

# **Bedrock Anchors**

*A Study of the Christian Life*

## The Word of God Revealed to Man

### Vocabulary:

**Testament** = a covenant or agreement between God and man.

**Canon** = a body of rules, principals and standards universally binding.



### *How did the Bible become the Word of God?*

When we say the Bible is 'inspired' of God we mean that it has been God-breathed. In other words, God has written His word through different writers, but it is still His Word. It is written by many individuals over many thousands of years, yet it is God's Word because He planned it, breathed into it and says it is His in many places (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:15-17, 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:21).

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### *How is the Bible constructed?*

There are 66 books in the Bible. The word 'Bible' means 'book of books'. 39 of these books are what we call the Old **Testament** and the other 27 are known as the New Testament.

- What distinguishes the New Testament from the Old Testament?
- Which is more important, the Old or the New Testament?

Every Christian Bible is either a complete Bible, which includes the Old and the New Testament or just the New. This is called the '**canon**' of Scripture.

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### *How did the Bible become what we now have?*

The Old Testament was originally written in the Hebrew or Aramaic language. The New Testament was written in Greek. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, King James of England decreed that the Old and New Testaments would both be translated into English. This English version of the Bible is called the 'King James' version. Since then many other English translations have come to us. Below is an example of Psalm 23:1-2 in several different English translations...

King James Version	New King James	Contemporary English	New Living Translation
The LORD <i>is</i> my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures he leadeth me beside the still waters.	The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.	You, Lord, are my shepherd. I will never be in need. You let me rest in fields of green grass. You lead me to streams of peaceful water,	Because the Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need! He lets me rest in the meadow grass and leads me beside the quiet streams.

### *What is the difference between versions, study systems and commentaries?*

A Translation is a version of the Hebrew and Greek text of the Bible in another language.

A Study System is someone's notes and references Bible that will make studying the Bible easier.

A Commentary is someone's opinion of what the Bible means.

*How and why should I study the Bible?*

Study it to know the truth. \_\_\_\_\_

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Study it to know yourself. \_\_\_\_\_

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Study it to know your God. \_\_\_\_\_

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The Bible is like no other book in existence. It has stood the test of time and, though man has tried to eradicate it from the face of the earth, God has made sure it has prevailed. Reading the Bible is not optional. You will need to find a version you can understand and make time each day to read it. You should also get involved in Bible study with others. If a portion of the Bible is difficult for you to understand, don't get frustrated, pray. If you ask God to reveal Scripture to you, He will.

Conclusive thoughts

Bible study should be done with someone else. It is always good to hear what things mean from another person's perspective. Along with daily Bible study, you should spend time reading it all the way through. Most people can read the Bible through in a year, and tapes are available if you have poor eyesight or cannot read. It is also good just to meditate on God's Word. Whatever routine of action you decide to take to learn this book, do it with all your heart and do it no matter what.

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**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT:**

Look up the following verses and write your opinion of what they mean below or be prepared to tell us in the next class.

Romans 10:8-15

John 16:13-16

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# The One True God, Our Savior and His Resurrection



Vocabulary:

- Trinity =** the union of three person into one Godhead.
- Reconciliation =** to cause to be at peace again.
- Supernatural =** above or beyond that which is explainable.
- Deity =** of divine nature or character; the rank of God.
- Advocate =** a person who speaks or writes in support of another.
- Resurrection =** Rebuilt from the ground up of something once destroyed

*Who does God proclaim Himself to be?*

No where in the Bible does it argue the existence of God. From the very beginning (Genesis 1:1) the authors of the Bible assume the belief in One true God. Many people have spent considerable time trying to prove that He does or does not exist. But, what does God say about Himself?

God has taken on personal names that speak of His character (Exodus 3:13-15, Psalms 68:4 and 19,000 other times in Scripture).

