

# Grace Bible Mission

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## What we believe and teach

Digging Old-time Wells: Reviving our  
Inheritance  
**Genesis 26:12-23**

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# 1. The Scriptures – the Bible.

## Psalm 19:7-11; 119:1-18

The “Holy Scriptures”, “the Scriptures” commonly called “the Bible” derives its name from the Greek word “Biblia” meaning “book” or “Biblio” meaning “books”. And this is derived from the word “papyrus” which is the name of a plant used for writing.

### I. The Bible, God’s Revelation to man.

Books reveal the identity of the writer, so books written by men reveal the thoughts of man’s finite mind, but the Bible is God’s revelation of Himself to man. The Bible has an answer for every problem of man today be it personal, national or otherwise.

God chose to reveal Himself to man in divers ways

- nature –Ps 19:1-4, Romans 1:18-20
- His Son – Hebrews 1:1-2

God is a Being that cannot be

- ◆ seen through human eyes
- ◆ felt by human touch
- ◆ understood by human knowledge
- ◆ known by human philosophic speculation, nor
- ◆ fathomed by human intellect

He is so far exalted above and beyond man in His essential Being. Therefore God has chosen to reveal Himself fully in and

through the Lord Jesus Christ – John 1:18; 14:8-9, Colossians 1:19; 2:9  
And Christ Jesus is revealed through the Holy Scriptures – John 5:39.

### II. The Bible, can I believe it?

#### YES

- ❖ because of its Author – God
  - ◆ His finger – Exodus 31:18
  - ◆ His Word – Jeremiah 2:1, Ezekiel 5:5
  - ◆ His inspiration – 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21
- ❖ because of its message – Singular
  - The Bible contains 66 books.
  - It has 40 different writers from different backgrounds; some were kings, some fishermen, lawyers, priests, farmers, intellectuals etc.
  - The writing of this Book spanned about 1600 years – from about 1513 BC when Moses began to write to AD 98 when John wrote Revelation.

But behind these 66 books and over 40 different writers lies a wonderful unity of purpose that defies qualification that points to the uniqueness of the Book.

The main message of the Holy Scriptures is the REDEPTION OF MAN

While

- ❖ the Old Testament is REDEMPTION/SALVATION CONCEALED

### **III. The Bible can I trust it?**

#### **Absolutely**

In other words,

Is the Bible authentic? YES

Is the Bible accurate? YES

Is the Bible dependable? Absolutely YES

Of all the books in the world, there has never been a book that has been discredited, abused, torn to pieces, hated, persecuted, preached against and done despite to as the book you are holding in your hand, and it has always come out stronger – Voltaire the atheist and the Bible

The Bible is

- historically accurate
- geographically accurate
- scientifically accurate
- prophetically accurate
- factually accurate
- professionally accurate
- practically accurate

### **IV. Is the Bible true? Absolutely true?**

2 Pet. 1:19. Beyond and above any vision or any prophecy. Yes, we believe in the inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures because

- (a) Jesus said so – Jn. 17:17
- (b) The Writers – Ps. 119:160
- (c) Its predictions – Is. 55:10, 11, Mt. 5:18, 24:35
- (d) It changes lives – Ps. 19:7
- (e) It is eternal – Isaiah 40:8, Ps. 119:89,  
John. 10:35

### **V. The Bible, its power**

- ❖ it is perfect, converting the soul
- ❖ is sure, making wise the simple
- ❖ it is right rejoicing the soul
- ❖ it is pure enlightening the eyes
- ❖ it is clean enduring for ever
- ❖ it is true and righteous
- ❖ it is a lamp and light showing the way.

B

- ❖ Jeremiah 5:14 – fire
- ❖ Jeremiah 23:29 – hammer
- ❖ Ezekiel 37:7 – life-giving power
- ❖ Romans 1:16 – power for salvation
- ❖ Ephesians 6:18 – defensive and offensive weapon
- ❖ Hebrews 4:2 – probing and separating power

## **VI. The Bible, what am I to do with it?**

It is not a magical book, and it is not just literature, it is God's **precepts** for man and God's **promises** to man. In fact it is God's love-letter to man, therefore

- ❖ Hear it – Romans 10:17
- ❖ Read it – Revelation 1:3
- ❖ Study it – Acts 17:11
- ❖ Memorize it – Psalm 119:9,11
- ❖ Meditate upon it – Psalm 1:2-3, Joshua 1:8-9
- ❖ Obey it – Deut 28, Psalm 1, Joshua 14:15, James 1:22-25
- ❖ Share it – Matt 28:19, Jer 2:1-2, Ezra 7:10

## **VII. What can I gain from the Scriptures?**

- Hope – Rom. 15:4
- Warning – I Cor. 10:11
- Direction – Ps. 119:105
- Salvation & eternal life – 2 Tim. 3:15, 1 John. 5:13,  
John. 20:30,31

### **Conclusion**

In this Mission we hold that the Bible is the final authority on the matters of faith and doctrine.

We also hold that where the Bible has spoken, no man is entitled to an opinion. We also hold that the Bible is infallible and without error.

In your life make the Bible “God said it, I believe it, that settles it.”

# 2. God

## Psalm 16:5-6

In our watchword for this year 2013, the Lord is actually calling us to take a look backwards to look at our beginnings and downwards to take a look at our roots.

When talking about our divine and or spiritual inheritance, we have about three (3) things to contend with

1. Our inheritance as believers
2. Our inheritance as the Church that is the universal Church
3. Our inheritance as Grace Bible Mission. And among this our great and glorious inheritance is *what we believe and teach* as a Mission.

And each one of them is very important and significant for us.

As the year rolls on, by the special grace of God, we will be looking at both our background and roots to call our attention to some of these goodly inheritances that God has bequeathed unto us. This morning I just want us to look briefly at our first and greatest all encompassing inheritance that we have.

On January 1, I enumerated to us what I called the details of our inheritance, they were seven. The first was and still is the person of God.

God is therefore our foremost or let me say our only inheritance and all that we ever need

– Psalm 16:5-6

There are only three points I want to raise here

### I. The Beauty of this God

He is

**Creator** – Nehemiah 9:6, Psalm 100:3, Colossians 1:16

**Father** – Matthew 6:9, 2 Corinthians 1:2

**King** – Psalm 10:16, Psalm 24:7-10, Psalm 29:10

**Disposer of all events** – Prov 16:9; 19:21, Gen 31:29; 45:7-8; 50:20

**Judge** – Psalm 9:8; 50:6, Acts 17:31, 2Cor 5:10

**Knows all things** – Prov 15:3, Acts 15:18, Psalm 139:11-12, Amos 9:2-3

**Present everywhere** – Psalm 139:7-10, Acts 17:27

**All-powerful** – Gen 17:1, Mark 10:27, REV 19:6

### II. The Blessings inherent in

**Him** – Psalm 33:12

- Protection
- Provision
- Peace

- Prosperity
- Power
- All things

### **III. The Blight of rejecting this God**

- Psalm 9:17
- Gal 5:19-21
- Rev 20:17

Repent from your sins  
Believe on Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord

## ***God - II*** *Jeremiah 10:1-16,*

**INTRODUCTION:** It was the Russian Major Yuri Gagarin (who orbited the earth in 1961 in a space craft) that said *“I’ve been to the heavens, and I did not see God!” Ten years later Yuri Gagarin died in a plane crash and by the way—that’s when he saw God.* There are many scientists who do not believe in the existence of God. They think that God is just a fiction – an imagination of the heart. And this is because they believe that “seeing is believing.” They say they cannot believe in the existence of a God they cannot see physically or take to the laboratory to experiment. Job 11:7; 37:23

Is this true or false?

The Bible rightly declares that “A fool has said in his heart that there is no God.” – Psalm 14:1

The most embarrassing thing is that many people in the church are not sure of God’s existence – this is why you find many church members still engaging in sin and or looking for help everywhere and anywhere.

Last week, we discussed what we believe about the Scriptures – that it is our final authority in matters of doctrine and practice – today we are going to discuss about God.

But, before we go on, I want you to know that

- (1) No one can fully describe God
- (2) No one can fully explain God.

In this topic, we shall seek to explain briefly – God as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

#### **I. HOW DO WE KNOW GOD EXISTS**

By His self-revelation in

- (1) Nature – Ps. 19:1-4, Rom. 1:19-21,  
1 Cor. 1:21
- (2) Jesus Christ – Col. 2:9 Heb. 1:3,

John. 1:1,14

- (3) Scriptures – reveals both Father and Son

The Bible did not try to prove the existence of God, but stated it as a matter-of-fact. **“In the beginning God ...”** Gen. 1:1.

## II. NAMES OF GOD

Sometimes names are descriptive of

- One’s background
- Home
- Character
- Occupation etc.

Essentially, there are 3 Hebrew words used to name God in the *Old Testament*

- (1) **El-Elohim** (God) – Gen. 1:1 (about 2,600 times)

**El-Elyon** – God Most High – Gen. 14:18

**El-Shaddai** – All Sufficient God  
– Gen. 17:1

- El-Olam** – Everlasting God – Gen. 21:33 (2)      **Adonai** (Lord) – Gen. 15:2,  
Exodus 4:10  
(about 340 times)

- (3) **YAWEH** (JEHOVAH-LORD) Exodus 6:2  
(about 7,000 times) – ‘One who is’,  
‘One who causes to be’, ‘I will be  
what I will be’ – Exodus 3:13-15

- **Jehovah-Jireh** – Gen. 22:14  
– will provide
- **Jehovah-Nissi** – Exodus 17:15  
– our banner (protector)
- **Jehovah-Shallom** – Judges 6:24  
– Our peace
- **Jehovah-Rapha** – Exodus 15:26  
– our healer
- **Jehovah-Shammah** – Ezekiel 48:35  
– is present
- **Jehovah-Tsidkenu** – Jeremiah 23:6  
– our righteousness
- **Jehovah-Tsabaoth** – 1 Sammuel  
1:3 – The Lord God of Hosts
- **Jehovah-Meqaddeshkem** – Ex  
31:13, Lev 20:8 – our Sanctifier
- **Jehovah-Roi** – Psalm 23:1  
– our Shepherd.

### *New Testament*

- ◆ **God** – Theos
- ◆ **Lord** – Jehovah



◆ **JESUS** – Jehovah saves

III. **THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD**

- (1) **Infinity** – I Kings 8:27  
– limitless and boundless
- (2) **Self-existing** – Exodus 3:14  
– has no source outside Himself
- (3) **Eternity** – Ps. 90:2, 93:2  
– not bound by time or space
- (4) **Omniscient** – Ps. 139:1-6  
– all-knowing, all-knowledgeable
- (5) **Omnipresent** – Ps. 139:7-12  
– He is everywhere at the same time
- (6) **Omnipotent** – Rev. 19:1  
– He is all-powerful
- (7) **Goodness** – Ps. 25:8, 34:8  
– always seeks the welfare of His creation  
Connected with His goodness are:
  - ◆ Love
  - ◆ Loving-kindness
  - ◆ Mercy
  - ◆ Forbearance
  - ◆ Grace
  - ◆ Redemption etc.
- (8) **Holiness** – Lev. 19:2  
– separated from everything that is impure or imperfect
- (9) **Righteousness** – Ps. 7:9  
– eternal and essential righteousness  
connected with these are
  - ◆ Justice
  - ◆ Truth (cannot lie – Heb. 6:18, Titus 1:2),
  - ◆ Anger.
- (10) **Father** – Luke 11:2, Jn. 1:12-13

**CONCLUSION:** We have a great God, who loves us dearly and has given everything for our joy and peace. We should therefore worship Him in all humility, reverence, awe, love and joy and respond to His goodness, love and righteousness by our trust, obedience and total submission to HIM.

