

Basic Discipleship

Rima Ridge Baptist Church

Chapter 1: Introduction & Church Structure

Welcome to the Basic Discipleship class of Rima Ridge Baptist Church. It does not matter if you are a brand new Christian; if you have been a Christian for some time but have recently joined our church; or if you have been a member of Rima Ridge Baptist Church for a long time. I guarantee that you will be blessed by participating in this class! Nothing is more important than being well grounded in the basics of the faith.

We believe that it is vital that we give new Christians the basic knowledge they need to be able to “resist the devil” and cause him to flee (James 4:7). That is the purpose of this study. If you diligently apply yourself to this material, and commit to regular attendance at this class over the next 14 weeks, I know that you will become “a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

*“For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace...
Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”*
1 Corinthians 14:33, 40

The structure of the church should not be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE.

1. THE CHURCH IS A *FELLOWSHIP*.

“They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship...”

Acts 2:42 (Ph)

A top priority in a fellowship is harmony and unity.

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

Ephesians 4:3

“So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together.”

Romans 14:19 (Ph)

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.

Colossians 3:15; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Timothy 2:14; Proverbs 17:14; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Philemon 1:27; 2:1-3; Colossians 2:2; Philemon 4:2; 1 Peter 3:8; 1 Corinthians 14:33; John 13:34-35; 2 Timothy 2:23; Romans 15:5-6; 12:16-18; Colossians 3:13-14; Psalm 133:1.

2. THE CHURCH IS A FAMILY.

“You should be like one big happy family full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.” 1 Peter 3:8 (LB)

Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 2:10-13; 1 Peter 4:17

“Don’t reprimand a senior member of the church, appeal to him as a father. Treat the young men as brothers, and the older women as mothers. Treat the younger women as sisters...” 1 Timothy 5:1-2

“(A Pastor) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his family, how can he take care of God’s church?” 1 Timothy 3:4-5

3. THE CHURCH IS A BODY

1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:23; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18, 2:19

We are a Body .not a business! We are an organism .not an organization!

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have different gifts according to the grace given us.” Romans 12:4-6

In an organization “maintenance” becomes the focus. But in an organism “ministry” is the focus.

AT RIMA RIDGE WE HAVE A SIMPLE STRUCTURE SO WE CAN MAXIMIZE MINISTRY AND MINIMIZE MAINTENANCE.

“God gave.. .some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up...”

Ephesians 4:11-12

The People are the ministers.

The Pastor and staff are the administrators.

(Not administrators but administrators. Definition: to equip, to enable, to empower).

4. THE CHURCH IS A ***FLOCK***.

Jesus favorite description of the Church: John 10:1-30; Matt 26:31; 25:33

THEREFORE IT IS CARED FOR AND LED BY *SHEPHERDS*****

“Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Do you really love me?” “Yes Lord, ‘said Peter. Then take care of my sheep.” John 21:16-17

*“To the elders I say. .**Be shepherds** of God’s flock, serving as overseers...”* 1 Peter 5:1-2

“Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they arrived he said to them.. .guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be pastors of the church of God..” Acts 20: 17-18, 28

See also Titus 1:5-7; 1 Tim. 5:17

OUR AFFILIATIONS:

The Southern Baptist Convention: Over 39,000 Southern Baptist Churches

What is the Southern Baptist Convention (S.B.C.)?

It is the *largest* association of Christian churches in America.

It is the *most diverse* association of churches.

It is one of the *fastest growing* groups.

Why not just be an independent church?

We are an independent church! Every SBC church is completely independent. There is no denominational control or hierarchy, as there is in most other denominations. Each church is self-governed and determines its own affairs. For example:

Every SBC church chooses its own pastor

Every SBC church owns its own buildings and assets.

Every SBC church determines its own program.

What are the advantages of affiliating with SBC?

1. It allows us to identify with other Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible. Unlike other groups, the SBC has no man-made "creed". The Bible is our only authority.
2. It allows our church to participate in the largest missionary organization in the world.

Since its organization in 1845 in Augusta, Georgia, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has grown to 15.9 million members who worship in more than 41,500 churches in the United States. Southern Baptists sponsor about 5,000 home missionaries serving the United States, Canada, Guam and the Caribbean, as well as sponsoring more than 5,000 foreign missionaries in 153 nations of the world.

The term "Southern Baptist Convention" refers to both the denomination and its annual meeting. Working through 1,200 local associations and 41 state conventions and fellowships, Southern Baptists share a common bond of basic Biblical beliefs and a commitment to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire world.

You become a Southern Baptist by uniting with a Southern Baptist church, like Rima Ridge.

Why a Denomination?

The Southern Baptist Convention does not ordain ministers, assign staff to churches, levy contributions to denominational causes, dictate literature and calendar, or assign persons to churches according to place of residence. These are local church matters. Southern Baptists are wary of interdenominational councils. While Southern Baptists work with other churches on matters such as abortion and pornography, read and hear non-Southern Baptists, and join with other Baptists in the work of the Baptist World Alliance, they do not enter into covenants with others who wish to speak for them. The Convention is an alliance of churches working in friendly cooperation under the heading "Southern Baptist." A Southern Baptist church is about as independent as you

can get and still be counted as part of a denomination.

Why belong to a denomination? Well, denominations give churches a way to collectively express their convictions and realize their vision. In such a free land as ours, it is natural that churches would take the opportunity to identify with like-minded churches. Denominations allow churches to be a part of a larger enterprise, pooling their resources to establish and advance Great Commission work. A denomination can have an impact larger than the sum of the impacts of the individual churches.

The Bible pictures financial and operational cooperation among New Testament churches, and virtually all churches cooperate with other churches in some fashion or other. Southern Baptists have merely formalized that spiritually-natural phenomenon, and God has blessed their blend of freedom and cooperation.

Within the Body of Christ, there is a great diversity of gifts, temperament, taste, and experience. Churches benefit from this range of qualities within their own fellowship and across the denomination. Churches learn from and complement each other.

This is not a matter of moral or doctrinal compromise. You cannot believe and do just anything and remain a part of the Southern Baptist fellowship. All Baptist bodies have limits. But within those limits, there is room for significant cooperative diversity.

While there is a place for Biblical separation, a coming apart for the sake of holiness, separation can go to extremes. No church is perfect. Each will have sinful and wasteful features. The same goes for denominations. Just as with churches, denominations must find their way between putting up with anything and fighting over everything. There are rocks on both sides and the need for a great deal of patience as we chart our course between them.

Why a Convention?

Isn't a convention a meeting and not a denomination? Technically, the Southern Baptist convention exists for only two days a year, at the annual gathering.

The rest of the year, denominational entities carry out the instructions of the messengers to the Convention. The authority, then, resides with the messengers elected by churches and participating in the two-day meeting. Still, those churches and individuals who identify with this enterprise typically call themselves Southern Baptist. On the next page you will see a graphic which shows a portion of the division of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Why does our church give money to The Cooperative Program (CP)?

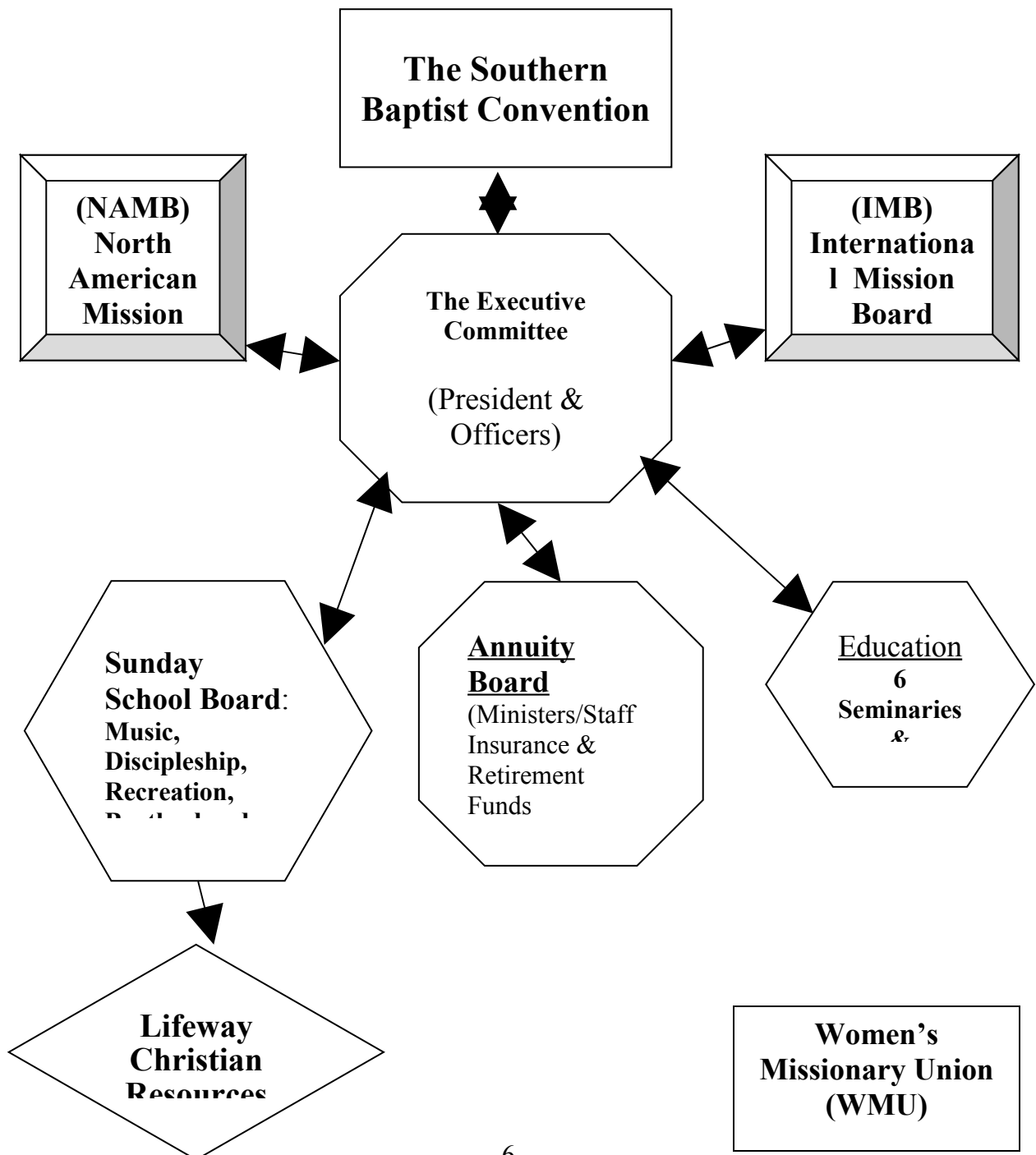
Since 1925, Southern Baptists have been partnering together to touch the world through The Cooperative Program. The CP unites all Southern Baptists together into a missions team fulfilling the Great Commission.

<p><i>"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."</i></p> <p>Matthew 28:19-20 HCSB</p>

- The mission and evangelistic efforts of your state convention are supported by CP gifts.
- CP gifts undergirds the work of almost 5,000 international missionaries in 153 countries through the International Missions Board (IMB)

- Through your CP Missions support, In 2000, 865,958 people were baptized worldwide because of your support through CP gifts.
- The more than 13,400 future missionaries, pastors, and church leaders were equipped through the work of the six SBC Seminaries supported through CP Missions.
- CP Missions also supports the Ethics and Religious Life Committee, the Annuity Board, the Baptist World Alliance, and more!
- CP Missions is the most expansive, efficient, and effective means of missions support!

A SIMPLE BREAKDOWN OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION ORGNIZATION



The convention maintains an office complex in Nashville, Tennessee. In Nashville you find the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee follows the directions of the convention and runs the day to day business operations.

The North American Missions Board is managed by a board that is voted in by the yearly Convention. The Board serves as the Missions Board for the North American Continent. This includes the United States, Canada, Guam and the Caribbean islands.

- ◆ The North American Mission Board (NAMB) and its partners supported 5,081 mission personnel who assisted in the starting of 1,681 new congregations in 2000.

A board that is voted in by the yearly Convention manages the International Missions Board. The Board serves as the overseas Missions Board.

- ◆ The International Mission Board and its partners supported over 5,000 mission personnel in 53 nations of the world. This includes Missionaries who are in ‘closed countries’ (Countries who refuse Missionaries entering their country) and are serving in other avenues of service. These areas include medical, educational and managerial.

The Sunday School Board is managed by a board that is voted in by the yearly Convention. The board serves as an educational support for the local church. They have curriculum development for Sunday School, Discipleship, Youth Ministry, Music Ministry, Pastoral Studies, Church Recreation and even Church Architecture. Lifeway Christian Resources is directly under the Sunday School Board. Lifeway is the publishing house of Sunday School literature; books; tapes; and operates Lifeway Christian Bookstores.

The Annuity Board is the agency which handles the insurance & retirement needs for the Southern Baptist employees. This includes employees of the local Southern Baptist church (*like Rima Ridge!*).

The Education Division does not have a board over the entire division, rather each of the six seminaries has it’s own Board. The Seminaries have over 13,000 students enrolled. This includes students, which may be taking classes at local extension agencies.

The Seminaries have students enrolled in areas that include: Missions, Music, Education, Theology.

The Six Seminaries are:

- ◆ Golden Gate Theological Seminary (San Francisco, California)
- ◆ Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Kansas City, Missouri)
- ◆ New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (New Orleans, Louisiana)
- ◆ Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Wake Forest, North Carolina)
- ◆ Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Louisville, Kentucky)
- ◆ Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Dallas, Texas)

The Women’s Missionary Union (WMU) is an auxiliary unit to the convention. They do not report directly to the convention but serve with their own independent board. The WMU serves as a missionary education agent for the convention. They provide the local church with materials and offer means in supporting our SBC missionaries.

***FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE INTERNET:
WWW.SBC.NET***

State Conventions & Local Associations

Though a church may be a Southern Baptist church without affiliating with a state convention or local association of Southern Baptist churches, it is customary to participate in all three.

Each has its particular ministries, fellowship, and mission outreach, and there is a great deal of cooperation among them. The state and national bodies have traditionally relied upon local associations to determine the baptistic character of churches.

There are currently 42 state conventions and fellowships listed. There are more than 1,200 local associations.

At Rima Ridge we are associated and work with the Florida Baptist Convention.

No one knows for certain when the Baptists set foot on Florida soil, but historical evidence indicates that some of the first Baptists in Florida were Southern slaves who had escaped to promised freedom under Spanish rule (1783-1821). Many early settlers entered the state by boat, which resulted in a diverse geographical distribution. Along the coast, they came to Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Key West, Tampa and Pensacola. Although some preaching and organized worship may have occurred earlier, **the first established Baptist church in Florida was the Pigeon Creek Baptist Church**, organized on January 7, 1821, in Nassau County near what is now Callahan. The Spanish flag still waved over Florida. Subsequently Baptist churches were established at Camp Bellton and Sardis in 1825, and in Jefferson and Leon Counties in 1829. During the 1830's ten churches organized. In the 1840's, the rate of church starts increased rapidly with 36 churches being organized by the end of 1849. **By 1854, when the Florida Baptist State Convention was organized, 19 more had been added to the list.** The churches organized in the 1840's and 1850's reflected the increase in the population of the new state and the geographical spread of settlers down the center of the state and along coastal areas as far south as Key West.

