



A Basic Leader's Manual for the Study of
Ecclesiology

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**The Church of Jesus Christ:
28 Truths Every Christian
Ought to Learn**

by

John S. Waldrip

With

LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE

by

Stanford E. Murrell

“...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

Ephesians 5:25-27

“The church’s one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the Word:
from heav’n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from ev’ry nation,
yet one o’er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev’ry grace endued.”

Samuel John Stone

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General Instructions for Leaders

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God,
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

Dear Leader,

This Leader’s Study Guide is designed to mentor others who are working through the Student’s Study Guide. You have the same workbook, but with all the answers.

There are six distinct parts to this work.

Review. This section is based on Questions and Answers which come directly from the text. There will be no Answer that cannot be found within the material read. As much as possible, make sure the student uses a complete sentence when responding to each Question. Such discipline will help the student to learn to think clearly and logically. For example:

Question.

What is meant by a Divine interpretation of history?

Answer.

The story of human history may rightly be called “His-story,” or the story of God’s work in the affairs of man.

Reflection and Discussion. This part of the course is designed to let the student interact with the Leader on a one to one basis. While there is much freedom to respond, all responses should ultimately end within the framework of a Christian world view, and be defended by the Word of God. If, upon discussion, the Mentor finds that a student’s answer needs to be more biblically based, have the student either rewrite or add to a portion of their response.

Personal Application. Based on the chapter covered, the student will be encouraged to make a personal application of what has been studied in that section.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart. It is the will of God that Christians sing to themselves and one another. “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Col. 3:16).

Scripture Memorization. The student of the Bible is encouraged to memorize and recite the passages of Scripture suggested throughout this Study Guide. The book, chapter, and verse of the Biblical text should be included.

Heartwork. The Heartwork section is designed to be penetrating, personal, and private— unless the student has a desire to discuss their responses. No pressure should be made to have the student reveal more about their answers than they desire.

May the Lord give you wisdom and patience as you mentor others and help them to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Stanford E. Murrell

Viera, Florida

Terminology

Adiaphora (Greek, *things indifferent*), in biblical terms, would be the “doubtful disputations” mentioned in Romans 14:1. There are some matters which are only a personal opinion (see 1 Cor. 8:1-9:23; Gal. 2:3-5; 5:13-15; and Col. 2:16-20). Good people come to different conclusions about social concerns, acceptable practices, and religious dogma. (*Dictionary of Latin and Greek Theological Terms*). “Some things are right, because the Bible says they are right; other things are wrong, because the Bible says they are wrong. But some things the Bible neither condemns nor approves. We often refer to these issues as gray areas, or matters of conscience. We could also call them *adiaphora*. For example, the Bible clearly promotes truth-telling, and condemns lying. But what about writing fiction? As long as everyone knows it is fiction, that’s *adiaphora*” (web: GotQuestions).

Arminian. Jacobus Arminius (1559-1609) was a Dutch theologian who emphasized the responsibility of man, thereby challenging Reformed Theology that emphasized the sovereignty of God. The doctrine of Arminius advocates an individual’s Partial Depravity. The sinner can accept salvation of his own free will, with the help of *prevenient* (Latin, “to come before”) grace from God. Arminius also taught Conditional Election, whereby God only “chooses” those whom He knows will choose to believe. There is the doctrine of Unlimited Atonement, Jesus died for everyone without exception, even those who will not believe. Resistible Grace. God’s gracious call to be saved can be resisted and rejected so that it is man, not God, who ultimately determines who populates heaven, who will be saved. There is Conditional Salvation. Christians can lose their salvation.

Church Ordinance. An ordinance is an authoritative decree or direction. Protestants generally adhere to two ordinances, baptism (Matt. 28:18-20), and the Lord’s Supper (Luke 22:19). These ordinances are understood to have been instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ, taught by the apostles, and practiced by the early Church. An ordinance is not a means of receiving God’s grace, for grace is free. “But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, ⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; ⁶ Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; ⁷ That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (Titus 3:4-7). An ordinance reflects God’s grace.

Covenant Theology is a system of theology that views God’s dealings with man in respect of covenants rather than dispensations (periods). It represents the whole of Scripture as covenantal in structure and theme. The two main covenants are the covenant of works in the Old Testament made between God and Adam, and the Covenant of Grace between the Father and the Son where the Father promised to give the Son the elect and the Son must redeem them. The covenant(s) have been made before the world was made (Heb. 13:20) (Matt Slick, President, and Founder of the Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry).

Ecclesiology comes from the Greek word *ecclesia*, assembly, and *ology*, study of. The term refers to the study of the Church. As a major area of inquiry in Christian theology, ecclesiology seeks to determine what the Bible teaches about the Church, its origin, purpose, structure, officers, membership, teaching, ordinances, jurisdiction, history, etc.

Incorporeal, without a body; not composed of matter; having no material existence. God is incorporeal. “If God were corporeal, he could not be present in any part of the world where body is; yet his presence is necessary for the support, and, motion of body. A body cannot be in two places at the same time; yet he is everywhere, and fills heaven and earth. A body is to be seen and felt, but God is invisible and impalpable, John 1:18. (*Stephen Charnock’s Works*, vol. i. p. 117, *Buck’s Theological Dictionary*).

Ken, refers to the range of a person’s perception, understanding, knowledge, or sight.

Luther, Martin (Nov. 10, 1483 – Feb. 18, 1546) was a German theologian, trained as an Augustinian monk, whose teaching on the doctrine of justification by faith alone, in Christ alone, based on Romans 1:17, inspired the Reformation which shaped many Protestant teachings and traditions. Luther’s hymns inspired the development of congregational singing in the Church of Jesus Christ. His marriage to Katharine von Bora on June 13, 1525, encouraged the movement of clerical marriage within the Protestant communities of faith.

Metaphor, a literary device by which a word or phrase, literally denoting one kind of object or idea is used in place of another to suggest a likeness or analogy, or comparison between them. In Scripture, the human body is a metaphor for the Church. “Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular” (1 Cor. 12:27).

Nazarene Church. Organized in 1908, the Church of the Nazarene adheres to the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition. The denomination numbers about 2.5 million members who worship in more than 30,000 local congregations in 162 areas in the world.

Outlier. An outlier is a person, or something, that lies outside the main body or group that it is a part of.

Progressive Revelation, is the teaching that “God has revealed Himself and His will through the Scriptures with an increasing clarity as more and more of the Scriptures were written. In other words, the later the writing, the more information is given. Therefore, God reveals knowledge in a progressive and increasing manner throughout the Bible, from the earliest time to later time” (Matt Slick, Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry). The rational concept of progressive revelation finds Scriptural support. There are many teachings “Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit” (Eph. 3:5).

Regulative Principle. In Christian theology, the Regulative Principle of worship teaches that “the public worship of God should include only those elements that are instituted, commanded, or appointed by command or an example in the Bible. In other words, it is the belief that God institutes in Scripture whatever he requires for worship in the Church, and everything else should be avoided.

The “Regulative Principle” is often contrasted with the “Normative Principle” of worship, which teaches that whatever is not prohibited in Scripture is permitted in worship, so long as it is agreeable to the peace and unity of the Church. In other words, there must be agreement with the

general practice of the Church and no prohibition in Scripture for whatever is done in worship (web: Theopedia).

Septuagint (LXX), the Greek version of the Old Testament. According to tradition 70 (or 72) Jewish scholars from Alexandria, Egypt, translated the Hebrew Bible into the Greek language in the third and second centuries B.C. Such a work was necessary, because, by the second and first centuries B. C., the primary language in Israel was Greek. Many of the New Testament quotes from the Hebrew Bible are derived from the Septuagint, a testimony to the accuracy of the work of the translators.

Soteriology is the study of salvation. Soteriology examines how the death of Christ secures the salvation of those who believe. It helps Christians understand the doctrines of redemption, justification, sanctification, propitiation, and the substitutionary atonement.

Transliteration is the process by which letters, or words, are spelled in the corresponding characters of another alphabet. For example, *Hades* is a transliteration of a Greek word meaning “the unseen world” (Matt 11:23; Luke 10:15; Acts 2:27). *Amen* is the transliteration of a Hebrew word meaning “so be it” or “let it be so” (Num 5:22); (*Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary*). The word baptism is the transliteration of a Greek word *baptizo*, to dip, to immerse, submerge; to make overwhelmed (i.e. fully wet); and is associated with water. But the Greek word for baptism also has a metaphorical meaning, “to identify.”

In secular literature, *baptizo* was used this way by Euripides (c. 484-406), a Greek dramatist, by Homer (*The Odyssey*, Ninth book), a Greek poet in the 9th – 8th century BC, and by Herodotus (c. 484-430 BC), the Greek historian. Baptism is a Greek word transliterated instead of translated, which is the cause of much confusion, since several biblical baptisms have nothing to do with water, in contrast to the baptisms that use water. For example, the baptism of the Cross identifies Jesus’ with suffering and a substitutionary death (Luke 12:50). “But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!” The baptism of Moses identified the people of Israel with Moses in the cloud and in the sea. “And were all baptized (*baptizo*) unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea.”

Special Note: The metaphorical sense of baptism is not covered extensively by Dr. Waldrip, though he recognizes its grammatical usage (p. 246). “We will confine our considerations to the literal baptism of the kind that results in its subject becoming wet” (p. 231).

Vicar, one serving as a substitute or agent. Within the Roman Catholic ecclesiastical tradition, the pope is viewed as the vicar of Christ (Lat. *Vicarius Christi*), a title implying his supreme and universal primacy, both of honor and jurisdiction over the church. This unbiblical idea was asserted by Innocent III (c. 1161 – July 16, 1216). During a church dispute, Innocent III insisted he had power as “the Vicar of Christ” to remove bishops.

Zwingli, Huldrych (1484 – 1531) was a Swiss reformer who “found in Holy Scripture not a mere textbook of divine truth, but the powerful work of God that accomplishes what God wills and by which the Holy Spirit brings light and life to those who read it with humility and prayer” (*Who’s Who In Christian History*).

*In writing his important book, *The Church of Jesus Christ*, Dr. Waldrip consistently used a small “c” in the word church when referring to a general assembly. He used a capital “C” when referring to a true Church of Jesus Christ. “I have sought throughout to use capitalized Church to refer to a legitimate Gospel preaching congregation and uncapitalized church to deal with that which I am persuaded are not the Churches of Jesus Christ.” The Leader’s Study Guide has tried to model that format.

Preface

Review

1. What is the twofold objective of Dr. John Waldrip in writing *The Church of Jesus Christ*?
 - Dr. Waldrip's first objective is to set forth the importance of the Church.
 - Dr. Waldrip's second objective is to provide specific Bible reasons and applications to show why and how the Church of Jesus Christ plays such an important role in God's plan for the ages, and ought to play an important role in the life of a Christian.
2. What bonus objective would please Dr. Waldrip?

Answer.

It would please the author to have the reader of this book embrace Baptist convictions.

3. What spiritual fruit followed the conversion of John Waldrip?

Answer.

- There was a voracious appetite for reading the Bible.
- There was a desire to read Christian books.
- Church attendance became a delight, not a duty.
- There was participation in organized Church outreach.

Reflection and Discussion

1. From a human perspective, what can hinder a person from being converted?

Consider.

Failure to clearly understand the gospel can hinder conversion. While it is true that "A child of five, if properly instructed, can truly believe, and be regenerated, as an adult" (Charles Spurgeon), it is also true that many young people are not converted though they respond to a religious invitation to walk down an aisle, say a prayer, and are baptized.

Failure to have the gospel clearly presented can hinder conversion. The popular evangelistic techniques of sharing with a person four spiritual laws and having them say a prayer may necessitate more explanation. Paul shared the essence of the gospel with the Philippian jailer to prevent him from committing suicide, but then proceeded to give him "the word of the Lord." ³¹"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. ³²And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house" (Acts 16:31, 32). The evangelizing Christian should be careful of reducing the gospel to "Four Points and a Prayer."

Failure to be a good example can hinder conversion. The concept of Lifestyle Evangelism has been severely criticized by concerned Christians, but the concept should not be dismissed. Christian men who are too effeminate misrepresent the manliness of Christ, which can be repulsive. Christian women who are too masculine can become an ineffective witness for Christ. Therefore, “ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives” (1 Peter 3:1).

Since salvation is of the Lord, men, and women, and even fallen angels can hinder conversion, but not prevent it. “The Lord of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand” (Isaiah 14:24).

2. Would you agree that Ecclesiology, or the study of the doctrine of the Church, is not a cardinal doctrine of the Christian faith? Why?

Consider.

Webster’s Dictionary defines cardinal: “of prime importance; chief; principal.” Examine what the author of Hebrews defines as the chief or foundational doctrines of Christ. “¹ Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, ² Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ³ And this will we do, if God permit” (Heb. 6:1-16).

3. What spiritual fruit should be manifested in the life of a professing Christian? Be specific.

Consider.

“²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. ²⁴ And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts” (Gal. 5:22-24).

4. Is there a difference between Baptist convictions and Bible convictions? Explain.

Consider.

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3). If there is “the faith” the Church is to contend for, as opposed to “a faith”, then, every believer must strive for Biblical convictions while recognizing there are theological biases from the various religious institutions. “Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind” (Rom. 14:5), but let every Christian also strive for the unity of faith. “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1).

Personal Application

1. Consider your own salvation experience. Make your calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10).
2. Make certain spiritual fruit is being produced in your life.
3. If possible, secure a copy of *The Genesis Flood* by Henry M. Morris and John C. Whitcomb, Jr.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“I love your Church, O Lord!
Her saints before you stand,
dear as the apple of your eye
and graven on your hand.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways,
her sweet communion, solemn vows,
her hymns of love and praise.

I love your Church, O God,
the people you have called,
the Church our blest Redeemer saved
with His own precious blood.”

Timothy Dwight

Scripture Memorization

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).

Heartwork

1. I know I am born again, having been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. True ____ False ____
2. I have been examined according to gospel terms to see whether I am in the sphere of saving grace (2 Cor. 13:5). True ____ False ____
3. There is evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in my life. True ____ False ____
4. There is love in my heart. True ____ False ____
5. There is joy unspeakable. True ____ False ____
6. There is peace that surpasses all understanding. True ____ False ____

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| 7. There is longsuffering. | True ____ False ____ |
| 8. There is gentleness. | True ____ False ____ |
| 9. There is goodness. | True ____ False ____ |
| 10. There is faith. | True ____ False ____ |
| 11. There is meekness. | True ____ False ____ |
| 12. There is temperance (self-control). | True ____ False ____ |

Introduction

Review

1. What useful perspective can a person who is an outlier provide to a situation?

Answer.

An outlier can observe and evaluate a bit more objectively than individuals who are caught up in the group dynamic.

2. What is one positive and one negative result of being a Christian outlier?

Answer.

- One positive benefit of being a Christian outlier is the ability to examine calmly certain problems objectively.
- One negative result of being a Christian outlier is the difficulty of forming close human bonds, and perhaps the loss of close comradery.

3. In what three ways can a person who has not grown up in a religious environment challenge a traditional Christian?

Answer.

- A traditional Christian can be challenged to rethink critically through accepted religious dogma.
- A traditional Christian can be challenged to be more conscious of applying what is studied in Scripture.
- A traditional Christian can be challenged not to take for granted their spiritual legacy.

Consider.

Succeeding generational Christian households should be able to say, “We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work thou didst in their days, in the times of old” (Psalm 44:1).

4. What is meant by a “freelance Christianity”?

Answer.

A “freelance Christianity” refers to a form of Christianity that is divorced from an informed and illuminated appreciation of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Consider.

The command of God comes. “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).

Reflection and Discussion

1. Can a person who is an outlier be identified in society, or the local Church? How?

Consider.

An outlier might engage in different behavior, hold unique beliefs, and engage in religious practices other than those in the mainstream of society. Many outliers have been very successful in various fields of their choice.

2. Should a person who is self-aware of being an outlier seek to change? Why?

Consider.

Whatever temperament a person has by nature, it is fundamentally altered by the New Birth. “Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17). It is the intention of the Holy Spirit to conform the people of God into the image of Christ. “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren” (Rom. 8:29). Because of Christ, any person can live, love others intimately, and hope again.

3. Discuss the following maxim: “All Bible doctrine should be practiced, and all practice should be doctrinal.” Would you agree? Why?
4. How can a Christian determine what is a “cardinal doctrine” and what is only a “molehill?”

Consider.

A careful reading of the Bible is essential to understanding the cardinal doctrines of the Church. Many are easy to discern, such as the natural depravity of man, the virgin birth, the divinity of Christ, His substitutionary death, His death, burial, and resurrection. Knowing Church history is important.

Personal Application

1. Make a study of human temperament as revealed in Scripture, as understood by the Puritans, and as presented today by contemporary Christians, such as Jay Adams or Martin and Diedre Bobgan. If interested in understanding an outlier from a secular perspective, there is the work, *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcom Gladwell. The author examined several individuals who have enjoyed creative success in life. He has observed some distinct characteristics associated with outliers and drawn some interesting if controversial conclusions.
2. Study in Scripture the type of man or woman God would have you to be. *The Measure of a Man* by Gene A. Getz has blessed many. Gene A. Getz has also written, *The Measure of A Woman*.

3. Be willing to listen to and consider the views of a person of different theological persuasion.
4. Be willing to reevaluate what you believe and why.
5. “Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” 1 Peter 3:15).

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“I know not why God’s wondrous grace
To me He hath made known,
Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love
Redeemed me for His own.

But “I know Whom I have believed,
And am persuaded that He is able
To keep that which I’ve committed
Unto Him against that day.”

I know not how this saving faith
To me He did impart,
Nor how believing in His Word
Wrought peace within my heart.

I know not how the Spirit moves,
Convincing men of sin,
Revealing Jesus through the Word,
Creating faith in Him.”

Daniel W. Whittle

Scripture Memorization

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law” (Psalm 119:18).

Heartwork

1. I know what I believe and why. True ____ False ____
2. I am ready to listen to an alternative point of view for “iron sharpeneth iron” (Prov. 27:17). True ____ False ____
3. I am prone to be emotional and defensive, and make a mountain out of a molehill. True ____ False ____

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| 4. I enjoy studying the Bible. | True ____ False ____ |
| 5. I am indifferent about knowing Church history. | True ____ False ____ |
| 6. I am careless in regular attendance of worship services. | True ____ False ____ |
| 7. My mind is made up. I know what I believe. That is all that matters. | True ____ False ____ |
| 8. I do not like to hear anything outside of my comfort zone. | True ____ False ____ |
| 9. I am not comfortable discussing my religious beliefs. | True ____ False ____ |
| 10. I am very uncomfortable around outliers. | True ____ False ____ |

Chapter One
“I Disagree!”
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST: ITS MYSTERY”

Review

1. What are the five main propositions presented in Chapter One for consideration?

Answer.

- The Doctrine of the Church is not a Cardinal Doctrine.
- The Doctrine of the Church is an Important Doctrine.
- The Doctrine of the Church is a Spiritual Doctrine.
- The Doctrine of the Church is a Mystery Doctrine.
- The Doctrine of the Church Requires Spiritual Illumination to Understand.

2. What is the attitude of a non-Christian towards a cardinal doctrine?

Answer.

Non-Christians reject every cardinal doctrine as being true.

3. How many cardinal doctrines are held to be essential by most protestant groups, according to the website, RELIGIOUSTOLERANCE.ORG?

Answer.

Accord to the website, RELIGIOUSTOLERANCE.ORG, most Protestant groups adhere to twelve (12) cardinal Christian doctrines held to be essential

4. List four Baptist confessions of faith.

Answer.

	Date
• First London Baptist Confession of Faith	1646
• Second London Baptist Confession of Faith	1689
• Philadelphia Baptist Confession of Faith	1742
• New Hampshire Baptist Confession of Faith	1833

5. What is declared to be missing from each of these historic Baptist documents?

Answer.

There is no clear mention of core beliefs that distinguish Christians from non-Christians.

6. What point is Dr. Waldrip seeking to establish?

Answer.

Apart from the Catholic Church and the various Orthodox Churches, the author is unaware of any Christian group or any Christian theologian, or commentator, be they Baptist, or otherwise, who maintains that the doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ is a cardinal doctrine of the Christian faith.

7. What is meant when the statement is made that the doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ is not a cardinal doctrine?

Answer.

The statement means that the doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ is not a doctrine that is related to whether or not a person goes to heaven when they die.

8. Why should the doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ be important to a Christian?

Answer.

The doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ should be important to a Christian because it is important to God.

9. In what two ways can spirituality be evaluated?

Answer.

First, spirituality can be evaluated by considering the essence of an object in its physical dimension.

Consider.

Angels are incorporeal, which is to say, not physical. Their essence is spiritual. They do not consist of matter. In contrast, humans are corporeal, for they have a physical body comprised of matter: atoms and molecules of various types.

Second, spirituality can be evaluated by considering the connection something has to that which is eternal. God is eternal, God is spirit, and the Church of Jesus Christ is connected to Him.

Consider.

The Church of Jesus Christ is spiritual because there is a relationship to the living Lord, who is seated in the heavenlies. God has “raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:6).

10. Provide a twofold definition of a biblical mystery.

Answer.

- **First Definition.** A mystery in the biblical sense is understood to be something beyond the realm of human reason or something that only those to whom it is revealed can comprehend.
- **Second Definition.** A biblical mystery refers to some important truth hidden in former times but now manifested or revealed.

11. List seven biblical mysteries. Write out Scriptural support for each mystery.

Answer.

- **The Gospel is a mystery.** “And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel” (Eph. 6:19).
- **The incarnation of Christ is a mystery.** “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory” (1 Tim. 3:16).
- **The resurrection is a mystery.** “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed” (1 Cor. 15:51).
- **Sin is a mystery.** “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way” (2 Thess. 2:7).
- **Faith is a mystery.** “Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience” (1 Tim. 3:9).
- **The will of God is a mystery.** “Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself” (Eph. 1:9).
- **The mystery of the role the Gentiles have in the Christian dispensation.** “¹ For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, ² If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: ³ How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, ⁴ Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)... ⁶ That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel” (Eph. 3:1-4, 6).

12. In what sense is the doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ a mystery doctrine?

Answer.

The doctrine of the Church of Jesus is a mystery doctrine because it is something beyond the “ken” of the natural understanding, and intelligible only by special divine instruction.

13. Briefly identify the five leaders of the congregation in the Church that was in Antioch, where Barnabas brought Paul to serve early in his Christian life.

Answer.

- Barnabas, the son of consolation.
- Simeon, whose nickname was Niger, meaning black. Simeon was a black African and therefore, a Gentile believer.
- Lucius of Cyrene came from the northern coast of Africa. He was probably a Gentile believer.
- Manaen, was raised with Herod the tetrarch. He might have been an Idumean like Herod, or perhaps a Roman.
- Saul, from the tribe of Benjamin, became the Apostle Paul.

14. What happens when the mystery of the Church, which unites Jews and Gentiles together by faith in Christ, followed by believer's baptism, is allowed to function properly?

Answer.

- Racial distinctions are set aside.
- Cultural differences are set aside.
- Religious distinctives are set aside.

15. Why is the unsaved person without hope of apprehending some aspects of spiritual truth/?

Answer.

The unsaved person will not be able to apprehend aspects of spiritual truth because the Holy Spirit will teach some things only to those He indwells, meaning those who are spiritually alive.

16. Why do some Christians not apprehend some aspects of spiritual truth?

Answer.

- Some believers are harboring known sins that grieve and quench the Spirit to the point that He will not bless them with instruction about the mystery of the Church of Jesus Christ so long as they cling to their sin.
- Some believers who are spiritual are not studious, and so do not apprehend certain truths of the Bible.

17. What social stain was still strong among the Protestants of Europe during the Protestant Reformation?

Answer.

Anti-Semitism remained strong among many Protestants in Europe during the early years of the Protestant Reformation.

18. What is a glorious thing to have in common with another person?

Answer.

It is a glorious thing to have Christ in common with another person.

Consider.

The Savior should be all the believer needs to have enough in common to join with other believers to worship and to serve God in peace and harmony. “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God” (1 John 4:7).

Reflection and Discussion

1. Because of the conflicting number of cardinal doctrines held to be essential by diverse Confessions of Faith and religious leaders, can a Christian ever be certain about the precise number of cardinal doctrines in Christian theology? Does it matter? Why?
2. Are you aware of any Christian group, or any Christian theologian, or commentator, be they Baptist or otherwise, who maintains that the doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ is a cardinal doctrine of the Christian faith?
3. Discuss how it is possible that the very thing which Christ loved, and gave His life for, and purchased with His own blood, is not a cardinal doctrine of Christian theology. Explain.

Consider.

With others, Dr. Waldrip maintains that while the doctrine of the Church is important to God, while it is mentioned 114 times, and while it is said by Jesus to be His possession, it is still not a *cardinal* doctrine because “it isn’t saving.” The doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ is to be considered an “adiaphora” (Gk. indifferent things), a matter not regarded as essential to the faith.

Personal Application

1. Immerse yourself in the story of the Christian Church. Pay special attention to the Protestant Reformation, the First Great Awakening, the Second Great Awakening, the revival of 1859, in New York, and Belfast spilling over into London. Study the Welsh Revival (1904-1905), the Korean Revival of 1907-1910, and the Isle of Lewis (Scottish Hebrides) Revival of 1949-1952.

2. Study the lives of George Whitefield, John Wesley, Jonathan Edwards, Asahel Nettleton, Charles Spurgeon, Evan Roberts, William Blair, and Duncan Campbell.
3. Seek out believers of different theological persuasions to worship and to serve God with inner peace and harmony. Enjoy the glory of having Christ in common with another person.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“Open my eyes that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit Divine!”

Clara H. Scott

Scripture Memorization

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” (Acts 20:28).

Heartwork

1. The Doctrine of the Church is not a cardinal doctrine.
2. The Doctrine of the Church is an important doctrine.
3. The Doctrine of the Church is a spiritual doctrine.
4. The Doctrine of the Church is a mystery doctrine.
5. The Doctrine of the Church requires spiritual illumination to understand.

Please Mark Your Answer

Agree ____ Disagree ____

Agree ____ Disagree ____

Agree ____ Disagree ____

Agree ____ Disagree ____

Agree ____ Disagree ____

Chapter Two

“De Facto to You, Too!”

“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST: ITS IDENTITY”

Review

1. What were two summary truths presented in the first chapter about the Church?

Answer.

- The First Summary Truth. The Church of Jesus Christ is a mystery, meaning something known to the mind of God to be revealed at the appropriate time.
- The Second Summary Truth. The Church of Jesus Christ is a spiritual matter, in that the decisions reached by Church congregations reverberate in heaven.

2. What is the primary reason for the creation of the Church?

Answer.

The primary reason for the creation of the Church is to glorify God in Christ.

3. What five truths will be revealed by knowing the identity of the Church?

Answer.

- The identity of the Church will reveal to whom it belongs.
- The identity of the Church will reveal who owns it.
- The identity of the Church will reveal who created it.
- The identity of the Church will reveal who rightfully possesses it.
- The identity of the Church will reveal who ought to control it.

4. Why is there so much confusion about the Church of Jesus Christ?

Answer.

There is so much confusion about the Church of Jesus Christ because of the many competing views about the Church.

Consider.

Conflicting views of the Church of Jesus Christ have been set forth by the Roman Catholics, the various Orthodox churches (Greek, Russian, Ukrainian, Romanian, and Armenian), the Anglicans (Episcopalians), the cults (Mormons, Seventh Day Adventists, etc.), and even the Muslims.

5. Define two Latin phrases: *de facto*, *de jure*.

Answer.

- *De facto*, literally, “from the fact.”
- *De jure*, literally, “sanctioned by law.”

6. What is the primary way to know the will of God?

Answer.

The primary way to know the will of God is to know the Word of God.

Consider.

“¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Tim. 2:16-17).

7. Provide six facts showing that Jesus is the rightful Leader of the Church.

Answer.

- Jesus Christ is the Creator of the Church.
- Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church.
- Jesus Christ provides direction to the Churches on how to deal with sin in their midst.
- Jesus Christ possesses all authority in heaven and on earth.
- Jesus Christ gives to the Church her marching orders (Great Commission, Church conduct etc.).
- Jesus Christ is the One who holds the spiritual leaders of the Church accountable.

8. What two summary propositions have been covered in this second chapter?

Answer.

- There is the *de facto* ownership of the Church of Jesus Christ.
- There is the *de jure* ownership of the Church of Jesus Christ.

9. When is the legal Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, shown to be the practical, and the actual Head of the Church?

Answer.

When the Church functions as an executive body according to Biblical principles and practices, Jesus Christ is shown to be the practical and actual Head of the Church.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Do we live in a Post-Modern world whereby truth and reality are understood to be individually shaped by personal history, social class, gender, culture, and religion? What is the evidence?

Consider.

Despite being told by Secular Humanists that we now live in a Post-Modern world where there is “your” truth, and “my” truth, the ultimate reality is that truth is truth. No Post-Modernist actually lives by their own philosophy, reflected in the first red light they come to while driving a car. If a Post-Modernist tried to implement their relative truth, such as believing they can run through a red light without negative consequences, they would soon be in for a rude reality check. No Secular Humanist wants to fly on an airplane designed by competing engineers with their own version of “truth” while working out the mathematical calculations for the plane. “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness” (1 Cor. 3:19).

2. For a Christian, is there a dramatic distinction between the sacred and the secular? “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31-33).