# 3. *Jesus Christ*

## Matthew 16:13-21

**INTRODUCTION:** If you were to be asked today “Who do men think Jesus Christ to be?” There will be lots of answers as the time of the disciples, but if you were to be confronted personally with the question “Who do you think Jesus Christ is?” I wonder if you would be as sure and specific as Peter was. Today, we want to discuss briefly what we believe about Jesus Christ. We will study it briefly item by item.

(1) **HIS PRE-INCARNATION**

- ❖ Colossians 1:17,
- ❖ John 17:5,
- ❖ John 8:56-59
- ❖ John 1:1-4
- ❖ Micah 5:2
- ❖ Proverbs 8:22-30

**Angel of the Lord**

Genesis 16:7-11

22:15-18, comp. Hebrews 6:13-14

Exodus 3:1-10

Numbers 22:22-35

(2) **HIS LIFE** – as recorded by the four gospels

(a) ***His Incarnation***

- predicted – Isaiah 7:14; 9:6
- Fulfilled
  - ❖ Mat. 1
  - ❖ Luke 1-2
  - ❖ Galatians 4:4

(b) ***His Divinity*** – all attributes of God

- Omnipotent – Mat. 28:18
- Omnipresent – Mat. 28:20
- Omniscient – John 2: 24-25
- Eternal – Heb. 13:8, Rev. 1:8

❖ **Was called God and accepted worship**

- John. 20:28
- Revelations 5:12-14
- Phil. 2:10-11

(c) ***His Humanity***

- Hungry – Mat. 4:2
- Thirsty – Jn. 19:28
- Tired – Jn. 4:6
- Slept – Mat. 8:24
- Wept – Jn. 11:35, Lk. 19:41, Heb. 5:7
- Prayed – Mat. 14:23
- Tested – Mat. 4:1, Heb. 4:15
- Died – I Cor. 15:3

- Purpose – Matt. 1:21, Heb. 2:14-15

(3) **HIS SINLESSNESS**

- ❖ 1 Peter 2:21-22
- ❖ 1 John. 3:5
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 5:21
- ❖ Hebrews 4:15

Attested to by

- Himself – John. 8:46
- Pontius Pilate – John. 18:38
- Judas – Matt. 27:3-4 etc.

(4) **HIS SUFFERING AND DEATH**

- ◆ Predicted – Isaiah 53
- ◆ Fulfilled – 4 gospels – I Cor. 15:3
- ◆ Purpose – I Peter 3:18

Will His death for you avail nothing? Accept Him today

5. **HIS RESURRECTION - 1 Cor. 15:1-11**

The boast and glory of Christianity is the empty tomb.

- I. (a) necessity of – I Cor. 15:17-18
- (b) Purpose of – Rom. 4:25
- (c) Evidence of – Matt. 28:5, 11-15, Luke 24:3-7
- II. His Ascension – Acts 1:9-11

6. **HIS PRESENT WORK & MINISTRY**

- Interceding – Hebrews 7:24,25, 1 John. 2:1
- Preparing a home for us – John 14:1-3

7. **HIS COMING AGAIN**

**Purpose**

- (a) To take us home – I Thess. 4:16-17
- (b) To judge the world – II Tim. 4:1
- (c) To reign – Rev. 11:15

When? – Matt. 24:36, Acts 1:7, 8

How? 2 Fold

- Secretly at Rapture – I Thess. 5:2, Mat. 24:50
- Publicly at Revelation – Rev. 1:7, Matt. 24:30

8. **The Demands of Christ** – Luke 14:26- end

- total surrender – Luke 14:25-27,
- absolute surrender – Romans 12:1-2

**CONCLUSION**

Have you received the power of His Resurrection?

Are you awaiting His second coming?

BE PREPARED. He soon will be here.

By His death and resurrection the Lord Jesus Christ dealt with our past, present and future.

# 4. *THE HOLY SPIRIT*

1 Corinthians 12:1-7

**INTRODUCTION:** Today, we are going to speak on the Holy Spirit. We do not want to go into arguments, but what will benefit us.

## I. **THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- One of the Holy Trinity – Mat. 28:19
- He is God
  - Manifests the qualities of God
- Omniscient – I Cor. 2:10
- Omnipresent – Ps. 139:7-10
- Eternal – Heb. 9:14

## II. **SOME NAMES CALLED THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

- Holy Spirit – Mat. 4:1
- Spirit of Christ – Rom. 8:9
- Spirit of the Living God – II Cor. 3:3
- Spirit of truth – Jn. 14:17
- Holy Spirit of Promise – Eph. 1:13
- Spirit of Grace – Heb. 9:14
- Comforter – Jn. 14:26

## III. **SOME SYMBOLS USED TO DESCRIBE THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- Dove – Jn. 1:32
- Water – Jn. 7:38
- Oil – Isaiah 16:13, I Jn. 2:28
- Wind – Jn. 3:8

## IV. **MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- Convicts sinners – Jn. 16:8
- Enables confession – I Cor. 12:3
- Indwells believers – Jn. 14:17
- Bears witness – Jn. 15:26, Rom. 8:16
- Guides- Acts 8:29, 16:6-7
- Inspires and speaks through the Scriptures – Acts 1:16, II Pet. 1:21
- Calls and commissions ministers – Acts 13:2,4
- Equips men for work
  - David – I Sam. 16:13
  - Gideon – Judges 6:34
  - Disciples – Acts 1:8

## V. **GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** – I Cor. 12:8-10, Rom. 12:6-8.

Each gift is important, can't work in isolation.

Rules for exercising gifts

- (i) With love – I Cor. 13
- (ii) In cooperation – I Cor. 12
  - should not be made to divide congregation.
- (iii) Prophecy and tongues – I Cor. 14
- (iv) Orderliness – I Cor. 14:32, 33

**VI. FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – 9-fold – Gal. 5:22, 23**

Requires crucifixion – Gal. 5:24

- (a) God commands it – Eph. 5:18
- (b) The condition of the church demands it –
- (c) For effective Christian life – Gal. 5:16
- (d) For effective Christian witness – Acts 1:8
- (e) For effective prayer life – Rom. 8:26-27
- (f) For power against the onslaught of evil- Acts 1:8, Is. 59:18

**VIII. SINS AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- (1) Matt. 12:31, 32 – blasphemy by presumption of Man  
– also Mk. 3:22-30
- (2) Heb. 10:29 – Insulted by the pride of Man.
- (3) Isaiah 63:9, 10 – Vexed by the disobedience of Man
- (4) Acts 7:51 – Resisted by the unbelief of Man – regenerating work of the Holy Spirit.
- (5) Acts 5:1-9 – Tempted by the insincerity of Man.
- (6) I Thess. 5:19-20 – Quenched by the prejudice of Man (Endowment for service)
- (7) Eph. 4:10 – Grieved by the frivolity of Man (Indwelling of the Holy Spirit).

**IX. HOW TO RECEIVE THE FULNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- Repentance – Acts 2:38
- Sonship – Gal. 4:6
- Desire – Jn. 7:37
- Faith – Jn. 7:39
- Obedience – Acts 5:32
- Waiting – Lk. 24:49
- Prayer – Lk. 11:13
- Appropriation – Jn. 7:37

- (c) Seek Holy Spirit fullness not tongues -
- (d) Holy Spirit fullness is a gift receivable by Grace – Gal. 3:2
- (e) Faith is the key to walking with God – II Cor. 5:7

**CONCLUSION:**

Do you desire the victorious life over sin, over self, over Satan?  
Then, “Be filled with the Spirit.”

# 5. *The Holy Trinity*

**INTRODUCTION:** Let me state from the onset that I cannot answer all your questions on this subject for 2 main reasons:

- (1) God is infinite – Limitless, boundless. One who cannot be fully comprehended by finite minds.
- (2) Deut. 29:29 declares that the secret things (mystery) belongs to God, and so only what is revealed to us in the scriptures can we know. So, let us discuss the things that are revealed.

## **I. WHAT DOES THE WORD ‘TRINITY’ MEAN?**

It means that we have One God who has chosen to reveal Himself in 3 distinctive persons. It does not mean that we have three Gods.

God’s Mathematics is different from ours.

Take Marriage Mathematics as example –  $1+1=1$

A bunch of bananas

An auditorium has length, width and height. These three cannot be separated, yet they are not the same and yet there is one auditorium.

## **II. The Unity of the Godhead**

Deut 6:4 – ‘The LORD our God is one LORD’

Isaiah 44:6 – ‘Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God’

I Cor 8:4 – ‘an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.’

I Tim 2:5 – ‘For there is one God,’

James 2:19 – ‘there is one God’

## **III. IT IS A BIBLICAL DOCTRINE**

The Bible teaches that we have One God Who revealed Himself in three distinct persons as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Father is God – Jn. 6:27

Son is God – John 1:1,2, 20:28

Spirit is God – Acts 5:3, 4

## **IV. THE PERSONS IN THE GODHEAD ARE LIMITED TO THREE**

To only three Persons are the titles of Deity (God) ascribed: the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. These three together and they alone

## **V. THE BIBLE CLEARLY TEACHES THE TRINITY**

(a) **In Creation** – Gen. 1:1-3

God as Creator – Gen 1:1

Jesus Christ as Creator – John 1:3, Col. 1:15

Holy Spirit as Creator – Ps. 104:30

(b) **In Redemption**

God programmed it – John 3:16

Jesus purchased it – Rom. 5:6, Eph. 1:7

Spirit propagates it – I Cor. 12:3, Eph. 2:18

**VI. SCRIPTURE PASSAGES THAT TEACH THE TRINITY**

- Isaiah 48:12, 16
- I Peter 1:2,
- Mat. 3:16-17,
- Mat. 28:19,
- II Cor. 13:14

**CONCLUSION:**

As we have already seen, we cannot fully know God. There is a side of God that cannot be comprehended by man unless He is no more God. And He will always be God.

In Heb. 11:3, II Cor. 5:7. It is declared that it is by faith that we know and see, we believe not because we can bisect, but because it is declared by the Scriptures.

My friend, we are saved by faith. Our Lord Himself in John 14:11 said even if it is difficult for you to believe this, believe Him for the works, believe Him for His saving works. He died to set you free.

Accept Him today.

# 6. MAN

INTRODUCTION: We have already gone through 4 cardinal points of our faith, now we come to the fifth, what we believe about man. Have you ever asked yourself these questions...?

1. Who am i?
2. Where did I come from?
3. What am I doing here? And
4. Where am I going from here?

By God's special grace and anointing, we will seek to answer these questions.

1. What is man? Ps8:4a

Some people think and say that

- ◆ He is an animal
- ◆ He is God
- ◆ He is a machine- an engine or a factory

But what says the word of God

- a) He is higher than the animal- ps 8:6-8
- b) He is lower than God-ps 8:5
- c) He is composed of body, soul and spirit – 1thes 5:23

2. Where did he come from? – Evolution?

No, the word of God says:

- a. God created him- Gen 1:26-27
- b. God created him in His image- Gen 1:27
- c. Created with dust and God's breath of life- Gen 2:7
- d. Created a free moral agent- Gen 2:16-17
- e. Created perfect- Gen 1:31, Eccl 7:29

3. What is he doing here?

In other words, why is he created?

- For God's glory - Is 43:7
- To rule for God i.e. to be God's representative here – Gen 1:26-27

Has he been able to fulfil these God ordained obligations? NO, why?

4. Where is he going from here? Or what is man's destiny?

God's original destiny is for man to live in bliss eternally, but unfortunately, man in his own action changed this destiny, and we come right round to our first question- what is man?

We have already said what man was and could have been, but what is he now?

Man is;

- Maggot, worm -Job 25:6
- Vanity -Psalm 39:5
- Beast -Psalm 32:9, 49:12
- Dust-dying -Gen 3:19

Does the story end there?

