

GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

"What must I do to be saved?"

Acts 16:30

*"Examine yourselves,
to see whether you are in the faith.
Test yourselves."*

2 Corinthians 13:5 ESV

*"And ye shall know the truth,
and the truth shall make you free."*

John 8:32

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First published in 2007, Tanzania, East Africa
Revised edition published 2021, Tanzania, East Africa

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Lesson One

THE BIBLE IS FROM GOD

Introduction:

1. The Bible is either from God or from men.
2. The Bible claims to be the revelation from God:
 - a. Exodus 34:27; Jeremiah 30:2.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 14:37; Galatians 1:11,12.
3. Why should we believe the Bible is truly from God?

I. Unity Of Many Parts

- A. There are two main divisions of the Bible:
 1. Old Testament has 39 Books - Genesis to Malachi.
 2. New Testament has 27 Books – Matthew to Revelation.
- B. Time span of the writing of the Bible:
 1. The first five Books were written by Moses about 1500 B.C.
 2. The last book of the Bible is Revelation. John the apostle wrote the book near the close of the first century A.D.
 3. The writing therefore spans a period of about 1600 years!
- C. Writers and languages:
 1. Moses and John were only two of about 40 men who wrote down God's words.
 2. Originally the Bible was written mainly in two languages – Hebrew for the Old Testament, Greek for the New Testament.
- D. Common themes:
 1. **Common theme:** Jesus is coming, He came, He is coming again.
 2. **Common need:** Man is in sin and needs a Savior. Romans 3:9,23.
 3. **Common purpose:** To show men in each age how to please God.
- E. How Can This Amazing Unity Be Explained?
 1. The 40 different writers each wrote a part of the Bible. And it all fits perfectly together. They could not have worked with each other. Some had been dead for many years before some others began to write. The only explanation is that there was a Master organizer. It was God himself.
 2. Human writers alone could not have produced the Bible.

II. Absolute Accuracy

- A. Men make mistakes. No human being is without mistakes.
 - 1. If the Bible is only the writings of men, then it would have errors.
 - 2. Writings of men often need to be updated and revised.
- B. Prophecies
 - 1. Only God has the power to predict. Read Isaiah 46:9,10; 48:3-5; Romans 4:17.
 - 2. The test of a prophet: Deuteronomy 18:20-22.
 - 3. Sample prophecies of the Christ:
 - a. **Prophecy:** Micah 5:2 (ca. 740 B.C.). The Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem.
Fulfillment: Matthew 2:1.
 - b. **Prophecy:** Daniel 2:31-44 (ca. 550 B.C.). The Fall of Babylon was foretold and the rise of three other empires: Medo-Persian, Greek, and Roman.
Fulfillment: These kingdoms rose and fell just as predicted.
 - 1) Daniel 2:44. A special “kingdom” was to be set up during the time of the fourth empire – the Roman Empire.
 - 2) John 18:36. The kingdom of Jesus (the church) is spiritual and was set up during the Roman period (Acts 2; Colossians 1:13).
 - c. **Prophecy:** Psalm 22:16 (ca. 1000 B.C.). His hands and feet would be pierced. In a time when stoning was the common way criminals were killed, this prediction was given.
Fulfillment: Luke 24:39.
- C. Bible Details:
 - 1. The Bible is filled with thousands of details relating to various times in human history. Places, rivers, trees, rulers, foods, animals, etc. are named in detail.
 - a. King Hezekiah (reigned about 716-687 B.C.) “made the pool, and the conduit, and brought water into the city [of Jerusalem]” 2 Kings 20:20. This tunnel was cut through solid rock for 533 meters.
 - b. As the centuries passed, this tunnel was forgotten and lost.
 - c. It was not rediscovered until early in the 1800’s.
 - 2. All this information has been proved to be accurate.
- D. This accuracy can only be explained by accepting the Bible as the message from God.
 - 1. Read 2 Peter 1:20, 21.
 - 2. Do you believe the Bible is the written record of God’s words?

Lesson Two

WE WILL BE JUDGED BY THE BIBLE

I. The Bible Is Complete

- A. Read 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.
- B. Read James 1:25. The New Testament is the “complete law.”
- C. Read 2 Peter 1:3. The Bible contains “all things that pertain unto life and godliness.”
- D. Read Galatians 1:6-9. We may not teach anything different or change the message.

II. We Will Be Judged By The Bible

- A. We will NOT be judged by:
 - 1. What seems right to us. Read Proverbs 14:12.
 - 2. What we feel is true. Read Genesis 37:31-33.
 - 3. What our forefathers, grandparents, or parents have taught us. Read John 4:20 and Acts 5:29.
 - 4. What we do in good conscience. Read Acts 23:1 and 26:9.
 - 5. What our preacher or pastor tells us. Read 1 John 4:1.
- B. We WILL be judged by the Word of God.
 - 1. Read John 12:48,49.
 - 2. Read Romans 2:16.
 - 3. Read Revelation 20:11-15.

Conclusion:

- 1. Have you been following what you feel is right, or what your parents think is right, or what your preacher has told you? Have you checked for yourself what the word of God actually says?
- 2. Read Matthew 7:21-23. Many will live a religious life; thinking they are serving Jesus, and find out too late, that they were not pleasing Him.
- 3. Are you interested in seeing what the Bible teaches about pleasing God?