3. Comment on the following situations.

- Should the Church of Jesus Christ decide who is, and who is not a saint? Yes ____ No ____ Why?
- Should the Church of Jesus Christ depart from the clear instructions of the Bible? Yes ____ No ____ Why?
- Should the Church of Jesus Christ decide if it is sinful or not for some to marry someone else? Yes ____ No ____ Why?
- Should the Church of Jesus Christ decide if a man is Spiritually qualified to be a deacon? Yes ____ No ____ Why?
- Should the Church of Jesus Christ decide if a man is spiritually qualified to be an elder (pastor, bishop)? Yes ____ No ____ Why?
- Should the Church of Jesus Christ decide matters of right and wrong, instead of going to secular courts of law before unbelievers (1 Cor. 6:1-6). Yes ____ No ____ Why?

4. The Roman Catholic Church has a long-held view that *it* is the Church of Jesus Christ, the true visible church of Jesus Christ. Discuss why the Roman Catholic Church would say such a thing.

Consider.

The Roman Catholic Church is not alone in its exclusive self-image. There are non-Catholic faith traditions which insist *their* particular group, with *their* distinct doctrine, constitutes the true visible Church of Jesus, such as the Mormons, some of the Plymouth Brethren, the Adventists, the Jehovah Witnesses, and believers in the “Baptist Bride” (Landmarkism, c. 1851). What would be a proper response to people of such persuasion? While they can all be wrong in the belief of being the only true visible Church of Jesus Christ, they cannot all be right.

“The Local Church,” said the Chinese man, Witness Lee, “is the only true visible Church of Jesus Christ. When we were in the denominations, we were blind. I do not believe that any dear Christians who have really received sight from the Lord could still remain in the denominations. Everyone who sees must leave the fold and enter the pasture, under the sunshine, in the fresh air, in liberty. Where are you now? Are you in the fold, or are you now in the pasture? Allow me to say this: if anyone is still in the fold, he is blind. Of course, a blind person requires the fold to keep him. But when he receives his sight, he will swiftly leave the fold for the pasture, for the sunshine, for the fresh air.” (Witness Lee, *Christ Versus Religion* LSM, 197,1 p.109-110).

In all of this, Witness Lee meant, The Local Church that agreed with his distinct doctrinal teachings, which in turn reflected the thoughts of Watchman Nee (*The Morning Star; The Christian; The Normal Christian Life; Sit, Walk, Stand*, etc.).

One thing that should be said to everyone is this: “But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another” (Gal. 5:15).

“They drew a circle that shut me out,
Rebel! Heretic! A thing to flout.
But Love and I had the wit to win.
We drew a circle that took them in.”

Jesus said, “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you” (John 15:12).

5. Would you agree that it is not the Church of Jesus Christ that decides what is right or wrong, for the Lord Jesus has already decided all spiritual matters to guide His Church by His Word, and through His Spirit?

Consider.

It is the responsibility of the Church of Jesus Christ to execute the known will of the Lord in all matters of life, not to decide them.

6. Are there some ways that churches today “announce” that Jesus Christ is the “*de jure*” head over His Church when He is not?

Consider.

When a conflict arises in many local churches, an appeal is immediately made to a legal document, such as a church constitution, rather than the Word of God to address the dispute. In other situations, a strong personality can arise to become the *de facto* leader of the congregation as the known will of God in His Word, and by His Spirit, is disregarded.

Personal Application

1. When reading through the New Testament, identify in one of three ways those passages which speak of the Church of Jesus Christ.
 - Ownership
 - Intention
 - Instruction
2. Be careful not to declare something sinful, when it is a matter of preference, and not a settled principle of Scripture.
3. Recognize, and submit to the Lordship of Christ in all matters, for He alone is the *de jure* leader and should be the *de facto* leader of His Church.
4. Do not support anyone who moves to function as a *de facto* leader of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heav’nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king
Through all eternity.”

George J. Elvey

Scripture Memorization

“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence” (Col. 1:18).

Heartwork

1. Jesus Christ should be the *de facto* owner of the Church. True ____ False ____
2. Jesus Christ is the *de jure* owner of the Church. True ____ False ____
3. The Church of Jesus Christ is supposed to be limited to executive actions. True ____ False ____
4. The Church of Jesus Christ is without any authority to legislate in spiritual matters. True ____ False ____

Chapter Three
“He Created The Church When?”
“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST: ITS ORIGIN”

Review

1. What is Dr. Waldrip’s goal in this third chapter?

Answer.

The goal of this chapter is to evaluate precisely the creation, the bringing into existence of the Church of Jesus Christ.

2. What three questions will be answered in this third chapter?

Answer.

- Who Created the Church of Jesus Christ?
- When Was the Church of Jesus Christ Created?
- What was the Church of Jesus Christ Created From?

3. How is Christ’s relationship to His Church described by Paul in Ephesians 5:23-33?

Answer.

Christ’s relationship to His Church as that of a groom to his bride. Christ is the Bridegroom; the Church is the Bride of Christ.

4. What is the strongest evidence that the Church of Jesus Christ was brought into existence before His crucifixion?

Answer.

Based on Luke 6:12-16, 1 Corinthians 12:28, and Ephesians 3:20, it is evident that the Church was established on the foundations of the apostles, who were themselves appointed by the Lord Jesus Christ during His ministry.

5. What is the almost universally held belief among evangelical Christians as to when the Church of Jesus Christ was created?

Answer.

It is the almost universally held belief among evangelical Christians that Jesus Christ brought the Church into existence on the Day of Pentecost.

6. What did happen on the Day of Pentecost, if not the occasion of the Church's founding?

Answer.

The Day of Pentecost was the occasion of the Church's empowering.

7. What is the three-fold evidence the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ existed prior to the Day of Pentecost? Provide Scriptural support.

Answer.

- Prior to the Day of Pentecost, the Church assembled: "And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me" (Acts 1:4).
- Prior to the Day of Pentecost, the Church assembled for prayer and supplication: "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren" (Acts 1:14).
- Prior to the Day of Pentecost, the Church attended to the important matter of selecting a replacement for Judas Iscariot: "²³ And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, ²⁵ That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. ²⁶ And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles" (Acts 1:23-26).

8. With what material was the Church of Jesus Christ built?

Answer.

- The Lord Jesus Christ instituted His Church with men who professed to have repented.
- The Lord Jesus Christ instituted His Church with men who were immersed.
- The Lord Jesus Christ instituted His Church with men who followed Him.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Are there other images in the New Testament which describe the relationship of Christ to the Church? Provide Scriptural support.

Consider.

- Christ is the Good Shepherd, and Christians are the sheep of His pasture: “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep” (John 10:11).
- Christ is the Vine, and believers are the branches: “I am the vine, ye are the branches” (John 15:1).
- Christ is the Chief Cornerstone on which the Church is built: “Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded” (1 Peter 2:6).
- Christ is the High Priest, and the Church is a kingdom of Priests: “Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people” (Heb. 2:17). “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (1 Peter 2:9).
- Christ is the Head of the Church, which is the Body: “But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ” (Eph. 4:15).

The common theme in each image of the relationship between Christ and the Church is that of an intimate unity.

2. Is there a danger in trying to make dramatic distinctions in the Bible that are not warranted? What is that danger?

Consider.

Some Christian authors have found a dramatic distinction between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven, the Day of the Lord and the Day of Christ, the Gospel of the Kingdom and the Gospel of Christ, etc. Other Christian authors believe these are distinctions without a difference.

3. When Jesus spoke in the future tense and said to Peter, “upon this rock I will build my church” (Matt. 16:18), did that negate the possibility of the present existence of the church? Why?

Consider.

A man who has created a thriving and successful business might say to his child, “Son, one day I will build my business upon you.” That would not necessarily suggest the business did not presently exist.

If the Church of Jesus Christ was established prior to the crucifixion, if the apostles were already identified and appointed during the early ministry of Jesus after a night of prayer (Luke 6:12-15), and if the Savior provided instructions for the Church to properly deal with matters of sin and reconciliation shortly after His pronouncement to Peter (Matt. 18:15-20), then the Church of Jesus Christ “at that time already existed.”

4. If the Church of Jesus Christ did not start with Adam, and the righteous posterity of the Old Testament era, if the Church of Jesus Christ did not start on the Day of Pentecost, as many evangelicals believe, if the Church of Jesus Christ was still future when Jesus spoke to Peter in Matthew 16:18, when exactly did the Church begin? Who were the first members of the first *ecclesia*? Provide Scriptural support.
5. When Paul informs the Ephesian Church, they “are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone” (Eph. 2:20), does he have in mind the Old Testament prophets or prophets of the New Testament? Explain.
6. Would you agree that there is no support found in Scripture for the idea the Church is comprised of saved individuals since the time of Adam? Why is this idea wrong?

Consider.

Observation: A large segment of Baptist tradition, in agreement with the reasoning of covenant theologians on this point, has supported the idea that the Church “consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fulness of him that fills all in all.” The *1689 Baptist Confession of Faith*, written by Particular Baptists, appeals to Hebrews 12:23; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:10, 22-23; and Ephesians 5:23, 27, 32 for Scriptural support.

Personal Application

1. Avoid any personal “*Eureka!*” moment, whereby something is discovered in Scripture that no one else has ever seen. It is the *historic* faith that must be protected from any contemporary faith. It is the Word of God which lives and abides forever. “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isaiah 40:8). Liberation Theology, Self-Esteem Theology, Liberalism, Modernism, New Age Ideas, Modernity, and all the rest shall pass away, but not the Word of God.
2. Be careful about making dramatic distinctions in the Word of God, where none exists. “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).
3. Remember the love of Jesus. The Bride of Christ is loved by her Bridegroom, and His banner over me is love (Song of Sol. 2:4). Martin Luther said that salvation consists of personal pronouns. It is one thing to say, “Jesus loves sinners.” It is far more precious to say, “Jesus loves me.”

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?”

John Rippon

Scripture Memorization

“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 3:11).

Heartwork

1. The Church of Jesus Christ was brought into existence by the Lord Himself. True ____ False ____
2. The Church of Jesus Christ was brought into existence prior to the Crucifixion of Jesus. True ____ False ____
3. I have repented before God and turned from sin to the Savior. True ____ False ____
4. I have been baptized by immersion. I have been buried with Christ in the likeness of His death. I have been raised up in the likeness of His resurrection to walk in the newness of life. True ____ False ____
5. I am committed to following after the Lord Jesus Christ in gospel obedience. True ____ False ____

Chapter Four
“The Church Can’t Mean That!”
“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST: ITS MEANING”

Review

1. Define what is mean by *ex nihilo* concerning the original creation.

Answer.

God created *ex nihilo* (Latin, out of nothing) all that now is.

2. Who was the immediate agent in bringing forth this universe’s beginning? Provide Scriptural support.

Answer.

It was the Second Person of the Godhead who was the immediate agent of this universe’s beginning: “All things were made by him [Christ]; and without him was not anything made that was made” (John 1:2).

3. What foundational societal unit did God create within a covenant relationship?

Answer.

God created the human family, consisting of one man and one woman brought together in the Garden of Eden in a covenant relationship.

4. What was the third expression of God’s creative work?

Answer.

After creating the universe and all that therein is, and after creating the family unit, marriage, God created Israel.

5. From which Jewish tribe was the Lord Jesus Christ, in His humanity, descended?

Answer.

In His humanity, the Lord Jesus Christ was born into the Jewish tribe of Judah.

6. What two tasks did the Son of the living God accomplish during His earthly ministry?

Answer.

First, the Lord Jesus Christ created the Church of Jesus Christ.

Second, the Lord Jesus Christ took upon Himself the sins of others, offered Himself a sinless sacrifice for those sins, and conquered sin, death, Hell, and the grave by His glorious victory of the resurrection. He then ascended to His Father’s right hand, where He is presently enthroned until the time of His second coming in power and great glory.

7. What is the four-fold division made in this fourth chapter in the study of the word *Ecclesia*?

Answer.

- The Pre-Christian Conception of the Word *Ecclesia*
- The Savior's Conception of the Word *Ecclesia*
- The Apostolic Conception of the Word *Ecclesia*
- The Erroneous Conception of the Word *Ecclesia*

8. What was the common Greek usage of the word *ecclesia*?

Answer.

The word *ecclesia*, used by Greeks before the time of Christ, explicitly referred to a group of people who gathered as an assembly.

9. How did the Jewish people understand the term *ecclesia*?

Answer.

As used in the Septuagint, the term *ecclesia* was used to refer to the assembled people or congregation of God.

10. What is missing from the Greek and Jewish conception of the term *ecclesia*?

Answer.

The idea of the *ecclesia* being an abstraction is missing from the Greek and Jewish usage of the word.

11. How many times did the Lord Jesus Christ use the term *ecclesia* during His earthly ministry?

Answer.

The use of the term *ecclesia*, by the Lord Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry is recorded twice: Matthew 16:18 and Matthew 18:17.

Consider.

The term *ecclesia* is used in nineteen verses in Revelation.

12. In how many verses is the word church used in the Acts and the epistles?

Answer.

In the Acts and the epistles, the word translated church is used in ninety verses.

13. What does Dr. Waldrip contend regarding the word *ecclesia*?

Answer.

Dr. Waldrip contends that no proper understanding of the word *ecclesia*, as it is used in the Bible, allows for it to be understood, except as a concrete term for actual congregations or concerning the Church as an institution.

14. How is the term *ecclesia* not used in the New Testament?

Answer.

Dr. Waldrip contends the term *ecclesia* is not used in the New Testament as a descriptive term to refer to all Christians, to an invisible group of all believers.

15. Provide a concise definition of the Church.

Answer.

The church is a body of born again, scripturally baptized believers in Jesus Christ, who have been brought together by God to worship, to serve, to administer the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and to engage in fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Why is it important that the physical locations where Christians gather for fellowship and spiritual work and worship be recognized as an assembly hall or auditorium?
2. What significance should be attached to the word *ecclesia*, being used to refer to a specific assembly or assemblies?
3. If the word *ecclesia* was used by the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 16:18 for "the concept of the Church as an institution," was that not an abstract use of the word?

Consider.

Observation. Concept, *noun*: 1. something conceived in the mind: THOUGHT, NOTION 2: an abstract or generic idea generalized from particular instances (Merriam-Webster Dictionary).

4. Should a new convert to Christ, in a remote tribe in the jungles of Papua New Guinea, or in a dessert Muslim village in Afghanistan, not consider themselves part of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ until there is a visible body of born again, scripturally baptized believers in Jesus Christ who have been brought together by God to worship, to serve, to administer the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and to engage in fulfillment of the Great Commission? Why?

Should a professing Christian who has not formally united in membership with a local assembly say they are part of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ? Why?

Consider.

Though a new convert to Christ, in an isolated setting should not say they are a member of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, until there is a visible body of born again, scripturally baptized

believers in Jesus Christ who have been brought together by God to worship, to serve, to administer the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and to engage in fulfillment of the Great Commission, the new convert can immediately say, "I am a Christian," "I am a child of God," "I am a member of the family of God." The new convert can say they are saved "through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5).

In like manner, a person who has not joined a local assembly should not say they are part of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, though they can claim to be a Christian.

Personal Application

1. Remember that any reference to the Church, in the New Testament, does not refer to a literal building or a physical structure.
2. Do not neglect your responsibilities to the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

"O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!"

Carl Boberg

Scripture Memorization

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Heb. 10:25).

Heartwork

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. I am faithful in attending the services when the Church gathers. | True ____ False ____ |
| 2. I understand what it means to be born again. | True ____ False ____ |
| 3. I encourage every Christian to be baptized. | True ____ False ____ |
| 4. "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." | True ____ False ____ |
| 5. I enjoy worship. | True ____ False ____ |
| 6. I love to serve the saints. | True ____ False ____ |
| 7. I enjoy taking the Lord's Supper. | True ____ False ____ |
| 8. I am actively engaged in acts of personal evangelism. | True ____ False ____ |

Chapter Five

“How Does a Christian Become a Church Member?”

“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST: ITS MEMBERSHIP”

Review

1. List four summary conclusions Dr. Waldrup makes about the Church of Jesus Christ.

Answer.

- The Church of Jesus Christ is an assembly.
- The Church of Jesus Christ is an assembly that is, in some ways a mystery.
- The Church of Jesus Christ is a spiritual assembly, in that it impacts heaven and eternity.
- The Church of Jesus Christ was formed by the Lord Jesus Christ using His twelve apostles during His earthly ministry.

2. What three considerations are related to membership in the Church of Jesus Christ?

Answer.

- Establishing the Existence of Church Membership in the New Testament
- Establishing the Method of Becoming a Church Member in the New Testament
- Examining Some Reinforcing Passages

3. How is Church membership first shown, and Scripturally illustrated?

Answer.

Membership is a concept that is first shown by discipline. Membership is illustrated in Scripture by the words of Jesus (Matt. 18:15-20), and in the actions of the Corinthian believers towards a wayward Christian (1 Cor. 5:1-13).

4. How is the concept of Church membership shown in Scripture by joining?

Answer.

In the Acts of the Apostles, we find several key references to joining a Church, a significant example being Acts 9:26-28 when Saul tried to join “the disciples” – the term for the community of professing believers. It was only when Barnabas spoke for Saul before the leaders of the Church that he was able to join them (Peter Masters, *Church Membership In The Bible*).

5. Summarize how Scripture establishes Church membership in three ways.

Answer.

- Church membership is established by the teaching of Jesus (Matthew 18:15-20).
- Church membership is established by the direction of the Apostle Paul (1 Cor. 5:1-13).
- Church membership is established by the example of Saul, who became Paul, wanting to join the Jerusalem Church in a sense far beyond that of merely attending public services (Acts 9:26-28).

6. What does the Greek word for join mean?

Answer.

The Greek word means to glue, stick, or cement two things together, and it always signifies a very close dependence or bond.

7. What is the process that is supposed to happen to join a Church?

Answer.

- First, the sinner responds to the Gospel of God's grace and trusts Jesus Christ to the saving of his eternal and undying soul.
- Second, a qualified candidate for believer baptism goes public with his profession of faith.

8. What are the four kinds of gifted men the Lord Jesus Christ gave to His Church?

Answer.

- Apostles.
- Prophets.
- Evangelists.
- Pastor-teachers.

9. What must accompany instruction?

Answer.

Instruction in righteousness must be followed by obedience, in response to the direction that is being given, to the duties to be assigned, and to the tasks to be performed

10. How were the Ephesian believers not to see one another?

Answer.

The Ephesian believers were not to see one another as an ill-defined gaggle.

11. How were the Ephesian believers to see one another?

Answer.

The Ephesian believers were to see one another as a community coming together before letting personal whims and desires take over: “Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God” (Eph. 5:21).

12. How does the situation in Corinth demonstrate the importance of Church membership?

Answer.

The most serious response the Corinthian congregation could exhibit, when dealing with a sinning member’s refusal to repent, was to deprive him of his membership.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Dr. Waldrip contends that the Lord Jesus Christ constituted His Church with twelve men, called apostles, several of whom appear to have been initially disciples of John the Baptist, who baptized them.

Question. During His earthly ministry, did the Lord Jesus Christ add to His Church, since it was formally constituted prior to His crucifixion, as He did on the Day of Pentecost? If not, why? If so, who was added to the Church?

- Was John the Baptist added to the Church? Yes ____ No ____ Why?
- Was Nicodemus added to the Church? Yes ____ No ____ Why?
- Was the paralytic man, whose sins were forgiven, added to the Church? Yes ____ No ____ Why?
- Was the centurion at the cross added to the Church? Yes ____ No ____ Why?
- Was the repentant thief on the cross added to the Church? Yes ____ No ____ Why?
- Was the Philippian jailer added to the Church? Yes ____ No ____ Why?
- Was Lydia added to the Church? Yes ____ No ____ Why?
- Was Cornelius added to the Church? Yes ____ No ____ Why?

Consider.

The Lord Jesus must have added to the Church such as should be saved during His earthly ministry, for instruction in discipline, outlined in Matthew 18:15-20. The passage presupposes Christians meeting in an assembly to hear matters of concern.

2. Can a born-again Christian *not* be a member of the Church of Jesus Christ? How is this possible?

Consider.

Dr. Waldrup would say that a Christian can choose to be a part of the assembly known as a Church of Jesus Christ. Conversely, a Christian can choose not to be part of the assembly known as a Church of Jesus Christ. Comment on 1 John 2:19. “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.”

Personal Application

1. Take the matter of Church membership as seriously as the New Testament does.
2. Take the matter of quitting the Church to go somewhere else seriously.
3. Be totally committed to the Church of Jesus Christ.
4. Recognize the spiritually gifted men the Lord Jesus has given to the Church, and sing the doxology at their ordination, as they kneel, and wait for hands to be laid on them in prayer. If the doxology can be sung over money received, it can be sung over spiritual men received by the Church as a gift of the Lord.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

Praise God the Father who’s the source;
Praise God the Son who is the course;
Praise God the Spirit who’s the flow;
Praise God, our portion here below!”

Scripture Memorization

“For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: 5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another” (Rom. 12:4, 5).

Heartwork

1. I am a member of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. True ____ False ____
2. I am under authority. True ____ False ____
3. I will obey those who have the rule over me. True ____ False ____
4. I will not leave too quickly where God has led me. True ____ False ____
5. I am grateful for the gifted men God has given to the Church. True ____ False ____

Chapter Six

“How Does The Lord Add to the Church?”

“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST: ITS GROWTH”

Review

1. What are two benefits of believer baptism?

- Believer baptism provides a public declaration of one’s new relationship with Jesus Christ by faith.
- Baptism brings the baptized believer into close association with other Christians in the Church of Jesus Christ.

2. What is the goal of evangelism?

Answer.

The goal of evangelism is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

3. How does a person become a church member within the Roman Catholic tradition?

Answer.

When a person is christened in a Roman Catholic ceremony as an infant, they become a church member.

4. How does a person become a church member within the Greek Orthodox Church?

Answer.

When a person is immersed in a Greek Orthodox ceremony as an infant, the person becomes a church member.

5. How does a person become a church member within many Protestant denominations such as Anglicans (who are Episcopalians), Lutherans, Presbyterians, Methodists, and various Reformed denominations.?

Answer.

Many Protestant denominations enhance their church membership through the practice of infant baptism.

6. In what two ways does the Lord add members to His Church?

Answer.

- Scripturally Baptized Believers Join Churches.
- Scripturally Qualified Believers are Baptized into Churches.

7. List several Churches of Jesus Christ mentioned in the book of Acts.

- The Jerusalem Church of Jesus Christ
- The Damascus Church of Jesus Christ
- The Antioch Church of Jesus Christ

8. What is the two-fold process of fulfilling the Great Commission?

Answer.

- Initial Process. The Church of Jesus Christ is to engage in going, and by implication declaring the Gospel to people, to bring sinners to Christ.
- Final Process. The Church of Jesus Christ is charged with the process of teaching all things whatsoever Christ has commanded us.

9. List the five baptisms in Scripture.

Answer.

Type	Scripture	Nature
• John's Baptism	Matthew 3:1-8	Literal
• Christian Baptism	Acts 8:35-38	Literal
• Baptism of the Holy Spirit	Matthew 3:11; Acts 2:1-13	Spiritual
• Baptism of Christ's Suffering	Matthew 20:20-23	Spiritual
• Baptism unto Moses	1 Corinthians 10:1-2	Figurative

10. Compare and contrast Christian Baptism with the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Answer.

- With Christian baptism, the medium is actual water,

With the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the medium is the Spirit of God.

- With Christian baptism, the subject gets wet.

With the baptism of the Holy Spirit, no one gets wet.

- With Christian baptism, Christians do the baptizing, the immersing of a Christian in obedience to Christ's command.

With the baptism of the Holy Spirit, it is the Lord who does the baptizing. "He [Christ] shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire" (Matt. 3:11).

- With Christian baptism, the act of immersion is witnessed and attested to by others that a spiritual condition exists in the subject being baptized.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a sign that the Messiah is baptizing with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.

- With Christian baptism, the ordinance is performed by a believer on behalf of the congregation in obedience to the Great Commission.

The Lord Jesus Christ performs the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

11. How many times in the New Testament is a baptism of the Holy Ghost recorded?

Answer.

- The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is recorded in Acts 2.
- The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is recorded in Acts 8.
- The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is recorded in Acts 10.
- The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is recorded in Acts 19.

12. What are the crucial ingredients of a sign, such as the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Answer.

The crucial ingredients of a sign, such as the baptism of the Holy Spirit, always involve the senses.

13. What is the essence of speaking in tongues?

Answer.

Speaking in tongues refers to the phenomena of being able to speak a foreign language not previously learned.

14. Based on Acts 2:1-13, and Acts 8:14-18 is the baptism of the Holy Spirit accompanied by signs that can be perceived?

Answer.

In Acts 2:1-13, and Acts 8:14-18, the baptism of the Holy Ghost was accompanied by perceptible evidence related to sight and sound, in fulfillment of John the Baptist's prediction.

15. Summarize the baptism of the Holy Spirit as predicted by John the Baptist (Matt. 3:11), and manifested, four times, in the book of Acts.

Answer.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit was a supernatural event performed by the Lord Jesus Christ on a relatively small number of Christians in fulfillment of a prediction made by John the Baptist as a means of identifying Jesus Christ as the Messiah of Israel to Jewish people.

16. What proposition does Dr. Waldrip reject, concerning the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Answer.

Dr. Waldrip rejects the proposition that all Christians are baptized in the Holy Spirit when they trust Christ, or at any time after that.

17. What would Dr. Waldrip like to prove about Ephesians 4:5?

Answer.

Dr. Waldrip would like to prove that the “one baptism” of Ephesians 4:5 refers to believer baptism and that the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, 8, 10, and 19 is no more.

18. Why is the baptism of the Holy Spirit no more?

Answer.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is no more because the promised sign given by John in Matthew 3:11 has been fulfilled, four times, according to the book of Acts (2, 8, 10, and 19).

19. What is of no surprise to Dr. Waldrip?

Answer.

It is no surprise to Dr. Waldrip that Christ’s intent for this entire era in which we live is for believers to be baptized by immersion in water according to His command.

20. What is accomplished by the baptism in water of the believer?

Answer.

- When the Church of Jesus Christ baptizes a convert to Christ, the congregation is obeying the Great Commission.
- When the Church of Jesus Christ baptizes a convert to Christ, his baptism is a public proclamation of his identification with Christ.
- When the Church of Jesus Christ baptizes a convert to Christ, his baptism is how he becomes a member of the body of Christ.

21. What does baptism save a person from?

Answer.

Baptism does not save from sin, but from a bad conscience.

22. What roles do God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit exercise regarding spiritual gifts?

Answer.

- God, the Father, decides each Church member's effectiveness.
- God, the Son, decides each Church member's ministry.
- God, the Holy Spirit, gives to each believer the spiritual gift(s) possessed and used in service.

23. How are believers in Christ placed into the Church of Jesus Christ?

Answer.

The Lord added to the Jerusalem Church using the baptism of newly saved converts to Jesus Christ.

Consider.

Jerusalem: "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41).

Corinth: "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:13).

24. Does the Holy Spirit perform Spirit baptism?

Answer.

According to John the Baptist, it is the Lord Jesus Christ who performed Spirit baptisms.

Consider.

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire" (Matt. 3:11).

25. What three reasons are given by Dr. Waldrip as to why so much of Protestantism reflects inconsistently as to what the Word of God teaches about baptism, Spirit baptism, and particularly First Corinthians 12.13?

Answer.

- The Protestants reacted against Rome's assertion that the Catholic Church is the visible universal body of Christ by insisting they were the invisible universal body of Christ.
- Many Protestants are only recently admitting that baptism must be, and can only be believers' immersion, and certainly not the sprinkling of infants.
- To date, there is no recognition by Protestants of the significance of Spirit baptism as an authenticating sign of Christ's messiahship, and of Him being the Administrator of Spirit baptism.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Would you agree that one does not see Christians in the New Testament who are not members of a Church? Why?
2. Other than making disciples of Jesus Christ, have other goals in evangelism been sought? Are the other goals wrong? Why?

Consider.

Obedience, providing an opportunity for those who have not heard the gospel to respond, church growth, and the need to solve financial concerns are other goals that have been promoted by various ministries. By keeping the making disciples of Jesus Christ the primary goal, secondary goals will naturally come to pass. In the process of evangelism, there will be obedience to the will of the Lord. More and more people will hear the gospel. There will be a spiritual harvest for those who do not grow weary in well-doing. Those who are converted will give their heart and their resources to promote the work of the ministry. But the main goal should always be kept in mind, make disciples of Jesus Christ.

3. Are para-church ministries that seek to evangelize and perfect (or equip) saints to do the work of the ministry in conflict with the Church of Jesus Christ? How?

Consider.

In Chapter Ten, Dr. Waldrip writes, “The notion that a Christian’s random and unauthorized ministry activity outside his congregation will be found acceptable by the Savior is unfounded in Scripture.”

4. Though the Bible clearly shows that baptism is always administered to someone who intelligently and persuasively confessed Christ as his personal Savior, why do so many denominations perform a baptism on infants without the intelligent consent and cooperation of those infants?

Consider.

In the absence of a single clear passage teaching or demonstrating infant baptism, many denominations have developed a philosophical and theological construct to justify the unjustifiable practice of infant baptism. As a result, much harm has been done within in the Christian community.

5. What evidence from God would be sufficient to justify a person leaving a Church? Be specific.

Congregation.

For the Apostle Paul, persecution and threats against his life motivated him to leave the Jerusalem Church of Jesus Christ for his hometown of Tarsus. Other believers relocated for the same reason: “And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles” (Acts 8:1).

6. Consider the following reasons people often give for leaving one church for another. Should a person leave for these stated reasons? Why?

