

GROWING IN THE GRACE OF OUR LORD

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FOREWORD

The Lord's church is given the commandment to preach the gospel in every nation around the world (cf. Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:19). Surely we are dedicated to doing this great work. We read reports of so many being baptized on this or that mission trip by some preacher or preachers of the Gospel and this is good to a point. What happens to those baptized when the mission journey is over? Have you ever wondered about this problematic situation? Can these new Christians "fend" for themselves?

Many are the cases where those from denominations have followed some of our missionaries and made a great advance for Satan by taking advantage of the "new born babe." This causes great concern for us all. This does not have to be a mission point in order for something similar to occur. Many years ago as a lad we led singing for one of the most powerful, persuasive preachers in the brotherhood. There were fifty responses and about half of them were baptizisms. One year later the same preacher and song leader were back at the same congregation at the same time of the year. Where were the converts from last year? Most had gone back into the world or something had happened. Regardless of what may have been the problem they were once again lost. This has been an age old problem for us. What can we do?

Brother Toney L. Smith has an idea that is nothing short of brilliant. Ten lessons taught by ten couples over a ten week period. Brother Smith has done his homework well with the origination of this method of study. It will help in a number of ways. It will greatly improve the knowledge of the new convert. This study will expose the new convert to ten different families and, if the families involved could get another family to come to dinner and to the study of that particular lesson, the new convert would be exposed to twice as many people. This course of study is not asking too much of anyone. While it would be desirable that we know every lesson to be taught, the focus of this one family is to teach one lesson. This, in turn, will help the family doing the teaching. There are many other benefits that come as a result of this study. We have truly only touched the helm of the garment as we attempt to weight the results.

Brother Smith is a great student of the Word and a faithful Gospel preacher. He is an astute writer and in everything his prayers are for the Kingdom. We commend his hard work and diligent effort in writing this material. This truly is a way to help us "...grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ..." (II Peter 3:18).

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GROWING IN THE GRACE OF THE LORD

(A study for new converts)

This program of study is designed to promote a continuing study of God's word after one has obeyed the gospel. There is a great need today to keep the saved from going back into the world. Far too many times we baptize people and then leave them alone to fend for themselves. We are told that over half of those who are won from the world return to it

This program has been designed to help prevent Satan from moving back into the lives of the "babes" in Christ. The primary purpose of this series is to teach the new convert so that he will be able to grow (I Peter 2:2). A secondary purpose of this program will be to promote much needed fellowship. It will provide Bible study and fellowship for those coming into the church with those who are older in the faith. This would help the new member to develop associations in the church, thereby taking them away from some of the worldly influences in their lives.

This program will involve ten families who will open their homes to those being taught for one evening. Once homes are selected and lessons assigned to the members, then the family that teaches lesson one should contact the new Christian and set up a night time study. After lesson one, the new convert then proceeds to week two with the family chosen to teach lesson two, and so on until all ten lessons are complete. It involves a little time and effort but it accomplishes a great deal.

I wish to acknowledge brother M.A. Wright who encouraged me to compile this study. This work is the result of material he suggested and includes things we thought would be needed to accomplish the desired result of keeping the new convert interested and informed. May God add His blessings to this work.

The Ten Lessons To Be Taught

- 1. THE TWO COVENANTS**
- 2. THE CHURCH**
- 3. THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE CHURCH**
- 4. WORSHIP**
- 5. THE LORD'S DAY**
- 6. PRAYING**
- 7. GIVING**
- 8. SINGING**
- 9. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

Psalms 1:1-3: "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of his **LORD**; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season, his leaf also shall not wither, whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

"THE TWO COVENANTS"

LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. PURPOSE: To study the relationship of the two covenants God made with his people in two separate periods of time. Note the purpose of the first, or old covenant, and the passing of it. Then, observe the establishing of the second, or new covenant.
- B. DEFINE: Covenant — an agreement by two or more parties binding them to do or not to do certain acts. Benefits are promised if the covenant is kept as stipulated.
- C. FACTS: The old covenant was an agreement between God and a nation. The new covenant is an agreement between God and all men.
 - 1. A covenant may be conditional, as between God and Israel. (See Exodus 19:5-6)
 - 2. A covenant may be unconditional, as between God and Abraham. (See Genesis 15:12-15)

DISCUSSION:

I. THE OLD COVENANT

- A. Made between God and Israel (Exodus 19:1-5; 24:1-8) when Israel was brought out of Egypt to Mt. Sinai.
- B. Was a National Law, given to Israel (Exodus 20:1-2; 31:12-17; 34:27-28).
- C. Given to last for a specific time, "till the seed comes" (Galatians 3:19). That "seed" was Christ (Galatians 3:16).
- D. It (the old law) was spoken of by New Testament writers who called it "the law."
 - 1. Compare Romans 1:17 and Habakkuk 2:4; also Matthew 22:35-39, Deuteronomy 6:5, and Leviticus 19:18.
 - 2. John 10:34 refers to Psalms 82:6 where rulers of Israel are called gods.
 - 3. Paul, in I Corinthians 4:21, quotes Isaiah 28:11-12.

II. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- A. Those who meet on Saturday and "keep the Sabbath" today make false claims that need to be noted.
 - 1. They divide "the law" into two parts: a) Moral and b) Ceremonial.
 - 2. The moral, they say, was given by God and was not removed.
 - 3. The ceremonial, they say, was given by Moses and was taken away.
 - 4. These are false assumptions.
- B. The problem with these beliefs is that the Bible writers never made such divisions.
 - 1. Moses spake forth God's law (Nehemiah 10:29; 8:14).
 - 2. God gave the "law of Moses" (Nehemiah 8:1; Ezra 7:6).
 - 3. The law, the law of Moses and the law of God, was from the same source.
 - 4. They are interchangeable (Nehemiah 8:1-8).
- C. God speaks of the "ten commandments" as "the covenant" (Exodus 34:27-28; Deuteronomy 4:13, 9:9-11; I Kings 8:9, 21). Therefore, if the covenant has been fulfilled and taken away, the ten commandments have gone, too.

