

LESSON 1
Christian Birth and Results

John 3:3 "*Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*"

I. Demand for the New Birth:

A. Human position before the new birth.

1. I was like "a sheep going **astray**"
(Isaiah 53:6).
2. I was a "**sinner**" (Romans 5:8).
3. "... were without **strength**..." *Therefore* "...Christ died for the **ungodly**."
(Romans 5:6).
4. God says I was "...**dead** in trespasses and sins." (Ephesians 2: 1).
5. As an unbeliever, I was already **condemned**
(John 3:18 "...he that believeth not is condemned already...").
6. The **devil** was my father (John 8:44).
7. Final home is **hell** for the lost (Luke 16:19-31).

B. History of sin.

1. Sin of race (Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:22).
2. Sin nature (Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10).
3. Personal sins (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 64:6).
4. What must a person acknowledge before he can be saved? He is a sinner
(Romans 3:23; Luke 18:13).

II. Plan for the New Birth

A. Elements of new birth.

1. _____ Repent _____ or perish
(Luke 13:3,5). God calls all men everywhere to
_____ repent _____ (Acts 17:30).
2. To become sons of God you must _____ receive _____ Him (John 1:12).

B. Actual act of new birth.

1. “Whosoever shall _____ call _____ upon the name of _____ of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13).
2. When I repent of my sins, I am **converted**, and my sins are “blotted.” (Acts 3:19; Mark 4:12)
3. God says I am “_____ justified _____” (Acts 13:38,39; Romans 5: 1) - that means I have a new legal standing before God – “just as if I never sinned.
4. In Christ I have two things:
 - a. “...we have redemption through His _____ blood _____...” (Ephesians 1:7).
 - b. “...the forgiveness of _____ sins _____ according to the riches of His grace (Ephesians 1:7).
5. When is the best time to consider the question of one's eternal destiny? _____ Now _____ (II Cor. 6:2; Isaiah 55:6).

C. Provision for new birth.

1. Salvation or the new birth is a free _____ gift _____ (Ephesians 2:8).
2. Salvation is not acquired “...by _____ works of righteousness...” (Titus 3:5).
3. Salvation is “...the _____ gift _____ of God...” *given through* “_____ Jesus Christ our Lord _____ (Romans 6:23).

III. Results of the New Birth

A. Present Results.

1. I am a _____ son _____ of _____ God _____ (John 1:12).
2. I am a _____ new _____ creature _____ (11 Cor. 5:17).
3. I am a “_____ follower _____ of Christ” (I Cor. 11:1).

B. Past Results.

1. I have “_____ forgiveness _____ the of sins.” (Colossians 1:14).
2. I have “_____ eternal _____ life _____” given to me and shall “never _____ perish” (John 10:28).

C. Future Results.

1. Access to God by prayer (James 5:14-18; Philippians 4:6).

2. "And lo, I (*Jesus*) am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28:20).
3. Able to labor for eternal rewards (I Cor. 3:11-15; 15:58).
4. My hope of the coming of Christ and a home in Heaven to live -- John 14:1-3 "...I will come again and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there ye may be also." (I Thes. 4:13-18).

D. Eternal Results.

1. I have "everlasting life" (John 3:16).
2. I shall "...not come into condemnation" (John 5:24).
3. Those who have eternal life "...shall never perish" (John 10:28).
4. God will secure my salvation -- Phil. 1:6 "...He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it unto the day of Jesus Christ." (II Timothy 1: 12).
5. I am "...kept by the power of God" (I Peter 1:5).

Assurance and Security

Assurance and security are not the same. The securing of the believer is God's work. It is a part of God's great work of salvation, depending solely upon His infinite grace. Assurance is the believer's acceptance of the security provided for him in Christ. It is the result of the human soul resting in what God has promised in His Word to accomplish. *Note: Just because a Christian lacks assurance does not alter the fact that he is secure in Jesus. Our eternal relationship with God is accomplished through His Son, Jesus Christ, on the day of our salvation.*

- * Your security rests upon Christ's finished work.
- * Your assurance rests upon God's eternal Word.
- * Your salvation is dependent upon your having received Christ.
- * Your joy is dependent upon your fellowship with Christ and other Christians.
- * Your fellowship is dependent upon your walk with Christ.

LESSON 2

Christian Growth and Life Local Church

The Christian life entered through the "new birth" is just that -- a life. A new Christian is compared to a "baby" (I Peter 2:2), and is commanded to grow in grace (11 Peter 3:18), to maturity. God has ordained that the local church be the place where Christians learn to live the Christian life (I Timothy 3:15). Christian growth activities connected with the local church are baptism, church membership and attendance, the Lord's Supper and stewardship.

