

**FOUNDATIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN
FAITH LESSONS/TEACHING**

A
WORKBOOK FOR DISCIPLESHIP
COMPILED BY THE
NEW COVENANT CHURCH
MANCHESTER

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10.00am- 12.30pm

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FOREWORD

This teaching manual was compiled with the vision of seeing believers rooted in Christ.

The Bible says in Psalm 11:3, "If the foundation be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

This teaching and workbook manual is based on the foundational teachings in Hebrews 6.

As you study these, let it be not for just information but be doers of the word so that you can be transformed by the truth contained therein.

We commend you to God and to the word of His grace which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among those who are sanctified.

You are blessed of the Lord.

NCC Manchester.

LESSON 1

CREATION AND THE FALL OF MAN (GENESIS 1:1, JOHN 1:1-5)

Everything has its beginning in God who has no beginning. Genesis 1:1-5 introduces God to us as existing in eternal past, without beginning, without end. This is a bit difficult for the human reasoning, however, we cannot reason out God. God is omniscient, omnipresent and omnipotent. He is self-existing, self-sustaining and He gives life to all-Genesis 17:1.

The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to us. The Bible also introduces God to us as a triune being-2 Corinthians 13:14. The scripture 'In the beginning 'God' (Genesis 1:1) - the word 'God' is plural. The Bible makes us to understand that the Godhead is God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. They are three persons, co-equal, co-existing but they are one. God created the heavens and the earth. Thus the theory of evolution (which is human reasoning) is contrary to the word of God.

God created angels, one of whom was Lucifer. However, Lucifer led about a third of the angelic beings in a rebellion against God, and they were cast out of heaven. Lucifer became Satan and the other angelic beings became demons and wicked spirits-Isaiah 14:12-15.

After the fall of Lucifer, God created man (Adam & Eve) in His own image- Gen 1: 26- and he put them in the Garden of Eden and gave them all things except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16-17). Unfortunately, Satan came into the garden and tempted Adam and Eve and they disobeyed God and ate of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. So they sinned against God and were sent out of the Garden of Eden (delight) - Genesis 3:22-24.

With the fall, man lost his relationship with God and became a child of the devil. Ephesians 2:1-2 God's love for man however made God to make a plan to reconcile man to Himself (John 3:16). Sin is rebellion against the authority of God and it cannot just be wished away. It must be paid for. God sent Jesus Christ to the world to die for our sins so that we can have salvation (Romans 5:21).

QUESTIONS ON LESSON 1- CREATION AND THE FALL OF MAN

1) From Genesis 1:1 & John 1: 1-5, list the 3 persons present at the beginning/Name the 3 members of the Godhead.

2) From Genesis 3:1, Isaiah 14:12 & Rev. 12.9, list all the names Satan has been known by

3a) Creation is God's truth; evolution is a man made theory – yes or no? -----

3b) God created man before He created the archangels; true or false? -----

3c) Could God just have overlooked the sin of man? Explain briefly

3d) From Eph.2: 8-9 & 2Tim. 1:9, we have to be good if we want to be saved; yes or no? -----

4) From Gen 3:1-7, what was the sin of Adam & Eve? -----

5) From Eph 2:1-3, what was the state of the fallen man? -----

6) From Rom 6:23, why did Jesus have to die for our sins? -----

7) Memorize and write out Eph 2:8-9. -----

LESSON 2

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

The Bible describes those who are yet to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour as being spiritually dead (Eph 2:5). They are in darkness. They are spiritually blind- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4. They are of their father the Devil and living according to the course of this world. –Eph. 2:2

To live according to the course of this world means to have one's life governed by the Devil and the evil of this world. It means to live in sin, hatred, indulgence of the flesh, without the fear of God. It is a selfish, self-centred life (Galatians 5:19-21).

In this lifestyle, people try all manner of things to fill the emptiness that is in their heart. Some pursue immoral behaviour; others delve into the occult or idolatry. It is important to note that every act of delving into occultist practices like reading books on witchcraft, reading the stars, palm reading, consulting herbalists, transcendental meditation and so on are all against the will of God. They bring one into contact with demons and worship of devils (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).

Our experience before we met Christ is like that of the children of Israel when they were in Egypt. They were in bondage and slavery and under oppression (Exodus 2:23). Only in Christ Jesus will we find peace, joy, fulfilment and freedom. God loves us so much and he wants the best for us. His plans for us are good- Jeremiah 29:11. The Bible describes all those who do not receive Jesus as being children of wrath- Eph 2:3. This means that if they die in this state they will go to hell forever. This is not the will of God for any man. God wants all sinners to repent and be saved- 1 Tim 2:1-4. When we come to Christ, He assures us of a place in Heaven forever- John 14:1-4. God's desire has always been for a family. To accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour is to now belong to the family of God- Eph 2:19-20.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON 2- FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

- 1) From Eph 2: 1-3, mention the various descriptions of the spiritual state of a person who has not accepted Jesus Christ. -----

- 2) You are either being governed by Jesus Christ or by the Devil; true or false? ---

- 3) Why do people believe in occultism? See 1 Corinthians 12:1-2 -----

- 4) According to Gal 5: 19-21, what will happen to those who practise witchcraft? -

- 5) Is it okay to read your stars in the newspaper? -----

- 6) What is Egypt a type of in the scriptures? -----

- 7) According to Jer.29:11, what is God's desire towards you? -----

- 8) God wants only a few good men to be saved; true or false? - 1Tim2:1-3 -----

- 9) What is the eternal destination of
a) those who die without Christ (Rev 21:8)? -----

b) Those that die in Christ (1 Thess. 4:13-18)? -----

- 10) Memorize and write out Jn.14: 1-2 -----

LESSON 3

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE BORN AGAIN

Jesus said that except a man is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God (John 3:3). When Adam and Eve sinned they died spiritually- Gen 2:17. When Adam died spiritually all his offspring also died spiritually (1 Corinthians 15:22, Rom 3:23).

God loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins- John 3:16, so that whosoever believes in Him can be saved or born again- 1Peter 1:23. In order for the fallen man to profit from the atoning work of Jesus Christ he would need to repent and exercise faith towards Jesus Christ. To repent means to have a change of mind concerning sin, the world, self and Christ-Acts 3:19. It is a deep work of God in which the spiritual nature of the devil is removed and a new spiritual nature which is the nature of God is imparted by the Spirit of God- 2 Corinthians 5:17. When we repent the intentions of the will are altered, choices are changed and lifestyle and practices are affected. Jesus Christ becomes the sweetest, most loving, kindest, and most precious and most desired person in our lives. Are you a new person?

The born again Christian has been washed clean from his sins by the blood of Jesus. A heart of stone is changed to a heart of flesh, Hatred is removed; love is shed into the heart.