D. ILLUSTRATION: The colonies that formed the U.S. were under England and her laws. After independence was won and the constitution was written, the colonies were no longer under the laws of England. This is true even if many of the laws of England are to be found in the U.S. constitution.

III. THE PASSING OF THE OLD COVENANT

- A. Jeremiah 31:31-34 foretold the coming of a new covenant. It was to be such that "all in it would know Him," and "sins would be remembered no more."
- B. Hebrews 8:6-13 shows the coming teachings of Christ to be "new" and the fulfillment of Jeremiah 31:31-34.
- C. Exactly WHO took away the law, the first covenant?
 1. Matthew 5:17 — Jesus said He fulfilled the first covenant. See John 19:28ff.
 2. Ephesians 2:14-16 — Paul said Jesus did this when He died.
 3. Hebrews 7:12; 9:15-17 — The second covenant, the new one, could not come into force until the death of Him who made it. Therefore, the death of Jesus both removed the first and established the second.
 4. Hebrews 10:9 (READ) — We cannot live under two covenants!
 5. II Corinthians 3:6-17 — The law written on stones was "done away."

IV. THE NEW COVENANT - THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

- A. God has given Jesus all authority (Matthew 17:5).
- B. Jesus affirms He was given all authority (Matthew 28:18; John 17:2).
- C. Paul taught that Jesus was given the authority (I Corinthians 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:20, 22; Colossians 1:18).
- D. Jesus was the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham (Galatians 3:6-29). Under it, all who obey become new creatures in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17).

V. THE SCOPE OF THE NEW COVENANT — THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

- A. Matthew 28:19 "GO TEACH ALL NATIONS..."
- B. Mark 16:15 "GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE..."
- C. Luke 24:46-49 "...THAT REPENTANCE AND REMISSION OF SINS MIGHT BE PREACHED AMONG ALL NATIONS BEGINNING AT JERUSALEM."

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. In the New Covenant, not the Old, the sinner can come to God. Why? The blood of Christ.
- B. Galatians 5:4 — "WHOSOEVER OF YOU ARE JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW, YE ARE FALLEN FROM GRACE."
- C. In the New Covenant the terms of pardon for sins is found. Not in the Old Covenant.
- D. In the New Covenant conditions of fellowship are given (I John 1:4).
- E. In the New Covenant are the promises of God to us and instructions on how to live eternally!

QUESTIONS FROM LESSON ONE

1. What is a covenant?
2. The Old Covenant was between God and whom?
3. The New Covenant was intended for whom?
4. Who is the seed spoken of in Galatians 3:19?
5. Hebrews 8:6-13 is a fulfillment of what Old Testament passage?
6. Why is the New Covenant known as the gospel of Christ?
7. Why is it important to understand that the New Covenant is for "all nations?"
8. What took place that removed the first covenant?
9. Why is it not possible to live under both laws?
10. When were sins removed? Did the Old Covenant remove them?

"WHAT IS THE CHURCH?"

LESSON 2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. This lesson will serve as an introduction to the church.
- B. Bearing in mind the importance of understanding the body of Christ.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE WORD "CHURCH" (MATTHEW 16:13-20)

- A. From the Greek word "ekklesia;" "ek" – meaning out of, and "klesis" – meaning a calling ("kaleo" – to call)
 1. Applied by the Greeks to any body of people called from their home or business.
 2. To the Greeks this word suggested a self-governing society; to the Jew, a theocratic, direction of God, society. (ISBE)
 3. The "ekklesia" of the New Testament is a society of those who are free because of obedience to the King (Romans 6:16-18).

II. THE CHURCH'S RELATION TO CHRIST IS THAT OF A BRIDE TO HER HUSBAND

- A. Read Ephesians 5:22-23.
- B. Of the relationship he says, "THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." He then adds, "This is a great mystery; but I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:31-32).

III. THE CHURCH IS A BODY OF MANY MEMBERS OF WHICH CHRIST IS THE HEAD

- A. Read I Corinthians 12:12-27.
- B. As head over the body, Christ governs and presides (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22-23).

IV. THE CHURCH IS THE FAMILY OF GOD

- A. Paul referred to the church as "THE HOUSE OF GOD" (I Timothy 3:15).
- B. By "house," Paul did not mean a building, but a family. Several times the word "house" refers to family (Acts 10:2; 11:14; 16:15).
 1. Paul called the Ephesians "fellow citizens with the saints, and the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19).
 2. Sons and daughters of God (II Corinthians 6:18). God's sons and daughters would indeed be in His family.
 3. Therefore, when the Bible refers to the house of God, it is talking about the church.

V. THE CHURCH IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND CHRIST

- A. This kingdom was to come during the lifetime of some who walked with Jesus on earth (Mark 9:1).
 - 1. John preached about the kingdom coming (Matthew 3:1-2) — when?
 - 2. Jesus preached concerning its coming (Matthew 4:17) — when?
 - 3. The apostles preached about its coming (Matthew 10:5-7) — when?
 - 4. The seventy preached about the coming (Luke 10:9) — when?
- B. What does "at hand" mean? Mark 9:1 — in the lifetime. The night He was betrayed Jesus appointed unto His apostles a kingdom.
- C. Did it come?
 - 1. Revelation 1:10 ----- John was in it.
 - 2. Hebrews 12:28 ----- they had received it.
 - 3. Colossians 1:13-14 ----- they left darkness and were translated into it.
 - 4. I Corinthians 15:23-25 - when Christ comes He will deliver it up.
 - 5. I Thessalonians 1:12 --- they were called into it.