Lesson Three

JESUS IS DIVINE

THE FALL OF MANKIND

See Chart on Page 7.

I. This Line  Represents Time.

- A. Read Genesis 1:1. Time began at creation.
- B. What was there **BEFORE** the heavens and earth were created?
 - 1. The answer is in Genesis 1:1 = God.
 - 2. God already existed, then He created the world.

II. Follow The Points Under The Heading

Father
Word (Jesus)
Holy Spirit

- A. BEFORE the creation there were three holy persons.
- B. Read Psalm 90:2. God has no beginning and no ending!
- C. Two verses put together give an important truth –since God is spirit, He has no physical body.
 - 1. Read John 4:24. God is spirit.
 - 2. Read Luke 24:39. Spirit has no flesh and bones.
- D. Read Philippians 2:5-9. Before leaving heaven, the “Word” was equal with God the Father.
- E. Read John 1:1. Jesus was called the “Word” BEFORE coming to earth.
 - 1. “. . . and the Word was God.” The Father is God, and the Word is God.
 - 2. We cannot fully understand all about God.
 - 3. **Illustration:** First of all think about humans. We may have a father, mother, and daughter. This is an example of three separate persons, but each is human. They share the same nature – human nature.
 - 4. Father, Word, and Holy Spirit are three separate persons, but each with the same nature - Divine nature.
- F. We have learned from Psalm 90:2 that God is eternal – having no beginning or ending. And because the Word is God, He had no beginning or ending.
- G. Read John 1:14.
 - 1. The spirit “Word” was in heaven without a body; then He came to earth and “became flesh” (took on flesh).
 - 2. We cannot see spirit, but after the “Word” took on flesh, He could then be heard and seen.

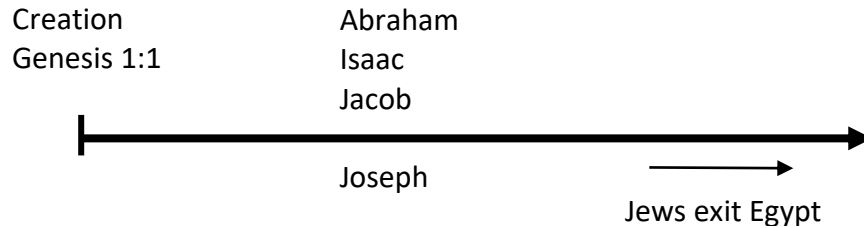
3. Find this symbol * just before the cross on page 14. This represents the point in time when Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit, by Mary. Then after having a body, He was called Jesus.
4. Read Matthew 1:23. The Divine Word came to earth and took on flesh. Therefore, Jesus was literally “God with us.”

III. Follow The Points In The Box On Page 7.

- A. After the creation of the heavens and the earth, God created Adam and Eve. They were created with freedom of choice.
- B. Read Genesis 3:1-6.
 1. Eve, and later Adam, ate of the forbidden fruit.
 2. By eating they disobeyed God. Disobeying God is sin. All have sinned.
- C. Read Genesis 2:17.
 1. God warned that disobeying would result in death – the day they ate.
 2. But they continued living physically. Look at Genesis 5:5. Adam lived to be 930 years of age.
 3. Death is a separation. Death = Separation.
- D. There are two types of death:
 1. Physical Death = separation of the *spirit* from the *body*.
Read James 2:26. Body – spirit = Death.
 2. Spiritual Death = separation of *man* from *God*.
Read Isaiah 59:2. Man ← **SIN** → God
- E. Therefore Adam and Eve died *spiritually*. The day they sinned, by eating the forbidden fruit, they became spiritually dead.
- F. What happened to you after your childhood, when you first committed sin?

IV. We Are Jumping From The Time Of Adam To The Time Of Abraham.

- A. Three famous patriarchs are Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- B. **Jacob**’s name was changed to **Israel** (Genesis 32:28).
 1. So the children of Jacob would then be called the “children of Israel.”
 2. Jacob’s favorite son, Joseph, was sold into slavery.
 3. Eventually the family clan of Jacob moved to Egypt. Years later, they became slaves for the Egyptians.
- C. God chose Moses to lead the children of Israel out of Egyptian slavery.



Father

Word (Jesus)

Holy Spirit

Psalm 90:2

“from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”

God is eternal!

John 4:24

God is spirit.

Luke 24:39

Spirit has not flesh and bones.

Philippians 2:5-9

Jesus was equal with God the Father.

Jesus was called the “Word” before coming to earth to take a body.

John 1:1

Word was and still is God (Divine).

John 1:14

Word became flesh*

Genesis 3:1-6

Fall of Mankind

Genesis 2:17. God said if they disobeyed they would die in the day they ate.

They died *spiritually*.

Death = separation

Isaiah 59:1,2. SIN separates us from God.

Adam & Eve separated themselves from God (spiritual death) by their sin.

Romans 3:23. All of us have sinned! You are separated from God (lost) by your own sins. Your sins remain a barrier (you remain lost) unless you have your sins removed.

