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I. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

LESSON ONE

...ABOUT THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

INTRODUCTION

The Bible compares the life of a believer to the construction of a building. For instance, in the Epistle of Jude, verse 20, we read:

"Building up yourselves on your most holy faith."

The apostle Paul also uses the same picture. In I Corinthians 3:9-10, he says:

"ye are God's building. As a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation."

In Ephesians 2:22, he says:

"Ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

In Colossians 2:7, we read:

"Rooted and built up in Christ and stablished in the faith."

In The Book of Acts, Acts 20:32 is another instance:

"The word of God's grace is able to build you up."

In all these passages, the believer's life is compared to the construction of a building.

In the natural order, the first and most important feature of any solid and permanent building is the foundation. A weak foundation can only support a small building. A strong foundation can support a large building. If one tries to build a large house or structure on a weak foundation the building will begin to settle down on the corners, it will get out of plumb, the foundation will crack, the structure will sag and possibly collapse.

Even so in the spiritual order, the same thing happens in the lives of many Believers. They set out with every intention of building a fine structure of Christianity in their lives. But, before long their fine building begins to sink, to sag, to get out of plumb. It leans badly, and sometimes collapses completely, leaving nothing but a ruined heap of vows and prayers and good intentions which have gone unfulfilled.

Beneath this mass of ruins the reason for the failure lies buried. It was the foundation, which was never properly laid and thus could not support the fine structure which the believer desired to erect.

The purpose of this lesson is to look at the foundation of the Christian Faith, and learn how that foundation is laid in one's life.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

According to the following Scripture passages what is the foundation of the Christian faith, which, when once laid, will permanently support the structure built thereon.

I Corinthians 3:11

1 Peter 2:6

Isaiah 28:16

Matthew 16:13-18

John 14:6

Psalms 18:2; Psalm 62 :1,2,5,6,7

Acts 4:12

Conclusions: The Lord Jesus Christ and He alone, is the true Rock, the Rock of ages, the solid foundation The only one in whom is salvation. The believer who builds upon this foundation, once laid, can say, like David:"He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defense; I shall not be moved."

HOW THE FOUNDATION OF JESUS IS LAID IN ONE'S LIFE

Now before a person can say with the confidence of David:

"He is my rock and my salvation: He is my defense; **I shall not be moved,**" three things must take place in that person's life.

1. According to the following Scriptures what is the FIRST thing that must take place?

Acts 16:30,31

John 3:16

1 Corinthians 12:13

Romans 6:3-6

2 Corinthians 5:17

John 1:12,13

John 3:3 calls this what?

John 3:4-8 (5) gives the HOW?

2. The SECOND we see from the following Scriptures.

Luke 24:49

Acts 1:4,5

Ephesians 5:18

Why needed?

John 15:26

John 16:13

Luke 24:49

How to Receive?

Acts 2:38

Luke 11:13

3. The THIRD is revealed in the follow Scriptures.

Philippians 1:6

Romans 8:38,39

2 Timothy 1:12

Romans 6:23

1 John 5:11-13.20

Conclusions: Jesus Christ is the ONLY foundation upon which to build a Christian life that will never crumble. That foundation is lain by way of the NEW BIRTH. To make the Christian life, built on the foundation of Jesus Christ, sure, solid and permanent the believer needs the BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, for the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus and gives the needed power for Christian living. Likewise, the believer needs to have the CONFIDENCE of the Apostle Paul that he has ETERNAL LIFE. He needs to know that ETERNAL LIFE is God's GIFT to him and that *he does not have to do anything to keep it, nor can he do anything to lose it*. Without this assurance of eternal salvation the structure, the Christian life which he builds on the foundation of Jesus Christ will be at best shaky.

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

1. Has the foundation of Jesus Christ been lain in your life by way of the New Birth?

Yes___ No___

If "No" is there anything keeping you from receiving Jesus Christ right now?

2. Have you received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit since you believed?

Yes___ No___

If "No" is there anything keeping you from receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit right now?

Acts 2:38

Luke 11:13 - "Ask and you shall receive."

3. Do you believe with absolute confidence that you have ETERNAL LIFE as a GIFT of God?

Yes___ No___

If "No" what is keeping you from this confidence?

II. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

LESSON TWO

...ABOUT CHRIST JESUS

INTRODUCTION

In lesson one we learned that Jesus Christ and He alone, is the true Rock, the Rock of Ages the solid foundation. He is the only one in whom is salvation. Therefore the believer who builds upon this foundation, once laid, can like David, say: "***He only is my rock and my salvation: He is my defense; I shall not be moved***"

The purpose of this lesson is to learn, to know Jesus Christ, as to who He is, and as to what He has done for us, as our Savior. Thus knowing that we have a Savior who loves us, died and rose again for us, we would commit our lives to Him and not neglect so great a salvation.