VI. THE CHURCH AND THE KINGDOM ARE THE SAME PEOPLE

- A. The church is spoken of as being the same as the kingdom (Matthew 16:18-19).
- B. If the church and the kingdom are different, Christ built a church and then gave the apostles the keys to a kingdom.

VII. TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

- A. Hear — Romans 10:17.
- B. Believe — Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24; Acts 16:32-34; Romans 5:1.
- C. Repentance — Luke 24:47; Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30-31; Acts 26:20.
- D. Confess — Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; I Timothy 6:12.
- E. Baptism — 1) To be saved (Mark 16:16); 2) For Remission of sins (Acts 2:38); 3) To get into Christ (Galatians 3:27); 4) To walk in a new life (Romans 6:4); 5) It is a burial in water (Colossians 2:13).
- F. Saved ones are added to the Lord's body (Ephesians 4:4; Ephesians 1:22-23; I Corinthians 12:13).
 - 1. Acts 2:47.
 - 2. Acts 5:14; 11:24.

VIII. CONCLUSION:

- A. The church is the body of Christ, having the same relation to Him that a bride has to her husband (Ephesians 5:22-23).
- B. The church is the "house of God" or the "family of God" made up of the "born again ones," making them His "sons and daughters."
- C. The church is the kingdom of God, "called out of the world" or "delivered from the power of darkness" (Acts 2:41, 47; Colossians 1:13-14).
- D. LET US ALL STRIVE TO LOVE, HONOR, AND PROMOTE THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST!

QUESTIONS FROM LESSON TWO

1. What does the word church mean?
2. Explain the relationship between Christ and His church.
3. Who is the head of the church? Why?
4. Does I Corinthians 12:12-27 condone denominationalism?
5. What is meant by "household of God?"
6. What is the difference in "the Kingdom" and "the church?"
7. Is it necessary to know about the church?
8. Give the terms of entrance into the church.
9. What is meant by the term "at hand" in reference to the church?
10. At what point are people added to the church?
11. Is it important to be in the church?

"ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE CHURCH"

LESSON 3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Lesson one deals with the two covenants and that we are under the New Covenant.
- B. Lesson two deals with some of the basic teachings about the church.
- C. This lesson deals with the Bible teaching concerning church Organization.

DISCUSSION:

I. JESUS IS THE HEAD (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15; Colossians 1:18)

- A. Jesus has "all" authority (Matthew 28:18-20; John 17:2).
- B. Jesus is our prophet, priest, and king.
 - 1. Prophet — Deuteronomy 18:15; Acts 3:22-23.
 - 2. Priest — Hebrews 7:17, 21, 28.
 - 3. King — Revelation 17:14.

II. ELDERS FEED, TEND, AND OVERSEE THE CHURCH, KEEPING THE WORK GOING PROPERLY

- A. Number of elders.
 - 1. Plurality, i.e., more than one. Acts 14:23; 15:2, 4-6; Titus 1:5.
 - 2. Governs only one congregation, i.e. "the flock." I Peter 5:2; Acts 20:28.
 - 3. The elders outreach to govern. Acts 20:17, 28.
- B. Their work.
 - 1. Watch. Hebrews 13:17, as Ezekiel 3:16-21.
 - 2. Cause Christians to mature and the church to grow. Ephesians 4:11-16.
 - 3. Discipline the congregation. I Thessalonians 5:12-14.
 - 4. Shepherd the church, as a shepherd tends a flock (I Peter 5:1-3; Acts 20:28). The word "feed" is from the Greek word for shepherd.
 - 5. Pray for the sick and those in need of forgiveness (James 5:13-18).
- C. The members responsibility to the elders.
 - 1. Esteem them (I Thessalonians 5:12-14).
 - 2. Be subject to them (Hebrews 13:17).

III. DEACONS (SERVANTS LEADING OTHERS IN THE WORK OF THE CHURCH)

- A. They are appointed (Acts 6:3).
- B. Must have certain qualities (Acts 6:3, 5; I Timothy 3:8-13).
- C. They are to be busy at their task and have a record of working (I Timothy 3:10).

IV. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

- A. Responsible to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).
- B. Be united in the work of the Lord (Acts 2:44).
- C. Obey them that have the rule over you (Hebrews 13:17).

- D. Not forsake the assembling of the saints (Hebrews 10:25).
- E. Live a faithful life and be an example for Christ.

V. CONCLUSION

- A. The church is not a democracy — that is, the people do not vote on and thereby select what they want to believe. The church is a monarchy — Christ is the ONE KING.
- B. The church is as a flock of sheep. Christ is the Chief Shepherd with local elders as under-shepherds overseeing and leading by example in doing His work (I Peter 5:4).
- C. The church recognizes and exists according to these organizational principles, NOT:
 - 1. latter day revelations as the Mormons do.
 - 2. under one man's edicts as the Catholics do.
 - 3. according to what pleases man as all denominations do.

QUESTIONS FROM LESSON THREE

1. Who is the head of the church?
2. What does being the head of the church mean to you?
3. Who are elders?
4. What is the work of the elders?
5. Which congregation is to be overseen by the eldership?
6. What does democracy mean? Is the church a democracy?
 - 1) Why?
 - 2) What problems would there be if the church were a democracy?

"WORSHIP"

LESSON 4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Worship means to "do reverence;" prostrate toward; or to make obeisance toward.
- B. Worship is action, not attitude. It is the case, though, that our attitude must always be right for worship to be right. (I Corinthians 14:15).
- C. Worship is not all action. It is a condition of mind, expressed through certain outward activities.
 - 1. Sing — — Ephesians 5:19
 - 2. Pray — — Acts 2:42
 - 3. Teach — — Ephesians 4:11-16
 - 4. Communion — — Acts 20:7
 - 5. Contribution — — I Corinthians 16:1-2
- D. The worship services are to be attended by every Christian who is physically able to be present. Hebrews 10:25.