THINGS TO ASSIMILATE

- i) All men are sinners, so all men need to be saved (Romans 3:10)
- ii) Salvation is by grace (undeserved mercy), not works- Titus 3:5
- iii) Salvation is not in any religion but only through Jesus Christ-Acts 4:12
- iv) We are saved by believing in our heart and confessing Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour- Romans 10:9-10
- v) The Spirit of God gives us the assurance in our hearts that our sins are forgiven, our names are in the Book of Life and that we are children of God. We have peace with God- now we have eternal life-Romans 8:16, 1 John 5:11-13

QUESTIONS ON LESSON 3- WHAT IT MEANS TO BE BORN AGAIN

1) What do you understand by this statement: "Those who are born once will die twice, but those who are born twice will die once" – John 3: 15-16. -----

2) According to John 1:29, 1Pet 1:18-19, why did Jesus die? -----

3) According to Rom 10:9-10, how can a man be saved? -----

4) What does it mean to repent? See Acts 3:19 -----

5) True or false? - If we do good works we will earn eternal life- Gal 2:16 -----

6) List 3 things that you receive when you believe in Jesus Christ- 1Jn 5:12, 1Jn 2:9-10, John 1:12. -----

7) With what did Jesus wash away our sins according to 1Jn 1:17? -----

8) True or false?-" Those who are born into Christian families and have been baptised do not need to be born again". -----

9) True or false? - "only when we get to heaven can we be sure whether we are saved or not"- explain from Rom 8:16. -----

10)Memorize and write out John 3:16 -----

LESSON 4

WATER BAPTISM

The Bible speaks of baptism in its plurality (Hebrews 6:1, 2; Matthew 3:11). These are

- i) **Baptism by one Spirit into one body**
This is a basic requirement for salvation (John 3:5). It occurs at conversion when we are born again. Whenever a person without Christ surrenders to Him, the Holy Spirit enters that person's life. (Rom 8:9)
- ii) **Baptism in water**
Water baptism closely follows baptism into the body. As we will later see, Christ commanded it to be done (Acts 10:47-48).
- iii) **Baptism in the Holy Spirit**
To empower us for ministry. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is what every Christian desires. We shall discover in the next lesson what it entails (Acts 2:3-4).
- iv) **Baptism with fire**
This is necessary for our purification. God brings things across our paths to purge and purify us. We need the times of breaking and purifying so that God can change and mould us into what He wants us to be. This can be a painful process (Isaiah 6:5-7) but in the end, we become more like Jesus.
- v) **Baptism of suffering**
According to Luke 12:50 and Mark 10:38, this baptism may involve the total spiritual and physical surrender- of the whole being, spirit, soul and body- to the appointed will of the Father. It may involve paying the price of vicarious sufferings even unto laying down one's life.

For the purpose of this lesson, we shall be dealing with water baptism .

Water Baptism

Meaning: The Greek word for 'baptism' is *Baptizo* which means 'to dip' or 'to immerse' or 'cover wholly with fluid'. Therefore water baptism implies the immersion or dipping of a believer in water.

A Christian Sacrament or Ordinance

Sacrament - obligation
Ordinance - command

Water baptism is an ordinance instituted by Christ Himself in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15, 16). Therefore by submitting ourselves for water baptism, we are alleging our obedience to an important injunction of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Conditions of Baptism

- (i) Repentance- Acts 2:37-41
- (ii) Believing- Mark 16:15,16
- (iii) A clear conscience arising from repentance and belief- 1 Peter 3:20,21

Christ's Baptism

To fulfil all righteousness- Matthew 3:15

No sin; no need for repentance- 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15

The baptism of Jesus Christ is an act of ceremonial righteousness appropriate for His public entrance into His mission as the Christ.

Significance of Water Baptism

Romans 6:1-11

Water Baptism brings both the consciousness of spiritual freedom and the public declaration or profession of a change of state or position.

- (i) Consciousness of spiritual freedom: Christ died, was buried and resurrected. We are crucified with Christ (Gal 2:20), dead to sin and self, buried with Him (Colossians 2:12) and are raised to new life (2 Corinthians 5:17). By this external rite, the believer professes his death to sins and resurrection to spiritual life. He reckons himself not only as someone delivered from sin and its penalty but no longer be enslaved by sin and as having dominion over death.
- (ii) Multi-confession of a change of state: Baptism is an outward confession of what has happened within. Our confessions are to:
 - (a) heaven- that we believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ-1 Corinthians 15:3,4
 - (b) The Church- that we are a part of it.
 - (c) The world- that we are no more of it-John 17:16
 - (d) The devil- that we are finished with him and have changed over to God's kingdom

Baptism of Infants

Basis of the argument- Baptism of the household of Cornelius (Acts 10) and the Philippian jailer in Acts 16:32-34

We note here that these passages have no direct reference to infants. Again it will be seen immediately that the 3 conditions listed above for baptism rule out infants. Infants cannot repent, cannot believe and cannot answer with a good conscience to God. However, any child that has reached the age of accountability (which is undeterminable; not fixed) can be baptised.

Conclusion

- (i) Baptism has no saving power- Luke 23:39-43
- (ii) According to Matthew 28:18-20, the purpose of teaching and baptising is to prepare a new believer for becoming a disciple of Christ. Hence, find out about the discipleship in your church.
- (iii) If you have had the wrong baptism (sprinkling, pouring, making the sign of the cross with water etc.) ask your pastor for the next scriptural water baptism.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON 4- BAPTISM

- 1) True or false? – “We are born again when we are baptised in water”- Mk 16:15-16. -----

- 2) True or false? - “It is not scriptural to baptise infants”- explain why. Mk 16:15-16 -----

- 3) True or false- “water baptism is not compulsory”- Mt 28:19. -----

- 4) According to Rom 6: 3-4, what does water baptism symbolize? -----

- 5) Who can be baptized according to Acts 8:36-37? -----

- 6) True or false? - “We can be baptized by sprinkling of water”- Acts 8: 38-39. -----

- 7) True or false? –“Only mature Christians can be baptized” – Acts 8: 37-39. -----

- 8) After baptism we are to walk in newness of life. True or false?- 1Pet 3:21 -

- 9) True or false? You don’t need to be baptized again if you’ve been baptized as a child. -----

- 10) Memorize Rom 6:3-4 and write it out. -----

LESSON 5

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Baptism, as we have noted in our last class, is from a Greek word *Baptizo* meaning dipping or immersion. Therefore baptism of the Holy Spirit would mean or refer to a believer's immersion in the Spirit. The prepositions *in*, *by*, *with* and *of*, or used interchangeably in reference to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures.

