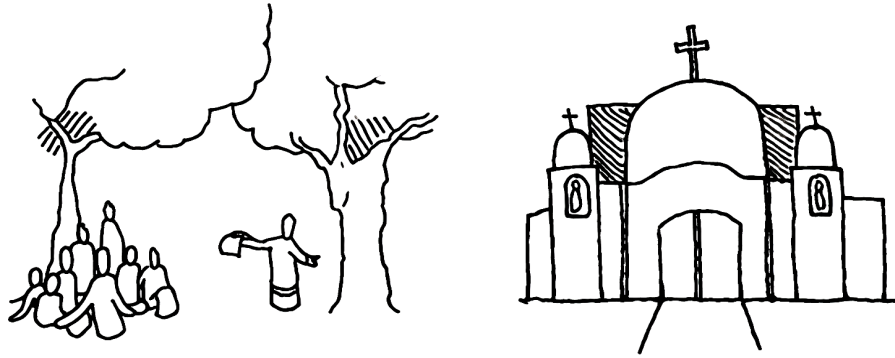
B. (2 Cor 12:7–9) Without lacking faith in his Lord, Paul asked not to suffer anymore.

Did the Lord grant this request to Paul? Yes _____ No _____

Sometimes our request is not wrong and we do not lack genuine faith, but God has a purpose beyond our understanding or He wants to give us something more necessary to shape our character. Sometimes He will grant our request according to His timing and not ours.

Lesson 6

THE CHURCH AND ITS LEADERSHIP



WHICH IS THE CHURCH?

Normally when we see the word “church,” we think of the building where the Catholic mass occurs or where the meeting of Christians takes place. It is also common to call this building “the temple,” “the house of God,” “the house of prayer or worship,” or “the chapel.”

But in the New Testament, the word “church” referred to Christians, or to the gathering of Christians, and not to the building where they met. Literally the word means “assembly.” When speaking about the church, most of the time the authors of the Bible referred to believers who met in a town (1 Cor 1:1-2). But sometimes they referred to all Christians who are in the world and in heaven (Eph 5:23-27).

I. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCH

A. The places where believers met.

1. (Acts 2:46; 3:1) _____ (of the Jews)
2. (Acts 19:9-10) _____ (of Tyrannus)
3. (Acts 19:8) _____
4. (1 Cor 16:19) _____

B. The things believers devoted themselves to when they met.

1. (Acts 2:42) To the apostles' _____.
2. (Acts 2:42) To _____ (warm companionship).
3. (Acts 2:42) To the _____ of bread (a normal meal and at the same time the Lord's Supper with the bread and the cup).
4. (Acts 2:42) To _____ (requests, thanksgiving, and praises).
5. (1 Cor 16:1-3) The _____ (they did not necessarily give every Sunday).

6. (1 Cor 16:19–20) _____ one another with a holy kiss.

7. (Eph 5:19) Speaking to one another with _____
_____.

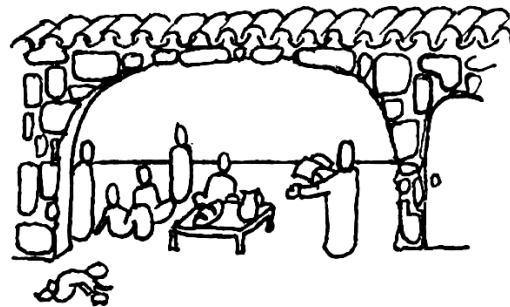
8. (Heb 10:24–25) Stimulate one another to _____ and good deeds.

The men came prepared to pray, request a song, or share from the Word, doing so with love, in order to edify others (1 Cor 14:26; 16:14).

C. The way they carried out their meetings.

(Acts 2:46) Day by day continuing

_____ in the temple,
and breaking bread from house to house,
they were taking their meals together with
_____ and _____
of heart.



D. The centrality of Christ was seen through the Lord’s Supper.

1. The bread represents the body of Jesus and symbolizes the eternal life He gives us.

(1 Cor 11:23–24) He took bread... and said, “This is My _____, which is for you.”

2. The cup represents the blood of Jesus and symbolizes the cost of cleansing us from evil.

(1 Cor 11:25) “This cup is the new covenant in My _____”.

In the old covenant the blood of an animal covered specific sins at that moment. In the new covenant the blood of Christ removes all sins forever.

3. When taking the Lord’s Supper one remembers with gratitude Christ’s costly death.

a. It is done in remembrance of (1 Cor 11:24) _____ (Christ).

b. We proclaim the (1 Cor 11:26) _____ death until He _____.

At the Lord's Supper we show that Christ cleansed us from sin with His blood (cup), gave us eternal life (bread), and will return one day to transform us completely.

E. Other activities of the church according to the need of the moment.

1. The church gives to believers in need and to those who spread the message.

- a. (Rom 12:13) _____ to the _____ of the saints.
- b. (2 Cor 9:7) Each one must _____ (give) just as he has purposed in his _____, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- c. (Phil 4:15–19) For even in Thessalonica _____ a gift or an offering more than once for my needs (those of the missionary Paul).