Reason for Leaving	Justifiable	Explain
• A job opportunity	Yes ____ No ____	
• A promotion	Yes ____ No ____	
• A transfer	Yes ____ No ____	
• More favorable weather (Snowbirds)	Yes ____ No ____	
• Personality conflict	Yes ____ No ____	
• A more attractive youth ministry	Yes ____ No ____	
• A more sophisticated music ministry	Yes ____ No ____	
• A more attractive facility	Yes ____ No ____	
• A desire to be used more in the church	Yes ____ No ____	
• To help start another Church	Yes ____ No ____	

7. The body of Christ is the Church of Jesus Christ, which is the local congregation. If a person does not become a member of the body of Christ *until* they are scripturally baptized, what is their relationship to Christ before that act of gospel obedience? Are they not part of His body? Explain.
8. If *water* is in view in 1 Corinthians 12:13, why is the word *baptizo* not translated that way, but left as a transliteration?
9. Would you agree with Dr. Waldrip's conclusion that baptism spoken of in 1 Corinthians 12:13 *must* be baptism in water of believers in Jesus Christ? Why?

Personal Application

1. Read as widely as possible what God has taught the Church of Jesus Christ over the centuries.
2. Remember the wisdom of Charles Spurgeon: "We are quite persuaded that the very best way for you to be spending your leisure time, is to be either reading or praying. You may get much instruction from books which afterward you may use as a true weapon in your Lord and Master's service. Paul cries, 'Bring the books' — join in the cry."
3. Read *The Evils of Infant Baptism* (Robert Boyt C. Howell). Evil can be defined as injurious behavior to self and others.

Consider

“The Evils of Infant Baptism” Robert Boyt C. Howell

- Infant baptism is an evil because its practice is unsupported by the Word of God.
- Infant baptism is an evil because its defense leads to most injurious perversions of Scripture.
- Infant baptism is an evil because it engrafts Judaism upon the gospel of Christ.
- Infant baptism is an evil because it falsifies the doctrine of universal depravity.
- Infant baptism is an evil because the doctrines upon which it is predicated contradict the great fundamental principle of justification by faith.
- Infant baptism is an evil because it is in direct conflict with the doctrine of the work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration.
- Infant baptism is an evil because it despoils the church of those peculiar qualities which are essential to the church of Christ.
- Infant baptism is an evil because its practice perpetuates the superstitions that originally produced it.
- Infant baptism is an evil because it subverts the scripture doctrine of infant salvation.
- Infant baptism is an evil because it leads its advocates into rebellion against the authority of Christ.
- Infant baptism is an evil because of the connection it assumes with the moral and religious training of children.
- Infant baptism is an evil because it is the foundation upon which rests the union of church and state.
- Infant baptism is an evil because it leads to religious persecutions.
- Infant baptism is an evil because it is contrary to the principles of civil and religious freedom.
- Infant baptism is an evil because it enfeebles the power of the church to combat error.

- Infant baptism is an evil because it injures the credit of religion with reflecting men of the world.
- Infant baptism is an evil because it is the great barrier to Christian union.
- Infant baptism is an evil because it prevents the salutary impression which baptism was designed to make upon the minds both of those who receive it, and of those who witness its administration.
- Infant baptism is an evil because it retards the designs of Christ in the conversion of the world.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?

Yes, we’ll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.”

Robert Lowry

Scripture Memorization

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:13).

Heartwork

1. I am now thinking about leaving the Church of Jesus Christ. True ____ False ____
2. I would leave the Church of Jesus Christ for a better job opportunity. True ____ False ____
3. I would leave the Church of Jesus Christ for a job promotion. True ____ False ____
4. I would leave the Church of Jesus Christ over a job transfer. True ____ False ____
5. I would leave the Church of Jesus Christ for more favorable weather (Snowbirds) True ____ False ____

6. I am considering leaving the Church of Jesus Christ over a severe personality conflict True ____ False ____
7. I am considering leaving the Church of Jesus Christ for s more attractive youth ministry for my children True ____ False ____
8. I would be willing to leave the Church of Jesus Christ for a more sophisticated music ministry True ____ False ____
9. I am willing to leave the Church of Jesus Christ for a more attractive worship facility. True ____ False ____
10. I would leave the Church of Jesus Christ if I could be more useful Somewhere else. True ____ False ____
11. I would leave the Church of Jesus Christ to help start another Church. True ____ False ____
12. I personally see nothing harmful about being a church hopper. True ____ False ____

Chapter Seven
“Church Members Actually Do Stuff?”
“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST: ITS TRAINING”

Review

1. Explain what is meant by the word “train.”

Answer.

As defined in *Webster’s New Universal Unabridged Dictionary*, training is the preparation of someone using education, instruction, and practice.

2. What is emphasized in Christianity in western culture?

Answer.

There is an emphasis on individualism in Christianity in western culture.

3. How do so many people live their lives?

Answer.

So many people live out their lives, as people, married couples, and even families existing in a starkly anonymous and unaccountable way.

4. What two major divisions are provided in chapter seven related to the training of God’s people?

Answer.

- Examples of Training in the Old Testament
- Examples of Training in the New Testament

5. What types of training can be noticed in the Old Testament? Provide Scriptural support for each.

Answer.

- **Military Training.** “And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan” (Gen. 14:14).

Consider.

The word for trained (Heb. *chaniyk*, [kaw-neek’]; initiated; i.e. practiced).

- **Stewardship Training.** “² And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. ³ And his master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand. ⁴ And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. ⁵ And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; and the blessing of the Lord was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. ⁶ And he left all that he had in Joseph’s hand; and he knew not ought he to have, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favored” (Gen. 39:2-6).
 - **Academic Training.** “And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds” (Acts 7:22).
 - **Religious Training.** The essentials of the character of Samuel were formed through the loving devotion of his godly mother who taught him to love and serve God. Later, Samuel completed instruction in righteousness in the household of the high priest Eli. “And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli” (1 Samuel 3:1).
 - **Wisdom Training.** Solomon prayed for wisdom, and received it. “And I gave my heart to know wisdom” (Eccl. 1:17; 2 Chron. 1:10).
 - **Prophetic Training.** A prophet was not exclusively a predictor of the future, but also declared God’s truth. From the time of Samuel to the days of Elijah, there was the school of the prophets (1 Sam. 19:18-24; 2 Kings 2; 4:38-44). The main subject of study was the Law of God.
 - **Childhood Training.** “⁵ And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. ⁶ And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: ⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. ⁸ And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. ⁹ And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates” (Deut. 6:5-9).
6. What types of training can be noticed in the New Testament? Provide Scriptural support for each.

Answer.

- **Discipleship Training.** Jesus had a core of trusted men: Peter, James, John. An expanded number of twelve men were trained as apostles (Matt. 9:2-13). Then there were the seventy (Luke 10:1). By the Day of Pentecost, the number of disciples had risen to 120 (Acts 1:15).

Consider.

The way Jesus trained His disciples was by investing His time, love, and wisdom in their lives. Jesus taught the disciples how to deal with interruptions, difficult questions, and opposition. He also taught them how to live righteously, pray fervently, and die bravely. Sometimes the training of Jesus included rebuke and correction. When possible, Jesus gave the disciples various responsibilities and held them accountable to perform their tasks. He allowed them to fail (Matt. 17:19).

- **Apostolic Training.** Paul was a master teacher, having been a good student at the feet of the rabbi, Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). Paul taught, by his example, by words of exhortation, and through letters how Christians were to be gentle, self-sacrificing, long-suffering, and loving. Paul modeled tenderness to those who were disloyal, petulant, and proud. He also knew when to be harsh, and demand respect and discipline, reflected in his relationship with the Church of Corinth. The guiding self-image of Paul was that of a parent to a child. As a spiritual father, he wanted to mold his spiritual children in the faith.
- **Personal Training.** The concept of life-style evangelism does have biblical support in 1 Peter 3:1, and in practical daily life. Despite a demanding schedule, and difficult marriage, Susanna Wesley spent personal and private time with each of her many children during each week. John and Charles never forgot. Paul taught his “children” to be encouraging. He modeled for them how to give advice, and keep on a course of action.

7. In what ways can the Church meet its responsibility to train others?

Answer.

- The Church can train women how to love their husbands and their children.
- The Church can train men to become effective spiritual leaders.
- The Church can train men and women, boys and girls to be godly, and live a separated life from the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Reflection and Discussion

1. What forces have shaped, and are shaping individualism, leading to isolation of so many in western culture?

Consider.

Historically, the American frontier helped shape the character of the nation according to an important thesis outlined in 1893 by Frederick Jackson Turner. The “frontier thesis” has been “the single most influential interpretation of the American past” (*Encyclopedia Britannica*).

Currently, modern technology is shaping individualism leading to isolationism, as people become addicted to electronic devices that consume time, and directs attention away from social interaction.

Spiritually, there is the loss of community, as people are taught to fear the future. Religious charlatans teach a terrifying view of the future, though God has not given His people a spirit of fear (2 Tim. 1:7).

Politically, there is a grasp for power and control over the lives of others. Official representatives of government insist the world is coming to an end within a decade.

As a result, people naturally want to run and hide from each other. The rise of lawlessness, the encouragement of nihilism, the attractiveness of suicide, and the promotion of abortion adds to the loss of love for others, and the promotion of self-love, which ends in individualism, and isolation.

2. Is Progressive Revelation continuing today? If so, how can it be identified? If not, when did it end, and why?

Consider.

Progressive Revelation is a major foundational belief of the Bah'ai Faith, not to mention the belief of the Mormon founder, Joseph Smith. Progressive Revelation provided a forum for the visions of Adventist, Ellen Gould White. Christians must be able to defend the truth of biblical Progressive Revelation, and its completion with the canon of Scripture: “⁸ Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. ⁹ For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰ But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away” (1 Cor. 13:8-10). Walter Kaiser, former Old Testament professor at Wheaton and Gordon Conwell, offers a helpful understanding of progressive revelation in his books, “*The Promise-Plan of God*” and “*Recovering the Unity of the Bible*.”

3. Sometimes there is negative training. Sometimes there is positive training. What is the value of each? Be specific.

Consider.

Though Abraham, in many ways, was a negative example to Lot and his family, subsequent followers of God learn the consequences of having a lost testimony, which causes others to mock, and the certainty of coming under the sin unto death for disobedience. Remember Lot's wife. So, there is value in negative training. Of course, there is more value in positive training. Abraham believed God and it was accounted unto him for righteousness (Gen. 15:6). He is called “the Father of us all”, meaning the Father of the Faithful, for good reason (Rom. 4:16).

4. How can the Church influence and shape individuals, families, and culture?

Personal Application

1. Read *The Frontier in American History* by Frederick Jackson Turner.
2. Discover your spiritual gift and use it for the good of the Church of Jesus Christ, for the benefit of yourself, and the glory of God.
3. Give thought how you, and your Church of Jesus Christ, can influence your community.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“Rise up, O men of God!
Have done with lesser things.
Give heart and mind and soul and strength
To serve the King of kings.”

William P. Merrill

Scripture Memorization

“¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom. 12:1-2)

Heartwork

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. I want to be a good disciple of Jesus Christ. | True ____ False ____ |
| 2. I am willing to learn so that I can train others in spiritual matters. | True ____ False ____ |
| 3. I am willing to be submissive to authority in the Church. | True ____ False ____ |
| 4. I believe in Progressive Revelation. | True ____ False ____ |
| 5. I believe that God still reveals new truths to men today. | True ____ False ____ |
| 6. I am not sure what I believe about Progressive Revelation. | True ____ False ____ |
| 7. The Church of Jesus Christ, which I attend, has a training program. | True ____ False ____ |
| 8. I do not know how to be a good disciple. I have not been trained. | True ____ False ____ |
| 9. I do not like people very much. | True ____ False ____ |

10. I am not patient with others.

True ____ False ____

11. I need to find someone to train me in Christian work and faith.

True ____ False ____

Chapter Eight

“When the Congregation Deals With a Member’s Sin”

“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST: ITS DISCIPLINE”

Review

1. How is Church discipline usually thought about?

Answer.

Church discipline is usually thought of as a congregational proceeding that can result in the removal of a Church member from membership in the Church for refusal to repent and make restitution for a very serious offense of some kind.

2. Based on Acts 2:46, what should be present in biblical Church discipline?

Answer.

The Church of Jesus Christ must be of one accord, meaning unanimously agreed.

3. Define the Principle of the Sufficiency of Scripture as understood by Zwingli.

The Principle of the Sufficiency of Scripture is based on the idea that Scripture reveals everything necessary to life and godliness.

Consider.

Specifically, the New Testament reveals everything necessary to the right order of the Church and should regulate every doctrine taught, every form of worship, and every practice governing the life of the Church of Jesus Christ.

4. List five obvious efforts the Church takes to maintain harmony within the congregation.

Answer.

- We love and pray for one another.
- We minister grace to one another with our words.
- We teach and train and otherwise, encourage one another.
- We seek to restore a brother overtaken in a fault.
- We seek to set a good example for others.

5. What five guiding principles are to be considered when addressing congregational issues?

Answer.

- Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is Entirely Voluntary.
- Not all Sins are Serious Enough or Cause Enough Damage to Warrant Discipline.
- Every Member of the Church of Jesus Christ is Expected to Change for the Better, Time Over Time, and Grow in Grace.
- Some Sins Committed Against an Individual Warrant the Escalating Involvement of the Church.
- Some Sins are Committed Against the Church of Jesus Christ and Warrant the Church's Response.

6. In what three ways does a voluntary relationship affect Church life?

Answer.

- The Church of Jesus Christ possesses no compelling authority for coercion.
- The Church of Jesus Christ relies on membership in matters of discipline. The congregation can either remove or not remove someone from membership in the Church.
- No Church member can be forced to submit to the authority of the congregation.

7. What are two ways a Church member, and a congregation can part company?

Answer.

- The Church member can voluntarily end the relationship by walking away.
- The congregation's members can choose to end the voluntary relationship by terminating that person's membership, leaving that person in the Lord's capable hands.

8. Who should not be baptized, or taken into the membership of the Church of Jesus Christ?

Answer.

Those who plan to remain unchanged for the rest of their lives.

9. What is the temptation the Church of Jesus Christ faces in the presence of a serious sin against their Church?

Answer.

The Church of Jesus Christ is tempted to avoid dealing with serious sins by pretending to be forgiving, compassionate and tolerate.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Does your Church of Jesus Christ practice Church discipline? If so, what is the process?
2. What cultural beliefs affect a congregation's willingness to exercise Church discipline?

Consider.

Individualism, lack of agreement to be submissive to Church leadership, and a society ready to go to law to win an argument, makes an effort to enforce Church discipline a challenge.

3. Many churches conduct the business of the Church of Jesus Christ after worldly patterns of parliamentary procedure, typified in *Robert's Rules of Order*, first published in 1876 by the United States by the military officer, Brigadier General Henry Martyn Robert. One practical result is that the principle of majority rule has replaced the Biblical model of being of "one accord" on critical matters (Acts 2:46). What should be said about the Church of Jesus Christ adopting the world's methodology in this area (Rom. 12:1, 2)? Should a congregational vote, whereby the majority rules, determine a moral and spiritual issue? Why?
4. If Zwingli was correct in his thinking, and there is no liberty as to the nature, mission, constitution, order, membership, ordinances, offices, and worship of the Church of Jesus Christ because everything is "straightforward," why is there so much division, diversity, and debate within Christendom?
5. Is it easier to judge a person's behavior or their motives? Why?
6. What process should be used, and what spiritual gift should be exercised in determining if questionable behavior observed is worthy of commendation or condemnation?
7. Conceptionally, should the Church of Jesus Christ be viewed as a democracy, or a theocracy, whereby the Lordship of Christ is recognized, as He rules His people, by His Spirit, through His Word, in the direction of His appointed, and gifted, under-shepherds? Are there other ways to view the Church of Jesus Christ? Explain.

Consider.

The Lordship of Christ: "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

Guidance by the Spirit: "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come" (John 16:13). "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Rev. 2:7).

Guidance by the Word: "¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

The Under-shepherds: “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you” (Heb. 13:17). “² Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³ Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away” (1 Peter 5:2-4).

Does a democratic view of the Church of Jesus Christ promote individualism, thereby contributing to isolationism and non-commitment relationships? Explain.

8. Should Christians be writing letters of discontent to other Christians, especially pastors (elders, bishops)? Why? How can writing a letter be justified biblically?

Consider.

Jesus said, “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother” (Matt. 18:15). Paul charged Timothy, “Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses” (1 Tim. 5:19). It is good when a pastor has the grace to listen to a concerned congregant. It is also good when Christians obey the known will of the Lord when offended. Go, and if necessary, take a witness, but let God's people be taught to talk to each other with love and respect.

9. Is it a surprise to notice that the promise of Jesus being in the midst of His people is placed within the context of Church discipline (Matt. 18:15-20)? In what setting is the promise of Matthew 15:20 placed?
10. Discuss the following thought: “Private sins should be dealt with privately, while public sins should be dealt with publicly.” If God has been pleased to hide a sin, should it be made public unnecessarily? If so, When? Where? Why? By Whom?
11. What constitutes a serious sin? Who should determine what is serious and what is not?
12. Should the congregation ever be left out of the process of discipline within the Church of Jesus Christ? Why?

Personal Application

1. Listen carefully and respectfully when another member of the Church of Jesus Christ approaches you in an attempt to correct you.
2. Try very hard to learn from what is said.
3. Ask forgiveness for what wrong has been done.
4. Be like Christ, who humbled Himself, even to the death of the cross.
5. Be truly thankful for the opportunity God has provided you to respond spiritually, and in a Christ-like fashion.
6. Remember, if you pray to be like Jesus, the Lord will give you a chance to be treated unfairly, slandered, and abused. The servant is not above the Master.
7. Be encouraged that a believer loves you enough to approach you.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“Only believe, only believe;
All things are possible, only believe,
Only believe, only believe;
All things are possible, only believe.”

Paul Rader

Scripture Memorization

“Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God” (Eph. 5:21).

Heartwork

1. I would never voluntarily submit to the discipline of any Church of Jesus Christ. True ____ False ____
2. I do not let anyone show disrespect to me without comment. True ____ False ____
3. I like a democratic-ruled congregation for the Church of Jesus Christ. I want a vote, and I want my vote to count. True ____ False ____
4. I am committed to the parliamentary procedure *of Robert's Rules of Order* and prefer that to any attempt to be in one accord. True ____ False ____

5. I would not want to be part of any congregation that practices Church discipline. I would not feel safe. True ____ False ____
6. Regardless of what Paul told the Church of Jesus Christ in Corinth, if I need to go to court against an injustice, I will go. True ____ False ____
7. When I am offended by someone in the congregation, I do precisely what Jesus has told me to do in Matthew 18:15-20. True ____ False ____
8. I am very defensive when I am criticized. I become furious. True ____ False ____
9. I do not like dying to self. I do not like to mortify the flesh. True ____ False ____

Chapter Nine

“An Intellectually Honest Reexamination of the Body of Christ Metaphor”

“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST: ITS BODY METAPHOR”

Review

1. What is the metaphor of the Church of Jesus Christ as a body designed to explain more clearly?

Answer.

The metaphor of the Church of Jesus Christ as a body is designed to explain more clearly the nature and operation of the Church.

2. What is a common three-fold negative reaction to the assertion that the Church, as an invisible universal body of Christ, does not exist?

Answer.

- First Reaction. Rejection. An alternate explanation is rejected of those passages that deal with the Church of Jesus Christ, the body of Christ.
- Second Reaction. Ridicule. It is easier to use demeaning language than persuasively defend a theological position.
- Third Reaction. Dismissal. The view that the Church of Jesus Christ is a local and visible assembly, and that the body of Christ is a metaphor that can only support a visible local Church, well, that idea is said to be of recent origin, and is, therefore, unworthy of consideration. This view is dismissed.

3. In the *Epistle to the Corinthians*, what view of the Church did St. Clement hold?

Answer.

Clement's letter supports the view that Christ's Church is a visible assembly.

4. What three observations can be made in support of a proper understanding of the body metaphor as outlined in Scripture?

Answer.

- Paul's Fullest Description of the Body is a Human Body
- Paul's References to One Body are References to One Kind, Not One in Number
- Paul Very Clearly Shows that the Church is the Body, and the Body is the Church

5. Provide three reasons why it is wrong to insist that the body of Christ is an invisible universal body.

Answer.

- The Church of Jesus Christ is a local and visible assembly of baptized believers.
- The body metaphor for the Church of Jesus Christ is a visible body.
- The body metaphor is designed to convey the truth that, as the body is visible, so much the Church of Jesus Christ be visible.

6. What does Dr. Waldrip say was a serious error within the Protestant Reformation?

Answer.

Many of the Reformers remained entangled with government and failed to see that the Word of God teaches the absolute separation of Church and State.

7. Why did Paul use the body metaphor?

Answer.

The body metaphor was used to show the Corinthian Church that Christians should see themselves as being capable, by God's grace, of living and moving under the direction of our head, Jesus Christ, while being dependent on others in the congregation, as eyes depend upon feet, as mouths depend upon hands, etc.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Discuss the Biblical evidence that the nature of the Church of Jesus Christ is local, not universal, and visible, not invisible. Why is this clarification important?

Consider.

It might be helpful to know that the term "invisible church," is used by many Christians to convey their imprecise grasp of the teaching that the visible local assembly of professing believers in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior consist of "tares and wheat" (Matt. 13:24-30).

Jesus called Twelve Men to be His disciples and to form the Church, and one of them was a devil (John 6:70). The Apostle John said of some, "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us" (1 John 2:19). Paul was amazed at how quickly individuals turned from the faith in the Churches of Galatia: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel" (Gal. 1:6).

What the Reformers, and their spiritual descendants, were trying to say in their writings and Confessions about the Church, was more a polemic response to Roman Catholic claims of being the universal, visible church than a representation of the Bible doctrine of the Church.

Practical safeguards are established to guard membership in the Church of Jesus Christ, but there are people whose lives are still “in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity” (Acts 8:23). Some hopeful converts who come into the fellowship of the local congregation, despite being properly instructed and scripturally baptized, require severe discipline, such as the man who committed fornication in the Church of Corinth. Some have to be removed from the Church of Jesus Christ. There are not two churches, one visible and the other invisible. There is only one Church, or one body, the body of Christ, known to the Lord (John 10:27).

Whether or not the terms “visible,” “invisible,” and “universal” are warranted is an important discussion worth having within the Church of Jesus Christ.

2. Should the element of communion not be offered to individuals at home or patients in hospitals? Why?
3. How can real unity be defined and identified? Are you aware of a local congregation of the Church of Jesus Christ that has real unity?
4. Can a person be a Christian and not a member of one of the various bodies of Christ? Why?

Personal Application

1. Be respectful to all. Do not reject a person’s theological perspective until you understand it and evaluate what is being said in light of Scripture.
2. Avoid using ridicule in discussing an important issue with someone.
3. Do not be a dismissive person.
4. Remember that the validity of spiritual truth is whether or not it is rooted in the Bible.
5. Become part of a Church of Jesus Christ that promotes Church harmony.
6. Seek to be a peacemaker, and never be a troublemaker.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“Oh, softly the Spirit is whispering to me,
With tender compassion, with pitying plea;
I hear His beseeching, and earnestly pray
That Jesus will make me a blessing today.

Lord, make me a blessing today,
A blessing to some one, I pray;
In all that I do, in all that I say,
O make me a blessing today.”

Fanny Crosby

Scripture Memorization

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us” (Heb. 12:1).

Heartwork

1. I speak my mind no matter who it hurts. True ____ False ____
2. My mind is made up on theological matters. I do not want to discuss anything outside my comfort level. True ____ False ____
3. I can be sharp and sarcastic with people. True ____ False ____
4. I need to be a better listener, quicker to hear, and slower to speak. True ____ False ____
5. I am a peacemaker, not a troublemaker. True ____ False ____

Chapter Ten

“The temple of God and the temple of the Holy Spirit are not the same.”

“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST: ITS TEMPLE METAPHOR”

Review

1. What is God’s fivefold plan for Christians?

Answer.

- It is God’s plan for Christians to be Church members.
- It is God’s plan for Christians to engage and involve themselves in congregational ministry.
- It is God’s plan for Christians to glorify Him.
- It is God’s plan for Christians to magnify the Savior.
- It is God’s plan for Christians to both provide and receive blessings.

2. What six temples are mentioned in the Bible?

Answer.

- The Temple of Herod
- The Temple of the Body of Jesus
- The Temple of Diana
- The Temple of Heaven in the Revelation
- The Temple of God
- The Temple of the Holy Ghost

3. Which temple does Paul warn against defiling?

Answer.

Paul warns against defiling the Temple of God. “If any man defiles the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are” (1 Cor. 3:17).

4. Does Paul make a distinction between the Temple of God and the Temple of the Holy Ghost?

Answer.

Dr. Waldrip is so persuaded (1 Cor. 3:17; 6:19).

Consider.

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (1 Cor. 3:16).

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” (1 Cor. 6:19).

5. What three main points does Dr. Waldrip wish to make in Chapter Ten?

Answer.

- There is the Temple of the Holy Spirit
- There is the Temple of God
- There is a Conclusion to be Drawn from the Temple of God Metaphor

6. Why is each Christian's body to be viewed as the actual Temple of the Holy Spirit?

Answer.

Because of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in the Christian's body, it is to be viewed as the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

Consider.

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (1 Cor. 6:19).

7. What is inappropriate when considering Church growth? Why?

Answer.

Because it is God who gives the increase in the work of ministry, an overemphasis on the Gospel minister rather than on God is inappropriate.

8. Identify three distinct ideas in 1 Corinthians 3:9: "For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."

Answer.

- First Idea. There is the dependency of the Gospel ministers as laborers with God.
- Second Idea. The entire Corinthian Church is God's husbandry
- Third Idea. The Church of Jesus Christ is a building ("God's building").

9. List six types of materials are mentioned in association with the Church of Jesus Christ, in a positive and negative way.

Answer.

Positive

- Gold
- Silver
- Precious stones

Negative

- Wood
- Hay
- Stubble

10. What element is associated with the thought of a future judgment of every man's work?

Answer.

Fire is associated with the thought of a future judgment of every man's work.

11. What will not be given to the person who uses inferior material in building the Church of Jesus Christ?

Answer.

No rewards will be given because of the inferior quality of the materials used to build the building (a temple).

12. What two pertinent facts did Paul teach the Corinthians for their edification?

Answer.

First Pertinent Fact. Their congregation is the temple of God ("Know ye not that ye are the temple of God?").

Second Pertinent Fact. The Spirit of God dwells in their congregation, thereby making their Church (and every other Church) a temple of God.

13. What four lessons can be discerned from knowing there is danger in hurting the Temple of God?

Answer.

- First Lesson. God will chasten anyone who harms a Church congregation.
- Second Lesson. The law of sowing and reaping applies to those who harm Churches and their members.
- Third Lesson. The temple of God is, because of God's presence, holy.
- Fourth Lesson. The Corinthian congregation, the Church of Jesus Christ, is the temple of God.

14. What is an important theme in the New Testament, being mentioned in at least seventy-four verses?

Answer.

Judgment is an important theme in the New Testament

15. What is a temple?

Answer.

A temple is the dwelling place of God.

16. List four places God has been pleased to meet with His people.

Answer.

- In the Garden of Eden
- In the Tabernacle
- In the Church
- In the body of each Christian

Reflection and Discussion

1. What doctrinal teaching can help a despondent and dysfunctional congregation?

Consider.

A good place to begin would be to teach the congregation, “Our church is the temple of God!” “The Spirit of God dwells in our congregation!”

2. Some of the lessons of Chapter Ten might produce fear in the hearts of those who understand what is being taught. Is that good? Why?
3. Many local congregations that are experiencing trouble are not just immature in behavior but are ignorant about many important truths, and so are not spiritually-minded. How can grace be ministered to such a congregation? Be specific.

Consider.

First, speak the truth. Alert the people to the true source of their troubles, and that is sin in their souls. “From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?” (James 4:1).

Second, offer the gospel afresh, and then begin to teach the whole counsel of God. Teach in particular the nature of the congregation and its sanctity or holiness in the sight of God.

Third, make everyone aware of the rewards associated with their involvement in the congregation.

4. Dr. Waldrip states: “It matters not how sincerely the Christian is motivated, because Christ created a specific entity called the Church of Jesus Christ. It is in that Church that He wants His people to be accountable and involved in ministry. The Lord Jesus Christ will someday sit in judgment upon the works and service of Christians in and through the Church of Jesus Christ, the temple of God. Thus, it is your ministry, in and through your Church, that will be scrutinized by the Lord Jesus Christ on the bema seat of judgment.”

How should “para” ministries, that are independent of a local Church of Jesus Christ, be viewed? What is to be said about Focus on the Family, Family Radio, Child Evangelism, the Radio Bible Hour, Youth for Christ, Campus Crusade, the Navigators, Gideons, The Gospel Hour Program, a Faith-Based movie corporation, Christian book distributors, Southern Gospel singers, a Baptist Hospital, a Christian magazine, *The Sword of the Lord* newspaper, a Crusade ministry, Bible Institutes etc.?

Observation. The word “*para*” means “alongside of.” None of these ministries should view themselves as a replacement or a substitute for the Church of Jesus Christ, but acting alongside the most glorious “Body,” “Building,” “Temple,” “Flock,” “Candlestick” etc. on earth.

Jesus: “⁵⁴ And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? ⁵⁵ But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. ⁵⁶ For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village” (Luke 9:54-56).

Paul: “What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretense, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice” (Phil. 1:18).

Question.