PROMISED AND FULFILLED

Jesus made the promise to send the Holy Spirit to His disciples. John 14:16-18, Acts 1:4-8, Mark 16:16-18. The promise was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-11) and the Holy Spirit since then had stayed with us, hence there is no need to tarry for His coming anymore.

WHO IS THE BAPTIZER?

The Holy Spirit is sent from the Father through Jesus Christ. John 15:26, 7:37, 38; Matthew 3:11.

REASONS FOR THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. It is a command- Ephesians 5:18; Luke 24:49
2. It gives new power and boldness to witness- Acts 1:8, 2:14, 4:31-33
3. It is necessary for the release of the gifts of the Holy Spirit- 1 Corinthians 12:7-11
4. It is necessary for maximum evidence of the fruit of the Holy Spirit- Galatians 5:22,23
5. It is necessary for living a life to God's glory-John 16:14
6. It makes Jesus more real to us-John 15:26, 16:13-15; Acts 9:17
7. It produces greater effectiveness in prayer-Romans 8:26,27; 1 Corinthians 14:4,15
8. It enables true worship of God- Acts 2:11, 10:46; John 4:23, 24; Ephesians 5:18-20.
9. It brings a fresh understanding of and love for the Word of God-John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:9-16.
10. It gives us power to do what God has called us to do-Acts 1:8

WHAT DO WE RECEIVE?

Power-*dunamis* (energy, power, might, great force, great ability, strength).

- Dynamite- Acts 1:8, 4:33
- *Exousia*- delegated authority
- *Ischuros*-great physical strength
- *Kratos*- dominion, authority

Only those who have believed are entitled to such power-John 14:17; Acts 8:5, 12, 14-17.

SCRIPTURAL WAYS OF RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Receiving by faith, in prayer. Luke 11:9-13; Acts 2- Ask, seek, knock. Matthew 7:11. Usually preceded by a deep thirst (thirst, come, drink. John 7:37-39).
2. Believing, hearing the word-Acts 10:44,46
3. Laying on of hands-Acts 8:17, 19:1-6. Simple process-open your mouth and speak in faith, the Holy Spirit giving utterance Acts 2:4.

HINDRANCES TO RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Abominable practices
Deuteronomy 18:10-13- Use of divination (fortune telling, Ouija boards, automatic writing), observer of times (a person who deals with astrology and horoscopes), an enchanter (magician), a witch (one making contacts with evil spirits), a charmer (hypnotist), consulter with familiar spirits (spiritist medium), a wizard (clairvoyant, psychic, ESP, telepathy), necromancer (one who communicates with the dead, séances, voodoo) etc.
2. Wrong doctrine and cults.
3. Involvement with the Occult
4. Fear
5. Unbelief and our natural mind
6. Yoga (system of Hindu philosophy) and other wrong religions
7. Satanism
8. Secular humanism, transcendental meditation
9. Hatred, bitterness or unforgiveness
10. Unconfessed sin

Solution: Repentance-Acts 2:38, 39

BIBLE ACCOUNTS OF THE INFILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- (i) Jesus' entry into ministry- Luke 4:18,19; Acts 10:38
- (ii) 120 believers at Pentecost-Acts 1:14-24
- (iii) The restoration of Paul's sight-Acts 9:17-20
- (iv) Ephesian believers- Acts 19:1-7
- (v) Samaritan believers-Acts 8:14-25
- (vi) Cornelius and his household-Acts 10:44-48

CONCLUSION

Speaking in tongues is an evidence (and not the only evidence) of the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The sign that we have been filled with the Holy Spirit is Jesus, His work and His empowering. However, when baptised in the Holy Spirit, all believers receive the capacity to speak in tongues whether or not they do so.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON 5- BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. When was the promise of Jesus in Acts 1:8 fulfilled?

2. List 3 reasons for baptism in the Holy Spirit giving Scriptures

3. Speaking in other tongues is an evidence of baptism in the Holy Spirit-True or False? Give Scripture

4. We become bold to witness when we receive the power of the Holy Spirit. True or False?

5. According to Acts 2:38, 39 who can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?

6. List 3 hindrances to receiving the Holy Spirit

7. We should endeavour to speak in tongues everyday. True or False and Why?

8. List 2 Bible accounts of the infilling of the Holy Spirit

9. When you are baptized in the Holy Spirit, you will be able to operate in the gifts of the Spirit. True or False? _____
10. Memorize and write out Acts 1:8

LESSON SIX

DAILY QUIET TIME

Effective Daily Quiet Time- Mark 1:35, 6:31; Dan 6:10; Psalm 119:97, 42:1, 7; Luke 18:1, 1 Peter 2:2, 2 Peter 3:18.

It is important to note that quiet time is not a daily ritual; rather, it is something to look forward to. When we treat it as a “duty”, and then it becomes lifeless, boring and dry.

The best time for quiet time is early in the morning. Our Lord Jesus Christ woke up a great while before the day and departed to a solitary place to pray. The experiences of many believers support this time of the day as the best hour. This period is recommended because distractions are minimal, the mind is fresh, and the day is still young. You can thus start your day with God and receive the grace necessary for the day. However, there must be discipline in keeping fully awake. An environment void of distractions is necessary for concentration and for a meaningful quiet time.

A complete Bible is necessary for a meaningful quiet time. Bible aids such as commentary and Bible dictionary are also useful for explanation on difficult passages of the Bible. You also need a notebook to write down lessons from your meditation, prayer points and specific instructions from the Lord. The quiet time begins with thanksgiving and praises. Then you pray for illumination or understanding of the biblical passage you are going to read in your quiet time. This is followed with Scripture reading and meditation. Meditative study of the Bible is a rich source of divine inspiration and a means of plunging into the inexhaustible riches of Christ. To help your understanding, it is advisable to ask questions on what you have read, such as:

- (i) What are lessons I can learn from this passage, and how do they affect my life personally?
- (ii) What does the passage say about Christ?
- (iii) Are there any commands to obey, any examples to follow, any sins to avoid, any promises to claim or any challenges for the day?

Having meditated on the Word of God, then pray earnestly on the lessons, or instructions that you have received. The morning quiet time should not be the only devotional period of the day. The evening devotion, which can also follow the format of the quiet time, is equally important and rewarding. The quiet time is the key to the day, while the evening devotion is the lock for the night.

Rewards of Daily Communion

There is no limit to what you can receive from the Lord through a purposeful quiet time. Your expectation determines your realisation. The rewards of daily communion with God include divine and human favour, spiritual renewal (Isaiah 40:29-31), grace for victorious living (1 Kings 19:5-8), intimate relationship with God, preservation of physical and spiritual life (Psalm 91:1-4), material blessings and answers to prayers (1 Kings 3:4-13).