WHO JESUS IS (HIS PERSON)

Determine from the following Scriptures, 'Who is Jesus?', the nature of His person.

John 3:16

John 1:1; 1:18

Hebrews 1:8

I Timothy 2:5,6

Galatians 4:4

Matthew 1:18-23

Luke 1:31

1 John 3:5

John 8:46

2 Corinthians 5:21

Hebrews 4:15

John 10:18

Conclusions: Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and God the Son. He is, also, true man, being conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. The human nature of Christ was and is at all times truly human, being at all times free from every taint of original or actual sin and absolutely impeccable and therefore at no time in itself subject to death or any penalty of sin.

WHAT JESUS HAS DONE (HIS WORK)

Determine from the following sets of Scriptures what Jesus has done for us.

John 8:46; Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 7:27

1 Cor.15:3; Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2; 4:10; Heb 2:17

1 Cor.15:4; Mark 16:6

Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9

Acts 17:31; Revelation 22:12

Conclusions: As our Savior, Jesus Christ, as a true man, lived a perfect sinless life, to be a sacrifice for us. His death provided full payment for all our sins. He physically rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven. He will one day return to the earth as Lord and Judge.

WHY JESUS CAME

- What is one reason why Jesus came? (Luke 19:10)
- Another reason why Jesus came. (1 John 3:5)\
- Yet another reason why Jesus came. (I John 3:8)
- Another reason why Jesus came. (Luke 1:74,75)
- One more reason why Jesus came. (John 10:10b)

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE CROSS

When Jesus died on the cross He cried, "It is finished!" (John 19:30) "Paid in full!" The work of redemption was finished, He had paid the full price to redeem us (buy us back) from Satan to whom **we belonged, so that we** could be His very own (1 Corinthians 6:20).

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1. From what have we been redeemed? (Galatians 3:13)
2. Isaiah 53:5 lists four things Jesus did for us on the cross. What are they?
3. What happened between God and man through the death of Christ? (2 Corinthians 5:19)
4. What title has God placed upon you? (2 Cor. 5:20)
5. What was placed from us onto Christ? (Isaiah 53:6)
6. What was placed from Christ onto us (2 Cor.5:21)

RESURRECTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Romans 1:4
2. 1 Corinthians 15:17
3. 1 Peter 1:21
4. Philippians 3:10
5. 1 Thessalonians 4:14
6. Acts 17:31

Conclusions: Jesus' resurrection from the dead declared Him to be the Son of God with Power; established our faith and hope in God; declared us justified; assured the resurrection of those who have already died; assures judgment to come.

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

Jesus demonstrated His love for us when He willingly, on the Cross of Calvary, gave Himself for us as our Savior.

What does this **love of Jesus require of us**, who **have by faith received Him as our Lord and Savior**.

2 Corinthians 5:14,15

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III. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

LESSON THREE

... ABOUT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

In lesson two we learned that as our Savior, Jesus Christ as a true man, lived a perfect sinless life; His death on the cross of Calvary, provided full payment for all our sins; He physically rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and He will one day return to the earth as Lord and Judge.

The purpose of this lesson is to learn to know Jesus Christ as Lord. You must understand and take into account that, someone or something will control your life. You are not now, nor will you ever be the lord or controller of your life and destiny. Perhaps selfish (soulish) desires control you (the pursuit of money, power, pleasure, popularity, etc). However, the good news is, that you who have received Jesus Christ as your Savior, **NOW HAVE A CHOICE**. You are free to choose Jesus as your Lord.

As Lord, Jesus desires to be in total control of your life. If the issue of Lordship is not settled, you cannot and will not advance any further in your Christian walk.

WHO JESUS IS (HIS LORDSHIP)

What do the following Scriptures say about Jesus Christ?

John 18:37

Revelation 19:16

Matthew 28:18

Philippians 2:10-11

Ephesians 1:21-22

Psalms 8:6-7

Daniel 7:14

Hebrews 2:7-8

1 Peter 3:22

Jeremiah 23:5-6

Isaiah 9:7

Revelation 19:6-7

1 Timothy 6:15

THE TESTIMONY OF DAVID

Who did David believe the Messiah (Christ) to be?

Mark 12:36-37

Psalms 110:1

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS

Who did Jesus claim to be according to Matthew 21:3?

