

Beginner's Bible Correspondence Course

By

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It will not be our intention to pressure you to make a decision. We simply want to present God's teaching to you so that you may be able to make a wise choice.

Don't think for a minute that this material is too simple and easy. If you already knew it then it would not be necessary for you to take the course. May we suggest that you study the lessons and answer the questions and then your teacher can judge by your answers how easy or difficult it was for you.

Congratulations on enrolling for this study and we wish the best for you as you continue with it.

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INTRODUCTION

We are constantly looking and searching for means and ways to get the truth out to the people of this country. One of the best ways of doing that is through the Bible correspondence course method. We are therefore sending this material to you with the prayer that it will serve a noble purpose in your life.

This particular course is a little different. Instead of sending two or three lessons at a time, we are sending all the lessons in book form with directions on how to use it.

We are aware of the fact that there are many motives for taking a course like this. Some want to learn English. There are those who want to add another diploma or certificate to the ones they already have. And on and on the list goes. Of course, even with these motives, it is still possible for you to profit spiritually from this study. It would be our hope, however, that the real reason you would want to take this series of lessons is to learn God's will.

As far as we are concerned, our whole purpose for making this Bible course available is to introduce the Bible to you along with God, Christ, the Gospel, the Church, and Christianity. We would also like to think that through this study you would learn God's will and that you would then want to obey him to be saved and added to his church.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. These lessons are based on the Bible and hopefully you have a copy. If you don't, then you may obtain a copy through the Christian Bookstore, a local book store, or you may write us for information on how to obtain one.
2. Please read through all of the material, that means all of the 15 lessons, before going further.
3. As you go through the text, turn to each Bible reference and read it.
4. Now, go back to the first lesson and read and study it carefully and then turn to the question section and answer all of the questions with a correct answer. Do the same with the second and third lessons.
5. Once you are satisfied that you have answered the questions correctly to the first three lessons, then tear the three question sheets out and send them in for grading. You are to keep the rest of the book.
6. The question sheets will be graded and returned to you for your information.
7. Now, do the same with the next three lessons and please continue to send three lessons each time until you have completed the course. Since there are 15 lessons then that means that you will be sending the question sheets in on five different occasions. Please do not send less than three lessons or more than three lessons at a time.

8. On making a passing grade then a certificate of completion will be sent to you. Other courses will be made available to you if you desire to continue your study.
9. You are invited to enroll family members and friends (with their permission, of course) for this course and send them to the address given below.
10. If you have any questions or comments, please let us know.

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LESSON 1

THE VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE

These lessons are prepared for those who already believe in the Bible as God's word. Therefore we will not take time to prove that the Bible is inspired of God.

Sometimes it is very confusing because we have so many different translations of the Bible (King James, Revised version, Phillips translation, etc.). The one used by most people is the King James. Some people think that the King James version was the first Bible, and that the others were copied from it. Many people think that the other Bibles are not as good as the King James Bible. This is not true.

The Bible was first written on scrolls. There were a large number of these scrolls written over a long period of time. These were written in the language of the Hebrew and Greek people. The Old Testament was written mostly in the Hebrew language and the New Testament was written in the Greek language.

The Old Testament was written hundreds of years before the New Testament. Therefore while the New Testament was being written the people were studying the Old Testament scrolls. The Old Testament was made up of many scrolls just as we would have many books in our library today. For example, Isaiah was on one scroll, Daniel was on one scroll, and so forth.

In the 17th century King James of England wanted a Bible that everyone could read. So he had some scholars (people who could read and write the Hebrew and Greek languages) to translate the Bible into the English language. Translate means to change from one language to another. The scholars took the scrolls that were written in the Hebrew and Greek languages and changed, or translated, them into the English language so we could read them. This translation was completed in the year 1611.

It has been a long time since King James had the Bible printed in English. Many of the words that were used then mean something entirely different today. For example, when the King James version was printed: “let” meant “hinder”, “allow” meant “approve”, “communicate” meant “share”, “prevent” meant “precede”, “kine” meant “cow”, etc. In Daniel we read where Pharaoh saw seven fat kine come up out of the river. Today we would say “cow”. For this reason we have more modern translations (versions) that would say that the Pharaoh saw seven fat cows instead of seven fat kine. Some translations might not be as accurate as others and we need to be careful in choosing the version we want. Most translations are good, though, and are easily understood.

Even though some words have changed since King James had the Bible translated this version is used more than any other.

In lesson two we will begin a study of the Bible itself. We will use the King James version as that is the one most people own. Scriptures will be given from time to time from some other versions to make the lessons easier to understand.

LESSON 1 – QUESTIONS

Ref. No. _____

STUDENT'S NAME _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS _____

DATE _____ GRADE _____

REMARKS _____

EXERCISE

Fill up the blanks:

1. What was the first Bible written upon? _____
2. In what language was the New Testament written? _____
3. In what language was the Old Testament written? _____
4. What year was the King James translation completed? _____
5. One reason for having modern translations is because many words used during the time of King James have _____ meaning.

TRUE AND FALSE:

Circle T if the answer is true and F if it is false.

1. T F The New Testament was written hundreds of years before the Old Testament.
2. T F All of the Old Testament was written on one scroll.
3. T F The King James translation was the first Bible.
4. T F All of the translations of the Bible were copied from the King James version.
5. T F Translate means to change from one language to another.

LESSON 2

DIVISIONS OF THE BIBLE

For all practical purposes the Bible can be divided into three main parts, the Patriarchal, the Mosaic and the Christian age.

The Patriarchal age means the time that God ruled through the Patriarchs. A Patriarch is simply the father of a family. God first taught his people by talking with the fathers in each family and they taught the rest of the family.

The Mosaic age (also called Law of Moses, Old Law and Mosaical Period) began as one would expect, with Moses. God chose to lead His people through Moses. God gave Moses the law and Moses taught the people.

The Christian age is the time in which we are now living. Christ was born and He lived under the Law of Moses. According to Hebrews 10:9 (chapter ten and verse nine) Christ took away the Law of Moses and gave us a better law. The Christian law came into effect at the death of Christ.

Most of us have some knowledge of the Bible. We know that there is an Old Testament and a New Testament. Usually when something is old it is no longer useful, it has filled its purpose (Hebrews 8:13). This is true with the Old Testament. It has served its purpose according to Galatians 3:24 and Colossians 2:14.

However, the Old Testament is good for our learning

(Romans 15:4). We should read and therefore profit from the many beautiful, true stories that are in the Old Testament. We are not under the Old Testament so we do not have to obey the commands found therein. For example: The people under the Old Testament had to offer animal sacrifices. Today we do not have to do this. Christ is our sacrifice (Ephesians 5:2).

Perhaps this example will help us to understand the difference between the Old and New Testaments: A man has a large sum of money and much land. He makes a will in order to divide this among his children when he dies. After this will is made he adopts several more children. If he were to die these children would receive nothing. He realizes this so he makes a new will to include these children also. The old will is still there but is no good. The will that was drawn up last is the one that will be honored at the man's death.

The same is true with the Old and New Testaments. The Old was made, then was taken away at the death of Christ (Colossians 2:14) and the New Testament then came into effect (Hebrews 10:9).

As we take these lessons we need to check and study all of the Bible references that are given in each lesson.

