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We Believe



CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES

We Believe

8th edition

Christian Life Series

Your New Life

Your Bible

Who Jesus Is

The Church

Personal Evangelism

Bible Ethics

When You Pray

How to Study the Bible

Your Helpful Friend

Christian Worship

Christian Workers

Marriage and the Home

God's Design—Your Choice

John's Gospel

We Believe

What Churches Do

The Teaching Ministry

The Christian in His Community

We Believe

8th edition

by Judy Bartel Graner

Adapted from the book *We Believe*
by Ralph M. Riggs



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PREFACE

Have you ever had questions about what Christians believe? Have your friends asked you why you believe the way you do and you have not been able to answer them? If so, this course is especially for you. Even after you have studied it, you will want to keep it on hand for a quick reference any time a question arises.

This course is about the main teachings of the Bible. We call them the fundamental doctrines. You should study them not only to have answers to questions but also to know what God says about different things, since this can be a matter of life or death to you and the people you influence.

The Bible verses you study and memorize will help you grow spiritually. You will find them valuable in your own times of private devotion, as well as in personal evangelism and teaching the Bible to others. Knowledge of the Word builds faith.

A modern method of teaching yourself helps you to learn the principles easily and put them into practice immediately.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES

We Believe is one of 18 courses in this practical discipleship program for new believers. The Christian Life Series is a study to help students grow in their relationship with Christ, interact with the Word of God, and better understand God's purposes for their life.

Students will study basic Christian topics under six reoccurring themes. The courses are conversational in style and easy to read. The following chart illustrates how the units of study are organized for the Christian Life Series.

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Spiritual Life	Your New Life	When You Pray	God's Design, Your Choice
The Bible	Your Bible	How to Study the Bible	John's Gospel
Theology	Who Jesus Is	Your Helpful Friend	We Believe
The Church	The Church	Christian Worship	What Churches Do
Service	Personal Evangelism	Christian Workers	The Teaching Ministry
Christian Ethics	Bible Ethics	Marriage and the Home	The Christian in His Community

Before You Begin

How to Use this Book

If you have studied other Christian Life courses, you may have noticed that this book is slightly larger and has a new look. This introduction will explain new features that have been added to make the course easier to study. Carefully read the introduction.

This book is divided into lessons instead of chapters. Each lesson begins with two important pages. After the lesson number are the title and a short introduction to the lesson. On the next page is **The Plan**. This is the outline or plan for the lesson. It is a list of what you can expect to study in the lesson.

Next are **The Goals**. The goals are guidelines for what you should be able to do after studying the lesson. Read the goals carefully; they will help you focus on the most important points in the lesson.

To help you reach your goals, each lesson has questions and activities. The subheading **Application** signals you to answer questions on the material learned. Do not skip over this part. Writing out the answers will help you apply what you have learned. Most of the questions can be answered right in your book. If there is not enough room to write your answers in the book, write them in a notebook or journal that you can use to review the lessons later.

After answering a question, check the answer at the end of the lesson in the section marked **Check Your Answers**. Do not look ahead at the answers until you have written your own answer. This will help you remember what you study much better. Compare your answers to those given at the end of the lesson; then correct those you did not answer correctly. The answers are in a jumbled order so that you will not easily see the answer to the next question.

How to Answer Study Questions

This course uses many different kinds of questions. Below are samples of the three most common types and how to answer them.

MULTIPLE-CHOICE

A multiple-choice question asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

Example

- 1 The Bible has a total of
- a) 100 books.
 - b) 66 books.
 - c) 27 books.

The correct answer is b) 66 books.

In your study guide, make a circle around b) as shown here:

- 1 The Bible has a total of
- a) 100 books.
 - b) 66 books.
 - c) 27 books.
 - d) 2 books.

TRUE-FALSE

A true-false question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

Example

- 2 Which statements below are TRUE?
- a) The Bible has a total of 120 books.
 - b) The Bible is a message for believers today.
 - c) All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
 - d) The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b)** and **d)** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

MATCHING

A Matching question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions, or Bible books with their authors.

Example

3 Write the number for the leader's name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| ..1... a) Received the Law at Mt. Sinai | 1. Moses |
| 2... b) Led the Israelites across the Jordan | 2. Joshua |
| 2... c) Marched around Jericho | |
| ..1... d) Lived in Pharaoh's court | |

Phrases **a)** and **d)** refer to Moses, and phrases **b)** and **c)** refer to Joshua. You would write 1 beside **a)** and **d)**, and 2 beside **b)** and **c)**, as you see above.

Suggestions for Studying

1. Set aside quiet and regular times for your study. It will be easier to concentrate if study is part of your daily habits.
2. Pray as you begin each study session. With an open Bible, the Holy Spirit, and this course, you are in the classroom of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Lord to help you understand the lesson and apply it to your life.
3. Carefully read the lesson introduction, the lesson plan, and the goals.
4. Begin to carefully read the lesson. Look up Bible references and take any notes that may be helpful. The Bible verses reinforce important points in the lesson.
5. Answer the study questions in the spaces provided. Use your notebook or journal when necessary.

6. Think about what you have learned and look for ways to apply it in discussion with family and friends, in a Bible study, etc.
7. Take your time. No bell will ring to force you to move on to new material.

Unit Evaluations

At the end of this course, you will find the Unit Evaluations. Questions and Answer Sheets are clearly marked for each unit. Carefully follow the directions given. You should complete and send your answer sheets to your instructor for corrections. If you are not studying with a Global University office you will still benefit by completing the Unit Evaluations.

Ways to Study this Course

This course has been written so that you can study it by yourself. We like to say that the teacher is in the book. However, you may also study this course in various group settings such as mid-week Bible studies, learning centers, home groups, and youth programs. This course can be used as a correspondence or resource tool for prison ministries as well as special ethnic or other community outreach programs. You will find both the content and study methods excellent for these purposes.

If you study this course by yourself, all of your work can be completed by mail. Be sure to use the address of your Global University office. If you are studying in a group or through a Discipleship Training Center, be sure to follow any additional instructions that your instructor may give.

In addition, your church may partner with Global University to open a Discipleship Training Center. Visit us online at www.globaluniversity.edu for more information and start up helps.

Certificate

Unit or individual certificates are available to students upon successful completion of our courses. For instance, if you are studying through a National Office or Discipleship Training Center, you may receive a certificate from your Global University instructor. If you are studying on your own, you may mail your completed Unit Evaluation Answer Sheets to your local office. National Offices and Discipleship Training Centers may order certificates through the International Office or through GPH in the USA.

Additional Helps

The Center for Evangelism and Discipleship (CED) Catalog, Discipleship Training Center Manual, the Study Center Agreement Form, and the CED Order Form are available online for print downloads. Other materials available for this course include supplemental audiocassettes.

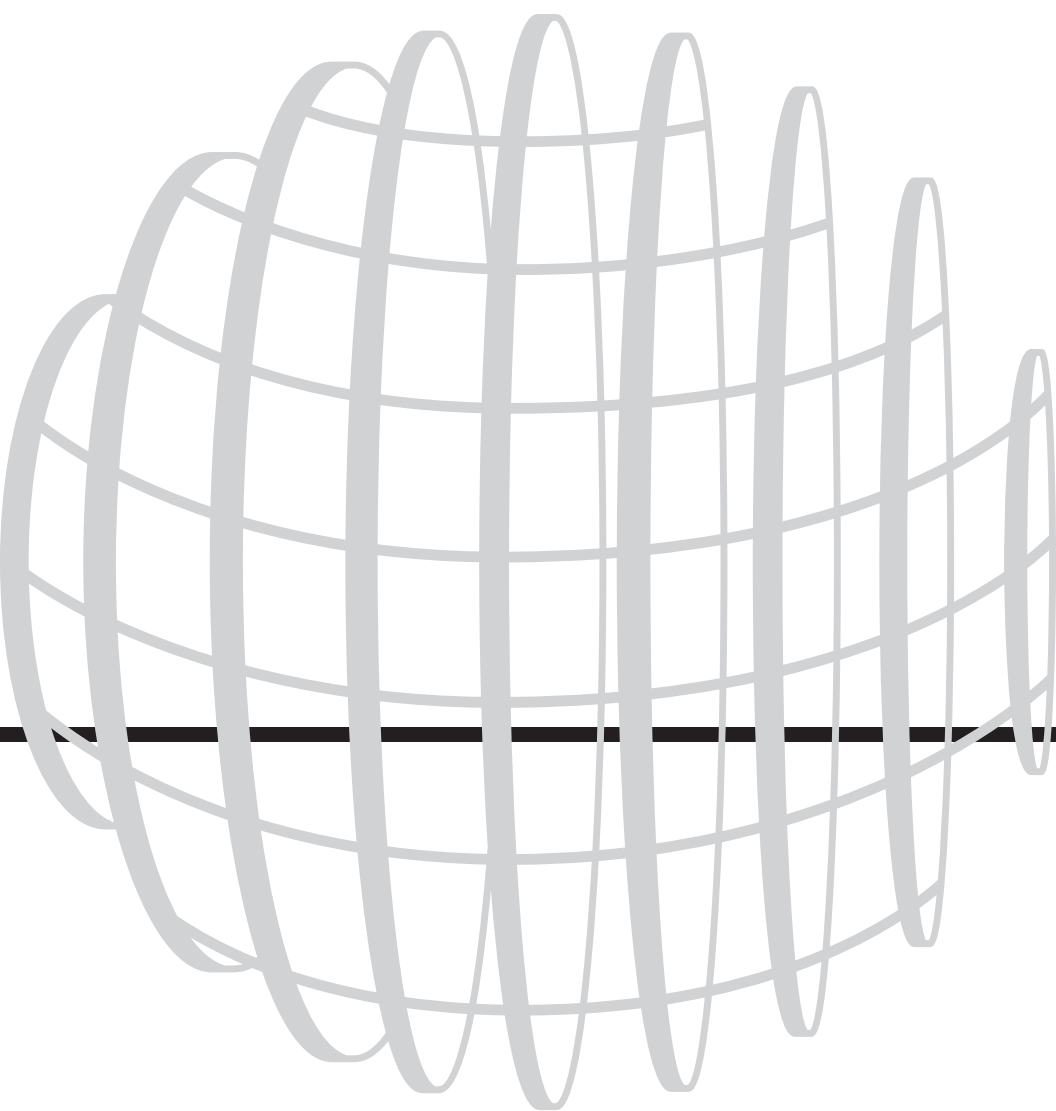
Visit us at www.globaluniversity.edu
and www.globalreach.org for additional resources.

About the Authors

Ralph M. Riggs was one of the founders of the Assemblies of God and their general superintendent from 1953–59. He served as a faculty member of Bethel Bible Training School, Central Bible Institute, and Bethany Bible College. He authored several books and was instrumental in establishing Evangel University.

Dr. Judy Bartel Graner served many years as a missionary in Colombia. She has written numerous textbooks for Bible School instruction.

God bless you as you study *We Believe*. May your heart be opened to the truths in God's Word.



Unit

Lessons

- 1 The Bible
- 2 God
- 3 Man and Sin
- 4 Jesus Christ
- 5 Salvation
- 6 The Holy Spirit
- 7 The Church

1 The Bible

The sailors were frightened. There had been a terrible storm and some of their friends had drowned. They were lost and many unanswered questions troubled them. Where were they going? How long would this trip last? Would they ever find their way home?

It was 1492 and the captain of these men, Christopher Columbus, could not answer their questions. He had taken them on an uncharted course across the Atlantic Ocean, looking for India. Instead, he found an island in the Americas. There he and his sailors found fresh water and their lives were saved.

A similar story would not likely be repeated today. With accurate charts and maps to direct their course, ship captains need not lose their way.

Though still on land, many people feel as if they are lost on a storm-tossed ocean. They are asking themselves questions. Where am I going? Am I lost? Will I ever find the right way? God has heard our questions and He has already given us a Book to guide our lives.

Before searching for the answers, let us look together at the great Book. We will see how it was written and how it was given to us.

The Plan

- A. The Origin and Structure of the Bible
- B. The Purpose of the Bible

The Goals

1. Describe the origin and structure of the Bible.
2. State why the Bible was given.

A. THE ORIGIN AND STRUCTURE OF THE BIBLE

Goal 1. Describe the origin and structure of the Bible.

The Holy Bible, made up of 66 books, is like a small library that God has given us. The first part of the Bible—the Old Testament—contains 39 books. The second part—the New Testament—contains 27 books.

Over a period of 1600 years approximately 40 holy men of God were involved in writing these books. These men were kings and peasants, poets and merchants, military and religious leaders. They were from different backgrounds, different cities, and of different interests.

The books of the Bible cover many different subjects, like history, prophecy, and poetry. It has songs and wise sayings called proverbs. It contains stories to interest the young and the old. Yet it all fits together because it has one central theme—the relationship between God and humans.

Application

- 1 Fill in the missing terms in the following sentences.
 - a) The Bible consists of books, which were written over a period of years.
 - b) There are books in the Old Testament and books in the New Testament.
Check your answers with those at the end of this lesson.
-



B. THE PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE

Goal 2. State why the Bible was given.

Perhaps you noticed what may seem to be a contradiction in the first part of this lesson. It says that God gave us the Bible, but it also says that men wrote it. How can this be?

The forty men who wrote the Bible were *divinely inspired*. This means that the Holy Spirit put in the authors' minds the thoughts that God wanted them to write. Second Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed." This verse also tells why the Bible was given—for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training.

God has given us instructions for right living because He desires our highest good. He knows that when we do not live according to His principles we hurt ourselves. Our minds, our bodies, and especially our spirits suffer. The best way to avoid hurting ourselves is to follow His Word closely. Through it we get to know Him personally: we understand that His ways are best for us.