QUESTIONS ON LESSON SIX- DAILY QUIET TIME

1) What time is best for quiet time? Mark 1:35-----

2) What are the advantages of doing your quiet time at this time? -----

3) What should you bring with you to your quiet time? -----

4) Why do you need a notebook during your quiet time? -----

5) List 4 benefits/rewards of daily communion

6) God understands if we can't pray because of our busy schedule-
True/False -----

7) 'One week without prayer makes one weak'. Explain

8) How many times a day did David pray? See Psalm 55:17 -----

9) Read Mark 1 and write out a verse that tells us when Jesus prays -----

10) According to Luke 4:16, Jesus rarely went to the synagogue- True/False --

Prayer Guide for New Believers

Welcome to the family of God. You now have access to the Father in prayer. Remember prayer is a dialogue. As you speak to God, He also will speak back to you.

The Bible says “God is a spirit” and we are spirit beings too, so though we cannot see God with our physical eyes, yet He dwells in our hearts and we can fellowship with Him.

Prayer can be as simple as a little child coming to his loving father. This is why Jesus said in Luke 11:1, “When you pray say ‘Our Father...’ ”. Pray to the Father in the name of Jesus.

Here are a few tips for a fruitful prayer life

1. Have a time daily when you commune with God.
2. Let it be a time when you can be at your best.
3. As much as possible be by yourself with God.
4. Start by singing some songs of praise to God.
5. Go to the passage of scripture for the day and receive this as God’s word to you.
6. Think a bit on what you have read.
7. Ask yourself- what does this passage say to me? and be obedient to it.
8. Continue by praising God for who He is to you and for what He has done for you.
9. Pray for the people and the leaders of the United Kingdom that they will allow God to rule through them.
10. Pray that the Kingdom of God will come and His will be done in your life and the lives of others around you.
11. Ask God for specific needs in your life and in that of your family members and friends.
12. In the name of Jesus, bind every activity of the devil against you.
13. Ask the Lord to let His angels help you in all your ways today.
14. Remember to forgive whosoever has offended you and pray for them.
15. Now thank God for the answers.
16. Pause and be quiet to know what comes to your heart. This is one of the ways God speaks to you.
17. Write down the thing(s) God has ministered to you.
18. If you are already filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues, spend some time to speak in tongues.

Wishing you a joyful time in God’s presence.

LESSON SEVEN

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Luke 22:17-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-30

The Lord's Supper was instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ, who commanded that all believers (members of God's family) should partake thereof regularly to "show the Lord's death till he comes". It was an ordinance given to the church and it is unquestionably binding upon all believers and churches. The institution of the Lord's Supper is clearly shown in the gospels (Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:1, 7-20).

The Ordinance of the Lord's Supper

Luke 22:17-20; Matthew 26:26; Mark 14:22; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Exodus 12:3-20

The Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus Christ the very night wherein He was betrayed. The Lord's Supper in the New Testament is a type of feast of the Passover/Unleavened bread in the Old Testament (Exodus 12:1-28, 40-51). Jesus Christ instituted the Lord's Supper at the last Passover, for New Testament believers, thus signifying the end of the latter (Luke 22:1-20). Our Lord Jesus Christ is our Passover lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7). He has delivered us from the bondage of sin and Satan. The Lord's Supper is also called Sacrament (which means holy ordinance, 1 Corinthians 11:2), the Lord's Table or the Holy Communion (1 Corinthians 10:16). Those who participate in eating the Lord's Supper are called the "communicants". The universal name is the Lord's Supper as used by our Lord. The emblems used are unleavened bread and the juice of the fruit of the vine which symbolise the Lord's body and His blood that was shed for the remission of our sins respectively. They are not the actual body and blood of Jesus Christ. The ordinance should be observed as frequent as practicable. This ordinance is perpetual, till the Lord shall come. The ordinance was instituted to show forth Christ's death, to declare and publish it. It is to commemorate His glorious condescension and grace in our redemption. We declare His death to be our life, the spring of all our comforts and hopes. We are also to observe the ordinance in remembrance of our Lord till He comes (Matthew 26:17-30; 1 Corinthians 11:26). It was appointed to keep fresh in our mind His dying for us; the greatest act of love. We look forward to the Rapture and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelations 19:7-9).

Orderliness in Observing the Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:27-34, 10:21-31, 14:40; Matthew 5:23, 24; Exodus 12:43-49

Like the feast of Passover, the defiled and the uncircumcised strangers (strangers to the family of God) are unworthy to partake of the Lord's Supper. "Ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table and of the table of devils" (1 Corinthians 10:21). Anyone who eats and drinks unworthily brings damnation, punishment and chastisement upon himself (Matthew 26:26-29; Luke 22:17-

20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-30). It is great guilt and great hazard to violate this sacred institution. To eat and drink unworthily of the Lord's Supper is to despise the body and blood of Christ and in a manner crucify the Lord afresh. Indecency and impurity should be avoided at the Lord's Table. You are to eat for hunger and pleasure at home and not to change the Holy Supper to a common feast. Holy things are to be used in a holy manner or else they are profane. It is a heinous sin to profane the holy ordinance. Therefore, self-examination is necessary to a right attendance at this holy ordinance. Those who upon fair trial, have just ground to charge themselves with impenitence, unbelief and alienation from the life of God are by no means fit to eat of this bread and drink of this cup until they repent. There should be grace in habit and grace in exercise to be qualified for this holy ordinance. If you always feel disqualified to partake of this ordinance, it is not certain that you will be qualified for the Rapture and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelations 19:7-18). Adults, youth and children who have current testimony of salvation and holy living can partake of the Lord's Supper.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON SEVEN-THE LORD'S SUPPER

1) Who instituted the Lord's Supper? Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:22-25

2) When was it instituted? Luke 22:17-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Mark 14:22

3) The Lord's Supper is not binding on all believers. True or False?

4) The Lord's Supper is a type of another ordinance in the Old Testament. What is this ordinance called? Exodus 12:3-20

5) The Lord's Supper is also called _____ and _____

6) Those who partake in eating the Lord's Supper are called _____.

7) The emblems or materials used during the Lord's Supper are _____ and _____ which symbolise the _____ and _____ of the Lord respectively.

8) The unleavened bread and the wine are the actual body and blood of Jesus Christ. True or False? _____

9) Can non-Christians partake of the Lord's Table? 1 Corinthians 10:21. Yes/No

10) What happens when someone eats or drinks unworthily from the Lord's Table? 1 Corinthians 11:23-30; Luke 22:17-20

11) Memorise 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

LESSON EIGHT

EVANGELISM

Matthew 28:19-20

Aim: To convince believers of their responsibility to be a witness of Christ and to equip them with a basic knowledge of the gospel message that they might be able to share it with others.