Lesson three will go into detail on the first period of Bible history, the Patriarchal age.

LESSON 2 – QUESTIONS

Ref. No. _____

STUDENT'S NAME _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS _____

DATE _____ GRADE _____

REMARKS _____

EXERCISE

Fill up the blanks:

1. The Bible can be divided into _____ main parts.
2. The three ages, or periods, of the Bible history are _____
_____, and _____.
3. Christ lived under the _____.
4. The Old Testament is good for our _____.
Give the scriptures where we find this _____.
5. The Old Law was taken away at the _____.

TRUE AND FALSE:

Circle T if the answer is true and F if it is false.

1. T F A Patriarch is a farmer.
2. T F We are now living under the law of Moses.
3. T F The Old Testament has served its purpose.
4. T F When a new will is made the old will is no good.
5. T F Christ nailed the Old Law to the cross.

LESSON 3

THE PATRIARCHAL AGE

PART 1

THE CREATION

In our last lesson we discussed briefly the three ages, or periods, in which we can divide Bible history. The first of these is the Patriarchal age, or the age in which God spoke directly with the Fathers.

This period began with Adam and ended with the giving of the law to Moses at Mount Sinai. This was about 2500 years. We can read about this age in the Bible in Genesis and the first twenty chapters of Exodus, the first two books in the Bible.

In the very beginning of the Bible we read where God created (or made) everything. He created the stars, sun, moon, the earth and everything in it. The last thing to be created was man. God formed Adam, the first man, out of the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul (Genesis 2:7). After Adam was created God took a rib from his side and created the first woman, Eve.

At this time the world and all that was in it, including Adam and Eve, were perfect. God planted a beautiful garden and put Adam and Eve in it to take care of it. They were allowed freedom of the entire garden except for the tree of

knowledge of good and evil. God told them not to eat of the fruit of that tree.

One day the devil in the form of a serpent came to Eve. He persuaded Eve to eat of the fruit that God had told them not to eat. After Eve ate of the fruit she then gave to Adam and he ate also. The Bible tells us, *“And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons”* (Genesis 3:7).

When God came that evening to walk with them they hid themselves because they now realized they were naked. After God had talked with them he pronounced a curse upon the serpent (Genesis 3:14-15), upon Eve (Genesis 3:16), and upon Adam (Genesis 3:16-18). Then God drove Adam and Eve out of the beautiful garden of Eden. This was part of their punishment for disobeying God.

In Genesis chapter four we read of three of Adam and Eve’s sons. Their names were Cain, Abel and Seth.

Here in Genesis chapter four we read of the first murder. Cain and Abel both offered sacrifices to God. Cain offered the fruit of the ground which God had not commanded. Abel brought a lamb which God had commanded and offered it. The Bible tells us that *“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain”* (Hebrews 11:4). God was pleased with Abel’s offering but was disappointed with Cain’s. After this Cain was angry that his offering was not accepted by God. Then he performed the terrible act of murder by killing his brother. After this God put a curse upon Cain (Genesis 4:11-12).

We learn from the lessons of Adam, Eve and Cain that

God always punishes man when he disobeys Him. This should be a warning to us today.

Our lesson was taken from the first four chapters of Genesis. To learn even more about our lesson we should read these chapters.

In the next lesson we will study more about other Patriarchs and how God dealt with them.

LESSON 3 – QUESTIONS

Ref. No. _____

STUDENT'S NAME _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS _____

DATE _____ GRADE _____

REMARKS _____

EXERCISE

Fill up the blanks:

1. The Patriarchal age began with _____
2. The Patriarchal age ended at _____
3. The Patriarchal age lasted about _____ years.
4. The last thing God created was _____
5. We learn from the lessons of Adam, Eve and Cain that God always punishes man when he _____ Him.

TRUE AND FALSE:

Circle T if the answer is true and F if it is false.

1. T F God did not care if Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
2. T F Abel was the first murder.
3. T F God did not punish Adam and Eve when they disobeyed Him.
4. T F God was pleased with Abel's sacrifice because he offered it by faith.
5. T F After eating of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, Adam gave to Eve and she ate also.

LESSON 4

THE PATRIARCHAL AGE

PART 2

THE FLOOD

In lesson three we studied about the first patriarch, Adam. We also talked about the creation, the fall and Adam and Eve's first two sons.

The next important person we meet in the book of Genesis is Noah. The people became wicked and God was sorry that he had made the world. However, Noah was a good man and the Bible tells us in Genesis 6:8 that he found grace in the eyes of God.

God told Noah to build an ark, a big boat, for God planned to destroy the world by a flood. Noah preached to the people while he was building the ark. Noah preached for almost a hundred years trying to get the people to turn away from the evil things they were doing and turn back to God. At the same time he was preaching he was building the ark. No one would listen to Noah and finally God sent rain until it flooded and destroyed everything that was not in the ark. It rained for forty days and nights until all the dry land, even the mountains, was covered with water. So God purged, or cleansed, the world with water. The water covered the earth for 150 days. Noah and his family had to stay in the ark for

almost one year until the water dried up.

So Noah did just as God had commanded him. He built the ark exactly as God said. He put the exact number of animals in the ark that God told him (two of every unclean animal and seven of every clean). It is very important to notice that Noah did not change anything God said to suit himself. He obeyed God “to the letter” and was rewarded with salvation from the flood for himself, his wife, their three sons and their wives.

Noah is a good example for us today. We should not try to change what God commands. As we studied briefly in lesson one we are given commandments to follow in the New Testament. We should obey these commandments of God just as Noah obeyed in the long ago period.

Something important that happened after the flood was the building of the tower of Babel.

At this time the people all spoke the same language. They decided to build a tower to reach to heaven. This did not please God at all so he confused their speech. He made some of them to speak one language and some to speak another, etc. They separated into groups that spoke the same language and moved to different parts of the earth.

This lesson covers from Genesis five through Genesis eleven. It would be good to read and study these chapters before trying to answer the questions.

In the next lesson we will study about a very great patriarch, Abraham.

LESSON 4 – QUESTIONS

Ref. No. _____

STUDENT'S NAME _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS _____

DATE _____ GRADE _____

REMARKS _____

EXERCISE

Fill up the blanks:

1. Noah preached to the people and worked on the ark for almost _____ years.
2. The water covered the land for _____ days. (Genesis 8:3)
3. Noah and his family were in the ark for almost _____ .
4. Noah took _____ clean animals and _____ unclean animals into the ark.
5. The people decided to build a tower to reach to Heaven and God confused their _____ .

TRUE AND FALSE:

Circle T if the answer is true and F if it is false.

1. T F Noah was a wicked man before the flood.
2. T F Noah did not change but just a few things that God told him to do.
3. T F There were eight people saved from the flood.
4. T F Noah was saved from the flood because he did exactly what God commanded.
5. T F We should be very careful to obey the commandments God has given to us in the New Testament just as Noah obeyed in the Old Testament.

LESSON 5

THE PATRIARCHAL AGE

PART 3

ABRAHAM

In lesson 4 we studied about Noah and the tower of Babel. In this lesson we will study about a great man of faith, Abraham.

In the same chapter (Genesis 11) that we learn about the tower of Babel, we meet Abraham. Abraham was a great and good man. God promised Abraham that all nations would be blessed through his seed (Genesis 22:18).