Like a chart or a guide book, His Word was written for us to turn to for help and strength. How wonderful that we can have His personal instructions always at our side!

Application

Circle the letter in front of the best completion of the sentence.

2 When we say that the Bible is *divinely inspired* we emphasize that

- a)** it tells us about God.
- b)** God gave the authors the thoughts they should write.
- c)** it contains valuable religious history.

3 The authors wrote on the same theme and did not contradict each other because

- a)** God was the real author and they wrote the thoughts He gave them.
- b)** each one left instructions for the following writers.

4 Circle the letter in front of the TRUE reasons why God has given us the Bible.

- a)** He wants our highest good.
 - b)** He wanted to give instructions for right living.
 - c)** He wanted us to realize that He is too great for us to know Him.
 - d)** He wants to establish His relationship with us and tell us what He is like.
-



Check Your Answers

The answers to your study exercises are not given in the usual order. This is done so you will not see the answer to your next question ahead of time. Look for the number you need, and try not to look ahead.

1 a) 66

1600

b) 39

27

3 a) God was the real author and they wrote the thoughts He gave them.

2 b) God gave the authors the thoughts they should write.

4 a) He wants our highest good.

b) He wanted to give instructions for right living.

d) He wants to establish His relationship with us and tell us what He is like.

LESSON 2 God

I was a little child when my mother taught me how to enjoy storms. She would put her arms around me as we stood at the window of our house in Latin America. The wind would whip through the banana trees in our front yard. It was magnificent to see the tossing leaves, wet with rain, shining when the lightning flashed. The thunder sounded like drums telling the story of how the grass and flowers loved the refreshing rain.

People can enjoy or fear a storm, depending on what they have been taught about it. It is also important to know what kind of a storm it is—beneficial or destructive.

How can you understand a storm? What is the shape of the wind and rain and lightning? Can you put a storm in a bottle? Of course not. A storm is understood when we study its parts: for example, the cold air meeting the hot. We can study its effects—what it does to the land or the sea.

In a way, God can be compared to a storm. Some people fear Him and others love Him—depending on what they have been told and what they do about it.

You cannot see God, but you can study what He does. In Lesson 1 we learned that the Bible tells us all about God—about His qualities and how He deals with humankind. In this lesson we will look into the Bible and explore a few of the many things it has to say about God.

The Plan

- A. His Relationship to Us
- B. Our Relationship to Him

The Goals

1. List several attributes of God.
2. Explain what your attitude toward God should be.

A. HIS RELATIONSHIP TO US

Goal 1. List several attributes of God.

The Bible says in John 4:24 that God is a Spirit. God is the Creator, who gives life to all of His creation. Because He is a Spirit, He cannot be seen unless He chooses to show himself in some visible form.

He did show himself through His Son. John 1:14 says, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father.”

God has revealed himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three Persons called the Godhead or Trinity. The three are referred to in many places, one of which is Matthew 28:19: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

One way to learn more about God is by studying His attributes or qualities. God is good, holy, just, all-powerful, all-knowing, and eternal. Let us look at a few verses that mention these qualities.

He [God] passed in front of Moses, proclaiming,
 “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and
 gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love
 and faithfulness.” (Exodus 34:6)

“I am the Lord your God; consecrate
 yourselves and be holy, because I am holy.”
 (Leviticus 11:44)

And the fact that He is all-powerful can be seen in Daniel 4:35: “No one can hold back his hand or say to him: ‘What have you done?’”

God Knows Everything

Nothing can be hidden from God; everything in all creation is exposed and lies open before His eyes. It is to Him that we must all give an account of ourselves (Hebrews 4:13).

Revelation 10:6 tells us that God is eternal. An angel “swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it.”

The few verses that we have read, verses that give a little description of God, help us to realize how great He is. He is powerful and He is strong—but He is also merciful and kind. And He wants to have a close relationship with us, His creation.

Application

1 Read the Scripture references and fill in the correct words in the statements following.

- a)** Matthew 6:9–11. God is likened to a loving who provides for his
- b)** Isaiah 66:13. God comforts even as a comforts her

2 Look up the following Scriptures. Write by each one of the references the attribute of God that it suggests to you.

- a)** 2 Kings 4:42–44
- b)** Genesis 9:13–17
- c)** 2 Chronicles 7:13–14
- d)** Exodus 3:7
- e)** Psalm 97:10–12



If you want to know more about the attributes of God, choose another psalm and as you read it write down the descriptions of God that are especially meaningful to you. Psalm 103 and Psalm 139 are filled with beautiful descriptions of God.

B. OUR RELATIONSHIP TO HIM

Goal 2. Explain what your attitude toward God should be.

In Matthew 22:37 Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” There are various ways of showing God that we love Him. Our worship and praise can put our love into words said directly to Him. But we should also show our love.

What does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the LORD’s commands and decrees. (Deuteronomy 10:12–13)

John writes, “If anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him” (1 John 2:5). If we want to show our love to God, we will follow the instructions He gives us in His Word.

Another way to show our love to God is by giving and sharing with others. First John 3:17–18 says,

If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

The love that is obedient and sharing will be a satisfying and rewarding love. Jesus says in Luke 10:28 that if we love God above all else we will live. Some people think that real living is wealth, power, and position. But these things in themselves will

never satisfy because we were made in God’s likeness and for His glory. Our spirits must be satisfied with the spiritual.

Real living is loving God. Jesus said, “Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33). Do not limit yourself to the less important things. Love God with all your heart.

Application

- 3** Circle the letter in front of the correct completion for the following statement. Above all else, you should love
- a)** power so that you are in control of your life.
 - b)** God, and put that love into practice.
- 4** Read the following verses and circle the ones that tell you what your first responsibility toward God is.
- a)** Deuteronomy 6:5
 - b)** Deuteronomy 10:12
 - c)** Deuteronomy 13:3
 - d)** Joshua 22:5
 - e)** Mark 12:30
 - f)** Jude 21
-



Check Your Answers

- 1** **a)** father, children.
b) mother, child.
- 3** **b)** God, and put that love into practice.
- 2** You may use your own words, but your answers will be something like these:
 - a)** all-powerful
 - b)** merciful.
 - c)** forgiving.
 - d)** all-knowing or all-seeing.
 - e)** holy.
- 4** You should have circled all the letters because every verse tells you that your first responsibility toward God is to love Him.

LESSON 3 Man and Sin

Imagine a friend has given you a palace full of beautiful things to enjoy. The only request he makes is, “Please don’t jump from the tower because you will die.”

Then an enemy comes to your palace. He says, “Who told you not to jump? Go ahead. You’ll feel wonderful! You will know how it feels to fly. You will be able to see your palace from a different view. Don’t worry about what happens when you hit bottom; just think about all the new things you’ll learn on the way down.”

Would you run to the top of your tower and jump? Of course not. It would be stupid to trust your enemy and do as he says.

Adam and Eve had a similar experience. God put them in a beautiful garden and made them masters over everything. He gave them permission to eat of every tree but one. Along came the enemy, Satan, who told them to eat the fruit of the tree anyway—that it would not hurt them. They trusted his word instead of God’s. How foolish!

Man was made perfect but through disobedience sin entered his life. How would we define sin? Did Adam bring it into the world? What is the punishment for sin? Is there any escape? This lesson will give us the answers.

The Plan

- A. Man at Creation
- B. Humanity Now
- C. The Definition of Sin
- D. Origin of Sin
- E. The Solution for Sin

The Goals

1. State how and why God created humans.
2. Describe the condition of humans as a result of the Fall.
3. Describe the nature and consequences of sin.
4. Explain how a sinner can escape the penalty of sin.

A. MAN AT CREATION

Goal 1. State how and why God created humans.

God created a beautiful world with trees, flowers, and animals. The Bible says that God was pleased with what He saw. But it was not complete. There were no people to enjoy and share that beauty.

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him. (Genesis 1:26–27)

Man was different from the animals already created because he was made in God’s likeness. He was a glorious creation, perfect in body, soul, and spirit. God formed man out of the soil

of the ground. Then He breathed life-giving breath into man's nostrils and the man began to live.

With life came responsibility. Man could make his own decisions. He could glorify God in his everyday living. The Bible says that in the cool of the evening God would walk and talk with the first humans—Adam and Eve—in the garden where they lived. God loved them and wanted their perfect fellowship to continue forever. But He knew it could not be perfect if it were forced, if they had no choice but to fellowship with Him.

Because God has the freedom to choose and He made humans like himself, He gave them the freedom to decide whether that fellowship should continue as it had or be broken. Perhaps Adam and Eve wanted to keep it that way, but they wanted some other things too. One day they would decide.

Application

- 1** Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
 - a)** Man was made for God's glory.
 - b)** God created man out of nothing.
 - c)** God's breath made man a living soul.
 - d)** Man was created perfect in body, soul, and spirit.
 - e)** Humans were created with a freedom to choose.
- 2** Memorize Revelation 4:11.
- 3** Choose the correct completion for the following statement.
Man was made to be
 - a)** oppressed and overworked.
 - b)** forced into service to God.
 - c)** a glory to God.



B. HUMANITY NOW

Goal 2. Describe the condition of humans as a result of the Fall

What a joy the heart of God must have felt having communion with His creation. Then Adam and Eve chose to break that precious fellowship with God.

Thus, man fell from his perfect state. He made the wrong choice and became sinful. Romans 5:19 says “through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners.”

The justice of God could not ignore sin. God cannot lie and go against His word. He had said that disobedience would cause man to become mortal. Adam and Eve had to leave that paradise garden of Eden and be separated from the presence of God.

Humanity’s condition today is still sinful. Romans 3:23 says, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Though people have never lost the ability to choose, wrong choices still keep them away from God.

Application

4 Zephaniah 3:17 says that when you are in communion with the Lord He

- a)** feels it is the least that you can do.
- b)** sings and is joyful over you.
- c)** knows you will soon disobey Him again.
- d)** will give you new life.

5 When Job 8:3 asks, “Does God pervert justice? Does the Almighty pervert what is right?” he suggests that God is true to His character and

- a)** man lost the ability to choose right or wrong.
- b)** will carry out His word by punishing sin.
- c)** Adam and Eve had to leave the garden of Eden.
- d)** decided Adam and Eve had not really understood His instructions.

- 6** Humanity's condition now is one of
- a)** separation from God.
 - b)** purity and perfection.
 - c)** no responsibility for his sins.
-

C. THE DEFINITION OF SIN

Sin is disobeying God's laws. It is rebellion. The limits God has set for us were made for our highest good. For instance, God knows that bitterness and hate hurt us and other people too. So He set certain limits, or laws, as protection. For us to go outside these limits is to sin. First John 3:4 says, "Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness."

Is it all right then to do anything that does not hurt me or others? No, everything is lawful **ONLY** if it is inside the limits that God has set. We might think that something does not hurt us or others and be mistaken in our belief. For example, some parents thought they should not obey God's law of correcting their children because that would frustrate the children. Now experts insist that disciplining children is critical. So people's opinions change. Thus, the only safe conduct for us is obedience to God's laws, whether we understand the reason for them or not.

Application

- 7** Sin is
- a)** whatever you feel is wrong.
 - b)** whatever others tell you is wrong.
 - c)** being discovered doing something wrong.
 - d)** rebellion and disobedience to God's laws.
- 8** God set limits to people's conduct because He
- a)** wanted to frustrate Adam and Eve.
 - b)** does not want us to enjoy ourselves or be free.
 - c)** loves us and wants the best for us.

- 9 To step outside the limits God has set is
- a) all right if no one gets hurt.
 - b) permissible as long as we are not discovered.
 - c) sometimes necessary to get us out of trouble.
 - d) never to be done.
-

D. ORIGIN OF SIN

Goal 3. Describe the nature and consequences of sin.

Satan tempted man to sin, and man yielded to that temptation. First John 3:8 says, “He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning.” It was Satan who tempted man to sin, but this does not free man from the blame. Man is responsible too.

Adam did not have to yield to temptation from Satan. We know that temptations do not come from God. James 1:13 tells us, “When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone.”

It is not sin to be tempted. Even Jesus was tempted by the devil. But it is sin to yield to temptation. How different the world would be if Adam had not yielded.

What happened to man when he sinned? God said that if he disobeyed he would die. While Adam did not die immediately as we know death, he immediately became mortal. Death began to work in his body, soul, and spirit. The apostle Paul writes,

Just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.
(Romans 5:12)

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

The penalty for sin today is the same penalty that was given to Adam and Eve—death. Romans 6:23 notes that the wages of sin is death. No, the sinner does not physically die the moment he or she commits sin. Sometimes it even looks as though sinners prosper. But death is working there nevertheless, and eventually they will not only die physically but spiritually also. Spiritual death means eternal separation from God.

Application

Choose the answers that complete each sentence.

10 Sin entered the world

- a) through Satan who sinned from the beginning.
- b) because Adam yielded to Satan's temptation.
- c) when Adam deliberately disobeyed God.

11 Since sin entered the world

- a) Satan no longer has to tempt anyone.
 - b) everyone is a sinner and can be tempted.
 - c) there is both physical and spiritual death.
-

E. THE SOLUTION FOR SIN

Goal 4. Explain how a sinner can escape the penalty of sin.

God has given us a way to escape the punishment of sin which is spiritual death and everlasting separation from Him. The way is through accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior. In a future lesson we will learn the verses that tell us how to be saved. For now, it would be good to memorize two verses that show us how to escape the punishment of sin.