Introduction

Christ commissioned every believer to be involved in evangelism. This does not mean that every believer has to be an evangelist before they can evangelise. Christ says in Matthew 28:19 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations....' This means you and I must share the good news of salvation. In this lesson we will focus on the importance of evangelism and what it is all about.

1. What does the word Evangelism mean?

It means to tell or 'to convince' good news.

It means communicating the good news of Jesus Christ, with the intent of seeing the person give their life for Christ and helping them to see the importance of the Bible so that they may become mature believers.

J.I. Parker defines evangelism as: Evangelising is not simply a matter of teaching and instructing and imparting information to the mind. There is more to it than that. Evangelism includes the endeavour to elicit a response to the truth taught. It is communication with a view to conversion. It is a matter not merely of informing but also of inviting.

Evangelism is communicating the gospel and inviting the person to trust Christ.

2. Why is the Good News Important?

- a. People cannot become Christians unless they are told about Christ-Romans 10:14
- b. Christ commissioned us to do so-Matthew 28:18-20
- c. IT is God's will that men should be saved and not perish-2 Peter 3:9
- d. Jesus came to die for the sins of the world so that we can have eternal life-John 3:16
- e. People need to know that the only way they can be saved is through Christ-Acts 4:12
- f. It is important for us to share the good news of salvation to everyone.

3. What is the Good News?

- a. Jesus Christ died for my sins on the cross. He was buried and rose the third day. He has made full atonement for my sins.
- b. Through faith in Jesus Christ, I am saved.
- c. God has reconciled man unto Himself through the death of Jesus Christ

- d. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature, old things have passed away, behold all things have become new.
- e. God has provided one way of salvation for all men, whether Jew or Gentile. Romans 3:10, 5:21
- f. We have been made righteous through Christ. Romans 4, 5:22-25
- g. We are no longer under condemnation. Romans 8:1,2
- h. We are conformed to the image of God Romans 8:28-30
- i. We have peace with God Romans 5:1
- j. We have access to the Father Romans 5:2

4. **Who has the responsibility of telling the Good News?**

The church – Every believer is commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ to share the good news. Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 3:0-11

5. **Scriptural Evidence of Evangelism**

- a. Jesus evangelised- Luke 4:18-43; Matthew 11:5; Luke 8:1
- b. Jesus sent His disciples out to evangelise Luke 9:6
- c. Paul preached the gospel everywhere Romans 1:15
- d. The early church evangelised- Acts 5:42, 8:4, 12:25, 16:4, 13:1-5,14:7, 21, 16:16

We are to share the good news because this is the only way it is spread. Romans 10:12-18. We should not preach only when we get paid for it.

Application

As believers, it is important that we share the Good News. Be involved in evangelism, personal and church.

How many people would you like to reach each year? 1 Corinthians 9:18

QUESTIONS ON LESSON EIGHT: EVANGELISM

1. What does the word 'evangelism' mean?

2. What is the intent of evangelism?

3. Why is evangelism important? Give 2 reasons.

4. What is the good news we should be sharing? Give 3 points

5. Name 2 people in the Bible who evangelised

6. Give 2 reasons why the Good News is necessary

7. How did God reconcile Himself to man?

8. What are the benefits of salvation? Give two examples

9. What is the state of man prior to salvation?

10. In the light of this study, do you feel you have effectively shared the good news? Give reasons

LESSON NINE

VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING

Memory Verse: - 1 John 5:4- "Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world even our faith".

Introduction

To mature in our victorious Christian living certain things strengthen us and give us boldness in the face of our adversities. These are what we will be looking at. Proper understanding of this aspect will free us from guilt and sense of unworthiness, they will make us bold before God, our father and man (Hebrews 4:15-16).

Notes

1. The walk of faith

2 Corinthians 5:7 – 'For we walk by faith, not by sight'.

Hebrews 11:6- 'But without faith it is impossible to please **Him**, for he that cometh to God must believe that **He** is, and that **He** is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

From the two passages above and many more it is obvious that faith walk is not an option but an absolute necessity if we are going to go places or be of any use to God, hence we need to understand what faith is and how it works.

- a. Faith is the spiritual currency just as money is the physical currency. (Hebrews 11:1) All that we are and will be is through faith.
- b. Faith means confidence in God (Proverbs 3:5).
- c. It is proof that you believe the word of God (spiritual) supersedes the physical (situation and circumstances) – 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.
- d. Faith is man agreeing with God (Amos 3:3).
- e. Faith works only when operated through a heart of love. (Gal 5:6). God is love and He demands that all that we do should be motivated by love for it to be potent and effective, because love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:8).
- f. Faith is produced, built and based on knowledge of the word of God. (Romans 10:17)
- g. Patience is the proof of faith. (Hebrews 10:35-37, Habakkuk 3:17-19)
- h. Faith acts as protection from spiritual attacks (Ephesians 6:16)

2. Holy living

Holiness, Sanctification and Righteousness

Romans 12:1-2- 'I beseech **you** that **you** present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this 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'.

Sanctification and holiness go together and cannot be separated. Sanctification means 'set apart' from the world' i.e. cleansed from impurities. Holiness means 'set apart unto God'. When we become born again we are sanctified (cleansed) by the blood of Christ ready for the use of God which brings us unto holiness or perfection. We become blameless from the world (John 14:30). Holiness and Sanctification brings us into a deeper walk with God (Hebrews 12:14).

Righteousness has a dual meaning:

- a) To live right (Matthew 6:33)
- b) Right standing before God, without any sense of guilt or unworthiness (2 Corinthians 5:21).

As born again children of God, we do on some occasions fall into sin, but by the provision of the shed blood of Christ when we confess this sin from a repentant heart God forgives us and our righteousness is restored. (1 John 1:7-9)

3. Fellowship with the brethren

Fellowship means a gathering together as a group to build and encourage each other through sharing of the word of God, prayers, worship and praise. (Eph 4:3-15, Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 Thessalonians 5:11) It helps to foster unity and the attendant benefits. (Psalm 133)

QUESTIONS ON LESSON NINE- VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING

1) Why is Christianity referred to as the “walk of faith”?

2) Explain James 2:18 -----

3) How would you explain holiness, sanctification and righteousness?

4) In addition to faith, can you think of any other tool involved in victorious Christian living? -----

5) Seeing is believing- True or False- -----

6) According to 1 Corinthians 13:13, list the 3 things that will abide

7) Complete this statement: Faith without works is _____ See James 2:26

8) Complete this statement: Faith worketh by _____ See Galatians 5:6

9) What does it mean to be patient? -----

10) Memorize and write out Romans 10:17

LESSON TEN
CHRISTIAN GIVING
(Tithes, Offerings and Alms)

Tithes

Memory Verse: - Malachi 3:10- 'Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house.....'