Romans 6:23. The wages we earn for sinning is death (eternal separation from God = Hell).

Lesson Four

THE LAW OF MOSES WAS TEMPORARY

See Chart on Page 14



I. See **On The Chart On Page 14.**

- A. The Jewish nation left Egypt and came to Mt. Sinai.
- B. This was about the year 1440 B.C.

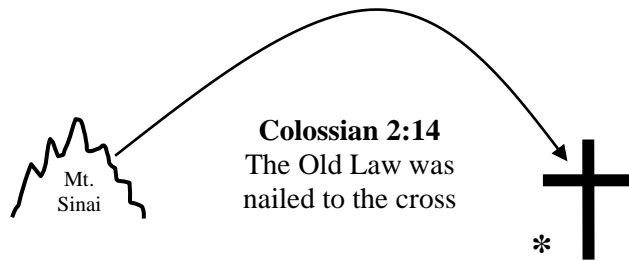
II. See The Points Under The Heading **Law of Moses.**

- A. Read Deuteronomy 5:1-4.
 - 1. The Law of Moses was given to the **Jews** that day.
 - 2. The Law of Moses included not just the 10 commandments but also all the other regulations.
 - 3. Read Hebrews 8:5. Moses even received the details of how to build the tabernacle while he was on the mount.
- B. Two important points to learn:
 - 1. The Law of Moses was given only to the Jews. The Old Testament was never given to all peoples.
 - 2. The Law of Moses was not just the 10 commandments (see Exodus 20). See the Book of Leviticus for so many more regulations in the Law of Moses.
- C. Examples from the Jewish law:
 - 1. Day of worship: Sabbath. Saturday – Exodus 20:8.
 - 2. Animal Sacrifices - Leviticus 9.
 - 3. Instruments of music - Psalm 150.

III. See The Points Under The Heading **Warning:**

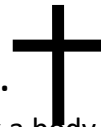
- A. Read Deuteronomy 4:2 and 12:32.
 - 1. The law was not to be changed or altered.
 - 2. No additions or subtractions were allowed.
- B. Read Leviticus 10:1, 2.
 - 1. These two priests did not carefully follow God's instructions.
 - 2. God told them exactly how to worship.

IV. See This Part On The Chart



- A. How long was the Old Law intended to last?
 - 1. Many people think we should still follow the Old Law today, especially the 10 commandments. But is this true?
 - 2. Read Jeremiah 31:31-33. God planned to give a **new law** to replace the old Law of Moses.
 - 3. The Law of Moses was never intended to be permanent.
- B. Read Colossians 2:14.
 - 1. The Law of Moses was “nailed to his cross.”
 - 2. Notice the chart has a line beginning at mount Sinai and ending at the cross. This represents the period of time when the Old Law was operative for the Jews.
 - 3. The Old Law began at Mt. Sinai and ended at the cross.
- C. Read Matthew 5:17.
 - 1. Jesus lived the Law perfectly - He fulfilled the law.
 - 2. No other Jew was able to live the Law exactly.

V. Find This Symbol * On The Chart Just Before The Cross.

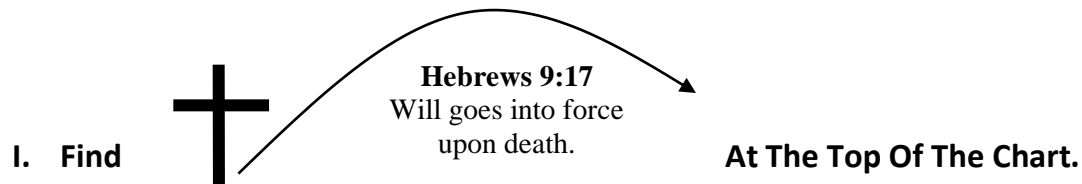


- A. This is the point when the “Word” came to earth and took a body.
- B. Jesus lived as a Jewish man, keeping the Law of Moses, then died on the cross.

Lesson Five

THE NEW TESTAMENT IS THE LAW OF CHRIST TODAY

See Chart on Page 14



A. Read Hebrews 9:17.

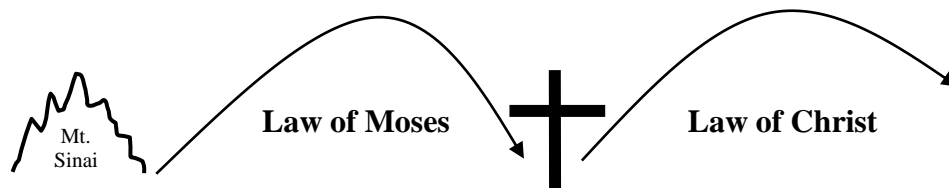
1. It is still common today for people to prepare a will before they die. It provides instructions for the living after their death.
2. Find the title page in your Bible, just before the beginning of the book of Matthew (Note: not all Bible printings have this):

THE
NEW TESTAMENT
OF
OUR LORD AND SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST

B. The 27 Books of the New Testament are the Will of Jesus.

1. A will goes into force AFTER the will maker dies.
2. The New Testament went into force after Jesus died.
3. You and I are living after the death of Jesus. We must follow His law!