Look at John 1:1. What does it say about God? \_\_\_\_\_

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Look at Romans 15:5. What does this say about His character? \_\_\_\_\_

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Look at Exodus 3:13-14. What does this say about God's desire? \_\_\_\_\_

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*What or Who is the **Trinity** and why is that important to me?*

Look at the following verses; note what you see (Genesis 1:26, Matthew 3:16-17, John 16:7-15)

*How is the God of the Christian Bible different from other supposed gods?*

The God of the Bible is a God of love... in fact, He is love! (1<sup>st</sup> John 4:15-16) While other supposed gods seek vengeance and seem to punish their followers indiscriminately, the Biblical God seeks reconciliation and healing for His own. In fact He calls his followers His children (1<sup>st</sup> John 3:1). Another fact that separates our belief in God from other religions is that He came to earth as a mortal and died for us, then ascended into heaven and will one day return for us. No other so-called deity claims that purpose or plan.

In what personal way has God revealed Himself to you? \_\_\_\_\_

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*What is God's plan for the Christian?* (Mark 12:30-31) \_\_\_\_\_

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*Who is Jesus Christ?*

Jesus was born of a virgin who had never been with a man. It was a **supernatural** conception. Mary gave birth to her first born son and called Him Jesus. Jesus was Jewish by birth, born to a Jewish woman. Jesus was born in Bethlehem around 5 AD and moved to Nazareth to grow up. His ministry actually began when He was about 30 years old and he was crucified at the age of 33.



Not only is Jesus fully God, he is also fully human. Jesus is not part God and part man or half and half. He is 100% God and 100% man. This makes Him unique in human history. The Bible never argues His humanity, but takes the fact for granted. Jesus became hungry, thirsty and tired (see Mark 2:15 and John 4:6) He suffered anxiety and disappointment (Mark 9:19). Jesus suffered physical and mental pain and finally died (Mark 14:33, 37 and 15:33-38).

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. John 1:18 expresses His **deity**, or, Godly office, in a very explicit way (read). The opening verse of the Book of John identifies Him as the Word of God and as being in the 'beginning' with God. It further states "the Word was God", proclaiming Jesus as God. Jesus Himself acknowledged His deity. He made Himself equal with the Father (John 14:9). He received worship from people (Matthew 2:2, 11; 14:33; 28:9) and forgave sins (Mark 2:1-12) which only God can do.

When we say Jesus is our LORD, what do we mean? (Philippians 2:9-11) \_\_\_\_\_

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*What has He come to do for mankind?*

Jesus has come to save us. He has come to give us eternal life and pay a price He did not owe.

When we say Jesus is our SAVIOR, what do we mean? (Ephesians 2:8-10) \_\_\_\_\_

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*What is the difference in His role before the cross and after it?*

What does 'resurrection' mean and how does that pertain to Jesus? (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:12-20 with 15:50-58) \_\_\_\_\_

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What are some ways Jesus showed Himself to be God while on earth? \_\_\_\_\_

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What are some evidences of Jesus' bodily resurrection? \_\_\_\_\_

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We as Christians receive several benefits from Christ by our relationship to Him. The Lord Jesus Christ has ascended to God the Father and is seated at the right hand of His throne in heaven. He has become our intercessor for our needs and desires. He has also become our friend and our **advocate** in glory (Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25, 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:1). We have the absolute assurance that "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9).

Even though the Lord is separate from us physically right now, we can still enjoy genuine union with Him through the work of the Holy Spirit who was given to us to take the things of Christ and apply them to our hearts. We can say that our Lord and Savior is both human and God both in fact and by nature.

*Why can Jesus understand all our temptations and weaknesses so well?* (Hebrews 4:15)

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*How is Jesus' life a substitute for our own?* (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:21) \_\_\_\_\_

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*What is the 'resurrection'?*

The word 'resurrection' literally means to rebuild from the ground up. Until Jesus Christ came the whole human race was held in slavery by the fear of death (Hebrews 2:14-15). But Jesus, by His death, defeated the devil and death. He was raised from the dead for our justification (Romans 4:25). A central theme of the Christian hope is the resurrection of our body. Christ's resurrection is the guarantee of ours. One of the greatest encouragements is found in the words of Jesus Himself in John 14:19... "Because I live, you will also live."