I. Biblical Baptism

Various men and religious groups have a multitude of conflicting ideas about the meaning, importance, and way of baptism. It should not be important to the believer *what men believe*, but rather *what the Bible says*. God's Word certainly is an infinitely better authority than men's ideas, no matter how good and sincere the men.

A. What is baptism in the Bible?

1. It is the believer's identification with Jesus Christ-a public testimony that the Christian has accepted Christ as his Savior (Colossians 2:12).
2. It is a picture of Christ's death, burial and resurrection. And it symbolizes what happened to me *when I was saved --I died to sin (its guilt, power and penalty) and was raised to new life in Christ* (Romans 6.3-6).

B. Now that I have been saved, why should I be baptized?

1. Because Jesus, my example, was baptized. (Matthew 3:16).
2. Because Jesus commanded that believers be baptized (Matthew 28:19,20).
3. Because it was the normal practice of the churches in the New Testament (Acts 2:41).

C. Can an infant meet the Bible prerequisite for baptism?

(Acts 2:41; 8:36,37) NO ! Why? Because they have not accepted Christ as their personal Savior.

D. That baptism *does not* save is shown by:

According to Matthew 3:13-16, did Jesus need to be saved or have His sins forgiven? NO!

1. According to Luke 7:37-50, was this woman baptized at this time? NO!
2. According to Luke 23:39-43, was this man baptized?
NO!

E. How should I be baptized?

1. The word for baptism used in the original New Testament Greek language of the New Testament means to *dip* or *immerse*.
 - a. As when Jesus' baptism was recorded (Matthew 3:16 "...went straightway out of the water...")
 - b. As when New Testament believers' baptisms were recorded (Acts 8:38 "...they went down both into **the water**...and he baptized him.").
 - c. In the only way that adequately pictures Christ's death, burial, and resurrection to save me (Romans 6:4 we are buried with Him by baptism...").

F. Is it necessary to wait for a period of time after I am saved before I decide to be baptized? (Acts 2:41;16:31-33) No.

G. Therefore if I have been saved and I am going to be obedient to my Savior and His Word, what should I do? Be baptized.

II. Church Membership:

A. Who may join a church?

1. What two pre-requisites came before they were added to a church?
 - a. saved (Acts 2:41)
 - b. baptized (Acts 2:41)
 - c. "...the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47).

B. Why should one join a church?

1. Bible teaches it: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..." (Hebrews 10:25).

2. Believers in New Testament times automatically were added to the church (Acts 2:47).
3. For growth and fellowship.
 - a. They continued in the Apostles doctrine and fellowship(Acts 2:42).
 - b. Pastors were given: "...for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ..." (Ephesians 4:11,12).

C. Mission of the Church (Matthew 28:19,20).

1. To evangelize the lost. ("disciple")
2. To immerse believers. ("baptize")
3. To teach the converts. ("teach all nations")

D. Ministry of the Church.

1. To edify its members.
2. To educate in Biblical doctrine.
3. To fellowship in attendance.
4. To pray without ceasing

III. The Lord's Supper:

This is the only other ordinance (other than baptism) which is performed by the Local Church.

A. Its Significance.

1. It is a table of remembrance. (I Cor. 11:24) "This do in of me."
2. It is a table of obedience. (I Cor. 11:25) "This do ye as oft as ye drink it..."
3. It is an act of examination. (I Cor. 11:28) "But let a man examine himself..."
4. It is performed as a prophecy. (I Cor. 11:26) "Ye do show the Lord's death till He come ."

B. Who should partake?

1. What took place in verse 41 before they broke bread

- in verse 42? (Acts 2:42) "...they gladly received His Word..."
2. Believers must be spiritually worthy (I Cor. 11:29).

C. Its Example.

1. "Jesus took _____ bread _____ and blessed it," (Matthew 26:26).
2. "He took the _____ the _____ cup _____ and gave thanks," (Matthew 26:27)
3. The disciples came together in the early church to _____ break _____ bread (Acts 20:7).

D. How often should one observe it? Only as often as the Local Church sees fit to Observe it. (I Cor.11:26).

The bread is symbolic of Jesus' broken **body** -- broken in death for us. The cup symbolizes His shed **blood** through which we have redemption and cleansing of sin.

IV. Stewardship

It takes money to operate the Church and its program. God has a plan for financing his programs Giving is a Christian grace and helps one to mature spiritually.

A. God's pattern for giving is tithing.

1. Personal. "Let everyone one of _____ you _____ lay by him in store," (I Cor. 16:2).
2. Periodic. "Upon the _____ first _____ day _____ of the _____ week _____." (I Cor. 16:2).
3. Proportional. "As God hath _____ prospered _____ him," (I Cor. 6:2).

