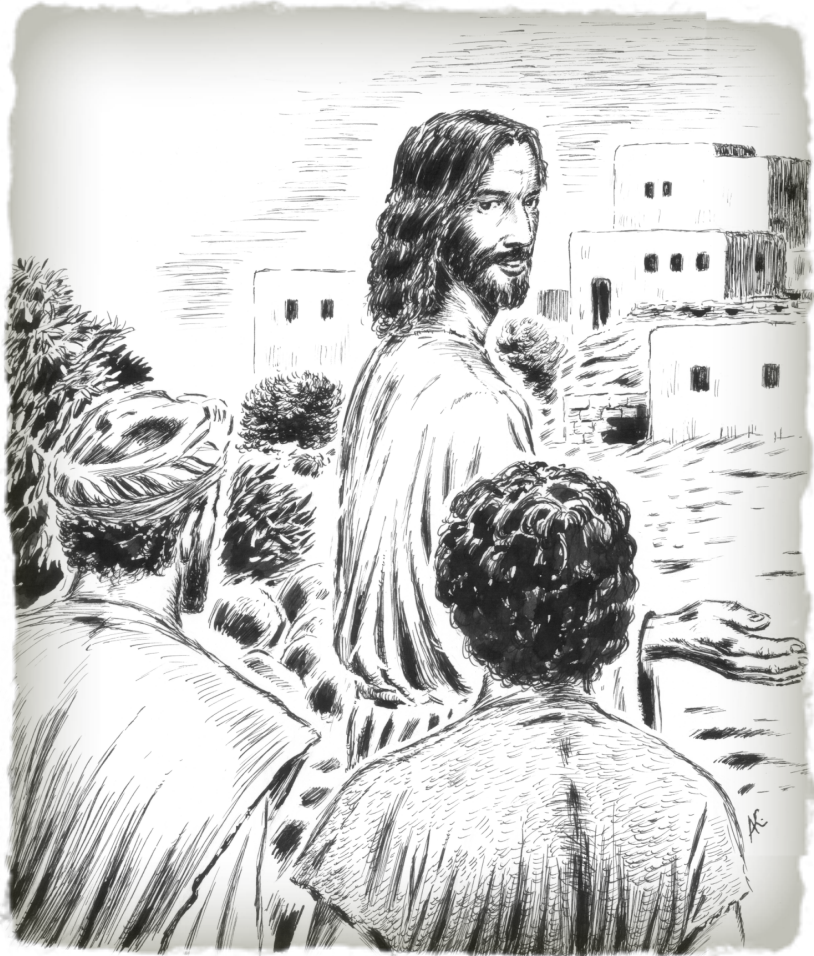


# Speaking Up For Christ



"If we work on marble it will perish. If we work on brass, time will efface it. If we rear temples, they will crumble to dust. But if we work on men's immortal minds, if we imbue them with high principles, with just fear of God and love of their fellow-men, we engrave on those tablets something which time cannot efface, and which will brighten and brighten to all eternity."

Daniel Webster

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## Lesson 1 - Why Speak Up for Christ?

### ***It is commanded by God.***

1. Jesus gave His apostles the “great commission” in Mark 16:15, 16. What implication does His command have for each of us?
2. In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul gave Timothy specific instructions about teaching others. Who does this apply to today?

### ***Love of others demands that we do what we can to save them.***

3. What in the definition of love demands concern for the eternal safety of others?
4. Is it possible to love someone silently while believing they are lost in sin? Please explain your answer.
5. From 1 John 4:7-12, make a list of the benefits lost to us if we do not love our brother.

### ***Jesus taught others, and we are to be like Him.***

6. To be a disciple of Jesus means following His lead and becoming like Him. Describe how you can be His follower without becoming a spiritual leader of others.
7. List all the reasons you can find in John 15:1-17 for sharing the gospel with your neighbor.

***Becoming Like Jesus Christ***

8. Carefully and prayerfully study the following outline. Place a check mark in front of each point that you have completed or are doing your best to achieve. Underline each point which you have neglected or on which you are having difficulty. Write out in a few words what is lacking. Then identify and write out the corrective steps you need to take. Finally, take prayerful action. Get help from a godly person if necessary.
- A. Establish a relationship in the family of God.
    - 1. *"You are all sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ."* Galatians 3:26
    - 2. *"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."* Gal. 3:27
    - 3. *"For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - "* 1 Corinthians 12:13
  - B. Seek those things above where Christ is.
    - 1. "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." Colossians 3:2
    - 2. *"For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."* Colossians 3:3
  - C. Put off the old life of sin and *"put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,.."* Colossians 3:9, 10
  - D. *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed.."* Romans 12:2
    - 1. Conformed (Gr. *suschēmatizō*), to fashion or shape especially that which is transitory or changeable. To shape by external forces.
    - 2. Transformed (Gr. *metamorphoō*), to change into another form, a complete change manifested in character and conduct.
      - a. This change is from the inside, out.
      - b. Brought about by *renewing the mind* with the perfect will of God.
  - E. With Christ as the goal we are transformed into His image daily.
    - 1. As if looking at Jesus in a mirror while gradually becoming more in His image. 2 Corinthians 3:18
    - 2. The final goal is a complete transformation into a share of the heavenly glory which Jesus has received. Philippians 3:20, 21

***God expects each of us to grow spiritually***

9. Review I Timothy 4:6-16.
- a. What words in this passage indicate that Timothy was expected to mature spiritually?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What specific instructions did Paul give Timothy? What was he to do?

c. Who was to be able to see his growth?