2. The church disciplines members who commit serious sins and refuse to repent.

(1 Cor 5:1–2) The one who has done this deed (sex with the mother-in-law) would be _____ from your midst. (Titus 3:10–11)

II. UPRIGHT LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH

A. Leadership consists of elders and deacons.

1. Biblical designations for those who care for and lead the church.

- a. (Titus 1:5) Appoint _____ in every city as I directed you.
- b. (Titus 1:7) For the _____ must be above reproach as God's steward.

Elders and overseers (bishops) refer to the same position in the church. The word "bishop" is Latin for overseer, meaning they watch over and protect believers. The designation elder means that the leaders are mature and have a good amount of experience. Only men may be leaders of the church (1 Cor 14:34–35; 1 Tim 2:12), but women may teach other women and children (Prov 6:20; Titus 2:3–5).

2. The deacons (assistants) are those who help the elders.

(1 Tim 3:8-13) _____ likewise must be men of dignity.

B. Responsibilities of church leaders.

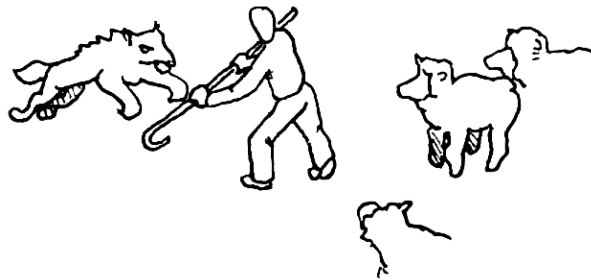
1. **Serve:** To provide for the needs of believers.

(Luke 22:24-27) The greatest among you
must become like the _____, and
the leader like the _____.



2. **Supervise and shepherd:** To protect the church from harmful influences.

(Acts 20:28-31) The Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to _____ the church of God.



3. **Administer, govern, and direct:** To maintain order and a healthy environment.

(Titus 1:7) For the overseer must be above reproach as _____.
(1 Tim 5:17)

4. **Be an example:** So believers can imitate their conduct.

(1 Pet 5:3) But proving to be _____ to the flock.

5. **Teach, refute, and discipline:** So there is no false doctrine or wrong conduct.

(Titus 1:9-11) Holding fast the faithful Word . . . so that he will be able to exhort in
_____ and _____ those who contradict.

C. Necessary qualities to shepherd the church (1 Tim 3:1-7).

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Above reproach</u> _____ | 9. <u>Not pugnacious</u> _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | 10. <u>Gentle</u> _____ |
| 4. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 13. <u>Manages his own household well</u> |
| 7. _____ | 14. <u>Not a new convert</u> _____ |
| 8. _____ | 15. <u>Good reputation with outsiders</u> |

D. The biblical attitude of believers toward church leadership.

(1 Thess 5:12-13) That you _____
because of their work. (1 Tim 5:17)

Lesson 7

THE CHRIST CENTERED FAMILY



When we think about what kind of marriage we want, it is common to imagine one without the mistakes we witnessed and suffered during our childhood. The young man promises himself never to hit his wife (as his father did), not to waste family resources on a mistress, nor let his sport or work steal time from the children. The young woman vows that she will not belittle her husband in public or in front of the children (as her mother did). She resolves not to yell at the children or to have a favorite among them.

But simply promising not to do what our parents did wrong will not be enough to have a happy marriage and to have children who are believers and respectful. We need to put into practice the biblical design for the family, and have the discipline to please Christ and not our society.

I. MARRIAGE DESIGNED BY GOD

A. The original marriage, before the entry of sin, was very pleasurable.

1. God made marriage so that the couple could enjoy a special kind of friendship.

a. (Gen 2:18) It is not good for the man to be _____; I will make him a _____ suitable for him (an ideal and compatible companion).

b. (Gen 2:22) The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and _____ her to the man.

The woman was created to be at the husband's side, helping him to rule over nature and to have and raise children together (Gen 1:26-28; 2:15).

2. To properly establish the marriage, God gave instructions to the man (Gen 2:24).

- a. Therefore a man shall _____ his father and his mother (and his home).
- b. And be _____ to his wife (not his “women”, because his love shall be exclusive).
- c. And they shall become _____ (they will have a sexual and intimate relationship).

Like Adam and Eve, the newly married couple must live apart from their parents in order to be united in spirit and body and thus form a love and friendship that is unique, exclusive and permanent. In being naked without shame, it means Adam and Eve enjoyed complete trust in each other, and there was no fear of abuse or criticism (Gen 2:25).

B. After the fall, marriage became corrupt and suffered great tension.

1. The man and the woman began to distort their roles.

- a. Eve: (Gen 3:16) Yet your _____ will be for [to dominate] your husband.
- b. Adam: (Gen 3:16) And he will _____ [at times abusive and unloving] over you. Instead of complementing each other, each one began to seek their own advantage.