B. God's Plan for Giving.

In the Old Testament the Jew began by giving one tenth of his increase to the Lord. To hold this back was to rob God (Malachi 3: 1). The New Testament plan goes beyond the one-tenth. .

1. (II Cor 9:7)“...every man according as he purposeth _____ in his heart, so let him give...”
2. (II Cor 8:12) “it is accepted according to that a man hath _____...”
God's Pre-requisite. (Attitude is important!)

C. God’s Pre-requisite:

1. “...but first gave their _____ own _____ selves
(II Cor. 8:5).
2. “If there first be a willing _____ mind _____
(II Cor. 8:12).

D. Notice what God has said throughout the Bible about giving.

Abraham started it	Genesis 14:40
Jacob continued it	Genesis 28:22
Moses incorporated it	Leviticus 27:30
Nehemiah restored it	Nehemiah 13:11,12
Malachi commanded it	Malachi 3:8-10
Jesus commended it	Matthew 23:23
Paul commended it	I Corinthians 16:1,2
God obtained it	I Corinthians 9:13
Paul explained it	I Corinthians 16:2 & Hebrews 7:8

Remember the Old Testament Scripture warning: Malachi 3:8-10

LESSON 3

Christian Growth and Daily Responsibility

Your Christian growth, which is assisted by a proper relationship to your church, will be further aided by daily discipline in spiritual responsibilities: Bible study, prayer and witnessing.

I. Bible Study

The Bible contains sixty-six (66) books. It was written by forty authors over a period of over sixteen-hundred (1,600) years. Yet its theme is consistently redemption from sin through Christ.

A. Bible Facts.

1. The human authors received the Bible from God:
“All scripture is given by inspiration of God.” (11 Timothy 3:16,17).
2. It was not the word of the human writers: “For the prophesy came not in old time by the will of men but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (II Peter 1:2 1).
3. Heaven and Earth will pass away, but not God's Word (Matthew 24:35).
4. The Bible is superior to all philosophy because it was not given by man's wisdom, but by the Holy Ghost (I Corinthians 2:13).

B. Reasons for Bible Study by the Individual.

1. It is commanded. "Study to show thyself approved unto God”(II Timothy 2:15).
2. The Bible is: “profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (II Timothy 3:16).
3. The Bible will give you victory over sin. “Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.”(Psalm 119:11).
4. The Bible will equip you for good works once you are saved. “That the man of God may be perfect, (mature, complete) thoroughly furnished unto all good works”(II Timothy 3:17).
5. The Bible is a guiding light to the Christian.
" lamp unto my feet...

_____ light _____ unto my path."
(Psalm 119:105).

6. Special blessings are promised: "Blessed is he that _____ readeth _____, and they that _____ hear _____ the words of this prophesy, and _____ keep _____ those things which are written therein..." (Revelation 1:3).
7. The Bible is the only means to test religious teachings. "...if they speak not according to this _____ word it is because there is no light in them." (Isaiah 8:20).
8. Christ used scripture to defeat Satan!
"It is _____ written _____..." (Matthew 4:4,7,10)

C. Procedure for Bible Study.

1. Study it with the help of the Holy Spirit. "...He shall _____ teach _____ you all things," (John 14:26).
 2. Study it daily. "They _____ received _____ the word with all readiness of _____ mind _____, and _____ searched _____ the scriptures _____ daily _____, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11).
 3. Study it obediently. "Be ye _____ doers _____ of the Word and not _____ hearers _____ only," (James 1:22).
 4. Study by memorizing. "Thy Word have I _____ hid _____ in mine _____ heart _____ that I might not _____ sin _____ against thee." (Psalm 119:11).
5. Study the Bible systematically.
- a. Study by reading it daily. (Use a daily devotional guide or a Bible reading calendar.)
 - b. Study it through S.P.E.C.S. – by looking for:
 S - Sin to avoid
 P - Promises to claim
 E - Examples to follow
 C - Commands to obey
 S - Stumbling blocks of which to beware
 - c. Study it by watching for seven "**P**'s."

Persons	Places
Periods and Dates	Parallel Passages
Principle	Practical Lessons
Prayers	

D. Types of Bible Study.

Every believer should have a daily quiet time and every

Christian family should have a family altar. Public Bible study is provided by the Church.

1. Quiet Time. A quiet time is a Christian's personal time of talking to and listening to God through prayer and reading the Bible.

David said, "I will _____ meditate _____ in thy precepts," (Psalm 119:15).

