

Understanding Your Bible

God has spoken to man through the Bible. This is the very basis of Christian belief. There is one most important truth; unless you understand the Word of God, you cannot know the Will of God. Unless you know the Will of God you can not know whether you are following God as you should. Unless, you know yourself, what the Will of God is, then you have nothing to base your!! salvation on. You cannot honestly say, "I am saved," because you do not know!!!

Too much cannot be said about the importance of study and understanding of the Word of God. Our very salvation depends upon it. Have you really thought of what you have read so far? Read it again and think on it. What is your salvation based upon? Can you honestly say, the Word of God? If your answer is yes, then can you say—"I have studied the word of God and I understand what God expects of me?"

We should be able to see that everything hinges on understanding. If we cannot understand what we are reading, then it is doing us little good. Bible reading will do us little good, it is Bible understanding, study, and investigation that will lead us to the understanding of God's will. "Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (Ephesians 5:17)

Paul said: "For we write you nothing but what you can read and understand." I am sure that you can see that we have no excuse for not studying our Bibles..

It is most important that we have a Bible that we can understand. Today most all farmers have modern tractors and equipment which replaced the old horse & plow. Why did they get this new equipment? Not because the old plow and horse would not do the job, but because the new would do it better and quicker. Why did women quit using the scrub board? Because they found better and easier ways. This is true also with Bibles. When the King James or Authorized Version was written many years ago it was good—for that day. We no longer use "thou" or "ye", this language went with the old horse and plow and the old wash board. The King James Version like the old wash board will do the job, but the new Revised Versions will do the job better, easier, and will be more easy to understand. Many words used during the days of the King James—or Authorized Version have completely changed in meaning. As you study this Course you will see such words. If you continue this Course to the end, you no longer will use a King James Version of the Bible.

QUESTIONS:

1. What are we if we do not understand the Will of God? (Ephesians 5:17)..
2. What will study make us?(John 8:32)
3. What is eternal life? (John 17:3)..
4. Why were some things written? (John 20:31)..
5. How should we live? (Matthew 4:4)..
6. What did some Jews do? (Acts 17:11)
7. Why did they do this?
8. What happens to those who reject the truth of God? (2 Thess. 2:10 and 11)
9. How can we be approved by God? (II Timothy 2:15).
10. What is truth? (John 17:17).....
11. How can you know that Jesus is from God? (John 7:16, 17).
12. Who are the only two classes of people who cannot understand the Bible? (2 Peter 3:16).
13. Can you understand? (2 Cor.1:13)
14. Will prayer help us understand? (James 1:5).
15. How should Christians advance in faith and understanding?(Hebrews 6:1).
16. Who are blessed? (Matthew 5:6)..
17. How can we know that Jesus is from God? (John 7:16, 17).

You have completed Lesson No. B-1, "UNDERSTANDING YOUR BIBLE". It will be returned to you after grading, with Lesson No. B-2.



Understanding Your Bible

Along with a Bible that we can understand we must have a genuine, intense love for the truth—a sincere, honest desire to know the will of God. Where we find the love of truth existing there can be no prejudice, for the prejudiced mind is at enmity with the truth. The person who loves truth and righteousness is constantly reminded as he reads his Bible, to "Let God be found true, but every man a liar." (Romans 3:4).

Shall we never forget that without love of the truth, long hours spent in reading the Bible will avail little or nothing in bringing to any person the truth and understanding of the divine will. Carefully read Luke 8:10-15.

Now let us study the Bible, and Bible words. Our first word will be the word:

CONVERSATION, which means behavior. The word conversation in the King James—or Authorized Version always refers to conduct, behavior, or manner of life... and is never used in the sense that it is today to mean "talk". Words change, and as they do we must have a Bible that uses the correct words, along with their proper meanings, or we have confusion. A very good example of this can be found by turning to 1 Peter 3:1-2, in a King James Version. Here we find the word conversation used—and misunderstood. Too many read this and give it a literal meaning, without knowing the true meaning of the word. The Revised Standard Version has corrected these verses to read as follows: "Likewise you wives, be submissive to your husbands, so that some, though they do not obey the word, may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, when they see your reverent and chaste behavior." (1 Peter 3:1-2). So you see that husbands can be won, not by conversation, but by example or "chaste behavior".

A PECULIAR PEOPLE, which means, God's own people. The word "peculiar" is used today to mean odd or eccentric, but it did not have that meaning in 1611. The word meant "one's very own," and was applied to private personal property as distinguished from what is owned in common. We note in the King James Version that we are "a peculiar people" while the Revised Standard Version has corrected this to read that we are "God's own people". (1 Peter 2:9). Also we find in Titus 2:14 that the Revised Standard Version has corrected this verse to read "a people of his own" rather than "a peculiar people" as translated in the King James Version.

MANY MANSIONS, which means, rooms, or a place to stay. The Greek word which it translates is mone, which comes from the verb meno, to stay or abide. In the Latin the noun is mansio, from the verb maneo, which means to stay or abide... Jesus simply promised his disciples a place to dwell in his Father's house. If you will turn to John 14:2 and read it carefully (If you use a King James Version, then correct mansions to read rooms), then turn to the 23rd verse where the same Greek word (mone) is used. The King James translators did not translate it to read mansions in this verse, they used the word "abode" and the RSV translated it "home". So you can see that it means a place to stay or abide...

OFFEND, which means, cause to sin. The Greek noun Skandalon means a trap, or snare, and the Greek verb Skandalizo means to place something in another's way which would cause him to stumble or fall or sin. These Greek words are used in the verses we are to study and the correct translations will be shown. "If thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out...And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off" (Matthew 5:29,30) has been translated in the Revised Standard Version to read: "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out...And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off". (Also see Matt. 18:8,9 & Mark 9:43,45, & 47). The King James translates Matthew 18:6 as follows: "Whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a..." now begins in the RSV "whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in



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We will continue our study of words in this lesson. Our next lessons are to cover studies of various Bible subjects.

Master, means Teacher. The Greek word for "teach" is "didasko" and the word for "Teacher" is "Didaskalos". The word "didasko" (for teach) describes in detail just what our Lord did while on earth and appears 97 times in the New Testament, in fact it is used more times than the word "heal". When Jesus lived on earth he chose the role of teacher, and this is what the Bible describes him as. People spoke of him as such, and they addressed him so. We find that the King James Version hides this fact from its American readers. The reason that this fact is hidden is that teachers were and are called by the name "master" in England. Forty-one times the King James Version uses the word master, which the Revised Standard Version has corrected, using rather the word teacher, which correctly describes what Jesus was.

