

## Basic Bible Doctrines

### Lesson One

#### "The Bible"

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

The word "Bible" is derived from the Greek biblos which means a "book." Since the Bible is a revelation to man from God, it is the single most important "Book" you will ever pick up.

God used about forty Two people in writing the Bible. The Holy Spirit guided these men so there would be no mistakes (1 Cor. 14: 37, Acts 1: 1-4). A number of books which are purported to be inspired actually make no such claim. The first writer of the Bible was Moses (Genesis through Deuteronomy) and the last John (Revelation). It took about 1500 years to write the Bible and it contains 66 books. These books have the internal and external vestiges of authenticity and they have been subjected to every imaginable test to determine their worthiness to be called "Scripture", and have endured.

"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual." (1 Cor. 2: 13).

"If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord" (1 Cor. 14: 37).

There are two major divisions or components in the Bible: the Hebrew scriptures (Genesis through Malachi, 39 books) and the New Testament (Matthew through Revelation, 27 books).

The New Testament was written mostly in Koine Greek. Three dispensations are generally recognized in the Bible: Patriarchal (Adam till Moses), the Jewish (Exodus 20 till Acts 2), and the gospel age (Acts 2 until end). We are living in the gospel age or New Testament period.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of Truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness" (2 Tim. 2: 15, 16).

The Hebrew (Old Testament) scriptures are arranged into four sections or divisions: the Pentateuch (Genesis through Deuteronomy, 5 books), History (Joshua through Ester, 12 books), Poetry (Job through Song of Solomon, 5 books), and Prophecy (Isaiah through Malachi, 17 books).

The New Testament is generally divided into five divisions: The Gospels (Matthew through John, 4 books), History (Acts), the Epistles of Paul (Romans through Hebrews, 14 books), General Epistles (James through Jude, 7 books), and Prophecy (Revelation).

"And he said unto them, these are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me" (Luke 24: 44).

Men assigned the names to the sixty-six books of the Bible. Most of the assigned names help in the study of the Bible. For instance, "Genesis" is from the Greek word genesis which means origin or beginning. The first book is so named because it contains the record of a number of origins, beginning with the world and man. "Exodus" means departure and it contains the account of the departure of the children of Israel from Egypt. "Colossians" (New Testament book) is so named because it was originally written to people called Colossians who lived in the city of Colosse. The twenty-seven books of the New Testament were written by eight men, four of whom were apostles.

The Bible was divided into chapters by Hugo in 1240. The Hebrew scriptures were divided into verses in 1445 and the New Testament in 1551 by Robert Steven.

The Bible is the most mis-understood writing in the World. It is not because the Bible is hard to understand, in fact it is quite easy when approached correctly. The problem is that many come to the Bible looking for verses to support what they already think or believe. Instead, they should be coming to God's Word expecting it to teach them what to believe. The old saying, "The Bible is suppose to change us, not us changing it", is correct.

When studying God's Word, pray first for God to give you wisdom. Always accept it as speaking literal unless the context clearly says otherwise. Compare Scripture with Scripture. Never take one verse and try to make a doctrine out of it. You must build all your beliefs on what is taught throughout the Bible, not just in one verse.

And lastly, stay clear of most modern versions of the Bible. If you are English speaking get yourself a King James Version and stick with it. All new versions use ancient manuscripts that were not accepted by the early Jewish Scribes. The newer versions use manuscripts that were rejected by them, and most of them are translated very loosely with the person who is doing the translating inserting their own thoughts and beliefs into the translation instead of just writing what God said.

## Basic Bible Doctrine

### Lesson Two

#### "God"

As a Christian, you will be challenged by atheists, skeptics and hecklers to prove that there is a God. The reason for this is because it is hard for the natural man to believe in something that he cannot see, touch or feel (I Cor. 2:14).

The Bible is not a textbook that attempts to prove the existence of God - the Bible opens with a positive fact that God does exist..."In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). It did not occur to anyone to prove this fact. God exist, and everyone knew it. Only until recent years have people questioned if God was real or not.

The Bible plainly states that it is the fool who denies the existence of God.

Psa. 14:1, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God."

Anyone with any intelligence would acknowledge the evident fact of a living God.

The greatest proof apart from Scripture of the existence of God is our daily fellowship with Him through prayer and our daily walk with Him. I know that there is a God because I talked to Him today and He heard and answered the prayer of my heart though it was only whispered silently.

Following is a list of different ways we can know there is a God.

#### I. PROOF FROM SCRIPTURE

Psa. 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork." The beauty and glory of the heavens speak loudly saying, "God exists."

Rom. 1:20 goes farther and suggests that creation even teaches about the eternal power of the Godhead, "For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

The man who accepts Scripture will readily acknowledge the existence of God.

Now lets look at some other less convincing but nevertheless powerful arguments.

#### II. PROOF FROM CONSCIENCE

Man is born with a universal belief in a supreme Being; no tribe has yet been discovered that lacks this. They know that some Being created and controls the universe.

Rom. 2:15, "Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another." The existence of God is written in the human conscience.

Acts 17:23, "For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, To the Unknown God." Conscience told them that there was a God though they did not know Him personally. Some atheists may claim that their conscience does not tell them about God.

Personally I have never met anyone who claimed to be an atheist, who truly was. In the end, they will always admit that something is out there.

Some men are so blind that they may deny the existence of the sun in the sky but that does not alter the fact that the sun exists, rises and sets each day. None are so blind as those who refuse to see. The honest man will find that the inner still small voice says that God exists and is alive today.

Men deny the existence of God not because they cannot find Him but because they are afraid to face the responsibility of being accountable to Him after death. Atheism is one of the devil's tools to put men to sleep without accepting salvation. If there is no God then I am not responsible to anyone and I can live and die as I please. but in the quieter moments of reflection the conscience of every man whispers, "There is a God" and only fools deny it.

To look up and see a plane and not see the pilot and say that the plane is pilotless is as ridiculous as looking into the heavens and saying that there is no God simply because we cannot see Him. Few of us have ever seen our brains, yet we believe that we possess them because of a centralized control system in the body. Because we see creation, we believe in God.

### III. THE ARGUMENT FROM CAUSE (Cosmological)

The world is here. It must have come from somewhere. Somebody or something must have caused it to come into being at one time or another. Or, Here is a book. Someone must have written it. No printing press can of itself produce a book, be it ever so modern a press with the latest electrical gadgets. Someone built the building. Someone created the trees. Someone operates the universe.

If all the pieces of a watch were placed in a can and the can shaken, a watch will never be created, even over a billion years. Although all the parts needed are there, it will still take a master watch maker to put it all together.

The only sensible answer to the problem of the existence of the world is the existence of an intelligent Being whom we call God.

#### IV. THE ARGUMENT FROM DESIGN (Teleological)

A watch not only exists but it has a designer. It was planned for a specific purpose. A watch was not designed for mosquitoes to live in. It was designed by a keen mind for the purpose of accurately telling the time. An examination of the world and the things large and small shows that each is designed by an intelligent mind for a specific purpose in life.

The colors of the bird and means of defense of the animals are not accidents. They are the result of a plan of a superior planning mind of the originator.

#### V. THE MORAL ARGUMENT (Anthropological)

Man has an intellectual and moral nature showing that the Creator must not be merely an inanimate force but a living, intelligent moral Being. Gen. 1:26, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."