- a. Choose a convenient time. Find the time that works best for you.
 - b. Be consistent. Form a habit by doing it every day.
 - c. Elements of a quiet time:
 - 1). Begin with prayer.
 - 2). Reserve time for Bible reading (and devotional material).
 - 3). Mark (or memorize) those verses with special meaning to you.
 - 4). Apply scripture to your life.
 - 5). Close in prayer.
2. Family Altar -- Deuteronomy 6:7 "And thou shalt diligently teach them unto thy children..."
 - a. Suggested plan for family worship at home.
 1. Father read some verses from the Bible. Also, children, if they are old enough, can read some too. You may want to use a good Bible storybook.
 2. Discuss what was read and ask questions about it.
 3. Sing some Christian songs. Use the youth songs hymns, etc.
 4. Have prayer requests and then take time to pray. Let all have opportunity to pray if there is time.
 5. Have a weekly memory verse.
 - b. Keep it short so that it consistently fits into your schedule. (20 minutes or even less is more than adequate, even shorter for young children.)

II. Prayer. Someone has said that Bible study is God speaking to you while prayer is your speaking to God.

- A. The church should spend time in prayer. "...but prayer was made without ceasing of the _____ church _____ unto God for him." (Acts 12:5).

- B. Pray in Jesus name. “And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name (*Jesus*’), that I will do...”(John 14:13).
- C. Pray for brothers and sisters in Christ. “Praying always with all prayer...for all saints.”
(Ephesians 6:18).
- D. Prayer is to be in accordance with the will of God. “If we ask anything in accordance to His will, He heareth us. And if we know that He hear us, what-soever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him. (I John 5:14,15).
1. What is prayer?
- It is asking (Matthew 7:7,8).
 - It is specific requests (I John 5:14,15).
 - It is adoration, confessing sin, thanksgiving and praise, and persistence.
- E. What are some hindrances to answered prayer?
- Wrong relationship of husband and wife. “...dwell with them (*wives*) according to knowledge, giving them honor...that your prayers be not hindered” (I Peter 3:7).
 - Unwillingness to forgive: "If ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matthew 6:14,15).
 - Asking for things that are not according to the will of God. “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” (James 4:3).
 - Having unconfessed sin in my life. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." (Psalm 66:18).
 - Lacking faith in prayer. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that cometh to God must believe...” (Hebrews 11:6).
- F. How do you get the hindrances removed?
- Confess sin. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin...”(I John 1:9).

2. Obey. "...if any man be a worshipper of God, and _____ doeth His _____ will _____, him He heareth."(John 9:31).

G. Some things you can pray for specifically.

1. Psalm 51:1-4 _____ mercy and salvation _____
2. Matthew 5:44 _____ your enemies _____
3. Philippians 4:6 _____ your own requests _____
4. II Thessalonians 3:1,2 _____ those who minister to you _____
5. I Timothy 2:1 _____ all men _____
6. I Timothy 2:2 _____ those who have authority over you _____
7. James 1:5 _____ wisdom _____
8. Revelation 22:20 _____ Return of Christ _____

III. Witnessing for Christ to Others

A. What is witnessing?

1. It is bringing people to Christ. "He first findeth his own brother...and he _____ brought _____ him to Jesus..." (John 1:41,42).
2. It is fishing for the souls of men. "...Follow Me, and I will make you _____ fishers _____ of men." (Matthew 4:19).
3. It is being prepared. Peter said, "...be ready always to give an _____ answer _____ to every man that asketh a reason for the hope that is in you..." (I Peter 3:15).

B. Why should a Christian witness?

1. Christ declared it to be our responsibility (Acts 1:8).

List areas where we are to witness from this verse:

- a) _____ Jerusalem/Judaea _____ -- our home area.
- b) _____ Samaria _____ -- the surrounding region.
- c) _____ the uttermost parts of the world-- the remaining world.

2. Christ set the example to follow.

- a. Who did Christ witness to? _____ Nicodemus _____ (John 3:4) (He was a "ruler of the Jews" v.1.)

- b. Who did He seek to save? That which was lost (Luke 19:10).
- 3. We are saved to bring forth fruit (John 15:16).
- 4. We are to be “doers of the Word and not hearers only.” (James 1:22)
- 5. The early Church effectively witnessed, even when persecuted. “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.” (Acts 8:1-4).