*Who will be resurrected? Who has already been resurrected?*

There are two different kinds of resurrections mentioned in the Bible. One is of the righteous (those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior) to life eternal. The other will be a resurrection of the wicked (those who haven't accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior) to eternal damnation in hell (See John 5:28-29, Revelation 20:4-6 and 20:11-15)

What stories have you been told about what happens to us when we die? \_\_\_\_\_

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Jesus Christ was the first fruits of resurrection when He rose from the dead on that Easter Sunday morning (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:20-34). Shortly after His resurrection, others rose from the dead and were seen by men in Judea (Matthew 27:53). Soon, those who have died as Christian since the days of Christ's resurrection will be raised again in the rapture (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:23, 15:1-58 and 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:14-17) 'Rapture' is a Greek word that means caught up.

From the verses noted above, will all people have to die to be resurrected? \_\_\_\_\_

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The resurrection of the body is true for all, believers and non-believers. Saved and unsaved will be immortal... the only difference is that one group will live eternally with God in heaven and the other group will die eternally separated from God in hell.

*Why is this a blessing for me to hope for?*

We are constantly dying in this body from the time we are born. Our bodies are not eternal because of sin. Sin has corrupted the life God has given us. If we have only this life to hope for, we should be miserable (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:19). Knowing that this is only a small part of life is a hope that can get you through tough times.

When has this hope helped you? \_\_\_\_\_

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*How and when will this happen?*

Paul tells us that the method of resurrection is somewhat of a mystery. Obviously, some have died and their bodies have dissolved or been eaten by wild animals or have been burned. Others bodies have simply decayed over eons of time. How will God be able to reassemble something that is scattered to the four winds? Because He is God.

The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ was for our hope. Death couldn't hold God in the grave. It has no power over Him. But our association with Christ as His Body enables us and privileges us with hope for the same. We will have a new body and a new, eternal life. The day will come when we hear the trumpet blast from God and we will be changed in the twinkling of an eye. Let that give you hope!

Conclusive thought

The sum of the matter is that God is the all existent One and no proof of Him is necessary. Everything **is** proof of His existence. What He has promised to do, He will do. And the resurrection is one of the promises we who know Him as Savior have.

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT:**

Look up the following verses and write your opinion of what they mean below or be prepared to tell us in the next class.

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:11-15

Romans 6:4-9

Psalms 16:10

1<sup>st</sup> John 5:7-8

Daniel 7:9-14

Matthew 3:16-17

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## The Growing Relationship and the Need for Worship

### Vocabulary:

<b>Vigilantly =</b>	alert, watchful to avoid danger
<b>Prayer =</b>	an earnest request of God
<b>Meditate =</b>	mental exercise for reaching a higher level
<b>Audible =</b>	capable of being heard
<b>Transformed =</b>	the changing from one thing into another
<b>Idol =</b>	something other than God that is worshipped



### *What is a right relationship with God?*

A relationship is necessary to know God and know what He requires of you. He already knows you, even better than you do. Your relationship with Him which you began when you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior needs to grow further than salvation. God wants a relationship with us, a right one. And, He has given us clear instruction in His Word on how we can develop and maintain that relationship.

### *How can I have a relationship with a person I cannot see?*

Colossians 4:2 speaks of praying vigilantly. The first mention of prayer in the Bible is in Genesis chapter 20:7. This communication with God is repeatedly mentioned throughout the Old and New Testaments. Prayer is our primary method to be used that will allow our relationship with God to grow.

What do the following verses tell you about prayer?

Psalm 5:2  
Matthew 5:44, 6:5

Psalm 119:76  
2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 13:7

Zechariah 8:21-22  
1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:17

Prayer is a conversation of faith, in other words, you are speaking to someone which you cannot see. Think of it as speaking to another person on the phone when the receiving part of the phone doesn't work. God will speak to you. He is God and can use any method He wishes. God seldom speaks in an audible voice. As you pray, be alert to His leading and answer. Talking to a person is one of the best ways to develop a relationship with them. God is no different.