DISCUSSION:

I. THREE FORMS OF FALSE WORSHIP

- A. Vain worship (Matthew 15:8-9).
 - 1. This worship is that which is empty.
 - 2. It has no purpose and is void of spiritual substance.
 - 3. Of course, this is not acceptable.
- B. Will worship (Colossians 2:20-23).
 - 1. This is worship directed by the will of men.
 - 2. It is under man's direction.
 - 3. In reality, men are worshiping to the direction of other men. Man guiding man!
- C. Ignorant worship (Acts 17:23).
 - 1. Ignorant worship is rendered without understanding.
 - 2. This worship, though honest and well-intended, is still not acceptable.

II. FOUR ASPECTS OF TRUE WORSHIP

- A. The OBJECT of true worship is God (Matthew 4:10; Revelation 22:8-9).
 - 1. Failure to recognize God in His true character and to render proper homage to Him, plunged the world into moral and spiritual degradation and idolatry (Romans 1:18-32).
 - 2. If we are not very careful, the same will occur today!
 - 3. The nature of God (Acts 17:22-31).
- B. The CHARACTER of true worship. (PROPER SPIRIT).
 - 1. Spiritual worship can only exist when a spiritual relationship exists between the worshipper and God (I Peter 2:5, 9-10; Hebrews 13: 15-16).
 - 2. All Christians are priests.

3. In Christ there is no difference (Galatians 3:26-29; Romans 2:28-29).
- C. The STANDARD of true worship. (TRUTH)
 1. The Word of God is the truth (John 16:13; 17:17). Therefore, all worship that is in the truth must be measured by God's standard (Colossians 3:17).
 2. Under the first covenant all things were cleansed and sanctified by animal blood (Hebrews 9:1-23). Under the second, we are cleansed by the blood of Christ.
 3. From where does worship come? TEACHINGS OF CHRIST
 - 1) Christ has all authority (Matthew 28:18-20).
 - 2) There are five avenues of true worship through which praise and devotion can be offered to God:
 - a. LORD'S SUPPER
 - b. PRAYER
 - c. GIVING
 - d. SINGING
 - e. PREACHING AND TEACHING THE WORD
- D. The PLACE of worship.
 1. The place designated by Jesus. "NEITHER IN THIS MOUNTAIN, NOR YET AT JERUSALEM, WORSHIP THE FATHER" (John 4:20-21).
 2. The church of the first century met in various places; in homes, the temple, and other places.
 3. Wherever the local congregation designates as the meeting place, we MUST be there (Hebrews 10:25). Keep in mind the complete congregation is required to come together (I Corinthians 14:23-26).
 4. Any time we are in these avenues of praise and worship, it must be done in the proper spirit and in truth. This is true whether it is done individually or collectively.

III. THE DISPOSITION OF THE WORSHIPPER

- A. He must be cleansed by the blood of Jesus to offer acceptable worship (Hebrews 9:12).
- B. He must approach God with reverence and Godly fear (Hebrews 12:28-29).
- C. He must have a heart of thanksgiving, joy, and gladness (Hebrews 13:15-16; Psalms 118:23).

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. Worship has been designed and revealed by God's word.
- B. The worship of the New Testament glorifies God because the true worshipper bends his will to the will of God.
- C. True worship brings blessings to the worshipper for he is responding in his spirit to the truth of God.

QUESTIONS FROM LESSON FOUR

1. Define worship?
2. What are the acts of worship?
3. What must be the attitude of the heart?
4. What are the aspects of true worship?
5. What must be the standard and guide for proper worship?
6. Can one properly worship God if he chooses not to assemble with the saints?
7. Must one be a Christian in order to worship God?
 - 1) Why?
 - 2) Is all worship accepted?
 - 3) What would not be acceptable?

"THE LORD'S DAY"

LESSON 5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Meeting on the "first day of the week," as the day of worship, is definitely taught in the New Testament.
- B. The Old Testament worshippers met on the Sabbath day; the 7th day.
- C. In this lesson, we will see that the Bible teaches the ending of Sabbath day worship.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE SABBATH

- A. Why did God command the observance of the Sabbath?
 - 1. Deuteronomy 5:12 — it was given by God after the deliverance of the children of Israel.
 - 2. Deuteronomy 5:15 — it was a memorial to the deliverance.
 - 3. The Sabbath was not observed from Adam to Moses.
 - 4. Men will, today, say, "BUT IS NOT THAT THE DAY GOD RESTED FROM HIS LABORS?" To this we agree — God rested, NOT man! (Genesis 2:3).
- B. Who observed the Sabbath?
 - 1. The nation of Israel (Exodus 31:13-17).
 - 2. It was a sign between God and Israel.
 - 3. Deuteronomy 5:2-3; it was specific — "US HERE AND ALIVE THIS DAY."
- C. When did observing the Sabbath end?
 - 1. Some use Exodus 31:16 to prove that it was to continue.
 - 2. Many things were taught in these passage: burning incense and animal sacrifices (Exodus 30:8; Numbers 28:1-10).
 - 3. All these, and other things, were "perpetual signs" between God and Israel but, when Israel ended, all these ended also (Amos 8:2-11).
 - 4. Jesus taught the fulfillment of Amos' prophecy (Matthew 27:45-46; Luke 23:44-46).
- D. The end of the Sabbath was prophesied (Hosea 2:11).
 - 1. Paul showed its fulfillment in Colossians 2:14-17.
 - 2. A thing fulfilled is of no more value.
- E. The covenant with Israel has ended, including the Ten Commandments (Jeremiah 31:31-34)
 - 1. Fulfillment spoken of in Hebrews 8:6-13, Romans 17, and II Corinthians 3:1-13.
 - 2. Matthew 5 contrasts the law and the gospel (Matthew 5:17-46).
- F. Those who try to live under Christ and keep the Sabbath need to really study the consequences of this effort.
 - 1. Galatians 5:4
 - 2. Galatians 3: 24-25
- G. Who took away the Sabbath?