II. Notice The Ending Of The Old Law And The Beginning Of The New Law.



A. Read Hebrews 9:15.

1. Jesus gave the new covenant. Now the first covenant is not needed.
2. Read John 1:17. Moses gave the old law, Jesus gave the new and final law.

B. Read Hebrews 8:13. We are not to follow the Old Law today!

III. See The Points Under The Heading “Law of Christ.”

- A. Read Acts 17:30.
 - 1. The New Testament is for all people everywhere!
 - 2. Remember, the Old Law was for the Jews and was temporary.
- B. Read Galatians 6:2. The Law of Christ is the law for us today.
- C. Examples from the law of Christ:
 - 1. Day of worship: 1st Day of the week. Sunday - 1 Corinthians 16:2.
 - 2. Remember the death of Jesus every week. Lord’s Supper – Acts 20:7.
 - 3. Sing – Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16.


IV. Some Of The Differences Between The Two Laws:

Law of Moses	Law of Christ
<i>Given to:</i> Jews	<i>Given to:</i> All people everywhere
Day of Worship: Saturday	Day of Worship: Sunday
Animal Sacrifices	Remembering the death of Jesus
Instruments of Music	Singing

V. See The Points Under Warning: Under The “Law of Christ.”

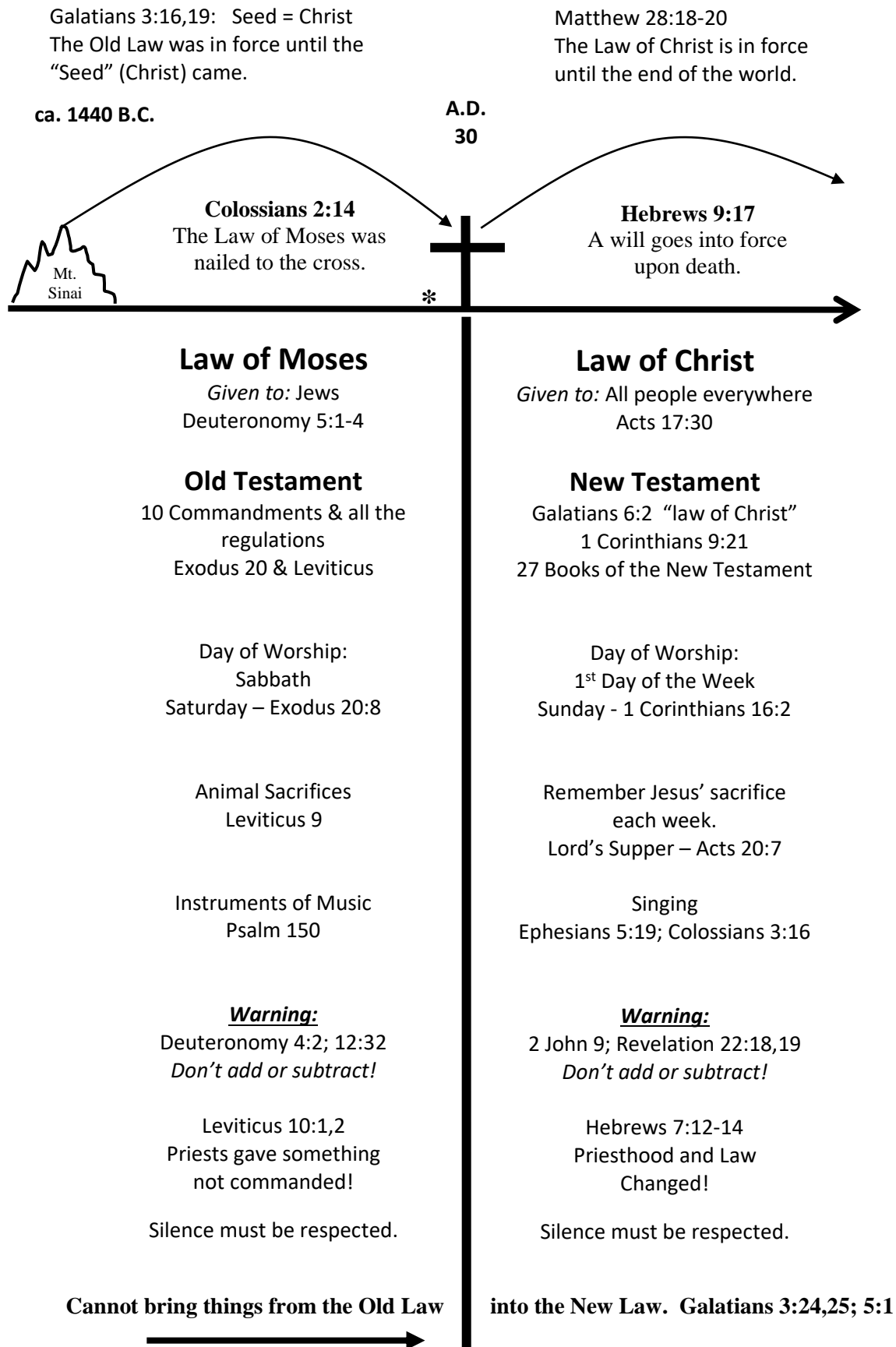
- A. Read 2 John 9. Whoever does not remain with the “teaching of Christ” no longer has God with them.
- B. Read Revelation 22:18, 19. Nothing is to be added or subtracted from the Book of Revelation. The same principle would apply to the rest of the New Testament.
- C. Read Hebrews 7:12-14. The priesthood changed and also the law changed! Silence must be respected.
- D. Today, denominations have ignored these warnings and have added many practices that are not authorized in the New Testament.