Respecter, means, not partial. Turning to Acts 10:34 in the King James, we see that "God is no respecter of persons." The Greek word which is translated "respecter of persons" means "acceptor of the face". This text along with others using similar words means that God does not regard mere externals. (Please carefully read James 2:1-9 for a good example of what the expression means to us). The Revised Standard Version has corrected this to read "God shows no partiality." This is also in agreement with the version of William Tyndale, whose translation was "God is not partial."

Meat, means food. The word meat is used in the King James Version of the Old Testament for food in general. Jesus' question when he revealed himself to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, "Have ye any meat?" correctly reads, "Have you any fish?" So, we see that this meaning was carried over into the New Testament by the King James translators. These translators it seems, did not know that the Greek noun in this question was always used for fish, the chief delicacy of the Athenians.

Meat Offering, means meal offering. The meat offering is mentioned more than 100 times in the Old Testament of the King James Version, yet it contained no flesh; it consisted of fine flour or meal, and oil. It was a "meal-offering" (Revised Version) or "cereal-offering" (Revised Standard).. The prostitution of this offering to the worship of idols is the burden of God's accusation of Jerusalem in Ezekiel 16:19: "My meat also which I gave thee, fine flour, and oil, and honey, wherewith I fed thee, thou hast even set it before them for a sweet savour." The Revised Standard Version reads "Also my bread which I gave you—I fed you with fine flour and oil and honey—you set before them for a pleasing odor."

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus do in the cities? (Matthew 11:1)
2. What does Mark say of the Lord in Mark 4:1, 2?
3. What did some of the Pharisees and Herodians call Jesus in Mark 12:14?
4. What grave responsibility did Jesus lay on all Christians in Matt. 28:20?
5. How important was teaching in the early Christian Church? (I Cor. 12:28)
6. What is a Christian supposed to be able to do? (II Timothy 2:24).
7. What is a main requisite of being an Elder? (I Timothy 3:2).
8. God shows no partiality, but who does he accept? (Acts 10:35).
9. When God looks at man, by what does he judge that man?
10. What are you doing when you show partiality to anyone? (James 2:9).
11. What is the "Royal Law"? (James 2:8).
12. What could be the cause of a brothers falling? (I Corinthians 8:13).

You have completed Lesson No. B-3. It will be graded and returned to you with Lesson No. B-4. If you know of others who would like to take this new Course, send us their names and addresses. Don't forget to mention that we have Courses for New Christians, as well as those for who are not members of the church.

WHEN OUR BROTHER ERRS

CHURCH DISCIPLINE - Something we almost never see in the Lord's Church anymore, yet it was taught by Paul as a necessary part of the operation of the Church, to keep it pure. Why is it disappearing? Following are some of the reasons why we almost never see Church Discipline anymore.

There are those in the church today who believe that when a brother errs he should be severed from fellowship, while an even larger group believe that nothing should be done at the time. They feel that these who err will correct themselves, or something will be said in a lesson that will bring them around.

Others take the attitude that it is none of their business; let someone else correct the brother, and within this group are those who turn their backs to error. They feel that if they don't know about it they don't have to do anything about it.

Then we have the group that are the "click" and what the "click" does is all right. If a faithful brother would attempt to correct one erring in this group he is given the cold shoulder by those of the "click".

We have others who are too timid to say anything to an erring brother, letting his brother go further into error, and maybe so far as to leave the Lord's Church. We have those who would correct erring brethren, but they don't know how, for they have not studied the Word of God on this subject.

I have found that most of the brethren don't know what Christ and Paul did teach on this subject of the erring brother.

If you were to meet a brother from another town and he told you that he had not seen a Baptism in his home congregation for two years, you would know that there was something wrong with that Church. Well, beloved, if you know of a church that has no Church Discipline you know a Church that can have trouble; such a Church can become sick with sin and division.

QUESTIONS:

1. If one of the brethren is overtaken in sin, who should restore him? (Gal. 6:1). How should they restore him?
2. If a brother wrongs you, what should you do? (Matthew 18:15).
3. Should you discuss it with others, or ask advice of others? (Matt. 18:15)
4. What should you do if he does not listen to you? (Matt. 18:16, 17; Lev.. 19:17; Deut. 19:15).
5. What are we to do regarding a brother who does not obey the doctrines of Christ? (2 Thess. 3:14).
6. Why is it so necessary not to associate with such brethren?
7. How should we treat those who cause divisions and offenses? (Rom. 16:17)
8. Are we to treat such persons as our enemies? (2 Thess. 3:15; Lev. 19:17)
9. Did Paul tell us to use our own judgment as to whether we wish to associate with such erring brethren? (II Thess. 3:6).
10. What should we do about a brother who is factious whom we have corrected once or twice? (Titus 3:10).
11. What does Paul tell the Elders to do with such brethren who continue in sin and just won't correct his faults? (I Timothy 5:20).
12. We find in I Cor. 5:1-13, great sin in the Church, sin of the worst kind that can be found in the Church. What was this great sin?
13. After reading I Cor. 5:1-13, can you not see how a Church can depart and leave the teachings of Christ? How did the people act? Verse 2.
14. What did Paul say could happen to the whole church? Verses 6-8.
15. How are we to treat all erring brothers? Verse 11.

You have completed Lesson No. B-4. It will be graded and returned to you with Lesson No. B-5.

HAVE MIRACLES CEASED?

A Miracle, as used in the Bible, is an act of God superseding a natural law. It is not a work of nature. For example, it is very natural that turtles are hatched from eggs, but if a turtle was hatched from a rock, then it would be a miracle.

It is natural for a mother to have a child after the physical union of man and wife, but the Virgin Birth of Jesus was not natural, it was a miracle in that God set aside the natural law. (Matthew 1:18-25).

Have miracles ceased? Today there are millions of people, representing many different religious bodies, who claim to believe that miracles are being performed by God. These people are being reached through various means, such as; Television, Radio, Newspapers, Magazines, and Tracts, by false teachers who claim to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and who say they have the power to perform miracles, such as; healing the sick, seeing visions, speaking in tongues, preaching directly by inspiration, — and even going so far as to claim that they can raise the dead.

Many of us have heard, Oral Roberts, O.L. Jagers, The Plunketts, — and many others claim that they can heal the sick and crippled. This is not surprising, in view of the fact that even Roman Catholic priests claim to be able to heal the sick and raise the dead, and call demons out of those possessed. Their accomplishments are through psychological means.

