

CALLED TO SHEPHERD GOD'S PEOPLE

**200 CLASS OUTLINES FOR
PORTABLE BIBLE SCHOOLS**

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SECTION THREE

DOCTRINE

DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE

“Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth”

You may have decided from the title of this course that it was going to be very difficult and, perhaps, dull. But you will find, instead, that these lessons will group together the facts scattered throughout the Scripture about the important truths of our faith. The word "doctrine" really means "teaching", and these teachings will answer questions that you have had, and that your people will ask you over and over again in the future years of your ministry. By your careful study you will be able to teach them so they will not be "carried away by strange doctrines" (Heb. 13:9).

Note: Much of the material for these lessons comes from these two fine books: *100 Bible Lessons*, by Douglas Alban, published by Gospel Literature Service in Bombay, India, and *The Great Doctrines of the Bible*, by William Evans, published by Moody Press in Chicago.

CONTENTS OF THIS COURSE OF STUDY

- Section 1 - The Doctrine of God
- Section 2 - The Doctrine of Jesus Christ
- Section 3 - The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit
- Section 4 - The Doctrine of Man
- Section 5 - The Doctrine of Salvation
- Section 6 - The Doctrine of the Church
- Section 7 - The Doctrine of the Scriptures
- Section 8 - The Doctrine of the Angels
- Section 9 - The Doctrine of Satan
- Section 10 - The Doctrine of the Last Things

SECTION 1 - THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

Lesson 1 - THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

There are many proofs that God exists. In this lesson we will consider a few of them:

1. **Proof from Scripture** - The Bible opens with the positive fact that God does exist (Gen. 1:1) and it plainly states that it is the fool who denies His existence (Psa.14:1).

2. **Proof from creation** - The beauty and glory of the heavens testify that God exists (Psa.19:1), and creation teaches about the eternal glory of the Godhead (Rom. 1:20).

3. **Proof from conscience** - Man is born with a universal belief in a supreme Being.

4. **Other evidences** - There are many other evidences of the existence of God, such as:

- The world is here. Somebody or something must have brought it into being.
- Its design shows it is the result of a superior planning mind.
- Man has an intellectual and moral nature, showing that the Creator must be a living, intelligent, moral being.
- Life must have a beginning, and must have come from a Being having eternal life.

Conclusion: - Consider Heb. 11:6 -"He that comes to God must believe that He is". Let us come as children in simple faith, based on the revelation of God in Scripture and nature, believing and trusting Him completely.

Lesson 2 - THE PERSON OF GOD

The only true knowledge about God can be gained from the Bible (Jn. 1:18; 1 Jn.4:12). Let us examine a few facts it gives about Him.

1. **His personality** - Personality is characterized by possessing knowledge, feeling and will power. Our God is an individual that is living and has definite characteristics (Jer.10:10, 1 Thess.1:9).

2. **His nature** - God is a Spirit. A spirit has neither flesh, bones or blood (Jn. 4:24).

3. **His unity** - The Lord our God is ONE God, in contrast to the plurality of pagan gods (Deut. 6:4; Isa.44:6).

Conclusion - The more we learn about Him, the more we realize that our God is a great God!

Lesson 3 - THE NATURAL ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Does the word attribute sound difficult? It simply means a quality, or a unique characteristic of something. In this lesson we will study some of the attributes of God.

1. He is **eternal** - To be the true God He must have neither beginning nor ending (Psa. 90:2; 1 Tim. 1:17).

2. He is **unchangeable** - (1 Sam. 15:29; Mal. 3:6; Jas. 1:17).

3. He is **omnipotent** - That means He possesses all power (Job 42:2; Jer. 32:27).

4. He is **omnipresent** - that is, He is present everywhere at one and the same time (Psa. 139:7-9).

5. He is **omniscient** - He has all knowledge (1 Chron. 28:9; 2 Chron. 16:9; Psa.94:11; Job 42:2; Isa. 40:28).

Conclusion - Poor, pitiful man must have a God with all of the attributes we have studied in this lesson. Why is each one of them essential to men?

Lesson 4 - GOD'S MORAL ATTRIBUTES

Each one of the moral attributes of God could become the subject of a sermon. Let us notice some of them:

1. God is **holy** (Ex. 15:11; Isa. 6:3; 1 Pet. 1:16).

2. God is **righteous** (Psa. 116:5; Ezra 9:15; Jer. 12:1).

3. God is **merciful** (Psa. 103:8; Rom. 9:18).

4. God is **loving** (1 Jn. 4:8-16; Jn. 3:16; Jn. 16:27).

5. God is **faithful** (1 Cor.1:9; 2 Tim. 2:13).

In weeks ahead, consider these other moral attributes of our God: He is **glorious** (Ex. 15:11; Psa. 145:5); **gracious** (Ex. 34:6; Psa. 116:5); **longsuffering** (Num. 14:18; Micah 7:18); **jealous** (Josh. 24:19; Nahum 1:2); **compassionate** (1 Kings 8:23); **great** (2 Chron. 2:5; Psa. 86:10); **unsearchable** (Job 11:7; Psa. 145:3); **invisible** (Job 23:8,9; 1 Tim. 1:17); **good** (Psa. 25:8; Psa. 119:68); **upright** (Psa. 25:8; Psa. 92:15); **immutable** (Psa. 102:26,27; Jas. 1:17); **light** (Isa. 60:19; 1 Jn. 1:5; **true** (Jer. 10:10); **perfect** (Matt. 5:48); **incorruptible** (Rom. 1:23); **immortal** (1 Tim. 1:17; 6:16); **a consuming fire** (Heb. 12:29), and there is **none like Him** (Ex. 9:14; Deut.33:26).

Conclusion: The holiness of God demanded punishment for sin. How can God be both loving and demand holiness at the same time? How can He be both merciful and just at the same time to a guilty sinner? The answer can be found only in Calvary, the expression of the wrath of God against sin and the mercy of God toward the guilty sinner.

Lesson 5 - THE TRINITY

There is one God, eternally existing and manifesting Himself to us in three Persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Consider these Scripture references that prove the Trinity:

1. **The baptism of Jesus in Matt. 3:13-17** - The Father spoke from heaven, the Son was baptized, and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove and alighted on the Saviour.

2. **The baptismal formula in Matt. 28:19** - "baptizing in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost."

3. **The benediction of 2 Cor. 13:14** - "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost."