C. Plan of Witnessing.

- 1. Elements of Plan.
 - a. Must convince the individual of his lost condition and need for the Savior. (Romans 6:23)
 - b. Must present God's plan of salvation as presented in the Bible. (John 3:16)
 - c. The drawing of the lost into a personal, open and public confession of faith in Christ.(Romans 10;9-13)
- 2. Basis for the Scriptural Plan of Salvation.
 - a. Why does a man need to be saved? Because he is a sinner. (Romans 3:23)
 - b. What provision has God made for man? He has given us: “... the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ...” (Romans 6:23)
 - c. What warning does God give man? “...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3)
 - d. Hearers only...” (James 1:22). What must man do? “...That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth, and believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him (*Jesus*) from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”(Romans 10:9)

Note: Those who do not witness for Christ become weak in faith, fearful of heart, and without assurance of victory. Those who speak out for the Lord Jesus Christ, not only fortify themselves, but also grow in grace much faster than those who keep silent. Read Romans 1:16.

LESSON 4
Christian Walk, Testings and Temptations

The Christian life, once entered upon, is a battleground and the believer must enter this warfare spiritually prepared. There will be trials and temptations confronting the new believer. But along with these challenges come many more blessings as you travel God's road.

* Jesus Christ said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33).

**We are to remember that, "...all things work together for good to them that love God..." (Romans 8:28).

I. There will be testings that are controlled by God.

- A. Who gave Satan permission to test Job? God
(Job 1: 12; 2:6)

- B. What are the purposes of testings from God?
 - 1. Builds patience -- "...the trial of your faith worketh Patience" (James 1:3).
 - 2. Matures – "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect (mature) and entire, wanting nothing." (James 1:4).
 - 3. Purifies – "That the trial of your faith being more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (I Peter 1:6,7).

II. There will be temptations influencing us to do evil.

- A. These temptations never come from God. "...for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither _____ He any man." (James 1:13-16).

- B. From what source do evil suggestions and temptations come?
Matthew 4:1,8,9 -- _____ the devil _____

1 Corinthians 7:5 -- _____ Satan _____
Ephesians 6:12 -- principalities, powers, rulers of darkness

*Satan is the author of temptation and God has permitted Satan a limited freedom today, but also provides us with His Word and Holy Spirit to stand firmly against Satan's attacks.

C. Satan uses 3 means of approach to cause us to fail. What are these? (I John 2:16)

1. the lust of the flesh
2. the lust of the eyes
3. the pride of life

*These are our own natural fleshly tendencies.

D. How to face temptation.

1. Realize that temptation itself is not sin.

"When lust hath _____ conceived _____, it bringeth forth _____ sin _____"(James 1:15).

2. Realize that God has provided a way out in every temptation. "He will make a way to _____ escape _____ that ye may be able to _____ bear _____ it _____" (I Corinthians 10:13).

3. Realize that Jesus is the only way to victory. "...I am the _____ way _____, the _____ truth _____ and the _____ life _____..."(John 14:6).

Realize that Jesus has faced temptation victoriously. "...but (*Jesus*) was in all points _____ tempted _____ like as we are, yet without _____ sin _____. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace..." (Hebrews 4:14-16).

4. Realize Jesus' powers that are at your disposal.

"...and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our _____ faith _____. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (I John 5:4-5).

5. What is the formula for victory over temptation?

"_____ Submit _____ yourselves therefore to God. _____ Resist _____ the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)

6. Realize that as long as you have a body of flesh, you will be tempted to sin, and even yield to sin at times.

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves...If we say that we have not sinned we make Him (*God*) a liar, and His Word is not in us.”(I John 1:8,10).

7. Be prepared for temptation.

- a. " Pray that ye enter not into temptation," (Luke 22:40).
- b. "Walk circumspectly..." (Ephesians 5:15). (It means *carefully, on the watch*)
- c. " Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation," (Matthew 26:41).
- d. Equip yourself (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Name the piece of armor and what it represents
(v.14-17)

1. girdle of Truth protecting the loins (midsection)
2. breastplate of righteousness
3. feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace
4. shield of faith
5. helmet of salvation
6. Sword of the spirit (the Word of God)

This is all to be supported by prayer (Ephesians 6:18)

8. If you yield, to temptation, what should you do?
“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
(I John 1:9)

9. What are some sure ways to keep on the right path?
- a. “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to Thy Word.” (Psalm 119:9)
 - b. “Thy Word have I hide in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.” (Psalm 119:11)

III. How to Know Right From Wrong

What are some of the spiritual gauges with which to measure habits, friends, and activities to see whether or not they should be a part of your Christian life?