Gen. 1:27, God created man in the image and likeness of God, that is, patterned after Him.

Psa. 94:9, "He that planted the ear, shall He not hear? He that formed the eye, shall He not see?" God has given to man ears, eyes, knowledge, intelligence, and will power, for these are the things that He possesses.

Conscience teaches man right and wrong, good and bad; for the Creator is a moral Being that is holy, and loves righteousness but abhors evil.

#### VI. THE LIFE ARGUMENT

Life comes from life and the original life must have come from a Being possessing eternal life, that is, life that existed before physical life was created. This is also what some refer to as "first cause". Where can such life be found? It can only be found in God who possesses eternal life. Psa. 36:9, "For with Thee is the fountain (source) of life."

The apple tree gets its life from the parent tree, the lamb from the mother sheep. But where did they get life from? We go back to the original creation.

Jesus said in John 11:25, "I am... life," also in John 14:6, "I am ... life," and in John 10:28, "And I give unto them eternal life." All life proceeds from God. The theory of spontaneous generation has been proved false and completely unacceptable to authoritative science. Life must have a beginning. The only logical answer is that beginning was with God who was before all, and created all.

In conclusion, when learning about God, the first thing one must confirm is that there is a God. There can be no other answer. Scripture, History, logic, science, the universe, and conscience all tell us that He exist.

Heb. 11:6, "He that cometh to God must believe that He Is [exists]."

Basic Bible Doctrine  
Lesson Three  
"Attributes of God"

This is just a partial list of known attributes of God. I could name others, and other sites may have other things listed that I do not. An "attribute" is simple a characteristic associated to someone or some thing. Since God is so far above man, we can not completely know or understand God in His entirety.

Eternal

God exists forever, meaning he has no beginning or end (cf. Psalm 90:2; 1 Tim. 1:17). He has always existed in the same way: fully and completely as God. "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" (Revelation 4:8)

Holiness

"To say that God is holy is to say that He is eternally separate and distinct from all impurity. The term holiness in Hebrew, qodesh, has the notion of separation, of uniqueness, of one-of-kindness as it were."  
-Bruce Ware

Unchanging

Also called immutability, this means that God never changes in his being (who he is) or promises (cf. Mal.3:6; James 1:17; Heb. 6:17).

Impassable

God is without passions. He is not overwhelmed by any emotion, he is not incapacitated or weakened or stifled by any event or any amount of grief or love. Rather, God is totally self-controlled. While God does grieve, and does passionately love, he does so completely on purpose.

Infinite

God is not subject to any of the limitations of humanity or his creation.

All-powerful

God has all power. He can exercise dominion over the entire universe, carry out the purposes of his wisdom, govern the hearts of men, and even create things out of nothing.

### Everywhere-present

God is everywhere - Jer. 23:24; Psa. 139:7-10; 1 Kings 8:27. This is not to say that God's form is spread out so that parts of Him exist in every location. God is spirit; He has no physical form. He is present everywhere in that everything is immediately in His presence. At the same time He is present everywhere in the universe. No one can hide from Him and nothing escapes His notice.

### All-wise

God has all wisdom. He works everything out for the good of his people, and for the display and enjoyment of his glory. This involves countless factors and people and events and decisions that would be far above any human. But not God. Even when things look the worst, God is carrying out his perfect wisdom. He never fails, never lacks any foresight, and never estimates. He knows all, and plans all, and he loves to display the glory and beauty of his wisdom by accomplishing the seemingly impossible.

### All-knowing

God knows all things - 1 John 3:20; Psa. 147:5; Heb. 4:13. This includes the past, the present, and the future. It includes actuality, and contingencies. That is, he knows what will happen, and he knows what "could" happen. There was never a time when God did not know anything. The greatest and deepest and most fascinating thing that God knows is himself, for his is infinitely deep in character and substance and beauty and wisdom. "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" (Romans 11:34)

### Simple

The simplicity of God means that God is a unified being – He is one essence. God is not composed of a variety of substances. In this sense he is different from humans who are made up of matter and spirit.

Jesus is not an exception to this truth. While he took a human body while here on earth he is still absolute spirit in his essence. The simplicity of God reminds us that God needs nothing else to exist neither did he come about by a number of forces or substances joining together. This reassuring fact will encourage us to worship him as the unchanging God,

### Self-existent

God's self-existence means that he does not need us or the rest of creation for anything. While everything other than God depends on God for everything, God depends on no one for existence. He is absolute reality, with whom we have to reckon.

### Self-sufficient

The Scriptures allude to the fact that God does not need anything that we humans need to survive. He requires no water, air, food, sleep or money. Counselors, supervisors, and advisers of any kind are of no need to Him. He is self sufficient in all capacities. This is hard for the human brain to consider, that someone does not need what we do to survive, but to God, this is normal

See main page: Self-sufficiency of God

### Immaterial

God is not fundamentally composed of matter, for he is spirit, and he created all matter (and all spirit other than himself). This does not mean that God is absolutely nothing ("immateriality" as a word can sometimes mean this), rather it means that God is nothing physical. "[T]he true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:23-24)

### Love

"He who does not love does not know God, for God is love." 1 John 4:8. God is concerned for his creatures, and especially his people. He is tender toward them, and does not take pleasure in their suffering or condemnation. He seeks the best for us, and He died for us in love as a substitution for sin.

### Gracious

God loves to give us what we don't deserve. He loves to pardon sin and lavish us with his goodness. He takes pleasure in giving gifts to people to display the glory of his resourcefulness, patience, and mercy.

### Merciful

God shows his mercy by not giving us the punishment we deserve. Mercy as used in the Bible frequently has a much wider sense which may be translated "loyal love".

### Just

God is deeply concerned with making wrongs right. He lets no sinner off the hook without a fitting punishment, or a fitting substitutionary atonement.



## Basic Bible Doctrine

### Lesson Four

#### "Creation"

The beginning began with God. "In the beginning God..." (Gen. 1: 1). The truth is, life begets life and design implies a designer. It is unthinkable to even ponder the thought that man and the universe just happened! "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1) The Bible purports to be of God (2 Tim. 3: 16, 17, 2 Pet. 1: 21). The Bible has stood the test of time, being subjected to every internal and external test to determine its authenticity. The Bible says God created the heaven and the earth, and that is exactly what happened.

"By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast" (Ps. 33: 6-9).

Creation is divided into six days, (Gen. 1: 3-31), and these days are evidently twenty-four hour periods (vs. 5, "evening and the morning were the first day"). On the first day of creation "light" was created and divided from darkness. Notice, "God divided the light from the darkness" (vs. 3, 4). God made the firmament and divided the waters...and God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day" (vs. 7, 8). Separation of water and land, grass, herb yielding seed, etc. occurred on the third day (vs. 9-13). The perfection of God's creation is seen in the expression: "God saw that it was good" (vs. 12). The sun, moon, and stars were created by God on the fourth day (vs. 19). Fish, fowl, etc. were created by God on the fifth day (vs. 20-23). On the sixth day, cattle, creeping things, etc. were created (vs. 24, 25).

"And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day." (Gen. 1: 31).