THE TESTIMONY OF THE DISCIPLES

1. Who did Peter believe Jesus to be? (Matthew 16:16)
2. Who did Thomas believe Jesus to be? (John 20:28)
3. Who did Paul believe Jesus to be? (Romans 1:3,4)
4. Who did John believe Jesus to be? (John 1:1)
5. Who did James believe Jesus to be? (James 2:1)

THE TEST OF LORDSHIP

How does Jesus determine if a person is truly acknowledging Him as Lord of their life.

Luke 6:46

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

According to the following Scriptures, what is to be our reasonable response to the Lordship of Jesus Christ?

Luke 10:27

John 10:27

2 Thessalonians 3:6

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Philippians 2:10-11

Every area of our life, not just some of the areas, are to be under His control.

Hosea 10:2

Psalm 119:2

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IV. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

LESSON FOUR

...ABOUT GOD

INTRODUCTION

As we approach the subject of What The Bible Says About God we would note that the Bible does not attempt to prove the existence of God; it simply declares it, "In the beginning God..." (Genesis 1:1).

John 1:18, "NO MAN HATH SEEN GOD AT ANYTIME; the only begotten Son.. He hath declared Him."

John 4:24, "GOD IS A SPIRIT"

Luke 24:39, "a spirit hath not flesh and bones"

Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"

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

Romans 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

Therefore, through faith worked in me by the Word of God, I believe that there is a God; that He is the God who is revealed in the Bible; that He is who the Bible says He is; and that He is my Father and my God, and my Lord.

Since it is impossible in the limited space we have to explore all the different facets of God, much less do an in-depth study of what the Bible says about God, the first purpose of this lesson is see what the Bible says about God according to His ***inherent attributes***.

These inherent attributes establish the God of the Bible, as the only true God. They are, also, that which separates God from His created beings, man and angels, as these attributes can only be attributed to God.

We would, also note, that without these attributes our God, the God of the Bible, could not be the God of all creation.

Secondly, we want to see God according to His ***moral attributes***. These moral attributes of God speak of the nature of God and they are those attributes which He, then, communicates to His children through the process of the new birth in Jesus Christ.

Genesis 1:26, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..."

Ephesians 4:24, "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

Thirdly, we want to see God, our God, according to His Godhead, since here He is revealed personally to us as the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

INHERENT ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

From the following Scriptures determine these inherent attributes of God.

Genesis 21:33

John 5:26

Malachi 3:6

Jeremiah 32:17,27

Romans 11:33, John 21:17

Psalms 139:7-12

Conclusions: From the above Scriptures we would note that according to His inherent attributes, God is:

1. from ever-lasting to everlasting, that is to say, God always was and always will be;
2. the essence of life, Himself being life and giving life;
3. unchangeable, He always was and always will be the same;
4. omnipotent, He is all powerful/having all power;
5. omniscient, He knows all things; and
6. omnipresent, He is present everywhere at the same time.

These inherent attributes can only be said of God, and therefore set God apart from His creation.

THE MORAL ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

These moral **attributes** of God, being characteristics of God's nature, which He has communicated to His children, are what according to the following passages?

Isaiah 57:15

I John 4:8,16

Jonah 4:2

I Corinthians 1:9

Numbers 23:19

Titus 1:2

Conclusions: From the above Scriptures we would note that according to His moral attributes God is:

1. holy;
2. love;
3. gracious, merciful, slow to anger, kind, takes no pleasure in punishing/correcting; and
4. faithful.

These are the attributes which God communicates through the new birth in Jesus Christ to all who by faith receive Jesus Christ as their Savior.

THE ETERNAL GOD-HEAD

"The God-head" is a New Testament term found in Acts 17:29 and Col 2:9.

Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. Acts 17:29.

For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. Colossians 2:9.

How is "The God-head" identified according to the following Scriptures?

Deuteronomy 6:4

Genesis 1:26, 27

Matthew 28:19

THE DISTINCTIVENESS OF THE PERSONS in the Godhead is revealed in what way in the following Scriptures?

Matthew 3:16,17

Genesis 1:1,2; John 1:3

I Corinthians 12:4-6

John 6:27

John 1:1,14,18

Act 5:3-4

Conclusions: The eternal God-head consists of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Father is a distinct person and is not the Son, nor is He the Holy Spirit. The Son is a distinct person and is not the Father, nor is He the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a distinct person and is not the Father, nor is He the Son **HOWEVER**, Christian truth requires us to confess with Jesus, Mark 12:29 "The Lord our God is ONE LORD."

Thus, the coining of the term "Trinity" to describe the eternal Godhead, three yet one.