The Florida Baptist State Convention was organized November 20th, 1854, by 17 delegates meeting in Madison, Florida, in the home of R. J. Mays, who was elected president. By this time, there were three associations: Florida, West Florida and Alachua.

Today the Florida Baptist Convention follows the same patterns as the Southern Baptist Convention. It has an annual meeting held for two days in November. The remainder of the year the daily operations base is in Jacksonville, Florida. On the following page you will see a chart which may give you some idea of the expanse of information and support available to Florida Baptist.

***FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR STATE CONVENTION AND
IT'S MINISTRIES VISIT THE INTERNET:
WWW.FLBAPTIST.ORG***

Florida Baptist Convention

Executive Director-Treasurer's Office **Assistant Executive Director's Office**

African-American Ministries Division Office

African-American Church Development
African-American Church Planting

Business Services Division Office

Accounting
Convention Facilities
Human Resources Office
Information Support Services

Church Services Division Office

Church Annuity Promotion
Cooperative Program
Stewardship
Strategic Endowed Giving

Church Development Division Office

Church Music
Discipleship and Family
Pastor/Staff Leadership
Sunday School
Theological Education/Distance Learning

Evangelism Division Office

Collegiate Ministries
Evangelism Strategy
Personal/Student Evangelism
Prayer/Spiritual Awakening

Language Missions Division Office

Language Church Planting
Language Church Development
Language Evangelism and Stewardship

Miscellaneous Services

Legislative Office

Missions Division Office

Church and Community Ministries
Church Planting
Interdivisional Church Planting Office
Florida Baptist Men
Partnership Missions
Church Planning/Revitalization
New Work Assistance
Women's Missions and Ministries

Public Relations Division Office

Communications
Media Services
Publication Services

At Rima Ridge we are also associated and work with the local Halifax Association.

The Halifax Baptist Association maintains offices in South Daytona Beach but is comprised of 34 Southern Baptist Churches in the East Volusia & East Flagler Counties.

Our local association churches are:

Beachside Baptist Church
Bella Vista Baptist Church
Berean Baptist Church
Calvary Baptist Church
Central Baptist Church
Christ Community Church
Daytona First Baptist Church
Edgewater First Baptist Church
Iglesia Bautista Hispana de Daytona
Flagler Beach First Baptist Church
Flomich Avenue Baptist Church
Glencoe Baptist Church
Hammock First Baptist Church
Harbor Oaks First Baptist Church
Holly Hill First Baptist Church
Korean Baptist Church
Magnolia Baptist Church

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
New Hope Baptist Church
New Smyrna Beach First Baptist Church
North Peninsula Baptist Church
Oak Hill First Baptist Church
Palm Coast First Baptist Church
Port Orange First Baptist Church
Primeria Iglesia Hispana
Rima Ridge Baptist Church
Riverbend Community Church
Samsula Baptist Church
Servant's Quarters Fellowship
South Daytona First Baptist Church
South Peninsula Baptist Church
Spruce Creek Baptist Church
Unity Fellowship Mission
Westside Baptist Church



Rev. Dennis Belz serves as our Director of Missions. His job is to coordinate mission efforts in the area and to serve as counsel and support of the local churches.

The Association has a Resort & Student Ministries Coordinator. This ministry includes working on campus at Daytona Beach Community College; setting up Ministries during Race Weeks, Bike Week, Biktoberfest, Spring Break and Summer Break.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR ASSOCIATION AND IT'S MINISTRIES VISIT THE INTERNET: WWW.HALIFAXBAPTIST.ORG

Basic Discipleship

Rima Ridge Baptist Church

Chapter 2: Spiritual Development

Unfortunately, today many churches are so concerned with “numbers” that they have lost sight of a very important principle:

JESUS CHRIST DID NOT CALL US AS MEMBERS OF HIS BODY TO “MAKE CONVERTS” HE CALLED US TO MAKE DISCIPLES!

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, all authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20. NASB)*

These verses are called “The Great Commission.” They form the basis for operation of Christ’s church. I believe that all church members everywhere rejoice when they see a person come to know the Lord. However, if we let it “end” there, we have done that person a great injustice. Satan is never happy to see someone come to know the Lord, and he will do everything in his power to try to pull him or her away. As Southern Baptists, we know that a person, once saved, cannot lose his salvation. But what many may not know is that while Satan cannot steal their salvation away; he CAN steal the joy of their salvation! It is quite possible for a person to be truly saved, and yet be pulled away from walking with God even to the point of living a more ungodly lifestyle than before they were saved!

To begin this chapter, we want to see what you already know about Southern Baptists and what we believe. For this reason, we are going to give you the opportunity to display your theological prowess and doctrinal knowledge. Take a few moments and complete the quiz below by placing an “X” under the True or the False column. (By the way, don’t be embarrassed by how you do; believe it or not, the author of this study has administered this test to literally hundreds of persons who have been Christians for years –and the average score has been less than 50%!)

* Unless otherwise specified, all Scripture passages used in this study will be from the New American Standard Bible, © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1977 by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

Doctrinal Pretest

T	F	Statement
	X	01. The Bible is inspired in the same sense that other great books or poems are inspired.
	X	02. Some parts of the Bible are more inspired than other parts.
X		03. God is one and has made Himself known as three persons.
	X	04. Pantheism is the view that God is everywhere at all times.
X		05. Persons have the freedom to choose between right and wrong.
	X	06. Sin basically is ignorance of the will of God.
X		07. Jesus Christ is fully divine and also fully human.
	X	08. Jesus rejected the term "Lord" for himself.
	X	09. The main work of Jesus on earth was to be our example.
	X	10. Predestination means that God has predetermined that some persons will be saved and others will be lost.
X		11. Atonement refers to the reconciling act of God by which He dealt with the sin that separates us.
	X	12. Regeneration means the unmerited favor of God.
X		13. All believers have equality before God.
	X	14. Sanctification is a once for all act whereby God declares the sinner justified.
X		15. Every believer receives the Holy Spirit at the time of conversion.
	X	16. To be filled with the Spirit means to be controlled by the Spirit.
	X	17. The word church in the New Testament always refers to a local body of believers.
	X	18. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are sacraments through which the church dispenses grace.
	X	19. The resurrection of the body is not taught in Scripture.
	X	20. All judgment is here in this life.

How did you do? If you stay with us, you will find that all of these questions will be covered (and a whole lot more!) over these next 13 weeks.

DAILY QUIET TIME

You know, one of the traits common to all Southern Baptists is that we like to eat! In fact, that has become the operational imperative of many of our churches –we “meet and eat!” And because we like our chow, there are probably not very many of us that try to get by on just one meal a week; our physical bodies could not take it –we would wither up and probably die! We certainly could not grow strong on such a diet.

The same thing applies to our Spiritual growth. There is absolutely no way that we can grow as Christians if we only “feed” on Scripture once or twice a week, when we come to listen to the pastor. And yet, how many people do you know (and maybe you have been one of them!) who try to do that very thing? They show up at the Sunday morning service with their 98-pound Bible, and then never open it again for the rest of the week! {Favorite Book...TV guide}

Just as we need daily food in order to grow strong, we need daily feeding of our spirit in order to grow strong spiritually. And we do need to grow spiritually –it is not an option, it is a command:

Ephesians 4:11-16 ¹¹ *And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,*
¹² *for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;*
¹³ *until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*
¹⁴ *As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;*
¹⁵ *but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ,*
¹⁶ *from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

If we are to grow as Christians, we must spend time every day with Jesus Christ!

This time that we spend each day is called our “Quiet Time.” In order to be effective in developing this daily quiet time, we need to observe several factors:

- **We should establish a specific time for this activity.**

While your schedule may dictate what time is available, it is usually best to schedule this early in the morning. If we plan to have our quiet time in the evening, we very often will become too busy and have too many interruptions to be faithful to our schedule.

- **We should establish a specific place for this activity.**

If you try to have your daily quiet time in an area where you will be constantly interrupted by other family members, the telephone, cats and dogs, etc, you will not be able to receive what God has for you. Find a spot where you can have at least 30 minutes of uninterrupted time. Let your family know that this time is important to you. Also, try to keep this place the same every day.

- **We should make a commitment to the Lord about this activity!**

Psychologists tell us that if we do anything for six weeks, it will become a habit. Will you commit during the weeks of this study to develop this daily habit?

STUDENT TEXT: PAGE 14

Psalm 68:19 *Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, The God who is our salvation.*

Psalm 88:9 *I have called upon Thee every day, O LORD; I have spread out my hands to Thee.*

Psalm 96:2 *Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.*

Psalm 118:24 *This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

Psalm 119:164 *Seven times a day I praise Thee, Because of Thy righteous ordinances.*

Psalm 145:2 *Every day I will bless Thee, And I will praise Thy name forever and ever.*

Proverbs 8:34 *“Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at my doorposts.*

What should we do during this quiet time?

- **We should talk to the Lord. This is called prayer.**

In Chapter 7 of our study, we will take a close look at prayer, and learn how to develop an effective prayer life. We will learn that Scripture teaches that prayer should consist of several parts. But aside from these factors, we mostly need to understand that prayer is simply talking to God. We don't need to use flowery phrases and big words and we really don't need to use "King James English" to talk to God! (Not this: "O Thou Mighty Father, I pray Thee that Thou mightest toucheth the heart of this sinful man..." But rather this: "God, help me; I know I messed up.."). Most importantly, we need to just be sincere –God knows our hearts!

1 Timothy 2:8 *Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath or dissension.*

Ephesians 6:18 *With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with the perseverance and petition for all the saints.*

- **We should read our Bible. To do this we should have a **plan**.**

It does not matter if you are a fast reader or a slow reader; you need to have a plan. If we just try to "open and point" we are not going to grow. We need, therefore, to ensure that we read **all** of God's Word. Whether it takes us one year to read the Bible through, or five years, as long as we have a definite plan that we are following, God will bless our effort.

{Devotional Bibles... Chronological Bible...Daily Bibles...Open Windows...Computer...}

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

Romans 10:17 *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*

1 Peter 2:2 *Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation...*

- **We should take what we read and **apply** it to our lives!**

As a pastor, it has frequently amazed me how many people can know what God's Word says in many cases they can even quote it –and yet never make the connection between what the Word teaches, and how it should be applied in their lives! We don't need to just know **about** the Lord; we need to know the Lord in a personal and constantly growing fashion!

James 1:22-24 *But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.*

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 15

- **We should make an effort to memorize Scripture.**

Many people say “I just can’t memorize Scripture; I just don’t have the brain for it.” But in reality, all of us have the capacity to memorize Scripture, if we will just apply ourselves. We memorize social security numbers, pin numbers, birthdays, license plate numbers, and all kinds of things every day of our lives! Even if we just set a goal to memorize one verse a month, at the end of ten years we will have memorized 120 verses of Scripture!

Why should we memorize Scripture, though, if we “know” where to find the answer in our Bible?

- Because we usually don’t know where to find the answer!
- Because we may not have our Bibles with us!
- Because Satan may not give us the opportunity to look it up!

Psalm 119:11 *Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee.*

- **We should take time and allow God to speak to us!**

In our busy lives, we very often – even when we are diligently striving to maintain our daily quiet time – just “zip” through our Bible reading and our prayers, and then we are out the door! Then, somewhere down the road, we begin to question why God is not speaking to us! Very often, the reason God is not speaking to us is because He can’t get a word in edgewise! As hard as it often is, we must force ourselves to take the time to just sit, clear our minds, and allow God to speak to our heart.

Psalm 46:10 (KJV) *“Be still and know that I am God.”*

Some “Christian Facts of Life”

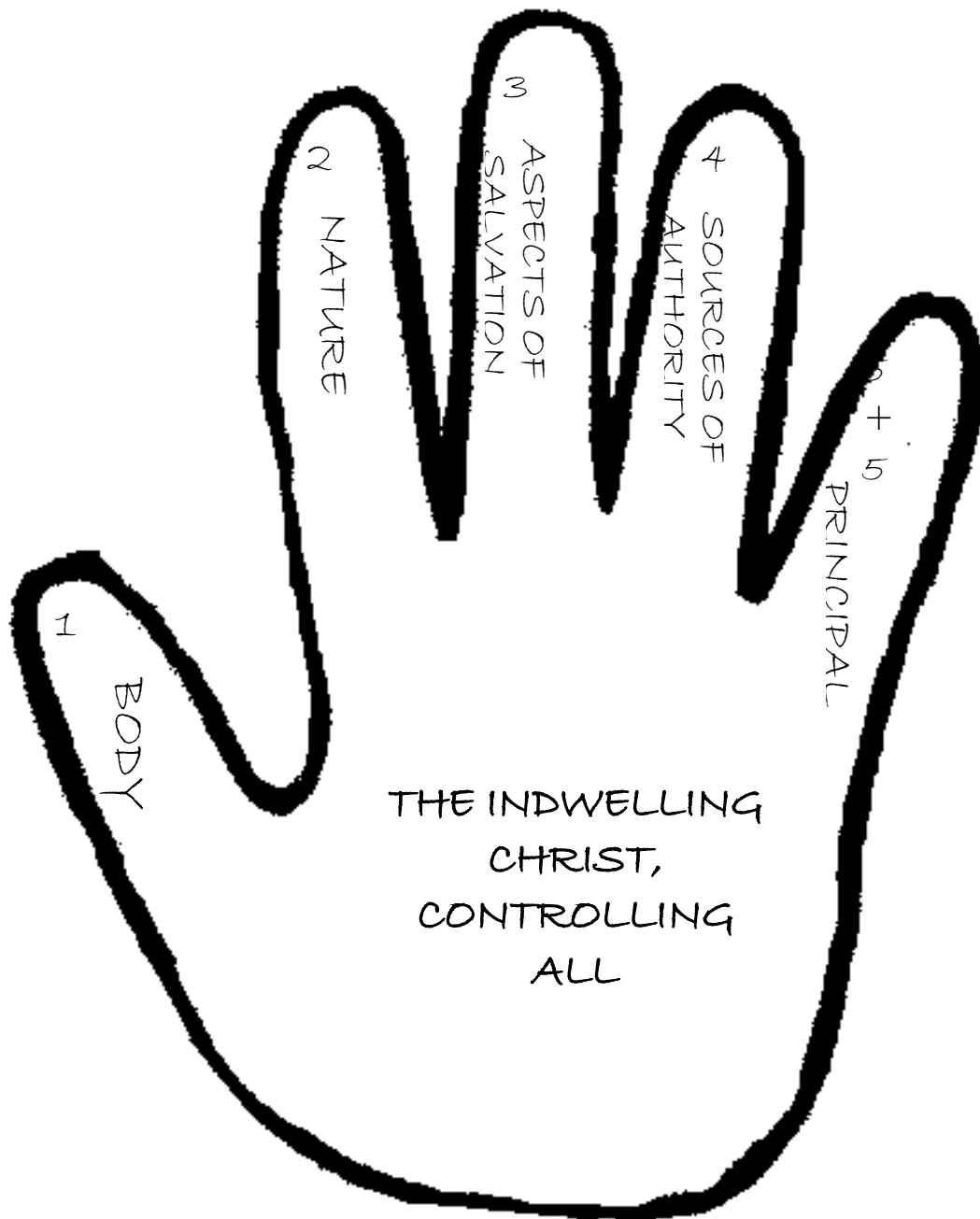
It is important to understand that becoming a Christian **DOES NOT** make all of your problems go away! Becoming a Christian means that we have become an enemy of Satan. Because of this fact, Satan will do everything he can to try to mess us up!