4. **The record of the creation of man uses plural terms** -Gen. 1:26: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."

Conclusion - Man, too, is a tripartite (that means, having three parts) being - body, soul and spirit - for we are made in the image of God.

SECTION 2 - THE DOCTRINE OF JESUS CHRIST

Lesson 6 - PROPHECIES FULFILLED

With each of these statements about Jesus you will see the Old Testament prophecy, followed by the New Testament record of its fulfillment hundreds of years later. These are amazing facts!

1. Christ would come out of Israel - Num. 24:17-19; Matt. 1:17.
2. Christ would be born of the family of David and of the tribe of Judah - Gen.49:10 and Isa. 11:1; Luke 1:31-33.
3. He would be born in Bethlehem - Micah 5:2; Luke 2:4-7.
4. He would be born of a virgin - Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18, 22, 23.
5. Christ's coming was announced by a forerunner - Isa. 40:3; Matt. 3:3.
6. The Messiah would be God - Isa. 9:6; John 1:14.
7. He would spend part of His childhood in Egypt - Hos. 11:1; Matt. 2:13-18.
8. He would suffer and make atonement for sin - Isa.53:46; 2 Cor. 5:21.
9. He would ride into Jerusalem on a colt - Zech.9:9; Matt. 21:2-5.
10. He would be given gall and vinegar in His agony on the cross - Psa. 69:21; Matt. 27:34.
11. Not a bone would be broken, contrary to Roman crucifixion practices - Psa. 34:20; John 19:33-36.
12. Men would cast lots for His garments - Psa. 22:18; Matt. 27:36.
13. He would utter certain words in His dying agony - Psa.22:1; Mark 15:34.
14. He would rise again from the dead - Psa.16:10; Acts 2:3.

Conclusion - Each of these prophecies is another evidence of the power and omniscience of our God!

Lesson 7 - THE DEITY OF CHRIST

We know that Jesus is God for He possesses the attributes that belong only to God. Study these verses that show them.

1. He is **eternal** - Micah 5:2, also John 8:58; Col. 1:17; Rev. 1:8.
2. He is **unchangeable** - Heb. 13:8.
3. He is **omnipotent** - Luke 8:24; also Matt. 28:18).
4. He is **omnipresent** - Matt. 18:20; John 1:48; John 3:13; Matt. 28:20.
5. He is **omniscient** - Mark 11:2-6; John 2:24,25; Luke 5:22; Matt. 24:3-31).
6. He is **holy** - Mark 1:24; **sinless** - 1 Peter 2:22; John 19:4.
7. He is **just** - John 2:14-17, in the cleansing of the Temple; Acts 17:31, a righteous Judge.
8. He is **loving** - John 15:13, also John 11:36.
9. He is **merciful** - Titus 3:5 - He died for us.
10. He is **faithful** - 2 Tim. 2:13.

The five works of God are ascribed to Jesus: **creation** (John 1:3); **preservation** (Heb. 1:3); **forgiveness** (Luke 7:48); **raising the dead** (John 6:39) and **judgment** (John 5:22).

Conclusion - The fact of Jesus' resurrection is the strongest proof that He is God.

Lesson 8 - THE HUMANITY OF CHRIST

In order to be the Saviour, Jesus had to be not only divine and virgin born, but He must also be a true man (1 Tim.2:5). Notice these evidences of His humanity:

1. He was given **human names** (Matt. 1:21). The phrase “Son of man” occurs 77 times.

2. He had **human ancestry** (Matt. 1:1-16).

3. He **hungered** (Matt. 4:2) **and thirsted** (John 4:7, 19:28).

4. He **became weary** (John 4:6); He **slept** (Matt. 8:24).

5. He **loved** (Mark 10:21, John 11:36); **had compassion** (Matt. 9:36).

6. He **was angry** and **grieved** (Mark 3:4).

7. He **groaned** (John 11:33); He **wept** (John 11:35, Luke 19:41).

8. He possessed **body** (John 1:14); **soul** (Matt.26:38); and **spirit** (Luke 23:46).

9. He **died** (Heb. 9:27 and Luke 23:33).

Conclusion - God and man - Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

Lesson 9 - THE LIFE OF CHRIST, PART ONE

Many details are recorded about the earthly years of our Lord:

1. As God, Jesus has always existed. He was before all things.

2. His birth of the Virgin Mary is recorded by Matthew and Luke.

3. He was circumcised at the age of eight days (Luke 2:21).

4. He was taken to the Temple of Jerusalem when he was 12 (Luke 2:41-48).

5. He spent the early years of His life as a carpenter in Nazareth (Mark 6:3).

6. The first six months of His ministry were in Judea, Samaria and Galilee.

7. The second stage covered six to eight months of preaching, healing the sick and performing miracles in Capernaum and Galilee. Here is the scope of Jesus’ miracles:

A. Over nature (Matt. 8:26,27).

B. Over devils (Mark 5:12-13, Matt. 8:28-32; 9:32,33; 15:22-28; 17:14-18; Mark 1:23-27).

C. Over disease - palsy (Matt.8:13; 9:6); impotent man (John 5:9); curing a withered hand (Matt. 12:13); spirit of infirmity (Luke :12); stanching a flow of blood, (Matt.9:22); curing dropsy (Luke 14:2); healing fever (Matt.8:15); giving speech to the dumb (Matt. 9:33); sight to the blind (John 9:1:38); hearing to the deaf (Matt.11:5); curing leprosy (Matt. 8:3, Luke 17:19).

Jesus healed at least ten different kinds of sicknesses.

D. Over death - Lazarus (John 11:43,44); Jairus’ daughter (Matt. 9:18-26); son of widow of Nain (Luke 7:12-15).

E. Miscellaneous - water to wine (John 2:1-11); feeding of 5000 (John 6:1-14); walking on sea (John 6:15-21); feeding of 4000 (Matt. 15:32-39); cursing the fig tree (Matt. 21:18-22); finding coin in fish’s mouth (Matt. 17:27), and miraculous draught of fishes (Luke 5:1-11 and John 21:6)

F. His own resurrection was the greatest miracle of all (1 Cor.15:4; Rom. 1:4)

Lesson 10 - THE LIFE OF CHRIST, CONCLUDED

8. The third stage, the later Galilean ministry, lasted about a year in and about Galilee. Crowds followed Him. He preached the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5, 6 and 7).