1. Hebrews 10:9
2. Colossians 2:14
3. Colossians 2:16

II. THE LORD'S DAY (THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK)

- A. The significance of the Lord's day.
 1. Jesus was resurrected on this day.
 - 1) Mark 16:1-9
 - 2) Luke 24: 1, 13, 21, 46
 2. On the first day of the week, Jesus was declared to be the Son of God with power (Romans 1:4).
 3. Jesus met with His apostles on the first day of the week, preparing them for this new day of meeting (John 20:1, 19, 26).
 4. The Holy Spirit was sent on the first day of the week (John 14:16, John 15:26, Acts 2:1-4).
 5. This is the day upon which the church was established.
 - 1) Leviticus 23:15-16 reveals that the Pentecost was always on the first day of the week.
 - 2) Read Acts 2:1 and following verses.
 6. The first gospel sermon was delivered on the first day of the week (Acts 2:22-41).
 7. John called it the "Lord's Day" (Revelation 1:10).
- B. The observance of the Lord's day.
 1. The church assembled on this day (Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1-2).
 2. Meaning of Acts 20:7:
 - 1) It is the first day of the week.
 - 2) Does it mean "every" first day of the week?
 - 3) It means, since no one specific first day was designated, ALL first days.
 3. There are 52 weeks per year, therefore 52 first days are to be observed.
- C. When God gave the command, "REMEMBER THE SABBATH..." which of those Sabbaths could be omitted and not violate the 4th commandment?

III. CONCLUSION

- A. The Sabbath Day was for the Jews only. It was their memorial.
- B. God, through the death of Jesus, took it away.
- C. Psalms 118:22-24.
- D. Do not be deceived. There are not two laws under which you live.

QUESTIONS FROM LESSON FIVE

1. What day is the Lord's day?
2. Why did the Jews observe the seventh day?
3. Under which law was the Sabbath to be observed?
4. Do we still observe the Sabbath?
5. If not, why not?
6. Who took away the Sabbath?
7. What is the importance of the first day of the week?
8. Which of the first days of the week can we choose not to assemble and worship?

"THE LORD'S SUPPER"

LESSON 6

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The fellowship around the Lord's table is intended to unite and draw us closer to God and to each other.
- B. It is an opportunity to express one's meditations to God.
- C. It is a communion in which each individual eats and drinks with the Lord.
- D. The Lord's Supper is a monument to the body and blood of Jesus Christ.
- E. It is given as a means of remembrance of His death for remission of sins.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- A. Instituted by whom?
 - 1. Matthew 26:17-30
 - 2. Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:7-30; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34
- B. Place to be observed.
 - 1. Luke 22:29-30
 - 2. Matthew 26:26-30
 - 3. "IN MY FATHER'S KINGDOM"
- C. Who is to partake?
 - 1. John 3:3-5
 - 2. If it is eaten in the Kingdom, then only citizens of the Kingdom are to eat it!
- D. What did the first century Christians understand concerning the Lord's Supper?
 - 1. Acts 20:7
 - 2. To be taken EVERY first day of the week.
 - 3. To be taken with the saints who were assembled together.
 - 1) Hebrews 10:25
 - 2) It was not to be given at the convenience of those who chose not to be assembled with the saints.
 - 3) It was not to be taken outside the assembly (I Corinthians 11:33-34).

II. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SUPPER

- A. To commemorate our freedom from sin.
 - 1. I Corinthians 11:26
 - 2. Romans 4:25
- B. A memorial raised in memory of Jesus (I Corinthians 11:24).
 - 1. In remembrance of the greatest PERSON.
 - 2. In remembrance of the greatest deed - His sacrifice for me.
- C. It is a proclamation that I believe in Jesus (I Corinthians 11:26).
- D. It is an anticipation - looking forward to the second coming of our Saviour (I Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20). "COME LORD JESUS."
- E. If I absent myself from this memorial, what do I tell others about myself?
 - 1. I proclaim that I do not believe what Jesus teaches.

2. I proclaim to others that there is something more important to me than Jesus!
 3. I cry to the world that I am not "SEEKING THE KINGDOM FIRST" (Matthew 6:33).
- F. It is an examination.
1. I Corinthians 11:27-32
 2. Partake in a worthy manner (I Corinthians 11:27).
 3. Observe it in peace and harmony (I Corinthians 10:17).
 4. Remembering the sacrifice.

III. THE DESIGN OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- A. What must be our attitude toward this part of worship (I Corinthians 11:26-32)?
- B. I Corinthians 11:26 - with anticipation "...TILL I COME."
- C. I Corinthians 11:27 - in a worthy manner.
- D. I Corinthians 11:28 - examining self, not others.
- E. I Corinthians 11:29 - "DISCERNING THE LORD'S BODY"
 1. Remembering Jesus and what he did with His body for us (Isaiah 53:8).
 2. Remembering what we have because He shed His blood.

IV. THE DAY AND THE FREQUENCY OF THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- A. Acts 20:7 — FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK.
- B. There are 52 weeks, therefore, there are 52 FIRST DAYS OF THE WEEK.
- C. Acts 2 — The church was established upon the first day of the week.
- D. The Lord was resurrected upon the first day of the week.
 1. Luke 24:1; Mark 16:1; Matthew 28:1
 2. The Lord's Supper is to be the memorial of His death, burial, and resurrection.
- E. THE FREQUENCY
 1. Every first day of the week! See Acts 20:7.
 2. Remember 52 weeks demands that there are 52 first days of the week per year!