1 Peter 5:8 *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

Because of this battle, it is common for Christians to go through several “stages” in their growth (or lack thereof). One of the purposes of this course is to keep you from falling prey to these stages. What are these stages?

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 16

- The **Honeymoon** Stage {First Love}
- The **Fight** Stage {after dating>> marriage}
- The **Doubting** Stage {Was it real or just emotions?}
- The **Panic-Search-for the Truth** Stage {Leaves you open to being led astray}
- The **Silent Christian** Stage {It's not for me, so I'll just keep quiet...}



Basic Discipleship
Rima Ridge Baptist Church
Chapter 3—One Body

What does the word “church” mean?

According to Webster;

1. The **company of all Christians**, considered a mystical spiritual body.
2. A **building** for public worship (especially Christian worship).
3. A **local congregation** of Christian believers.
4. Public **divine worship** in a designated building.
5. A specified **Christian denomination**.

Of these five definitions, only two are actually Biblical:

1. **The company of all Christians (the church universal)**. (60 of 74 times)

Matthew 16:18 *And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

2. **The local congregation**. {14 of 74 times}

Romans 16:3-5 ³Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus.
⁴They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them.
⁵Greet also the church that meets at their house.

Based upon these facts, what can we conclude about Christ’s view of the church?

1. He considers all Christians part of **His church**.
2. His primary method of operation is through the **universal church**.
3. He is not a **denominationalist**!

This tells us we are off track when we believe that only Southern Baptists go to Heaven, or that we are the only ones who are “right.”

More Important: Do not assume that a Southern Baptist Church is automatically going to subject you to correct doctrine!

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 18

What does the church exist for?

To answer this question, we need to look at three Scripture passages:

Matthew 16:18 *“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.”*

Matthew 28:18-20 *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

Matthew 22:36-40 *“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”*

³⁷ *And He said to him, “‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’*

³⁸ *“This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ “The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ ⁴⁰ “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”*

These three passages are often referred to by a “title” that has been given to them:

- Matthew 16:18 is called The Origin of the Church.
- Matthew 28:18-20 is called The Great Commision.
- Matthew 22:36-40 is called The Great Commandment.

If we examine these verses, we will find several points of interest about the purpose for the church:

1. The church belongs to Jesus Christ, and it exists solely for His purpose!
2. Only Jesus Christ can build His church – we can do nothing in our own power!

3. The church exists for five purposes:

- I. Worship
- II. Discipleship
- III. Fellowship
- IV. Ministry (Service)
- V. Evangelism

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 19

I. WE EXIST TO CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE

WORSHIP - EXPRESSING LOVE TO GOD.

“Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only” Matthew 4:10

The Father seeks worshippers.. and His worshippers must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” John 4:23-24

Expressions of Worship

Singing	Ephesians 5:19
Commitment	Romans 12:1-2
Praying	Psalm 95:6
Hearing the Word	John 17:17
Giving	1 Corinthians 16:1-2
Baptism	Romans 6:3-4
Meditating	Habakkuk 2:20
Lord's Supper	1 Corinthians 11:23-26

The Rima Ridge Worship Style

“Celebration”
Psalm 122:1

“Inspiration”
Isaiah 40:31

“Preparation”
Ephesians 4:11-12

II. WE EXIST TO EDUCATE GOD'S PEOPLE

EDUCATION - HELPING BELIEVERS GROW SPIRITUALLY.

"Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity."

Hebrews 6:1

"Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Peter 3:18

"(God has given)... some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all .. become mature... like Christ."

Ephesians 4:11-13

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 20

III. WE EXIST TO SHARE IN KOINONIA

FELLOWSHIP - HELPS BELIEVERS GROW TOGETHER AS A FAMILY.

"By this shall all men know that you are my disciples that you have love for one another.."

John 13:35

1 John 3:16-17, Matthew 25:34-40, Hebrews 13:16, Romans 12:13

IV. WE EXIST TO DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE

MINISTRY (SERVICE) - MEETING NEEDS WITH LOVE.

"By this shall all men know that you are my disciples that you have love for one another."

John 13:35

1 John 3:16-17, Matthew 25:34-40, Hebrews 13:16, Romans 12:13

The heartbeat of Rima Ridge Baptist is our *ministry*.

Every member needs to be a part of one.

V. WE EXIST TO COMMUNICATE GOD'S WORD

EVANGELISM - SHARING THE GOOD NEWS WITH OTHERS.

"His intent was that through the church the manifold wisdom of God should be made known..."

Ephesians 3:10

“Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But who can ask him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells him?”

Romans
10:13-14(LB)

“Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities.. .and there are different kinds of service to God (ministry).. .All of you together from the one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27 (LB)

Everything that a church does, therefore, should serve to fulfill one of these identified purposes. It is vital to avoid falling into the trap of believing that we need to do something merely because “we’ve always done it that way!”

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 21

The Nature of the Church

To further understand the purpose and reason for existence of the church, we need to look at how the church is described in Scripture. There are three different analogies used.

- The church is a _____.

Romans 12:3-8 *For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.*

⁴ *For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,*

⁵ *so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*

⁶ *And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;*

⁷ *if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching;*

⁸ *or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 *Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?*

¹⁷ *Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.*

I Corinthians 12:12-31 *For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of the body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ. ¹³For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free; and were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴For the body is not one member, but many. ¹⁵If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; it is not therefore not of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; it is not therefore not of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? ¹⁸But now hath God set the members each one of them in the body, even as it pleased him. ¹⁹And if they were all one member, where were the body? ²⁰But now they are many members, but one body. ²¹And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of thee: or again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. ²²Nay, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be more feeble are necessary: ²³and those parts of the body, which we think to be less honorable, upon these we bestow more abundant honor; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness; ²⁴whereas our comely parts have no need: but God tempered the body together, giving more abundant honor to that part which lacked; ²⁵that there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. ²⁶And whether one member suffereth, all the members suffer with it; or one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. ²⁷Now ye are the body of Christ, and severally members thereof. ²⁸And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, divers kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? ³⁰have all gifts of healings? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? ³¹But desire earnestly the greater gifts. And moreover a most excellent way show I unto you.*

- The church is a [family](#).

Galatians 6:10 *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (NIV)*

Ephesians 3:14-15 *For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. (NIV)*

Hebrew 2:10-12 *In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. ¹²He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises. (NIV)*

1 Peter 4:16-17 *However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do*

not obey the gospel of God? (NIV)

{The song- Family of God}

- The church is the Bride of Christ.

Revelation 19:6-9 *Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.⁸ Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)⁹ Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”*

Ephesians 5:21-32 *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which He is the Savior.²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—³⁰for we are members of his body.³¹ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.*

What is the significance of these three different names applied to the church? How do they help to indicate how we should act as members of the church?

Based upon these principles, does the Bible teach us therefore that we are to automatically accept and love any person from any church?

{Chapter 6- Exercising Spiritual Discernment}

What does it mean to become a “member” of the church?

By becoming a member of the church, we are making several statements of fact:

- We believe that the historical Jesus Christ was and is God the Son.
- We believe that He was born of a virgin, lived a sin-free life, and died on the cross to make atonement for our sins.

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 22

- We believe that 3 days after He was placed in the tomb He arose from the dead, and that He is alive today.
- We believe that we are all sinners, and incapable of getting to Heaven by our own power or goodness.
- We have made a public confession of these beliefs.
- We have been scripturally baptized.
- We have united with a local body of believers.

When we become a member of a church, we agree to abide by the rules and regulations of that local church. These rules and regulations are normally identified in one or several types of documents, that may include:

- ◆ Church Covenant
- ◆ Church Constitution and By-Laws
- ◆ Church Operating Procedures

While these various documents will vary from church to church, in general they will normally all require us to agree to the following conditions:

1. I will protect the unity of my church:
 - by acting in love toward other members (Romans 14:19)
 - by refusing to gossip (Ephesians 4:29)
 - by following the leaders (Hebrews 13:17)
2. I will share the responsibility of my church:
 - by praying for its growth (1 Thessalonians 1:1-2)
 - by inviting the unchurched to attend (Luke 14:23)
 - by warmly welcoming those who visit (Romans 15:7)
3. I will serve the ministry of my church:
 - by discovering my gifts and talents (1 Peter 4:10)
 - by being equipped to serve by my pastor (Ephesians 4:11-12)
 - by developing a servant's heart (Philippians 2:3-4, 7)

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 23

4. I will support the testimony of my church:
- by attending faithfully (Hebrews 10:25)
 - by living a godly life (Philippians 1:27)
 - by giving regularly (1 Corinthians 16:2; Leviticus 27:30)

How can I become a member of a Southern Baptist Church?

- ◆ By Profession of Faith>>> Baptism
- ◆ By Transfer of Church Letter
- ◆ By Statement of Faith

Getting off the Church Role:

- ◆ Request for Transfer of Letter to another church.
- ◆ Statement of Union with a church of another denomination
- ◆ Erasure (self initiated or church initiated)
- ◆ Death
- ◆ Now: “Periodic Purges”

Our Church Covenant:

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus as our Savior, and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of, intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the Spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 24

While we do not have time to cover every detail of this covenant right now, over the next several weeks we will deal with each issue involved.

Serving in the Church

When we join a church, it should be with a desire and intention to be of service to our brothers and sisters in Christ. The biggest problem in most churches today is that we have too many "pew potatoes" those "Christians" who will not do anything except come and sit on a pew!

Christianity is not a spectator sport! You do not have to have years of training before you can begin serving your church. You should also not have to wait a year for new "committees" to be formed in order to have a place of service.

In fact, there are three "types" of service {What is this called? MINISTRY} that we can become involved in - two of which are Biblically mandated for every Christian!

- ◆ Volunteer Ministry
- ◆ Vision Ministry
- ◆ Vocational Ministry

We will discuss these issues in more detail as we continue this course. But for now, realize that there are jobs that need doing in the church, and be a part of getting them done!

Basic Discipleship

Rima Ridge Baptist Church

Chapter 4 - Two Natures

Hermatology - The Study of Sin

What is sin? According to Webster:

1. Transgression of a religious or moral law.
2. Estrangement from God as a result of breaking God's law.
3. An offense, violation, fault, or error.

Best maxim description: Sin is "missing the mark." {Commission/Omission}

The Nature of Sin

- Sin is the **transgression** of a divine command.

Hosea 6:7 *But like Adam they have transgressed the covenant; There they have dealt treacherously against Me.*

From the Hebrew "abar"= to pass over (as, to pass over a boundary"

C.1. Scofield" 3 fold nature of sin:

It is an **act** – the violation of obedience to the revealed Word of God

It is a **state** – the absence of righteousness

It is a **nature** – enmity towards God

- Sin is the **denial** of the divine right to command.

1 Tim 1:9 *...realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous man, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who their fathers or mothers, for murderers.*

- Sin is the failure to attain to the divine **standard**.

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

From the Hebrew "Chata" = "missing the mark." [Most frequently used term...]
{Brings to mind the concept of the archer missing the bullseye}

Description of Sin

- ◆ Sin is a **lie**. {Started in the Garden with “Hath God said?”}
- ◆ Sin is a **delusion**. {Naturally treacherous/full of guilt}
- ◆ Sin is a **darkness**. {=ignorance of God who is light}

John 1:5 *And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

I John 1:5 *And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

- ◆ Sin is **separation**. {Isaiah 59:2}

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 26

- ◆ Sin is **perversion**. {Sin not only perverts, but it pollutes = it fills up...}
{A glass of water with only a little sprinkle of dirt is still mud!}
- ◆ Sin is **servitude**.

John 8:34 *Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.*

- ◆ Sin is **emptiness**. {Vanity of vanities, all is vanity...}
- ◆ Sin is a **mistake**. {Hebrew “shagah”= to wonder; to go astray... sheep w/o a shepherd}
- ◆ Sin renders the soul **guilty** before God. {Deserving of/liable to punishment}
How can a loving God send me to ...instead, how can a just God *not* send me to Hell!}
- ◆ Sin **defiles, corrupts, and ensnares** the soul!

{Sin not only involves a fall, but involves the sinner in utter ruin!}

Ezekiel 18:20 *‘The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son’s iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.*

The Origin of Sin

- Sin originated with **Satan**.

Isaiah 14:12 – 14 *“How you have fallen from heaven, 0 star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!*

¹³ *“But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.*

¹⁴ *‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’*

Ezekiel 28:14 – 19 *“You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You went on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.*

¹⁵ *“You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created, Until unrighteousness was found in you.*

¹⁶ *“By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, 0 covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire.*

¹⁷ *“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you.*

¹⁸ *“By the multitude of your iniquities, In the unrighteousness of your trade, You profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; It has consumed you, And I have turned you to ashes on the earth In the eyes of all who see you.*

¹⁹ *“All who know you among the peoples Are appalled at you; You have become terrified, And you will be no more.*

{When did this happen? Prior to the creation of the world as we know it >>>theories...}

- Sin entered the world through **Adam**. {Genesis 3 – the story of the Fall}

Romans 5:12 *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned-*

Man's Dual Natures

- We know that man has a **sin** nature. {Despite the push for “self-esteem”}

Romans 3:10-18 As it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one;
¹¹ There is none who understands, There is none who seeks God;
¹² All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does Good, There is not even one”
¹³ “Their throat is an open grave, with their tongues they keep deceiving,” “The poison of asps is under their lips”,
¹⁴ “whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness”,
¹⁵ “their feet are swift to shed blood,
¹⁶ destruction and misery are in their paths,
¹⁷ and the path of peace have they not known.”
¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

- **But when he accepts Christ, man is given a new nature.**

2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

Ephesians 4:21-24 *If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,*

²² *that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,*

²³ *and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,*

²⁴ *and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*

Colossians 3:9-10 *Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, ¹⁰ and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him*

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 27

- **But the new nature does not make the old nature go away! {Why Not?}**

This frequently results in inner conflict described marvelously by Paul:

Romans 7:14-24 *For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.*

¹⁵ *For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.*

¹⁶ *But if I do the very thing I do not wish to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that it is good.*

¹⁷ *So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me.*

¹⁸ *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.*

¹⁹ *For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish.*

²⁰ *But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.*

²¹ *I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good.*

²² *For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,*

²³ *but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.*

²⁴ *Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?*

- **The bottom line? Every moment of every day, we are faced with **choices!****

It would really be wonderful if when we became a Christian, all of our old wants and desires, and all of our “bad habits” would just automatically disappear. Unfortunately, (or really we should say “fortunately”) God did not make us robots. He gave us free will –the right to choose.