VI. See This Point At The Bottom Of The Chart On Page 14.

Cannot bring things from the Old Law  into the New Law. Galatians 3:24, 25; 5:1

- A. Read Galatians 3:24, 25 and 5:1.
 - 1. The Law of Moses was like a Tutor, but we are no longer under that Tutor. We are therefore no longer under the Law of Moses.
 - 2. Some Jewish Christians were being tempted to go back to the Old Law. They were rebuked.

- B. May we take items from the Old Law and use them today? See examples in the chart on page 14.
1. Day of worship today – Saturday or Sunday? We must follow the Law of Christ – therefore Sunday!
 2. May we offer animal sacrifices today as part of our worship?
 - a. Most would rightly say “No.” Why?
 - b. Because we may not take anything from the Old Law and add it to the New Law!
 - c. Jesus was the final sacrifice for sins. We remember his death each Sunday by taking of the Lord’s Supper.
 3. May we offer instrumental music today as part of our worship?
 - a. Surprisingly many denominations do. Why? They say it is in the Bible. However, it is found in the Old Testament.
 - b. But we cannot take anything from the Old Law and add it to the New Law!
 - c. To offer instrumental music in worship today is an addition to the Law of Christ.
 - d. Read Ephesians 5:19. Christians are commanded to sing.
 4. If anyone will argue about what they want to do that is not found in the New Testament, they are having trouble respecting what the Lord Jesus has given in his New Testament.



Lesson Six

SALVATION IS ONLY IN THE ONE BODY OF CHRIST

Introduction:

1. Mankind's sin problem:
 - a. "For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God" Romans 3:23.
 - b. "There is none righteous, no, not one" Romans 3:10.
 - c. "Every one that doeth sin doeth also lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness" 1 John 3:4.
2. We have already learned that the New Testament is God's law for all people.
 - a. Ignorance **will not** be an acceptable excuse before God. Read Acts 17:30.
 - b. Your sins separate you from God. Read Isaiah 59:2.
 - c. Men claim to offer different ways to "be saved" – but the New Testament offers only one way to be saved!

I. Jesus Built Just One Church

- A. Read John 17:20, 21. Jesus prayed that all who believe on Him would be "one;" that is, that they would be united. Denominations (churches of men) are against what Jesus wants.
- B. Read Matthew 16:18.
 1. Jesus promised to build His church ("my church").
 - a. It belongs to Him - Church of Christ.
 - b. He would build only one. ("church" not churches)
 2. Jesus is the foundation. Read 1 Corinthians 3:11.
- C. The church is also called the body.
 1. Read Colossians 1:18. As there is only one head for each physical body, so Christ is the head of his one spiritual body, the church.
 2. Read Ephesians 1:22, 23.
 - a. "...the church, which is his body..." church = body
 - b. Read Ephesians 4:4. "There is one body..."
 - c. The church is the body, and there is one body, therefore there is one church!

II. Jesus Is The Savior Of His Body – The Church

- A. Read Ephesians 5:23.
 1. As a man is to only have one wife (1 Corinthians 7:2), so Christ has only one church.
 2. Jesus is the Savior only of His body, the church.
 3. Jesus never promised to save all religious groups – there were no churches of men in the first century.

4. Read Colossians 1:18.

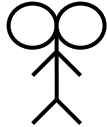
Jesus = Head
Church = Body



Bible – “And he is the head of the body,
the church”

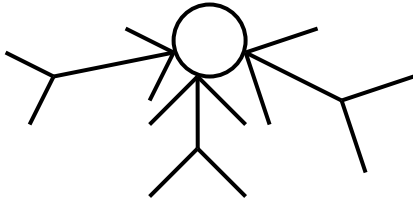
- B. The Catholic church has two heads: Peter the head on earth, and Jesus is claimed to be the head in heaven.

Two heads is not right.



The church is built upon Jesus,
not upon Peter.
Read 1 Corinthians 3:11.

- C. Denominations are different bodies all claiming to have Jesus as their head.



Many bodies with one head is not right.

Jesus has only one body.
Read 1 Corinthians 12:13.

Lesson Seven

WHAT ABOUT OTHER CHURCHES?