No,



Christ Jesus died to give you life, to reorder your destiny, come to him now.

- A. The fall of Man  
-Man sold himself to satan and thereby to sin. He rejected the rulership of God and so sin ruled from Adam(Rom 5:12)
- B. God mindful of man inspite of his sin.  
God loves man -Psalm 8:4, John 3:16
- C. Your destiny could be reversed  
-By faith in the finished work of our lord Jesus Christ on calvary  
-Romans 5:17-21

# 7. SALVATION

## A. THE FALL OF MAN

The book of Genesis is the book of beginnings. In chapter 1, we are introduced to the creation of all things including man. We see that God created man in His own image in holiness, purity and innocence God created man as a free moral agent, but by wilful disobedience, he fell into the depths of sin and transgression.

### 1. THE ORIGINAL STATE OF MAN

1. Creation of man – Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7; Job. 33:4; Ps. 139:14; Acts. 17:26; John 1:1-4, 14.
2. Man's original nature and position.
  - [a] Nature – Gen. 1:31; Col. 3:10, Eph. 4:24
  - [b] Position – Gen. 1:26, 27; Ps. 8:5-8.

We will note then that the creation of man in God's image is more than physical image. Since God is a Spirit, this will rather mean moral likeness of knowledge, righteousness and holiness.

### THE FALL OF MAN:

As we have seen when God created man, He created him in righteousness yet man fell – Eccl. 7:29.

1. God's commandment to man – Gen. 2:16-17
2. The agent of the fall – Gen. 3:1.
  - The subtlety of Satan – Gen. 3:1.
    - did not come in person/used serpent – watchout – Matt. 7:15
    - did not come when Adam was home – Couples, watchout
    - presented the temptation through legal means of appetite, inclination and desire – I John 2:15-16; Lk. 4:3-5; Gen. 3:6
    - began the attack by casting doubt – Matt. 4:3; Gen. 3:1
    - attacked the weaker vessel – Watch your weak points.

### II. STEPS LEADING TO THE FALL:

- [a] Eve listened to the lies of Satan – Gen. 3:1
- [b] She dialogued with Satan – Gen. 3:2-5 (Never converse or argue with the devil, except as you doubt as it is written .
- [c] She looked thoughtfully at the forbidden fruit, (Flee from lustfulness – II Tim. 2:22; I Thess. 5:22.
- [d] She tampered with the Word of God – Comp. Gen. 2:16,17 with 3:2,3.
  - Subtracted “freely”.
  - Added “neither shall you touch”

- Toned down “shall surely die” to “lest ye die”

[e] She doubted God

[f] She desired what God had prohibited – Gen. 3:6;  
I John 2:15-16

[g] She became a sinner and tempter – Gen. 3:6.

### **III. THE IMMEDIATE RESULT OF THE FALL:**

1. Adam and Eve judged and driven from God’s presence – Gen. 3:16-24.
2. The whole creation brought under the cause – Gen. 3:17-18; Rm. 8:21-22.
3. Satan judged and cursed – Gen. 3:14-15; John 16:11; 19:30; Matt. 25:41.

**CONCLUSION:-** *Man fell from his original state of holiness to the depths of sin but with the fall God promised a Redeemer – Gen. 3:15; Lk. 19:10; Eph. 2:8-9.*

## **B. REDEMPTION – MAN’S RUIN, GOD’S REMEDY**

We have already seen how man fell from grace to grass – how Adam though created in God’s image fell into sin. Thus all mankind became sinners, totally depraved and utterly void of the holiness required by God in His Word.

### **I. MAN’S RUIN:**

Consequence of the fall

- [1.] All men inherit the nature of sin – Ps. 51:5; Rm. 3:9-10,23; 5:12; 7:14-21.  
There may be differences and degrees but not in the fact of sin.
- [2.] All men are guilty and under condemnation – Is. 59:1-2; Rm. 3:19;  
John. 3:18, 36; Gal. 3:22
- [3.] Man is totally depraved – Eph. 4:18; Jer. 17:9,10; Gen. 6:5; Titus. 1:15;  
Rm. 7:18; Is. 64:6.

### **II. GOD’S REMEDY:**

Every man has become guilty before God, without excuse and deserving the just judgement and condemnation of an Holy God, but God in His infinite love provided a remedy for man’s sin by sending Jesus Christ to die for man.

- [1.] **The necessity of atonement** – Ezek. 18:4; Lev. 17:11
- [2.] **Man’s inability to redeem himself** – Job. 9:30-31;  
Jer. 2:22; Heb. 10:4 Ps. 49:7-9.
- [3.] **God’s provision of a substitute** – Gen. 3:7, 21;  
Gen. 4:4-5; Heb. 11:4; Gen. 22:7-14; 3:15;  
John. 1:29; 3:16.
- [4.] **The qualities of the substitute:**  
{a} **Perfectly**, clean – Ex. 12:5; Lev. 22:18-24 –

only the perfection and sinlessness of the Lord Jesus met this requirement and satisfied the holiness of God – Lk. 23:4, 14-15, 22; Matt. 27:3-4;

{b} **Shed blood** – Lev. 17:11; Heb. 9:22; Matt. 26:28; His perfect life alone cannot save, neither His wonderful teachings, it is in His blood alone that we have complete covering and protection from the whole consequence and curse of the broken law – Ex. 12:13; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:12-14; Gal. 3:13.

[5] **Absolute security through the slain lamb.**

{a} Complete removal of sin – Is. 53:4-8; Acts 8:32-35; I John. 1:7.

{b} Full redemption secured – I Pet. 1:18-21; 2:24.

## **CONCLUSION:**

We have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb to be God's peculiar possession. We now belong to God totally; we no longer belong to the world or the devil. We are redeemed. **WE CAN NOW SING WITH FANNY J. CROSBY:**

*Redeemed – how I love to proclaim it;*

*Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;*

*Redeemed through His infinite mercy;*

*His child and forever I am,*

*Redeemed, Redeemed,*

*Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;*

*Redeemed, Redeemed,*

*His child, and forever, I am.*

## **C. JUSTIFICATION**

Justification brings the thought of a trial, and of a court, and of law – Deut. 25:1. The human judge is required to pronounce an accused justified or condemned – Is. 5:22-23.

To be justified is to be clean of a charge or accusation – It stands opposed to condemnation.

### **I. The problem of justification:**

- [a] the demands of law – Ezek. 18:4, 20
- [b] utter depravity of man – Job. 25:4; Rm. 3:23.
- [c] God’s justice – Ex. 23:7; Rm. 1:18.

**II. The price of justification:**

- [a] Christ’s obedience – John. 8:29; Heb. 5:8; Matt. 26:39, 42; Phil. 2:5-8; Rm. 5:19.
- [b] Christ shedding His blood – Rm. 5:9; 4:25; I Pet. 1:18-19

**III. The contents of justification:**

- [a] The forgiveness of sin and total removal of its guilt and punishment –  
Micah 7:18-19; Acts. 13:38-39; Acts. 10:43.
- [b] The imputation of Christ’s righteousness –  
Rm. 3:21-22; 4:6-8; II Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9
- [c] Reconciliation – II Cor. 5:18; Rm. 5:10; Eph. 2:13.

Not only acquittal – but approval.  
Not only pardon – but restoration.  
Lk. 15:11-24

**IV. The condition for being justified:**

Faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ –  
Gal. 2:16; Rm. 3:26-30; 4:5; Eph. 2:8-9

**V. The evidence or fruit of justification:**

Good works – James. 2:20-26; Matt. 5:16; Titus. 3:8.

**VI. The results of justification:**

1. Peace – Rm. 5:1; Is. 26:3
2. Access into the presence of God for worship, praise and petition – Rm. 5:2
3. Tribulation – Rm. 5:3; II Tim. 3:12.

**CONCLUSION:**

The sin of man demanded the severe judgement of God, but the mercy of God yearned to rescue the offender in the interests of love, and the Lord Jesus Christ volunteered to be the Man to live the perfect life according to the law, gain the righteousness, and then give it as a free gift to the believer.

## D. REGENERATION OR THE NEW BIRTH

Regeneration is the work of the Holy Spirit in the unbeliever's heart as the result of conviction, repentance, faith and conversion.

In regeneration the penitent believer receives a new nature. This involves a moral and spiritual renewal of the will, aim and purpose of life. Through regeneration, God imparts to us His nature.

### I. DEFINITION:

- New birth – John. 3:3
- New creation – II Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15.
- New person – Eph. 4:24.

Regeneration is the creation by the Holy Spirit of a new life in a person called the “**New Creation**” or “**New Man**”.

### II. NECESSITY OF REGENERATION:

[1] Man's inability dictates it – Jer. 13:23; John 3:3;

Gal. 6:15.

[2] Man's depravity demands it – Jer. 17:9; Ps. 51:5;

Eph. 2:1.

[3] God's holiness deserves it – Heb. 12:14; I Pet. 1:16;

Jer. 2:22; Rm. 3:23.

The scriptures plainly teach that all need to be born again.

It is not a matter of opinion or choice. Acts. 17:30.

### III. NATURE OF REGENERATION:

1. [a] It is not baptism – Baptism is a church ordinance signifying that one is a Christian – Rm. 6:3-5.  
[b] It is not reformation – Jer. 13:23.
2. Regeneration is a spiritual crisis – a revolution – a spiritual quickening, from creation everything has brought forth “after its kind” – sinners beget sinners – Gen. 1:11-12; 5:1; Ps. 51:5.

We cannot alter the old nature, or reform it, or re-invigorate it, we need a new birth – the importation of a different “kind” – God's holy nature. This is a change from death to life – It is not a reformation but a spiritual resurrection.

### IV. THE AGENTS USED IN REGENERATION:

1. The Word of God – Jms. 1:18; I Pet. 1:23; Rom. 10:17
2. The Holy Spirit – John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5; Eph. 5:26
3. Faith – I John 5:2; Gal. 3:2.

## V. THE EVIDENCE OF REGENERATION:

1. A righteous life – I John 2:29
2. Holy life – I John 3:9-10; 5:18 – The nature of God is incompatible with sin.
3. Love – I John. 4:7.
4. Overcoming life – I John 5:4; Eph. 2:1-8.

The heart is changed, sin is hated, Christ is loved, the life is changed – New and holy desires spring up like a well of living water. The new life overflows in love and good works to others, John. 4:14; 7:38.

## CONCLUSION:

Like the natural birth, the new birth is an event not a process, though from the first conviction of sin to regeneration may cover many days, weeks, months or even years, yet the actual birth takes place in a second, as one passes from darkness to light, death to life – John. 5:24. The person has a second birth day. Some one has rightly said “**If you are born once, you will die twice, but if you are born twice, you will die once**”.

## E. REPENTANCE

1. **Definition of Repentance:-** I Sam. 7:3; Ezk. 14:6; 18:30-31; Jonah. 3:8; I Thess. 1:9; Matt. 21:28-29; Lk. 15:17-21.

Repentance basically signifies a change of mind. It consists in a radical transformation of thought, attitude, outlook and direction. It is a turning from sin unto God and His service. It is often associated with sorrow and hatred for sin and turning from it to God.

2. **The Importance of Repentance:**

- [a] God’s universal command  
– Ezk. 18:19-22; 33:11; Is. 55:7; Acts. 17:30.
- [b] Christ’s emphasis – Matt. 4:17; Lk. 13:3; 24:46-47;  
Rev. 2:5, 16; 3:19
- [c] The Apostolic Message – Mk. 6:12; Acts 2:38; 3:19;  
20:21

It is imperative that we must preach and demand that people should repent from their sins and turn (have faith) toward God in order to escape from the judgement to come.

3. **Things Leading to Repentance:**

- [a] God’s longsuffering – II Pet. 3:9

- [b] God's goodness - Rm. 2:4
- [c] Conviction of sin – Acts 2:37-38.