2. Destructive and perverted influences entered that damaged marriage.
[After each reference, describe the distortion to the marital relationship.]

- a. (Gen 4:19) _____
- b. (Gen 19:4-5) _____
- c. (Gen 19:33-34) _____
- d. (Gen 34:1-2) _____
- e. (Gen 38:15-18) _____
- f. (Gen 39:7) _____

3. Due to sexual betrayal and a lack of repentance (hardness of heart on the part of the unfaithful one), divorce was permitted in order to reduce a little of the destructive contamination.

(Matt 19:9) [No one should divorce] except for _____.

C. Jesus teaches us how to be successful spouses and parents despite the fall.

1. Those who are dating should follow these guidelines to please Christ.

- a. Obtain the permission and blessing of parents to begin a relationship.

(Eph 6:1-2) Children, _____ your parents in the Lord ("in order to please Him").

- b. Remain pure before marriage so as not to contaminate your relationship.

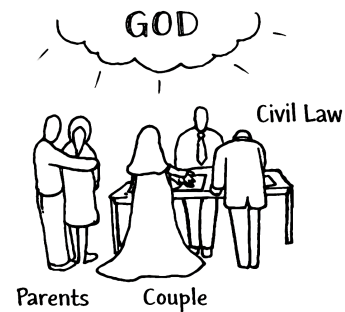
(1 Thess 4:3) That you abstain from _____.

- c. Marry a true believer with the same values.

(2 Cor 6:14-16) Do not be bound together with _____.

- d. Marry before God (Matt 19:6) and publicly according to the law of the country.

(1 Pet 2:13-17) _____
_____, to every
human institution (and thus fulfill the
requirements to be legally married).



2. Spouses are equal as human beings but different in their roles.

- a. The husband should consider his wife as his equal (1 Pet 3:7).

Show her _____ as a **fellow heir** of the grace of life.

- b. Spouses must maintain their distinct roles as God established them.

(Eph 5:23) **The Husband** is the _____ of the wife.

(Eph 5:22) **Wives** be _____ to your own husbands.

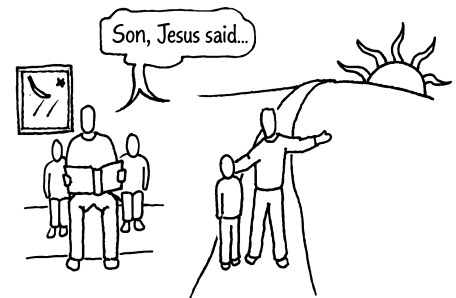
- (Eph 5:25) **Husbands**, _____ your wives (giving your life for her).
- (Eph 5:33) **The wife** _____ her husband.
- (Col 3:19) **Husbands** ... do not be _____ (harsh, critical) against them.
- (1 Pet 3:1-2) **Wives** ... may win their husbands without _____ by their behavior (chaste and respectful).
- (1 Tim 5:8) **The husband** must _____ for his own.
- (Titus 2:4-5) **Wives** should be sensible, pure, _____ at home (her priority).
- (1 Pet 3:7) **Husbands**, in the same way, live with your wives in an _____ as with someone weaker.
- (1 Pet 3:3-4) **Wives**, your adornment must not be merely external ... but let it be _____, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet (*gracious and peaceable*) spirit.

II. CHILDREN RAISED TO LOVE GOD AND LIVE WELL

A. The father and mother instruct their children in the Word of God.

1. Parents guide their children (sinners from birth) to believe in Christ.

- a. (Deut 6:4-7) These words ... shall be on your heart. You shall _____ them diligently to your sons, and _____ of them when you **sit** in your house and when you **walk** by the way, and when you **lie down** and when you **rise up**.



- b. (Eph 6:4) Bring them up in the discipline and _____ of the _____.
 - 2. Parents must discipline (not spoil) their children so that they will be wise.
 - a. (Prov 22:15) Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of _____ will remove it far from him. (Prov 13:24)
 - b. (Prov 29:15,17) The rod and reproof (correction) give _____.
 - 3. In raising children, parents must not yell at them or belittle them.
 - (Eph 6:4) Fathers, do not _____ your children _____. (Col 3:21)
- B. Even though children do not have to obey their parents after they are married, they do have to respect them forever.
 - (Eph 6:1-3) _____ your father and your mother.
- C. Even though we love our family, we must love God much more.
 - (Matt 10:34-39) He who _____ father or mother **more than Me**, is not worthy of Me; and he who _____ son or daughter **more than Me**, is not worthy of Me.

If the family asks us to do something improper, we must say no, and obey God. The family must not subtly become an idol—that is, it must not be the exclusive focus of our energy and affection. As a united family, we must open our home to love others and tell them about Jesus Christ.

Lesson 8

GOD RAISES HIS CHILDREN TO BE CONSIDERATE AND HELPFUL



A good father always has goals for all his children. A father does not want his children to be rude, lazy, ungrateful, and selfish. He wants his children to look out for one another for the common good of the family, so that the family might prosper and have a good reputation in their community.