Abraham obeyed God and in Hebrews we read that Abraham was a man of faith. At one time God told Abraham to go into a land that God would show him. He obeyed God and was blessed.

After a long, long time Abraham and Sarah had a son. They named him Isaac. The Lord had visited Abraham and Sarah and told them that they would have a son when He returned next spring. They did not believe it because they were both so old. But Sarah did have a son just as the Lord had promised.

As we said before, Abraham was a man of great faith. God tested his faith one day by telling Abraham to take his son, Isaac, and offer him as a sacrifice on an altar. Abraham did as

God told him proving his love for God. Just as Abraham was ready to kill Isaac God stopped him. God sent a ram to be offered instead of Isaac and God was very happy that Abraham loved Him even more than he loved his son.

When Abraham was very old he had his oldest servant promise to return to his homeland and find a wife for Isaac. With God's help the servant brought Rebekah back as a wife for Isaac.

Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons, Esau and Jacob. Esau became a hunter and Jacob was a plainsman or a man who lived in tents. Isaac loved Esau more than he loved Jacob. Rebekah loved Jacob more than she loved Esau. Because of this jealousy Rebekah deceived Isaac into pronouncing a blessing on Jacob instead of Esau. Because of this Jacob and Esau parted. Esau even planned to kill Jacob.

Jacob left home and went to live with his uncle. He fell in love with his uncle's daughter, Rachel, and asked permission to marry her. His uncle consented only if Jacob promised to work for him seven years. This Jacob did only to be tricked by his uncle. His uncle gave his older daughter, Leah, to Jacob as a wife. Jacob worked seven more years for his wife Rachel.

After a long while Jacob and his wives and children went back to his homeland. He was re-united with Esau his brother.

Jacob had thirteen children. In the next lesson we will study about one of these in particular.

This lesson has covered from chapter 11 through chapter 33 of Genesis. Read and study this along with your lesson.

LESSON 5 – QUESTIONS

Ref. No. _____

STUDENT'S NAME _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS _____

DATE _____ GRADE _____

REMARKS _____

EXERCISE

Fill up the blanks:

1. God promised Abraham that all nations would be blessed through his _____ .
2. God tested Abraham's faith by asking him to offer _____ as a sacrifice.
3. Isaac loved _____ more than _____ .
4. Jacob fell in love with his uncle's daughter _____ .
5. Jacob had _____ children.

TRUE AND FALSE:

Circle T if the answer is true and F if it is false.

1. T F We read in the Bible that Abraham was a man of faith.
2. T F Abraham's servant brought Isaac a wife by the name of Rachel.
3. T F When Jacob went to live with his uncle he fell in love with his daughter, Rebekah.
4. T F Rebekah and Jacob tricked Isaac and Esau. Years later Jacob was tricked by his uncle.
5. T F Jacob had thirteen sons.

LESSON 6

THE PATRIARCHAL AGE

PART 4

JOSEPH

Jacob had twelve sons and one daughter. Of all these sons Joseph stands out most in the Bible story.

We read in the Bible of the children of Israel. The children of Israel, or the Israelites as they are called sometimes, are the decedents of Jacob (Descendants means someone's children, their children's children and so forth). We also read of the twelve tribes of Israel. These are from Jacob's twelve sons. The Christ was born of the tribe of Judah, as prophesied many years ago.

Joseph was Jacob's favorite son. Jacob showed this by giving Joseph a coat of many colors.

The other brothers were jealous of Joseph. One day they sold Joseph to some merchants who were on their way to Egypt. They took his coat and dipped it in the blood of a goat and told his father that he had been killed by a wild beast. Jacob was deeply grieved at this news.

Joseph was sold in Egypt to a man named Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh. Joseph was a very good young man and worked very hard so the Lord was with him, and his master liked him very much. Potiphar made Joseph overseer of his

house. In chapter 39, verse 6 of Genesis, we read that Joseph was in charge of all that Potiphar had and that he was a *“goodly person and well favored.”*

A very evil thing happened. Potiphar’s wife looked at Joseph and she asked him to do an evil thing with her. Because Joseph would not sin with Potiphar’s wife she told a lie on him and he was cast into prison.

Even in prison though, God was with Joseph (read Genesis chapters 39, 40 and 41). After several years in prison God helped Joseph to tell Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, what a dream he had meant. Because Joseph helped Pharaoh he placed him second in charge over the whole country.

There was a great famine (not enough food to eat) throughout the world. Because of Joseph’s wisdom, Egypt stored up food for the famine. They stored food in large store houses so they would have enough to eat during the time of the famine.

Joseph’s brothers came to him (not knowing it was their brother) to buy corn. Joseph was very happy to see them although he did not tell them at first that he was their brother. He had them bring his brother Benjamin to him as he had not come with the other brothers.

Finally Joseph told his brothers who he was and then sent for all of his family. They came and lived close by in a place called Goshen. Jacob died in Egypt and Joseph took his body back to Canaan to bury him. Joseph died when he was 110 years old and was put in a coffin in Egypt. Later when the children of Israel returned to Canaan they carried Joseph’s body with them.

This lesson has covered from Genesis 34 through Genesis 50. Read, study and enjoy the interesting things about Joseph and his family as you do this lesson.

The next lesson will be from the birth of Moses until the law of Moses which was given to him on Mount Sinai.

LESSON 6 – QUESTIONS

Ref. No. _____

STUDENT'S NAME _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS _____

DATE _____ GRADE _____

REMARKS _____

EXERCISE

Fill up the blanks:

1. Jacob had _____ sons and _____ daughter.
2. The children of Israel are sometimes called _____ .
3. _____ was Jacob's favorite son.
4. There was a great famine throughout the _____ .
5. Joseph's entire family moved to the land of _____ and lived in a place called _____ .

TRUE AND FALSE:

Circle T if the answer is true and F if it is false.

1. T F There were twelve tribes of Israel.
2. T F Joseph was put in charge of all Potiphar had.
3. T F God was not with Joseph when he was in prison.
4. T F Joseph was not happy to see his brothers when they came to Egypt to buy corn.
5. T F Joseph left Jacob's body in the land of Egypt when he died.

LESSON 7

THE PATRIARCHAL AGE

PART 5

MOSES

This lesson will cover very briefly part of the life of Moses. We will begin with Exodus the first chapter and end with chapter twenty. Read this as you do your lesson and it will be much more enjoyable.

After Joseph and all his brothers, even all that generation died, there was a new king in Egypt who did not know Joseph. There were many Israelites (descendants of Jacob) and the king was afraid that if a war were to break out between the Egyptians and another nation the Israelites would help defeat the Egyptians (Exodus 1:10).

The king tried many ways to keep the Israelites from multiplying but failed. Finally he commanded that all the baby boys should be drowned.

This is where we meet Moses. We do not know much about the birth and death of many of the people in the Bible. But with Moses we read about his birth, much of his life and of his death.

Moses' mother loved him very much and she kept him at home from Pharaoh's soldiers for a while. As Moses grew older it was not safe anymore at home so Moses' mother put

him in a little basket in the river.

When Pharaoh's daughter came to take a bath in the river she found Moses in the basket. When she saw how beautiful a baby he was she loved him. She loved him so much that she brought him up as her own son. She even let Moses' mother nurse him.