Discuss

Are these ministries intrinsically wrong?	Yes ____ No ____
Are they perhaps even wicked (Judges 21:25)?	Yes ____ No ____
Are they not valid in the eyes of the Lord?	Yes ____ No ____
Should they be terminated?	Yes ____ No ____
Should they be supported, financially, or in any other way?	Yes ____ No ____

Consider.

“Why settle for something that seems good, but is not found in the Bible when God’s best means of accomplishing the task is available, and is shown in the Bible to be God’s will for every Christian?” — Dr. John Waldrip

Personal Application

1. As you meditate on Scripture, write down the lessons the Lord would have you learn and remember.
2. Cultivate a biblical fear of God. “The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy” (Psalm 147:11).
3. Seek to be part of vital ministry within your local Church of Jesus Christ.
4. Never forget that the Holy Spirit dwells within you.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“Oh, spread the tidings ’round; wherever man is found,
Wherever human hearts and human woes abound;
Let ev’ry Christian tongue proclaim the joyful sound:
The Comforter has come!

The Comforter has come! The Comforter has come!
The Holy Ghost from heav’n, the Father’s promise giv’n!
Oh, spread the tidings ’round, wherever man is found:
The Comforter has come!”

Francis Bottom

Scripture Memorization

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” (1 Cor. 6:19).

Heartwork

1. I believe in, and value, the doctrine of the indwelling Holy Spirit. True ____ False ____
2. I want to live in such a way as to receive the rewards promised. True ____ False ____
3. I am careful how I build on the foundation. True ____ False ____
4. I believe my body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit. True ____ False ____
5. I struggle in my body with lust. True ____ False ____
6. I struggle in my soul with anger. True ____ False ____
7. I struggle in my spirit with self-control. True ____ False ____
8. I believe the Church of Jesus Christ is the Temple of God. True ____ False ____

Chapter Eleven

“Church Members are Best Suited to Serve as Believer-Priests”

“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST: ITS PRIESTHOOD METAPHOR”

Review

1. Review four basic concepts for a Baptist understanding of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Answer.

- The Church of Jesus Christ was established during the Savior’s earthly ministry.
- The Church of Jesus Christ is a visible and assembled reality, rather than something invisible and disassembled.
- The Church of Jesus Christ is comprised of members of the assembly, rather than being comprised of all Christians throughout the world.
- Baptism, immersion in water, by the authority of the congregation, in obedience to Christ, is the means whereby a Christian becomes a member of a particular Church of Jesus Christ.

2. Review the definition of a metaphor.

Answer.

A metaphor is a figure of speech in which one thing is likened to another.

3. What does each of the following metaphors teach about the Church of Jesus Christ?

Answer.

- The Metaphor of the Body of Christ. This metaphor shows the Church of Jesus Christ that co-operation and interdependency are necessary to vibrant congregational life.
- The Metaphor of the Temple of God. This metaphor teaches the Church of Jesus Christ that God is in the midst of His people, and therefore they are a holy congregation.
- The Metaphor of the Temple of the Holy Spirit. This metaphor reminds the Church of Jesus Christ that the body of the Christian is the Temple of the indwelling Holy Spirit through which the fruit of the Spirit will be displayed. Therefore, the Temple of the Holy Spirit is to be kept holy and pure.
- The Metaphor of the Priesthood of Believers. This metaphor shows what Church congregations of priests ought to do in service to God.

4. Identify the various priesthoods of Scripture.

Answer.

- There is the Priesthood of Aaron, as established in the Law of Moses (Ex. 28:1).
- There is the Priesthood of Jesus Christ after the order of Melchizedek (Heb. 7:17).
- There is the Priesthood of Every Believer

5. What three offices were officially anointed under the Law of Moses?

Answer.

- The Aaronic Priesthood was an anointed office.
- The Prophets of Israel were anointed.
- The Kings of Judah were anointed.

Consider.

Jesus was a Priest, a Prophet, and a King.

6. Distinguish between the function of a priest and a prophet.

Answer.

The Priest is the man who stands with his back to the people while facing God as he represents the people to God.

The Prophet is the man who stands with his back to God, as he represents God to the people.

7. What is the primary function of the High Priest?

Answer.

The primary function of the High Priest is to offer up the appropriate sacrifice to God, thereby assuring the forgiveness of sins by the death of an innocent sin-bearer.

8. In addition to being the Priest who offered up an acceptable sacrifice to God the Father, what else was Jesus?

Answer.

Jesus was also the Sacrifice that was slain for the remission of our sins.

Consider.

Remission, the cancellation of a debt, charge, or penalty. "To be released or set free from sin (Acts 2:38; Heb 9:22). The active nature of the word for remission in the Greek language indicates that forgiveness is more than a passive act on God's part. Through the death of His Son, God has taken the initiative to break the grip of sin and set man free for a new way of life in God's Spirit" (*Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*).

9. What does propitiation mean?

Answer.

The word propitiation conveys the idea of satisfying God's righteous demands for our sin.

Consider.

When God is propitiated, when He is appeased, when His wrath is turned from an offending person, reconciliation has been accomplished.

10. Summarize how a congregation functions as a priesthood.

Answer.

- When bodies are presented to the Lord as living sacrifices, a congregation functions as a priesthood.
- When prayers are offered up to God on behalf of others, a congregation functions as a priesthood.
- When money is given to bless others, a congregation functions as a priesthood.
- When praise and thanksgiving to God is expressed, a congregation functions as a priesthood.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Dr. Waldrup believes that baptism, immersion in water, by the authority of the congregation, in obedience to Christ, is the means whereby a Christian becomes a member of a particular Church of Jesus Christ.

Question. If a person is led to relocate to another particular Church of Jesus Christ, is rebaptism necessary?

Question. If a new convert is immersed, so the individual becomes a member of the particular Church of Jesus Christ, and then comes under Church discipline to the point the congregation puts that person outside the membership, would rebaptism be necessary at some point? When? Why?

2. What are many Christians reserved about concerning displaying their love for Jesus?

Consider.

Discuss the emotional life of Jesus. Notice how Jesus did not hesitate to visibly and verbally display a wide range of emotions to include anger, love, affection, tenderness, and tears. "I am spellbound by the intensity of Jesus' emotions: Not a twinge of pity, but heartbroken compassion; not a passing irritation, but terrifying anger; not a silent tear, but groans of anguish; not a weak smile, but ecstatic celebration. Jesus' emotions are like a mountain river cascading with clear water. My emotions are more like a muddy foam or a feeble trickle."—G. Walter Hansenin, *Christianity Today*.

Personal Application

1. Remember, there is nothing wrong with being excited about the love of God, and the Savior who has propitiated His righteous wrath by His substitutionary death at Calvary. There is nothing wrong with displaying exuberant holy emotion reflecting a love for the One who died for sinners.
2. Develop an extensive Christian vocabulary. Learn the language of the Bible. Become familiar with words, such as grace, mercy, redemption, remission, propitiation, and reconciliation.
3. Be sure to know, accept, and fulfill your responsibilities as a believer-priest.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made;
Were ev’ry stalk on earth a quill,
And ev’ry man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole
Tho’ stretched from sky to sky.

Oh, love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
The saints’ and angels’ song.”

Frederick M. Lehman

Scripture Memorization

“But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

Heartwork

My Personal Affirmation

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. I will give myself as a living sacrifice to the Lord. | I will ____ |
| 2. I will pray for others as a believer-priest. | I will ____ |
| 3. I will give generously to help others and be a blessing to them. | I will ____ |
| 4. I will offer praise and thanksgiving to God. | I will ____ |
| 5. I will find a way to show my love for Jesus. | I will ____ |

Chapter Twelve

“The Savior as the Good Shepherd, as the Great Shepherd, and as the Chief Shepherd”

“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST: ITS FLOCK METAPHOR”

Review

1. Does the Church include everyone who is a Christian?

Answer.

Dr. Waldrip believes the Scripture teaches that the Church refers to a congregation, not to everyone who is a Christian.

2. When did Jeremiah write his prophecies?

Answer.

Jeremiah wrote at the beginning of the Babylonian Captivity (c. 586 BC).

3. When did Zechariah write his prophetic book?

Answer.

Zechariah wrote after the Babylonian Captivity (c. 520 to 475 BC).

4. How is the House of Judah identified by both prophets?

Answer.

Both prophets identify the House of Judah as “the LORD’s Flock.”

5. In the New Testament, what does Jesus Christ call His men?

Answer.

In Luke 12:32, Jesus calls His disciples, “Little Flock.” “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

6. What is the term “Little Flock” a fair representation of?

Answer.

The term “Little Flock” is a fair representation of the Church of Jesus Christ.

7. Who else used the term “flock” for the Church?

Answer.

- Paul. In Acts 20:28-29, the Apostle Paul identified the Church in Ephesus as “the flock.”
- Peter. In 1 Peter 5:1-3, the Apostle Peter told the elders to feed “the flock” of God.

8. What conclusion does Dr. Waldrip draw?

Answer.

Only local congregations are rightly understood to be flocks of God, and a Church is the flock of God.

9. What conclusion is derived from the theological writings of Lewis Sperry Chafer, the founder of Dallas Theological Seminary, in his famous *Systematic Theology* (1947, 8 vols), as summarized by Professor J. Dwight Pentecost in his work, *Things to Come*?

Answer.

Dr. Pentecost sets forth twenty-four contrasts between Israel and the Church of Jesus Christ, to conclude that these two entities cannot be united into one, but that they must be distinguished as two separate entities with whom God is dealing in a special program.

10. What should every believer know about the Church of Jesus Christ?

Answer.

- We know the Church of Jesus Christ is the body of Christ.
- We know the Church of Jesus Christ is the temple of God.
- We know the Church of Jesus Christ is comprised of priests.

11. What must be kept in mind while studying John 10:1-21?

Answer.

- First, Jesus Christ is the Door.
- Second, the sheep of Israel is a flock in the sheepfold.
- Third, the Lord Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd.
- Fourth, Jesus calls His sheep out from the sheepfold.
- Fifth, there are the other sheep He has that are not of the sheepfold initially referred to.

12. Into what five parts does John 10:1-21 fall?

Answer.

- First, the Lord Reviews the Experiences of the Flock, verses 1-5.
- Second, the Apostle Observes the Pharisee’s Failure to Understand, verse 6.
- Third, the Lord Jesus Christ is the Door, verses 7-10.
- Fourth, the Lord Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd, verses 11-18.
- Fifth, the Dispute Among the Jews is Summarized, verses 19 – 21.

13. Why did the Pharisees fail to grasp what our Lord was saying?

Answer.

The Pharisees could not understand His words, since they were not His sheep, and did not recognize the sound of His voice.

14. What can no sinner do?

Answer.

No sinner can save himself.

15. How does Arthur W. Pink say character is revealed?

Answer.

Character is revealed by our conduct in the *crises* of life.

16. What does the Muslim faith claim about Allah?

Answer.

The Muslim faith claims that Allah is unknowable.

17. What did Jesus teach about knowing God?

Answer.

Jesus taught that God can be known. The Savior knows and is known by His sheep, and knows, and is known by the Father.

18. What is the Biblical evidence that Jesus was not a helpless victim of culture and circumstances?

Answer.

- First, no man took His life from Him for He laid it down, Himself.
- Second, Jesus had the power, the authority, to both lay down and also to take up His life.
- Third, the actions of Jesus were according to the will of God the Father, and not any group of chief priests, or a traitorous disciple.

19. What can the Church of Jesus Christ learn from the metaphor of the “Little Flock”?

Answer.

- First, the Church of Jesus Christ can learn that Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
- Second, the Church of Jesus Christ can learn that Jesus is the Great Shepherd.
- Third, the Church of Jesus Christ can learn that Jesus is the Chief Shepherd.

- Fourth, the Church of Jesus Christ can obtain a clearer picture of ourselves as sheep who know and are known by our Shepherd. We must be led and fed by Him and His Under-shepherds.
- Fifth, the Church of Jesus Christ can understand the place, and the importance of the local assembly in the lives of Christ's sheep as a provision for protection from spiritual danger, and nourishment, and growth under the oversight of under-shepherds.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Why are Christians called "sheep"? Is this a fitting description of the Church of Jesus Christ? Why?
2. Why can no sinner save themselves?
3. Discuss the abundant life that Jesus came to give. What is it? Be precise.
4. What should be said about modern-day "hirelings" in the ministry? How can they be identified? How can they be held accountable?
5. Why does the gospel divide people? Be specific.

Personal Application

1. Make sure you are part of the "Little Flock."
2. Listen for, and to the voice of the Good Shepherd.
3. Follow the Good Shepherd. Follow the Lamb. "These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb" (Rev. 14:4).
4. Understand that salvation is the result of entering a relationship with God by Him by Jesus.
5. Study all of the "I AM" passages in Scripture.

Consider.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| • I AM the Bread of Life | John 6:48 | The One who Sustains |
| • I AM the Light of the World | John 8:12 | The One who Illuminates |
| • I AM the Door | John 10:9 | The One who Mediates |
| • I AM the Good Shepherd | John 10:11 | The One who Watches |
| • I AM the Resurrection | John 11:25 | The One who Gives Life |

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| • I AM the Way | John 14:6 | The One who Leads |
| • I AM the True Vine | John 15:1 | The One who Produces |
| • The Eighth "I AM" | John 8:58; Exodus 3:14 | Immanuel – God with Us |

6. Seek to have intimacy with the Good Shepherd.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“There were ninety and nine that safely lay
in the shelter of the fold,
but one was out on the hills away,
far off from the gates of gold —
away on the mountains wild and bare,
away from the tender Shepherd’s care,
away from the tender Shepherd’s care.

“Lord, thou hast here thy ninety and nine;
are they not enough for thee?”

But the Shepherd made answer:

“This of mine has wandered away from me,
and although the road be rough and steep,
I go to the desert to find my sheep,
I go to the desert to find my sheep.”

But none of the ransomed ever knew
how deep were the waters crossed;
nor how dark was the night that the Lord passed thro’
ere he found his sheep that was lost.
Out in the desert he heard its cry —
sick and helpless, and ready to die,
sick and helpless, and ready to die.

“Lord, whence are those blood-drops all the way
that mark out the mountain’s track?”

“They were shed for one who had gone astray
ere the Shepherd could bring him back.”

“Lord, whence are thy hands so rent and torn?”

“They’re pierced tonight by many a thorn,
They’re pierced tonight by many a thorn.”

But all thro’ the mountains, thunder-riv’n,
and up from the rocky steep,
there arose a glad cry to the gate of heav’n,
“Rejoice! I have found my sheep!”

And the angels echoed around the throne,
“Rejoice, for the Lord brings back his own!
Rejoice, for the Lord brings back his own!”

Elizabeth Cecilia Clephane

Scripture Memorization

“¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever” (Psalm 23:1-6).

Heartwork

My Commitment

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. I will make certain I am part of the “Little Flock.” | I will ____ |
| 2. I will listen daily for, and to, the voice of the Good Shepherd. | I will ____ |
| 3. I will follow the Lamb wherever He goes. | I will ____ |
| 4. I will seek a closer walk with Jesus. | I will ____ |
| 5. I will study all of the great I AM passages in Scripture. | I will ____ |
| 6. I will seek to have intimacy with the Good Shepherd. | I will ____ |

Chapter Thirteen

“This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine.”

“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST: ITS CANDLESTICK METAPHOR”

Revelation 1.12, 13, 20; 2.1, 5

Review

1. How many images in the New Testament reference the Church of Jesus Christ?

Answer.

There are between 80 and 100 images in the New Testament that refer, in one way or another, to the Church of Jesus Christ.

2. List at least four metaphors for the Church of Jesus Christ.

Answer.

- The Body Metaphor
- The Temple Metaphor
- The Priesthood Metaphor
- The “Little Flock” Metaphor

Consider.

Metaphor: a figure of speech in which a word, or phrase, literally denoting one kind of object or idea, is used in place of another to suggest a likeness or analogy between them. —Merriam-Webster

“A metaphor is a literary device by which one thing is described using the reader’s familiarity with another quite dissimilar thing. Metaphors do not change what they are used to describe.” —Dr. John Waldrip

3. What metaphor is used for the Church of Jesus Christ in the Revelation?

Answer.

John uses the metaphor of a golden candlestick for the Church of Jesus Christ. “And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks” (Rev. 1:12).

4. What is a menorah?

Answer.

A menorah is seven candlesticks joined to a single base.

5. What two major divisions are made in Chapter Thirteen?

Answer.

- The Metaphor of the Candlestick is used
- The Memories of the Candlestick Metaphor would evoke

6. How does a candlestick illustrate a Church?

Answer.

As the candlestick holds up the lamp for all to better see, and for its light to shine farther, so does a Church congregation serve to do spiritually what that piece of furniture does physically.

“The Lord will light my candle so
That it shall shine full bright;
The Lord for me shall also turn
My darkness into light.”

—A Scotch Psalm

7. What does Jesus want Christians to do concerning the candlestick, which is your Church?

Answer.

Jesus Christ wants every Christian to hold up their light by participation, by involvement in some aspect of ministry.

Reflection and Discussion

1. What are some practical ways a Christian can let their light shine? Be specific.
2. How can a Christian cultivate a soul winners' heart?
3. What can the Church of Jesus Christ do so their light shines brighter in the community?
4. What dangers are there in letting one's light shine in the darkness of the world?
5. Does your Church ask its members how it can best make use of their gifts and abilities? Why?

Personal Application

1. Put your spiritual light on a candlestick to give light to others to glorify your Father which is in heaven.
2. Let your light shine as a member of a Church of Jesus Christ for all the congregation to see.
3. As your light shines forth, temper passion and dogmatism with grace. Perhaps there is more to life than just being “right.” “Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other” (Psalm 85:10). “Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts” (Prov. 21:2).
4. If possible, read *Sermons in Candles*, Charles H. Spurgeon.
5. Make every effort to tell the unsaved about Jesus and the way of eternal life. “And of some have compassion, making a difference” (Jude 22).
6. Answer this question: If you were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence in a Court of Law to convict you?

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.”

Harry Dixon Loes

Scripture Memorization

“Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house” (Matt. 5:15).

Heartwork

My Commitment

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. I will seriously determine, and implement ways to let my light shine. | I will ____ |
| 2. I will give myself to soul-winning efforts. | I will ____ |
| 3. I will find a way to get involved in my congregation. | I will ____ |
| 4. I will be numbered among the committed. | I will ____ |

My Christian Commitment to Christ

A Zimbabwe Martyr (South East Africa)

I'm a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of His and I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure. I'm done and finished with low-living, sight-walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, or first, or tops, or recognized, or praised, or rewarded. I live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by Holy Spirit power.

My face is set. My gait is fast. My goal is heaven. My road may be narrow, my way rough, my companions few, but my guide is reliable and my mission is clear.

I will not be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice or hesitate in the presence of the adversary. I will not negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus. I must give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes. And when He does come for His own, He'll have no problems recognizing me. My colors will be clear!

~*~

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep,
to gain that which he cannot lose.” — Jim Elliot

Chapter Fourteen
“Is alien immersion a thing?”
**“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST:
GUARDIAN OF THE ORDINANCE OF BAPTISM”**
Matthew 28.19

Review

1. Identify nine common doctrines about which Christians can agree.

Answer.

- Salvation, which has to do with the miracles of creation and recreation.
- The Virgin Birth.
- The sacrificial death of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- The glorious resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
- The monumental ascension of Jesus to glory and God’s right hand on high.
- The forgiveness of sins.
- Justification by faith in Christ.
- Sanctification by faith throughout the Christian’s life.
- The deliverance of the saints of God into the presence of the Savior.

2. What is a distinguishing characteristic of Baptists?

Answer.

Baptism is one distinguishing characteristic of Baptists.

3. How does Dr. Waldrip understand Scriptural baptism?

Answer.

- Scriptural baptism is baptism as it is practiced in the Word of God.
- Scriptural baptism is baptism as it is commanded in the Word of God.
- Scriptural baptism is baptism as it is authorized by the Word of God.

4. List the four-fold division Dr. Waldrip develops in discussing how the ordinance of baptism is to be administered, and to what purpose this ordinance is administered?

Answer.

- The Command to Baptize
- The Consequence of Baptism
- The Custodian of Baptism
- The Criterion for Baptism

5. How are disciples of Jesus Christ made, according to the grammar of Matthew 28:19, 20?

Answer.

- Disciples of Jesus Christ are made by going to them.
- Disciples of Jesus Christ are made by baptizing them.
- Disciples of Jesus Christ are made by teaching them to observe all things Christ commanded.

6. What cannot be ignored by professing Christians, and Christian denominations concerning baptism?

Answer.

- How to baptize cannot be ignored.
- Who to baptize cannot be ignored.
- To what end baptism is to be performed cannot be ignored.

7. What are two consequences of baptism?

Answer.

- Baptism is an act of obedience on the part of the congregation performing the baptism.
- Second, baptism is the means whereby a Christian becomes an integral part of a Church of Jesus Christ, a member of the body.

8. How can it be verified that someone who is already a Christian, is brought into the fellowship of a local Church, by being baptized, and is placed under the authority of that local Church?

Answer.

First, there are no examples of baptism performed in the Bible to make someone a Christian.

Second, there are many passages in God's Word that show salvation to be a matter of faith in Christ, and not a religious observance, or work of any kind, including baptism (see Titus 3:5; Eph. 2:8-9).

Third, baptism is a public profession of one's faith in Jesus Christ as per Romans 4 and 5.

9. How does a person know that baptism is symbolic of a believer's salvation experience, and not a saving ordinance?

Answer.

First, because First John 1.7 declares that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from sin, not the waters of baptism.

Second, salvation is real, while baptism is symbolic of salvation, and is not salvation itself (Rom. 6:4).

Third, salvation is by grace, with grace and works being incompatible when it comes to salvation, according to Romans 11.6: “And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.”

Fourth, baptism is a witness of the congregation’s assurance of the salvation of the person being baptized.

10. When does Dr. Waldrip believe baptism is rightly administered?

Answer.

Baptism is rightly administered when a congregation has a basis for confidence that a baptismal candidate is truly converted, not when an individual insists that he is converted, and asks that the congregation baptize him.

11. When a person is proven to have been erroneously baptized what corrective steps are to be taken?

Answer.

When a person is proven to have been erroneously baptized the steps outlined in Matthew 18:15-20 are to be taken to the point of ejecting a sinning person from Church membership when necessary.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Would you agree with Dr. Waldrip that far too many people are baptized without anyone exercising caution or discretion about the candidate who seeks baptism? Why is this allowed to happen?
2. In the book of Acts a person was baptized upon profession of faith, even in the middle of the night (Acts 2:41; 8:12, 13; Acts 9:18; 10:47; 16:15, 33; 18:8; 19:5; 22:16). No one “tarried” to be baptized.

Question. If the Church of Jesus Christ today believes that baptism immediately following a profession of faith, based on a clear understanding of the gospel, is being too hasty, what cautionary steps should be taken before performing a Christian baptism? Be specific as to time, evidence, and instruction needed before baptism.

3. When were you baptized? Why? What were the circumstances?

4. Many Christians who were baptized in their youth feel a need to be rebaptized in their maturity. Should this practice be encouraged or discouraged? Why?
5. Some local congregations demand that a person be baptized, or rebaptized, to join their assembly or denomination. Is this a proper demand? Should a candidate for membership acquiesce to such a demand? Why?

Consider.

“Of course, baptism is that ordinance of the Church that is observed by the Church again and again as new disciples of Christ are converted, and then brought into fellowship with the Church, with each believer experiencing Scriptural baptism by immersion only once” (Dr. John Waldrip).

6. Paedo-baptism, the baptism of infants, is practiced by many, if not most denominations. Why?

Consider.

The arguments for paedo-baptism are not rooted in any clear Biblical text or example, but in a philosophical and theological construct with emotional appeal.

7. Would your congregation ever deny someone baptism? On what basis?
8. How does your local Church of Jesus Christ reveal who is a proper candidate for baptism?

Consider.

Confirmation of a real conversion experience should be sought by personal testimony and a corresponding Christ-like lifestyle. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17).

Personal Application

1. If you have not been obedient to the will of the Lord and Scripturally baptized, settle that matter immediately. There is no excuse for delay, or disobedience, in this area.

Consider.

“²⁸ But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in my vineyard. ²⁹ He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. ³⁰ And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. ³¹ Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you” (Matt. 21:28-31).

2. Be humble enough to submit to pastoral examination before seeking baptism. “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you” (Heb. 13:17).

3. If possible, read *The Biblical Case Against Infant Baptism*, Cliff Hellar.

Consider.

A FREE GRACE OFFER: A free copy of Cliff Hellar's books will be sent upon request, as long as the supply lasts. Write to Stanford E. Murrell 5357 Indigo Crossing Drive, Viera, Florida 32955, or, stanfordmurrell@yahoo.com. A purchased copy of this book can be obtained through www.Ichthuspublications.org.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“Search me, O God,
And know my heart today;
Try me, O Savior,
Know my thoughts, I pray.
See if there be
Some wicked way in me;
Cleanse me from every sin
And set me free.”

J. Edwin Orr

Scripture Memorization

“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41).

Heartwork

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. I have been Scripturally baptized. | True ____ False ____ |
| 2. I am depending on Jesus, not my baptism, to save me. | True ____ False ____ |
| 3. I believe baptizing infants is a harmful practice. | True ____ False ____ |
| 4. | |
| 5. I am submissive to pastoral guidance. | True ____ False ____ |
| 6. I seek to live a sanctified life. | True ____ False ____ |

My Confession of Faith

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. I believe salvation is the miracle of creation and recreation by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit. | I believe ____ |
| 2. I believe in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. | I believe ____ |
| 3. I believe in the substitutional and sacrificial death of our Lord Jesus Christ for sinners. | I believe ____ |
| 4. I believe in the glorious resurrection of Jesus from the dead. | I believe ____ |
| 5. I believe in the monumental ascension of Jesus to glory and God's right hand on high. | I believe ____ |
| 6. I believe in the forgiveness of sins. | I believe ____ |
| 7. I believe in justification by faith alone in Christ alone. | I believe ____ |
| 8. I believe in sanctification by faith throughout the Christian's life. | I believe ____ |
| 9. I believe in the deliverance of the saints of God into the presence of the Savior. | I believe ____ |

Chapter Fifteen

“The Sad Reality of so Much Communion Compromise”

“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST: GUARDIAN OF THE ORDINANCE OF COMMUNION”

Review

1. What are the two ordinances of the Church of Jesus Christ?

Answer.

- Baptism
- The Lord’s Supper

2. In developing his presentation on the subject of the Lord’s Supper, what major divisions are set forth by Dr. Waldrip in this chapter?

Answer.

- The Establishing of the Ordinance
- The Abuse of the Ordinance
- The Proper use of the Ordinance

3. What other names are used in Scripture to refer to the Lord’s Supper?

Answer.

- The Lord’s Supper is referred to as the “breaking of bread.” Acts 2:42
- The Lord’s Supper is referred to as “communion.” 1 Corinthians 10:1
- The Lord’s Supper is referred to as “the Lord’s Table.” 1 Corinthians 10:21
- The Lord’s Supper is referred to as the “giving of thanks.” 1 Corinthians 14:16

4. Summarize the establishing of the communion of the Lord’s Supper.

Answer.

First, the communion of the Lord’s Supper was established in an upper room somewhere in Jerusalem secured to celebrate the Passover (Mark 14:12-15).

Second, the communion of the Lord’s Supper celebrated only by those who were invited. It was not open-ended.

Third, the communion of the Lord’s Supper was established to confirm to His disciples who Jesus was, and fully reveal to them what He had “steadfastly set His face” to do (Luke 9:51).

5. How has the Lord's Supper been abused?

Answer.

- The Corinthians abused the Lord's Supper by engaging in selfish actions and insensitivity.
- Roman Catholics have abused the Lord's Supper by crucifying the Lord afresh in the Mass.
- Anglicans have abused the Lord's Supper by not moving further away from Rome.
- Lutherans have abused the Lord's Supper by their doctrine of consubstantiation, which is not far removed from the heresy of transubstantiation, whereby the elements become the literal body and blood of Jesus.
- Congregationalists have abused the Lord's Supper by knowingly allowing unbelievers to participate in the communion service.
- Contemporary Christians abuse the Lord's Supper by failing to guard against those not members of the Church of Jesus Christ taking communion.

6. How is the Lord's Supper to be observed?

Answer.

First, the Lord's Supper is to be observed as an ordinance, not a sacrament. The Lord's Supper is a memorial service, not a saving ritual, and a means of receiving grace.

Second, the Lord's Supper should be observed soberly, in a spirit of repentance.

Third, the Lord's Supper is to be observed as a privilege, not a right.

7. What convictions does Dr. Waldrip hold about the communion service?

Answer.

First, the communion service is an ordinance that is to be conducted by and for a Church congregation.

Second, there are some who should be excommunicated, and not allowed to partake of the Lord's Supper. The communion service plays a vital role in Church discipline.

Third, the observance of the Lord's Supper should not take place outside a congregational meeting.

Reflection and Discussion

1. The **Lord's** Supper and the **Lord's** Day are uniquely identified and emphasized in the New Testament as belonging to Jesus. What significance, if any, should be placed on this distinctive language?

Consider.

The Lord's Supper is significant because it is one of the two ordinances authorized by Jesus. The Lord's Day is significant because it has determined when the Church of Jesus Christ is to gather for worship and remembrance of His death, burial, and resurrection. Apart from the resurrection, there would be no need for the Lord's Supper, so the two are united together. ¹⁴ "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. ¹⁵ Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. ¹⁶ For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: ¹⁷ And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins" (1 Cor. 15:14-17).

2. Discuss the believer's "vertical" relationship with the Lord. What does that mean? How can it be improved?
3. Comment on the believer's "horizontal" relationship with other believers. How can that relationship be enhanced?