10. How much dedication is required to grow spiritually as God would have us?

11. How much will one grow who gives only partial or half-hearted effort?

12. What do these passages say that indicates each of us, like Timothy, ought to be growing spiritually?

a. Romans 12:1-2

b. Hebrews 5:12-14

c. 2 Peter 1:4-8

13. Speaking out to others about the gospel of Jesus Christ is part of our spiritual growth. Do you agree or disagree? Please be prepared to defend your answer.

## Lesson 2 - How to Grow Spiritually

1. Using the same instructions in 1 Timothy 4:6-16, what daily activities are needed to effectively grow in righteousness?
  
2. Please indicate which of these statements about reading and studying God's word are True, and which are False:
  - a. Spiritual growth results from simply reading the scriptures. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. To fully appreciate the value of Bible reading, one must first recognize it as the inspired word of God. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Holy men were moved by the Holy Spirit to give us scripture. (2 Peter 1:20-21). \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Scripture is confusing; everyone must understand it differently (Ephesians 3:3-4) \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. 1 Corinthians 2:4-9 says we cannot understand God's will; it is a message which will not enter the heart of man. \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Later, verse 13 affirms his message was from God, not from man's wisdom. \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. To read the Bible is to listen to God. \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. God's written word does not deserve the same respect as His spoken word. \_\_\_\_\_
  - i. If you engage in regular Bible study, a program of reading only is not necessary. \_\_\_\_\_
  - j. Successful family leaders will engage in organized, personal Bible reading and lead others to the same. \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Studying the scriptures takes more planning and effort than simply reading it. Must we study it to be approved of God (2 Timothy 2:15)? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What part does continual learning play in the instructions Timothy was given in 2 Timothy 2:14, 15?

5. What did the psalmist ask God for in Psalm 119:12, 68?

In Psalm 119:7, 73?

6. Why is it important for each of us to continue to hunger for deeper understanding of the word (Hebrews 5:12 - 6:2)?

7. What part did meditation play in the life of Timothy (1 Timothy 4:15)?

Of the psalmist (Psalm 119:15)?

8. What does the word meditation mean?

9. What things did Paul count worthy of meditation? (See Philippians 4:8)

10. According to Psalm 1, how often did David meditate?

Is that kind of commitment beneficial? Why, or why not?

11. Just as reading the scriptures is the same as listening to God, what is prayer?

12. List some of the blessings we have in prayer.

13. Paul commanded early Christians to pray how often (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)?

14. What did James say about prayer in James 5:16-18?

How would you restate this in your own words?

15. According to Hebrews 4:1-2, with what is God's word to be mixed?

***Other thoughts on Spiritual Growth***

16. Every Christian is expected to grow to spiritual maturity and produce good results. Read Hebrews 5:12 - 6:2.

- a. Based on vs. 12, after a period of time what should we be?
  
- b. According to vs. 14, how will we have spent that time?

17. Read Matthew 25:14-30.

- a. Do we all possess equal abilities?
- b. What are we do with our God-given skills and abilities?
  
- c. If we have the ability to lead in some capacity, are we expected to use this talent? Why?
  
- d. Which leadership abilities do you now have?
  
- e. Which leadership abilities do you need to be working to develop?

18. Does this growing process imply that we will become better able to overcome temptations and discouragements (Hebrews 12:1-4)?

What in this passage makes you think so?

19. What was to be the end result of Timothy's progress (1 Timothy 4:16)?



## Lesson 3 - Successful Teaching

### ***Introduction***

1. Christ is to be our example in all things, certainly in leading the world to Himself.
  - a. We should be struck with His practice of reaching the world one soul at a time.
  - b. The Lord's SPIRITUALITY, SELFLESSNESS, and SKILLS are all apparent in His "personal work".
  - c. Consider Jesus' encounter with a common woman at an ordinary well. John 4:5-26
2. We are failing to reach the world because we have left the fundamentals. Here are four, which are obvious in our Lord's work:
  - a. Be prepared by knowing and living God's truth.
  - b. Use every opportunity.
  - c. Show sincere love for the lost.
  - d. Focus on the individual's need of the Savior.

### ***First, be prepared***

3. What would be the result of teaching someone how to be saved if you did not know how yourself?
  
4. Explain what might happen if you used the Bible to instruct someone in the evils of alcohol, and then they saw you with a bottle of beer in your hand.
  
5. How much Bible do you need to know in order to teach a friend about Jesus? Please explain your answer.
  
6. Suppose your friend asks a question for which you do not know the answer. What do you do?

**Secondly, use every opportunity**

7. Read the account of Jesus meeting a woman at a well (John 4:5-26) and answer these questions.
  - a. How did Jesus make use of this meeting, whether providential or by chance?
  
  - b. Make a list of the excuses that Jesus could have used under these circumstances to avoid spending time teaching her?
  
  - c. Now for each item in your list above, identify what it was that helped Him overcome excuse-making and get on with seizing the opportunity at hand. Was it His Selflessness, Spirituality or Skill?
  
8. Did Jesus let doctrinal discussions deter Him from soul-winning (John 4:20-24)?  
What was the debate mentioned by the woman and how did he handle it?
  