4. **Results of Repentance:**

- [a] Life – Acts 11:18
- [b] Mercy, Pardon and remission of sins – Is. 55:7;  
Mk. 1:4; Prov. 28:13; Acts. 3:19.
- [c] Reconciliation – Lk. 15:11-24; Acts 3:26;  
2 Cor. 6:17-18.
- [d] Receiving the Holy Spirit – Acts 2:38.
- [e] Joy in heaven – Lk. 15:7, 10, 32.

5. **Evidence of Repentance:**

- [a] Godly sorrow – II Cor. 7:9-10. It is not merely sorrow for sin, for worldly sorrow [outward show only] produces death. Esau, Heb. 12:17, and Judas – Matt. 27:3-5; but sorrow which causes an hatred of sin – Job. 42:5,6; David – Ps. 51; Peter. – Luke 22:62.
- [b] Reformation of life – Matt. 3:8.
- [c] Restitution – Luke 19:8; Acts. 19:19; Matt. 5:23, 24;  
Num. 5:5-8; Ezek. 33:14, 15.

**CONCLUSION:** The basic idea in repentance is a change in the direction of one's life – Gal. 1:13-16, 22-24. It involves a change of attitude toward God and sin; from hating God one comes to love Him, from loving sin one comes to hate it. Repentance expresses a change of feeling, not simply with regard to what sin does to man, but also what it does to God.

## F. THE BELIEVER'S NEW IDENTITY

When a person believes on the Lord Jesus Christ as his/her Saviour and Lord, many things happen, though he may not be conscious of more than sins forgiven or peace of mind or happiness.

**I. WHAT BELIEVERS HAVE:**

- [1.] **New Nature** – II Cor. 5:17; I John 3:9; Eph. 2:8-10; Col. 1:13-14;  
Rm. 8:29;

**II. WHAT BELIEVERS ARE:**

- [1.] **New Relationship**
  - {a} Son of God – John 1:12; I John 3:1-2; Rm. 8:14-15; Gal. 4:5
  - {b} Brother to Jesus – Matt. 12:49-50



- {c} Heir of God – Rm. 8:17, 32; Gal. 3:29; I Pet. 1:4; Acts. 26:18
- {d} Member of Christ – Eph. 3:6; 5:30; Matt. 16:18.
- {e} Peculiar Treasure – I Pet. 2:9; Ex. 19:5; Mal. 3:17; Deut. 32:9.
- {f} Temple of God – I Cor. 3:9, 16; 6:19-20; Eph. 2:19-22;  
 [“As Temple of God, no demon, spirit or man is allowed to defile or hurt you – Matt. 16:16-18 or bring strange fire into the temple – I Cor. 3:17; Lev. 10:1, 2”]

## [2.] **New Position**

- {a} **King** – Rev. 1:5, 6; Eccl. 8:4; Mk. 11:23; Rm. 5:17; 8:37;  
 II Cor. 10:4, 5; Phil. 4:13; I John 4:4.

Our reigning as kings means we have authority, our word is final authority. We have authority over the devil and circumstances. They do not have the final **WE HAVE IT** say,. Lk. 10:19.

- {b} **Priest** - I Pet. 2:5, 9; Ps. 105:14, 15.
- {c} **Ambassador** - II Cor. 5:20
- {d} **Sheep** - John 10:11-15; I Sam. 17:34-37; John 10:4, 27-30;  
 Ps. 23:1-6.

This is the Bible record of what we have and what we are. But the ignorance of what God says we are is responsible for the spiritual weakness that is common among believers today. Many believers under-estimate or under-value themselves and believe that they are worth nothing and can do nothing that is good.

Follow the example of Christ, who from the beginning of His public ministry to the end of His earthly life confessed, who He is, what He is and His Mission in life no matter who believed or doubted – I Pet. 2:21; John 16:28; 8:12; 11:45, 46. No wonder He was Victorious.

What do you have in Christ? What are you in Christ? Be sure of it, and walk like Him, talk like Him, maintain who you are in Him, what you have in Him, then like Him you will be more than a conqueror”.

## **G. THE DOCTRINE OF SACTIFICATION**

Sanctification is a doctrine of the church in Acts 2:41-42. The Scriptures reveal that the young believers continued steadfastly in the “Apostles teachings” or doctrines.

And these “Apostles’ teachings” is none other than what Christ said to the disciples in what is generally referred to as the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 with special reference to verse 20”teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you”.

So, sanctification is part of Christ’s command to us and therefore part of the Apostles’ teaching. As believers in the Lord Jesus we have been called into holiness. For the Bible declares:

“But as He which has called you in holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation, because it is written be ye holy for I am holy” 1 Pet. 1:15-16.

But, unfortunately, many of us still shiver, shudder and shrink at the message, (some even at the mention) of holiness because of the many misinterpretation of the word and many misconceptions they have heard or experienced.

Many ministers and congregations have even abandoned the message and the idea of being holy, because they think that sanctification is not attainable, that it is not possible.

We believe sanctification is not just only possible but that it is practical. Yes, you can be holy in:

Your heart

Your home

The market place

Your business

Every area of your life.

Let us now address ourselves to this doctrine of holiness in four (4) ways

1. The meaning of Sanctification.
2. The mandate to be sanctified.
3. The moment of Sanctification
4. The means of Sanctification.

## **I. The Meaning of Sanctification.**

Here is a subject that is very generally misunderstood. To many of believers in the Lord Jesus, sanctification connotes the idea of “sinless perfection”.

But the fact is that the word “**Sanctification**” never has that meaning.

Sanctification and holiness are the same thing, being translations from the same word, both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Some people go to the extreme of saying: “I don’t believe in sanctification” or “I certainly do not believe in holiness”. Such expressions are the outcome of ignorance as to the meaning of the words, and this ignorance comes from the general misuse of the words “sanctification” and “holiness”.

How can someone say, “I don’t believe in sanctification and holiness” when the Holy Scriptures explicitly teach them. For example, 1 Cor. 1:30 says:

“But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, Who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

Heb.12:14 also say:

“Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man will see the Lord.

Let us seek to enter into this study as with other studies with an open mind, sincerity of purpose and without prejudice. Let us make an honest effort to find out exactly what God Himself says in His word about this subject.

The word “sanctify” and “holy” and their cognates always have two meanings.

### **1. Set Apart:**

Here it underlines holiness or sanctification in terms of position, status or relationship.

This is the reason why the words are translated “cut off” , “separated”, “set apart for exclusive use”, “dedicated”, or “consecrated”.

And this means a thing or person is sacred in contrast to common, profane or secular.

Sometimes the words are used of places, as

For example: Palestine as the holy land

Jerusalem as the holy city.

Neither the holy land nor the holy city has ever been sinlessly perfect; but rather they are a land and a city set apart for God and by God for special purposes.

Sometimes the words are applied:

To things “holy garment”, “holy anointing oil”

To days or events such as: “holy Sabbath days” “holy feasts” etc.

To persons: God, Jesus, Holy Spirit and Angels

The meaning in all these cases is not as touching the undaunted sinlessness of God and His Angels; it is only that He and they are in a class set apart.

It also applies to Christians. None of us and indeed, not one among us are sinlessly perfect, as this is borne out in such scripture passages as 1 John 1:8-10; 2:1. .... And yet God calls us “saints” which means sanctified persons, holy persons, persons set apart exclusively for God. Believers were referred to as saints.

## **2. Brightness:**

This underlines the scripture passage that relate to condition, state or process. And this leads on especially in the NT to the thought of an inward transformation resulting in moral purity of holy, spiritual thoughts expressing themselves in an outward life of goodness and godliness.

So, a believer in the Lord Jesus is said to be sanctified or holy both positionally and practically.

## **II. The Mandate to be sanctified.**

Throughout the Holy Scripture, there are dispersed commandment and injunction to be holy or sanctified.

1 Thess. 4:3-4

Ex. 28:14

Job 7:13

Lev. 20:7; 26; 11:44-45; 19:2; John 17:17; 1Thess. 5:23; Num 11:18

1 Pet. 1:15-16

Heb. 12:14

So, we see that it is not optional for the believer to be holy it is mandatory. We have no option. “Be ye holy for I am holy”.

## **III. The Moment of Sanctification.**

As we have already noted, sanctification is regarded in three ways-positional and practical – sanctification already accomplished and sanctification yet to be accomplished.

### **1. Positional**

As regards the positional, sanctification in both instantaneous and complete, accomplished

Heb. 10:14

1 Cor. 1:2

1 Pet. 1:2

At the time of our new birth we are set apart for God. From that moment the believer is sanctified positionally, and this position is never changed afterwards and can never be changed or reversed. God calls us saints, a sanctified person, a holy person. (1Pet. 2:9). By the will of God we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all Heb. 10:10. This makes us “saints” and “holy brethren” Phil. 1:1; Heb. 3:1

## **2. Practical**

This begins from the day of our salvation and continues progressively. We move from glory to glory (2 Cor. 3:18). The day we were born again, God put the nature of Christ Jesus in us (1 John 3:9), and this we must seek daily to work out –Phil. 2:12; 2 Pet. 1:10 and live in conformity with the seed of new life imbedded in us.

Zechariah .....(The way of Sanctification pg.11)

This is progressive, continuous until the day of death or the coming of the Lord Jesus for His own.

## **3. Perfect –or Consummated.**

This will be accomplished at the end of the road, when the process of progressive sanctification is completed.

1 John 3:1-3

This is true or sinless perfection- Eph 5:27

## **IV. The Means of Sanctification. 2 Cor. 7:1**

“In the Christian fold, here are many categories of people. Concerning holiness, some people think they cannot do without struggling, striving and trying to do their best. They pray, fast, roll on the ground and put on dirty clothes. They do all sorts of things in the external to show that they are seeking holiness from the Lord.

“In another extreme are those who believe that a believer’s holiness is the God’s business; that the believer himself does not have to do anything. Claiming the promises or taking one’s stand or resisting the devil or looking unto the Lord Jesus are none of his business. If the believer is to be holy, the lord will do everything by Himself.

The two extremes are but just the consequence of ignorance.

The work of sanctification is both God’s hand and man’s. So here let’s see the means of sanctification.

### **1. God’s work in Sanctification**

#### **a. The Blood of Christ**

1 Cor. 1:2; 30

Heb. 10:10

1 John 1:7

#### **b. The Holy Spirit**

2 Thess. 2: 13

1 Pet. 1:2

**c. The Word of God**

John 17:17  
Ps. 119:11

**2. Man’s work in Sanctification**

**a. Identification (knowing)**

Rom. 6:6; 8; Gal. 2:20; 6:14  
Rom. 6:5; Col. 2:12

**b. Reckoning**

Rom. 6:11-12  
“I, Julius O. Ogunkola is dead to sin and alive to God in Christ”

**c. Yielding-(Obedience)**

Rom. 6:121-16; 13-19; completely set apart for Him

“Lord Jesus, today....., I ..... give up all my  
Date name

ambitions, plans, dreams and hopes and I accept Your will for my life. I give You my life, my  
very being, my all to be Yours forever .....” Amen.  
signature

Practical issues in yieldedness

- Gossip- “my ears are holy, they belong to Jesus
- Wrong places – I have no legs, my legs belong to Jesus”
- Salary – 100% the Lord’s
- Gal.6:16-18

Our major problem is incomplete yieldedness.