The climax of God's creation is seen in verses 26-28: "And God said, let us make man in our image..." To man God assigned dominion over creation (vs. 26). God created man "male and female created he them" (vs. 27). As in the other cases of creation, God decreed that man should multiply (vs. 28). All of this - creation of formless heaven and earth to man - was created by God in the six day period (vs. 31). Regarding the totality of His creation God said, "it is very good" (vs. 31).

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth" (Gen. 1: 26).

The Genesis' account of creation is not isolated or independent from the remainder of the Bible. Many other writers, inspired men, including Jesus allude to and affirm the Genesis' account (Matt. 19: 4-6, 1 Cor. 11: 7-12).

Some observations regarding the Genesis' account of creation. The material universe was created from nothingness. God was in "the beginning." God did not put certain laws into motion and inject certain basic substances and chemicals and allow a natural process to develop the world. God "spoke it into actual existence (vs. 3, etc.). All of God's creation was created mature. By this I mean the living things had reproductive capabilities and man and woman were physically mature. In this vein, God also created the two essential genders in order for there to be reproduction. Man did not simply evolve and "thousands" of years later woman happened to evolve! After God's initial and miraculous creation (no natural laws or evolutionary processes), God then put into place natural laws, such as reproduction, etc. It is also apparent that man, as created by God, is different from all the rest of creation. Only to man did God say, "let us make man in our image, after our likeness..." (vs. 26, "man" is inclusive of "woman," vs. 27). Woman was expressly made by God for man (2: 18 ff) and is "the glory of the man" (1 Cor. 11: 7). Therefore, man and woman are vastly different anatomically, emotionally, and psychologically. We need to also appreciate God made woman for man - not another man! (See Leviticus 18: 22).

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (Gen. 2: 18).

"And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?" (Matt. 19: 4, 5).

Upon still closer examination of the Genesis' account of creation we learn that God, Spirit, and Jesus, all refer to the same creator. First, "In the beginning God created... (V.1). This is a reference to Jehovah God, God the Father. Secondly, "The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters," (vs. 2). In the original language, this verse actually reads, "Spirit God moved on face of waters". In John 4:24 we are told that God is a Spirit. This confirms that the "Spirit of God" in verse 2 is God Himself, not a separate spirit of some kind. Paul later taught that Jesus Christ did the actual creating (Col. 1: 16, John 1: 3). Since Scripture tells us repeatedly that there is only ONE God, then God the father, Holy Spirit, and Jesus are all the same person. And, we can see this from Scripture in Genesis one. The same truth is seen regarding spiritual rebirth as well (John 3: 16, chs. 14-16).

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters" (Gen. 1: 1, 2).

It is essential that this basic study of creation be understood and accepted or no other Biblical doctrine will be totally correct. A good foundation is necessary for a sound building and likewise, a sound spiritual foundation is needed for a sound spiritual walk.

## Basic Bible Doctrine

### Lesson Five

#### "Jesus"

Unlike the question “Does God exist?” very few people question whether Jesus Christ existed. It is generally accepted that Jesus was truly a man who walked on the earth in Israel 2000 years ago. The debate begins when the subject of Jesus' full identity is discussed. Almost every major religion teaches that Jesus was a prophet or a good teacher or a godly man. The problem is that the Bible tells us that Jesus was infinitely more than a prophet, a good teacher, or a godly man.

C.S. Lewis in his book *Mere Christianity* writes the following: “I am trying here to prevent anyone from 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.' 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 a level with a man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of hell. You make your choice. Either this man was, and is, God, or else a madman or something worse, there are no other options.

So, who did Jesus claim to be? Let us look at Jesus' words in John 10:30, “I and the Father are one.” At first glance, this might not seem to be a claim to be God. However, look at the Jews' reaction to His statement, “‘We are not stoning you for any of these,’ replied the Jews, ‘but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God’” (John 10:33). The Jews understood Jesus' statement as a claim to be God. In the following verses, Jesus never corrects the Jews by saying, “I did not claim to be God.” That indicates Jesus was truly saying He was God by declaring, “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30). In John 8:58 we see another example: “‘I tell you the truth,’ Jesus answered, ‘before Abraham was, I am!’” Again, in response, the Jews took up stones in an attempt to stone Jesus (John 8:59). Jesus' announcing His identity as “I am” is a direct application of the Old Testament name for God (Exodus 3:14). Why would the Jews again want to stone Jesus if He had not said something they believed to be blasphemous, namely, a claim to be God?

John 1:1 says “the Word was God.” John 1:14 says “the Word became flesh.” This clearly indicates that Jesus is God in the flesh. Thomas the disciple declared to Jesus, “My Lord and my God” (John 20:28). Jesus does not correct him. The apostle Paul describes Him as, “...our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13). The apostle Peter says the same, “...our God and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:1). God the Father is witness of Jesus' full identity as well, “But about the Son he says, ‘Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.’” Old Testament prophecies of Christ announce His deity,

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”  
(Isaiah 9:6).

So, as C.S. Lewis argued, believing Jesus to be only a good teacher is not an option. Jesus clearly and undeniably claimed to be God. If He is not God, then He is a liar, and therefore not a prophet, good teacher, or godly man.

Why is the question over Jesus’ true identity so important? Why does it matter whether or not Jesus is God? The most important reason that Jesus has to be God is that if He is not God, His death would not have been sufficient to pay the penalty for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2). Only God could pay such an infinite penalty (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

Jesus had to be God so that He could pay our debt. Jesus had to be man so He could die. Salvation is available only through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus’ deity is why He is the only way of salvation. Jesus’ deity is why He proclaimed, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

## Basic Bible Doctrine

### Lesson Six

#### "Salvation"

1 John 5:13 – “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...”

If you believe there is a God, then you probably have a desire to go to Heaven when you die. But can you know for sure if that is where you are going? Yes, you absolutely can. Just as we want our own children to be 100% sure of our love and care, God too wants you to have the same confidence and assurance.

#### First the Bad News: We Have All Sinned

Romans 3:23 – “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

It does not matter how good you are, or how religious you are. The truth is, every single person has sinned. You have sinned, I have sinned and every person who has ever lived or will ever live has sinned. Because of this, we have fallen short of God's Glory, and God can not let sin into heaven.

And, it is not an issue of who is better than someone else. If you attempted to jump over a 20 foot ravine and succeeded in jumping 15 feet, you wouldn't brag about how much better off you are than the guy who only jumped 10 feet. You are both at the bottom of the ravine. In this case, it is not an issue of who is better or who gets closer. If you do not get all the way across, you didn't make it. One sin makes us short of Heaven. We cannot get there on our own.

This is why we need Jesus. Jesus makes up the difference so we can go to Heaven. If you could get to Heaven on your own, there would be no reason for a Saviour. There would be no reason for Jesus to die on the cross. But He did die. He died so we might have a way to Heaven.

#### More Bad News: There is a Price on Sin

Romans 6:23a – “For the wages of sin is death...”

Because you have sinned, you have earned "death". This is not only physical death, but spiritual death as well... total and eternal separation from God. This is the price that God put on sin. The payment of sin is death.

This death is Hell. No one made you sin except you. So if anyone is sending you to Hell, it is you, not God. Hell was not created for us. Initially, God created Hell for Satan. However, it is the only place that exists that can punish sin. Knowing this price on sin, God sent Jesus to die on a cross, to pay for our sins. And this teaches us something important: if you do not think that you are in need of saving, you will not seek to be saved.