Our Father in heaven wants the same for His children. That is why each child has his responsibilities within the family. The child's positive response expresses his love and respect for his Father, and soon the child realizes that this will help him develop better character.

I. WE MUST SEEK THE GOOD OF OUR FAMILY IN CHRIST

A. We follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came to serve others.

(Phil 2:3-5) Do nothing from _____ or _____,
but with humility of mind regard _____
_____ ; do not merely look out for your own _____,
but also _____. Have this attitude in yourselves which
was also in Christ Jesus.

The true believer ceases to be so self-centered and begins to think about how he can encourage others to believe in Christ and to faithfully follow Him. He also begins to show more consideration toward others, including his spouse and children, even when this means he will have to change his own plans and sacrifice his preferences in order to do what will most benefit them.

B. With deep gratitude, we want to serve Jesus, the one who gave us a new beginning.

1. Jesus Christ purchased us and we belong to Him (1 Cor 6:19-20).

Or do you not know that your body is a _____ of the Holy Spirit,
who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not _____
(not your own masters)? For you have been **bought with a price**.

2. Jesus Christ is the Creator and Owner of our abilities and possessions.

a. (1 Cor 4:7) What do you have that you did not _____? Nothing!

b. (1 Tim 6:17) God, who richly _____ with _____ to
enjoy.

*Even though it is hard for us to grasp, we must understand that we are stewards
and not owners of our lives, abilities, money, and time. Understanding this concept
will help us stop being so stingy and ambitious. Furthermore, it will make us pray
more often to know what we should do with the things God has given us.*

3. Being the owner of what we have and of who we are, Jesus asks us to use our time,
body, and possessions as He teaches us in the Bible.

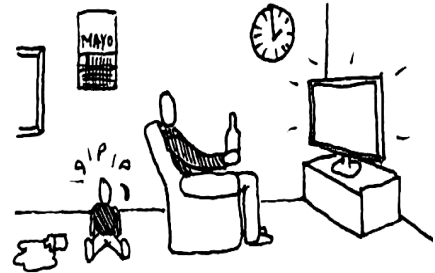
a. (Eph 5:16) Making the most of your _____.
(Ps 90:12; 1 Pet 1:17)

b. (1 Cor 6:20) Glorify God in your _____.
(Rom 6:12-13, 19; 1 Cor 6:13)

c. (Eph 4:23) And that you be renewed in the
spirit of your _____. (Rom 12:2)

d. Nor fix your hope on the uncertainty of (1 Tim 6:17) _____.

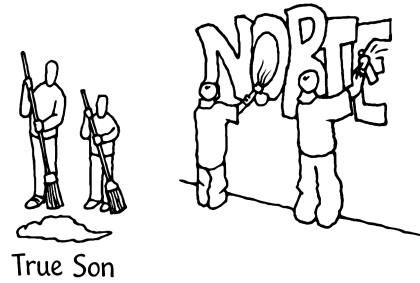
(1 Tim 6:18) Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, _____
_____.



e. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: (1 Cor 10:7) The people sat down to _____ and _____, and stood up to _____.

We must not use our time, energy, talents, or money in unwholesome entertainment or parties dedicated to an image (idol). We must evaluate every invitation or activity with these questions: Would I be comfortable in this situation if Jesus were at my side? By my participation in this, would I be confusing those who are just beginning to want to leave their former life? (1 Cor 10:31-33)

f. (1 Pet 1:14-15) As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the _____ One who called you, be (1 Pet 1:14-15) _____ yourselves also in all your behavior (be set apart from what is immoral and corrupt).



The Father wants us to act like Him, and not to damage the reputation of His family by being ungrateful and by not being doers of His word.

II. WE ALL HAVE FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

A. We have mutual responsibilities within the family of God.
[In a word or phrase, write the obligation we have "one to another."]

1. (Rom 12:10a) _____
2. (Rom 12:10b) _____
3. (Rom 15:14) _____
4. (1 Cor 12:25) _____
5. (Gal 6:2) _____
6. (Eph 4:2) _____
7. (Eph 4:32) _____
8. (1 Thess 5:11) _____

9. (Heb 10:24) _____

10. (1 Pet 4:9) _____

We must stop thinking this way: What is in this for me? Rather, we must ask ourselves: What can I do so that others feel loved and want to know more about Christ and His word?

B. The Father has given us gifts to help us do what benefits the whole family.

1. We must use our abilities so that our church grows and prospers.

(1 Pet 4:10-11) As **each one has received a special gift**, _____ it in _____ as good _____.

2. We build up others when we use our talents with the right attitude.

a. No one should feel superior (1 Cor 3:5-7).

I _____, Apollos _____,

but God was causing the _____.

So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is _____, but God who causes the growth.