Reading and meditating in God's Word is another way we can draw close to Him. He lives in His Word (see Psalms 119:49 – 50). It is His instruction on earth (see Lesson on The Word of God). And since God Himself proclaims Himself as unchangeable (Hebrews 13:8), we know that the God we learn of in His Word, irregardless of the age of that word, is exactly the same.

### *Why do I need to develop this relationship?*

(Read Matthew 7:22-23) Knowing God is essential to a growing relationship with Him. He simply will not allow you to stand still with Him, if you think you are, you are probably sliding slowly away from Him. Hebrews 4:16 tells us that there is great privilege in knowing Him well. You need this. God will become the Friend who never leaves your side, the confidant in the dark times and your sword and shield in perilous times. When has prayer or reading of God's Word been just what you needed to get through a tough time?

*Why does God want this relationship with me and why should I want it?*

Read 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:7-16. Look at the imagery here! God loves us! That is the reason He wishes this type of intimate and close contact with us. He is the One seeking us. His plan for the universe is wrapped up in His love for you and me. The Bible says to pray often, continuously, and consistently. It says to pray without ceasing, reverently and whole-hearted. It says to meditate on God's Holy Word day and night. Can we do any less?

*What is worship and why do we need it?*

As we all come to an Almighty and merciful God, we should come worshipping Him. Worship of God is acknowledgement of whom He is and who you are. He is God, you are not. (Read John 4:19-24) Worship begins in your heart and puts God in His rightful place as Creator and you as creation. For those called Christian, worship is not optional. It is by faith we first come to God and accept Jesus and believe. It is also by faith that we worship. God has commanded that we make no image of Him or of anything in heaven (Exodus 20:4-6).



Go to John 20:28. What does this mean to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Go to Luke 19:40. What do these verses mean to you? \_\_\_\_\_

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True worship of God is a surrender of my will. It is giving over our own desires to God. It is your hands lifted in surrender to Him saying, 'not my will, but Yours be done'. Worshipping God Almighty produces a transformed life.

*Why do others worship differently and how should I worship?*

In the verses in John chapter 4, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman true worshippers worship God in spirit and in truth. What does that mean to you?

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True worship isn't bound by location. In Deuteronomy chapter 12 God tells the Israelites that He will choose a place for His dwelling place and it is there they are to worship Him. Jerusalem was that place. Yet, the Samaritan women knew enough about history to know God was also worshipped on Mount Gerizim in Samaria. She knew God is everywhere.

*What is the difference between 'worship' and 'praise'?* \_\_\_\_\_

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Is there any 'wrong' way to worship God? What would be an incorrect way to worship God?

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To worship God you have to be in His presence. You must be at His feet in humility and submission. Look at John 14:21. If this is true (and we know it is), then God is where we are... all the time! You can worship God anywhere you are.

*Will worship of God ever end?*

(Read Revelation 4:8) \_\_\_\_\_

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*Why is God worthy of our worship?*

Read the following verses and discuss what they mean to you as a Christian...

Psalms 37:4 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 18:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 1:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 3:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Conclusive Thoughts

God is searching for those who will abandon their **idols** and come to Him in true worship that will please Him. Worship is a vital part of your walk with Christ. Seek His joy in your heart by giving yourself over to Him in worship today. Worship is a thirsty land crying out for rain, a candle in the act of being kindled, a drop in quest of the ocean and a voice crying out in the night for help. So many times we forget that it is He who commands our heart to beat, our lungs to breathe. It is God who placed the sun in its place and the earth into its orbit at just the right distance away, all to create a place where He can show Himself as God and develop a relationship with His creation.

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT:**

Philippians 2:9-11

Luke 11:9 and 18:1

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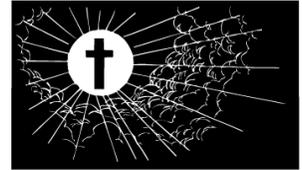
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## The Nature of Man and the Commandment to Man

### Vocabulary:

- Spiritual** = of or pertaining to sacred matters  
**Parable** = a story that has spiritual meaning  
**Rebellion** = coming against authority  
**Mandate** = an order or command



### *What is sin?*

Man was created to do good and live in an upright manner. That was God's original plan and design. God said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness..." (Genesis 1:26). But man fell away from this plan by his own action. Read the story in Genesis 3:1-19.