If a drowning man does not believe he is drowning, he will still drown. He has to believe he is drowning before he will shout for help. Until you believe you are on your way to Hell, you will not do the one thing necessary to be saved from Hell. You will not call upon Jesus for salvation. Jesus came to be our Saviour. That means He wishes to save us from something. He wants to save us from the consequences of our sin—Hell.

Now for the Good News: Jesus is Our Hope of Salvation

Romans 5:8, 6:23b – “But God commendeth his love towards us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” and “...the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Salvation is a gift. It is not something that you work for; it is not something that you pay money for; it is simply something that you receive and accept by faith.

You see, God loves us so much and wants us to spend eternity with Him. He came to earth and paid the price that He required for sin....death. This means your sin is now paid for. There is nothing you can do to earn salvation. All you and I can do is turn from our sins and accept God's salvation through Jesus Christ...trusting in what He did on the cross as payment for our sins.

You may already believe that Jesus died on the cross. You may already understand that God loves you, but until you personally accept the gift of eternal life, you do not have it. Even the devils believe there is a God. But the understanding that God exists, or understanding that Jesus died for you, is not acceptance. To believe, Biblically, you must accept it.

Even More Good News: You Can Be Saved Right Now!

Romans 10:9,13 – “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” and “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

When a drowning man realizes that he is about to drown, he starts calling to the lifeguard to be saved. The same is true for our spiritual state. We must call upon Jesus to be saved from Hell. Jesus came to

this earth to be our Saviour. He is seeking to save us from the consequences of our sin—Hell. Just as the lifeguard’s job is to save people, so Jesus means to save us from Hell.

The lifeguard does not judge the drowning man on his swimming skills, or determine if the man had kept all the rules, or if he had disregarded the lifeguard’s warnings. His job is to save people from drowning, not to determine if they are worthy of being saved. Jesus is not going to look at your life and determine if you are worthy of being saved either. No, He will simply save you if you ask and trust Him.

At this point, there is still something that the drowning man must do to get saved. He must trust the lifeguard. We’ve all heard stories of drowning people who panic and actually fight off their rescuers.

Why? Because they are still trying to save themselves. They are not willing to relax and trust the lifeguard. The drowning person must stop trying to save himself. He must turn to the lifeguard and reach out for him. And finally he must put his life in the lifeguards hands and let him save him. The same is true in regards to spiritual salvation. The lost person must realize he is lost. He must stop trying to save himself, turn to the Saviour, and let Him do the saving.

Today is the day that you can be saved. If you understand that you are a sinner and that you need a saviour, then today you can turn to God and trust His salvation through Jesus Christ. From your heart, trust Him and His death on the cross as payment for your sins, and purpose in your heart that from this day forward, Jesus is your Saviour and you are going to live for Him.

If this is you, and you want to get saved, to accept the gift of God and put your faith for salvation in Jesus alone, then pray this prayer to Jesus, mean it with all your heart, and believe it:

“Dear Jesus, I know I’m a sinner and that I don’t deserve to go to Heaven, but Jesus, you died on the cross for me and then rose from the dead to save me from hell. I trust you, and only you, to be my Saviour and take me to Heaven. Please save me. Amen.”

If you prayed and trusted Jesus as your Saviour today, please email us and let us know. We would love to help you on your walk with God.

## Basic Bible Doctrine

### Lesson Seven

#### "Baptism"

Baptism is an important practice for Christians. It's a symbolic act that holds great meaning for believers of the Christian faith.

The baptism ceremony follows a series of steps that represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the believer is waiting to be immersed in the water, it is a representation of Jesus dying on the cross. Then, when the believer is submerged, it represents the burial of Jesus. As the individual is raised up out of the water, they are symbolizing Jesus being resurrected from the dead. The water is a symbolism of their sins being washed away, and then when they walk away, they are symbolizing their new walk in Christ.

Romans 6:4 - Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Baptism always comes AFTER salvation. It does not save.

Acts 2:41 - Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added [unto them] about three thousand souls.

Notice from this verse that they had already believed before they were baptized. Salvation comes from believing.

Acts 8:38 - And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

We can see from this verse that baptism involved going "down" into the water. It was not sprinkled... It was not dipping... It was going down into the water and being totally submerged under the water.

Acts 19:5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Baptism is to be done in the name of Jesus Christ, not "the Father the Son and the Holy Ghost." These are "titles", not names. The name of the Father is Jesus Christ. The name of the Son is Jesus Christ. The name of the Holy Spirit is Jesus Christ. There is only one God manifest in three persons, and God's name, given to man, is Jesus Christ. Since He is the Creator, and since He is the Saviour, then it is in His name that we are baptized. Further, the name of "Jesus" is the name everyone in the Bible was



baptized in as well. Galatians 3:26, 27 tells us we are "baptized into Christ". In Acts 2:38 Peter says, "Repent and be baptized every one of you IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST.." Further, Romans 6:3 teaches us that, "so many of us as were baptized into JESUS CHRIST were baptized unto his death".

Many other portions of Scripture clearly teach that baptism is to be in the name of Jesus Christ. Nowhere in Scripture do we see any example of the phrase "father, son, and holy spirit" being used.

Notice also that in every baptism mentioned in the Bible, it is always adults who have trusted in Christ. There is no biblical mandate or suggestion of babies being baptized.

So, in closing, Baptism is to be done after salvation, as a symbolic act picturing our death, burial, and resurrection with Christ. It is to be done by complete submersion under water, and it is to be done in the name of Jesus Christ. And finally, babies are not to be baptized. Only those who have cognitively made a decision to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour are to be baptized, and babies can not do this.

Basic Bible Doctrine  
Lesson Eight  
"The Church"

It is important, when studying anything within the Bible, that you compare Scripture with Scripture. This is especially true in regards to the "Church". It is also important that we distinguish between the Church which is the Lord's body and a local assembly of believers called a church. They are not the same thing and they should not be confused.

If you are truly saved, then you have the Holy Spirit dwelling within you, [1 Cor 12:13] and you become members of Jesus' body [Eph 5:30-32]. His body is called the Church and He is the head of his body [Eph 1:22-23; Col 1:18]. With this being true, the church is to be subject unto Christ [Eph 5:23-24]. It should be noted also that while the pastor is the "shepherd" of the local body of believers, Christ is still the head of His Church.

This spiritual Church is a living organism of which every born again child of God is a member [2 Cor 12:13-27]. The Holy Spirit gives gifts to each born again believer to fulfill his part in the body so that all believers can function together as one body. This body is the pillar and ground of the truth and is to bring glory to God through the Lord Jesus Christ [1 Tim 3:15, Eph 3:20-21].

Local churches, on the other hand, are organizations. And though they should be made up of born again believers, often they are not. You can be a member of a local church and not be a member of the body of Christ. Likewise, you can be a member of the body of Christ and not be a member of a local church. This is a very distinct difference between local churches and the Church, which is the Lord's body. Also, there is one Church but there are many local churches [Acts 9:31, 13:1, 14:23, 15:41, etc.].