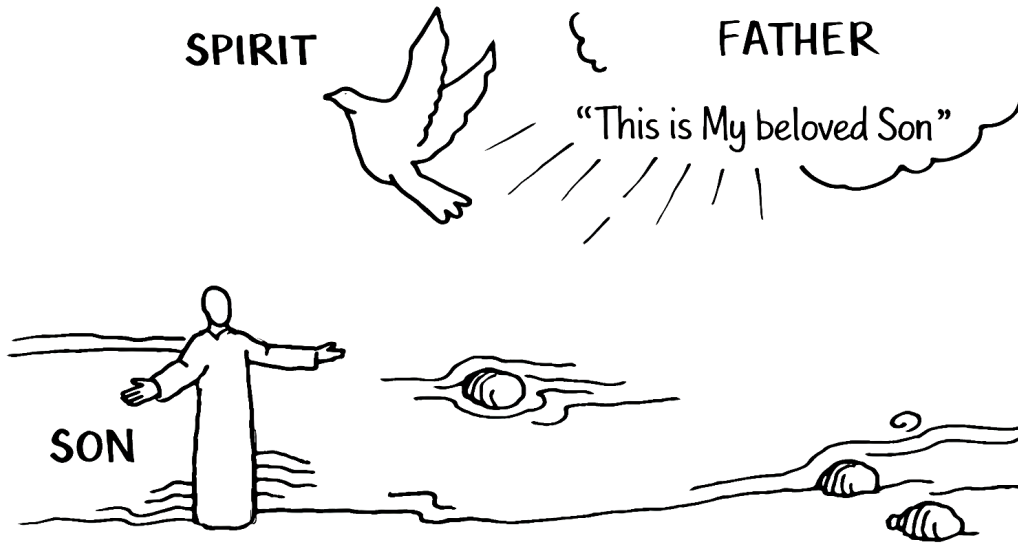
b. Our gifts have no value if we do not use them with love.

(1 Cor 13:2) If I have the **gift of prophecy**, and know all **mysteries** and all **knowledge**; and if I have **all faith**, so as to remove mountains, but do not have _____, I _____.

As we begin to get involved in the gatherings of believers and serve as much as we can, God gradually shows us in which area we can be most useful and fruitful. If we do not serve, using our gifts and talents, we will not be able to grow well in Christ or have much joy in the Christian life. Joy comes from seeking the interests of Jesus Christ — that is, by seeking the interests of others and not ours (Phil. 2:19-2).

Lesson 9

THE NATURE AND CHARACTER OF GOD



The Bible addresses the subject of other gods, idols, or carved images 677 times — such as Baal in the Old Testament and Jupiter (Zeus) in the New Testament. The pagans believed that the gods formed a council in which one superior god existed, but none was all-powerful. They were not eternal, perfect, or very righteous. Each had his special area (storms, war, love). Men made carved images to represent them and offered them food, rituals and sacrifices. In this way, without having to live righteously, they could obtain a favor from their "saint" or little god.

Israel was very different because its God was all-powerful, eternal, perfect, and just. Furthermore, Israel's God was the only one who truly existed. He permitted no stone or wood images because such statues could never capture His personality, His justice, and His greatness. He is not a God who can be represented by something material or manipulated with spells or sacrifices.

I. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ONE TRUE GOD

A. The names of God reflect His character, His person, and His reputation.

1. **Yah** or **Yahweh** means that God exists without any help outside of Himself.

(Ex 3:13-15) What is His name? And God said to Moses: I _____.

("I AM" is His shortened name, and in Hebrew it is "**Yah.**")

*In Psalm 150:1 the phrase "Praise the Lord" is the word "Hallelujah". In Hebrew it is "Hallelu-**Yah**" and it means "Praise the I AM." Yahweh is praised because He exists without needing anything or anyone outside of Himself. He is entirely self-sufficient. Therefore, He is worthy of trust because He does not depend on others to do what He has promised.*

2. El or Elohim (God) means that God is strong and immortal.

(Deut 10:17) The LORD (Yahweh) your God is _____ of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God.

There are many other names of God that are combinations of Yahweh, Adonai, or El (Elohim) with other words — for example, El-Shaddai, which means "God Almighty."

3. Adonai (Lord) means that God is the Master and Owner of all creation.

(Deut 10:17) God is the God of gods and _____ (Adonai) of lords.

Out of fear of breaking the third commandment (Ex 20:7; Lev 24:16), the Jews stopped pronouncing the name Yahweh and read Adonai (Lord) in its place. In A.D. 1520, Galatinus erroneously combined the vowels of Adonai with the consonants of Yahweh, resulting in the name "Jehovah."

B. The characteristics or attributes of God describe His nature.

1. He is a person. (Gen 1:27) God created man in His own _____ (that is, with personality: emotion, will, morality, and the ability to govern).
2. He is invisible. (John 1:18) No one has _____ God the Father at any time.
3. He is spirit. (John 4:24) God is _____. (He does not consist of anything material.)
4. He is life. (John 5:26) The Father has _____ in Himself.

Because of these attributes, God forbids us from making carved images to represent Him (Deut 4:12-19). Images are made of material, are visible, impersonal, and lifeless (Ps 115:3-8). We "see" God not with our eyes but with our hearts. By creating man with personality to govern creation, God left a living "image" of Himself.