9. In the next stage, the Pharisees hound Him to seek His life. Jesus travels to Capernaum, Phoenicia, Bethsaida, Caesarea and Philippi and finally re-enters Galilee.

10. The last six months were spent teaching, preaching and traveling.

11. The last week included Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, Gethsemane, the trials and death by the cross.

12. Three days later, as prophesied, Jesus rose from the dead.

13. Forty days after the resurrection He ascended visibly and bodily into heaven (Acts 1:10,11).

Discussion - What events in his earthly life show Christ's deity? What events demonstrated His humanity?

Lesson 11 - THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

The resurrection is mentioned 104 times in the New Testament and is the foundation doctrine of the Scriptures. Christianity is the only religion with a living originator!

1. Evidences of the resurrection

1. The empty tomb - Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:3.

2. The testimony of angels - Matt. 28:46 and Luke 24:5-7.

3. People talked to Him after the resurrection: Peter, Mary, Cleopas and Thomas.

4. Jesus ate and drank, and showed his wounds.

5. 500 saw Him at one time - 1 Cor. 15:6.

6. He appeared to Stephen at his martyrdom - Acts 7:56.

7. He appeared to Paul on the Damascus road - Acts 9:5.

8. Millions have proved Him to be a living Saviour.

9. Many other infallible proofs - Acts 1:3.

2. What His resurrection body was like:

1. It had flesh and bones - Luke 24:39.

2. It was a glorious body - Phil. 3:21.

3. It was an immortal body, one that will never die - Rom. 6:9.

4. It was a spiritual body - 1 Cor. 15:44.

Conclusion - Today the most feared conqueror is death, but resurrection is a greater power, for it completely breaks the power of the grave.

SECTION 3 - THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Lesson 12 - THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Why do we say that the Holy Spirit is a person? Here are some reasons:

1. The Bible uses personal pronouns in referring to the Holy Spirit.

In John 16:7-8 and 13-15 the Greek masculine pronoun "He" is used of the Holy Spirit. See also John 15:26.

2. He possesses characteristics of a person.

1. Will power - 1 Cor. 12:11

2. Intelligence - Neh. 9:20, Rom.8:27

3. Knowledge - I Cor. 2:10-12

4. Power - Act 1:8

5. Capacity for love - Rom. 15:30

6. Capacity for grief - Eph. 4:30

3. He does things that only a person can do.

1. Searches the deep things of God - 1 Cor. 2:10.

2. Speaks - Rev. 2:7, and cries out - Gal. 4:6.

3. Intercedes - Rom. 8:26.

4. Testifies - Jn.15:26, and teaches-Jn.14:26,Jn.16:12-14.

5. Leads and directs - Rom. 8:14.

6. Commands - Acts 16:6,7; calls men to work and gives them tasks.
- Acts 13:2.

He is the official Comforter - John 14:16. The Greek word "Parakletos" means "one alongside". He is a personal companion.

Conclusion - The Holy Spirit is a person because He thinks, purposes, feels, knows, wills, loves and grieves and performs the actions of a person.

Lesson 13 - THE DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is God Almighty, equal to the Father and the Son in every respect.

1. The Holy Spirit possesses divine attributes.

1. Eternal - Heb. 9:14

2. Omnipresent - Psa. 139:7-10

3. Omnipotent - Luke1:35; Gen.1:2 7

4. Omniscient - 1 Cor.2:10,11

5. Holiness - Luke 11:13

6. Truth - 1 John 5:6

7. Benevolence - Neh. 9:20

8. Communion - 2 Cor. 13:14

2. The Holy Spirit does things that only God can do.

1. Creation - Job 33:4

2. Salvation -1 Cor.6:11, also sealing - Eph.1:13.

3. Giving life - John 6:63.

4. Author of the new birth - John 3:5,6.

5. Prophecy - 2 Pet.1:21.

6. Convincing men of righteousness and of judgment to come.
- Jn. 16:8-11.

Assignment - List three passages in the Old Testament, besides the ones given above, which speak of the Holy Spirit.

Lesson 14 - NAMES AND EMBLEMS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Some of the names of the Holy Spirit:

1. The Holy Spirit - Luke 11:13.

2. The Spirit of Grace - Heb. 10:29.

3. The Spirit of Burning - Matt.3:11,12 and Isa.4:4.
4. The Spirit of Truth - Jn.14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1 Jn.5:6.
5. The Spirit of Life - Rom.8:2.
6. The Spirit of Wisdom and Knowledge - Isa. 11:2; 61:1,2; Luke4:18.
7. The Spirit of Promise - Eph. 1:13.
8. The Spirit of Glory - 1 Pet.4:14.
9. The Spirit of God, and of Christ-1Cor.3:16;Rom.8:9.
10. The Comforter - John 14:16.

2. Emblems of the Holy Spirit

1. Water - John 3:5; 7:38,39 - Water fertilizes, refreshes, cleanses, is freely given, is abundant.
2. Fire -Matt.3:11 - Fire illuminates, burns, purifies, searches.
3. Wind - John 3:8 - Wind is powerful, reviving, independent, invisible but effective.
4. Oil - Psa. 45:7. Oil consecrates, comforts, illuminates, heals.
5. Rain and dew - Psa.72:6. Rain is refreshing, cleansing, abundant, and it produces fruit.
6. Dove - Matt. 3:16. The dove is gentle.
7. Voice - Isa. 6:8. The voice guides, speaks and warns.
8. Seal - Rev. 7:2 and Eph. 4:30. A seal authenticates and secures.

Discussion - How are the works of the Holy Spirit, shown in each of these emblems, important to the Christian?

Lesson 15 - OFFENSES AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

Some offenses against the Spirit are committed by unbelievers, and others are committed by the believer. These may overlap in some cases. The important fact is that sinning against the Spirit is fraught with terrible consequences.

1. Offenses committed by the unbeliever:

1. Resisting the Holy Ghost - Acts 7:51.
2. Insulting the Holy Spirit - Heb. 10:29.
3. Blaspheming the Holy Spirit - Matt. 12:31,32.

2. Offenses committed by the believer:

1. Grieving the Spirit - Eph. 4:30,31; Isa. 63:10.
2. Lying to the Holy Spirit - Acts 5:3,4.
3. Quenching the Spirit - 1 Thes. 5:19.

Conclusion - Resisting has to do with the regenerating work of the Spirit. Grieving has to do with the indwelling Spirit. Quenching has to do with the enduement of the Spirit for service.