When Moses grew up he loved his own people even though he was brought up as an Egyptian and in a king's palace. When he saw the Hebrews (what the Israelites are sometimes called) being mistreated by the Egyptians he was angry. He even killed one of the Egyptians who was beating a Hebrew.

After the Pharaoh found out about this he planned to kill Moses. Moses ran away to a place called the land of Midian. He married a woman in that land and lived there for about forty years.

The children of Israel cried out to God to bring them out of the land of Egypt and away from all the troubles that they were suffering. God heard their prayers and He chose Moses to lead them out of the hands of the wicked Pharaoh.

God talked to Moses out of a burning bush and told him to return to the land of Egypt and lead his people out of the land. Moses made several excuses but finally he realized God would help him. So he went to the land of Egypt to deliver God's people out of their bondage (or trouble). Moses (with God's help) tried many ways to get the Pharaoh to let the people leave but he would not let them go. God sent ten plagues upon the Egyptians (Exodus chapters 7 through 12) to try to persuade them to let the Israelites leave Egypt.

After the tenth plague the Pharaoh let the Israelites go. God caused the Red Sea to part and the Hebrews walked across into the wilderness.

The wanderings of the children of Israel in the wilderness are very interesting. Notice how God was always with them. Also notice how they complained and murmured at different things. Because of God's great love for his people, He looked after them even when they were so unthankful.

This lesson begins with Exodus chapter one and ends with chapter nineteen. Enjoy the lesson better by reading these scriptures as you do your lesson.

The next lesson will begin with the giving of the law on Mount Sinai which is also the beginning of the next period of Bible history, the Mosaic age.

LESSON 7 – QUESTIONS

Ref. No. _____

STUDENT'S NAME _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS _____

DATE _____ GRADE _____

REMARKS _____

EXERCISE

Fill up the blanks:

1. When Moses was a little baby his mother put him in a _____ and hid him in the _____ .
2. When Pharaoh's daughter found Moses and saw how _____ he was she _____ him.
3. Pharaoh's daughter brought Moses up in the palace as her own _____ .
4. After Moses killed the Egyptian he ran away to the land of _____ .
5. Moses was in the land of Midian for _____ years.

TRUE AND FALSE:

Circle T if the answer is true and F if it is false.

1. T F The new Pharaoh remembered Joseph and how he saved Egypt from the famine.
2. T F The Pharaoh was glad to see the Israelites grow in number.
3. T F When Moses grew up he did not love his people and he forgot them.
4. T F Pharaoh let the Israelites go after the fifth plague.
5. T F God was with the children of Israel when they became unthankful in the wilderness.

LESSON 8

THE MOSAIC AGE

PART 1

WILDERNESS

The period in Bible history that we call the Mosaic age began when God gave the law to Moses on Mount Sinai. This law lasted until Christ died. During this time God ruled over the people with judges. Then when the Israelites wanted a king like the people of other nations around them, God gave them a king. The Lord spoke to the Israelites during the time of the judges and kings through His prophets (men who told what was going to happen in the future).

The law was given to Moses on Mount Sinai while the children of Israel were wandering in the wilderness. While Moses was on the mountain receiving the law the people asked Aaron (Moses' brother) to make them Gods for they said they did not know what had happened to Moses. Aaron did as the people asked and he made a golden calf for them to worship.

The Lord was very angry with the people for making this idol and worshipping it. God told Moses that he was going to destroy the people. Moses begged the Lord not to destroy them and the Bible tells us in Exodus chapter 32, verse 14, that *"The Lord repented of the evil which He thought to do unto His*

people.”

After begging God not to destroy the people Moses came down from the mountain and he saw the calf and the people dancing. He was very angry himself and he cast down the tablets upon which the law was written and broke them. Then he took the golden calf and burned it in the fire, ground it into powder, threw it on the water and made the people drink it. We read of many other things that happened in the wilderness in the book of Exodus.

In the book of Leviticus we read more about the law that was given to Moses on Mount Sinai. This part of the law tells us about the Levites (the priests came from the tribe of Levi), and the Priesthood, the holy days and the animal sacrifices the people had to offer to God.

The book of Numbers (the fourth book in the Bible) covers a long period of time. In this book we read about the last days at Mount Sinai to the end of the wanderings in the wilderness.

Deuteronomy, the fifth book in the Bible, reviews the law and some of the wandering in the wilderness. In the last chapter of the book we read of the last days and death of the great leader of God's people, Moses.

In Numbers chapter 20 we read where the children of Israel had been in the wilderness for some time. They had no water and began to complain to Moses and Aaron. God told Moses and Aaron to take the rod, gather all the people together and then speak to the rock and water would come out of the rock. Moses did almost as God had said. He took his rod and gathered all the people together. Then he hit the

rock instead of speaking to it as God had told him. The Lord did allow water to come out of the rock. But because Moses did not do exactly as God had told him he was not allowed to enter into the promised land years later. This should be an example for us today to do exactly as God commands us in His New Testament.

However, God took Moses upon a mountain and let him look at the beautiful land that was promised to the children of Israel. Moses died there in the land of Moab and the Lord buried him.

In our next lesson we will study about how God ruled the people with judges, kings and prophets.

LESSON 8 – QUESTIONS

Ref. No. _____

STUDENT'S NAME _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS _____

DATE _____ GRADE _____

REMARKS _____

EXERCISE

Fill up the blanks:

1. The law of Moses lasted until _____ .
2. Aaron made a _____ for the people to worship.
3. The Lord _____ of the evil which He thought to do unto His _____ .
4. The priests came from the tribe of _____ .
5. Moses died in the land of _____ and the _____ buried him.

TRUE AND FALSE:

Circle T if the answer is true and F if it is false.

1. T F The Mosaic Age began with Adam.
2. T F The Lord was pleased with Aaron and the people for making and worshipping the golden calf.
3. T F Moses burned the golden calf.
4. T F Moses did exactly as God had said and struck the rock to get water.
5. T F Moses entered the promised land and lived there the rest of his life.

LESSON 9

THE MOSAIC AGE

PART 2

JUDGES - KINGS - PROPHETS

Joshua was the leader of the children of Israel after they entered into the promised land (Canaan). As long as Joshua ruled them they followed and obeyed God.

After Joshua died the children of Israel began worshipping false gods. God punished them by letting their enemies defeat them. As was their nature, when they were in trouble the Israelites cried out to God to deliver them out of the hands of their enemies.

Some of their judges mentioned are Ehud, Gideon, Samson and the woman judge, Deborah. There were many others.

After God ruled through judges he then ruled through kings. God was longsuffering with the children of Israel. They decided that they wanted kings like the people around them, so God allowed them to have kings.

The first king was Saul, the second was David and the third was David's son, Solomon. After these kings ruled, the kingdom was divided into two parts. These two kingdoms were called Judah and Israel. Solomon's son Rehoboam was king of Judah which was made up of two tribes, Judah and Benjamin. Jeroboam was king of Israel which was made up of the other ten tribes.

The history of the kings of the children of Israel is quite interesting but space will not permit a deeper study of them.

From the beginning until the New Testament was written there were prophets. Prophets were people who could tell things that would happen in the future. God told the prophets what was going to happen and the prophets told the people.