V. THE ELEMENTS

- A. The bread of the Passover was unleavened (Deuteronomy 16:1-8).
- B. The Lord instituted the Lord's Supper on the Feast of the Passover (Matthew 26:26-29).
- C. The unleavened bread properly symbolizes the purity of our Saviour, whom we are remembering. It symbolizes His body.
- D. The fruit of the vine (Matthew 26:29) symbolizes His blood shed for the sins of mankind. The element is to be grape juice. It is NOT to be alcoholic. It is to be the juice of the vine.

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. The Lord's Supper is to be an act of worship. It was seen in Acts 2:42.
- B. Read Hebrews 10:25.
- C. Read I Corinthians 11:20 and I Corinthians 14:26 and see what one misses when he is absent.

QUESTIONS FROM LESSON SIX

1. What are the reasons that we assemble around the Lord's Table?
2. When is the Lord's Supper to be observed?
3. Is there a specific place for the observance? If so, where?
4. What are the emblems to be used?
5. What do these emblems represent?
6. According to I Corinthians 11:26-29, what should be on our minds as we partake?
7. What feast was being observed as our Lord instituted the supper?
8. Is this supper a part of our worship?
9. According to I Corinthians 11:20 and 14:26, what do we miss when we are absent?

"PRAYING"

LESSON 7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. There is a universal tendency to pray.
- B. Praying is something that is depicted in almost every period of history.
- C. Paul, in the book of Acts, recognized the universal disposition to pray and worship.

DISCUSSION:

I. WHAT IS PRAYER?

- A. Prayer is man talking to God. It is an expression made to God. (Romans 10:1).
- B. Parts of a prayer.
 1. Supplication — an earnest plea.
 2. Petition — literally means "wishing towards" — asking God.
 3. Intercession — to ask on behalf of another.
 4. Thanksgiving — giving of thanks (I Timothy 2:1-2).

II. WHOSE PRAYER DOES GOD HEAR?

- A. Only God's children (Matthew 6:9).
- B. The basis of this Father-son relationship is Jesus Christ (John 14:6), established by His blood (Hebrews 2:9-11).
- C. Therefore, God hears only:
 1. The righteous (James 5:16; I Peter 3:12).
 2. The obedient (I John 3:22).
 3. His children who do His will (Matthew 6:9, I John 5:14).

III. PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS

- A. We are to pray in His name (John 14:13-14; 15:16; 16:24, 26).
- B. To ask in Jesus' name is not just a charm tacked to a prayer.
 1. It means I am praying "in Him".
 2. It means I am praying with His endorsement, backed by what He is, and I have a claim to all blessings He produced for us.
 3. Our prayers are not directed (addressed) to Jesus, but to the Father (John 16:23). The emphasis in John 16:23 is to be placed on the word "me." They were not to make known their requests to Him, but to the Father.

IV. MOTIVES IN PRAYING

- A. Not as a hypocrite, but truly and sincerely approaching God.
- B. We must avoid:
 1. Praying to seek men's praises (Matthew 6:5-8).
 2. Vain repetition (Matthew 6:7).
 3. Lengthy prayers of much speaking (Matthew 6:7; I Kings 18:26).
- C. We must:

1. Trust God (Mark 11:23-24; 9:23).
 - 2.. Pray privately (Matthew 6:6).
 3. Be confident (Hebrews 4:16).
- D. Learning to pray.
1. Model prayer, not the Lord's prayer (Matthew 6:9-15).
 2. Prayers are to be specific:
 - 1) Thanksgiving for food (I Timothy 4:3).
 - 2) Pray for the sick (James 5:13-15).
 - 3) Pray at the Lord's Table (I Corinthians 11:23-32).
 - 4) Intercessory prayers (pleading for another) (John 17:20-21, I Timothy 2:1, James 5:16).
- E. Hindrances to our prayers:
1. Praying selfishly (James 4:3).
 2. Being unforgiving (Mark 11:25-26).
 3. Lack of faith (James 1:6-7).
 4. Sin (Isaiah 59:1-2, John 9:31).

V. PERTAINING TO CHRISTIANS PRAYING

- A. Pray all your life (Luke 18:1). Pray persistently (Luke 18:2-8).
- B. "Pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17). Never find yourself in a position where your prayers are hindered (see the section on hindrances above).
- C. Pray for government leaders (I Timothy 2:1-7).
- D. Pray for strength during temptation (Matthew 16:41).
- E. Pray for the saints and for the victory of the word in the lives of those who hear the gospel of Christ (Ephesians 6:18-19, Colossians 4:2-4, II Thessalonians 3:1-2).
- F. When your prayer seems to be unanswered, do not become discouraged. It is just that sometimes the answer is NO! (John 15:7). There are times when our prayers are not for the overall best. The prayer may be contrary to God's will (I John 5:14). It could be that God has something else in store for the one praying.

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. Our prayers are to be directed to God.
- B. They are to be prayed in the name of Christ.
- C. They are to be uttered in faith and understanding.

QUESTIONS FROM LESSON SEVEN

1. What is prayer?
2. What does John 9:31 teach?
3. To whom do we pray (Matthew 6:9)?
4. What part does Jesus have in our prayers?
5. Why do we pray?
6. What does the term "instant in prayer" mean (Romans 12:12)?
7. What does "pray without ceasing" mean (I Thessalonians 5:17)? Does God answer all of our prayers?

"GIVING"

LESSON 8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The area of giving is one of the most neglected areas in our worship.
 - 1. Many rob God for their own pleasures (Malachi 3:8).
 - 2. Others have not learned the true meaning of giving.
- B. We must understand the act of giving God's way.
 - 1. To give for any reason other than God's reason is disobedience (sin).
 - 2. We will not steal, murder, commit adultery, but will sin in not obeying God in our giving.
- C. Giving is to be done by faith.
 - 1. James 2:18-26 shows that Abraham's faith was revealed by his offering.
 - 2. Our giving reveals our faith or lack of it.