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

Is your view of God compatible with what the Word says concerning Him, as to His:

Inherent Attributes

Moral Attributes

Eternal God-head

These truths must be received by Faith, for the concept of the Trinity is not logical, reasonable, understandable, or explainable in terms of man's logic or reason.

"Now FAITH... is the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

"But without FAITH it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must BELIEVE that He is, and that He is a REWARDER of them that diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6)

V. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

LESSON FIVE

... ABOUT MAN

INTRODUCTION

As we approach this topic of What Bible Says About Man, we want to see man in the place of prominence given him by his Creator (Psalm 8:3-8).

"When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that Thou visitest him? For Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

Man was created as the CROWN of the creation of God Almighty, the God of creation. He was given DOMINION over ALL that God had created. It is to this place of prominence that God, in Jesus Christ, would and will restore the human race.

Revelation 21:5, "Behold, I make all things new."

In this lesson we want to see man in his primeval/untested or original state, and secondly, in his fallen state.

ORIGINAL STATE OF MAN

CREATION OF MAN

What do the following Scriptures have to say about the creation of Man?

Genesis 1:26,27,31

Matthew 19:4

Genesis 1:28

Genesis 2:15,18,23

Genesis 2:7

Genesis 2:21,22,23

Conclusions: On the sixth day of creation God created man in His own image. forming the body of one mature male, Adam, of the dust of the earth, breathing into his nostrils the breath of life and made one mature women, Eve, of a rib of Adam.

NATURE OF MAN

Determine from the following Scriptures the nature of man.

Genesis 1:26,27

Genesis 5:1,2

Genesis 1:31

Ecclesiastes 7:29

Ephesians 4:24

Colossians 3:10

Genesis 2:19,20

Genesis 2:25

Genesis 2:7

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Conclusions: Man, as created by God, was an intelligent and moral being, consisting of a spirit, soul, and body united in one complete person. He was without a germ of disease or death, or a taint of sin, being endowed with spiritual wisdom and knowledge, and with perfect natural righteousness, goodness, and holiness, in the image and likeness of God.

THE FALLEN STATE OF MAN

THE FALL OF MAN

Genesis 2:17

Genesis 3:13

Revelation 12:9

1 Timothy 2:14

Genesis 3:6-10

Proverbs 20:27

Romans 5:19

Romans 5:1

Ephesians 2:1,3

Genesis 3:19

Romans 5:18

2 Thessalonians 1:9

Conclusions: Eve tempted by Satan, and Adam, voluntarily disobeyed a commandment of God, and by this sin they fell from their primeval state of righteousness and true holiness and innocence. They and all men/women since became/are entirely depraved in spiritual darkness and death; being subject to temporal death and eternal condemnation.

HEREDITARY GUILT AND SIN

What is fallen man's spiritual and moral condition?

Genesis 5:3

Romans 5:12-21

Genesis 4:1,8

Genesis 6:5

Genesis 8:21

Ephesians 2:3

Romans 1:18

Psalms 51:5

John 3:6

Romans 3:9-18,23

Ephesians 4:18

1 Corinthians 2:14

2 Corinthians 3:14-15; 4:4

Ephesians 5:8

Romans 8:7

Romans 5:10

Colossians 1:21

Psalms 14:3

Romans 6:6

Romans 6:20

Ephesians 2:5

Conclusions: Not only was the guilt of Adam imputed to his children, but his children's children have inherited from the first parent his corrupt sin nature being flesh born of the flesh, wholly depraved, totally blind of understanding in spiritual things, off perverse appetites, their will opposed to the will of God and only prone to evil, all their senses enslaved in the service of sin, without any ability in any measure to work their own spiritual salvation.

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

Even though sin entered into the lives of men through the sin of Adam and Eve, God has not changed His will concerning the CROWN of His creation MAN. God is in the process of restoring and proving man for that place of prominence and dominion in His creation - for this purpose Jesus came, to deliver man from the power and control of SIN AND SATAN. He came to destroy the works of the devil, Romans 8:29 says:

"For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Therefore it behooves us, who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus to take to heart what the Word says in Romans 12:1,2.

Romans 12:1-2, I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

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VI. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

LESSON SIX

... ABOUT SIN

INTRODUCTION

Sin is a harsh reality in the life of man. The life of the un-regenerated man is totally and completely dominated and controlled by sin. Man does not have to learn to sin; his very nature is sin. No child needs to be taught to do wrong (to sin), but must, rather, be taught to do what is right. In Psalm 51:5 we read:

"Behold I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive

There are many evidences of sin that declare the fact of sin:

Creation - life/death; harmony/discord; light/darkness; beauty/ugliness.