It is most important for our study to understand the various measures in the operation of the Holy Spirit; for it is only through the Spirit's influence that individuals have been able to perform miracles by power from God. Jesus had the Spirit in an unlimited extent (John 3:34-35). All the miracles of Jesus, whether healing the sick or the miracle of inspiration, were performed through the influence of the Holy Spirit.

We find in Luke 4:18,19 that Jesus applies to himself a passage from the book of Isaiah, a prophecy which sets forth the power of the Spirit in his life: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, Because he anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor: He hath sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovering of the sight of the blind, To set at liberty them that are bruised, To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

QUESTIONS:

1. By what did Jesus cast out demons? (Matthew 12:28).
2. What is the basic purpose of the Lord's miracles? (John 20:30,31).
3. What did Jesus tell the Apostles they would be baptized in? (Acts 1:5)
4. When did this come about? (Acts 2:1-4).
5. What did the Holy Spirit give the Apostles the power to do? (Acts 2:4; 3:6-8; 9:36-41).
6. Those today who claim to be able to perform miracles, also claim to have been baptized with the Holy Spirit. Could this be true? (Eph. 4:4,5; Matthew 28:18-20).
7. What was the Holy Spirit to teach the Apostles? (John 14:26).
8. In what was the Holy Spirit to guide the Apostles? (John 16:13).
9. If modern miracle workers had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit as they claim, then they would be infallible as were the Apostles. — Could any man today know all things of God and know all truth?
10. How was the Holy Spirit imparted to some? (Acts 8:17,18; 19:6).
11. Did they receive the full power of the Spirit as the Apostles possessed? (I Corinthians 12:8-11)?
12. What great miracle was known throughout all Joppa? (Acts 9:42).
13. What did this miracle cause the people to do?
14. If modern miracle healers and priests were able to raise the dead as they claim, would it not be known throughout the whole world?
15. How many diseases was Jesus able to cure? (Matthew 9:35).
16. When unable to cure one diseased, modern miracle workers claim that, "Their faith was not sufficient". Is anything said about faith on the part of the Paralytic in Mark 2, or on the part of Malchus, Luke 22:50?
17. What miracle did Jesus do in Matthew 12:1-14?
18. Have you ever seen or heard of a modern miracle worker replacing a withered limb, or a limb that was missing?
19. How many spiritual gifts are mentioned in I Corinthians 12:8-10?
20. What did Paul say would happen to these gifts in I Corinthians 13:8?
21. When did Paul say that this would happen? (I Corinthians 13:9,10).
22. What does every Christian have today in his possession which is perfect? (I Corinthians 13:10 and James 1:25).
23. What does Paul say would follow the removal of these spiritual gifts in I Corinthians 13:13?
24. Paul said, "But now abideth...these three;" If the nine spiritual gifts mentioned in I Cor. 12:8-10 were still in effect today, then — would Paul not have said, "But Now abideth...these twelve;???"

You have completed Lesson No. NT 5. It will be graded and returned with Lesson No. NT-6. If you have questions, write them down and mail them.

A LESSON ON PRAYER-

Prayer is a very important part of the Christian worship of God, yet it is much misunderstood. It is so important, that without it you cannot get to heaven.

Prayer is communication with God through Jesus Christ. Prayer is not only communication between Our God and a Christian, it is (or should be) like a Father-child relationship. We as Christians should know how to talk to Our Father in Heaven.

We pray to God because we need God. No Christian can live a Christian life and not have God's help. Our own strength is limited, but God's great, and everlasting strength is not. We can draw on this great, unlimited, most powerful strength. No matter how successful you are in life, no matter how much good we do, no matter how intelligent we are, no matter how much of a study of God's word we make, we continually stand in the need of God's care and protection. Paul had this in mind when he commanded that we: --"Pray without ceasing." (I Thess. 5:17; Col. 4:2).

When we can realize that we are nothing without God, and that we have such a desperate, urgent, and constant need for Our God, then prayer will become a leading part of our lives. The Christian whose life is without prayer is one whose life is without a sense of the need of God's help. We must have a desire for God's help.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why can we go to our Heavenly Father with love? (I John 4:19).
2. Will God answer your prayers? (Matt. 21:22; Mark 11:24; James 1:6-8).
3. Will God give you the things that you ask, if it be His will? (Matt. 7:7-11).
4. What is so very important in the prayers we ask of God? (James 1:6-8).
5. Will God answer the prayer of the person who says, "Well, I'll ask God in prayer, but there isn't much chance He'll answer me,"? (James 1:6).
6. What is very necessary in praying to our Almighty Heavenly Father? (Luke 18:10-14; James 4:10).
7. Was Elijah a man very much like any of the men today? (James 5:17).
8. If we are in desperate need of the Lord's help, how should we pray? (James 5:17).
9. Who helps us with our prayers and intercedes for us? (Romans 8:26,27).
10. In whose name should we offer all our prayers to God? (John 14:6; Col. 3:17; John 14:13,14).
11. Has Jesus promised to help with the Father in your needs? (John 14:14).
12. Has the Lord understanding as to our needs and temptations? (Hebrews 4:14-16).
13. Because He understands, what does it allow us to do? (Hebrews 4:16).
14. How should we offer thanks to God for our many blessings? (Col. 3:17).
15. What is required of us, that we might receive what we ask? (I John 3:22).
16. Will we receive from God what it is not His will to give? (I John 5:14).
17. If husbands mistreat, and fail to render love to, their wives, will it hinder their prayers? (I Peter 3:7).
18. If we ask the Lord for forgiveness of our sins, what is required of us? (Matthew 16:14).
19. In what manner should we make our requests known to God? (Phil. 4:6).
20. How is it possible to receive wisdom? (James 1:5).
21. Should we ask the Lord to protect us from temptations? (Matthew 26:41).
22. Should we pray for all men? (I Timothy 2:1,2).
23. Should we pray for the leaders of the Church? (Hebrews 13:18).
24. Are we to pray for our enemies as well as our brethren? (Matt. 5:44).
25. What is God faithful to do if we confess our sins? (I John 1:9).

You have completed Lesson No. B-6. It will be graded and returned to you with Lesson No. B-7. Send us the name and address of others who wish to take this Course.

the Sabbath?