The job of the local Church is to do the work of God here on earth. This work includes spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and sharing God's love with others. We must remember however that Christ is the head of the local Church and leads through the pastor [1 Pet 5:1-4, 1 Tim 3:1-7]. The pastor is assisted in the ministry by deacons and other helpers [1 Tim 3:8-13, Acts 6:1-4, Rom 16:1-15]. Its members separate from the world to keep worldly influences from hindering its work [2 Cor 6:14-18]. Since it is one body it needs to function in decency and in order without division [1 Cor 1:10-13, 1 Cor 3:1-9]. As you can probably guess, the devil wants to destroy the work and power of the church on earth through corruption of the word [2 Cor 2:17], through division [Rom 16:17-18, through false doctrine [Eph 4:14], and through worldliness [2 Tim 4:3-4].

## Basic Bible Doctrine

### Lesson Nine

#### "Holy Spirit"

The study of Holy Spirit is called, "Pneumatology". It is derived from the Greek word *pneuma*, meaning spirit, wind, or breath. The Bible is the only source from which we can secure any information concerning Him, and, the Christian Faith alone has the Holy Spirit.

With this said, let jump right into the study

Holy Spirit is a Person.

1. He is not just an influence. Notice the word 'He' in 1 John 4:4 (KJV) - not 'it'; and compare the pronouns referring to the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit and the disciples in John 14:16-17,26; 15:26-27; 16:7-15. Now see from these verses what He does. He teaches, reminds, testifies, bears witness, convicts, guides, speaks, hears, shows, glorifies Christ. Only a person can do these things. In 1 John 2:20 and 27 we read that He is our teacher; in 1 John 5:6-8 that "it is the Spirit who testifies"; and in 1 John 5:10 (KJV) that He is the "witness" within.

He is the Divine Person.

That is, He is the very Spirit of God, who proceeds from "the Holy One" (Christ) who is God manifest in the flesh (1 Tim. 3:16) Now, look up 1 John 2:20; 1 John 4:2, Acts 5:3-4, and compare how Holy Spirit is referred to. From these verses as well as others, it is clear that Holy Spirit is God Himself. He should not be referred to as "The Holy Spirit", but "Holy Spirit". In other words, Holy Spirit is God Himself dwelling in all true believers. Holy Spirit is "the spirit of God" that moved upon the face of the deep in Genesis. He is the comforter that God promised to send. In John 14:16, Jesus promises to send the comforter (Holy Spirit), to abide with us forever. Then, in verse 18 Jesus says, "I WILL COME TO YOU" Remember in previous lessons we saw that Jesus IS the very God of the Old Testament...that Jesus IS the one that did all the creating, and that Jehovah God of the Old Testament told us that it would be HE HIMSELF that came to be our Saviour So, Jesus is God himself, and here in John, Jesus is saying the the Holy Spirit who is the "Comforter", will come and dwell within all true believers, and that HE IS THE HOLY SPIRIT. Jesus is God, and He is the Holy Spirit.

He is one with the Father and the Son in the Trinity.

Several times in this epistle we read of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit - look up 1 John 1:2,3; 2:1. The Holy Spirit is one with the Father and the Son in the unity of the Godhead. Many teaches about the doctrine of the Trinity, i.e. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but, we should never

understand this to mean that there are three God's, or three parts of God. No, there is only one God ( Isaiah 44:6). The teaching of the Trinity then is not that there are three Gods, or that there are three parts of one God, but that there is only one God who has made Himself known to us in three ways, as the Father in the Old Testament, as the Son (Saviour) in the New Testament, and now as Holy Spirit during this age of Grace we live in now. ONLY ONE GOD, and we know Him as Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit within us, AND as our heavenly Father.

The Holy Spirit is God's Gift to every one of His children.

John was writing to all believers, all born again ones, all who were in the family of God, and not just to a select few. See the force of the words "you have" in 1 John 2:20. You cannot be a child of God and not have Holy Spirit - look up Romans 8:9, and compare John 14:16; Acts 2:37-39. So, if you are a child of God, He has given you the Holy Spirit - but where is He?

The Holy Spirit indwells every one of God's children.

He is not only with us, He is in us. It is important to emphasize this because some have taught that Acts 19:2 proves that one can be a Christian, a child of God, and not have Holy Spirit. But this is simply not true. The twelve in Acts 19 were not Christians at all, in the full sense of the word, until Paul explained the gospel to them, and then, when they believed, they received the Holy Spirit - as you did when you believed! Again look at 1 John 2:20 ("you have"); and 2:27 ("you...in you"); and compare John 14:17 (last two words - "in you"); 1 Corinthians 6:19. So if you are a child of God, He is now in you!

The Holy Spirit permanently indwells every child of God.

Does the Holy Spirit indwell the child of God and then leave him? In the old dispensation David prayed, "Do not take your Holy Spirit from me". look up Psalm 51:11; but we do not need to pray this prayer now, nor should we, for He who indwells us has come to 'abide', that is to stay, in us - John 14:16 (KJV). That settles it! Of course, when we sin we "grieve" Him (Ephesians 4:30); and when we disobey Him we quench Him (1 Thessalonian 5:19). In both cases we restrict His operations in and through us; but we do not drive Him away. This point also goes along with the Biblical doctrine of "once saved always saved". We will look at that doctrine later.

The Holy Spirit is the source and supplier of all that we need for holy living and for effective service.

Notice the three special ministries of the Holy Spirit referred to by John:

1. He assures us. He gives us the absolute assurance that we are born again and are members of God's family. He does this outwardly through the Word of God (1 John 5:13); but also by His inward indwelling ( 1 John 5:10; 3:24; 4:13); Also compare Romans 8:16; Galatians 4:6.
2. He teaches us. Think about the wonderful truth revealed in 1 John 2:20,27. Within us we have the fountain of all wisdom! The 'Spirit of truth Himself' (1 John 2:18-27), and compare John

14:17; 15:26; 16:13. This is the explanation of such promises as Psalms 25:12; 32:8; Isaiah 28:26; Luke 12:12; and read the testimony of the psalmist in Psalm 119:99 as well. How wonderful to have this great Teacher with and in us!

3. He fortifies us. The indwelling Holy Spirit is greater than the Devil or anything outside us as 1 John 4:4 tells us! The Devil is certainly great in his power - a real, diabolical personality, the enemy of God and of God's children (John 8:44; 12:31; 2 Corinthians 4:4); and compare 2 Corinthians 11:14 and 1 Peter 5:8. But, the Holy Spirit within us is greater! The power to live a life of holiness, victory and service, which is glorifying to the Lord, lies not in us but in Him, the Person of God the Holy Spirit, which lives in every true believer of God. look up Isaiah 59:19, and compare it with Zechariah 4:6.

#### In Closing this short less

There is much more that could be said about Holy Spirit, but for now, this is enough. Remember, He is God Himself, dwelling in us, teaching us, convicting us, sealing us unto the day of redemption, and will ultimately catch us up to be with the Lord on resurrection day. Do not grieve Him, do not quench Him. Always listen and follow, for it is Him who points you to Jesus Christ.