SECTION 4 - THE DOCTRINE OF MAN

Lesson 16 - THE ORIGINAL CONDITION OF MAN

Man was made in the image and likeness of God - Gen. 1:26 and 9:6. Image means the shadow or outline of a figure. Likeness denotes the resemblance of that shadow to the figure.

1. The image of God does not denote physical likeness, for God is spirit.
2. The original man was intelligent. He gave names to animals (Gen. 2:19,20). He had the power of speech, of reasoning and thought.
3. He possessed moral and spiritual abilities.

Discussion - How was life different for men before the fall from life today?

Lesson 17 - THE FALL OF MAN

The story of the fall of man is taught by other religions, as well as by Christianity. Genesis 3 gives a full account of this awful tragedy in the history of man.

This story does not tell of the entrance of sin into the uni-verse, for Satan had already sinned and been cast out of heaven (Ezek.28:12-15 and Isa. 14:9-14). The story tells how sin entered the human race and made us sinners.

1. The agent in the fall - Gen. 3:1.

1. Satan did not appear in his own person, but as a beautiful serpent.
2. He made the attack when Adam and Eve were apart -there is strength in unity.
3. He made the attack through proper appetites - the desire for food and knowledge - but they were not controlled.

2. Steps leading to the fall:

1. Eve was too close to the tree - she should have fled the place of temptation.
2. She was admiring the forbidden thing.
3. She conversed with the devil.
4. She tampered with the Word of God. She added “neither shall you touch it”, she subtracted “freely”, and she toned down the Word of God by changing “You shall surely die” to “lest you die”.

Discussion - What are the tactics of Satan in tempting people today? Have they changed greatly, or stayed largely the same?

Lesson 18 - RESULTS OF THE FALL

1. Immediate results:

1. They became sinners - their spiritual life died - Eph.2:1.
2. Their eyes were opened and they knew they were naked.
3. They hid from the presence of God - sin separates man from God.

2. God pronounces curses - Gen. 3:14-19.

1. On the serpent: Cursed above every beast of the field.
2. On the woman: Pain and sorrow in childbirth.
3. On the man: The ground cursed to bring forth thorns and thistles. His life to be one of sorrow; to make a living with perspiration. To die and return to the dust from which he came

3. Eventual results:

1. All men are now sinners before God - Rom. 5:12.
2. The whole world rests under condemnation - Rom. 3:19.

3. Unregenerate men are regarded as children of the devil, not sons of God - John 8:44.

4. The whole human race has become captive to Satan - 2 Cor. 4:4.

5. The entire nature of man mentally, morally, spiritually and physically, has been affected by sin - Eph. 4:18; Rom. 7:18.

Conclusion - With the fall of man God promised a Redeemer and the plan of salvation (Gen.3:15). God fulfilled this about 4000 years later at Calvary.

SECTION FIVE - THE DOCTRINES OF SALVATION

Lesson 19 - REPENTANCE

Repentance is a very prominent subject in the Scriptures, being mentioned over 100 times.

1. Definition of repentance:

1. Negative - It is not merely sorrow for sin. Many weep over sin, but immediately return to it. Judas Iscariot and Esau (Heb.12:17) showed sorrow for sin, but they did not repent.

2. Positive - It is a change of mind that leads to a change of conduct - Matt. 21:28-32.

2. Importance of repentance:

1. Repentance was the theme of John the Baptist - Matt. 3:1,2.

2. Jesus preached repentance - Matt. 4:17.

3. He commanded His disciples to preach repentance - Mark 6:12.

4. After Pentecost the disciples preached repentance - Acts 2:38 and Acts 20:21.

5. It is God's wish that all repent - 2 Pet. 3:9.

6. Failure to obey God will lead to eternal damnation - Luke 13:3.

3. The results of repentance:

1. All heaven is made glad - Luke 15:7,10.

2. It brings pardon and forgiveness of sin - Isa.55:7 and Acts 3:19.

3. The Holy Spirit is poured out upon the penitent - Acts 2:38.

Assignment - Prepare a sermon outline on Repentance, using one of the texts listed above.

Lesson 20 - FAITH

Faith is fundamental to Christian creed and conduct, for we are saved by faith - Eph.2:8. As Christ conversed with people and healed them, He looked for the characteristics of faith in each one. Do you remember these incidents?

1. The Syrophenician woman had persevering faith - Mark 7:26.

2. The centurion manifested a humble faith - Matt. 8:8-10.

3. The blind man showed an earnest faith - Mark 10:51

1. Definition of faith:

1. Faith is belief, trust, fidelity and loyalty - Heb. 11:1. The faith that saves is a personal trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. There are two kinds of faith in regard to salvation:
 - a. Head belief - a knowledge of the historical Christ and a general acceptance of the Bible.
 - b. Heart belief - faith from the heart that causes the person to act on his faith. True faith in Christ is believing to the extent of receiving Him - John 1:12 and Col. 2:6. Neither knowledge nor assent is true faith; true faith involves appropriation.

2. Some results of faith:

1. We are saved by faith - Gen. 15:6; Rom.5:1; Gal.3:26.
2. We are sanctified by faith - Acts 26:18.
3. Rest, peace, assurance and joy come through faith - Isa.26:3; Phil.4:6; Heb.4:1-3; 1 Pet.1:5.
4. We do exploits for God through faith - Heb.11:32-40; Matt.21:21; and John 14:12.

Discussion - Give examples of head and heart faith that you have observed.

Lesson 21 - REGENERATION , OR THE NEW BIRTH

There is no other way of becoming a Christian but by being born from above.

1. What is regeneration?

1. Regeneration is not baptism. Baptism is a Church ordinance signifying that one is already a Christian.
2. It is not reformation. Reformation is a human act of turning away from some sins, while regeneration is spiritual quickening, a revolution, the supernatural act of God.
3. Regeneration is a spiritual quickening, a new birth, a new creation - 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:1.

2. The necessity of the new birth

1. Everyone must be born again - there are no exceptions - John 3:3-7; Gal. 6:15.
2. The sinful condition of man demands it - John 3:6; Jer.13:23; Rom.7:18; Rom. 8:8.
3. The holiness of God demands it - Heb. 12:14.

3. The means of regeneration

1. Regeneration is a divine work - John 1:13; Tit. 3:5; John 3:5. It is altogether and absolutely the work of God.
2. There is also a human side - John 1:2 and 13 bring the two thoughts - divine and human - together in regeneration “Those who received Him...were born of God”.