Did you know that Adam and Eve did not observe the Sabbath Day? Neither did Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob observe the Sabbath Day! Despite what some in the denominational world teach about the Sabbath, there is not a word in the Bible telling us that anyone observed the Sabbath Day prior to the time that the Sabbath was given to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

It is at this point that some will wonder about the reference in Genesis 2:2,3 and ask, "Well, was not the Sabbath known from the beginning?" Let me answer this question by saying that Moses wrote the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy and he did not give these to the Jewish Nation until after the Sabbath Day was given by God on Mount Sinai. Previous to this time it was not known and that is the reason we find that Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob did not observe the Sabbath Day.

Prior to the giving of the Law of Moses there were many different people living on the earth, yet they were all ignorant that such a day ever did exist. The Sabbath was given only to the Jewish Nation, by Moses, along with the Law of Moses. The Sabbath Day is the Seventh Day (Saturday) of the week and it has never changed. The Jewish people still worship on this day, they have never changed, since the giving of the Sabbath Day.

The Christian Day of worship is the First Day of the week. It was given to Christians by the Apostles and it has never changed. Of the group of early Christians that I could quote I have picked Justin Martyr, who said in the year AD 145, "But Sunday is the day on which we hold our common assembly, because it is the first day of the week and Jesus our Saviour on the same day rose from the dead."

The Sabbath Day was given solely to the Jews. It was never given, either to Gentile or Christian, nor was it ever intended for anyone other than the Jewish Nation.

Anyone who claims to be a Christian and then accepts the ten commandments as their basic religious standard, have taken to themselves what doesn't rightfully belong to them.

QUESTIONS: PLEASE CAREFULLY STUDY AS YOU READ, AND THINK!

- Carefully read Exodus 16:23,26,29, in which the word "sabbath" is for the first time mentioned in the Bible. Is there anything said about them "remembering" the Sabbath Day?
- Read Nehemiah 9:13,14 carefully. To whom did God make known His Holy Sabbath?
- Would God have made known to them something they already knew?
- Carefully read Ezekiel 20:10-12. Is God reminding them of old laws & sabbaths or giving them new laws and sabbaths?
- Carefully read what Moses tells us in Deuteronomy 5:2,3. Who are the "us" in these verses?
- Had people previously been included in the Old Covenant (Old Law)?
- Carefully read Deuteronomy 5:15. For what reason were the Jews to commemorate the Sabbath Day?
- Through what period of time were the Jews to keep the Sabbath?(Exodus 31:16,17).
- The Sabbath was a sign between what particular people and God?
- Many state that Exodus 31:16,17 commands "us" to continue to keep the Sabbath Day even today. If this were true what other things would we have to continue today? (Exodus 30:8; Exodus 29:42;) Please note that the words "throughout your generations" are used in all references.
- If Christians were to attempt to observe the Sabbath Day, today, and violated it, what would be the penalty? (Exodus 31:15; Numbers 15:35)
- Would it be possible to cook on the Sabbath Day? (Exodus 35:13).
- Did the Lord promise a "new covenant" in which he would remove the old covenant? (Jeremiah 31:31-34).
- Was the New Covenant going to be like the Old Covenant? (Jer. 31:32).
- Had the Old Covenant been faultless would a New Covenant been needed? (Hebrews 8:6,7).
- Sabbatarians attempt to make a distinction between what they call "the law of God" and "the law of Moses". Are they one and the same law? (Nehemiah 8:1,8 and 10:29)
- Paul tells us in II Corinthians 3:5-14, now that we have received a new covenant, which is of the spirit, the old covenant which killeth, that was written, and engraved on stone was done away in who?
- Those who follow the Old Law and observe the Sabbath are following the "letter that" does what? (II Corinthians 3:6).
- What does the Hebrew writer tell us happened to the old covenant? (Heb 10:9,10).
- Why was the old "law of commandments" abolished? (Ephesians 2:14-16).
- Where was the old law "nailed"? (Colossians 2:13-17).
- Since we are not under the law no man is to judge us as to what? (Col. 2:16,17).
- Today we are to obey the commands of who, only? (Matthew 17:5).

You have completed Lesson B-7. It will be graded and returned to you with Lesson No. B-8. If you have any questions, write them down and send them.

Did Early Christians Use The Bible?

Today we find some who are attempting to discredit the authority of the New Testament by making the claim that it did not exist in the early Christian Church, and that it is not our sole rule of faith.

The New Testament itself speaks against this type of logic, and in support of what the New Testament says we have the early Christian writers.

The Roman Catholic church, for example, claims that during many years after the death of Christ on the Cross, no New Testament existed. This is a true statement, however for the first fifty years after the death of Christ the New Testament was not needed because these people had the infallible Apostles of Jesus Christ. However, the New Testament was being written, and much of it was completed within 30 years after the death of Jesus. By the time that the last Apostle died, the New Testament was completed, and was to be used from that day on, until the second coming of Christ. Not one word can be found in the New Testament telling us not to obey what it instructs, it speaks only of obeying the word of God as written in its pages.

Hear what some early Christian writers say about the word of God, and when the New Testament existed and was followed. These writers all lived during the first three centuries after the death of Christ, from the first to the third century.

Irenaeus wrote: "By no others have we come to the knowledge of the plan of salvation, but those through whom the gospel came to us, which they then preached, but afterwards by the will of God, delivered to us in the Scriptures to be the foundation and the pillar of our faith." (Iren. adv. Haer., lib.III, c.1.).

Athanasius, after listing the books of the New Testament, boldly stated: "... in these alone the doctrine of true religion is proclaimed. Let no one add to them nor take away anything from them." (Athan. de Epist. Festal.). He went further to state, "For, indeed, the holy and inspired Scriptures are sufficient of themselves to make known the truth." (Athan. Orat. Arian.I,8)

Jerome taught, pointing to the Scriptures: "As we accept those things which are written, so we reject those things which are not written." (Hieron.Adv. Helvio).

Basil expressed the same belief: "No doubt it is a manifest falling away from the faith, either to annul anything in the Scripture or to introduce anything not in the Scripture" (Basil. De Fide, Garnier's Edition, II,313). He further stated, "Those who are instructed in the Scriptures ought to test the things that are taught by their teachers, and to receive what agrees... and reject what is contrary." (Basil, Moralia, Reg. 72).

Lactantius held that, "...The faith consists of that which is contained in the Divine Scriptures." (Lactant. Lib. V, Cap. 4).

Augustine stated: "Let us hear no more of 'you say,' or 'I say,' but let us hear a 'Thus saith the Lord'..." (August, Epist. Contr. Donat III,5). The Roman Catholic church cannot say "Thus saith the Lord" to her doctrines of: Mary and saints, purgatory, holy water, sign of the cross, the rosary, the infallibility of the pope, or many other things not found in the Scriptures of God.