Introduction

Tithe means one-tenth of the whole or gross income. In the strict sense, Abraham was the first person in recorded scripture to pay tithes (Gen 14: 17-20). This came to him by revelation, as there were no laid rules or precedence before then. God later formalised this practice into law (Lev 27: 30-33, Deut. 12: 5-6, 11).

Abraham is known as the father of faith, and we are his descendants by faith, hence Abraham's Children (Rom 4:11, Gal 3:6-9, 29). Abraham paid tithes before the law as an act of faith and we his children ought to do likewise. He paid tithes to the priesthood of Melchisedec, which is royal and everlasting, and not to the levitical priesthood which was of the law. Jesus Christ who is our high priest is of the priesthood of Melchisedec and as royal priest we ought to pay tithes to Him (Hebrews 7)

Why tithe?

1. It is a command from God. (Malachi 3:10)
2. It belongs to God. (Leviticus 27:30-33, Malachi 3:8)
3. It is for the support of the ministry so that there is no lack in the house of God. (Malachi 3:10)
4. Jesus Christ recommended it. (Matthew 23:23, Luke 11:42)
5. It's evidence of obedience and love.

Tithes should be paid to where your spiritual needs are met i.e. your local church (Malachi 3:10, Ephesians 2:19-22)

Promises for the tither (Malachi 3:10-12)

1. Divine abundance and provision.
2. Protection from loss of resources.
3. Your investments will be productive and mature appropriately.
4. First among equals.

Effect of withholding tithes (Malachi 1: 8-9, Haggai 1:1-11)

Direct opposite of the promises.

OFFERING

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:7- *‘Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

Introduction

Offering is giving to the work of God outside tithe. It is any expression of our generosity and love for God. There are several examples in the scripture where people offer material gifts to God either as thanksgiving (Nehemiah 12:43) or for the work of God (Exodus 25:2, 8; Exodus 35:5). Offerings are generally of freewill nature and not compulsory as tithes. In the broader sense offering is any thing we have to further the work of God this could vary from material wealth, to acts of kindness, time or even labour of love.

God expects us to honour him with our wealth (Proverbs 3:9) and to acknowledge him as the source (Deuteronomy 8: 18). Ability to give unto the Lord is clear evidence that we have overcome greed.

An ideal offering should be

1. Given in faith
2. Willingly and from the heart
3. Generous
4. Commensurate with our level of income. (1 Corinthians 16:2, 2 Corinthians 8:5-12, 2 Corinthians 9:6)

Lastly, every offering is a seed that ensures a future harvest of its kind. The quality and quantity of the harvest is a reflection of the seed sown. It is God's way of making sure that we have abundance in every sphere of life. (Luke 6:38, 2 Corinthians 9: 6-11, Philippians 4:19)

ALMS

These are material gifts given to meet the needs of others. In modern day society they come in form of charity either to an organisation responsible or directly to individuals. The same conditions as in offerings apply. The importance is stressed all through the Scriptures and in Matthew 7; the Lord Jesus Christ puts it on the same level as prayer and fasting. Giving of alms is equated to lending to the Lord (Proverbs 19:17).

Giving to the Man of GOD (John 13:20, 1 Kings 17, Matthew 10:40-41)

The last and probably the least popular/recognised is giving to the man of God (i.e. Pastors, Evangelists, Missionaries etc). The Bible teaches that giving to these men of God would make us partake of their anointing. The very power of God that is flowing in their lives would be readily available to us because we are in partnership with them. Examples abound in the Bible such as Elijah and the widow of Zarephath, Elisha and the Shunemite woman, Paul and the Church at Philippi.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON TEN- CHRISTIAN GIVING

1) List the different types of Christian giving.

2) In what ways are they different?

3) What are the benefits of tithing?

4) What are the hindrances to Christian giving?

5) What percentage of our income is the tithe- (i) 5% (ii) 10% (iii) 12%?

6) "Your seed may leave your hand but it does not leave your life but it goes into your future to create a miraculous harvest"- True/ False -----

7) According to Mark 10:29-30 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, should we give expecting something in return? -----

8) What do you understand by Galatians 6:6?

9) Love gives: True or False- -----

10) Memorize and write out Luke 6:38 -----

LESSON ELEVEN

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Text: - Acts 2:44-47; 1 John 1:1-10

It is natural for man to crave for association or companionship because man is not created to live a lonely life. Spiritually, fellowship is indispensable for believers' preservation and healthy living in the household of faith. Little wonder the Scripture warns against isolation from the fellowship of the brethren (Heb 10:25). The word "fellowship" comes from the Greek word "Koinonia". This is interpreted as partnership (1 John 1:3), contribution (Rom 15:26), distribution (2 Corinthians 9:13) and communication (Heb 13:16). Christian fellowship then implies partnership with God and fellow brethren. In the early church, brethren were strongly bound together by communion with God and fellow brethren. As such, they achieved a great feat in their time. Today we cannot over-emphasize the importance of Christian fellowship. Love is central to Christian fellowship. Without love, fellowship of the brethren becomes cold, formal, hypocritical and unprofitable.

Practical aspects of Christian Fellowship 1 John 1:6; Acts 2:44-47; 1 Corinthians 13: 1-8, 13.

Fellowship with God and fellow believers extends to practical issues of life. Christian fellowship cares for both the spiritual and physical welfare of the people. Christian fellowship is expected to care for the total being of man (Spirit, Soul and Body).

Some of the practical aspects of Christian fellowship include:

- i) Caring for and sharing with one another what we have (Acts 4:35; Romans 12:13). We are to give to the needy brethren (1 Corinthians 12:25).
- ii) Praying for one another (James 5:16, Colossians 4:12, 13).
- iii) Love one another (Romans 13:8, 1 Peter 1:22). Love is an essential ingredient of Christian fellowship. It is practical, sacrificial and selfless. Love is the badge of Christian identification (John 13:35)
- iv) Regular attendance and active participation in weekly meetings of the church (Hebrews 10:25). It provides an opportunity to learn more of Christ and how to grow in grace and love for the brethren.

Evidence of partnership with God should be seen in our daily walk (1 John 1:6, 2:6). Partaking in the divine nature of Christ is the principle of Christian fellowship. Believers should not have fellowship with the devil (1 Corinthians 10:20) or have intimate relationship with sinners (2 Corinthians 6:14-17; 1 Corinthians 5:9-11).