## Basic Bible Doctrine

### Lesson Ten

#### "Eternal Security"

Many Christians live with the terrifying insecurity that somehow, at any given moment, they can lose their salvation. Despite their love for God, they fear that God will withdraw His love from them and banish them from His heavenly home forever. There are a number of teachings that are floating around that leads people to believe this. One such teaching is "sinless perfection". Basically, this false doctrine says that when you get saved, you can not sin again, and thus enter into a state of sinless perfection. This teaching goes on to say that if you sin, after being saved, you obviously were never saved to start with. Another false doctrine, that goes along similar lines is that of "conditional salvation". In this false doctrine, a person is taught that you are saved by God's Grace, but after that, your salvation is conditional, based upon many factors, several of which are not sinning again, and doing good works.

Of course, for a person to believe either of these lies, they must ignore many verses in the Bible completely, and they must twist others to make them say something they don't. One of the first rules of Bible studying is that you NEVER ignore the clear, undeniable verses and base your doctrines on verses that seem to teach something else. God's Word NEVER contradicts itself, so, if you see verses that seem to say different things, you always take a stand on the clear unmistakable majority verses, and then seek to understand what the other verses are saying. Eternal salvation verses conditional salvation is one of these doctrines. Falling to head this basic Bible study rule has led many to believe a lie. They live a very insecure Christian life, relying on their perfection to keep a salvation that God gave freely. In the Bible, however, God repeatedly assures His people that once He sets His love on them, they are secure in that love forever. For this lesson, we will concentrate on exactly what God promises in His Word. In the Apologetics class we will look more closely at the false teachings and how to defend your faith.

#### Secure Forever Because God Keeps His Promises

The place to begin to understand a believer's security with God is with God, for a believer's security is not rooted in the believer, but in the believer's God.

Though he had far more evidence in his life than almost anyone else to assure him of his salvation, the Apostle Paul looked not primarily to himself, but to the character of God for assurance that his soul was safe with Him. Paul's testimony was, "I know whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." (2 Timothy 1:12). What was true for Paul is true for every other believer: God is able to securely guard the salvation He gives to believers, from the first moment of faith until the Day of Judgment and their entrance into heaven.

One of the most reassuring aspects of the character of God for fearful believers is the fact that God keeps His promises. God "never lies" (Titus 1:2). In fact, "it is impossible for God to lie" (Hebrews 6:18). As Scripture reminds us, "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?" (Numbers 23:19).

Among His many promises are these: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31), and "everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21), and "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). Along with these is the great promise of John 3:16. Try to read it as though you have never encountered it before: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

In these verses, as well as many others, God uses words such as "Everlasting", "Eternal", "will be saved", and "shall not perish". The question that needs to be asked is this, "if God gives us "everlasting" life, and then we can lose it, was it "everlasting"? If we can sin and lose our salvation, or we can decide to walk away from God after being saved, was it "eternal"? No, it was conditional salvation, and nowhere in Scripture do we ever read "believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall receive conditional salvation".

However, to believe in the Lord Jesus is not merely to agree that the information about Him in the Bible is historically accurate. Faith in Christ means trusting that God's death on the cross through Jesus Christ satisfies all the requirements for being acceptable to God forever, and that His death satisfies all the righteous wrath of God upon your sinful failure to keep those requirements. If any person—regardless of how sinful, weak or disappointing—trusts in these promises about who Jesus is and what He has done to make him or her right with God, but then is eventually rejected by God, God would be a liar.

Understanding what Jesus actually did on the cross will help to understand the extent of God's forgiveness. First, we must understand that we are all sinners. Scripture tells us that "all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Further, Scripture tells us that if we have broken one of God's laws, we have broken them all (James 2:10). As we look further into our sin situation, we also learn that our righteousness...the very best we could possibly be, is nothing more than filthy rags compared to God's Holiness and Righteousness (Isaiah 64:6). In plain English, what Scripture tells us is that we are all sinners, completely, wholly, and eternally separated from God. This condition is complicated even further when we learn that this sin condition we all have can only end one way... DEATH (Romans 6:23). However, the good news is, God loves us so much that He Himself took on human form through the body of Jesus Christ, and died on an old rugged cross so that our sins could be paid for.

Now let's take a moment to look at this price that God paid for us. Hebrews 9:22 tells us that without the shedding of blood, there can be no washing away of sin. Leviticus 22:21 teaches us that the sacrifice must be a perfect sacrifice as well. So, only a Holy, Eternal, sinless God could pay the price for our sins. Now, when Jesus died on the cross, the Bible records His final words, "It is finished" (John 19:30). What exactly did Jesus mean by this? In Romans 6:10 we read "For in that he died, he died unto sin once..." Furthermore, in Hebrews 9:12 we read that Jesus took His blood into the Holy of Holies "ONCE", and by so doing, obtained "eternal redemption" for us. These verses teach us that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was something that will only happen ONE time. When He died on the cross, salvation was finished. He will never die again for sin. His blood, shed once, is sufficient.

Now, given that God Himself, took on human form, shed His perfect, and holy blood to eternally pay the price once and for all for our sins, the next question we should ask is, "what sins did He pay for?" Hebrews 10:10 answers this question, "Once for all". But, let's not stop there. We also learn from Mark 3:28 that "all sins" shall be forgiven. This tells us that Jesus died for all sins, for all mankind, for all eternity. Past, present, and future sins are all under the perfect, eternal blood of Jesus Christ. In fact, the only sin that is not, and can not be forgiven is the sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit (Mark 3:29). This "blaspheming the Holy Spirit" is rejecting the convicting work of the Holy Spirit in your life. It is saying "no" to the Holy Spirit when He convicts you of your need for salvation. So, The only sin that anyone will ever go to hell for, is the sin of rejecting God's salvation. He has paid the price for all sins, for all mankind for all eternity, and the only thing we must do is repent, and trust Him.

Now, in regards to eternal security then, if all of our sins are paid for, past, present, and future, and we can do nothing about it, but trust God and His salvation, once saved, how can we sin and lose it? Or, If Christ did everything to pay for our sins, how can or works keep that salvation? The Apostle Paul ask this very same question in Galatians 3:3, "Are ye so foolish, having begun in the spirit are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" The truth is, Jesus saved us, Jesus keeps us. Ephesians 4:30 tells us we are "sealed unto the day of redemption". Notice it didn't say sealed until we sin again, or until we walk away from God. No, God seals us with His Holy Spirit the second we trust Jesus Christ and repent. He has promised to never leave us or forsake us, and as previously mentioned NOTHING can separate us from that love.

In addition to these wonderful truths, God has also promised to love forever those who are united with Christ by faith. In Romans 8, He goes to great lengths to assure us that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:39). God so wants to convince His children of the eternity of His love for them that He devotes an entire chapter in His Word (Psalm 136) in which every one of the 26 verses repeats the promise, "His steadfast love endures forever." And so, if He ever stopped loving a believer in Christ, He would be lying about His love being "steadfast" and "forever." If God ever allowed anything to separate one believer from His love, He would be a liar.

I am sure you would not call God a liar. In fact, I'm confident that you have unquestioning trust in the truthfulness of many promises He has made. If you can believe His promise to return to this earth, and if you can believe His promise to prepare a place for those who love Him, you can also believe His promise to eternally save, love and secure all who come to Christ.

### Secure Forever Because God Loves His Son

Another of the many reasons believers can feel eternally secure in their relationship with God has to do with the steadfast love of God for His Son, Jesus. Certainly you do not doubt that God is satisfied with Jesus. He has declared, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 17:5). Furthermore, He raised Jesus from the dead as a declaration that He was pleased with the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross as a substitute for sinners. He then joyfully received Jesus back into heaven and seated Him at His right hand. God's love for Jesus is perfect and irrevocable.