Chrysostom says: "I beseech you all, weigh not what this man or that man thinketh; but touching all these things, search the Scriptures." (Chrys. II ad Cor. Hom 3). In his Homily on II Thess. he asserted: "All things are clear and plain in the Holy Scriptures: All things necessary for us are there manifest."

The Roman Catholic church claims that each of these early Christian writers are saints in the Roman Catholic church.

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Paul write to the Church at Corinth? (II Corinthians 1:13).
2. Paul said that what he wrote was a command of whom? (I Cor. 14:37-39).
3. Paul was writing these instructions for what purpose? (I Tim. 3:14,15).
4. What about those who refuse to obey what are in these letters? (II Thess 3:14, 15).
5. How did the Apostles contact many of the early churches?
6. Did Paul think his written instructions were safe for us? (Phil. 3:1).
7. Why did John write to Christians in the early church? (I John 2:1).
8. How did James send out instructions? (Acts 15:19).
9. Did Paul say that written instructions should be read in all the Churches? (I Thess. 5:27).
10. Would he have commanded this if people could not understand?
11. Why did Paul write in the first place? (I Corinthians 4:14).
12. Did Paul think the written word would make Christians? (II Cor. 13:10).
13. Why did Jude write to Christians? (Jude 3).
14. How many times was the gospel of Christ given to Christians? When?
15. Give another reason that Peter wrote? (I Peter 5:12).
16. What is all Scripture good for? (II Timothy 3:16,17).
17. Does the New Testament teach that written instructions were widely used during the early church, while the Apostles were still here on earth?
18. Were Christians to follow the teachings of these writings?
19. Can you find any instruction in the New Testament that tells us to discontinue obeying these instructions?
20. What of those who teach something else; than the apostles taught? (Gal. 1:9).

You have completed Lesson No. B-8. It will be graded and returned to you with Lesson No. B-9. Have friends who are Roman Catholic? Send us their names and addresses.

Contending for the Faith

We have often been asked whether it is a Christian thing to argue about religious differences. We have always answered, yes!

Jude said: "I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." Jude tells us, in simple language that we are to contend, or argue, for the truth given us by God. We find in Webster's Dictionary that contend means argue, and if we turn to Argue, we see that it means to reason or dispute, or to debate and discuss. No where is there the meaning that many assume it has today, such as fight. Many believe that to argue is to have a down-right verbal fight. When people act in this manner it is pretty hard to see where they would be able to reason. You must have good, calm control of yourself to discuss and to reason. Now that we have the proper explanation of argue, let us continue to get to the heart of our lesson.

T. Watson said: "Whoever is afraid of submitting any question, civil or religious, to the test of free discussion, is more in love with his own opinion than with the truth." This explains why, along with just pure indifference, there are so few religious discussions today. Open and free discussion would do more than anything else in the world to clarify the religious confusion in the world today. He who cannot reason upon religion is a fool, he that dares not is a coward; and he who will not is a bigot!

In stressing the necessity of exposing liberalism and error, the late Brother J. W. McGarvey once said: "The dogmas of sectarianism will never be supplanted by the Scriptural truths without vigorous and persistent discussion of the issues involved. No truth ever was or ever will be propagated by saying nothing about it, nor will silence ever uproot error. If the friends of truth say nothing at all about immersion, the people will sprinkle forever. And if you say nothing against the erroneous teaching and practice of your neighbors, they will think such differences are just mere preference."

Paul left no error uncorrected. We will use him for our example in our questions.

QUESTIONS:

1. What are Christians command to do by Christ? (Mark 16:15).
2. What does Jude instruct all Christians to do? (Jude 3).
3. We said we'd use Paul as our example. Does this agree with what Paul teaches? (Phil. 3:17).
4. What did some false teachers come teaching? (Acts 15:1-5).
5. What did Paul and Barnabas do with these false teachers? (Acts 15:2).
6. What did Paul do against the Hellenists? (Acts 9:29).
7. What was it Paul's custom to do in the Jewish synagogue? (Acts 17:2)
8. What did Paul do when he was in Athens? (Acts 17:17).
9. Did Paul meet all that came to him? (Acts 17:18).
10. What did Paul do when he was in Corinth? (Acts 18:4).
11. What did Paul do when he was in Ephesus? (Acts 19:8).
12. What were the effects of Paul's arguing for the Lord? (Acts 19:26).
13. What are we to do with the false teachings of those of darkness? (Eph. 5:11).
14. Should a Christian ever allow error to go uncorrected?
15. Would it be following Paul's example to fail to correct a neighbor or friend.
16. Why is it so very important that all Christians contend for the faith? (Acts 17:30).

You have completed Lesson No. B-9. It will be graded and returned to you along with Lesson No. 10.

Birth Control

Ever since "Population Explosion" made its TV debut, the Roman Catholic Church has been publicly attacking all who advocate Birth Control, with such headings as: "A New Breed Of Pessimists" and "Birth Control Advocates Are 'Enemies'", etc.

They make the claim that Birth Control is against God's "natural law", and use for their scriptural backing the story of Onan, found in the 38th Chapter of Genesis, a story that has nothing whatsoever to do with Birth Control, for or against.

There is not one single word in the entire Bible, Old or New Testament, that gives the Roman Catholic church one single shred of basis for their Anti-Birth Control Code. They have nothing from the word of God as authority for their stand. The Bible says nothing, for or against Birth Control.

In a pamphlet written by the Jesuit priest, Daniel A. Lord, called "Speaking of Birth Control", classes American wives who use contraceptives with prostitutes and calls them "daughters of joy".

From the booklet "Birth Control" written by "Father" Richard Ginder, editor of Our Sunday Visitor, a Roman Catholic weekly of large circulation, we read: "This business of birth-control, then, has been classified as nothing more than mutual masturbation, since it involves the sordid act of man and a woman irritating one another sexually without any relation to the subject of the action that God placed foremost." The booklet uses the story of Onan as its basis.

From "Morals In Medicine" published in 1956, written by Jesuit priest, Thomas J. O'Donnell, we read: "Since...the conjugal act is destined primarily by nature for the begetting of children, those who in exercising it deliberately frustrate its natural power and purpose sin against nature and commit a deed which is shameful, and intrinsically vicious...it is evident that no physician can advise contraception, or aid or instruct a patient in its use, without being guilty of formal co-operation in the sinful act of the patient."