DISCUSSION:

I. GOD'S OWNERSHIP OF EVERYTHING IS COMPLETE AND INDISPUTABLE

- A. Heaven and earth are His (Genesis 14:19-20, Deuteronomy 10:14, Psalms 24:1, 89:11). All things belong to Him by virtue of His having created them (Genesis 1:1).
- B. The land is His. The Israelites were stewards of what God had provided (Leviticus 25:23).
- C. Every beast is His (Psalms 50:10-12). The silver and gold are His (Haggai 2:8).
- D. All souls belong to Him (Ezekiel 18:4). By right of purchase, all Christians belong to Him (I Corinthians 6:19-20).

II. ALL OF LIFE IS A STEWARDSHIP

- A. Christians are stewards (Luke 16:1-14).
- B. Requirements for stewards:
 - 1. Must be faithful (I Corinthians 4:1-2), must be good (I Peter 4:10), must not waste the goods (Luke 16:1), must give an account (Romans 14:12).
 - 2. God demands a "first fruit offering" (Leviticus 23:9-14, Matthew 6:33).

III. GIVING IS AN ACT OF WORSHIP...MUTUAL PARTICIPATION

- A. In love (I Peter 1:22, Colossians 2:2).
- B. In suffering (Galatians 6:1-2).
- C. In service (Galatians 2:10, 6:10).
- D. In finance.
 - 1. "Let each of you" (I Corinthians 16:1-2).
 - 2. "According to his ability" (II Corinthians 8:12).
 - 3. "By equality" (II Corinthians 8:13-15). This equality does not mean all the same amount, but each giving to the best of his ability (Matthew 25:14-30).

IV. LOVE IS THE BASIS FOR GIVING

- A. II Corinthians 8:1-5, 8:8-24
- B. One cannot serve God and mammon (Luke 16:13-15, Matthew 6:24).
- C. Giving is the proof of "the sincerity" of our love (II Corinthians 8:8, 24).
- D. Giving is "free will" (II Corinthians 8:12, 9:7).

V. CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW TESTAMENT GIVING

- A. Regularly (I Corinthians 16:1-2).
- B. Personally (Individually) (I Corinthians 16:1-2).
- C. Proportionally ("As God hath prospered") (I Corinthians 16:2).
- D. Purposefully ("No gatherings when I come") (I Corinthians 16:2).
- E. Cheerfully (II Corinthians 9:7).
- F. Readily (II Corinthians 8:12).
- G. Bountifully (II Corinthians 9:6).
- H. Planned (II Corinthians 9:1-2).
- I. Purposed (II Corinthians 9:7).

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. The church is engaged in the greatest mission under heaven.
 - 1. Ephesians 3:10 — teaching and saving souls.
 - 2. Money is absolutely essential in carrying on the work of saving souls (John 13:28-30).
- B. The proper use of money assumes an important place in the Christian's life.
- C. Christians must remember their stewardship.
 - 1. Christians making money must take "thought for things honorable in the sight of all men; and using the money we make must have the glory of God in mind."
 - 2. Let us know for sure that giving is stewardship and that stewardship is exacting.
 - 1) We will be called to give an account (Romans 14:12).
 - 2) We must be found faithful (I Corinthians 4:1-2).

QUESTIONS FROM LESSON EIGHT

1. Giving is to be done by _____.
2. Why do all things belong to God?
3. What is a steward?
4. Why does this stewardship apply to giving?
5. What does "first fruit offering" mean (Leviticus 23:9-14)?
6. Who is to give? How are we to give? How much are we to give?
7. Why are we to give?
8. When are we to give?

"SINGING"

LESSON 9

INTRODUCTION:

- A. No where does the Bible teach that we must have a special voice quality or a voice that is pleasing to the ears of other men. This is not one of the qualifications to sing and please God.
- B. Any Christian singing off key but singing from the heart, with proper spirit and understanding, is more beautiful in the sight of God than all who sing with the wrong attitude or with the wrong words. The off key voice is beautiful to God as long as it is singing in the manner in which He commands.
- C. Sometimes people say, "I can't carry a tune in a bucket." Even if you could, that would not please God because the song must be carried in the heart.
- D. Music can be defined as "an act of expressing ideas or truth by music or sound."
- E. There are three kinds of music:
 - 1. Vocal. From the mouth. It could be whistling, humming, singing, etc.
 - 2. Instrumental. Using some man made device for music making.
 - 3. A combination of vocal and instrumental.
- F. When we carefully examine the New Testament we can see which kind of music is authorized by God.

DISCUSSION:

I. WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACH CONCERNING MUSIC?

- A. Matthew 26:30
- B. Acts 16:25
- C. Romans 15:9
- D. I Corinthians 14:15
- E. Ephesians 5:19
- F. Colossians 3:16
- G. Hebrews 2:12
- H. Hebrews 13:15
- I. James 5:13
- J. Each shows that it is SINGING that God has authorized, not whistling, humming, or other vocal ability.

II. WHAT ABOUT THE INSTRUMENT TO ACCOMPANY SINGING?

- A. Romans 10:17
 - 1. The Christian must "walk by faith." That means he does WHAT THE BIBLE teaches.
 - 2. Where does one get faith?
 - 3. The New Testament does not teach instrumental music; therefore, we cannot be walking by faith if we use instrumental music in worship and instrumental music is not found in the New Testament.

- B. If instrumental music is not found in the New Testament, from where does it come?

