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The Church

by Donald Dean Smeeton

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First, Let's Have A Talk

A Word From Your Study Guide Author

Have you ever wondered where the church came from, how it got started, and what will happen to it in the future? If you have read the titles of the lessons in this book, you will see that they answer important questions about the church.

I want to help you study the answers to these questions. You have not met me, but I want to be your friend as well as your teacher. As we study together what the Bible says about the church, we will get a better understanding of our place in the church. There are many different ideas about the church. Some of these ideas are true, but others are false. We will see what the Bible says about them.

Not only does this course tell you about the church, but it will also help you to know how you can be more useful to Christ and His church as you put into practice what you learn. The modern method of teaching yourself helps you to learn the principles easily and begin practicing them immediately. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you as you study.

Your Study Guide

This book is a pocket-sized workbook that you can take with you and study whenever you have five or ten minutes free. Try to do at least a lesson a week.

You will notice that objectives are given at the beginning of each lesson. The word *objective* is used in this book to help you know what to expect from your study. An objective is something like a goal or a purpose. You will study better if you keep in your objectives.

Be sure to study carefully the first two pages of each lesson. This prepares your mind for what follows. Next, study the lesson section by section and follow the instructions under the title *For You to Do*. If there is not enough room to write your answers to the study questions in the study guide, write them in a notebook so you can refer back to them when you review the lessons. If you are studying this course with a group, follow the instructions of your group leader.

How to Answer Study Questions

There are different kinds of study questions in this study guide. Following are samples of several types and how to answer them.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

Example of Multiple-Choice Question

- 1 A week has a total of
- a) 10 days.
 - b) 7 days.
 - c) 5 days.

The correct answer is *b) 7 days*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

- 1 A week has a total of
- a) 10 days.
 - b) 7 days.
 - c) 5 days.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer may be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

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

Example of True-False Question

- 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.

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 of Matching Question

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

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| a Received the Law at Mr. Sinai | 1) Moses |
| b Led the Israelites across Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| c Marched around Jericho | |
| 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.

Your Student Report

If you are studying to earn a certificate, you will need to complete the Student Report. The Student Report and answer sheets are located at the end of the book.

There are two units in this course. In the Student Report there are questions for each unit. There is also an answer sheet for each of the two units. Your study guide will tell you when to answer the unit questions and to fill out the appropriate answer sheet.

Follow the instructions given in your student report for sending the answer sheets to the ICI office in your area. The address should be stamped at the top of the copyright page. When you do this, you will receive an attractive certificate. If you have already earned the certificate, you will receive a seal to affix to it, indicating that you have completed another course in this unit of study.

About the Author

By the time your author, Donald Dean Smeeton, was ordained by the Assemblies of God in 1973, he had already pioneered a Pentecostal fellowship group among the military in Germany and started the Teen Challenge program in Belgium. In 1973 he began teaching at Continental Bible College in Brussels, Belgium, and continued there for nine years. In 1982 he joined the staff of ICI in Brussels, Belgium.

Academically he is well prepared to write about the church of Jesus Christ. He received B.S. and B.A. degrees before completing an M.A. degree cum laude in Church History and History of Christian Thought from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois. He then studied at the Faculté de Théologie Protestante at the University of Strasbourg, France, and more recently completed a Ph.D. at the University of Louvain in Belgium. He is a frequent contributor to academic journals.

Additional Helps

Other materials are available for use with this study guide, including supplemental audiocassettes, an Instructor's Guide, and an Instructor's Packet (for instructor's use only). Consult the Evangelism, Discipleship, and Training Manual.