In several states, where Catholics have the control, it is impossible to receive a single word of advice on the use of contraceptives from your doctor. The following question was asked of the Roman Catholic priest, "Monsignor" J. D. Conway in the "Question Box": "On this matter of birth control information in New York hospitals (city owned), don't non-Catholics have the civil right to this information, as Catholics do to play bingo?" "Monsignor" Conway answered: "No one has a right to do something wrong; and birth control is wrong..." This is the attitude of the Roman Catholic church, and if she had the power to enforce her laws, we would have no rights on this subject, and many others.

It should be of interest to all to go into our Bible in this study and see whether the Roman Catholic church has any scriptural basis for her Anti-Birth Control Code.

QUESTIONS: Before you start the questions read all of Genesis 38:1-30.

1. What had happened to Tamar's first husband? (Genesis 38:7).
2. What did Judah command Onan to do about his brother's wife? (Genesis 38:8).
3. Why did he command this of Onan? (Genesis 38:8).
4. Was this the Law of the Land in which Onan lived? (Deuteronomy 25:5).
5. This was known as the Levirate Law, and was required for what purpose? (Deuteronomy 25:6).
6. Was this law in keeping with what Judah demanded of Onan? (Genesis 38:8,26).
7. It was not spilling the seed on the ground that was the great sin, what was the great sin? (Genesis 38:8 and Deuteronomy 25:5).
8. Was this Law ever known when Christ was here on earth? (Mark 12:18-27).
9. I can find no law in the Bible which says that spilling the seed is against the Law of God, can you?
10. If a wife was unable to have children safely the Catholic Church believes that abstinence should be practiced, but never Birth Control. Does this agree with the only reason that Paul gives for practicing abstinence? (1 Corinthians 7:5).
11. Does Paul say anything about the marriage relation being for the purpose of the bearing of children? (1 Corinthians 7:1-5).
12. Does Paul say anything for or against Birth Control? (1 Corinthians 7:1-5)

Statement: I believe in the practice of Birth Control, when practiced in a Christian manner. I do not believe in abortion, except to save the life of the mother. I believe that we should have all the children that we can properly feed, cloth and educate, and give the proper amount of love and affection.

I believe that if the Lord had not wished us to practice Birth Control He would have told us so in His Divine Word -- He did not.

You have completed Lesson No. B-10. It will be graded and returned to you with No. B 11. Send us the name and address of others who wish these Lessons.

INDIFFERENCE

Indifference! - One of the most dangerous enemies of the Church of Our Lord. Turning to Webster's Dictionary we find that indifference means, "lack of feeling for or against anything". Jesus explains those who are neither hot nor cold as luke-warm.

We find many in the Church today who are neither for or against anything that the brethren wish to do in regard to bettering their effort for the Lord.

There are those who are just plain bench warmers, being neither hot nor cold when it comes to obeying the things they hear preached. Brother George Bailey once remarked: "Sitting in a church building won't make you a Christian anymore than sitting in a hen house will make you a hen."

Some of those "luke-warms" make such remarks as: "You need be very careful not to preach against the things that will offend people; you need be very careful what you brand as worldliness; You need to be very careful in telling people that they should be baptized, etc., etc."

These people take no side at all. They have no stand. This philosophy has been a plague of the Church for 19 centuries. It is true that we must be careful that we condemn sin and error in the right spirit; but sin is sin and error is error, and if God's word is truth, sin and error must be denounced. We must take our stand with Christ, and be HOT for Christ and His word. We cannot be luke-warm and be acceptable to Him.

When a Christian is hot for the Lord you know just where he stands, and when one is cold you know just where he stands - - but the luke-warmer is most dangerous, for you know not where he stands nor what he will do.

QUESTIONS:

1. Does the Lord know of our works? (Revelation 3:15).
2. What will the Lord do to those Christians who are luke-warm? (Revelation 3:16).
3. What does the Lord say of those who believe that they do not need the Lord, and are indifferent to His commands? (Revelation 3:17).
4. Does it cost anything to have the faith that will withstand even fire ("gold refined by fire")? (Revelation 3:18).
5. What does the Lord do to those he loves? (Revelation 3:19).
6. What does the Lord command all Christians to do? (Mark 16:15).
7. Name as many different ways that a Christian can fulfill this command as you can.
8. What should those Christians who are hot for Christ always do? (Jude 3).
9. What do "luke-warms" usually fail to do when pressed for defense of the Gospel of Christ? (1 Peter 3:15).
10. When we defend Christ and truth what can happen to us? (1 Peter 3:16).
11. What can luke-warms keep some congregations from having? (Philippians 2:2).
12. How are those Christians who are hot for Christ to stand? (Philippians 1:27).
13. How can an indifferent attitude effect the Christian? (Hebrews 3:12).
14. What should those hot for Christ do daily? (Hebrews 3:13).
15. What do "luke-warms" usually fail to do? (Hebrews 10:25).
16. What type of Christian is usually at all called meetings?
17. What does Paul tell us we can expect if we keep the faith? (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

You have completed Lesson No. B-11. It will be graded and returned to you with the next Lesson, No. B-12.

Are you Hot for Christ; are you talking to your neighbors and friends about Christ? Are you Hot enough that you are sending us names and addresses of others who might be interested in these Lessons?

Love

Have you ever considered that love is the most important teaching in the Church to-day? That love is the foundation of almost everything that the Christian does? We should understand the meaning of love and the great effect that it has had in the lives of the righteous.

No better explanation of love can be given than that given by Paul: "Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy; is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited — arrogant and inflated with pride; it is not rude (unmannerly), and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's Love in us) does not insist on its own rights on its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it — pays no attention to a suffered wrong; It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, and its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances and it endures everything (without weakening)." (1 Corinthians 13: 4-7) Amplified New Testament.

Please reread Paul's explanation of love and as you do, ask yourself, "Has my love overcome these many things." In this way we can see some of our weaknesses. Then daily practice that you might reach that standard of love that Paul set for us.

We do not just get this kind of love. It comes by much work and prayer. It is not something that will come all at once, it comes slowly with patience and endurance.

Love in our Christian lives is so important that without it we are, according to Paul, "a useless nobody".