So how should the fact that Jesus is eternally secure in the love of God give assurance to the believer in Christ? Remember that those who biblically believe in Christ are united with Christ. Because of this



unbreakable bond with Christ, those united with Him by faith are as eternally secure as Jesus Himself. All who believe in Christ can rejoice in the truth of unity with Christ as expressed in Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” As glorious as this is, the believer’s union with Christ is so inextricably intertwined so as to be described in Scripture not only as Christ in the believer, but also as the believer in Christ. Thus, all believers have been made “alive together with Christ,” and God has “raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 2:4-6). Did you catch that? We are already, as far as God is concerned, seated together with God in heaven !!! Just as Christ lives within every believer here on earth, so it is equally and breathtakingly true that in one sense believers live in Christ at the right hand of God in heaven at this moment.

Because God does not, cannot and never will condemn Jesus, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1). To reject a believer in Christ, God would have to cast Jesus Himself out of heaven.

### False assurance

While the Bible teaches that believers can be assured that their salvation is eternally secure, it also warns about the counterfeit of false assurance. In Matthew 7:21, Jesus gave one of many such New Testament warnings for those who presume that their souls are secure: “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven.” But Jesus is not taking away with one hand an assurance He gives with the other. What He condemns is claiming assurance where the Word of God does not support it.

Hell is filled with people who were sure they were heaven-bound because they relied solely upon a public response they made in a church service or some other Christian meeting, or upon their baptism, church attendance, contributions to the church, love for their family, community or military service, an extraordinary experience or some list of accomplishments. The fatal flaw in all these sources of assurance is that they are based upon what the individual has done rather than what Christ has done. To build your hopes for heaven on something—anything—in your life rather than upon the life and death of Jesus is to build on a rotten foundation.

The Bible does speak much of the evidence found in the life of a person who biblically believes in Jesus Christ. The little book of 1 John, for instance, specifically addresses this issue and points to as many as 10 indications that a person has truly come to know God through Christ. But the Bible is clear that while we should be encouraged by the signs of eternal life in our souls, we should rest our hopes in the root of our salvation (that is, Christ) and not the fruit.

To put it another way, suppose someone asked you, “Why do you think God accepts you and will let you into heaven?” Beware of any answer that would begin with, “Because I ...” Don’t misunderstand. There are some things we must do to know God and go to heaven. We must repent, and we must believe the Gospel (Mark 1:15). But even things we’re commanded to do, such as repent and have faith, are effective only because of what Christ has done, so that the security of our salvation rests

solely on Christ and not on us.

But what about those who leave?

One of the verses that has become a stumbling block to some is found in Hebrews 6:4-6). In these verse Paul talks about those who were once "enlightened", and "taste" of the heavenly gift, and then fall away. He says of them that it would be impossible to bring them back unto repentance because Christ would have to be crucified all over again. However, this verse brings up an interesting question, but it does not say that this falling away of a saved person is possible. It only says that if it were to happen, it would be impossible to be saved again. Another verse found in 1 John 2:19 tells us that people leave the faith because, "they were not of us". He goes on to say that if they had been truly saved, they would never have left. So, these two verse confirm God's eternal salvation for those who are truly saved, but also gives a warning that if you know the truth, understand your sins, and know you need to be saved, but turn your back on Gods salvation and the conviction of the Holy Spirit, there is left no salvation for you because you have committed the one sin that will never be forgiven....blaspheming the Holy Spirit.

BUT, No one that God has adopted will ever be ripped from His arms or be sent tearfully away from Him. A heavenly promise for all God's children is, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). And Jesus assures all who trust in Him, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

Finally, remember what God promises in John 3:16 to all who believe in Jesus? He says they will "not perish but have eternal life." Note that: eternal life. If this life He gives to believers in Christ were not secure—if it could be lost, taken way, or was in any sense temporary—it could not be called eternal. And there is nothing more secure than that which is eternal.

## Basic Bible Doctrine

### Lesson Eleven

#### "Rapture"

One of the most mis-understood doctrines of the Bible is that of the doctrine of the Rapture.

The fact that such an event will happen is alluded to in several verses, but specifically mentioned in just a few, chiefly 1 Corinthians 15:52, and 1 Thessalonian 4:17. While it is true that neither of these verses, or any other for that matter literally mentions "rapture", the Greek word "harpazo" in which we get our "caught up" in 1 Thessalonian 4:17 literally means "to catch away...to be caught up (by force)". It is these verses and others that we get the doctrine of the Rapture.

The fact that Scripture teaches there will be a rapture some day when the Saints are caught up to be with the Lord is pretty easy to establish. WHEN, this rapture will take place has been the subject of many arguments. According to some, this event will happen just prior to the last seven year tribulation period starting. In other words, immediately prior to, or within moments after, the seven year peace treaty with the nation of Israel is signed, Jesus will ascend from Heaven and call the Saints up to be with Him. This rapture theory is called "Pre-Tribulation" rapture. Another teaching is that this "rapture" will take place three and one half years into the seven year tribulation period. This teaching is called "Mid-tribulation" rapture. It is closely associated with another teaching which is called "Pre-wrath" rapture. Both of these teach that the rapture will happen half way through the tribulation period, but prior to the "wrath of God" as mentioned in Revelation 6:17. However, the Mid-tribulation rapture teaching places the rapture slightly before the "pre-wrath" teaching since the "wrath of God" come some time after mid-tribulation. And finally, there is the "Post-tribulation" rapture doctrine which simply state that the rapture will take place at the end of the tribulation period. This is probably the least accepted of the different theories, but does have a pretty large following.

There are some good arguing points for each of the different theories, as well as some weak points. Following is a brief breakdown of some of the strong and weak points of each. It should be noted that the writer of this article supports the Mid-Tribulation rapture teaching, for reasons that will be mentioned below.

Mid-tribulationism teaches that the rapture occurs at the midpoint of the tribulation. At that time, the seventh trumpet sounds (Revelation 11:15), the church will meet Christ in the air, and then the bowl judgments are poured upon the earth (Revelation 15—16) in a time known as the great tribulation. In other words, the rapture and Christ's second coming (to set up His kingdom) are separated by a period of three and a half years. According to this view, the church goes through the first half of the tribulation but is spared the worst of the tribulation in the last three and a half years where it is said "now is come the great day of his wrath, and who shall be able to bear it" (Revelation 6:17). This is very important because in 1 Thess. 1:10 we are told that God will save us "from" His wrath to come".

In support of the mid-tribulationists point of view we look to the chronology given in 2 Thessalonians 2:1–3. Please take a moment and read these verses in your KJV Bible. As you will note, the order of events is as follows: 1) A great Falling away, 2) the revelation of the Antichrist, and 3) the day of Christ. This is very clear and concise. God's Word gives us two events that MUST happen prior to the rapture taking place. Since we know the anti-Christ is revealed three and one half years into the seven year tribulation, then the rapture CAN NOT take place prior to this. And, since we know that God's "Wrath" or "great tribulation" starts shortly AFTER the anti-christ reveals himself, then the rapture must take place shortly thereafter. The mid-tribulation view teaches that the Antichrist will not be decisively revealed until "the abomination that causes desolation" (Matthew 24:15), which occurs at the midpoint of the tribulation (Daniel 9:27). Furthermore, this view looks to Daniel 7:25, which says the Antichrist will have power over the "saints" for three and a half years, being the first half of the tribulation, and that the saints spoken of are the church. Also, it is understood that "the day of Christ" is referring to the rapture; therefore, the church will not be caught up to heaven until after the Antichrist is revealed three and one half years into the tribulation, and just prior to God's Wrath being poured out upon the earth.