III. THE PURPOSE OF SINGING

- A. Colossians 3:16
- B. James 5:13
- C. Ephesians 5:19

IV. BY SINGING THE CHRISTIAN:

- A. Ephesians 5:19
- B. Colossians 3:16
- C. I Corinthians 14:15

V. POSITIVE COMMANDS CONCERNING WHAT WE SING

- A. Ephesians 4:15 — speaking the truth in love.
- B. Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 show that we are to teach truth as we sing.
- C. What kinds of songs?
 1. Psalms
 2. Hymns
 3. Spiritual Songs

VI. THE MANNER IN WHICH WE ARE TO SING

- A. Revelation 22:18-19 — we are not to add or take away from the word of God.
- B. Galatians 1:6-9 — we are not to substitute something else for what God gives.
- C. It violates these principles:
 1. Walking by faith. One is not walking by faith if he adds his own plan (Romans 10:17, II Corinthians 5:7).
 2. Adding makes void God's word (Matthew 15:6-9).
 3. It violates God's specific command to sing.
 4. It violates the law of exclusion.

VII. CONCLUSION

- A. God's people have been authorized to sign praises to Him.
- B. God selected singing as the music to be used. This selection was not man's doing, therefore man cannot "add to or take from," SO LET US FOLLOW THE PLAN FROM GOD AND LEAVE MAN'S WAY ALONE!

QUESTIONS FROM LESSON NINE

1. What are the ways we can make music?
2. The New Testament teaches that we are to use a specific kind of vocal. Which?
3. Is just any kind of music acceptable? Why?
4. What does the Bible authorize in the area of music for worship?
5. Why is the instrument not authorized?
6. What is to be accomplished by singing?
7. Does it matter what kinds of songs we use in worship? What kinds are to be used?
8. Why is the instrument used in so called "worship?"

"THE CHRISTIAN LIFE"

LESSON 10

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Christian system is made up of DOCTRINE and PRACTICE.
 - 1. Doctrine is what is taught, learned, and believed.
 - 2. The application of the doctrine to one's own life is the practice of that doctrine.
- B. The application of the doctrine leads one to the blessings given by God. In the Christian's life, there is nothing more important than obeying God's commandments.
- C. Everyone who believes the doctrine and obeys its instructions begins enjoying the worship relationship and grows more and more into the likeness of Christ and on into perfection (Hebrews 6:1-9).

DISCUSSION:

I. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS ONE OF FAITH AND TRUST

- A. I Timothy 4:10, 6:17
- B. The Christian is justified by faith (Romans 5:1-2).
- C. The Christian walks by faith (II Corinthians 5:7, Hebrews 10:37-39).
- D. The Christian is guarded because of his faith (I Peter 1:5).
- E. The Christian receives the end of his faith: the salvation of his soul (I Peter 1:9)

II. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A LIFE OF BLESSINGS AND PRIVILEGES

- A. The blessing of sonship (I John 3:1-3).
- B. The blessing of heirship (Romans 8:14-17, Galatians 4:4-7).
- C. The privilege of praying (Matthew 6:9, 7:7-12, Philippians 4:4-7, I Thessalonians 5:16-18, I Peter 3:12). ONLY CHRISTIANS CAN CALL GOD THEIR FATHER!
- D. The blessing of the assurance of God's continual presence and care (I Peter 5:7).
- E. The blessing of calmness that enables one to face life with confidence (Hebrews 13:5-6, James 4:7-8).

III. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A LIFE OF HOLINESS AND RIGHT CONDUCT

- A. The Christian is an imitator of God (Ephesians 5:1-2).
- B. The Christian is following Christ's footsteps (John 8:12; I Peter 2:2).
- C. The Christian has his standards set.
 - 1. Matthew 5:48: "BE YE PERFECT EVEN AS YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN IS PERFECT."
 - 2. I Peter 1:15: "BE YE HOLY, EVEN AS I AM HOLY."
 - 3. I John 3:3: "PURIFY YOURSELF, EVEN AS HE IS PURE."
- D. The Christian is set apart as a vessel to God's honor (I Corinthians 1:1-2, Hebrews 12:14, Ephesians 5:22-28).
- E. The Christian's body is the temple of Deity (I Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19-20).

IV. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A LIFE OF CRUCIFYING THE FLESH IN ORDER TO FOLLOW AFTER THE SPIRIT

- A. They become new creatures (II Corinthians 5:17).
- B. They have put away the old man and have put on Christ (Romans 6:3-7, Galatians 3:26-27, Colossians 1:26-27).
- C. In giving one's self to Christ, Christ then dwells in him by faith (Ephesians 3:14-20, Colossians 1:26-27).

V. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A LIFE IN WHICH JESUS EXPECTS A COMPLETE CHANGE OF HEART

- A. Jesus goes beyond the deed to the motive that causes the deed to be done.
 - 1. Matthew 5:21-26 — killing is forbidden, but so is anger!
 - 2. Matthew 5:27-30 — adultery is forbidden, but so is lust!
 - 3. Matthew 5:43-48 — just loving friends is expanded to also loving our enemies!
 - 4. Matthew 7:21-27 — just hearing is not enough, one must DO!
- B. The above is just an example. In everything Jesus seeks conduct that comes forth from a change of heart (Matthew 12:33-36, 15:7-9, 15:18-20).

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. The development of the Christian is an on-going process.
- B. It is a growing process.
- C. Christian living is practical. It is best. It is a life of love, kindness, and a forgiving spirit. It is a life without grudges and without ungodly anger.
- D. The beauty of the Christian life is that it is the only life that will prepare one for eternity in heaven (Hebrews 6:19-20).

QUESTIONS FROM LESSON TEN

1. Of what two things is the Christian life composed?
2. Explain these two things?
3. What is more important than obedience (I Samuel 15:22)?
4. What did Paul mean when he spoke of becoming a "new creature" (II Corinthians 5:17)?
5. To live the Christian life, what is to happen to one's heart?
6. Explain Galatians 2:20?
7. How can we be holy?