Questions:

1. What is the greatest example of love ever shown? (John 3:16).
2. Are we to love anyone other than those who love us? (Matthew 5:43-48).
3. What are we to do about our enemies? (Matthew 5:44).
4. What can happen to our love if we do not remain faithful? (Matthew 24:12).
5. How can we show our love to God? (John 14:15).
6. To what degree should we love our brethren? (John 15:12).
7. What is the greatest love that we can show our brethren? (John 15:13).
8. If we fail to love our brethren do we disobey a direct command? (John 15:17).
9. What does Paul tell us must be genuine? (Romans 12:9).
10. What should everything that we do be done in? (1 Corinthians 16:14).
11. What about those who have no love for the Lord? (1 Corinthians 16:22).
12. What should control us? (2 Corinthians 5:14).
13. How are husbands to love their wives? (Ephesians 5:25).
14. What does the putting on of love do? (Colossians 3:14).
15. If we do not love our brother we are not of who? (1 John 3:10)
16. What is God? (1 John 4:8).
17. What does perfect love do? (1 John 4:18).
18. Why do we love God? (1 John 4:19).
19. What does the Lord do with those he loves? (Revelation 3:19), (Hebrews 12:6).
20. What is the love of God? (1 John 5:3).

You have completed Lesson No. 12. It will be graded and returned to you with Lesson No. 13.

You can show your love for Christ by sending us the names of persons you have talked to about this Course. If you love God, you love saving souls.

PUNISHMENT

Understanding Your Bible

It is surprising the number of Christians who do not understand what the New Testament teaches about punishment at the judgment.

It is even more surprising the number of Christians who believe that even righteous and faithful Christians will be punished. I have searched the New Testament and can find no text that would lead me to believe that we, as faithful and righteous Christians, will receive punishment on the day of judgment.

When ever punishment is mentioned in the New Testament it refers to those who are unrighteous or unfaithful. And, the New Testament goes further; it teaches that these unrighteous and unfaithful persons will be punished in accordance to their knowledge and what they did while here on the earth. In other words, the New Testament teaches degrees of punishment.

We feel that the questions will be much better than further explanation.

QUESTIONS: (The Revised Standard Version was used for this lesson.)

Very carefully read Matthew 25:31-46, and answer the following:

1. At the judgment who will be placed on the right side?
2. Who are those that will be placed upon the left side?
3. What is to happen to those unrighteous persons on the left side?
4. Is any mention of punishment made for those on the right side?
5. Must everyone appear before the judgment seat? (2 Corinthians 5:10).
6. Who are those who will receive good or evil? (2 Corinthians 5:10).
7. After carefully reading the story told by Jesus in Luke 12:45-48 tell what will happen to unfaithful and disobedient Christians?
8. What will happen to the unrighteous and ungodly of the world?
9. Does Luke 20:46,47 teach that some will receive greater punishment than others?
10. In Hebrews 10:28,29 we see the Law of Moses compared with Christ's Law. Who will be punished the greater for disobedience?
11. How will those who teach be judged if they fail? (James 3:1).
12. Who will the Lord deal with when he comes again? (Revelation 22:12, Romans 2:6, 1 Peter 1:17).
13. What of those Christians who live faithful lives? (John 5:24).
14. Punishment is connected with the second death; can the second death effect faithful and righteous Christians? (Revelation 2:11).
15. What is the promise for those who live faithful Christian lives? (Romans 8:1, John 3:18).

Many other texts could also be used, however this was not meant to be an exhaustive study; it was meant to show the great importance of living a faithful and righteous life in Christ Jesus. **THE REWARD IS SO GREAT!**

You have completed Lesson No. 13. It will be graded and returned to you with Lesson No. 14. Send us the names and addresses of others who would like to take this course.

Live for Christ. Ask yourself today, "What have I done for Christ?"

Holy Spirit

It is always sad when I hear someone refer to the Holy Spirit as "it"; it shows that that person does not know the Holy Spirit or His work.

The Holy Spirit is a person just as God and Christ are persons. When we fail to understand this we fail to have an understanding of the importance of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.

This lesson will be devoted to mostly questions with the hope of your understanding the true importance of the Holy Spirit in your life.

QUESTIONS: (The Revised Standard Version was used for this lesson.)

1. Is the Holy Spirit referred to as "it" in John 16:13?
2. Using this same reference, name the different things that the Holy Spirit can do.
3. What is one of the works of the Holy Spirit? (John 14:26).
4. What can we do to the Holy Spirit if we do not lead faithful lives in Jesus Christ? (Ephesians 4:30).
5. When we pray how does the Holy Spirit help us? (Romans 8:26).
6. Can an unproductive Christian life quench the Spirit? (1 Thess. 5:19).
7. What does the Holy Spirit say about later times? (1 Tim. 4:2).
8. Who helps us understand spiritual truths? (1 Cor. 2:13).
9. Can an unspiritual man receive the gifts of the Spirit? (1 Cor. 2:14).
10. What shows that the Holy Spirit knows all truth? (1 Cor. 2:10).
11. By failing to live the Christian life can we resist the Holy Spirit? (Acts 7:51).
12. Can we be saved without the Holy Spirit? (John 3:5).
13. Who are the sons of God? (Romans 8:14).
14. How does a person receive the gift of the Spirit? (Acts 2:38).
15. What is the sword of the Spirit? (Ephesians 6:17).
16. Is our body a temple for the Holy Spirit? (1 Cor. 6:19).
17. How are we to always walk? (Galatians 5:16,17).
18. Name the fruit of the Spirit? (Galatians 5:22,23).
19. We are promised to reap what if we live by the Spirit? (Gal. 6:8).
20. What has God given us as a guarantee that we will have a spiritual life after death? (2 Corinthians 5:5).

I do not believe that any person here on earth will ever know everything there is to know about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can do his work whether we understand it or not. Our lesson was not meant, nor would a little space such as this, permit a complete study of this subject.

You have completed Lesson No. 14. It will be graded and returned to you with Lesson No. 15. Send us the names and addresses of others who would like to take this Course.

MY STEWARDSHIP

Before we can discuss stewardship in giving we must understand that the physical things that we possess belong to God. We are His stewards, as were the servants of the nobleman in Luke 19:11-24. We came into this world with nothing and we shall leave with nothing, but while we are on earth we can be good stewards of the things that the Lord set us over..

A Christian cannot claim absolute ownership of his money. It was given to him to care for, and must be used to please God. "Here, moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2). A Christian will be held accountable for every cent that he receives.

Unless a Christian can accept the above comments in the right spirit he cannot give in an acceptable manner.