**d. The Word**

Ps. 119:9; 11; Col. 3:16; 2 Cor. 3:18

**e. Prayer**

- Adoration
- Confession
- Petition
- Thanksgiving Matt. 7:7;  
Phil. 3:13; 4:19  
1 John 5: 14-15

**f. Faith –**

Heb. 11:1-2; 6  
1 Pet. 1:15-16  
Heb. 12: 14

# 8. THE CHURCH

## A. INTRODUCTION

In the New Testament the word *church* may refer to:

- local assembly of believers
- believers in a given locality or area
- believers in the whole world
- believers of all time

### I. Some descriptions of the Church

- i. The visible Church- Matt 13:24-30; 36-43 (wheat and tares)
- ii. The invisible Church- Rev 21:27
- iii. The Church militant- the struggling church
- iv. The Church triumphant- the church in heaven

### II. The Foundation of the Church

The church was launched on Pentecost but we first heard about the church in Matt 16:13-14.

- a) Built on the testimony of Peter Matt 16:16-18
- b) Not built on Peter 1cor 3:11, Eph 5:25, Acts 20:28

### III. The Purpose of the Church

God's plans and purposes are steadfast (ever sure) like He had a plan and purpose for the nation of Israel, so He has for the new Israel- "the called out ones". The main purpose of the Church is "to be to the praise of the glory of His grace" Eph 1:6

- ❖ To be light to the world- Matt 5:16

In Acts 2:41-47; 4:32-35 we see \$ activities which the Church should engage in to fulfil its purpose of existence:

1. Worship- singing, praying, giving, sharing, baptism, Lord's supper e.t.c
2. Teaching- Any and all ways by which church members can know the Lord better and grow into maturity.
3. Fellowship- Sharing our joys, sorrows, physical needs e.t.c. then visitation, worship services, weekday meetings.
4. Witness- Bringing others into the fold.

### IV. Life Style of the Church

- ◆ Matt 5:48
- ◆ 2peter 1:15-16
- ◆ Phil 1:27
- ◆ 1john3:3

Discipline in the Church

- Personal discipline
- Corporate discipline
- Divine discipline

V. Membership of the church

- i. New birth- salvation (Acts 2:47) : You can be a member of the visible church without being a member of the invisible. Your name may be on the church roll and not in the Book of Life. You can become one now.
- ii. Repentance
- iii. Faith towards God then the Lord Jesus
- iv. Acceptance of God’s love gift- JESUS CHRIST

## **B. THE DEFINITION OF THE CHURCH**

If you were asked to define the Church, what would have been your definition? Would you have said: “The most beautiful house around”? Or “The building where Christians meet”? – No, it is not. In Acts 8:1 the Church is described as being people which included the Apostles.

### **I. THE MEANING OF THE WORD “CHURCH”**

The word “Church” is the English rendering of the Greek “Ekklesia” meaning “a called-out assembly” – the Church is the assembly of Christian – called-out of the world system, I Cor. 1:2; Therefore the word “Church” may mean any and all of the following:

- a] A group of believers (Born again Christian) gathering together in a certain place, city or area – Phil. 2; Col. 4:15; Rm. 16:5; II Cor. 1:1; II Cor. 8:1; Rev. 1:4.
- b] All Christians all over the world - I Cor. 15:9; Gal. 1:13
- c] All Christians of all ages, both militant and triumphant – Rev. 7:9.

### **II. THE ORIGIN OF THE CHURCH.**

- a] In the Old Testament, the Church was still a mystery – Rom. 16:25, 26; Eph. 2:14-16, Eph. 5:32.
- b] It was founded by Christ upon Peter’s confession - Matt. 16:16-18; I Cor. 3:11
- c] Historically the Church was launched on Pentecost – Acts. 2:41, 47.

### **III. SYMBOLS USED TO DESCRIBE THE CHURCH.**

- a] Body – Col. 1:18, 24; Eph. 1:22, 23; Col. 2:19; Rom. 12:5; I Cor. 12:27; Eph. 4:12.
- b] Building - Eph. 2:20, 21.
- c] Bride of Christ - II Cor. 11:2; John. 3:29; Rev. 19:7; Rev. 21:2
- d] Flock - Luke. 12:32; John. 10:11, 27-29; I Pet. 5:3.

### **IV. THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH.**

- a] Baptism - Matt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15; Rm. 6:2-4

- b] The Lord's Supper - Lk. 22:19-20; I Cor. 11:26-29.

*As already seen, the Church is the assembly of called-out ones. It is imperative to know that to be a member of this church, one has to have been called out from a life of sin, and separated unto God. Rm. 1:6-7; I Pet. 2:9.*

### **C. THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH**

The Church is a glorious company of redeemed people, I believe there is a reason or purpose for everything that is done, therefore when the Lord created the Church, He must have created it for a purpose – a mission, and He could not have saved this large number of people, at great expense, for no purpose. What therefore is the purpose or mission of the Church?.

#### **I. The Church Was Created In Order To Please The Lord And Glorify Him.**

- a] In Worship – Eph. 1:11, 12; Rm. 15:6; Acts. 13:1; Psalm 100; etc
- b] In Life – Eph. 1:4-6; John 15:8; Matth. 5:16; I Pet. 2:12.

#### **II. The Church Was Created To Fulfill A Particular Role In The World**

- a] To reveal God's will to the world – Matth. 12:50; John 7:17; Acts 8:35; Psalm. 143:10.
- b] To preach the gospel to all human beings – Matth. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15, 20; Acts. 8:4; 19:9, 10; Rm. 1:14-16; I Cor. 9:16-23.
- c] To challenge the wicked forces of darkness – Eph. 3:10; Lk. 9:1; 10:17-19; Eph. 6:10-18; II Cor. 10:3-5.

#### **III. The Church Was Created In order To Be The Means By Which The Christians Are Build Up And Nurtured.**

- a] To provide shelter for those in spiritual need – Mk. 2:15-17; 4:30-32; John. 10:14-16; Lk. 14: 15-24.
- b] To build up believers in the faith – Eph. 4:11-13; Heb. 10:24, 25  
Believers are to be nurtured by teaching, exhortation and by discipline. The Church has a ministry of edifying and encouraging Christians to grow in grace.
- c] To administer discipline to erring members – Gal. 6:1; I Cor. 6:1-8; Matth. 18:17; Jms. 5:16.
- d] To expand the Holy Scriptures through teaching – Acts. 2:42; Acts. 17:11, 12; II Tim. 4:2-5.
- e] To organize prayer for all – I Tim. 2:1; Acts. 3:1; 4:23-31; 12:5.
- f] To administer the ordinances - Matth. 28:19; Acts. 2:41; Lk. 22:15-20; Acts. 2:46; I Cor. 11:17-34.



**CONCLUSION:** The question that comes to mind is: Is our Church fulfilling the purpose for which it was created?

You see, God's plan and programme for the Church is not for it to be a second-rate rubbish in the halls of government. Nor is it His purpose to right the social iniquities of our system. But rather, His purpose is for the Church to make known His wisdom – and that to the very principalities and power in the heavenlies – Eph. 3:10.

The point is that the Church is a force in the community to bring life, light and meaning, and until the Church is a life and vibrant, it is useless and has failed in the purpose of its existence.

# 9. Christian Citizenship

**INTRODUCTION:** It is sometimes alleged that Christians have dual citizenship, but the Scriptures clearly states otherwise. A person who has dual citizenship is responsible to none. But as Christians, we have dual responsibility.

As a member of this church, what citizenship do you hold? To whom do you hold allegiance? To man or to God?

**I. THE CHRISTIAN HAS A SINGLE CITIZENSHIP** – v.11, Phil. 3:20, Heb. 13:14

A sojourner and pilgrim – v.11, Heb. 11:13

(a) **Our responsibilities as pilgrims**

- (i) Desire homeland – Heb. 11:13-16
- (ii) Abstain from fleshly lusts – V.11
- (iii) Live a Holy sanctified life – v. 12

(b) **Our responsibilities as sojourners**

- (i) **Subject to rulers** – v. 13, Rom. 13:1

Why?

- (i) For the Lord's sake – v.13
- (ii) For the Lord's will – v. 15
- (iii) For wrath's sake – Rom. 13:5
- (iv) For conscience sake – v. 16, Rom. 13:5, Eccl. 8:2
- (ii) Pray for – I Tim. 2:1,2
- (iii) Pay dues – Rom. 13:7, Matt. 22:21, 17:24-27
- (iv) Love one's nation – Neh. 2:3
- (v) Seek Peace – Jer. 29:7

**CONCLUSION:** Our first and supreme allegiance is to God and God alone through our Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 4:19, 5:29 – Even in the face of death – all other things will fall into place.

# 10. STEWARDSHIP

*Luke 16:1-13*

**INTRODUCTION:** The Bible teaches us that all things are created by God, and that there is nothing that we own that is not a gift from the living God – I Cor. 4:7. Therefore, the Bible teaches that we are stewards of the things that we think we own. Who is a Steward then? A steward is something like a caretaker – or a Manager. After God had created all things, He created man in order that man might rule or have dominion – that is, rule for God or rule in the place of God. So we are stewards of all things.

We can divide there “all things” into three main categories.

- (1) Stewardship of time
- (2) Stewardship of talents
- (3) Stewardship of treasure

Let’s now take them one by one, but very briefly.

A. **STEWARDSHIP OF TIME** – Ephesians 5:16

In this verse, let us notice

- (1) That time is very short
  - (2) That time is very elusive
- So, we must make the best use of time

B. **THE STEWARDSHIP OF TALENTS** – Matt. 25:14-30

- (1) Stewardship of life
- (2) Stewardship of opportunity
- (3) Stewardship of gifts

There is the reward for using – v 20-23 and curse/dangers of not using /misusing – vv. 24-30

C. **THE STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE** – We have the stories of 3 rich men in the New Testament whom Our Lord condemned.

- The Rich young ruler – Mark 10:17-31
- The Rich Man & Lazarus – Lk. 16:19-31
- The Rich Fool – Luke 12:13-21

Not one of them was condemned because he was rich, but they are all condemned because of hoarding – failing to share their treasure.

So, we find that the Lord demands that we share our treasure.

Not only that, the Lord demands our tithes & offerings – Malachi 3:10

In the evening, we shall discuss the blessings that will be ours, if we give unto God.

## WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT TITHING

- (1) First mention of – Gen. 14:20, Heb. 6:20
- (2) What the tithe is:
  - (i) Ten percent (10%) of our income
  - (ii) Apart from the tithe there is what we call offering/contribution – Exodus 25:2, 35:2

- (3) Before our tithes and contributions (offerings) could be accepted and really blessed, God requires:
- (i) We must be faithful – I Cor. 4:2
  - (ii) Seek God’s Kingdom first – What you do with 9/10 concerns God. Matt. 6:33
- (4) God’s curses for disobedience  
Matthew 3:8-9, Haggai 1:7-11
- (5) God’s blessings for Obedience
- Luke 6:38
  - Proverbs 3:9-10
  - Malachi 3:10
  -

Abraham was a great tither, he was blessed.

Remember the widow of Zarephath – You cannot beat God giving

# 11. MARRIAGE AND THE HOME.

1. That God instituted the home and that He instituted it for at least 3 purposes.

- a. Fellowship - Gen. 2:18, 21-22, 24-25; Col. 3:18-19; 1 Pet. 3:7
- b. Sexual Relationship – 1 Cor. 7:3-6
- c. Child bearing –Gen. 1:28, Eph. 6:4 It is better not to bear than to bear for hell, that barren should not loose hope.

2. That God ordained that the choosing of marriage partner should be within the family –Gen. 24:1-4, John 1:12-13, 2 Cor. 6:14-16

3. We therefore teach that marriage should be honourable

- No sex before marriage –Heb. 13:5
- Everything be done in moderation
  - kinds of wedding – Customary, Court, Church
  - Wedding dress – neatness not flamboyancy
- No sex outside marriage – Heb. 13:5; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; 1 Cor. 6:18-; Prov. 6:24-29; 5:15-20.

4. We also believe that monogamy is God’s ideal for marriage

-Gen. 1:27; 2:22

No polygamy has yielded any good fruit for mankind- It is an ill wind.