9. Which is a better way to measure church growth: members added or souls saved? Why?
  
10. Please mark each of the following as True or False:
  - a. Converting the world will be done one on one rather than by pulpit preaching. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. According to Acts 8:4, early Christians had little time for teaching neighbors. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Devotion to creature comforts is stifling our spirituality and service. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Jesus set aside His tiredness, thirst and hunger to save a sinner. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. One self-imposed sacrifice a day is an effective way to discipline oneself. \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Only those in our own circle need the gospel message (Rom 3:23; Gal 3:28). \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Brotherhood debate and Internet access can keep us from saving souls. \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. We should take the gospel only to those with whom we feel comfortable. \_\_\_\_\_
  - i. Jesus let His prejudice against a Samaritan woman, a sinner, detract Him. \_\_\_\_\_
  - j. Since I am not as knowledgeable as the preacher or Bible class teacher, I am excused from personally teaching anyone. \_\_\_\_\_
  - k. Trying to teach what one does not understand or is not prepared to teach is a mistake. \_\_\_\_\_



18. Did Jesus have an opportunity to appeal to her in “social gospel” terms? That is, could He have gained her respect and, perhaps her discipleship, by appealing less to her spiritual side? Explain.
  
19. How did He actually use the social, or physical, aspects of their meeting to get and keep her attention?
  
20. How did Jesus bring the woman to face and acknowledge her sins?
  
21. What did Jesus say that brought her to see her need of a Savior?
  
22. What about the way He dealt with her suggests He intended to leave her with hope for the future rather than despair over her sins?

## Lesson 4 - Overcoming Fear

1. Converting the lost in the first century was not done primarily by pulpit preaching. Whose job, then, was it to do this work?

Can you cite a passage or two to support your answer?

2. What reasons (or excuses) do *you* have for not spending time converting the lost? Or, are you doing all of this work that you can do?
3. Now, for the list above, identify what additional Spirituality, Selflessness or Skill is needed in your life for you to overcome that obstacle. (Legitimate reasons, of course, will be exceptions.)
4. Is fear one of your reasons for not speaking out for the Lord?
5. Is fear something we are responsible for overcoming, or is it something we must live with? Please explain your answer.
6. What is the relationship if any, between these three factors:
  - a. Fear
  - b. Knowledge and the skill to use it effectively, and
  - c. Selfishness?

.....Speaking Up For Christ

7. Someone has said, "*The value of a sentiment is the amount of sacrifice you are prepared to make for it.*" What sacrifices should we be willing to make for the lost?
  
8. Name some comforts that keep you from leading the lost to Christ.
  
9. What is the one thing you can do now to overcome or reduce the fear you have of speaking out for Jesus.

## Lesson 5 - Planning a Study

Assuming you have knowledge of God's word and the skills to teach that knowledge to another, there are some things about the study itself that are worthy of thought and planning before the study begins. Any study that produces greater understanding of the truth is profitable. Still, studying with purpose and discipline will produce better results than wandering around aimlessly from topic to topic.

Generally, if anyone is responsible for planning what to study and for the study's outcome, it is you, the teacher. At times, you may think you have no control, but if you want to fulfill a meaningful purpose, you must give thought to the lineup of topics, the direction of the discussion, and how you will measure progress.

This lesson is about some of these issues. Call them strategies.

### ***The beginning point***

1. The absolute beginning of every study is you, i.e., your life and attitude. After whom should your life be patterned?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of starting the study where *you* want to start it?
3. Give some reasons for and against starting the study where your student wants to start.
4. Can you think of some teachers in the first century who give us an example of where to start with a new prospect?

### ***The goal***

5. Read Acts 17:22-34. What was Paul's goal? Of what was he trying to convince those at Mars Hill?
6. In Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well in John 4, what was His goal?

7. Is there evidence that Jesus wanted the Samaritan woman to learn spiritual rather than physical lessons? Give verses that support your answer.

***Getting there***

8. In both John 4 and Acts 17, where did the teacher begin relative to where the students were in their understanding?
9. Identify the points in Jesus' discourse with the woman where He changed the subject to move her toward His goal.
10. Were these changes abrupt, argumentative or abrasive in any way? What one word would you use to describe them?
11. How did Jesus know He had reached His objective with her?
12. How did Paul know in Acts 17 he had reached his objective for that session?

***Leading with questions***

13. How did the Lord use questions to direct the discussion toward spiritual truth in Matthew 16:13 and 15?

In Matthew 17:25?

In Matthew 22:20?

In Mark 8:18?

In Luke 6:9?

In Luke 10:26?



14. In some of these cases, why did Jesus answer a question with a question rather than just give answer to what they asked? Please list all the reasons of which you can think.
  
15. Visualize yourself asking these same questions. Could any of them have evoked a negative or argumentative response? If so, how?
  
16. Did the Lord lead the discussion in John 4 by asking questions?
  
17. Would it have been more or less effective in John 4:22 for Jesus to ask her, “Why do you worship what you do not know?” Why do you suppose He did not?

***Overcoming objections***

18. Did the approach that Jesus used produce many objections from the woman? Identify them.
  
19. At what points in His teaching could He have taken a different direction that could have produced more objections?
  
20. Could He have taught her more of the truth on a variety of subjects if He had pursued each matter more fully? Why didn't He?

***Making the application***

21. Reread the story of the prophet Nathan confronting king David in 2 Samuel 12:1-15. Did Nathan feel an obligation to help David make the application to his life?

22. Are we responsible for helping others see how God’s truth applies to their lives? Explain.

23. Some of the following statements pertaining to making the application are true and some are false. Please mark each.

- |   | <u>True/False?</u> |
|---|--------------------|
| a. The soul is so valuable, you should use every means available to baptize the one you teach.  | _____              |
| b. No matter how painful the truth, it should be applied (Ephesians 4:15).  | _____              |
| c. Helping someone visualize himself or herself doing God’s will by using the example of another they can identify with can be quite effective. | _____              |
| d. It is best not to do anything in your teaching that the student cannot identify him or herself doing.  | _____              |
| e. It is generally too personal and impolite to point out clearly how God’s word condemns the sin of someone’s life.                            | _____              |

***Motivating commitment***

24. Should we prayerfully and lovingly try to motivate those we teach to obey (Luke 16:31; Acts 26:28, 29; 28:24)?

25. How can being too persuasive be detrimental to the one you teach?

26. Why would it be wise to always remember that belief develops in stages (John 4:28-42; 8:31-48)?

27. Name some ways you could destroy someone’s budding faith after convincing them to be saved, or even after they have been converted.