Conclusion - Man is regenerated by accepting the message of the gospel (1 Cor.4:15; James 1:18, 1Pet. 1:23), and by personally accepting Jesus Christ - John 1:12,13 and Gal. 3:26.

Lesson 22 - JUSTIFICATION

1. Its meaning

It is a change in man’s relation or standing before God. Regeneration has to do with the change of the believer’s nature, justification, with the change of his standing before God. It is more than pardon; to justify means to declare righteous.

Justification is the judicial act of God whereby those who put faith in Christ are declared righteous in His eyes, and free from guilt and sin.

2. Justification consists of two elements:

1. The forgiveness of sin, and the removal of all its guilt and punishment - Micah 7:18,19; Acts 13:38; Rom. 8:1,33,34.

2. The imputation (giving) of Christ's righteousness, and restoration to God's favor - 2 Chron. 20:7, James 2:23; Rom. 5:17-21.

3. The method of justification

1. Negatively: Not by works of the Law - Rom. 3:20 and 28; Gal. 2:16 and 3:10.

2. Positively; by God's free grace - Rom. 3:24.

3. By the Blood of Jesus Christ - the grace of justification - Rom. 3:24; 5:9, 2 Cor.5:21; Heb.9:22.

4. By believing in Jesus Christ, the condition of justification - Gal.2:16; Rom.3:26; Gal.3:10; Acts 13:39.

Discussion - How does justification differ from pardon?

Lesson 23 - ADOPTION

1. The meaning of adoption

"Adoption" means "the placing of a son". It is a legal term used by the Romans. It means the taking by one man of the son of another to be his son, so that that son has the same position and all the advantages of a son by birth. See Gal.4:5; Rom. 8:15,23; 9:4; Eph. 1:5.

Exodus 2:10 and Heb.11:24 furnish two splendid illustrations of the Scriptural sense and use of adoption.

2. Some of the blessings of adoption:

We are objects of God's peculiar love (John 17:23) and His fatherly care (Luke 12:27-33).

We have the family name (1 John 3:1; Eph.3:14,15), the family likeness (Rom.8:29); family love (John 13:35; 1 John 3:14); a filial spirit (Rom.8:15; Gal.4:6); and a family service (John 14:23,24; 15:8).

We receive fatherly chastisement (Heb.12:5-11); fatherly comfort (Isa.66:13; 2 Cor.1:4), and an inheritance (1 Pet.1:3-5; Rom. 8:17).

3. The evidence of sonship

Those who are adopted into God's family:

Are led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:4; Gal. 5:18).

Have a childlike confidence in God (Gal. 4:5,6).

Have liberty of access to God (Eph. 3:12).

Have love for the brethren (1 John 2:9-11, 5:2).

Are obedient (1 John 5:1-3).

Discussion - What are some of the differences in being a son of God and a servant of God?

Lesson 24 - SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification has to do with our character and conduct. Justification is what God does for us, while sanctification is what God does in us.

1. The Meaning of Sanctification

There are two thoughts in this definition:

1. Separation from evil - 2 Chron. 29:5,15-18; 1 Thess. 4:3. Sanctification has to do with the turning away from all that is sinful and that is defiling to soul and body.
2. Dedication unto God - Lev. 27:14,16; Num. 8:17, John 10:36. Whatever is devoted exclusively to the service of God is sanctified.
3. It is used of God - Ezek. 36:23.

2. Time of Sanctification

Sanctification may be viewed as past, present and future; or instantaneous, progressive and complete.

1. Instantaneous - 1 Cor. 6:11; Heb. 10:10,14. By a simple act of faith in Christ the believer is put at once into a state of sanctification.
2. Progressive - 2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Thess. 3:12. We are being transformed from one degree of character, or glory, to another.
3. Complete and final sanctification - 1 Thess. 5:23; 1 Thess. 3:13.

3. The Means of Sanctification

The means are both divine and human: both God and man cooperating towards the desired end.

1. From the divine side, it is the work of the Triune God:
 - God the Father - 1 Thess. 5:23,24; John 17:17.
 - Jesus Christ the Son - Heb.10:10; Eph.5:25,27; 1 Cor.1:30.
 - The Holy Spirit - 1 Pet.1:2; 2 Thess.2:13.
2. From the human side:
 - Faith in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ - 1 Cor.1:30. Herein lies the secret of a holy life - momentary appropriation of Jesus Christ in all the riches of His grace for every need as it arises.
 - The study of the Scriptures and obedience to them - John 17:17; Eph. 5:26; John 15:3.

Discussion - Discuss the time elements in sanctification, that is, when does each phase occur?

Lesson 25 - PRAYER

The Christian life cannot be sustained without prayer; it is the Christian's vital breath.

1. The Importance of Prayer

1. The neglect of prayer is grievous to the Lord - Isa. 43:21,22; Isa. 64:6,7.
2. Many evils come because of the lack of prayer - Zeph. 1:4-6; Dan. 9:13,14.
3. It is a sin to neglect prayer - 1 Sam. 12:23.
4. To continue in prayer is a positive command - Col.4:2; I Thess. 5:17.
5. Prayer is God's method for us to receive His gifts - Dan. 9:3; Matt. 7:17-11, 9:24-29; Luke 11:13.
6. The Apostles regarded prayer as their most important activity - Acts 6:4; Rom.1:9.

2. How to Pray.

Prayer should consist of at least four parts - remember the word ACTS.

1. Adoration - praise and worship of God - Psa. 95:6.
2. Confession - repentance from every known sin - Psa.32:5.
3. Thanksgiving - Phil. 4:6.
4. Supplication - intercession, requests, petitions, desires - 1 Tim. 2:1.

3. Hindrances to Prayer

1. Unbelief - James 1:6,7.
2. An unforgiving spirit - Mark 11:25.
3. Iniquity - Psa. 66:18.
4. Asking amiss - James 4:3.

4. Some Prayer Promises - Mark 11:24; John 15:7; 1 John 5:14,15; Eph. 3:12,20; Phil. 4:19; Phil. 4:6; Matt. 7:7,8; Luke 11:9-13; Heb. 4:16.

Discussion - What are some recent answers to prayer you have received? What are you praying for now?

SECTION 6 - THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

Lesson 26 - DEFINITION AND FOUNDING OF THE CHURCH

The supreme business of God in this age is the gathering of the Church.