God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
(Romans 5:8)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

Application

12 Write a short completion for the following statement. A sinner can escape the penalty of sin only by



Check Your Answers

- 1 a) Man was made for God's glory.
c) God's breath made man a living soul.
d) Man was created perfect in body, soul, and spirit.
e) Man was created with a freedom to choose.
- 4 b) sings and is joyful over you.
d) will give you new life.
- 5 b) will carry out His word by punishing sin.
c) Adam and Eve had to leave the garden of Eden.
- 3 c) a glory to God.
- 6 a) separation from God.
- 7 d) rebellion and disobedience to God's laws.
- 11 b) everyone is a sinner and can be tempted.
c) there is both physical and spiritual death.
- 8 c) loves us and wants the best for us.
- 9 d) never to be done.
- 12 accepting Jesus Christ as Savior.
- 10 a) through Satan who sinned from the beginning.
b) because Adam yielded to Satan's temptation.
c) when Adam deliberately disobeyed God.

LESSON 4 Jesus Christ

“Yes, of course I believe in Jesus Christ,” said my new friend. “He was a great prophet, a man sent from God who gave us many teachings that we should follow.”

“That’s wonderful,” I replied, “but it’s not enough. You must not only believe that he was a great prophet, but that He is God. You must know Him as divine, as a Savior.”

This was difficult for my friend to accept. He had learned some things about Jesus but had never established communion with Him through reading His Word or through prayer. It was hard for him to believe that all people are sinners, or that there is an escape from sin.

He asked me many questions that day. Who is Jesus? How can He be human and divine at the same time? If He died, why do Christians say He is living? What is He doing now?

The best answers that I could find were in the Bible, the Word of God. In this lesson we will look at those same questions and find the answers that my friend wanted to know.

The Plan

- A. His Person
- B. His Purpose
- C. His Return

The Goals

1. Explain who Jesus is.
2. State the purpose of Jesus' first coming and His future return.
3. Indicate events that will occur at the time of the Rapture.

A. HIS PERSON

Goal 1. Explain who Jesus is.

Jesus Christ is the visible manifestation of God to humanity. He chose to become like men so that we would be able to understand Him better and learn His plan of salvation for us. This choosing to become like a man meant that Jesus would have two natures in One Person, both human and divine. Romans 1:3–4 says,

The gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

To have a human nature, Jesus was born of a virgin named Mary.

The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his

father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.” (Luke 1:30–33)

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Who is this Father mentioned in John 1:14? God is the Father of Jesus. Second Peter 1:17 tells us,

For he [Jesus] received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

The name “Jesus Christ” also tells us of His divinity. When the angel said that the baby’s name would be Jesus, it was for a very special reason. Jesus means *Savior*. Matthew 1:21 says, “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

The name *Christ* has a special meaning too. It means “the anointed one” or “the Messiah.” Many years ago when a man was chosen to be king, oil was poured over his head as part of the ceremony. This pouring on of oil was called “anointing.” To call the Lord “Christ” or “the anointed one” meant that He was royalty. Messiah was the name the Jews gave to the king and deliverer for whom they waited. Simon Peter recognized Him as king and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16).

Application

1 The sentences on the right are descriptive of Jesus. Read the Scriptures on the left. Then place the number of the description in front of each verse.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| ... a Philippians 2:7 | 1) God is His Father. |
| ... b John 10:17 | 2) He was born of a woman. |
| ... c Philippians 2:6 | 3) He is the Savior. |
| ... d Galatians 4:4 | 4) He became like us. |
| ... e Acts 4:12 | 5) He is divine and has the nature of God. |



B. HIS PURPOSE

Goal 2. State the purpose of Jesus' first coming and His future return.

Jesus came into the world to save humans from sin. Luke 19:10 says, "The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." There was only one way He could save us—by giving His life.

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)

This is a wonderful promise to all humankind. But why did Jesus have to die to ransom or redeem us? If we remember the story of Adam and Eve, we will recall that God had told them that sin is followed by death. God cannot go against His own judgment against sin. If there is sin, someone has to die. So Jesus Christ came to die in the sinner's place. No one else could do it because He was the only one who could conquer death.

Yet it was not easy—even for our Lord. He who had been sitting on His throne with angels to carry out every command, and who had created the universe and humanity, became a

servant. He permitted His creation to hurt Him, despise Him, and crucify Him on the cross of Calvary that they might be saved. First Peter 1:18–19 reads:

You know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Are all people now saved since Jesus died for them? No, God never took away the privilege of choice. Each person still has to make his or her own decision to accept Jesus as personal Savior. Jesus said to His followers:

“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:15–16)

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.” (John 3:16–18)

Jesus died for us. There would have been no hope of salvation for humanity, however, if He had remained in the grave.

Many religions have built shrines at the tombs of their leaders. Inside are the revered bones of their dead. But the tomb of Jesus is empty because of the miracle that took place three days after His crucifixion. Jesus rose from the dead and was seen many times after His resurrection.

He was buried, . . . he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and . . . he

appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. (1 Corinthians 15:4–7)

Jesus' resurrection is one evidence that points to His being the Son of God. Romans 1:4 says that Jesus Christ was shown with great power to be the Son of God by being raised from death.

After He showed himself to many people and spoke words of encouragement to them, He ascended into heaven. This, also, was no secret because He ascended while His disciples were watching.

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. (Luke 24:50–51)

What is Jesus doing now? When He ascended He took His place at the right hand of His Father. He talks to His Father about our needs. Let us look at three verses that tell what He is doing now.

We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right of the throne of the Majesty in heaven. (Hebrews 8:1)

If anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. (1 John 2:1)

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. (Hebrews 7:25)

How wonderful that the costly price has been paid for our redemption! After dying on the Cross, rising from the grave, and ascending to be with His Father, Jesus does not forget us. He is interested in us every day and will help us as we allow Him.

Application

2 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE completion for the following statement. Jesus Christ died on the Cross to

- a) redeem us.
- b) take our place in the death we deserve.
- c) provide salvation for everyone who believes in Him as Savior.
- d) to give us eternal life

3 Read Luke 24:46–47. Verse 46 tells of Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. Verse 47 tells us why He had to die and rise again. What is the reason that verse 47 gives?

.....
.....

4 According to the Scripture, Jesus is now

- a) concerning himself with other creations.
- b) pleading with the Father about our needs.
- c) deciding who will have eternal life and who will not.



C. HIS RETURN

Goal 3. Indicate events that will occur at the time of the Rapture.

Jesus Christ will return to earth again. We call this His Second Coming. The Bible tells us that before this takes place His church (all who have ever believed on Him) will be caught up to meet Him in the air. This is called the Rapture. Sometime after the Rapture, Jesus will come to earth again and establish His kingdom.

Believers look forward to the Rapture because then we will be caught up to meet the Lord and to be with Him forever. Acts 1:11 says, ““This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into

heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” First Thessalonians 4:16–17 also states:

The Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Application

5 Circle the letter in front of the true statements.

- a) Jesus will come back to earth again.
- b) The *Second Coming* is the same as the *Rapture*.
- c) The earthly kingdom of the Lord is established at the Rapture.
- d) All those who believe in Christ will meet Him in the air.

6 Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 again. State at least five events that will happen when the Rapture takes place.

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)



Check Your Answers

- 1**
- a** 4) He became like us.
 - b** 1) God is His Father.
 - c** 5) He is divine and has the nature of God.
 - d** 2) He was born of a woman.
 - e** 3) He is the Savior.
- 4** **b)** pleading with the Father about our needs.
- 2** You should circle all the completions. They all are TRUE.
- 5**
- a** Jesus will come back to earth again.
 - d** All those who believe in Christ will meet Him in the air.
- 3** That in His name repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations
- 6** You could write any five of the following:
- a)** a shout of command
 - b)** sound of God's trumpet
 - c)** Lord comes down
 - d)** dead in Christ shall rise
 - e)** living believers shall rise
 - f)** we will meet the Lord in the air
 - g)** be eternally with the Lord

LESSON 5 Salvation

I was sitting in her little house when 95-year-old Amelia told me how she came to accept Jesus as her Savior.

Many years before she had stood at the doorway of a church in Latin America. She was afraid to enter, but listened intently as the preacher said, “Jesus is your Savior. He will save you from your sins. When you are in need, call on Jesus.”

That day she walked back up the hill and when she entered her room she heard a rustle. Suddenly, before she could run, a boa constrictor snake wrapped itself around her. She could see the large head in front of her face as it began to squeeze. Remembering the preacher’s words, she cried out in desperation, “Jesus, save me! Jesus, save me!” The snake loosened its coils, fell from her, and slithered out of the room.

That day Amelia not only thanked the Lord Jesus for saving her physically, but also asked Him to save her spiritually.

The same Lord Jesus that saved Amelia can save you. Let us study about this precious salvation and what you can do to obtain it.

The Plan

- A. Definition of Salvation
- B. Initiation into Salvation
- C. Results of Salvation

The Goals

- 1. Explain what salvation means.
- 2. Identify the basis for salvation.
- 3. Discuss some results of salvation.

A. DEFINITION OF SALVATION

Goal 1. Explain what salvation means.

One day a young man from a university said to me, “There are many roads to salvation and heaven. Sincerity is the key to reaching heaven. You may believe whatever you wish as long as you are sincere.”

Was he right? Is being sincere enough? Or can a person be sincerely mistaken?

The Bible is very clear in saying that freedom from sin comes only through Jesus Christ, Revelation 1:5 says that Jesus loves us, and by his death he has freed us from our sins.

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

So, in defining salvation we can say that it is pardon from sin, but we must add “through the death of Jesus Christ.”

Who needs this salvation? As previously studied, everyone has sinned and been sentenced to eternal death or separation from God. Ezekiel 18:4 warns, “The soul who sins is the one who will die.” And Romans 3:23 reads, “All have sinned and

fall short of the glory of God.” Every human being is in need of forgiveness of sin and pardon through Jesus Christ.

Application

1 Circle the letter in front of the verses that tell us that salvation comes through Jesus Christ.

- a)** Luke 19:10
- b)** Romans 5:8
- c)** Romans 1:16
- d)** Galatians 1:4

2 Salvation means

- a)** being sincere in whatever we believe.
- b)** freedom from sin through Jesus Christ.

3 Circle the letter in front of the TRUE statements.

- a)** Only those who harm others need salvation.
 - b)** There are many roads to God and heaven.
 - c)** Good men will be saved.
-

B. INITIATION INTO SALVATION

Goal 2. Identify the basis for salvation.

A few years after the resurrection of Jesus, the writer of Acts tells the story of a jailer who was very frightened because there had been an earthquake and he thought some of his prisoners were escaping. Two of them, Paul and Silas, were followers of Christ.

Paul and Silas quickly assured the jailer that no prisoners were getting away. Then the jailer, seeing that God had worked a miracle, asked how he could be saved. The answer the believers gave him was very simple. It is found in Acts 16:31, ““Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.”” So the first step that must be taken to enter salvation is to believe in the Lord Jesus.

In what way must we believe? We must accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior and depend on Him to take us to heaven.

These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:31)

When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior we must also turn from sin. We must repent and ask God to forgive us and make us clean. If we ask Him to do this, we must also trust that He does forgive and cleanse us. First John 1:9 advises, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

This acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior is done simply by talking to Him as you would to a friend. If you have never taken this step, tell God that you want to accept the forgiveness He offers. Perhaps you could say in your own words something like:

Dear Father, I recognize that I am a sinner.
I’m sorry for my sin and ask your forgiveness.
Cleanse me and keep me from all wrongdoing. I
accept the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus who died
for me. I take Him now as my Lord and Savior.
Thank you. Amen.

Once you have sincerely prayed this, you can trust that your sins are forgiven! You can praise and thank God that you belong to Him, that you are His child.

Application

- 4** Romans 1:16 says that salvation is for everyone who
- a)** lives according to the rules.
 - b)** believes.
 - c)** is wealthy.
- 5** According to Acts 16:31 and John 20:31, belief for salvation must be in the
- a)** Lord Jesus.
 - b)** disciples who were saints.
 - c)** traditions of your church.
-



C. RESULTS OF SALVATION

Goal 3. Discuss some results of salvation.

What happens to you when you accept salvation? A definite spiritual change, a transformation, takes place. Second Corinthians 7:10 says, “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.” Paul wrote earlier, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17). This change can be seen in several ways. Sometimes a person’s attitude toward life changes from sad to happy, or perhaps he now loves someone he could not love before.

There can also be physical transformations. Those who have been bound by habits such as alcoholism can be set free. The Lord is powerful to make any changes necessary in the person who now believes on Him.

To accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior also means to be born into the family of God. This is what Jesus meant when He said in John 3:3 that we should be born again.

John writes of Jesus,

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (1:12–13)

The Bible also speaks of adoption which brings out a similar relationship. By adoption we are received into God’s family. God makes us His children, giving us all the rights of inheritance that belong to the sons of God.

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. (Romans 8:16–17).

Being in the family of God is special. This is why you will hear Christians call each other “brother” or “sister.” This is a way of saying, “We belong to the same family.”

Can we be sure of our salvation? One day a young woman asked for prayer. She told me that when she accepted Christ as her Savior she had felt so wonderful, so full of joy. Now she did not feel that way and wanted to know why she had “lost her salvation.” We know that we are not saved by feeling, but by taking God at His Word.

If we have met the conditions that the Bible gives us for salvation, we must believe we are saved no matter what we feel. The Holy Spirit can speak this assurance to our hearts also. We can find reassurance from our brothers and sisters in Christ, too, like my friend did the day she came to me.

We know that we have passed from death to life,
because we love our brothers. (1 John 3:14)

Perhaps you have heard Christians use the words justification and sanctification. What do these mean? Justification is being free from sin, made righteous. It is a result of salvation. God forgives our sin, takes away all guilt and says that we are now righteous—just as if we had never done anything wrong. Romans 5:1 tells us, “Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Being put right with God is justification.

Sanctification means being made holy, that is, clean from sin and dedicated to God. The apostle Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica,

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify
you through and through. May your whole spirit,
soul and body be kept blameless at the coming
of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

God wants all Christians to be sanctified, made holy. Paul also noted, “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality” (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

“Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14).