## Lesson 6 - What is Truth?

Beginning with this lesson, the format of our study will change somewhat. From this point on, we want to put into practice some of the techniques regarding teaching another, which we have discussed in earlier lessons. Each of the lessons, beginning with this one, focuses on a biblical topic on which there is considerable controversy. Generally, the purpose of each lesson will be to explain the falsity of the doctrine and point to what God's word has to say on the subject. Please study the material and answer the questions given before coming to class. During the class period, we will spend some time role playing as a means of practicing giving answer to those who might argue against the biblical position.

Many today, even among those who profess to be Christians, have decided that truth is not absolute, that each person has his own religious truth, or at least has a right to interpret scripture in his own way. Let's see what the Bible has to say about truth.

1. The New Age movement is becoming extremely strong in our country and around the world. A description of the movement and general beliefs it embraces is given at the end of this lesson.<sup>1</sup> One of the fundamental beliefs is that each person has the divine nature within themselves. Therefore, since each one is god, whatever a person believes true, is true. What passages of scripture would you use to support or refute this line of thinking?
2. There are many interpretational views of New Testament doctrine throughout "Christianity" today. Many holding opposing views profess to be God fearing people who love the Lord. How do you account for all the varied views of scripture?
3. In March 2007, Oprah Winfrey, the popular TV star, made this proclamation to millions around the world in her weekly Internet broadcast: "I am a Christian who believes there are certainly many more paths to God other than Christianity."<sup>2</sup> Does the prayer of Jesus in John 17 support the idea there are many ways to God? Explain your answer.

What other passage(s) can you cite to prove your answer?

4. In your own words, please restate what Jesus said in Matthew 7:15-23 as it relates to many interpretations of scripture.
5. Please answer the following true or false.
- a. Physical truth, i.e., the laws of nature are absolute. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Physical truth and religious truth are different; one is absolute, but the other is subjective in that it is whatever a person believes. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. All roads to God have good in them, therefore, all are legitimate. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Jesus taught in John 14:6 that He is the only valid way to the Father. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. The Bible is vague about religious truth, so there will be many views. \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Because God is merciful and loving, He will overlook our misunderstandings of His will. \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. God is everywhere. He is in each one of us. \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. If God is in me, I must simply become aware of that divine inner being and follow what seems good and right to me, knowing it comes from my divinity. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Some have argued that Ephesians 1:17 and 18 teach that God reveals to us His truth without much study on our part and without fear that we may be wrong in what we believe. Is that what this passage teaches. Please explain your answer.

***1 New Age Movement***

The following excerpt describing the New Age Movement is quoted from an article located at <http://www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/Cults/newage.htm>.

“The book *Networking* lists over 1,200 organizations, centers, cooperatives, groups, communities, and networks in fields ranging from health care and spiritual growth, through politics, economics, and ecology, to education, communications, personal growth, and intercultural relations. There is hardly any area of human interest that does not have some people somewhere exploring it from a New Age point of view. Due to the lack of a central organization and the diversity of emphasis adhered to by the various New Age groups, there are

literally hundreds of publications. Some popular publications and journals are *New Age Journal*, *Body Mind Spirit*, *Yoga Journal*, *Gnosis*, *East West*, *Noetic Sciences*, and *Omega*.

“The major goal of the New Age Movement is to bring peace to the world upon entering the Age of Aquarius. This will be accomplished primarily through the leadership of "the Christ" (also known as "Lord Maitreya"), who will supposedly come to teach us to live at peace with each other. Some of the other stated goals of the movement are to establish a World Food Authority, World Water Authority, World Economic Order, and an entirely New World Order. It should be noted here that one of the requirements for a person to enter the New Age is that he or she will have to take what is known as a "Luciferic Initiation," a kind of pledge of allegiance to the Christ of the New Age and to the New World Order. The primary goals of the movement then, are to prepare the world to receive the Christ and to enter the Age of Aquarius, thus establishing the New World Order.

“The New Age Movement professes a broad-minded openness to all religions, but its basic underlying philosophy represents a carefully calculated undermining of Judeo-Christian beliefs with various combinations of gnosticism and occultism. [Gnosticism is an ancient world-view stating that Divine essence is the only true or highest reality, and that the unconscious Self of man is actually this essence. It is through intuitional discovery, "visionary experience or initiation into secret doctrine" (not the plenary revelation of propositional truth in the Bible), that man becomes conscious of this true Self (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, Vol. 10, 1968, p. 506; *New Bible Dictionary*, J.D. Douglas, ed., pp. 473-474).] It bears a remarkable resemblance to the apostate world religion that H.G. Wells claimed as his own and predicted would one day take over the world. It also fits the description of "The Plan" for establishing the new world government that is described in various psychic communications from alleged E.T.'s and ascended masters. There is one more connection: the New Age Movement fits the description of the Antichrist's religion -- a rejection of the Judeo-Christian God and the declaration that Self is God. (Source: *The Seduction of Christianity*.)