Introduction:

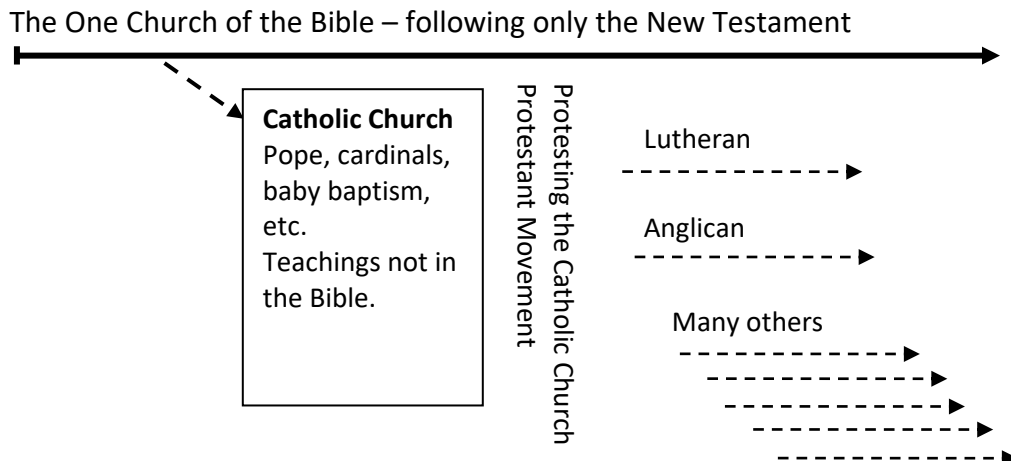
1. Today there are hundreds of different religious groups with different beliefs.
2. How can we choose? Must we learn about each – one by one?
3. We can go straight to the Bible and learn the truth.

I. Two Views About Religious Division And Diversity:

- A. Man's view (Caution: This sounds good, but this is wrong)
 1. "We all have different likes and dislikes."
 2. "Having many churches gives people a choice. They can choose a church that is best for them."
- B. God's view
 1. Read 1 Corinthians 1:10. Different teachings are against God's will.
 2. In the time of the apostles, some began to follow men and be divided. Read 1 Corinthians 1:11,12. They began to call themselves after men. Paul rebuked such division.
 3. Read 1 Corinthians 1:13. Since no man was crucified for us, we must not follow any man. We must all follow Christ.
 4. Read Luke 6:46. Claiming to follow Christ is not enough.

II. The One Church Of The Bible And The Coming Of False Churches:

- A. The church began in Jerusalem and the Lord adds the saved to His church. Read Acts 2:47.
- B. God predicted that some would fall away from the faith. Read 1 Timothy 4:1-5. This foretells of the coming of false teachings.



- C. Read Matthew 7:21-23. People in man-made churches are doing things “in the name of Jesus.” They think they are pleasing Jesus. But on the judgment day, Jesus will say: “I never knew you: depart from me.”

III. The Seed Principle

- A. If we plant the same seed (teaching) today, we will get the same fruit. Read Luke 8:11. “The seed is the word of God.”
- B. If we plant maize seed, then maize will grow. The New Testament is like seed and produces Christians.
- C. The saved are called Christians, Acts 11:26.
- D. We can plant (teach) the same seed that Paul planted, 1 Corinthians 3:6.

Conclusion:

- 1. Denominations each have their own special beliefs. They often have some book or document that states their beliefs - manuals, catechisms, creeds, etc.
- 2. Read Acts 20:28. Jesus bought the church with His own blood.
- 3. Do you want to know how to get into the one body of Christ - his church?

Lesson Eight

STEPS UNTO CHRIST

Please Write Your Personal Answers:

1) Have you been saved from your sins? *Yes* *No*

2) How were you saved? *Tell briefly*

3) Have you been baptized? *Yes* *No*

4) Were you saved before or after being baptized? *Before* *After*

5) Your baptism was: *sprinkling* *pouring* *submersion*

6) You are a member of what church or religion?

Introduction:

1. Read Romans 8:1. No condemnation to those who are “in Christ.”
 - a. All who are outside of Christ are lost – condemned.
 - b. We will let the New Testament teach us how to get into Christ -the place of salvation.
2. As we learned in the last lesson, the church is the body of Christ.
 - a. Read 1 Corinthians 12:27. The saved people are the members that make up the body.
 - b. How does a person become a member of the church?

I. Steps Unto Christ (Journey Toward Salvation)

A. Hearing and learning

1. Read John 6:45.
2. Read Romans 10:17. Hearing God’s word produces faith (belief).

B. Belief

1. Read Hebrews 11:6.
2. Read Acts 15:7.
3. Read James 2:17, 19, 24. Faith alone is not enough.

C. Repentance (A change of mind that causes a change in actions – a turning away from evil ways and a turning to obey God’s way.)