-Gen. 4:19;23-24(Abraham, David, Solomon e.t.c)

5. What if a person has had many wives or has had concubines and got children by them before being converted?

We teach: -Acts 17:30

-1 Cor. 7:17-24

-Gen. 21:14; 25:6

-Gen. 25:8-9; 21:13

If after a person has been a member of this church he goes to marry a second wife- no naming ceremony for 2<sup>nd</sup> wife’s children.

6. We believe that God ordained marriage “until death do us part”

-1 Cor.7:10-11

-Matt. 5:31-32; 19:6

-Mal. 2:16

-1 Cor. 7:12-16.

# 12. CHRISTIAN ADORNMENT

Isaiah 3:16-24; 1 Pet. 3: 1-5

This is a most controversial subject but it need not be, if we look at it objectively from the word of God and do not allow the flesh to over-ride us. Note everything I say prayerfully, if you have anything in the contrary or have any questions you can see me anytime. I want us to look at this subject in 3 points.

## 1. The Essence of Adornment

- a. Added because of sin –Gen. 1:31; 2:25; 3:7
- b. Cover nakedness –Gen. 3:7; 21
- c. Protection from cold, disease or hurt – Hag. 1:6; Prov. 31:21
- d. To beautify – Matt. 6: 28-30

so, we see that adornment has a special place in God's economy of things. So as you try to adorn yourself, first think about the essence of adornment

## 2. The Eccentricity in many so-called Adornments

### a. Examples of: - 1 Pet. 3:3

- Jer. 4:30
- Ezek. 23:40
- 2 Kings 9:30
- Isaiah 3:18-24

### b. Evils of:

- Conformity with the world
- Competing with the world.
- Rom. 12:2; 1John 2:15; James 4:4,Fashionable but not worldly-agbada/trousers for men.
- Pride – Isaiah 3:16; Ezek. 28:17
- tends towards sin of adultery and fornication(advertisement)- Isaiah 3:16; 2 Pet. 2:14; 2 Kings 9:22; 30; Prov. 7:10
- Spiritism and idolatry -2 Kings 9:22
  - demonic origin
  - Worship of self
- Causing stumbling block
  - saints and sinners 1 Cor. 8:11-13

## 3. The Ethics of Christian Adornment

### a. To please God -Rom. 8:8

- Gal. 1:10
- 1 Thess. 2:4; 4:1
- Heb. 11:5

### b. To Glorify God -1 Cor. 10:31

- 1 Cor. 6:19-20

**c. Moderately** -1 Cor. 7: 31

-1 Tim. 2:9

**d. With Emphasis on Spiritual** -1 Pet. 3:3-5; 1 Tim. 2: 9-10

**e. To Edify** – Rom. 14:13-20

**f. Don't use others as standards- exemplify Christ**

- 1 Cor. 11:1

- Phil. 3:17

- Heb. 12:2

- Luke 23:34

**g. Neatly** - Ex. 19:14

- Num. 8:7

- Rev. 22:14

**h. Sacrificially** –Gal. 5:24

-Gal.6:14

**i. Not offend good taste** -Acts 28:17 according to custom and culture

#### **4. The Ecstasy of Christian Adornment.**

There are principles outlined in scripture that can bring joy and unity in the house of God especially concerning questionable things.

**a. The Principle of Acceptance**- Rom. 13:1-12

**b. The Principle of Love** – 1 Cor. 8:1-8

**c. The Principle of not being Stumbling Blocks** -1 Cor. 8:9-13; Rom 14:15-23

**d. The Principle of not Abusing Christian Liberty** – 1Cor. 10:23-24; 31-33

**e. The Principle of giving a Helping hand** – Rom. 15:1-9; Gal. 6:1-5

#### **Conclusion**

This message is for heaven bound children of God, and so we can conclude by Albert Osborn's song as prayer:

“Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me all His wondrous compassion and purity, oh!  
Thou Spirit divine all my natures refine “Till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me”.

My brethren, let us separate ourselves 1 Cor. 6:17

But to you who are yet unsaved listen to the promise of God Isaiah 61:3; 10.

God wants to give you His righteousness, Will you come today? Will you come now? For now is the accepted time. NOW is the day of Salvation.

# 13. ANGELS, SATAN AND DEMONS.

## A. THE REALITY OF ANGELS

Man is not the only intelligent created being in God's world. The Bible reveal there is another order of intelligent beings, created by God, known as Angels, who are more advanced than man, and who occupy this universe in an area we choose to call "the Spirit World" for want of a revealed place. Angels are mentioned about 108 times in the Old Testament and about 165 times in the New Testament.

The word Angels means MESSENGER.

**1. The Creation of Angels** – Gen. 1:1; Ps. 148:2, 5; Col. 1:16; Job. 38:4-7; Gen. 6:4; Job 1:6. Even though we know the angels were created by God, we do not know for sure when they were brought into existence, but we are sure that it was before Adam –Job 38:4-7.

### 2. The Classes of Angels.

#### a. God Angels – Matt. 25:31

- Cherubim – Gen. 3:24; 2 Kings 19:15; Ps. 80:1; these seem to be guardian angels.
- Seraphim – Is. 6:1, 2; these may be the singers or choir of Heaven.
- Arch Angels – 1 Thess. 4:16; these are directors or leaders of companies of Angels.
- Michael seems to be the "Director of the armies of God". Dan. 10:13; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7.
- Gabriel seems to be the "Director of heaven's messenger service". Dan. 8:16; 9:21;  
Luke 1:19, 26.
- Elect Angels – 1 Tim. 5:21.

It is certain that there is order and rank in the angelic Spiritual world both among God and fallen angels.

**b. Fallen Angels** – Matt. 25:41; Jude 6; 2 Pet. 2:4; Gen. 6:4; we will be discussing about Satan and the fallen Angels in later lessons.

### 3. The Characteristics of Angels.

#### a. Ministering Spirits – Heb. 1:14; Ps. 104:4

**b. Invisible**, but may choose sometimes to take on physical bodies in order to be seen and deliver God's message – Gen. 18:1, 2, 33; 19:1. This is unique since here we have the pre-incarnation appearance of the Lord and 2 Angels. Luke 1:11; 26-29.

**c. Angels are not bound natural laws** - Acts 12:7; 5:19; Judges 13:19, 20.

**d. Angels are wiser than men** – 2 Sam. 14:20.

**e. Angels are stronger than men** – Ps. 103:20; 2 Pet. 2:11; 2 Kings 19: 35; 2 Sam. 24:15, 16; Matt. 28:2-4; Rev. 20:1-3.

**f. Angels do not marry or bear children and do not die** – Matt. 22:30; Mark 12:25; Luke 20:35, 36.



**g. Angels are innumerable** – Rev. 5:11; Heb. 12:22; Matt. 26:53; 2 Kings 6:17. Hebrews 2:6-7, declares that man was created lower than angels but Eph. 2:5-7 reveals that our Lord Jesus will raise up those who are redeemed and place them in heavenly places in Christ. What an enviable position.

As created beings, angels pass the limitations that go along with creature-hood. By this I mean that they are not self-existent, omniscient, omnipotent or omnipresent as God. Moreover, since angels are created beings, they must never be worshipped. I would emphasise that again: **Angels must never be objects of human worship** - Col. 2:18; Rev. 22:8-9.

## **GOD ONLY IS WORTHY OF OUR PRAISE AND ADORATION.**

### **B. THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS**

“Angels minister to us personally. Many accounts in scripture confirm that we are the subjects of their individual concern. In his book, Table talk Martin Luther said, “An Angel is a spiritual creature created by God without a body, for the service of Christian and the church”. We may not always be aware of the presence of angels. We can't always predict how they will appear. But angels have been said to be our neighbours. Often they may be our companions without being aware of their presence. We know little of their constant ministry. The Bible assures us, however, that one day our eyes will be unsealed to see and know the full extent of the full attention angels have given us (1 Cor. 13:11,12). Billy Graham in “Angels: secrets agents”.

#### **I. Towards Believers.**

- a. Are interested in and rejoice in our Salvation** – 1 Pet. 1:2; Luke 15:10.
- b. Guide and Direct activities** – Gen. 24:7, 40; Acts 8:26; Matt. 1:20; Matt. 2:13, 19, 20; Acts 10:3-4; Rev. 1:11.
- c. Provide for** – 1 Kings 19:5-8
- d. Protect** - Ps. 34: 7; 91:11; 2 Kings 6:15-17; Matt. 18: 10
- e. Deliver** – Dan. 6:22; Acts 12:7-11; 5:17-20.
- f. Comfort** - Acts 27: 23-25.
- g. Minister to** – Heb. 1:14
- h. They watch us** – 1 Tim. 5:21; 1 Cor. 4:9; 11:10
- i. They speak to us** – Luke 1:11, 13; 19; 24:4-6; Acts 1:10-11.
- j. Take believers to Heaven at death** – Luke 16:19-22; Jude 9
- k. Will gather the saints at rapture** – Matt. 24:31.

#### **II. Towards Unbelievers.**

- a. Can lead toward salvation but cannot preach the gospel to anyone** – Acts 10:3-6.
- b. Judgement** – Gen. 19:1,13; Acts 12:2, 3; Matt. 13:39-42.

“Spiritual forces and resources are available to all Christians. Because our resources are unlimited, Christians will be winners. Millions of angels are at God’s command and at our service. The hosts of heaven stand at attention as we make our way from earth to glory, and Satan’s BB(toy) guns are no match for God’s heavy artillery. So don’t be afraid. God is for you”. Billy Graham in Angels: God’s secret agents.

But if you are yet in your sins, you have not accepted Jesus Christ as your saviour and Lord, the judgement of God is at hand. But if you can come to faith today and discover the reality of God’s love and care for you as evidenced in the ministry of His angels on your behalf, ....., you would go forth in faith each day trusting God’s watchcare over you.

## C. THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS – II

In the first part of the ministry of angels, we as Christians have seen evidenced God’s love and care for His own. It is both wonderful, heart-warming and inspiring to note that wherever, we are as children of the living God, we are never alone, but we are surrounded by myriads of angels. How, let us look at a few more of the ministry of angels.

### I. Towards the Lord Jesus Christ’s earthly ministry.

- a. **Announced His conception** – Matt. 1:20,21.
- b. **Herald His Birth** – Luke 2:10-12
- c. **Sustained Him** – Matt. 4:11; Luke 22:39-44
- d. Witness and proclaim His resurrection – Tim. 3:16; Matt. 28:1-7; Lk. 24:1-8.
- e. Accompany Him to nearest - Act. 1:9-11

### II. On special occasions.

- a. The world’s Creation – Job. 38:7
- b. The great tribulation – Rev. 12:7-12.
- c. The second coming of the lord Jesus Christ.
  - Matt. 25:31; Lk. 9:26; II Thess. 1:7,8; Matt. 13:41,42,49,50
  - Matt. 24:30, 31; Rev. 20:1-3.

Yes, the angels of God are going to be busy during the end time. Much of their activity is related to the fulfilment of God’s programme for the earth. It is uplifting to me to know that discouraging as things may appear at times, and hidden though God’s dealing may be to human view the lord is at work. Angelic servants in heaven above on earth below, in the Lord’s good time and wisdom, do his will and carry out his purposes. The forces of evil are going to be destroyed. Righteousness will triumph. And God and his people are going to be victorious (amen). For the believer, the future is as bright as the wisdom and power of God Himself (hallelujah).

Yes, the future is bright for the child of God, but extremely very terrible for those who do not know Christ Jesus and who continue in there sin. Revelation 20 is the picture of the white through judgement and conclude with revelation 20:15.

It is good for you to accept Him today (John 3:18) and you will experience forgiveness of sin and deliverance from eternal condemnation.