The more we choose to give up this free will -or rather, subject ourselves to the control of the Holy Spirit –the more we can allow Jesus Christ to live through us. That really is what the concept of being a “Christian” really means; letting Jesus Christ live in our lives. As we become more & more successful at doing that, the more people will see of Jesus, and the less they will see of us!

The Cosmic Conflict

Just as we need to understand the concept of sin and our dual natures, we also need to understand a basic reality about the world around us. It has always amazed me that so many people who profess to believe in God (and in Jesus Christ) say they do not believe in angels, in Satan, or in demons!

But God’s Word teaches quite clearly that Satan, demons, and angels are indeed real! Further, it tells us what is going on around us:

Ephesians 6:12 *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

Just as Jesus Christ and His angels are a reality, so also Satan and the demons are a reality - and they are battling for control of this world. (But don’t worry, I’ve read the Book - I know Who wins in the end!). Further, you and I, my friend, are caught right in the middle of this battle!

{One of the reasons why bad things happen to good people}

We have seen through history the results of Satan's attempt to thwart the plan of God.

- **God's plan is for man to have eternal fellowship with God.**
- **Satan attempted to thwart that plan with his attack in the Garden.**
- **God provided the means to overcome Satan's interference – a Savior!**

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 28

God said that this Savior (Messiah) would come:

- o Through mankind.
- o Through the Jews.

To try to thwart God's plan for saving mankind (restoring him to fellowship with Himself):

- o Satan tried to corrupt the race of mankind {Genesis 6}
- o Satan tried to destroy the Jews. {Empires of the Beast}
- o Satan tried to destroy the Christ. {Herod's order...}
- o Satan tried to disqualify the Christ. {The temptation in the desert}
- o Satan tried again to destroy the Christ. {The Cross}
- o Satan is now trying to destroy His followers.

So we are caught in the middle of a “Cosmic Conflict” - and we are pawns!

{The book of Job!}

“The Devil Made Me Do It”

Just as there are those today who refuse to believe in angels or demons, there are also those who see demons at work everywhere. While in one sense this is indeed true, in another sense this belief becomes a victory for Satan.

Several popular novels over the past few years {Frank Peretti, *This Present Darkness and Piercing the Darkness*} have given rise to the concept of naming demons for various problems, such as Greed, Lust, Suicide, etc. It then becomes quite natural to believe that “If I am struggling with a problem with pornography, I must be under attack by the Demon Lust. Therefore, it is not my fault that I am looking at these dirty pictures.”

Do you see what just happened? It is not longer my fault, so it is no longer my “choice” that I am succumbing to this bad habit. Therefore, the only way that I can get rid of this bad habit is to be “delivered” from this demon. Until that happens, I guess I'll just have to “suffer” through it!

This concept has led to all kinds of phony “exorcisms.” It has also given people the excuse they were looking for to keep doing something they know is wrong. They have, in effect, adopted the old claim made by comedian Flip Wilson – “the Devil made me do it!”

But the Bible tells us something different;

1 John 2:16-17 *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.*
¹⁷ *And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.*

- ◆ Sin is always a **choice** that we make.
- ◆ **Satan** cannot make us do anything!

James 4:7 *Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

A lot of folks want to take the second part of that verse without the first part!

Warning: do not think that being a Christian means you can whip Satan...

Acts 19:13-16 *But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches."*
¹⁴ *And seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.*
¹⁵ *And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"*
¹⁶ *And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.*

Basic Discipleship
Rima Ridge Baptist Church
Chapter 5— Three Aspects of Salvation

Our Need For Salvation - Why Did Jesus Come to this Earth?

- ◆ He did not come to be our example of right living.
- ◆ He did not come primarily to teach us.
- ◆ He did not come to be a martyr.

Webster: one who chooses to die rather than renounce religious principals

From Greek: “Martureo”- to bear witness.

- ◆ He came to save us!

1 Timothy 1:15 *It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.*

Luke 19:10 *“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*

Matthew 1:21 *“And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.”*

Acts 4:12 *“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.”*

Why do we need salvation?

- Because God is holy and perfect.
- Because He is holy, God cannot have sin in his presence.
- All men are sinners (Romans 3:23).
- Because they are sinners, they deserve death (Romans 6:23)

Death = eternal separation from God

- But God loved us too much to allow that to happen! (John 3:16)

Without salvation, we would be doomed to undergo the righteous judgment of God.

2 Thessalonians 1:9 *And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.*

Hebrews 2:1-3 *For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?*

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 32

How do we obtain salvation?

While the underlying doctrinal points of salvation are extremely complex and difficult to understand, the basics of how to be saved are not. In fact, they are as simple as A - B - C!

A. I must ACKNOWLEDGE that I am a sinner.

This includes 3 points:

- o Despite all my best efforts, I cannot be good enough to earn my way to Heaven.
- o I must have a sincere desire to turn away from my sin.

This is called repentance

- o I must be willing to accept the help of Jesus Christ.

B. I must BELIEVE the historical facts about Jesus Christ.

- o Jesus Christ has existed from all eternity as God.
- o He willingly came to earth, born of a virgin.
- o He lived a sin-free life. {Why is this important – Unblemished lamb}
- o He died on the cross to make atonement for my sins.
- o 3 days later He arose from the grave.
- o He is alive and in control of all creation today!

C. I must publicly CONFESS what I believe. This involves 2 things:

Matt 10:32-33 *“Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. “*

³³*“But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father*

who is in heaven.”

- o Making a public profession of faith. {No “secret” Christians!}
- o Being baptized.

God’s plan of salvation is indeed simple. There is nothing we can do to buy it or earn it. We can only accept it as a free gift. However, even though it is a free gift to us, it cost God dearly – through the humiliation and death of His only begotten Son!

It is quite alarming that in many churches today, we have turned the plan of salvation into something it is not. We have tried to emphasize so much how “easy” it is to be saved, that we have lost sight of vital concepts. Martin Luther once said, “It is faith alone that justifies; but faith that justifies can never be alone.”

Salvation does not consist of saying a magic incantation, and then “Poof!” you are saved.

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 33

True salvation is intellectual, emotional and volitional!

- True salvation involves the intellect - you have to believe certain facts.
- True salvation involves the emotions - you must have a touched heart.

BUT THESE TWO THINGS ARE NOT ENOUGH:

James 2:19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

- True salvation also involves volition - you must act upon it!

Matthew 7:16-20 “You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they?

¹⁷ “Even so, every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit.

¹⁸ “A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.

¹⁹ “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

²⁰ “So then, you will know them by their fruits.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Also - God does not have any grandchildren - you must be a child of God!

It does not matter what your daddy did in the church, or what your granddaddy did; if you do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, you are lost! Now, you may be asking why we would emphasize the basics of salvation so much in a discipleship class. Doesn't the fact that you are here and taking this class automatically indicate that you are saved?

Sadly, the answer to that is a resounding "no." Many prominent Christian leaders –including Billy Graham –have publicly stated that they believe that probably half of all church members are not truly saved! You may say "Who cares what they think? That is just ridiculous." Unfortunately, it is not just man's opinion that feels this way. The Word of God tells us, in what I believe is the scariest passage to be found in the Bible:

Matthew 7:22-23 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'" "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

What Jesus says in that passage is that someday there will be preachers, and Sunday School teachers, and Deacons, and all kinds of "faithful" church workers that will stand at the entrance to Heaven, only to be turned away –because they did not have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Don't take a chance on being one of them –talk to your pastor or teacher today if you have any doubts!

But now let's delve a little deeper into Soteriology (the study of Salvation).

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 34

There are three aspects to our salvation:

- **Salvation Past (Justification) (Which happens at a moment in time)**

Romans 3:19-28 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, that every mouth may be closed, and all the world may become accountable to God;

²⁰ because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

²² even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe for there is no distinction;

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.

²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over sins previously committed;

²⁶ for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, that He might just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but a law of faith.

²⁸ For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

Romans 5:1 Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 5:8-9 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

Hebrews 9:22 .. .without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the **gift** of God: not as a result of works. that no one should boast.

- Salvation **Present (Sanctification)**
(Which is an ongoing process)

1 Corinthians 6:11 *And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.*

Philippians 2:12-16 *So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;*

¹³ *for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

¹⁴ *Do all things without grumbling or disputing;*

¹⁵ *that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above*

reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

¹⁶ *holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may have cause to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.*

- Salvation **Future (Sanctification)**
(Which will happen - when?)

Romans 8:16-18 *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

I Corinthians 15:50-57 *Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.*

⁵¹ *Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*
⁵² *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.*

⁵³ *For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

⁵⁴ *But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have*

put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.

⁵⁵ *"O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"*

⁵⁶ *The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;*

⁵⁷ *but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

It is this tri-fold concept of salvation that brings about that most difficult subject predestination!

While this topic has frequently been the cause of much dissension and disagreement (denominations have split over this issue!), all we really need to understand about predestination is this;

- o **God saves us - we don't (nor could we!) do anything in and of ourselves to deserve it.**
- o **Because we did not do anything to earn it or get it, we cannot do anything to lose it!**
- o **Therefore when we are justified, it is predestined that we will be glorified!**

Romans 8:28-30 *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; ³⁰ and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.*

This concept is called **eternal security** of the believer!

Philippians 1:6 *For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*

John 10:27-30 *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand ²⁹ “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰ “I and the Father are one.”*

Romans 8:31 *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?*

Romans 8:38-39 *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Basic Discipleship

Rima Ridge Baptist Church

Chapter 6 - Four Sources of Authority

Why do you believe the things that you do? When you want to know the answer to a question about your beliefs, where do you turn? On analysis, there are really only four different sources from which we extract our “authority” — why we believe what we believe. The four sources are:

- Our **intellect** - we determine truth by our ability to reason what is right or wrong, good or bad, and so on.
- Our **experiences** - we determine truth based upon our senses, feelings, and emotions.
- Our **traditions** - we determine truth based upon what our ancestors did and what they believed.

None of these sources are inherently wrong in and of themselves. We certainly should use our minds to determine what is reasonable and rational. We should learn from our experiences - if a child touches a hot burner on a stove once, they usually don't make that mistake again! Traditions also can be good things, as they provide a linkage with our past, and a sense of continuity.

However, if we rely on these sources of authority for what we believe about God, we can get ourselves in serious trouble! The Bible warns us about this:

Colossians 2:1-4 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face,² that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is Christ Himself³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.⁴ I say this in order that no one may delude you with persuasive argument.

Persuasive argument = intellectual prowess! (God's salvation plan is not “logical!”)

Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

Philosophy = intellectual reasoning (abstract vs. concrete)

Empty deception = skillful oratory to make you believe something that is false...

Tradition of men = “we've always done it this way!”

Elementary principals = the basics of science = intellect

Colossians 2:16 *Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day-
17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.
18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,
19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.
20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as,
21 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!"
22 (which all refer to things destined to perish with the using).-- in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?
23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.*

Self-abasement, worship of angels, visions, etc = experience!

@@@: Man who told me: I don't care what the Bible says, I know what I experienced!

Can you see what major problem is caused when we use these three sources as our "authority?" If intellect is our truth, who is to determine when I am being smarter than you? If tradition is our truth, and we always did something one way in one church, but it is done differently in another church (because they always did it that way!), who is to decide which church is right? If I have some force or "power" take control of my body, and a little voice tells me that I am really God, should I believe that? Why not? — it would have been a powerful experience!

I hope that you can see that none of these three are adequate sources of authority. In fact, there is only one acceptable source of authority:

◆ **The only true source of authority is the Word of God !**

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 38

2 Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

Matthew 24:35 *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.*

Matthew 5:18 *"For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.*

Not just the “thoughts” – the very words and even the punctuation marks!

If we want to determine what is right or wrong, there is only one place we should go — God’s Word. If it says it, it means it; and this is true whether we like it (or even whether we believe it!) or not! But this brings up another question:

Which Bible is the “right” Bible? Answer: the one you will read!

- Many people refer to the **King James Version** as the “authorized” version.
 - They say it has been “good enough” to last for over 400 years.
 - They say the modern translations are “of the devil.”
 - It is certainly the most “poetic.”
- **But are there problems with the KJV?**
 - It is written in archaic English (1600’s), so it is difficult to read and understand.
 - It is a translation from the Latin Vulgate – which was a translation from the Septuagint.. which was a translation from the original Hebrew & Greek!
 - Words that were not in the original text have been added to the KJV – some of which cause enormous problems in the church today!

*1 Corinthians 14:2 For he that speaketh in an **unknown** tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. (KJV)*

“Unknown” is highlighted because it is an added word!

1 Corinthians 14:2 For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men, but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries. (NASB)

- The archaic wording leads to separation between sacred and secular.
- Most people will give up trying to read the Bible because they cannot understand it!

There are many excellent modern-day translations available today:

- NIV (**New International Version**) {Most popular in the world today}
- NKJV (**New King James Version**) {Just updates the archaic English}
- NASB (**New American Standard Bible**) {Most accurate to original}
- TLB (**The Living Bible**) {caution: Paraphrase}

What is the bottom line? You need to get a Bible that you will **READ!**

But even if we have a good modern translation, how do we know what it says? Doesn't Scripture contradict itself?

God's Word DOES NOT contradict itself!

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 39

- ◆ **66** different books
- ◆ **40+** different authors
- ◆ Written over a period of **1600** years!

And yet it is uniform and consistent in its message, theme, and instructions! Are there "errors" in the Bible?

The original manuscripts were completely without error –they conveyed exactly what God wanted said. In a miraculous way, God used the various human instruments –each with their own unique personalities, experiences, and writing styles –and yet still conveyed exactly what He wanted conveyed.

However, today we do not have the original manuscripts –we only have copies of copies. Our oldest documents date back to the second century. Because of the way the documents were copied in those days, there are some minor transcriptionist {scientific terms for the various types of errors - difficulty with Hebrew!} errors. It is possible to find a passage in Kings, for instance, that says "3,000 men" while the parallel passage in Chronicles says "5,000" men. But none of these errors effect the meaning or the message.

For all intents and purposes, the Bible is without error!