“Douglas R. Groothuis, author of *Unmasking the New Age* and *Confronting the New Age*, identifies six distinctives of New Age thinking: (1) all is one; (2) all is God; (3) humanity is God; (4) a change in consciousness; (5) all religions are one; and (6) cosmic evolutionary optimism. Norman Geisler details 14 primary "doctrines" of New Age religions: (1) an impersonal god (force); (2) an eternal universe; (3) an illusory nature of matter; (4) a cyclical nature of life; (5) the necessity of reincarnations; (6) the evolution of man into Godhood; (7) continuing revelations from beings beyond the world; (8) the identity of man with God; (9) the need for meditation (or other consciousness-changing techniques); (10) occult practices (astrology, mediums, etc.); (11) vegetarianism and holistic health; (12) pacifism (or anti-war activities); (13) one world (global) order; and (14) syncretism (unity of all religions).”

<sup>2</sup> Brackett, Charlie, quoting Winfrey, Oprah in *Oprah's New Age Church*, p. 38 (2008), Clarion Word Publishing, Chattanooga, TN.

## Lesson 7 - Inspired Traditions

During the next few centuries following establishment of the Lord's church, many who professed to follow Christ actually developed and followed an elaborate system of human traditions. What became the Catholic Church was at the center of this movement, and over time Catholics have come to believe that their traditions are not of man but divine in origin. They believe the Bible to be God's revealed word, but have evolved to the point of affirming that their traditions are responsible for the collection of books we call the Bible and for their preservation down to the present time. Thus, tradition is actually considered more important than the biblical message.

Their digression from the truth of God as given through the inspired first century writers has continued to the present with more and more traditions being piled on by each new papacy. An historical list identifying many of the digression of Catholicism is available at [http://clarionword.com/newsletters\\_articles.php](http://clarionword.com/newsletters_articles.php) under the heading *The Catholic Digression*.

This digression was openly opposed in the 15th and 16th centuries by the protestant reformers, but without great success. The Reformation Movement mainly served to start several of the mainline denominations of Christianity that are thriving today. Though divided on several key doctrinal issues, the reformers united in their opposition to the Catholic Church. A statement referred to as the Five Solas<sup>3</sup>, which you can find at the end of this lesson, can be summarized as justification "by grace alone through faith alone because of Christ alone".

1. What did the Lord say about human traditions in Matthew 15?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Catholics will argue that the practice of developing their "divine traditions" began with Peter being named the first pope and being given the keys to the kingdom as recorded in Matthew 16:13-20. Did the Lord name Peter the first pope? If not, what did take place on that occasion?

What did the Lord give Peter when he gave him the "keys of the kingdom"?

Please explain in what way Peter and the other apostles (see Matthew 18:18, 19) would be able to bind things on earth.

3. In what ways does the Bible claim to be the complete revelation of God's will to mankind? (Note Matthew 7:21-23; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Jude 3; and any other passages you can add.)
  
4. In their opposition to traditions, many protestant denominations hold to the view that salvation is by grace alone, and they often cite Ephesians 2:8, 9 to support the view that "the responsibility for salvation does not rest on the sinner to any degree." (see Sola gratia below) Is that a correct understanding of Ephesians 2:8, 9? If not, what is the correct view?
  
5. What part do a person's works play in their salvation, if any?
  
6. Make a list of "works of faith" that are necessary for a person to be saved, and include a scriptural reference for each, if you can.
  
7. Does the fact that a person must repent of past sins and confess the Savior as Lord mean that salvation has been earned by the "works" of repentance and confession? Please explain.
  
8. What part, if any, do the traditions of men play in true worship of Almighty God?
  
9. What danger is there in traditions of men in the worship of God?

**<sup>3</sup> Five Solas**

Protestant Reformers' basic beliefs:

Sola scriptura – The revealed will of God contained in the scriptures is our sole guide to faith and practice. Human traditions are not a substitute.

Sola fide – Protestants see this doctrine as being summarized with the formula "Faith yields justification and good works" and as contrasted with the Roman Catholic formula "Faith and good works yield justification."

Sola gratia – the doctrine lies mainly in two facts: that of God as sole actor in grace (in other words, that grace is always efficacious *without* any cooperation by man), and second, that man cannot by any action of his own, acting under the influence of grace, cooperate with grace to "merit" greater graces for himself (the latter would be the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church). This doctrine of sola gratia asserts that God acts alone to save the sinner. The responsibility for salvation does not rest on the sinner to any degree. Lutherism holds that this doctrine must not be maintained to the exclusion of *gratia universalis* (that God seriously wills the salvation of all people).

Solus Christus – Salvation is through Christ alone, and He is the only mediator between God and man.

Soli Deo gloria – All glory is due to God alone. Man is worthy of none; the glory given to the pope, bishops, and others in high position is misplaced.



## Lesson 8 - Infant Baptism

Baptism of babies dates back to the second and early third century. According to Wikipedia, “Irenaeus (c. 130–202) speaks not only of children but even of infants being ‘born again to God’ and three passages of Origen (185–c. 254) mention infant baptism as traditional and customary. Tertullian (c. 155–230) too, while advising postponement of baptism until after marriage, mentions that it was customary to baptise infants, with sponsors speaking on their behalf.” Though perhaps not widespread then, it was apparently not uncommon. Today, the practice is very widespread. More than half of all “Christians” worldwide are willing to depend upon infant baptism to secure a place for them and their children in heaven.

1. Generally, baptism of babies is thought necessary because of original sin, a doctrine which originated in the second century in the fight of early Christians against gnosticism. One of the passages used to support the doctrine is Romans 5:12-14. How would you answer someone who, in support of this practice, quotes, “...just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men...”?
  
2. Is there a distinction to be made between physical and spiritual death? If so, what is it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What does Ezekiel 18 say about original sin?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Please mark the following either True or False.