Consider.

One way that might help unite some believers is for them not to think of other sincere professing Christians in terms of "us" against "them." The story is told of a young boy who asked his Episcopalian bishop if a person could go to heaven without being an Episcopalian. The good man thought for a moment and then replied, "Yes. I suppose it is possible to go to heaven without being an Episcopalian. But why would anyone want to go some other way?" The bishop was not alone in his sentiment. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).

This is not to suggest unity "at any price." Doctrinal compromise on the fundamentals of the Christian faith is not an option. Religious pluralism is destructive. Ecumenicalism is an abomination to the Lord. Nevertheless, the Lord has many people. In his Revelation, John saw them. "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation" (Rev. 5:8).

4. Why was Judas allowed to be present at the Last Supper, at least for a little while? Is this significant?

Consider.

Judas was present at the Last Supper, for a little while. Is this significant? It is, because prior to establishing the Communion ceremony, Judas left the fellowship, thereby teaching that the Lord's Supper is for those who believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. The Lord's Supper is not to be participated in by unbelievers. Observe the final chronology of that fateful night.

- Judas went to the Chief priests to betray Jesus for money (Matt. 26:14; Mark 14:10; Luke 23:2-6).
- All of the disciples, with Jesus, ate an initial part of the Passover Supper (Mark 14:17; Luke 22:14).
- After the initial part of the Passover Supper was ended, the Devil entered into Judas' heart to betray Jesus. Nevertheless, Jesus washed the feet of each discipline (John 13:2-11). "Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve" (Luke 22:3). Many people have been demonically possessed. Judas Iscariot was possessed by the Devil himself.
- The disciples were told they were not all clean, a clear reference to Judas (John 13:11).
- Remaining at the table, the disciples thought about the words of Jesus as they continued to eat, using a morsel of bread often shaped and used as a spoon to dip sop (John 13:12, 28).
- The disciples were suddenly informed that one of them would betray Jesus (John 13:21).
- Each disciple asked, including Judas, "Lord, is it I?" (Matt. 26:25; John 13:22-25).
- The disciples were cryptically informed that the one that dipped his sop with Jesus would be His betrayer (John 13:26; Mark 14:18-20).
- When the right moment came, Judas was quietly told by Jesus that he was the one, and was handed the sop (John 13:27, 30).
- After being given the sop, Judas *immediately* went out from the fellowship of the Lord's Supper and found the chief priests (John 13:30).
- With the departure of Judas from the Upper Room, Jesus proceeded to institute the Lord's Supper, or Christian Communion with the eleven remaining disciples who believed in Him (Matt. 26:26; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20). Judas was no longer present.
- With Judas gone, Jesus could expound on the meaning of His life, and the gospel (John 13:31 to John 18:1).

- Jesus sang a hymn with the eleven remaining disciples, departed with them from the upper room (Mark 14:46).
- With Jesus, the eleven disciples walked to the Mount of Olives, and the Garden of Gethsemane (John 18:1; Luke 22:39).
- Knowing where Jesus would go after the fellowship meal, Judas took the enemies of the Lord Jesus to Him. Then, Judas Iscariot betrayed the Lord of Glory with a kiss (Matt. 26:47; Mark 14:43; Luke 22:47, 48; Acts 1:16; John 18:2-5).
- Though Judas repented of his actions, he went and hanged himself (Matt. 27:3; Acts 1:25).

“Judas was indeed present at the Last Supper, but Judas was not present at the full revelation of its meaning. He heard that there would be ceremonial bread and wine, probably saw it, but never actually partook of that bread and wine as a religious expression of faith in Jesus because he had already left before that stage was reached. In short, it seems clear that Judas had no part in the first-ever Christian communion service” (Robin A. Brace, United Kingdom, Apologetics).

5. How can the Church of Jesus Christ guard the Communion service? What practical steps can be and should be taken? Be specific.
6. “After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me” (1 Cor. 11:25). Question. How often is often? How frequently should communion be taken? What is the practice of your Church of Jesus Christ?

Personal Application

1. Understand the importance of the Lord’s Supper, lest you forget the great work of redemption accomplished by Jesus at Calvary, and in mercy applied to your heart by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).
2. Be careful not to abuse the privilege of taking the Lord’s Supper by being bored, careless with the elements, or by allowing your thoughts to wander.
3. Take the Lord’s Supper seriously and after self-examination. Those who do not guard their hearts are subject to Divine discipline. “For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep” (1 Cor. 11:30).
4. Take communion often and remember Jesus. “And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me’” (Luke 22:19).

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing:
sing praises to his name; He forgets not His own.”

Scripture Memorization

“¹⁹ And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁰ Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you” (Luke 22:19-20).

Heartwork

1. I take the Lord's Supper often. True ____ False ____
2. I focus attention on the death of Jesus when I take communion. True ____ False ____
3. I believe that the Lord's Supper is only for Christians. True ____ False ____
4. I believe the Church of Jesus Christ should Guard the Table. True ____ False ____
5. I believe that some people are sick and weak because they have abused the Lord's Supper. True ____ False ____
6. Taking the Lord's Supper brings joy and gratitude to my heart. True ____ False ____

Chapter Sixteen
“We’re on a mission from God.”
OUR GREAT COMMISSION Part 1
“Jesus Christ Is Authorized”
Matthew 28.16-20

Review

1. In Matthew 28:17, why did some of the Lord’s disciples doubt His appearance, despite seven previous encounters with the resurrected Christ?

Answer.

- It is possible that the disciples did not doubt that Jesus was alive, but they did doubt it was He who was appearing to them on a particular occasion.
 - It is possible that some of the disciples had not yet seen the risen Lord, though they had heard that Jesus had risen from the dead.
2. What four factors were unique to the appearance of Jesus to His disciples in His eighth visit with them?

Answer.

- This was the only post-resurrection appearance that Jesus announced ahead of time. The Lord told His disciples where to meet Him.
 - This was the only post-resurrection appearance that occurred outside of the immediate vicinity of Jerusalem.
 - This was the only post-resurrection appearance that might be considered a public event since there were so many people present.
 - This was the only post-resurrection appearance where the Great Commission was fully presented.
3. Consider four divisional aspects of the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - There is the Power of Christ’s Nature
 - There is the Nature of Christ’s Power
 - There is the Extent of Christ’s Power
 - There is the Duration of Christ’s Power

4. What did Benajah Harvey Carroll (Dec 27, 1843 – Nov 11, 1914), founder of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas (est. March 14, 1908) warn the Church against?

Answer.

B. H. Carroll warned the Church against any teaching “that decries doctrines, or which would reduce the creed of the church into two or three articles.”

5. What is a creed (Latin, *credo*)?

Answer.

A creed is what we believe.

Consider.

Creed: brief authoritative formula of religious belief; a set of fundamental beliefs (Merriam-Webster)

6. Identify some of the great Creeds of Christendom.

Answer.

- The Apostle’s Creed
- The Nicene Creed
- The Athanasian Creed

7. Why has Dr. Waldrip set these creeds for the student to study?

Answer.

First, because creeds are ancient statements of what Christians believed the Word of God taught about our Lord Jesus Christ.

Second, because it is good for the Church of Jesus Christ to be reminded that ours is a historical faith, and not something new, conjured up by charlatans over the last century or two that has been supposedly hidden for millennia.

Third, because many contemporary Christians have departed from the faith that is reflected in these ancient creeds.

Fourth, because we need to be reminded afresh and anew Who our Savior is, and by what authority He commands that we must obey.

8. As very God of very God, and equal with God, how can Jesus be subordinate to the Father?

Answer.

Jesus was subordinate to the Father, not in His nature or essence, which was the same, but as to His duties. To be functionally subordinate does not mean one is inferior.

Consider.

Paul explains. “⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:8-11).

9. How far, and to what extent, does the power of Christ reach?

Answer.

The power of Christ is high as the highest heavens, and down to earth.

10. How long will the power of Christ last?

Answer.

“Because Christ was commissioned in eternity past to come, in time and in history, to carry out the will of his Father, when this work is completed, Christ will place himself in the very position he had with the Father previously” (Archibald Thomas Robertson, [1863-1934] *Word Pictures in the New Testament*).

11. What four gospel truths should be acknowledged concerning Christ’s power?

Answer.

- It is God-Like to Submit to God the Father
- It is God-Like to Submit to the Lord Jesus Christ
- It is Child of God Like to Submit to the Spirit of God
- It is Spiritual Wisdom to Understand the Commission of the Church of Jesus Christ is Authorized by the One to Whom All Authority has been Given in Heaven and on Earth

Reflection and Discussion

1. What is a proper response to the person who says in a pejorative way that doctrine divides?

Consider.

While it is true that doctrine divides, it is also true that doctrine unites. It unites people of like mind and faith, it unites the Church of Jesus Christ into one body of believers, and it unites truth against falsehood.

2. Some sincere Christians believe that creeds and confessions of faith are unbiblical. What should be the response? Use Scripture to support your answer.

Consider.

The validity of the Church of Jesus Christ affirming her faith finds a biblical basis. In the Old Testament, the people of God confessed their faith every morning and every evening by saying the words of Deuteronomy 6:4: “Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God *is* one LORD.” In Matthew 16:16, Peter confessed Jesus, saying, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Paul summarized the faith of the Church when he wrote: “³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3-4).

There is a *credo*, or affirmation of faith, expressed in Ephesians 4:4-6: “⁴ There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ One Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

The heart of the Christian soars to spiritual heights when it affirms that, “without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory” (1 Tim. 3:16). Let the Church of Jesus Christ say, “I believe.”

3. Can the Lordship of Jesus be divorced from salvation? Why is this an issue in the Church of Jesus Christ?

Consider.

“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).

“Therefore, let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah” (Acts 2:36).

Study the following verses to see the emphasis that Jesus is Lord and Savior: Titus 1:4; 2 Peter 1:11; 2:20; 3:2, 18.

Personal Application

1. If you struggle to believe the cardinal doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ, pray the prayer found in Mark 9:24: “Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.”
2. Study the rich history of each of the major Creeds of Christendom. There was a reason why each church council was held to defend the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 3), and articulate the reason of the hope that is in the heart (1 Peter 3:15).
3. In all things, submit to God the Father. Say with Job, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him” (Job 13:15). “We kiss the hand that strikes the blow” (SEM).

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“Faith of our fathers! living still,
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword;
Oh how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene’er we hear that glorious Word!
Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.”

Frederick W. Faber

Memorization

The Apostle’s Creed

“I believe in God the Father Almighty;
Maker of Heaven and Earth;
and in Jesus Christ His only (begotten) Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell;
the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven;
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy *catholic Church;
the communion of the saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.”

*catholic, universal

Observation.

The Apostle's Creed is trinitarian. There are three distinct divisions concerning the Father ("I believe in God the Father Almighty"), the Son ("and in Jesus Christ"), and the Holy Spirit ("I believe in the Holy Ghost").

The Apostle's Creed summarizes four important facets of the Church of Jesus Christ. It is one, holy, catholic (lit. universal, i.e., from every tongue, people, and nation Rev. 5:9), and apostolic.

Heartwork**Make It Personal**

I believe God was manifest in the flesh,
justified in the Spirit,
seen of angels,
preached unto the Gentiles.
believed on in the world,
received up into glory.

My Affirmation of Faith

I believe ____
I believe ____
I believe ____
I believe ____
I believe ____
I believe ____

Chapter Seventeen
“Authorized? Yes, but also exercising wisdom.”
OUR GREAT COMMISSION Part 2
“We Are Authorized”
Matthew 28.16-20

Review

1. Identify two types of power or authority.

Answer.

- There is an innate authority.
- There is a derived authority.

2. Should a person be authorized to teach the Word of God?

Answer.

James 3:1 affirms that a person should be authorized to teach the Word of God. “My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”

3. What two issues are considered in this chapter?

Answer.

- There is the Issue of Legitimate Versus Illegitimate Authority
- There is the Issue of Authorities in Conflict

4. Who has legitimately derived authority?

Answer.

- Jesus Christ
- Angels
- The Family Unit
- The Church of Jesus Christ

5. What is the Church of Jesus Christ authorized to do?

Answer.

- A Church of Jesus Christ is authorized to represent the Lord to a community as well as to the world.
- A Church of Jesus Christ is authorized to speak for God authoritatively.
- A Church of Jesus Christ is authorized to administer the ordinances of baptism and the communion of the Lord's Supper to the Church's members.
- A Church of Jesus Christ is authorized to administer discipline within its membership.
- A Church of Jesus Christ is authorized to carry out the Great Commission.

6. Who is wielding illegitimate authority over many lives?

Answer.

- Satan
- Fallen angels
- False religions
- Slave owners
- Non-Christian Employers
- Government

7. What did Nimrod combine to rule over the population of his empire?

Answer.

- False religion
- Governmental might

8. What are two good reasons for submitting to an illegitimate authority structure?

Answer.

- God often makes use of such institutions for our good.
- A person will suffer greatly and needlessly if they do not submit to an illegitimate authority structure.

9. Under what four headings is the authority of Christians in Churches discussed by Dr. Waldrip?

Answer.

- A Church's Authority is Legitimate
- A Church's Authority Does Not Conflict with any Other Legitimate Authority
- A Church's Authority Supersedes Any Illegitimate Authority
- A Church's Authority will be Opposed

Reflection and Discussion

1. Why does might not make right? Give a specific example that illustrates your position.
2. Who determines what is moral and right? Government? God? Self?
3. Where does the non-Christian find morality?

Consider.

The atheist, the agnostic, and the skeptic all find their moral code of conduct by “borrowing” it from the Judeo-Christian community. No Libertine wants to live by their philosophy of “eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die.” Such a life is boring and meaningless. There is a sense of “oughtness” in the soul of man for God has created a Moral Universe and enshrined His Law, first in stone, and then in the hearts of individuals.

4. What is the “greater condemnation” [*krima*, a decision (the function or the effect, for or against), or judgment, that awaits those who teach God’s Word?

Consider.

There are two boundaries that any communicator of the Word of God might want to use to protect themselves from the “greater condemnation.”

First, the simplicity of teaching. When Jesus taught, “the common people heard Him gladly” (Mark 12:37). It does no good to teach in such a way that an individual cannot comprehend what is being said.

Second, faithfulness to the text. When something is said, and an allusion is made to Scripture, the text appealed to should plainly reflect what is being taught. It is not uncommon to find prophetic pundits casually tossing out a Scripture reference to make a sensational point, but when the verse is read in context when the Bible is actually opened and consulted, the text does not plainly support what is being declared with authority. Let the Church of Jesus Christ be a Berean Church and search the Scriptures daily, whether those things are so which are taught (Acts 17:11).

5. Are house churches intrinsically unscriptural? Can a house church be Biblical? Explain.

Consider.

“Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my well-beloved Epaphroditus, who is the first fruits of Achaia unto Christ” (Rom. 16:5).

“The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house” (1 Cor. 16:19).

“Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house” (Col. 4:15).

“And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in thy house”
(Philemon 2)

6. Has feminism emasculated masculinity? What is the evidence? How can Christian men regain Biblical masculinity?
7. Would you agree that often wives wield authority not granted to them by God, and husbands tend not to wield authority that has been granted to them? Why?
8. Should a Christian seek to become a martyr for the Lord? Explain.
9. What should Christians do if they find themselves in a situation where they must sin against God to comply with the demands of illegitimate authority? What would you do? What will you do?
10. Should a person who is encouraging others to stand on principle, and have the courage of their convictions, and walk away from a good-paying job, with secure benefits, or risk arrest and harm, first model what they advocate? Why?

Consider.

Paul exhorted Timothy to be a good soldier of the cross and endure hardship (2 Tim. 2:3). Paul had a right to speak because he suffered greatly for Christ. He led by example. “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1).

11. Should Christians acknowledge the authority of governments over them? Should the Church of Jesus Christ ever engage in violence to overthrow evil?

Consider.

In Nazi Germany, Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer saw his Lutheran brothers and sisters weeping. He saw people of the Jewish faith being executed. He felt he had to do something for the greater good of Germany and the Confessing Church. He decided to try and help assassinate Adolf Hitler. Because of his involvement in the July 20, 1944 Plot to kill Adolf Hitler, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was executed on June 9, 1945. He was hanged just two weeks before soldiers from the United States liberated the Flossenburg concentration camp in which he was held. He was 39 years old. Was Bonhoeffer, right? Was he wrong?

Personal Application

1. On matters of preference, bend like the willow tree; on matters of principle, stand like a mighty oak. “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).
2. Sheep need a strong leader, especially in times of conflict with figures of authority. Find a strong pastor to stand with.

3. Practice what is preached. If you are going to exhort others to good works and faithfulness to God that involves great personal loss and bodily harm, make sure you have paid the price yourself, and have a right to speak. Leaders lead. Now, onward, Christian soldiers!
4. “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men” (Rom. 12:18).
5. If possible, read *The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“Onward, Christian soldiers,
 Marching as to war,
 With the cross of Jesus
 Going on before.
 Christ, the royal Master,
 Leads against the foe;
 Forward into battle
 See His banners go!

Onward, Christian soldiers,
 Marching as to war,
 With the Cross of Jesus
 Going on before.”

Sabine Baring-Gould

Scripture Memorization

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth”
 (Matt. 28:18)

Heartwork

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. I respect the authority of God. | True ____ False ____ |
| 2. I respect Caesar. | True ____ False ____ |
| 3. I respect the authority of the Church of Jesus Christ. | True ____ False ____ |
| 4. I live under authority. | True ____ False ____ |
| 5. I respect my elders. | True ____ False ____ |
| 6. I am not willing to suffer for Christ. | True ____ False ____ |

7. I think I would be willing to suffer for Jesus,
but I am afraid I would fail if tested. True ____ False ____
8. My bark is louder than my bite, if the truth were told. I am not bold. True ____ False ____
9. I have not been tested in any fire of persecution, nor do I want to be. True ____ False ____
10. Like Peter, I have already denied my Lord, and compromised my
Christian convictions. True ____ False ____
11. I am praying for a brave heart because the future of the Church of Jesus
Christ in America may be in great danger. I pray to be found faithful. True ____ False ____

Chapter Eighteen
“Them that goes gets.”
OUR GREAT COMMISSION Part 3
“Go Ye Therefore”
Matthew 28.16-20

Review

1. What happened during the eighth meeting of Jesus with His disciples following His resurrection?

Answer.

First, a large group of our Lord’s disciples obeyed Him.
Second, when the disciples saw Jesus, they worshipped Him.

2. What does the Greek word for worship (*proskuneo*) mean?

Answer.

The term used for worship in Matthew 28:17 means literally to kiss.

Consider.

Proskuneo means to “kiss” (like a dog licking his master’s hand); to fawn or crouch to, i.e. (literally or figuratively) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to adore).

3. What are some acts of worship a member of the Church of Jesus Christ can perform?

Answer.

- Singing hymns
- Grace giving of financial resources
- Offering up prayer
- Sit under the preaching of the Word of God
- Co-operate in the effort to evangelize the community

4. What four questions does Dr. Waldrip raise for a Christian to answer in this chapter?

Answer.

- Christian, do you seek to obey Christ in all that you do?
- Christian, do you bow your heart before the Savior, your Master, your liege (superior) Lord?
- Christian, is it the desire of your heart to cast yourself down at His feet?
- Christian, do you want to love the Lord Jesus?

5. What is one critical reason why many Churches are seeing fewer conversion than they would like to see?

Answer.

One reason why many Churches are seeing fewer conversion than they would like to see is because they are sowing “out of season”, meaning Christians are not going.

6. When does a “real” conversion occur?

Answer.

- A real conversion occurs when sins are forgiven by faith in Jesus Christ alone as Lord and Savior (Eph. 2:8, 9).
- A real conversion occurs when there is obedience to Christ.

7. What can a member of the Church of Jesus Christ not do, nor disagree with the pastor over?

Answer.

A member of the Church of Jesus Christ simply cannot fail to participate in the effort of the congregation to bring sinners under the sound of the Gospel. Nor can a member of the Church be in disagreement with the pastor over this issue.

8. What is the Spirit of God the Agent of?

Answer.

The Spirit of God is the Agent of the New Birth.

The Spirit of God is the Agent of the Heart’s Preparation for the New Birth.

9. What are two ways to obey the Royal Command to, “Go”?

Answer.

- There is Unsupervised Evangelism.
- There is the Total Church Outreach.

10. Define the term “Decisionism” in a simple way.

Answer.

Decisionism, or Decisional Regeneration, is the sincere belief that a person is saved because they made a decision to receive Jesus Christ after coming forward at a religious meeting and saying a prayer.

11. What is the Biblical method of evangelism?

Answer.

- A Biblical method of evangelism recognizes the depths of human depravity.
- A Biblical method of evangelism recognizes the necessity of means.
- A Biblical method of evangelism recognizes the irreplaceable role of the Holy Spirit of God.

12. What three means of grace does God use in evangelism?

Answer.

- Prayer on behalf of the sinner.
- Gospel preaching to the sinner.
- Church attendance by the sinner.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Should the services of the Church be the primary place of evangelism, or should the gathered Church of Jesus Christ focus on worship, and being edified? Explain.

Consider.

In America, in many conservative congregations, there is a soul winning emphasis during the Sunday morning hour when the Church gathers. Sunday evening is given to teaching, and the Wednesday service is given to prayer. In England, the morning worship service is directed to the saved, while the evangelistic service is reserved for the evening gathering.

2. What are some popular sociological techniques used to manipulate increasing attendance in local churches?
3. Does “Theology Dictate Methodology”? How?
4. Should a Church of Jesus Christ expect an increase in attendance and a spiritual harvest when God’s work is done in God’s way?
5. Why is it important for the person who invites others to Church to participate in evangelism?
6. If a person is not pleased with the congregation and is at odds with the pastor, should that person just quietly leave the fellowship, or seek to be reconciled according to gospel terms? Is it ever right to divide a congregation?
7. Is Decisional Regeneration a biblical concept? Why?

8. What harm is there in encouraging the unconverted to believe, and never again doubt, that because they raised their hand, walked down an aisle, said a prayer, confessed faith in a doctrinal truth while making their commitment to the Lordship of Christ, they are converted? Where is the harm?

Consider.

The harm is in redirecting individuals from an objective Savior, Jesus Christ, to a subjective experience based on their own volition. The sinner becomes his own Savior by his wise decision.

9. What practical evidence is there for realizing that Decisional Regeneration does not “work”, it does not convert a soul?

Consider.

There is a whole generation of people, especially in the Western world, that have made a “decision” for Christ but have returned to live a life outside of Christ, outside the Church of Christ, and any pretense of Christian virtues. “But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb; The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire” (2 Peter 2:22). Yet, these same people believe they have been “born again” and will go to heaven when they die. No, “They will one day split hell wide open!” as Southern gospel evangelists used to say honestly. Many parents live in comfort that their godless, and wayward children, are “safe” if they died, because they once professed faith in Jesus, and were baptized. It was so sweet and lovely when they first made their “decision” for Jesus. But now, now they live for the world, the flesh, and the Devil. There is a false faith as well as an authentic faith. The difference is who does the saving.

False conversion is rooted in personal Decisional Regeneration.

True conversion is the result of that work of the Holy Spirit, which draws a lost sinner to Jesus Christ for justification, and regeneration, and changes the sinner’s standing before God from lost to saved, imparting divine life to the depraved soul, thus producing a new direction in the life of the convert. “Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17).

Personal Application

1. Can you think of one individual you have invited, persuaded, influenced, or cajoled, who has come to your Church in response to your prayerful promptings? If the answer is no, then do something about the matter. GO!
2. The word “therefore” (Gk. *sun*), is found often in Scripture to indicate a logical conclusion to something that has been said. There is an adage, “When you see the word ‘therefore’ in Scripture, pause and consider what it is THERE FOR!” That is good counsel. Look for a logical conclusion to follow.

3. Engage in unsupervised evangelism. Seek out members of the family, associates with whom you work, neighbors that live near, friends with whom you come into contact during recreation, exercise, and hobbies, and those folks you cross paths with as you go shopping or yard sale hopping. Witness and invite anyone and everyone to Church.
4. Be willing to give your testimony.
5. Accept a personal responsibility to evangelize, and make it your moral obligation

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness,
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve;
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves,
Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.”

Knowles Shaw

Scripture Memorization

“And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled” (Luke 14:23).

Heartwork

Honestly?

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. I understand the doctrine of human depravity. | True ____ False ____ |
| 2. I believe that people are basically good. | True ____ False ____ |
| 3. I am embarrassed to call someone a sinner. | True ____ False ____ |
| 4. I made a decision for Jesus and was saved. | True ____ False ____ |
| 5. I am not sure what the role of the Holy Spirit in salvation is. | True ____ False ____ |
| 6. I do not want to be judgmental, and pray by name for a person to be saved. | True ____ False ____ |

7. Preaching the gospel directly to a known non-Christian is offensive. True ____ False ____
8. Encouraging the lost to attend Church is a terrible practice. True ____ False ____
9. No one expects me to be engaged in unsupervised evangelism. True ____ False ____
10. I should be involved in supervised evangelism. True ____ False ____

Chapter Nineteen
“The problem of mission drift.”
OUR GREAT COMMISSION Part 4
“TEACH ALL NATIONS”
Matthew 28.16-20

Review

1. What does the Greek verb (*matheteuo*, [math-ayt-yoo'-o]) translated “teaching” in Matthew 28:19 mean?

Answer.

The Greek verb means “to cause one to be a pupil, to teach.”

2. What is the scope of the evangelism of the Church of Jesus Christ?

Answer.

The scope of evangelism of the Church of Jesus Christ is worldwide and encompasses every ethnic group on the planet.

3. By way of application, what considerations can be taken from the Great Commission?

Answer.

- There is a Right Task to Perform
- There is a Wrong Tendency to Reform.
- There is a Safeguard to be Implemented against Declension.
- There are Ancient Landmarks to Protect.

4. What is the right task the Church of Jesus Christ is to perform?

Answer.

The right task the Church of Jesus Christ is to perform is to make disciples.

5. What wrong tendency is to be addressed?

Answer.

The tendency the Church of Jesus Christ faces is “Mission Drift,” or deviating from the main purpose for which the Church was created.

6. What are some safeguards against spiritual declension in the Church of Jesus Christ? Explain.

Answer.

- First, look down to see where you are standing. Make sure you are standing on the Word of God.
- Second, look back and see how God has worked in and through the Church of Jesus Christ over the centuries.
- Third, look way back to the Gospels and to The Book of the Acts of the Holy Spirit (and the Apostles).

7. What three thoughts does Dr. Waldrup present about the gospel?

Answer.

- First, the object of the gospel is universal in scope.
- Second, the subject of the gospel is unifying in its effect. The Gospel is personal in nature. God loves individuals.

Consider.

Men and women, boys and girls, are precious in His sight. In Christ, women, in particular, are lifted higher than any culture has ever exalted them.

- Third, the Gospel is unique in its efficacy. All men are beneficiaries of the gospel.

8. What does the Gospel presuppose?

Answer.

First, the Gospel presupposes the existence of right and wrong.

Second, the Gospel presupposes the equality of all individuals before God and the need of all individuals before God of salvation from their sins.

9. What is the Gospel?

Answer.

The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. The Gospel tells sinners that it is Jesus Christ doing for you what you cannot do for yourself, to save you from your sins.

10. Why are the Churches of Jesus Christ Gospel-preaching congregations?

Answer.

- **First**, preaching the Gospel is all that Jesus Christ wants us to do, as the means to make disciples.
- **Second**, preaching the Gospel is all that we know to do, as the means to make disciples.

- **Third**, preaching the gospel is the only thing that God will bless as the means to make disciples.

Reflection and Discussion

1. What is the difference between the Church of Jesus Christ teaching people things so that they will know stuff, and teaching people things so they will become disciples?

Consider.

Stimulating intellectual curiosity, or engaging in religious debate, are not objectives of the Church of Jesus Christ. Converting sinners from the error of their ways, and making them a follower of Jesus, is the business of the Church of Jesus Christ. Some people are “Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (Titus 3:7).

2. While no one congregation can evangelize every ethnic group on the planet, Churches of Jesus Christ can, have, and shall continue to do so. Should this truth encourage and energize every local assembly? Why?

Consider.

“⁸ And how hear we **every man in our own tongue** [dialect], wherein we were born? ⁹ Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judæa, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God” (Acts 2:8-11).

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against **all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men**, who hold the truth in unrighteousness” (Rom. 1:18) cf. Romans 16:19. “For your obedience is come abroad **unto all men**. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.”

“But I say, Have they not heard [of Psalm 19:4]? ‘Yes verily, their sound went **into all the earth**, and their words unto **the ends of the world**’” (Rom. 10:18).

[The Gospel] “which is come unto you, **as it is in all the world**; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth” (Col. 1:6).

“If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to **every creature which is under heaven**; whereof I Paul am made a minister” (Col. 1:23).

“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood **out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation** (Gk. *ethnos*; i.e., ethnic group) (Rev. 5:9).

The Church of Jesus Christ was commanded to go to every ethnic group, and she has obeyed and shall continue to obey the Royal Command of the Great Commission.

3. What are the signs that Mission Drift is taking place in a local assembly of the Church of Jesus Christ? Be specific.

Consider.

First, an emphasis on buildings and budgets is a sign of Mission Drift. Second, overemphasizing the number of baptisms performed each year, or professions of faith each year, or the number who have joined that year is a sign of Mission Drift. Third, emphasizing a particular doctrine without teaching the whole counsel of God is a sign of Mission Drift. Unduly promoting a *particular* ministry within the congregation, such as the Sunday School, Prayer meeting, Stewardship, the music program, a Christian School, or a Youth Program is a sign of Mission Drift.