In the book of Daniel, the second chapter, beginning with the 31st verse we read of the prophesy of the establishment of the church. God made this prophesy through Daniel. This is why the book is named after the prophet Daniel.

Israel prophesied of the beginning of the church in Isaiah the second chapter. Isaiah also tells of the trial and death of Christ in Isaiah chapter 53.

Jesus Christ himself was a prophet. He foretold many things that were going to happen. He even told His disciples that one of them would sell Him into the hands of His enemies. He also told Peter that he would deny Him three times. Jesus told many things that would happen in the future.

Even after Jesus' death there were prophets.

In Acts the 21st chapter and verse 9 we read where Philip had four daughters who prophesied. We read in the same chapter of Agavus the prophet. Agavus prophesied that Paul would be born in Jerusalem.

We learn in 1 Corinthians that when the perfect law (the New Testament) came that certain things would be done away with, prophets being one of these things.

In this lesson we have studied very briefly the judges, kings and prophets. Our next lesson will deal with the life of Christ. Keep in mind that Christ lived under the Old Law.

LESSON 9 – QUESTIONS

Ref. No. _____

STUDENT'S NAME _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS _____

DATE _____ GRADE _____

REMARKS _____

EXERCISE

Fill up the blanks:

1. _____ was the leader of the children of Israel after they entered into the promised land.
2. _____ was the only woman Judge.
3. The first king of Israel was _____.
4. There were _____ kings before the kingdom was divided.
5. Jesus Christ himself was a _____.

TRUE AND FALSE:

Circle T if the answer is true and F if it is false.

1. T F The perfect law is the New Testament.
2. T F A prophet was someone who could tell what was going to happen in the future.
3. T F Joshua was very wicked and he led the children of Israel away from God.
4. T F God heard the Israelites cries and did nothing about it.
5. T F Philip had six daughters who prophesied.

LESSON 10

THE MOSAIC AGE

PART 3

LIFE OF JESUS

In one of our earlier lessons we mentioned that Jesus lived under the law of Moses. Some people think that He lived under the new covenant (Hebrews 8:13) because His life is recorded in the New Testament. When we study the scriptures we learn that He did not live under the new covenant. It was at Jesus' death that the old law, or law of Moses, was done away (Hebrews 9:16). In lesson number two we studied about the two wills. When Christ died the old will, or old law, was taken away and the new brought into effect.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. This was prophesied many years before by Isaiah (Isaiah 9:6-7). When He was a young child His parents took Him to Egypt because Herod wanted to have Him killed. This was also prophesied in Hosea chapter one and verse one. After the death of Herod, Joseph and Mary took Jesus to a city called Nazareth. It was here that Jesus grew up.

Jesus was baptized by John the baptizer in the Jordan River to fulfill all righteousness (Matthew 3:15). God was pleased with Jesus, for He said in Matthew 3:17 just after Jesus was baptized, *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

Jesus performed many miracles and told many parables during His ministry. His first miracle is recorded in John the second chapter. This first miracle was in Cana of Galilee where he turned water to wine. A Bible miracle is something that was unnatural, something that could not be done by just anyone, like the example above. It is not natural to turn water into wine. This was a miracle.

A parable is a story told by someone to explain something he is teaching. Jesus told stories about things that people knew about (like planting of seeds) to teach them things that they did not know (such as teaching that the word of God is like planting seeds). Jesus told the story (parable) of the seeds in Matthew 13:3-9 to explain how the word of God falls on good hearts, on hard hearts, etc. Jesus said that when the seed fell on good ground it would bring forth much fruit, some forty fold, some sixty and some a hundred fold. Jesus said that he who heard the word and understood it and brought forth fruit was like the good ground.

While on the earth Jesus chose twelve apostles. These men had the power to perform miracles and could give this power to other people (Acts 8:14-17). However the people to whom they gave this power could not give it to others.

Miracles were for a purpose. The miracles that Christ performed were to prove to people that He was the Son of God (John 2:11). The ones the apostles performed were to confirm the word or to prove that what they were teaching was true (Mark 16:20). The apostles and the ones they gave this power continued to perform miracles until the word was confirmed. This was when the perfect law came or when the New Testament was still being written.

Jesus had apostles and disciples while on the earth. His apostles were the first twelve (Matthew 10). Later Mathias took the place of Judas (Acts 1) and after this Paul was appointed to be an apostle. There were never any other apostles appointed by God.

Disciples were followers of Jesus. Today anyone who follows Jesus (does exactly as the Bible commands) is a disciple of Christ. The apostles were also disciples as they surely followed Christ, but all disciples are not apostles.

In Matthew 16:18-19 Jesus told His disciples that He was going to build His church. He also told them that He would give Peter the keys to the kingdom, or that church. In a later lesson we will follow this through and find where and when the church was established or started. We will also see Peter using these keys that Christ here promised to give him.

LESSON 10 – QUESTIONS

Ref. No. _____

STUDENT'S NAME _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS _____

DATE _____ GRADE _____

REMARKS _____

EXERCISE

Fill up the blanks:

1. Jesus lived under the _____ although His life is recorded in the _____ .
2. The old law was done away at _____ .
3. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be born in _____ .
4. Jesus was baptized to _____ all righteousness.
5. Teaching the word of God is like _____ .

TRUE AND FALSE:

Circle T if the answer is true and F if it is false.

1. T F Jesus performed (or did) many miracles.
2. T F Jesus said that people who heard and understood the word and did not bring forth fruit were like the seed planted in good ground.
3. T F The main reason Christ performed miracles was to prove that He was the son of God.
4. T F The apostles performed miracles to confirm (or prove) that what they were teaching came from God and was true.
5. T F People who follow Christ and obey His commandments are His disciples.

LESSON 11

THE MOSAIC AGE

PART 4

DEATH OF CHRIST

Lesson ten covered briefly the life of Christ. This lesson will deal with His death and resurrection.

In 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 we learn what is the gospel of Christ. Paul tells the Corinthians that they are saved by the gospel. He says the gospel is **how that Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures, that He was buried and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures.** Since this is the gospel (gospel means good news) we must read and study about Christ's death burial and resurrection if we would be saved.

Jesus told His disciples that one of them would betray him. Shortly after Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve went to the chief priests and Pharisees and agreed to deliver Jesus into their hands for thirty pieces of silver. Judas led the chief priests and Pharisees to Jesus and kissed Him. Judas told them that the one he kissed would be Jesus.

After Judas betrayed Jesus the officers took Him to the high priest. While He was there Peter, one of His twelve apostles, denied even knowing Jesus. He said three times that he did not know who He was, Peter even cursed and told the people he did not know Jesus. He had told Peter earlier that he

would do just this. Jesus had said, "*I tell thee, Peter, the cock (or rooster) shall not crow this day, before that thou (Peter) shall thrice (three times) deny that thou knowest me*" (Luke 22:34). When Peter denied the Lord the third time the rooster crowed. Peter remembered then what Jesus had said and he was very sad and sorry for what he had done. He went out and cried.

Jesus was treated cruelly when He was taken before the high priests. Some people spat on Him and others struck Him on the face.