There is another point that should be touched upon while talking of the results of Jesus’ death on the Cross. This is divine healing. Divine healing was included in the benefits Jesus bought for us on Calvary.

Many who were demon-possessed were brought to him [Jesus], and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.” (Matthew 8:16–17)

Isaiah 53:5 records, “By his [Jesus’] wounds we are healed.” Divine healing is the supernatural power of God bringing health to the human body. James 5:14–15 tells us how we can claim this healing:

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up.

Application

- 6** Circle the letters in front of the correct answers to this question. Which of the following are results of salvation?
- a)** Transformation
 - b)** Adoption or “being born again”
 - c)** Justification
 - d)** Sanctification
 - e)** Access to divine healing

7 Read the words in the left column. Write in front of each the number of the definition in the right column that matches it.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ... a Transformation | 1) Being made holy |
| ... b Sanctification | 2) Health by supernatural means |
| ... c Justification | 3) A complete change |
| ... d Divine healing | 4) Becoming part of God's family |
| ... e Adoption | 5) Being made righteous |



Check Your Answers

- 1** Circle all the letters because each of the references tells us that salvation comes through Jesus Christ.
- 5 a)** Lord Jesus.
- 2 b)** freedom from sin through Jesus Christ.
- 6** You should circle all the letters because they are all results of salvation.
- 3** You should not circle any of the choices. None is true.
- 7 a** 3) A complete change
b 1) Being made holy
c 5) Being made righteous
d 2) Health by supernatural means
e 4) Becoming part of God's family
- 4 b)** believes

LESSON 6 The Holy Spirit

The disciples knew that Jesus was going away. He had told them so. At first their hearts were troubled, for they loved Jesus and had walked three years with Him. How could they live without Him?

Jesus read their hearts and assured them that it was best for them that He return to His Father in heaven. His Father would send the Holy Spirit and they would never be left alone.

God's Spirit would not be felt in just one country, or minister to just one race of people—but over the whole earth. On the Day of Pentecost Peter spoke to the crowd representing at least 15 different language groups.

“This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:
‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my
Spirit on all people.’” (Acts 2:16–17)

Did you know that we are brought to salvation through the work of the Holy Spirit? Let us study about the Holy Spirit and His work in us.

The Plan

- A. The Person of the Holy Spirit
- B. The Work of the Holy Spirit

The Goals

1. Describe the person of the Holy Spirit.
2. Explain the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation.

A. THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Goal 1. Describe the person of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is God. He is the third Person in the Godhead, called the *Holy Trinity*. Like the Father and the Son, He also has other names, such as *Holy Ghost*, *Spirit of God*, *Spirit of Truth*, *Comforter*. Matthew 28:19 mentions all three Persons: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

The Holy Spirit is like God the Father. He is eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing, and everywhere. He works together with the Father and the Son and was with them at Creation. Let us look at some verses that tell about the Holy Spirit.

Through the eternal Spirit he offered himself unblemished to God. (Hebrews 9:14)

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. (1 Corinthians 2:10)

“The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” (Job 33:4)

The Holy Spirit moved on prophets and priests in Old Testament times. He helped men and women to serve God. Of Joseph who was sold as a slave into Egypt it was asked, “Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?” (Genesis 41:38).

Application

- 1** The Holy Spirit is the Person of the He works together with the and the and has been on earth since
- 2** Read the following Scriptures. By each write the quality or characteristic of the Holy Spirit that the verse mentions.
- a) Romans 15:13
 - b) Hebrews 10:15
 - c) 1 Peter 4:14
 - d) 1 John 5:6
 - e) John 14:26



B. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Goal 2. Explain the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation.

The Holy Spirit plays an essential part in our salvation. He shows us our sins are and helps us accept Jesus as our Savior. He changes our lives.

When he [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment. (John 16:8)

Jesus taught, “no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit” (John 3:5–6). The Holy Spirit dwells in every believer. He enters the heart when conversion takes place. “Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father’” (Galatians 4:6). Romans 8:9 says further, “If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.”

We have talked about the *indwelling* of the Holy Spirit and we may also have the *infilling* of the Holy Spirit which occurs after conversion. It is sometimes, called the *baptism in the Holy Spirit*. Not every believer is baptized in the Holy Spirit, but it is an experience God wants all His children to have.

Exalted to the right hand of God, he [Jesus] has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. (Acts 2:33)

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)

The Holy Spirit is our Comforter, our Helper. He teaches, gives us love and fellowship, and guides us into truth. He has fruit for us, like joy, peace, patience, humility and self-control (Galatians 5:22) and spiritual gifts with which to minister unto the Lord and to other people (1 Corinthians 12:4–7).

Application

3 Circle the letter in front of the following statements that are TRUE.

- a)** The Holy Spirit is present in every believer.
- b)** The Holy Spirit guides us toward salvation.
- c)** Conversion and baptism in the Holy Spirit are the same.
- d)** The Holy Spirit declares us children of God.

4 Read the Scripture references on the left. Write in front of each the number of the work of the Spirit listed on the right that is mentioned in the reference.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| ... a Isaiah 11:2 | 1) Gives power |
| ... b Ezekiel 36:27 | 2) Teaches |
| ... c Joel 2:28 | 3) Reveals the truth |
| ... d Luke 12:12 | 4) Gives wisdom, knowledge,
and skill |
| ... e Micah 3:8 | 5) Gives prophecies, dreams, and
visions |
| ... f John 16:13 | 6) Causes you to keep God's laws |



Check Your Answers

1 third

Trinity.

Father

Son

creation.

3 a True

b True

c False

d True

2 a Power

b Witness

c Glorious

d Truth

e Helper

4 a 4) Gives wisdom, knowledge, and skill

b 6) Causes you to keep God's laws

c 5) Gives prophecies, dreams, and visions

d 2) Teaches

e 1) Gives power

f 3) Reveals the truth

LESSON 7 The Church

There are beautiful buildings and cathedrals, missions and huts that have on them the name “Church.” They have steeples and crosses, bells and towers that have their own way of announcing to passers-by, “This is a church.” These man-made structures are churches in one sense of the word, but the church spoken of in the New Testament is something more.

The church in its larger sense is made up of all believers. It is called the body of Christ. God dwells among these believers by His Spirit. In the previous lesson we studied about the Holy Spirit and some of His functions. One of the functions we did not mention is that He unites the church.

In this lesson we will study what the church is, what it should be doing, and what is going to happen to it. Again, it is the Bible that will give us the right answers.

The Plan

- A. Names for the Church
- B. Ordinances of the Church
- C. The Church's Mission and Future

The Goals

1. Describe Christ's church.
2. Identify the two ordinances of the church.
3. Explain the mission and future functions of the church.

A. NAMES FOR THE CHURCH

Goal 1. Describe Christ's church.

When you hear the words *body*, *building*, *bride*, *family*, do they suggest something in common? All relate to people, and in biblical language these words refer to a specific group of people—those who make up God's family.

The church is compared to a body of which Christ is the head. Colossians 1:18 says, "He is the head of the body, the church." Paul noted,

God placed all things under his [Jesus'] feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. (Ephesians 1:22–23)

"You are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27). The Bible also likens the church to a building dedicated to the Lord.

In him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. (Ephesians 2:22)

Another name given to the church is the bride of Christ. The Bible calls Jesus the Lamb and states that the church is the bride that will be married to Him. Revelation 21:9 says, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” “For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.” (Revelation 19:7). In Ephesians 5:25 Christ is compared to the husband and the church to the wife.

As you read the Bible you will find other comparisons. The important thing to remember is that the church is made up of all those who are born-again followers of Christ. It is a growing group, praising God, and enjoying the good will of all the people.

Application

1 Read the references below and write beside each the title it gives to the church.

- a)** Colossians 1:24
 - b)** 1 Peter 5:2
 - c)** 1 Corinthians 3:9
 - d)** Ephesians 2:19
-

B. ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

Goal 2. Name the two ordinances of the church.

Now that we know who the church is, it is important to understand the ordinances of the church. An ordinance is a rule made by an authority. The ordinances of the church are water baptism and communion, which we also call the Lord’s Supper.

Jesus himself instituted these two ordinances. His final command to the disciples was, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). Water baptism has a special significance, for we have been buried with Christ in baptism and raised with Him through our faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead (Colossians 2:12).

As a believer you will want to be water baptized as a testimony of your new life in Christ. You will also want to take part in communion. Communion, the Lord’s Supper, or the Last Supper, was the last meeting Jesus had with the 12 disciples before His arrest by the Roman soldiers. We take communion to commemorate Jesus’ death. Paul writes,

I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23–26)

Application

2 What are the two ordinances of the church as given by Jesus?

.....

3 According to Matthew 28:19, the ordinance of water baptism is for

- a)** anyone born into a Christian family.
- b)** those who have believed and are following Christ.
- c)** joining a church.

4 Circle the letter in front of each statement that completes the sentence correctly. Holy Communion is

- a)** an ordinance of the church.
- b)** eating the body and blood of Christ.
- c)** remembering the sacrifice of Jesus.
- d)** for every believer.



C. THE CHURCH'S MISSION AND FUTURE

Goal 3. Explain the mission and future functions of the church.

The mission of the church is to preach the gospel to all humankind. Jesus himself gave this commission before He went back to His Father.

He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” (Luke 24:45–47)

Application

5 Circle the letter in front of each statement that completes the sentence correctly. The mission of the church is to

- a)** tell of Jesus’ suffering and death.
 - b)** preach repentance and forgiveness of sin.
 - c)** tell of Jesus in every nation.
-

Christ loved the church and gave His life for it “to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless” (Ephesians 5:26–27).

The church will be praising God both in heaven and on earth where they will reign with Christ. John testifies,

“I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: ‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!’” (Revelation 5:13)

Application

6 Circle the letter in front of the following statements that are TRUE.

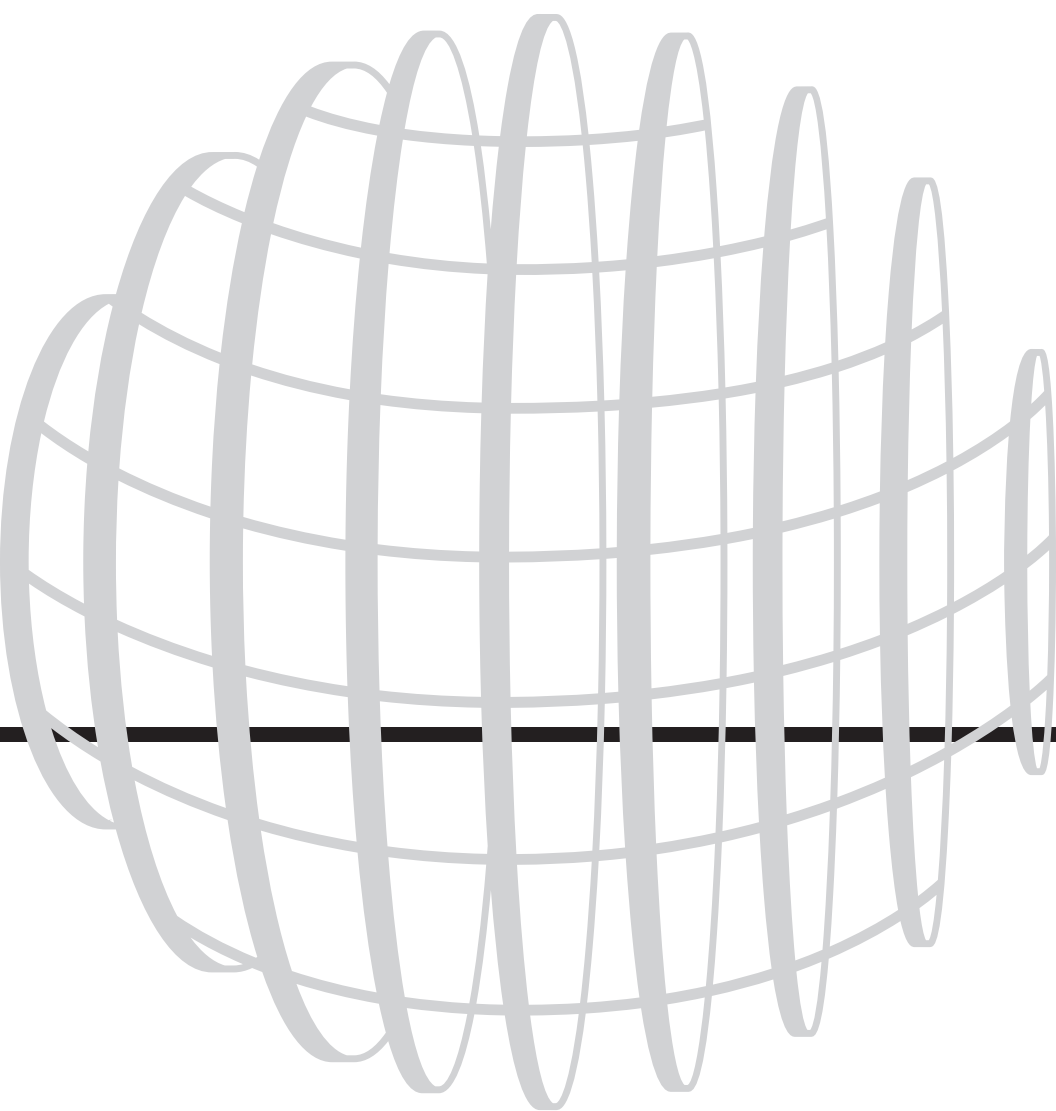
- a)** There will be nothing to do throughout eternity.
- b)** The church will be with Christ forever.
- c)** The church will serve God as priests and rulers on earth.