C. The attributes of God describe His moral character.

[Place the letter of the attribute on the right in the blank that matches the verse.]

1. (Num 23:19) _____ **a.** Love (Sacrifices self, seeking the good of the other.)
2. (Ps 11:7) _____ **b.** True/Faithful (Does not lie and keeps His word.)
3. (Heb 8:12) _____ **c.** Merciful (Rescues the one who does not deserve it.)
4. (1 Pet 1:15) _____ **d.** Righteous/Just (Is honorable and judges without prejudice.)
5. (1 John 4:8) _____ **e.** Holy/Pure (Separated from evil and immorality.)

D. The attributes of God describe the greatness of God.

[Write the attribute from the right column in the blank that matches the verse.]

1. (Gen 17:1) _____ **Eternal:** Existed before everything created. Has no beginning or end.
2. (Deut 33:27) _____ **Independent:** Needs nothing in order to live and has no obligation to anyone.
3. (1 Kings 8:27) _____ **Unchanging:** Does not change His mind or what He has purposed to do.
4. (Ps 139:1-6) _____ **Infinite:** Nothing can contain Him and He has no boundaries.
5. (Ps 139:7-10) _____ **All powerful:** Can do all He purposes and decides; no one can interfere.
6. (Mal 3:6) _____ **Present everywhere:** Everything and everyone is always visible to Him.
7. (Acts 17:25) _____ **All knowing:** Knows all that is and could be. He is aware of our every mov.
8. (1 Tim 6:15) _____ **Sovereign:** He is the supreme and ruling power.

II. ONE GOD WHO IS FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT

A. The Trinity means that God is one in nature and three in person.

1. They are not three gods, but rather one God.

(Deut 4:35) The LORD, He is God; _____
_____ besides Him.

2. They are not three modes of the same person, but three distinct persons. (Matt 28:19) Baptizing them in the **name** of the _____ and the _____ and the _____.

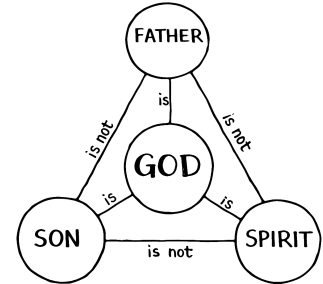
*The "name" signifies the character, essence, or nature of someone. In this case, one is baptized recognizing that salvation depends on the character of **one** God who consists of **three** distinct persons (1 Pet 1:2).*

3. They are not three parts of God, but each person is completely God.

a. The Father: (John 6:27) The Father, _____, has set His seal.

b. The Son: (John 1:1) The Word (Jesus) was with God, and the Word was _____.

c. The Holy Spirit: (Acts 5:3-4) Why has Satan filled your heart to **lie** to the Holy Spirit? You have not lied to men but to _____.

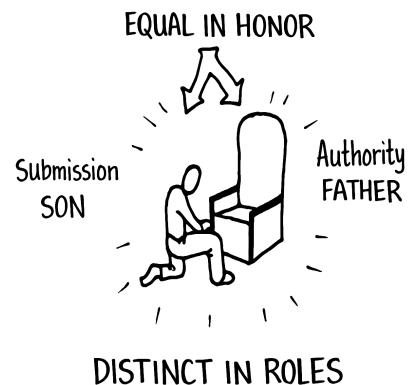


B. Jesus is equal in essence with the Father, but distinct in His role.

1. The Son is equal to the Father and therefore receives the same honor.

(John 5:17-18,23) So that all will _____
the Son even as they _____ the Father.

2. The role of the Son (submission) is distinct from the role of the Father (directing).



(John 6:38) For I have come down from heaven, not to do _____,
but _____ of Him who sent Me.

The Father planned and chose (Eph 1:3-6), the Son carried out the plan and paid for sins (Eph 1:7-8), and the Holy Spirit applied what Christ accomplished on the cross and sealed the believers (Eph 1:13-14). They work in perfect harmony (John 15:26; 16:13-15) and enjoy a special love among themselves (John 14:31; 15:9-10).

C. Believers should resemble the nature of the Trinity.

1. The way in which the three persons of the Trinity relate to one another guides us in human relationships.

a. Elders: Oversee without becoming proud (1 Pet 5:1-3).

b. Husbands: Lead without oppressing (Eph 5:23-25).

c. Wives: Submit without feeling inferior (1 Pet 3:7).

d. Family and church: Have distinct responsibilities without jealousy (Eph 5:33-6:4).