To be able to understand the Bible properly, however, we need to adhere to certain principles. This practice is called hermeneutics.

To practice good hermeneutics, we must ask 5 questions when we read a passage:

- ◆ Who was the writer/author, and to whom was he writing?
- ◆ What was the cultural/historical setting of the writer?
- ◆ What was the meaning of the words in the writer's day?
- ◆ What was the intended meaning of the author and why was he saying it?
- ◆ What should this mean to me in my situation today?

We should also follow seven general principles:

- ◆ We should seek guidance from the **Holy Spirit**.
- ◆ We should recognize the **human elements** used in its writing.
{not everything is good: Example-Noah cursing Cain}
- ◆ We should seek to discover the **original meaning**.
- ◆ Preference should be given to the **clearest and simplest** interpretation.
- ◆ Only **one meaning** should be given to a passage of Scripture.
- ◆ Careful attention should be paid to the **literary** form.
- ◆ Careful attention should be paid to the **historical** situation.

Good hermeneutics will follow a set path of interpretation:

1. **Historical** analysis.
2. **Cultural** analysis.
3. **Literary** analysis.
 - a. **Translation**
 - b. **Lexical Study** {meaning of the words}
 - c. **Syntactical Study** {grammar}
4. **Rhetorical** analysis. {literary form – prose, poetry, apocalyptic, etc.}
5. **Contextural** analysis.
 - a. **Within the paragraph/chapter book**
 - b. **Comparing Scripture with Scripture**
 - c. **In the light of Christ** {progressive revelation}

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 41

Examples to practice hermeneutics:

Luke 14:26 *“If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.*

1 Corinthians 11:5-6 *But every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying, disgraces her head; for she is one and the same with her whose head is shaved.⁶ For if a woman does not cover her head, let her also have her hair cut off but it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, let her cover her head.*

What are some things that can help us in our study of the Bible?

- Concordance {basic vs. exhaustive}
- Bible Dictionary
- Bible Encyclopedia
- Topical Bible
- Commentaries
- Greek/Hebrew Trans-Linears
- Computer Software Programs

A Final Note - understanding verse annotation methods:

1 Kings 2:13

1 K.2.13

Basic Discipleship

Rima Ridge Baptist Church

Chapter 7— The 5 & 5 Principle

Take a moment to think about the people you know your family, friends, co-workers, business acquaintances, employees of the businesses you frequent, etc. If you were to take the time to do so, you could undoubtedly compile a list of hundreds of people you come into contact with every week! Many of those people undoubtedly are not saved they do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. That means that if they were to die today, they would spend eternity in Hell.

None of us likes the thought of our friends and family members –or even our acquaintances –having to spend eternity in Hell. However, when we think about all those people, it seems like too big a task for us to be able to handle — how could we possibly accept responsibility for telling all those people about Jesus?

Truthfully, if we look at it like that, we will be so intimidated that we will likely do nothing. (In fact, that is what happens to most Christians. Statistics tell us that only 5% of all Christians will ever lead someone else to the Lord!)

But there is a way to turn this insurmountable task into one that is within our grasp. Instead of trying to deal with all of those people you know and come into contact with, I want you instead to make up two lists with just five people on each of those lists –this is called the 5 & 5 Principle!

On the first list, I want you to list 5 persons that you know well enough personally that you would feel comfortable talking with them about spiritual matters. On the other list, I want you to list 5 persons that you know and come into contact with regularly, but who would not be likely to engage with you in a discussion about spiritual matters.

- ◆ **The first list will be those people to whom you will witness.**

{What does a witness do? Where did this term originate?}

{Martureo = “to bear witness” >> martyr!}

- ◆ **The second list will be those people for whom you will pray.**

Later in our study we will talk about how to be a witness. For this week, we want to concentrate on the other list how to pray for others.

James 5:16b *The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.*

James tells us that prayer can accomplish a lot - but only if two caveats are met:

- ◆ **To accomplish much, prayer must be effective.**
- ◆ **To be effective, prayer must come from a righteous person!**

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 44

What is “prayer?”

WEBSTER: 1. a. A reverent petition made to God, a god, or another object of worship.

- b. The act of making a reverent petition to God, a god, or another object of worship.
2. An act of communion with God, a god, or another object of worship, such as in devotion, confession, praise, or thanksgiving: *One evening a week, the family would join together in prayer.*
3. A specially worded form used to address God, a god, or another object of worship.

3 Hebrew words and 7 Greek words translate as “prayer”>>> There are three facets of definition.

- ◆ **Prayer is expressed from a human to God consisting of speech, or other language...**

Romans 8:26-27 *And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

- ◆ **Prayer asks something from God.**
- ◆ **Prayer is conversing with God.**
- ◆ **Simplest definition: prayer is talking to God.**

When we pray, we make 7 statements about our theology:

1. We believe that God is a personality so that we can have an I/You relationship with Him.
2. We believe that God is imminent—He is near, and He can hear our prayers.
3. We believe that God is omnipresent wherever we are, He is there, and He hears us.
4. We believe that God is sovereign that He has authority and control over His creation.
5. We believe that God is omniscient that He knows all, and knows how to best answer our prayers.
6. We believe that God is omnipotent that He has the power to answer our prayers.
7. We believe that God honors His promises in particular, His promise to hear us.

What is “effective” prayer?

In order to be effective, prayer must follow certain Scriptural guidelines. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, he provided for them a “model” prayer. {Often incorrectly called The Lord’s Prayer}

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 45

Luke 11:1-4 *And it came about that while He was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples.”*

² *And He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come.*

³ *‘Give us each day our daily bread.*

⁴ *‘And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.’*

Matthew 6:9-13 *“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.*

¹⁰ *‘Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.*

¹¹ *‘Give us this day our daily bread.*

¹² *‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

¹³ *‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. <For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen>’*

If we examine this prayer, we would see that it contains four basic parts. These parts have been represented by the acronym **ACTS**:

A = Adoration {Hallowed be Thy Name}

Read Daniel 4:34-35

C = Confession {Forgive us our sins}

Read 1 John 1:9

T = Thanksgiving {For thine is the Kingdom...}

Read Philippians 4:6

S = Supplication {Give us this day...}

Read James 5:14-15

- **Intercession** = praying for others.
- **Petition** = praying for ourselves.

If we continued to examine Scripture, we would find a number of other Biblical requirements in order for our prayer to be effective. We would also find several things identified that hinder our prayers.

Requirements for effective prayer:

- ◆ **FAITH**- the first foundation of prayer; we must have faith in God.

2 Tim 1:12 I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

What does this verse mean? That we must trust God – regardless of the outcome!

We cannot demand that God answer our prayer our way!

Faith is not “hope” (in the literal sense...)

a. “Hope” is future tense... “I hope this will happen”

b. “Faith” is present tense... “I know that my prayer has been answered...”

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

Mark 11:24 *“Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you.*

Matthew 17:19-21 *Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” And He said to them, “Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible to you. “But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”*

Mark 9:14-24 *And when they came back to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them.*

¹⁵ *And immediately, when the entire crowd saw Him, they were amazed, and began running up to greet Him.*

¹⁶ *And He asked them, “What are you discussing with them?”*

¹⁷ *And one of the crowd answered Him, “Teacher, I brought Your my son, possessed with a spirit which makes him mute;*

¹⁸ *and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him to the ground and he foams at the mouth. and grinds his teeth, and stiffens out. And I told Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not do it.”*

¹⁹ *And He answered them and said, “O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!”*

²⁰ *And they brought the boy to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he began rolling about and foaming at the mouth.*

²¹ *And He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood.*

²² *“And it has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!”*

²³ *And Jesus said to him. “‘If You can!’ All things are possible to him who believes.”*

²⁴ *Immediately the boy’s father cried out and began saying, “I do believe; help my unbelief”*

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 46

- ◆ **Belief** - we must believe that God will answer our prayers.

Mark 11:24 *“Therefore I say to you. all things for which you pray and ask. believe that you have received them and they shall be granted you.*

Mathew 21:22 *“And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive.”*

James 1:6-8 *But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

- ◆ **Simplicity** - avoid flowery language. {KJV language}

Matthew 6:5-8 *And when you pray, you are not to be as the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the Synagogues and on the street corners, in order to be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you. And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition, as some of the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore, do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.*

- ◆ **Humility and Repentance** - don't be a showoff! {Don't preach}

Luke 18:10-14 *Two men went up into the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, and the other a tax-gatherer.*

¹¹ *“The Pharisee stood and was praying to himself, “God, I thank Thee that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-gatherer.*

¹² *‘I fast twice a week: I pay tithes of all that I get.’*

¹³ *” But the tax-gatherer, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’”*

¹⁴ *“I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted.*

- ◆ **A Pure Heart** the right attitude!

Psalm 66:18 *If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear.*

- ◆ **Perseverance** never give up!

Luke 18:1-8 *Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose head,*
² *saying, “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God, and did not respect man.*
³ *“And there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him. saying. ‘Give me legal protection from my opponent.’*
⁴ *“And for a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God nor respect man,*
⁵ *yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, lest by continually coming she wear me out.’”*
⁶ *And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge said”:*
⁷ *now shall not God bring about justice for His elect, who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?*
⁸ *“I tell you that lie will bring about justice for them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”*

- ◆ **In Unity** believers united together.

Matthew 18:19-20 *“Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. “For where two or three have gathered together in My name- there I am in their midst.”*

- **And Most Importantly: In God’s Will!**

I John 5:14-15 *And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that. if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from him.*

Matthew 26:39 *And He went a little beyond them. and fell on His face and prayed, saying. “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me: yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt.”*

Now that we have seen the requirements for effective prayer, let’s look next at those things that can hinder our prayers:

Hindrances to Prayer:

◆ An Unforgiving Spirit

Matthew 6:14-15 *“For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”*

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 47

◆ Sin

Isaiah 59:2 *But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear. {Unsaved person...}*

◆ Selfishness

James 4:3 *You ask and you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.*

◆ Doubt

James 1:5-8 *But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
⁶ But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.
⁷ For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord.
⁸ being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

◆ Disobedience

Proverbs 28:9 *He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.*

Now you have seen the requirements for effective prayer –doing it God’s way, and doing it with a pure heart (the “righteous” man)! As a final note, remember the 5 & 5 principle –there should be five people for whose spiritual condition you should be praying at all times! Too often our prayer meetings in our churches today (if we even have them!) become nothing more than organ recitals” – this one’s heart, that one’s back, etc, etc. Now, we should certainly be praying for the physical health of others –but let us not forget to pray for spiritual matters even more fervently. Physical problems exist in this world only; spiritual problems are for eternity! Make prayer a vital and necessary part of your life.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing!

Basic Discipleship
Rima Ridge Baptist Church
Chapter 8 - Spiritual Gifts

**1 Corinthians 12:1 - Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren,
I do not want you to be unaware!**

What are spiritual gifts?

A spiritual gift is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at his/her conversion, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the Body of Christ.

Ten Truths About Spiritual Gifts

- ◆ **Only Christians have spiritual gifts.**

1 Corinthians 2:14 *But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually separated.*

- ◆ **Every Christian has at least one gift.**

1 Corinthians 7:7 *... each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.*

1 Peter 4:10 *As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God..*

- ◆ **No one receives all the gifts.**

1 Corinthians 12:27-30 *Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.
²⁸ And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues,*

²⁹ *All are not apostles are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they?*

³⁰ *All do not have gift of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?*

- ◆ **No single gift is given to every person.**

Read 1 Corinthians 12:29-30

- ◆ You can't **seek** a spiritual gift.

Ephesians 4:7 *But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.*

- ◆ The **Holy Spirit** decides what gifts I get.

I Corinthians 12:11 *But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.*

- ◆ The gifts I'm given are **irrevocable**.

Romans 11:29 *For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.*

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 50

- ◆ I am to **use** the gifts God gives me.

1 Timothy 4:14 *Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed upon you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery.*

- ◆ It is a sin to **neglect** the gifts God gave me.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 *Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.*

- ◆ Using my gifts **glorifies** God and **proves** me.

John 15:8 *"By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.*

What is the purpose of Spiritual Gifts?

- ◆ Not for my benefit but for the **good of others**.

1 Peter 4:10 *As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

1 Corinthians 12:7 *But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

- ◆ To produce **unity** and **maturity** in our church family.

Ephesians 4:11-16 *And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelist, and some as pastors and teachers,*
¹² *for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;*
¹³ *until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*
¹⁴ *As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming,*
¹⁵ *but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects unto Him, who is the head, even Christ,*
¹⁶ *from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

What are the spiritual gifts?

As we examine the Scriptural lists of Spiritual Gifts, we will find that they fall into five basic categories:

- ◆ **Communication** - gifts that communicate God's Word
- ◆ **Education** - gifts that educate and uplift God's people
- ◆ **Demonstration** - gifts that demonstrate God's love
- ◆ **Organization** - gifts that support and help all purposes of the church.
- ◆ **Celebration** - gifts that celebrate God's presence (worship/prayer)

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 51

There are four primary passages that list different Spiritual Gifts. Let's look at each of these passages and make a list of the various gifts identified.

Romans 12:3-8 *For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgement, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.*

⁴ *For just as we have many members in one body and all the numbers do not have the same function,*

⁵ *so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*

⁶ *And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly, if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith.*

⁷ *if service, in his serving, or he who teaches, in his teaching,*

⁸ *or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality, he who leads, with diligence, he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

Communication	Education	Demonstration	Organization	Celebration
Prophecy	Teaching	Service	Leadership	
	Exhortation	Giving		
		Mercy		

1 Corinthians 12:1 – 11 *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.*

2 You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the dumb idols, however you were led.

3 Therefore I make known to you, that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed", and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit

5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.

6 And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.

7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by one Spirit,

10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills

1 Corinthians 12:27-30 *Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.*
²⁸ *And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues,*

²⁹ *All are not apostles are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they?*

³⁰ *All do not have gift of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?*

³¹ *But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.*

Communication	Education	Demonstration	Organization	Celebration
Prophecy	Teaching	Service	Leadership	
Apostleship	Exhortation	Giving	Faith	
	Wisdom	Mercy	Administration	
	Knowledge*	Healing*		
	Discernment	Miracles*		
		Tongues*		
		Interpretation*		

Ephesians 4:11-12 *“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers*

¹² *for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.”*

Communication	Education	Demonstration	Organization	Celebration
Prophecy	Teaching	Service	Leadership	
Apostleship	Exhortation	Giving	Faith	
	Wisdom	Mercy	Administration	
	Knowledge*	Healing*		
	Discernment	Miracles*		
		Tongues*		
		Interpretation*		
		Pastoring		

1 Peter 4:9-11 *Be hospitable one to another without complaint.*

¹⁰ *As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

¹¹ *Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God, whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies, so that in all things God may*

be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Communication	Education	Demonstration	Organization	Celebration
Prophecy	Teaching	Service	Leadership	
Apostleship	Exhortation	Giving	Faith	
	Wisdom	Mercy	Administration	
	Knowledge*	Healing*	Stewardship	
	Discernment	Miracles*		
		Tongues*		
		Interpretation*		
		Pastoring		
		Hospitality		

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 52

These 21 gifts are recognized by most Bible scholars as Spiritual gifts. (Of great debate is the actual status of those demonstration gifts marked with an asterisk most conservative/non-charismatic scholars believe these gifts are no longer active, based upon 1 Corinthians 13:8 and an overview of the book of Acts.) However, you will notice that we have one column that is empty. Some scholars today have added additional gifts to the list, based upon the following verses of Scripture:

Psalm 150:1-6 Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty expanse.