Did Eve quote God correctly? Why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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Was the sin in the tree, the fruit or some other place? \_\_\_\_\_

See Romans 5:12-19

### *What and where is hell?*

When man disobeyed God in the garden, God said he would surely die. God took eternal life from mankind when man sinned and that is why the body dies. Those in sin have already died spiritually and one day, if they don't change, they will die physically and go to a place called hell. Hell is spoken of in many places (Matthew 5:22 and 29, 10:28, 18:9, Luke 12:5). A descriptive story about this terrible place is in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31. Read this and discuss it at this time. The Bible tells us that hell is below us (Isaiah 14:9)

### *Why do I need to avoid sin and how do I prevent it?*

God has His law set up to punish all those who disobey His Word. You can sin by doing what God has commanded not to do, such as lie. You can also sin by not doing what God has said to do, such as praying. Either way, you earn a wage when you sin, death (Romans 6:23). Little by little you die to God when you continually sin.

Read 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 6:14

### *Who is behind the sin in the world?*

Look at 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:5, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:14 and 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 2:18. How does Satan gain control over our will?

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### *Will sin ever be put down?*

One day, it is in the plan of God Himself to put sin and rebellion away forever. His plans are for a world free of death and pain and suffering. Just read of it in the last few chapters of the Book of Revelation. For now however, we must all deal with it on a daily basis.

Read Revelation 20:7-15 and discuss.

The Bible is the best source of what sin is and how sin is avoided. Look up and read the following verses and state what you think they say.

1<sup>st</sup> John 3:4 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 4:15 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 3:20 and 7:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 12:36-37 \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 15:23 \_\_\_\_\_

The church is to teach and reach others for Jesus Christ. We are to turn from sin and a sinful lifestyle and show others how.

*Who is responsible for discipleship?*

Jesus Christ left us with a job to do. It is a calling; the purpose for the church on earth. Two mandates exist for us to fulfill. A mandate is not something we discuss as to whether we will do it. If we cannot follow Christ's mandates, we cannot call ourselves believers. The first mandate is the Great Commission and the second, the Great Commandment. Each one of these speaks to our purpose in life, leading and growing. Look at 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:12, Ephesians 4:11-13, and Colossians 1:28-29. What do these verses say about our part?

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*Is it the minister's job to do things to make the church grow?*

No where in the Bible does it say that the responsibility for the growth of the church lies in us. God is the one who gives the increase. But, the Word of God is plain on what our part includes. We function as part of the Body of Christ when we do the things God calls on us to do. As such, we are all ministers.

Read Matthew 28:19-20. Who is this Great Commission given to? What is your part?

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Now Read Matthew 22:36-40. How can you show this kind of love to God? How about to others?

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*What is 'evangelism' and 'discipleship'?*

We **evangelize** when we witness to those who do not know who Jesus is and have never accepted Him as Savior. Some may say they don't know enough about the Bible to witness to unbelievers. What experience have you had with Jesus since you were saved? What does your relationship with Jesus mean to you?

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We all have a story to tell because Jesus meets us right where we are and so we all experience Him personally. Your story is all you need to witness to others of the love and forgiveness and mercy of God. You are a walking testimony.

We **disciple** when we bring new believers along side so that they can grow in Christ. This class is a way that RockSolid Ministries is discipling you, bringing you along side to learn about your faith and help you in your walk with Jesus.

*What is the principal of duplication?*

Read 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:6-9. What does the Bible say about who others are to follow?

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Duplication is the process of building yourself into others. It is the highest calling of any follower of Christ. In this, we all are called.

We are kept accountable when we know others are looking to us as examples. God has used this process of growth since the days of the twelve. Look how it has grown!