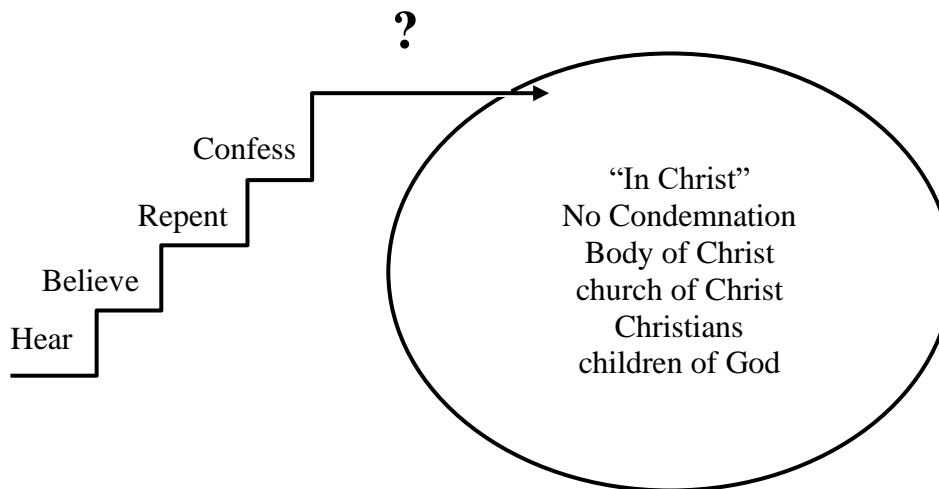
1. You must humbly admit that you have sinned and that you are separated from God by your sins. Read Isaiah 59:1,2.
2. Read Acts 17:30, 31.
3. Read 2 Corinthians 7:9,10. Repentance is more than just being sorry.

4. Examples:

- a. If a person has more than one wife, he must repent, and keep only his first wife. Read 1 Corinthians 7:2.
- b. If a person has divorced their mate, but not because of fornication, and married another, they cannot remain with the present unlawful mate. Read Matthew 5:32 and 19:9.

D. Confession

1. Read Romans 10:9, 10. Jesus must become your Master - the Lord of your life.
2. Read Matthew 10:32, 33. Jesus will not confess you if you will not confess Him.
3. You cannot be forgiven without first following these steps toward salvation.



Lesson Nine

THE STEP INTO CHRIST

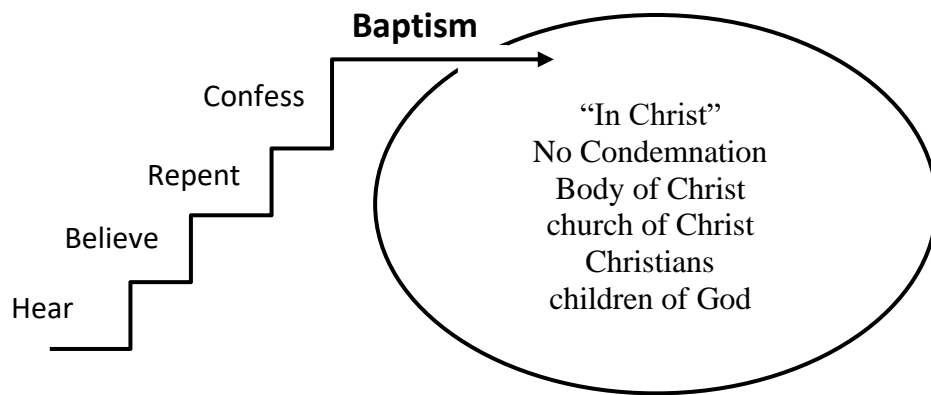
I. The Way Into The Place Of Salvation

- A. Notice that the steps in the last lesson are getting you closer to salvation.
 - 1. None of those steps, however, get rid of your sins. They prepare a person for salvation.
 - 2. Did you do some or all of the things listed in the last lesson? Were you under the impression that by doing them you were saved?
- B. Some false things you may have been taught:
 - 1. Some people are told: “just believe in Jesus and you are saved!” That is not found in the New Testament.
 - 2. Others are told to pray the sinner’s prayer; something like: “Oh Jesus, come into my heart and save me!” There is no such prayer in the Bible.
- C. Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God? Will you stop any sins in your life and obey the simple teaching of God so you can be saved?
Yes No

II. The Bible Makes Clear The One Step That Puts A Person Into Christ. It Is The One Act Of Obedience That Removes The Barrier Of Sin.

- A. Many verses describe this one step.
 - 1. Read Galatians 3:26,27. Paul wrote to these people of Galatia. They became “children of God” (v. 26) by being “baptized into Christ” (v. 27).
 - 2. Read Acts 2:37,38.
 - a. The Jews heard the word and wanted to know what to do.
 - b. They had to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins.
 - 3. Read Acts 22:16. Baptism is for the washing away of sins (removal of the barrier of sin).
 - a. So, it is impossible to be saved before baptism because baptism takes away sins.
 - b. Did you think you were saved before baptism or without baptism? *Check the answers you wrote in the box at the top of page 19.*
- B. True Baptism
 - 1. True baptism is a burial in water. Read Romans 6:3, 4.
 - a. If someone dies, would you lay the body on the ground and *pour* or *sprinkle* dirt on the dead body and call it a burial? No!
 - b. *Pouring* or *sprinkling* water on a person is not a burial in water. Those are practices given by men long after the Bible was written.

2. True baptism is for those who are mature.
 - a. There is no example in the Bible of “baby baptism.” That is a false teaching from men.
 - b. The sin of Adam is **not** passed down from father to son. Read Ezekiel 18:20. If you were sprinkled as a baby it did nothing for you. As a baby you were pure.
 - c. Once you became mature, you sinned and then became lost – separated from God by your own sins.