² *Praise Him for His mighty deeds, Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.*

³ *Praise Him with trumpet sound; Praise Him with harp and lyre.*

⁴ *Praise Him with timbrel and dancing; Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe.*

⁵ *Praise Him with loud cymbals, Praise Him with resounding cymbals*

⁶ *Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!*

Exodus 31:3-11 “And I have filled him with Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship.

⁴ *to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver, and in bronze,*

⁵ *and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all kinds of craftsmanship.*

⁶ *“And behold, I Myself have appointed with him Ohiolab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and in the hearts of all who are skillful I have put skill, that they may make all that I have commanded you.*

⁷ *the tent of meeting, and the ark of testimony, and the mercy seat upon it, and all the furniture of the tent,*

⁸ *the table also and its utensils, and the pure gold lampstand with all its utensils, and the altar of incense,*

⁹ the altar of burnt offering also with all its utensils and the lavar and its stand,
¹⁰ the woven garments as well, and the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, with which to carry on their priesthood;
¹¹ the anointing oil also, and the fragrant incense for the holy place, they are to make them according to all that I have commanded you.
 1 Timothy 2:1-3 First of all then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings be made on behalf of all men,
² for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.
³ This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior.

Communication	Education	Demonstration	Organization	Celebration
Prophecy	Teaching	Service	Leadership	Singing
Apostleship	Exhortation	Giving	Faith	Instruments
Evangelism	Wisdom	Mercy	Administration	Arts & Crafts
	Knowledge*	Healing*	Stewardship	Intercession
	Discernment	Miracles*		
		Tongues*		
		Interpretation*		
		Pastoring		
		Hospitality		

Whether you would list these gifts separately, or incorporate them into one of the other gifts, I believe you will agree that these abilities can definitely be used in serving your church and your God!

How can you know what your Spiritual gift is?

“It is easier to discover your gift through ministry, than to discover your ministry through your gift.”

Remember the bottom line: you are to use your gift to glorify God, serve your church, and uplift your brothers and sisters in Christ - as well as to minister to the lost.

Basic Discipleship
Rima Ridge Baptist Church
Chapter 9 — Problems in the Church

Romans 15:5-6 (NIV): May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It would be really wonderful if all churches actually practiced a “spirit of unity” at all times. Realistically, however, that will never happen - because we human beings still have our sinful nature! There are going to be times when there are conflicts within the church. Our Lord knew this fact (as He knows everything!), and provided procedures for us to follow in His Word.

These procedures for dealing with conflict within the church are called “Church Discipline,” and this is undoubtedly one of the most divisive subjects Christians must deal with today. As we look at this concept, let’s start first with the words of Jesus Himself:

Matthew 18:15-17 (NIV) “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.

¹⁶ But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’

¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

The first and most important principle we see is this:

- ◆ **When we have a problem with a fellow Christian, the first step is to go to that person one-to-one!**

We should take this step early on, so that a perceived problem does not get worse. In many cases, there is not really a problem there –it is just a misunderstanding. By approaching the person alone, we avoid the appearance of “ganging up on them,” and causing them to become defensive.

If we do approach the person on an individual basis, but cannot obtain a satisfactory resolution, we proceed to the second step. The next step says to “take one or two others along.” In actual practice, we should probably taken one person along –and that person should be our pastor or a deacon. We can usually find a friend or two that will agree with us on the matter; but if we are wrong, that is not going to get the problem resolved! If we seek the counsel of our pastor or deacons, that allows them to fulfill their biblical role as spiritual caretakers of the church.

1 Peter 5:1-5 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed.

² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers- not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve,

³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

⁵ Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

◆ **The second step is to go to our pastor or deacon with the problem.**

The pastor or deacon will then accompany us to talk to the offender (if they believe that the offender is truly wrong!) If the offender then repents and is willing to resolve the issue, it is over and done with -and must be forgotten! If, however, the offender still refuses to follow appropriate biblical guidelines, then additional steps are necessary. From this point on, the matter will for the most part be out of your hands. The pastor or deacon will then be responsible for the remaining steps to be taken to resolve the issue.

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 54

◆ **The third step is for the pastor and one or two deacons to counsel with the offender.**

This step may be repeated several times, as deemed necessary or appropriate by the pastor. If it becomes clear that counseling is not going to resolve the issue, the pastor has an obligation to proceed to the fourth step -taking it to the church! This is one of the most difficult and challenging tasks a pastor will face.

◆ **The fourth step is to bring the matter before the church.**

This step is very serious, and should follow an appropriate pattern:

- **The matter should be presented before the deacon body.**

You, as the original complainant, will be asked to testify as to your involvement, and what steps you took. The Pastor and deacons involved will then give details on what steps they had taken to attempt to resolve the issue.

- **The deacon body should express unity in bringing the matter before the church.**

If this does not happen, there are serious problems in store for the church!

- **The matter should be set for a special called business meeting .**

The church by-laws will ordinarily specify the procedures to be followed in setting this type of meeting (when it should be held, what type of notice must be given, etc). Written notice should be provided to the offender –along with another opportunity for them to agree to resolve the issue through repentance and appropriate biblical action. If the offender chooses not to respond, then it is time to proceed to the fifth step.

◆ **The fifth step is to hold the special called business meeting.**

Only active members of the church should be allowed to be present at this meeting –it is not a time for visitors. Several steps should be followed in this meeting:

- **The pastor shall present an overview of the problem.**
- **The pastor shall explain what steps have been taken.**
- **The offender shall be given an opportunity to repent.**
- **If the offender refuses (or is not present), the church shall vote for dismissal.**

{Erasure from the church roll} >>> {Prohibited from joining another...}

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 55

If, at any time during the process the offender chooses to repent and make appropriate reparations, they must be accepted, and the matter must be dropped.

Church discipline shall be exercised only under the following guidelines:

- ◆ **It must be done out of love.**

Read 1 Corinthians 13

“Church Discipline”~ that is done out of anger, spite, or any other motivation is **NOT** truly church discipline.

- ◆ **It must be done with the hope of restoring the member.**

When a brother or sister is out of God’s will, they have been **CUT OFF** from God:

Isaiah 59:2 Your sins have separated you from God, and have hid His face from you, so that he does not hear.

Psalm 66:18 *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.*

◆ **It must be done in order to preserve the witness of the church.**

The church must not be like the world - we must be different.

John 17:14-17 *I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.* ¹⁵ *My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.* ¹⁶ *They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.* ¹⁷ *Sanctify them by the truth, your word is truth.*

Because Christians are expected to be different than the unsaved, this means that in the church we are actually expected to practice that thing we so abhor - ***THE DOUBLE STANDARD!*** We are to treat professing Christians different than we treat the unsaved. This concept is examined in detail by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians Chapter 5:

Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

So you see, while we may not think it is “right,” the Bible clearly tells us that we must exercise this “double standard.” For example, if a member of your church is living with a person they are not married to, the church has an obligation to take action. If, however, the couple who are living together without being married attend the church, but are not members (and do not claim to be members of another actual Christian church), we are not to take action.

This leads to another point: we must allow God time to work! When someone accepts Christ as their Savior, all of their bad habits are not immediately going to disappear! (Remember the battle between our two natures?) We need to be cognizant of this fact, and allow the Holy Spirit time to work on the individuals. If God’s Word is being proclaimed and taught, they will be able to grow and deal with issues as God dictates.

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 56

With all of these factors to consider, it is easy to see why Church Discipline is such a controversial topic!

Are there other issues with problems in the church that we should be concerned with?

◆ **We must be concerned with false teaching?**

One of the most vital things for a Christian to be able to do is to be able to recognize false teachers. The Bible gives us many warnings to beware of this problem!

1 Timothy 4:1-4 *But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying special attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,*
² *by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,*
³ *men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods, which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.*
⁴ *For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with gratitude;*

2 Peter 2:1 *But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who brought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.*

2 John 1:7-11 *For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.*

⁸ *Watch yourselves, that you might not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.*

⁹ *Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God, the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.*

¹⁰ *If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting,*

¹¹ *for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.*

Matthew 15:8-9 *“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far away from me.*

⁹ *‘But in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’”*

2 Timothy 4:1-4 *I Solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom.*

² *Preach the word, be ready in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.*

³ *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,*

⁴ *and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.*

◆ **Our nation is filled today with dangerous doctrine!**

Many things are going on in our churches today that claim to be due to the “power of God.” The advocates of these practices tell the people “don’t think about it —just let the spirit come over you. Don’t try to figure it out...” And yet Scripture tells us:

1 John 4:1 *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

Philippians 1:9-10 *And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment,*

¹⁰ *so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ...*

- ◆ **We must be cautious of movements that tell us to ignore doctrine.**
- ◆ **To be able to do this, we must be like the Bereans...**

Acts 17:10 *And the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea; and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.*

¹¹ *Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.*

Hebrews 5:12-14 *For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.*

¹³ *For everyone who partakes not only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.*

¹⁴ *But solid food is for the mature who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.*

{Discernment – spiritual gift vs. developed trait...}

- ◆ **But we must also avoid being dogmatic about the wrong things....**

There have been churches that have split over what color the carpet should be.. a real important biblical issue! Even on some Bible matters, we need to understand that no one has the final answer. For example, there are godly, dedicated Bible scholars who believe that the world was not created in 6 literal days (and they have every right to be wrong!) Just because we do believe it, does not mean that we should separate from fellowship with them. There are dozens of theories and theologies about the timing of the rapture.. but the truth is, no one knows for sure! These are not issues to be “dogmatic” about. (Dogmatic marked by an authoritative, arrogant assertion of principles which have not been proven or are improvable.)

If on the other hand, someone denies that Christ is going to return then that is something we need to be dogmatic about!

What should you do if you believe the pastor or Sunday School teacher is teaching false doctrine?

◆ **First, go to that person one-to-one.**

In loving fashion, tell them what issues you have a problem with. Two things you should *NOT* do:

- **Interrupt the pastor in the middle of a sermon.**
- **Argue with the teacher in the middle of a class.**

That does not mean that it is wrong to ask questions - but if you and the instructor obviously disagree stringently, wait until you can get the person alone to speak with them.

◆ **Check Scripture to ascertain who is actually correct.**

If after doing so you truly believe the teacher or pastor is teaching false doctrine (about an actual doctrinal issue), speak to the pastor (alone)(if the disagreement is with a teacher), or speak to a deacon or elder if you are concerned about the pastor's teaching. If deacon, elder, or pastor supports what you honestly believe is false teaching you should:

- **Saturate that church with your absence.**

Remember, though, many issues are not clear-cut, and divergent opinions can be held by Godly and dedicated persons. Any concerns must be the subject of extensive prayer before you take any kind of action.

Bottom Line: no church is perfect (If you find the perfect church, don't join it - because if you do it will not longer be perfect?) However, the Bible provides clear instructions on how to deal with problems- It is possible to disagree without being disagreeable!

Basic Discipleship
Rima Ridge Baptist Church
Chapter 10 — Friendship Evangelism

Earlier in our study, we looked at the Great Commission:

Matthew 28:18-20 ¹⁸ “*And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*”
¹⁹ “*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,*” ²⁰ *teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age”*”

These words were reinforced by the very last words Jesus said before he ascended back into Heaven:

Acts 1:8 “*... you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest parts of the earth”*”

As we discussed in Chapter 1, we know that we are supposed to make disciples, and not just converts. However, it is also clear that we cannot make disciples if we do not make converts! It is the responsibility of every Christian to lead people to the Lord!

“Evangelism” is one of those words that scares folks to death - we hate even thinking about it!



THANKS FOR TRAVELING THOUSANDS OF MILES TO TEACH ME YOUR CHRISTIAN WAYS ... I'M OFF NOW TO AFRICA, I HEAR THERE IS A REAL NEED THERE.

But evangelism does not have to be scary. Sure, there are different programs that require 12-16 weeks to learn, and they require you to memorize Scripture and an outline for witnessing. These are wonderful programs, and if you have the opportunity to participate in one, I would encourage you to do so.

But you don't need those programs to be able to witness. All that's necessary for you to lead someone to the Lord is for you to be a Christian yourself. If you study the Gospels and look at how Jesus "witnessed," you will discover some interesting common points in each situation. Let's try to analyze His style by looking at one well-known incident: "the woman at the well."

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 60

Read John 4:3-29

- ◆ Before Jesus dealt with spiritual matters, He met **physical needs**.
- ◆ When it was time, He kept the issue simple: **her sin!**
- ◆ He avoided "**theological debate**" and attempts to change the subject.
- ◆ He focused upon man's need for **God**.
- ◆ And what did the woman do? She immediately went and **told others!**

We would see a similar pattern practiced by Jesus throughout the Gospels. Before He dealt with spiritual matters, He earned the right by caring for that person. The old adage is true:

"People won't care how much you know, until they know how much you care."

So, rather than just constantly accosting people we don't know to "tell them about Jesus," if we want to be like Jesus, we must care about people and make friends with them. Statistics tells us that, of every 100 people that joined a Southern Baptist church in 1998:

- 0.8 joined because of an evangelistic program (CWT, EE, FAITH, etc)
- 2.5 joined because they moved to a new area (transfers).
- 3.7 joined through promotions and advertising.
- **93 joined because a friend or family member invited them!**

This is the concept that we Southern Baptists use in our missions work. We don't just go into a country and start preaching to people; we go and start ministering to the needs of the people. After we have met their needs, then we have earned the right to tell them about Jesus.

- ◆ This concept is called **Friendship Evangelism!**

Obviously, we will most effectively reach those persons we have a **RELATIONSHIP** with! In order to reach our friends and family, we must be ourselves. . .not something we are not. Therefore, effective evangelism (relational evangelism) will be:

- ◆ **AUTHENTIC (BE REAL!)**

John 15:5 *“I am the vine, you are the branches, he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.*

◆ **NATURAL** (BE YOURSELF!)

Instead of trying to be something you are not... Just be who you are!

This puts others at ease>>> helps them to see that what we have is real...

◆ **PERSONAL** (BE A FRIEND, NOT A SALESMAN!)

Impersonal approaches: Tracts, “street” evangelism, religious radio & TV, bumper stickers...