Human History - chaos, war, bloodshed, hate, murder, corruption, dominance.

Human Logic - man knows something is wrong.

Human Conscience - it smites, speaks clearly unless ignored or silenced.

Human Experience - history in the making: crime, immorality perversion, corruption, lawlessness.

Human Religions - all nations have/had belief in god/gods needing appeasement for deeds of the people.

Believers - his acute consciousness.

Scripture - Psalms 4:1-3; 53:1-3; Romans 3:23; 5:12.

NOTE: The religion of Humanism says there is no right or wrong, thus there is no sin. They teach that sin is a error of the mortal mind and that corrected thinking will end the problem. Man should be free to do whatsoever gives him pleasure and fulfillment without any restraint.

THE ORIGIN OF SIN

From the following Scriptures determine the origin of sin.

Genesis 1:31

Isaiah 14:12-14

Ezekiel 28:12-17

Genesis 1:26,27; 3:1-6

Conclusions: From the above Scriptures we would note that sin originated in the heart of Satan as a result of pride.

Proverbs 16:18, Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

WHAT IS SIN ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE?

Proverbs 24:9

I John 3:4

I John 5:17

James 4:17

Romans 14:23

Conclusions: Sin is evil - a moral evil as contrasted with physical evil (floods, earthquakes, drought, etc.)

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF SIN ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE?

Genesis 8:21 Psalms 51:5

John 3:6

Job 14:4

Ephesians 2:3

Galatians 5:19,20,21

Romans 3:13-15

Romans 1:23

Conclusions: Sin is an evil which originates in the heart of unregenerated man, whose nature is sin. Thus the nature of sin is an 'inherited or inborn heart condition.'

We can more specifically define sin from the definition of the various Greek words used in the New Testament.

Hamartia - sin or sins = to miss the mark.

Parakoe - disobedience = to hear amiss.

Anomos - iniquity = lawlessness.

Parabasis - transgressor/transgression = to step beyond the boundary or line.

Parantoma - trespasses, offences, carelessness.

CONSEQUENCE OF SIN

Genesis 2:17

Romans 3:23

Romans 5:12-21

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that the consequence of sin is death.

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

As we stated un-regenerated man is a slave to sin, having a sin nature and can do nothing but sin. But this is not the case with the person who has been born again/regenerated. Romans 6:6,7 says

Knowing this, that our old man (sin man, sin nature) is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Then in Romans 6:16 we further see that now we must choose to sin.

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness... (verse 17)... that ye were servants of sin. (verse 1a) *Being* then made free from sin...

WHAT KIND OF CHOICES HAVE YOU BEEN MAKING?

___ Sin unto death

___ Obedience unto righteousness

___ Perhaps both of the above

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VII. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

LESSON SEVEN

INTRODUCTION

... ABOUT BEING IN CHRIST JESUS, OUR IDENTITY

The Apostle Paul in Colossians 1:28 sets before us the goal of the local Body of Christ. That goal being, through preaching, warning (admonishing) and teaching every person in the body would grow up in Jesus Christ to maturity.

Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect (mature) in Christ Jesus

The purpose of this lesson is to learn that our identity as born-again children of God is in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Many believers, and to some extent every believer has an identity crisis. If we are to grow up in Jesus Christ, we must know what it means to be in Christ Jesus, so that we will understand that it is in Him we live, move and have our being.

IN CHRIST JESUS - MEANING

In 1 Corinthians 12:13 we are told that we are baptized into one body by the Holy Spirit. Who is the baptizer?

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Answer: The Holy Spirit

When does this baptism by the Holy Spirit into the one Body take place? When one is:

- Baptized with the Holy Spirit;
- Baptized with water; or
- Born again (Baptized with the Blood of Jesus)?

1 John 5:8, And there are Three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.
(Three-fold Baptism)

Refer to the following Scriptures for the answer to the above question.

Mark 1:8

Matthew 3:15; 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 2:38

John 4:14; Titus 3:5

Conclusions: Since from the above Scriptures we see that Jesus, not the Holy Spirit is the Spirit Baptizer, and that water baptism is a act of righteousness/obedience on the part of a believer, and that when one is born-again he is baptized by Holy Spirit with the blood of Jesus, the answer to the above question, as to when one is baptized into the One Body, would be, when one is born-again.

What is the One Body into which one is baptized when he is born-again?

1 Corinthians 12:27

Romans 12:5

Ephesians 5:30

Conclusions: From the above Scriptures we see that through the New Birth we are Baptized into Christ.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE IN CHRIST?

John 3:3-8.

Philippians 3:9

Galatians 3:27.