Much can be learned in this type of lesson with questions, therefore we will begin.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who owns everything in this world? (Psalms 50:10,12).
2. Can anyone claim absolute ownership of his money? (Haggai 2:8).
3. With whose help do we gain things? (Deut. 8:11, 17,18).
4. Did Job acknowledge Gods right to give and take? Job 1:21).
5. Are Christians the stewards of God's Word? (Mark 16:15,16).
6. What else are Christians stewards of? (1 Peter 4:10).
7. Besides money, what must Christians give? (2 Corinthians 8:5).
8. How can we give of ourselves to the Lord? (Romans 12:1).
9. Can a Christian justify not giving because he is poor? (2 Cor. 8:2).
10. Who is to give? (1 Corinthians 16:2).
11. When are we to give to the Church? (1 Corinthians 16:2).
12. If we fail to give as we should can it cause a burden on others? (2 Corinthians 8:13,14).
13. If we are blessed with money, will our age, sex, martial status, or financial condition relieve us from the responsibility of giving?
14. Under the law of Moses the people of God were required to give 1/10 th of everything that they received. They were not required to give more. Christians live under a better covenant (Hebrews 8:6). Should a Christian give more than 10%?
15. What can those who give sparingly expect? (1 Corinthians 9:6).
16. In order to give properly to God what must a Christian be willing to do? (Matthew 16:24).
17. Who does God love? (2 Corinthians 9:6).
18. How are Christians required to give? (1 Corinthians 16:2).
19. How are we to give? (2 Corinthians 9:7).
20. Besides giving on the first day of the week how else can Christians give? (3 John 5-8).
21. Who can Christians help support? (Galatians 6:6).
22. How should Christians help orphans and widows? (James 1:27).
23. Should Christians give all through the week? (James 2:15-17).

You have completed letter No. B-15. It will be graded and returned to you with Lesson No. 16. Have you sent us the name of one non-Christian?

You can help be good stewards of the Lord by spreading His Word.

Divorce

"From the beginning it was not so." These are the words of Christ when He was asked about divorce on the grounds of any cause by the Pharisees. Christ said: "And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity, and marries another, commits adultery." (Matthew 19:9, RSV).

There is a great need in the Church today for a clear understanding of what the Word of God teaches on the subject of divorce.

It is also important that members of the Church know what to do when it is seen that adultery is taking place in the Church. To many brethren are prone to overlook divorce because of the worldly outlook on this subject. Marriage and divorce is looked upon by many in the world much as one would look upon a light cold, —and about as easy to cure.

Much can be gained by the following questions.

QUESTIONS: Remember this is not church law - this is Christ's law!

1. What takes place when two people marry? (Matthew 19:5; Gen. 2:24).
2. Has any man the right to separate what God has made one? (Matt. 19:6)
3. What only can break this oneness (besides death)? (Matthew 19:9).
4. Why did Moses allow divorce for other reasons? (Matthew 19:8).
5. Can Christians use this law of Moses today? (Matthew 19:8).
6. What is the only reason one might obtain a divorce today? (Matt. 19:9)
7. If a husband divorces his wife for some reason, than adultery, — what does he commit against her? (Mark 10:11)
8. Anyone who marries one put away for some reason than adultery commits what with that person? (Luke 16:18).
9. When a wife is put away for some reason other than adultery, and she marries, are both she and the one she marries guilty of adultery? (Luke 16:18).
10. If a wife puts her husband away because of fornication (adultery) is she permitted by God to marry again? (Matthew 19:9).
11. May a husband and wife separate and remain unmarried? (1 Cor. 7:1,11)
12. Is it possible for a wife to cause her husband to commit adultery? (1 Corinthians 7:5).
13. Should a husband or wife ever refuse one another, except by mutual consent? (1 Corinthians 7:5).
14. What terrible thing went on in the Corinthians church? (1 Cor. 5:1,2)
15. What should be done with those in the church who live in adultery? (1 Corinthians 5:7 and 13).
16. Are we to eat or associate with such persons? (1 Corinthians 5:11).
17. If such a one was sorry and returned to the church, only to go back to live in adultery with this same wife, are they not yet guilty of adultery?

Notes: Many have asked: "What then does one do to return to the church when they have been living in adultery?" I can only answer with a big question; "Will God allow an adulterer in Heaven?" (1 Corinthians 6:10) If a person is sorry for stealing and then steals some more is he still a thief? This is Christ's law, we submit it with love hoping it will help those who study it.

You have completed Lesson No. 16. It will be graded and returned with Lesson No. 17. Send us the names of others who would like to take these Lessons.

Lord's Supper

Every Christian should be struck with the sincere simplicity of the Lord's Supper. How different it is from the pompous ceremonials found in the religious world today. Carefully read the account found in Matthew 26:20-29.

We do not see an altar in this picture, nor do we see robed ministers or priests going through unauthorized ceremonials. We see a simple table and Christ with his disciples.

We picture Christ facing death. Before him are the sorrows of Gethsemane and the agony of the Cross. He is telling his disciples of his coming trip to Jerusalem, his suffering, his death, and about being raised up. — They seem puzzled. What is to become of them when Jesus is no longer with them? What of the earthly kingdom they expected?

The hour of the passover has come, of the sacred feast which commemorates God's deliverance of the firstborn of Israel from the hand of the death angel. The old covenant is about to end; and soon a new covenant, ratified by the blood of Christ, is to be given.

With this picture in mind we see the Lord and the disciples eating: "Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' And he took a cup and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'"

Today every Christian has the account of Paul (his instructions about the Lord's Supper) just as he received it from the Lord. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

QUESTIONS: (The Revised Standard Version has been used for this lesson.)

1. Why do Christians partake of the Lord's Supper? (1 Corinthians 11:24).
2. When we partake of the Lord's Supper, what great fact do we proclaim to the world? (1 Corinthians 11:26; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:15).
3. Do only members of the kingdom have the privilege of communion? (Luke 22:29,30).
4. When should Christians partake of the Lord's Supper? (Acts 20:7).
5. How many first days of the week are there in a year?
6. Do we sin against the Lord if we partake in an unworthy manner? (1 Cor. 11:27).
7. Should a Christian examine his life, that he is leading, before partaking of the Lord's Supper? (1 Corinthians 11:28).
8. Should one who does not understand why the Lord died partake? (1 Cor. 11:29).
9. What can happen to us if we partake in an un-Christian manner? (1 Cor. 11:30).
10. Why is it so important that we examine our lives carefully? (1 Cor. 11:31,32).
11. What are the two emblems of the Lord's Supper in Matthew 26:26-29?
12. If we partake of the Lord's Supper in a way not instructed by God, who are we then partaking with? (1 Corinthians 10:16:21).

You have completed Lesson No. 17. It will be graded and returned to you with Lesson No. 18. If you have questions regarding the Lord Supper, ask?