After this He was taken to Pontius Pilate, the governor. Pilate questioned Jesus and then went out to the people and told them that he could find nothing wrong with Jesus. Pilate wanted to release Jesus but the people would not let him. They said, "*If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend*" (John 19:12).

After this the soldiers put a scarlet robe on Jesus. They platted a crown of thorns and put it on His head then put a reed in His hand. After this they bowed before Him and said, "*Hail, King of the Jews!*" They spat on Jesus and hit Him with the reed. They were mocking the Son of God.

During this time Judas, when he saw that Jesus was condemned, was sorry for his betrayal and brought the money that he had gotten for betraying Jesus and threw it down in the temple. He told the chief priests and elders that he had betrayed Jesus and that Jesus was innocent. Afterwards Judas hanged himself.

After the soldiers mocked (made fun of) Jesus they led Him away to crucify Him. A man called Simon carried the cross for Jesus. A large number of people including women

followed Him. Many of the women were crying. The soldiers took Jesus' clothing and gambled over it. They put a sign over His head on the cross, "*THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.*" Two thieves hung on crosses, one on either side of Jesus.

While Jesus hung on that cross the people mocked Him. They shouted at Him and shook their heads and said awful thing to the Son of God. They did not know that He was there for their sins as well as for the sins of all people, even my sins and yours.

While on the cross one of the thieves asked Jesus to remember him when He came into His Kingdom. Jesus said to the thief, "*Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise*" (Luke 24:43) For three hours (12 noon until 3 p.m.) while Jesus hung on the cross there was darkness over the earth. This fulfilled a prophesy in Amos 8:9.

The Jews asked Pilate to break the legs of the three on the crosses to hasten their death because the bodies were not supposed to remain on the cross on the sabbath. They broke the legs of the two thieves but when they came to Jesus they found Him already dead and did not break His legs. However a soldier came by and took his spear and thrust it into the side of Christ and blood and water came out.

Joseph of Arimathea came to Pilate and asked for the body of Christ. He then, with others, buried the Lord.

The people began to worry that His disciples would steal the body of Jesus. They remembered Jesus said that He would rise again in three days. They asked Pilate to put guards on the cave where Jesus' body lay. Pilate had the stone that was over the opening of the cave sealed and guards were placed there to

make sure no one stole the body of Jesus.

As was prophesied long before, Jesus did arise from the dead. An angel came from heaven, rolled back the stone and sat upon it. This happened very early on a Sunday morning. Jesus was seen of many people after He rose from the dead.

This lesson was taken from Matthew chapters 26 through 28, Mark chapters 14 through 16, Luke chapters 22 through 24 and John chapters 11 through 20. To get even more details of Jesus' betrayal, trial, death and resurrection, read and study these scriptures along with this lesson.

LESSON 11 – QUESTIONS

Ref. No. _____

STUDENT'S NAME _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS _____

DATE _____ GRADE _____

REMARKS _____

EXERCISE

Fill up the blanks:

1. The gospel of Christ is how that Christ _____ for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was _____ and that He _____ again the third day according to the scriptures.
2. Gospel means _____ .
3. Judas betrayed Christ for _____ pieces of silver.
4. There were _____ thieves crucified with Christ.
5. Jesus was crucified because of your and my _____ .

TRUE AND FALSE:

Circle T if the answer is true and F if it is false.

1. T F Jesus told both the thieves that today they would be with Him in paradise.
2. T F Jesus suffered on the cross for three hours.
3. T F The sun shined brightly while He was on the cross which made Him very thirsty.
4. T F The Jews had Jesus' legs broken to make Him die faster.
5. T F Jesus arose from the dead on the third day as was prophesied long before.

LESSON 12

THE CHRISTIAN AGE

PART 1

THE CHURCH

In our last lesson we discussed the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. We learned that this is the gospel. Our next lesson will go into detail of how to obey the gospel, for we find in II Thessalonians 1:8 that we must obey the gospel or we will have vengeance taken on us by the angels of Christ in flaming fire.

This lesson will go into detail about the church. In Ephesians 4:4 we find that there is one body. Colossians 1:18 tells us that the body is the church. So in the Bible we find only one church. Each of us should search our Bibles and then do just as the church in the Bible did and we will be that same **one** church.

In Matthew 16:18-19 Jesus told His disciples that He was going to build His church. He also told them that He would give Peter the keys to the kingdom or the church. We will follow this through and find where the church was established or started.

As we have stated, Christ said He would build His church and He was going to give Peter the keys (keys are for opening things). We notice also in these verses that Jesus uses the terms church and kingdom as one. In other words, the church is the kingdom and the kingdom is the church. When we use the

term church we do not mean the building, we mean the people. When Christ said church He meant an assembly of people, the “called out” or those people who are called out of the world of sin.

In Mark 9:1 we hear Jesus tell the people that some of them that He was talking to at that time would not die before the kingdom (or church) came. From this we know that it should have come soon after Jesus said this. This same verse also tells us that the kingdom would come with **power**.

Acts 1:8 tells us that they (the apostles) would receive **power** after the Holy Ghost had come upon them. Now if we can find when the Holy Ghost came on the apostles we will know that the **power** came and therefore the kingdom, or church, came. Then we must see what Peter did.

Soon after Jesus ascended into heaven, we find that the Holy Ghost came and the apostles were filled with it (Acts 2:1-4). They even began to speak in other languages. This was so that all the people could understand what they were saying; for there were people in Jerusalem who were from all parts of the world.

At this time (Acts the second chapter), we find Peter using the “keys” that Jesus had given him. Peter preached the first gospel sermon on this day and by this preaching he opened the doors to the church. Up until this time, each time the church was mentioned it was in the future, but after Peter preached this sermon, and many obeyed the gospel, the church was mentioned as in the past. The first time we read of the church after it had been established is in Acts 2:47. Here we find that God added to the church those that were being saved.

In our next lesson we will see what we must do to be added to Christ's church. Study all the scriptures in this lesson, for we read in Acts 17:11 about some people who were called noble because they heard the word with an open mind and then studied each day to see if what they heard was truth. We should always put God's word first.

Some other good scriptures to read while studying the church are: 3 John 9, Acts 5:11, Acts 8:1, Acts 11:26. These scriptures speak of the church, meaning one, not many. I Corinthians 16:19 shows that the church can meet in someone's house. The church does not necessarily have to have a building to be pleasing to the Lord. Ephesians 5:24-25 shows that the church is subject to Christ and that Christ died for the church. One can see by these few scriptures that the church is very important. We should study carefully before becoming a member of just any church.

Some questions we might ask about the church we are members of are:

Does it have a name found in the Bible? Read Romans 16:16.

Does it practice things that the church in the Bible practiced. Read Acts 2:42.

Does it meet each first day of the week to break bread, the Lord's Supper? Read Acts 20:7.

There are other things that we will consider about the church that we read about in the Bible. We will study these in other lessons.

LESSON 12 – QUESTIONS

Ref. No. _____

STUDENT'S NAME _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS _____

DATE _____ GRADE _____

REMARKS _____

EXERCISE

Fill up the blanks:

1. In Ephesians 4:4 we find that there is _____ body, and that the body is the _____ (Colossians 1:18)
2. Jesus said in Matthew 16:18-19 that He was going to build _____ church. Therefore the church of the Bible belongs to _____ .
3. Jesus said in Mark 9:1 that the kingdom would come before some standing there would _____ .
4. Jesus said that the kingdom would come with _____ .
5. The apostles were told that they would receive power after the _____ came upon them.