	<u>True/False?</u>
a. If the doctrine of original sin is true, it would be necessary to baptize infants.	_____
b. If the doctrine of original sin is false, there would be no other considerations. The matter would be settled - infant baptism is not needed.	_____
c. The Bible affirms that babies were baptized in Acts 16:15 and 16:33.	_____
d. Peter implied infants should be baptized when he promised salvation “...is for you and your children and for all who are far off...” (Acts 2:39)	_____



### Lesson 9 - Seventh Day Adventism

1. There are many Seventh Day Adventists in our area. Perhaps you have a friend that holds to the beliefs of that denomination. Some of their beliefs, as they might state them, are listed below. For each, indicate whether or not it represents a scriptural position. Please cite a passage or two to support your answer.

Statements are made as the denomination would state them:	<u>Is this Scriptural?</u>
a. We uphold the Protestant sola scriptura principle.	_____
b. Ellen G. White was a prophet speaking for God a hundred years ago.	_____
c. Sinners will be destroyed rather than be tormented in hell forever and ever.	_____
d. Some of us believe there is no hell. (Matthew 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 23:33, Mark 9:43-48; Luke 12:5; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)	_____
e. Some believe sinners will spend a period of time in hell and then be destroyed, that is, have no consciousness.	_____
f. Before Christ’s return, there will be a global crisis. At His return, the righteous will be taken to heaven for one thousand years. After the millennium, the unsaved will be punished by annihilation while the saved will live for eternity on a recreated earth. (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17)	_____
g. The church is the body of Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:22, 23)	_____
h. By baptism we confess our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and testify of our death to sin and of our purpose to walk in newness of life. Thus we acknowledge Christ as Lord and Savior, become His people, and are received as members by His church. Baptism is a symbol of our union with Christ, the forgiveness of our sins, and our reception of the Holy Spirit. It is by immersion in water and is based on confession of faith in Jesus and repentance from sin. It follows instruction in the Holy Scriptures and acceptance of their teachings. (Romans 6:1-6; Colossians 2:12, 13; Acts 16:30-33; 22:16; 2:38; Matthew 28:19, 20.)	_____
i. We are obligated to keep the ten commandments given to Moses.	_____
j. We must “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.” (Exodus 20:8)	_____



## Lesson 10 - If God, Why Suffering?

1. Define “atheist”.
2. Define “agnostic”.
3. Atheists and agnostics, those who do not believe in the personal God of the Bible, often ask a very logical question as they argue that there is no God.

“If an all-powerful, all-good God exists, why is there suffering in the world?”

How would you answer such a question? Use scripture to support your answer, if possible.

4. Make a list of as many reasons as you can think of for suffering.
5. Which of the reasons in your list are as a result of mankind having free will?
6. Why did God make us creatures of free will rather than robots who would always do His will?
7. In what ways is suffering actually good for us? Cite scripture where you can.

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8. Please mark each of the following as either True or False.

True/False?

- a. God loves all humanity equally. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Each one of us is personally responsible for all of our suffering. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. A temptation by Satan to sin is a form of suffering. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. We should be joyous when we encounter various trials and temptations, some of which may involve quite severe suffering. (See James 1:2-4) \_\_\_\_\_
- e. If we are faithful, God will protect us from suffering; we will have success and happiness in family and business as well as in the church. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Some people suffer in the midst of good circumstances because they perceive things to be against them when really they are not. \_\_\_\_\_
- g. It is possible to so control our behavior, circumstances and events of life as to guarantee our happiness. \_\_\_\_\_
- h. Happiness is a state of mind, which we can develop and maintain regardless of the circumstances and events of life. \_\_\_\_\_
- i. God wants us to suffer because He loves us. \_\_\_\_\_
- j. My attitude is, "Bring on the suffering! I am ready for it!" \_\_\_\_\_

9. For someone who argues there is no God because suffering exists in the world, make a list of points you would make to them to show that God does exist.

## Lesson 11 - Tongue Speaking

The Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee) is one of several different Pentecostal denominations, many of them calling themselves The Church of God. Among Pentecostal denominations, the Church of God is second largest with eight million members worldwide. Only the Assemblies of God is larger among Pentecostal denominations.

The Church of God (Cleveland) was founded by Elder Richard Spurling with several others in August, 1886. Many in this area follow this persuasion, so it behooves us to be prepared to give answer to them as we have opportunity.

1. Listed below are some beliefs held by those in the Church of God denomination. Please mark each of the following Yes or No and be ready to defend your answer.

- |   | Is this belief<br><u>Scriptural?</u> |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| a. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are the three persons of God. (Matthew 3:16-17)                                      | _____                                |
| b. The Bible is verbally inspired. (2 Timothy 3:16, 17)   | _____                                |
| c. Salvation is "subsequent to the new birth." (Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-7; 1 Peter 3:21)                                 | _____                                |
| d. Baptism with the Holy Spirit is "subsequent to a clean heart." (Acts 10:44-48)                                       | _____                                |
| e. Speaking with other tongues is evidence of Holy Spirit baptism. (Acts 2:1-4; 10:44-48)                               | _____                                |
| f. Speaking with tongues is available to all today. (Acts 2:1-4; 10:44-48; 11:15-17)                                    | _____                                |
| g. The Church of God is spoken of in the New Testament. (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:14)        | _____                                |
| h. The washing of the saints' feet is ordained by Christ. (John 13:3-16)  | _____                                |
| i. Christ will return to reign on the earth for a thousand years. (Revelation 20; Acts 2:33-35; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28) | _____                                |

2. Which of the doctrines above are unscriptural?

3. Put the unscriptural doctrines you identified in order of most serious to least serious and state the reason you ranked each where you did.