4. What should be said to the person who thinks they are so bad they are outside the sphere of saving grace?

Consider.

One point that can be made is to share with a person of such a mindset that the worse sinner who has ever lived, has *already* been saved. You will find this recorded in 1 Timothy 1:15. "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." It is possible that Paul was being modest, or, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit a Divine truth is being communicated. The chief [Gk. *protos*, foremost] of sinners has been saved. If the Lord saved him, let every sinner take hope in the mercy and grace of God. As the gospel preachers have said in the past, "The love of God is extended from the uttermost to the 'gutter most.'" There is no sin too great for the grace of God, and no sinner beyond the reach of the outstretched arms of Jesus.

Personal Application

1. Do not just "Keep the main thing the main thing" but do the main thing. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:22).
2. Make a course correction in your personal life, or the life of your Church, if necessary, so there no Mission Drift.
3. Look down to see where you are standing. Make sure you are standing on the Word of God.
4. Look back and see how God has worked in and through the Church of Jesus Christ over the centuries. Learn from the faith experiences of the Puritans, the Old English, the American Colonies, including the Baptists.

5. Look way back to find principles and practices rooted in the Word of God, the teachings of Jesus, the Acts of the Apostles, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Follow after Christ, not the culture. “¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom. 12:1-2).

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“All hail the power of Jesus’ name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all.”

Edward Perronet

Scripture Memorization

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls *is* wise” (Prov. 11:30).

Heartwork

	My Commitment
1. I will go and help make disciples.	I will ____
2. I will be a doer of the Word and not just a hearer.	I will ____
3. I will make sure I do not engage in Mission Drift.	I will ____
4. I will look down to make sure I am standing on the Word of God.	I will ____
5. I will look back to see how God has worked in and through the Church of Jesus Christ over the centuries.	I will ____
6. I will look way back to find principles and practices rooted in the Word of God, the teachings of Jesus, and the acts of the Holy Spirit (and the Apostles).	I will ____

Chapter Twenty

“I am afraid the Baptists may be in the right.”

OUR GREAT COMMISSION Part 5

“BAPTIZING THEM”

Matthew 28.16-20

Review

1. What probing question eventually resulted in some prominent individuals in Scotland to become Baptists?

Answer.

“Did the child believe?”

2. What are the major divisions in the consideration of baptism in this chapter?

Answer.

- The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus
- The Baptism of John’s Disciples
- The Baptism of the Eunuch
- The Apostle Paul’s Explanation of Baptism

3. What passage in Scripture indicates that Jesus was in the water when He was baptized?

Answer.

Matthew 3:16-17 states: “¹⁶ And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: ¹⁷ And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

4. Is it a significant fact that John the Baptist was near “much water” in order to baptize his disciples?

Answer.

It is significant that John was near “much water” in order to baptize his disciples because there were so many people to be baptized. We read in John 3:23: “And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.”

5. What does the baptism of the Ethiopian official suggest about baptism?

Answer.

The Ethiopian official pointed out to Philip there was “water,” sufficient water to be baptized. “And they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him” (Acts 8:38).

6. What does the Apostle Paul’s explanation of baptism teach?

Answer.

Paul teaches, that in the act of baptism believers are identified with Christ, they are buried with Him in the likeness of his death. As they come up out of the watery grave, they are raised with Christ in the likeness of His resurrection.

7. Summarize again the Great Commission.

Answer.

- First, we are to go.
- Second, we are to make disciples.
- Third, we are to baptize.
- Fourth, we are to teach those disciples we have made disciples and baptized.

8. Scripturally, who is the only fit subject of baptism? Provide Biblical evidence.

Answer.

The only fit subject of baptism is someone who is already converted according to Acts 8:36-37: “³⁶ And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷ And Philip said, **If thou believest** with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

9. What major points does Dr. Waldrup make to address the great disparity between what Baptists frequently argue, and what they practice?

Answer.

- Baptists Typically Do Not See Many Converted Anymore
- Baptists Typically Do Not Exercise Caution to Make Sure Candidates for Baptism are Truly Born Again
- Baptists Typically are Confused About the Spiritual Condition of their Members
- Baptists Typically do Not Believe It’s Possible to Distinguish Between the Lost and the Saved

10. What are some predictable results coming from the following?

- The Church not seeing many conversions,
- The Church not making sure those who are baptized are born again;
- The Church not being careful with the spiritual status of Church members; and
- The Church not exercising Church discipline.

Answer.

- Smaller congregations.
- False professions of faith producing “tares among the wheat.”
- An unspiritual Church membership characterizes by infantile behavior, or worse.
- An undisciplined people, ripe for Divine judgment, as per the seven Churches of the Revelation.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Despite any clear Scriptural passage to support infant baptism, despite any Biblical example, what motives many sincere and godly people to baptize their infant children?

Consider.

Tradition is perhaps the leading cause of infant baptism. People are born in a religious family that baptizes infants, and so continue the tradition of their denomination. Lack of curiosity is another cause. *Next*, Solomon said that much study is weariness to the soul (Eccl. 12:12). It takes time and effort to understand what the Bible teaches about a particular doctrine. One that is so controversial as baptism requires the arguments for paedobaptism to be refuted from the Word of God (Col. 4:6). *Third*, there are many Christians who sincerely believe in infant baptism based on a theological construct, and so the practice continues, based on personal conviction it is the right thing to do. These parents mistakenly want to include their children in a covenant relationship with God, as Abraham was allowed to do.

2. Is the mode of baptism, dipping, pouring, or immersion, more important than the act of gospel obedience itself by a professing believer of maturity?
3. Can a person claim to have been baptized unless they have been immersed in water? Why?

Consider.

“To baptize by any other mode than immersion is not actually to baptize” (Dr. John Waldrup).

4. If a person comes to faith which is afraid of water, afraid of being immersed, afraid of drowning or is physically handicapped, perhaps in a wheelchair, can they be baptized in some way which the Church of Jesus Christ can recognize?
5. How can being zealous to doing what the Lord has commanded, not be turned into a basis for legalism?
6. Is the letter of the “Gospel Law” concerning baptism more important than the spirit of the Great Commission?

Consider.

“But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Matt. 9:13).

7. The angel Gabriel said, “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). Why are so many professing Christians unchanged, despite a profession of faith?

Consider.

The unchanged status of many professing Christians is reflected, in part, statistically, in the number of divorces, addictions to pornography, drugs, and alcohol and the need for mental health care. Other indicators can be found in faithlessness to worship services and participation in the life of the body of the Church of Jesus Christ.

8. There are bold individuals who will bluntly ask, “What business is it of the pastor, or any other member of the Church of Jesus Christ, what the spiritual status of a person is? Who can really tell?” What is a biblical response?

Consider.

People who bluntly “speak their minds” also reveal what is in their hearts. Jesus said, “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.” If you listen carefully and long enough to a person, they will tell you who they are.

Personal Application

1. Study the lives of important people in Church history. The life of Adoniram Judson is of particular interest and importance. Judson and his wife left America on a ship paedobaptists. When they disembarked in India months later, they had become convinced of believer baptism and paid a high personal and financial price for their Scriptural persuasion. If possible, read, *To The Golden Shore*, Courtney Anderson.
2. One of the most important pieces of literature in the English language, next to the Bible, is John Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress*. Charles Spurgeon said he read the book more than one hundred times. It is commended to you.
3. Sing a song of praise to the Lord Jesus during a believer’s public confession of faith in baptism.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“Come, Thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redeeming love.”

Robert Robinson

Scripture Memorization

“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:” (Psalm 139:23).

Heartwork

1. I raised my hand when asked if I wanted to go to heaven. Yes ____ No ____
2. I walked an aisle when a gospel invitation was given. Yes ____ No ____
3. I took the preacher by the hand and told him I wanted to go Heaven when I died. Yes ____ No ____
4. I was shown the Roman’s Road plan of salvation. Yes ____ No ____
5. I asked Jesus into my heart. Yes ____ No ____
6. I rose from my feet and went back to my pew in happiness. Yes ____ No ____
7. I was baptized. Yes ____ No ____
8. I was excited to learn more about the Bible. Yes ____ No ____
9. I wanted to live like a Christian. Yes ____ No ____
10. Then temptation came. I succumbed to the world, the flesh, and the devil. Yes ____ NO ____
11. After a while, I stopped being faithful to the Church. Yes ____ No ____
12. I see so much wrong with the Church now. I think most people are hypocrites. Yes ____ No ____
13. I do not read my Bible much, if at all. True ____ False ____
14. I do not witness at all, or invite anyone to Church. True ____ False ____
15. I do not go on visitation. True ____ False ____
16. I sometimes attend a special Church service. True ____ False ____
17. I do not understand the doctrine of the Trinity.
I do not believe it is very important. True ____ False ____

18. I am not sure about the resurrection of Jesus. I am not sure it matters. True ____ False ____
19. I believe a person can go to heaven based on their good works. True ____ False ____
20. I perform many good works, even though I am not as religious as I used to be when I was a kid, or at least younger. True ____ False ____
21. I believe I am a good person. True ____ False ____
22. I really believe that when I die, I will go to heaven. True ____ False ____

Chapter Twenty-One

“The challenge of evangelizing a mixed multitude congregation.”

OUR GREAT COMMISSION Part 6

“THE NAME”

Matthew 28.16-20

Review

1. What does Dr. Waldrip draw attention to about the phrase in Matthew 28:19, “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”?

Answer.

- Notice the Singularity
- Notice the Identity
- Notice the Trinity

2. In what name is baptism to be performed?

Answer.

Baptism is to be performed “in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost.”

3. What does it mean to say there is only one name?

Answer.

It means there is only one God.

4. What is the Old Testament Scriptural basis for belief in one God? Write out the text.

Answer.

- “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1).
- “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3).
- “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD” (Deut. 6:4).
- “Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not *any*” (Isaiah 44:8).

5. What are New Testament Scriptural bases for belief in one God? Write out the texts.

Answer.

- “Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith” (Romans 3.20).
- “there is none other God but one” (1 Cor. 8.4).
- “there is but one God” (1 Cor. 8.6).
- “For there is one God” (1 Timothy 2.5).

6. What does Albert Barnes help the Church of Jesus Christ understand about being baptized “unto” the “name” (*onoma* [on’-om-ah]) of Jesus?

Answer.

“To be baptized “unto” anyone is publicly to receive and adopt him as a religious teacher or lawgiver; to receive his system of religion” (Albert Barnes).

7. What is the orthodox understanding of the Trinity based on Matthew 28:19 as set forth by the theologian John Gill?

Answer.

“Hence a confirmation of the doctrine of the Trinity, there are three persons, but one name, but one God, into which believers are baptized; and a proof of the true deity both of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; and that Christ, as the Son of God, is God; since baptism is administered equally in the name of all three, as a religious ordinance, a part of divine instituted worship, which would never be in the name of a creature.”

8. The metaphorical and literal usage of the word baptism, are united when the believer is immersed in water, is also identified with Jesus Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection. But it is more than that. What is “more than that?”

Answer.

Baptism is also an identification with God the Father and with the Holy Spirit.

9. What is affirmed about the Trinity in the *Nicene Creed*, c. 325?

Answer.

The Nicene Creed affirms there is one God. This one God exists in the form of three coequal Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

10. What three pertinent questions does Dr. Waldrip ask about the Great Commission?

Answer.

- First, Why is there Little Concern for Authority?
- Second, Why is there Little Concern for Christianity?
- Third, Why is there Little Concern for the Trinity?

11. What are Churches authorized to do under the Royal Charter they have received? Be specific.

Answer.

- Churches are authorized to go to all ethnic groups.
- Churches are authorized to make disciples.
- Churches are authorized to baptize disciples.

12. What do Christians “beget” or produce?

Answer.

Christians beget Christians. Just as real sheep reproduce real sheep, real Christians reproduce real Christians.

13. What do the unconverted have no concern for?

Answer.

The unconverted have no concern for the doctrine of the Trinity.

14. Why can there be no salvation without the Trinity?

Answer.

Without the Trinity, there can be no salvation for sinners since the Second Person of the Trinity saves sinners from the wrath of the First Person of the Trinity. Ignore the Trinity, and you have no Gospel.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Christianity is a monotheistic religion and yet is portrayed by Jews and Muslims as being a polytheistic religion. Why?

Consider.

Jews and Muslims fail to either comprehend the Christian doctrine of the Trinity or embrace it by faith. Some do understand the doctrine of the Trinity, but in wicked unbelief, suppress the truth. The result is the freedom to falsely accuse Christians of worshipping more than the one true God.

2. C. S. Lewis correctly observed that Jesus is either a Liar, a Lunatic, or Lord? So, who is Jesus?

Consider.

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon, or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.” — C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* Who is Jesus? “And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matt. 16:16).

3. In what ways have pastors, and therefore the Church of Jesus Christ, given away much of its authority?

Consider.

Pastoral counseling has been surrendered to professional counselors, psychologists, and psychiatrists, most of whom are Secular Humanists. Congregational authority has been surrendered to the courts to decide issues that should be judged by the Church according to 1 Corinthians 6.

“¹ Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? ² Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? ³ Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? ⁴ If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church. ⁵ I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? ⁶ But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers.”

Church discernment and discipline have been surrendered to the worldly concepts of Political Correctness, Sensitive, and being Non-Judgmental. No longer does the Church of Jesus Christ feel competent to counsel or judge righteously. “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment” (John 7:24).

4. Does the Scriptural mandate, “Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure” (1 Tim. 5:22), apply to a candidate for baptism? How?
5. How can a person be confronted with their *false* assurance of salvation?
6. What is the evidence that we live in a Post-Christian America?
7. Why does the following prayer NOT reflect a doctrinal understanding of the Trinity? Be specific. “Dear God, thank you for dying on the cross for me and indwelling me.”

Personal Application

1. Clarify in your mind what a Church is supposed to be, and what a Church is supposed to do.
2. Write out in your handwriting, the *Nicene Creed*. Meditate on each affirmation of faith.
3. It has been said that a person who studies the Trinity might lose their mind, but a person who denies the Trinity will lose their soul. What is meant?

Consider.

While the doctrine of the Trinity is not illogical, it is a great mystery and demands thoughtful study. Christians believe in the doctrine of the Trinity because the Bible teaches three *Persons* within the Triune Godhead: God is Father, God is Son, and God is Holy Spirit. These three are One, not just in unity, but in essence. The Church spent much time defining, to defend, orthodox teaching on the Trinity, and to affirm in the Athanasian Creed, “This is the catholic faith, which except a man shall have believed faithfully and firmly he cannot be in a state of salvation.”

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“God, our Father, we adore Thee!
We, Thy children, bless Thy name!
Chosen in the Christ before Thee,
We are “holy, without blame.”

We adore Thee! We adore Thee!
Abba’s praises we proclaim!
We adore Thee! We adore Thee!
Abba’s praises we proclaim!”

George W. Frazer and Alfred S. Loizeaux

Scripture Memorization

“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one” (1 John 5:7).

Heartwork

My Commitment to God the Father In the act Baptism

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. I bind my soul publicly to God, the Father to obey His laws. | I do ____ |
| 2. I blind myself to be devoted to God the Father. | I do ____ |
| 3. I bind myself to receive guidance and comfort of life from God, the Father. | I do ____ |
| 4. I bind myself to trust the promises of God the Father. | I do ____ |

My Commitment to God the Son In the act of Baptism

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 5. I receive publicly God the Son as Messiah. | I do ____ |
| 6. I receive God the Son as Prophet, Priest, and King. | I do ____ |
| 7. I bind myself to submit to the teachings of God the Son and to obey His Royal Commandments. | I do ____ |
| 8. I receive God the Son as the Saviour of my soul. | I do ____ |

**My Commitment To God the Holy Spirit
In the act of Baptism**

9. I receive God the Holy Spirit publicly as the Sanctifier, Comforter,
and Guide of my soul. I do _____
10. Having been baptized unto the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost by a solemn
profession of the only true religion, and by a solemn devotion to the service
of the sacred Trinity, I affirm I am a Christian. I do _____

Chapter Twenty-Two
“Discipleship is not an option.”
OUR GREAT COMMISSION Part 7
“TEACHING THEM”
Matthew 28.16-20

Review

1. What does Chapter Twenty-Two concern itself with?

Answer.

Chapter Twenty-Two concerns itself with the second half of our Lord’s Great Commission, which has to do with teaching those we believe to be baptized disciples.

2. What is the process that, hopefully, leads to the conversion in a sinner?

Answer.

- Witnessing
- Preaching
- Applying the truth of sinfulness and one’s lost condition
- Guiding the sinner individual through an exploration of their dire predicament before God
- Pricking the sinner’s heart with sharp Word of God
- A hopeful conversion to Jesus Christ

3. Why does Dr. Waldrip consistently use the term “hopeful conversion”?

Answer.

The phrase “hopeful conversion” is used because no one other than God knows for sure who is and who is not truly saved.

4. What major divisions are amplified by Dr. Waldrip concerning the responsivity of the Church of Jesus Christ to make sure hopeful converts “observe all things” commanded?

Answer.

- There is the Notion of Teaching
- There is the Notion of Transmission
- There is the Notion of Training

5. Identify three particulars worthy of note in connection with the phrase “teaching them” in Matthew 28:20.

Answer.

- First, there are the Scriptural requirements to be a pastor.
- Second, there are Scriptural restrictions placed upon teachers.

6. What are 10 Scriptural requirements to be a pastor (elder, bishop)?

Answer.

In the following areas, a pastor (elder, bishop) should be blameless, or without fault.

Area of Concern	Qualification
• Marriage:	The husband of one wife
• Home:	Having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly
• Personally:	Not self-willed
• Emotionally:	Not soon angry
• Sobriety.	Not given to wine
• Temperamentally:	Not a striker
• Financially:	Not given to filthy lucre (money)
• Socially:	A lover of hospitality
• Companionship:	A lover of good men
• Self-control:	Sober (safe; sound in mind)
• Spiritually:	Just, holy, and temperate
• Doctrinally:	Holding fast to the faithful word

7. List specific restrictions placed on teachers in 1 Timothy 6:20.

Answer.

- Keep that which is committed to your trust.

Consider.

Do not go beyond the Word of God.

- Avoid profane and vain babblings.
- Avoid opposition of science so-called.

Consider.

The prohibition is to avoid oppositions (Gk. antithesis, a conflict [of theories] of science (Gk. gnosis, knowledge) falsely so-called. Once a theological debate begins in a Church, it is hard for people not to take sides.

Some popular debates within Christendom today to distract and divide God's people include theories about Homosexuality, Cultural Pluralism, Social Justice, Arminianism vs. Calvinism, Fundamentalism vs. Modernism, Liberalism vs. Conservatism, and Capitalism vs. Socialism.

Then there are new theories about the Gospel itself, reflected in Preterist Theology, New Covenant Theology, Self-Esteem Theology, and Liberation Theology. Battles have already been fought over Neo-Orthodoxy. Dietrich Bonhoeffer advocated "non-religious Christianity" to help people struggling with religion being imposed on them.

Then there was "God's Death" to battle with the rise of Secular Humanism, undergirded by godless atheism and agnosticism. Much of these errors and heresies can be and should be avoided by faithfully proclaiming the Word of God, line upon line, precept upon precept, in season and out.

8. From 2 Timothy 2:23, what is to be avoided by a teacher? Why?

Answer.

Foolish and unlearned questions are to be avoided, because they gender, or stir up strifes, or arguments.

9. What two metaphors are used to describe the Church of the living God?

Answer.

- The Church of the living God is the pillar of the truth.
- The Church of the living God is the ground of the truth.

10. What gifts has Jesus Christ given to the Church?

Answer.

- Jesus Christ has given apostles.
- Jesus Christ has given prophets.
- Jesus Christ has given evangelists.
- Jesus Christ has given pastor-teachers.

11. When the Lord said, "all things whatsoever I have commanded you," what was the thrust or direction of his words?

Answer.

- **First**, what is taught to others should be what Jesus has taught to His disciples.
- **Second**, nothing should be left out of what Jesus has taught His disciples.

12. What three questions need to be asked, and answered, to understand the training of disciples?

Answer.

- Question. Who is authorized to train disciples?

Answer. The key figure in advancing and being responsible for this process of training Christians, teaching disciples to observe all things our Lord Jesus taught, is the God-called pastor.

- Question. Where are disciples supposed to be trained?

Answer. Training is to take place within the Church congregation.

- Question. To what proper end are disciples to be trained?

Answer. To observe all things whatsoever Jesus taught.

13. What four observations can be made about Paul's words recorded in 2 Timothy 2:1-3?

Consider.

“¹ Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. ³ Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”

Answer.

- **First**, Paul directed his comments to Timothy, a gifted man, a pastor.
- **Second**, Paul reminded Timothy to remember he needed strength from God's grace to effectively train disciples.
- **Third**, Paul commanded Timothy to transmit truth to faithful men.
- **Fourth**, Paul encouraged Timothy to “endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”

Pop Quiz for Chapter Twenty-Two

1. Student's Question. Who is authorized to baptize?

Leader's Answer. Only a Church.

2. Student's Question. Where are Christians supposed to regularly and routinely gather?

Leader's Answer. Only at Church, Hebrews 10.25.

3. Student's Question. Where were new Christians placed on the Day of Pentecost?

Leader's Answer: They were added to the Church, Acts 2.41, and 47.

4. Student's Question. Where is one to find gifted men to equip saints for the work of the ministry?
Leader's Answer: At a Church.
5. Student's Question. Where are individuals to be trained?
Leader's Answer. At a Church.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Is it spiritually profitable for a small group of people to sit in a circle, with their Bibles opened, and be asked, "What does this verse mean to you?" Why?
2. Are the qualifying words "hopeful conversion" better than referring to someone as a "professing believer?" Why?

Consider.

Both expressions are usually applied to someone whose confession of faith in Christ is not consistent with a true believer's commitment to a corresponding life of godliness. The term "professing believer" does seem to be a little more pejorative, and seems to reach a predetermined conclusion. The term Dr. Waldrup uses is more gracious and optimistic.

3. Is it presumptuous for a Christian to talk about a "KNOW-SO" salvation? Why?

Consider.

"It is the Word of a gentleman," said the missionary Jim Elliot. God does not lie. Indeed, God cannot lie (Heb. 6:18). His word is sure and true. Here is the Divine promise. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24). ¹¹ And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. ¹³ These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:11-13).

4. Based on the Scriptural requirements to be a pastor in Titus 1:6-9, does your pastor in your local congregation meet those requirements? If not, what should be done?
5. Are home Bible studies Scripturally authorized?

Consider.

"Conduct a Bible study in your home? Wonderful. But conduct that Bible study ministry as a submissive and spiritual member who is accountable to your local Church" (Dr. John Waldrup).

6. The Church of Jesus Christ needs a balanced spiritual diet. There are some ministries that offer only one theme. Why is this not good?

Consider.

Meat is needed as well is milk. The Church of Jesus Christ should always reach for something more. ¹ Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, ² Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ³ And this will we do, if God permit” (Heb. 6:1-3).

7. If the *key* figure in advancing and being responsible for this process of training Christians, teaching disciples to observe all things our Lord Jesus taught, is the God-called pastor, what is to be said about Bible college teachers, professors, and seminary training?

Consider.

Whatever value is found in Bible schools, colleges, seminaries, and other religious institutions, the primary responsibility for training Christians remains within the local Church of Christ, and the God-appointed pastors-teachers therein.

Personal Application

1. Consider conducting a home Bible study to evangelize the neighborhood and help individuals grow in the Lord.
2. Evaluate your Church leaders using the Heartwork inquiry.
3. Do you know what the Scriptural “Fundamentals of the Faith” are, based on Hebrews 6:1-3?

Question.

What do you know about the Doctrine of Christ?

What do you know about the Doctrine of Repentance from Dead Works?

What do you know about the Doctrine of Faith toward God?

What do you know about the Doctrine of Baptisms (plural)?

What do you know about the Doctrine of Laying on of Hands (authority)?

What do you know about the Doctrine of the Resurrection of the Dead?

What do you know about the Doctrine of Eternal Judgment?

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“Sing them over again to me,
wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see,
wonderful words of life;
words of life and beauty,
teach me faith and duty:

Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life;
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.”

Philip P. Bliss

Scripture Memorization

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Tim. 4:2).

Heartwork

Self-Evaluation of a Church leader

Especially

Pastor-Teacher

Qualified

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. I am the husband of one wife. | Yes ____ No ____ |
| 2. I have faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. | Yes ____ No ____ |
| 3. I am not self-willed. | Yes ____ No ____ |
| 4. I am not soon angry. | Yes ____ No ____ |
| 5. I am not given to wine. I am not a drunkard. | Yes ____ No ____ |
| 6. I am not a striker. | Yes ____ No ____ |
| 7. I am not given to filthy lucre (a lover of money). | Yes ____ No ____ |
| 8. I am a lover of hospitality. | Yes ____ No ____ |
| 9. I am a lover of good men . | Yes ____ No ____ |
| 10. I am sober (safe; of a sound mind). | Yes ____ No ____ |
| 11. I am just, holy, and temperate. | Yes ____ No ____ |
| 12. I hold fast to the faithful word as I hath been taught. | Yes ____ No ____ |

Chapter Twenty-Three

“He has promised to be with us until we are with Him.”

OUR GREAT COMMISSION Part 8

“I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS”

Matthew 28.16-20

Review

1. List some momentous events that took place when people were where the Lord Jesus Christ was.

Answer.

- Jesus turned water into wine.
- Jesus walked on water.
- Jesus gave sight to the blind.
- Jesus fed the multitudes with a few loaves and fishes.
- Jesus healed the lame and cleansed the lepers.
- Jesus calmed the storm.
- Jesus cast out demons.
- Jesus conquered death itself, by dying and then rising from the dead.

2. What is a natural desire when people see much, when they see a miracle?

Answer.

They want to see more.

3. When Jesus gave the Great Commission, what steps did He take in speaking to His disciples?

Answer.

- **First**, Jesus encouraged them.
- **Second**, Jesus commissioned them.

4. What three powerful incentives did Jesus give in the Great Commission when He promised to always be with His disciples, “even unto the end of the world”?

Answer.

- There is the Declaration of His Promise
- There is the Declaration of His Presence
- There is the Declaration of His Persistence

5. Why is the imperative “lo” (Gk. *idou*) used in 146 separate verses in the Bible?

Answer.

The word “lo” is a commanding word that demands the reader’s attention, and the listener’s attention as well. The word indicates that something important is to follow.

6. How is the promise of Jesus to be with His disciples fulfilled?

Answer.

The promise of the presence of Jesus must be understood to be fulfilled by that Other Comforter, the Holy Spirit.

What is meant by the phrase, “the end of the world” (Gk. *aion*; an age)?

Answer.

The word for “world” is age (Gk. *aion*) and refers to a period that will end, not the world, or *cosmos* itself.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Is faith in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ important? Why?
2. What more would you like to see Jesus do in your life and the life of the Church? Be specific.
3. In summary form, how are disciples to be made? Be specific.

Consider.

Disciples are to be made by baptizing hopeful believers and then teaching them to observe all things whatsoever Jesus has commanded the Apostles.

4. Is the idea of becoming a martyr and shedding one’s blood for Christ, an intimidating thought? Does it help, or hinder the gospel message?

Consider.

The idea of being a martyr for Christ is not a hindrance to the gospel message, for it is the gospel message. “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me” (Luke 9:23).

5. Why is the present tense of the promise of Jesus in the Great Commission so important? Explain.

Consider.

It is good to know that Jesus will someday be with His disciples; it is more comforting to know that He is now with His disciples. It is good to know that Jesus loved us in the past; it is better to know that Jesus loves us in the present tense, as a corrected translation of Revelation 1:5 declares. The Authorized Version reads, “Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.” The correct translation is, “Unto him that loves [present tense] us, and washed us from our sin.” The thought is this. “Christ loosed us once for all, but loves us always” (A. T. Robertson’s, *Word Pictures of the New Testament*). Though Revelation 1:5 may be the only time in the New Testament that the love of God is spoken of in the present tense, it is enough to satisfy the soul for all eternity. The Church is right to sing, “Jesus **loves** me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.”

Personal Application

1. Make sure you are “there” for someone who comes into the Church, even though they may not look like they “fit.”
2. Read 1 Corinthians 15. Write out a statement of affirmation of your belief in the bodily resurrection of Jesus and the future resurrection of the saints.
3. The idea of signs and wonders is a large theme in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. The God of Yesterday is the God of Today and Tomorrow. He does not change. “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever” (Heb. 13:8). Let the Church pray, “Do it again, Lord, do it again. Show yourself in a mighty way to your people.”
4. If possible, read *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs*.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“There have been names that I have loved to hear,
But never has there been a name so dear
To this heart of mine, as the name divine,
The precious, precious name of Jesus.

Jesus is the sweetest name I know,
And He’s just the same as His lovely name,
And that’s the reason why I love Him so;
Oh, Jesus is the sweetest name I know.”

Lela B. Long

Scripture Memorization

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death” (Rev. 12:11).

Heartwork

1. I want to see more of the power of God in my life and the Church. True ____ False ____
2. I am too fickle to be a martyr. True ____ False ____
3. I am not ready to die for my faith. True ____ False ____
4. Even if I deny Jesus, He will understand and forgive me. True ____ False ____
5. I will follow the Lamb, wherever He goes, and not love my life unto death. True ____ False ____
6. I believe Jesus loves me (present tense). True ____ False ____
7. I know God loved me (past tense). True ____ False ____
8. I need to cultivate an attitude, more gratitude, before the Lord. True ____ False ____

Chapter Twenty-Four

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.”