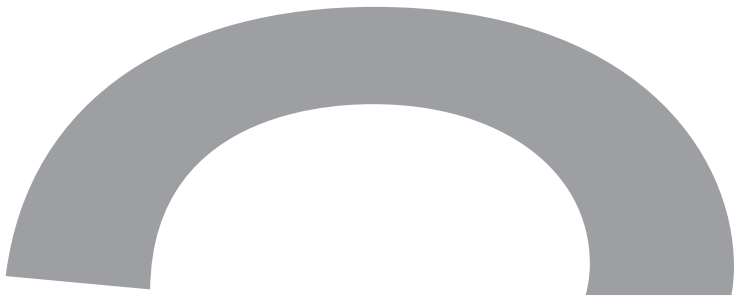


Check Your Answers

- 1 a** Christ's body
b God's flock
c God's fellow workers; God's field and building
d Fellow-citizens with God's household
- 4** You should have circled a), c), and d). Answer b) is not correct because we do not actually eat the body and drink the blood of Jesus. Bread and wine are symbols of His body and blood.
- 2** Water baptism and communion (or the Lord's Supper).
- 5** You should have circled all of the letters because all are correct.
- 3 b)** those who have believed and are following Christ.
- 6 b)** and **c)** are true

Now that you have completed the first unit, you are ready to answer the Unit One Evaluation. Review the previous lessons, then follow the directions on the Unit One Answer Sheet. You should complete and send your answer sheets to your instructor for corrections.





Unit

Lessons

- 8** The Spirit World
- 9** The Future
- 10** The Law of God
- 11** Relating to God and to Others
- 12** The Christian Life
- 13** The Spirit-filled Life

LESSON 8 The Spirit World

“The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

Marina was a teenager when she became a spiritist medium. When I met her, she was 25 and already bound by Satan and evil spirits. The first three weeks of those months that several other believers and I lived with Marina and her husband were a time of terrible spiritual battle.

Every evening we laid hands on Marina, praying for her deliverance. The evil spirits tried to kill her and also to harm us, but they could not. We resisted the satanic forces and sought protection through the blood of Jesus. Slowly the evil spirits left. The power of God was greater, and soon Marina was completely free!

Marina became a member of God’s family, part of the church that we have just studied about. Only God controlled her and only the Holy Spirit lived in her.

Perhaps you, too, have seen the power of Satan working. But you do not have to be afraid. The power of God is greater! In this lesson we will learn about the forces of the spirit world and the protection that we as believers have in Christ.

The Plan

- A. Satan and Evil Spirits
- B. Angels

The Goals

1. Explain who Satan is and what is his destiny.
2. Identify three functions of angels.

A. SATAN AND EVIL SPIRITS

Goal 1. Explain who Satan is and what is his destiny.

Satan is a wicked angel who was cast out of heaven because he wanted to exalt himself above God. But God brought him down to the deepest part of the world of the dead (Isaiah 14:14–15). The evil angels who followed him met a similar fate: “God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment” (2 Peter 2:4). Jesus himself said, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven” (Luke 10:18).

Satan (sometimes-called *Lucifer* or the *devil*) tries to turn people away from serving the living God. First Peter 5:8 warns us, “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

Evil spirits work with Satan to hurt and destroy people. Matthew 8:28–34 tells of two men who were driven insane because evil spirits or demons possessed them. But the power of God has always been greater than the power of the devil. Jesus showed that power by casting the demons out of the men.

When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.” (Matthew 8:16–17)

Revelation 20:1–3 tells that when Christ comes to set up His kingdom on earth, Satan will be bound for a thousand years. After this he will be set free for a while and then be cast into hell forever. John’s vision indicates,

The devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Revelation 20:10)

When you are faced by temptations from Satan or are in danger because of evil spirits, you can stand against him. James 4:7 says, “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” Revelation 12:11 notes, “They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.”

As we will study in the next section, God sends His angels to be of service to you. You have nothing to fear if you are a child of God!

Application

- 1** God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of ; , and (2 Timothy 1:7).
- 2** Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement about Satan and evil spirits.
 - a)** Satan is like a roaring lion wanting to hurt Christian believers.
 - b)** Evil spirits are just imagined by people who do not know better.
 - c)** Satan and evil spirits are overcome by the blood that Jesus shed on the Cross.
 - d)** If a believer resists the devil, the devil cannot harm him.
- 3** Read Matthew 25:41. What has been prepared for the devil and his angels?

.....



B. ANGELS

Goal 2. Identify three functions of angels.

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:14).

Have you heard about guardian angels? They are real. The Bible says that God will “command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways” (Psalm 91:11).

Angels have many functions, the first of which is to serve God, their Creator. Angels worship God at all times. Nehemiah 9:6 states, “You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.” Angels do not act on their own, but are under Christ’s authority. First Peter 3:22 tells us that Jesus “has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.”

Angels participated in the giving of the old law (Galatians 3:19) and later sang over the Judean hills, announcing the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:13–14). They ministered to Jesus while He was here on earth. Luke 4:11 tells us that after His temptation in the wilderness, angels helped Him. When Jesus prayed in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, an angel came to strengthen Him.

Angels minister to us as well. Though they are not often seen, they watch over us—keeping and protecting us from danger. We have no way of knowing the accidents and other kinds of trouble that we have been spared because of their ministry on our behalf.

Yet we know they have been sent to help us because the Bible says so. Biblical examples are given to encourage us to believe. For instance, Paul tells how an angel visited him and he in turn encouraged those on the ship to believe they would live (Acts 27:22–25).

First Kings 19:5 tells that an angel brought food to the prophet Elijah when he was so tired he thought he would die. And an angel freed the apostle Peter from prison when he was being persecuted for the gospel’s sake (Acts 12:17).

Whether angels are seen or are invisible, we know they are sent to minister to us. How comforting to know they are ready to do whatever God tells them.

As we have already learned, angels do not act except under divine authority. Nor do they accept praise. John the Beloved was so overwhelmed with a message given him by an angel that he fell down and began to worship him. But the angel stopped him. “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God!” (Revelation 19:10).

You must not worship angels, but you can give them cause for rejoicing. If you have given your life to Christ, you have already given angels joy. Jesus said, “I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:10).

Application

4 Read the following verses and beside each one write the function of the angels mentioned in that verse.

- a) Hebrews 1:6
- b) Acts 8:26
- c) Psalm 91:11

5 Angels _____

- a) are beings to be worshipped.
- b) can act or speak without God’s authority.
- c) are servants of God and help God’s children.



Check Your Answers

- 1 power, love, self-discipline
- 4
 - a) Worship Christ
 - b) God's messenger
 - c) Guard or protect
- 2
 - a) Satan is like a roaring lion wanting to hurt Christian believers.
 - c) Satan and evil spirits are overcome by the blood that Jesus shed on the cross.
 - d) If a believer resists the devil, the devil cannot harm him.
- 5 c) are servants of God and help God's children.
- 3 Eternal fire

LESSON 9 The Future

Everyone is interested in the future. Books, both good and bad, have been written about what people think is going to happen. Scientists and government leaders are asked for their ideas about what lies ahead for their nation.

People have always been anxious about the future, consulting tea leaves, horoscopes, crystal balls and other forms of fortune-telling. One day a lady came running to me, asking if she could read my palm and tell me my future. She was quite surprised when I told her that I had a little book that told me my future—and it told her future too! Then I gave her a copy of the New Testament.

The Bible is the one source of true predictions. Through His Word God gives us all that we need to know. There is no need to “read” tea leaves, or tarot cards. In fact, these and other forms of “magic” are forbidden by God.

If you have wondered about your future and about what will happen when Jesus comes again, you will be interested in studying this lesson. We will study about future judgments and the time of the Lord’s coming. Even the angels we studied about in the previous lesson are interested in knowing when the Lord will return to earth. Let us look into the Bible and see what it says about our future!

The Plan

- A. The Rapture of Believers
- B. The Earthly Rule of Jesus
- C. The Judgment of Unbelievers

The Goals

- 1. Explain when and for whom the Rapture will occur.
- 2. Indicate events that define the Christian term *Millennium*.
- 3. Explain what is the Great White Throne Judgment.

A. THE RAPTURE OF BELIEVERS

Goal 1. Explain when and for whom the Rapture will occur.

Rapture refers to the future coming of the Lord when He will meet His church in the air. No one can tell us when the Rapture will take place because only God the Father knows. Jesus said,

“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” (Matthew 24:36)

But there are signs telling us that the Rapture is drawing near. Jesus said that just before His return there would be an increase in worldliness, wickedness, and violence. False christs and false prophets would arise; there would be earthquakes, famine, and pestilence; wars and rumors of wars. All these signs spoken of in Matthew 24 and Luke 21 are happening in our day.

Not everything, however, is negative. In spite of terrible times many people will seek the Lord and find Him. Joel prophesied about this:

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young

men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.” (Joel 2:28–29)

Christians look forward to the Rapture with joy. Those who have died will be resurrected and those who are alive will be changed. All will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air. Paul writes,

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. (1 Corinthians 15:51–53)

After the Rapture Christians will be judged and rewarded according to their faithfulness to Christ. Then they will go to the marriage supper of the Lamb when Christ, the Lamb of God, welcomes the church as His bride.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

We know that the blood of Jesus has removed our sins and we will not have to answer for them. But we will be rewarded according to our faithfulness. When trials come our way it is good to remind ourselves that the Lord sees everything.

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of

the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.” (Revelation 19:7–9)

Application

1 According to 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17, which statements are TRUE?

- a)** When the trumpet sounds all the dead shall rise.
- b)** The Lord will come to earth to judge sinners at this time.
- c)** Those who died believing in Christ will be raised to life.
- d)** All believers, dead and living, will be caught up to be with the Lord forever.

2 What signs do you see in the world today that encourage you to believe for the soon coming of the Lord?

.....

.....



B. THE EARTHLY RULE OF JESUS

Goal 2. Indicate events that define the Christian term *Millennium*.

The Lord will return with His people to rule over the earth a thousand years. This period of time has been called the *Millennium* (taken from the Latin *mille* meaning “a thousand”).

The Bible talks of this era as a time of great joy and peace on earth. Jude 14 says, “The Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones.”

Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:6)

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. (Isaiah 11:6)

Application

- 3** Circle the letter before each statement which completes the sentence correctly. The Millennium in the Bible refers to
- a)** the Lord's thousand year rule on earth.
 - b)** a time of war on earth.
 - c)** all believers ruling with Christ on earth.
-

C. THE JUDGMENT OF UNBELIEVERS

Goal 3. Explain what is the Great White Throne Judgment.

After Jesus has ruled a thousand years, the wicked dead will be raised to stand before God in Judgment. Then Satan, his angels, and all the wicked will be cast into hell. This judgment is called the Great White Throne Judgment. Several verses from Revelation 20 tell us about this judgment.

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in

the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:11–15)

Those whose names are written in the book of the living are the believers in Christ. They have nothing to fear because they will be with Christ forever. Revelation 21:2–4 tells us what John saw in a vision.

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

After the Great White Throne Judgment, God’s children will be with Him. He will prepare for them in a new heaven and a new earth.

Application

- 4** Eternity with God will be a time of
- a)** remembering our past sins on earth and repenting of them.
 - b)** joy and living with God forever.
-



Check Your Answers

1 c) and d) are true.

2 Your answer. It might be the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, many people turning to the Lord, or the gospel being preached to the ends of the earth.

4 b) joy and living with God forever.

3 a) and c) are correct.

LESSON 10 The Law of God

Worship no god but me.

Do not make for yourselves images of anything.

Do not use my name for evil purposes.

Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy.

Respect your father and your mother.

Do not commit murder.

Do not commit adultery.

Do not steal.

Do not accuse anyone falsely.

Do not desire anything another man owns.

(Exodus 20:1–17)

God wrote the Ten Commandments on two tables of stone and gave them to the great leader of Israel, Moses, for his people. Even though they are ancient laws, they can be applied today.

The Plan

- A. Meaning and Purpose of the Law
- B. Obedience to the Law

The Goals

1. Identify the Ten Commandments.
2. Indicate the responsibility of the believer toward the law of God.

A. MEANING AND PURPOSE OF THE LAW

Goal 1. Identify the Ten Commandments.

The Lord said to Moses, “Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke.” (Exodus 34:1)

In Exodus 20, the Ten Commandments that God wrote are written for us. He gave them as guidelines for His children to follow. Let us look at each law individually

Worship no god but me. As we learned earlier, we are to give God first place in our lives. This commandment is repeated in Matthew 4:10: ““Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.””

Do not make for yourselves images of anything. Our allegiance is to God—we cannot have divided loyalties. Jesus said that no man can serve two masters (Luke 16:13), for he will love one and despise the other. We want to be true to the Lord, loving Him with our whole heart.

Do not use my name for evil purposes. People break the third commandment by cursing and using God’s name in vain. We will always give that Name which is above all names a place of love, honor, and respect.

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for

building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (Ephesians 4:29)

Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. (Matthew 5:34–35)

Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy. This is the only commandment not repeated in the New Testament. Most Christians do not observe the Hebrew Sabbath. They keep Sunday instead because it was on the first day of the week that Jesus rose from the dead. Every Lord's Day can remind us of the Resurrection! It is important that we set aside a day for rest and worship, but which day we choose is secondary. Colossians 2:16 says, "Do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day."

One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. (Romans 14:5)

Respect your father and your mother. Exodus 20:12 gives a special promise to obedient children: "Respect your father and your mother, so that you may live a long time in the land that I am giving you." The New Testament reinforces the commandment.