TRUE AND FALSE:

Circle T if the answer is true and F if it is false.

1. T F The church and the kingdom are different.
2. T F The church is an assembly of people called out of the world of sin.
3. T F The Bible teaches that the kingdom, or church was to come with power, and the power was to come with the Holy Ghost.
4. T F We learn from Acts 2:47 that people do not join the church of the Bible, but God adds the saved to the church.
5. T F If we do just what we read in the Bible we will be members of that same one church.

LESSON 13

THE CHRISTIAN AGE

PART 2

GOSPEL OBEDIENCE — SALVATION

This lesson will show us how people in the New Testament obeyed the gospel and thus were saved and became members of the church that we learn of in the New Testament. It is very important to obey the gospel because we read in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 that when the Lord comes with High mighty angels, He is going to take vengeance on the ones who do not know God and who **have not obeyed the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If we use the New Testament as the rule book today and do exactly as the people did in the Bible then we will obey the same gospel they did and we will be members of the church in the Bible. Now let us see how people obeyed the gospel.

The gospel, or good news, is (1) that Christ died (2) was buried and (3) rose from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). How can the death of Christ be “good news”? This is good news to us because Christ died for us, for our sins. In other words, He suffered and died so God would forgive us of our sins.

There are two parts to the gospel, Christ’s part and man’s part. Christ has done His part by dying on the cross. But what is man’s part? We noticed in 2 Thessalonians chapter 1 that we

are to **obey** the gospel. How do we obey the gospel?

Paul told the Roman Christians that they had obeyed a form of the teaching or doctrine (Romans 6:17). In the first four verses of Romans chapter six we read what the form of the teaching is that they obeyed, or how they obeyed the gospel. (1) They died to sin (death is a separation). Therefore if we die to sin we separate ourselves from sin, or in other words, we stop sinning. When one dies to sin, he is then (2) buried in baptism, then (3) he rises to walk a new life (Romans 6:1-4). So one can see that in obeying the gospel we do in a symbol what Christ did in real life. Now let us compare 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 and Romans 6:1-4.

1. Christ died We die to sin
(stop sinning).
2. Christ was buried We are buried
(put under the water) by baptism.
3. Christ rose again We rise out of the
water of baptism
to live a new life.

We have seen that baptism is a part of obeying the gospel. Mark 16:16 teaches us that if we believe and are baptized we are saved. Therefore when we obey the gospel we are saved from our past sins.

In Acts chapter 2 we read of thousands of people who were gathered in Jerusalem shortly after Christ's death. Peter preached to them and they were pricked in their hearts. They asked Peter and the others what they should do. Peter told them to repent (or die to their sins) and be baptized (or be

buried in water) for the remission (forgiveness) of their sins. Acts 2:41 teaches that they did as Peter commanded and Acts 2:42 teaches that they began to live a new life.

Another example is found in Acts chapter 8. Philip baptized a man from Ethiopia. The man was riding along in a chariot and reading in the book of Isaiah, a book in the Old Testament. Philip asked him if he understood what he was reading. The man said that he needed someone to teach him. Then Philip began at the scripture the man was reading and taught him about Jesus. After Philip had taught him they came to some water and the Ethiopian asked Philip if he could be baptized. The man told Philip that he believed that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. Then they both went down into the water and Philip baptized the man from Ethiopia. They then came up out of the water and the Ethiopian went on his way a very happy man. We see from this example that the Ethiopian (1) heard the word (2) believed the word (3) confessed that Jesus was God's Son (Matthew 10:32 teaches us that if we confess Christ before men that He will confess us before His Father to heaven) (4) and that he was baptized.

There are many more examples in the book of Acts of people obeying the gospel and being saved. Read these scriptures. Acts chapter 8, 9, 10 and 16. These are only a few examples but notice that in each example of a person being baptized that they are saved. All those who were baptized were old enough to believe what they were taught; therefore babies and young children were not baptized in New Testament times.

When we are baptized (remember this is a part of obeying the gospel) we are saved (Mark 16:16) and when we are saved

the Lord adds us to His church (Acts 2:47). We do not have to pick a church of our choice, for Christ adds us to His church.

There are many false churches, false faiths, false gods, false baptisms, etc., but we are taught in Ephesians 4:4-5 that there is only one church, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God. Let us make sure that we are members of that **one** church (Christ's church), that we believe in the **one** Lord and **one** God, that we are of the **one** faith and that we are baptized with the **one** baptism.

LESSON 13 – QUESTIONS

Ref. No. _____

STUDENT'S NAME _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS _____

DATE _____ GRADE _____

REMARKS _____

EXERCISE

Fill up the blanks:

1. When the Lord comes He is going to _____ on the ones who do not know God.
2. When the Lord comes He is going to take vengeance on the ones who have not _____ of Christ.
3. The gospel of Christ is how Christ _____, was _____ and _____ from the dead.
4. To obey a form of the gospel we must _____ to our sins, be _____ in baptism and _____ to walk in a new life.
5. Peter told the people in Jerusalem to _____ and be _____ for the forgiveness of their sins.

TRUE AND FALSE:

Circle T if the answer is true and F if it is false.

1. T F It is not important to obey the gospel.
2. T F If we obey the same gospel as the people obeyed in the Bible we will be members of the church in the Bible.
3. T F The man from Ethiopia told Philip that he believed Jesus was the Son of God then Philip baptized him.
4. T F There are many churches, many faiths and many baptisms in the Bible according to Ephesians 4:4-5.
5. T F God adds the saved to the church.

LESSON 14

THE CHRISTIAN AGE

PART 3

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Lesson 13 went into detail about the gospel, how we are commanded to obey it and be saved. When we do this we are then added to the Lord's church.

In the New Testament we learn of many who obeyed the gospel. Now we will learn what to do after one has been added to the Lord's church. We will look at some scriptures and see how the church worshiped in the New Testament.

The first time we read of people obeying the gospel is in Acts chapter 2 verse 41. The very next verse teaches that they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine (teaching) and fellowship, and in breaking of bread (the Lord's Supper) and in prayers.

We learn from Acts 11:26 that the name by which the early disciples were called was Christians. In Acts 26:28 King Agrippa told Paul that he was almost persuaded to become a Christian.

Acts 20:7 tells us that the early church met on the first day of the week (Sunday) to break bread (partake of the Lord's supper). When Paul wrote to the church in Corinth he told them to lay by in store (or give) on the first day of the week (Sunday) when they came together. Here in 1 Corinthians

16:1-2 we find the Corinthian Christians also coming together on Sunday. These should serve as examples to us today. We should also come together on the first day of the week to partake of the Lord's Supper and to give.

Concerning giving of our money, we are not commanded to tithe as the Israelites were in the Old Testament. We are commanded to (1) give on the first day of the week as God has prospered (or blessed) us (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), (2) we are to plan ahead of time what we are going to give, and (3) give that planned amount cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7).

These scriptures do not mean that we should not give at least one tenth of our salary (a tithe) but in many cases perhaps even more. We should put God first in all things and this means our material blessings also for they come from God.