Conclusive Thoughts

When we accept the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into our hearts the old man of sin dies. All of your past transgressions are removed from the presence of God. To him, the old person you were has died and no longer exists. As we grow in Christ, a new nature takes over that seeks to do what is right and good... just like God intended in the first place. We are all Jesus Christ's ambassadors on earth and His representatives. When those in the darkness need to see the light, God wants us to be the lamps through which the light can shine. See yourself as a very vital part of God's plan to evangelize and disciple the world.

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT:**

Look up the following verses and write your opinion of what they mean below or be prepared to tell us in the next class.

James 2:14-26

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:21-28

Romans 8:1-13

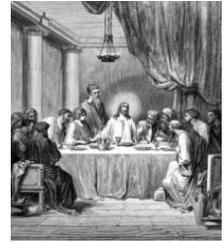
What sin do you need to 'put off' this week? (Ephesians 2:1-3)

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## The Purpose of the Church and Stewardship

### Vocabulary:

**Congregation =** an assembly of people brought together to worship God  
**Admonition =** stern encouragement to improve



### *When did the church begin?*

The Church came into existence when Christ left the earth after His death and resurrection. The word translated into 'church' in our Bible means an 'organism'. The church is a living thing. The church of today is the Body of Jesus Himself, functioning as His Hands and Feet, doing His work. Each believer is a vital part of His body on earth (Hebrews 12:23 and Ephesians 1:22-23 and 2:22)

We have to understand that there is a dual thought to what church is. It is the Body of Christ on this earth and as such, all Christians everywhere make up the Church. But, it is also the local congregation that you make yourself part of. The Christian New Testament church began shortly after Jesus Christ ascended into heaven. They shared all things together (Read Acts 4:32-37).

### *Is it necessary to go to church?*

God's Word, the Bible, doesn't command us to go to church. It isn't 'sinful' to avoid it. However, numerous examples of Christian brothers and sisters coming together for fellowship and worship fill the pages of history. The Bible isn't mute on the subject. Look at Hebrews 10:23-25 and discuss what these verses mean to you...

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### *What are the different parts of the service for?*

**The local church is a place set aside for the worship of God.** This is not to say that it is the only place to worship God. God is everywhere. But, the church is set aside for that purpose.

Read Luke 24:50-53. What does this tell you about the church? \_\_\_\_\_

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It is not that God isn't pleased with your worship of Him in other places... it's that He expects it in church. The local church is also a place set aside for the Glory of God. This power is life-changing. Every task, each ministry and all prayers in the church should bring Glory to God.

Read Isaiah 6:1-4. What do you see as characteristics of the Glory of God from these verses?

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**The local church is also set aside for the preaching of the Word of God.** We all come to God through hearing the Word (Romans 10:14-17). The message on Sunday doesn't just happen. It is a gift from God to you, individually. The church isn't the only place to get the Word of God. But, it is set aside for that purpose. Along with hearing it, the church is a place for you to practice what you have heard. Simply believing won't get you to heaven. Why is that? Read James 2:14-17 and discuss the answer.

*How can I get involved in the church?*

There are many ways you can have a part in God’s ministry in a local church, such as RockSolid Ministries. God isn’t necessarily looking for talented people, or gifted people. He is only looking for willing people... obedient people. First you must get you life right with God thorough a relationship with Jesus Christ. If you haven’t done that yet, stay after this class and the teacher will help you. The next step is membership in the church. If you need information on this, ask for a membership packet. Then, it is just a matter of asking if you can help. Your availability will determine the depth of your involvement. There is something for everyone to do.

*What’s in it for me?*

Folks who avoid making the local church part of their family miss out on much. There is strength in numbers and when the storms hit it is comforting to know there are brothers and sisters around you praying for you. Learning from God’s Word in a group setting enhances the experience. All have something useful to share. And, giving of yourself is an excellent way to stay humble and in God’s Will. You simply cannot loose!

*What is stewardship and what does the Bible say about it?*

Stewardship is the proper use of what is given to your care by one of authority. God has given us many things on this earth and He expects us to use these things correctly. We are to raise our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. We should always use the resources of our God rightly. Our increase is also to be used correctly. God requires us to give back 10% of our increase to Him. This 10% is what is called a ‘tithe’. We give our tithe to our local church. All other giving is considered an ‘offering’ to God. Offerings receive special favor from God. Read Matthew 25:14-30. What does this story tell you about right and wrong stewardship from God’s perspective?