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you." (Ephesians 6:1)

Do not commit murder. The first murderer was Cain who killed his brother Abel. Perhaps Cain thought no one saw what happened, but God did. God asked Cain, "'What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground'" (Genesis 4:10). Murder is a sin with chain reactions—it hurts the families and friends of both the murderer and the murdered. It is also a grave offense against God who made man in His own image.

Do not commit adultery. Adultery is the sin of breaking the marriage vow by having sexual relations with someone other than the marriage partner. Hebrews 13:4 says, “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.”

Do not steal. It is wrong to take anything that does not belong to you, even if the person you took it from is rich and does not need it.

He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. (Ephesians 4:28)

Do not accuse anyone falsely. The ninth commandment includes all lying in word or deed. God does not make a difference between “good” lies and “bad” lies—all false accusations are wrong. Psalm 101:7 says, “No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house; no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence.”

The cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death. (Revelation 21:8)

Do not desire anything another man owns. To wrongly desire what belongs to another is called coveting. Luke 12:15 puts it this way: “‘Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.’”

God gave us these laws to teach us right from wrong, to guide us when we make decisions.

What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. . . . So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. (Galatians 3:19, 24)

Application

1 Read Exodus 20. Then write each commandment in brief with its Scripture reference.

- a) One:
- b) Two:
- c) Three:
- d) Four:
- e) Five:
- f) Six:
- g) Seven:
- h) Eight:
- i) Nine:
- j) Ten:

2 Read Hebrews 13:5. What commandment or commandments could the writer have had in mind when he wrote that verse?

.....
.....



B. OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW

Goal 2. Identify the responsibility of the believer toward the law of God.

The Lord asks that we keep His commandments not only in action, but in attitude as well—an attitude of love, of preferring others above ourselves.

The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Romans 13:9)

This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome. (1 John 5:3)

We already know that keeping commandments will not save us. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:8–9 confirms it:

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

However, we do obey the Lord because as His children we want to please Him. If we do break one of His commandments, we should immediately ask God to forgive and cleanse us from sins.

I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1–2)

We have learned that our main responsibility as Christian believers is to love God. We keep His commandments because we love Him. So, our relationship with God is one of love.

First Corinthians 13 gives a beautiful description of love. Verses 4–8 tell us that love is patient and kind, not jealous, conceited, proud, ill mannered, selfish, or irritable. It does not keep a record of wrongs nor is it happy with evil, but with truth. Love never gives up—it is eternal. This may sound like an ideal picture of love. But it is this kind of love that every Christian believer should have for God and others. It is this unconditional love that God gives to us.

It is no accident that the chapters before and after 1 Corinthians 13 are about God’s gifts to believers. The chapter on love is tied in with the chapters on gifts because love also is a gift. Loving and giving go together; when we love others we want to give them what will please them most.

Have you sometimes felt weak and maybe even disobedient? The Lord Jesus can give you the help and strength that you need. Would you like to ask for His help right now?

Heavenly Father, I ask forgiveness for failing to love you as I should. Help me not to sin and disobey you when I know better.

Lord, I want to love You and defend Your Name even more than I would love and defend my own family. Give me Your strength, I pray, because I ask in the name of Jesus who gave His life for me. Amen.

Application

3 Read 1 John 3:15–18. According to these verses which of the following statements are TRUE?

- a)** The attitude is as important as the action.
- b)** He who hates his brother is a murderer.
- c)** To love God and your brother is also a commandment.

4 Read Romans 8:3–4. Fill in the correct completions to the following statements.

- a)** God condemned sin in human nature by
- b)** The demands of the law are fully satisfied in us who live according to



Check Your Answers

1 Compare your answers to the following verses:

- a)** Exodus 20:3
- b)** 20:4–6
- c)** 20:7
- d)** 20:8–11
- e)** 20:12
- f)** 20:13
- g)** 20:14
- h)** 20:15
- i)** 20:16
- j)** 20:17

4 a) sending His own Son.

b) the Spirit and not according to human nature.

2 The writer could have been referring to “Worship no God but me” because some people love money above God.

Or he could have referred to “Do not steal” because he says that God will never abandon you, so there is no need to steal.

Or he could have been thinking of “Do not wrongly desire anything another man owns” because he says, Be satisfied with what you have.

3 All of the statements are true.

LESSON

11 Relating to God and to Others

We have learned that our main responsibility as Christian believers is to love God. We keep His commandments because we love Him. So, our relationship with God is one of love.

First Corinthians 13 gives a beautiful description of love. Verses 4–8 tell us that love is patient and kind, not jealous, conceited, proud, ill mannered, selfish, or irritable. It does not keep a record of wrongs nor is it happy with evil, but with truth. Love never gives up—it is eternal. This may sound like an ideal picture of love. But it is this kind of love that every Christian believer should have for God and others. It is this unconditional love that God gives to us.

It is no accident that the chapters before and after 1 Corinthians 13 are about God's gifts to believers. The chapter on love is tied in with the chapters on gifts because love also is a gift. When we love others we want to give them what will please them most.

The Plan

- A. God's Gifts to Us
- B. Our Gifts to God
- C. Relating With Others

The Goals

1. Identify several gifts from God for His children.
2. List gifts that believers can give to God.
3. Indicate whom a believer must honor and obey.

A. GOD'S GIFTS TO US

Goal 1. Identify several gifts from God for His children.

The first gift that God gives us when we choose to believe on Him is the gift of salvation. Paul wrote,

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8–9)

If we are believers, God is our heavenly Father and we are His children. In Matthew 5:16, Jesus refers to the Father: “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” It is wonderful that we can talk to God as we would to a loving father. Jesus taught us to talk to God this way: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name” (Matthew 6:9).

Although God is the Creator, He is the Father of only those who have been born into His family. To be part of the family of God we must accept His Son Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. Then new life begins.

Paul writes, “And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19). God watches over us as His children. He watches day and night. “He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber” (Psalm 121:3). “The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry” (Psalm 34:15). There are many verses like this in Psalms that tell us of God’s care for us.

When our Father tells us in His Word that He will do certain things for us, we call those verses *promises*. Promises indicate what God will do for us. We can receive blessing and the fulfillment of what God has promised, as we believe in His Word.

“Anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.”
(John 14:12–13)

Christians can also receive blessings from God by helping others. Psalm 41:1 states, “Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the LORD delivers him in times of trouble.”

We can receive many gifts from God if we will believe and ask Him for them. This act of believing is called *faith*. Our faith pleases God and brings not only salvation and other gifts, but also healing and the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)

That we receive healing through faith is found in James 5:15: “The prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.”

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is also received through faith. Paul writes,

He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. (Galatians 3:14)

The greatest gift, however, is found in Romans 6:23, “The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” James also confirms that “every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights” (James 1:17).

Application

1 Read Psalm 91. What words could be used to describe these promises that are a gift from God?

.....
.....

2 Read the references on the left. Write beside each the number of the promise on the right that is mentioned in the verse.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ... a Romans 5:17 | 1) Wisdom, knowledge, and happiness |
| ... b Ecclesiastes 2:26 | 2) Workings |
| ... c Ezekiel 11:19 | 3) Abundant grace |
| ... d Matthew 11:28 | 4) New heart and new mind |
| ... e 1 Corinthians 12:6 | 5) Rest |

3 Write at least three gifts that you have received from God since receiving Jesus as your Savior.

.....
.....



B. OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Goal 2. List gifts that believers can give to God.

Does it seem strange to give something to God who has everything? In His Word God himself tells us what we can give Him.

We can give God our worship. Psalm 95:6 says, “Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.” Worship can be given by praying, by thanking God for His blessings, by praising Him and giving to His work. Colossians 3:16 tells us to sing to God with gratitude.

We also worship when we give ourselves to God without holding back.

I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:1–2)

Giving our money is another way to worship. And when we give, we also receive. God promised in Malachi 3:10:

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”

A tithe is ten percent of your income.

As Christians, everything we do can be as to the Lord. Jesus gives an account of people who received rewards for giving food and drink to Him and for visiting Him in prison. He said, “Whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me” (Matthew 25:45). Thus, our giving must become a way of life.

Continuous worship does not mean being on our knees continually in prayer. If we will live each day in a manner pleasing to the Lord—He will count it as unending worship. We will not find it difficult to always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:20), for He is worthy.

Application

- 4** Which could be considered as worship or gifts to God?
- a)** Singing choruses while doing chores
 - b)** Not showing anger when your boss is unreasonable
 - c)** Going to church on Sunday
 - d)** Giving thanks to God before you eat
 - e)** Silently thinking of God's goodness
-

C. RELATING WITH OTHERS

Goal 3. Indicate whom a believer must honor and obey.

Those Over Us

Everyone at one time or another has had someone in authority over him or her. Children have parents over them, and parents have religious and political leaders over them. Even those leaders have others who tell them what to do. What does the Bible say about our relationship to those who are over us?

Parents should be loved, honored, and obeyed. You will remember this as one of the commandments that we studied. Ephesians 6:1–2 also tells us, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother.’”

Rulers such as policemen, judges, and governors should also be obeyed. Paul writes, “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God” (Romans 13:1).

As believers we have leaders like our pastors, the church board, and Sunday School teachers. They should be respected and obeyed in matters pertaining to their responsibilities.

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. (Hebrews 13:17)

Only the authority of God is higher than that of the leaders over us. The only time that our obedience is not required is when our earthly leaders ask us to do something that is expressly against God's commandments or will. This happened to Peter and the other apostles when they were forbidden to preach. Acts 5:29 records, "Peter and the other apostles replied: 'We must obey God rather than men!'"

Application

5 Read the verses below. Write in front of each verse the number of the description it matches.

... **a** 1 Timothy 5:17

... **b** Colossians 3:20

... **c** 1 Peter 2:13

... **d** Proverbs 6:20

... **e** Matthew 22:17–21

1) Honoring parents

2) Honoring civil authorities

3) Honoring church leaders

6 Read the list below, then put an X by any one or more that you have trouble respecting or honoring.

. . . Father

. . . Mother

. . . Pastor

. . . Board of Church

. . . Police

If you have put an X beside any of the above, ask the Lord to help you understand why you have problems honoring them and to help you respect and obey them from now on.

Those Around Us

One day a friend said to me, “If unbelievers treat me badly I can still love them. But, I will not tolerate bad treatment from another Christian. They know better!”

What would have happened to Peter and the other apostles if Jesus had felt that way? They knew better, yet they all failed Him when he was arrested and taken to His trial. Even so, when He arose, He appeared to them and assured them of His love.

We have failed the Lord many times, but He continues to love us. The Lord asks us to love other Christians as He loves us. “As I have loved you, so you must love one another” (John 13:34).

Our friends and neighbors should be treated as we would like to be treated. Jesus said, “Do to others as you would have them do to you” (Luke 6:31). Paul also encouraged believers: “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Romans 13:9).

Our relationship to the unsaved is also one of love. We should show them by the way we act that Christ lives in us.

Richard Wurmbrant, a Christian pastor who was jailed for his faith, tells the story of a fellow-prisoner who was also a pastor. He was known for his outstanding Christ-like character.

Later, a young communist was jailed and put in the same cells as these pastors. The pastors witnessed to him and told him to accept Jesus as his Savior. But the young man refused.

One day the young man was arguing. “How can I accept someone as my Savior,” he said, “if I’ve never met Him and don’t know what He’s like?”

“I’ll tell you who Jesus is like,” replied the pastor, “He’s like me!”

Without hesitation, the man answered, “If He’s like you, I’ll accept Him as my Savior right now!”

What a marvelous testimony that pastor had. Unfortunately, there are very few believers who would dare to say, “Jesus is like me!” But, this is what the Lord wants—that we be so much like Him, that people can see Him in us! Jesus taught, “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

Application

7 Which of the following situations are **RIGHT** for believers and which are **WRONG**? Write **R** before those that are right and **W** before those that are wrong.

- . . . **a** A fellow Christian slanders your name. You are thinking about taking him to court.
- . . . **b** Your neighbor says, “Don’t ever come back to talk to me about Christ again!” But the next day when he needs help, you go over and help him.
- . . . **c** Your pastor preaches something you don’t like so you walk out of church to show your displeasure.
- . . . **d** A Christian friend sins and instead of exposing him before the church, you go to him privately and help him repent and get right with God.

- 8** Read 1 John 4:7–21. According to these verses which of the following statements are TRUE?
- a)** We love because God first loved us.
 - b)** Whoever does not love does not know God.
 - c)** There is fear in love because love might be rejected.
 - d)** Loving God is enough; there is no need to love a brother if he treats you wrongly.



Those Against Us

What did Jesus do the night He was arrested and Peter cut off the ear of the high priest's slave? Though the slave was an enemy of Jesus, Jesus intercepted, "'No more of this!' And he touched the man's ear and healed him" (Luke 22:51).

We want to be like Jesus who loved His enemies and forgave them. Jesus said, "'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you'" (Matthew 5:44). Again in Matthew 6:15, He said, "'If you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.'"

Love is the greatest Christian virtue. First Corinthians 13:13 tells us, "'These three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.'"

Christians should love God first. He will in turn put His love in our hearts so we can love both friends and enemies. Jesus said, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind'" (Matthew 22:37).

John records Jesus' words: "'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another'" (John 13:34). Memorize this verse and repeat it often, remembering that a believer's most important responsibility to God and humans is to love.