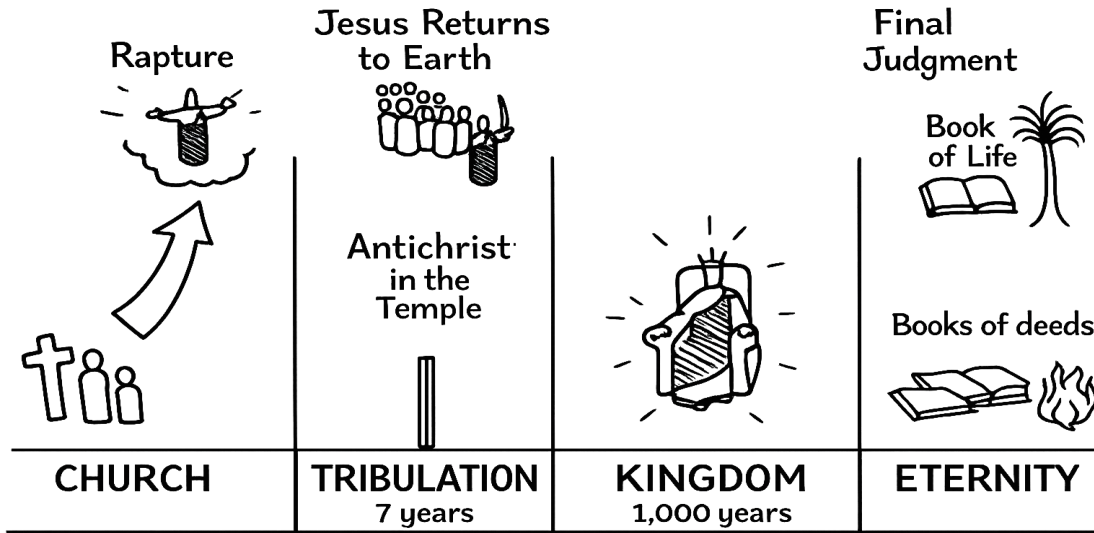
Just as the three persons of the Trinity carry out their tasks in harmony, loving one another, believers should likewise conduct themselves.

2. We can appreciate the greatness of God, but we are incapable of grasping all it implies.

(Rom 11:33-36) Oh, the _____ of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How _____ are His judgments and _____ His ways!

Lesson 10

JESUS CHRIST AND HIS RETURN



The world gives us hope of nearly achieving paradise here on earth. It encourages us to believe we can live a long and prosperous life with better diets, the latest in medicine, mental control courses, and with the arrival of a government that will promote social justice.

Certain churches also give the idea that we can almost create paradise here in this world. According to them, if one has faith, Jesus will remove all illness, make us rich, make every psychological problem caused by Satan disappear, and end poverty. They teach that the church "evangelizes" better when it uses its resources to improve life here. But the truth is that we cannot reform this fallen and twisted world. Only the return of Christ will put an end to injustice and suffering in this life. For this reason, we eagerly await His second coming.

I. THE FIRST COMING OF JESUS

A. Jesus Christ came to Israel as its King and Savior but was rejected.

1. (John 1:14) He came to become and _____ and _____ among us.
2. (John 3:17) He came so that the world might be _____ through Him.
3. (John 18:37) He came to testify to the _____.
4. (John 20:30-31) He performed miracles so that you may _____ that Jesus is the Christ.
5. (John 1:11) He came to His own (Israel), and those who were His own _____.
6. (Acts 2:22-23) He was delivered over by the _____.
7. (Acts 2:32-33,36) This Jesus God _____ ... and exalted Him to His right hand.

Jesus Christ presented Himself to Israel as its promised Messiah, performing miracles to demonstrate that the Father had sent Him to be King over Israel and to show that He could abolish sin, disease, and death. But Israel rejected its Messiah. And in God's predetermined plan, Jesus was crucified, raised, and exalted. For now, Christ reigns through the Holy Spirit, who purifies and guides those who believe. Israel has been temporarily set aside, but one day Jesus Christ will return to reign over the world through a restored Israel (Rom 11:25-29).

II. THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

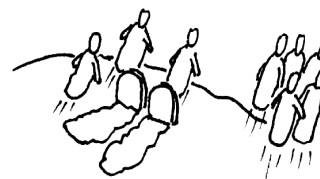
A. Jesus will return in the clouds to rapture the believers and protect them from judgment.

1. (John 14:1-3) I will come _____ and _____, that where I am (in heaven with the Father), there you may be also.

2. (1 Thess 4:13-16) The dead in Christ will _____ first.



3. (1 Thess 4:17) Then we who are alive and remain will be _____ together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. (1 Cor 15:52)



4. (1 Thess 1:10) We wait for Jesus, who rescues us from the _____.

Some Christians believe that the rapture will occur after the seven years of tribulation (God's wrath). But we believe that the rapture will come before the seven years of tribulation and will be the beginning of all the events of the second coming of Christ.

5. There will be a tribunal for the raptured and resurrected believers — not to decide their salvation, but to evaluate their works and reward them accordingly.

(2Cor 5:10) For we must all appear before the _____ of Christ.

B. After the rapture, the seven years of tribulation will begin covering the entire world.

1. During the tribulation the whole world will suffer and Israel will be persecuted.

- a.** (Matt 24:6) You will be hearing of _____ and rumors of _____.
- b.** (Matt 24:7) In various places there will be _____.
- c.** (Matt 24:12) The love of most people will _____.
- d.** (Matt 24:24) False _____ will arise.
- e.** (Matt 24:29) The sun will _____, and the moon _____
_____ and the stars _____.