Definition of the Church

1. The Christian Church is a New Testament institution beginning with Pentecost and ending probably with the Rapture, the Second Coming of Christ.

2. The word "Church" comes from the Greek word "Ecclesia" meaning "to call out from". Christians are called out from the world system to be "in Christ" - 1 Cor. 1:2.

3. The word Church can refer to a local group of believers - Col.4:15.

4. It can also mean the Church universal - 1 Cor. 15:9. This term includes all Christians everywhere.

5. The visible Church consists of those whose names are on local church rolls, whether saved or not. The invisible Church is made up of those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life - Rev. 21:27.

6. The Church militant refers to the true Church on earth. The Church triumphant refers to the section of the Church already in heaven.

2. The founding of the Church

1. The Church was founded by Jesus Christ on Peter's confession (Matt.16:16-18) that Jesus was - and is - the Son of God, the Messiah. Our Saviour did not build the church on Peter, but on the truth declared in Peter's words.

2. Historically, the Church was founded at Pentecost, Acts 2, when the Spirit descended. See Acts 2:47, Acts 1:13; 5:12; 2:46; 12:12.

Discussion - What are several different meanings of the word "church"?

Lesson 27 - MEMBERSHIP IN AND PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

1. Conditions of membership in the Church

1. Repentance - Acts 2:38.
2. Faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour, Lord and Son of God - Matt. 16:16-18.

3. Salvation, regeneration, the new birth - Acts 2:47.
4. Baptism in the Name of the Trinity - Acts 2:38.
5. Continuing in the Apostles' doctrine - Acts 2:42.

2. The purpose of the Church

1. To worship and glorify Christ on the earth - Eph.1:4-6.
2. To evangelize the world with the gospel - Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15.
3. To teach and instruct Christians - Eph. 4:11-15; 1 Thess. 5:11; 1 Cor. 12:1-31.
4. To witness constantly - Acts 1:8.

Discussion - What mistakes are commonly made about church membership?

Lesson 28 - SYMBOLS AND ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

1. Biblical symbols of the Church

1. Body - Christ is the Head and we are members of His body - Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22,23; Col. 2:19.
2. A temple, building or dwelling place for God's Spirit - Eph. 2:20,21. Christ is the chief cornerstone, and we are different parts of the building.
3. Bride of Christ - 2 Cor. 11:2. Christ is the bridegroom - John 3:29. The wedding will take place in Rev. 19:1.

2. The ordinances of the Church

There are two of them:

1. Baptism - Matt. 28:19,20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-41; Acts 8:36-40; Acts 10:47,48
2. The Lord's Supper - Acts 2:42-46; Acts 20:7; 1Cor. 11:20-34.

Discussion - Explain the meaning of being a church member, as pictured in the symbols of the Church listed above.

SECTION SEVEN - DOCTRINE OF THE SCRIPTURES

Lesson 29 - THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

1. Some facts about the Bible

1. The Bible is a library of 66 books; the Old Testament contains 39, the New Testament 27.
2. It was written by 36 to 40 authors of different types of people in different parts of the world, over a period of 1600 years.
3. The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew, with parts of Daniel and Ezra in Aramaic. The New Testament was written in Greek.
4. The Bible is the oldest book in existence. It required 16 centuries to write it; the first writer died 1450 years before the last writer was born.

2. The meaning of inspiration

1. The word in Greek is "theopneustos", God breathed; theo = God; pneustos = breathed - 2 Tim. 3:16.
2. Holy men of God, overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, wrote at His command and were kept from all error.

3. The Bible claims inspiration

1. For the writers - 2 Pet. 1:21.
2. For the writings - 2 Tim. 3:16.
3. For the words - 1 Cor. 2:13; 2 Pet. 3:2.

Discussion - Which of the unique qualities of the Bible impresses you most?

Lesson 30 - TWO SEVENS ABOUT THE BIBLE

1. Seven crowning wonders of the Bible.

1. The wonder of its formation; one book written in one place in one language, another book written in another country centuries later in another language.
2. The wonder of its unification; it is a library of 66 books, yet only one book, for it has only one author, the Holy Spirit. There are no contradictions.
3. The wonder of its age; it is the most ancient of all books.
4. The wonder of its sale; it is the best seller of all time.
5. The wonder of its interest; it is the only book that is read by all ages of mankind - by sages and children, in all nations.
6. The wonder of its language; written largely by uneducated men, it is considered a literary masterpiece.
7. The wonder of its preservation. Time and again kings and governments have sought to burn and abolish it. Yet God has preserved it for us today and it is found in almost every home.

2. Seven symbols used to illustrate the Word of God

1. A sword that convicts the hearer - Heb.4:12.
2. A hammer that breaks the resistance of the hearer - Jer. 23:29.
3. A seed, a living Word that gives birth to the hearer - 1 Pet. 1:23.
4. A mirror, revealing the individual to himself - James 1:23,25.
5. A fire, consuming the dross in the hearer - Jer. 20:9 and 23:29.
6. A lamp, guiding the believer day by day - Psa.119:105.
7. Food, feeding the soul - 1 Pet.2:2; 1 Cor.3:2; Rom.10:17.

Assignment - Prepare an object lesson, using one of the symbols of the Word of God.

Lesson 31 - WHY PREACH THE WORD OF GOD?

1. **Conviction of sin** comes through preaching the Word of God - Acts 2:14:37. In Peter's Pentecost sermon nine out of 23 verses are quotations from the Old Testament.
2. **Faith** comes by hearing the Word of God - Rom.10:17.
3. **Cleansing** comes from the Word - 2 Cor. 7:1. The promises are the words of God.
4. **Assurance** comes from the Word of God - 1 John 5:13.
5. **Comfort** comes from the Word - 1 Thess. 4:18. (These words are the words recorded in the Bible).
6. **Truth** comes from the Word of God - Acts 17:11.
7. **The new birth** comes from the Word - 1 Pet.1:23.

Conclusion - Next to Christ and the Holy Spirit, the Bible is God's third greatest gift to the world.

SECTION 8 - THE DOCTRINE OF ANGELS

Lesson 32 - WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT ANGELS

1. Their existence

1. The word “angel” first occurs in Gen. 16:7 when the angel of the Lord ministered to Hagar after Sarah mistreated her.

2. There are many other references to angels in the Old Testament - Psa. 104:4; Dan. 10:12,13; 2 Sam. 14:20; Psa. 103:20; 2 Kings 19:35; 2 Sam. 24:15,16.