Application

- 9** Which of the following statements are TRUE in your life?
- a)** The way you treat your family influences them to accept what you say about God.
 - b)** Your actions make your friends want the same power of God that has changed your life.
 - c)** You are praying every day that when people see you they will be able to see Jesus, too.
 - d)** You are praying for friends who are having a hard time loving others.
-



Check Your Answers

- 1** Your answer. You might sum them up with words like: God's Protection or Safety in God.
- 2** **a** 3) Abundant provision
b 1) Wisdom, knowledge, and happiness
c 4) Undivided heart and new spirit
d 5) Rest
e 2) Workings
- 3** Your answer. You might have been healed, given a job, been delivered from fear or found new hope—His gifts are many.
- 4** All the statements tell of ways we can worship.
- 5** **a** 3) Honoring church leaders
b 1) Honoring parents
c 2) Honoring civil authorities
d 1) Honoring parents
e 2) Honoring civil authorities
- 8** **a)** and **b)** are true.
- 6** Your answer
- 9** Your answers. Examine your actions and ask God to give you strength to live up to His standards day by day.
- 7** **a** Wrong
b Right
c Wrong
d Right

LESSON **12** The Christian Life

The small country was in a civil war and the guerillas were fighting everywhere. They captured a young man and threatened his life if he did not renounce Christianity.

In desperation he yielded and renounced his faith. He was then forced to accompany the guerillas who also expected him to work for them. He became their leader and led the killers to the homes of Christians he had known.

Months passed. Then one day he was in a terrible fight and one of his own men killed him. What a loss—both in this life and in the one to come!

How much better it would have been if the man had stood true to his convictions. He might have lost his life, but he would have gained eternal life. He failed in his responsibility toward God, toward others, and toward himself.

This chapter will help us understand what we owe ourselves and will teach us how to obey God, who wants our lives to count for now and eternity.

The Plan

- A. Self-Denial
- B. Cleansing Ourselves
- C. Christian Growth
- D. Thoughts and Actions

The Goals

1. Explain what self-denial means to a Christian.
2. State why a clean lifestyle is necessary for every Christian.
3. Identify essential steps to Christian growth.
4. Indicate how a believer's thoughts can be protected and controlled.

A. SELF-DENIAL

Goal 1. Explain what self-denial means to a Christian.

A Christian believer's life is not his or her own. The Lord owns the life of a Christian because He bought it with His own blood. Peter writes,

You know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. (1 Peter 1:18–19)

First Corinthians 6:20 also tells about the sacrifice that Jesus paid on the Cross. Since Christ paid a price for us, we must also pay a price. To be a Christian means to deny ourselves and follow Jesus. In Luke 9:23, Jesus said, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”

We deny ourselves when we do God's will rather than have our own way. Jesus Christ set the example for us. He said, “I

have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me” (John 6:38).

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21)

As Christians we must choose to do right every day even though it goes against our own wishes. Paul instructs, “Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature” (Romans 13:14).

The Lord never asks us for anything without giving us something better in its place. It is like the story of the dog and the bone. His master tried to take the bone but the dog became angry and growled. The bone was all he had and he did not want to give it up. But when his master put down a large steak, the dog gave up his bone immediately.

Sometimes we are too concerned with hanging on to *bones*—the things we think we want. But the Lord is offering us something better. When the disciples were concerned about what they had to give up, Jesus gave them a clear answer.

“Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.” (Matthew 19:29)

Jesus said in another place that He came that you might have life—life in all its fullness (John 10:10). Life in all its fullness! That is what the world is seeking, but only God can give it.

May you come to know His love—although it can never be fully known—and be filled with the nature of God.

To him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:19–21)

Application

- 1 According to Luke 14:27, we should love God above
.....
- 2 Denying ourselves or carrying our cross means
 - a) not owning any material possessions.
 - b) selling what we own and giving it to the church.
 - c) doing God’s will above our own.
- 3 Which of the following statements are TRUE?
 - a) Jesus gave His life for us, not to add to our burdens but to free us from our own guilt.
 - b) Fullness of life is found by being filled with God’s nature.
 - c) Denying ourselves means to stop giving attention to our sinful natures.
- 4 Read Matthew 11:28–30. To carry the cross of Jesus is not a burden. On the contrary, it is



B. CLEANSING OURSELVES

Goal 2. State why a clean lifestyle is necessary for every Christian.

Christians should keep their bodies and minds pure and clean. The Bible tells us why.

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own. (1 Corinthians 6:19)

Such habits as smoking and using drugs injure a person’s health, harm the body and mind, and shorten one’s life. Users may think they can stop whenever they want to, but they become slaves to these habits. The apostle Paul asks,

Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to

the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? (Romans 6:16)

Perhaps some temptations have overcome you. Do you go to places that are not pleasing to the Lord, or read books or magazines that you would be ashamed for Him to see? Asking God to help us change our ways can break harmful habits.

Tell the Lord that you cannot conquer evil in your own strength and He will help you. Ask for His healing within you. Then learn the following verse and repeat it whenever you are tempted. “I can do everything through him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13).

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. (Psalm 37:5–6)

Application

5 What would you do in the following situations? Answer YES or NO to each of the questions.

- . . . **a** You are invited to an unsaved friend’s party to participate in activities against your Christian convictions. Would you go just this one time in order not to offend your friend?
- . . . **b** Several members of your church have asked you to go to a place where you will be expected to do things you know are not pleasing to the Lord. Would you accept so they will not feel you are trying to be “holier” than they are?
- . . . **c** Several unbelievers have asked you to attend festivities in their home and give your testimony of your conversion. Would you go because it is an opportunity to witness?

- 6** A new Christian confesses to you he cannot stop smoking. Which of the following would you do?
- a)** Tell him he is not going to heaven until he stops smoking.
 - b)** Tell the pastor so the new Christian cannot be baptized.
 - c)** Pray with him and help him go to the Lord and His Word for strength to overcome this habit.
-

C. CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Goal 3. Identify essential steps to Christian growth.

We have already learned who gives us eternal life and how we receive it; but it is good to remind ourselves often so we will never forget that our source of life is Jesus.

“Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (John 4:14)

It is wonderful to be part of God’s family. It makes us want to share the good news with others so they can become part of the family too. Jesus said in Matthew 10:32, “Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.”

In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. (1 Peter 3:15–16)

We share Christ because we want to and because the Bible encourages us to tell others about Him. When we take our stand for Christ we grow stronger.

Another way to declare publicly that we belong to Christ is by being baptized in water. Water baptism is an important step in your Christian growth. Jesus himself was baptized—not because He needed to be, but because He is our perfect example. Read about this event in Matthew 3.

Furthermore, before ascending to heaven, Jesus instructed the disciples:

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)

Becoming a member of a local church is not necessary for our salvation, but it does give us a closer tie to our Christian family. We become responsible to and for those around us. We learn to care more for one another. Just as the natural family is part of God’s plan, so is the spiritual family—a group with whom we can share and learn from each other. Acts 2:47 says that the Lord added those who were saved to the group of believers.

Application

7 According to Romans 10:9–10, what two things must a Christian do?

.....
.....

8 Read John 1:43–46. What did Philip do right after Jesus called him?

.....

9 Which of the following statements are TRUE?

- a)** Water baptism is one way to publicly confess Christ.
- b)** It is not necessary to share Christ; we can be secret followers just as well.
- c)** Christian friends can help us and we can help them.



There is more than one kind of hunger. We may long for news from someone who has gone away or we may hunger for new opportunities. Folks have been starved for love and affection. And certainly our hearts, our spirits, have reached out for more than this world can offer.

After you are saved you will feel another kind of hunger—a hunger for God’s Word. Peter referred to such hunger when he wrote, “Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation” (1 Peter 2:2). Jesus said, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God’” (Matthew 4:4).

Christians need to read the Bible every day. Israel’s King David set a good example. He said, “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night” (Psalm 1:1–2). “Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long” (Psalm 119:97).

It is important not only to read God’s Word, but to memorize it and hide its precepts in our hearts. What we have learned the Holy Spirit can bring to our remembrance in times of need—when we must have guidance and direction.

“The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14:26)

Prayer should accompany our daily Bible reading. Jesus who knew the glories of heaven before He came to this earth felt the need of prayer. He spent the whole night in prayer before choosing His disciples (Luke 6:12). Paul and Silas were praying and singing when they were set free from their prison chains (Acts 16). Christ told His disciples, “‘Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you’” (Luke 11:9).

First Thessalonians 5:17 instructs us to “pray continually.” Even though we are in school where our minds are kept busy, or on a job that requires our full attention, we can live in an attitude of prayer. If an emergency arises we know how to call on God; we take advantage of a pause in our work to lift praise to the Lord. In this way we are continually worshipping Him.

Application

10 What two activities will help the believer grow spiritually?

.....
.....



D. THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS

Goal 4. Indicate how a believer’s thoughts can be protected and controlled.

Proverbs 4:23 says, “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” The Lord can help us control our thoughts. Philippians 4:7 says, “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Our thoughts please God when they are clean and pure.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. (Philippians 4:8)

To keep our minds on that which is pleasing to God requires constant discipline. As long as we are in this world we will be exposed to sin and temptation, but with the Lord’s help we do not have to yield. An old proverb says, “The birds may pass overhead, but you don’t have to let them build a nest in your

hair.” In other words, temptation may be all around you, but you do not have to let it become sin in your mind and actions. The best way to control our thoughts, to keep our minds free from evil, is to be careful about what we see, hear, say, and do.

In monitoring what you see, consider Jesus’ words: “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light” (Matthew 6:22).

What we hear also influences our thoughts. Mark 4:24 says, “Consider carefully what you hear” Are the conversations you enjoy or the music you listen to helping you to love the Lord more? Are they building healthy thoughts? If your answer is negative perhaps you need to discipline your listening.

Listening includes hearing our own words as well as the words of others. What we say can be a strong influence for good or for evil. If someone offends us we can forget it more easily if we have not answered the person harshly. Proverbs 15:1 says “a gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” Our goal could be the fulfillment of Proverbs 25:11, “A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.”

Christians should be careful of what they do because God requires what is right.

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And
what does the LORD require of you? To act
justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly
with your God. (Micah 6:8)

Our response can be the words of the psalmist: “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer” (Psalm 19:14).

Application

11 Choose a verse from this section that confirms each of the following completions. Write the appropriate reference on the blank line. Our thoughts

- a) should be on good things
- b) are controlled by God’s peace
- c) shape our lives
- d) should be acceptable to God



As we have already learned, we must share the good news of the gospel with everyone—including unbelievers whom we count as friends. But our closest friends should be chosen carefully. Our free time must be balanced with the right Christian influence, with those who can help us as we grow in the Lord and seek to do His will.

We want to study the Bible by ourselves and with Christian friends. We also need to hear God’s Word preached, for “faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17).

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:25)

When believers gather together they should be supportive one of another. There is strength in unity, in singing and praising the Lord together.

So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. (1 Corinthians 12:25–26)

God has a plan whereby we can share in the financial concerns of the local body and at the same time reach out to others. Hebrews 7:2–9 gives an example from the life of Abraham, who gave one tenth (a tithe) of everything he had. Yet giving tithes may not be enough.

The Pharisees, religious leaders of their day, paid tithes, but Jesus said that our standard of giving should be far above theirs. He said they were giving a tenth even of their seasoning herbs, such as mint, dill, and cumin, but neglecting the really important teachings of the Law, such as justice and mercy and honesty (Matthew 23:23). Jesus went on to explain that we must be faithful in all that God has asked.

We want to give generously of our money and at the same time listen for whatever else the Lord wants. He may ask for more of our time, our talents—even our plans for the future. Whatever it might be, we can lay it down as an offering of love to Him who first loved us.

Application

12 Giving one tenth of what we have is called

13 According to Hebrews 10:25, we gather together with other believers to

14 Memorize Romans 12:1–2. According to these verses, our true worship to God is



Check Your Answers

- 1 a) our family or friends.
- 4 easy and light.
- 2 c) doing God's will above our own.
- 5 Your answer. I hope you said NO to a and b because you should not change your Christian convictions for friends whether they are unbelievers or Christians. I hope you said YES for c. Jesus witnessed wherever He went—in the temple and in people's homes. He would go wherever people are hungry to hear His Word.
- 3 All of the statements are true.
- 6 c Pray with him and help him go to the Lord and His Word for strength to overcome this habit
- 7 Confess with his mouth
Believe in his heart
- 8 He found Nathaniel and told him about Christ.
- 12 tithing, or giving a tithe.
- 9 a) and c) are true.
- 13 encourage one another.
- 10 Reading the Bible and praying every day.
- 14 dedicating ourselves to His service and to pleasing Him.
- 11 a) Philippians 4:8
b) Philippians 4:7
c) Proverbs 4:23
d) Psalm 19:14

LESSON 13 The Spirit-filled Life

A Spirit-filled life should be the goal of every believer. Being filled with God's Spirit is another step or progression that should take place in the experience of every Christian. A Spirit-filled life is one that is completely yielded and consecrated to the Lord.

Jesus promised His disciples that when He went back to His Father He would send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit.

“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.” (John 15:26)

This coming of the Holy Spirit happened on the Day of Pentecost. (See Acts 2.) Since then it has been possible for every believer to live the Spirit-filled life.

In this lesson we will learn what it means to have a Spirit-filled life. We will also learn of the reward that comes with being filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Plan

- A. Being Filled With the Spirit
- B. Sustained by the Spirit

The Goals

1. Identify some characteristics of a Spirit-filled life.
2. Describe how the Holy Spirit sustains a believer.

A. BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

Goal 1. Identify some characteristics of a Spirit-filled life.

Ephesians 5:18 instructs us, “Be filled with the Spirit.” This happens when one becomes a born-again Christian and is baptized in the Holy Spirit. Jesus used the words, *baptized in the Holy Spirit*, to indicate a beautiful spiritual experience His disciples were going to have. He said in Acts 1:5, “John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

As believers we can be baptized in the Holy Spirit just as the first disciples who waited in faith, thanking and praising God. They obeyed the instructions Jesus gave when He said, “I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:49).

One of the ways we can know we have been filled is that God’s power will come upon us as it did on the believers on the Day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit will speak through us in languages that we have not learned. The early believers in the upper room all “were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them” (Acts 2:4).