Benefits of Christian Fellowship 1 John 1:7, Acts 4:34; 2:44-47; Psalm 16:11; 84:10; 133:1-3

There are many benefits in fellowship with God and the brethren. Some of these are (i) Encouragement and strength from one another (Proverbs 27:17), (ii) Spiritual growth (Ephesians 4:11-14), (iii) Provision for the needy (Acts 4:32-35), (iv) Companionship (Ecclesiastes 4:9,10), (v) Spiritual guidance

(Proverbs 15:22), (vi) Opportunity to serve the Lord (acts 13:1-3), (vii) Preservation from errors and backsliding (Proverbs 11:14), (viii) Comfort through God's presence and enhanced praying power (Matt 18:19,20) and (ix) Preparedness for heaven.

We live in an increasingly selfish world; only in Christian fellowship can we enjoy selfless, sacrificial love and care. Come along with us, and our God shall do you good.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON ELEVEN- CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

1) The word "fellowship" comes from the Greek word -----

2) Define Christian fellowship. 1 John 1:3, Romans 15:26, 2 Corinthians 9:13, Hebrews 13:16

3) What does the Bible warn us not to do? Hebrews 10:25

4) Mention 4 practical aspects of Christian fellowship?

5) List 5 benefits of Christian fellowship. Proverbs 27:17, Ephesians 4:11-14, Acts 4:32-35, Ecclesiastes 4:9,10, Proverbs 15:22

6) You can only give if you have excess- True/ False -----

7) Busy people are not expected to attend fellowship- True/False -----

8) Only born-again Christians can have fellowship with God and the brethren- True/False -----

9) Only pastors are to pray for other people- True/False -----

10) Memorize and write out Hebrews 10:25 -----

LESSON TWELVE

THE CHURCH

The church is also known as the body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22, 23). It consists of everyone who is born again past, present and future. Christ is the head of the church.

Authority in the Church

Spiritual Authority

Authority in the church is in all its facets ordained by God and God alone. God has given all authority in Heaven and on earth to Jesus (Matthew 28:18, 1 Corinthians 11:3, Ephesians 1:22-23) and Jesus in turn delegates his authority to spiritually qualified leaders of His church (Isaiah 9:6).

Leadership Spells Responsibility

Leaders have a great responsibility. James 3:1; Ezekiel 33:6; Hebrews 13:17. Every flock needs a shepherd (Numbers 27:16-17) and the shepherd needs to know how to lead their flock and not drive them (Genesis 33:13, 14). The shepherds of God's people must know the truth of what God is saying today so that they can lead their flock on into the plans and purposes of God.

The Shepherd must:

- Keep the flock safe from attack. The wolf (devil) will try to isolate members of the flock by deception but the shepherd should be there to protect his sheep from this;
- Give authority and discipline on behalf of Jesus who is head of the Church;
- Be able to keep their sheep in rank so that they are in step with one another and with God. The church needs Christians who are willing to lay aside their vanity, pride, self-importance, independence and pettiness and instead keep rank and be of undivided loyalty.

Duties of Members towards Authority (Hebrews 13:7, 17)

- They should hear the word of God through their leaders and take it seriously and personally-Romans 10:15-17
- They should pray for their leaders, their ministries and their families-Romans 15:30; 2 Thessalonians 3:1
- They should greet their leaders warmly, making them feel loved and welcomed. Appreciate your leaders and give them due respect and recognition. Great honour is due to them who labour on your behalf- 1 Thessalonians 5:12,13; 1 Timothy 5:17
- Speak good about your leaders or say nothing bad about them-Numbers 12:1-6

Submission to Authority

Leadership not rulership, and not dictatorship. Leaders are servants, leading by example and not lording it over the flock. 1 Peter 5; 1-3

1. God demands submission and obedience to our leaders-Hebrews 13:17. Leaders should have real love and care for their sheep and put the best interest of their members first. The members should listen to and act upon the leaders' guidance because they hear, recognise and submit to the Word of God in their leaders. This does not mean a heavy submission where we obey everything our leaders say because we have no choice but rather it is a submission arising out of a respect for and acknowledgement of the leader's place before God.
2. Submission is an attitude of the heart not a position of slavery. To submit is to voluntarily place yourself under the care, protection and guidance of your leaders. Members of the church cannot be forced to do anything. However, where there is recognition of true spiritual submission within a leader, those under that authority will willingly submit. This submission also brings blessing because those under authority find that they in turn receive authority-Matthew 8:9
3. Humble submission is submission to an imperfect being. God is still dealing with everyone-1 Sam 26:9. It may also be to a younger person and should not be despised- 1 Timothy 4:12. When we submit to those God rose up to be in authority over us, we are in fact submitting to God Himself. Romans 13:1-5

Conclusion

If, however, God's delegated authority asks us to do something contrary to what we know God would have us do, then we must obey the higher authority of God and His word.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON TWELVE: THE CHURCH

1. The church is also known as _____
2. Apostle Peter is the head of the church. True or False? _____
3. Every flock needs a _____
4. List 2 things the shepherd does for the sheep
 - (i) _____
 - (ii) _____
5. List 2 duties of members towards authority
 - (i) _____

 - (ii) _____

6. What is submission to authority?

7. We are only to obey God but not obey any leader-True or False _____
8. If your leader tells you to do something contrary to God's word, you must obey first and then go and pray to God-True or False _____
9. According to Hebrews 13:17, what is the benefit of true submission to spiritual authority?

10. Memorize and write out Hebrews 13:17

LESSON 13
LAYING OF HANDS
Hebrews 6:1-2

The laying on of hands is important in the Church for service, for blessing others and for enabling people in their calls. It is part and parcel of a functioning body, drawing life from Jesus, the Head, and releasing and imparting life via the hands. The power of the risen Christ to heal, minister or give blessing is resident in every Spirit-filled believer and especially those in leadership. This power can be released by the laying on of hands.

The lesson today is a smooth progression from the preceding lessons; it gives purpose to the other foundations. Our faith in God and power received after the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is not just for ourselves. There is a need to transmit the blessing into the lives of others. While others can indeed be blessed by our words and even our lifestyle, an actual physical transmission can take place through the "laying on of hands".

Truths about the Laying on of Hands

1. A spiritual transmission takes place. The laying on of hands is the physical or visible aspect of a spiritual transference. What is transferred is not physical but spiritual e.g. spiritual gifts, wisdom ability- Genesis 48:14, Deuteronomy 34:9
2. Transference can be positive or negative. Both the good Spirit and evil spirits can be transferred through the laying on of hands. It can also be either way e.g. the woman with the issue of blood who touched Jesus Christ with faith-Mark 5:21-34
3. The power is not in the hands laid but in the obedience to and faith in the command to lay hands-Mark 16:17
4. Laying on of hands is sometimes accompanied by prayer, prophecy and /or a word of command. It can also be ministered after the prayer or prophecy or in-between. There is no strict order-1 Timothy 1:18
5. Laying on of hands can be both formal and informal. We are used to the laying on of hands at church but it is not supposed to be there alone. Jesus took little children in his hands and blessed them- Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16. Children who are hardly ever touched by their parents would find it difficult to receive love when they grow up.