If you want advice about something, where do you turn? (To someone you know and trust!)

Can people trust you with their secrets?

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 61

◆ **VERBAL** (BE OPEN & FORTHRIGHT)

“Many use the “cop-out”- I’ll just let them observe my lifestyle, and then they will come to Jesus.”

Romans 10:14 *How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him who they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?*

Words without actions are empty... but actions without words are also empty!

◆ **PROCESS-ORIENTED** (BE PATIENT!)

We must not ‘push’ or rush a person! It is extremely rare that a person will hear the message for the first time... and be ready to act upon it!

◆ **TEAM-ORIENTED** (BE A TEAM PLAYER!)

God rarely uses just one person to bring someone to the Lord...

1 Corinthians 3:6 *I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing growth.*

Luke 15:7,10 *“I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”*

... “In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

In order to be real (authentic), you need to be yourself. That means that you have to act in a fashion that is natural for you. Some people may be quite comfortable going up to someone they don't know and talking to them about Jesus -but you may not be. However, God does expect us to tell others about Jesus. For this reason, it is important for you to understand that there are several “styles” of evangelism. As we look at the following list, determine which of these styles best fits your personality and then begin using it!

◆ **CONFRONTATIONAL**

Read: Acts 2:14-36 **PETER AT PENTECOST**

Characteristics: CONFIDENT ASSERTIVE DIRECT

Illustration: Ask person in accident “Would you have been ready to die?”

Cautions: You must learn to be somewhat tasteful.

2 Timothy 4:2 *Preach the word, be ready in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.*

◆ **INTELLECTUAL**

Read Acts 17:22-31 **(Athens/Unknown God)**

Characteristics: INQUISITIVE ANALYTICAL LOGICAL

Illustration: Engage in debate or apologetics.

Cautions: Be careful of becoming argumentative; do not substitute giving answers for giving the Gospel.

Matthew 7:6 *“Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.*

1 Corinthians 2:1 *And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.*

◆ **TESTIMONY**

Read John 9:24-33 (Healed Blind Man)

Characteristics: CLEAR COMMUNICATOR; STORY TELLER; GOOD LISTENER

Illustration: Just tell them what Jesus has done for you.

Cautions: You must first *listen*, so that you will be able to relate your story to them.

James 1:19 *But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow in anger;*

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 62

◆ **INTERPERSONAL**

Read Luke 5:29-32 (Matthew's Party)

Characteristics: WARM PERSONALITY; CONVERSATIONAL; FRIENDLY

Illustration: Throwing a “party with a purpose.”

Cautions: You must value truth (the Gospel) over friendship!

Galatians 4:16 *Have I therefore become your enemy by telling you the truth?*

◆ INVITATIONAL

Read Luke 4:28-30 (Woman at the Well)

Characteristics: HOSPITABLE; RELATIONAL; PERSUASIVE

Illustration: “Filling up your car and bringing them.”

@Barna Survey: 25% of unchurched said they would attend if a friend asked ...
>>>15 to 18 million adults are waiting to be asked!

Cautions: Do not always let others do the talking for you!

1 Peter 3:15 *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who ask you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;*

◆ SERVING

Read Acts 9:32-42 (Tabitha)

Characteristics: OTHERS-CENTERED; HUMBLE; PATIENT

Illustration: Cutting your neighbor's lawn while he is away on vacation.

Cautions: Just as words are no substitute for actions, actions are no substitute for words.

Romans 10:14 *How then shall they call upon Him in who they have believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?*

Which of these styles best fits your personality? There may be two or three that you can use, and different ones may fit you at different times in your life.

Whichever style fits you best, there is one thing that will be common to them all - and that is your personal testimony. Businesses know that the best type of advertising is word of mouth advertising. That is because when people really like and trust some product, they will be excited about it, and will tell their friends. That excitement will be contagious!

We should certainly be excited about our relationship with Jesus Christ –and that excitement should certainly be contagious! Regardless of how much or how little a person we talk to may know (or think they know!) about the Bible, there is one thing they cannot argue with –and that is what Jesus Christ has done for us.

Many people think “I don’t have a killer testimony, because I have never been a drug addict or a murderer or anything like that. My testimony would be boring.” Well, that is wrong! **YOU** have a dynamic testimony –because of your relationship with a dynamic Savior! It is not about us; it is all about Jesus Christ.

“My testimony is a dynamic testimony because of who Jesus is!”

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 63

Your personal testimony should be something you have practiced, and are able to deliver in 30-45 seconds. It should consist of four parts:

- ◆ **My life before I accepted Christ**
- ◆ **How I came to realize I needed Christ.**
- ◆ **What I did to get Christ**
- ◆ **What a difference having Christ has made in my life**

While we will not have time to work on and practice these testimonies in this class, please do take the time to work on your own testimony, and practice it with friends. This is the most important thing you need to be able to witness!

But what do we say when we want to explain the plan of salvation to someone?

Acts 16:29-30 The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do o be saved?”

The entire Bible deals with God’s “plan of salvation.” There are literally hundreds of Scripture verses we could use to explain God’s plan. There are also lots of different “plans”. I think the simplest, however, is that plan called the Romans Road. It involves five simple verses:

- ◆ **You must understand that you are a sinner.**

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God.

- ◆ You must understand that the penalty for sin is **death (eternal separation)**

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death.. .but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

- ◆ We did not and cannot do anything to **earn our way** to Heaven.

Romans 5:8 *But God commandeth His love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

- ◆ We need to **believe and confess** in order to be saved.

Romans 10:9-10 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 64

- ◆ Salvation is open to **anyone** who will accept it.

Romans 10:13 *Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.*

Bottom Line? We have been commanded by Jesus Christ to tell other people about Him. We can do that and still be ourselves. What we mostly need is just to be in love with Him, and allow Him to live through our lives.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. (1 Peter 3:15)

Basic Discipleship
Rima Ridge Baptist Church
Chapter 11— Christian Stewardship

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 (NIV) *So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*

What does this mean?

- ◆ It means that we are **stewards** of all that God has given us.
- ◆ But what has God actually given us?
 - **Our time**
 - **Our Talents**
 - **Our possessions (money)**

1 Corinthians 11:12 ... *all things are from God.*

As God’s stewards of everything He has given us, what does He expect from us?

- ◆ God expects **one tenth** of all He has given us to be returned to Him!

Leviticus 27:30 *Thus all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land or the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s, it is holy to the Lord.*

Tithe = “Tenth part” Hebrew = “Maaser” Greek = “apodekatoo”

This means we need to give God (as a minimum) 1/10 of our time; 1/10 of our talents; and 1/10 of our income/possessions!

- ◆ **One tenth of our time = 16.8 hours per week!**

But does our time really “belong” to God?

Proverbs 27:1 *Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.*

Psalms 103:15-16 *As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. When the wind has passed over it, it is no more, And its place acknowledges it no longer.*

Proverbs 21:1 *The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes.*

Luke 12:19-20 *'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry."*

²⁰ *"But God said to him, you fool! This very night your soul is required of you, and now who will own what you have prepared?"*

James 4:13-16 *Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit."*

¹⁴ *Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.*

¹⁵ *Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that."*

¹⁶ *But as it is, you boast in your arrogance, all such boasting is evil.*

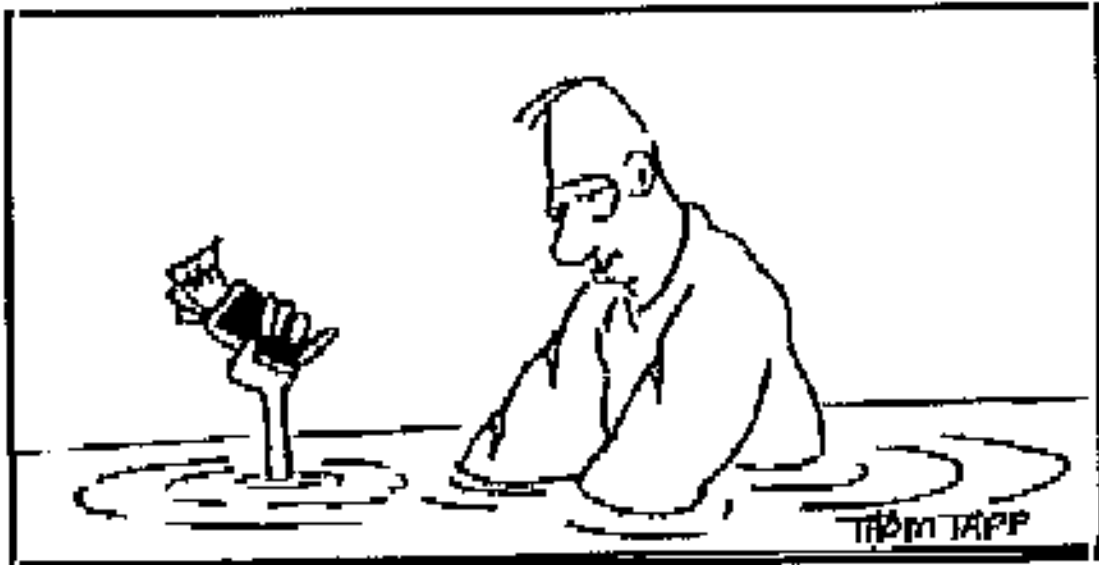
STUDENT TEXT PAGE 66

- ◆ **One-tenth of our talents = use it or lose it!**

Read Matthew 25:14-30 (Parable of the Talents)

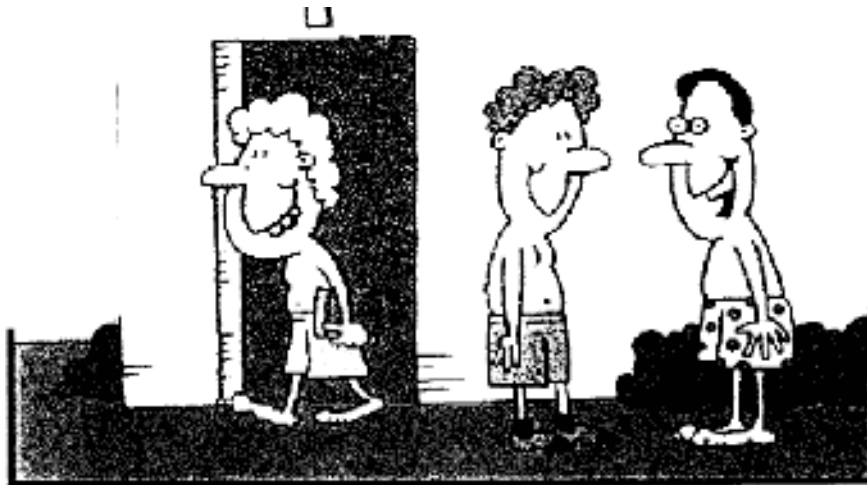
{Losing "talents" vs. losing a Spiritual gift}

- ◆ **One-tenth of _____ !**



THE BAPTISM

Isn't giving and tithing something the televangelists dreamed up?



Boy that was the best sermon on tithing I've ever heard!

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 67

1 Chronicles 16:29 *Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him, Worship the Lord in holy array.*

Psalm 96:8 *Ascribe to the Lord the glory of His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts.*

◆ Tithing did not originate with the **Mosaic Law**.

Genesis 4:3-5 *So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground. And Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering; but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard.*

Genesis 14:18-20 *And Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine, now he was a priest of God Most High. And he blessed him, and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave a tenth of all.*

Genesis 28:22 *"And this stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house; and of all that Thou dost give me I will surely give a tenth to Thee." {Jacob on his journey---even a schemer}*

◆ Tithing was not **"eliminated"** from the New Testament...

Matthew 23:23 *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and fill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness, but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.*

◆ How does God feel about tithing?

Malachi 3:8-12 *"Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, "How have we robbed Thee?" In tithes and offerings. "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the Lord of Hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. "Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it may not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the Lord of hosts. "And all the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says the Lord of hosts.*

But what does the New Testament teach about giving?

1. The principle of **sowing and reaping**...

2 Corinthians 9:6 *Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.*

2. It should be done **cheerfully**.

2 Corinthians 9:7 *Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

{God loves a cheerful giver... but we will accept it from an old grouch!}

3. It should be generous.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7

{Not how much you give- rather how much you have left... Widow's mites...}

4. It is done for the purpose of supporting the church.

2 Corinthians 9:8 *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.*

5. It should be done without fanfare.

Matthew 6:1-4 *“Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. When therefore you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. “But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.*

{Churches with a plaque on everything}

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 68

6. It should be regular.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 *Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come.*

7. It should be proportional.

Read 1 Corinthians 16:2

Principles on Tithing

1. The tithes belongs to God!

You must give more than a tithe to give an **offering**.

2. The tithe is to go to the **storehouse** (the local church).

Deuteronomy 12:5-6 “But you shall seek the Lord at the place which the Lord your God shall choose from all your tribes, to establish His name there for His dwelling, and there you shall come. “And there you shall bring your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the contribution of your hand, your votive offerings, your free will offerings, and the first born of your herd and of your flock.

{Notice this does not say the government, or TV preacher, etc.}

3. The tithe is to come from your **gross pay**, not your net pay.

2 Chronicles 31:5 And soon as the order spread, the sons of Israel provided in abundance the first fruits of grain, new wine, oil, honey, and all of the produce of the field, and they brought in abundantly the tithe of all.

4. “**Special Offerings**“ should not come out of our tithe!

5. What if I am “too far in debt” to be able to tithe?

{The “Good Christian Character” copout}

6. God **will** get His — whether we give it willingly or not!

{example: The Sabbath year>>> 490 neglected>>> 70 years captivity!}

7. Tithing is between **you and God**.

Churches that require you to produce your Income Tax Return...

Policy in my churches

8. What happens if you do tithe?

Malachi 3:10 *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the Lord of Hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.*

{Only place in the Bible that tells us to test God!}

Do we trust God? But Preacher what if I promise to make up my shortcoming...

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 69

Final Notes About Tithing:

- ◆ We cannot worship unless we bring an offering...

1 Chronicles 16:29 *Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name, Bring an offering, and come before Him, Worship the Lord in holy array.*

Psalms 96:8 *Ascribe to the Lord the glory of His name, Bring an offering and come into His courts.*

- ◆ We cannot out give God!
- ◆ We must avoid the concept of “giving to get...” (Prosperity Gospel)
- ◆ If everybody did tithe...

If every church member in the United States had a pay adjustment

...and started drawing the minimum wage

...and actually tithed on that amount...

...Giving would increase by 300% + !!!