3. Jesus believed in angels - Matt. 18:10; Mark 13:32 and 8:38; Matt. 13:41 and 26:53.

4. Paul and other Apostles believed in them - 2 Thess. 1:17; Col. 2:18; John 1:51; Rev. 12:7,22:9; 1 Pet. 3:22; 2 Pet. 2:11; Jude 9.

2. The nature of angels

1. They are created beings, not the spirits of the departed - Col. 1:16.

2. They are spirits - Psa. 104:4, but sometimes they appeared in visible form - Gen. 19; Judges 2:1; 6:11-22; Matt. 1:20; John 20:12.

3. They are strong - Psa. 103:20; 2 Kings 19:35; 2 Sam. 24:15,16.

4. They are immortal - Luke 20:35,36.

5. They are innumerable - Rev.5:11; Heb.12:22; Matt.26:53.

3. The fall of angels

Originally all angels were created good, but some fell - 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6. We do not know the cause of their fall, perhaps pride and disobedience, the sins that caused Satan’s downfall - Ezek. 28.

Discussion - Study the verses that tell of Satan's fall and discuss the reasons for it.

Lesson 33 - THE WORK OF ANGELS

1. The work of the fallen angels who are now free

1. They oppose God’s purposes - Dan. 10:10-14.

2. They afflict God’s people - Luke 13:16; Matt. 17:15-18.

3. They execute Satan’s purposes - Matt.25:41; 12:26,27.

4. They hinder the spiritual life of God’s people - Eph.6:12.

5. They try to deceive God’s people - 1 Sam. 28:7-20.

There is no hope for their redemption - Jude 6:2; 2 Pet. 2:4; Matt. 25:41. Their final doom will be in the eternal fire.

2. The work of angels

1. In heaven - to honor, worship and serve the Lord God - Rev. 5:11-12, 8:3,4.

2. On earth - running errands for the Lord; showing Hagar a fountain; appearing before Joshua with a drawn sword; releasing chains from Peter; opening prison doors, feeding, strengthening and defending God’s people, etc.

3. To exercise God’s judgments and purposes - Num. 22:22; Acts 12:23; Matt. 13:41.

4. To guide believers - Acts 8:26.

5. To assist, protect and strengthen saints; Elijah in 1 Kings 19; Daniel in the lions’ den - Dan. 6:22; Jesus in Gethsemane - Matt. 4:11.

6. They will accompany our Lord when He returns - Matt. 25:31 and 1 Thess. 1:7,8.

7. They take the Lord's children to heaven at death - Luke 16:22.

Discussion - Have you experienced the help of angels in your life?

SECTION 9 - THE DOCTRINE OF SATAN

Lesson 34 - THE GREATEST ENEMY OF GOD AND MAN

1. Satan's origin

1. Satan is described in Ezek. 28:12-19. He was perfect in beauty, perhaps the chiefest angel. Then sin and iniquity entered into him because of his pride and he was cast out of heaven.

2. He is also described in Isa. 14:12-17. He was called Lucifer, son of the morning. His pride led him to want to be like the Most High God, so he was cast out.

3. Satan is a real person, possessing life, intelligence, will power and feelings.

2. Satan's character

1. He is a thief, stealing the Word of God from hearts - Matt. 13:19.

2. He is subtle - 2 Cor. 11:3.

3. He is a murderer - John 8:44.

4. He is a liar - John 8:44.

5. He is a deceiver - Rev. 12:9.

Discussion - Do you feel that Satan is becoming more active in the world in these days? Why is he, in your opinion?

Lesson 35 - THE DEFEATED ENEMY

1. Satan's titles

1. Angel of light - 2 Cor. 2:13-15.

2. Roaring lion 1 Pet. 5:8.

3. Prince of the power of the air - Eph. 2:2.

4. Power of darkness - Col. 1:13.

5. Great dragon, serpent, the devil, Satan - Rev. 12:9.

6. Prince of this world - John 14:30.

7. God of this world - 2 Cor. 4:4.

8. King of the bottomless pit, whose Hebrew name is Abaddon - Rev. 9:11.

2. The destiny of Satan

1. As far as the Christian is concerned, he is a conquered enemy - John 12:31; 16:9,10; 1 John 3:8; Col. 2:15.

2. He is under a perpetual curse - Gen. 3:14; Isa. 65:25.

3. He will be cast alive into the lake of fire, there to be tormented forever and ever - Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10.

Conclusion - Satan is mighty, but God is **Almighty**. Satan was forever defeated at Calvary. Let us constantly claim victory over him through the Blood of Calvary - Rev. 12:11.

SECTION 10 - DOCTRINE OF THE LAST THINGS

Lesson 36 - THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

The Second Coming of Christ is said to be mentioned 318 times in the 260 chapters of the New Testament, the subject of one in every 25 verses. One out of every 30 verses in the Bible mentions this doctrine; to every one mention of the Lord's first coming, the second coming is mentioned eight times.

1. How is Christ coming?

1. Secretly at the Rapture; 1 Thess. 5:2; Matt. 24:44; Matt.24:50.
2. Publicly at the Revelation - Rev. 1:7.

2. Where is Christ coming to?

1. At the Rapture we will meet Him in the air - 1 Thess.4:17.
2. At the Revelation, we will descend with Him to the earth - Zech.14:4.

3. Signs of His Coming

2 Tim.3:17 lists 23 signs of His coming, most of which are very evident today. Matt. 24:5-7 and 12-38 lists ten signs.

We ought to plan and work as if Jesus were not coming for another century, but live a holy and pure life as if He were coming today (1 Thess. 3:12,13).

The last prayer of the Bible is "Even so come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20)

Discussion - In the Scriptures listed under "Signs of His Coming", what conditions are present in these days?

Lesson 37 - THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

1. This doctrine is clearly taught in Scripture.

1. In the Old Testament - Job 19:25-27; Psa. 16:9; 17:15; Dan. 12:1-3. Actual resurrections are recorded in 1 Kings 17; 2 Kings 4:32-35 and 13:21.

2. In the New Testament - in the teaching of Jesus - John 5:28,29; 6:39,40,44,54; Luke 14:13,14; 20:35,36 - and of the Apostles - Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 15; 1 Thess. 4:14-16; Phil. 3:11; Rev. 20:4-6,13.