Another foundational teaching of mid-tribulationism is that the trumpet of 1 Corinthians 15:52 is the same trumpet mentioned in Revelation 11:15. The trumpet of Revelation 11 is the final in a series of trumpets; therefore, it makes sense that it would be "the last trumpet" of 1 Corinthians 15. However, this is open to some discussion as others see different trumpets and do not agree that this is the last one

First Thessalonians 5:9 says that the church has not been appointed "to suffer wrath but to

receive salvation.” This would seem to indicate that believers will not experience the tribulation.

However, mid-tribulationism interprets “wrath” as only referring to the second half of the tribulation—specifically, the bowl judgments.

So, given all of this, Mid-Tribulation Rapture (or pre-wrath) is the only time frame that the rapture could Biblically take place. Since the Rapture has to take place AFTER the Anti-Christ is revealed, Pre-tribulation rapture can not be supported. And, since it has to take place BEFORE God's Wrath comes upon man during the last half of the tribulation, Post-tribulation Rapture does not hold water either.

In closing however, let me give a bit of warning. Although it is fun to study and discuss WHEN the rapture will take place, it is important to understand that the important thing is not "when" it happens but that you are "ready" when it does. God warns us that in that day, two people will be in the field. One will be taken and the other left. Two will be in bed sleeping, one will be taken and the other left behind. God further warns that when it happens, it will be like a thief in the night, without any warning. So, I would encourage the ready to make sure you are of the faith, that you are truly born again. And, if you are, it won't matter when the rapture takes place because whether you are alive or in the grave, you will be caught up to be with the Lord forever.

## Basic Bible Doctrine

### Lesson Twelve

#### "Angles"

Finally, we come to the last lesson included in "Basic Bible Doctrines 101" and that is the doctrine of Angels. As with most of the other Biblical doctrines, the doctrine of Angels is filled with non-biblical teachings and doctrines of men. In fact, much of what we see or hear about angels in culture is based on speculation, non-biblical sources, or just plain fantasy. Sadly, when we look to Scripture, there really is not much that we can learn about Angels. But, there are a few things, and some of them might surprise you.

First off, a study of Angels in general yields the following Biblical truths. Angels obey God only (Psalm 91:11, 103:20), they minister to those who are to inherit eternal life (Hebrews 1:14), Their numbers are uncountable (Revelation 5:11), they neither marry or are given in marriage (Matthew 22:30), God created them (Nehemiah 9:6), and, They are not omnipresent (Daniel 10:12-14), But, they are powerful (Psalm 103:20).

On the other side of the equation, we don't know "when" they were created, but according to Genesis 2:1, it had to be before the seventh day of creation. We also learn from Scripture that Angels are not to be worshiped at any time (Colossians 2:18), or prayed to (1 Timothy 2:15). Angels are powerful, but not all powerful. They know a lot, but are not omniscience, and, as previously mentioned, they can go almost anywhere, but they are not omnipresent.

There are five basic classifications of Angels

#### CHERUBIM

Cherubims are generally associated with guarding sacred things.

Cherubim are mentioned in several places throughout Scripture:

They guarded the entrance to the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:24).

God is enthroned above them (Ezekiel 10:1–22).

God rides on them (Psalm 18:10)

Two golden figures of cherubim sit above the Ark of the Covenant, where God promised to dwell among his people (Exodus 25:22, see also verses 18–21).

#### SERAPHIM

Seraphims praise God and are before the throne day and night

Another type of angel, the seraphim, are only mentioned once in the Bible. They appear in Isaiah 6:2–7, where they continually worship the Lord and say, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole

earth is full of his glory” (Isaiah 6:3).

## LIVING CREATURES

Although not specifically called "Angels", they are in Heaven before the throne just like the Seraphims are.

Ezekiel and Revelation speak of other kinds of heavenly beings known as “living creatures” around God’s throne (Ezekiel 1:5–14, Revelation 4:6–8). They appeared like a lion, an ox, a man, and an eagle, representing various parts of God’s creation (wild beasts, domesticated animals, human beings, and birds). They, too, worship God continually: “Day and night they never cease to sing, ‘Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!’” (Revelation 4:8)

## The Angel of the Lord

This is really not an Angel at all, but is in fact a Theophanies, or in other words, an Old Testament visible manifestation of Jesus Christ Himself.

Gen 16:11 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD ((the) self Existent or eternal; Jehovah) hath heard thy affliction.

Gen 16:12 And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.

Gen 16:13 And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?

## Fallen Angels

The fallen Angels were created by God

Psalm 148:2-5 / Colossians 1:16

Lucifer in rebellion was kicked out of heaven because of self pride

Isaiah 14:12 / Rev. 12:1

Those who followed Lucifer and left their first estate was Bound in chains of darkness

2 Peter 2:4

Cause a lot of havoc in the Spiritual realm

Ephe. 6:12

Lucifer is before the throne of God accusing the brethren day and night

Revelation 12:10

There is no direct link in Scripture that fallen Angels and Demons are the same thing. Although some believe they are, there is reason to believe that they are not. The fallen Angels are always referred to in Scripture as “Angels” (Matthew 25:41 - Rev. 12:7 “Angel”... Messenger)

The word “Demon” is never used in Scripture. The word Devil is used to speak of “demons” in several places in Scripture, but there are two meanings to this word. When the context of Scripture is speaking about Satan, it always uses the word “dee-ab'-ol-os” meaning “traducer” {liar, slander} (Matthew 4:1 -- 13:39 -- Acts 13:10 -- Jude 1:9) Just to name a few. But, When Scripture is referring to what we would commonly call a “demon” today, it uses a different word... “dahee-mon'-ee-on” (a daemonic being) (Matthew 9:3 -- 17:18 -- John 10:20) and others.

It should be noted that “dahhe-mon'-ee-on” (a daemonic being) is never used in reference to Lucifer.

So, although He is a fallen Angel, Scripture never calls him a demon, but always calls him a “dee-ab/ol-os” (liar). Who exactly are the demons, and where do they come from? That is for another time.

So what do we know about the fallen Angels?

2 Peter 2:4

"For if God spared not the “angels” (messenger) (including Satan Himself) that sinned, but cast them down to hell, (hades) and delivered them into chains (bound) of darkness, (gloom, blackness) to be reserved unto judgment; (see also Jude 1:6)

Confined to darkness until judgment day

2 Corinthians 4:4

Satan is the god of this World

Eph 6:12

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. "

So, from Scripture, Satan is always called a “traducer” (liar, deceiver), and the fallen Angels are always called “Angels” (Messenger).



They are bound (or confined to) in Darkness

They are the rulers of this world and rule in darkness

They will be judged and thrown into the lake of fire for all eternity

They are never linked to “demons” in Scripture