Basic Discipleship

Rima Ridge Baptist Church

Chapter 12 - Baptist Doctrine

The Baptist Faith and Message

I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. It reveals the principles by which God judges us; and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalm 19:7-10; 119:11, 89, 105, 140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16;36; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16 ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11 ff.; 20:1 ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3, 15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9 ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7

B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself the demands and necessities of human nature and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His

crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the

One Mediator, partaking of the nature of God and of man, and in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 72

Genesis 18:1 ff.; Psalm 2:7 ff.; 110:1 ff.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16, 27; 17:5; 27:28:1-6, 19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18, 29; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3, 34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8, 24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philemon 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16

C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the assurance of God to bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalm 51:11; 139:7 ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10, 12; Luke 1:35; 4:1, 18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17, 39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11, 14-16, 26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 3:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8; 14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

III. Man

Man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of His creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by His Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence; whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin, and as soon as they are capable of moral action become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore every man possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5, 7, 18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalm 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18, 23; 5:6, 12, 19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18, 29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19, 21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 73

IV. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, sanctification, and glorification. A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer into a relationship of peace and favor with God. B. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual perfection through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life. C. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22 to 28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14, 29; 3:3-21, 36; 5:24; 10:9, 28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3 ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18, 29-39; 10:9-10, 13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18, 30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philemon 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1 ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1 to 12:8; 14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6 to 2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1 to 22:5.

V. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is a glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility. All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the State of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the cause of Christ, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31 ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22, 31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45, 65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6, 12, 17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7, 26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:13-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10, 19; Hebrews 11:39 to 12:2; 1 Peter 1:2-5, 13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 74

VI. The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. This church is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In such a congregation members are equally responsible. Its Scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42, 47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23, 27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11, 21; 5:22-32; Philemon 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 3:1-15; 4:14; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.

VII. Baptism and the Lords Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

(We will discuss this further at the conclusion for this chapter)

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; Acts 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

VIII. The Lords Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private, and by refraining from worldly amusements, and resting from secular employment's, work of necessity and mercy only being excepted.

Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1 ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3, 33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1, 19-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 75

IX. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10, 23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10, 16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6, 9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

X. Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27, 30, 36, 44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40, 48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28, 35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philemon 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1 ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7 ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1, 8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7 ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20-22:13.

XI. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8, 16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39 to 12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 76

XII. Education

The cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian schools is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people. In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5, 9, 14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalm 19:7 ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13 ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7, 11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24 ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philemon 4:8; Colossians 2:3, 8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12 to 6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.

XIII. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Mal. 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21, 42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philemon 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

XIV. Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various group of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

Exodus 17:12; 18:17 ff.; Judges. 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1 ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1 ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philemon 1:15-18.

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 77

XV. The Christian and the Social Order

Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in his own life and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Christ Jesus. The Christian should oppose, in the spirit of Christ, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice. He should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3 ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12; 13; 14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23 ff.; 11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.

XVI. Peace and War

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war. The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love.

Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9, 38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36, 38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2.

XVII. Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7, 24; 16:26; 22:2 1; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philemon 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 78

XVIII. The Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church, and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel for sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalm 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15, 17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8, 14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

What Baptist Practice (B.A.P.T.I.S.T.)

1. **B**ible as our sole authority

“The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right.”

2 Timothy 3:15

Since God’s Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is “What does the Bible say?” We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

2. **A**utonomy of each local church

“Christ is the head of his body, the church. He is the source of the body’s life...”

Ephesians 1:23

Christ is the recognized head of our church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denomination’s control.

3. **P**riesthood of every believer

“Christ loves us, and by his death he has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve God..”

Revelation 1:6(GN)

“You are... the King’s priests... God’s own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God”

1 Peter 2:9 (GIN)

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to “frill time” Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.

4. **T**ithing

“A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord”

Leviticus 26:30

At Rima Ridge we practice tithing for the support of Christ’s Body, the Church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the beginning of biblical giving.

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 80

5. **I**mmersion

“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ...”
Colossians 2:12 (GN)

We practice baptism by immersion under water the way Jesus was baptized, and the way the Bible commands.

6. **S**pirit-led living

(Jesus said) “I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from me you can do nothing.”
John 15:5

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God’s power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God’s Spirit to enable us to do what is right.
Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 5:18

7. **T**elling others about Christ

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”
1 Peter 3:15

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those God brings us into contact with. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.

THE TWO ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

BAPTISM

BAPTISM: WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY ***CHRIST***.

“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river.”
Mark 1:9

2. BECAUSE CHRIST ***COMMANDED*** IT

“Jesus said, ‘Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.’”
Matthew 28:19-20

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 81

3. IT DEMONSTRATES THAT I REALLY AM A **BELIEVER**.

“Many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized” Acts 18:8

“We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.” 1 John 2:3

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. IT ILLUSTRATES CHRIST’S **BURIAL** AND **RESURRECTION**.

“Christ died for our sins...He was buried ..and He rose again.” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.” Colossians 2:12

2. IT ILLUSTRATES MY **NEW LIFE** AS A CHRISTIAN.

“When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

“By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead ..so also we may live a new life!” Romans 6:4

Baptism doesn’t make you a believer .it shows that you **already believe**. Baptism does not “save” you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring .it’s the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith... it is the gift of God .not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

1. BECAUSE **JESUS** WAS BAPTIZED THAT WAY.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.” Matthew 3:16

2. EVERY BAPTISM IN THE **NEW TESTAMENT** WAS BY IMMERSION.

(Example) *“...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...”* Acts 8:38-39

3. THE WORD “BAPTIZE” MEANS “TO **GO UNDER** (Baptisto) WATER”

The Greek word *baptizo* means “to immerse or dip under water.”

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 82

4. IT BEST SYMBOLIZES A **BURIAL AND RESURRECTION.**

The founders of denominations agree:

Martin Luther... “I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imparts and the mystery signifies.”

John Calvin... “The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”

John Wesley... “Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

EVERY PERSON WHO HAS **BELIEVED** IN CHRIST.

“Those who believe and accepted His message were baptized...” Acts 2:41

“Simon himself believed and was baptized..” Acts 8:13

‘But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News.. .and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.’ Acts 8:12

WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN?

At Rima Ridge Baptist, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a “*baptism of confirmation*” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed.

This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

AS SOON AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED!

“Those who believed. .were baptized.. that day!” Acts 2:41

“Then Philip began with the Scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, ‘Look, here is water! Why shouldn’t I be baptized right now?’ Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart,

you may. The man answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God' So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him." Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should set up a time to be baptized. If you wait until you are "perfect," you'll never feel good enough!"

Can my family be baptized together?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. All who wish to be baptized are asked to meet with our Pastor or a counselor. This may be accomplished by making an appointment with the pastor through our church office.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays your obedience. We encourage you to invite your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

What should I wear when I am baptized?

All those being baptized will be given a robe to wear. Bring a bathing suit, towel and a plastic bag for your wet clothes. We provide changing rooms.

Will I have to say anything?

No. At the beginning of the service, the pastor will enter the baptistery. You will wait at the edge of the baptistery for your turn to be baptized, (there will be someone there to help assist you). The Pastor will introduce you, briefly lower you just under the water, and then you can leave the baptistery, dry off, and change clothes.

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 83 (CONTINUED)

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called “ordinances”) as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are: **Baptism** and **The Lord's Supper**. The Lord's Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER? (1 Corinthians 11:23 - 26)

1. IT IS A SIMPLE ACT NOT AN ELABORATE CEREMONY.

“The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread... (vs. 23)

2. IT IS A REMINDER (A tool for remembering).

and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; eat it in remembrance of me.’” (vs. 24)

3. IT IS A SYMBOL.

The two elements of the Lord's Supper are the juice and the bread (or cracker). The juice symbolizes Christ's blood, and the bread symbolizes His body. The juice and bread are not literally His blood and body, they are symbols of His blood and body.

“In the same way, He took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; drink it to remember me.’” (vs. 25)

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 84

4. IT IS A STATEMENT OF FAITH.

“For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes back” (vs. 26)

WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Only those who are already born again.

(Mark 14:22-26)

“For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment upon himself”

1 Corinthians 11:29

HOW DO I PREPARE MYSELF FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER?

“Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord A person ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.”

1 Corinthians 11:27-28

By...

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Self Examination
1 Corinthians 11:27 | 2. Confessing my sins
1 John 1:9 |
| 3. Recommitment
Romans 12:1 | 4. Restoring Relationships
Matthew 5:23 ~24 |

WHEN AND HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe The Lord's Supper. He instituted it on a Thursday night.

We at Rima Ridge Baptist usually take the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday morning of the month. Christians who are in good standing with the Lord Jesus Christ through salvation are encouraged to participate in the Lord's Supper.

Basic Discipleship
Rima Ridge Baptist Church
Chapter 13 — Last Things

We are going to conclude our discipleship course with a brief look at what the Bible teaches about the “end times” –that coming sequence of events that will occur just before Jesus Christ returns to this earth. I believe that there are as many different opinions as to the timing of these events as there are Christians! Of course, because we are talking about events that have not yet happened, none of us can be absolutely positive about the timing and sequence of events. However, this is one area that does not matter if we completely agree with one another. What we can and should agree on, though, are three incontrovertible facts:

- ◆ Jesus Christ is going to **return** to this earth!
- ◆ When He returns, He will be coming to rule & reign for **1,000** years!
- ◆ Our job is to be **obedient** and **expectant** until He returns!

The study of the end times is called **eschatology**.

When it comes to eschatology, people generally tend to congregate at opposite ends of the spectrum. There are those who attempt to set specific dates and times for Christ to return, and there are also those who believe that we cannot know anything about the end times –based upon the statement of Jesus Christ:

Mathew 24:36 *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.*

Jesus said that no man will know the day or hour, and that is exactly what He means no one will know. However, Jesus also went on to give further information:

Matthew 24:37-42 *“For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah,*

³⁸ *For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,*

³⁹ *and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.*

⁴⁰ *Then there shall be two men in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left,*

⁴¹ *Two women will be grinding at the mill, one will be taken, and one will be left,*
⁴² *Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.*

Did Noah know the exact day and hour that God was going to flood the earth? No, he didn't. But did he have a pretty good clue that things were getting close – such as when all the animals were loaded and God shut the door? You bet he did!

And by the same token, we can know and understand quite a bit about the end times, if we will be diligent and study God's Word. The vast majority of books in the Bible talk about the end times, indicating to me that God placed a good deal of importance on it as a subject for us to be aware of. In fact, we are given a command to be sure that we do study and understand what is in store for us:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.

² *For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.*

³ *While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child, and they shall not escape.*

⁴ *But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief,*

⁵ *for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;*

⁶ *so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.*

Certainly an in-depth study of eschatology is beyond the time we have remaining. However, we will take these last few minutes to look at some of the basics. First, we need to understand the terms used to describe the various major viewpoints about the end times.

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 86

◆ MAJOR VIEWPOINTS

1. **Postmillennialism**

2. Amillennialism

3. Premillennialism

a. Dispendational vs. Historical

b. Pre-trib, mid-trib, post-trib, pre-wrath

◆ PRIMARY BIBLICAL TEXTS

1. Revelation
2. Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24 – 25; Mark 13)
3. 70 Weeks of Prophecy (Daniel 9:24 – 27)

◆ Concept of “NEAR AND FAR” Prophecies

◆ The Eternal Struggle (COSMIC CONFLICT)

- A. PURPOSE OF THE CREATION? (Colossians 1:16)
1. Literal creation (Genesis 1 & 2)
 2. Man was created by God (Genesis 1:26-27)
 3. Man’s purpose: (Genesis 1:28)
 4. Man’s requirement: (Genesis 2:15-17)
 5. But man blew it! (Genesis 3)
- B. WHERE DID EVIL COME FROM?
1. Satan rebelled against God (Ezekial 28:17; Jude 6)
 2. Caused by pride (Lucifer) (Isaiah 14:12-14)
 3. Satan wants to overthrow God’s kingdom
 - a. Original sin (Genesis 3)
 - b. Accuses man (Job)
 - c. End time events

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 87

C. ORIGIN OF FALSE RELIGIONS

1. Nimrod - settled Babylon
2. Tower of Babel
3. Origin of the “mother/son” gods

D. GOD’S PROPHETIC PLAN

1. God chose His own people (Genesis 12:1-3)
2. God would send Messiah (Genesis 3:14-15)
3. God chose Israel
 - a. Blessing (Deuteronomy 28:1-2)
 - b. Curse (Deuteronomy 28:15)
 - c. Specific curse: (Deuteronomy 28:64-65)
4. God set a day of destruction for Satan
5. God set a day of salvation for Israel
6. God ordained that Christ will be King
7. God has planned for a new heaven and earth

E. SATANS COUNTERATTACKS

1. Destroy or disqualify the line of Christ
2. Destroy or disqualify Christ
3. Destroy the subjects of Christ's kingdom (Revelation 12:13,17)

F. THE BIBLE PROVIDES SPECIFIC & DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS

◆ **Definitions of End Time Events & Activities**

The 70th Week of Daniel - the seven year period that encompasses the events of the end times (7 years + 75 days)

The Beginning of Birth Pangs – the first 3 ½ years of the 7-year period.

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 88

The Seven Seals – the first of seven events each that will occur in the 70th week of Daniel.

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse – another name for the first four seals.

The Antichrist - a man who will gain control of the entire world, through deceit and subterfuge as well as war. Will persecute Christians and Jews.

The False Prophet – the religious leader that supports and assists the antichrist; he will be the leader of the one world church.

The One World Church – the false church that will arise and encourage people to forget doctrine and “just love one another.”

The Great Tribulation – the martyrdom of Christians and Jews due to extreme persecution by the Antichrist; occurs during the last 3 ½ years of the 70th week.

The Mark of the Beast – a mark that will be required to be placed on the forehead or the right hand; without the mark, you cannot sell; take the mark and you cannot be saved.

The Rapture – The time when all Christians – living and dead – will be “snatched away” to be with Christ and received glorified bodies.

The Day of the Lord – The time when Christ begins to reclaim this world. Consists of the Seven Bowls and the Seven Trumpets.

The Seven Trumpets – the second series of seven events – these coming directly from God, pouring out His wrath on unrepentant mankind.

STUDENT TEXT PAGE 89

The Seven Bowls - the third series of the seven events – harsher and more condensed than the Seven Trumpets; occurs in a 30 day period at the end of the 70th week.

The Parousia – the return of Jesus Christ to reclaim the earth!

The Judgement – the three separate events when men are judged (occur at different times.)

Restoration and Reclamation – the 45 day period when Christ renews and restores the earth in preparation for the Millennial Kingdom.

The Millennial Kingdom (The Millenium) – the thousand year reign of Jesus Christ on this earth – with David as the second in command!

The Eternal State – the New Heaven and the New Earth

Final Notes

Our study has been very much of an overview in nature – we just did not have time to cover any of these subjects in detail. However, I am confident that you now have the resources you need to begin a life-long individual study of God’s Word. You are limited only by the amount of effort you are willing to expend. The Holy Spirit is willing and waiting to guide you on your path:

1 Corinthians 2:10-13 For unto us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

May you be blessed in your walk with the Lord, and may you grow nearer and more like Him each and every day!