Laying on of Hands with Caution

The Bible says: Do not be hasty in laying on of hands- 1 Timothy 5:22

Reasons for the caution:

- The warning applies especially in the setting apart of people for ministry. Laying on of hands in this respect involves the transfer of authority and a leader needs to be sure of the characters and spiritual ability of people you give authority in Church. The deacons in Acts 6 had to be men full of *faith, wisdom* and the *Holy Spirit*-1 Timothy 3:6
- As noted above, a spirit-to-spirit contact occurs during the laying on of hands. Therefore we need to show some care as to who we lay our hands on and also who we allow to lay hands upon us.

QUESTIONS ON LESSON 13-LAYING ON OF HANDS

1. List 2 truths about laying on of hands

2. List 3 reasons for laying on of hands

3. Baptism of the Holy Spirit is ministered through laying on of hands-True or False _____

4. List all the foundational doctrines listed in Hebrews 6:1-2

5. We should lay hands at every opportunity-True or False _____

6. Spiritual gifts are imparted through laying of hands. Give Scripture. True or False _____

7. You should not lay hands on the sick except you are an apostle. True or False. Give Scripture _____

8. Both good and evil spirits can be transferred by laying on of hands. True or False _____

9. It is good to lay hands and touch little children. True or False _____

10. Memorize and write out 1 Timothy 5:22

LESSON FOURTEEN HEAVEN, HELL AND ESCHATOLOGY

Memory Verse: *Daniel 12:2 – “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt”.*

Introduction

The Bible teaches about life after death. We shall one day all stand in judgement before God when we die (Hebrews 9:27) and give account of our lives to Him (Romans 14:12). Some would go to heaven while some would go to hell. Heaven and hell are no illusions of men but are real places. The Bible does not talk about hell with the intention of frightening anybody neither of heaven as a teaser but as definite rewards for the way we conduct our lives here on earth. Jesus Himself taught about heaven and hell as real places. (John 14:2-3, Mark 9:43-48, Matthew 25:31-46). The false doctrine of reincarnation has no biblical basis (Hebrews 9:27). Heaven is beautifully prepared for prepared people (Matthew 25:3-4, Hebrews 11:16, John 14:1-4). Hell is a prepared place for unprepared people as well as a place for Satan and his demons. (Matthew 25:41)

Heaven

1. Heaven is an eternal place of eternity where believers will live forever in the presence of God (John 11:25-26, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
2. Mansions are being built there as home for all saints (John 14:2-3)
3. There will be no sorrow, pain nor death in heaven (Revelations 7:15-17, 21:4)
4. Heaven is a place of joy and rest (Revelations 19:5-7, 14:13, Psalm 16:11, Hebrews 4:9-11)
5. Names of believers are written in the Book of Life in heaven (Revelations 21:27b, Luke 10:20)
6. Rewards and treasures will be opened and given out to all saints in heaven (Revelations 22:12, 21:7; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; Matthew 6:20, 2 Timothy 4:7-8)

Hell

1. All sinners (unbelievers) will go to hell without exception (Luke 16: 27-31, Matthew 22:11-14, 2 Peter 2:9-10, Matthew 13:41-42) and the angels that rebelled against God (2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6), the beast and the false prophet and those who receive the mark of the beast (Revelations 19:20; 20:10), all those whose names are not written in the Book of Life (Revelations 20:15).
2. There is no second chance of salvation after death, no amount of intercessory prayer can save the dead (Hebrews 9:27, Revelations 20:5, 11-15)
3. Punishment in hell is continuous and eternal (Revelation 20:10, 14:9-11)
4. There is no purgatory either – Hebrews 9:27

Eschatology

Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:3- ‘For them when they shall say, peace and safety, then sudden destruction shall come upon them, as travail upon a woman with child, and they shall not escape’.

Introduction

Eschatology is the term that describes events of the End Time (ET). In general the ET started with the ascension of the Lord Jesus, with the events described in Matthew Chapter 24 gradually building up to a climax that is marked by the ‘rapture’. The purpose of this particular teaching is not to create fear in the hearts of believers,

but to provide an evangelistic tool. For the purpose of this topic we will concentrate on events starting with the rapture. Broadly speaking these can be divided into:

1. Rapture
2. Armageddon/Marriage supper of the Lamb
3. The second coming of the Lord and the millennial rule
4. The Last Judgement
5. The new heaven and new earth.

1. Rapture

The word 'rapture' does not exist in the Bible but it has come into common usage since it aptly describes this event. The sequence is as follows, the Lord Jesus will descend from heaven and the believers both the dead and the living will be caught up to meet him in the clouds. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

2. Armageddon

This is the gathering of the armies of the nations to fight against Jerusalem. Jesus will destroy them with the sword from his mouth. Those left behind on earth will experience this. Following the rapture of the Church, **evil** will be unleashed. The antichrist will be revealed, followed by the one world government and the much talked about 'mark of the beast'. Untold suffering including the seven plagues will be experienced and those that fail to comply with the reign of the antichrist will be sacrificed. (Rev 12- 18)

Marriage supper of the Lamb

Concurrently while Armageddon is being experienced on earth, those of us who were raptured will be celebrating with the Lord Jesus in Heaven (i.e. consummation of marriage between the Lamb and His Church- Rev 19:7-10)

3. The Second Coming of the Lord

After the marriage supper the Lord will descend to earth with us (believers) and the hosts of heaven to put an end to the evil. Satan will be bound and left in the bottomless pit for a thousand years. During this period no evil will exist. At the end of this thousand years Satan will be released for a season, unfortunately some will still follow him (Revelations 19:11- 20:10).

4. The Last Judgement

This is the great white throne judgement when the Book of Life is opened (in addition to other books). Death, hell and those, whose names are not in the book of life, are thrown in the lake of fire. (Revelations 20:11-15).

5. The new heaven and new earth

Finally we have the new heaven and earth (Revelations 21)

QUESTIONS ON LESSON FOURTEEN- HEAVEN, HELL AND ESCHATOLOGY

1) What is reincarnation and is there any biblical support-Hebrews 9:27? -

2) Is it scriptural to pray for the dead, i.e., RIP- Hebrews 9:27?

3) Do heaven and hell really exist (Rev 21:1, Rev. 20:13-15)?

4) How would you explain the term" eschatology"?

5) List the events of the end time in chronological order.

6) What do you understand by the term 'rapture'?

7) Rapture is the same as the second coming of Jesus- True or False -----

8) What is Armageddon?

9) Where is the final destination of unbelievers (i) Hell (ii) Lake of Fire
(iii) Hades?- Rev. 20:15

10) Memorize and write out Revelations 21:7