## **D. SATAN**

### **Revelation 12:10-12a**

Somebody wrote Satan is well and alive on planet earth. The Christian life is a battle against the enemy of our souls, Satan. This Satan is God's enemy number one (no 1) and because God so dearly loves us and priced us, we have become Satan's target, but under the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are more than conquerors.

#### **I. He Is A Fallen Angel.**

- 1] He is created as to his person – Col. 1:16; Ezek. 28:11-17; Isaiah. 14:12-14.

Many today ask, "who created Satan", but from the foregoing we can see that God created Lucifer a perfect being, but Satan's is self-made.

- 2] He is real as to his presence – John 8:44; Job. 1:6-12; Matth. 4:1-11. Many people today do not believe in a personal devil, recognising only the evil tendencies of the flesh, but from the Scriptures above we can deduce that Satan is not just an influence, he is a person, possessing life, intelligence, will power and feeling – but he is a spirit-being and does not possess a human body neither tail nor horn.

#### **- Names and titles of Satan**

Satan - Lk. 18:10

Devil - Rev. 12:3, 7; 13:2; 20:2

Lucifer (morning star)

Abaddon - Rev. 9:11; Is. 14:12

Apollyon - Rev. 9:11

Adversary – I Pet. 5:8

Belzebub - Matth. 12:24

Belial - II Cor. 6:13

God of this age – II Cor. 4:4; John 14:30

Ruler of darkness - Eph. 6:12

Prince of the air – Eph. 2:2

Serpent - Gen. 3:4; Rev. 20:2

Dragon – Rev. 12:9

- 3] **He is evil as to his purpose.**

Character of Satan.

Cunning - Gen. 3:1; II Cor. 11:3

Thief - John 10:10; Mat. 13:19

Murderer – John 8:44

Slanderous – Job. 1:19; Gen. 3:4,5  
Fierce - Luk. 8:29  
Wicked – I John 2:13  
Liar - John 8:44  
Deceitful – II Cor. 11:13-14; Rev.12:9

- 4] He is limited as to his power.** Yes, Satan is powerful, but he is limited in power over the children of God – Job. 1:10-12; 2:6, Luke 22:31-32
- Watch against - II Cor. 2:10-11
  - Fight against - Eph. 6:11-16
  - Resist - James 4:7; I Pet. 5:9
  - Overcome - I John 2:13; Rev. 12:10, 11.

## **II. He Is A Formidable Adversary.**

- persecutes the saints – Rev. 12:17; 13:7
- under God’s design – Job. 1:8-10
- when a person removes himself under God’s watchful eyes by sinning – I Cor. 5:5.
- seeks whom he may devour – I Pet. 5:8
- sows tares and evil doctrine – Matth. 13:25-30
- blinds the eyes of men – II Cor. 4:4.
- accuses the brethren before God – Rev. 12:10; Job. 1:9; Zeach. 3:1-5
- sifts (tests) believers - Luk. 22:31
- tempts saints - Matth. 4:3.

## **III. He Is A Finished Antagonist.**

- broken at the cross – Gen. 3:15; Luk. 10:18; John. 12:30-32; 16:11
- bound – Mak. 3:27; Matth. 18:18; Rev. 20:1-3
- bruished – Rom. 16:20
- assigned to hell – Matth 25:41; Rev. 20:10.

Satan is mighty. He is cunning and clever, having set himself against God and His people. He will do everything in his power to hold people captive in sin, and to drag them down to the prison of eternal separation from God.

But God is Almighty. Satan was forever defeated at Calvary. Let us constantly claim victory over Satan through the Blood of Calvary. Rev. 12:11.

## **E. THE DEMONS**

Belief in the existence of evil spirits has prevailed among all the known people of the world from the earliest times of which we have no knowledge. In many places they think that these spirits are the ghosts of the dead that have come back to annoy the living. Those who profess to have seen

demons have seen them in human forms of various sorts; ordinarily demons are invisible spirits. The lord Jesus Christ and the new testament accepted without reservation the existence of demons; and the gospel of Mark tells many stories of the lord casting out demons. Some people question whether demons and spirits exist today. We strongly believe that they do.

### **I. Origin of demons.**

Though there are various believes about the origin of demons, but we believe that demons are a class of angels that sinned alongside with Satan – Rev. 12:3, 4, 7; Isaiah 14:12-14; Matth. 12:24. And we also believe that there are two groups of demons:

- a] Those that are now tied up in chains, but will be loosed to hurt men during the tribulation and ultimately to judgement – Rev. 9:1-12; II Pet. 2:4; Jude 6; Gen. 6:4.
- b] Those that are now travelling the heavens and the earth – Job 1:7; Eph. 6:12.

### **II. The Nature of Demons.**

- a] demons are spirit beings – Matth. 8:16
- b] they have personalities and are represented as intelligent beings  
- Mk. 5:10; Lk. 4:34; Gen. 3:1; II Cor. 11:14.
- c] they are evil – Lk. 7:21; 8:2; Acts 19:12
- d] they are unclean – Mk. 3:11; Acts 8:7; Rev. 16:13.
- e] powerful – Lk. 8:29 – they seem to have super-human strength  
requiring several people to hold a demon-possessed person  
– Acts 19:13-16.
- f] Numerous – Mk. 5:8, 9
- g] they are highly organised – Eph. 6:12; Dan. 10:13.

### **III. The Activities of Demons.**

- 1. they help Satan in opposing God and seeking to defeat His will – Gen. 3:15; 6:4; Matth. 13:24-30.
- 2. Satan is the accuser of the brethren, Satan is limited to one place at a time, his servants (demons) are the active force that gather the information for Satan – Rev. 12:10; 2:13.
- 3. they spread wrong doctrine – I Tim. 4:1-3; Rev. 2:14, 20
- 4. they oppress man and seek to hinder his welfare – Job 1:10-12; 2:4, 5; Luk. 13:16; Dan. 10:12-13.
- 5. they distress mankind by deranging both body and mind – Luk. 13:11, 16; Mk. 5:1-5, 15.
- 6. it seems that as God has His guardian angels, so Satan has his guardian demons over nations etc. Dan. 10:13.
- 7. demons are able to leave and return to the body of a person – Matth. 12:43-45.

8. Demons nevertheless accomplish God's purposes – Satan and his hosts are still subject to God – Job. 1:12; 2:6; Psalm. 78:49; I Sam. 16:14-16; I Kings 22:23; Judges 9:23.

The demons constitute a mighty force capable of wreaking havoc among individuals, families and nations: Watch out, they are dangerous, vicious and deadly. They want you under their control and they will pay any price to get you!

## **F. THE DEMONS II**

In the preceding lesson we discovered the origin, the nature and the activities of demons.

### **I. Forms of Demon Practice (Demonology)**

1. Divination – the ability with the aid of familiar spirits to foresee or foretell the future – Lev. 20:27; Hoshea 4:12; Acts 16:16.
2. Necromancy – telling the future by contacting the spirits of dead people – I Sam. 28:8-13; II Chr. 33:6.
3. Magic – this entails a mixture of science (astronomy, astrology) and familiar spirits – Gen. 41:8; Ex. 7:11; Dan. 4:2 (4); Ezek. 21:21; Isa. 47:13.
4. Secretary and witch craft – Deut. 18:10-13; Acts 19:18, 19.
5. Demon worship – Deut 32:17; Psalm 106:37; I Cor. 10:20.

All these forms of demon practice are an abomination to the Lord and in requires the death sentence. Do not seek healing or escape from problems in mysterious ways.

### **II. These four tests will assist you in the recognition of Demon Possession - I John 4:1.**

1. Those connected with evil spirits always work in darkness – John 3:19-21.
2. The spirits deny the personality of Satan as an evil being.
3. They hate the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the expression, 'The Blood of Christ'
4. They deny that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh – I John 4:2, 3.

### **III. How demons Start Their work.**

- a] Drugs - these and strong alcoholic drinks are full of danger in that they make a person so his mind is an easy place for demons to work - Hos. 4:11; Hab. 2:15; Prov. 23:29-35.
- b] Rebellion – demons can take over a mind that turns against God - I Sam. 15:23; 16:14.
- c] Fear – the minds that are fearful easy preys for demon – possession - Job 3:25; 9:28.
- d] Malice - hating someone without wanting to forgive is a way that

- lets demons work in a person – Gen. 4:5-8.
- e] Incomplete surrender – Matt. 12:43-45; (cp) John 12:6 and 13:2
- f] Continuance in sin – Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 2:2, 3.

#### **IV. Suggestions in casting out demons.**

1. Resist Satan in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is best to use the Saviour full title.
2. Pray in faith believing and get as many as possible to pray with you – never work alone except under an extreme emergency – Matt. 18:18, 19.
3. Fast if demons are stubborn - Mk. 9:29.
4. Speak and sing much about the blood of Christ – Rev. 12:11.
5. Quote or read Scripture showing that Christ triumphed over all powers of evil – Matt. 28:18; Col. 1:14, 15.

#### **V. How to have victory over demons.**

1. Be sure you have the right relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord – Acts 16:31; Rm. 10:9; Luk. 10:20; Acts 19:13-16.
2. Childlike faith – Luk. 10:21; Mk. 10:15; I Cor. 1:25-30
3. Wise as to Satan’s deception as to his power and authority and our position and authority over him – II Cor. 2:11; John 8:44.
4. Be awake and on guard as to Satan’s fiery darts of evil thoughts, accusations and condemnations – Eph. 8:33, 34; I John 1:7.
5. Use your 3-fold basis for victory
  - Sword of the Spirit - Eph. 6:17; Matth. 4:1-11
  - The Blood of Jesus Christ - Rev. 12:11
  - The Word of your testimony - Rev. 12:11.
 The doom of demons have been scaled – Matth. 8:29; 25:41.

**Conclusion:** *The Christian need not worry about demons using their power on him to take over his mind. Demons can and, do work on a Christian, but their power is hold back because the Christian belongs to God. The Christian can at anytime call upon the Blood of Christ to cover him from the power and actions of demons – Rev. 12:11; Lk.10:19, 20.*

### **G. THE BELIEVER AND DEMONS**

We have learnt a lot in this series about satanic and demonic activities.

These should not generate fear in the life of the believer, because, the bible reveals that we are more than conquerors.

In this lesson, we want to pay particular attention to the relationship of the believer to demons in order to make us watchful, careful and restful in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary.

1. Believer must not worship angels – Judges. 13:16-18; Col. 2:18; Rev. 19:10; Rev. 22:8-9.

Remember that one of Satan's object is a desire to be worshipped – Matt. 4:18; Isaiah 12:12-15.

2. Believers should be watchful against the devices of the devil – II Cor. 2:11; II cor. 11:13-15; John 8. Satan can afflict, oppress and/or obsess a believer. We must not be deceived, satan is a liar, he can through his agents cause, accidents, disaster, sickness or death to believers. He can destabilise believer's home or cause friction even split in the church. But satan can always do this only:
  - a] as God permits – Job. 1:10-12; 2:4-7; II Cor. 12:7-9.
  - b] as we open our doorways to him through ignorance, carelessness or yielding to demonic influences and infiltrations, by way of the flesh – the five senses. Therefore we must be careful of what we see, hear, feel etc.  
We must also be careful of an inordinate ambition for position and power especially spiritual power. We must therefore run from sin and live holy lives.
  
3. Believers are to resist the Devil – James 4:7; I Pet. 5:8-9; Eph. 4:27. There are at least two ways of resisting the devil.
  - a] Know who you are. The greatest weapon against the Devil is, the truth.
    - Born of God – John 1:12-13
    - Born to conquer - II Tim. 1:7; I John 5:4-5
    - Has eternal life – I John 5:13; Eph. 1:7
    - Has the life of Christ within – Col. 1:27; I John. 3:9;  
II Pet. 1:3-4
    - He lives because Christ lives – John 14:19
    - He is a new creature – II Cor. 5:17, not subject to the devil except by personal will.
    - Christ indwells him - I John 4:4
    - He is complete in Christ - Col. 2:8-10.
  