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*What is ‘tithing’ and who should practice it?*

Read Genesis 14:17 – 20. What do these verses tell us about tithing?

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*What are the blessings of tithing?*

Malachi 3:8 –12 has some interesting points concerning tithing. Why do you think God sees our objecting to tithing as ‘robbing God’?

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When it comes to faithful giving to God, who is the pressure on to do as it is said? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the things of your increase on this earth which you should give 10% to?

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*What are the blessings of being a good steward of all God gives us?*

Our time here on this earth is not really ours to spend. God gives each heartbeat and each breath we take. We should not take God for granted. Neglecting to give to Him the small amount He requires is not much to give up.

*When should I begin this practice?*

Financial tithing is not dependant on a certain level of income. If you have \$10, give \$1... if you have \$1000 give \$100... it's that simple. This principal works and you can ask anyone who has tithed for a length of time, they will tell you. You should begin this now so God can bless you as He has promised. You should also give Him 10% of your time... that's about 2½ hours each day. This can be in the form of some sort of service to the needy, Bible reading and meditation or prayer. Spending time with God is very pleasing to Him and useful for you.

Conclusive Thoughts

Church is another tool God gives you that brings growth. Get into it and stay there. You will not regret it. Stewardship is realizing that God, who provides us with all we need in life, deserves the best and the first of all He increases us with. The fact that He only asks for 10% of it shows His grace and mercy. He deserves it all. But, God challenges us in Scripture where He says "try Me now in this". Your church is dependant on your obedience to God in this matter to grow and to continue to produce the programs and services that God has placed as vision in the heart of the leadership. Come.... Be blessed!

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT:**

Look up the following verses and write your opinion of what they mean below or be prepared to tell us in the next class.

Ephesians 2:20-22  
2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:7

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians Chapter 11 through 14  
Matthew 6:3-4

1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 29:3

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Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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## The Baptism of Believers

Vocabulary:

**Baptism =** to dunk or submerge  
**Immersion =** to plunge or place under a liquid  
**Accountable =** answerable or responsible; obligated to explain



*What does the word 'baptism' mean?*

Baptize or °Baptism comes from a Greek (the language the English version of the New Testament was translated from) word '**baptizo**' which means to dip or immerse. When Jesus was baptized He 'came up out of the water' (Mark 1:10). To be baptized you must have someone to do the baptism, an element to be baptized or dipped into, and someone to be baptized.

Look at Matthew 28:19. What does Jesus say about how we are to baptize? \_\_\_\_\_

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*What are the three types of baptism?*

- 1. There is the Baptism into the Body of Christ**  
 (Romans 6:4 and 12:4-5, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:17 and 12:13, Galatians 3:27)

What is the element the believer is baptized into? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the 'Baptizer'? \_\_\_\_\_

- 2. There is the Baptism in Water**  
 (Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:13-17, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:21)

Element? \_\_\_\_\_

Baptizer? \_\_\_\_\_

- 3. There is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit**  
 (Joel 2:28-29, Luke 3:16-22, Acts 1:4-8 and 2:1-4)

Element? \_\_\_\_\_

Baptizer? \_\_\_\_\_

*Why do I need to be baptized?*

Baptism into the Body of Christ is a requirement of salvation (Galatians 3:26-27). Baptism in water is in our following Christ Who Himself was baptized in water (Luke 3:21-22). Baptism in the Holy Spirit is essential for receiving power from God (Luke 24:49, John 14:12-17). The water baptism is meaningless unless the °immersion or baptism into the Body of Christ first takes place. The Holy Spirit baptism is impossible without the baptism into the Body of Christ. Both water and Holy Spirit baptisms are dependant on being saved first.