Colossians 3:10

2 Peter 1:4.

2 Corinthians 5:21

2 Corinthians 5:17

Romans 6:3-6

John 1:12-13

Galatians 4:6

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that to be in Christ means the Believer has:

been ushered into the Kingdom of God;

been clothed with the righteousness of Christ;

put on Christ;

taken on the Divine nature (moral attributes of God);

become an entirely new person/a new creation, having a new nature (old man dead and buried with Christ);

a new standing, as a child/son of God.

IN CHRIST JESUS, BENEFITS

According to the following Scriptures what are some of the benefits of being in Christ Jesus?

Romans 8:1

Romans 8:2

Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16

Romans 8:11; Isaiah 53:5

Romans 8:13

Romans 8:14-17; Hebrews 1:2

Romans 8:26-27

Romans 8:28-29

Romans 8:32; Philippians 4:19

Romans 8:35-39; John 10:28-29

Conclusions: We note from the above Scriptures that some of the benefits of being in Christ Jesus are:

no condemnation;

being free/delivered from the law of sin and death;

being the Temple of the Holy Spirit,

which brings to you resurrection life for your mortal/physical body;

the power/ability to put to death the bodily/soulish sin habits (getting the sin in you out of you);

the Spirit's witness as to your standing before God;

the Spirit's intercession on your part.

being a joint heir with Christ;

being assured that God will work all things, good or bad, for your good;

having all your needs met by God;

having the absolute assurance of being eternally secure in the hands of the Father.

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

Knowing that we are no longer slaves to sin, but are now sons and daughters of God, that in Christ Jesus we live and move and have our being, what is our reasonable service to be according to Romans 12:1,2?

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye trans- formed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

How do you accomplish this according to 2 Tim 2:20, 21?

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the masters use, *and* prepared unto every good work.

According to this passage what will be the result?

VIII. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

LESSON EIGHT

... ABOUT HOW TO BUILD ON THE FOUNDATION, ONCE LAID

INTRODUCTION

We have seen that Jesus Christ is the only foundation upon which to build a Christian life that will never crumble. The believer who builds upon this foundation, ONCE LAID, can say, like David:

"He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defense; I shall not be moved."

That foundation, which is Jesus Christ, is laid in ones life, by way of the NEW BIRTH. Jesus says in John 3:5, "Except a man be born of water [the Word] and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Now to make the Christian life built upon that foundation sure, solid and permanent - a life style that will not crumble under adversity, the believer needs the BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT and subsequent fillings, for the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus and brings power to the Christian life. Likewise the believer needs to have the CONFIDENCE OF the Apostle Paul that he has through the New Birth in Jesus, ETERNAL LIFE, safe and secure.

The purpose of this lesson is to answer the question, How Does One Build on The Foundation, Once Laid?

HOW DOES ONE BUILD ON THE FOUNDATION, ONCE LAID?

The answer to this question is found in the parable of Jesus, about the wise man and the foolish man, each of whom built a house - Matthew 7:24-27.

Matthew 7:24-27, Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Were the houses tested differently?

How were they tested?

Results of Testing?

Why these different results from the same testing?

What are we to understand by this picture of building upon a rock?

What does it mean for us as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ?

Precisely, of what does building upon Jesus Christ, the ROCK, the SURE FOUNDATION, consist?

What does Acts 20:32 say concerning this truth?

And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Conclusions: The answer to the question (How does one build upon the foundation, once laid?) is God's Word, and God's Word alone - as we hear it and do it, as we study it and apply it - which is able to build up within us, a strong, secure structure of faith, built upon the foundation of Christ Jesus.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHRIST AND THE BIBLE

Having come to the conclusion that the way we build upon the foundation, once laid, is by HEARING AND DOING THE WORDS OF JESUS, we are brought to a subject of GREAT importance in the Christian faith: which is, the relationship between Christ and the Bible; and, arising out of that, the relationship of the believer to the Bible.

From the following Scripture passages determine the relationship between Christ and the Bible.

Exodus 24:3,4

2 Timothy 3:16

2 Peter 1:20,21

1 Corinthians 14:37

John 1:1

John 1:14

Revelation 19:13

Summary: The Bible is the Word of God, and Christ is the Word of God. The Bible is the written Word of God. Christ is the living Word of God. Thus Christ and the Bible are in perfect agreement and in that sense He is perfectly one with the Bible.

Conclusions: Since we have concluded that the How of building on the foundation, once laid is by HEARING AND DOING WHAT JESUS SAYS, we now can further conclude from the above passages that the BIBLE is the means by which, above all others, God speaks, reveals Himself, guides and directs His children. Therefore, we will build a strong, permanent Christian life upon the foundation of Jesus Christ IF WE HEAR AND DO WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS.

OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE BIBLE

From the following Scriptures determine your relationship to the Bible , and therefore your relationship to Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

John 14:21

John 14:23

1 John 2:4,5

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that our attitude toward the Bible is our attitude toward God. You do not love God more than you love His Word. You do not honor and respect Him more than you honor and respect His Word. You do not have more room in your heart and life for God, for Jesus, than you have for the Bible.

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

Do you want to know how much God means to you?

Yes _____ No _____ If Yes, then ask yourself, How much does God's Word, the Bible, mean to me? God means as much to you as His Word means to you - just that much, and no more.

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IX. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

LESSON NINE

... ABOUT THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this lesson is to affirm that the Bible is God's inerrant, and infallible Word and the ONLY standard by which our faith and practice is to be judged. Our respect for it's authority is to be such that we confess, "If God says it - I believe it; I will do it; and that settles it."

As children of God, we must have a proper attitude and relationship with the Bible. The Bible doesn't become God's Word only when it is quickened (revealed and made alive) to you personally. The Bible always was and always will be God's inerrant, infallible (perfect, containing no errors, with no possibility of error) Word, even if you do not believe it to be so, or have not yet, received revelation about something the Bible says. The Bible is the revelation of God's will to His children. You do not need a special "revelation" before you do what He says for you to do in the Bible/his word.

What is the promise of the Bible for those who place their confidence in the inerrancy of the Bible and live it?

Matthew 7:24-25, Therefore whosoever HEARETH these sayings of mine, and DOETH THEM, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and IT FELL NOT: for it was founded upon a rock.

What will happen to those who don't accept all the Bible as being inspired by God and therefore don't order their lives according to it's precepts?

Matthew 7:26.27. And every one that HEARETH these sayings of mine, and DOETH THEM NOT, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and IT FELL:AND GREAT WAS THE FALL OF IT.

THE: BIBLE AUTHORITATIVE AND INERRANT

What do the following Scriptures say about the Bible that affirms its authority and inerrancy?

1 Corinthians 14:37

2 Peter 1:21

2 Timothy 3:16

Matthew 5:18

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that the Bible has its origin in God and therefore is backed by God's authority and omniscience. Since this is true, that which the Bible teaches is eternal truth, being the same yesterday, today and forever, therefore we may rely upon it and profit from applying its truths to our lives.

Jesus affirmed its authority and inerrancy

Jesus went to the Old Testament passages which refer to Himself and showed His hearers that those things which were written in the past were being fulfilled in Him. The fulfillment of prophecy should have shown the people that the Bible is without error. Jesus by referring to these **passages**, proves that He believed them. Thus Jesus reaffirmed what the Bible says about itself. Every word will be fulfilled.

Luke 24:44, And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

The Church affirms the Bible

For more than 1900 years, the Church has believed the Bible to be the inerrant and infallible Word of God. This fact alone does not prove the inerrancy of the Scriptures but this generation cannot disregard the foundation of

Christian belief throughout the ages. It would be folly to deny what was accepted by Christians of previous centuries. They accepted the Scriptures as God's Word.

Martin Luther: "The Scriptures, although they were written by men, are not of men nor from men, but from God."

John Calvin: "We owe to the Scriptures the same reverence which we owe to God; because it has proceeded from Him alone and has nothing belonging to man mixed with."

Therefore is it of any significance to us that the Church has accepted the Bible for the past 1900 years?

Hebrews 12:1, "wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of **witnesses**

God's character demands that the Bible be true and inerrant.

What do the following Scriptures say about God and His Word?

John 17:17

Psalms 119:160

Titus 1:2

Numbers 23:19

2 Corinthians 1:20

Conclusions: From the above Scriptures we see that God's Word is true and everlasting; that God is truth and cannot lie and therefore that which He promises in His Word, He will perform it.

WHY THE BIBLE IS DIVIDED INTO TWO TESTAMENTS

The Old Testament was preparatory to the New Testament.

What do the following Scriptures have to say about the relationship between the Old and New Testament?

Hebrews 10:1

Romans 15:4

1 Cor 10:11

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that the Old Testament fore-shadowed the New Testament and is set forth as a pattern and example which has its fulfillment and interpretation revealed in the New Testament.

It can be said that the New Testament is hidden in the Old Testament and the Old Testament is revealed in the New.

APPLYING THE WORD TO ONE'S LIFE

Psalms 119:18, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law"

This verse prayed as a prayer before beginning Bible study will adequately express your need to God.