2. The nature of the resurrection body

1. Of the believer - see 1 Cor.15:
 - Not flesh and blood - vs. 50,51; also Heb. 2:14; 2 Cor. 5:1-6; Luke 24:39 - "flesh and bones" - not pure spirit, a real body.
 - Incorruptible - vs. 42. No decay, sickness, pain.
 - Glorious - vs.43, also the Transfiguration (Matt.17); Rev.1:13-17.
 - Powerful - vs. 43 - not tired, weak.
 - A spiritual body - vs. 44. The spirit will be the life of the body.
 - Heavenly - vs. 47-49.

2. Of the unbeliever - the Scriptures are silent.

3. The time of the resurrection

1. Of the righteous - 1 Cor.15:23 and 1 Thess.4:14-17. The resurrection of the believer is connected with the coming of Christ.

2. Of the wicked - John 5:28,29; Dan.12:2; Rev.20:5; Rev.20:12. The resurrection of the wicked is always connected with the judgment, and that takes place at the close of

the Day of the Lord. Rev.20:4-6 indicates that at least a thousand years elapse between the resurrection of the righteous and the wicked.

Conclusion - How will our resurrection bodies be different from the bodies we have today?

Lesson 38 - THE JUDGMENT

A day of judgment is appointed for the world, in which the wicked are judged and the righteous rewarded - Acts 17:31; Heb. 9:27. The Judge is Christ - the Man of the Cross is the Man of the Throne - John 5:22,23,27; 2 Tim. 4:1; 2 Cor. 5:10; Acts 10:42; 17:31.

As there is more than one resurrection, so there is more than one judgment. There was the judgment by flood in the days of Noah and of the confusion of languages at the Tower of Babel.

The Bible speaks of at least seven different judgments:

1. **Judgment at the Cross** - Satan's power over the believer was broken and the sins of the believer were judged and put away - John 5:24; 1 Pet. 2:24.

2. **The believers' self-judgment** - 1 Cor. 11:31,32. This is continual and constant.

3. **The judgment of believers** at the Bema, the "judgment seat of Christ" - 2 Cor. 5:10. At the Second Coming of Christ the believer will be judged for his works. Rewards will be given for the works that remain after the test by fire - 1 Cor.3:13.

4. **The judgment of the Jews** - during the Great Tribulation - Ezek. 20:34-38; Jer. 33:7; Luke 23:18; Acts 7:51.

5. **The judgment of the Gentile nations** - Matt. 25:32; at the Second Coming of Christ in the Valley of Jehoshaphet - Joel 3:2; Matt. 25:41 and 34.

6. **Judgment of the fallen angels** - 1 Cor. 6:3; Jude 6; 2 Pet. 2:4.

7. **The Judgment of the wicked dead**, those who have never been born again, who did not rise at the first resurrection or had not been raptured - Rev. 20:12. It will take place at the Great White Throne - Rev. 20:11, after the thousand-year millennial period - Rev. 20:5. The ungodly will be cast into the lake of fire - Rev. 20:15.

Discussion - What are the judgments that concern you?

Lesson 39 - FINAL DESTINY OF THE WICKED

There are 162 texts in the New Testament alone which speak of the doom that awaits the impenitent, 70 of which were uttered by Jesus Himself.

The wicked who reject Christ will be sent to hell - Psalms 9:17.

1. Definition - What is hell?

1. Banishment from the presence of God - 2 Thess. 1:9.

2. A place of torment and punishment - Luke 16:23.

2. Description of hell

1. It was originally prepared for the devil and his wicked angels - Matt. 25:41. But men who reject heaven through the Saviour must accompany Satan there.

2. It is a place of punishment - Matt. 25:46.

3. It is a place of torment - Luke 16:23.

4. A place of fire - Matt.13:42,50; Rev. 20:15; Rev. 14:10; Matt. 3:12; Isa. 33:14.

5. A place of worms - Mark 9:44,46,48.

6. In Luke 16 man had the ability to recognize others - vs.23; to pray, though the prayer was denied - vs.27, and he desired water and a messenger to warn his brothers not to come - vs.24-27.

7. Hell is eternal, everlasting.

Conclusion - The facts about eternal punishment should spur us on to greater efforts to win the lost!

Lesson 40 - THE FINAL REWARD OF THE RIGHTEOUS

Death to the believer is just falling asleep in Jesus Christ - 1 Thess. 4:14, then the person suddenly awakes in the Lord's presence - Phil. 1:23.

1. The future glory of believers

1. To be with Christ - John 14:3.
2. To behold His face - Psa. 17:15; 2 Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22:4.
3. To behold the glory of Christ - John 17:24.
4. To be glorified with Christ - Rom. 8:17,18.
5. To reign with Christ - 2 Tim. 2:12.
6. To inherit all things - Rev. 21:7.
7. To shine as the stars - Dan. 12:3.

2. Crowns that believers may win

1. Incorruptible crown - 1 Cor. 9:24,25 - crown for runners.
Heb. 12:1.
2. Crown of rejoicing - 1 Thess. 2:19 - the crown for soul winners.
3. Crown of righteousness - 2 Tim. 4:8 - for those who love His appearing.
Everyone ought to win this crown.
4. Crown of life - James 1:12 - for faithful ones, even unto death. Rev. 2:10 - the Martyr's crown.
5. Crown of glory - 1 Pet. 5:4, for under-shepherds, pastors, missionaries, teachers.

3. Heaven - What is it?

1. Home of the Lord God - Matt. 6:9. 2 Cor. 12:2 - First heaven area is where birds fly. Second is where astronauts go. Third is the home of God.
2. A building, made by God, not man-made - 2 Cor. 5:1
3. The kingdom of God and of Christ - Eph. 5:5.
4. The Father's house - John 14:2.
5. A place without death, tears, sorrow, crying or pain - Rev. 21:4. Without night or darkness - Rev. 22:3-5. Without hunger, thirst or excessive heat - Rev. 7:16.
6. A place with new created things - the river of life, the tree of life, new service, new relationships, new light - Rev. 22:4.

Conclusion - Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people.
Our goal must be to arrive there, and to be accompanied by a host of others redeemed because of our labors for Him! Meet me there.

*Behold I stand at the door and knock,
If any one hear My voice and will open the door,*

*I will come in to him, and sup with him,
And he with Me. –Rev. 3:21*