Have you experienced any of these and will you share those experiences with us? \_\_\_\_\_

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*How and when should I get baptized?*

Coming to Jesus to be saved is something you must do to go to heaven or escape hell (See lesson on The Nature of Man). God is patient and long-suffering (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:9) and waits for us, but the time will come when no more time is given.

Being baptized in water at your church is a powerful witness of what you have done with your life by accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior. It is also useful as a tool of accountability. How do you think being baptized in water would make you °accountable?

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The Baptism in the Holy Spirit gives you power for living a fruitful life (Acts 1:8). What do you know about this baptism and what do you have questions about?

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Conclusive Thoughts

Baptism begins as an act of obedience when we come to Christ and continues in that obedience when we ask to be baptized in water at church. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is also an act of obedience on our part as we grow in our relationship with Jesus and desire to do more for Him.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT:**

Look up the following verses and write your opinion of what they mean below or be prepared to tell us in the next class.

2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:15-17

John 9:7-15

Isaiah 28:9-12

## The End of Time

### Vocabulary:

**Immortal** = that which lasts forever; never wears out

**Revelation** = to expose that which previously was hidden



*What is in store for Christians in the future?*

The Bible has a lot to say about what is in store for this world. Many changes will take place and Jesus tells us that we are in the final days before His return to earth. (Read *Matthew 24:3-42*) Those who accept Jesus as Lord and Savior will inherit eternal life (*Matthew 19:29*), feast at a special meal in heaven (*Revelation 19:9*), go home to a place prepared just for them (*John 14:2-3*) and be blessed with many more things in the life to come. The Bible says eye has not seen nor ear heard the things God has prepared for those who love Him (*1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:9*).

*How will the next life be different from this one?*

Look at *Revelation 7:16-17*. What are some of the things you are familiar with in this life that won't exist in the next?

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Every moment on this earth we are all dying. Our bodies are subject to the sin in the world which kills it. But God will give us a new body in heaven, an indestructible and immortal body. What does the follow verses tell you about that transformation?

*1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:51-57*

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*What is in store for those who don't know Jesus?*

Those who won't accept Jesus will have to face judgment by God for deeds done here (*Revelation 20:11-12*) and will be cast into eternal separation and torment forever (*Revelation 20:13-15*). One of the purposes of the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross was to save us from hell. Those who have not accepted Him **will not** have another chance in the next life. Death is the final chapter of choice. Eternal separation from God, eternal suffering and torment, flames and darkness await all who reject Christ. Why do you think people wait before they accept Jesus when they know bad things are promised to those who don't?

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*What is 'prophecy' and why is it important to me?*

A prophet was often called a "seer" or a "beholder". "Seer" is translated from the Hebrew word "CHARAH" which can also mean glowing because of heat or because of fire. This is a fitting description for this person. A Seer is not so much an observer of future events as a discerner of God's Will as it applied to coming events. Prophecy is the telling of the coming of the Will of God. It can be in the form of a warning, which it usually is, or in the form of a parallel to a story or act performed by the prophet. Prophecies are normally not positive in content. God sent prophets to warn the people of the coming judgment because of sin. Prophecies almost always concern judgment (Read Jeremiah 6:19 and 6:27-30)

*How do I understand prophetic things?*

The key to understanding prophecy or end-time events is to look at how God has fulfilled them in the past. Compare just a few of the prophecies about Jesus with the literal fulfillment listed below:

- ♥ Compare Micah 5:2, Daniel 9:25 and Isaiah 7:14 **with** Matthew 2:1, Luke 2:4-7 and 2:14-15
- ♥ Compare Psalms 41:9 **with** Mark 14:10
- ♥ Compare Psalms 27:12 **with** Matthew 26:60-61
- ♥ Compare Isaiah 53:7 **with** Matthew 26:62-63

Conclusive Thoughts

We can see from these that God always fulfilled prophecies about His Son literally or, exactly as they were written and understood. We use this as a key to how it is to be understood everywhere else.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT:**

Look up the following verses and write your opinion of what they mean below or be prepared to tell us in the next class.

John 14:1-3                      Zechariah 14:1-11                      Joel 1:15, 2:1-2                      Zephaniah 1:14-15

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