God's word teaches us to sing. Ephesians 5:19 (Philip's translation) says: "*Express your joy in singing among yourselves psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making music in your hearts for the ears of the Lord!*" We are taught in 1 Corinthians 14:15 to sing with the spirit and to understand what we are singing. Nowhere in the New Testament are we taught to use a mechanical instrument (piano, organ, guitar, etc.) to worship God. We are taught not to add to God's word or to take away from it (Revelation 22:19). So we should sing only and not add to God's word by using mechanical instruments.

We see that the early church wore the name Church of Christ (Romans 16:16). The early disciples were called by the name Christian (Act 11:26). The church met on the first day of the week (Sunday) (Acts 20:7). When they came together they (1) broke bread (remembered Christ's death by eating

unleaven bread and drinking fruit of the vine) (1 Corinthians 11:23-29), (2) taught God's word (Acts 20:7), (3) prayed (Acts 2:42), (4) gave of their money to God (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), (5) sang praises to the Lord (Ephesians 5:19) and (6) had fellowship with each other (Acts 2:42).

If we today would take the Bible alone (not use creed books, confessions of faith, book of Mormons, prayer books, etc.) and use only the Bible as our guide we would be the church of Christ that we read about in the Bible.

Jesus prayed just before He was betrayed that we might all be one (John 17:21-23). He did not want many religions. He established only one church and prayed that everyone would be one in it (John 17).

In our next and last lesson we will discuss briefly organization of Christ's church. We will also discuss some scriptures that teach us how to live a good Christian life after becoming a member of the church.

LESSON 14 – QUESTIONS

Ref. No. _____

STUDENT'S NAME _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS _____

DATE _____ GRADE _____

REMARKS _____

EXERCISE

Fill up the blanks:

1. After people obey the gospel of Christ they are to continue steadfastly in the apostles' _____, and _____, and in _____ of _____ and in _____.
2. The disciples of Christ in the New Testament wore the name _____.
3. The church of the Bible met on the _____ of the week to break bread.
4. The church is taught to lay by in store on the _____ of the week.
5. We read in the Bible where the church sang and made music in their _____ for the ears of the Lord.

TRUE AND FALSE:

Circle T if the answer is true and F if it is false.

1. T F 1 Corinthians 14:15 teaches us to sing with the spirit but we don't have to understand what we sing.
2. T F The New Testament teaches us to use instrumental music in worship.
3. T F The church in the Bible was called the Church of Christ.
4. T F Christians in the Bible ate unleaven bread and drank fruit of the vine when partaking of the Lord's supper.
5. T F Jesus prayed for all His followers to be one.

LESSON 15

THE CHRISTIAN AGE

PART 4

ON TO PERFECTION

In lesson 14 we learned God's command to us for acceptable worship to Him. We have learned that He commands us to be baptized to remove our past sins and when we do this we are added to the Lord's Church. In the church we are taught to come together on the first day of each week to partake of the Lord's supper, sing, give, teach, pray and have fellowship with one another.

The church of Christ that we read of in the Bible has no "headquarters" on earth. There are no councils, synods, etc., to "hold the church together". It is held together by a common love and by the word of God, the Bible. Members of the church of Christ use only the Bible as their guide and are held together, whether they be in England, China, Fiji, America, India or anywhere else in the world, by the Bible.

Each congregation of the Lord's church has elders (also called bishops, pastors and overseers), deacons, teachers, preachers and working members. The elders care for the spiritual welfare of the church. 1 Timothy chapter 3 and Titus chapter 1 gives the qualifications that a man must have before becoming an elder. Read these carefully and notice that an elder is an older man who is married and has faithful children.

He is not a new member of the church and he is a man whom people both in and out of the church respect.

Deacons are appointed to help the elders in carrying out the Lord's work. Their qualifications are found in 1 Timothy 3.

Notice that where elders and deacons are mentioned in God's word there was never only one. There was always more than one elder or one deacon. Therefore if we are going to be like the church in the Bible, each congregation should have elders and deacons. These elders and deacons should be appointed as soon as there are men in the church that have the qualifications that we read in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

In the Lord's church there are preachers who also serve under the elders. Preachers are never called bishop, elder or pastor (unless they are appointed as an elder as well as a preacher) and they should **never** be referred to as reverend. The only place we find the word reverend in the Bible is in Psalms 111:9 and there it refers to God. A man should never be called a name given to God alone.

Each member of the Lord's church should either be teaching or learning to teach others the will of God. In 2 Timothy 2:15 Paul tells Timothy to study to show himself approved before God. We should take Paul's advice as though it were written to us.

From the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) we can learn to pattern our life after the life of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We see Jesus as a lamb when people spoke against Him but as a lion when they attack the word of God. We should be the same.

The book of Acts teaches us how to become a member of the Lord's church. We should use examples given in Acts and

obey the commands given there and we will then become members of the church of Christ.

From the book of Romans through the book of Jude we read letters written to churches and Christians teaching them to live as God would have them.

The book of Revelation is a book of prophesy. Some of these prophecies have been fulfilled. It is a book that requires much studying to understand for it is full of symbols. We are promised to be blessed if we read and hear the words that are written in the book of Revelation (Revelation 1:6).

After we have become a member of the Lord's church and taken the milk (learned the first principles of the teaching of Christ) we are then ready for the meat (the stronger teaching of God's word). Hebrew 6:1 (Philips translation) says, "*Let us leave behind the elementary teaching about Christ and go forward to adult understanding... .*"

In Galatians chapter 5 verses 19 through 21 we learn some things not to do. We are taught if we do these things we will not inherit the Kingdom of God. They are called the works of the flesh and are these: Adultery and fornication (sexual immorality), uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murder, drunkenness, revellings and things like these.

The same chapter (Galatians 5:22-23) teaches us about the fruit of the Spirit. Qualities that can and should have to be pleasing to God are these: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.

We are taught in II Peter 1:5-8 to work very hard to add to our faith, virtue (goodness of life), to virtue we must add

knowledge, and to knowledge we must add temperance. When we acquire temperance we must add patience, then godliness, then brotherly kindness and love. We are taught that if we work hard to acquire these Christian graces we will not be barren (complacent) or unfruitful (unproductive) in the knowledge of Christ.

May each of us do our part in obeying the commands of God for we are taught in Revelation 2:10 that if we remain faithful unto death we will receive a crown of life from our Father in heaven.

LESSON 15 – QUESTIONS

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STUDENT'S NAME _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS _____

DATE _____ GRADE _____

REMARKS _____

EXERCISE

Fill up the blanks:

1. The church of Christ that we read of in the Bible has no _____ on earth.
2. The church of the Bible is held together by _____ and by the _____.
3. Each congregation of the Lord's church has _____, _____, _____ and _____.
4. An elder of the Lord's church is _____, and has _____.
5. In the Lord's church there is always more than _____ elder in each congregation.

TRUE AND FALSE:

Circle T if the answer is true and F if it is false.

1. T F An elder in the Lord's church is a young man who is not married.
2. T F Elders in the Lord's church are to have the qualifications as found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.
3. T F Each member of the Lord's church should either be teaching or learning to teach.
4. T F We learn how Christians should live from the book of Romans through the book of Jude.
5. T F If we are to receive a crown of life we must remain faithful to God unto death.