Conclusion:

1. Look at the answers you wrote in the box at the top of page 19. Compare it with what the Bible teaches. Read 1 Peter 1:22. Only by obeying the truth can a person be saved. Maybe you are one of many who were taught wrong.
2. Read John 8:32. Only the truth can set you free. If you were taught wrong, you must learn and obey the truth, to receive forgiveness.
3. Read Acts 2:47. The Lord adds those who are saved to His church.

Lesson Ten

COUNTING THE COST

Introduction:

1. Read Luke 14:25-33.
 - a. Before building a tower a person should “first sit down and count the cost.”
 - b. Before becoming a Christian, a person should first carefully consider what will be required.
2. Read Acts 26:28, 29 and 2 Corinthians 5:11. We plead with people to obey the gospel.
3. We must give people a balanced view, of both the blessings and the challenges facing Christians.
 - a. Blessings for those in Christ are marvelous. Read Ephesians 1:3.
 - b. There are also responsibilities and challenges to be faced.
4. Read Luke 9:57-62. The Lord made it clear to those who would follow Him, that serious devotion would be required.
5. Read 2 Peter 2:20-22.
6. Read Luke 8:4-14. Which soil will you be like?
7. Let’s notice some things required of every Christian:

I. Deny Self

- A. Read Luke 9:23.
- B. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20. Christians belong to Christ.
- C. Read Matthew 22:37, 38.
- D. Read Romans 10:9,10. Jesus must become your Lord (Master). Will you do as He teaches and not please yourself?

II. May Cost Family Favor And Friends

- A. Read Luke 14:26.
- B. Read Matthew 10:34-39.
 1. Are you willing to follow Christ even if your father, mother, wife, husband, or friends do not approve?
 2. You must choose to put Jesus first. Read Galatians 1:10.
- C. Read Luke 6:26.
 1. You will not be able to please everyone.
 2. Some may become offended when your devotion to Christ always comes first. Read Matthew 6:33.

D. Read Mark 10:29,30.

1. If your present marriage is not lawful according to God's will, it must be ended. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.
2. Read Acts 2:38. Repentance (stopping sin) must come before baptism. Unlawful marriage is fornication.
3. Read Matthew 5:32 and 19:9. The only one who may divorce and remarry is an innocent one whose mate has been unfaithful.
4. Read Romans 7:2,3.

E. Read 1 Corinthians 15:33. Some former friendships may need to be avoided.

Lesson Eleven

ARE YOU READY TO DEVOTE YOURSELF TO CHRIST?

I. Faithfulness In Worship

- A. Read John 4:24. Worship must be in spirit (the right attitude) and in truth (the right way – by God’s instructions in the New Testament).
 - 1. Read Colossians 3:17. All we do must be “in the name of the Lord Jesus.” This means what Jesus has authorized; what the Lord has commanded.
 - 2. We may not worship anyway we want, but only how God has authorized in the New Testament.
- B. Assemble with the local church every Sunday.
 - 1. Read 1 Corinthians 16:2. The original Greek here is accurately translated: “On the first day of every week. . .”
 - 2. Read Hebrews 10:23-25. Christians are forbidden from forsaking the assembly.
 - 3. Are you ready to make the commitment to worship with the true church every Sunday? It may be a distance for you to travel every week. Will you make the journey every week?
- C. Elements of acceptable worship:
 - 1. Lord’ supper – remembering the death of Jesus.
 - a. Read Matthew 26:26-29.
 - b. Read Acts 20:7 and 1 Corinthians 11:20-29.
 - 2. Give each week from what you have increased.
 - a. Read 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2.
 - b. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-9.
 - c. Under the Old Law, tithing (10%) was required. We are now under the better covenant. Read Hebrews 8:6 and Luke 12:48.
 - 3. Singing
 - a. Read Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16.
 - b. We may NOT bring items from the Old Law. For example: clapping (Psalm 47:1), or instruments of music (Psalm 150).
 - 4. Preaching the word
 - a. Read Acts 20:7 and 1 Timothy 4:13.
 - b. Read 1 Corinthians 14:33, 34. Women are forbidden to speak in the assembly.
 - 5. Prayer
 - a. Read Acts 2:42 and 1 Corinthians 14:15.
 - b. Read 1 Timothy 2:8. In this verse the word for “men” is specific – meaning *males*.
 - c. Read 1 Timothy 2:11, 12. Women are forbidden from leading the prayers.

II. Lifetime Commitment And Service

- A. The Christian life is like running a race.
 - 1. Read Hebrews 12:1,2.
 - 2. Read 2 Timothy 4:6,7. Paul's race was not finished until his death.
- B. Example: Marriage is a lifetime commitment (Romans 7:2), and therefore must be entered into with careful consideration. So becoming a Christian is a lifetime commitment and should not be entered lightly.
- C. Read 1 Peter 4:2,3. How will you spend the "rest of your time" on the earth?
- D. Life of service: Ephesians 2:10; Acts 8:4; John 15:1-5.

Conclusion:

- 1. Read 1 Timothy 4:8. The benefits outweigh any costs! Will you obey God?
- 2. Are there people in your life that will hinder you? What will you choose?
- 3. Are you willing to leave all religions of men, to stop any sinful ways, and obey the New Testament?
- 4. Are you ready to be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins and begin worshipping with the church of Christ?