It is important that a Spirit-filled life show character traits or “fruit” as they are sometimes called. In Galatians, Paul lists the fruit of the Spirit: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,

goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Galatians 5:22–23).

If we think we are Spirit-filled and we are not showing these characteristics, we should ask the Lord what is wrong. If we do not have these traits, we can hinder the work of the Holy Spirit in and through us. Paul warns,

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,
with whom you were sealed for the day of
redemption. (Ephesians 4:30)

We can keep filled with the Holy Spirit by living in obedience to God’s will.

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to
debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.
Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and
spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your
heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God
the Father for everything, in the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:18–20)

These Scriptures help us to understand what is meant by *living in the Spirit*. When we allow the Holy Spirit to direct our lives, we grow and develop into mature Christians (Galatians 5:16). The Holy Spirit keeps us alive and active so that we feel strong and ready to do the work of the Lord. This idea is stated in 2 Corinthians 4:16: “Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.”

Application

1 Circle the letter before each statement which completes the sentence correctly. When the baptism in the Holy Spirit is received, the believer

- a)** speaks in an unknown language.
- b)** shows the “fruit” mentioned in Galatians 5.
- c)** grows spiritually.
- d)** will let the Spirit direct his or her life.

2 Read Ephesians 5:17–21 again. List at least three activities a Spirit-filled Christian should do, according to these verses.

.....

3 According to Galatians 5:16, what is the key to living in the Spirit?

.....



B. SUSTAINED BY THE SPIRIT

Goal 2. Describe how the Holy Spirit sustains a believer.

The Holy Spirit was sent to be our Helper. One of His titles is *Comforter*. When someone comforts us, he makes our lives easier. He holds us up when we are under pressure. That is what we mean when we say the Spirit sustains us.

The Holy Spirit sustains us. He helps us in every aspect of our Christian growth. The Holy Spirit helps us in our prayer life. “We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express” (Romans 8:26).

The Holy Spirit also guides us. Romans 8:14 says, “Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.” The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and is the great Teacher and Guide into all truth. Jesus promised, “The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you” (John 14:26). “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13).

Among the results of the Spirit-filled life are the gifts that the Holy Spirit brings us. These gifts can become tools to make our work for God easier and more effective. One of the first gifts is power for Christian service.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

The Holy Spirit makes available to us His gifts, which are special provisions for Christian service. “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:4). Gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8–11 are the message of wisdom, message of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues. There are also other gifts and abilities that God through His Spirit wants to give us.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. (Romans 12:6–8)

The Holy Spirit also has blessings and glory for God’s children.

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. (Romans 8:16–17)

The marvelous outpouring of the Holy Spirit comes in modern times just as it has in the past. God is baptizing many Christians in the Holy Spirit. Let us pray that this will continue. Pray for your church that your pastor, deacons, and all of the members may be filled with God’s Spirit and be used of Him.

It is this Spirit who will sustain us even if we face problems, hunger, hardship, persecution, poverty, or death. Paul reminds us that “in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us” (Romans 8:37).

Application

4 To say that the Holy Spirit sustains us means He
.....

5 One title for the Holy Spirit that is mentioned in this lesson is
.....



Check Your Answers

- 1** You should have circled all of the letters, as all are correct.
- 4** comforts and holds us up when we are under pressure.
- 2** You could list any three of the following: sing hymns and psalms, have praise in your heart, give thanks in everything, submit yourselves one to another, have reverence for Christ.
- 5** Any of the following: Helper, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Teacher, Guide
- 3** Having the Spirit direct our lives

Now you are ready to answer the questions in your unit evaluation report for Unit Two. Review the lessons in unit two, then follow the instructions in your unit report. When you send your answer sheet to your instructor, ask about another course of study.

CL3330 We Believe**UNIT ONE ANSWER SHEET**

Please fill in the blanks below:

Name

Student Number
(Leave blank if you don't know your number.)

Mailing Address

.....

.....

Country

Directions

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the Unit Evaluation answer sheet for that unit. Read each question carefully. There is one best answer for each question. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen. *Be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question you are answering.*

Example

- 1 To be born again means to
- a) be young in age.
 - b) accept Jesus as Savior.
 - c) start a new year.

The correct answer is **b) accept Jesus as Savior**, so you would blacken space (B) like this:

1. (A) ● (C) (D)

Turn page over when you are ready to begin.

UNIT ONE ANSWER SHEET

Carefully blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 11 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 2 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 12 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 3 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 13 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 4 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 14 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 5 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 15 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 6 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 16 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 7 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 17 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 8 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 18 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 9 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 19 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 10 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 20 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |

This is the end of the requirements for Unit One. For grading, return your Unit One Answer Sheet to your instructor or office in your area. Continue your study in Unit Two.

*For GU Office Use
Only*

Date

Score

UNIT ONE EVALUATION

- 1** The origin and basic structure of the Bible is
- a)** 66 books written by 30 men over 1300 years.
 - b)** 55 books written by 40 men over 1100 years.
 - c)** 66 books written by 40 men over 1600 years.
- 2** Which of these is a purpose of Scripture?
- a)** To entertain us
 - b)** To show us our sins
 - c)** To teach us how to build an ark.
- 3** The Bible tells us that God in His relationship to humans is
- a)** visible.
 - b)** distant.
 - c)** eternal.
- 4** Man's first responsibility is to
- a)** love God.
 - b)** serve his family.
 - c)** develop fully.
- 5** God created man
- a)** perfect in all ways.
 - b)** sinful in nature.
 - c)** weak in spirit.
- 6** Humanity's condition as a result of the fall is one of having
- a)** no power to choose.
 - b)** a sinful nature.
 - c)** a permanent handicap.
- 7** The situation below which shows sin is
- a)** being tempted to cheat.
 - b)** hiding one's disobedience from a parent.
 - c)** asking for forgiveness for angry words.
- 8** What is the result of sin?
- a)** Death
 - b)** Life
 - c)** No effect

9 To hate others is sin because it

- a)** could get us into trouble.
- b)** might hurt our reputation.
- c)** is disobeying God's laws.

10 We can escape the results of sin only by

- a)** paying great sums of money to the church.
- b)** receiving Jesus Christ as our Savior.
- c)** repeating our prayers every day.

11 The name *Christ* means

- a)** "Savior."
- b)** "Son of God."
- c)** "anointed one."

12 Jesus right now is fulfilling His purpose of

- a)** providing forgiveness for sinners.
- b)** continuing to do battle with Satan.
- c)** pleading with the Father for our needs.

13 At the time of the Rapture when Christ returns for His saints, He will

- a)** come with a shout of command.
- b)** establish His earthly kingdom.
- c)** cast Satan into the lake of fire.

14 The biblical definition of salvation is

- a)** pardon from sin.
- b)** reward for a good life.
- c)** safety from evil.

15 Salvation is provided for all who

- a)** admire the works of Jesus.
- b)** believe in Jesus Christ.
- c)** repeat the name of Jesus.

16 *Sanctification* means being

- a)** born again by the Spirit of God.
- b)** made holy and set apart for God's use.
- c)** made righteous as though we had never sinned.

17 The Bible says that the Holy Spirit is

- a)** our conscience.
- b)** God's helper.
- c)** God.

18 One role of the Holy Spirit in salvation is to

- a)** indwell every believer.
- b)** atone for man's sins.
- c)** bring peace to the world.

19 The Bible calls the church the

- a)** head of the body of Christ.
- b)** bride of Christ.
- c)** cornerstone of the building.

20 The ordinance of water baptism is for

- a)** all children of Christian parents.
- b)** attendees of a Christian church.
- c)** followers of Jesus Christ.

This is the end of the requirements for Unit One. Please stop here and return your Answer Sheet for Unit One to your instructor. Continue your study in Unit Two.

CL3330 We Believe**UNIT TWO ANSWER SHEET**

Please fill in the blanks below:

Name

Student Number
(Leave blank if you don't know your number.)

Mailing Address

.....

.....

Country

Directions

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the Unit Evaluation answer sheet for that unit. Read each question carefully. There is one best answer for each question. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen. *Be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question you are answering.*

Example

- 1 To be born again means to
- a) be young in age.
 - b) accept Jesus as Savior.
 - c) start a new year.

The correct answer is **b) accept Jesus as Savior**, so you would blacken space (B) like this:

1. (A) ● (C) (D)

Turn page over when you are ready to begin.

UNIT TWO ANSWER SHEET

Carefully blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 11 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 2 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 12 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 3 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 13 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 4 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 14 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 5 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 15 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
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| 7 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 17 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 8 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 18 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 9 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 19 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 10 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 20 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |

This is the end of the requirements for Unit Two. For grading, return your Unit Two Answer Sheet to your instructor or office in your area.

*For GU Office Use
Only*

Date

Score

UNIT TWO EVALUATION

- 1** Which statement is true about Satan?
 - a)** He avoids believers.
 - b)** He tempts Christians to sin.
 - c)** He tried to exalt God above himself.

- 2** The functions of angels include
 - a)** convicting sinners of sin.
 - b)** worshipping God at all times.
 - c)** acting on their own authority.

- 3** The Marriage Supper of the Lamb will occur after
 - a)** Jesus returns to rule the earth.
 - b)** the saints are caught up in the clouds.
 - c)** the Great White Throne Judgment.

- 4** Who will appear at the judgment seat of Christ?
 - a)** Saints
 - b)** Only Satan and his angels
 - c)** Only sinners

- 5** The Christian term *Millennium* refers to
 - a)** believers ruling with Christ on earth.
 - b)** the period between Christ's first and second coming.
 - c)** the last battle between Satan and God.

- 6** When will the Great White Throne Judgment occur?
 - a)** Before Jesus reigns a thousand years.
 - b)** During Jesus' reign of a thousand years.
 - c)** After Jesus reigns for a thousand years.

- 7** God's Law was given to
 - a)** keep people from enjoying life.
 - b)** save people from sin.
 - c)** show people right from wrong.

- 8** We should obey God's Law
 - a)** because we love God and desire to please Him.
 - b)** in order to be saved.
 - c)** until we are saved.

9 A promised gift of God to His children is

- a)** a comfortable life.
- b)** freedom from temptation.
- c)** provision for their needs.

10 God desires us to give Him

- a)** all of our money.
- b)** all of our lives.
- c)** special acts of penance.

11 God expects His children to honor and obey

- a)** all those in authority over us.
- b)** people who live exemplary lives.
- c)** those whom we are afraid to offend.

12 The biblical principle of loving others is that

- a)** believers love only fellow believers.
- b)** believers love all people.
- c)** believers shun believers who sin.

13 If someone lies about you, you should

- a)** forgive and love him.
- b)** retaliate.
- c)** reveal it to others.

14 Christians desire to

- a)** exercise the right to make their own decisions.
- b)** live with no concern for purity.
- c)** please Christ rather than please themselves.

15 Receiving and sharing with other believers is essential to

- a)** maintaining equality.
- b)** shunning the world.
- c)** growing spiritually.

16 Christian growth occurs when we

- a)** read the Bible and pray daily.
- b)** stop sinning completely.
- c)** achieve a leadership role.

- 17** A true statement about our thoughts is that they
- a)** are controlled by God only.
 - b)** have no effect on our behavior.
 - c)** must be guarded carefully.
- 18** Healthy church life requires
- a)** the good will of the community.
 - b)** believers meeting together for worship.
 - c)** believers adopting uniform lifestyles.
- 19** We can recognize a Spirit-filled life by one's
- a)** display of love, joy, peace, and other spiritual fruit.
 - b)** having control over others.
 - c)** apparent success in life.
- 20** Which of these are the *gifts* of the Spirit?
- a)** Joy, peace, goodness, humility, and patience
 - b)** Prophecy, faith, healing, and word of knowledge
 - c)** Self-control, love, kindness, and patience

Please return your Unit Two Answer Sheet to your instructor.
Now that you have completed your study of this course, ask your instructor to recommend another course of study.

FINAL WORDS

Dear Student,

We hope this study has made you think about your relationship with God. After studying the lessons and answering all the questions, have you wondered, “Am I really a Christian? Do I know God? Is He real in my life?” We want to give you the opportunity now to have a relationship with God.

We have all done wrong things. We have hurt ourselves and others. The Bible calls that sin and we are all guilty: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Our sin keeps us from knowing God as a loving Father. But God loves us in spite of our sin. He loves us so much that He sent His Son to die for us. “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall never perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Jesus took the punishment we deserved for our sins when He died.

Do you want to make sure that Jesus is your Savior? It is really so simple:

- Admit that you are a needy sinner separated from God and ask Him to forgive you.
- Believe in Jesus with all your heart and let Him know that you accept Him as your Savior.

You can talk to God in your own words by saying a prayer like this:

Dear Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner. Please forgive me. I believe you are the eternal Son of God. Thank you for dying on the Cross for my sins. Come into my life. Make yourself real in my life. Be Lord of my life today. Thank you for saving me! Amen.

If you prayed this prayer and meant it with all your heart, your sins are forgiven and you have eternal life. Jesus is Lord of your life. The Bible says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Welcome to the family of God. We want to rejoice with you, so please write and tell us what God has done in your life. Blessings to you!

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Name.....

Do you have a friend who needs to know more about Jesus?

Send us your friend's name and address for answers to the great questions of life.

Name

Address

.....

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ...
UNDERSTAND BETTER GOD AND HUMANS?
KNOW HOW TO OBTAIN SALVATION?
KNOW HOW TO GROW SPIRITUALLY?

Learning from God's Word helps us to answer the questions of what we believe and why we believe. Hence, we become what we believe. The themes in this course, *We Believe*, are challenging, the content is biblical, and the end result will impact the rest of your life.

The Christian Life series comprises 18 courses divided into three units of six courses each. *We Believe* is Course 3 in Unit 3.