According to Revelation, the seven judgments in the first half of the tribulation are called the seals and will bring war, famine, disease, death, a great earthquake, and the moon turning to blood. At the midpoint of the tribulation, the antichrist will break his covenant with Israel and attempt to destroy it. He will also control everyone, forcing them to receive his mark (666) in order to buy and sell. The false prophet will make an image of the antichrist and everyone will have to worship it as god. At the same time the seven trumpets will arrive, destroying one-third of the earth and humanity. Afterward the seven bowls filled with God's fury will be poured out on the earth (sores on men), on the sea and rivers (they will turn to blood), on the sun (it will scorch men), on the throne of the antichrist (darkness will enter), and on the Euphrates River (it will dry up).

2. Despite such great suffering, people will still not yield to God and be saved.

(Rev 16:11) And they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not _____ of their deeds.

3. At the end of the tribulation, the enemies of Christ will suffer defeat: Armageddon.

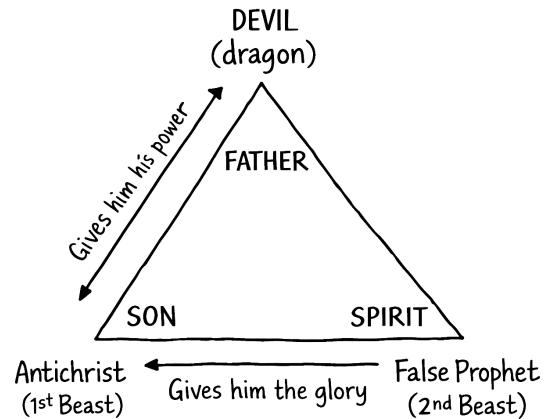
- a.** (Rev 19:2) For He has judged the great _____. (She is Babylon, the center of materialism and immorality, the opposite of the heavenly city.)

- b. For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be (Mat 24:27).

(Rev 19:11,16) And I saw heaven opened,
and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on
it is called _____ and _____.
(King of kings and Lord of lords)

- c. (Rev 19:20) And the _____ (the
antichrist) was seized, and with him the
_____ (the assistant of the
antichrist). The two were thrown alive into
the lake of fire.

- d. (Rev 20:1-3) He laid hold of the _____, the serpent of old, who is the
devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years (in the abyss).



The antichrist, the false prophet, and the devil will form a counterfeit imitation of the Trinity with the goal of annihilating the Jewish race and establishing their own kingdom. Together with the harlot (the world of fleeting pleasure), they will try to sell humanity a paradise that will ultimately self-destruct. Those who trust in the antichrist will be executed and will not enter the kingdom (Matt 25:31-32,41).

III. THE EARTHLY KINGDOM OF JESUS AND THE ETERNAL PARADISE

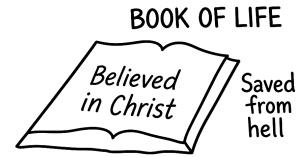
- A. Jesus Christ will reign for a thousand years on the earth through Israel.

Those who believe in Jesus during the tribulation and survive will enter the kingdom of Jesus (Matt 25:31-34): Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the _____.

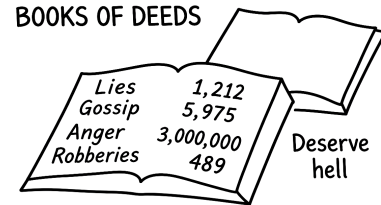
At the same time, those who believed and died during the seven years of tribulation, and the Old Testament believers who died (like Abraham), will be resurrected to be in the kingdom of Christ (Rev 20:4-6). Furthermore, the Christians who were raptured and resurrected will be there in their glorified bodies (Rev 3:21). And the apostles, under the direction of Christ, will reign over the twelve tribes of Israel (Luke 22:28-30). After a thousand years, Satan will be released and will instigate a rebellion against Christ, but will be defeated and thrown into hell (Rev 20:7-10).

B. After the thousand years, the unbelievers of all ages will be resurrected, judged, and thrown into the fire.

1. Rev 20:12-13) And they were judged, every one of them according to their _____.



2. (Rev 20:15) And if anyone's name was not found written in the _____, he was thrown into the lake of fire.



The books will show that, by their deeds, unbelievers deserve hell, but the book of life will show that they will go to hell because they did not accept the ransom paid by Jesus.

C. Believers will enter a new heaven and a new earth in the presence of God.

(Rev 21:1-4) And God Himself will be _____, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain.

IV. THE POSTURE OF THE FAITHFUL ONE WHO AWAITS HIS RETURN

A. (Matt 24:42-51) _____.

B. (Titus 2:11-14) _____.

C. (Heb 11:16,24-26) _____.

D. (1 John 2:28-3:3) Everyone who has this hope fixed on Him _____.

E. (Rev 22:20) The one who is weary of this corrupt world says: "**Come, Lord Jesus.**"