- A. Does it glorify God? "...whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." (I Corinthians 10:31)
- B. Are the things in question doubtful? "He that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin." (Romans 14:23)
- C. Does the matter in question cause others to stumble?
 "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended or is made weak."(Romans 14:21)
- E. Does it enslave me? "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any." (I Corinthians 6:12)
- F. Does it build me up physically, mentally, or spiritually? "...all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not."(I Corinthians 10:23)
- G. Is this habit, person, or situation worldly?
 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world..." (I John 2:15-17)
- H. Would I want my children to follow my example?
 "...whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."(Galatians 6:7,8)

Things to do to aid you in your Christian life:

- Be in fellowship with other Christians as much as possible.
- Go to church to hear the Word of God as often as you can.
- Participate in church programs.
- Study your Bible and pray regularly.
- Never be ashamed to speak up for Christ.
- Always remain in the center of God's Will for you (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

LESSON 5
Christian Particulars for Thought and Study

I. The Consecrated Life:

The key to the consecrated life is found in Hebrews 12: 1, "Let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

A. The Believer's Body.

1. What is our reasonable spiritual service?

(Romans 12:1) "...present your bodies a living sacrifice holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

2. What 2 things should we know about our body?

(I Corinthians 6:19)

a. "...your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost..."

b. "...which ye have of God, and ye are not your own."

3. How should the new believer aim to use of his body?

(I Corinthians 6:20) "For ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." (I Corinthians 10:31).

3. List the three-fold goal of the Apostle Paul found in Philippians 3:13,14.

a. Forget those things which are behind. (*past failures, sins, or hindrances*)

b. Reach for those things which are above (*new life in Christ, heaven*).

c. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (*make sure today counts for eternal rewards*).

4. In order to be fruitful in our Christian lives, Jesus makes it clear in John 15:4,5 that it is essential for the believer to learn from the illustration of the vine and branches. What must the believer be careful to do?

Abide in Christ, as the branches abide in the vine.

5. Some have said that the Christian life is letting the “in-living Christ” live out through your daily living.

Examine the process from Galatians 2:20

4. How can you know the will of God?
(Romans 12:2) “And be not conformed to the world, but be ye transformed, by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”

B. The Believer's Goals.

1. Once saved, the believer needs to be disciplined in the things he craves and desires. “Set your affection (*mind, goals*) on things above and not on things on the earth...”
(Colossians 3:2).

a. The new believer ought to be careful as to the motive of his actions.
“Whether therefore ye eat or “I am crucified with Christ, never-the less I live...”

b. “yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...”

c. “and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God...”

6. Those who know the truth have certain evidences:

(John 8:31,32)

- a. “...if ye continue in My Word, then are ye my disciples indeed.”

- b. “And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”

II. The Local Church:

A. The Local Church is God’s plan for your life today.

“...that thou mayest know how to behave in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” (I Timothy 3:15).

B. What two offices were given to the Local Church?

1. Pastor
(I Timothy 3:1-7).
2. Deacon
(I Timothy 3:8-13).

C. What are the qualifications given to the pastors (overseers) of the Local Church? (I Timothy 3:1-7)

1. 3:2 “blameless (*no glaring sin*) Husband of one wife. (*married, not having been divorced*) vigilant, sober (*sound minded*), of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach.”
2. 3:3 “Not given to wine, no striker (*not violent*), not greedy of filthy lucre, but patient, not a brawler, not covetous ;”
3. 3:4-5 “One that ruleth his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity.”
4. 3:6 “Not a novice ...”
5. 3:7 “...he must have a good report of them which are without...”

*Note: the New Testament words “Elder, Bishop, and Pastor” all refer to the same office. This is the one man who is the leader and overseer of the Local Christ.

III. The Teaching of Separation

The doctrine of separation is not a popular doctrine among many Christians. Whether something is popular or not, the basis upon which we accept it or reject it, is the Word of God.

A. According to I Corinthians 4:2, what is our highest service for Christ?
Faithfulness

B. The Bible claims that we are a "*separated people*,"
(II Corinthians 6:14-17).

1. Separation is to be from the world.

a. "...what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord (*agreement*) hath Christ with Belial (*Satan*)? Or what part (*partnership*) hath he that believeth with an infidel (*unbeliever*)? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols... Wherefore, come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing..." (II Corinthians 6:14-17).

b. God says, "love not the world." (I John 2:15)

c. What does God say about friendship with the world?

"...friendship with the world is enmity with God." (James 4-4)

2. Separation includes false preachers and their cults, churches, or organizations. (Galatians 1:6, 9; II John 7-11)

3. Separation is to be from believers who live sinful lives. (II Thessalonians 3:6-15)

4. What is the purpose of this separation?
(II Thessalonians 3:14, 15)

5. Jude tells us to contend for the faith," (Jude 3).

Why must we *contend*? (Jude 4)

Because false teachers have crept into the church

B. What four things ought to be true of the blessed, upright man? (Psalm 1: 1,2)

1. Walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly
2. Nor standeth in the way of sinners
3. Nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful
4. He delights in the law of the Lord

IV. What Makes One a Baptist?

A Baptist, first of all, is a person that has been regenerated-saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. Second, the person has been baptized by immersion in a local church and is a member of a local, independent, separated, soul winning, Bible believing, gospel preaching, devil hating, Baptist church. Third, his beliefs regarding the Bible and its teaching differentiate him from all other denominations, sects and organizations-even other Baptists. These beliefs are the gauges by which our lives and our churches are governed. Strictly speaking, Baptists are not Protestants. Our spiritual forefathers were in existence before the Reformation ever began. The principles of Baptist practice are found in the New Testament local churches of Acts and the Epistles.