4. There are only two occasions of Holy Spirit baptism recorded in scripture - Acts 2 and Acts 10. How many years separated these two events, and how does what Peter said in Acts 11:15-17 prove Holy Spirit baptism is not available to all converts?

5. If a person believes the Holy Spirit causes them to “speak in tongues” miraculously, which of the following could easily also be believed?

Check those  
believable.

- a. My tongue speaking is tangible evidence that God approves of my beliefs and my lifestyle. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. God is causing me to speak in tongues, therefore, I am sure the “still, small voice” in my head is God speaking directly to me. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. I could be mistaken about the meaning of scripture if I do not interpret carefully. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. I feel an added sense of power knowing the Lord is speaking through me. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. I need not be too concerned whether or not God is with me unless I lose the ability to speak in tongues. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Christians who are not able to speak in tongues have not achieved the level of maturity or stature in Christ as those who are able. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Who in Acts 2 was able to speak in tongues, all of the disciples or just the apostles?

7. Carefully consider the context of Acts 2. What did the tongue speaking sound like?

What does “tongue speaking” today sound like?





## Lesson 12 - The Sinner's Prayer

1. Several denominations now teach that a sinner will be saved if he or she only prays to the Lord confessing faith in Jesus Christ and calling upon Him to come into their life. Does the Bible teach this means of salvation?
2. The book of Acts records conversions in the first century. Locate at least three cases of conversion, and describe below what they were told to do to receive forgiveness.
3. In the cases you found, what indicates they actually received salvation?
4. Find at least three passages that together state clearly how an alien sinner is saved.
5. Ephesians 2:8 and 9 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works so that no one may boast." If we teach that a sinner must believe, repent, confess, be baptized, and live faithfully, is our teaching negating God's grace? Explain.
6. Scripture teaches we are saved by many things. Add as many to the following list as you can, and if possible, cite a scripture or two for each.

Saved by God - Psalm 7:10

By Christ - John 3:17

By grace - Ephesians 2:5-9

### Lesson 13 - Once Saved, Always Saved

1. The following is a list of beliefs commonly held by Baptists. Please mark each Yes or No according to the scriptures given.

	<u>Is this belief Scriptural?</u>
a. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are the three persons of God. (Matthew 3:16-17)	_____
b. Baptism is by immersion in water. (Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-7; 1 Peter 3:21)	_____
c. Salvation is necessary before baptism. (Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-7; 1 Peter 3:21)	_____
d. Salvation is necessary before church membership. (Acts 2:47)	_____
e. Once you are saved by God's grace, you are always saved. (Galatians 5:1-4, 18-21; John 8:31-32; 1 John 4:7-12; Revelations 2:4-5, 10)	_____
f. The Baptist Church is the church spoken of in the New Testament. (Matthew 16:18; Mark 1:7; Romans 16:16)	_____
g. The only officers of the church are Pastors and Deacons. (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Ephesians 4:11)	_____
h. The church is a democracy. (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:34-36; Colossians 1:13-14, 18)	_____

2. In the 16th century, John Calvin formulated his five-point doctrine, which is now the basis of Calvinism. Please list the five points of Calvinism.

3. Though these five are logically tied tightly together, modern denominations have picked out the ones they want to believe and they reject the others. Examples are those who baptize babies because of belief in original sin, but reject the other four points. Or, those who believe "once saved, always saved", but reject the rest. Is God's plan of salvation logical? Does it have to be? Explain.

4. Please mark the following True or False.

True/False?

- a. If, when saved by God's grace, we cannot fall away, then most of the Bible - all of that which encourages us to remain faithful - is not necessary. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. If someone professes to be a saved Christian, and then falls away, it indicates they never were really saved in the first place. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. It is hard to know who was ever saved until they have lived a lifetime without falling away. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. God chooses who He will save and who He will not. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Anyone who comes to the Lord in obedient faith can be saved. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Since it is impossible to fall from God's grace, Satan doesn't waste time on those who have been saved. \_\_\_\_\_
- g. The wise disciple of Jesus will watch his steps lest he fall into temptation and the snare of the devil. \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 14 - Saving the Saved

A major problem in the Lord's church today is that too many members are falling away into unfaithfulness. This lesson is about what we can do to keep the members we have.

### ***The Need***

1. According to the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:18-23), what challenges does every new babe in Christ face?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. A study a few years ago reported the time required to get and keep a member –  
10 - 25      hours to invite 100 people  
5 - 8        hours to teach a prospective convert  
1 - 2        hours praying for help  
10 - 30     hours to enfold  
10 - 100    hours to teach a new babe during the first year  
36 -165     Total hours in the first year to get and keep a member
  
3. Concentrating on which of these activities will help us keep our members?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What does the term “enfold” mean to you?

How do you “enfold” someone?

5. How much of the “enfolding” time mentioned above would you suppose is expended before conversion and how much after?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. In what sense should “enfolding” be a continual practice?

7. Can you think of any scriptural examples of this process? List them.

8. Every new Christian needs lots of teaching in the first year. Fill out the chart below rating relative effectiveness by assigning “1” to the most effective, “12” to the least:

Teaching mode	<input type="checkbox"/> If appropriate	Effective rank	Who should do this?
Sermon			
Classroom lecture			
Classroom discussion			
Filmstrip			
Watching from a pew			
Debate/argumentation			
Living example			
One-on-one study			
Personal experience			
Printed study guides			
Articles			
Taped sermons			

**Common versus best practice**

9. In what ways do our activities toward a new member commonly change after we have taught and baptized them?

10. We typically think of “personal evangelism” as the teaching effort to reach lost souls. Are there any reasons why the “personal evangelism” effort should stop when the individual is converted? List as many as you can.