“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST: ITS EMPOWERING”

John 20.22; Acts 1.8; 2.1-41

Review

1. How has Jesus Christ prepared the Church to go forth?

Answer.

- The Church of Jesus Christ has become the Temple of God.
- Individual Church members have become Temples of the Holy Spirit.
- The Church of Jesus Christ has been formally commissioned.
- The Church of Jesus Christ has been empowered with the Holy Spirit of God.

2. What distinction does Dr. Waldrip make between the Temple of God and the Temples of the Holy Spirit?

Answer.

- The Temple of God *is* the congregation.
- The Temples of the Holy Spirit are the bodies of Christians.

3. When does Dr. Waldrip believe Church congregations became Temples of God in which the Spirit of God dwelt?

Answer.

Dr. Waldrip believes the occasion when the Church was but one small congregation; it became the Temple of God in which the Spirit of God dwelt in John 20:19-22.

The Time:	Sunday, the first day of the week, at evening
The Setting:	The Eleven Disciples were assembled
The Place:	An upper room with the doors shut
The Mood:	The Eleven Disciples were afraid of the Jews
The Miracle:	The resurrected Christ stood in the midst though the doors were locked
The Messages:	Peace <i>be</i> unto; So send I you; Receive ye the Holy Ghost
The Future:	The final ascension of Jesus Christ; The evangelization of the world

“¹⁹ Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. ²⁰ And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.”

Consider.

“By them being indwelt by the Spirit of God, they each became individual temples of the Holy Spirit, and, at the same time, the Church they comprised became, like other Christian congregations to follow, a temple of God” (Dr. Waldrip).

4. What does Dr. Waldrip believe Jesus did to equip the Church to function *in absentia*, in His absence?

Answer.

On the Day of Pentecost, Jesus empowered the Church, according to promise.

Consider.

The Promise. “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

The Power. “¹ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:1-4).

5. Under what three headings does Dr. Waldrip set forth the actual empowering of the Church of Jesus Christ?

Answer.

- The Event of the Holy Spirit’s Coming
- The Explanation of the Spirit’s Coming
- The Experiences that Resulted from the Spirit’s Coming

6. What is pointed out in Acts 2:1: “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place”?

Answer.

- First, the Day of Pentecost was fully come, suggesting that the religious duties of the Jews were ending.
- Second, the heart and mind of the disciples were united in one accord to wait and pray.

7. Provide some details about the Day of Pentecost.

Answer.

- Audience: The audience was Jewish men and proselytes to Judaism, converts to Judaism.
- Languages: Many languages were represented as people came from far and wide.
- Reactions: Some mocked, while others were convinced and convicted.

8. Briefly summarize the high points of Peter's Pentecostal Sermon.

Answer.

- Acts 2:14.
The Apostle Peter lifted up his voice and called for the attention of his audience.
- Acts 2:15, 16.
Peter declared that the disciples of Jesus were not drunk, but that the prophecy of Joel attested to the Spirit being responsible for what they were witnessing.
- Acts 2:17-18.
Peter said that, in the words of the prophet Joel, the phenomenon being witnessed was from God, who was pouring out His Spirit.
- Acts 2:19-21.
Peter's citation of the prophet Joel spoke of God's activity surprisingly.
- Acts 2:22.
The events to which the people in Jerusalem on Pentecost witnessed showed that Jesus of Nazareth was approved of God.
- Acts 2:23.
The crucifixion of Jesus Christ was a fulfillment of God's plan and an indictment of the sin of those who put Jesus to death.
- Acts 2:24-32.
The resurrection of Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of prophecy.
- Acts 2:33-35.
Christ's ascension to the Father's right hand on high and the baptism of the Spirit with signs were attested to.
- Acts 2:36.
John's prediction was fulfilled. The baptism of the Holy Spirit confirmed the identity of the Jewish Messiah. Jesus of Nazareth, whom the Jews crucified, is Lord.

9. What conclusions can be gleaned from Acts 2:37-41?

Answer.

Acts 2:37 The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict sinners.

Acts 2:38-40 Instruction must be given to spiritually aroused sinners.

Acts 2:41 Many souls will be saved when the gospel is faithfully proclaimed.

Reflection and Discussion

1. What is the significance of the Church of Jesus Christ being established, not *in absentia*, in His absence, but in His presence?
2. The idea of the Church of Jesus Christ being of one accord (*homothumadon* [hom-oth-oo-mad-on']; unanimously) on any issue, is a foreign concept to many local Church congregations. How can Church members be taught to co-operate instead of competing with one another? Be specific.

Consider.

Does voting on Church matters help, or hinder, people to be “of one accord”? What is the evidence? Is a “consensus” better than a “majority rule”? Why? Study Acts 6:1-5.

3. Under the control of God, the Holy Spirit, Peter asserts, without qualification, that the events of Pentecost were the fulfillment of prophecy. “But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel” (Acts 2:16).

Question. Should the word of Peter be accepted as being fulfilled, since Peter was under the control of the Holy Spirit, or, should his words be parsed, and reconstructed to be a non-fulfillment or partial fulfillment of “that which was spoken by the prophet Joel”? Why?

Question. Was Peter’s entire Pentecostal sermon recorded by Luke? Might the recognition that Luke preserved only the highlights of what was likely a lengthy sermon by Peter influence our understanding of what he said? How?

4. When God’s work is done God’s way, should the Church of Jesus Christ anticipate explosive growth, a great ingathering of spiritual fruit? Why?

Personal Application

1. Contemplate the following gospel truths, point by point.
 - The Lord Jesus Christ personally founded His Church.
 - The Lord Jesus Christ promised that He would build His Church.
 - The Lord Jesus Christ provided instruction to His Church about the details of addressing sin in their midst.
 - The Lord Jesus Christ taught His disciples about His death, burial, and resurrection.
 - The Lord Jesus Christ, while He was yet with Eleven of His Disciples, imparted the Holy Spirit.
 - The Lord Jesus Christ ensured that the bodies of all of His disciples would become the Temple of the Holy Spirit by His indwelling presence.
2. Seek peace with all in the Church of Jesus Christ. Be of one heart and mind, and let that mind be the mind of Christ. “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men” (Rom. 12:18).

3. Remember that God, the Holy Spirit, has the right to interpret His Word as He pleases. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the authors of the New Testament often spoke of prophecy being fulfilled, but not in the way traditionally anticipated. This caused misunderstanding. The New Testament quotes from Isaiah 53 seven times, but many did not understand that prophecy was being fulfilled (Matthew 8:14-17; John 12:37-41; Luke 22:35-38; 1 Peter 2:19-25; Acts 8:26-35; Romans 10:11-21).
4. Study the importance of apocalyptic literature in Scripture, whereby symbolic language is used to convey cataclysmic events in vivid imagery.
5. When the New Testament interprets an Old Testament passage, accept what the Spirit says, even if the prophecy is declared to be fulfilled in a different way than might have been expected. Consider Malachi 3:1 with Matthew 17:10-13; Joel 2:28-32 with Acts 2:16-21.
6. Believe that God shall reward those who do not grow weary in well-doing, faint, or lose faith.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“To God be the glory, great things He has done;
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.”

Fanny Crosby

Scripture Memorization

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Gal. 6:9).

Heartwork

1. I believe in God the Holy Spirit. True ____ False ____
2. I believe in miracles. True ____ False ____
3. I believe that God can empower His people with His Spirit. True ____ False ____
4. I believe in the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. True ____ False ____
5. I believe God will save many souls for His glory. True ____ False ____
6. I believe prophecy is fulfilled as the Spirit says through His Word. True ____ False ____
7. I am careful to rightly understand passages in context. True ____ False ____
8. I am careful not to let my theological bias influence my understanding of Scripture. True ____ False ____
9. I do not know much about apocalyptic literature. True ____ False ____
10. I want to be a soul winner, filled with God's Spirit, and empowered for Gospel service. True ____ False ____

Chapter Twenty-Five

“A new commandment I give unto you.”

“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST: ITS COMMANDMENT”

John 13.34-35; 15.12, 17

Review

1. What events transpired in the Upper Room, located somewhere in Jerusalem, during the Lord's Last Passover meal with His disciples?

Answer.

- The apostle's feet were washed in the Upper Room.
- The Lord's Supper was instituted in the Upper Room.
- The warning that He would be betrayed was issued in the Upper Room.
- Judas Iscariot left the Upper Room to finalize his plans to betray the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The Lord Jesus Christ issued His most important command to the remaining eleven apostles who comprised His embryonic Church in the Upper Room.

2. What three main considerations are related to our Lord Jesus Christ's command to His Church?

Answer.

- The Command Itself
- The Command to Love in its Perspective
- The Power to Love and Its Source

3. According to John MacArthur, in what two ways was the commandment to love one another new?

Answer.

- First, the love Jesus commanded was sacrificial love, modeled after His love.
- Second, the love Jesus commanded is produced through the New Covenant by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit

4. According to D. A. Carson, what two love commandments were required under the Mosaic Covenant?

- There was the commandment to “Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deut. 6:5).

- There was the commandment, “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as your self. I am the LORD” (Lev. 19:18).

5. What does Dr. Waldrip say has been missed by many Bible commentators concerning the new commandment?

Consider.

According to Dr. Waldrip, many commentators have failed to apprehend the nature of the Church of Jesus Christ, and so, have not noticed that the Lord’s “new” commandment in the Upper Room discourse, previously directed to individuals, is now, on this occasion, directed to the Church.

Answer.

“*This* is what makes the command in that respect new. It is a new command to the Church!” (Dr. Waldrip).

6. What is a Christian worth to a Church congregation without authentic love?

Answer.

Without authentic love, a Christian is worthless to the cause of Christ in the congregation.

7. List what charity or love will, and will not do, according to 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

Answer.

- Love is long-suffering.
- Love is kind.
- Love does not envy.
- Love does not promote itself.
- Love is not prideful,
- Love doth not behave itself unseemly.
- Love seeks not her own.
- Love is not easily provoked.
- Love thinks no evil.
- Love rejoices not in iniquity.
- Love rejoices in the truth.
- Love bears all things.
- Love believes all things.
- Love hopes for all things.
- Love endures all things.

8. What is the origin of authentic Christian love inside the Church of Jesus Christ, and to those outside?

Answer.

The exalted and enthroned Lord of glory, Jesus Christ, channels His love through those in the congregation to others, to those in the congregation, and those outside the congregation.

9. What does a Church member have? Be specific.

Answer.

- The Church member has a commission, the Great Commission.
- The Church member has a commandment, to love one another.

Reflection and Discussion

1. How is it possible to love each member of the congregation without being superficial? Be specific.

Conflict.

The story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) helps discuss how it is possible to show authentic love to every member of the Church of Jesus Christ. If love is doing the right thing, at the right time, with the right attitude towards someone, even a traditional enemy, then that is Biblical love. The teaching of Paul in 1 Corinthians 13 is also helpful because it defines what love will and will not do.

2. In a generation absorbed with self, how can the Church of Jesus Christ teach, and model the Biblical truth, “it is NOT all about ‘me’”? Be specific.
3. Does the unbeliever have the capacity to love someone in an authentic manner? How?

Personal Application

1. Honor your Commission, the Great Commission.
2. Honor your New Commandment to love one another.
3. Study all the Bible says about love, with special attention being paid to the life of Christ, and the teaching of Paul in 1 Corinthians 13.
4. If possible, read *Charity and Its Fruits: Christian Love as Manifested in the Heart and Life*, by Jonathan Edwards.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“And can it be that I should gain
An int’reast in the Savior’s blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?”

Charles Wesley

Scripture Memorization

(“³⁴ A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. ³⁵ By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:34-35).

Are You a Loving Person?

Heartwork

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Love is long suffering. I am long suffering. | True ____ False ____ |
| 2. Love is kind. I am kind. | True ____ False ____ |
| 3. Love does not envy. I do not envy others. | True ____ False ____ |
| 4. Love does not promote itself. I do not promote myself. | True ____ False ____ |
| 5. Love is not prideful. I am not a prideful person. | True ____ False ____ |
| 6. Love doth not behave itself unseemly. I am not unseemly. | True ____ False ____ |
| 7. Love seeks not her own. I do not seek my own. | True ____ False ____ |
| 8. Love is not easily provoked. I am not easily provoked. | True ____ False ____ |
| 9. Love thinks no evil. I do not think evil thoughts. | True ____ False ____ |
| 10. Love rejoices not in iniquity. I do not rejoice in iniquity. | True ____ False ____ |
| 11. Love rejoices in the truth. I rejoice in the truth. | True ____ False ____ |
| 12. Love bears all things. I bear all things well. | True ____ False ____ |
| 13. Love believes all things. I believe all things. | True ____ False ____ |
| 14. Love hopes for all things. I hope for all things. | True ____ False ____ |
| 15. Love endures all things. I endure all things. | True ____ False ____ |

Chapter Twenty-Six
“Unto him be glory in the church”
“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST: ITS ULTIMATE PURPOSE”
Ephesians 3.21

Review

1. Why did God create everything?

Answer.

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created” (Rev. 4:11).

2. When is God most pleased?

Answer.

God is most pleased when He receives glory, honor, and power.

3. When is God glorified?

Answer.

God is glorified when He shows grace.

Consider.

“To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved” (Eph. 1:6).

4. What is the means that God will use to bring glory to Himself?

Answer.

God is to be glorified by the Lord Jesus Christ in the Church.

Consider.

“And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matt. 3:17).

“These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee” (John 17:1).

“Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen” (Eph. 3:21).

“The Church is important because it is through the Church that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, glorifies God the Father” (Dr. Waldrup).

5. What does it mean to give someone glory?

Answer.

To give someone glory is to acknowledge, and to commend about him that which is praiseworthy.

6. How long will the Church of Jesus Christ glorify Him?

Answer.

The Church of Jesus Christ will glorify God “throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” (Eph. 3:21).

7. How can the Church know how God is to be glorified?

Answer.

- There Are the Examples of the Church
- There is the Equipping of the Church
- There is the Evangelism of the Church

8. What are three distinguishing characteristics of an *ekklesia*?

Answer.

- Called out of a larger population
- Visible
- Gathered

9. What are two descriptions which shed light on how the Lord Jesus Christ uses His disciples to glorify God in the Church? Explain how each distinctive glorifies the Lord.

Answer.

- **Description.** There is the description of the Church as the Bride of Christ in Ephesians 5:22-33.

Glorification. As a bride will show reverence or respect to her husband, so the Bride of Christ shows reverence to Jesus to ensure His success, to extol His virtues, and to magnify Him in the eyes of those who know Him.

- **Description.** There is the description of the congregation as the Body of Christ.

Glorification. As the body responds to the direction of the head, so the Body of Christ is obedient to what the Head directs.

10. What is necessary for God to receive glory in the Church?

Answer.

- Those who comprise the Church must be trained.
- Those who comprise the Church must be equipped.
- Those who comprise the Church must be prepared.

11. How did the Training of the Twelve take place by Jesus?

Answer.

- The Twelve were trained through private lessons from the Lord.
- The Twelve were trained by observing the Lord teach and preach.
- The Twelve were trained by learning how the Lord interacted with the multitudes.

12. How did Paul instruct Timothy to prepare individuals for the work of the ministry? What was Timothy to do? See 2 Timothy 4:1-4; 2 Timothy 2:2

Answer.

- Preach the Word.
- Reprove
- Rebuke
- Exhort with all longsuffering
- Be sound in doctrine
- Commit what has been learned to faithful men so they will be able to teach others

13. What sobering truth must be communicated to every person?

Answer.

The sobering truth must be communicated to a person that they are a sinner in the sight of God, with terrible consequences. “The soul that sinneth it shall surely die” (Ezekiel 18:4).

14. What glorious truth must also be communicated to every person?

Answer.

The glorious truth that must be communicated to every person is the love of God and the redemption that can be found by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

15. What gospel invitation does Dr. Waldrip present in the closing section of Chapter Twenty-Six?

Answer.

There is a Word to the sinner, the non-Christian, the unbeliever. “Come to Jesus Christ where you sit. Set this book aside and trust Jesus Christ now. After you trust Jesus Christ to be your Savior speak to your pastor and tell him what has happened in your life. In this God will be glorified” (Pastor John Waldrip).

Reflection and Discussion

1. Though Revelation 4:11 reveals why God created everything, discuss why God created everything the way He did, which allowed for the rebellious angels, the Fall of Man, and the need for a Savior.
2. What pleasure would the Father have in the death of His Son?

Consider.

“Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand” (Isaiah 53:10).

3. God is a God of symmetry and system. He is a God of order and precision. “God does not play dice with the universe” (Albert Einstein, *The Born-Einstein Letters 1916-55*). Why is this truth important to believe?
4. Is guilt a proper way to motivate people to attend a Church service or engage in ministry? Explain.
5. Can a distinction be made between *true* guilt and *false* guilt in the area of motivating people in the work of ministry? What is that distinction?
6. Are there any legitimate reasons why a Christian might stay at home when the congregation has gathered? Explain.
7. Do those who plan congregational meetings, and activities, and expect attendance, participation, and involvement in the life of the Church, have any responsibility to the Church members such as being sensitive to *their* time schedules, locations, interests, various ages, health conditions, job obligations, and financial resources?
8. How can Church leadership help Church members lead a balanced Christian life?
9. What can Church leadership do to promote love for Jesus in the hearts of congregational members, which will then motivate them to have a high view of the assembly, and their part in glorifying the Lord? Be specific.

Consider.

Preach Christ. Talk about Jesus in private conversations. Be Christ-like in your spirit and actions. Sing about the Lord. Witness to others about Christ.

“More love to Thee, O Christ, more love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee.
This is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ, to Thee;
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;
Now Thee alone I seek, give what is best.
This all my prayer shall be: More love, O Christ to Thee;
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

Let sorrow do its work, come grief or pain;
Sweet are Thy messengers, sweet their refrain,
When they can sing with me: More love, O Christ, to Thee;
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

Then shall my latest breath whisper Thy praise;
This be the parting cry my heart shall raise;
This still its prayer shall be: More love, O Christ to Thee;
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!"

Elizabeth P. Prentiss

Personal Application

1. Remember that love is the greatest compelling reason to be a member of the Church of Jesus Christ and to be actively engaged in the life of the congregation. "For the love of Christ constraineth [*sunecho* [soon-ekh'-o]; to hold together; to compel) us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead" (2 Cor. 5:15). Find ways for individuals to love Jesus more.
2. Develop your devotional life. Study Pietism, and imitate that which is good. If possible, read the works of A. W. Tozer, *Born After Midnight*, *Man, the Dwelling Place of God*, *The Pursuit of God*, etc.
3. Help people to learn that the Lord has a geographical, linguistic, and an occupational will for their lives.

Consider.

The Word of God is crucial for believers to discover and implement each facet of the will of the Lord as they are guided by the Holy Spirit. Trust the Holy Spirit to lead the sheep to the Good Shepherd, to their undershepherds, and then to the will of the Lord.

4. Be careful not to weaponize a Biblical truth to manipulate, pressure, and shame God's people to support a well-meaning, but optional Church activity.

Consider.

A person's zeal and commitment to the local Church, and all that is going on can easily become a basis to look with contempt on others not present, or as passionate. Satan has many ways to sow discord among the brethren, including religious zeal. Unfortunately, the fervent spirit of the Pharisee lives on in the Church, for the Enemy comes to sow tares among the wheat. "Lord, I thank you I am not as these other Christians who are not as attentive or as involved in your House of Worship as I am." Be careful to guard the heart against spiritual pride and fervor that weaponizes a gospel truth.

5. Become a good disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ by being personally trained, equipped, and prepared for the work of ministry. If possible, read *The Training of the Twelve* by A B. Bruce.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

"Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!"

Henry J. van Dyke

Scripture Memorization

"Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again" (John 12:28).

"And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up" (John 2:17).

Heartwork

1. I do not hesitate to stay home from Church on the slightest pretext of an excuse. True ____ False ____
2. I do have a shallow and unimpressive concept of the Church. True ____ False ____
3. I believe I can be a good Christian at home, without going to Church. True ____ False ____
4. I am trained to glorify God. True ____ False ____
5. I am equipped to glorify God. True ____ False ____
6. I am prepared to glorify God. True ____ False ____
7. I resent being pressured to engage in Church activities. True ____ False ____
8. I came to Jesus, and He received me as a sheep of His pasture. True ____ False ____
9. I need to be more committed to the Church of Jesus Christ. True ____ False ____
10. I will seek the geographical will of God for my life. I will ask, "Lord, where do You want me to be?" I will ____
11. I will seek the linguistic will of God for my life. I will ask, "Lord, what do you want me to say?" I will ____
12. I will seek the occupational will of God for my life. I will ask, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" I will ____
13. I will seek my First Love. I will ____

"I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon My breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary and worn and sad;
I found in Him a resting place,
And He has made me glad."

Horatius Bonar

Chapter Twenty-Seven

“Will we be in the kingdom of God? Yes, but as the King’s bride.”

“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST: ITS PLACE IN GOD’S PLAN”

John 3.1-17

Review

1. What are many people unaware of today, even in the Church of Jesus Christ?

Answer.

Many people have no idea there is such a thing as God’s kingdom.

2. What did Jesus tell His followers to pray for?

Answer.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray for the kingdom. “Thy kingdom come” (Matt. 6:9,10).

3. What undeniable historical facts can only be reasonably explained by the bodily resurrection of Jesus from among the dead?

Answer.

- The resurrection of Jesus explains the empty tomb in Jerusalem.
- The resurrection of Jesus explains the radical transformation of Jesus Christ’s defeated and discouraged disciples into men who turned the world upside down.
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ explains why the day of worship was changed from Saturday to Sunday.
- The resurrection of Jesus explains the conversion of the persecutor of the Church, Saul of Tarsus, and the conversion of the Lord’s skeptical brother, James.

4. What does the existence of God explain?

Answer.

- The existence of God is the only rational explanation for the resurrection of Jesus.
- The existence of God is the only rational explanation for the Second Law of Thermodynamics.

Consider.

The Second Law of Thermodynamics, or the Law of Entropy, states that everything goes from order to disorder, including the universe, which is winding down. “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isaiah 40:8).

5. What is the main thread, or theme, that runs through everything that Jesus both said and did?

Answer.

The kingdom of God is the main theme that runs through everything that Jesus both said and did.

6. What are five main divisions Dr. Waldrip provides to set forth the Lord Jesus Christ and His relationship to the kingdom of God?

Answer.

- The Kingdom of God and God
- The Kingdom of God and the Land
- The Kingdom of God and the Subjects
- The Kingdom of God and the King
- The Kingdom of God and the Church

7. What does the term kingdom of heaven indicate?

Answer.

The term kingdom of heaven has to do with where the kingdom comes from.

8. What does the term kingdom of God designate?

Answer.

The term kingdom of God tells whose kingdom it is.

9. How does Gary R. Habermas define the kingdom of God?

Answer.

Gary R. Haberman says, “The kingdom of God is the entrance of God into human history to reign over them.”

10. What effect did the Fall have on the universe?

Answer.

The Fall ruined everything!

Consider.

“In Adam’s fall, we sinned all”
The New-England Primer
1777 edition

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Rom. 5:12).

11. What was the purpose of the Law of Moses?

Answer.

The Law was given to show sinners, in particular, a sinful people, how very sinful they are.

12. Summarize two blessings of the New Covenant as recorded in Ezekiel 36:25-27.

“²⁵ Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. ²⁶ A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.”

Answer.

- There will be cleansing from sin.
- There will be a new heart.

13. Why must sin be dealt with?

Answer.

Sin must be dealt with, so God’s rule in the lives of His creatures is not obstructed.

14. How is salvation from sin possible?

Answer. Salvation from sin is only possible when Someone is punished as a Substitute for the sinner, providing salvation from past sins, salvation from sins presently being committed, and salvation from sins that will be committed.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Why are so many Christians unaware of such a thing as God's kingdom?

Consider.

The doctrine of God's kingdom has suffered at the expense of a popular system of theology teaching that God's kingdom is exclusively in the future. Living in a culture of individualism does not help to advance the idea of God's kingdom, because people do not like the idea of being submissive to anyone, especially God.

2. If the kingdom of God is "the entrance of God into human history to reign over them," did the kingdom of God precede the events of Genesis 12?

Consider.

Did God not reign in the Garden of Eden when He judged Adam and drove Adam and Eve from the Garden? Did God not judge every imagination of man's heart resulting in the worldwide flood? Did God not rule over the nations of Genesis 10? Did God not judge the construction of the Tower of Babel?

Consider.

"²⁴ Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. ²⁶ For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:24-26).

3. Discuss what is needed in a kingdom, such as a King, a realm, people, and law. How are these elements manifested in the kingdom of God?

Consider.

King. Jesus is King. "And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (Rev. 19:16). "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen" (1 Tim. 1:17).

Realm. "²⁰ And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: ²¹ Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:20-21).

People. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27). "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation" (Rev. 5:9).

Law. “¹⁰ For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people. ¹¹ And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. ¹² For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. ¹³ In that he saith, A new *covenant*, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old *is* ready to vanish away” (Heb. 8:10-13).

Personal Application

1. Reflect on the point Jesus told the Ruler of the Jews. “Nicodemus, unless you are born again, you will not see God’s kingdom; you will not be allowed to enter the kingdom of God.”
2. There is a temptation to impose arbitrary dates and divisions on the Word of God to advance a theology bias. Care must be taken. Often a theory is transformed into a fact, both in the secular world and the religious world. The “theory” of evolution is embraced by Secular Humanists as a “scientific fact.” Evolution is not a scientific fact, but a hoax. In like manner, a theological construct, however helpful, is flexible, and not always a settled fact.
3. Study Psalm 93 and the idea of God’s *eternal* reign “over them”, over angels, men, nations, and the universe. “¹ The Lord reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved. ² Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting. ³ The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves. ⁴ The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea. ⁵ Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, forever” (Psalm 93:1-5). “And of His kingdom, there is no end” (Isaiah 9:7).
4. Study the Covenants of the Bible.
 Consider.

The Edenic Covenant	Genesis 1:28-30; 2:15-17; Hosea 6:7
The Adamic Covenant	Genesis 3:14-19
The Noahic Covenant	Genesis 9:1-17
The Abrahamic Covenant	Genesis 12:1-3, 7; 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:1-21
The Mosaic Covenant	Exodus 19:3-8
The Davidic Covenant	2 Samuel 7:11b-16; 1 Chronicles 17:10b-14
The New Covenant	Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Hebrews 8:10-13
5. Do you know where you will end up being, should you come to Christ and experience the miracle of the new birth? You will end up in heaven. Therefore, rejoice. The King has come! Now come to King Jesus, and you shall be a member of the Royal family of God. “And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen” (Rev. 1:6).

6. Pray with Paul, “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love” (Eph. 3:15).

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more,
But the Master of the sea, heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me, now safe am I.

Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
When nothing else could help
Love lifted me!

Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
When nothing else could help
Love lifted me!”

James Rowe

Scripture Memorization

“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 4:17).

Heartwork

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. I know I am born again. | True ____ False ____ |
| 2. I will make any doubts I have about my salvation certain. | True ____ False ____ |
| 3. I love the doctrine of the kingdom of God. | True ____ False ____ |
| 4. The idea of being part of the kingdom of God is new to me. | True ____ False ____ |
| 5. I pray, as Jesus commanded, “Thy kingdom come.” | True ____ False ____ |
| 6. I have a new heart, by God’s grace. | True ____ False ____ |
| 7. I believe Christ, through the Spirit, dwells within my heart. | True ____ False ____ |
| 8. I believe that Jesus is King of kings, and Lord of lords. | True ____ False ____ |

Chapter Twenty-Eight
“and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”
“THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST: ITS FUTURE”
Hebrews 12.22-24

Review

1. What is the criteria Jesus will use to dispense rewards at His Judgment Seat in heaven?

Answer.

- Ministry
- Service in building the spiritual temple of God.

2. What is God’s plan for a sinner?

Answer.

- God’s plan for a sinner is to be saved.
- God’s plan is for the saved sinner to be baptized.
- God’s plan for the saved sinner baptized, is to live for Him.
- God’s plan for the saved sinner baptized, and living for Him, to be part of a Church of Jesus Christ.
- God’s plan for the saved sinner baptized, and living for Him, while being a part of a Church of Jesus Christ, is to worship and serve with other believers.

3. What is God’s plan for a believer, according to Romans 8:29?

Answer.

God’s plan for a believer in Jesus Christ is to be “conformed to the image of his Son.”

Reflection and Discussion

1. What is to be said to the hopeful convert who does not know about the idea of receiving any rewards in heaven? They are saved, they are happy with that thought, and the rest is a matter of indifference.
2. How is the doctrine of the final preservation of the saint, or the perseverance of the saint, abused?

Consider.

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6).

If rejected, the doctrine of final preservation by God, or the perseverance of the saints, will turn salvation into a works method that is auto-salvific. Salvation is by grace through faith and not of works, lest any person should boast (Eph. 2:8, 9).

If embraced, but not respected, the doctrine of final preservation by God, or the perseverance of the saints in maintaining good works, will result in a careless Christian life, whereby the soul of the righteous loses its testimony, like Lot. “And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law” (Gen. 19:14).

3. Discuss the idea that sanctification takes place in stages?

Consider.

There is Positional Sanctification. “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption” (1 Cor. 1:30).

There is Progressive Sanctification. “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15).

Special Note. Care must be taken to avoid the erroneous teaching found in the Wesleyan tradition of *Entire Sanctification*, whereby it is believed that a hopeful Christian can presently live a life without sin in this body. ⁴⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 John 1:8-10).

There is Perfect Sanctification. ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified” (Rom. 8:28-30).