After reading a passage, use these two questions to further understand it.

1. What does it say? (It means what it says)
2. How do I apply it to my life today?

According to Joshua 1:8 what are we to do with the Word after we have studied it?

What promises are given to those who do them?

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

Do you believe that the Bible is the Word of God and that it contains no errors?

Are you allowing the Bible to dictate your conduct in:

doctrinal beliefs;

sexual conduct;
financial accountability ;
family relationships;
all other relationships;
use of time ?

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X. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

LESSON TEN

... ABOUT THE WORKING OF GOD'S WORD

INTRODUCTION

In previous lessons we have seen that the **only foundation** of all true Christian faith is none other than Jesus Christ:

that it is laid in a person's life by way of the new birth in Jesus Christ;

that to make the Christian life built upon that foundation sure, solid and permanent, a life style that will not crumble under adversity:

1. the believer needs the Baptism with the Holy Spirit with continual fillings, since it is the Holy Spirit who reveals Jesus; and
2. the believer needs to have the absolute assurance that he is eternally saved.

Second, we have seen that we build upon the foundation, once laid, **by hearing and doing** the Word of God [the Bible], **by studying and applying** the Bible to our life situations. It is the Bible which builds up. It is through the Bible, which is the written Word of God, that Christ Himself, the Living Word, the Word made flesh, comes into our lives (Romans 10:17).

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Third, we have considered the authority the Bible claims for itself; though the Scriptures were produced through many different human instruments, it was the Holy Spirit who used, inspired and controlled each and every one of these men. The final authority behind all Scripture is that of the Third Person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit.

In this lesson we will examine the practical out working of the Bible/the Word of God in the lives of those who hear, do, study, and apply its ETERNAL TRUTH to their lives.

THE WORKING OF GOD'S WORD.

What do the following Scriptures say about the Word of God, the Bible?

Hebrews 4:12

Romans 1:16

John 6:63

Isaiah 55:11

1 Thessalonians 2:13

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that God's Word:

is Life;
is Spirit;
is alive;
is active;

is energetic;
pierces to the heart and uncovers the hidden things; and that
it works effectually in those who believe.

According to the following Scriptures, what must take place in the believers life for the Word of God to do its work of saving the soul?

James 1:21

Psalms 119:11

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that for the Word to effectively do its work of saving the soul of the Believer it must be engrafted/hid/planted in the Believer's heart.

WHAT IS THE PRACTICAL OUT WORKING OF GOD'S WORD IN THE BELIEVER'S LIFE?

1. The **first**, according to Romans 10:17, is What?

Answer: Faith

How is faith produced?

What do the following Scriptures say about faith?

Hebrews 11:1

1 Thessalonians 1:3

James 2:2

How important is faith?

Hebrews 11:6.

Romans 14:23

2. The **second** out working of God's Word is what according to the following Scriptures?

James 1:18

1 Peter 1:23

Answer: Eternal salvation; being born again.

What happens in the New Birth?

John 1:12,13

2 Corinthians 5:17

3. The **third** out working of the Word in the Believer's life is what?

1 Peter 2:2 Matthew 4:4

Answer: Spiritual nourishment

Beyond the spiritual nourishment of 'milk and bread', God's Word also provides, what according to Hebrews 5:12-14?

4. The **fourth** out working of God's Word is what according to the following Scriptures?

Psalms 107:20

Proverbs 4:20-22

Answer: Healing, deliverance, health

What directions are given by the above passage for "health to all their flesh"?

5. The **fifth** out working of the Word of God is in the realm of the mind, What is it according to Psalms 119:130?

Answer: gives understanding

6. The **sixth** out working of God's Word is what according to the following Scriptures?

Psalm 119:11

Psalm 17:4

1 John 2:14

Answer: Directs our path

7. The **seventh** out working of God's Word we see in the following Scriptures.

Ephesians 5:25,26

John 15:3

John 17:17

Answer: Cleansing

8. The **eighth** practical out working of the Word is seen in James 1:23-25, where the Word is compared to what?

Answer: A Mirror

For what purpose?

9. The **ninth** out-working of God's Word in the life of the believer is what according to

John 12:4-48?

Answer: Judges

Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:31 says, "For if we judge our-selves, we should not be judged." By what then are we to judge ourselves?

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

Let us take to heart the words of James 1:21,

"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, AND RECEIVE WITH MEEKNESS THE ENGRAFTED WORD, WHICH IS ABLE TO SAVE YOUR SOULS."

Romans 1:16 say,

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION to every one that believeth."

God's Word will do its work - but we have to receive it and believe it and keep it our hearts for it to have its perfect work.