  - b] Use the Sword of the Spirit – Heb. 4:12-13
    - meditate on the – Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2
    - understand the will of God – Eph. 5:17
    - be vigilant - I Pet. 5:8
    - use the sword – Matth. 4:10
    - be filled with the fullness of God – Eph. 3:19-20
    - do all things in His strength - Phil. 4:13
    - use God's armour - Eph. 6:11-18.

Remember how the Lord Jesus Christ conquered. He did not cry to His Father, nor did He summon the angels. He resisted and use the Word – Matth 4:1-11. The sons of God are to do the same because I John 4:4. It is as much a command to resist the devil", as to be "filled with the Spirit"



Eph. 5:10. Do not give the devil an inch in your life (Gal. 2:5), If you do he is going to go more than a mile. Know your right. Stand your ground. **YOU ARE MORE THAN CONQUEROUS**”  
Through HIM that loves us. Amen.  
**GO AND BEGIN TO LIVE A LIFE OF VICTORY.**

# 14. THE SACRAMENTS

## A. BAPTISM

### Acts 8:26-40

This morning we are going to look at the significance of baptism. Many people shy away from baptism. Many people say it is not necessary. Many point to the thief saved on the cross, and think that since he entered with Christ into Paradise without being baptized, they too can enjoy such a privilege.

Here, let us look at some few reasons why baptism is not only good but a must – a necessity for you.

1. **It is an act of obedience to the teachings of our Lord Jesus**

- ❖ Matthew 28:20,
- ❖ Mark 16:15-16,
- ❖ John 15:14, 8:31,
- ❖ James 2:8-10,
- ❖ Deut. 27:26. Partial obedience is total disobedience,
  - Matthew 7:20-24,
  - 1 Sam. 15:22-23.

2. **It is following the Lord's and the disciples' footsteps**

- ❖ 1 Pet. 2:2-4,
- ❖ Matthew 3:13-17,
- ❖ John 3:22,
- ❖ John 4:1

3. **It is a seal for cleansing and a pardon for sin**

- ❖ Acts 22:16,
- ❖ Acts 2:38,
- ❖ Jer. 2:22

4. **It is a means of membership in the church and partaking of the Lord's Supper**

- ❖ Acts 2:21,
- ❖ 1 Cor. 11:27
  - Member of the body of Christ which is His Bride.
  - An open evidence of betrothal and engagement to the Lord.

**5. It shows one is genuinely saved and confesses the Lord publicly**

- ❖ Mark. 16:15-16,
  - ❖ 1 Pet. 3:21,
  - ❖ Luke 12:8,
  - ❖ Acts 19:18-19,
- So, it is and should be an act of genuine conversion.

**6. It is a testimony of life**

- ❖ Acts 9:17-20,
  - ❖ 1 Tim. 1:13,
  - ❖ Acts 22:3-4,
  - ❖ Accts 26:9-11.
    - the Past – Dead to sin
    - the Present – Alive to Christ
    - the Future – Hope of Heaven
- 2 Cor 5:17  
Titus 3:4-5

It puts a dividing line in your life, puts the past behind you and opens before you a bright and glorious future.

**7. It is an open identification with the Lord in His death, burial and resurrection.**

- ❖ Rom. 6:3-4,
- ❖ Col. 2:12
  - “Dead with Christ” – Rom. 6:3
  - “Buried with Christ” –Col. 2:12
  - “Quickened/Risen with Christ” – Col. 2:12
  - “Hid with Christ” – Col. 3:3
  - “Appear with Christ” – Col. 3:4

**8. The Lord often sets physical evidence on it.**

- ❖ Matthew 3:16-17,
- ❖ Acts 19:5-6,

- ❖ Acts 8:39,
- ❖ Acts 10:44-48

- **Mode of Baptism**

Immersion

- Matthew 3:6,
- John 3:23,
- Acts 8:36-39

- **Requirements of Baptism**

- Repentance – Acts 2:38
- Confession – Matthew 3:6
- Faith – Acts 8:37, 18:8

So, you will see that baptism is not optional to salvation, but mandatory, although It standing on it's own, cannot save.

**Meditate:**

- Have you been baptized?
- Were you baptized properly: that is, were you saved before you were baptized?

## **B. THE LORD'S TABLE**

### **1 Corinthians 11:17-34**

Feasts are common in the Old Testament. There are basically two (2) ordinances that the Lord gave to His church in the New Testament: **Baptism** and the **Lord's Supper**.

Last week, we looked at the significance of Baptism, today we are going to look at the Lord's Supper.

- ❖ How should we not partake at the Lord's table
- ❖ Why should we partake at the Lord's table
- ❖ How should we partake at the Lord's table

These three (3) sub-topics we are going to discuss as we look at:

#### **Partaking at the Lord's Table**

I. **A WORD OF REBUKE** – vv. 17-22, or how we should not partake at the Lord's Table.

(a) **a divided church** – no commendation v. 17

Causes of division

- ❖ Personality cults – 1:10-12, 3:4
- ❖ Emphasis on food – 8:3
- ❖ Class distinction – 11:21, rich and poor

(b) **a disorderly church**

- ❖ Admonishing the Lord's supper – 11:21
- ❖ Fellowship – 14:26, 33,40

So, when they came together, there was no sense of being one family in the Lord. The arrangements emphasized the divisions in the Church rather than their fellowship. No wonder Paul's scathing rebuke in verses 17 and 22.

II. **A WORD OF REMEMBRANCE** – vv. 23-26 or Why we should partake at the Lord's table

(a) **a precious table** v. 23 -

- ❖ Instituted by the Lord – Matthew 26:26-28
- ❖ Last supper of the Lord – Matthew 26:29

(b) **a privileged invitation** – v. 24, "take at" –

- ❖ Matthew 26:26, disciples only. It is a personal calling
- ❖ John 21:1-13 "Come and dine". It is a special calling.

(c) **a prepared offering** – vv. 23-25

- ❖ His body – v. 24, Heb. 10:5-7, Isaiah 53:3-5
- ❖ His Blood – v. 25, Heb. 9:22, Eph. 1:7, Matthew 26:28

(d) **a predicted death** – v. 26,

- ❖ not an act of mourning but a living hope, which should be appreciated.

III. **A WORD OF RESTRAINT** – vv. 27-33 or how we should partake at the Lord's Table.

(a) **it is a serious matter** – v. 27

(b) **it is a searching matter** – v. 28, Lam. 3:40, 2 Cor. 13:5, Ps. 139:23,24

(c) **it is a severe matter** – vv. 29-30

- ❖ Not discerning the Body of the Lord

- ❖ Not giving due weight to the church as the Body of Christ – I Cor. 10:17
- ❖ Not giving due cognizance to the risen Lord being present in His worshipping community especially in the ordinances. Worship must be alive not just a rote.

**(d) it is a sacred matter.** – vv. 31-32

So, brothers and sisters, as we look forward to partaking at the Lord's table this evening, let us examine ourselves – mind, soul and body.

Remember:

- ❖ that what disqualifies you from His table here, will debar you from His table yonder, when He gathers with His Saints in the clouds
- ❖ that He may even come before evening – how happy we will be!

So, are you prepared –washed and saved through His shed blood?

Are you preparing by keeping your clothes unspotted from the world?

Are you serving Him faithfully in His vineyard?

# 15. FUTURE THINGS

## *II Thessalonians 2:17*

**INTRODUCTION:** The last of our series of what we believe. And incidentally it is about the last things. We began this series with the first things and now we have finally arrived at the last things. We shall view this topic from 3 main perspectives:

- (1) The prophecies concerning last things
- (2) God's programmes of the last things
- (3) Our preparedness for the last things

(1) **THE PROPHECIES CONCERNING LAST THINGS** – Some of the commonest questions in our time are: “What’s the world coming to?” What in the world is going to happen now?” What’s going to become of us and our children?” “Is there even any answer to these questions?” Yes there is – Daniel said: “There is a God in Heaven.” God has a purpose as well as a programme for the world. And He’s going to fulfill that purpose and follow the programme. The Bible is full of prophecies concerning these last things, and God’s programme. This morning, we are just going to steal a look at that programme. We cannot have time to read all the details. So, here’s

(2) **GOD’S PROGRAMME OF THE LAST THINGS:**

- (i) The ministry of calling out a bride for Christ – Matthew 24:14
- (ii) The Second Coming of Christ

**I. The Rapture of the Saints (Church)**

– I Thess. 4:16-17, I Cor. 15:

**A. Events in the Air**

- i. Reward – I Cor. 3:11-15
- ii. Marriage supper – Rev. 19:7-10

**B. Events on earth** – The Tribulation – Rev. 6-18

- i. Revelation of the man of sin – II Thess. 2:3-12
- ii. Persecution of Jews & Christians – Rev. 12
- iii. God’s judgment both on political & religious systems – Rev. 6-18

Seal judgment – Rev. 6-7

Trumpet judgment – Rev. 8-11

Harvest judgment – Rev. 14:14-20

Bowl judgment – Rev. 15-16

Religious judgment – Rev. 17-18

II. **Revelation of Christ** – Rev. 1:7, Matthew 24:30, Acts 1:11,  
Zech. 14:4

- Armageddon – Rev. 16:16
- Time of restoration – 1,000 year reign
  - Satan bound – Rev. 20:1-3
  - Satan’s reign with Christ – Rev. 20:4-6
  - Satan loosed – Rev. 20:7-9
  - Last judgment – Rev. 20:10-15

III. **Eternity Begins** – New Heaven

- New Earth

- New Jerusalem

Rev. 21-22

(3) **OUR PREPAREDNESS FOR THE LAST THINGS**

- (a) Be assured of your SALVATION – II Thess. 2:13-14
- (b) Stand fast in his \_\_\_\_\_ - II Thess. 2:15

## IT’S CLOSING TIME

*II Peter 3:1-18*

**INTRODUCTION:** Brief review of the morning sermon, According to Dr. Billy Graham in his book “World Aflame”, he quoted one French Chemist Marcelin Berthelot, who in 1860 said: “Within a hundred years of physical and chemical science, man will know what the atom is. It is my belief when Science reaches this stage; God will come down to earth with His ring of keys and will say to humanity, *“Gentlemen, it is closing time.”*”

In the last lesson we have seen the many facets of this closing time. But how far in this closing time.”



Let's go visit Our Lord Jesus Christ and the disciples on the Mount of Olives.

The disciples asked 3 questions- Matthew 24:3

Let's see some of the signs:

- (1) The Mental State of the World – Luke 21:25-26
- (2) The Moral State of the World – Matt. 24:37-39, Gen. 6:5, 12-13, Lk. 17:28-30
- (3) A Falling Away – Matt. 24:11, I Tim. 4:1-4, II Tim. 4:3-4, II Thess. 2:3
- (4) An Increase in Lawlessness – Matt. 24:12
- (5) The Coming of Scoffers – II Pet. 3:3-4
- (6) Widespread persecution – Matt. 24:9-10, Mark. 13:9,12,13
- (7) Affluence – II Tim. 3:1-5
- (8) Increase in knowledge and travel – Daniel 12:4
- (9) Increase in Peace Conferences – I Thess. 5:3
- (10) Worldwide Evangelism – Matt. 24:14

**What should you do?**

- (1) Preparing with Urgency – Matt. 24:44
- (2) Waiting with Patience – Heb. 10:36, 37
- (3) Watching with Anticipation – Philippians 3:20, Titus 2:13
- (4) Working with Zeal - Matt. 24:46, Luke 19:13

***Even So, Come Lord Jesus. AMEN.***  
*Rev. 22:20*