A. The distinctions are as follows:

1. Inspiration of the Bible - The Bible is our only rule faith and practice and given by inspiration of God.
2. Baptism by immersion – It is for believers only and is a pre-requisite for church membership.
3. Priesthood of the believer - The believer has direct access to the throne of God and is responsible directly to God. This access is through Jesus Christ and Him alone. (I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:16)
4. The autonomy, or independence of the Local Church. The local church is God's establishment, able and capable of handling His affairs.
 - a. It is to be an indigenous, independent, self-governing body of believers.
 - b. It is to elect its own officers (Acts 6:5, 6).
 - c. It is to discipline its own members. (I Corinthians 5:13).
 - d. It is to conduct regular worship services (Acts 20:7).
 - e. The Pastor is to be the under-shepherd of the flock (I Peter 5:1-3). He is under God's leadership.

We also believe that the Local Church is governed by that local body; hence, it is to solve its own problems and manage its own affairs. It is not to be subject to a Bishopric or hierarchy.

5. Separation of Church and State (Mark 12:17).

The State stays out of the Church and the Church stays out of politics. Romans 13:1-7 and I Timothy 2:1-4 teach that human government is a divine appointment. But when the laws and decrees of men are in direct contradiction and disobedience to the Word of God; as with Peter (Acts 5:27-32), we are to obey God rather than man.

LESSON 6 CHRISTIAN AND THE FUTURE

Introduction to Prophecy

A. The importance of the study of Prophecy

1. Blessing is specifically promised to those who study this area of Biblical revelation. (Revelation 1:3)
2. The amount of space given to predictive prophecy in scripture indicates the importance of that subject..
(One fourth of the Bible)
 - a. It is said that 333 distinct prophecies were literally and exactly fulfilled at the First Coming of Christ.
(The chances that this would happen by accident have been computed as one in a 7,000 plus 90 zeros)
 - b. For every verse speaking of Jesus' first coming in Scripture, there are eight which speak of His second coming.
3. The scriptures represent God's future program as a source of:
 - a. Comfort to the sorrowing Christian.
(I Thess.4:13-14 Rapture, John 14:1-4)
 - b. Strength to the lazy, unfruitful Christian.
(1 ICor.4:14-10)
 - c. Rebuke to the lazy, unfruitful Christian.
(I I Car. 5:9,10)
 - d. Correction to the Christian who places too much value on this life.
(I I Peter 3:10-12)
 - e. Reproof to the Christian who becomes doctrinally careless (II Thessalonians 2:5, II Peter 1:19)
 - f. Cleansing for the Christian who harbors unconfessed sin. (I John 3:2-4)

B. Major Events in Prophecy

1. For the saved: at death: Heaven with Christ
 - a. The Rapture (Church in Heaven for seven (7) years) (I Thess. 4:14-10; John 14:1-4)
 - b. Judgement seat for believers in Heaven
(I Car. 3:9-15; II Car. 5:10; Romans 14:10)
 - c. Marriage of the Lamb to the Church in Heaven

- d. (Rev. 19:7-10) Second Coming of Christ to the earth with the Church (Jude 14; Revelation 19:11-16)
 - e. 1,000 year reign with Christ on the earth (Rev. 20:1-6)
 - f. New Heavens and New Earth (Rev. 21,22; II Peter 3:10-12)
2. For the unsaved: at death: He]] (Luke 16:19-31)
- a. Tribulation Period (7 years of divine wrath on the earth.)
 - 1. Rise of Anti-Christ (II Thess. 2:1-12; Rev. 6:1,2)
During the first 3 1/2 years - Peace for Israel (Daniel 9:27)
 - 2. Satan is cast out of heaven in the middle of the Tribulation Period. (Rev. 12:7-12)
 - 3. Battle of Gag and Magog in the middle of the Tribulation. (Ezekiel 38, 39)
 - 4. Battle of Armageddon. (Rev'. 14:14-20; 19:17-19)
 - b. Great White Throne of Judgment (Rev.20:11-15)
 - c. Lake of Fire, eternal torment (Rev.20:15)