11. Answer true or false from your own experience.
- a. It is natural for a new convert to feel uncomfortable and out of place in the body. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. It is usually best to leave a new babe alone to make their own adjustment when they are ready. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. The special effort of only one or two members can make a new babe feel welcome. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Attention from all the members will make a newcomer feel even more welcome. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. It is possible to overwhelm someone with excessive attention to the point they want to withdraw. \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Assigning an "older" brother or sister (or couple) to a new convert can be an effective way to assure that no one with "fragile" faith is overlooked. \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. It is unrealistic to expect the church to start a new class in fundamentals for each new convert. \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. Except for maybe two or three studies, it doesn't seem appropriate to continue personal, one-on-one studies in the home after a person has been baptized. \_\_\_\_\_
  - i. If every member met once a week year after year for home study with someone godly, of strong faith, and knowledgeable in the scriptures, that member would grow stronger in faith. \_\_\_\_\_
  - j. Such a plan is unrealistic, but a monthly version could work. \_\_\_\_\_

12. According to the following passages, what do you owe a new brother or sister when they enter the family of God where you are?

1 John 4:7; 3:18; 3:17; 4:20, 21

Romans 14:12, 13

Romans 15:1-2

Romans 15:7

1 Corinthians 12:23

1 Corinthians 12:26

Galatians 6:1

Galatians 6:2-5

Ephesians 4:15, 25

Philippians 2:3, 4

13. Read the definition of love (agapē) in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. On the left, make a list of those parts of the definition that require active thoughts or deeds toward the one loved. On the right, list those that are only emotions requiring no overt action.

Requires action

Requires no action

***Social considerations***

14. Please answer true or false.

- a. According to 1 Corinthians 11:17-22, it is wrong for Christians to socialize. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Many churches of Christ today have placed dangerous emphasis on social activities. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Because of abuses, it is wise for Christians to refrain from any socializing. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Christ intends for us to attract the world to Him by presentation of gospel truth, not by social activities. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Social activities, by their very nature, are divisive. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Social activities, which are not financed by the church, help us know one another better and give us opportunities to express love one to the other. \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Socializing together before and after services is enjoyable but can result in visitors being neglected. \_\_\_\_\_
- h. Being together in our homes, in the mountains, at the park or at a ball game can provide unique opportunities to learn about one another's spiritual needs and encourage each other in righteousness. \_\_\_\_\_



- i. The more time we spend together the more opportunity we have to build love. \_\_\_\_\_
15. In your own words, state the value of social activities among God’s people.
16. What is the greatest danger of socializing to be guarded against.

**Active participation**

17. Name some ways that becoming active in the work of the church will strengthen the new convert.

18. Please answer true or false.
- a. Assigning a person a duty, especially a public one, is a good way to encourage to more faithfulness. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. If you think someone lacks Bible knowledge, the problem can usually be corrected by giving him or her a class to teach. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. An older, faithful member asking a new convert to help them in some work of the church is an excellent way to encourage participation. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Generally, established members seem comfortable setting a “pew example” every time the doors open and expecting new babes to imitate them. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. The natural tendency for all of us is to imitate Christ rather than the “good” examples around us. \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Team teaching would be a wise way to start every new teacher, without exception. \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Using a man who is rarely in attendance to lead singing, lead prayer or give an invitation should not cause any harm to those attending, young or old. \_\_\_\_\_

19. According to Ephesians 4:11-16, why did the Lord give us apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors and teachers?

20. What does the phrase in verse 12 “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry” mean?

21. True or false? If every mature Christian (or couple) in our congregation teamed with a less mature member (or couple) to accomplish some worthwhile goal (clean the building, teach a home study, invite neighbors to a gospel meeting, teach a Sunday or Wednesday class, pull weeds in the parking lot, prepare food for someone sick, visit in the hospital, transport an elderly person to and from services, support a gospel meeting, etc., etc.), we would be a better church by every measure.

## Lesson 15 - Review

### ***Getting Started***

1. List the three most important things you learned in this course about why we each should be speaking up to our friends and loved ones about the Savior.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. List the three most important things you learned about how to go about setting up a study.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. List the three most important things you learned about how to conduct a study.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Are you engaged in a study now with someone of your acquaintance? If not, why not?

### ***Imagining the future***

5. Imagine yourself ten years from now. Please answer the following questions about yourself at that point in time:
  - a. How old are you?                      How old is your spouse?
  - b. How old are each of your children? (If you do not have children now, how many will you have ten years from now and what do you imagine their ages will be?)
  - c. If applicable, how old are your grandchildren?
  - d. Briefly describe where you live.

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- e. What is your job? How has it changed over the last ten years?
  
- f. Describe the church of which you are a member.
  
- e. How has that church changed over the last ten years?
  
- g. What spiritual qualities does your spouse admire in you?
  
- h. What spiritual qualities does he or she feel you strive to gain or improve?
  
- i. What memories do your children/grandchildren have of you over the last ten years that indicate the love you have for God?
  
- j. Are you able to teach any Bible classes? If so, what age or setting (children's classes, home studies, etc.)?
  
- k. If a man, in what roles in public worship are you able to take a part?
  
- l. Which of your talents has been needed the most by the church during the past ten years?
  
- m. What have you done over the last ten years to become a spiritual leader? An elder?

- n. Are you actively sharing the gospel with your friends, family and co-workers?
  - o. What personal teaching skills have you developed in the last ten years?
  - p. What skills do you still lack?
6. Has the introspection of this course and looking ahead prompted by these questions given you reason to create a program or update your existing program for improving your ability to bring others to Christ?  
Will you??!