Personal Application

1. Think often of the rewards the Lord Jesus Christ wants you to receive, or He would not offer them.
2. Meditate on the glorified resurrection body in times of sickness and death. Therein will be the ability to comfort others who are in pain and sorrow.
3. Remember, “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven” (Eccl. 3:1). In heaven, the heart of every Christian will be excited to realize they are, after all, “a member of the heavenly, universal, Church of Jesus Christ that will be constituted by all Christians.” This is a blessed truth affirmed by the Church of Jesus Christ throughout the centuries in its councils and creeds.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus’ name.

On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.”

Edward Mote

Scripture Memorization

“⁹ And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ¹¹ Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal” (Rev. 21:9-11).

Heartwork

I believe

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. I believe God wants me to be saved. | Yes ____ No ____ |
| 2. I believe God wants me to be baptized. | Yes ____ No ____ |
| 3. I believe God wants me to live for Him. | Yes ____ No ____ |
| 4. I believe God wants me to be part of a Church of Jesus Christ. | Yes ____ No ____ |
| 5. I believe God wants me to worship and serve with other believers. | Yes ____ No ____ |
| 6. I believe God wants me to be sanctified. | Yes ____ No ____ |
| 7. I believe God wants me to be conformed into the image of His Son. | Yes ____ No ____ |
| 8. I believe Jesus will come again in like manner as His disciples watched him go into heaven (Acts 1:11). | Yes ____ No ____ |
| 9. I believe that Jesus shall appear unto them that look for Him, the second time (Heb. 9:28), according to promise. | Yes ____ No ____ |

**“He which testifieth these things saith,
Surely, I come quickly. Amen.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”**

Revelation 22:20

APPENDIX A

“THE GIFT OF TONGUES”

Review

1. When did the modern tongues phenomenon begin?

Answer.

The modern tongues phenomenon was introduced on January 1, 1901, at Bethel Bible College, Topeka, Kansas.

Consider.

At 11:00 pm, January 1, 1901, thirty-year-old Ms. Agnes Ozman (1870-1937) asked that Charles Fox Parham lay hands on her so that she would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit manifested by speaking in tongues. As hands were being laid on her, Agnes prayed the benediction of Hebrews 13:20-21. “ “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

Later, Agnes Ozman would state what she believed happened that fateful day in 1901. “It was common for me to pray the verses while praying, and it was as [if] hands were laid upon my head that the Holy Spirit fell upon me and I began to speak in tongues, glorifying God. I talked several languages, and it was clearly manifest when a new dialect was spoken. I had the added joy and glory my heart longed for, and a depth of the presence of the Lord within that I had never known before. It was as if rivers of living water were proceeding from my innermost being.” (*With Signs Following—The Latter-Day Pentecostal Revival*, Stanley Frodsham)

2. What often happens when tongues speakers are allowed freedom in the local congregation?

Answer.

It is not unusual for the peace and tranquility of a congregation to be shattered when a tongues speaker is given the freedom to express their ecstatic utterances.

3. What controversy has divided the Church of Jesus Christ concerning the issue of spiritual gifts?

Answer.

- There are many Christians who believe that some spiritual gifts have ceased. Such people are often called Cessationists.

Consider.

Cessationists appeal to 1 Corinthians 13:8 for Scriptural support of their position. “Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.”

- There are many Christians who believe that none of the spiritual gifts have ceased. They are labeled as Continuationists.

Consider.

In an attempt to protect the practice speaking in tongues, an appeal is made by Continuationists to the words of the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 14:18. “I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all.” And again, 1 Corinthians 14:5. “I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interprets, that the church may receive edifying.”

4. Which position is more experience-driven?

Answer.

The position held by the Continuationists is more experience-driven.

Consider.

The Word of God is to stand in judgment on every human experience and emotion, not vice-versa.

5. For a person who wants to speak in tongues, what does Dr. Waldrip promise to do?

Answer.

For a person who wants to speak in tongues, Dr. Waldrip has promised to tell them what they have to do.

6. Under what six headings does Dr. Waldrip present the facts related to the spiritual gift of tongues?

Answer.

- The Review of Tongues
- The Reason for Tongues
- The Response to Tongues
- The Reality of Tongues
- The Restitution of Tongues
- The Responsibility of Christians

7. Identify the following.

- The first mention of tongues in the New Testament.
- The first use of tongues in the New Testament

Answer.

- The first *mention* of tongues in the New Testament is found in Mark’s account of the Great Commission.
- The first *use* of tongues in the New Testament occurred on the Day of Pentecost.

8. During the first 35 years of Christianity, how can the importance of the gift of tongues be evaluated?

Answer.

- The importance of the gift of tongues can be evaluated by the frequency with which the gift is known to have occurred.

Consider.

Read those passages where the gift of tongues is mentioned: Acts 2:4, Acts 10:46, Acts 19:6, and 1 Corinthians 12-13-14.

- The importance of the gift of tongues can be evaluated by the priority attached to this gift.

Consider.

When spiritual gifts are listed, the gift of tongues, if it is even mentioned, does not come in first, second, or even third place. See Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 12:28; Ephesians 4:11.

9. What Biblical reason is declared for tongues?

Answer.

The gift of tongues was given as a sign to Israel, to the unbelieving nation of Israel.

Consider.

Tongues were used as a sign of judgment upon the Jews that God's judgment would soon fall.

"And these signs shall follow them that believe ... they shall speak with new tongues" (Mark 16:17).

"Wherefore tongues are for a sign" (1 Cor. 14:22).

"For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom" (1 Cor. 1:22).

"In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord" (1 Cor. 14:21).

¹¹ For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. ¹² To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear" (Isaiah 28:11-12).

10. What is the appropriate response to tongues?

Answer.

The Response of the Earliest Believers. Most of the first believers were Jewish, who would have been familiar with the Law and the Prophets. They would have understood the sign gift of tongues and rejoiced that prophecy was being fulfilled. “For this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel” (Acts 2:16).

The Response of the Unserved Jewish People. A proper response by the unsaved Jewish people when they heard the gift of tongues being manifested was dread that the prophecy of Isaiah was being fulfilled. Judgment had come to Israel. “¹¹ For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. ¹² To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear” (Isaiah 28:11-12 cf. 1 Cor. 14:21).

The Response of the Unserved Gentiles. The typical response of the unsaved Gentiles was confusion, followed by ridicule, and rejection of the gospel.

The Response of the Gentile Believers. While the typical response by the unsaved Gentiles was ridicule and rejection of the gospel, not all Gentiles were so foolish. Some were able, by the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit, to place the sign gift of tongues in God’s framework and be profited by its use.

11. What is the reality of tongues?

Answer.

The reality of tongues is that the gift of tongues is the supernatural ability to speak a foreign language not previously learned.

Consider.

In the initial phase of the modern Pentecostal Movement, there was a sincere belief that the missionary effort could be enhanced if the gifts of tongues was a known language not previously studied. Many years of study could be bypassed. More than a few sincere men and women went to foreign lands thinking they would be speaking a dialect of Chinese, or some tribal language. They were disappointed. With the development of recording devices, the phenomena of speaking in tongues could be carefully studied, and exposed as fraudulent, in as far as a known language being spoken.

There are anecdotal testimonies of people claiming to speak in a tongue not previously known, but there are many reasons to suspect such testimonies, not the least of which is being involved in a Satanic counterfeit.

Once linguists were able to determine that the Pentecostal tongues phenomena was not a known language, the theology of the movement changed, to teach that people were speaking a “heavenly” language. Of course, the ecstatic utterances could not be understood! An interpreter was needed, someone who declared they understood the utterances. However, sincere people in the Pentecostal and Charismatic movement are, “Let God be true and every man a liar” (Rom. 3:4).

12. What does Dr. Waldrip believe is the future of tongues?

Answer.

Dr. Waldrip is persuaded God will restore the gift of tongues for use in the future.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Why is the Charismatic movement so attractive to so many?

Consider.

There is a natural longing in the hearts of Christians to want the fullness of God; however that is understood.

If God is a miracle-working God, and He is, the Charismatic movement is willing to promote that truth.

If God does not mind Christians openly expressing themselves in worship, the Charismatic movement offers freedom of verbal and physical expression, even when excessive.

If there is wonderment associated with the Divine, the Charismatic movement touches the mystery of the Eternal.

If there is a need for encouragement during the daily challenges and various forms of suffering in life, the Charismatic movement offers hope for tomorrow.

If there is a desire to have spiritual power with men, and with God, the Charismatic movement has a theology to channel that spiritual longing. While some faith-based religions appeal to tradition and ritual, while some faith-based religion appeal to the intellect, the Charismatic movement appeals to the sublime and the emotions of the soul.

If there is more to the Christian life than dead orthodoxy, and dull sermons, the Charismatic movement offers a feeling of life and excitement in the act of worship.

2. Should anyone associated with the Charismatic movement be considered a member of the Church of Jesus Christ in one of their local congregations? Explain.

3. Can a person have “bad theology, but a good heart” as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ? If so, how much “bad theology” will the Lord allow?

Consider.

Keep in mind that every expression of the local congregations of the New Testament Churches had severe doctrinal and personal problems, reflected in the pastoral epistles, and the seven letters to the Churches of the Revelation.

One day Jesus “turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men” (Matt. 16:23).

“⁵ This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 John 1:5-10).

Personal Application

1. Come to a position on the Charismatic issues based on sound Biblical principles, not personal experiences, or anecdotal material.
2. Advocate for the unbiased study of God’s Word, though that is easier to exhort than to accomplish. Many secretly say, “Don’t confuse me with facts; my mind is made up.” Thinking can be challenging because “much study is a weariness of the flesh” (Eccles. 12:12).
3. Be honest about wanting to know the Word of God. The Lord knows your heart.
4. Beware of spiritual pride. “Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Prov. 16:18).
5. Remember that speaking in tongues is a gift. Either you have it, or you don’t. If you do not have it, you should not pretend you do.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer’s praise,
The glories of my God and king,
The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.”

Charles Wesley

Scripture Memorization

“In the law it is written, with men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord” (1 Cor. 14:21).

Heartwork

My Affirmation

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. I will come to a position on the Charismatic issues based on sound Biblical principles, not personal experiences, or anecdotal material. | I will ____ |
| 2. I will make every effort to study God’s word through an unbiased mind. | I will ____ |
| 3. I will be honest with myself, with my congregation, and with my Lord, about wanting to know the Bible. | I will ____ |
| 4. I will guard my heart against spiritual pride. | I will ____ |
| 5. I will seek the best spiritual gifts, not the most sensational (1 Cor. 12:31). | I will ____ |

A Biblical Catechism on Speaking in Tongues with Scriptural Support

Stanford E. Murrell

1 Corinthians 12-14

It is helpful to have a definition of tongues. Tongues may be Scripturally defined by Acts 2:6. “Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.” When a person spoke on the Day of Pentecost, they preached the gospel in the language of those who were present. It was a remarkable gift. From the event of the divine Presence on the Day of Pentecost, we learn that the gift of tongues refers to “a spontaneous utterance of sounds in a language the speaker has never learned and does not understand.” (Professor Anthony Hoekema of Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids)

It is to be noted that the word *unknown* when used with the word glossa, or tongue, is not found in the original Greek. There is no such thing as an *unknown* tongue in Scripture.

1. What can a person speaking by the Spirit not do?

Answer.

A person speaking by the Spirit of God cannot call Jesus accursed.

Scripture.

“Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.” (1 Cor. 12:3)

2. What can a person not say, except by the Holy Spirit?

Answer.

A person cannot say that Jesus is the Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.

Scripture.

“Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.” (1 Cor. 12:3)

3. In 1 John 4:1, what commandment does John give to the Church concerning the spirits?

Answer.

In 1 John 4:1, John commands the Church to test the spirits.

Scripture.

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1)

4. What manifestations of the Spirit have been given to the Church?

Answer.

The Holy Spirit has given to the Church wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.

Scripture.

“⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. ⁸ For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; ⁹ To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; ¹⁰ To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.” (1 Cor. 12:7-10)

5. Who sovereignly bestows each spiritual gift?

Answer.

It is the Holy Spirit who sovereignly bestows each spiritual gift as He wills.

Scripture.

“But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.” (1 Cor. 12:11)

6. What is the true baptism of the Holy Spirit as opposed to the one remaining baptism, which is immersion in water?

Answer.

The true baptism of the Holy Spirit is an operation performed by the Lord Jesus Christ in fulfillment of John the Baptist’s prediction (Matt. 3:11) that is accompanied by visible and audible signs that authenticate the Messiahship of Jesus of Nazareth. Immersion in water is the baptism that remains (Eph. 4:5).

Scripture.

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:13).

“One Lord, one faith, one baptism” (Eph 4:5).

7. Who sets the members, every one of them, in the body as it pleases Him?

Answer.

God sets the members into the body as it pleases Him.

Scripture.

“But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.” (1 Cor. 12:18)

8. Are all Christians to speak with tongues?

Answer.

No, not all people are to speak with tongues.

Scripture.

“Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?” (1 Cor. 12:30)

9. Are Christians to seek to speak with tongues?

Answer.

No, Christians are not to seek to speak with tongues, but they are to seek better gifts.

Scripture.

“But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.” (1 Cor. 12:31)

10. What shall never fail?

Answer.

Charity, or love, will never fail.

Scripture.

“Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.” (1 Cor. 13:8)

11. What will cease?

Answer.

Tongues will cease.

Scripture.

“Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.” (1 Cor. 13:8)

12. When will tongues cease?

Answer.

Tongues will cease when that which is perfect is come.

Scripture.

“But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.” (1 Cor. 13:10)

13. What spiritual gift is to be desired?

Answer.

The spiritual gift of prophecy is to be desired.

Scripture.

“Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.” (1 Cor. 14:1)

14. To whom does a person speak in an *unknown* tongue, Paul asks (likely employing sarcasm)?

Answer.

A person who speaks in an *unknown* tongue speaks to God.

Scripture.

“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.” (1 Cor. 14:2)

15. Who is edified when a person speaks in an *unknown* tongue?

Answer.

Only self is edified when a person speaks in an *unknown* tongue.

Scripture.

“He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.” (1 Cor. 14:4)

16. Did Paul say he would like for all the Christians in Corinth to speak in tongues?

Answer. Yes, Paul did say he would like for all the Christians in Corinth to speak in tongues.

Scripture.

“I would that ye all spake with tongues.” (1 Cor. 14:5a)

17. What did Paul say he would rather all the people of Corinth do?

Answer.

Paul said he would rather that all people of Corinth had the gift of prophecy, or proclaiming God’s message.

Scripture.

“I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied” (1 Cor. 14:5b).

18. If there is no one to interpret for the person who speaks in tongues, which spiritual gift is greater, the gift of prophecy or the gift of speaking with tongues?

Answer.

The gift of prophecy is greater than the gift of speaking with tongues if there is no one to interpret the gift of speaking with tongues.

Scripture.

“I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interprets, that the church may receive edifying.” (1 Cor. 14:5)

19. What is specifically needed by those who come to the Church speaking with tongues?

Answer.

A distinct sound is needed by those who come to the Church speaking with tongues.

Scripture.

“⁶ Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine? ⁷ And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? ⁸ For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?” (1 Cor. 14:6-8)

20. If no one can distinctly understand what a person is saying, where are their words going?

Answer.

If no one can distinctly understand what a person is saying, their words are going into the air. Their words are not going from their lips to God’s ear, but, into the air.

Scripture.

“So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.” (1 Cor. 14:9)

21. What does a person sound like when the meaning of the words they speak are not known?

Answer.

When a person speaks, and their words are not known, they sound like a barbarian.

Scripture.

“¹⁰ There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification. ¹¹ Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.” (1 Cor. 14:10-11)

22. What was a Christian in the church at Corinth to seek?

Answer.

A Christian in the church of Corinth was to seek to excel to the edifying of the church, not self.

Scripture.

“Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.” (1 Cor. 14:12)

23. What is a person who speaks in an *unknown* tongue to pray?

Answer.

A person who speaks in an *unknown* tongue is to pray that they may interpret.

Scripture.

“Wherefore let him that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue pray that he may interpret.” (1 Cor. 14:13)

24. What is unfruitful when a person prays in an *unknown* tongue?

Answer.

When a person prays in an *unknown* tongue their understanding is unfruitful.

Scripture.

“For if I pray in an *unknown* tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.” (1 Cor. 14:14)

25. What two elements are to be united when prayer, and singing, are offered to God?

Answer.

The spirit and understanding are to be united when prayer, and singing, are offered to God.

Scripture.

“What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.” (1 Cor. 14:15)

26. Why is it important for those who are praying and singing to do so with the spirit and with understanding?

Answer.

It is important for those who are praying, and singing, to do so with the spirit and with understanding, for the unlearned, or the new convert to say, “Amen” at the giving of thanks.

Scripture.

“¹⁶ Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? ¹⁷ For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.” (1 Cor. 14:16-17)

27. What did Paul tell the saints in the church of Corinth he thanked God for?

Answer.

Paul thanked God that he spoke with tongues more than anyone else in the church in Corinth.

Scripture.

“I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:” (1 Cor. 14:18)

Paul spoke Greek. “And as Paul was to be led into the castle, he said unto the chief captain, May I speak unto thee? Who said, Canst thou speak Greek?” (Acts 21:37)

Paul spoke Hebrew. “¹ Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defense which I make now unto you. ² (And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith,)” (Acts 22:1-2)

Paul spoke Latin. His very name, Paul, is from the Latin, Paulus, meaning “small,” “little,” or “humble.” He lived in Rome for two years and ministered to those who came to him. “³⁰ And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, ³¹ Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.” (Acts 28:30-31)

Paul spoke Aramaic. He refers to Peter in his letters as “Cephas,” which is the original Aramaic form of “Rock.” In 1 Corinthians 16:12 he used the word “Maranatha,” which is Aramaic for “Come, Lord.” As a Pharisee of the Pharisees, and a student of the Torah, he would be required to know Hebrew and probably Aramaic, for that is the language in which the Talmud was ultimately written.

28. Despite his ability to speak in tongues more than anyone else in the church in Corinth, what would Paul rather do?

Answer.

Despite his ability to speak in tongue more than anyone else in the church in Corinth, Paul would rather speak five words with his understanding, so that by his voice he might teach others also.

Scripture.

“Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an *unknown* tongue.” 1 Cor. 14:19)

29. What did Paul not want the Christians in the church of Corinth to be like?

Answer.

Paul did not want the Christians in the church of Corinth to be children in understanding. He wanted them to be mature in their thinking and their comprehension of the significance of the gift of tongues.

Scripture.

“Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.” (1 Cor. 14:20)

30. Alluding to words from the prophet Isaiah, what does Paul say is written in the Law?

Answer.

Through Isaiah, the prophet, the Lord warned that the time would come when He would judge Israel by speaking to them with other tongues.

Scripture.

“In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.” (1 Cor. 14:21)

Scripture.

“¹¹ For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. ¹² To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.” (Isaiah 28:11-12)

31. What conclusion does Paul draw from the words of the prophet Isaiah?

Answer.

From the words of the prophet Isaiah, Paul concludes that tongues are for a sign.

Scripture.

“Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.” (1 Cor. 14:22)

32. If, in a church service, everyone is speaking with tongues, what will the unlearned, or unbelievers say?

Answer.

If in a church service, everyone is speaking with tongues, the unlearned, or unbeliever will say that the people are all mad.

Scripture.

“If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?” (1 Cor. 14:23)

33. What logical procedure is to take place to remove the charge against Christians of being mad?

Answer.

To remove the charge against Christians of being made, only two, or at the most three, are to speak, one at a time, and then only with an interpreter.

Scripture.

“If any man speak in an *unknown* tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. 28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.” (1 Cor. 14:27-28)

34. Are women allowed to speak in tongues during a formal church service?

Answer.

Women are not allowed to speak in tongues during a formal church service.

Scripture.

“³⁴ Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. ³⁵ And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.” (1 Cor. 14:34-35)

35. Is the gift of tongues to be forbidden?

Answer.

No, the gift of tongues is not to be forbidden.

Scripture.

“³⁹ Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. ⁴⁰ Let all things be done decently and in order.” (1 Cor. 14:39-40)

APPENDIX B

“A CHRISTIAN’S REWARDS AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST”

Review

1. What five observations does Dr. Waldrup make about the Judgment Seat of Christ?

Answer.

- The Fact of the Judgment Seat of Christ
- The Time of the Judgment Seat of Christ
- The Place of the Judgment Seat of Christ
- The Purpose of the Judgment Seat of Christ
- The Consequence of the Judgment Seat of Christ

2. What three facts does Dr. Waldrup set forth about the Judgment Seat of Christ?

- There is form.
- There is function.
- There is identification.

3. Name two methods mentioned in the Bible by which someone occupied an elevated position relative to a crowd or an audience.

Answer.

- First Method. The pulpit, mentioned in Nehemiah 8:4, was an elevated platform made of wood. “And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Urijah, and Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam.”
- Second Method. The bema refers to an elevated step platform, usually fashioned of stone, on which someone in authority who was rendering judgment would sit

4. What is predicted in Romans 14:10 and 2 Corinthians 5:10?

Answer.

A judgment of believes in Jesus Christ is predicted.

Consider.

“But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ” (Rom. 14:10).

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10).

5. What is mentioned in Revelation 20:11?

Answer

Reference is made to a Great White Throne.

Consider.

“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them” (Rev. 20:11).

6. What is to be evaluated at the Judgement Seat of Christ?

Answer.

The deeds done in the body will be evaluated at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

7. What three comforting ideas does Dr. Waldrip set forth in connection with the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Answer.

- There is the comforting promise of the Savior to His apostles stated in John 14:1-3.
- There is the comforting prediction of the Apostle Paul to the Thessalonian Church recorded in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.
- There is the comforting propriety of the glorified Lord Jesus rendering His appropriate judgment.

8. What is the purpose of the Judgment Seat of Christ?

Answer.

The purpose of the Judgment Seat of Christ is stated in Romans 14:12: “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

9. What are two consequences relating to the Judgment Seat of Christ?

Answer.

- Glory. Works of service and ministry will be evaluated with a view towards a reward.
- Shame. Works of service and ministry will be deemed to have failed and there will be a loss of rewards.

10. List five possible rewards for faithful service to the Lord Jesus Christ. Identify who shall receive each one. Provide Scriptural support.

Answer.

- Crown. There is an Incorruptible Crown
Recipient. This reward is for those who get mastery over the old man.
Scripture. “And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible” (1 Cor. 9:25).
- Crown. There is the Reward of a Crown of Rejoicing
Recipient. This reward is for soul winners.
Scripture. “For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?” (1 Thess. 2:19).
- Crown. There is the Reward of a Crown of Life
Recipient. This reward is for those who endure trials.
Scripture. “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him” (James 1:12).
- Crown. There is the Reward of a Crown of Righteousness
Recipient. This reward is given to those who love the Lord’s appearing.
Scripture. “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (2 Tim. 4:8).
- Crown. There is the Crown of Glory
Recipient. This reward is for those who feed the flock.
Scripture. “And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away” (1 Peter 5:4).

“His lord said unto him,
Well done, thou good and faithful servant:
thou hast been faithful over a few things,
I will make thee ruler over many things:
enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”
—Jesus

Reflection and Discussion

1. Why does the Lord Jesus Christ offer rewards for service in His kingdom?
2. Is it certain that Christians will cast their rewards back at Jesus' feet? Would that be an act of humility, or an incredible display of disrespect, esteeming so lightly what is valued so highly by the King of kings and Lord of lords, His gifts for those whom He loves, and gave His life for?
3. Which rewards would you like to receive? Why? Be specific.

Personal Application

1. Being willing to reconsider long-cherished beliefs about faith and behavior.
2. Be willing to study outside your comfort level to see what God has to say to other believers, keeping vigilance over the Biblical mandate to contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints (Jude 3).
3. Remember that a Biblical faith is a historic faith. Truth does not change. Any System of theology that keeps evolving, developing, or changing with current events, and novel insights should be rejected.
4. Respect church history enough to study the story of the glorious Church (Eph. 5:27). The Apostolic Fathers, the Patristic Fathers, the Twenty-one Ecumenical Councils, the Creeds of Christendom, the various Confessions of Faith, and the current theological discussions are part of the legacy of the Church of Jesus Christ, and must not be neglected or dismissed.
5. Make a detailed study of Eschatology, as thoroughly as Ecclesiology has been studied. Pay special attention to the following.
 - Anti-Christ
 - Armageddon
 - Church
 - Covenant
 - Dispensation
 - Eternity Future
 - Eternity Past
 - Great White Throne
 - Hades (Hell, Gehenna, Sheol)
 - Heaven
 - Jesus Christ
 - Lake of Fire
 - Man of Sin
 - Marriage of the Lamb

- Millennium
 - New Heaven and New Earth
 - Rapture (Latin, *raptura*; Gk. *harpazo* [har-pad'-zo])
 - Second Coming
 - The Judgment Seat of Christ
 - Tribulation
6. Believe that the true Church of Jesus Christ is not an apostate organization doomed for failure. The Church of Jesus Christ is destined for glory because she is being prepared to be presented to Jesus “not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” (Eph. 5:27).
 7. Be careful about speaking about and against others of different faith persuasions. “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man” (Col. 4:6).
 8. Be a Christian of great grace, as Charles Spurgeon was, especially with those he strongly disagreed with theologically.

Consider.

Having been subject to much slander and ridicule, Charles Spurgeon knew the destructive power of the tongue and pen. The Biblical command for Christians is to “let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice” (Eph. 4:31).

Mr. Spurgeon practiced what he preached, and taught pastoral students by his example. In his book, *Lectures to My Students*, Mr. Spurgeon was very kind to Charles Finney (Aug 29, 1792 – August 16, 1875), a prominent Arminian with whom he disagreed with theologically. Said Spurgeon,

“Exhortations, entreaties, and beseechings, if not accompanied with sound instruction, are like firing off powder without shot. You may shout, and weep, and plead, but you cannot lead men to believe what they have not heard, nor to receive a truth which has never been set before them. “Because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge.” While giving instruction it is wise to appeal to the understanding. True religion is as logical as if it were not emotional.

I am not an admirer of the peculiar views of Mr. Finney, **but I have no doubt that he was useful to many**; and his power lay in his use of clear arguments. Many who knew his fame were greatly disappointed at first hearing him, because he used few beauties of speech and was as calm and dry as a book of Euclid; but **he was exactly adapted to a certain order of minds, and they were convinced and convicted by his forcible reasoning**. Should not persons of an argumentative cast of minds be provided for? We are to be all things to all men, and to these men we must become argumentative and push them into a corner with plain deductions and necessary inferences. Of carnal reasoning we would have none, but of fair, honest pondering, considering, judging, and arguing the more the better” (“On Conversion As Our Aim”, page 185).

Charles Spurgeon was a man of great grace. He never forgot that his first true understanding of the gospel came, humanly speaking, from the lips of an Arminian Methodist lay-preacher empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Sing with Grace in Your Heart

“Don't think me poor or deserted or lonely
I'm not discouraged I'm heaven bound
I'm but a pilgrim in search of the city.
I want a mansion, a harp, and a crown.”

Ira F. Stamphill

The Story behind the Song

One day a wealthy man facing bankruptcy took a drive through the rural part of the country. As he passed one particular house it caught his attention. It was needing a paint job and repairs of all kinds. The broken window glasses were replaced with oil paper. Many shingles as well as part of the roof were missing which made him wonder how the house was even still standing. A young girl about the age of 8 or 9 and poorly dressed was playing in the front yard. The man was compelled to stop and talk to the young girl. In their conversation, he mentioned how sorry he was that she lived in such a poor surrounding. The little girl excitedly asked him, "Why haven't you heard? My daddy just inherited a fortune and he's building us a mansion just over that hill over there. Don't know when it will be done, but I won't have to live in this house forever (*This Side of Heaven*, Ira F. Stamphill).

Scripture Memorization

“¹ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. ⁴ And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know” (John 14:1-4).

Heartwork

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. I would like to receive the Incorruptible Crown. | True ____ False ____ |
| 2. I would like to receive the Crown of Rejoicing. | True ____ False ____ |
| 3. I would like to receive the Crown of Life. | True ____ False ____ |
| 4. I would like to receive the Crown of Righteousness. | True ____ False ____ |
| 5. I would like to receive the Crown of Glory. | True ____ False ____ |

A Final Word

“¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. ¹⁸ For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: ¹⁹ And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. ²⁰ He which testifieth these things saith, Surely, I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. ²¹ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”

—Revelation 22:17-21

*A Summary Statement
of
28 Truths Biblical Truths
by
John S. Waldrup*

MEET THE AUTHORS

The Church of Jesus Christ: 28 Truths Every Christian Ought to Learn

By

John S. Waldrip

Founder, Classical Baptist Press www.ClassicalBaptist.Press



Pastor of Calvary Road Baptist Church, Dr. John S. Waldrip, has served as a Bible college instructor, state chairman of the California Baptist Bible Fellowship, national director of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International, and field representative to the Middle East for the Baptist Bible Fellowship International. He has taken mission trips to Thailand, Korea, Hong Kong, Lebanon, Belgium, Canada, Mexico, Philippines, Israel, Mali, and Nepal. He enjoyed attending the annual School of Theology at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London, England. He graduated from the advanced course of The Reid Method of Interviewing and Interrogation.

Leader's Study Guide

By

Stanford E. Murrell

Over fifty years of Christian ministry, Stanford E. Murrell has enjoyed being a local pastor, conference speaker, author, schoolteacher, and private school administrator in Arkansas and Pennsylvania. He now resides in Viera, Florida. His ministry and private journeys have taken him to more than thirty foreign nations. You can explore Stan's collection of published writings by visiting his author page www.ichthuspublications.com/



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