PROPHECY CHART

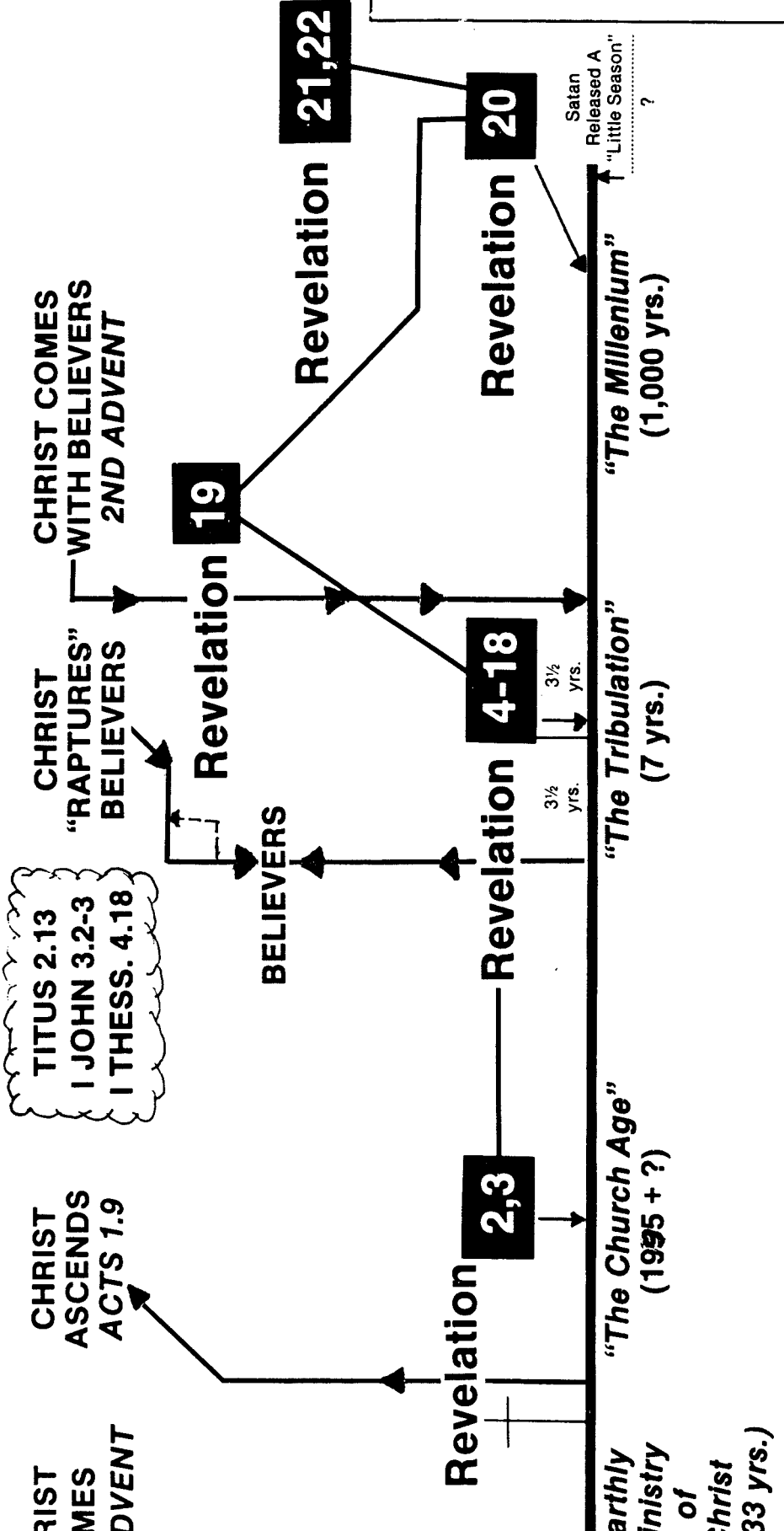
Outline Revelation - 1:19

- I. PAST: "the things which thou hast seen" = Chapter 1 (vision)
 - II. PRESENT: "the things which are" = Chapters 2 & 3 ("the 7 churches")
 - III. FUTURE: "the things which shall be hereafter" = Chapters 4-22 (Rapture, Tribulation, 2nd Advent, Millennial Reign, Eternal State)
- *See 4:1 also - "hereafter"

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Biblicist Position =
 General interpretation of Scripture demands the:-
 Premillennial Coming of Jesus Christ
 (Return With Believers)

Historical = 1-3 Prophecetical = 4-22
 Church In Heaven 4,5
 People On Earth 6-18

Second Coming 19 Millennium + Judgement 20 Eternal State 21,22

